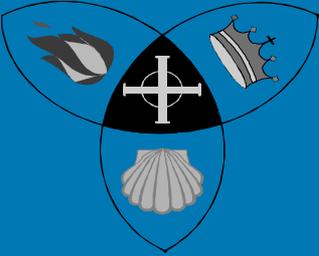


Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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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.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

May 2012
Volume 24 Issue 5

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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www.mlutheran.com

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<http://mlutheran.blogspot.com/>

May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10am Comforters <i>Jeff & Robin Moore</i>	2 9:30am Moms Bible Study 5pm Conf Classes 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>John Moore</i>	3 8:30am Morning Study Group <i>Gene & Fran Morgan</i>	4 9-10am Knitting Crafters <i>John Morgan</i>	5 <i>Doris Mullins</i>
6 8:30am Worship: Bread of Life w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 12pm Congregational Meeting w/Elections	7 <i>Beth Mumaw Kyle</i>	8 10am Comforters <i>Bill & Janice Murphy</i>	9 5pm Conf. Classes 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choirs 7:00 Dinner Theater Auditions (& 16 th) 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Jim & Anna Musch</i>	10 7pm Church Council <i>Gerry & Jackie Myers Noah, Adam, Luke, Evin</i>	11 9-10am Knitting Crafters 7:30pm Bridge Club <i>Marc & Debbie Neely Heather, Adam</i>	12 1-4pm Mother's Day Fondue Party <i>Jim & Ellie Nelson Michael</i>
13 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 9:45 Sunday School 11am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS	14 <i>Allen & Peggy Nuss</i>	15 10am Comforters <i>Troy Nuss</i>	16 9:30am Moms Bible Study 5pm Confirmation Classes 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choirs 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Brian & Cindy Nye Jeffery, Justin</i>	17 <i>Diane Oliver</i>	18 9-10am Knitting Crafters <i>Charles & Barbara Olson</i>	19 <i>Geoff & Jennifer Oltmans Madelyn, Hadley</i>
20 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11am Worship: Contemporary Service	21 <i>Jeff & Heather Ostendorff Gabriel, Kara</i>	22 10am Comforters <i>Brian & Audrey Osterdorf Lydia, Hannah</i>	23 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Don & Lizzie Palmer</i>	24 8:30am Morning Study Group <i>Joe Paxton Nathan</i>	25 9-10am Knitting Crafters <i>Paul & Julie Pedersen Lorelie, Leah, Christopher</i>	26 <i>Phil & Sonja Pedersen Heidi, Heather</i>
27 8:30am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 10am Adult Choir 11am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12pm Confirmation Reception	28 Memorial Day <i>Steve & Linda Peirce</i>	29 <i>Jay & Gretchen Perry Jayson, Ashlyn</i>	30 <i>Kevin & Debi Peterson Shane, Amanda</i>	31 <i>Laura Peterson</i>		

Looking ahead...

- June 4-8 Music Camp † June 10 Pancake Breakfast for Lutheran World Relief Kit Ministry † June 15 - VBS
- July 27 Youth Coffeehouse



Pastor's Page

By Pastor Scott Peterson scott@mlutheran.com

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right,
for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.
So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all,
and especially for those of the family of faith. --St. Paul to the Galatians 6:9-10*

Dear Friends of the Risen Messiah,

ARE YOU TIRED, like me? God wants us to regularly take our rest. Yet, St. Paul tells us that when we do not grow weary in doing what is right, we have joy at harvest time. Lately I experienced some 'harvest joys' at MLC.

+I am beginning to feel at home in our **expanded Sanctuary**.

+That **beautiful steeple** still catches my eye whenever I am in the vicinity of the building.

+The **stained glass window** unveiled on Easter Sunday, April 8, continues to captivate me.

+The day we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord, we had 469 in worship which is the **highest attendance** in the history of MLC.

The hard work and generosity of so many of you have contributed to these sweet 'fruits of the harvest'.

GOD APPARENTLY HAS MORE good works prepared for us. At MLC in May we will...

+**Have a Congregation Meeting** at Noon on Sunday, May 6, to elect a Church Council and study how we are doing financially in 2012. (*Sneak previews: Some very gifted people have accepted nomination and finances look encouraging through the end of March.*)

+**Celebrate Confirmation Sunday**, on Pentecost Day, May 27. Nine Second-Year Students are working to complete their studies. Please keep them in your prayers as they have a month of testing and continuing to memorize Luther's *Small Catechism*.

+**Prepare for the arrival of Pastor Ruth Hamilton**, who will serve MLC while I am on Sabbatical this summer. Pastor Hamilton is a gifted preacher and teacher who serves as the Assistant to the Secretary of the ELCA and as an Associate Pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Chicago. I will introduce Pastor Ruth during worship on June 10. The two Sundays she will be gone this summer, Bishop Julian Gordy and one of his Assistants will provide pulpit supply. MLC is being provided exceptional leadership during my absence. I only hope you won't be too sad when I return at the end of August.

AND THERE IS MORE...

+We hope to have our **first Ordination** of a Pastor at MLC this summer. Our Charlie Underwood has interviewed for a call at a church in Texas. Please pray for Charlie and Lana in this time of discernment. Charlie will graduate from Wartburg Seminary on Sunday, May 13th in Dubuque, IA.

+A generous gift from the estate of Deanna Glover pushed the total in the **Pipe Organ Fund** over \$30,000. The Church Council appointed a Task Force to pursue finding a used pipe organ to purchase and install at MLC.

THE LORD CERTAINLY HAS BLESSED MLC. Most of what I noted above is happening 'within our walls'. Next month on this page I will focus on what is happening through MLC 'outside our walls': Ways we are invited to live our mission as "God's People; Reaching Out."

THIS MONTH AND ALWAYS let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Easter joy,
Pastor Scott Peterson

May 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

May 6 Bread of Life w/LS
May 13 LBW Setting 2
May 20 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
May 27 WOV Service of Word/Prayer

Sundays at 11:00 am

May 6 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
May 13 Now the Feast w/LS
May 20 Contemporary Service
May 27 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Life Passages

By Claire Strand 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.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome new members! Received into membership were Bill and Sue Bathgate, Jay Gibson, Bruce Machamer, Don and Lizzie Palmer, Bill and Paula Weaver, Lisa Whaley and Miranda Mumaw.

BAPTISM: "Whoever welcomes a child in My name, welcomes Me." *Luke 9:46-48*
Rowan Everett Baldrige, son of Christopher and Jessica Baldrige, was baptized April 8th

GRADUATION:

High School Graduates: Brittany Beier, Zach Bonaker, Allison Daniel, Kathryn Holden, Ryan Miller, Miranda Mumaw, Hannah Osterdorf, Christopher Shriver, Jessica Stender, Konrad Tegtmeier, Matthew Wade, Jacob West

Zachary Mahafza graduates May 5th from UAH with a degree in Earth System Science.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Lori Grant, daughter of Ken and Nancy Grant, won an Emmy for "Breaking News: Deadly Tornadoes" at the 26th Annual Southeast Regional Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Award ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee on March 17. Lori works at WRAL, the CBS television station, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Music Notes

By Lois Graff



Music Camp June 4th - 8th

Messiah's 19th annual Music Camp will be held the week of June 4 - 8 for upcoming Kindergarten through 9th graders. "Oh, Brother!" will be presented at both services on June 10. Dress rehearsal is on Saturday morning. The musical is the story of Jacob and Esau and focuses on relationships, both with friends and family here and with our Heavenly Father.

The camp lasts from 9 am - 4 pm each day. Campers will enjoy music, drama, arts & crafts, recreation and a snack in the morning. After lunch there is an activity (roller skating, bowling, swimming, etc.) The cost is \$75 per child. Invite your friends and neighbors!

If you have questions or would like to help in any way, please contact Lois Graff.

Dinner Theater

Please see news flashes for more information

Youth Coffeehouse

Dust off your old music, instruments, and warm up your voice. The youth coffeehouse is on the calendar for July 27! For information, contact Lois Graff.

Summer Choir Schedule

Children's Choirs, Youth Choir, Instrumental Ensemble and Notabella Choir will have their last rehearsals of the season the week of May 21. The Adult Choir will continue to meet through the summer months at:

1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 8 am

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 10 am

Dinner Theater rehearsals will be held regularly during weekdays beginning in June.

Watch the newsletter, weekly church bulletins and the calendar at www.mlutheran.com for up-to-date information. Or contact Lois Graff.

Outreach News

Thrivent Builds with Habitat Humanity – The Johnson’s House

By Susan Burrer

6329 Banks St. NW, Huntsville

Senchal and family are eagerly awaiting move-in day! She said she used to come to the site and “look at her dirt” with anticipation and now the house build has taken shape so fast! She is EXTREMELY grateful to all those who have come to volunteer...simply amazing, she said, and we don’t even know her! Inside painting, trim work, cabinet and floor installation, and landscaping will all be worked on in the next couple weeks. House completion and dedication is expected mid to late May...date announcement soon! Come take a look and be part of the ceremony, even if you didn’t get a chance to volunteer for this one!



Messiah’s Champions: Gerard DeJong and Virgil Burrer

Habitat for Humanity, El Salvador

By Susan Burrer

The April 7th plant/yard/bake sale was a HUGE success, raising \$1510, with an additional \$500 in matching funds through Thrivent’s Care Abounds in Communities program. The Partners in Faith project entails building Habitat homes for 15 families of the Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, the church in Santa Ana that the teams attend when going to work on mission trips there.

Many of these same families volunteered labor to help build the 75 houses in the Thrivent/Habitat community of Villa Esperanza, despite their humble resources. These 15 homes are being subsidized as their finances are too limited to even qualify for a full Habitat home price. It is hoped to have ground-breaking and start building the new sanctuary of Cristo Rey in 2013, as most of the church was destroyed in a earthquake in 2001.

If anyone is interested in going on an international build to El Salvador, please talk to Virgil or Susan Burrer.



Outreach Easter Bag Project

By Jacquie Fry

Thirty Easter bags were taken to Downtown Rescue Mission for homeless men at the mission. Your generosity towards those in need reflects the love of Jesus. Thank you to all who donated Bibles, socks, stamps, personal items, and candy for the bags. Special thanks to the Sunday School classes and the Youth Group who made bookmarks, cards, and decorated the Easter bags. Extra supplies were also donated to Downtown Rescue Mission.



Outreach News, continued

Letter from El Barriel Regarding Donated Educational Materials

Pastor Scott Peterson & Messiah Lutheran Church:

Teachers, students, parents, and the whole community of El Barriel, de Nacaome Valle are sending an extensive, warm, and cordial greeting, hoping that when you receive this letter you are in good health next to all that surround you.

We are writing to you by this means, in a very special way, as a way to say thank you. We have decided to ask you if you could be the godparent for the sixth grade graduation on 2012. It will be an honor to us if you accept this petition. We will keep you informed of the graduation date, but tentatively is for November 20th. We hope to have you here, and we will be so happy to have such a distinguished altruist like you to assist in our graduation event.

We also want to thank you for the help that you given all of these years. It has been very helpful to us. Because of this program, the school has had a change. We had 55% enrollment increase thanks to your help from infrastructure, food, health, and this year help with the teaching materials. Now, the students can count with a pencil, notebook, eraser, pencil sharpener, glue, cleaning materials, chalk, and blackboard. This letter is so insignificant to number all of the help we have received and has changed us.

We are saying good bye Pastor, hoping that God can get us together, so we can pay you with what we can. A big smile and a big hug to you all. Thank you Pastor and asking God to see you soon.

In advance, we thank you very much for your time and we are hoping for a positive response from you, and hoping God will bless your life and dear ones. Without anything else, we say goodbye attentively.



Stewardship Thought

Thank you to all who completed a time and talent survey. More are available in your mailbox or in the church office.

--from "Giving of the Whole Self" by Grace Duddy, a student at Luther Seminary.....
We have all been blessed with wonderful gifts for ministry. We can best celebrate and thank God for these gifts by using them to their fullest. One of the greatest ways you can give back to your worship community is not only by using your own gifts but also by recognizing these gifts in others and empowering them to use these gifts for ministry. Often God uses our own gifts to highlight complementary gifts in others.



Council Notes

Here are some of the things that were discussed during the April Council Meeting.

1. Instructions on how to use the air conditioning units and lights in the sanctuary will be available from Garber Construction once the final payment is made. Ask staff members if you need assistance.
2. The date of May 6 has been set for the spring Congregation Meeting. Annual reports from each Council position were requested.
3. Revisions to the Columbarium Agreement were discussed.
4. A task force was formed for procurement of a used pipe organ, following a large bequest from the Deanna Glover estate.

Thrivent News

The North Alabama chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans invites you to Movie Night, May 18, 2012, 7:00 PM in Wilson Hall 001 on the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

There will be a *FREE* screening of the movie “Get Low”, a movie written by a Lutheran pastor and starring Robert Duvall, Sissy Spacek and Bill Murray.

Drinks, popcorn and candy will also be provided free of charge. “Get Low” is the story of a man that decided he wanted to attend his own funeral so that he could hear what people had to say about him.

Fellowship Committee News

By Mary Ann Stasiak



All females are invited to the **Mothers' Day Fondue Party** Saturday May 12th, 1-4 PM in Fellowship Hall. Come by yourself, or bring a parent or child at your own risk! In addition to enjoying different kinds of fondue, we will also decorate glasses and candleholders. Please contact Mary Ann Stasiak for more information.

Bridge Club will be held Friday May 11th 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 and Ed Stasiak.

On Sunday May 27th, we will celebrate new Confirmands on **Confirmation Sunday** after the 2nd service in Parish Hall. The reception will be hosted by the 8th grade confirmation class.

Elaine Shriver has made every Friday into **Craft Day** - knitting lessons, knitting fellowship, just hang out with buddies and knit. Join Elaine and fellow crafters every Friday, 9-11am at Messiah.

OWLS: Watch for more details on upcoming OWLS events.

Starting at the end of May, Fellowship will be responsible for **Summer Coffee** between services.

Future Events:

- Father's Day event led by Mark Zesinger

Future Events:

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

Sunday School Spotlight



This month we are spotlighting the Moms and Tots Sunday school class, which meets in room 3. The class is geared to kids age 2 and 3 and is taught by Heather Ostendorff and Amy McCarthy.

Each week, the students study a new lesson, complete a coloring page, make a craft, and talk about what they have learned that week and how we can all relate the lesson to our everyday lives. We have spent much of the year specifically learning about Jesus, his good works, and how he always loves and forgives us.

The kids also enjoy snack time and play time at the end of each class.

Our students are Charlie McCarthy, Gabriel Ostendorff, Hanna Seitz, Chelsea McCarthy, and Kara Ostendorff.

Youth Zone

By Lauren Gray youth_director@mlutheran.org

Easter Breakfast

Easter breakfast was a great success! Lots of food and fellowship! The youth did a great job making pancakes and other delicious breakfast items. Special thanks to all the parents that helped out that morning!

30 Hour Famine

What an exciting and eye opening weekend! The 30 hour famine event was full of hope, knowledge, and fun. We had 20 Jr. and Sr. youth attend and spent the whole weekend learning about world hunger and poverty and bonding together as a group. The Sunday youth services were also wonderful and the youth did a great job leading both services!

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. 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!

Vacation Bible School

VBS is taking place this summer on Friday, June 15th! This year we are having VBS all in one day. Our theme, Big Heart Farms, is based off of the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:16-26. Hope y'all can be there and please bring friends and family!



Some of our youth making Easter cards for the men at the Downtown Rescue Mission

News Flashes!



Comforter's will meet every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m in May. Questions? Call Annette Joens.

CONGREGATION MEETING IS MAY 6

Our May Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting will be Sunday, May 6, at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. The agenda will include ELECTIONS for Council, Sunday School Superintendant, and 2013 Nominating Committee; REPORTS from Council Officers and Committee Representatives, and FINANCIAL REVIEW of how we are doing on income vs. expenses in relation to the budget we adopted for 2012 at our November 2011 Congregation Meeting. All confirmed members of MLC are voting members. Everyone is welcome!

INTERESTED IN A TOUR OF GERMANY FOCUSED ON WHERE MARTIN LUTHER LIVED AND WORKED?



Pastor Scott will be leading a tour October 10-20, 2012, which will visit most of the significant historical sites of the Lutheran Reformation. If you are interested please talk to him soon. The deadline for deposit on the tour is May 25. After that date it will cost more or be too late to join. Those planning to go look like an enjoyable group. This tour is intended to be an opportunity for members of MLC to experience the places where our faith was formed and re-formed and is a part of Pastor Scott's 2012 Sabbatical. Pastor Scott can be reached at scott@mlutheran.com or 256-721-0041.



June 15th is when we'll have our one day VBS! We'll be putting a weeks' worth of learning into one day. We'll also have a family dinner at the end of our full day where parents can join us for a great meal. We will start registration for VBS on Sunday, May 6th. Keep your eyes open for a sign up table in the Narthex!

CALLING ALL THESPIANS

The 2012 Summer Dinner Theater will be a non-musical audience participation mystery comedy, A WING AND A PRAYER, the last weekend of August. *Plot* - The fund raising committee for a new sanctuary is holding its first organizational meeting – with a pot-luck meal. The richest lady in town volunteers to donate the entire sum required by selling her jewelry. She brought the jewelry along with the appraisal to the meeting, but when she attempts to hand over the box of jewelry, the box is empty. The rest of the play requires the best efforts of the cast and audience to solve the mystery.

Six ladies and two men are required for the cast. Once again, there are no singing roles. All interested people are asked to attend one of the auditions, scheduled for 7:00 to 7:30 on Wednesday evenings, May 9th and 16th.

A cast listing and plot summary have been placed in everyone's mailbox and on our website.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Lois Graff, Taylor Bono, or Bob Gustafson.

FLOWER GUILD - Something new to Messiah! If you are interested in flower arranging for Sunday Services, please contact Judy Starkloff or Rachel Gardner. Rachel has experience as an arranger and will be heading up this guild.

The Month in Pictures – May 2012



Easter Sunday unveiled the new stained-glass window in the Sanctuary. There was also an Easter breakfast held by the Youth between services. The table centerpieces were Resurrection Gardens done by Kay Spence.



Rowan Baldrige Baptism



OWLS do mini-golf at Insanity Skate Park

Over a two week period, a small Army of volunteers exercised their green thumbs. Through their efforts the ground was prepared, the watering system was installed, hundreds of plants were planted, edging was installed and a ton of mulch was moved. Many thanks to everyone who helped with all of this work! And many thanks to everyone who donated to the plant fund at Christmas and Easter!



Meet the Fry Family



Dennis and Jacquie Fry attended Messiah for the first time on May 11, 2008-- Pentecost, Mother's Day, and Jacquie's birthday-- having arrived in Huntsville at 10pm the night before in the middle of tornado warnings and rain. The move to Huntsville followed 20 years in Gurnee, IL, where Dennis was a cell biologist doing drug discovery research and Jacquie worked as an occupational therapist doing rehab in a nursing home. They settled in Monrovia and became members at Messiah in fall of 2008. In December 2008 daughter Rachel moved in with them following graduation from New Mexico Tech. In February 2010 Dennis's mother Dona Lynch moved to Huntsville from Newport News, VA. She now lives at Valley View Nursing Home in Madison. Son Matthew and wife Liz live in Minneapolis while she pursues a PhD in statistics education.

Dennis has directed biology research for Nektar Therapeutics at the Research Park facility for the past four years. Rachel works as a chemist in analytical services for Nektar at their manufacturing facility in Huntsville. Jacquie remains unemployed in a paying capacity, but enjoys being able to assist Claire with Outreach projects, sing in the choir, and generally be available to be hands for whatever needs arise. She became a Stephen's Minister last year. Both Jacquie and Dennis have visited ILAG churches in Guatemala (in different years) with mission teams representing the Southeastern Synod of ELCA. They are members of the OWLS. Dennis is also a faithful (and Jacquie a less-faithful) member of the Wednesday Bible study group. And Dennis is regular Habitat participant (along with Rachel) and builds ramps with Messiah Carpenters.

The research branch of Nektar is being moved to company headquarters in San Francisco in June so Dennis will have to relocate. The hope is that he will be able to return to Huntsville. Rachel's facility is remaining in Huntsville. Jacquie will continue to live here, at least for the present, and care for Dona. Life being uncertain for now, Dennis and Jacquie ask for your prayers.

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



May 2012
Volume 24, Issue 5

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 May 18th.