

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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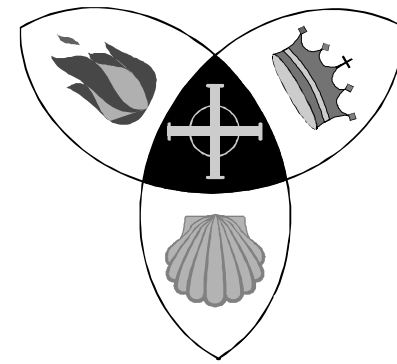
Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is www.mlutheran.org**. Church Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Managers. The Pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. Pastor/Developer is Rev. Mark Borseth. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: info@mlutheran.org. For newsletter articles call Mary Brown.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 23: Issue 4

www.mlutheran.com

April 2011



*Do not be afraid; I know you
are looking for Jesus who
crucified. He is not here for
He has been raised!*

Matthew 28:5-6

Dear Friends of the Crucified and Risen Messiah,

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INSIDE OF A TOMB? In Israel some of the biggest attractions for Christian pilgrims are tombs. In the town of Bethany we saw signs directing us to the cave tomb of Lazarus. Four days after Lazarus died, Jesus shouted into his friend's tomb, "*Lazarus, come out!*" Out walked Lazarus! (John 11:38-44) Jesus showed He has power over death.

I WANTED TO SEE THE INSIDE OF LAZARUS' TOMB, when Bonnie Jane and I were in Bethany. Our tour guide insisted, "*No! They will charge you a fee to enter Lazarus' tomb. Then, after you have climbed down the steps into the tomb to see it, they will insist you pay much more to be allowed to exit the tomb.*"

WE ALL PAY TO ENTER A TOMB. We purchase death the '*old fashioned way: We earn it.*' We '*earn*' death by sinning against God '*in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone*' as we say in our confession. So indeed, we do pay the '*entrance fee*' into our tombs.

THE GOOD NEWS OF EASTER SUNDAY is that Jesus broke out of the tomb. Death could not hold Him. He rose to bring new life for us and for us to share. So, what does it cost us to get out of the tomb? ***It's free*** for children of God!

BRINGING NEW LIFE FOR US WAS VERY COSTLY FOR JESUS, but for you it is free. In the season of Lent we meditate on Jesus willingly suffering and dying that we might have new life. Now, how might we express gratitude to our Lord for the gifts of life now and the promise of life eternal? What are you and I going to do to shout '*Thank you, Lord, for new life!*' Let's not settle for some generic answer. Let's be specific and then act.

OUR **JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK** theme for Lent continues in April:

WEDNESDAYS at 7:00 pm:

April 6: Wednesday of Holy Week: Could You Use a Break?

April 13: Thursday of Holy Week: Walking Through the Graveyard

PALM SUNDAY	April 17	Donkey King
MAUNDY THURSDAY	April 21	Over The Hill?
GOOD FRIDAY	April 22	Who Killed Jesus?
EASTER SUNDAY	April 24	He Is Not Here

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Peterson

We Are Moving!!!! Stay Tuned for more Information!!!

It is official! We will be moving from our present building to Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church (a mile west of Sparkman HS on Ford's Chapel Road). As of right now, we plan on having our first worship in the new location on Easter Sunday as we join them for their Sunrise service and then do our own Easter worship at 10:45. Come celebrate our new beginning this Easter!

As you read this newsletter, Incarnation is in a time of transition. We will be leaving our building on Hwy 53 and accepting the gracious hospitality of Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church to start meeting there. Is this a sign of defeat that we can't keep paying for our own building (we will still make a donation to Ford's Chapel, but it will be much less than our current rent and utilities)? I don't think so. I think it is a good reminder of what we are about. We never have been and never will be defined by the building we are in. Rather, "the church" is the people.

At a recent mission training event, I was surprised by a study that showed that if your goal is to build a church, it is unlikely that you will thrive at making disciples (at least not disciples with significant depth). But if you focus on making disciples, a church will be the end result. It seems that if your goal is to build a ministry which will attract people to programs and personalities rather than having the goal of building people who have a purpose and mission, your leaders tend to become "feeders" and your attendees become the ones "being fed." But if "being fed" is the main goal of participation, you never really grow up to adulthood. The goal is to grow people who will be the ones who will feed others and then help them to grow people who will feed others who will grow people who will feed others...

As we move out of our building, we will be adjusting our structure to be focused on growing disciples and not just programs. In this new model, we will focus on creating communities of depth where people can grow closer to God and to each other, but which will be defined by a common outward mission rather than just "What can I receive?"

We are exploring a model developed by 3DM Ministries in South Carolina. It is a model that has been used to grow the largest and healthiest churches in the UK and Europe and which is now spreading to many places in the United States. If you want to learn more about helping us participate in this program (participation costs, training, etc.) or if you want to go on this journey with us, I'd love to meet you for lunch or coffee to talk about what God might be calling you to.

Ways to Help:

- *Moving (late April)
- *Storage of things we can't move to the new location
- *Rummage Sale?
- *Handing out flyers informing people of our move
- *Prayer!!!!

Incarnation Information - Continued

Blitzing and Eating – Sunday, April 17 (tentative)

We need to be getting the word out about our move, and we can use your help. Come join us Sunday April 17 as we flyer the area about our move. Our plan is to meet at 3 pm and send out teams with flyers all around the community. Then, we will return and have a big potluck to celebrate what God has done in our present building and thank God for our new location. Some things on the flyers:

*We are moving

*Holy Week Schedule

*A prayer of blessing for each household

Please Pray:

* For our move

* For the 3rd year review of our ministry (Sunday, April 3) which will evaluate where we are and where we are going (if we will be going) and what ongoing support might be available in 2012.

* As we discern whether God is calling us to partner with 3DM ministries and as we seek to turn our ministry toward building people rather than just building programs to draw people.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, April 9 at 7 AM at Messiah

This is open to all men from Messiah and Incarnation (and friends). We gather for breakfast, fellowship, Bible study & prayer. Come join us on April 9. Let Pastor Mark know if you want to provide breakfast.

Holy Week (check back for location – present building or Ford's Chapel)

Thursday, April 21	Maundy Thursday Worship	7 pm
Friday, April 22	Good Friday Worship	7 pm
Sunday, April 24	Easter Worship	10:45 am

April Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice LS = Lord's Supper

Sundays at 8:30am

April 3 Youth Service w/LS

April 10 LBW Setting 1

April 17 Corporate Confession

April 24 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Sundays at 11:00am

April 3 Youth Service

April 10 Bread of Life w/LS

April 17 Corporate Confession

April 24 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Mid-Week Lenten Services of Worship

Lenten worship continues with services on April 6 and 13. During these worship services, Pastor Peterson will preach on a Lenten series based on what he learned visiting the Holy Land. There will be a Maundy Thursday service on April 21 and a Good Friday service on April 22. All Lenten services begin at 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Worship & Soup Supper Schedule

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, everyone is invited to a soup supper serving between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Worship begins at 7:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex at the Welcome Center. Please sign up when you are able to bring soup, bread, etc. There will be no soup supper during Holy Week, April 20.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 21:	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 pm
April 22:	Good Friday Tenebrae Service	7:00 pm
April 24:	Resurrection of Our Lord: Festival worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	7:00, 8:30 & 11am

INTERESTED IN GOING TO ISRAEL?

Pastor Scott and Bonnie Jane are going to lead a tour group to Israel November 1-10, 2011. An *Interest Meeting* will be held Sunday, April 10, in the Parish Hall after the late service.

Highlights of the tour will include visiting Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Mt. of Olives, and many important sites in Jerusalem.

A brochure with itinerary and additional information is available at the Welcome Center. This tour is open to members and friends of Messiah Lutheran Church.



LIFE PASSAGES

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: *Remember I am with you always to the end of the age Matthew 28:20*

- Margaret Smith, the oldest of four generations of MLC members, passed away March 21st. Her Memorial Service was March 26.

Births: *You knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13*

- Tim and Nicole McKnelly announce the birth of their daughter Madelyn Sharon McKnelly on March 2nd, 2011.
- Geoff and Jennifer Oltmans announce the birth of their daughter Hadley Rebecca Oltmans on March 8th, 2011.

Baptisms: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..." Matthew 28:19*

- Amalia Marie Gloe, daughter of Beth and Chris Gloe, was baptized on March 20th, 2011.

Marriage: *"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13*

Kyle Mumaw & Keegan Greenlee were married on March 26th.

First Communion: On March 6th, 15 young disciples (our largest group ever) received their First Communion. Congratulations to Matthew Joens, Evelyn Walker, Alie Williams, Laura Velazquez, Andrew Seitz, William Armstrong, Grace Brown, Joshua Byers, Justin Byers, Savannah Coates, Mary Grace D'Antonio, Jonathan Huwaldt, Andrea Lindsay, Jennifer Stender, and Meghan Thompson.



Collectibles and More Auction May 7

On May 7, Messiah will be hosting an auction to support the *On Eagle's Wings* mission. On its 14th year, the auction is a fun way to collect some real treasures and support the sharing of the Gospel to people in the remote areas of northern Canada.

Do you have any new or like-new items that you would like to donate? Or, would you be willing to donate one of your handcrafted items? How about a service, such as baby-sitting or lessons? Perhaps you have some tickets to a play, sporting event or concert that you are willing to donate?

In the past, we've auctioned everything from beanie babies, coins, and sports memorabilia to live plants, afghans, piano lessons, home décor items, candlelight dinners, baby items and much more! Also, there are numerous ways that you can be involved in helping with this event like baking, picking up donations from local businesses, cataloging, setting up, etc. Please call Nancy Grant or the church office (721-0041) if you have donations or would like to help in any way.

OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand

Messiah Lutheran will be hosting an **AARP Driver Safety Program Class**. It will be taught in two parts by Bob Loshuertos on April 30 and May 7 from 8:30am to 12:30pm. The eight-hour class is a driver refresher course for drivers aged 50 and older. It explains the changes that occur in vision, hearing, and reaction time as we age and provides useful driving safety tips for handling those changes. Several major auto insurance carriers in Alabama offer discounts for graduates of the program.

To register, call Jan or Bill Murphy. There is a \$14 registration fee to cover the cost of materials. AARP members receive a \$2 discount. Class is limited to 25.

A new ministry called **Friendly Faces** is coming to Messiah! If you have gifts for reaching out with Christian love and presence and are interested in participating in a visitation program, please contact Claire Strand. Time commitment is flexible. Thank you for your willingness to consider being a part of this important outreach to our congregation members who may need to see a "friendly face."



Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity continues.

The build schedule can be found on the church website, www.mlutheran.com.

A yard sale to raise funds for the build will be Saturday, April 30th. Items for the sale may be brought to the church parish hall beginning Thursday, April 28th.

Coming in May:

May 1st- *Lunches for Learning* Taco Luncheon to support Benito Montoya elementary school in Honduras.

May 7th- *On Eagles' Wings* Collectibles and More Auction to support summer Bible school in the Northwest Territories.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY WILL BE MAY 29.

Education News

Sunday School

Spring Break - Sunday, April 10 – No Sunday School

Easter Break - Sunday, April 24 – No Sunday School

Youth News

Jr. and Sr. Youth will be participating in the **30 Hour Famine** April 2nd & 3rd. Packets to raise pledges for **World Vision** can be picked up in the Youth Room. Any youth who are participating should contact Pastor Mark. Youth will meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. Sat. April 2. They will have a car wash that day to raise funds for World Vision. Car Wash is 12:30 - 3pm. The 30 Hour Famine ends Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. when the youth will share a meal together.

Jr. Youth will be helping assemble and hide eggs for the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** Sat. April 16th at 10am. Please watch for the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center; contact Bailey Erickson or Sonja Pedersen for details.

Jr. Youth will be attending **LutherRock Camp** together July 17-23. Anyone who is interested in registering or receiving more information should contact Lisa Bartel. Any Senior Youth interested in attending LutherRock should contact Pastor Mark for more information.

Sr. Youth will sponsor an **Easter Breakfast** on Easter Sunday between 8am and 11am. Please join us!

Meetings about the Senior Youth Program on April 10:

All parents of Senior Youth are requested to attend an important meeting with Pastor Scott during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, April 10 at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Future plans and direction for Messiah's Senior Youth program and the search for a part-time Your Director will be discussed. Please plan to attend. We need your input!

All students in grades 9 - 12 are asked to attend an important meeting with Pastor Scott in the Youth Room on Sunday evening, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. We need your input about your Youth Program. Also, plans for hiring a part-time Youth Director will be discussed. This meeting is for students only. Please come, even if you have never attended a senior youth group meeting.

RENEW: The Green VBS

There will be a VBS Interest /Planning Meeting on **April 10th** at noon.

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner and this year the children will be learning to be good stewards of the earth through the Parable of the Sower. We will need gardeners and crafty people who love to repurpose old things, people who love to shop at thrift stores and yard sales, people who love to work with kids and just plain have fun. There is something for everyone to do. So stop by if you want to help or if you are curious to see what we will be doing this summer! For more information, contact Dorothy Seitz.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

by Mary Ann Stasiak

Thanks to Mary Burke and Elaine Shriver for hosting the **Lenten Soup Suppers**, held until Holy Week in April. Many thanks also to those who have

volunteered to help produce the special ministry.

Men's Breakfast will be at Incarnation on April 9th at 7 a.m.

Comforter's will meet every Tuesday in April @10am. Questions call Annette Joens.

Bridge Club will be held Friday April 8th 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Bring a friend and a snack to share - Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

Future Events:

- Mother/Daughter Tea Party, Saturday May 7th 1-3 PM
- German Cooking Class with Cornelia Tegtmeier, May 14th 11 AM -1 PM
- Father/Son Pie Event, Sunday June 19th, noon

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

Music Camp June 6th-10th

Messiah's 18th Annual Music Camp will be held the week of June 6 – 10. **"Sam, the Shams and the Shepherd King"** will be presented at both services on June 12th. If you have questions or would like to help in any way, please contact Lois Graff.



Stewardship ThoughtTime & Talents

God has given us all special gifts and talents to use in serving him and others. Some we have knowledge of now and some are discovered along life's journey.

Many times someone who knows us recognizes gifts in us that we never knew we had! Through service to God, we discover and utilize new gifts. Please take time in meditation and prayer, considering the spiritual gifts you have been given by our Lord. If helpful, stop by the Stewardship portion of the bulletin board in the Education hallway or visit: <http://archive.elca.org/evangelizingchurch/assessments/spiritgifts.html>

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Youth 30 Hour Famine 12:30pm – 3pm Youth Car Wash <i>Mark & Betsy Borseth Nathan, Andrew, Peter</i>
3 8:30am Worship Youth Service w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Youth Service 4:30 Notabella Choir 5:30 Cantabile Choir	4 <i>Danny Boxx & Christina Coraccio</i>	5 10 am Comforters <i>Mike & Linda Boyer</i>	6 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Soup Supper 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Scott Bridge</i>	7 <i>Ricky & Rosemary Brooks Jeni</i>	8 7:30pm Bridge Club Parish Hall <i>Greg & Keri Brown Alexandra, Savannah</i>	9 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Messiah <i>Paul & Mary Brown Grace, Madeleine, Byron</i>
10 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 9:45 No Sunday School 11:00am Worship WOV Bread of Life w/LS 12:15pm – VBS Meeting 12:15 Instrumental Ens 4:30 Notabella Choir 5:30 Cantabile Choir	11 <i>James & Bettie Brunley</i>	12 10 am Comforters <i>John & Mary Burke</i>	13 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Soup Supper 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Virgil & Susan Burrer</i>	14 8:30am – Morning Study Group – <i>Life Together</i> Church Council 7pm <i>Dan & Cheryl Byers Justin, Joshua, Jonathan</i>	15 <i>Martin & Laurie Campbell Connor</i>	16 10am Easter Egg Hunt <i>Kimberly Carper</i>
17 8:30am Worship Confession & Forgiveness 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Confession & Forgiveness 4:30 Notabella Choir 5:30 Cantabile Choir	18 <i>Dan & Jill Casey Daniel, Calliope</i>	19 10 am Comforters <i>Doris Chojnowski Tara</i>	20 5pm Confirmation 6:30 Notabella Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Trudy Clare</i>	21 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service of Worship <i>Joy Clavin</i>	22 7 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Worship <i>Diane Cline</i>	23 <i>Deborah Coates Savannah, Keenan Brodeur</i>
24 Easter Sunday 7:00am Worship Service LBW Setting 2 w/LS 8–11am Easter Breakfast 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS No Sunday School 11:00am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS	25 <i>David & Camille Cobb</i>	26 10 am Comforters <i>Lauren Cole</i>	27 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30 Notabella Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Dorothy Corron</i>	28 <i>Linda Cox</i>	29 <i>Jim & Toni Daniel Christina, Allison</i>	30 8:00am Yard Sale 8:30am AARP Driver Safety Class NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sunday April 17