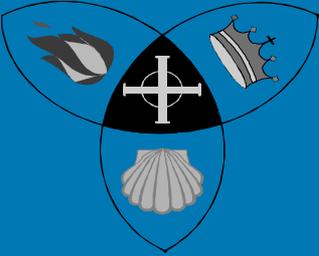


Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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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.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

July 2015
Volume 27 Issue 7

The newsletter and calendar for Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) Madison, Alabama

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 July Calendar
- 2 Pastor's Page/Services of Worship
- 3 Life Passages/Fellowship News
- 4 Music Notes/Birthdays
- 5 News Flashes
- 6 Communications Survey
- 7 Youth Page

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, Devonee Woods.....Office Managers
Claire Strand.....Director of Outreach Ministries
Lois Graff.....Director of Music Ministries
Randall Fields.....Choir Director
Kert Reedstrom.....Director of Education & Youth
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant
Meredith Kilby.....Communications & Media Coordinator

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

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
			1 <i>Keith & Jessica Bux Evan, Isaac</i>	2 <i>Dan & Cheryl Byers Justin, Joshua, Jonathan</i>	3 <i>Martin & Laurie Campbell Connor</i>	4 Independence Day <i>Kenny & Carolyn Carter Austin, Kiersten</i>				
5 <i>8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45am Summer Sunday School 11am Worship: ELW Setting 8</i>	6 <i>Ben & Leigh Cella Ryker, Adelyn</i>	7 <i>Terrence & Amy Chance Lauren, Terrence III</i>	8 <i>Doris Chojnowski Tara</i>	9 <i>8:30 am Morning Study Group Church Council 7pm <i>Trudy Clare</i></i>	10 <i>6-10 pm Parent's Night Out! 7:30pm Bridge Club</i>	11 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Sr. Youth Lock In!</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Joy Clavin</i></td> <td><i>Diane Cline</i></td> </tr> </table>	Sr. Youth Lock In!		<i>Joy Clavin</i>	<i>Diane Cline</i>
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<i>Joy Clavin</i>	<i>Diane Cline</i>									
12 <i>8:30am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:45am Summer Sunday Schools 11am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 6pm Sr. High Meeting</i>	13 <i>Deborah Coates Savannah, Keenan Brodeur</i>	14 <i>David & Camille Cobb</i>	15 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>VBS: The Kingdom, The Power & The Glory 5:30-7:00pm</td> </tr> </table>	VBS: The Kingdom, The Power & The Glory 5:30-7:00pm	16 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>National Youth Gathering in Detroit</td> </tr> </table> <i>8:30 am Morning Study Group <i>Dorothy Corron</i></i>	National Youth Gathering in Detroit	17 <i>Jim & Toni Daniel Christina, Allison</i>	18 <i>Lisa D'Antonio Mary Grace</i>		
VBS: The Kingdom, The Power & The Glory 5:30-7:00pm										
National Youth Gathering in Detroit										
19 <i>8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45am Summer Sunday School 11am Worship: Contemporary Service 6pm Sr. High Meeting</i>	20 <i>Bob & Diane Davis Claire</i>	21 <i>Terry De La Paz & Bob Smith Olivia, Aleksey</i>	22 <i>Gerard & Anita DeJong Meggy</i>	23 <i>8:30 am Morning Study Group <i>Matthew & Jutta DeMarsh Daisy, Sandra, Matthew Jr</i></i>	24 <i>Kimberly Dennig</i>	25 <i>Mike & Sue Doubleday</i>				
26 <i>8:30am Worship: ELW Setting 8 9:45am Summer Sunday School 11am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 6pm Sr. High Meeting For GERMANY</i>	27 <i>Leah & Nathan Eldridge</i>	28 <i>Bill & Marcie Emerson</i>	29 <i>Rebecca Englert</i>	30 <i>Bailey Erickson Alexis, Christian</i>	31 <i>Dave & Judee Erwin</i>					

**Member names listed each day of the month denote prayer families

Looking ahead...

August 2 – Music at Messiah – Andrew Nalley, baritone

August 9 – SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY



Pastor's Page

By Pastor Scott Peterson scott@mlutheran.com

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
Hebrews 13:2*

Dear Friends of the living, welcoming Messiah,

THE MONTHS WITH THE MOST GUESTS IN WORSHIP are July and August according to experts. Many of those guests come looking for a **church home**. **Notice:** *they come to worship to see if Messiah Lutheran might be their new church home.* That means: Not many attend a class or an activity to decide if they might want to come to worship. So, *Sunday morning worship is the biggest doorway we have to welcome most people into Messiah Lutheran.* OK, next question....

What is MOST IMPORTANT to guests who are looking for a church home?

Musicians may think, ***“They come wanting to hear good music.”*** A Pastor may think, ***“They come wanting to hear a good sermon.”*** And, of course, guests do want to hear good music and hear God’s Word preached. But, **most important for most newcomers** is this: ***“Will these people accept me and care about me?”*** Above all, guests are looking to be a part of ***caring community of faith***. Even if the music is great and the sermon is good, if guests sense they are surrounded by people who are uncaring, they will go elsewhere or (*much worse*) give up on finding a church home.

SEE WHAT YOUR MISSION IS NOW on Sunday mornings? Find a guest and find a way to say, ***“Welcome.”*** BUT, what if you don’t know if the person is a guest or some long-time member you just don’t happen to know? How about this, ***“I’m (your name here). I don’t believe we have met”?*** If you have hooked into a live guest looking for a church home, try to find a way to introduce the person or people to Outreach Director Claire Strand or me. (But, I will tell you a secret: You taking the time to welcome them will make a much bigger impression than Claire or I can.) That’s because guests think Claire and I are just doing our jobs when we welcome them, but when you communicate that you care about them and about MLC, that says the most to them about MLC.

NOW A SMART PERSON LIKE YOU KNOWS WHAT ALL THIS MEANS: ***You are needed in worship in July and August***, even though this is summer time. **You are needed** to say to guests, ***“Welcome! We are so glad you are here.”*** Just to warn you: When you say that you might be talking to an angel (*see above from Hebrews 13*). Jesus even went so far as to say, ***“When you welcome the stranger, you welcome me”*** (Matthew 25:31-46).

See you Sunday.
Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott

July 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

July 5	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
July 12	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
July 19	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
July 26	ELW Setting 8

Sundays at 11:00 am

July 5	ELW Setting 8
July 12	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
July 19	Contemporary Service
July 26	Now the Feast 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.

MARRIAGES: On June 11, Paul Peterson and Daniela Gonzalez Pina were married in Chattanooga

BIRTHS: Diane Cline announces the arrival of her 9th great grandchild Abigail Hope Lindsay in Murfreesboro, TN

MY FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE: by Abby Woods

Matthew 13:15 was not a verse I had ever heard before and just really struck me as one that would be fitting for the occasion and my situation. Honestly, I tossed my Bible on my bed and started reading the first verse that caught my eye on the page it happened to flip to. The formatting of this verse stood out from the other text, so I began reading it. "For this people's heart has grown dull and their ears are hard of hearing and they have shut their eyes so that they might not look with their eyes and listen with their ears and understand with their heart and turn - and I would heal them". This verse is delivered by Jesus to his disciples and is a quotation from the one of the prophecies of Isaiah as God was speaking to him. It also, to me, sums up much of Lutheran theology in that its main message is one of salvation without strings attached and without our input or actions. I felt that it was reflective of my own problems I had been dealing with recently, and this verse drove home what religion could be to me.

A Community Conversation about the Importance of End of Life Planning

TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 1

6:00 - 9:00 PM

Community Room, Family Life Center
First Baptist Church, 600 Governor's Drive

Cost \$35

Registration and Supper at 5:30 PM

A School of Applied Ministry Class

A group from Messiah will be carpooling; Please let Claire Strand know if you plan to attend.

Fellowship Committee

By Greg Kilby, Cheryl Rydbom and Christine Ryan



Mark your calendars for **Sunday School Rally Day** on August 9. Come out for burgers and hot dogs as we come together after a long, slow summer, ready for the new school year. Please contact Greg Kilby if you would like to volunteer.

Please consider helping out with **Wednesday Night Café**. Volunteers are needed to cook, bring dessert and clean up. Please contact Dorothy Seitz if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Bridge Club will meet on Friday July 10 at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Experienced and new players are welcome! For more information, please contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

Can you help out with **Summer Coffee**? Volunteers are needed to help prepare coffee for July and August. Instructions are simple! Look for the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Please contact Cheryl Rydbom if you have any questions.

Music Notes *By Lois Graff*



The MLC Choir Needs You

Sing with the MLC Choir on Sunday mornings! Rehearsals are held before the service when the choir sings. Here is the July schedule:

July 5	8:00 a.m. rehearsal, sing at 8:30 worship
July 12	10:00 a.m. rehearsal, sing at 11:00 worship
July 19	8:00 a.m. rehearsal, sing at 8:30 worship
July 26	10:00 a.m. rehearsal, sing at 11:00 worship

Music at Messiah Concert August 2

Andrew Nalley, renowned local baritone will be performing this summer at Messiah. Mr. Nalley was the winner of the Alabama Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Voice Competition and will be performing Mozart's comic opera *Così fan Tutte* in the summer with Opera in the Ozarks. This summer concert of the *Music at Messiah Classical Concert Series* will be held on Sunday, August 2 at 4 pm.

Dinner Theater

Dinner Theater is Aug. 29, and tickets will go on sale soon. Mark your calendars. We'll serve good ol' ranch cookin' BBQ in honor of our presentation, "*Peril in the Paddock!*" And while you're marking, if you're interested in working behind the scenes with props, or helping with set construction, please see Terry Frakes or Judy Starkloff.

Council Notes

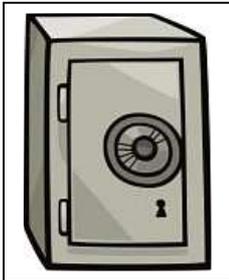
The new Church Council held their first meeting on June 10th. Members of the 2015-16 council are--

- President: Pastor Scott Peterson
- Vice President: Mary Ann Stasiak
- Secretary: Jeanette Beamer
- Treasurer: Devonee Woods
- Worship & Music Committee Rep: Larry Frakes
- Outreach Committee Rep: Jay Ruff
- Education & Youth Committee Rep: Dick Azzam
- Stewardship Committee Rep: Heather Neely
- Fellowship Committee Rep: Cheryl Rydbom
- Property Committee Rep: Gerard deJong
- Finance Committee Rep: Lee Smith
- Youth Representative: Danie Blue

Planning for a Fall Council retreat at Lutheranch has begun.

News Flashes!

THANK YOU!



For archival purposes, (blueprints, etc?), the office is looking for a large vertically oriented fireproof safe. For more information, please contact the church office.

Many thanks to all who planned, served and attended my retirement reception. It was great! I loved the flowers, balloons, good wishes and the beautiful Montage of Messiah. I will treasure it always. I will miss all of the contacts while working in the office, but Jim & I will be involved at Messiah and will see all of you. Blessings! Ellie

If you are looking for help with childcare, Messiah’s baby sitters are:

- Bridie Ryan
- Michelle Strand
- Evelyn Walker
- Alie Williams

The Handmade Market that benefits the Lunches for Learning Mission in Honduras is coming up in a few months, so be sure to get those sewing machines, glue guns, and knitting needles working!

IF IT'S SUMMER, SCHOOL SUPPLY SALES ARE COMING!
 Watch for school supply sales in July! Messiah will again be collecting supplies such as notebooks, crayons, pens and pencils, erasers, school scissors, school glue, and washable markers to put in the school bus for needy students in our area. Other school supplies are welcomed as well. Thank you for your continued generosity.



MESSIAH BLOOD DRIVE IN AUGUST

On December 10, 2013 a Red Cross blood drive organized by Ambassador Girl Scout and Messiah member Ashlyn Perry was held at Messiah Lutheran Church. Establishing a blood drive at Messiah was Ashlyn’s Gold Award project, the highest award that can be achieved in Girl Scouts. The drive was a success with 25 pints of blood collected. Ashlyn’s journey to receive her Gold Award was realized after 60 hours of hard work to set up the drive, and her goal of 25 pints was attained. She will always be grateful for the help of friends, family, and many Messiah members for the successful 2013 drive. The 2013 blood drive was the kickoff event for what is to be a continuing endeavor. **As a community outreach and lifesaving event, another Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19 from 2 PM – 7 PM. A bloodmobile from the Red Cross will be in the parking lot of the church to receive donors on the day of the drive.**

Although the Red Cross is always in need of blood, the supply tends to be especially low during the summer months. Many thanks if you donated during the first drive. Please consider donating this time also! New donors are of course encouraged. Signup sheets will be forthcoming in the Narthex. To avoid excessive wait times for donors, time slots will be made available on the signup sheets. Points of contact for the blood drive: Gretchen and Ashlyn Perry Thank you for your support!

LAST CALL: Biblical Turkey: *In the steps of Sts. Paul and John* Tour the 'Second Holy Land': Nov. 4-15

You are invited to join me on a trip of a lifetime as we journey to Biblical Turkey.

Why Turkey? The Book of Acts tells us that here Paul made three missionary journeys and established the first known churches outside of Palestine. St. Peter preached in Turkey and sent his two New Testament epistles to the churches here. The seven churches of the Revelation to John (see Revelation 1:3-11) are in Turkey.

We will start in Istanbul, established in the 4th century by Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor. We will visit amazing St. Sophia (*Church of Holy Wisdom*), which was the largest enclosed space in the world for over 800 years. (PBS recently did a program on this: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/building-wonders.html#hagia-sophia>) We will see Cappadocia, famed for its bizarre land formations and distinctive rock churches. Along the Aegean coast we will visit Izmir, the birthplace of Homer (author of the epic tales *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*) and Ephesus. Ephesus is where Paul preached and taught for over two years. Ephesus is also the home of the *Temple of Diana* (one of the *Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*) and the *Basilica of St. John* which ancient tradition says was where Mary, the mother of Jesus, died.

Those are just a few of the highlights of this tour. A full brochure with details is available at the *Welcome Center* at MLC or I can send an electronic version of the brochure. Contact me if you have questions (scott@mlutheran.com). Deadline for going is about July 25.

-Pastor Scott

Messiah Communications Update - Survey Says...

Here are some of positives revealed by the recent MLC Communication Survey. 72 responses were received by Jun 21st. Of those who responded:

- ✓ 75% check their E-mail at least once a day or more.
- ✓ 93% have internet access to at least one home computer and of those 56% have smart phones and mobile computers.
- ✓ 91% describe their ability to find information on the Internet as Excellent, or Good.
- ✓ 88% rely on or refer to the weekly E-News they receive. 49% will read it within 24 hours.
- ✓ 78% of those who receive the digital monthly newsletter "The Messenger" read it within 48 hours of it being published. The calendar, Pastor's message, and photo pages were the top features to online readers. Online links to sign up forms was a feature 78% thought would enhance their readership (*Guess what? It's going to happen soon.*)
- ✓ 86% of those who receive the printed Messenger newsletter read it or refer to it. Pastor's message, the calendar page and committee updates came up tops with print version readers.

It was good to do the survey. It's great to know that a majority of Messiah's members can connect to online digital resources from home. Yet it's also important to understand that folks still overwhelmingly (95%) rely on announcements printed in the bulletin.

The Survey also revealed a few weak areas, and here I expect and hope to see some pretty big gains with the recently re-launched Website and upcoming initiatives.

- ✗ While most of our members have internet connections and are comfortable surfing the Web, only 37% regularly use our Website at www.mlutheran.org as a source of information.
- ✗ Only 33% knew about the blog articles posted to our "Blogger" page, yet we've a blog page since September of 2009. With the new Website you'll find these at the bottom of our homepage!
- ✗ 50% were aware of our official Facebook page, yet of those with Facebook accounts, only 30% have ever "Liked" the page or have shared posts. The new Website features sharing buttons on all pages, events and posts. When you share something from our Website, the person who clicks or views that link *literally* comes back to our Website to view it. Who knows? Maybe while there, they'll take a longer look at us and consider visiting us for Sunday worship.

Raising member awareness of all the ways they can connect and be informed was another goal of the survey. Many hours are spent each week producing, assembling, checking and distributing communications for members. Take time throughout the week to "tune in" to what's happening here. If you hear yourself start to say, "I didn't hear about that" or, "I didn't know it was *this* Sunday" these are clear warning signs that maybe you haven't been tuning in as well as you could. The cure... visit the new Website. Read your E-News and Messenger Newsletter when you receive them. Find ways to share Messiah communications with those around you. We are "*God's People, Reaching Out*" and when you do, God does too.

Youth Page

The Sr High Youth had a great retreat at the Doubleday cabin!



Sunday, July 5: No Youth Meetings
 Friday, July 10:

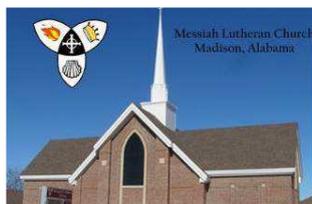
- 6:00 - 10:00 PM - "Parent's Night Out"
- SENIOR HIGH OVERNIGHT LOCK-IN
- Castle Construction for VBS

JULY 14, 15, 16: Vacation Bible School - 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

- **THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, & THE GLORY**
- Registration is open now - see Welcome Center sign-up
- Contact Kert Reedstrom if you would like to help

July 15-19: ELCA National Youth Gathering in DETROIT
 Sunday, July 26: Sr High Meeting with parents for....
GERMANY TRIP
JUNE 2016!

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



July 2015
Volume 27, Issue 7

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 July 22nd.