

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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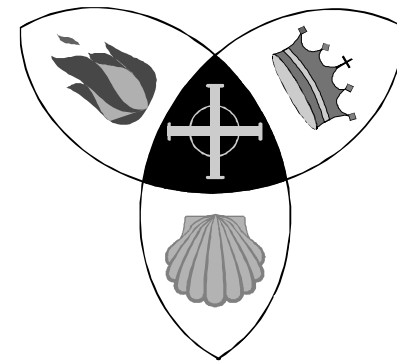
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Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is 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

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August 2011



Spread The Word!

Jesus said: *Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.* – Luke 14:23

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

WAVING AT CARS WHIZZING BY during rush hour on a Friday afternoon in front of MLC's building, I asked myself, *"What are you doing out here dressed like this?"* Then I remembered **Luke 14:23 (see above)**. Our Lord wants to invite **everyone** into *His banquet, His kingdom*.

WHAT DID I SEE IN THOSE CARS? I saw a more diverse group of people than my beloved disciples longing to hear a word from our Lord when I step into the pulpit on a Sunday morning. Will MLC someday mirror the make-up of the people driving by?

HOW DID THOSE MOTORISTS RESPOND to seeing a white robed, red stoled, dressed for worship cleric waving at them on the roadside? Overwhelmingly they were positive. People waved back, honked horns, a few shouted encouragement. I especially liked seeing people look at me, and then look at our building and our sign.

A FEW OBSERVATIONS (on July 15):

- Some drivers hid the cigarettes they were smoking when they saw me.
- One shouted, *"Is that your church?"* I shouted back, "Yes." I did not understand what he shouted next, but he was giving me a *'thumbs up'*.
- One young man gave me a *'thumbs down'*. (That clear negative response was the only one I saw out of over 3,000 vehicles that drove by while I was out there.)
- A car filled with young African American girls waved, smiled, and one shouted, *"Hello, Jesus!"* (That is *'over the top'* for this shy Norwegian.)
- When I smile as I wave, more people wave back at me. I have lots of reasons to smile.
- Occasionally a driver recoils in his/her seat with a look of, *"What is THAT!?"* Then I laugh, whereupon lots of the next cars wave or honk at me.

OK: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU? I believe most of the people on the road, in our neighborhoods, and where we live and work, are just as hungry as we are to be invited into our Lord's banquet (see above). Those who are new, or hurting, or know the least about our Lord are probably the most hungry. It is easy for me to stand out there and wave at passing cars. It is more difficult for you to invite others by saying, *"This is what I like about MLC. Come and see for yourself."* But, **you can do it!**

MLC IS EXPANDING OUR WORSHIP SPACE TO WELCOME NEW PEOPLE. New people are not going to rush in just because they see a construction project. **WE NEED TO INVITE THEM!** Our Lord wants ALL to receive the gifts He freely gives through MLC. Please join me in inviting just as the first disciples invited others who had not met Jesus, *"Come and see for yourself."*

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Peterson



Please join Team Messiah
Saturday, August 27 for the *Walk to Defeat ALS!*

Visit the website at:

http://web.alsa.org/site/TR/Walks/Alabama/213646405?pg=team&fr_id=7379&team_id=200301

to join our team (Thrivent Messiah Lutheran Church).

Contact Mary Mast at maryemast@aol.com with questions.

“The Right Motives”

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself...” Philippians 2:5-7

When I was in Minneapolis at a small urban church that had been shrinking for 30 years before I got there, my concern was that it was easy to start thinking in terms of survival instead of making an impact in our community. It was easy to focus more on what were able to take in than on what we were giving away. That is no way to do ministry. If Jesus came to give away what he had, how can we call it Christianity to simply try to preserve what we have?

The past few weeks I have been knocking on doors in areas of Harvest heavily damaged by the tornado. I have been knocking on doors for two years, but something feels different. I don't dread going out like I used to. I look forward to getting out. What has changed? My motivation! These past weeks my main priority has not (primarily) been to get church members. It has been to be a blessing to the people I have met. I have prayed with dozens of people at their doorways and received many words of thanks from people for praying and caring. Has it caused our attendance to jump up? No. So has it been a waste of time? By no means! A few months ago I would be deciding to stop door knocking because I haven't received enough return for our labors. But now I am excited to go out because I have been able to be part of the incarnation of God's love and presence in the Harvest community. That is return enough!

We are not here to get what we need so we can start loving and blessing our community. We are here to love and bless our community and trust that as we “seek first the Kingdom the Kingdom of God and his righteousness (his purposes for us and our community) all the other things (finances, resources) will be given to us as well.” (Matthew 6:33) We seek your prayers that we keep our priorities straight. Bless people first & leave provision for our needs to God. Come visit us and join us as we seek to be a blessing. We love having visitors from Messiah, St. Marks & All Saints. Or maybe God is calling you to do more than visit? Maybe His call to you is to commit to be part of our ministry for a short time or longer? Maybe it is to be part of the way He will provide financially as we seek first His Kingdom.

Thanks for your partnership in ministry!
Pastor Mark



August Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice LS = Lord's Supper

Sundays at 8:30am

Aug. 7 Chicago Folk w/ LS

Aug. 14 LBW Setting 2

Aug. 21 ELW Setting 1 w/LS

Aug. 28 WOV Service Word/Prayer

Sundays at 11:00am

Aug. 7 LBW Setting 1

Aug. 14 Now the Feast w/LS

Aug. 21 Contemporary Service

Aug. 28 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

At both services of worship on Sunday, August 7th, we will bless the backpacks our students will be carrying as they start the school year. All children are encouraged to bring their school backpacks to church for this event.



Stewardship Thought.....

by Lois Graff

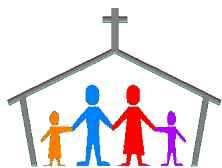
Last month, Vacation Bible School was held at Messiah. Jesus' parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-9) was taught to 36 children hungry for God's Word. They learned that the 'seed' that is sown is the Word of



God. The seed that fell on a hard path, rocky ground or among thorns soon was gone, with no growth. But the seed that was sown on good soil produced a triple action (growing up, increasing, yielding) and a triple result (thirty, sixty, one hundred)!

When the Word of God is active in our lives, wonderful, amazing blessings can happen!

Lord of *all creation, let your Word take root in us and grow, nourishing us and turning us toward that which You would have us do. Amen*



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.

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

- Lee and Dorothy Seitz announce the birth of their son, Thomas Kerlin Seitz, on July 9th. Thomas was 8lbs 13 oz and 20.5 inches long.
- Larissa (Boyer) and Chad Newton, Mechanicsburg, PA, announce the birth of their daughter, Hanna Rhiannon Newton, on July 4th. Hanna was 8lbs 1oz and 20.25 inches long. Proud grandparents are Mike and Linda Boyer of Madison, AL.

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

- Jackson Roger Burke, son of Micaela and Paul Burke, was baptized July 3rd.
- Jackson Grey Burke and Jeremy Hudson Bernal, grandsons of Richard and Bonnie Webb, were baptized on July 24.

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

- Christine Peterson and Nicholas van der Meer were married July 9th in Chattanooga.

GRADUATION: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105*

- Alex Le graduates this month from Auburn University with a degree in Health Administration.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, August 20 at Messiah

Our monthly Men's breakfast will be at Messiah on Saturday, August 20 at 7 AM. Bring yourself, a friend or two and a desire to get to know God and some other guys a little bit better. If you want to be on the email reminder list for the Men's group or are able to provide or help provide breakfast, let Pastor Mark know (256-230-5387 or Pastorilc@incarnation-elca.org).

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

by Mary Ann Stasiak,



Rally Day Picnic – On Sunday August 14th, we will celebrate “back to Sunday School” with our annual Rally Day Picnic in Parish Hall and the immediate adjacent parking lot. We'll enjoy burgers and hot dogs from our great big new grill, and we will ask for your help with pot luck salads and desserts. Watch at the Welcome Center for the signup sheet, and come enjoy the picnic!

German Cooking Class – On

Saturday, August 27th, Cornelia Tegtmeier will teach us how to make some of the great foods we all enjoyed during the Reformation Sunday German Fellowship last November, as well as the Norwegian Christmas Fellowship last Advent. Look for details and the signup sheet at the Welcome Center – the class will be a limited size so that everyone attending can see and hear. Please contact Mary Ann Stasiak if you want your name on the list.

Bridge Club has moved permanently to 7:30 PM on the second Friday of every month in the Parish Hall, this month on August 12th. **We are adding an additional day – 4th Sundays after 2nd service – to accommodate players who can't make Friday nights.** New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share - Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak

Potential Pizza Party: We hope to have a Wednesday supper in August to meet a prospective Director of Youth Ministries for Messiah Lutheran Church. When this is arranged everyone will be invited.

Wednesday Nite Café coordinator needed! Please contact Mary Ann Stasiak if interested.

Can you help with an upcoming event? Contact Mary Ann

Education News by Linda Peirce

Sr. and Jr. Youth - Saturday, Aug. 6 @ 10 am SS Kids to help sort and pack school supplies. We will meet at West Madison Elementary School.

Sr. and Jr. Youth - Sunday, Aug. 14 @ 12 noon Church picnic and supervision of children's games.

Vacation Bible School – We had a great week celebrating ReNEW and what the Bible says about taking care of God's creation. More than 30 children and guests, including 11 children from Milestone Christian Academy, attended. A special thank you goes to all those who volunteered to help!

Sunday School Rally Day is Sunday, August 14 at 9:45 a.m.

Children can register for Sunday School, meet their new teachers, see their new classrooms, and celebrate the beginning of a new year of Sunday School. Registration is for all ages, 3 years through adult

Sunday School Help is needed! **A meeting of all Sunday School teachers and helpers and those wishing to help or learn more will be held Sunday, August 7 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 4.** See Gary Garrison or Linda Peirce for more information.

Youth Director/ Jr. Youth and Tween Advisers - The search continues for a qualified Youth Director. We are working with Rachel Alley, Youth Services Director for the Southeast Synod, in our search. We hope to have an individual in place by Sept. 1. This person will direct the Senior Youth group, teach a Senior High Sunday School class, build an active Youth program at Messiah that serves tweens through young adults, advise our Sunday School Superintendent and train members serving in our Sunday School and Youth programs. We are looking for members and parents to volunteer to serve as advisers for both our Tweens and Junior Youth programs for the upcoming year. Junior Youth is for children entering 6th through 8th grades, and Tweens is a program for children entering 3rd through 5th grades. If you are interested in learning more about either of these children's ministries and how you can help, or if you have a child you would like to be involved in either group, please see Linda Peirce.



Sanctuary Expansion Worship Changes

In early July, construction began to increase the size of Messiah's sanctuary. The contract term is 180 days. Originally it was thought that construction would interrupt worship only a small portion of that time. However that is not the case. We will most likely begin worshipping every Sunday in the Parish Hall sometime in the month of August.

At that time, the sanctuary piano will be moved to the Fellowship Hall and the pipe organ will be removed and taken by an organ company. There is a possibility that their sale of the organ may exceed the cost of removal. Hopefully, this approximately 75 year old instrument will find a new home and be played some more to the glory of God. Previous homes of the organ were Sacred Heart Convent Chapel in Cullman, and St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Huntsville.

You may contribute to the Pipe Organ Fund at any time. The cost to purchase an improved replacement used pipe organ with an adequate number of ranks and with a marked enhancement of voices compared to our present organ is estimated to be \$30-40K.

Because the Parish Hall will be used every Sunday for worship, it is important that the 'default setting' after church events and other uses is to setup "ready for worship". The next few months promise challenges, as happens every time a building process occurs. However, our new worship space will be a place to welcome new faces and allow for more to hear God's Word.

Thank you for your patience, faithfulness, readiness and hospitality. We look forward to the ways God will grow the mission at Messiah LC.

Sunday, August 14 at 10:15 a.m.
Sanctuary Expansion
Groundbreaking Service

Finance Notes by Lee Smith

PROMISSORY NOTES TO FUND OUR SANCTUARY EXPANSION:

Promissory Notes may now be purchased by members and friends of Messiah Lutheran Church to support construction of the expanded sanctuary. (Secured by good faith and trust of Messiah Lutheran Church.)

Units: Sold in individual Units of \$1000 (multiple units may be bought)

Term: Three (3) years from purchase date.

Interest Rate: 3% compounded annually

Initial Cost: ~ \$915 per unit

Payout in three years: \$1000 per unit

One-year interest penalty for early withdrawal

Promissory notes may be purchased anytime during 2011. See Rhonda Gaede or Tim Wade (Building Treasurer and Church Treasurer, respectively).

BROKERAGE ACCOUNT FOR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS.

Our congregation has established a non-profit brokerage account to allow tax-deductible giving for any purpose or fund of our church. If you have been fortunate enough to have stocks or other securities that have appreciated in value and you would like to contribute them to the church as a tax-deductible gift, there is now a simple and economical way to do this. You may simply transfer your stock or other securities to Messiah's brokerage account, inform our Financial Secretary of your actions and desires, and your stock will then be sold by our Treasurer with all proceeds deposited into the fund or account you specify. This is a win-win for you and the church since you will not have to pay capital gains on the stock's appreciation but will get tax-deductible credit for the full amount of your gift. Messiah will receive your generous gift at reduced costs due to our no-fee account and on-line sale costs (\$8.95) through our USAA Brokerage Account.

For more information on the procedures to provide a *confidential* gift to the Messiah fund of your choice, please contact Marc Neely, our Financial Secretary.

REDSTONE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION is now a banking alternative for all members of Messiah Lutheran Church. A benefit of opening our new construction loan with RFCU is that Messiah is now an "Associational Group." This means all are eligible to join and use RFCU's banking facilities and services. For more information, brochures are available in the church office and the local RFCU branches, or go to their web site at www.redfcu.org. This is not an endorsement for banking at RFCU but to let you know that this option is now available to all our members.

Mozart Requiem Concert

Next month is the tenth anniversary of the September 11 attacks. Our Choir Director, Randall Fields proposed to the choir that we perform the Mozart Requiem as a tribute on that anniversary date which happens to be a Sunday. The choir was supportive, and planning has been proceeding.

This is going to be a major event. Although ours is the anchor choir, there will be other singers as well. The Patriot Singers from Bob Jones High School (and alumni) will be joining, as well as singers from the Madison First Baptist Church, and "friends" from the Huntsville Community Chorus. There will be a solo quartet of some of the finest singers in the area, including Laura Samples (nee Stallcup), soprano; Anne Chelekis, Alto; David Giambone, tenor; and our own Mike Boyer, bass. We will fill the stage with singers, and accompanied by an orchestra, fill the auditorium with the glorious strains of Mozart.

In addition to the singing of the Requiem, there will be readings interspersed between sections. Civic leaders will be the readers, including Congressman Mo Brooks, Mayor Finley, Madison Hospital President Mary Lynne Wright, Father O'Kennedy of St John's Catholic Church, Paul Kunitz representing the Jewish community; and Pastor Scott.

This event is requiring more back-stage support than a typical event. Various teams are working to make this a success. Team leaders are: Pastor Scott as MLC leader, Randall Fields as the music conductor and liaison with Bob Jones High School, Lois Graff, and Bob Gustafson as Producer.

Lots of things are in process to make this a success. There is lots of excitement from civic leaders to the Madison Arts Council, to the MLC members working to make this a special event. More information is available. Just ask one of the four listed above.

Bob Gustafson

OUTREACH NEWS

The SCHOOL BUS IS HERE and waiting for school supplies to be delivered to needy children in our area. Any school supplies, including paper, notebooks, pens and pencils, crayons, markers (preferably washable), colored pencils, school and stick glue, and rulers are needed and welcomed. New and gently used backpacks are also needed. In the past our donations have been sent to SS Kids in Madison, Madison Crossroads Elementary School, and HAP in Huntsville. Some of our donated school supplies were given to a student who lost everything in the tornadoes this April. Thank you for your generous support of needy students in Madison County.

Jacque Fry, Community Outreach

On Eagle's Wings

On June 21st, missionary Christine Berry left to begin her journey north to the village of Deline, Northwest Territories, Canada. She served with two teachers from Pennsylvania who were Summer Bible School teachers in this community for the last several years. Deline is a village in the Sahtu region and has about 550 people. An average of about 24 children attended the Bible School each day and learned about God's love for them. The people in the community were very receptive and there were many small miracles during the week!



Thank you for all you have done to support this ministry. Please continue your prayers for the Dene and Inuit people of northern Canada that all may know God's presence in their lives.

Messiah's Music Ensembles

Many choir opportunities are waiting for you at Messiah Lutheran Church! Children's and youth musical groups are beginning soon – watch our website and e-news! Bell Choirs and Adult Choir are meeting now but always need more ringers and singers. For information, contact Lois Graff.

Wednesday Ensembles

Cherub Choir	Wed. 6:00-6:30pm	Grades K-1
Seraph Choir	Wed. 6:00-6:30pm	Grades 2-6
Youth Ensemble	Wed. 6:30-7:00pm	Grades 7-12
Notabella Choir	Wed. 6:30-7:30pm	
Adult Choir	Wed. 7:30-8:30pm	

Sunday Ensembles

Instrumental Ens.	Sun. 12:15-1:15pm	Grades 7-Adult
Cantabile Bell Choir	Sun. 5:30-6:30pm	Grades 7-Adult

Announcing a New Fund

The MLC Disaster Task Force has started a new dedicated account called the **Disaster Task Force Fund**. Funds in this account will be used for disaster response needs that arise such as Camp Noah, Bibles for victims, and supplies for work teams. Gifts for this fund should be designated Disaster Task Force Fund. Thank you!

August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Steve & Patrice Marotta Paisley, Basia</i>	2 <i>Jack & Mary Mast Rebecca, Mikayla</i>	3 7:00pm Adult Choir <i>Amy McCarthy Charles, Chelsea</i>	4 <i>Lloyd & Deb McDaniels Erin, Morgan</i>	5 <i>Timothy & Nicole McKnelly Libby, Madelyn</i>	6 10am SS Kids <i>Tom & Paulette McNamara</i>
7 8:30am Worship Chicago Folk w/LS 9:45am Sunday School Teachers Meeting 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 1	8 <i>Brad & Theresa Meyer Rachael, Rebecca, Drake</i>	9 <i>Dagmar & Patrick Miler Ryan, Colleen</i>	10 7:00pm Adult Choir <i>Melani Mooneyham Ty</i>	11 7:00 Church Council meets <i>Jeff & Robin Moore</i>	12 7:30 pm Bridge Club <i>John Moore</i>	13 <i>Gene & Fran Morgan</i>
14 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 9:45 Sunday School Rally 10:15am Groundbreaking Service 11:00am Worship Now The Feast w/LS 12:00 – Church Picnic	15 <i>John Morgan</i>	16 <i>Doris Mullins</i>	17 6:30pm Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Beth Mumaw Kyle</i>	18 <i>Bill & Janice Murphy</i>	19 <i>Jim & Anna Musch</i>	20 7 am Men's Breakfast at Messiah <i>Gerry & Jackie Myers Noah, Adam, Luke, Evin</i>
21 8:30am Worship ELW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Contemporary Service	22 <i>Marc & Debbie Neely Heather, Adam</i>	23 <i>Jim & Ellie Nelson</i>	24 6:30pm Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Kim Nelson Nathan, Andrew</i>	25 <i>Kent Neukam</i>	26 <i>Allen & Peggy Nuss</i>	27 10am – 2pm German Cooking Class <i>Walk to Defeat ALS</i> <i>Troy Nuss</i>
28 8:30am Worship WOV Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS	29 <i>Brian & Cindy Nye Jeffery, Justin</i>	30 <i>Diane Oliver</i>	31 6:30pm Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir <i>Charles & Barbara Olson</i>			September NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sunday August 21