

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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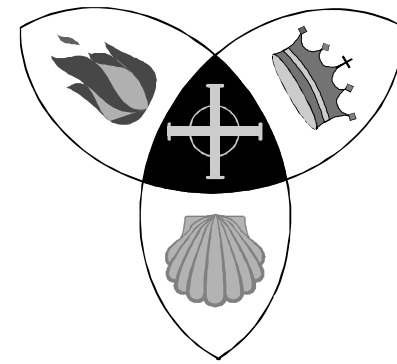
Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is www.mlutheran.org.** Church Office hours are Monday 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 Office telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: info@mlutheran.org. Newsletter editor is Mary Brown.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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December 2010

www.mlutheran.com



*Christ
is Born!*

*In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
---Isaiah 40:3*

Dear Friends of the Messiah who arrived as a baby,

ARE YOU READY? ***It is December again!*** I do not have to tell you what that means: So, are you ready? How can we possibly be ready for all the preparations and parties, all the expectations and expenses, all the frenzy and family?

NO MATTER HOW OVERWHELMING it looks to you right now, consider two people who had it worse: Mary and Joseph. They absolutely were ***NOT*** ready for Christmas: Unmarried, far from home--Giving birth to the ***Messiah!?!*** Nobody could be prepared for that. This was not Mary's idea. In his dreams Joseph was told quite a bit about this birth, but we do not hear a single word from Joseph. Maybe he was speechless when told about the first Christmas. Both Mary and Joseph must have been overwhelmed, yet...

BOTH RESPONDED IN FAITH when God called them. We are still talking about their faithfulness almost 2,000 years later. They did not; they could not, fully understand. They must have been overwhelmed. Yet, Mary responded to the news given to her by the angel Gabriel saying, "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.*" And likewise, Joseph "*did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife...*" And when "*she had borne a son, Joseph named him Jesus.*"

SO, GET READY! Jesus has come into this world and His living Spirit keeps coming after us. Parties and presents are not primary to our preparations. Let's get ready to welcome Jesus into our lives, our homes, our future. That is the only way to have some peace in this frenetic season.

ON WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT MLC will have services of worship at 7:00 p.m. *Holden Evening Prayer* will be our liturgy. December 15 the ***Children's Christmas Program*** will be celebrated. On the other Wednesdays worship will include looking at Luke, chapters 1 and 2. The themes will be:

December 1: Too Late: Elizabeth and Zechariah

December 8: Too Soon: Mary and Joseph

December 22: At the Right Time: Jesus

December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services of Worship with the Lord's Supper will be at 4:00, 6:00, and 8:00 p.m.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Scott Peterson

Wednesday Night Dinners

Please join us for dinner and fellowship each Wednesday night at 5:30 p.m., before Advent services through December 15. This ministry is self-funding and has unfortunately been falling short of its costs this year.

Therefore, effective December 1, the suggested donations are increased slightly to \$4 for adults and \$3 for children with a \$18 family cap. This is the first price increase since the ministry began. Any excess funds at the end of the school year, when meals are suspended for the summer, will be used to make needed kitchen equipment purchases.

Menus for December

Dec 1 - Stuffed Baked Potato Bar

Dec 8 - BBQ Dinner

Dec 15 - Pizza

Dec 22 and 29 - no dinners



Incarnation Information December 2010

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Philipians 1:3-6

As I write this article, Thanksgiving Day is getting close, and it reminds me that before I do any ministry updates or share any needs, I need to say THANK YOU! Messiah and St. Mark's have shared in the gospel work of Incarnation from the first day until now. Actually, you shared in this ministry by making financial commitments before I ever arrived in Alabama. Thank you!

I pray that God will bless the ministry of both Messiah & St. Mark's, and I am certain that Jesus who began a good work among you will complete the work he has begun there. What I ask in return is your continued prayer for the ministry of Incarnation. When I look at this ministry as a work I need to do, it is overwhelming. But when I realize it is a work Jesus began, I can have confidence he will complete it. It is a blessing to have such great partners sharing in this ministry from the first day until now.

As always, I thank you for what you have done and invite you to keep investing in what God is doing in Harvest. For those of you who pray for us – THANK YOU! For those of you who have donated items – THANK YOU! For those of you who have made financial contributions – THANK YOU! For those of you who have come to worship with us – THANK YOU! What is going on at Incarnation in December and beyond which you can be praying for and/or participating in?

*Advent Soup Suppers (6 pm) followed by Simple Worship and Prayer (6:45 pm) – Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22

*Worship including Children's Christmas Play & followed by Brunch – Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10:45 am

*Christmas Eve Candle-light Worship – December 24 at 7:00 pm

*Wednesday Nights (food, fellowship and Alpha) – starting in January

*Youth (Middle School & High School) Ski weekend at Lutheridge – January 15-17 (MLK Weekend) – *We had several from Messiah join us last year & want to invite guests again this year!*

Men's Breakfast at Incarnation – Saturday, December 11 at 7:00 am

This is open to all men (from Incarnation, Messiah, St. Mark's and anyone else). Join us for good food, fellowship, Bible study and prayer.

Alpha Course – Wednesday Nights starting in January

This course has been the single course that has most transformed my (Pastor Mark's) life and ministry. If you don't know much about the Bible or Christianity, it is a great starter course. If you have been a Christian your whole life, it is a great invitation to go deeper in your walk with Jesus. Join us on Wednesday, January 5 (starting 6 or 6:30 pm - time still not finalized) to begin the journey. I promise you, you will be blessed! Contact Pastor Mark if you are interested – 230-5387 or pastor@incarnation-elca.org.



December Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice LS = Lord's Supper

Sundays at 8:30am

Dec 5 Bread of Life w/LS

Dec 12 WOV Service Word/Prayer

Dec 19 LBW Setting 1 w/LS

Dec 26 Lessons & Carols Service

Sundays at 11:00am

Dec 5 LBW Setting 2

Dec 12 LBW Setting 1 w/LS

Dec 19 Contemporary Serv.

Dec 26 Lessons & Carols Service

Advent Services at 7:00 pm

December 1, 8, & 22: Holden Evening Prayer Service with meditations on the narrative in Luke chapters 1-2

December 15 Children's Christmas program

Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Advent Mid-Week Services of Worship

Make plans to attend Advent services of worship at 7 pm on Wednesdays in December, using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Everyone is invited to supper which will be served before the Advent Services, beginning at 5:30 pm. The Advent offering received this year will be divided between the support of HAP/Heals, (Huntsville Assistance Program/Health Establishments at Local Schools) and the ILAG (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala).

ILAG Missionary

Pastor Amanda Olson and Horatio de Castillo will be here on Sunday, December 12th. They will lead an adult forum during the Sunday School hour and Pastor Amanda will preach at both services.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

Thrivent Financial announces ongoing commitment in 2011

Thrivent Financial has announced that it will continue to support Thrivent Builds. Huntsville/Madison County Habitat for Humanity has been awarded \$67,500 to build 1 home with Thrivent Builds because of the 2011 commitment.

From the first nail to the last, building a home through Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity is a profound experience. It's not just concrete and wood; it is tears and smiles, born of hard work and faith. And it's the knowledge that you've helped change lives.

To get involved, call your local Thrivent office at (256) 883-5509 or visit ThriventBuilds.com.



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 will be included. Contact Claire Strand.

BIRTHS: *Lord, you knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13*

- Phil and Sonja Pedersen announce the birth of their grandson Josiah Peder Attebury on October 27th. He was 9lbs 9 oz, 20½ inches long.

BAPTISMS: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...* M.T. 28:19

- Harriet and Arvid Tegtmeyer were baptized on October 31st
- Walker Goebel was baptized on November 7th.

On Eagle's Wings

Advent Reflections

Remember to check your mailboxes and the Welcome Center for this year's *On Eagle's Wings* Advent Reflections.

Advent Breakfast

On December 5, enjoy breakfast in the Parish Hall while supporting the On Eagle's Wings ministry. Breakfast will be served from 9-10:45 a.m. Stay after the early service for good fellowship or arrive hungry before Sunday School. The free will offering will help send missionaries to teach Bible School in the Northwest Territories of Canada in July 2011.

Spaghetti Supper/Talent Show

The *On Eagle's Wings* Spaghetti Lunch and Talent Show will be at 12:00 noon on Sunday, January 30th. If you have a talent to share, contact Lois Graff. Enjoy good food and good fun that will help support our mission to the children and communities in the Northwest Territories of Canada.



Elfin Magic

Elfin Magic will be **FRIDAY DECEMBER 3rd, 6-8 PM**

We are excited about our evening of crafting! If you missed the craft sign-up, we will have a few extra crafts for those still interested in participating. We will be assembling "Fruit Baskets" for our outreach project this year, so any donations of fruit or soft Christmas candy is greatly appreciated!

To help, contact Cheryl Byers



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

NEWS

by Mary Ann Stasiak

The Christmas Cookie and Ornament Exchange, will be held at the home of Mary Burke on December 11th at 2:00 p.m. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center.

International Advent Fellowships - are coming in December! Come and share

foods, traditions and music of our heritages for this Christmas season (all after 2nd service).

- December 5th – Norwegian Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
- December 12th – Hispanic Fellowship in Parish Hall
- December 19th – American "Honor Our Troops" Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

Please see the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center – we need help with foods for the Norwegian Fellowship and decorations for all these fellowships.

Bridge Club – has moved permanently to the second Friday of every month starting at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall, December 10th. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share. Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

Men's Breakfast - will be Sat, December 11th, at Incarnation at 7 a.m.

The OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutheran 50+) will be attending the Huntsville Community Chorus "Star Light, Star Bright" presentation Friday evening December 3rd. Please contact Bill and Jan Murphy for Ticket information.



Ring and Sing

Messiah's annual Ring and Sing concert will be held on Sunday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. Music from the Notabella choir, Cantabile bell choir, children's and adult chime and vocal groups will be featured. Audience hand chime participation for ringing of Christmas carols is also on the program!

Concert donations benefit the Madison Public Library. Donations up to \$400 will be supplemented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Comforter's

Comforter's will meet on Tuesday's, December 7th and 14th at 10:00am. Questions? call Annette Joens.



OUTREACH NEWS Claire Strand and Jacquie Fry.

It has been a very busy fall for outreach projects. Members of Messiah contributed \$435 and one turkey to Downtown Rescue Mission for their Thanksgiving turkey fundraiser. We also delivered 12 bags of children's clothes to Madison Crossroads Elementary School and 36 cases and 6 bags of food to the Downtown Rescue Mission and Food Line pantries. More sheets, towels, blankets, and jackets and sweatshirts were taken to First Stop for their work with the homeless. Thank you for sharing the blessings God has given you.

We will continue to collect warm coats, sweaters, hats and gloves, and blankets and pillows for First Stop throughout the cold weather. They can also use sheets and towels. Children's clothing will go to Madison Crossroads School

In addition to Food Line, the Huntsville Assistance Program in Toney (HAP North) is in need of canned and other nonperishable food items. HAP North is also going to be the site of a new HEALS clinic. HEALS stands for Health Establishments at Local Schools and will provide medical service to impoverished children across the far north part of the state. 1/2 of our Advent offerings this year will be donated to help get the HEALS program started.

The Christmas Angel tree is up in the Narthex and most of the children's names have already been taken. There were only 21 children in the shelter at Downtown Rescue Mission when I got the names, but I will continue to add children to adopt for Christmas if more arrive. Thank you for the willingness you show to help make Christmas happier for these children. It is truly a joy to see the names taken so quickly. Please return presents with the child's tag by Sunday, December 19. Thank you.

A wish list for Milestone Christian Academy, the daycare and afterschool program for low income children, will be posted as soon as we receive it. You don't have to wait for the list to donate new or good used books and games and toys for the center in the box in the Narthex.

In this season of Advent, this time of hope and anticipation, may we also remember those who have little reason to hope this year.

Thank you for being the instruments of God's love.

Jacquie Fry and Claire Strand

Education & Youth News by Linda Peirce

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school classes are offered for ages 2-adult. For more information please contact Bobbey Huwaldt, our Sunday School Superintendent or Pastor Scott or Linda Peirce if you want more information about adult classes.

Service Project - we are collecting cans of food for the food bank through the holidays. Please send in a can of food for your child's offering so we can help the food bank with their supplies this holiday season.

Christmas Program - will be on December 15th at 7pm during the Advent Service. Please join us!

As a reminder ~ we are practicing our Christmas songs at the beginning of Sunday school, so please have your children here on time so they can prepare for the program. There will be two dress rehearsals for the program: December 8th at 6:30 p.m., and December 12th during the children's Sunday school hour. This is a great way for the children to discover the true meaning of Christmas!

YOUTH NEWS

This year the **Junior Youth** will go to the Madison Christmas parade on December 11 to get ideas for building a float for next year's parade. The parade is from 5:30 to 6:30. The group will meet at the church (time TBA) and ride over together. Would you like to drink hot cocoa and have a gift exchange, Right/Left, Mad Santa, afterwards? Please share your ideas.

Messiah Jr. and Sr. Youth are invited to join Incarnation's Jr.-Sr. Youth group for a Ski Weekend at Lutheridge in Arden, NC the weekend of Jan. 14-17 (MLK weekend). Those interested in learning more about the trip should contact Pastor Mark Borseth.

The **TWEENS** (3rd grade - 5th grade) had a great time wrapping shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan's Purse. Thanks to the 12 tweens who participated! The next event will be a **Christmas Party FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Come and see if you can WIN IT IN A MINUTE!! Please bring a \$10 gift card from your favorite place for the gift exchange and a light snack to share. Drinks will be provided. Look for the sign-up in the Narthex and plan to attend!

DECEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5pm 2 nd yr. Confirmation 5:30 pm Dinner: <i>Baked Pot.</i> 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir <i>7pm Advent Service</i> 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Lowell Mooneyham Dalton</i>	2 8:30 am Morning Study Group begins <i>Life Together</i> by D. Bonhoeffer <i>Melani Mooneyham Ty</i>	3 Elfin Magic 6-8pm OWLS – 7:00 at Huntsville Community Chorus <i>John & Faye Moore</i>	4 Gene & Fran Morgan
5 8:30am Worship Bread Of Life w/LS 9-10:45am Breakfast in Parish Hall 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am LBW Setting 2 12 pm Norwegian Fellowship Hall 12:15 Instrumental Ens	6 <i>John Morgan</i>	7 10 am Comforters <i>Doris Mullins</i>	8 5pm 2 nd yr. Confirmation 5:30 pm Dinner: BBQ 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir <i>7pm Advent Service</i> 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Beth Mumaw Kyle</i>	9 Church Council 7:00 pm <i>Bill & Jan Murphy</i>	10 7:30 pm Bridge Club <i>TWEENS Christmas Party</i> 6-8pm <i>Jim & Anna Musch</i>	11 7 am Men's Breakfast at Incarnation 2:00 Cookie & Ornament exchange at Mary Burke's <i>Gerry & Jackie Myers Noah, Adam, Luke, Evin</i>
12 8:30am Worship WOV ServicWord/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 12pm Hispanic Fellowship in Parish Hall	13 <i>Marc & Debbie Neely Heather, Adam</i>	14 10 am Comforters <i>Jim & Ellie Nelson</i>	15 5pm 2 nd yr. Confirmation 5:30 pm Dinner: Pizza 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble <i>7pm Advent Service & Youth Christmas Program</i> 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Kim Nelson Nathan, Andrew</i>	16 8:30 am Morning Study Group on <i>Life Together</i> by D. Bonhoeffer <i>Kent Neukam</i>	17 <i>Al & Peggy Nuss Troy, Courtney</i>	18 <i>Brian & Cindy Nye Jeffrey, Justin</i>
19 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Contemporary Service 12pm American "Honor Our Troops" Fellowship in Fellowship Hall	20 <i>Diane Oliver</i>	21 Charles & Barbara Olson	22 NO 2 nd yr. Confirmation NO Dinner NO Choirs <i>7pm Advent Service</i> <i>Geoff & Jenifer Oltmans Madelyn</i>	23 Brian & Audrey Osterndorf Lydia, Hannah	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4, 6 & 8pm 7pm at Incarnation <i>Joe Paxton Nathan</i>	25 Christmas Day <i>Paul & Julie Pedersen Lorelie, Leah, Christopher</i>
26 8:30am Worship Lessons & Carols No Sunday School 11:00am Worship Lessons & Carols	27 <i>Phil & Sonja Pedersen Heidi, Heather</i>	28 Steve & Linda Peirce	29 NO Dinner NO Choirs <i>Jay & Gretchen Perry Jason, Ashlyn</i>	30 Jeanine Pesto Ally, Danielle, Stephanie	31 Happy New Year! <i>Kevin & Debi Peterson Shane, Amanda</i>	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sunday December 19