

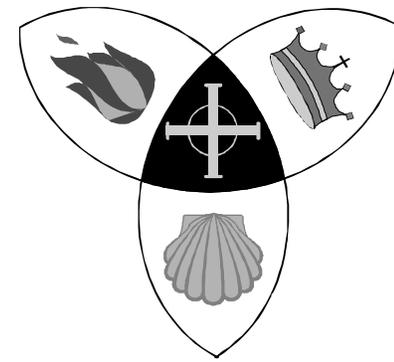
Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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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.org.** Church Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Managers. The Pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. Pastor/Developer is Rev. Mark Borseth. The Church Office telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: info@mlutheran.org. Newsletter editor is Mary Brown.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER



Volume 23: Issue 1

January 2011

www.mlutheran.com



Building Committee Open Forum
Sunday, **January 30th**

Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

"BUILDING TO SHARE GOD'S STORY" is the theme of MLC's capital fund appeal which will help in our decision whether to expand the sanctuary. At the December 9, Church Council meeting a goal was set for this appeal: Pledges and gifts over a three year period totaling \$600,000.

LOOKING BACK: Here are some significant steps leading up to this appeal.

- *MLC's three-year pledge period for facility expansion which enabled construction of the education wing and parish hall ended years ago, but some members chose to continue giving to the Facility Expansion Fund.
- *In the years that followed, worship attendance continued to grow. In May 2008 the Congregation decided to initiate the start of a new mission congregation in Harvest/Monrovia.
- *In November 2008, Pastor Developer Mark Borseth arrived to start the mission congregation of Incarnation Lutheran Church on Hwy. 53 in Harvest.
- *In May 2009, the Congregation authorized hiring an architect to develop a floor plan and visual renderings of a possible expansion to MLC's sanctuary.
- *In November 2009, the Congregation authorized the formation of a Building Committee to select an architect for the purpose of getting schematic drawings of an expanded sanctuary.
- *In November 2010, the Congregation authorized full architectural specifications for an enlarged sanctuary to enable bids from general contractors for this expansion, and authorized a capital fund appeal to measure Congregation commitment to pay for expansion. **The Goal is to make decision on whether to expand sanctuary in late March 2011.**

LOOKING AHEAD:

- *On Sunday, January 30, the Building Committee will have an Open Forum in the Sanctuary during Sunday School hour to present progress on design development for an expanded sanctuary.
- *On Sunday, February 6, Pastor Eugene Grimm, a Stewardship Key Leader from Prescott, AZ, will be here to introduce the *Building to Share God's Story* capital fund appeal. He will return on Sunday, March 13, to culminate the appeal.
- *In mid-March competitive bids from general contractors will be received on actual cost for expanding the sanctuary.
- *Sunday, March 27, is the tentative date for a Congregation Meeting to make a decision on sanctuary expansion. At this meeting we will have the results of the *Building to Share God's Story* capital fund appeal and the cost from general contractors on doing this job.



Ring and Sing

Thank you for coming out to the Ring & Sing Concert. Sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, donations and supplemental funding totaling \$829 will benefit the Madison Public Library. Thank you to Rhonda Gaede for her many years of service directing Messiah's bell choirs and for organizing this special annual event!

Comforters

will resume meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 4th at 10:00 am. Thank you to all who support us throughout the year at our quilt auction and especially to the ladies who comprise the comforter's group. For info call Annette Joens.



Incarnation Information – January 2010 ***“Being Lit on Fire”***

It's interesting what God uses to inspire us. My inspiration for this article was a Facebook post I just saw today. The post read, "Build a man a fire, he's warm for a day, set him on fire and he's warm the rest of his life." My response to the post was, "Sounds like a good vision statement for ministry."

How much of ministry is trying to build a fire for people once a week to challenge, encourage or inspire them just so they can make it to the fire you will build for them the next week? My motivation for 2011 is to set people on fire and not just build them a new fire each week. I will burn myself out if I am the only one who is burning. But just think of the forest fire of grace that can be started by a whole group of people who are on fire with the love of God.

John the Baptist could wash people and cleanse them of what was wrong, but Jesus came to light people on fire with everything that is right – the presence of God. His Incarnation was not just to clean people up and put them on shelves waiting to be carried to heaven some day. It was to light people on fire with the Holy Spirit so that he could send them out to light others on fire who would in turn light others on fire. In 2011, I want to invest myself in people who want to be lit on fire. Of course I will keep on lighting my weekly Sunday morning fire for those who want nothing more than that, but I have a sense that the more people we have who are on fire themselves, the more that fire will spread to others. I plan on intentionally investing myself in people who are willing to commit their Wednesday nights out of a desire to catch on fire with the love and presence of God.

Wednesday nights we will share life, share food, pray, be equipped and ask God to light us on fire with his love, truth and grace. We will begin the year using the Alpha Course as our equipping material. Yet focusing on the basics of faith in Alpha is not meant to be the end of the process, but the beginning. That is why it is called "Alpha" – the first letter of the Greek alphabet. When Alpha is done, we will continue Wednesday night disciple training and move to Beta, Gamma, Delta & beyond with the overall purpose in 2011 to have God light us on fire.

Alpha Invitation

Alpha is not just for members of Incarnation. It is for all who want to begin the process of being ignited with the grace, truth and love of God in 2011. If you are interested in attending, talk to Pastor Mark or just show up. Our first gathering is Wednesday, January 5 at 6:15 for gathering and prayer, 6:30 for the video and discussion & 7:30 for dessert and fellowship.

Chili Cook-off & Lunch – Sunday, January 2 at Noon

As I said in my article, Incarnation's focus for 2011 is being set on fire with the love of God. What better symbol of being set on fire on the inside than eating chili! We will begin the year by giving each other heartburn to symbolize our intent of inviting God to come and set our hearts on fire in 2011. This is open to everyone. Come join us for worship at 10:45 or come after worship at your home church.

Bring chili and/or something to go with the chili, yourself, and a friend or two. Pastor Mark will share more of what to expect at Incarnation in 2011 and introduce the Alpha Course as part of the gathering time. We may even have a prize for the best chili!

Men's Breakfast at Messiah – Saturday, January 8 at 7 AM

Come join us for some good food, fellowship, a devotion & prayer. All men are invited. If you want to be on Pastor Mark's email invitation list, email him at Pastor@incarnation-elca.org.

LOOKING TO GOD:

We are called ***to share God's story*** of forgiveness and life freely given through Jesus the Messiah. That decision has already been made by God and announced to us (*see above in Acts 1:8*). Now, the decision before MLC is whether expanding the sanctuary is the best way for us to be faithful to that calling from God. So, I encourage you to pray, think, discuss, and study in the coming months. We are at our best as *God's People, Reaching Out* when we listen to God's word for us, listen to each other, and work together to serve our Lord and our neighbors.

IN 2010 GOD KNOWS how MLC will continue on the mission given to us. My hope and prayer is that a year from now, and years from now, we will rejoice in saying together, "Look where our Lord has taken us!"

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Peterson

January Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice LS = Lord's Supper

Sundays at 8:30am

Jan 2 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Jan 9 Now the Feast w/LS
Jan 16 LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Jan 23 WOVS Service Word/Prayer
Jan 30 Hymn Sing w/LS

Sundays at 11:00am

Jan 2 WOVS Service Word/Prayer
Jan 9 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Jan 16 Contemporary Serv.
Jan 23 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Jan 30 Hymn Sing w/LS



Stewardship Thought...

excerpt from *Generations of Generosity* by Michael Zacher

We make a difference every single day.

The ways we drive in traffic and behave at the grocery store make a difference.

Every time we smile at someone who is having a bad day (or a good day), we make a difference.

Each time we make an ethical business decision or donate our time, energy or money, we make a difference.

We make a difference as we model loving kindness.



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 will be included. Contact Claire Strand.

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

- Dave and Camille Cobb announce the birth of their great granddaughter, Lillian Grace Walden, on December 14th. She weighed 7.5 lbs and was 19 inches long. Her parents are Jason and Brianne Walden of Harvest.

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

- Faye Moore passed away December 3rd.
- Norm Ruhl passed away December 4th.
- Jim Shappell, father of Mary Mast, passed away December 3rd.

BAPTISMS: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..." Matthew 28:19*

- Peyton Gray Rochowiak, daughter of Adam and Amanda Rochowiak, was baptized on December 19th.

NEW MEMBERS: *On December 5th, we received into membership~*

- Raymond and Eunyoung Bordenski of Huntsville
- Mike and Linda Boyer from Pennsylvania
- Carol Padinha and Ron Wagner of Huntsville
- John and Jennifer Tresnan and Trey from Indiana
- Don and Karen Williams and Allie, Bryan, Kain of Harvest

GRADUATION:

- On Dec. 17, Daisy DeMarsh graduated from the University of Montevallo, Summa Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a double minor in Art History and Chemistry.

On Eagle's Wings

Advent Breakfast Thank you!

Thank you for generously supporting the Advent Breakfast last month. Over \$2500 was donated to send missionaries to teach Bible School in the Northwest Territories this summer.

Spaghetti Lunch/Talent Show

The *On Eagle's Wings* Spaghetti Lunch and Talent Show will be on January 30th. If you have a talent to share, contact Lois Graff by January 15th. Enjoy good food and good fun that will help support our mission to the children and communities in the Northwest Territories of Canada.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

By Mary Ann Stasiak

Wednesday Night Café – Dinner is provided each Wednesday evening at 5:30 during the school year. Everyone is welcome. Thanks for all the help with the wonderful meals, and a special thank you to Dorothy Seitz for her continued leadership of this special ministry. If you

can help, please call Dorothy Seitz. Wednesday Night Cafe will resume after the New Year.

Bridge Club will be held Friday January 14th 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share!

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

Can you help with an upcoming event? Contact Mary Ann Stasiak at We need volunteers to lead:

- * Coordination of Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday nights through Easter
- * Coordination of funeral receptions as needed

Music Groups at Messiah

Come on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons to enjoy singing, ringing and fellowship in one or several of Messiah Lutheran's choirs. There is a choir or ensemble for almost any age and interest. Questions? Call Lois Graff.

Cherub Choir (Grades K-1) Wednesdays 6-6:30 p.m. Director Alison Bartel. Children sing and ring children's handbells.

Seraph Choir (Grades 2-4) Wednesdays 6-6:30 p.m. Director Lydia Scroggins. Spring session – vocal

Junior Choir (Grades 5-6) Wednesdays 6-6:30 p.m. Director Claire Strand. Spring session – hand chimes

Youth Ensemble (Grades 7-12) Wednesdays 6:30-7 p.m. Director Randall Fields

Cantabile Bell Choir Sundays 5:30-6:30 p.m. Director Rhonda Gaede

Notabella Choir Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m. Director Rhonda Gaede

Instrumental Ensemble. (Grades 7-Adult) Bi-wkly Sundays 12:15-1:15 p.m. Director Lois Graff

Adult Choir Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 p.m. Director Randall Fields

Education & Youth News by Linda Peirce

OUTREACH NEWS Claire Strand and Jacquie Fry.

Messiah ended 2010 as she began -- as God's hands reaching out into our congregation, our community, and the larger world.

Your generosity in time, talents, and financial support is both inspiring and humbling. Everything we do here at Messiah is Outreach, be it teaching a Sunday School class or helping with VBS, creating quilts for those near and far, making or buying handmade items in support of our Lunches for Learning school in Honduras, attending events for On Eagle's Wings in the Northwest Territories in Canada, or helping gather supplies and assembling health, baby, and school kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Locally, you have donated school supplies and clothes for needy students, canned food and turkeys for the hungry, toys, a needed printer, and money towards a safe new fence for Milestone Christian Academy, and made Christmas a happier time for homeless children at the Downtown Rescue Mission. Three loads of blankets and jackets were delivered to First Stop for the homeless and linens, towels, clothes, and toys went to Christmas Charities Year Round.

You have touched the lives of so many people by living your faith in this world. May God bless you as you live your life in Him.



Thank you for being *God's people, Reaching Out.*

~ Jacquie Fry

Help Wanted!! A VBS Co-Supervisor

is urgently needed. Vacation Bible School is generally held in July. For more information, please see either Dorothy Seitz or Linda Peirce.

SUNDAY SCHOOL...

Sunday School classes are offered for ages 2-adult. Please contact Bobbey, our Sunday School Superintendent, if you want more information about classes for children and youth, and contact Pastor Scott or Linda Peirce if you want more information about adult classes.

Thank You!! The **Sunday School** teachers and staff want to thank all the children and their parents who generously brought gifts of canned goods for the Food Bank to the Birthday Party for Jesus celebration on December 19!

Sunday School will not meet January 2 but will resume on Sunday, January 9.

Senior Youth held their Christmas Party Sunday, Dec. 19 at the church. Several youth enjoyed refreshments while watching programs on their newly purchased 42 inch television.

Senior Youth will not meet Jan. 2. Regular Sunday night meetings will resume on January 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Messiah.

A Weekend Ski Trip for Junior and Senior Youth with youth from Incarnation Lutheran Church will be held January 15-17 at Lutheridge in Arden, SC. This is a 3-day weekend with no school on Monday because of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. There is still room for any youth who are interested in attending. For more information, please contact Brandon Pittman from Incarnation or Pastor Mark.

First Communion Classes

Pastor Peterson will lead a three session First Communion class for children 10 years old (or very close) and older on Sundays, February 6, 20, and 27, at 12:15pm. First Communion will be celebrated on Transfiguration Sunday, March 6.

<p>30</p> <p>8:30am Worship Hymn Sing w/LS 9:45 Sunday School and Open Forum 11:00am Worship Hymn Sing w/LS OEW Spaghetti Lunch and Talent Show 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth</p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>Pamela Sparks</i></p>					<p><i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sunday January 16</i></p>
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