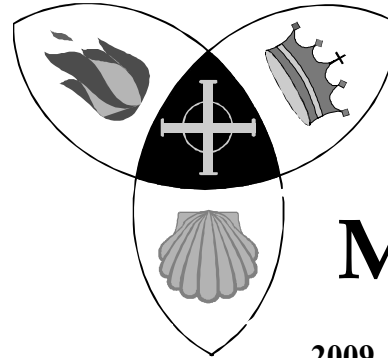


Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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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.com.** Church Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Manager. The pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. Pastor/Developer is Rev. Mark Borseth. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: info@mlutheran.com. For newsletter articles call Stacy Tidwell



MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 21: Issue 8 August
2009
www.mlutheran.com



and
Sunday School Rally Day

Sunday, August 9

*God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself.
2 Corinthians 5:19*

Dear Friends of the Reigning Messiah,

“NOAH’S ARK DISCOVERED...IN PENNSYLVANIA!” Years ago I read that splashed in huge print on a tabloid cover as I was waiting to buy groceries. Of course it was not true, but I would expect that fantastic headline helped sell some copies. That memory comes to mind as I wonder what headlines will scream when the biennial ELCA Churchwide Assembly meets August 17-23, in Minneapolis. The Assembly will vote on whether to ordain as pastors people who are living in committed same-sex relationships. I expect to see and hear some sensational stories in the media.

WHAT SHOULD MESSIAH LUTHERAN DO? I encourage all of us to wait for the dust to settle before we react. Some reporting of this ELCA Assembly is likely to be inaccurate. I say that because I read inaccurate reports of previous ELCA assemblies not in tabloids, but from major media sources in 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007. We cannot control what is reported, but given all that...

WHAT IF the ELCA Churchwide Assembly indeed does vote to ordain as pastors people who have same-sex partners? I need the wisdom of Messiah Lutheran Church to decide what that means for our Congregation. Hopefully we can do this in a faithful, rational, responsible way. Regardless of how this vote goes there will be congregations in the ELCA that will be deeply disappointed. This is a very divisive issue. Sad.

MOST SAD TO ME is that this issue consumes energy which impacts the larger mission our Lord has given us. Yet, I recognize that there are many people in the ELCA who believe this is the most important issue before us now. They have the microphone in their hands these days.

WHATEVER THE VOTE IN MINNEAPOLIS: Our Lord will not change or disappear or fade away. No human vote can ever do that. So, we do not need to worry about God’s work getting done. It will. Our concern is that we be working with God, not against God.

AS CHRISTIANS IN THE LUTHERAN TRADITION we recognize that God’s Word is to be our guide in all matters of faith and life. God’s Word focuses on redemption, forgiveness of sin, reconciliation, and the righteousness of God. Those are ‘*churchy*’ words, but they primarily are about God healing a relationship broken by our sinfulness. Let’s pray for the Church and keep working together to seek our Lord’s plans for us.

Grace and peace,

Church Council Highlights

Facilities Expansion:

- The Architect's initial drawings were reviewed
- Bids on the plans are expected within 2 weeks
- The first forum on "Expanding Worship" was held on Sunday June 21st; Additional forums will be held: July 12 and July 26.

Incarnation Lutheran Mission Start Report:

- It looks like we will be renting a building at 5551 Hwy 53 starting as early as August 1
- Our plan is to begin Sunday worship in Harvest at 10:45 am on Sunday, September 13 (if building details keep moving forward).

20th Anniversary planning - MLC's 20th Anniversary is May 20, 2010. Planning for observing this milestone is underway.

Lunches for Learning mission in Honduras: The Council approved sponsorship of a school in Honduras with funds raised from the mission and outreach committee.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

from Maureen King

Annual Church Picnic - A big fellowship event for August is the Church Picnic on the 9th after late service. There is a sign up sheet for those bringing side dishes. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be supplied.

There will be a Jump/Slide for the children. Any teens interested in face painting, please call Maureen. Different games would also be nice for teens to provide.

The Wednesday Night Suppers will begin August 26. I am still in need of a Co-Chair to help with this weekly event. Is there a Confirmation parent willing to help out? It can be a team Co-Chair opportunity. I truly hope that with school breaks, Lenten Soup Suppers, and Holidays we will be able to have only one week for each volunteer: One for the meal and one for dessert. I have already had two families volunteer for Special Suppers. Are there any more who would like to volunteer???

Ladies Bible Study - I would like to start a Ladies Group with the Stonecroft series, "Who Is Jesus?" It is a six week course and we will meet for only 60 to 90 minutes a week. If you would like to host one of the weeks, that would be nice. I will start out the series on Thursday nights, at the church, room 11. We can continue there or take turns at each other's homes. Please let me know your thoughts on this. I have all the supplies and cost is \$10.00. The start date is open at this time. If interested, let Maureen know and a date will be decided.

For other Stonecroft group meetings, call Judy Johnson. She will be happy to speak with you concerning other group times and location. Interested in guiding or hosting a Stonecroft Bible Study in September? Contact Judy Johnston.

Be sure to enjoy the coffee and refreshments following each service in the Fellowship Hall.

The Handmade Market

It is a fun shopping experience to purchase a unique gift for Christmas, Graduation, Birthdays, or to treat yourself to something special.

Messiah's Artists and Crafters are creating special items to donate for this event. All of the funds raised will help to support the *Lunches For Learning* mission which provides daily lunches for elementary school children in the very rural areas in Honduras.

When: Sundays, October 18th, October 25th, and November 6th

Where: Narthex

Time: 8a.m.-12p.m.

If you would like to donate an item, contact Jackie Myers.



August Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship WOV = With One Voice
ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (*new*)

Sundays at 8:30am

Aug. 2 Chicago Folk w/LS

Aug. 9 WOV Service-Word/Prayer

Aug. 16 LBW Setting 1 w/LS

Aug. 23 LBW Setting 2

Aug. 30 ELW Setting 1 w/LS

Sundays at 11:00am

Aug. 2 LBW Setting 1

Aug. 9 Now the Feast w/LS

Aug. 16 Contemporary Service

Aug. 23 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Aug. 30 ELW Setting 1 w/LS

The Annual Church Picnic will be held on August 9th following the 11 a.m. service. See Fellowship Committee News for more details.

Acolyte Training

Please sign up on the list in the Narthex.

When: Sunday, August 30 after late service.

This should take about 1 hour.

Who: All rising 5th graders and anyone in the upper grades who would like to serve as Acolytes or brush up on Acolyting details.

Where: Meet in the sanctuary following late service.

We will take your picture for the acolyte board in the Sacristy.

Questions: Call Barbara Azzam

Dinner Theater, Saturday, August 22

SAVE THE DATE for this year's Dinner Theater. It will have a comedy theme and be on Saturday, August 22. A delicious dinner will be served at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall followed by an entertaining show beginning at 7 p.m.



If you are interested in participating in the show, come to rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Church Mailboxes...there have been a few changes with the mailboxes. Each box is now numbered. When new members are added, your box should now stay in the same place! There is an alphabetical reference list to the right of the boxes which will be updated as needed. Thank you for your patience with changes brought about by growth..

Incarnation Information – August 2009

A monthly update from Pastor/Developer Mark Borseth

If all goes as planned, by early August you will see a sign in front of 5551 Hwy 53 saying, “*Incarnation Lutheran Church.*” As of this writing, we are still working with an architect and the Madison County Building Inspector to give us a thumbs-up for using it as a gathering space. We are also working on details of the lease, but hope to have it ready to sign by the end of July.

Our plan is to begin worship on Sunday, September 13 at 10:45 AM. If we can be in the building in August, we will have time to get everything set up. We keep getting donations that will help us get off to a good start, including nursery items and some sound equipment. We have been offered a piano and a large-screen TV (which we can use for kids activities and Bible Studies). God continues to show his faithfulness, and I am sure that whatever we need will be there by the time we need it. If you have something to donate or you would like to donate your time and talents to help with the building (building a platform or altar table, for example), please talk to me.

We have begun Wednesday evening gatherings at our new home in Harvest and hope to start meeting in the new building for fellowship, prayer, study and planning soon. You are welcome to join us for any of these gatherings whether you want to be part of Incarnation or you just want to find out more of what is going on. You can also check the website (Incarnation-elca.org), check the Incarnation bulletin board by the Library, or let me know you want to be added to my weekly email updates.

We welcome your prayers for Incarnation as we move into this exciting, yet challenging time. We encourage you to attend worship at Incarnation on occasion, to help us get momentum. We welcome your financial gifts as our monthly costs go up once we are in the building. And we welcome your efforts to tell your friends who live in Harvest to come check us out.

One thing I don't welcome is being with you at Messiah less often. My percentage of time at Messiah is down to just over 1/3 time as of August 1, and once worship starts in Harvest, I will no longer be with you on Sunday mornings. My main areas of involvement at Messiah will be the Senior Youth Group, first-year Confirmation and the developing Messiah Men's Ministry group (3M).

Thanks for your prayers and support for me, my family and the development of this new mission in Harvest.

God's blessings to you all! *Pastor Mark*

Education News - continued

JUNIOR YOUTH

The Jr. Youth are in desperate need of leadership. If interested, please contact Celynn at celynn.ballard@knology.net or 830-2685.

TWEENS

The Tweens will go to Point Mallard on Saturday, August 1. If anyone has an idea for the group please contact Debi Peterson. All 3rd – 5th graders are welcome!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REPORT

Thank you to everyone who made VBS such a great success this year! Messiah is so fortunate to have people so talented and giving!

- A total of 35 children attended Discovery Canyon this year!
- The children participated in games, crafts, science activities, storytelling, singing, dancing...and of course eating!
- A total of \$300 was collected for the VBS mission this year. The money will be sent to The Navajo Mission School Project. Our support will help fund schools in Rock Point, AZ. Many families in the area do not have running water or electricity. Thank you to those who donated to this meaningful mission.

New Adult Class: THE BOOK OF FAITH

Dear Friends,

The Bible is very important book for our whole culture, and is central to the faith for us as Lutherans and many others in our society.

You can join a class that will begin opening the Book of Faith together. We won't have all the answers, but we do want to share what the Bible means to us and how it may be able to speak to our lives. We will look at what the Bible is for us as Lutherans, ways we can study it, and look at four passages to practice those methods of study.

Some have spent a good deal of time with the Bible. Most of us haven't read it as much as we would like. But together we can come to it anew, as if opening the book for the first time. I would be pleased if you could join us.

We will meet during the Sunday School time starting Sunday, August 23. It will last for 7 weeks. If you would like to be part of this group sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Contact me if you have any questions.

Shalom, *Bob Loshuertos*

3M (Messiah Men's Ministry)

Next Meeting – Saturday, August 8 at 7 a.m.

We had a great kick-off breakfast on July 18, and have decided to start off meeting once a month for breakfast, fellowship, study/discussion and prayer. We plan on meeting the second Saturday of every month at 7 a.m. in the Messiah Parish Hall. The next gathering will be Saturday, August 8 at 7 a.m. If you have questions or want to be on the Men's Ministry email update list, talk to Pastor Mark.

Education News

Celynn Ballard

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Rally Day is set for August 9 at 9:45. This is a fun event for the whole family! Come and meet the teachers as the children enjoy some fun activities! Our annual church picnic will follow the 11:00 a.m. service! Games and an inflatable slide await the kids! Please come dressed in play clothes! All are welcome!
- Dottie Hanson's Sunday School class began a study of Genesis July 26.
- Sunday School teachers are still needed. Please contact Sarah Walker.

GOD'S WORD for Life - An Adult Education Elective, starting Sept 13.

During this six week series, we will survey Christian doctrine, using God's Word, to engage questions about the beginning and ending of life, about marriage and family as places where God gives and guards life, and about our responsibility to show mercy in all stages of life.

We'll examine what God's Word has to say to us about life issues such as Creation; the beginning of life; living life with a Christian perspective; abortion and the Church; adoption - God's way; human worth; suicide and euthanasia; and suffering.

Discover how to respond to issues of life and death, vocation and mercy, from the perspective of God's Law and Gospel. Only God's Word has the power to change people's hearts and minds and make a real difference in their lives. If you'd like more details about this series, contact John Morgan. Be sure to bring your Bible!

Youth News

SENIOR YOUTH

- The youth met informally with Pastor Borseth at Dairy Queen on July 15.
- The Senior Youth group will have their first Sunday night meeting on Sunday, August 9 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Youth Room. We will meet most Sundays during the school year. Most of the meetings will be at Messiah, but we will do some outings as well. If you want more information or to get on the Senior Youth email update list, please contact Pastor Mark.
- Several youth attended the National Youth Gathering, July 22 to July 26.
- Many Youth are also planning to participate in Alassippi (the Alabama and Mississippi youth gathering). It is August 21 - 23.
- Anyone interested in helping John Shriver lead the Sr. Youth next year, please contact Celynn Ballard

All 9th – 12th graders are welcome at any or all activities. Contact John Shriver for information.

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 Outreach Assistant Claire Strand.

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

- Joseph Roy Grimes was baptized June 28.
- Alexander Louis Mansfield was baptized July 19.

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

- Paul and Phil Pedersen's cousin, Roger Pedersen, passed away July 2.
- Larry Johnston's mother, Hazel Johnston, passed away June 25.
- Harold Herbold, Cheryl Byer's great uncle, passed away July 19.

OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand

THANK YOU! Your generous giving has enabled Messiah Lutheran to sponsor an elementary school in Honduras. The school's name is Benito Montoya in the small community El Barrial. For a slideshow presentation, please visit lunchesforlearning.org, click proven benefits, and view "Crossing the River."



SS Kids- Put your donations of school supplies in the "school bus" in the Narthex until August 7. Supplies will be assembled into backpacks and delivered to city and county school children. Last year, 500 children in 13 local schools received a backpack full of supplies. Monetary donations are also accepted. A \$30 gift will provide a full backpack. Just mark your gift "SS Kids."



...because you can. Register to walk with Messiah Team 2009 or sponsor the team by visiting webal.alsa.org.

Date: August 29

Walk Check-In: 10 a.m. **Walk Starts:** 11 a.m.
Distance: determined by walker **Place:** Joe Davis Stadium

Hurting? Struggling? Depressed? Confused? Broken? Stephen Ministers are ready to care. For help, please contact Anita deJong or Claire Strand.

New Member Sunday- We are receiving new members September 13. Please contact Pastor Peterson or Claire Strand to join.

The Outreach Committee will meet Aug. 16, 9:30, Fellowship Hall.



August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>PERRY, Jay & Gretchen Jayson, Ashlyn</i>
2 8:00am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship: Chicago Folk w/LS 11:00am Worship: LBW Setting 1 12:00pm Stewardship Meeting	3 <i>PETERSON, Kevin & Debi Shane, Amanda</i>	4 <i>PETERSON, Laura</i>	5 7:30 Dinner Theater Rehearsal <i>PETERSON, Scott & Bonnie Jane Christine, Paul</i>	6 8:30a.m. Morning Study Group 7pm Council Meeting <i>PRIGMORE, Dieter & Karin</i>	7 <i>RIDZELSKI-McCombs, Jonianne and Mark Brook</i>	8 7am Men' Breakfast
9 8:30am Worship WOV Serv. Word & Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Now the Feast w/LS Noon - Church Picnic 6:30 Sr. Youth	10 <i>RINYU, Nicholas & Marty Tabitha</i>	11 <i>ROCKETT, Art</i>	12 7:30 Dinner Theater Rehearsal <i>ROENFELDT, Betty</i>	13 <i>ROHE, Dale & Tammy Whitney</i>	14 <i>ROWELL, Bob & Peggie</i>	15 <i>RUFF, Jay & Amy Holden, Bayard</i>
16 8:00am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:30am Outreach Mtg 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Contemporary Serv. 6:30 Sr. Youth	17 <i>RUHL, Norm & Linda</i>	18 <i>SAGE, Heidi</i>	19 7:30 Dinner Theater Rehearsal <i>SCHEIBLY, Chuck & Judy</i>	20 <i>SCHEURICH, Norm & Sheilah Jennifer, Shaun</i>	21 <i>SCROGGINS, Dan & Carolyn Ben, Chase, Lydia</i>	22 6pm Dinner Theater <i>SEITZ, Lee & Dorothy Walter, Andrew, Hannah</i>
23 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 6:30 Sr. Youth	24 <i>SHAFFER, Dan & Michelle</i>	25 <i>SHRIVER, John & Elaine Iain, Christopher</i>	26 <i>Confirmation Classes start 5:00pm</i> 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>SMITH, Lee & Janet</i>	27 8:30a.m. Morning Study Group <i>SMITH, Margaret</i>	28 <i>SMITH, Todd</i>	29 10:00am Walk to Defeat ALS <i>SPENCE, Tim & Kay Kathryn (Katie), Michael (Mikey)</i>
30 8:30am Worship ELW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship ELW Setting 1 w/LS Noon - Acolyte Training 6:30 Sr. Youth	31 <i>STANBERY, Larry & Erin Livingston Masayuki, Yoshiyuki, Hiroyuki</i>					NEWSLETTER DEADLINE August 16