

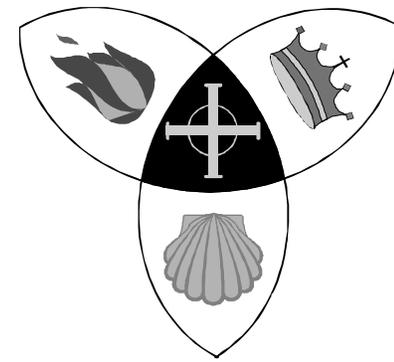
Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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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



Volume 23: Issue 2

February 2011

www.mlutheran.com



"Building To Share God's Story"
Sunday, February 6th

...we too might walk in newness of life. –Romans 6:4

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

TAKEN ANY INTERESTING JOURNEYS LATELY? Some journeys are literally getting from one place to another. Yet, some of the most interesting journeys have nothing to do with geography. For instance--We journey together in human relationships. We journey through periods of learning and/or growing. Going through grief is a painful journey. Much has been written about 'inward' journeys, but when we turn inward we tend to get lost in ourselves. Looking outward to join others in life's journey is more likely to be invigorating/enlivening travel.

AS I AM WRITING THIS Bonnie Jane and I are packing for a two week journey to the Holy Land. As you are reading this, we should be back home. Despite the fact that we will have traveled thousands of miles, I suspect our journey will be more spiritual than physical. We will be seeing the places where God in the flesh journeyed through life and even through death. Jesus made that journey so we might move through forgiveness to *new life*--here and now! And, Jesus made that journey so our final destination might be heaven. The geographic journeys of Jesus were short compared to the distances we travel. Yet, His journey through death to new life was to carry us from here to eternity.

EXPANDING MLC's WORSHIP SPACE: That would be a journey. Is that the path our Lord is leading us down next? We will be talking about that a lot in the coming weeks and by the end of March we should have a decision.

IF, ***IF***, WE ARE GOING TO SET OFF ON THAT JOURNEY let's be sure we go for the right reasons. The theme of our capital fund appeal is ***Building to Share God's Story***. The theme is ***not Building for Our Comfort, or, Building for My Preferences***. As with any undertaking together as the church, when we put God-given resources toward reaching out to share God's gifts with others, we are journeying together faithfully. But, if we are acting in self-interest that endeavor is bound to crumble (see 'Tower of Babel' — Genesis 11).

WHAT AN EXCITING TIME TO BE CHRISTIANS! Our Lord has entrusted to us gifts deeply needed in this confused world. Now the adventurous journey before us is primarily listening for our Lord's voice. He goes before us into the future He has prepared for His children. We have a story to share, and it is good news.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Scott Peterson

We have been buried with Him by Baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk (journey?) in newness of life. –Romans 6:3-4

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, February 19 at 7:00 at Incarnation

One place I (Pastor Mark) have discovered God increasing my capacity to receive His love is by being a part of small groups - specifically Men's groups. We gather once a month for breakfast, fellowship, devotions & prayer. Our next meeting will be at Incarnation on Saturday, February 19 at 7:00 AM. Come join us & bring a friend (or two)!

Comforters

Comforters will meet every Tuesday in February @ 10:00. If anyone has any yarn they won't be using we would appreciate having it donated to the Comforters for the making of prayer shawls. Questions call Annette Joens @ 232-3449.



Incarnation Information – February 2011
"May You Experience More Of His Love!"

Valentine's Day is coming soon, so I couldn't help but write about love this month. Jesus told his disciples that what they would be known for was not their worship, their morality, their theology or their rituals – but ***their love*** (John 13:35). Seems simple enough. To follow Jesus we just work really hard to be good at loving people. Sorry, but it doesn't work that way. Love is something we can only give to others once we have received it ourselves from God and not by working hard to create it from our own efforts. As 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because he first loved us."

So this article is not advice about how to be better at loving. This article is a prayer that you would be filled with more of His love. Only then, will you have more to give away. So how do we get filled with God's love? The Apostle Paul says in Romans 5:5, "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." My prayer for everyone reading this is that God will fill you afresh with His Spirit and through that Spirit pour out His love into your heart.

When Paul was writing to the church in Ephesus, he was so concerned about their ability to be filled with God's love that he prayed one of my favorite prayers in the Bible for them. This is his prayer for the Ephesians (Eph. 3:15-19) and it is my prayer for you today:

"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power (capacity) to comprehend (receive), with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know (by experience) the love of Christ that surpasses (intellectual) knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

My hope and prayer is that as you are filled with more and more of God's love, you will have more and more to give away. And then, people will know you are a disciple of Jesus because of how you love.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Mark

Via De Cristo – March 24-27 in Bon Aqua, TN

One of the ways God increased my ability to experience his love and touch was by going to a Via De Cristo retreat in Wisconsin about 12 years ago. I (along with some others from Incarnation) will be on the leadership team for the next retreat which will be March 24-27 at a camp south of Nashville in Bon Aqua, TN. If you want to experience more of God's love and a clearer sense of his plans for your life, give yourself the gift of going to Via De Cristo this year. If you are interested, talk with me (Pastor Mark).

Affirm (A Retreat for Grades 6-Young Adult) – June 19-24 at Berry College in Rome, GA

Each year our synod puts on an excellent retreat for youth called *Affirm*. I, along with some youth from Incarnation, will be going this summer & we want to invite the youth from Messiah to join us. The event is open to everyone who will be finishing Grade 6 on up to young adult. For more info, talk to Pastor Mark, Mr. Casey or go to the Southeastern Synod website (www.elca-ses.org). Just as

with summer camp, the youth group will cover a portion of the registration costs for Affirm.

February Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice LS = Lord's Supper

Sundays at 8:30 AM **am**

Feb 6 Now the Feast w/ LS

Feb 13 LBW Setting 1
w/ LS

Feb 20 LBW Setting 2 w/ LS
Contemporary Service

Feb 27 WOV Service Word/Prayer
2 w/ LS

Sundays at 11:00

Feb 6 LBW Setting 2

Feb 13 Chicago Folk

Feb 20

Feb 27 LBW Setting

INTRODUCING OUR SKL: PASTOR EUGENE GRIMM

Messiah Lutheran is blessed to have Pastor Eugene Grimm as the ELCA **Stewardship Key Leader** for our *Building to Share God's Story* capital fund appeal. He will preach and lead an Adult Forum on Sunday, February 6, as we begin the Appeal. Pastor Grimm will return to be with us as we culminate the Appeal on Sunday, March 13th.

A pastor for 42 years, he served three parishes in Ohio. In addition, he has worked with over 500 congregations as a stewardship specialist for the ELCA in the last 20 years. Dr. Grimm is the author of *Generous People—How to Encourage Vital Stewardship* and *The Celebrate Generosity Stewardship Program*. (His website is www.stewardshipconnection.com). Pastor Grimm has a love for congregations and delights in helping them accomplish the vision God has for them.

In December the MLC Church Council set a goal for the Appeal of \$600,000 in pledges and gifts over a three year period. This goal was set as slightly less than 1 ½ of MLC's regular annual budget for 2011. This Appeal is to gauge our Congregation's support for expanding the sanctuary worship space by about 50%.

Information meetings about the Appeal will be held during Sunday School hour on February 13, 20, and 27. These will be led by the *Building to Share God's Story* Leadership Team of Pete Woods, Cheryl Byers, Lois Graff, Janice Murphy, Bob and Audrey Gustafson, and Pastor Peterson.



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*

- On December 20th, Babette Bohrer, grandmother of Jutta DeMarsh, celebrated her 102nd birthday.

DEATHS: *"Remember I am with you always to the end of the age " Matthew 28:20*

- Melva Meyer, mother of Brad Meyer, passed away on January 17th. She was 72.

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

- Robin Douglass and Jeff Moore ~ January 8th
- Tatiana Waltby and Ben Scroggins ~ December 18th

GRADUATION:

- Ben Scroggins graduated from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado on December 15th.

Music Groups at Messiah

Come on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons to enjoy singing, ringing and fellowship in one or several of Messiah Lutheran's choirs. There is a choir or ensemble for almost any age and interest. Questions? Call Lois Graff.

Cherub Choir (Grades K-1) Wednesdays 6-6:30 p.m. Director Alison Bartel. Children sing and ring children's handbells.

Seraph Choir (Grades 2-4) Wednesdays 6-6:30 p.m. Director Lydia Scroggins. Spring session – vocal

Junior Choir (Grades 5-6) Wednesdays 6-6:30 p.m. Director Claire Strand. Spring session – hand chimes

Youth Ensemble (Grades 7-12) Wednesdays 6:30-7 p.m. Director Randall Fields & Lois Graff

Cantabile Bell Choir Sundays 5:30-6:30 p.m. Director Rhonda Gaede

Notabella Choir Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m. Director Rhonda Gaede

Instrumental Ensemble (Grades 7-Adult) Bi-weekly Sundays 12:15-1:15 p.m. Director Lois Graff

Adult Choir Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 p.m. Director Randall Fields

THANK YOU to everyone who was so generous in giving Christmas gifts to my family and me. It is an honor to be the Pastor of Messiah Lutheran, and most of the time it is a joy too. I am forever thankful that God called me to serve here with the people of MLC. *-Pastor Scott Peterson*



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

By Mary Ann Stasiak

Bridge Club will be held Friday February 11th 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share! Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

We'll have some special Beginning Bridge sessions in Classrooms 11/12 on February and March 13th and 27th from 1-3 PM. If you've started learning bridge a little, want to learn more, need a refresher, or just need some practice before you start to play again, this was meant for you!

New Member Reception will be held on February 27th after 2nd service in Fellowship Hall.

Family Game Night will be in Parish Hall on Saturday, March 5th starting at 5:30 PM. You bring your favorite game, we will supply the pizza and drinks.

OWLS and Men's Breakfast: Be on the lookout for the OWLS event in Feb. Men's Breakfast will meet February 19 at 7:00 am at Incarnation.

Wednesday Night Café – Dinner is provided each Wednesday evening at 5:30 during the school year. Everyone is welcome. Thanks for all the help with the wonderful meals, and a special thank you to Dorothy Seitz for her continued leadership of this special ministry. If you can help, please call Dorothy Seitz.

Future Events: March – Craft Day, start of Lenten Soup Suppers.

Can you help with an upcoming event? Contact Mary Ann Stasiak. We need volunteers to lead two things in the future:

- * Coordination of Lenten Soup Suppers on Wed nights through Easter
- * Coordination of funeral receptions as needed

Stewardship Thought

excerpt from *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles R. Lane

...our cultural language...suggests that each of us is the owner of that which is under our control. People commonly talk about what they "give back to God." This seems to imply that the 5 percent or 10 percent that someone places in the offering plate is God's, and the remaining 95 percent or 90 percent belongs to the individual, and is theirs to do with as they please. However, if that same person correctly understands that everything, all 100 percent, belongs to God, then that person's faith influences how they make use of all that God has entrusted to them. That is a huge difference. No longer is the question, "How does God want me to use God's 5 percent?" Now the question is, "How does God want me to use everything?"



This spring, Messiah Lutheran Church will again work with *Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity* to construct a home for someone in our community. Thrivent Builds with Habitat with

Humanity is a national program that joins nearly 3 million Thrivent Financial members with Habitat for Humanity volunteers, other Lutherans, their families and their communities to build homes in the U.S. The builds for spring 2011 are still in the planning stages, but watch for announcements very soon.



Have you read the church website www.mlutheran.com lately? The webteam works diligently to keep it fresh and inviting. New blogs and pix are added regularly. Definitely bookmark it!



Why are names listed in the calendar at the center of the newsletter? The household listed on each day is the prayer household of the day. You are invited to add that household to your daily prayers. Also, the church's Director of Outreach Ministries calls each household to check on any special prayer requests they may have.

Help Wanted!! A VBS Co-Director

is still urgently needed! For several years, Dorothy Seitz has been Messiah's VBS Director. This year Dorothy is expecting a baby that is due in late July when VBS is held. She needs help. She has offered to work with a co-director in preparing for VBS, but she will be unable to supervise activities during the week of VBS. Please see Dorothy or Linda Peirce if you can help in this position.

Theology and Issues is an Adult Sunday School Class that looks at issues that persons in the class pick. What is your desire: immigration reform, war, environment, Islam, justice, poverty, etc? Whatever the issue that you wish to look at from a theological perspective this is your opportunity. The class has just finished studying 'Inner Peace' and is now ready for a new subject. If you wish to look at a specific subject come to the next meeting of the class on Sunday, Feb. 13. At that time the class (anyone who wishes to be part of the selection process) will list and decide on the next topic to be studied. The class meets on Sundays at 9:45 AM and is taught by Bob Loshuertos. Come and be part of the selection process.

Education & Youth News by Linda Peirce

SUNDAY SCHOOL...

Sunday School classes are offered for ages 2-adult. Please contact Bobbey, our Sunday School Superintendent, if you want more information about classes for children and youth, and contact Pastor Scott or Linda Peirce if you want more information about adult classes.

The MLC Senior Youth Group will be attending the Rock and Worship Road Show at the VBC Arena on Sunday, January 30. Acts include Mercy Me, Jars of Clay, Thousand Foot Krutch, Matt Maher and The Afters. We will meet at Messiah at 5pm.

The MLC Sr. Youth Group will return to the VBC Arena on Sunday, February 20th, to catch the Huntsville Havoc hockey team take on the Mississippi Surge. The youth will meet at Messiah at 4:15pm.

Tickets to both of these exciting events will be sponsored by MLC Sr. Youth Group funds. All Sr. Youth are encouraged to join in on the fun. Bring a friend!

The Senior Youth will meet for the annual Super Bowl Viewing Party Sunday, Feb. 6 at the church. Come watch the game on our new television!

Any Senior Youth interested in attending the Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Assembly (SESLYO) at Cherokee Retreat Center near Cartersville, GA Feb. 25-27, please contact Pastor Mark or Dan Casey. Messiah can send two delegates.

The Sr. Youth Group meets at Messiah on Sundays at 6:30 PM.

Looking ahead:

- Mississippi Youth Gathering, Gulf Shores, April 29-31
- AFFIRM, a Southeastern Synod premier summer youth event, Berry College in Rome, GA, June 19-24

First Communion Classes

Pastor Peterson will lead a three session First Communion class for children 10 years old (or very close) and older on Sundays, February 6, 20, and 27, at 12:15pm. First Communion will be celebrated on Transfiguration Sunday, March 6.

FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10 am Comforters <i>Tim & Kay Spence Katie, Michael</i>	2 11:00 am Ed./Youth Dir Mtg 5pm 2 nd yr. Confirmation 5:30 pm Dinner: Pizza 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Lon & Connie Stanger Josh & Ben</i>	3 8:30am Study Group <i>Karl & Judy Starkloff</i>	4 <i>Ed & Mary Ann Stasiak</i>	5 9:00 – 11:30 am Leadership Meeting with Dr Eugene Grimm <i>Bobbie Stender</i>
6 8:30am Worship Now The Feast w/LS 9:45 Sunday School OPEN FORUM: Dr Grimm 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12:15 Instrumental Ens. 1st Communion Class 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir	7 <i>John & Tammy Stender John, Jessica, Jacqueline Jennifer, Jacob, Jaxon</i>	8 10 am Comforters <i>7pm Council Meeting</i> <i>David Stradley</i>	9 5pm 2 nd yr. Confirmation 5:30 pm Dinner: TBD 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Stephen & Claire Strand William, Katrina, Michelle</i>	10 <i>Joe & Jean Stuart</i>	11 7:30 pm Bridge Club Parish Hall <i>Kay Swanson</i>	12 <i>Judy Sylvester</i>
13 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 9:45 Sunday School Capital Fund Appeal Forum 11:00am Worship Chicago Folk w/LS 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth 1-3pm Beginning Bridge	14 <i>Cornelia Tegtmeier J.Konrad, Harriet, Arvid</i>	15 10 am Comforters <i>Mark & Beth Thompson Kyle, Meghan</i>	16 5pm 2 nd yr. Confirmation 5:30 pm Dinner: Sloppy Joe 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Brad & Stacy Tidwell Natalie, Canon</i>	17 <i>Tresnan John & Jennifer Trey</i>	18 <i>Ed & Georgann Trexler</i>	19 7am Men's Breakfast At Incarnation <i>Joshua & Alicia Trexler</i>
20 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School Capital Fund Appeal Forum 11:00am Worship Contemporary Service 12:15 Instrumental Ens 1st Communion Class 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth	21 <i>Charles & Lana Underwood</i>	22 10 am Comforters <i>Alex & Liz Vaughn</i>	23 5pm 2 nd yr. Confirmation 5:30 pm Dinner: BBQ 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>David & Linda Velazquez Matthew, Alex, Laura, Davey</i>	24 8:30am Study Group <i>Tim & Marsha Wade Maddie, Matthew</i>	25 <i>Ron Wagner</i>	26 <i>Brian & Sarah Walker Justin, Evelyn</i>

<p>27 8:30am Worship WOV Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School Capital Fund Appeal Forum 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12pm-New Member Reception 1st Communion Class 1-3p Beginning Bridge 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth</p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Wayne & Bobbi Walker Heather</i></p>					<p><i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i> Sunday February 20th</p>
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