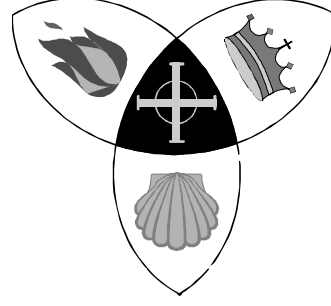


Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

Return Service Requested

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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. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041. email: info@mlutheran.org. Newsletter submissions may be sent to Beth Gloe:



MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 24: Issue 2 February 2012
www.mlutheran.com



Delight yourself in the Lord and
he will give you the desires of
your heart.

--Psalms 37:4

NEWS FLASHES!!!

!!!NEW SANCTUARY DEDICATION!!!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, at 3:00PM

Bishop Julian Gordy will join us to dedicate our expanded Sanctuary. This expansion is to enable welcoming new people and future generations to hear God's Word and receive God's gifts. We will gather to thank God for His ongoing faithfulness and ask God to bless and guide us into His future. Services of Worship Sunday morning February 19, at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., will be in the new Sanctuary. ***First Communion*** will be celebrated at the 11:00am service.

+++***LENT BEGINS with ASH WEDNESDAY on FEB. 22***+++
Wednesdays in Lent at MLC will feature *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy and worship led by a bevy of local Lutheran pastors under the theme ***Lord of the Valley***. We will consider Biblical episodes showing how our God does some of His best work in the low points of our lives as disciples.

******See the "Other Holy Land"******

TOUR of GERMANY OCTOBER 10-20

Bonnie Jane and I will be leading a tour to ***Germany*** October 17-27. This will be a pilgrimage primarily focused on the historical sites and stories of the Lutheran Reformation. We will visit where Martin Luther lived, worked, and changed the world by his rediscovery of the Gospel. We all will enjoy the beauty and history of Munich, Bavaria, and Berlin. More information will be coming soon. If you are interested, please talk to me.

*(We are also planning on going back to lead a tour to **Holy Land (Israel)** in 2013. Our experience with 14 in our group last November has us anxious to return with others next year. We plan to go again in November 2013.)*

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

TOP 10 REASONS to INVITE GUESTS to MLC!

As ***God's People, Reaching Out***: We always have ***good news*** to share.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Peterson

Music Notes

Music Opportunities for Youth (Jr. and Sr. High)

- Youth Choir for grades 7th -12th on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Instrumental Ensemble for grades 7th -12th meets two Sundays a month at 12:15 p.m.
- Adult Choir is open to Sr. High youth.
- ***NEW*** – A Youth Praise Band (Sr. High) is forming! Talk to Lauren Gray or Lois Graff.

Adult Choir - With the new Sanctuary nearing completion, there will be even more room for you in the choir! Please come to a rehearsal to see if this is a way God is calling you to use your gifts.

Music Camp - Music Camp will be held June 4th - 8th

Lent Choir Schedule Changes

Wednesday choir rehearsal schedule during Lent will be as follows. All children and youth choirs cancelled Feb. 22, Mar. 14, and Apr. 4.

Children's Choirs (Cherub, Seraph and Junior)	6:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Youth Ensemble	6:30 – 6:50 p.m.
Adult Choir	7:45 – 8:45 p.m.
Notabella Choir will meet on <i>Sundays</i>	4:30 – 5:30 p.m.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

from Mary Ann Stasiak

Bridge Club will be held Friday February 10th 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 or Ed.

A **reception for First Communion** will be held on February 19th after the 11:00 am service. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information about the dedication service for the new sanctuary, also on February 19th. We will hold a reception after the 3:00 p.m. dedication service. Please join us for this very happy occasion!

Lenten Soup Suppers will start on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Kay Spence has graciously agreed to be the Soup Supper coordinator - thank you Kay! Please be on the lookout at the Welcome Center for the sign-up sheets for the soup suppers, we will need everyone's help for these very popular dinners during Lent.

OWLS and Men's Breakfast: Be on the lookout for more information in the Sunday bulletin as these groups decide their February meeting events.

Future Events:

March 10th - Pie Day in honor of "Pi Day" 3-14: sweet and savory pies

During Holy Week we hope to have a Seder Meal. Watch for details.

April 15th - New Member Reception

Date to be determined - Knitting lessons by Elaine Shriver

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

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

If God's chosen nation is Israel, why don't the Jewish people accept Jesus as the Messiah?

Some Jewish people do accept Jesus as the Messiah. (Our tour leader in Israel last November, Hillel, is a 'messianic Jew'). Here are three possible explanations for why most Jews do not accept Jesus as Messiah.

1.) Many Jews (and non-Jews) have never heard the **good news** we have in Jesus. It is our mission to share that good news by our words and actions.

2.) Only the Holy Spirit brings people to belief in Jesus as the Messiah. So, only God knows why some believe and others do not. (See #1 for what we are to do about this.)

3.) St. Paul struggles with this very question in Romans chapters 9-11. His is not a simple answer, but it is the best one I know because it is in the Bible.

What would you like the *Question of the Mouth* to be for March?

Tell Pastor Scott.



February 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

Feb 5 Now the Feast w/LS

Feb 12 WOV Service of Word/Prayer

Feb 19 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Feb 26 LBW Setting 1

Sundays at 11:00 am

Feb 5 LBW Setting 2

Feb 12 WOV Service of Word/Prayer

Feb 19 Now the Feast w/LS

Feb 26 Chicago Folk w//LS

Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 pm

Feb 19 Dedication of New Sanctuary w/ LS

Mid-Week Lenten Services of Worship

The season of Lent begins with the February 22nd Ash Wednesday service of worship. Worship will include the Lord's Supper and imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them. Lent continues with services on February 29, March 7, 14, 21 and 28. During these worship services, area pastors will preach with the theme "Lord of the Valleys". There will be a Maundy Thursday service on April 5 and a Good Friday service on April 6. All Lenten services begin at 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Soup Supper Schedule

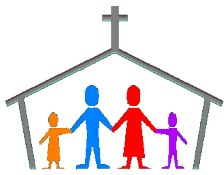
On Wednesday evenings during Lent, everyone is invited to a soup supper serving between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Welcome Center. Please sign up when you are able to bring soup, bread, etc. There will be no soup supper on March 14 (Spring Break) or during Holy Week, April 4.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Thank you for your service to God and others through ministries of Messiah Lutheran Church. In 2011 you contributed the following:

General and Building	\$406,326
includes ELCA Mission Support - \$29,295	
New Facilities/Sanctuary Expansion	\$139,097
Dedicated Gifts	\$175,299
Missions - \$66,048	
Steeple, Sacristy, Organ,	
Stained Glass Memorials - \$48,683	
Other - \$60,568	
TOTAL	\$720,722

Thank you for your generous gifts to God, this community, and the world! May our gifts in 2012 be blessed in service to the Lord.



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.

BIRTHS: *Lord, you knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13*

- Christopher and Jessica Baldrige announce the birth of their son, Rowan Everett Baldrige on December 30th at 3:56am. He was 7lbs 4oz and 20.5 inches.
- Jason and Jayme Gray announce the birth of their son Peter James Gray on December 30th (aka Junior) at 5:15pm in Olathe, KA. He was 8lbs 11oz and 20.5 inches.
- Jack and Debbie Gulden announce the birth of their fourth grandchild, Ella Marie Gulden on January 9th at Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, CO. Proud parents are Brian and Amanda Gulden.
- Adam and Erica (Sweet) Roberts announce the birth of their daughter Evelyn Marie Roberts on November 29th in Tucson.
- Dave and Camille Cobb announce the births of great grandchildren numbers 15 and 16. On January 14th, Nathan James Weston was born to Ryan and Nicky Weston of Wisconsin. He was 8lbs 3oz. On January 17th, Asher Edward Ludwig was born to Ed and Sam Ludwig of Wisconsin. He was 8lbs 9oz.

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

- Kirk Hamlet's mother, Jean Hamlet passed away January 8th.

TOP 10 REASONS TO INVITE GUESTS TO MLC

- #10. Close to Starbucks
- #9. Ample parking for the 'mission driven'
- #8. Photo ops
- #7. Great music
- #6. Friendly people
- #5. Beautiful children
- #4. Smiling new Youth Director
- #3. Green AND Blue hymnals used
- #2. "Sunday School for all ages"
- #1. God attends every service to give out gifts

Youth Zone

~Lauren Gray, youth_director@mlutheran.org

Souper Bowl Sunday

On Feb. 5, the Jr. Youth will be collecting canned soup and donations for our Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser. The donations and canned goods that we collect will go to the Lovelady Center/Freedom Rain charity in Birmingham, AL. This center is a faith based facility for women and children who are homeless, abused, or in recovery. Please help support our Youth and the Lovelady Center by donating on Super Bowl Sunday!

Carnation Sale for Valentine's Day

Our annual carnation sale for Valentine's Day will be on Sunday, Feb. 12. The Jr. Youth will be taking orders for the carnations on Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, the two Sundays before the Carnation distribution. Come find us on those two Sundays and order your carnations!

Affirm

Calling all Jr. High and Sr. High youth! Affirm is closer than you think! This year, Affirm will be held **June 17-22**. Affirm is a five-day youth event of faith, fellowship, and friends. The event offers youth the opportunity to develop the ministry/life skills that allow each individual to know and live out God's affirming touch in Jesus Christ. Affirm is on the lovely campus of Berry College, Rome, GA. The **cost for Affirm is \$375**, which includes lodging, all meals, an event t-shirt, and all program costs. The **deadline to sign up for this is March 1st**, so please let Lauren know if you are interested in attending!

EDUCATION NEWS – by Linda Peirce

> Sunday School Spotlight



This month we will feature the middle school class led by Diane Davis. This group of 7th and 8th grade students doesn't just study Bible lessons; they put their faith into action. In December, they were a strong presence in the annual Christmas program and used their energy and skills to pack health kits for Lutheran World Relief. This semester they are enjoying a new curriculum. Already they have tasted fruit from the Middle East, and had a demonstration of how Jesus "absorbs" our sins. They are looking forward to their Bible Super Bowl Challenge and welcoming visitors and friends.

Comforters will meet every Tuesday in February at 10:00 a.m.

POC: Annette Joens.

OUTREACH NEWS from Janell Zesinger

Serving the City as ONE is an annual event to bring the churches of Greater Huntsville and the surrounding communities together to visibly demonstrate the love of Christ through united prayer, a day of serving in the community, sharing (food, clothing, blood drive, etc) and celebrating together God's goodness. Saturday April 21, 2012, will be our city and community-wide day of service.

FIVE WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

- Your congregation serves by joining one of the three hub sites
- Your church plans and carries out your own projects
- You as an individual Christian or your small group plan and carry out your project
- You as an individual Christian or your small group join in a hub project
- Two or more neighborhood congregations can join together and carry out their own projects

Please visit servingthecityonline.com for more information and contact Janell Zesinger if you are interested in learning about this project. Youth and families are encouraged to participate and we will decide how Messiah would like to serve based on interest.

Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity from Susan Burrer

Exciting news for another build! Habitat for Humanity of Madison County has once again been chosen as a recipient of a Thrivent Builds grant to build a house for a local family...one of the 126 affiliates building 142 Habitat for Humanity homes in 32 states through the Thrivent Builds program. Thrivent Financial has made a \$9.2 million contribution to Habitat's mission. Messiah will once again join with other area Lutheran Churches to support the build. More news and volunteer opportunities to come!

Messiah Moms!! A new Bible Study will be starting in February. We will meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 on Feb. 8th & Feb. 22nd. Childcare will be provided. The study will be: "In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice." Please join us for fellowship and devotion! Contact Janell Zesinger at for more information.

Outreach News by Jacquie Fry

It looked like spring lately, but winter weather has returned and it will be with us for a while. Homeless people in our community are in shelters such as the Salvation Army or Downtown Rescue Mission, but others live in tents under the overpass on I-565 and it gets cold. First Stop is the place where the homeless can get help and supplies. Currently First Stop serves approximately 125 homeless persons - mostly men, but recently more women have become homeless and need help. Items needed: blankets, coats, sweatshirts. adult socks, gloves, hats, & scarves.

There is a list of needed supplies for the First Stop Homeless Center posted on the board in the hall. There will be a separate box next to the box for coats and blankets for any supplies you want to donate. Hotel size soap is preferable for homeless clients but shampoo can be large, as it can stay in the shower at First Stop and be used by many clients. The center works with its clients to get them into permanent housing and was able to find housing for about 30 clients in 2011. These people have none of the household goods needed to set up housekeeping. Old dishes, pots and pans, cups, silverware, towels, etc can help to get a formerly homeless person settled. It doesn't matter if things don't match. If you have larger things such as furniture, please call First Stop to see if they have room in their warehouse. Contact Jacquie Fry or First Stop at 256-533-3391.

Thank you for the donations you have made in the past and for the care you show to those in need in our community.

LADIES CANCER SURVIVORS LUNCHEON

CANCER SURVIVING LADIES AT MESSIAH WILL BE GETTING TOGETHER FOR LUNCH AT THE HOME OF MARY BURKE ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH AT 11:30AM. PLEASE BRING A SALAD TO SHARE. IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY EMAIL AND WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND PLEASE CALL MARY BURKE OR JANET SMITH FOR MORE DETAILS.

A Note of Thanks.....from Deanna Glover

I am humbled by the outpouring of prayers, cards, visits and gifts from the Messiah family. Brooks and I are so blessed to be part of such a caring community of believers. As I grapple with the progression of this disease, I stand on the word of God and rely on the power of your prayers. God's blessings to all of you.

Leave this page blank - formatting for calendar

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00 pm Confirmation Classes 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:00 pm Adult Class 6:30 pm Youth Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Randall Fields</i>	2 8:30 am Morning Study Group <i>Bonnie & Jeff Flowers Anna</i>	3 <i>William & Shirley Forbes</i>	4 <i>Larry & Terry Frakes</i>
5 8:30 am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 am Worship: LBW Setting 2 12:15 First Communion 12:15 Instrumental Ens. 6:30 Sr. Youth	6 <i>Dennis & Jacquie Fry Rachel, Dona Lynch</i>	7 10 am Comforters 7 pm Church Council <i>Catherine Frye Kendall</i>	8 9:30 am Moms Bible Study 5:00 pm Confirmation Classes 5:30pm Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:00 pm Adult Class 6:30 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir <i>Eugene & Edith Frye</i>	9 <i>Brandon & Rachel Gardner Gabe, Nitin, Kreneck</i>	10 7:30 pm Bridge Club, Parish Hall <i>Gary Garrison</i>	11 <i>Pat Gilliland</i>
12 8:30 am Worship: WOV Svc of Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship: WOV Svc of Word/Prayer 12:15 instrumental Ens. 6:30 pm Sr. Youth	13 11:30 am Ladies Cancer Survivor Luncheon <i>Chris & Beth Gloe Samantha, Amalia</i>	14 Valentine's Day 10 am Comforters <i>Deanna & Brooks Glover</i>	15 5:00 pm Confirmation Classes 5:30pm Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:00 pm Adult Class 6:30 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir <i>Ian & Heidi Goebel Walker</i>	16 <i>Lois Graff</i>	17 <i>Ken & Nancy Grant Lori</i>	18 <i>Lauren Gray</i>
19 Transfiguration Sunday 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Now the Feast w/LS 12pm First Communion Reception 3:00 pm Dedication Service & Reception 6:30 pm Sr. Youth	20 President's Day <i>Dee Dee Grimes Winston</i>	21 10 am Comforters <i>Mark & Patricia Grimes Joseph</i>	22 Ash Wednesday 9:30 am Moms Bible Study 5:00 pm Confirmation Classes 5:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:45 pm Adult Choir <i>Start of Lenten Soup Suppers Mitch Grimes</i>	23 <i>Robin Grubis</i>	24 <i>Jack & Debbie Gulden</i>	25 <i>Bob & Audrey Gustafson</i>
26 8:30 am Worship: LBW Setting 1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 am Worship: Chicago Folk w/LS 4:30 pm Notabella Choir 6:30 pm Sr. Youth	27 <i>John & Amanda Hampel John II, Jacob</i>	28 10 am Comforters <i>Peggy Hanna</i>	29 5:00 pm Confirmation Classes 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:45 pm Adult Choir <i>Mark & Dottie Hanson</i>			MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE February 18