



## PASTOR'S PAGE

by Pastor Scott Peterson  
scott@mlutheran.org

Dear Friends of the Living Messiah,

**ONE OF MY FAVORITE POEMS** is by a seminary professor, the late Gerhard E. Frost. It seemed fitting to share as we begin a new year with hopes and goals to achieve as individuals, a community, and a church.

### "SOGGY CEREAL AND TEPID TEA"

*When I remember that I am a parent, and think of God as Father,  
I recall a special breakfast brought to me in bed.*

*We awoke early to the sound of hurrying feet.  
We wondered what they were up to, our four- and eight-year-olds;  
but soon it came--breakfast in bed.*

*It was an elaborate menu; chilled burnt toast, with peanut butter;  
eggs, fried, and chilled, too; soggy cereal, (the milk had been added too soon)  
and tepid tea! A horrendous mix.*

*When they stepped out for a moment  
to get something they'd forgotten (heaven forbid!)  
my wife whispered, "You're going to have to eat this, I can't!"  
And I did.*

*I didn't eat as a gourmet, for it wasn't gourmet cooking;  
I didn't even eat as a hungry man for I wasn't hungry.*

*I ate as a father because it was made for me;  
I was expected to; they had faith in me.  
And I ate because it was served on eager feet and with starry eyes.*

*I think of my poor service to God as teacher, parent,  
interpreter of the Good News.  
I know that my offerings are soggy, tepid, and unfit,  
but my Father receives them and even blesses them--  
not because I am good but because He is!*

**THANK YOU FOR GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTING** the gifts I prepare to present to you week after week. I have no illusions that they are gourmet dishes.

**IT IS AN HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO SERVE WITH YOU** in the missions and ministries our Lord has entrusted to us as Messiah Lutheran Church. I enjoy telling friends in distant places stories about your kindness, patience, generosity, and Christian love. *I am so proud of you.*

**WHAT DOES OUR LORD HAVE IN MIND** for us in 2018? I do not know, but this I pray: "*Lord God,...Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (LBW p. 153).

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Scott Peterson*

### JANUARY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship | WOV = With One Voice  
ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship | LS = Lord's Supper

#### **Sundays at 8:30 a.m.**

Jan 7	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Jan 14	ELW Setting 8
Jan 21	Now the Feast w/LS
Jan 28	LBW Setting 2 w/LS

#### **Sundays at 11:00 a.m.**

Jan 7	Now the Feast w/LS
Jan 14	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Jan 21	Contemporary Service
Jan 28	Bread of Life w/LS





**Claire Strand**  
Director of Outreach

claire@mlutheran.org

Contact Claire Strand if you would like to announce significant transitions in the life of our community of faith, including birth, death, Baptism, graduation, Confirmation, job change, relocation, engagement, marriage, or any other life passage!

### THIS MONTH

**PANTRY ITEM**  
Pasta & Sauce

### KIT MINISTRY

**Dark Hand**  
Towels

# OUTREACH

## LIFE PASSAGES

### Graduations

- † Trista Kuske graduated December 9th from Athens State University with a BA in English and a minor in Education.
- † Adam Neely graduated December 9th from UAH with a BS in Accounting.

### Birth

- † Mark and Dottie Hanson announce the birth of their first grandchild (information redacted)

### Engagements

- † Jacob Mahafza and Kate Cherry
- † Aimee Blackerby and Adam Le became engaged on Thanksgiving Day



## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: Conversation Café Adult Sunday School Class

Messiah's Conversation Café Adult Sunday School Class began in 2015. As its name suggests, **Conversation Café is a casual class where members learn, listen, and discuss matters of faith, issues and current events relevant to the world in which we live.**

Gary Heideman, Bruce Machamer, and Meredith Kilby co-lead the class, although guest teachers periodically lead other Christian Education topics like Luther's Small Catechism and how to greet guests & newcomers.

**On February 18, 2018, the class will begin "Seeking Shalom: A Biblical View of Poverty."** John Shriver and Claire Strand will teach this eight-week series in connection with the season of Lent. Their goal is to open a discussion on poverty and what we as Christians should be doing about it. What is poverty, what are its causes, and how can we best help those living in poverty?

The class will view powerful videos produced by both The Chalmers Center in Lookout Mountain, Georgia and The Lupton Center in Atlanta that highlight how prevailing views on poverty and its alleviation have changed in recent years. Class discussions will center on how Christians can respond to poverty and work for maximal, long term benefit for everyone on this earth. No matter what your current views are on poverty, Claire and John believe that this material will significantly change your thinking.

No texts or reading are required for the class. A suggested reading list and more information about the class will be available on mlutheran.org in January. The class will meet from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in Messiah's Parish Hall. All are welcome, including members of our community. Coffee will be served.

*Conversation Café is a Sunday Morning Adult Sunday School class that seeks to foster deeper understanding of our faith to impact our community and world.*



**Lois Graff**  
Director of Music Ministries

jelogra @msn.com

## Hymn of the Month

### “O God of God, O Light of Light”

The tune of “O God of God, O Light of Light” came from the Stuttgart *Schlag-Gesang und Notenbuch*. Hymnologist John Julian (1839-1913) wrote the text. With Advent’s hope, Christmas’ joy and Epiphany’s revelation, the words ring out:

*O God of God, O Light of light,*

*O Prince of peace and King of kings;*

*To you in heaven’s glory bright*

*The song of praise forever rings.*

# MUSIC NOTES

## The Sanctuary Piano Fund

Gifts and dedicated funds total over \$24K! We have been communicating with area tuners, rebuilders, piano dealers, and musicians. Plans are in place to visit stores and rebuilders in early January. Thank you!

## Talent Show!

Sign up now! A Talent Show is scheduled for Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Music, drama, dancing, comedy, art to display? What performance talents do you want to share? Contact is Lois Graff. MLC’s Senior Youth will be serving a Spaghetti Supper preceding the show as a fundraiser.

## Singers, Ringers, and Instrumentalists Needed!

Opportunities abound at Messiah Lutheran Church. Please come to play, sing, and ring!

Cherub Choir	Grades PK-1st	Wed 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Seraph Choir	Grades 2 <sup>nd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	Wed 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Guitar with Ric	Grades 7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Wed 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.
Notabella	Grades 7 <sup>th</sup> -Adult	Wed 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Instrumental Ensemble	Grades 7 <sup>th</sup> -Adult	Wed 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.
Adult Choir	Grades 9 <sup>th</sup> -Adult	Wed 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
“I Used to Play”	Grades 9 <sup>th</sup> -Adult	Thu 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

## New Usher Coordinator!

Dana Burton, MLC’s usher coordinator for almost two years, is passing the torch to Sharyn Lewis!

Beginning in January, please contact Sharyn to help in this vital worship ministry. Thank you to Dana, who has been a wonderfully competent, caring, and resourceful coordinator!



Sharyn Lewis is the 2018 usher coordinator.



**ENJOY MORE RING & SING PICTURES ONLINE AT:**



<http://mlutheran.org/sights-sounds-christmas->



# MLC YOUTH & EDUCATION MINISTRIES



**Sara Galyon**  
Director of Youth and  
Christian Education  
Ministries

youth@mlutheran.org

**Senior Youth  
meet every  
Sunday from  
6-7:30 p.m. unless  
otherwise  
announced.**

Click below  
For Christmas  
Program Pics



The Senior Youth had an awesome fall semester. From serving at House of the Harvest and playing games on Sunday night to going on Ghostwalks and having our awesome Christmas party in December, its been a great semester, and we are looking forward to another great one! This month, Senior Youth invite all 9-12th graders to join us for **bowling on Monday, January 1 from 3-5 p.m. at the Madison Bowling Center. Bring \$10 for bowling and shoe rental.** Also be on the lookout for our next fundraiser, "Fishing for Funds," coming up on Jan. 14th.



The Junior Youth had a great time with the Senior Youth at our Christmas party on Dec 3 and at the MOEs Game day on the 10th. We are having a lot of fun and more 6th-8th graders are joining us all the time.

This month we will meet on the **2nd and 4th Sundays as usual from 5-6:30 p.m.**



The MOEs (Messiah Older Elementary) had an amazing time at the Intergenerational Game Day December 10th. We played all kinds of different games and spent some quality time with some older youth and grown ups from the church.

This month, join the MOEs for a **fun service project on Sunday, January 21 from 12:30-2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

MOEs is open to 3rd through 5th graders. Join us!  
Meetings are as scheduled.



**YOUTH CALENDAR ONLINE** [mlutheran.org/missions-and-outreach/youth-ministries/](http://mlutheran.org/missions-and-outreach/youth-ministries/)  
[OR CLICK HERE](#)

# NEWS FLASHES

## First Communion Instruction Begins January 14, 2018

Instruction for *First Communion* will be after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sundays, January 14, 21, and 28 in the Fellowship Hall. Celebration of *First Communion* will be on Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, during the 11:00 a.m. service. Children at least ten years old (or quite close) are invited to receive instruction.



## Y'ALL

(Young Adult Lutheran League)  
**'Encore and Eats' Social**  
**Saturday, January 13 from**  
**5 to 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

College students and recent grads in the area (or home on break) are invited to join Y'ALL regulars in a rousing game of "Encore" followed by good food and fellowship! Bring a dish or snack to share, and come to sing (and eat) along with us! POC: Sara Galyon / Burtons / Gipners

## AED/CPR training

The staff of Messiah Lutheran will be renewing their AED/CPR training at the Madison Fire and Rescue on January 13th. The class has a few openings available. Please contact Claire Strand if you would like to join in. The class is held from 9am-1pm and costs \$15.

## col·um·bar·i·um

**Columbarium**, *noun*: a room or building with niches for funeral urns to be stored. Messiah's Columbarium is situated on the western wall of the Sanctuary. If you have questions or are interested in purchasing a niche, please contact Karl Starkloff or Pastor Scott Peterson.

**Information is also at [mlutheran.org/columbarium](http://mlutheran.org/columbarium)**



## HOLY LAND TOUR

**NOV. 6-17, 2018**

You are invited to join a tour I am hosting to Biblical sites in Israel and Jordan this fall. Bring the stories of the Bible to life by experiencing the places where Jesus, Mary, Moses, John the Baptist, and all the disciples lived and worked. A detailed printed brochure will be available in the narthex this month. Here is a link to a three-minute video introducing this tour:

<https://vimeo.com/242754077>

Pastor Scott Peterson

## HELP WANTED!

### LENTEN SOUP SUPPER COORDINATOR NEEDED

Lenten Soup Suppers: Wednesdays, Feb 14 - March 21 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Coordinator tracks soup sign-ups and kitchen volunteers. Contact Sonja Pedersen [fellowship\\_rep@mlutheran.org](mailto:fellowship_rep@mlutheran.org)

## COMFORTERS

The Comforters will meet on January 2 at 9:00 a.m. Contact Annette Joens.



Lector and Communion Assistant Coordinator Sherry Mahafza places Christmas ornaments on Messiah's tree Dec. 10th.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*These members were joyfully welcomed into the church family at Messiah Lutheran on Sunday, December 11, 2017.*



Above: **Deby Boss** is from Dayton, OH. She's lived in Florida, Iowa, Colorado, Arizona, and Taiwan. She works as a government contractor.



Above: **Lisa Tracy** is from Warren, MI. She loves to cook and grow her own herbs and vegetables.



Left: **Aimee Blackerby** grew up in Selma, AL. She attended college at Troy State. She's a nurse and enjoys crafting and singing. In November she became engaged to Adam Le.



Above: **Adam and Neda Ballard, Ana, and Gabby** are from Minnesota. They enjoy the outdoors, fishing, and hunting.



Above: **Bruce Peter** is from Pine Bluff/White Hall, AR. He is retired Army, now working as a DoD civilian on Redstone Arsenal. His hobby is woodworking.

**Interested in Joining Messiah? Talk with Claire or Pastor Scott.  
The next "New Member Sunday" will be February 11, 2018.**

## COUNCIL NOTES

Jeanette Beamer, Church Council Secretary  
secretary@mlutheran.org

The Church Council met on Dec. 14, 2017.

### Here are a few highlights from the meeting:

A new Sanctuary Piano is moving toward becoming a reality with more than \$24,000 in the special fund. The committee has established contacts with a few companies that rebuild/refurbish pianos. They are estimating that a rebuilt/refurbished piano the appropriate size for our sanctuary will cost about \$25,000.

The council authorized the \$4,469.20 in the current L4L Water Project Fund to be used for latrines and roofs as requested by the Benito Montoya leaders. The funds will be moved to a new *Lunches for Learning Special Projects* fund. That way, any money left over from one L4L project can automatically be used for a new project.

**The next Council meeting is Thur. , Jan. 11, 2018.**

*-Jeanett*



Kindergarten Class at Benito Montoya

### LUNCHES FOR LEARNING GRADUATIONS

Thank you for entrusting Katrina and me with building our relationships with our schools in Honduras.

### The graduation

ceremonies at both schools were joyful occasions for the communities with much gratitude to our Lord for the blessings of the day. They also send much gratitude to the members of Messiah Lutheran Church for the food and repairs. They've requested help with rebuilding their dilapidated latrines. Funds from the dedicated water project account will be used for these repairs.

*-Claire Strand*

(Continued from page 2)

Once that concludes, the class will return to RZIM curricula. Topics being considered include the foundations of apologetics and how significant ideas have shaped apologetic thinking. The format of classes will focus on video presentations by scholars in the area of apologetics followed by guided small group discussions.



# CHURCH COUNCIL

### Executive Committee

President: Pastor Scott Peterson  
scott@mlutheran.com

Vice President: Mark Thompson  
vicepres@mlutheran.com

Treasurer: Greg Kilby  
treasurer@mlutheran.com

Secretary: Jeannette Beamer  
secretary@mlutheran.com

### Council Representatives

Worship and Music: Terry Frakes  
worship\_music\_rep@mlutheran.com

Outreach: John Shriver  
outreach\_rep@mlutheran.com

Stewardship: Heather Neely  
stewardship\_rep@mlutheran.com

Education and Youth: ell Zesinger  
education\_rep@mlutheran.com

Fellowship: Sonja Pedersen  
fellowship\_rep@mlutheran.com

Property: Pete Woods  
property\_rep@mlutheran.com

Finance: Andrew Gipner  
finance\_rep@mlutheran.com

Youth Representative: Bridie Ryan  
youth\_rep@mlutheran.com

## HOLY - DAY GIVING & CARING!

\*Christmas gifts for 30 children age three and under were provided by Messiah families and delivered to the Salvation Army.

\*The Ring and Sing benefit for the Madison Public Library on December 10th earned \$366.

\*The Mission Crafters' "Winter Woolies" popup sale earned over \$500 for L4L.

\*Food, winter clothing for adults and children, blankets, and umbrellas were taken to the Downtown Rescue Mission homeless shelter. FYI, a new 30,000 square foot facility for women and children will open in early 2018.

\*Blankets and clothing were taken to First Stop homeless service center.

\*Food was taken to Inside-Out Ministries.

\*An outlet for mission giving called Messiah Giving Mall was available in the Narthex during December. ELCA Good Gifts (pigs, water filters, etc.) and several Messiah ministries (Weekend food, CASA) were listed.

\*The Comforters' quilt auction in November earned \$960 for quilting supplies.

\*Lee Marshall, the founder of Kids To Love (foundation that owns Davidson Farms) gave a temple talk at both services on December 3rd. Davidson Farms has 4 teens living there right now. The foundation recently closed on land for a boys ranch.

\*Care packages for our 7 college freshmen were sent using cookies provided by the cookie exchange.

**If you feel called to put your gifts and blessings into action in 2018 through Messiah's Outreach Ministries - talk to Claire Strand. There is a place for you here. Your time and talents are welcome and needed!**



**Santa's Sleigh is a Red 4x4!** Muriel Irvin, Claire Strand and Tom Irvin load the last few sacks of Angel Tree gifts into Tom's truck so the can be delivered to the Salvation Army drop-off location!

## PRAYER FAMILIES

Please lift these MLC households in your daily prayers this month. On Sundays, pray for the group or organization listed. Contact Claire Strand to learn more about Messiah's Prayer Ministry.

Information Redacted

**Did we miss something? Have you recently moved or changed phone numbers?** Please call the office at 256-721-0041 and let us know. You can also use the yellow Connection Cards located the pews. Thank you! Devonee & Meredith



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>JANUARY 2018</b></p> 	<p><b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR! (Office Closed)</p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:00 am Comforters</p>	<p><b>3</b> 5:00 pm 1st Yr. Confirma- tion <b>NO Wed. Night Café, No Pastor' Study, No Chil- dren/Youth Musical Groups</b>  6:30 pm Notabella 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>4</b> 7:00 pm I Used to Play Instrumental Workshop  7:00 pm Kit Min- istry</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>
<p><b>7 YOUTH SUNDAY</b>  <b>8:30 am Worship:</b> LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages <b>11:00 am Worship</b> Now the Feast 2/LS  6:00 Jr. Sr. Youth Meet</p>	<p><b>8</b> 6:30 pm Womens Book Club Location TBD</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:00 am Comforters</p>	<p><b>10</b> 5:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed. Night Café 6:00 pm Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Seraph Choir 6:30 pm Pastor's Study 6:30 pm Guitar with Ric 6:30 pm Notabella 6:30 pm Instr. Ensemble 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7:00 pm Council Meeting  7:00 pm Kit Min- istry</p>	<p><b>12</b> 7:00 pm Bridge Club Fellowship Hall</p>	<p><b>13</b> 9 am AED/CPR <i>Training</i>  5 pm Y'ALL / College <i>Encore</i> &amp; Eats Social</p>
<p><b>14</b> <b>8:30 am Worship:</b> ELW Setting 8 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages <b>11:00 am Worship:</b> LBW Setting 2 w/LS  12:15 pm Instr. Ensemble 12:15 First Communion Instruction begins  5:00 pm Jr. Youth meet 6:00 pm Sr. Youth meet</p>	<p><b>15</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day (office closed)</p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:00 am Comforters</p>	<p><b>17</b> 5:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed. Night Café 6:00 pm Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Seraph Choir 6:30 pm Pastor's Study 6:30 pm Guitar with Ric 6:30 pm Notabella 6:30 pm Instr. Ensemble 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:00 pm I Used to Play Instrumental Workshop  7:00 pm Kit Ministry</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>
<p><b>21</b> <b>8:30 am Worship:</b> Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages <b>11:00 am Worship:</b> Contemporary Worship 12:15 - 12:45 pm First Communion Instr. 12:30 - 2:00 pm MOEs meet (Service projects at MLC)  6:00 pm Sr. Youth meet</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:00 am Comforters  5:30 pm Men of Messiah Location TBD</p>	<p><b>24</b> 5:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed. Night Café 6:00 pm Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Seraph Choir 6:30 pm Pastor's Study 6:30 pm Guitar with Ric 6:30 pm Notabella 6:30 pm Instr. Ensemble 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>25</b> 7:00 pm <i>I Used to Play</i> Instrumental Workshop  7:00 pm Kit Ministry</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>John Spinas Memorial Service 2 pm</b>  <b>6:00 pm Talent Show &amp; Spaghetti Fundraiser</b> for Sr. Youth ELCA Gathering</p>
<p><b>28</b> <b>8:30 am Worship:</b> LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages <b>11:00 am Worship:</b> Bread of Life w/LS  12:15 pm Instr. Ensemble 12:15 - 12:45 pm First Communion Instr.  5:00 pm Jr. Youth meet 6:00 pm Sr. Youth meet</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 9:00 am Comforters</p>	<p><b>31</b> 5:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed. Night Café 6:00 pm Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Seraph Choir 6:30 pm Guitar with Ric 6:30 pm Notabella 6:30 pm Instr. Ensemble 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>LOOKING AHEAD</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feb. 11 New Member Sunday</li> <li>• Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday</li> <li>• Feb 16-18 30 Hour Famine</li> <li>• April 1 - Easter Sunday</li> <li>• June 4-8 - Music Camp</li> </ul>		

Messiah Lutheran Church  
7740 Highway 72 West  
Madison, Alabama 35758  
**Return Service Requested**

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Permit No. 454

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 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant and Children’s Church is provided. All are welcome. Our website is [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org). Church office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 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](mailto:info@mlutheran.org).  
**Newsletter submissions may be sent to Rebecca Mast at [newsletter@mlutheran.org](mailto:newsletter@mlutheran.org)**  
Submissions are typically due the 3rd Sunday of every month! **Submit photos to [communications@mlutheran.org](mailto:communications@mlutheran.org)**



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

# Messenger

January 2018  
Volume 31, Issue 1

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### Contact Information

#### Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Highway 72 West Madison, AL 35758

Phone: (256) 721-0041

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Monday – Friday

### Staff

Rev. Scott Peterson.....Pastor  
Devonee Woods, Meredith Kilby.....Office Managers  
Claire Strand.....Director of Outreach Ministries  
Lois Graff.....Director of Music Ministries  
Sara Galyon.....Director of Youth & Education Ministries  
Randall Fields.....Adult Choir Director  
Meredith Kilby.....Communications Director  
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

**Find up-to-date information at [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org)**

