

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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September 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 Greg & Kerri Brown Alexandra, Savannah |
| 2 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: WOV Service or Word/Prayer 6:30pm Senior Youth | 3 Labor Day Paul & Mary Brown Grace, Madeleine, Byron | 4 10am Comforters James & Bettie Brumley | 5 5:00pm Confirmation Classes begin 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir John & Mary Burke | 6 Virgil & Susan Burrer | 7 9am Craft/Knitting Group Keith & Jessica Bux | 8 Dan & Cheryl Byers Justin, Joshua, Jonathan |
| 9 8:30am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 5:30pm Youth Praise Band 6:30pm Senior Youth | 1 9:30am Moms Bible Study Group 11am Ribbons of Courage Luncheon Martin & Laurie Campbell Connor | 11 10am Comforters Dan & Jill Casey Daniel, Calliope | 12 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir Terrence & Amy Chance Lauren, Terrence III | 13 7pm Church Council Doris Chojnowski Tara | 1 4 9am Craft/Knitting Group 7:30pm Bridge Club in Parish Hall Trudy Clare | 1 5 8:30am Walk to End Alzheimers @ Botanical Gardens 11am Youth Praise Band rehearsal Joy Clavin |
| 1 6 8:30am Worship: ELW Setting 1w/LS 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: Contemporary Service 12:15-1:15pm Instrumental Ensemble 3pm Grilling Class 6:30pm Senior Youth | 1 7 Diane Cline | 1 8 10am Comforters Deborah Coates Savannah, Kennan Brodeur | 1 9 9:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir David & Camille Cobb | 2 0 Lauren Cole | 2 1 9am Craft/Knitting Group Dorothy Corron | 2 2 Linda Cox |
| 2 3 8:30am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 6:30pm Senior Youth | 2 4 9:30am Moms Bible Study Group Jim & Toni Daniel Christina, Allison | 2 5 10am Comforters Lisa D'Antonio Mary Grace | 2 6 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth & Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir Bob & Diane Davis Andrew, Claire | 2 7 Terry de la Paz & Bob Smith Olivia, Aleksey Smith | 2 8 9am Craft/Knitting Group Gerald & Anita DeJong Meggy | 2 9 OWLS Breakfast Matthew & Jutta DeMarsh Daisy, Sandra, Matthew Jr. |
| 3 0 8:30am Worship: Hymn Sing w/LS 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship: Hymn Sing w/LS 12:15-1:15pm Instrumental Ensembl 6:30pm Senior Youth | | | | | | |

Looking ahead...

- October 7th - Commitment Sunday
- October 20th - Trunk R Treat/Halloween Party/Chili Cook-off
- October 27th - Handmade Market
- October 28th - Reformation Day German Fellowship



Pastor's Page

By Pastor Scott Peterson scott@mlutheran.com

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the see the tomb. –Matthew 28:1

Dear Friends of the Living Messiah,

AFTER A SABBATH DAY long ago the **greatest event in human history** occurred: *Jesus rose from the dead*. Nothing has been the same since. The risen Jesus is the promise of resurrection life for us. That new life is not just something for the future, but is a present reality for His disciples.

The Sabbath Day is for 1.) hearing God's word to us, and 2.) rest.

YOU HEARD GOD'S WORD this summer if you heard Pastor Ruth preach. I am so grateful for her faithful service to MLC while I was on Sabbatical.

DID YOU GET ANY REST THIS SUMMER? Thanks to MLC, I did. My Sabbatical was a great gift that I used to study about Martin Luther in preparation for teaching and preaching, visit family, and go fishing. So, I feel like my Sabbath is over, now it is time to focus my energies on the new life our Lord intends for disciples. I have work to do. I am privileged to have you to work with me as we seek to march in the direction the Spirit of the risen Jesus leads today.

THE ANNUAL FISHING SERMON will be Sunday, September 9th. My Sabbatical included lots of research for this sermon. Sharing what I learned and experienced might be used by God to deliver His Word for us. But, this is certain--All disciples are invited by Jesus to fish for people. I love to go fishing. And, our Lord knows catching people is even more exciting than catching fish.

Let's go fishing together,
Pastor Scott Peterson

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS **MLC 360: Practicing Discipleship**

Each session will have **two components**:

A.) **Learning/Reviewing the Basics** of our faith under the headings "Understanding Lutheran Worship", "How God's Word Works", "What We Believe", "How to Pray", "The Meanings of Baptism and the Lord's Supper"

B.) **Practicing Discipleship**: Showcases the ways in which members of Messiah are following the *Seven Faith Practices of Worship*, Pray, Serve, Give, Encourage, Invite, and Study. Attendees are invited to join an existing activity or launch a new one."

Tentative start date is Sunday, September 23, at 9:45 am. This will be a six week class.

September 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

September 2 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
September 9 Now the Feast w/LS
September 16 ELW Setting 1 w/LS
September 23 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
September 30 Hymn Sing w/LS

Sundays at 11:00 am

September 2 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
September 9 Now the Feast w/LS
September 16 Contemporary Service
September 23 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
September 30 Hymn Sing 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.

BIRTHS: Rex and Fran Shaffer announce the birth of a great granddaughter, Mina Longbons, born on August 17th. She weighed 6.2 oz. Proud parents are Jerred and Colene Longbons.

- Don and Karen Williams announce the birth of a grandson, Maximus Alexander Blankenship, born on July 10th.

DEATHS: Jim Murphy, brother of Bill Murphy passed away August 18th. He was 84.

Fellowship Committee News

By Mary Ann Stasiak

If you can relate to this: “Grilling makes me nervous, but I want to relax and amaze myself”, Ed Stasiak’s grilling class was meant for you. To learn some new grilling skills and recipes with lots of cool tips, join Ed Stasiak on Sunday September 16th at 3 PM for a **Grilling Class**. The menu includes grilled lime shrimp and melon with parmesan cheese, grilled steak and corn on the cob, with grilled peaches and ice cream (yes, the ice cream is grilled) for dessert. Class size of six people, \$15 per person.

Elaine Shriver hosts **Crafting Hour** (specialty in knitting) on Friday mornings at 9 AM. If you enjoy crafting or knitting and want some company or some help, this is a great opportunity for fun and good fellowship.



Wednesday Night Café returns to Parish Hall on Wednesday nights after Labor Day. Thanks again to Dorothy Seitz for taking leadership for this school year, and to the team of dedicated souls who support Café dinners!

The Fellowship Committee recently met to plan Fall events. Some upcoming events include:

- Saturday, October 20th: Trunk R Treat, Halloween Party, and Chili Cook Off
- Sunday, October 28th: Reformation Day German Fellowship
- 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. More events will be scheduled as we progress through the upcoming months.

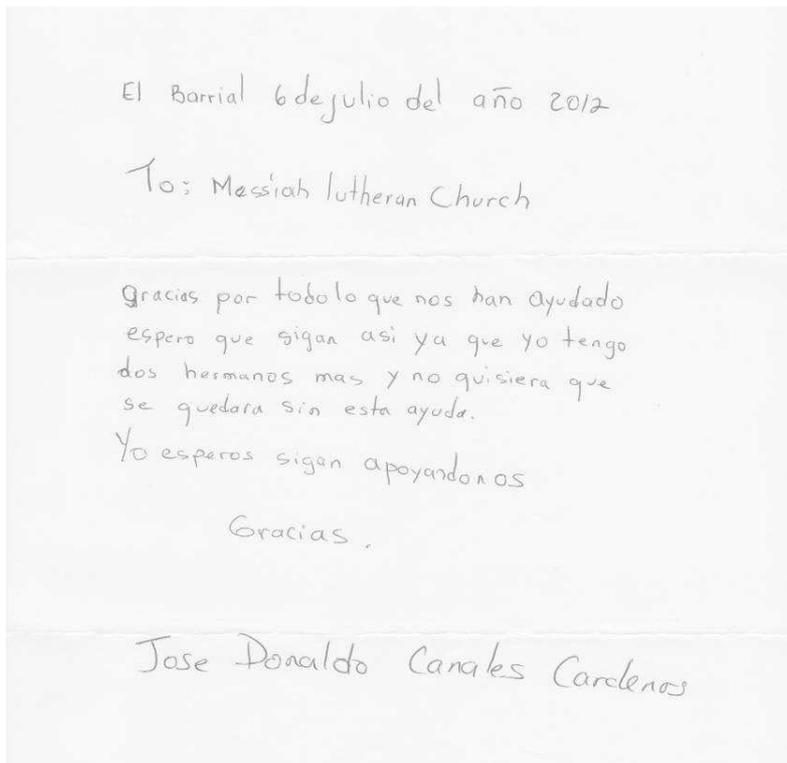
The **OWLS** will be starting the school year off with a breakfast event September 29th--be on the lookout for more information.

Bridge Club is on the second Friday of every month starting at 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall, this month on September 14th. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share - contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

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

Outreach News

A Letter from a Graduate of Benito Montoya School in Honduras



Translation:

Thank you for everything that you have given us. I hope that all of you continue to help because I have two brothers and I would not want them to be without this help.

I hope that all of you continue supporting us.

Thanks,

Jose Donaldo Canales Cardenas

Outreach Report

By Jacquie Fry

Thanks to all who donated school supplies to the SS Kids collection and the LWR school kit ministry! Thank you also to Lauren and the Tweens and Junior Youth who delivered the school supplies and helped assemble backpacks for SS Kids.

RECYCLE YOUR BLESSINGS!

Fall is coming, whether or not it feels like it yet. The box will be out in the Narthex shortly for donations for the homeless at First Stop, the day center for the North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless. A number of the clients live in tents under the overpass on I-565. Some blankets and jackets have already arrived--thank you! Among the items needed to keep the homeless warm and comfortable this winter are: blankets, pillows, jackets, heavy sweaters, long underwear, hats, scarves, and gloves. All clothes should be adult sizes. Most of the clients at First Stop are male, but not all. Soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, and other toiletries in standard or hotel sizes also are useful and are kept in the building where clients can shower.

First Stop works with the homeless to get them into permanent housing. Last year over 30 clients were placed in apartments. These persons need everything to set up independent housekeeping. If you are replacing furniture, bedding, towels, kitchen dishes or cookware, you may be an answer to prayers. Downtown Rescue Mission does the same thing. Christmas Charities Year Round and the Salvation Army are also good places to donate good used clothing and household goods here in Huntsville. Habitat headquarters in Huntsville runs a Habitat ReStore which sells donated building supplies, furniture, cabinets, etc. to support its local building projects.

Thank you for living your faith and reaching out to the needy in our midst.

Outreach News, continued

The LWR truck is loaded and the numbers are in:

- 15 Boxes of Quilts (98 Total Sent to LWR)
- 24 Pounds of Soap
- 316 Baby Care Kits
- 701 School Supply Kits
- 3450 pounds loaded!!

No time for rest, Rhonda has already begun for next year. Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a success again this year!



The Kit Ministry was busy making some of the hundreds of school kits, health kits and layettes that they will produce this year for Lutheran World Relief. Go Kit Ministry!

The Comforters

The Comforters group makes quilts, prayer shawls and lap robes. This year they spent 920 hours to make 131 quilts from your donations of fabric, sheets, thread, and monetary donations. Your support is greatly appreciated!

This year our church distributed 38 prayer shawls, 17 lap robes and 2 baby blankets. Prayer shawls and lap robes are available to anyone who needs some comfort and prayers. See Annette Joens or Claire Strand for one.

From October 15th to November 1st, we will be having our annual fundraising auction. We hope you will support us!

If you would like to join The Comforters, we always welcome a new pair of hands. You do not need to know how to sew. We meet every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall beginning around 10am and people leave when they need to.



The Crosses of Messiah

In 2011-2012 Messiah Lutheran Church underwent a building expansion and remodeling program. The changes to its Sanctuary necessitated the removal of the kneeling rail where members knelt to receive Holy Communion for so many years.

Rather than discard the beautiful red oak that comprised the kneeling rail it was decided that the wood be recycled for use in some future need of the congregation. As the renovation of the Sanctuary neared completion the furnishing of the Sacristy became a focus. It was decided that the wood could be recycled into cabinetry parts thereby reducing the costs of furnishing the new Sacristy. All of the wood that was large enough to fashion parts for the cabinetry were used to build the cabinets that were installed in the Sacristy in early 2012.

There were several smaller pieces of the kneeling rail that were not suitable for inclusion to the Sacristy cabinets. These pieces have been fashioned into crosses suitable to be hung on the wall of one's home or office. There are twenty-five of them each - 16" X 9" with a number etched into the reverse side.

If you or your family worshiped at Messiah between 1994 and 2011 it is very likely you knelt at a section of the kneeling rail from which one of these crosses was fashioned when you received the elements. If your children or grandchildren received their first communion at Messiah before 2011 it is very likely that they were kneeling at one of these crosses.

Each fall Messiah holds a craft show to support the *Lunches for Learning* mission in Honduras. These crosses will be offered for purchase at the Craft Show on October 27. The cost for the cross will be \$25 to benefit the *Lunches for Learning* mission. Because of the limited number, these crosses will be offered to Messiah members before being offered to the general public. If you are interested in obtaining one of these crosses before the craft show, please contact Richard Webb.



Music Notes

By Lois Graff



Music Groups at Messiah

Starting now! Try one, try many --- for more information, contact Lois Graff.

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Cherub Choir (Grades K-1) | Wednesday 6:00-6:30 pm Director Taylor Bono |
| Seraph Choir (Grades 2-6) | Wednesday 6:00-6:30 pm Directors Randall Fields, Claire Strand |
| Youth Choir (Grades 7-12) | Wednesday 6:30-7:00 pm Director Beth Gloe |
| Adult Choir | Wednesday 7:30-9:00 pm Director Randall Fields |
| Notabella (Handbells) | Wednesday 6:30-7:30 pm Director Rhonda Gaede |
| Instrumental Ensemble | Sunday 12:15-1:15 pm Director Lois Graff |
| Youth Praise Band (Sr. High) | Rehearsals as needed on Saturdays/Sundays Director Lois Graff |

Council Highlights

Discussed at the August Council Meeting:

1. Melani Mooneyham is the new Greeter Coordinator.
2. Pastor Ruth, Lee Smith and John Shriver are working on Messiah's Constitution, By-Laws, and Continuing Resolutions to bring them up to date with the ELCA model. More information will be available to the congregation soon.
3. The Council will have a retreat at Lutheranch September 20-22.

Stewardship Thought *by Lois Graff*



We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints - and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. 2 Corinthians 8:1-11

During September and early October, we at Messiah Lutheran Church will explore how we can respond to God’s abundance in faithful, exciting ways. Learning about God’s purposes for us in this world, we can become better disciples. Through prayer and meditation, word and action, we will “*Celebrate Generosity*”. Commitment Sunday is October 7th.

News Flashes!

The Messiah Mom’s Bible Study meets every other Monday. This month we will meet on September 10th and 24th at 9:30 in Sunday School Room 11/12. We will be studying “**Honoring Our Neighbor’s Faith,**” from Augsburg Fortress Press. Please contact Janell Zesinger at if you are interested in joining us, or simply show up. Childcare is provided.



DATE and TIME:

- September 15, 2012
- Registration 7:30am
- Walk begins 8:30am

- Huntsville Botanical Gardens
- Team Captain is Taylor Bono
- Team Name is MLC for ALZ
- Register at www.act.alz.org



Comforter’s will resume meeting on Sept. 4th @ 10:00. Questions call Annette Joens.

Handmade Market

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 27, 2012, and plan to attend Handmade Market. Come and enjoy a whole day of unique shopping experience, featuring Messiah and local artists and crafters. After looking, admiring, and purchasing the beautiful crafts, you can also enjoy a lunch. 100% of the proceeds from the crafts and lunch go towards our mission in Honduras: *Lunches for Learning*.

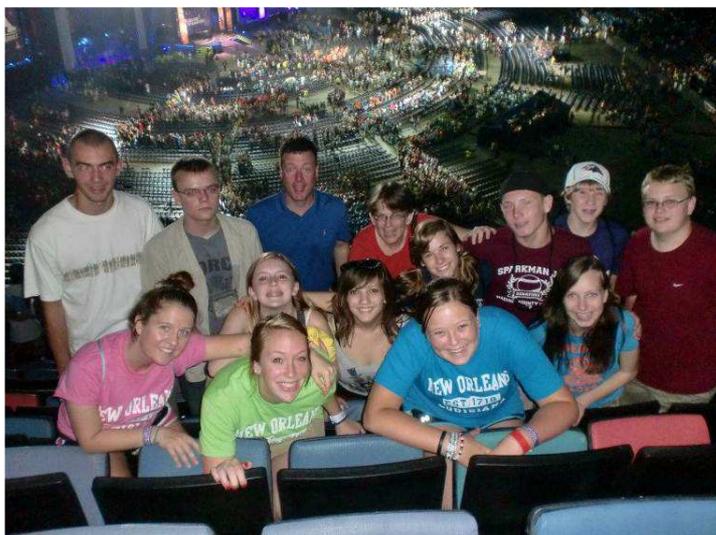
If you would like to contribute your special crafts (knitting, sewing, photography, jewelry, wood work, photography, canning, etc) contact Jackie Myers.

If crafting is not your thing, we have many other jobs where you can help and it would be greatly appreciated.

Ribbons of Courage (Ladies Cancer Survivor Group) will meet at the home of Annette Joens on September 10th at 11AM. Please bring a salad to share. For more information or for directions to 27711 Kim Dr., Harvest please call Annette at Janet Smith.

Youth Zone

By Lauren Gray youth_director@mlutheran.org



PERSONAL EXPERIENCES FROM A COUPLE OF OUR SENIOR YOUTH:

The 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering was possibly one of the most memorable things I have experienced. The memories of the people, food, storms and the city of New Orleans are still fresh in my mind. The time we spent in New Orleans was filled with fun, friends, crowds, expensive food and extensive religious indoctrination. While being filled with messages of justice, peacemaking and discipleship, we all seemed to think, "This is so life-changing! I'm never going to forget this!" In many ways, this was true. Almost as soon I arrived back home, my grandfather, Dale, passed away. In a time when I'd be filled with grief, I was filled with hope that can only be found in God's love. The ELCA Gathering gave me the skills and courage to pull myself together in the midst of death and tragedy. I'll never forget the gathering and what I was taught there, and I can't wait to go back in 2015.

---Justin Walker

For one of our days at the Gathering, we woke up and went to a hotel for our synod meeting. Everyone there was from the Southeastern Synod and the Bishop was there as well as his Assistant. There was a service mostly involving a band and a pastor preaching about breaking down the social walls that divide us and how we can break down the barrier by social contact. The rest of the time involved a lot of group participation and a lot of activities run by the same pastor and the Bishop. After a while our group left the meeting and decided to do a scavenger hunt of places that had service orientation. After we had done the scavenger hunt we decided to tour the city some more and went down Bourbon Street and around the stores. Once we had our fun we left for the Superdome closing to get floor seats for the closing ceremony. That was a good night for the group, as we all had so much fun. We did a lot of praying and service during the Gathering. I can't write about everything we did during that week, but in short we had a blast listening to the word of God and the experiences we had will stick with us always.

---William Strand

Sunday School Spotlight

By Heather Osterndorff



The Sunday School year for 2012-2013 is underway!

It's not too late to join. Please contact Heather Ostendorff if you need more information.

The classes and teachers are listed below:

- Tots (2-3 year olds) - Amy McCarthy and Angela Yoo
- PreK and Kindergarten - Rachael Wier
- 1st and 2nd grade - Lisa Bartel and Connie Stanger
- 3rd and 4th grade - Glen Long
- 5th and 6th grade - Gary Garrison
- 7th and 8th grade - Christine Berry

Come join us every Sunday at 9:45 am!

The Month in Pictures – August 2012



Congratulations to the Messiah Lutheran Church Running Team for their outstanding performance at the Downtown Rescue Mission 5K Race on August 11.



On August 4th the Messiah Carpentry Team constructed a wheelchair ramp for a gentleman in Gurley, Al.



Walk to Defeat ALS Messiah Team on August 25th.



Dinner Theatre – “A Wing and a Prayer” Cast



Charlie Underwood Ordination on August 5th.

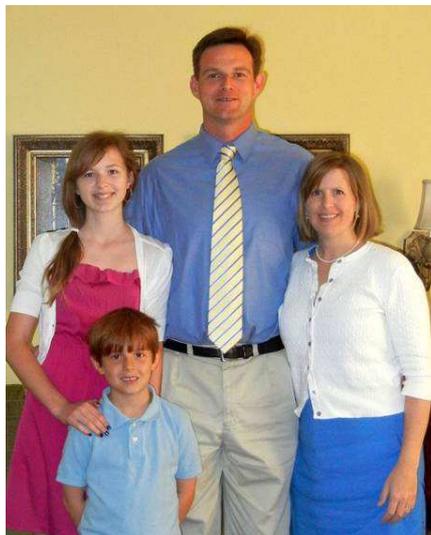


Judy Starkloff with new flower arrangements done by the Flower Guild.



Tweens and Jr. Youth group with the SS Kids on August 18th.

Meet the Woods Family



Hello from the Woods family! We moved to Madison in 1995 and have been members of Messiah Lutheran Church since 1999.

Pete and Devonee met at the University of Richmond in Virginia where Pete earned a B.S. in Physics and Devonee earned a B.A. in Early Childhood Education. We moved to Madison in 1995 for Pete to attend graduate school at UAH. We had thought we would just be here for school and then be moving on. But, Pete's graduate work turned into a real job and we decided that Madison was a great place to start our family.

After earning his Ph.D. in Astrophysics, Pete worked for the Universities Space Research Association studying gamma rays for five years. He then moved into industry, working first at Dynetics and now is starting up the Huntsville branch of Corvid Technologies. He enjoys coaching our children, Abby and Aaron, in soccer and basketball. In his spare time he likes playing golf and cheering on his lifelong favorite NFL team, the New York

Jets. Pete has served Messiah Lutheran Church in many capacities over the years...from mowing the grass to serving on Council. His latest involvement was on the Building Committee for the expansion of the sanctuary.

Since moving to Madison, Devonee has held positions in human resources, office management and software training and support. For the past seven years, she's been a stay-at-home mom. She keeps busy volunteering at the elementary and middle schools, serving on the PTAs, chauffeuring the kids to their activities and working on home projects. Within the church, she is serving on Council as Treasurer, on Altar Guild, the Personnel Committee and as a counter for offerings.

Abby is twelve and will start 7th grade at Liberty Middle School this year. She loves dance and participates in tap, jazz, ballet and honors ballet classes at The Dance Company. This year, she's looking forward to being a part of their competition team and going on pointe in January. Within the church, Abby serves as an acolyte and is looking forward to being involved in Junior Youth.

Aaron is six and will be going into 1st grade at Columbia Elementary School. He loves all sports! He's a big fan of Ninjagos and enjoys loading up his swords and shield to battle evil. Aaron has been a member of the Pre-school/Kindergarten Sunday School class for the past four years and, while he has enjoyed his time there, he's looking forward to moving up to his next Sunday School room.

A Note of Thanks from Pastor Ruth...

Thanks to all of you for your enthusiastic welcome of me this summer. It has been a pleasure to get to know you and to work with you. Thanks for the many gifts you showered upon me, including the beautiful painting that will help me remember you always. I could not have enjoyed my sabbatical more. You helped me grow in service and prepared me for my congregation in Atlanta. Please come visit when you can; St. Luke is just over the mountains. You are a strong, healthy, Christ-centered congregation with a love of Scripture, theology, and Lutheranism and a caring love for your neighbor. May God continue to bless your ministry at Messiah.

~ Pastor Ruth

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



September 2012
Volume 24, Issue 9

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 September 18th.