

Messiah Lutheran Church  
7740 Highway 72 West  
Madison, Alabama 35758

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**Return Service Requested**

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](http://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](mailto:info@mlutheran.org). Newsletter submissions may be sent to Beth Gloe.



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

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**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. Ruth Hamilton.....Pastor for the summer  
Rev. Scott Peterson.....Pastor  
Cheryl Byers, Ellie Nelson.....Office Managers  
Claire Strand..... Director of Outreach Ministries  
Lauren Gray..... Director of Youth Ministries  
Lois Graff..... Director of Music Ministries  
Randall Fields.....Choir Director  
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7pm Pastor Ruth's class on the Christian Faith  6pm Notabella 7-9pm Dinner Theatre Rehearsal  <i>Sam &amp; Ginny Whitaker</i>	<b>2</b>   <i>Don &amp; Karen Williams Allie, Bryan, Kain Blankenship</i>	<b>3</b> 9am Craft/Knitting Group   <i>Pete &amp; Devonee Woods Abby, Aaron</i>	<b>4</b>   2pm Memorial Service for Anneliese Lange  <i>Gloria Yoo Paul, Angela</i>
<b>5</b> 8am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 9:45am Open Forum with Bishop Gordy 11am Worship: LBW Setting 1  3pm Charlie Underwood's Ordination	<b>6</b> 7-9pm Dinner Theatre Rehearsal   <i>Mark &amp; Janell Zesinger Merritt, Jamie, Natalie</i>	<b>7</b>   <i>Paul &amp; Linda Zutter</i>	<b>8</b> 7pm Pastor Ruth's class on the Christian Faith  7-9pm Dinner Theatre Rehearsal  <i>Hank Alewine</i>	<b>9</b>   <i>Rebecca Alferink Michael</i>	<b>10</b> 9am Craft/Knitting Group   7:30pm Bridge Club in Fellowship Hall  <i>Tracy &amp; Staci Armstrong William, Zachary</i>	<b>11</b> 8am Downtown Rescue Mission 5K   <i>Dick &amp; Barbara Azzam Benjamin, Katelan</i>
<b>12</b> 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 9:45 Outreach Committee meeting 10am Adult Choir 11am Worship: WOV Bread of Life w/LS Blessing of Grads	<b>13</b> 7-9pm Dinner Theatre Rehearsal   <i>Christopher &amp; Jessica Baldrige Rowan</i>	<b>14</b> 10am Comforters meet to pack blankets   <i>Tom &amp; Celynn Ballard Thomas, Kate</i>	<b>15</b> 7pm Pastor Ruth's class on the Christian Faith  7-9pm Dinner Theatre Rehearsal  <i>Timothy &amp; Tracy Bare Jeremy</i>	<b>16</b> 7pm Church Council   <i>Mark &amp; Lisa Bartel Alison, William</i>	<b>17</b> 9am Craft/Knitting Group   <i>Bill &amp; Sue Bathgate</i>	<b>18</b> 10am "SS Kids" Backpack Assembly at Rainbow Elementary  10am Kitchens Re-organization  <i>Crystal Beard</i>
<b>19</b> 8am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 11am Worship: Contemporary Service 12:00 Rally Day Picnic  Blessing of the Backpacks & Rally Day Picnic	<b>20</b> 7-9pm Dinner Theatre Rehearsal   <i>David Beier Brittany</i>	<b>21</b>   <i>Christine Berry</i>	<b>22</b> 7pm Pastor Ruth's class on the Christian Faith  7-9pm Dinner Theatre Rehearsal  <i>Corwin &amp; Barbara Bishop</i>	<b>23</b>   <i>Chuck &amp; Lyn Blevins</i>	<b>24</b> 9am Craft/Knitting Group   <i>Craig &amp; Linda Boehme</i>	<b>25</b> 10am Walk to Defeat ALS  6pm Dinner Theatre Performance  <i>Mathew &amp; Kelli Boehme Gwen, Julian</i>
<b>26</b> 8:30am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 11am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12pm Youth Pralse Band Rehearsal  2pm Dinner Theatre Performance	<b>27</b>   <i>Steve &amp; Debbie Bono Taylor, Michelle</i>	<b>28</b>   <i>Danny Boxx &amp; Christina Coraccio Amanda</i>	<b>29</b>   7:30pm Adult Choir  <i>Mike &amp; Linda Boyer</i>	<b>30</b> 11:30am Wednesday Night Café Planning Lunch   <i>Scott Bridge</i>	<b>31</b> 9am Craft/Knitting Group   <i>Ricky &amp; Rosemary Brooks Jeni</i>	

Looking ahead...

- Rally Day & Blessing of the Backpacks - August 19
- Dinner Theater - August 25 & 26
- Council Retreat @ Lutheranch - Sept 20-22



## Pastor's Page

By Pastor Ruth Hamilton [Ruth.Hamilton@elca.org](mailto:Ruth.Hamilton@elca.org)

*“Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
Ephesians 6:23-24

It's hard to believe that time is passing so quickly and that we are already beginning to look toward the fall with all its activities. Much is happening at Messiah this month. On August 5, member Charlie Underwood will be ordained at a special service led by Bishop Julian Gordy. We will bless our graduates and college students and send them on the next step of their journeys on Sunday, August 12. Because school starts the next day, we will observe Rally Day on Sunday, August 19, with the blessing of the backpacks and the kickoff for Sunday School. Dinner theatre performances are August 25 and 26. The Wednesday night class continues through August 22 and the Sunday morning lectionary class through August 26. Check out the rest of this newsletter to find out what else is happening, and watch September's newsletter for upcoming events.

I am personally feeling the swift passage of time as I look at the calendar and see that I will be leaving Messiah all too soon. My last Sunday with you will be August 26, after which I will return to Chicago for about five weeks to prepare for my move to Atlanta and my new congregation, St. Luke. I will begin on Sunday, October 14, and will be installed on November 18. You are cordially invited to the service of installation and reception. I will say this many more times in the weeks to come, but please hear my thanks for the warm welcome you have given me and for the enriching time we have spent together. My sabbatical has turned out to be all I hoped for—and more. You have been instrumental in preparing me for my new call.

As we enjoy the last weeks of summer leisure and get ready for fall with all its busyness, remember that, wherever we are and wherever we go, God goes with us, blessing us with peace and love, grace and faith.

*Pastor Ruth*

## August 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

August 5 Now the Feast w/LS  
August 12 LBW Setting 2  
August 19 LBW Setting 1 w/LS  
August 26 WOV Service of Word/Prayer

### Sundays at 11:00 am

August 5 LBW Setting 1  
August 12 WOV Bread of Life w/LS  
August 19 Contemporary Service  
August 26 LBW Setting 2 w/LS



## Life Passages

By Claire Strand [claire@mlutheran.com](mailto: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.

**DEATHS:** Marcie Emerson's aunt Bobbie White passed away on June 29<sup>th</sup> in Greensboro, NC.

**GRADUATE:** Col. Stephen Strand graduated from the US Army War College on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Music Notes

By Lois Graff



**Youth and Children's Choirs and Instrumental Ensemble** begin regular rehearsals after Labor Day. Please watch the bulletin and next month's newsletter for up-to-date information.

**Youth Praise Band** seeking more instrumentalists and vocalists. If interested, contact Lois Graff.

**Adult Choir and Notabella** resumes Wednesday night rehearsals on August 29.

## Fellowship Committee News

By Mary Ann Stasiak



**Rally Day** will kick off the new Sunday School year on Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup>, along with a picnic to celebrate. We will grill hamburgers and hot dogs. Help with side dishes, salads, and desserts would be much appreciated! Please watch at the Welcome Center for the sign-up sheet.

**Wednesday Night Café** will be starting again after Labor Day, and Dorothy Seitz has graciously agreed to be the coordinator for this school year. We have a new convection oven to increase the capabilities and capacity of the Parish Hall kitchen. The cooks at Messiah would like to put teams of people together to prepare Wednesday Night dinners. We would have team leaders, along with people to help with shopping, food preparation, and clean up. Mary Burke is hosting a working lunch at her home on Thursday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM to plan menus and brainstorm ideas for making Wednesday Night Cafe more nutritious and better organized. Please join us for lunch and bring your great ideas! Please contact Mary Burke for more details.

**Kitchen reorganization** - to get ready for the coming season of cooking, we will be doing a final re-organization of the Parish Hall and Fellowship Hall kitchens on Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 AM. If you have a stake in keeping the kitchens organized and ready for use, please come to help us get it ready.

**Bridge Club** is on the second Friday of every month starting at 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall, this month on August 10<sup>th</sup>. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share - Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

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

## Education News: Rally Day!

I would like to introduce myself as the new Sunday School superintendent. My name is Heather Ostendorff, and I taught the 2 and 3 year olds class last year. I also would like to thank all the teachers and helpers from last year.

I am very excited to start the new Sunday School year with the **Rally Day kick off and Backpack Blessing on August 19, 2012.**

The theme for this year's Sunday School term is from Matthew 19:14-15, where Jesus blesses the little children:- "But Jesus said, 'Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' After laying His hands on them, He departed from there."

We invite all to come participate in our Rally Day kick off. Hope to see you there!  
Thank you,  
Heather Ostendorff

## Outreach News

### "SS Kids" Begins 2012 Effort

It is hard to believe that school will be starting again before we know it! This will be the nineteenth year for sponsoring "SS KIDS", an interdenominational mission project right here in the Madison area providing school supplies for children who would not otherwise have them.

For \$30 (the price of a pizza or movie for your family) you can provide a backpack filled with the crayons, glue, scissors, dictionary, paper, pencils, and other supplies on the lists published by each area school. This could mean the difference in a child's attitude about school!

Last year, the area churches involved in this effort filled backpacks and provided additional supplies for nearly 400 children in grades K-9 in twelve Madison City and County schools.

Volunteers from the participating churches will meet on Saturday, August 18, 2012 to organize the supplies at 10:00 AM and to assemble the backpacks at 3:00 PM at Rainbow Elementary School (**NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!**). If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Sheila Raby or Gail LeCroy.

Please be generous to this worthy local cause. The yellow school bus is in the Narthex for donated supplies, or monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your great support of this project! It is a blessing for the children who receive them, for the churches, and for you as a giver.

## Walk to Defeat ALS

Thrivent Messiah Lutheran Church

Thank you for helping us reach our fund raising goal of \$1500! Together we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by Lou Gehrig's disease. Our team is committed to raising money to support people in our community with ALS and spread awareness of the urgency to find treatment and a cure. Please consider joining our team in the Walk to Defeat ALS® or choose a team member from the list and donate to our cause at [www.alsalabama.org](http://www.alsalabama.org) . Contact Claire Strand for more information.

## Outreach News, continued



Lunches 4 Learning is now a Thrivent-approved charity and is featured on their community impact page as a choice for Thrivent members to designate their choice dollars.

See more at:

[https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/program/community/choice\\_dollars\\_success\\_stories/lunches\\_for\\_learning.html](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/program/community/choice_dollars_success_stories/lunches_for_learning.html)

## Council Highlights

### Discussed at the July Council Meeting:

1. Bishop Julian Gordy will be at Messiah on August 5<sup>th</sup>. He will conduct a forum between services.
2. The next Council meeting will be on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
3. ALS Walk is on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact Claire for more information

The Mom's Bible Study Group resumes this August! This fall we will be studying the book "Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith," published by Augsburg Fortress Press. We meet one weekday morning every other week (day still TBD) from 9:30-10:45. Childcare is provided! Please email Janell Zesinger if you are interested in joining us.

## Stewardship Thought

*Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you." Genesis 28:20-22*

After Jacob left his home with his father Isaac's blessing, he slept and dreamed a wondrous dream. When Jacob woke, he set up a pillar and named the place Bethel. He also vowed to tithe to the Lord. Tithing (or giving 10 percent) was first mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 14 when Abram praised God and offered a tenth of all.

Tithing is a blessing. The real joy of giving begins when we make giving a priority in our lives. Setting aside the first tenth of what we have keeps us focused on God, who has given us everything we have. And it keeps us mindful that God is at the heart and center of our lives and is ultimately in control.

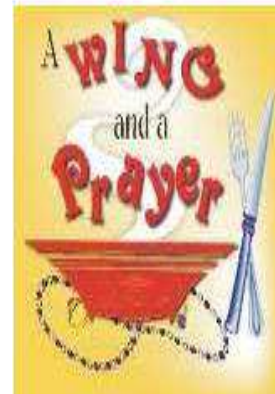


If you asked someone who tithes if they struggle by not having that first tenth, almost inevitably the answer would be 'no'. The blessings come back to the giver, often even more!

## News Flashes!

### Dinner Theatre

We all think we know the members of our church, and superficially, we do. However, until you see our cast in action on the stage, you don't really know all that they can do. The hidden talents of our cast are demonstrated every rehearsal, and will be demonstrated to you during our dinner theater performances. The cast members include: Rachael Weir, Bob Gustafson, Audrey Gustafson, Taylor Bono, Steve Lilly, Larry Frakes, Terry Frakes, Laura Peterson, Meredith Kilby, Judy Starkloff and Beth Gloe.



*A Wing and a Prayer* is a comedy about a group of Messiah Lutheran Church members meeting with their new pastor to determine how to raise money to fund a new church building (the author allows the name of the church and location of cities and organizations to be changed to make the play more topical).

There are only two performances: Saturday night, August 25, as a dinner theater, and Sunday afternoon, August 26, as a show with dessert served during intermission.

Tickets are available at the Welcome Center and church office. For the dinner, Adults are \$15.00, and children 4 to 12 are \$6.00. For the matinee, Adults are \$6.00 and children \$3.00. There is no charge for children under 4.



Comforters will meet on August 14th @ 10am to pack blankets for Lutheran World Relief. Covered dish luncheon to follow at Annette Joens' home. RSVP to Annette Joens

### **August 5 Guest Preacher and Teacher:** **Bishop Gordy**

On Sunday, August 5, the Rev. H. Julian Gordy, bishop of the Southeastern Synod, will visit Messiah. He will preach at both morning worship services, and between the services he will lead the Sunday class on the Scripture texts for the day. In the afternoon, he will preside at the ordination of Charlie Underwood, member of Messiah, who has been called as pastor of Elizabeth Lutheran Church in Caldwell, Texas. Bishop Gordy is an excellent preacher and teacher, so you will not want to miss this opportunity to hear him and discuss Scripture with him.

### **SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY AUGUST 5, at 3:00 PM** **CHARLIE UNDERWOOD'S ORDINATION**

Charlie Underwood will be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at MLC on Sunday, August 5. The service will begin at 3:00 p.m. Charlie will be the Pastor at Elizabeth Lutheran Church in Caldwell, TX.

## Youth Zone

By Lauren Gray youth\_director@mlutheran.org



*The Senior Youth and chaperone Rhonda Gaede are blessed the Sunday before leaving for the National Youth Gathering.*



*The Senior Youth on way out of town for National Youth Gathering in New Orleans*

## National Youth Gathering

There we were singing together... over 33,000 ELCA Lutherans praising God in one big Superdome. The feeling of harmony and excitement was overwhelming! We practiced peacemaking, discipleship, and justice while growing closer to God. Our faith reached new heights and our love for others developed more and more each day. The ELCA Youth Gathering has always been a life changing occasion for many youth and adults! Feel free to ask any youth or adult about the gathering and I'm sure they would love to tell you more!



Be on the lookout for personal experiences from our youth in next month's newsletter!



## The Month in Pictures – July 2012



*Members have been very generous with food pantry gifts, which are much appreciated!*



*Dinner Theatre rehearsals for "A Wing and a Prayer"*



*Pastor Ruth's class on the Christian Faith that has been meeting Wednesday evenings.*



*The church presented a gift made by Richard Webb to Paul Zutter in appreciation for his dedication to the music program and sound systems in the church over the years.*

## Farewell and Blessings to the Scroggins Family

The Scroggins family hopes this note sheds a little light on their family history and will help newcomers to recognize five of their fellow MLC members. We moved from Oakwood, Ohio, to Madison, Alabama in 2002 and joined Messiah Lutheran Church shortly thereafter. So much has changed during these 10 years. Our children---Ben, Chase, and Lydia---are now young adults with lives of their own.

Lydia (19 yrs) will transfer this fall to The University of Minnesota and major in Global Studies. She has been actively involved in previous MLC Music Camps and Vacation Bible Schools. While at Webster University in St. Louis last year, Lydia served as an interpreter for Hispanic members of a local Lutheran Church, and performed in several university theatre productions.

Chase (22 yrs) graduates from The University of Alabama this December with degrees in Business (Healthcare Administration Concentration) and Spanish. Chase and Dan traveled as members of the MLC team to Guatemala in 2009---and were blessed to meet Pastors Amanda and Horacio Castillo and the Bishop.

In 2010, Ben (24 yrs) graduated from The United States Air Force Academy, and married Tatiana Maltby several days later. Ben and Tatiana are now the proud parents of Noble Nikolai. 2<sup>nd</sup>Lt Ben and his family will relocate this summer to Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, TX.

Dan is Vice President of Technical Operations at a Canadian based company-- Water and Earth Science Associates (WESA). He travels internationally with this company --improving water quality standards, building and installing water and wastewater treatment systems for industries and municipalities. A lifelong Lutheran, Dan served as Vice President of Messiah Lutheran's Church Council a few years ago. Later this year, Dan and Carolyn will move to Canada to be closer to WESA's corporate offices near Ottawa.

A registered nurse for 30+ years, Carolyn initially cared for patients in medical intensive and cardiac care units, and later in outpatient geriatric evaluation centers (Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio). After moving to Alabama, she served as Carlton Cove's Wellness Manager, was a Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing at Univ. Alabama in Huntsville, and most recently taught Health Science classes at Bob Jones High School. Carolyn is a member of the MLC Prayer Chain and serves on the Altar Guild.

The Scroggins family is thankful for Messiah Lutheran Church, and grateful for the lasting friendships we have made here. Soon to be scattered across the USA and beyond, we will strive to follow the mission of Messiah Lutheran Church: "God's People Reaching Out."

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

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**August 2012**  
**Volume 24, Issue 8**

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 August 18<sup>th</sup>.