

Messiah Lutheran Church  
7740 Highway 72 West  
Madison, Alabama 35758

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Huntsville, AL  
Permit No. 454

**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. Scott Peterson.....Pastor  
Cheryl Byers, Ellie Nelson.....Office Managers  
Claire Strand.....Director of Outreach Ministries  
Lois Graff.....Director of Music Ministries  
Randall Fields.....Choir Director  
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>1</b> 8:30am Worship: Chicago Folk w/LS No Sunday School 11am Worship: ELW Setting 8	<b>2</b> 9:30am Moms Bible Study  Ed & Georgann Trexler	<b>3</b> 10am Comforters  Joshua Trexler	<b>4</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:00pm Adult Bible Class 6:30pm Youth Choir 7pm Advent Service 8pm Adult Choir  Allen & Amy Tucker Elizabeth, Abigail	<b>5</b> 8:30am Morning Study Group  Alex & Liz Vaughn	<b>6</b>  David & Linda Velazquez Matthew, Alex, Laura, Davey	<b>7</b>  5:30-8pm Jr. Youth Christmas Party  Rainer & Lattilia Von Ledersteger Polly
<b>8</b> 8:30am Worship: ELW Setting 8 9:45 Sunday School 11am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS New Member Reception & Int'l Fellowship Lunch  6:30pm Ring & Sing	<b>9</b>  Tim & Marsha Wade Maddie, Matthew	<b>10</b> 10am Comforters  Brian & Sarah Walker Justin, Evelyn	<b>11</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:00pm Adult Bible Class 6:30pm Youth Choir 7pm Advent Service 8pm Adult Choir  Wayne & Bobbi Walker Heather	<b>12</b>  7pm Church Council  DJ & Hillary Warren Abigail, Gina Saladino	<b>13</b>  Owen & Songae Wasmoen Chad, Cory, Chris	<b>14</b>  10-12pm Ornament & Tool Exchange Brunch @ Kilby's  Sr. Youth Christmas Party  Bill & Paula Weaver
<b>15</b> 8:30am Worship:Resp. Reading w/Magnificat 9:45 Sunday School Christmas Program 11am Worship:Resp. Reading w/Magnificat Charity Drive & Advent Appetizers Blood Drive	<b>16</b>  Richard & Bonnie Webb	<b>17</b>  Richard & Tammy Weber Michael Ward, Scott Ward, David, James, Laura	<b>18</b> 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:00pm Adult Bible Class 6:30pm Youth Choir 7pm Advent Service 8pm Adult Choir  Sam & Ginny Whitaker	<b>19</b> 8:30am Morning Study Group  Scot & Sharon West Jacob, Jordon, Kyle	<b>20</b>  Lisa Whaley Miranda Mumaw	<b>21</b>  Don & Karen Williams Alie, Bryan, Kain Blankenship
<b>22</b> 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 1w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS	<b>23</b>  George Williams	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>  Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Lord's Supper @ 5pm & 7pm  Pete & Devonee Woods Abby, Aaron	<b>25 Christmas</b>  Angela Yoo	<b>26</b>  Mark & Janell Zesinger Merritt, Jamie, Natalie	<b>27</b>  Paul & Linda Zutter	<b>28</b>  Rebecca Alferink Michael, Matthew
<b>29</b> 8:30am Worship: Service of Word & Prayer No Sunday School 11am Worship: Service of Word & Prayer	<b>30</b>  Barbara Allen	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b>  Tracy & Staci Armstrong William, Zachary				

December 2013

Looking ahead...to 2014

- January 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm - Bridge Club
- January 19<sup>th</sup> - Donut Sunday



## Pastor's Page

By Pastor Scott Peterson    [scott@mlutheran.com](mailto:scott@mlutheran.com)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
--LBW #41*

Dear Friends of the Messiah who arrived as a baby,

**BETHLEHEM WAS ANYTHING BUT STILL** when Song Ae Wasmoen and I were among a throng of pilgrims in Bethlehem just two weeks ago. The thin walls of the Angel Hotel failed to muffle the intermittent roars of all night traffic. And, since there was no empty 'room in the inn' it was difficult to sleep with the noises passing through walls, floor, and ceiling of the surrounding rooms filled with fellow pilgrims from all over the world. 'Deep and dreamless sleep' was hard to come by. Needless to say...

**BETHLEHEM IS NOT A LITTLE TOWN** these days. The 70 thousand inhabitants are comprised of about 20 thousand Palestinian Christians and about 50 thousand Palestinian Muslims. The whole place would look and smell so much better if it were not cluttered with all forms of litter and refuse.

**BETHLEHEM IS A WALLED CITY** these days. Like Berlin was from 1961 until 1989, Bethlehem has walls that a government erected to keep people separated from people--in this case Jews separated from Palestinians. What is so sad about this is that the vast, vast majority of Jews and Palestinians get along very well. But, as our tour guide told me, "The problem is the extremists: Jewish and Palestinian." So, the wall stands and is closely guarded and monitored to separate these people who are relatives--all trace their roots back to a 'wandering Aramean' named Abraham. Despite the noise, population growth, and tension...

**ISN'T IT GREAT** that God came to this noisy, teeming, cluttered, warring world? It is not so different now than it was then. Mary and Joseph were forced to go to Bethlehem because of an imposing government. The crush of people pouring into Bethlehem forced them into less than ideal accommodations, especially for a couple expecting their first-born. No worries: This is exactly what God had planned.

**FINDING OUR WAY TO CHRISTMAS: Bethlehem Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Today**' will be the theme of Wednesday evening Advent services (*see schedule below*). I will share lessons and stories from my recent trip to Bethlehem as we prepare to celebrate that the God of heaven and earth came as a human to save us.

### **Services at 7:00 p.m.**

***Dec. 4: Bethlehem Yesterday***

***Dec. 11: Bethlehem Tomorrow***

***Dec. 18: Bethlehem Today - Here Today***

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Scott Peterson*

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES on Dec. 24, at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

## December Services of Worship

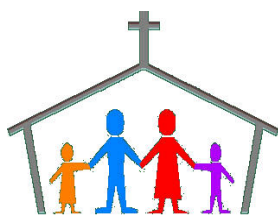
LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship    WOV = With One Voice  
ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship    LS = Lord's Supper

### **Sundays at 8:30 am**

Dec 1	Chicago Folk w/LS
Dec 8	ELW Setting 8
Dec 15	Responsive Reading w/LS and Magnificat
Dec 22	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Dec 29	WOV Service of Word and Prayer

### **Sundays at 11:00 am**

Dec 1	ELW Setting 8
Dec 8	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Dec 15	Responsive Reading and Magnificat
Dec 22	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Dec 29	WOV Service of Word and Prayer



## 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.

**BAPTISM:** Brandt Alekzander Johnson was Baptized on November 11th.

**DEATHS:** Patrice Marotta's father, Mickey Harkins passed away on November 17th.  
Sharon West's father, Jerry Johnson passed away on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Fellowship Committee News

by Greg Kilby and Hillary Warren



**Wednesday Night Café** is perfect for a busy schedule! Come and have a great meal with some added fellowship time. Dinner is from 5:30-6:30 PM with opportunities for Bible study and other activities following the meal.

### International Fellowship and New Member Reception - Sunday, Dec. 8th

Dinner will take place after the 11 AM service. Members are encouraged to bring a dish from their family's heritage or holiday tradition. Sign up and details located at the Narthex Welcome Center.

The annual **Ornament Exchange and inaugural Tool Exchange Brunch** is scheduled for Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. - Noon at the Kilby's in Madison. Details and Sign Up at the Welcome Center.

Be on the lookout for details on the **Advent Charity Appetizer Potluck** on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>. The potluck is running during the start of the Girl Scout Gold Award Messiah Blood Drive being organized by Ashlyn Perry. Please sign up to give the gift of life if you are able and also join in with the charity drive and potluck!

The next **Donut Sunday** is January 19th. Too much is happening to squeeze a Donut Sunday into December. Based on November feedback, the classic glazed donut has leapt to the top of the most-requested list. Starting in January, we will import donuts from Madison rather than Huntsville!

**Bridge Club** will be held **January 10th at 7:30 PM** in the Parish Hall. Experienced and novice players welcome! Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

**Foodies** will be kicking off its third rotation at the end of January. Date TBD. The next session will run February to May. All adults are welcome to participate in Foodies. Foodies is a great way for church members to make personal connections and establish friendships with other members. **\*\*\*Are you interested in Foodies but concerned about babysitting/school aged kids?\*\*\*** If 3 to 8 families with kids sign up for the format, "Family Foodies" (ie. kids come to dinner) will be formed to rotate hosting home dinner parties through the winter / spring months. **See the Foodies Sign Up Sheet at the Welcome Center... or let Meredith Kilby know by January 15<sup>th</sup> 2014.** There's a place for you at the Foodies table! Please join us!

## Outreach News

*By Jacquie Fry*

I delivered another load of blankets, sleeping bags, coats and such to First Stop and Christian Charities Year Round. While at First Stop day center for the homeless, a man asked for a warm sleeping bag and was told he was in luck. He walked off with one of the sleeping bags I had just brought in. Your donations are needed and appreciated! Thank you. We will continue to collect through the cold weather. First Stop is trying to get our local homeless population into more permanent housing and will gladly accept donations of furniture, kitchen and bedroom supplies--the things needed to begin life in an apartment.

Please pray that a solution can be found to the homeless situation here in Huntsville. The tents are supposed to be removed from under 565 by the new year, but there is no overall plan for housing. Many of the homeless have mental or emotional issues as well. They, and those who work to help them, need our prayers and support.

## Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

*By Susan Burrer*

*El Salvador--Partner's in Faith project/Getsemani*

Thanks to your generosity, Messiah was able to send \$1950.05 in November toward building faith, houses, and hope! The goal needed to rebuild Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in Santa Ana has been reached! Since this is a poor church serving the poor, all the money had to be raised upfront before the building process could begin--the permits can now be finalized!

Eighteen Habitat homes were built in the village of Getsemani in 2013, where we built Francisco & Evelia's home the last trip to El Salvador (132 homes were built in the first phase (2010-2012)).

*Here in the States...*the most famous Christmas tree in the world, the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, is milled into lumber to help build simple, decent homes for families that desperately need them for Habitat for Humanity. When you see the lighting this year, know that the *magic* is just beginning for several families!

## Christmas Angels

*By Jacquie Fry*

The Christmas tree will be up in the narthex by Sunday, November 24. We have 30 children up to age 12 who need sponsors. Please return gifts with the documentation by Sunday, December 8 so they can be delivered to the Salvation Army. THANK YOU for making Christmas a happier time for these children!

We are blessed to be a blessing!

## Music Notes

By Lois Graff



### Advent Mid-Week Services of Worship

Advent services of worship will be held at 7:00 pm on December 4, 11 & 18, using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Everyone is invited to dinner which will be served before the Advent services, beginning at 5:30 pm. The Advent offering received this year will be divided between support of the *Lunches for Learning* mission and MLC's Ramp Building Team.

### Christmas Eve Services at 5 and 7 pm on December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight services with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

### Ring & Sing December 8

The annual Ring and Sing concert featuring handbells and chimes will be held on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Music from adult and children's handbell and chime choirs and vocal groups will be featured, including audience hand chime participation!

### Pergolesi *Magnificat*

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Adult Choir will present the Pergolesi *Magnificat* during both services of worship, accompanied by a string ensemble. Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736) was an Italian composer, violinist and organist. The four-part *Magnificat* is among the most familiar pieces of 18<sup>th</sup> century Italian sacred music.

### Music at Messiah

The very first *Music at Messiah Classical Concert Series* performance took place on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, featuring the Arsenal Brass Quintet of the US Army Materiel Command Band. Approximately 125 persons attended the performance. They played a program of classical, march, jazz and popular music, concluding with Service Songs. Afterwards, the OWLS group provided light refreshments. The next Music at Messiah concert will be Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. The concert will feature "The Oboe Music of Michael Head" performed by Gary Parks, oboe and Ingrid von Spakovsky, piano.

## Council Notes

1. The Council would like to remind all MLC key holders that if you are the last to leave the church, please turn off lights and lock doors to make sure the building is secure.
2. The Fellowship Committee did an excellent job with the Chili Cook-off, Halloween Party and Men's Retreat!
3. The Council would like to thank the many people at MLC that give of their time and talents to make MLC a better place for everyone!
4. The 2014 Proposed Budget passed at the Congregation Meeting on Sunday, November 10th. Many thanks to those who attended the meeting.



# Senior Youth News

Thank you everyone for supporting the Senior Youth Christmas Wreath sales! We raised \$450 towards our summer mission trip. Wreaths will be available for pick up on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!!

On November 3, both the Junior and Senior youth groups joined many other youth around the area at Grace Lutheran for the annual Christmas Workshop. We brought and wrapped shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, made Christmas cards for Meals on Wheels along with handmade tree ornaments. What a fun way to serve our community!

The weekend of November 16-17, the Senior Youth came together at the Doubleday Lake house in Kelso TN for retreat. We enjoyed canoeing, slack lining, and fellowship. We even had worship by campfire, complete with youth appropriate bulletins! Check out our photos below for a look into the Youth Group.



## News Flashes!



Comforter's will meet only on December 3rd and 10th in December. Comforter's will resume meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Questions call Annette Joens.

### Update on Search for Youth and Education Director

The Church Council appointed two committees to identify a candidate for the position of Youth and Education Director. One committee has been meeting weekly and is completing a job description. This job description will go to the Church Council in early December and then the committee starts its search by posting it on various church related websites and sending it out to other churches.

The job description committee received results of the 2013 ELCA Youth Ministry Salary Survey based upon data collected in January 2013 covering 226 people. Over half of the youth ministers are full-time, non-rostered people. The general approach taken by the Messiah committee is that the Director of Youth and Education will oversee ministries in the congregation relating to youth (nursery through grade 12). This person will be under the supervision of the senior pastor and the Church Council. The director will recruit youth and adult leadership, support existing ministries, develop new programs, provide needed curriculum and resources, and ensure our youth experience a safe, Christian, nurturing environment grounded in our Lutheran beliefs. The person will develop, lead, and participate in various youth programs and events.

The Director of Youth and Education will work with the volunteers of this church, actively seeking leaders to take ownership of Youth and Education programs. The candidate will work with the Youth and Education Council Representative, Sunday School Superintendent, MLC staff and other adult leaders to provide training and support as needed to ensure the quality and consistency of programs and will monitor and fill leadership and teaching voids as needed.

Once candidates have been screened, the interview committee will start its work.



## Month in Pictures - November



*Jr. Youth at the Galaxy of Lights*



*The Arsenal Brass Quintet played at our Inaugural Music at Messiah Concert on November 10<sup>th</sup>.*

## Featured Member – The Campbell Family



The Campbell family found Messiah Lutheran church while banking next door. Having just moved from Seattle, we were living in a rented RV at Monte Sano state park. We wanted to attend church. Noticing Messiah, we peeked through the windows. We were at services on Sunday and stayed. That was thirteen years ago. Connor was two.

Today we are still members of Messiah, but life is more complicated. Martin resides in Huntsville, but Connor and I (Laurie) spend most of our time in Alpharetta, Georgia. Martin is employed by Boeing and is working on the new heavy lift rocket for NASA. In his free time, he visits with neighbors, reads, and travels to Atlanta to see his family and attend Georgia Tech football games.

Working to be a professional ballet dancer, Connor trains at Metropolitan Ballet Theatre under Maniya Barredo. The picture above shows Connor demonstrating a Bolshoi split. Between classes and rehearsals, he dances at least 24 hours a week. Connor is home schooled, but takes physics and biology at Vantage Point Education. He also takes piano lessons, is part of a Science Olympiad team, and attends youth group at Cross of Life Lutheran Church in Roswell, Georgia. (The pastor at Cross of Life is from Huntsville.)

I work at Robotic Explorers. We sponsor and coach FIRST LEGO League robotics teams and teach classes about simple machines, building structures, and computer programming for children as young as three and as old as high school. It's a fun job.

Living in two cities is challenging, but through the grace of our Lord, we do all right. As my husband keeps reminding me, "It is only for a few years."

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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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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 December 21<sup>st</sup>.