

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.



The newsletter and calendar for Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) Madison, Alabama

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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
Randall Fields.....Choir Director
Kert Reedstrom.....Director of Education & Youth
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5pm Confirmation 7:45pm Adult Choir <i>Will & Cheryl Rydbom Logan, Sarah</i>	2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service with the Lord's Supper <i>Heidi Sage</i>	3 <i>Good Friday</i> 7pm Tenebrae Service of Darkness <i>Jennifer Scheurich</i>	4 10am Easter Egg Hunt <i>Norm & Sheilah Scheurich Shaun</i>
5 <i>Easter</i> 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:00 – 10:45 am Easter Breakfast 11am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS	6 <i>Lee & Dorothy Seitz Walter, Andrew, Hannah, Thomas</i>	7 10am Comforters <i>Dan & Michelle Shaffer</i>	8 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Wednesday Night Cafe 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Rex & Fran Shaffer</i>	9 8:30am Morning Study Group 12pm AGO Concert 7pm Council meets 7pm Personal Care Kit Assembly <i>Josh & Debbie Shipman William, JJ</i>	10 7:30pm Bridge Club in Parish Hall <i>John & Elaine Shriver Christopher</i>	11 <i>Lee & Janet Smith</i>
12 8:30am Worship: ELW Setting 8 9:45am E-100 Bible Study & Sunday School 11am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 12:15pm Instrumental Ensemble 6pm Sr. High Meeting	13 9:30am Mom's Bible Study <i>Steve & Jacqueline Smith Natasha</i>	14 10am Comforters <i>Todd Smith</i>	15 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Wednesday Night Cafe 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Pamela Sparks</i>	16 7pm Personal Care Kit Assembly <i>Tim & Kay Spence Katie, Michael</i>	17 <i>Lon & Connie Stanger Josh, Ben</i>	18 MLC YARD SALE In Parish Hall 8AM – 12:00 PM <i>Karl & Judy Starkloff</i>
19 8:30am Worship: Bread of Life w/LS Donut Sunday 9:45am E-100 Bible Study & Sunday School 11am Worship: Contemporary Service 5pm Jr. Youth Meeting 6pm Sr. High Meeting	20 <i>Ed & Mary Ann Stasiak</i>	21 10am Comforters <i>Bobbie Stender</i>	22 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Wednesday Night Cafe 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>John Stender</i>	23 8:30am Morning Study Group 7pm Personal Care Kit Assembly <i>Tammy Stender John, Jacqueline, Jennifer, Jacob, Jaxon</i>	24 <i>David Stradley</i>	25 <i>Stephen & Claire Strand William, Katrina, Michelle</i>
26 8:30am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:45am E-100 Bible Study & Sunday School 11am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12pm 26 th Anniversary Reception 12:15pm Instrumental Ensemble 6pm Sr. High Meeting	27 9:30am Mom's Bible Study <i>Joe & Jean Stuart</i>	28 10am Comforters <i>Dennis & Lisa Sweet</i>	29 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Wednesday Night Cafe 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Judy Sylvester</i>	30 7pm Personal Care Kit Assembly <i>Margarete Taylor</i>		

**Member names listed each day of the month denote prayer families Looking ahead...

- May 3 – Congregation Meeting and Elections
- May 23 & 24 – Celebration of MLC becoming an organized congregation
- June 1 – 5 – Music Camp
- June 5-7 – SE Synod Meeting in Birmingham



Pastor's Page

By Pastor Scott Peterson scott@mlutheran.com

Jesus said: *Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.* –John 12:24

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain... LBW hymn #148

Dear Friends of the Crucified, Risen, Living Messiah,

THIS IS IT! We start April in Holy Week! The **most important events** for you and me happened between a Thursday night and a Sunday morning long ago. We remember, repent, and celebrate April 2-5 this year. **Truly: Nothing is more important for us now and forever.** Pause and ponder that for a moment. How shall we understand Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection and **why it means everything** for us?

JESUS EXPLAINED IT THIS WAY: A seed buried in the earth dies, but what comes from the death of one seed blossoms into a multiplication of new life. That miracle of death and new life drives perhaps the strangest of Easter hymns: "*Now the Green Blade Rises*". Subdued music with a mysterious tune go with these words:

*"Now the green blade rises from the buried grain.
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

"Now the green blade rises..." It is shooting up everywhere around us these Spring days. **How** does it happen? We do not fully understand this work of our creative Lord, but...

WE KNOW that the seed is consumed and dies as new life sprouts and the blade rises. (*Just like Jesus died so we might have new life.*)

WE KNOW the seed contains the pattern for the new life that emerges. (*Just like Jesus' self-giving love gives us the pattern for the lives we are to live.*) And...

WE KNOW that from one seed many more come forth. (*Just like there were only a handful of disciples of Jesus the first Easter morning, but now billions have confessed, "Jesus is Lord!"*)

THE SEEDS OF FAITH in the risen Jesus were planted in you! Protect; shield that seed which grows in your heart. Nourish and feed it with God's Word and God's food. As you do God will give growth not only to you, but will bless others with new life our Lord will deliver through you. Our Lord cannot be stopped: When God plants seeds new life arises and grows. How will the blessings and life of the risen Jesus multiply through us? That is the promise and mission of this season of Resurrection.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Scott

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

Apr 5 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Apr 12 ELW Setting 8
Apr 19 Bread of Life w/LS
Apr 26 WOV Service of Word & Prayer

Sundays at 11:00 am

Apr 5 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Apr 12 Now the Feast w/LS
Apr 19 Contemporary Service
Apr 26 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, April 2 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship service with the Lord's Supper
Friday, April 3 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service of Darkness
Sunday, April 5 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Resurrection of our Lord Worship services with the Lord's Supper

My Favorite Bible Verse

By Michelle Strand

John 16:32- Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

I don't like being alone. I like being with friends or my brother and sister. When I think about this verse it makes me remember that I am never alone and God is always with me. When I go to sleep and my room is dark and quiet, I think about the promise in the verse and then I pray.

Fellowship Committee

By Greg Kilby & Christine Ryan



Bridge Club will meet on Friday April 10 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Experienced and new players are welcome! For more information, please contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

Thanks to **Cheryl Byers** and **Terry Frakes** for organizing Lenten soup suppers this year!

We will celebrate **Donut Sunday** on April 19th! Please join us for fellowship, donuts, coffee and milk between services!

We will have a reception to celebrate the **26th anniversary of Messiah Lutheran's First Service of Worship** between services and after the late service on April 26th. Please stop by for treats, coffee, and some memorabilia from our early services.

Wednesday Night Café will continue after Easter. Please consider serving a meal as a fundraiser or activity for your group! Please contact Dorothy Seitz if you have questions or would like to volunteer!

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

MESSIAH'S ANNUAL YARD SALE

Saturday, April 18

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Donations accepted in the Parish Hall on Thursday and Friday the week of the sale. Help is appreciated with sorting, tagging, and assisting the day of sale.

Contact Paulette McNamara

Outreach News

Lenten Baskets of Promise

You have filled the basket: *Several times!* THANK YOU for reaching out to your brothers and sisters in need. Your donations will become Personal Care Kits and sent to families around the world. If you'd like to help assemble kits, the group meets on Thursdays at 7pm or contact coordinator Rhonda Gaede.

ELCA Good Gifts Piggy Bank



Please bring your Piggy Banks back to church on Easter Sunday. Any donation amount is welcome. We will have a special "Easter" collection basket to round up all of our little piggies.) If you will not be here on Easter, you may return your piggy to your Sunday School teacher.

CASA Ramp Build

The next build will be a four section ramp.

A team is needed to load the trailer at 5pm on Friday, 3 April at the CASA warehouse (1320 Grace St, Huntsville)

Meet for breakfast at Shaggy's Restaurant at 7:30am on Saturday, 4 April.

Convoy to the build site at 8:00. Address is 3906 Birch Ave, Huntsville.

More About Ramp Building

Our ministry is to provide a means for those who are homebound to be able to safely enter and exit their homes. We try to build about one ramp per month. And we have a lot of fun doing it.

If you would like to help us with this very fun and very rewarding ministry, please contact Joe Stuart.

Messiah Lutheran Church builds these ramps in partnership with CASA of Madison County. CASA (Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound) is a non-profit agency located in Huntsville that provides services to individuals age 60 and older and to the homebound (wheelchair and bed bound) of all ages.

CASA's mission is to provide needed services to aging/homebound individuals that allow them to remain at home and age in place. Their programs are designed to enable the elderly and homebound to maintain their independence, dignity, health and safety by providing services that specifically address their special physical and emotional needs.

Youth Zone *By Kari Pitchko*

#

Messiah Youth



VBS

Vacation Bible School youth help is needed! Please contact Kert if you're interested.

Easter Breakfast

April 5th between services. Contact Larry Ryan if interested in donating.

Contacts

Kert Reedstrom

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine was held in March. Thanks to all those who donated! We made Hunger our Fight, raising over \$900.



Music Notes

By Lois Graff



Noontime AGO Recital Concert Series-Rescheduled

The local AGO (American Guild of Organists) chapter sponsors a noontime organ recital series in this area during the Lenten season. On April 9th, Messiah Lutheran Church will be hosting a recital as part of this series. Organists Lori Larson and Mary Williamson will be the recital organists, featuring works by Bach, Buxtehude and Franck, among others. Originally scheduled on March 5th, this concert was rescheduled because of weather. Come to enjoy a great organ concert at 12 noon on Thursday, April 9th!

Music Camp 2015

Mark your calendars! Music Camp 2015 will be held June 1st – June 5th with presentations during worship on June 7th. This year's musical? *Martin Meets Grace!* This musical explores how God's grace captured Martin Luther and how that grace still captures and frees us today. This continues the celebration of MLC's 25th anniversary! Campers will enjoy music, drama, arts & crafts, recreation, and snacks during the morning with fun activities scheduled in the afternoon.

Registration forms available soon. Adult and youth helpers always needed. Please contact Lois Graff.

Council Update

1. The council is looking for voting members to attend next SE Synod meeting in Birmingham, June 5-7. This is a great experience to participate in the work of the church at large as well as having an opportunity to attend interesting workshops. Contact Janell Zesinger if interested.
2. A new agenda item was proposed: finding a mission for Messiah Lutheran Church to support that is faith based rather than social ministry. Our current missions include Lunches for Learning, Weekend Food Program, the kit and quilt ministries at both the international and local levels, Habitat for Humanity at both the international and local levels as well as other smaller social ministry projects. Messiah does not currently support a mission specifically dedicated to spreading God's word. Some ideas were presented and the council would be open to suggestions.
3. The council approved the hiring of Devonee Woods as Office Manager to fill the vacancy which will be created by the retirement of Ellie Nelson. She will begin in early June. Ellie Nelson's appreciation party is scheduled for Sunday, May 31.
4. Messiah Lutheran Church Congregation Meeting and Election will be held May 3, 2015. The Nominating Committee is still looking for candidates. Anyone interested in taking on a leadership role in the church should contact Claire Strand or another member of the nominating committee.

News Flashes!

USHER COORDINATOR

Many thanks to **Rex Shaffer** for his service as the usher coordinator the last several years. We are especially grateful to Rex for his leadership during the sanctuary's expansion in 2012 when worship transitioned temporarily to the Parish Hall and then back to a sanctuary with 50% more seating. Rex is retiring from the position after Easter.

AND Welcome to **Danny Hopkin** who will be taking over this position of usher coordinator!

CALLED TO SERVE ON MESSIAH'S CHURCH COUNCIL?

The Nominating Committee is at work to identify and match God-given gifts in members of MLC with offices on Church Council. Elections will be at the Congregation Meeting in May. MLC will elect a Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer to one-year terms as Officers of MLC. Council Representatives from the Fellowship, Outreach and Stewardship Committees will be elected to two-year terms. A Finance representative will be elected for a one-year term to fill a vacancy, and a Youth representative will be elected for a one-year term. Also, a 2016 Nominating Committee and Sunday School Superintendent(s) will be elected. Position descriptions may be found at the church website under the Council tab. If God is calling you to volunteer to be on the ballot or to nominate another MLC member to serve if elected, please talk to a member of the Nominating Committee. The 2015 Nominating Committee is Lee Smith, Mark Thompson, Cheryl Byers, Linda Pierce, Toni Daniel and Claire Strand; or you may call the Church Office at (256) 721-0041. Thank you to those who have already accepted nomination!

Biblical Turkey: In the steps of Sts. Paul and John **Tour the 'Second Holy Land': Nov. 4-15**

You are invited to join me on a trip of a lifetime as we journey to Biblical Turkey.

Why Turkey? The Book of Acts tells us that here Paul made three missionary journeys and established the first known churches outside of Palestine. St. Peter preached in Turkey and sent his two New Testament epistles to the churches here. The seven churches of the Revelation to John (see Revelation 1:3-11) are in Turkey.

We will start in Istanbul, established in the 4th century by Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor. We will visit amazing St. Sophia (*Church of Holy Wisdom*), which was the largest enclosed space in the world for over 800 years. (PBS recently did a program on this: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/building-wonders.html#hagia-sophia>) We will see Cappadocia, famed for its bizarre land formations and distinctive rock churches. Along the Aegean coast we will visit Izmir, the birthplace of Homer (author of the epic tales *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*) and Ephesus. Ephesus is where Paul preached and taught for over two years. Ephesus is also the home of the *Temple of Diana* (one of the *Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*) and the *Basilica of St. John* which ancient tradition says was where Mary, the mother of Jesus, died.

Those are just a few of the highlights of this tour. A full brochure with details is available at the *Welcome Center* at MLC or I can send an electronic version of the brochure. Contact me if you have questions (scott@mlutheran.com).
-Pastor Scott

Messiah Memories Display: “Messiah Remembers”

As part of Messiah’s 25th Anniversary Celebration, all members and friends are asked to share a short memory you have about Messiah, your experiences, and/or our members. Memories may be as short as 2 or 3 sentences but should fit in the form provided. Photos and drawings may also be scanned on the forms. Forms can be found on a link to Messiah’s 25th Anniversary page on Messiah’s website and Facebook pages. Forms are also available at the Welcome Center.

Members are encouraged to share more than one memory; however, each memory should be submitted on a separate form. Members may sign their names or remain anonymous. The memories will be mounted and hung in the church beginning April 19th and will remain hanging through the celebration weekend May 23-24th. After the celebration, they will be stored in a binder for future viewing.

Submissions may be 1) completed directly online from the form posted on the 25th Anniversary page on mlutheran.org, 2) e-mailed as an attachment to messiahmemories@mlutheran.org, or 3) turned in at the narthex Welcome Center.

Wouldn’t it be great if every member would submit a memory? While Memories can be submitted now until after April 19th, we encourage everyone to submit his/her forms early.

Suggested memory categories or prompts are listed below. You are not limited to these categories! Linda Peirce and Meredith Kilby are coordinating the project with the 25th Anniversary Committee. Please e-mail them if you have questions or need more information.

Category	Such as...
Worship	Interesting or inspirational things that happened during worship.
Music	Music ministry moments - or share a favorite hymn or write what music means to you.
Growing in Faith	Remembering Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Bible Studies, etc.
Fellowship Follies	Stories relating to current or past fellowship endeavors.
Messiah Journeys	Memories connected to MLC missions, camps and retreats.
First Impressions	What brought you to Messiah? What were your first impressions or experiences?
In Remembrance	A place to honor the lives of MLC members who have passed or moved on.
Messiah Moments	A place to share any special funny or poignant memory you have. Includes baptisms, confirmations, weddings, etc.
Behind the Scenes	Stories from serving on the Altar Guild, Church Council or other church committees working “behind the scenes.”

Month in Pictures - March



On Thursday, March 12th, nearly ninety student voices joined together in the recently expanded sanctuary of Messiah Lutheran Church. Two exceptional choirs came together to present the 7 p.m. concert; the University of Birmingham's Concert Choir, directed by Dr. Brian Kittridge, and the Bob Jones High School Patriot Singers, directed by Randall Fields and accompanied by Lois Graff. Videos of the concert can be viewed on the Messiah blog.

Thanks to everyone who assisted with the Irish Fellowship Dinner on March 22nd: Rick and LeeLinda Baggett, Steve and Linda Peirce, Jim and Ellie Nelson, Elaine and John Shriver, Derelene Jeter, Meredith & Greg Kilby, and Paul Zuter.

Thanks also to everyone who brought the wonderful delicious array of salads, Irish breads and desserts to round out the corned beef, cabbage and potatoes meal. Turnout was excellent and it was great to see so many members talking and enjoying each other's company!



Sue Hofer adorned a festive shamrock blouse to match the shamrock tablecloth, both which she made herself.



Greg is in the kitchen with Rick and Lee Linda Baggett.



Bruce Machamer's brother, Dave, was visiting from Pennsylvania and was able to join us for the St. Patrick's Corned Beef Luncheon.

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 22nd.