

Messiah Lutheran Church  
7740 Highway 72 West  
Madison, Alabama 35758

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Huntsville, AL  
Permit No. 454

**Return Service Requested**

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](http://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](mailto:info@mlutheran.org). Newsletter submissions may be sent to Beth Gloe.



# MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

December 2012  
Volume 24 Issue 12

*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  
Lauren Gray.....Director of Youth Ministries  
Lois Graff.....Director of Music Ministries  
Randall Fields.....Choir Director  
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>  <i>John &amp; June Labansky Marc</i>
<b>2</b> 8:30am Worship: Chicago Folk w/LS 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: LBW Setting 1 12noon Advent Fellowship 1pm Bus to Sewanee	<b>3</b>  <i>Erik &amp; Victoria Lakso Emma, Sophie</i>	<b>4</b> 10am Comforters  <i>Scott &amp; Robin Lakso</i>	<b>5</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Bible Class 7pm Advent Worship 7:30pm Adult Choir  <i>Eric &amp; Autumn Lange Michael, Kara Quinn</i>	<b>6</b> 8:30am Morning Study Group on Parables  <i>Gary &amp; Julie Langford</i>	<b>7</b> 9am Craft/Knitting Group  5-8pm Elfin Magic  <i>Tien &amp; Joy Le Adam, Alex</i>	<b>8</b>  <i>Brian &amp; Teresa Lee</i>
<b>9</b> 8:30am Worship: Bach Setting 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 12noon Advent Fellowship  6:30pm Ring & Sing	<b>10</b> 9:30am Moms Bible Study Group  <i>Gary &amp; Karin Lindsay Athena, Andrea</i>	<b>11</b> 10am Comforters  <i>Phil &amp; Judy Lindsey</i>	<b>12</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Bible Class 7pm Advent Worship 7:30pm Adult Choir  <i>Brian &amp; Carola Long Vanessa, Alexander</i>	<b>13</b>   7:00 p.m. Church Council meets  <i>Bob Loshuertos</i>	<b>14</b> 9am Craft/Knitting Group  7:30pm Bridge Club  <i>Bruce &amp; Karen Machamer</i>	<b>15</b>  <i>Karen Madden</i>
<b>16</b> 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 12noon Advent Fellowship Poinsettia Forms Due 2pm Ornament/Cookie Exchange	<b>17</b> 9:30am Moms Bible Study Group  <i>Sherry Mahafza Zachary, Joseph, Jacob, Jordan</i>	<b>18</b>  <i>Cory &amp; Lori Mahanna Michael</i>	<b>19</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Bible Class 7pm Advent Worship 7:30pm Adult Choir  <i>Tim &amp; Sherry Mansfield Alexander</i>	<b>20</b> 8:30am Morning Study Group  7pm Senior Youth and Young Adult Coffeehouse <i>Jack &amp; Mary Mast Rebecca, Mikayla</i>	<b>21</b> 9am Craft/Knitting Group  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Sr. Youth Christmas Lock-in</div> <i>Amy McCarthy Charles, Chelsea</i>	<b>22</b>  <i>Lloyd &amp; Deb McDaniels Erin, Morgan</i>
<b>23</b> 8:30am Worship: Lessons & Carols 9:45 Sunday School 11am Worship: Lessons & Carols 12noon Advent Fellowship	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>  5pm Candlelight Service w/LS 7pm Candlelight Service w/LS  <i>Tim &amp; Nicole McKnelly Libby, Madelyn</i>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas</b>  <i>Tom &amp; Paulette McNamara</i>	<b>26</b>  <i>Bill Meyer</i>	<b>27</b>  <i>Brad &amp; Theresa Meyer Rachel Wier, Rebecca, Drake</i>	<b>28</b> 9am Craft/Knitting Group  <i>Dagmar &amp; Patrick Miller Ryan, Colleen</i>	<b>29</b>  <i>Melani Mooneyham Ty</i>
<b>30</b> 8:30am Worship: WOV Bread of Life w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11am Worship: WOV Bread of Life w/LS	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b>   <i>Jeff &amp; Robin Moore</i>	<p>Looking Ahead...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January - Messiah Foodies Supper Club (date TBD)</li> </ul>				

**Pastor's Page**By Pastor Scott Peterson [scott@mlutheran.com](mailto:scott@mlutheran.com)

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

TWO THINGS: 1.) A few highlights in the season of Advent; 2.) A letter to the graduates of the school MLC feeds through the Lunches for Learning program.

WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. Holden Evening Prayer will be our liturgy and *The Two Advents* will be the theme of the meditations on December 5 and 12. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Dec. 19. *On Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with the Lord's Supper* will be at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

GRADUATION AT BENITO MONTOYA SCHOOL in El Barrial Honduras was November 29. Jackie Myers, Sue Doubleday, and Janell Zesinger represented MLC and presented each graduate a Bible from MLC. Below is a portion of the letter I wrote to the graduates.

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Scott Peterson*

**Jesus said, "...THE SEED that was sown on good soil is the person who hears the word and understands it. This one produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown." -- Matthew 13:23**

My message for you today is about **SEEDS and HANDS**.

**First the SEEDS:** Once Jesus told a story saying that God is like a farmer who scatters seeds all over.

LOTS OF SEEDS HAVE GONE INTO YOU AT THIS SCHOOL. You have eaten a lot of seeds. The **corn** that made tortillas, the **wheat** that made bread, the **rice**, and the **beans** ALL WERE SEEDS that you ate. Eating those seeds enabled you to grow. As you know, not all seeds are eaten. The best seeds are planted to grow even more seeds: Some of that harvest is eaten and some is planted. It is a wonderful cycle of life that our Lord keeps giving us seeds so we will have more to eat and more to plant.

OTHER SEEDS have been planted here. Your teachers and parents have planted the seeds of learning in you. Those seeds have grown so now you can read and write and do mathematics and all kinds of creative work. How will those seeds planted in you continue to grow and bear fruit in the years ahead? You have been given much. We expect a great harvest from you in the years to come.

**Now, the HANDS:** MANY HANDS WORKED TOGETHER to provide the food you have eaten at Benito Montoya School. The hands of those working for the *Lunches for Learning* program used gifts from the hands of the people in Messiah Lutheran Church to provide the ingredients that went into your meals. Your Mothers' and community's hands prepared and served the food with love to you. Yet, first of all, God's hands gave the seeds, the soil, the sunshine, and the rain. We all should remember that every good gift comes from our Lord's hands.

WHAT GOOD WORK WILL BE DONE WITH YOUR HANDS and heads and hearts? What seeds planted in you will bloom and grow to bring a great harvest that will feed many? That is the adventure in front of you.

Congratulations on your graduation day! We are very proud of you. **READ YOUR BIBLE EVERYDAY!**

## December 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**

Dec 2	Chicago Folk w/LS
Dec 9	WOV Service of Word & Prayer
Dec 16	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Dec 23	Lessons and Carols Service
Dec 30	WOV Bread of Life w/LS

### **Sundays at 11:00 am**

Dec 2	LBW Setting 1
Dec 9	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Dec 16	WOV Service of Word & Prayer
Dec 23	Lessons and Carols Service
Dec 30	WOV Bread of Life w/LS



## Life Passages

By *Claire Strand* [claire@mlutheran.com](mailto: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.

**BIRTHS:** Al and Peggy Nuss announce the birth of their grandson Jackson Ford Schickel; he was born on October 31st, measuring 20 and 1/2 inches and weighing 5 lbs, 15 oz. Proud parents are Matt and Courtney Schickel of Atlanta. The family is doing great, Jackson is eating like a sumo wrestler and gaining weight.

**DEATHS:** Linda Boehme's uncle Bob Manning passed away November 9th.  
 Mary Brown's mother Luella Anderson passed away November 7th.  
 Staci Armstrong's grandfather Willard Rippe passed away November 6th.  
 Betty Roenfeldt's sister-in-law Marilyn Ghahremani passed away November 11th.

## Fellowship Committee News

By *Mary Ann Stasiak*

How do Christians in Indonesia and Korea celebrate Christmas? During Advent, each Sunday we will celebrate with Christmas traditions from many nations. We are very blessed to have many nationalities and cultures represented at Messiah, and even more blessed to have members share their holiday food and decoration traditions with us. On Dec. 2, Asian/Pacific Island Sunday, in addition to Indonesian Christmas dishes led by Anita deJong, Holy Hill Presbyterian Korean Church will join us with special Korean blessings, food, and music. Come and welcome this congregation for the first 2012 Advent International Fellowship! Please watch the Welcome Center for recipes for the Asian/Pacific Island and German fellowships - come and share your favorite dish, or try a new one! The **December fellowships** include (all are after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service):

- December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Asian/Pacific Island - check Welcome Center for recipes
- December 9<sup>th</sup>: Bountiful America - food will be provided
- December 16<sup>th</sup>: German (new date!) - check Welcome Center for recipes
- December 23<sup>rd</sup>: Mexican - food will be provided



The **Bountiful America** theme is the opportunity to share some of the bounty we have. We will decorate with donated hats, gloves, and scarves and then share them with a local charity. The food will be favorite Christmas traditional treats that represent the bounty we thankfully experience every day. The box to donate your hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens is in the Narthex near the door by the mailboxes.

The **Christmas Cookie and Ornament Exchange** will be at Betty Roenfeldt's house in Madison on Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. Please sign up at the Welcome Center so we know how many plan to come. You can participate in one exchange or both: bring an ornament valued at \$10 or under for the ornament exchange. For the cookie exchange, bring 4 dozen cookies - 1 for tasting and 3 for sharing. Betty will be hosting.

In January, Meredith and Greg Kilby will be organizing **Messiah Foodies Supper Club**. All adults are welcome, singles and couples - the only requirement is to be able to host a group of 6 - 8 at your home for dinner one time during the following 4 months in whatever style you choose. The supper club will break into groups of 6 - 8 by random drawing, and then each group will determine the dates and food for the club meetings. In the four months following the kickoff, each group gathers monthly to enjoy food and fellowship at member's homes. Hosting and planning the dinners is rotated every month. Generally, the host couple finalizes the date, plans the meal and makes the main course while side dishes are provided by the rest of the group. After that session of 3-4 dinners concludes, that group is done. Another kickoff event is scheduled and new groups are drawn. This ensures that new folks can get involved in Lutheran Foodies and that new friendships are formed. Thanks much to Meredith and Greg Kilby for their initiative to start the supper club - watch for the kick-off after the holidays. See you there!

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

## Outreach News

### Habitat for Humanity

By Susan Burrer

*Local*—Huntsville was just approved to build a Thrivent-sponsored house in 2013!

*El Salvador*—Partners in Faith Project (partnered with Thrivent): 3 of the 15 houses for the poorest people of Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in Santa Ana have now been built! A campaign is in progress to raise money for the others and to rebuild the Church that was destroyed in an earthquake in 2001. Gifts can be designated Partners in Faith.

*Nepal*—Virgil and I were part of the Everest Blitz Build, Oct. 7-12, along with 462 volunteers from 14 countries! 35 homes were built in a week with construction materials of sundried block, mud/cow dung/rice hulls stucco, and bamboo/corrugated metal...quite an experience! Story to be on Church blog soon!



## Outreach Report

By Janell Zesinger

Messiah's 2013 Giving Mall is Open! Stop by the Narthex and start your Holiday Shopping!

This year we have 30 children on our **Angel Tree** in need of gifts this holiday. Select the child you would like from the tree, fill out the sheet provided indicating which child you have selected, then find the corresponding bag with your child's number in it. You will return your child's bag with their **UNWRAPPED** gifts in it to Messiah by December 10.

*(A note – many children have requested bicycles or other expensive items. Please don't feel compelled to purchase these expensive items for your child if you do not wish. Other age-appropriate gifts are welcomed. You may also go in with another family to purchase for a child.)*

There is also a spot for you to donate new or like-new books to a local **HEALS Clinic**. **HEALS is a school-based health center that provides free medical care, dental care, and social services for eligible economically disadvantaged children at local schools.** Your books will be donated to children served from Madison Crossroads Elementary.

**Messiah's Gifts for Mission** gives you an opportunity to help support many of Messiah's Outreach Ministries. Fill out the form, place it with your check in the box provided or the offering plate, and take a card to let your loved one know you have purchased a gift for them in their honor.

Finally, we have the favorite **ELCA Good Gifts Catalog**, with over 50 different giving options, from vaccinations for a child, or 10 baby chicks for a family. *(Or my favorite, an Alpaca!)* Again, fill out the form and take a card to send to your loved one to let them know you have done this in their honor!

Merry Christmas from Outreach!

## Sunday School Spotlight

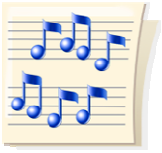
By Heather Osterdorff



The Sunday school students at Messiah are looking forward to the upcoming Christmas play! This year we will be presenting "The Christmas Checklist" on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 during the 7pm service. The students are working hard to make sure it's a performance to remember. Look forward to seeing you there!

## Music Notes

By Lois Graff



### Ring and Sing

The annual Ring and Sing concert featuring handbells and chimes will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Music from adult and children's handbell and chime choirs and vocal groups will be featured, including audience hand chime participation! A free will offering will benefit the Madison Public Library.

### Senior Youth and Young Adult Coffeehouse

Back semi-annually by popular demand....come to a coffeehouse on Thursday, December 20 at 7 p.m. Enjoy being together with friends on your high school and college breaks. Share your musical or other talents or just listen, eat and hang out. Contact Lois Graff for more information.

### Lessons and Carols Service

On December 23 at the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services, a lessons and carols service will take the place of the liturgy, interspersing readings from the blessed Christmas story with traditional hymns.

## Council Highlights

Discussed at the November Council Meetings:

1. Pastors Amanda and Horacio Castillo, our missionaries in Guatemala will be at MLC on Sunday, Dec. 19. Pastor Amanda will preach at both services. Together they will have a presentation on the work of IALG during Sunday School hour.
2. An Evangelism Committee grew out of the Open Forum on Sunday, November 11. Mark Zesinger is chairing this new group.

### Thank You

*Thank you to the Messiah congregation for all your prayers, visits and support during my husband Gene's illness and passing. I feel blessed to be a part of such a compassionate, loving church as is Messiah. God bless you all. In loving gratitude,*

*Fran Morgan*

## Stewardship Thought

THANK YOU for your generosity to the mission of Messiah Lutheran Church. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure enable the Word of God to be spread to many people here and all over the world. Through your gifts, lives are being changed. If you have not filled out an Estimate of Giving card for 2013 and wish to do so, they are available in the office. Use sealed envelope and place in offering plate. May God continue to bless the ministry of Messiah Lutheran Church and may our lives of service give glory to our gracious, loving God.



## News Flashes!

### ***Advent Mid-Week Services of Worship***

*Advent services of worship will be held at 7 pm on December 5, 12 & 19, using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Everyone is invited to supper which will be served before the Advent services, beginning at 5:30 pm. The Advent offering received this year will be divided between support of ELCA Disaster Response Ministries and Messiah's Wheel Ramp Building Team.*

### ***Christmas Eve Services at 5 and 7 pm***

*Christmas Eve Candlelight services with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.*

### **Our Missionary Pastor Amanda will be here on December 16<sup>th</sup>**

Pastors Amanda Olson de Castillo and Horatio Castillo from the ILAG (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala) will join us on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They will lead an adult forum during the Sunday School hour and Pastor Amanda will preach at both services.



Comforter's will meet on December 4th and 11th only. Questions contact Annette Joens

### **GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE** - The Altar Guild will be purchasing

poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. If you would like to buy a poinsettia for \$10 in memory or honor of someone, forms will be available in the bulletin during Advent or you may call the office. If you would like to remember a special person you may also make a gift to landscaping. Poinsettia and landscaping gifts will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Since Christmas Eve is on a Monday please complete all forms by Sunday December 16th so the office will have time to list them in the bulletin. Thank you for helping to make the Sanctuary festive!

## Youth Zone

By Lauren Gray youth\_director@mlutheran.org

### Elfin Magic with a TWIST!

Our annual Elfin Magic event is coming up in a few weeks, but just like last year, it's got a Twist! Come to our Parish Hall on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm and have dinner, make some Christmas crafts, and watch a Christmas movie. Parents drop their kids off and go have dinner together or get some Christmas shopping done!

Sr. youth will help supervise the younger ages.



### *Sr. Youth Christmas Lock-In*

The Sr. Youth group is having a lock-in that will take place on December 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be Christmas-themed and we'll enjoy some good food, good friends, and no sleep!

### Pictures from All TN Youth Gathering- we had 4 youth attend ☺





## The Month in Pictures – November 2012



*On November 4<sup>th</sup> The Youth Choir (grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>) sang, "Arise and Shine Forth".*



*Pastor Ruth's Installation at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Atlanta, GA on November 18<sup>th</sup>.*



*Some of the Sr. Youth helped led worship on November 18<sup>th</sup>.*



*The Comforters say "THANK YOU" to all who participated in the Quilt Auction to benefit LWR*



*A few of the OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) group at an outing at Terranova's restaurant.*

## Meet the Seitz Family



Greetings from the Seitz family! We've lived in Huntsville since 1993-ish and been members of Messiah since 2004.

Lee and Dorothy met in college at UAH. After Lee received his B.S. in Computer Science and took a computer programming job, he and Dorothy were married and have been in Huntsville since. The following year Dorothy received her B.S. in Optical Science and began working.

Lee is now a programmer at a local company producing document management software called Cabinet. He maintains childhood pursuits in a more adult manner by researching the history of various comic books and video games. He also contributes to Bhamwiki, a site covering the history of his hometown, Birmingham, Alabama. Dorothy works full-time for no pay as a homemaker and homeschools our children. She also enjoys knitting, cooking, and reading.

We first came to Messiah Lutheran after Walter was invited to music camp one summer by the Campbell's. We did not have a church home and enjoyed our time here, slowly becoming more involved. Finally, after about a year, Dorothy, Walter, and Andrew were baptized together and we became members of the church.

Dorothy served as the Education and Youth council member at Messiah for a time. She coordinated Vacation Bible School for several years. Currently she is coordinating Wednesday night dinners.

Walter, 14, and Andrew, 11, are both homeschooled; Walter in 9th grade and Andrew in 6th. We have Lionheart Christian Academy in Limestone County as our cover school. Walter is involved in band and chorus at school. He is also involved in various youth bands and choirs here at Messiah. Andrew is involved with chorus at school and has joined Messiah's Boy Scout troop. Both boys also play piano.

Our other children are Hannah, 4, and Thomas, 1. Hannah has recently started ballet lessons. They are growing up with Messiah as almost a second home and are, perhaps, a little too comfortable here.

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

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**Volume 24, Issue 12**

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