

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 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. 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. 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
Kert Reedstrom.....Director of Education & Youth
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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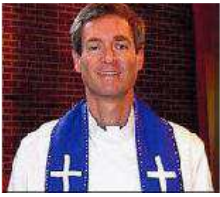
December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Melanie Grashot Lucas, Elise</i>	2 <i>10am - Comforters</i> <i>Mark & Patricia Grimes Joseph</i>	3 <i>5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Youth Choir 7pm Advent Service 7:45pm Adult Choir</i> <i>Mitch Grimes</i>	4 <i>8:30 am – Thursday Morning Bible Study</i> <i>Robin Grubis</i>	5 <i>Jack & Debbie Gulden</i>	6 <i>Ornament & Tool Exchange</i> <i>Bob & Audrey Gustafson</i>
7 <i>8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 11am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 12:15pm Instrumental Ensemble</i> <i>5pm Jr. Youth Meeting 6pm Sr. High Meeting</i>	8 <i>9:30am Mom's Bible Study</i> <i>Kirk & Lisa Hamlet</i>	9 <i>10 am - Comforters</i> <i>Matt & Penny Hamm</i>	10 <i>5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Youth Choir 7pm Advent Service 7:45pm Adult Choir</i> <i>Eric & Julie Hancock</i>	11 <i>Council 7:00 p.m.</i> <i>Peggy Hanna</i>	12 <i>7:30pm Bridge Club in Parish Hall</i> <i>Sr Youth Christmas Party & Lock-in</i> <i>Mark & Dottie Hanson</i>	13 <i>Tina Hanson</i>
14 <i>8:30am Worship: Bach Cantata 11am Worship: Bach Cantata w/LS New Member Sunday 25th Anniversary Celebration</i> <i>6pm Sr. High Meeting 6:30pm Ring & Sing</i>	15 <i>Gary & Linda Heideman</i>	16 <i>John & Donna Helinski</i>	17 <i>5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Cherub Choir 6:30pm Youth Choir 7pm Advent Service 7:45pm Adult Choir</i> <i>Esta Hodnett</i>	18 <i>8:30 am – Thursday Morning Bible Study</i> <i>Doug Hendrick & Gloria Zalatan James, Madison</i>	19 <i>Jim & Sue Hofer</i>	20 <i>Jennifer Holden Kathryn, Mitchell, Stephanie</i>
21 <i>8:30am Worship: Bread of Life w/LS 9:45am Sunday School Celebration 11am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS</i> <i>1pm OWLS meet at Terranova's 5pm Jr. Youth Meeting 6pm Sr. High Meeting</i>	22 <i>Russ Holden</i>	23 <i>Daniel & Diedra Hopkin Dock</i>	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>5pm Candlelight Service w/LS</i> <i>7pm Candlelight Service w/LS</i> <i>Eleanor Hulebak</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>Joe & Bobbey Huwaldt Jonathan, Jacob</i>	26 <i>Jeanine & Jay Jamison Ally Pesto, Danielle Pesto</i>	27 <i>Derelene Jeter</i>
28 <i>8:30am Worship: Lessons & Carols 11am Worship: Lessons & Carols</i>	29 <i>Roger & Annette Joens</i>	30 <i>Russell & Casie Joens Elizabeth, Matthew</i>	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> <i>Jeff & Jeanna Johnson Brandt</i>			

**Member names listed each day of the month denote prayer families

Looking ahead...

- January 4th – 9:30 am Fellowship Planning Meeting
- January 11th – 9:45 am E-100 Class
- January 11th – Music at Messiah – Piano at Twilight



Pastor's Page

By Pastor Scott Peterson scott@mlutheran.com

And the Word became flesh and lived among us...--John 1:14

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

CHRISTMAS IS FOR CHILDREN. CHRISTMAS IS FOR GIVING. At Christmas we celebrate that our Lord came to earth as a newborn child. At Christmas we celebrate that our heavenly Father gave us the perfect gift by sending us His Son Jesus. Jesus is the first Christmas gift. So...

WHAT IS THE BEST GIFT WE CAN GIVE TO OUR CHILDREN this Christmas (and will carry into the New Year)? The same gift that God gave to us the first Christmas—**GOD'S WORD!** God's Word became flesh in Jesus, but...

JESUS IS NO LONGER LIVING ON EARTH IN THE FLESH. (You already knew that.) Yet, God's Word is still alive, active, and with us because the Bible is God's Word to us too. So if you have a child who does not have a Bible, that would be a great Christmas present that can be used in 2015 (keep reading). If you would rather have me give your child(ren) a Bible, I would be thrilled to give a Bible as a Christmas gift to any child. Just let me know. I will pick a translation fitting for the age of your child(ren).

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, at 9:45 a.m. children in Sunday School will begin reading the Essential 100 passages in the Bible. ***At the exact same time*** I will begin an adult class in the Parish Hall to read and study those same Essential Bible passages. The plan is that by the end of May we will complete those 100 essential Bible passages. Why do this?

LET'S GET MORE FLUENT IN THE BIBLE. *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage* is not just a slogan for MLC's 25th anniversary celebration. God's Word is the source and norm for our life and faith as Christians. Let's read God's Word, be inspired by it as we better understand it, and see how it applies to us today.

GOD'S WORD IS GOD'S CHRISTMAS GIFT TO US! Let's open it with thanks and praise.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Scott Peterson

Advent Services will be on Wednesday nights, December 3, 10, & 17, at 7:00 p.m. with Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. We will look at Advent in the Old Testament prophets and in each of the Gospels.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Lord's Supper will be at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. (It will be a joy to have a pipe organ accompanying those services this year.)

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 7	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Dec 14	Worship with Bach Cantata
Dec 21	Bread of Life w/LS
Dec 28	Lessons & Carols

Sundays at 11:00 am

Dec 7	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
Dec 14	Worship with Bach Cantata & LS
Dec 21	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Dec 28	Lessons & Carols



Life Passages

By Claire Strand 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:

Jocelyn Ruth Van der Meer, daughter of Nicholas and Christine van der Meer, and granddaughter of Pastor Scott and Bonnie Jane Peterson, was received into the Lord's Church by Baptism on November 23rd.

DEATHS:

+Gary Garrison's wife, Lee Senkowich, passed away on November 10th.
+Sam Whitaker's brother, Travis Whitaker, passed away on November 2nd

Fellowship Committee

By Greg Kilby & Christine Ryan



Bridge Club will be held Friday December 12th at 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall Bring a friend and a snack to share! If you have questions, please contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

Saturday Dec 6 is the **Ornament and Tool exchange!** Come and enjoy fellowship as we trade ornaments, tools, and stories during a Saturday Brunch. Further details and a sign up is located at the Welcome center. Call Greg or Meredith if you have questions. Last minute additions are welcome!

We are celebrating **25 years since Messiah Lutheran Church opened its charter** on Sunday Dec 14th. We will mark the occasion with a cookie/dessert reception featuring everyone's favorite Christmas treat! Please sign up to bring cookies, cakes or other Christmas snacks to be shared between services and after the second service. A sign up is available at the Welcome Center.

The **OWLs** (Older, Wiser Lutherans) are meeting to celebrate Christmas on Sunday, December 21, 2014, 1:00 P.M at Terranova's Restaurant (1420 A Paramount Drive, Huntsville, Al 35806). Please join us for lunch! Contact Jan Murphy by Dec. 20th if you plan to join!

Get involved with Fellowship! Our next Fellowship planning meeting will be held January 4th between services. Fellowship is all about connecting Messiah church members with one another through planned activities and on-going events. The committee could really use your help with events, coffee coordination, and other activities! If you are interested, please contact Greg Kilby or Christine Ryan. All are welcome at the spring planning meeting on January 4th.

Outreach News

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas...

By Jacquie Fry

Thank you to all who have adopted children from the Christmas Angel sign-up! If there are any left, please sign up. Each year Messiah commits to providing Christmas presents to 30 underprivileged children ages 1 through 12 in our area. Bags with unwrapped presents are to be brought to church by Sunday, December 7. Please remember to cross your name off when you drop off your bag! There are also other opportunities to donate presents with Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, Christmas Charities, and other local charities if all 30 of 'our children' have been adopted.

If buying for a child is not your thing, Chaplain Williams of the Limestone Correctional Facility is requesting items for its Christmas Package Program for indigent inmates. There are very specific items allowed in a correctional facility, so please talk to Claire. A list of toiletries and miscellaneous items will be posted in the hall on the Outreach board. These are needed all year long. Please provide boxes of clear sandwich bags--to place some of these items in before handing out.

Games which are requested are:

Puzzles, Chess boards, dominoes, checker boards, Scrabble, Monopoly--NO DICE OR ELECTRONICS

Thank you for being *God's People, Reaching Out.*

Messiah's Annual Giving Mall
November 30 - December 24



Visit the giving mall in
the Narthex and share
God's blessings this
Christmas with others in
need.

Music Notes

By Lois Graff



Bach Cantata

On December 14th, the Adult Choir will present Bach's Cantata BWV 61 during both services of worship. Written in Weimar, Bach debuted the Cantata, *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* (Now come, Savior of the heathens) 300 years ago on December 2, 1714.

Ring & Sing December 14

The annual Ring and Sing concert featuring handbells and chimes will be held on Sunday, December 14th 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.

Lessons and Carols

On December 28th, a special service of Lessons & Carols will be the order of worship for both the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

Advent Mid-Week Services of Worship

Advent services of worship will be held at 7:00 pm on December 3, 10 & 17, 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 mid-week Advent offering received this year will support building a kitchen for Benito Montoya School in El Barrial, Honduras. This is the school MLC supports through the *Lunches for Learning* mission.

Christmas Eve Services at 5 and 7 pm

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

Music at Messiah on January 11

Piano at Twilight, featuring pianist Debra Saylor will be the next *Music at Messiah* concert on Sunday, January 11. In 2000, Miss Saylor won third prize in the Van Cliburn Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs. She also won the award for the best performance of a piece from the Romantic Period for her performance of *Clair de Lune* by Debussy, which she will be performing for the concert. A free will offering will support *Music at Messiah*. Sponsorships are also available. You may pick one up at the Welcome Center or ask in the church office.

Council Update

1. The initial plans for the widening of Highway 72 between Providence Main Street and County Line Road would change the church entrance. This change would necessitate the replacement of the church sign. It would also remove the left turn and stop light at Lawson's Ridge Road which will require people going east to make a right hand turn from the church parking and a U-turn at Hughes Road. Ed Stasiak, David Stradley, Steve Peirce, and Karl Starkloff agreed to be on an ad hoc committee to voice Messiah Lutheran Church's concerns to Alabama DOT.
2. The next 25th Anniversary of MLC event will be Sunday, December 14th. We will celebrate the Opening of MLC's Membership Charter on December 17, 1989. It will also be new member Sunday. Receptions at 9:30 and Noon will mark the occasion.
3. The council is still looking to fill vacancies on the Audit Committee and Personnel Committee. If you have gifts that you could contribute to one of these committees and would like to serve MLC in this way please contact the office or a Council member. "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we have different gifts, according to the grace given us." Romans 12: 4-6a

News Flashes!

E100 IS COMING!!!

Into homes and into classes

E100 stands for the Essential 100 Passages in the Bible. Beginning Sunday January 11, at 9:45 a.m. children's Sunday School classes and Pastor Scott's adult class in the Parish Hall will begin reading and studying these key Bible passages. The plan is to complete this reading and study by the end of May.

Our purpose in this study is to raise the Biblical fluency of all of us. E100 will help us to think and live in tune with God's Word for us as God's people. This is fitting as MLC celebrates our 25th anniversary with the theme 'God's Word Is Our Great Heritage'.

My hope is that every household in MLC will have the E100 guide. Attending class **is not a requirement** for making use of this resource that guides us in getting a sweeping view of the Bible. We are people of the Word. Knowing God's Word and living in God's Word is not a burden, but gives life joy, hope, and direction. Watch for more details in the January newsletter and in worship bulletins, etc. in the coming weeks.

--Pastor Scott Peterson

To Our Church Family,

For all your prayers and support during Russell's illness; for all the cards and calls during our time of loss; for the beautiful funeral service at the church and the wonderful meal at our home afterwards, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all.

Through the Christian fellowship and love shown to Russell, he was ready to go home to be with his loving God.

*God Bless Messiah
Lutheran Church,
The Kollman Family*

Sunday School Advent Presentations

The word Advent means 'coming toward'. We are looking forward to our upcoming Sunday School Advent presentations! Every Sunday during Advent Sunday School students will open each service with devotions, a Bible reading, prayers, a song, and the lighting of the Advent wreath. This will be done at both services and the schedule is printed below.

- Week One: Sunday, November 30 - High school class
- Week Two: Sunday, December 7 - Tots, Pre-K, K classes
- Week Three: Sunday, December 14 - Grades 1,2,3,& 4
- Week Four: Sunday December 21 - Grades 5,6,7,& 8

Our Sunday School Christmas celebration will be held on December 21 during the Sunday School hour. Please join us for crafts, activities and a yummy hot cocoa bar. All are welcome.

Please note that Sunday School will not meet on December 28th and January 4th.

Month in Pictures - November



Joshua Coble performed an organ recital at The Organ Dedication service on October 26. MLC is blessed with a wonderful new instrument for praising our Lord.



The Comforter tied fleece blankets which will be included with the gifts given to the 'Christmas Angel' children selected by the Salvation Army

WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER
APPEAL

from the SE Synod of the ELCA

Below are excerpts from a letter from our Bishop Julian Gordy dated Nov.14:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Southeastern Synod Council is sending this important message to you as members of our congregations. As active participants in the life of our synod, you have seen and heard the great things God is doing through us *as church together*. We know that you recognize the vital role our congregations have in providing mission support for this work that we are called to do together. Sadly, giving to mission support is falling short of our synod's needs.

We need to remember that what we do as church together is far greater than what any single congregation can do. Thank you for your support of our shared ministry in the past and for your support through our *We Are Church Together* appeal.

In Christ's peace,

H. Julian Gordy, Bishop

(the above message was sent to the 160 congregations of the SE Synod)

MLC's own Lee Smith is the Treasurer of the entire SE Synod. Lee reports that with just over two months left in the Synod's fiscal year the deficit is about \$33K below budget. That deficit could grow to between \$56 – 83K if trends do not change.

As we celebrate the completion of the church year and begin a new one, our Bishop requests all congregations consider this special offering to help the Synod meet its approved budget. ***If you wish to give to the 'We Are Church Together' appeal, please note on your offering envelope or check memo line.*** We hope to receive all special offerings by mid-December. Please consider this additional offering to support the vital missions of the Synod and ELCA.

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



December 2014
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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 20th.