

We are God's People, Reaching Out.

We are caring people. We are called to be God's people reaching out. The people of Messiah share their joys and burdens. We like being together in fellowship and learning.

We are people with a future.

The promises of our Lord keep the people of Messiah looking forward. Every child at Messiah is evidence that God has plans to lead us into the future God has prepared for this congregation.

We are gifted people.

Gifted because that is the way God makes us. Children discover their spiritual gifts in the worship, education, youth programs, and mission work of our congregation and of the wider church.

We are welcoming people.

Our lives have been enriched by friendships developed through Messiah. We welcome and cherish newcomers to our church family.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Senior Pastor - Reverend Scott Peterson

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Senior Youth Director

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Jr. / Tween Youth Director—Sarah Walker

Council Representative— Education and

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The Benefits of Youth Activity Standards

Standards provide a framework of safety and security for not only youth, but also adult leaders. Staff and volunteer leaders will be required to attend Standards training and pass a background check.

Standards define the proper behavior expected of adult leaders and staff at Messiah Lutheran Church.

Standards define the expectations that leaders have for parents and children involved in church activities.

Standards define what appropriate course of action a leader, youth or parent may take in the event an individual behaves inappropriately during church led activities.

Standards for Youth Activities

Messiah Lutheran Church,
Madison – Alabama

We believe that all youth are a gift from God and we have the highest responsibility to nurture and protect them.





The Purpose is Caring

To create an environment in which all activities involving youth are conducted with the highest Christian and moral standards. The standards set forth in the Messiah's Standards for Youth Activities will ensure the safety, security and confidence of youth, and the adults that lead them.

- We believe the service of leading, guiding and teaching youth is one of the highest forms of ministry in the Church
- We expect our leaders and staff to set strong Christian examples and be mature and active in their Lutheran faith.
- ***We believe that all youth are a gift from God and we have the highest responsibility to nurture and protect them.***

Key Principles of the Youth Activity Standards

The following principles capture the heart of the Youth Activity Standards.

- Two-Adult Standard - Generally, this will mean that at least two screened adults, or one screened adult and one unscreened adult will be leading activities for youth at Messiah Lutheran Church. No youth event will begin without two adults present.
- In a classroom setting, it is okay to have one adult leader for two or more youth provided the door is open or, the classroom has an interior door with a window and other activities are taking place. If only one classroom is occupied, then two adult leaders are required.
- It is okay for an adult to speak to a child individually so long as it takes place in an open setting where others can easily observe, but not necessarily hear the conversation taking place.
- Children may only be picked up from church events by a parent or member of their own family, or by a person previously designated on a signed written permission form.
- The Parental Consent and Medical Authorization Form will be collected **annually** to ensure the health and safety of children while involved with regular church and youth activities.
- The Youth Special Event Permission Form will be required of all participants of special events taking place away from Messiah Lutheran Church.
- Brief hugs, handshakes and other momentary touches (so long as they are on the arm or upper back) are okay between adults and children over age 3. It is also okay that infants and children under age 3 may be carried, cradled or held in one's lap as merits the activity. It is not okay to physically discipline or restrain a children or youth.
- Disrespectful, unruly or unsafe behaviors by children and youth during church activities are not okay. Unsafe behaviors include a child wandering off alone or playing unsupervised. Consequences may include a private discussion or report to the parent following the event, dismissal of the child or youth from the activity during the event, parental supervision during future activities or pastoral counseling.

Related Documents

www.mlutheran.org/about-us/resources

Standards for Youth Activities

1. Excerpts from Alabama's Mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law
2. Parental Consent and Medical Authorization Form
3. Messiah Lutheran Church Youth Special Event Permission Slip
4. Youth Program Volunteer Application with Background Check Release Form