

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 am and 11:00 am. Sunday School is at 9:45 am. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. Our website is www.mlutheran.com. Church office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, staffed by our Office Managers. The Pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041. Email: info@mlutheran.org. Newsletter submissions may be sent to Beth Gloe.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

April 2013
Volume 25 Issue 4

The newsletter and calendar for Messiah Lutheran Church, Madison, Alabama

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 April Calendar
- 2 Pastor's Page/Services of Worship
- 3 Life Passages/Fellowship News
- 4 Outreach
- 5 Music Notes/Birthdays/Council Notes
- 6 Stewardship/News Flashes
- 7 Youth Zone
- 8 Month in Pictures
- 9 Member Spotlight – The Estepes

Contact Information

Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Highway 72 West Madison, AL 35758
Phone: (256) 721-0041

Office Hours.....8:00 am - 12:00 pm Monday - Friday

Staff

Rev. Scott Peterson.....Pastor
Cheryl Byers, Ellie Nelson.....Office Managers
Claire Strand.....Director of Outreach Ministries
Lois Graff.....Director of Music Ministries
Lauren Gray.....Director of Youth Ministries
Randall Fields.....Choir Director
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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www.mlutheran.com

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<http://mlutheran.blogspot.com/>

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 <i>Bill & Paula Weaver</i>	2 <i>Richard & Bonnie Webb</i>	3 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30 Wed Night Café 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Adult Bible Class on Acts 6:30pm Notabella and Youth Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Scot & Sharon West Jacob, Jordon, Kyle</i>	4 <i>Richard & Tammy Weber Michael Ward, Scott Ward, David, James, Laura</i>	5 9am Craft/Knitting Group <i>Lisa Whaley Miranda Mumaw</i>	6 <i>Sam & Gimny Whitaker</i>
7 8:30am Worship: <i>Now the Feast w/LS</i> 9:45am Sunday School & MLC 360 Class 11am Worship: <i>WOV Word/Prayer</i> 6:30pm Sr. Youth	8 9:30am Moms' Bible Study Group <i>Don & Karen Williams Alie, Bryan, Kain Blankenship</i>	9 10am Comforters 7pm VBS Volunteer Meeting <i>Pete & Devonee Woods Abby, Aaron</i>	10 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30 Wed Night Café 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Adult Bible Class on Acts 6:30pm Notabella, Youth Choir, Contemp Jam Session 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Gloria Yoo</i>	11 8:30am Morning Study on Signs in Gospel of John Council 7pm <i>Mark & Janell Zesinger Merritt, Jamie, Natalie</i>	12 9am Craft/Knitting Group 7:30pm Bridge Club in Parish Hall <i>Paul & Linda Zutter</i>	13 Serving the City As One 6:30pm Movie Night <i>Hank Alewine</i>
14 8:30am Worship: <i>LBW Setting 2</i> 9:30am New Member Reception 9:45am Sunday School & MLC 360 Class 11am Worship: <i>Chicago Folk w/LS</i> 12:15 Instrumental Ens 6:30pm Sr. Youth	15 <i>Rebecca Alferink Michael, Matthew</i>	16 10am Comforters 7pm Education & Youth Committee Meeting <i>Barbara Allen</i>	17 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30 Wed Night Café 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Adult Bible Class on Acts 6:30pm Notabella and Youth Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Tracy & Staci Armstrong</i>	18 <i>Dick & Barbara Azzam Benjamin, Katelan</i>	19 9am Craft/Knitting Group <i>Rick & LeeLinda Baggett</i>	20 Annual Rummage Sale 30 Hour Famine <i>Christopher & Jessica Baldrige Rowan</i>
21 8:30am Worship: <i>Youth Service w/LS</i> 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: <i>Youth Service</i> 6:30pm Sr. Youth	22 9:30am Moms Bible Study Group <i>Tom & Celynn Ballard Thomas, Kate</i>	23 10am Comforters <i>Timothy & Tracy Bare Jeremy</i>	24 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30 Wed Night Café 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Adult Bible Class on Acts 6:30pm Notabella, Youth Choir, Contemp Jam Session 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Mark & Lisa Bartel Alison, William</i>	25 8:30am Morning Study on Signs in Gospel of John <i>Bill & Sue Bathgate</i>	26 9am Craft/Knitting Group <i>Greg & Jeanette Beamer</i>	27 <i>Crystal Beard</i>
28 8:30am Worship: <i>WOV Word/Prayer</i> 9:45 Sunday School 11am Worship: <i>LBW Setting 2 w/LS</i> 12:15 Instrumental Ens 6:30pm Sr. Youth	29 <i>David Beier Brittany</i>	30 10am Comforters <i>Christine Berry</i>				

April 2013

Looking ahead...

- May 5 - Lunches for Learning Taco Luncheon
- May 11 - Mother's Day Eggstravaganza
- June 3-7 - Music Camp



Pastor's Page

By Pastor Scott Peterson scott@mlutheran.com

*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized
into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,
so we too might walk in newness of life.
For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 6:3-5*

Dear Friends of the Crucified and Risen Messiah,

WHAT DAY WERE YOU BORN? You know that date without a second thought. OK, what day were you Baptized? *Hmmm?* Most of us struggle to remember that date, or simply have no clue. *Isn't that strange?* We all know our birthdays--the world we live in requires us to be certain about that. But, **as Christians we are not of this world.**

SO, WE ALREADY KNOW THE FIRST DATE ON OUR TOMBSTONES--or Columbarium nameplates. And (while we do not like to think about it), you and I are racing toward that second date that will be etched in stone or brass--the day we will die. *Given that, wouldn't it would be wise to focus more on...*

WHAT DAY WERE YOU RE-BORN in the waters of Baptism? The wonderful thing about that date is that there is no end date that follows it. When our Lord washes water over us and joins His name to our names, it is **not a temporary matter**. When God declares, "*You are my child*": **that is forever**. God's promises, "*My children do not have expiration dates.*" Death does not cancel Baptism, it only completes it. *For God's chosen ones eternity begins at Baptism.* Our earthly deaths are mere '*speed bumps*' on the road to our eternal home with God. There time is never an issue. Yet, that said: We do have times and seasons in this life. And...

EASTER IS THE SEASON FOR BAPTISMS. It has been from the earliest days of the Christian church. St. Paul tells us in Baptism we are buried into Christ's death and joined into His resurrection. His death put an end to death's reign. His resurrection means life--*abundant, hope-filled, eternal life.*

DEATH, FOR MANY OF US, HAS BEEN AN UNWANTED COMPANION in recent months and years. Thankfully, new life is not only on the horizon, it rises up to embrace us now in the midst of this veil of tears.

THIS EASTER SEASON at MLC we will be celebrating numerous Baptisms to make disciples of the young and the not so young. Obviously, Jesus is not yet done in adopting new children into His forever family.

EASTER IS LONGER THAN LENT on our church calendar and in reality. Easter; the season of Resurrection, is FOREVER. Our Lord's Word and promise to you and me is FOREVER. Nothing else is: Nothing. In this world that is passing away: ***Don't you ever forget that.***

Easter JOY!

Pastor Scott Peterson

April Services of Worship

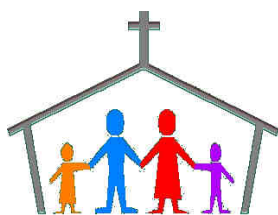
LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship WOV = With One Voice
ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship LS = Lord's Supper

Sundays at 8:30 am

April 7 Now the Feast w/ Lord's Supper
April 14 LBW Setting 2
April 21 Youth Service w/ Lord's Supper
April 28 WOV Service of Word & Prayer

Sundays at 11:00 am

April 7 WOV Service of Word & Prayer
April 14 Chicago Folk w/ Lord's Supper
April 21 Youth Service
April 28 LBW Setting 2 w/ Lord's Supper



Life Passages

By Claire Strand claire@mlutheran.com

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 Claire Strand.

FIRST COMMUNION: Alexis Erickson, Maddie and Xander Brown, Jonathan Byers, Jacob Huwaldt, Rebecca Meyer, Amanda Peterson, Davey Velazquez, and Merritt Zesinger received First Communion on February 10th.

DEATHS: Tim Maloney, Sue Doubleday's brother, passed away on March 4th.

Thriving with Thrivent

The opportunity to participate in Thrivent Financial's Common Bond vote is happening now. Extending the common bond will allow us to help more Christians be wise with money and live generously. The decision to extend our common bond belongs to Thrivent members, and we're hoping for a record turnout on this important vote!

The Timeline:

- The voting period extends from March 1 through April 30, 2013.
- Even if the vote passes, the change will be evolutionary - not revolutionary, as Thrivent continues to help strengthen Christian communities.

Watch for your ballot then vote in whichever way you prefer:

- Online
- By Mail
- By Phone

To learn more before you vote, visit www.Thrivent.com/vote.

Fellowship Committee News

By Mary Ann Stasiak

Many, many thanks to Kay Spence for hosting **Lenten Soup Suppers** this year, and to the groups and families who provided so many delicious soups.



Elaine Shriver has made every Friday into **Craft Day** - knitting lessons, knitting fellowship, just hang out with buddies and knit. Join Elaine and fellow crafters every Friday, 10-11 AM at Messiah.

Bridge Club will be held Friday April 12th 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. New and experienced bridge players welcome! If you've started learning bridge a little, want to learn more, need a refresher, or just need some practice before you start to play again, this was meant for you! Bring a friend and a snack to share. Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

Saturday, April 13th will be **Movie Night at Messiah**, thanks again to Mr. Messiah Movies, Mike Boyer. Keep watch at the Welcome Center for the movie titles - one for the grown-ups and one for the kids.

The previously planned picnic at the Botanical Garden will be re-scheduled for a **Fathers' Day event in June**.

Future Events:

Saturday, May 11th, Mothers' Day Eggstravaganza

Can you help with an upcoming event? Contact Mary Ann Stasiak.

Outreach News

What is better than being remembered? How does it make you feel? We want all of our members to know that they are valued and remembered even if they are not able to attend services regularly. Outreach has been collecting small items to fill Easter bags for our Messiah shut-ins this year. Thank you for the care you show to these members.

Letter from Ron Hicks, President of Lunches for Learning

February 28, 2013

Dear Members of Messiah Lutheran Church,

Over a year ago Dan Scroggins spent a week conducting a Potable Water Survey of 17 of our (then) 21 schools. Dan wrote a comprehensive Potable Water Report describing the existing water systems. Dan found financing for the first 4 Potable Water Projects. This past week, Dan supervised the implementation of the first 4 potable water systems. Dan spent each day in the hot sun cutting and splicing, providing necessary field changes and implementing the changes, pushing, pulling, and lifting to assure that all 4 potable water systems were installed.

Because of Dan's efforts, there are now 4 schools in the L4L system that have potable water where none previously existed. I want to be clear; without Dan's continuous boots-on-the-ground and behind-the-scene involvement these 4 schools would not have potable water today. At each of the 4 schools, teachers, mothers, and students stood in awe as a spigot was turned and potable water flowed. At Elementary School 3 de Octubre, a mother stood stoically, her expression never changing, a tear running down her cheek as potable water started flowing from the faucet.

Once again, a member of Messiah "North" has benefited the very poor children of Valle District beyond the Lunch Program provided through L4L.

Thanks to you, Dan, and the entire Messiah "North" congregation for all of your support for the "small forgotten" elementary schools of rural Honduras.

Siempre su amigo,
Ron

International Habitat for Humanity

by Susan Burrer

Since Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity are co-sponsoring both the local house build and the international project in El Salvador (Global Village *Partners in Faith*), please designate on your gift or envelope /Huntsville Build or /El Salvador Build. Thank you for helping change people's lives with a decent, affordable home no matter where they live!

RELAY FOR LIFE for American Cancer Society

Join/support Messiah Lutheran Church's team:

<http://main.acsevents.org/goto/MessiahLutheranBelievers>

Relay: Bob Jones High School

Friday, May 10, 6:00PM

Bake Sale: April 7th at Messiah

Music Notes

By Lois Graff



Contemporary Jam Sessions

Twice a month on Wednesday evenings, informal, acoustic jam sessions will be held for those interested in fine-tuning their contemporary music 'chops'. For Sr. Youth and Adult guitar, bass, keyboard, flute, violin, drum players and vocalists. Talk to Bob Davis or Lois Graff if interested or come to the first jam session on April 10.

Sight and Sound Team

Technicians still needed for setup and mixing during Contemporary worship services! Training provided. Please talk to Paul Zutter, Bob Davis or Lois Graff if you are interested.

Music Camp June 3 - 7

The week of Music Camp 2013 is June 3 - 7, with presentations on June 9. Adult and youth helpers are needed. Please contact Lois Graff if you can help.

Council Highlights

Discussed at the March Council Meeting:

1. "Standing on the Promise" Campaign for Lutheranch will be April 14 - May 12. MLC has set a goal of \$36,000. More information coming soon from Glen Long.
2. Weekend Food Program at Liberty Middle School to begin Friday, April 5th. For more information contact Devonee Woods.
3. Greeting cards are for sale in the Narthex for \$15 per pack. Proceeds go to *The Vine* Pastoral Counseling Center in Huntsville
4. Sunday, May 5th is our Congregation Meeting with elections and annual reports. It will be held after the 11am service with Taco Dinner supporting Lunches for Learning mission to follow.

Stewardship Thought

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. Colossians 1:3-6



Spring is here! As God brings forth new growth around us, MLC is reaching out its shoots as *God's People Reaching Out*. If you have an extra hour or two in your longer Spring days, consider spending it to help in one or more of the many missions happening now:

Habitat for Humanity - Thrivent Builds project at 6313 Banks Street, Huntsville
Lunches for Learning Taco Luncheon - Advance prep and help with lunch on May 5
Weekend Food Program - feeding hungry local children
 Yard Sale - on April 20th
 Food Pantry

If you are interested in reaching out but do not know how to start, feel free to email Lois Graff or contact the Church Office. May the blessings that God showers on His people be multiplied to others as you reach out in faith.

News Flashes!



Comforters will
 meet every
 Tuesday in April
 @ 10:00.
 Questions call
 Annette Joens @

Interested in visiting the Holy Land?

Pastor Scott will lead a tour to the Holy Land Nov. 11-22. The '*Journey Through the Bible*' tour will include seeing where Jesus was born, lived, worked, died, and rose, and also many other sites that are significant in the Bible. Lodging will be in Bethlehem, then by the Sea of Galilee, and finally in Jerusalem. A brochure with the full itinerary is at the Welcome Center in the narthex.

For more information talk to Pastor Scott, or he can refer you to those who visited the Holy Land with him in 2011.

Youth Zone

By Lauren Gray youth_director@mlutheran.org

30 Hour Famine!

The annual 30 hour famine event is taking place April 20th & 21st. This event is open to Jr. & Sr. youth (6th-12th grades)! See Lauren Gray for more info and sign up to participate!!

Serving the City As One

On Saturday, April 13th, many churches will be participating in service projects in the Madison & Huntsville area. Messiah youth will be participating and are offering an invitation to the congregation to join them! We are working on picking a project for our church and will have one very soon! Please see Lauren Gray if you'd like to join in!

Parents/adults are needed to sign up as extra chaperones for Sr. and Jr. Youth group meetings. Please see sign-up sheets on bulletin board outside of classroom 5 (youth room) or talk to Youth Dir. Lauren Gray!

VBS Volunteer Meeting

Interested in helping out with this summer's Vacation Bible School?? Please attend the VBS Volunteer Meeting on Tuesday, April 9th at 7pm. We will be discussing the theme and what is needed to make this year's VBS a success!

Coming Up...

- VBS volunteer meeting- Tuesday, April 9th @ 7pm.
- *Serving The City As One*- Saturday, April 13th.
- Education and Youth Committee Meeting- Tuesday, April 16th @ 7pm.
- 30 Hour Famine- April 20th & 21st!!

Month in Pictures - March



Bridging the Gap workshop for Stephen Ministry was held at Messiah on Saturday, March 3. Nearly 30 people gathered at Messiah to hear Neal Schooler talk in detail about how this ministry can serve a congregation.

Messiah's program has 8 current Stephen Ministers who have been trained in this distinctively Christian form of caring. The program can minister to people in all types of transitions in life, and for as long as the receiver needs the care. They are the caring people who are there when everyone else has gone back to "normal."

If you or someone you know would benefit from having a Stephen Minister, or you would like to know more about the ministry, please contact Claire Strand.

Our Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity Project is off to a good start. We have a foundation and walls. Soon we will have a roof, thanks to all who came out on March 9th.

Construction of this home will continue through June. Please consider joining us on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. No special skill, training, or tools are required. For more information, please contact Gerard deJong.



Messiah Yard Sale

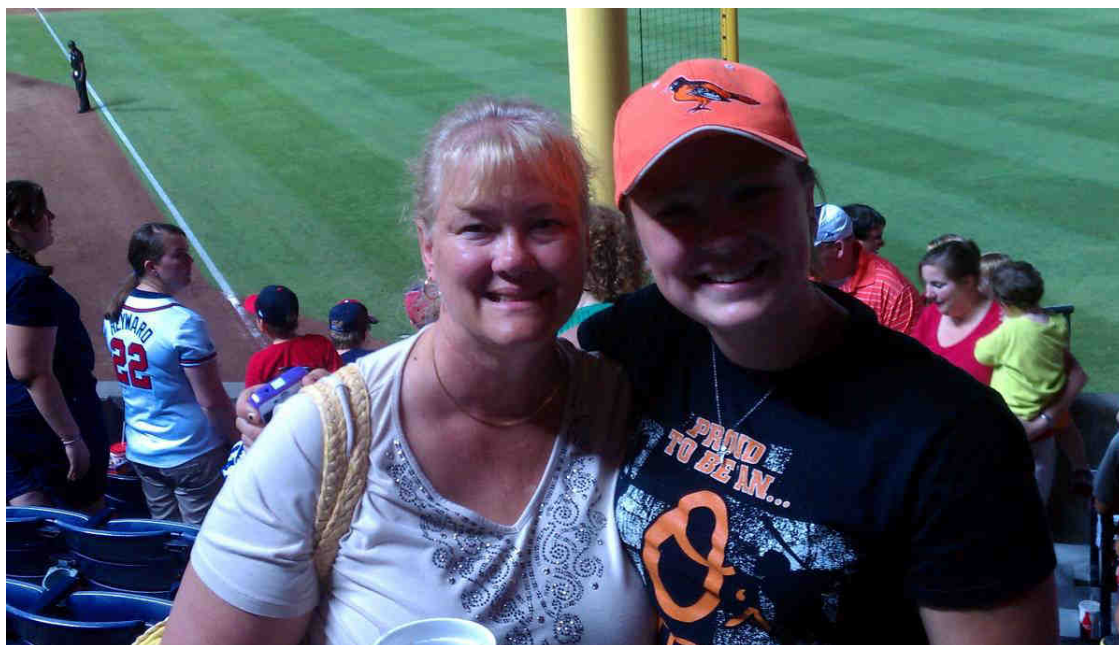
The Annual Messiah Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 8:30 am until noon.

Items can be brought to church the week before and put on the stage in the Parish Hall. We will need help on Thursday afternoon to set up the tables and unpack boxes and organize. Help will also be needed on Friday to price items for the yard sale. Then on Saturday help will be needed to bag items, straighten up the tables, assist shoppers, walk around answering questions, and finally pack up what did not sell which will be donated to Christmas Charities.

The proceeds of the sale will go to Habitat for Humanity. If anyone is interested in helping, please call Paulette McNamara at 256-233-5644. Paulette can also be contacted if there are any questions.

All donations are welcome and appreciated. There will be slips available if you wish to record donations as a charitable gift on your taxes.

Feature Family – The Estepes



The Estepes (Ron, Pat and Kaitlyn):

Ron and Pat met in high school in Baltimore, MD, and were married on June 5, 1976. Ron served in the US Navy for 25 years, keeping them mobile. His duty stations took them to Pensacola, FL, back to their hometown of Baltimore, MD, and finally to Virginia Beach, VA. The day before their twenty-first wedding anniversary, they were blessed with the birth of Kaitlyn. After Ron's retirement from the Navy, the family moved to Charlottesville, VA, and five years later moved to Madison, AL. Ron is currently working for Boeing. Pat works for Alutiiq, LLC and Kaitlyn is a sophomore at Bob Jones High School.

Consider saving paper...if you'd prefer to receive
an electric copy of this monthly newsletter, email
info@mlutheran.org



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The Messenger is a monthly publication published by Messiah Lutheran Church. Material for publication may be forwarded to Beth Gloe. The deadline for the next month's issue is April 18th.