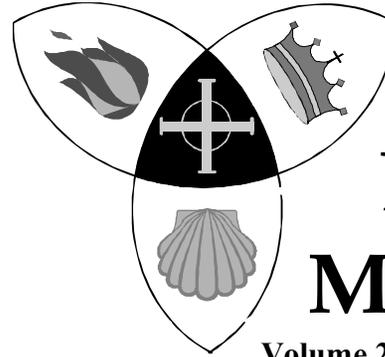


Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758
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Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is www.mlutheran.com**. Church Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Manager. The pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. Pastor/Developer is Rev. Mark Borseth. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: info@mlutheran.com. For newsletter articles call Stacy Tidwell

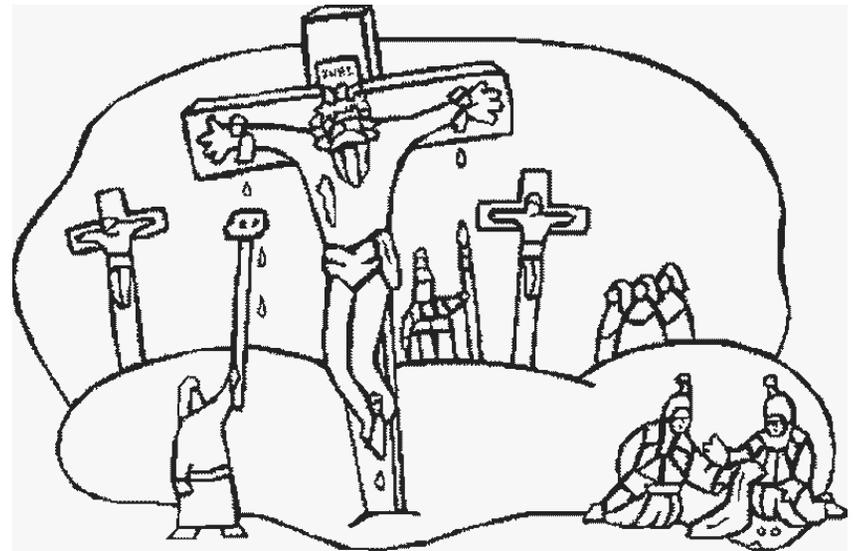


MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 21: Issue 4

April 2009

www.mlutheran.com



While hanging on a wooden cross with spikes through
His hands and feet,
Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them,
for they know not what they do."

Thomas said: "Unless I put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." John 19:25

Jesus said to Thomas: "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." John 19:27

Dear Friends of the Crucified and Risen Messiah,

THE DISCIPLE THOMAS was deeply wounded by the death of Jesus. He refused to be comforted by the unbelievable stories of other disciples. Only if he saw and touched the wounds of the risen Jesus would he believe. That is exactly what happened: Jesus came to Thomas and invited him to touch the wounds and believe.

THE RISEN JESUS still shows disciples His wounds. In those wounds we see...

- +How deeply our Lord suffered because of our sin.
- +How great His love is for us.
- +How well Jesus knows the suffering we experience in this life.
- +How our wounds may be tools the Lord uses to bring others to new life in Him.

JESUS IS THE WOUNDED HEALER. He does not save us from the pains of life. But He has gone through them ahead of us. Jesus took the worst this world could do to Him and turned it into God's greatest gift for us—New life now and eternal life with Him and all God's children.

DEATH CHANGES THE LIVING. When someone dear to us dies, we are deeply wounded. Our lives are changed forever. Eventually that wound may heal, but even when fully healed a severe wound leaves a scar.

YET, REGARDLESS OF OUR WOUNDS, our Lord has a future prepared for disciples like Thomas and us. God may even use our suffering to bring healing and new life to others. Come to hear the story and receive the new life only available through our crucified and risen Lord.

Holy Week Services of Worship:

April 9: Maundy Thursday, 7:00p.m. Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

April 10: Good Friday, 7:00p.m. Tenebrae Service of Darkness

April 12: The Resurrection of our Lord, 7:00, 8:30, & 11:00a.m. Festival Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Peterson*

Church Council Highlights

- Laurie Campbell, Bill Emerson and Elaine Shriver were appointed to serve on the MLC Advisory Group for Pastor Mark.
- A new web master is needed to replace Kay Spence.
- Congregation meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2009
- Next Council meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2009

Messiah T-Shirts Available

A limited number of adult Messiah Lutheran Church T-shirts are available in sizes from S to XXL for \$12. See Rhonda Gaede if interested.

Incarnation Information – April 2009

By Pastor Mark Borseth

The pace is starting to pick up as we move into spring. Instead of occasional gatherings, the Incarnation leadership team is now meeting (nearly) every week to pray, grow together as a group, strategize and plan. Over the next months we will be doing more specific planning for finances, worship, advertising, and securing and preparing worship space with the hope of doing our first worship in July. We will be keeping an eye on how fast things proceed so we know if we need to delay our start. It is vitally important to have enough people when we start worship to have a critical mass. It is better to start later and stronger rather than earlier and weaker.

We are specifically inviting people from Messiah and St. Mark's to commit to worshipping with us for a while. You may be able to worship at both Messiah and Incarnation the same morning depending on Incarnation's worship time! If you feel called to help with providing initial energy and momentum for Incarnation, please talk to Pastor Mark or come to a meeting. We will also be inviting people with specific talents and knowledge to be advisors. For example, if you have done sound or music for worship, we may be inviting you to help us make sure we are getting off to a good start in that area.

Pastor Mark will be setting goals for knocking on doors over the next months. The goal he is considering is "4000 Doors by July 4." Come and join him. The main goal of initial calls is not doing a "hard sell" to convince people to come to the church. It is mostly to increase awareness that there will be a new church. We will also be planning interest meetings and visibility events so more people become aware of Incarnation and have a chance to get connected.

We seek your prayers and your words of invitation to friends and family who may be interested in Incarnation. Information will be included on the website (Incarnation-elca.org) and in Messiah bulletins and newsletters, but you can get more regular updates by having Pastor Mark add you to the email update list or the weekly email devotion mailing list. Feel free to arrange a meeting with Pastor Mark if you want to learn more.

The Alpha Course Starting Wednesday, April 15

For six Wednesdays from April 15 to May 20 you will have the opportunity to invest in growing your faith and your knowledge of the basics of Christianity. Alpha is a course that has been attended by millions of people around the world. Its benefit for those who have attended include life-long Christians having their faith revitalized, and people who have questions or are new to Christianity developing a strong base upon which their faith can grow. Pastor Mark has been transformed himself and had many members from his congregations in Minneapolis and Harrisburg say it was a life-changing thing for them. Some of the largest congregations in the ELCA use Alpha as the main outreach and entryway into the life of their congregation.

A typical evening will begin with eating at the Wednesday Night Café. After that (about 6:15) will be a prayer and a song. Then there will be a video to introduce the topic followed by an opportunity to discuss the content of the video in small groups and as a large group. We will be done about 7:30 each week. The thing that is unique about Alpha is that it is based on the basic questions of faith. Each week covers a different question (such as -Why did Jesus die? How can I be sure of my faith? Who is the Holy Spirit?)

There is no cost unless you want to order a manual (about \$4) or the book that has a chapter for each of the weekly topics. It is best to come every week, but if you can't do that, come when you can.



April Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice

Sundays at 8:30am

April 5 LBW Setting 1

April 12 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

April 19 Youth Service w/LS

April 26 WOV Service Word/Prayer

Sundays at 11:00am

April 5 LBW Setting 1

Apr. 12 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

April 19 Youth Service

April 26 Chicago Folk w/LS

Mid-Week Lenten Services of Worship

All Lenten services begin at 7 p.m. Area Lutheran pastors will come to Messiah Lutheran to preach about an opponent of Jesus.

April 1: "Religious Authorities" Pastors Dennis Fakes and Otto Wood of St. Mark's LC

Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 9: Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm

April 10: Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 12:

Resurrection of Our Lord: Festival Worship with

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper **7 am, 8:30 am & 11:00 am**

Lenten Soup Supper Schedule

On Wednesday evening, April 1, everyone is invited to a soup supper serving between 5:30 and 6:30 pm. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex Please sign up if you are able to bring soup, bread, etc. for the last soup supper of the season. There is no soup supper Holy Week, April 8.

Rummage Sale Set for April 25

The church rummage sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 from 8 – 11 a.m. Proceeds from the sale will support Habitat for Humanity. You may bring items to donate for the rummage sale to the Parish Hall beginning Wed. night, April 22 through Friday, April 24. Help is needed on Thursday and Friday to price the items and on Saturday during the sale. To help with the sale, contact Paulette McNamara

Collectibles & More Auction

This spring, Messiah will be hosting an auction on Saturday, May 2 to support the *On Eagle's Wings* mission. In its 12th year, the auction is a fun way to collect some real treasures and support the sharing of the Gospel to people in the remote areas of northern Canada.

The fun begins at 4:30 p.m. and will continue through the dinner hour. Pizza, soft drinks and homemade desserts will be available for sale at reasonable prices. Free childcare is provided and door prizes will be awarded throughout the evening. This is also a Thrivent-sponsored event with supplemental funding!



Do you have any new or like-new items that you would like to donate? Or, would you be willing to donate one of your handcrafted items? Or a service, such as baby-sitting or lessons? Perhaps you have some tickets to a play, sporting event or concert that you are willing to donate? In the past, we've auctioned everything from beanie babies, coins, and sports memorabilia to live plants, afghans, piano lessons, home décor items, candlelight dinners, baby items and much more! Also, there are numerous ways that you can be involved in helping with this event like baking, picking up donations from local businesses, cataloging, setting up, etc. Please call Sue Doubleday or the Church Office (721-0041) if you have donations or would like to help in any way.

Attention 2nd & 3rd Graders

"God and Me" Begins Sunday, April 19

Pastor Mark will be offering a four week course for 2nd & 3rd Graders called "God and Me:" starting Sunday, April 19. The class will meet for about an hour from 1:00-2:00 pm each Sunday. It is a course designed for those involved in Scouting, but is not limited to Scouts. This is the course needed to receive the "God & Me" award for Scouting. Talk to Pastor Mark if interested.



Music Camp June 8-12

Messiah's 16th annual Music Camp will be held the week of June 8 – 12. The musical will be presented at both services on June 14. This year we will learn and tell the amazing story of Paul through the musical "Man with a Mission". Children and parents tell your friends and mark your calendars! If you have questions or would like to help in any way, please contact Lois Graff

Education Continued...

VBS will be July 13 - 17

The theme this year will be Discovery Canyon.

Help will be needed in all areas. Everyone has something to offer! Please considering volunteering!

Contact Celynn Ballard at celynn.ballard@knology.net or 830-2685

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

- 1st year classes meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. This class is open to all 8th graders and older.
- 2nd year classes meet on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand

LUNCHES FOR Learning

The slideshow given by Ron Hicks on March 1 about the **Lunches for Learning** mission was so inspiring we'd like to sponsor a school in Honduras. On Sunday April 26 after worship, please join us in the Parish Hall for a Taco Luncheon fundraiser led by gourmet chef Jackie Myers.



Our Spring 2009 Build continues each Saturday. A schedule of jobs

and a map to the site are posted on the property bulletin board. More info may be found at the Habitat website www.hfhmc.org



Messiah Photographers Lyn and Chuck Blevins are available Sundays after late service to update your photo for Messiah's pictorial directory. You may contact them by phone or email to arrange a photo shoot. OR if you already have a current photo that you'd like to use in the directory, please forward it to



Congratulations to our high school graduates! You're invited to celebrate by filling baskets with "sending gifts" such as dormitory appliances, cleaning supplies, phone cards, stamps, etc. Baskets are located in the hallway leading to the Parish Hall.

Stephen Ministry's purpose: "To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13). For more info on Messiah's Stephen Ministry, contact Claire Strand or Anita deJong.



Congregational Emergency Preparedness Wish List:

- Folding wheelchair
- NOAA Weather Radio

Education News



Celynn Ballard

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The kids have done very well collecting donations for the Lunches for Learning offering. Their goal was to raise \$200...and the check was given to Ron Hicks when he came to present his information. They are hoping to double their goal by the end of March.

Dottie Hanson plans to begin a new Sunday School class on the book of Hebrews in a couple of weeks.

Looking ahead...

April 12 – No Sunday School for Easter, but Cheryl Byers would like the children to bring in flowers to help decorate a cross in celebration of Easter Sunday.

Youth News

SENIOR YOUTH

- The SR Youth continue work on the *Alpha Course* with Pastor Mark.
- In March, several of the youth participated in a Lock-in at the church.
- Once again, the Sr. Youth will host the Easter Breakfast. This fundraiser will help defray the costs of the various summer camps they will attend. These include Lutherock, the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, and Affirm.
- The Youth continue to plan for their annual 30 Hour Famine in April.
- Senior Youth meetings are Sundays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the youth room.

All 9th – 12th graders are welcome at any or all activities. Contact John Shriver or Marsha Wade for information.

JUNIOR YOUTH

- The Jr. Youth will be providing a hot dog lunch at the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Although they are not charging for the lunch, they plan to accept donations with all proceeds going to "Lunches for Learning".
- Upcoming Jr. Youth Events - Look for more details to come:
 1. March 28 - Meeting to stuff Easter eggs for Easter Egg Hunt, indoor putt-putt, and pizza.
 2. April 4 - Support Church Easter Egg Hunt and hot dog lunch
 3. April 18/19 - 30 Hour Famine

All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are welcome at any or all Jr. Youth activities. Contact Lisa Bartel or Beth Thompson for information.

TWEENS

- Tweens try to meet monthly.

All 3rd – 5th graders are welcome. For more info, contact Debi Peterson or Stacy Tidwell

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

From Linda Zutter

Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 4, at 10 am - children in 5th grade and under are invited to hunt eggs. The Easter Bunny will make an appearance. Hear the Resurrection Story. Find a resurrection egg and win a set of Resurrection Eggs. A hotdog lunch will be hosted by the Youth. Egg Hunt sign up sheet on the Fellowship bulletin board. Small prizes to fit in eggs, candy, and empty egg cartons (no plastic eggs please) can be donated at the church office.

Mother Daughter Event - "International Flavors" Saturday, May 9, 2 - 4 pm in the Parish Hall. Bring a favorite ethnic dessert. If you have an authentic treasure or souvenir from another country, bring the item for the display table. All ladies welcome to this spring event. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Thank you to all who helped with the Wednesday soup suppers held during Lent.

Interested in helping with a Fellowship? Contact Linda Zutter



LIFE PASSAGES

This newsletter feature announces significant transitions in the life of our community of faith. Birth, Death, Baptism, Graduation, Confirmation, Job Change Relocation, Engagement, Marriage, or any other life passage you

would like announced will be included. Contact Outreach Assistant Claire Strand.

Death: *Remember I am with you always to the end of the age Matthew 28:20*

- Bill Cline, a charter member of MLC, passed away March 3.
- Doris McDaniels, mother of Lloyd McDaniels, passed away March 24
- Lynn Hanna, long time member of Messiah Lutheran, passed away March 25

Births: *You knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13*

- Randolph Cooke Peterson, great nephew of Pastor Peterson, was born March 5th. Proud parents are Erik and Angela Peterson.



Taco Luncheon to benefit
Lunches for Learning
Sunday, April 26 at Noon
Messiah Parish Hall

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5pm Year 2 Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Year 1 Confirmation 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>FRAKES, Larry & Terry</i>	2 8:30 a.m. Morning Study Group <i>FRY, Dennis & Jacquie</i>	3 <i>FRYE, Catherine Kendall</i>	4 10 am Easter Egg Hunt <i>FRYE, Eugene & Edith</i>
5 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 1 12:15 Instrumental Ens 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Sr. Youth Meeting	6 <i>GARRISON, Gary</i>	7 10 am Comforters <i>GOEBEL, Ian & Heidi</i>	8 5pm Year 2 Confirmation No Dinner 6:00pm Year 1 Confirmation 7:45 Adult Choir <i>GRAFF, Jeff & Lois</i>	9 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service <i>GRANT, Ken & Nancy Lori</i>	10 7pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Service <i>GRIMES, Dee Dee</i>	11 <i>GRUBIS, Robin</i>
12 7am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 NO Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS	13 <i>GRULICH, Richard</i>	14 10 am Comforters <i>GULDEN, Brian & Amanda</i>	15 5pm Year 2 Confirm. 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Year 1 Confirmation 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>GUSTAFSON, Bob & Audrey</i>	16 8:30 a.m. Morning Study Group 7:00 pm Church Council <i>HACKENBERG, Brian & Staci Cassidy, Connor</i>	17 <i>HAMPEL, John & Amanda John, Jacob</i>	18 30-Hour Famine <i>HANNA, Lynn & Peggy</i>
19 8:30am Worship Youth Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Youth Service 12:15 Instrumental Ens 1pm God and Me Class 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth Group	20 <i>HANSON, Mark & Dottie</i>	21 10 am Comforters <i>HELINSKI, John & Donna</i>	22 5pm Year 2 Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Year 1 Confirmation 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>HEMINGWAY, Linda</i>	23 <i>HENDRICK, Doug & Gloria Zalatan James, Madison</i>	24 <i>HETHERINGTON, Bill & Jamie Amelia, Katie, William</i>	25 8-11 a.m Rummage Sale <i>HEUER, Gertrude</i>
26 8:30am Worship WOV Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Chicago Folk w/LS Noon Taco Lunch 1pm God and Me Class 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Sr. Youth Meeting	27 <i>HILLIN, Suzanne</i>	28 10 am Comforters <i>HODNETT, Burleigh & Esta</i>	29 5pm Year 2 Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Year 1 Confirmation 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>HOFF, Scott & Lisa, Morgan</i>	30 8:30 a.m. Morning Study Group <i>HOFFMAN, Adele Kyle, Grace</i>		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE April 19