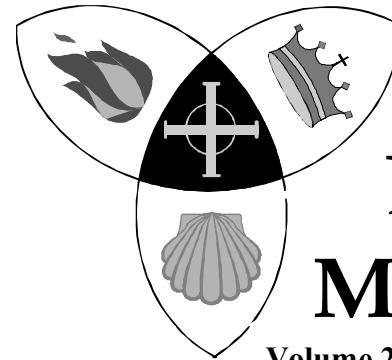


Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758
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Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. 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.

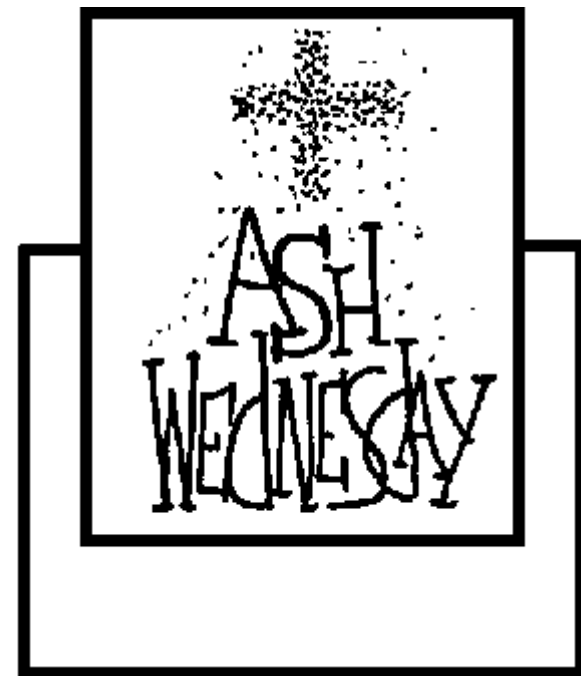


MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 21: Issue 2

February 2009

www.mlutheran.com



February 25, 2009

*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

*O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture.* Psalm 95:6-7

Dear Friends of the Living Messiah,

WORSHIPING OUR LORD IS THE CENTER of our life together as Messiah Lutheran Church. Worship is the hub of the wheel and all else rotates around it. For many among us who are excited about the beginning of Incarnation Lutheran Church a key question is, "When will worship begin?" (Tentative plans are for July.)

WORSHIP WAS OVERCROWDED at MLC on January 11. Folding chairs were set up behind the back pews to accommodate everyone. Some of the people on folding chairs were guests, not members. This was a glaring example of a recurring situation: Each month Messiah Lutheran has overcrowding in worship at one or several services.

THIS IS GOOD! It means more people are receiving the gifts our Lord freely gives us in worship. We do not want to have members or guests stop coming to worship because they feel there is no room for them. We discussed this at Church Council in January. Two options seem obvious: 1) Expand our sanctuary to increase seating capacity, or 2) Add a third Sunday service of worship. Option 2 is not only less costly, it can be done much sooner. The Council discussed a revised Sunday schedule. Next a meeting of Sunday servers and leaders met and came up with the following possible schedule:

- 8:00 a.m.: Service of Worship** (a simplified, shorter service)
- 9:00 a.m.: Service of Worship**
- 10:15 a.m.: Sunday School**
- 11:15 a.m.: Service of Worship**

CHANGE IS PAINFUL. If this change is tried, everyone would be on a different schedule from what is familiar. (This certainly will not make Sundays easier for our Altar Guild or any of us in worship leadership.) Perhaps the question to ask ourselves is: 'Am I willing to adjust so more people can receive the gifts our Lord gives in worship?' At Messiah Lutheran we have a history of not doing things to be most comfortable, but to be faithful in mission. (That is one of the primary reasons why I love this church.) There will be more discussion and study. At the February 19th Council meeting action may be taken to experiment with a new Sunday morning schedule from March – May.

'WHAT IF THIS DOES NOT WORK?' We can adjust. If we try this experiment for the coming months, the Congregation Meeting in May would seem an ideal forum to decide what is prudent for the future of Messiah Lutheran Church. It is our Lord that we worship and this is our Lord's Church. Yet, our Lord speaks through our corporate deliberation on matters like this. Thank you for your faithfulness. In a time when most Christian congregations are wrestling with declining numbers, you are one of the reasons Messiah Lutheran is seeking ways to faithfully pursue the growing mission our Lord intends for us.

Grace and peace, Pastor Scott Peterson

Church Council Highlights

- Marc Neely was re-appointed as Financial Secretary for 2009. *Thank you, Marc.*
- Lenten offerings will be split evenly between Lunches for Learning (a Lutheran mission in Honduras) and supporting seminarian Charlie Underwood.
- An advisory group will be formed to assist Pastor Borseth in determining the parameters of his work at Messiah Lutheran.
- Worship attendance has been very good and another worship service may be added. (*see Pastor's Page in this newsletter*)
- Next Council meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2009, at 7:00p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.



OWLS Meet Saturday, February 7th

Saturday Brunch at Sheas Express, off Church Street in Huntsville, Sat., February 7 at 10:30a.
For more information :

Web site www.sheasexpress.com or See menu on OWLS Bulletin Board at church or call Jan Murphy, (*Older Wiser Lutherans are those 50 or older.*)

OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand

Outreach Committee Meeting February 8 at noon in room 12.

We'll talk about where we are now and where we'd like to be in the future. We want to use your ideas and talents to proclaim the good news congregationally, locally, nationally, and globally. Questions? contact Claire Strand, Maureen King, or Catherine Frye.

Ambassadors Meeting February 1 at noon in room 12.

Habitat for Humanity- Start checking for announcements about our next build. Last year HFH of Madison County built 11 new homes. Over 1800 volunteers were involved in these builds. The homes constructed are typically 3 or 4 bedroom homes of 1,064 and 1,232 square feet.

New Members will be received on February 15. To be part of this growing group, please talk to Pastor Scott or Claire Strand, or phone the church office.

What is a Stephen Minister? A congregation member who is recruited, selected, trained, commissioned, and supervised by Stephen Leaders to provide one-to-one Christian care to persons in need on behalf of the congregation. Stephen Ministers typically are assigned one care receiver at a time and meet with that person for about one hour each week. Stephen Ministers usually serve for two years, which includes an initial 50 hours of training followed by twice-monthly supervision and continuing education sessions. Want to know more? Talk to Trudy Clare, Anita deJong, or Claire Strand.



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.

BAPTISM: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...*

- JACOB ALEXANDER McDANIELS was Baptized on January 11. Alex's parents are Ryan McDaniels and Brianna Jackson. His Baptismal Sponsors are Stephanie Fowler, Jessica Brotemarkle, & Quinn Phillips.

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

- Robert Gaede, Rhonda Gaede's father, died January 11 in San Antonio.
- Deb McDaniels's brother-in-law died January 11.
- Lynn Russell's cousin Michael Lamp passed away on January 22 in NY.

Engagement: *the greatest of these is love. I Corinthians 13:13*

- Ben Scroggins and Elizabeth Aradine are engaged to be married on May 29, 2010 at the US Air Force Academy Chapel in Colorado Springs.



February Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice

Sundays at 8:30am

Feb. 1 LBW Setting 1 w/ L/S

Feb. 8 WOVServ. of Word/Prayer

Feb. 15 LBW Setting 2 w/ L/S

Feb. 22 *Now the Feast* w/LS

Sundays at 11:00am

Feb. 1 WOVS Word/Prayer

Feb. 8 *Chicago Folk* w/ L/S

Feb. 15 Contemporary Service

Feb. 22 LBW Setting 2 w/ L/S

FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATED FEB. 22:

Ten young disciples are studying in preparation for receiving First Communion on Transfiguration Sunday, February 22, at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please keep them in prayer as they take this major step of faith.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

The season of Lent begins with our February 25th, Ash Wednesday service of worship. Worship will include the Lord's Supper and imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them.

Mid-Week Lenten Services of Worship

All Lenten services begin at 7:00 p.m. Area Lutheran pastors will come to Messiah Lutheran to preach on the theme "Opponents of Jesus". The Wednesdays are March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1. Maundy Thursday, April 9, and Good Friday, April 10, services also are at 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Soup Supper Schedule

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25. On Wednesday evenings, everyone is invited to a soup supper serving between 5:30 and 6:30 pm. A sign-up sheet will be provided in the narthex to assist in planning the meals. Please sign up when you are able to bring soup, bread, etc. for the soup suppers. There is no soup supper during Spring Break (March 18), or Holy Week (April 8).

Lent Choir Schedule Changes

There will be some minor changes to the Wednesday choir rehearsal schedule during Lent. All choirs, with the exception of the Adult Choir, are cancelled on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 and Holy Week, April 7. Rehearsal times Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 are as follows:

Children's Choirs (Cherub, Seraph and Junior)	6:00 – 6:30 pm
Youth Ensemble	6:30 – 6:50 pm
Adult Choir	7:45 – 8:45 pm
Notabella Choir	TBA

Growth Brings Change

Messiah Lutheran is considering adding another service of worship. Attendance in worship climbed 10% in 2008. As attendance grows the number of spaces available in the pews shrinks. Worship, education, and music leaders have discussed this. If MLC is going to add a third service of worship this schedule has been proposed:



8:00 a.m.: Service of Worship
9:00 a.m.: Service of Worship
10:15 a.m.: Sunday School
11:15 a.m.: Service of Worship

If you have thoughts, ideas or suggestions to help in this process, please contact Worship and Music representative Marcie Emerson, Pastor Scott or Lois Graff. This will be on the agenda at the February 19th Church Council meeting.

Collectibles & More Auction

This spring, Messiah will be hosting an auction to support the On Eagle's Wings mission. On its 12th year now, 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.

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?

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 can help in any way.

Altar Guild News: *HELP!*

Volunteers are greatly needed. This is a wonderful way to serve our Lord and our church. You work with a rotating team for 1 month and only have 3 rotations per year to serve! For more info call Altar Guild Chair Judy Starkloff.

Incarnation Information – February 2009

By Pastor Mark Borseth

We are starting to gain some momentum as we move toward a projected first worship service in July. Please continue to pray for Pastor Mark and the rest of the team who are working hard to make Incarnation a reality. Two of the main things that are happening now are finding a space to meet as we get ready to start worship and starting to make Incarnation known in the area by visiting residential neighborhoods, businesses, schools and pastors of other congregations in the Harvest area.

We are researching Sparkman High School's Ninth Grade building along with other locations near the target area of Jeff Road and Hwy 53. Please pray for God to open doors for us. Pastor Mark has been visiting businesses and Pastors and has also begun residential door-knocking with our newly created brochures (we put one in each of your mailboxes for you to keep for yourself or share with a friend). More brochures are in the narthex.

As we await the initial Sunday morning worship service, we will be doing interest meetings and small group gatherings to get and keep interested people connected. Our next interest meeting is tentatively scheduled for the **Magnolia Springs Clubhouse on Saturday, February 21 at 5:00 pm**. Anyone who is interested is invited. Thank you Sarah & Brian Walker for helping to arrange for and provide meeting space for that gathering!

We had a very good lunch gathering after worship on Sunday, January 11 at Messiah and are excited to see what God is doing. Thank you to the Spences and Russells for all of your work on that event and to everyone who helped clean up!

Thanks for your prayers, support and encouragement!

Invitation to pray for Pastor Mark and Others Who Will Be Knocking on Doors

You are invited to pray each day "At 4 o'clock for the knock." Pastor Mark and the rest of the Incarnation team invite you to pray whenever you notice it is 4:00 (AM or PM – whenever you are awake) that God will bless their door knocking efforts!

Education News

Celynn Ballard

SUNDAY SCHOOL

And the winner is LUNCHES FOR LEARNING! The Sunday School kids voted to donate their offering to Lunches for Learning, a Honduras-based charity that provides a nutritious school lunch for underprivileged children. It offers children the opportunity to attend school and keeps them off the streets. We will be collecting offering for this charity until the end of March.

New Sunday Class with Pastor Mark – “House Church 101”

From now until Easter, Pastor Mark will be leading a Sunday class entitled “House Church 101.” Unless otherwise advertised, we will meet at 9:45 in Room 8 (at the end of the hall by the choir robes). What is “House Church 101” all about? Sunday worship is wonderful – faithful preaching, fantastic music, meaningful liturgy, but some people wish there were more of an interactive, personal aspect to it – maybe you feel that way. This group will provide that personal touch. We will sing a song or two, discuss issues of faith, share what God is doing in our lives and pray for each other. Pastor Mark is offering this because he has been blessed by similar groups!

Youth News

JUNIOR YOUTH

- The next Jr. Youth meeting will be on Feb. 1 after second service in the youth room.
- The Jr. Youth Christmas fundraiser was a success. Thanks to everyone who supported the fundraiser. The money will be used to help fund Jr. Youth attending LutherRock camp.
- The next Jr. Youth fundraiser will be a Valentine carnation sale. Orders for red carnations with personal messages attached will be taken on Sunday, January 25 and Sunday, February 1. The carnations will be delivered during Sunday School and before and after Church services on Sunday, February 8. The Jr. Youth will meet to get the flowers ready on the afternoon of Saturday, February 7. After completing the work, we will head over to the bowling alley and then back to the Church for pizza, fun, and fellowship. Look for more details in emails to come.
- The Jr. Youth will participate in "Souper Bowl" Sunday on February 1. Jr. Youth representatives will give Temple Talks about world hunger. After both services, the Jr. Youth will hold soup pots and request donations to support Lutheran World Relief.
- Look for a meeting for parents and youth interested in attending LutherRock camp in the next month or so. Information on the meeting time will be in emails and in the Church bulletin.
- All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are welcome at any or all activities. Contact Lisa Bartel or Beth Thompson for information.

TWEENS

- Tweens try to meet monthly. All 3rd – 5th graders are welcome. For more information, contact Debi Peterson or Stacy Tidwell.



Fellowship Committee News

from Linda Zutter

Fellowship Committee Meeting - Ideas and help are needed for upcoming Fellowship events. You are invited to attend the next Fellowship Committee meeting **Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** in Sunday School Room #6.

Wednesday Nite Café - Dinner is provided each Wednesday evening @ 5:30 during the school year. Everyone is welcome. The cost is \$3 per person with a family cap of \$15. On a rotating team schedule, helping hands are needed for set up, meals, and clean up. Contact Café Coordinator, Marsha Wade

Movie Night - Saturday, February 28 in the Fellowship Hall - rated G movie for all ages. The movie starts promptly at 6 p.m., but come early for popcorn and drink. Doors open at 5:40 pm.

Ladies Bible Studies - A small group Bible Study is held at Judy Johnston's home from 11-Noon on Thursdays. Most lessons last one hour to 90 minutes in length. The Stonecroft Ministries study is 1 John - Christ: Our Life. Please register for the class by contacting Judy Johnston

We are looking for women interested in a six week bible study of Who is Jesus? The small group will meet one hour on Tuesdays. The material is written by Stonecroft Ministries. The guide is approved by Stonecroft Ministries. Contact Judy Johnston for more information

Interested in helping with an upcoming event? Contact Linda Zutter

Many Thanks...

Thank you all for the many thoughtful cards and gifts expressing your appreciation for my service as Office Manager of Messiah. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to work with our wonderful staff as well as with every member of Messiah. You are all very special to me and I thank you for making my work in the office as pleasurable as it was.

Linda Boehme

Thank you for supporting the Spaghetti Supper and Talent Show for the On Eagle's Wings mission. Over \$1500 was donated. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will supplement with \$1000 more. Your generosity is appreciated!
The On Eagle's Wings Mission

Dear Ones,

Once again you have been the incarnated Christ for me. During my recent surgery you have shown me the love of Christ that is in you. I want to thank you for the prayers, cards, well wishes and delicious meals. It was a great help for me in my recovery. Love, Bob Loshuertos

Dear church members,

Thank you very much for all of the graduation gifts. I am thoroughly enjoying myself at The University of Alabama.

Sincerely, Chase Scroggins

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship WOV Serv. Word/Prayer Noon Ambassadors Meet 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir	2 <i>David Beier, "Brittany"</i>	3 10 am Comforters <i>Christine Berry</i>	4 <i>Chuck & Lyn Blevins</i>	5 <i>Craig & Linda Boehme</i>	6 <i>Matthew & Kelli Boehme "Gwen, Julian"</i>	7 <i>Michael and Patrea Bonaker "Zach, Nick"</i>
8 8:30am Worship WOV Serv Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Chicago Folk w/LS Noon Outreach Meeting 12:15 Instrumental Ens 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth Group	9 <i>Mark and Betsy Borseth, "Nathan, Andrew, Peter"</i>	10 10 am Comforters <i>Danny Boxx and Christina Coraccio, "Amanda"</i>	11 5pm Year 1 Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Year 2 Confirmation 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 6:30pm Fellowship Meeting 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Scott Bridge</i>	12 11 am Bible Study at Judy Johnston's <i>Ricky and Rosemary Brooks "Jenni"</i>	13 <i>Christopher Brown</i>	14 <i>Greg & Kerri Brown "Alexandra, Savannah"</i>
15 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Contemporary Service 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth Group	16 <i>James & Bettie Brumley</i>	17 10 am Comforters <i>John and Mary Burke</i>	18 5pm Year 1 Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Year 2 Confirmation 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Paul Burke</i>	19 8:30 a.m. Morning Study Group 11 am Bible Study at Judy Johnston's 7:00 pm Church Council <i>Stephanie Burrer</i>	20 <i>Virgil & Susan Burrer</i>	21 <i>Dan and Cheryl Byer "Justin, Joshua, Jonathan"</i>
22 8:30am Worship Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12:15 Instrumental Ens 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth Group	23 <i>Martin & Laurie Campbell "Connor"</i>	24 10 am Comforters <i>Dan & Jill Casey "Daniel, Calliope"</i>	25 ASH WED. 5pm Year 1 Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Year 2 Confirmation 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Doris Chojnowski, "Tara"</i>	26 11 am Bible Study at Judy Johnston's <i>Trudy Clare</i>	27 <i>Joy Clavin</i>	28 5:45 p.m Family Movie Night <i>William & Diane Cline</i>
						NEWSLETTER DEADLINE February 15

