

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. Newsletter submissions may be sent to Beth Gloe.



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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November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Bob & Audrey Gustafson</i>	2 9am Craft/Knitting Group <i>Kirk & Lisa Hamlet</i>	3 6pm Movie Night in Parish Hall <i>John & Amanda Hampel John II, Jacob</i>
4 8:30am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12:15 Instrumental Ensemble 5:30 Youth Praise Band	5 9:30am Moms' Bible Study Group <i>Peggy Hanna</i>	6 10am Comforters <i>Mark & Dottie Hanson</i>	7 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Choir & Notabella 6:30pm Bible Class-Acts, chapter 5 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Tina Hanson</i>	8 8:30am Morning Study Group 7:00 pm Council Meeting <i>John & Donna Helinski</i>	9 9am Craft/Knitting Group 7:30pm Bridge Club <i>Doug Hendrick & Gloria Zalatan James, Madison</i>	10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">ALL TN Youth Gathering 10th -11th</div> <i>Esta Hodnett</i>
11 8:30am Worship: WOV Word/Prayer 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: Bread of Life w/LS Christmas Workshop	12 <i>Jim & Sue Hofer</i>	13 10am Comforters <i>Jennifer Holden Kathryn, Mitchell, Stephanie</i>	14 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Choir & Notabella 6:30pm Bible Class-Acts, chapter 6 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Russ Holden</i>	15 <i>Carolyn Holland Anna</i>	16 9am Craft/Knitting Group <i>Daniel & Diedra Hopkin</i>	17 6pm OWLS to Terranova's <i>Eleanor Hulebak</i>
18 8:30am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: Contemporary Service Congregation Meeting Open House at Lutheranch Pastor Ruth's Installation	19 9:30am Moms' Bible Study Group <i>Joe & Bobbey Huwaldt Jonathan, Jacob</i>	20 10am Comforters <i>Chad & Regina Hyatt</i>	21 6:30pm Notabella 6:30pm Bible Class-Acts, chapter 7 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>John & Derelene Jeter</i>	22 Thanksgiving <i>Jeanine & Jay Jamison Ally Pesto, Danielle Pesto, Stephanie Pesto</i>	23 9am Craft/Knitting Group <i>Roger & Annette Joens</i>	24 <i>Russell & Casie Joens Elizabeth, Mathew</i>
25 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11am Worship: ELW Setting 1 w/LS 12:15 Instrumental Ensemble	26 <i>Larry & Judy Johnston</i>	27 10am Comforters <i>Mike & Judy Kidd</i>	28 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Notabella 6:30pm Bible Class-Acts, chapter 7 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Greg & Meredith Kilby</i>	29 8:30am Morning Study Group <i>John & Nancy Knox Kenneth</i>	30 <i>Russell & Helen Kollman</i>	

Looking ahead...

- December 2nd - 53rd Festival of Lessons and Carols - Bus tour to Sewanee, TN
- December 7th - Elfin Magic
- December 9th - Ring and Sing
- December 16th - Advent Carol Service, Christmas Cookie and Ornament Exchange



Pastor's Page

By Pastor Scott Peterson scott@mlutheran.com

Dear Disciples of the Risen Messiah,

MY 2012 SABBATICAL is finally, officially over. I had two and a half months away this summer. Then, the final two weeks were October 10-20 in Germany helping lead a group of pilgrims on a tour of Martin Luther historical sites, plus we had a few days both in Berlin and Munich. Thank you, Messiah Lutheran Church. I believe this Sabbatical will help me to better serve in the days ahead. Below are some personal reflections which I blogged while traveling. (The complete blog is on the MLC website.) This is motivated by my concern for the people and the Church in Germany.

THE GERMAN PEOPLE: The evidence of their strong work ethic and corporate determination is everywhere. Life is ordered. When visitors unknowingly step outside of that order, it is not silently tolerated. That said, nearly everyone I met in Germany was helpful and courteous. A far lower percentage appeared happy. In my work I am routinely together with people animated by an abiding joy that flows from their Christian faith. (This joy is not to be confused with happiness for it goes much deeper and is not extinguished even in times of grief and tragedy.) Sadly, I sensed precious little faith or joy in Germany.

THE CHURCH buildings were grand. Yet, many function today primarily as museums and many are being converted into mosques for Islamic worship. I wonder if the crimes of Germany in the last century have created a national sense of shame which has stolen the soul of this people. Imagine a century where *your country* has been on a disastrous trek beginning with World War I, followed by the rise of Adolf Hitler leading to World War II including the holocaust, and that followed by a divided nation with the East under the burden of Communist rule for 45 years. We cannot imagine.

TO PUT THIS IN THEOLOGICAL TERMS: This is a people who have been slain by the Law, but not heard the Gospel/good news that brings forgiveness, new life, and the hope that will not disappoint. Germany is a secular society today. Christianity is marginalized across Europe. The U.S. seems bent on catching up as America gets more and more secularized. Is that where we want to go? I hope not.

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? Christianity was brought to North America by Europeans. As Lutherans we are indebted especially to Germans for our heritage that focuses on God's gracious grasp on us. Much of the spread of Christianity in Africa during the last 150 years grew from the efforts of American missionaries. I believe it is time to reverse the direction of that flow. That is: I believe America needs missionaries from Africa today, and Europe needs missionaries from America. My last day in Germany included visiting with a Pastor and parishioner from a Lutheran church in the Netherlands. We are planning to begin building a relationship by regular communication. As Christians in America we have much to learn about living faithfully in a society that is working to push us to the fringes. And, I hope that we can share gifts God has entrusted to us to pass on this life-giving faith to a new generation of European Christians.

TRAVEL is a great teacher. **LIFE** is a journey. **FAITH** is a journey. I expect you have heard those slogans before. But, I commend them anew to you. And, I encourage each of us to have the sense of adventure to go somewhere new in our journeys of faith. That can be done whether we are at home or half-way around the world because our Lord and his mission for us is everywhere. (See Matthew 28.)

NEXT YEAR JERUSALEM! Shalom.

Pastor Scott Peterson

November 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

Nov 4	Now the Feast w/LS
Nov 11	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
Nov 18	Now the Feast w/LS
Nov 25	LBW Setting 1 w/LS

Sundays at 11:00 am

Nov 4	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Nov 11	Bread of Life w/LS
Nov 18	Contemporary Service
Nov 25	ELW Setting 1 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.

DEATHS:

- Paul Brown passed away on October 14. The funeral was at MLC on October 18.
- Gene Morgan passed away October 23 after a long battle with cancer. The funeral was at MLC on Oct. 26.

Fellowship Committee News

By Mary Ann Stasiak

This November, Fellowship will be hosting **Movie Night** on Saturday November 3rd, 6 PM in Fellowship Hall and the Youth Group lounge. Mike Boyer has generously offered to bring his 3-D equipment to show *The Avengers* for the grown ups, while *Hunger Games* (PG-13) will play for the tweens, youth, and senior youth in the Youth Lounge. We'll bring the pizza, you bring the salads and desserts.

The **OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans)** will have dinner out at Terranova's on US 72 on Saturday, November 17th at 6 pm.



Bridge Club meets on the second Friday of every month starting at 7:30 PM: this month on November 9th. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share - Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

The University of the South in Sewanee, TN, will hold its 53rd Festival of Lessons and Carols during the Advent season this year. This is a lush festival of the Advent season, featured in *Southern Living* magazine last year. "At once solemn and joyful, the Festival of Lessons and Carols evokes the meaning of the Advent season through the radiant music of the University Choir and selected readings by members of the University community." On Sunday, December 2nd, a bus will pick us up from Messiah in the early afternoon, take us to the campus for the 5 PM service, and return us to Messiah by about 8 PM - a great event with great folks and no driving! A boxed meal will be provided. The cost will be \$40 per person, and we are limited to 52 seats. If you are interested in going to the service with us, please make your reservation with Mary Ann Stasiak.

Other events coming up through the end of the year:

Sunday, December 16th: Christmas Cookie and Ornament Exchange

Advent International Fellowships:

December 2nd: Asian/Pacific Island

December 9th: Bountiful America

December 16th: Mexican

December 23rd: German

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.

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

Outreach News

Canned Food Drive

Please bring your canned and boxed non-perishable food items to church now through November 18th. Food collected will be brought to a local food bank to aid families this holiday season.

Calling All Turkeys!

In conjunction with the other Lutheran Churches in the area, we will also be collecting money to go towards the purchase of Turkeys this Thanksgiving for those in need. Please put your donations in the offering plate with "Turkeys" in the memo line, or give to Claire Strand or Janell Zesinger.

Christmas is Coming...

Before you hit the shopping mall this Christmas, be sure to visit **Messiah's Giving Mall** in the Narthex. Here you can purchase a gift to aid those in need throughout our community and the world.

This Advent, our Giving Mall will include:

- **The Angel Tree** – Choose an angel from the tree to purchase clothing or toys for a child in need in our community.
- **Book for HEALS** – Provide books for children who visit the HEALS Free Health Care Clinics in Madison County.
- **Madison Crossroads Elementary** – Donate Socks, Underwear, Hats, and Gloves to children at this county school.
- **ELCA Good Gifts Catalog** – Choose from over 50 different giving options, such as vaccinations for a child or an alpaca for a farmer. The ELCA Good Gifts Catalog aids those around the world.
- **Messiah's Gifts for Mission** – Choose one of Messiah's own local and global outreach ministries to support in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

Visit the Giving Mall **November 25 – December 23**. With your donation, you will be given a card to send to your friends and loved ones to let them know about the generous gifts you have made in their honor.

Sunday School Spotlight



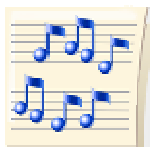
By Heather Osterdorff

This month's Sunday school spotlight features the Pre-K/Kindergarten class:

My name is Rachael Wier. I teach Pre-K and Kindergarten and have a total of 5 lovely students in my class: Gabriel, Samantha, Charlie, Hannah, and Emma. In class we usually start with a coloring activity followed by the Bible story for the day and a craft activity. My kids favorite part of class is playing outside (or play dough if it's raining or cold) followed by snack time. I really enjoy all of my kids and watching them learn whatever I can teach them!

Music Notes

By Lois Graff



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 Sandra Braasch who is working with ILAG in Guatemala 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 and 7:00 pm.

Missionary Pastor Amanda here on December 16th

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

53rd Festival of Lessons and Carols in Sewanee, TN

On Sunday, December 2nd, you are invited to attend this beautiful service. A bus will provide transportation. Cost is \$40 per person. Please make your reservation with Mary Ann Stasiak.

Ring and Sing

The annual Ring and Sing concert featuring handbells and chimes will be held on December 9th 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. This is a Thrivent sponsored event.

Advent Choral Service

On December 16, special choral music will be provided to give musical expression to the texts for that Sunday. Youth and children's choirs will join the adult choir, giving voice to God's word for us.

Council Highlights

Discussed at the October Council Meeting:

1. At the Special Congregation Meeting on Sunday, October 7, 2012, the congregation voted to accept the recommended changes to our Constitution to bring it into accordance with the ELCA Model Constitution.
2. Congregation Meeting to approve the 2013 Budget will be Sunday, November 18, 2012.

Stewardship Thoughte-lert - News from Luther Seminary

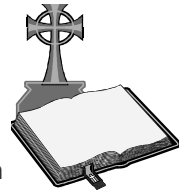
In his book "Faithful Finances 101", Gary Moore quotes Peggy Noonan, editorial board member of the Wall Street Journal, on faith and money:

"The other day I met with a Chinese dissident who has served time in jail, and whose husband is in jail in Beijing. I asked her if the longing for democratic principles that has swept the generation of Tiananmen Square has been accompanied by a rise in religious feeling--a new interest in Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity. She thought for a moment and looked at me. 'Among the young, I would say our religion is money,' she said. I nodded and said, 'Oh, that's our religion too.'"

Gary Moore goes on to make the awkward point that some of America's worst turn-of-the-millennium corporate scandals were perpetrated by devoted churchgoers, even Sunday school teachers and ministry board members. At all levels of society--personal, familial, congregational and professional--we are having trouble marrying the realities of faith and finances.

As I have reflected on this challenge as it regards the mission of the church, one image and symbol in particular brings together the dynamics of mission and stewardship in a fundamental way--the Lord's Supper. It's no wonder that the early Christians gathered daily around table fellowship and the breaking of bread. It's around the table that our physical, emotional and spiritual needs are met. It is to the altar that we bring our gifts, signs of our faithful response to God's love in Christ. And it is at the altar that God's gifts are blessed, broken and shared with not only the people of God, but the whole world. It's at the altar that the church practices both stewardship and mission.

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us--and the world--be blessed.



News Flashes!



Comforter's will meet every Tuesday in November @ 10:00. Comforter's quilt auction will Oct. 16th to November 19th. Questions call Annette

Congregation Meeting November 18th

On Sunday, November 18th a congregation meeting will be held at noon to adopt the 2013 budget for Messiah Lutheran Church. All confirmed members are voting members. Everyone is welcome.

A mailing of the proposed budget will be sent to members prior to the meeting. Please attend to celebrate God's blessings and seek together the future God has planned for us.

Nov 18 Open House at Lutheranch

Messiah Lutheran Church was a supporter to "The Challenge" campaign for Lutheranch. Lutheranch is now a reality and our members are invited to an open house on Sunday, November 18 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN time to check out all the progress. Bishop Gordy will be present to share his appreciation; there will be a BBQ dinner, special music by a Blue Grass band and site tours. Be watching for more information.

Youth Zone

By Lauren Gray

Trunk-or-Treat and Halloween Party!!

Thank you to everyone that helped out with Trunk-or-Treat and the Halloween Party!! It was a great success and the Jr. Youth did an awesome job leading the games. Also a big thanks to all that donated candy for our event! It was much appreciated!!



2012 Christmas Workshop

The annual Christmas workshop is coming up on November 11th. Now is our chance to get our Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes ready to take to the workshop event! If you need a shoebox or information about how to prepare one, see Lauren Gray.



Christmas Wreaths, garland, swags, and specialty items Sale!!



The Sr. youth are selling Christmas wreaths, etc. in October between services. We will be selling for a few weeks and then send our orders at the beginning of November for your items to get here around Thanksgiving. Please help support our youth and enjoy some fresh and festive wreaths, garland, swags, and specialty items!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

All TN Youth Gathering: All TN takes place on November 10-11 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tullahoma, TN. This event is open to youth in 6th-12th grades.

Elfin Magic: Elfin Magic is coming up on Friday, December 7th! More information will be available soon!

The Month in Pictures – October 2012



Trunk or Treat and the Chili Cookoff are two annual traditions at Messiah Lutheran Church. These events are a lot of fun for kids of all ages. Trunk or Treat offers a safe environment for the youth to dress up and poach a little candy. The Chili Cookoff offers a great opportunity for fellowship and eating some tasty food. And it also offers a chance to compete for the culinary top prize, "King of the Chili Pot". First place went to Dorothy Seitz. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's event a success.



The group who traveled to Germany pictured in front of Katie's Portal of the Luther House in Wittenberg.



Pastor Scott at Luther's tomb inside the Castle Church in Wittenberg.



On October 20th the Messiah Carpentry Team headed again to Gurley, AL to build a wheelchair ramp for CASA of Madison County. On this trip, Lauren Gray and the Messiah Youth came to help entertain the small children from the household to keep them safe on the worksite.



Hand Made Market 2012 volunteers and artists

Meet the Mooneyham Family



We are the Mooneyham Family... Melani, Ty (4 years old), and Abby (12 years old). In 2003 I became a member of Messiah Lutheran Church after relocating to Alabama from North Carolina to be nearer to my family; Ed & Georgann Trexler and my brother, Joshua.

Up until June 2011, I utilized my administrative skills in various positions within D&Y (medical staffing/locum tenens company) until transitioning into the government contracting world. As I continue to grow professionally in an ever-changing world, I am thankful for my mentors, my most treasured being my Dad. Thank you Sir!

In September 2008, God blessed me beyond anything I would have ever imagined.... He gave me Ty. I say it a lot as it is true--God knew exactly what He was doing when He gave me Ty. Ty is a happy little boy, with an incredible imagination. He is creative, kind, funny and he teaches me new things every day. Ty has attended Covenant Classical School since he was three months old and the encouragement they provide him is a Blessing.

I am sure by now you are curious about Abby. Well, almost a year before God gave me Ty He brought Abby into my life. She is a Great Pyrenees, born on New Year's Day 2000 and is our "Princess!"

As the new Greeter Coordinator I am thankful to all whom are willing to give of their time to greet on Sundays, thank you! If you are interested in greeting, please let me know!

We thank GG and Pap for always supporting us but mostly for loving us unconditionally. We appreciate you both and love you with all our hearts! To our family at Messiah, we thank you and appreciate your prayers!

Faith - keep it and always Trust in the Lord, He has your journey planned and shall make it clear to you in His time.

Blessings Always,
Melani, Ty & Abby

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



November 2012
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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 November 18th.