

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](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.



# MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

January 2015  
Volume 27 Issue 1

*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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February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:30am Worship: Chicago Folk w/LS 9:45am E-100 Bible Study Carnation Sales 11am Worship: LBW Setting 2 12:15pm First Communion 5pm Jr. Youth Meeting 6pm Sr. High Meeting	<b>2</b> Jack & Mary Mast Rebecca, Mikayla	<b>3</b> 10am Comforters Amy McCarthy Charlie, Chelsea	<b>4</b> 5pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> yr Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Notabella 7:30pm Adult Choir	<b>5</b> Lloyd & Deb McDaniels Erin, Morgan	<b>6</b> Ryan & Samantha McDaniels Jacob	<b>7</b> Tim & Nicole McKnelly Libby, Madelyn
<b>8</b> 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 9:45am E-100 Bible Study Carnation Sales 11am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 12:15pm First Communion 6pm Sr. High Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:30am Mom's Bible Study Tom & Paulette McNamara	<b>10</b> 10am Comforters Joe & Kristen Mendiola Louis	<b>11</b> 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Children's Choirs Jr Youth meet to tag carnations 6:30pm Notabella 7:30pm Adult Choir	<b>12</b> Bill Meyer	<b>13</b> 7:30pm Bridge Club in Parish Hall Brad & Theresa Meyer Rachael Wier, Rebecca, Drake	<b>14</b> Dagmar & Patrick Miller Ryan, Colleen
<b>15</b> Transfiguration 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS First Communion Celebration 9:45am E-100 Bible Study 11am Worship: Contemporary Service 5PM: Jr & Sr Youth Bon Fire @ Ryan's Home	<b>16</b> Melani Mooneyham Ty	<b>17</b> 10am Comforters Jeff & Robin Moore	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Soup Suppers 7pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:45pm Adult Choir John Moore	<b>19</b> 8:30 a.m. Morning Study Group – Begin study of <i>Free to Be</i> , All invited. 7:00 p.m. Church Council meets Fran Morgan	<b>20</b> 7pm Lost & Found Farewell Tour @ All Saints Caleb & Whimey Morse	<b>21</b> Doris Mullins
<b>22</b> 8:30am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:45am E-100 Bible Study 11am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS & New Members rec'd 12:15pm Instrumental Ensemble 6pm Sr. High Meeting 7pm Assemble Care Kits	<b>23</b> 9:30am Mom's Bible Study Beth Mumaw Kyle	<b>24</b> 10am Comforters Bill & Janice Murphy	<b>25</b> 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Soup Suppers 6pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Choir & Notabella 7pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Adult Choir Jim & Anna Musch	<b>26</b> Gerry & Jackie Myers Noah, Adam, Luke, Evin	<b>27</b> Marc & Debbie Neely Heather, Adam	<b>28</b> 9-12pm Understanding Pain & Suffering Jim & Ellie Nelson

Looking ahead...

- March 5<sup>th</sup> – 12pm, AGO Recital
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday/Holy Week
- April 5<sup>th</sup> – Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter

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



## Pastor's Page

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

*Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.*  
--Hebrews 12:2-3

Dear Friends of the Crucified Messiah,

**WHAT IS INTENSE IN YOUR LIFE?** I would love to hear your personal answer to that question. (If you wish to tell me, please do at: [scott@mlutheran.com](mailto:scott@mlutheran.com))

My guess is that a wide variety of answers would come from you who are reading this.

***Imagine exciting, positive responses about the intensity of—***

- \*a wonderful personal relationship,
- \*an exhilarating hobby,
- \*a thrilling quest in progress, or
- \*invigoration from the beauty of music, art, a new life, a pinnacle scaled.

***Difficult battles are intense too, like—***

- \*surviving chemotherapy,
- \*searching for employment,
- \*watching deterioration from illness or aging,
- \*losing a loved one,
- \*feeling trapped, betrayed, or abandoned.

**How about this for INTENSE: Knowing you are going to be crucified?** Lent is the most intense church season. During Lent our focus is on the heart of why Jesus came to earth: ***Jesus died the cruelest death for sinners like us that we might have life.*** So, how did Jesus handle the intensity of knowing He was on the verge of crucifixion? *Oh, my!*

***THAT WAS WHEN JESUS DID HIS BEST WORK!*** As He prepared for a tortuous death, His focus was not on Himself, but caring for the people He loved--*which included His enemies who were crucifying Him!*

**"PREFIGURING the PASSION"** is the theme of MLC's mid-week services this season of Lent. Sermons will be based on Biblical passages that point ahead to Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. See the schedule (on page 3). We will use the *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy for these services. And, we will have the privilege of hearing from other local Lutheran preachers in addition to the old, regular guy.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ENTER INTO THE INTENSITY OF LENT.** When we walk the path of Jesus' passion the power and joy of His resurrection for us is all the more wonderfully intense. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Scott Peterson*

## February 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

Feb 1	Chicago Folk w/LS
Feb 8	LBW Setting 2
Feb 15	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Feb 22	WOV Service of Word/Prayer

### Sundays at 11:00 am

Feb 1	LBW Setting 2
Feb 8	WOV Service of Word & Prayer
Feb 15	Contemporary Service
Feb 22	LBW Setting 1 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.

**BIRTHS:** Phil and Sonja Pedersen announce the birth of their granddaughter Rebekah Grace Atteberry on January 12. Rebekah weighed 8 lbs 8 oz and was 20 inches long.

**DEATHS:** Bill Forbes passed away on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Bill was a charter member of MLC. His memorial service was at MLC on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Fellowship Committee

By Greg Kilby & Christine Ryan



**Wednesday Night Café** has kicked off for the new semester. Please consider serving a meal as a fundraiser or activity for your group! Please contact Dorothy Seitz if you have questions or would like to volunteer!

**Lenten soup suppers** will start on Ash Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>! Thanks to Cheryl Byers and Terry Frakes for leading the soup suppers this year. A sign up to bring soup for Ash Wednesday and during Lent is at the Welcome center. Please sign up to so we can plan for the event. Groups are also welcome to sponsor other soup suppers. Please contact Cheryl or Terry if you or your group can help out!

**Bridge Club** will be held Friday February 13 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. 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!! Bring a friend and a snack to share! Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak for more info.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of **Messiah Lutheran's first ground breaking** will be celebrated on Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for special treats (including worms) in the fellowship hall after the service to celebrate!

**Get involved with Fellowship!** Thanks to those who attended our Fellowship planning meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in being involved in fellowship please contact Greg Kilby or Christine Ryan.

## Mid-Week Lenten Services of Worship

The season of Lent begins with the February 18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday service of worship with the Lord's Supper and imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them. Lent continues with services on February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25. During these worship services, area pastors will preach on the theme, Prefiguring the Passion. There will be a Maundy Thursday service on April 2 and a Good Friday service on April 3. All Lenten services begin at 7:00 p.m. Unless otherwise designated, Lenten offerings will be evenly divided between the First Stop and building a kitchen for our Lunches for Learning school in Honduras.

### PREFIGURING THE PASSION

*MLC's Mid-Week Lenten Services of Worship (All services begin at 7:00 p.m.)*

- Ash Wednesday, February 18
- February, March 25: Kert Reedstrom
- March 4: This Child is Destined...Luke 2. Pastor Keith Cook, All Saints' Lutheran Church
- March 11: Take up your cross and follow...Luke 9. Pastor Warren Casiday, St. Mark's Lutheran Church
- March 18: Intern Pastor Rachel Harriz, All Saints' Lutheran Church
- March 25: The Raising of Lazarus...John 11. Pastor Scott Peterson
- Maundy Thursday, April 2: Kert Reedstrom
- Good Friday, April 3: Pastor Scott Peterson

Outreach News: Lenten Baskets of Promise

# BASKETS of PROMISE

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **Baskets of Promise** campaign. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Our goal is to assemble 200 LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

**HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:**

**FEBRUARY 22**  
Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



**MARCH 1**  
Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



**MARCH 8**  
Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



**MARCH 15**  
Combs



**MARCH 22**  
Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



**MARCH 29 (PALM SUNDAY)**  
Bars of Soap



For more information contact – Rhonda Gaede

We will assemble our Personal Care Kits on Thursdays at 7pm in Messiah's fellowship hall.

# BASKETS of PROMISE

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21 (NRSV)*

**JENNIFER** (left) was 9 years old when Typhoon Haiyan hit her home in the Philippines. "I was afraid," she said. "I went to my grandmother's house when the storm was coming. But we had to evacuate again to a neighbor's house because our grandmother's house was destroyed."

With their home and all their belongings destroyed, the family didn't know where to start to recover or how to keep everyone healthy and safe. In the midst of the destruction, LWR Personal Care Kits helped this family. "I am very, very thankful for all the things LWR has given. They are very useful for our family," Melanie said.

Typhoon Haiyan made landfall on November 8, 2013 as one of the strongest storms in recorded history, affecting 14 million people and damaging more than a million homes. Jennifer's mother, Melanie, went into labor during the storm, later giving birth to her baby sister, Shella (pictured, right).

The simple items we assemble in LWR Personal Care Kits are powerful tools for families to stay healthy when recovering from a disaster.



[lwr.org](http://lwr.org)

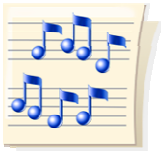


Interested in helping with Vacation Bible School this summer at Messiah?  
Contact Kert Reedstrom

Interested in joining Messiah Lutheran Church?  
New Members will be received on February 22 at the 11:00 service.  
Contact Claire Strand [claire@mlutheran.com](mailto:claire@mlutheran.com) or Pastor Scott [scott@mlutheran.com](mailto:scott@mlutheran.com)

## Music Notes

By Lois Graff



### Music at Messiah

The Music at Messiah concert on January 11 provided by pianist, Debra Saylor was beautiful. Planning is ongoing for concerts in spring 2015, summer 2015, fall 2015 and winter 2015! Details coming soon....stay connected with M@M at [www.musicatmessiah.blogspot.com](http://www.musicatmessiah.blogspot.com) or [www.facebook.com/musicatmessiah](http://www.facebook.com/musicatmessiah).

### Noontime AGO Recital Concert Series

The local AGO (American Guild of Organists) chapter sponsors a noontime organ recital series in this area during the Lenten season. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Messiah Lutheran Church will be hosting a recital as part of this series. Organists Susan Fletcher and Mary Williamson will be the recitalists. Come to enjoy an organ concert at noon on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>!

## Council Update

1. Ash Wednesday is Feb 18th. The council voted to split this year's Lenten mid-week offerings between First Stop, and the new kitchen fund for Benito Montoya School, Honduras. First Stop is an organization whose goal is to get homeless people into jobs and residences. Clete Wetli will be coming to Messiah for a temple talk during Lent to tell the congregation more about the mission of First Stop here in Huntsville.
2. The task force looking at the plans for Hwy. 72 widening is talking to ALDOT regarding MLC's concerns. A consultant from ALDOT will meet with the MLC task force on Thursday, January 29th.

### Essential 100 Bible Passages for FEBRUARY

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Exodus 1:1-2:25	Exodus 19:1-20:21	Judges 2:6-3:6	1 Samuel 1:1-3:21
Exodus 3:1-4:17	Exodus 32:1-34:35	Judges 4:1-5:31	1 Samuel 8:1-10:27
Exodus 6:28-11:10	Joshua 1:1-18	Judges 6:1-7:25	1 Samuel 16:1-18:16
Exodus 12:1-42	Joshua 3:1-4:24	Judges 13:1-16:31	1 Samuel 23:7-24:22
Exodus 13:17-14:31	Joshua 5:13-6:26	Ruth 1:1-4:22	1 Samuel 5:1-7:29

**News Flashes!**

**Understanding Pain and Suffering**

February 28, 2015  
 9am- Noon  
 Messiah Lutheran Church  
 7740 Hwy 72 W, Madison, AL



**This presentation will address the process of pain including how it relates to suffering as well as taking a closer look at chronic pain. Discussion and Q&A will follow the presentation.**

Led by Kert Reedstrom, M. Div.; M. Mgt.; Director of Youth and Education Ministries at Messiah Lutheran Church



**Lenten Soup Suppers** begin on Ash Wednesday - February 18 and will continue each Wednesday during Lent. There will be a sign-up at the Welcome Center for those interested in contributing to the meal. In the past, groups (i.e., choir, Sunday School, etc.) have signed up to provide food, and that is appreciated this year as well!

Contact Cheryl Byers (256-461-0294) or Terry Frakes, if you have any questions.

**Youth News...** Kert Reedstrom, Director of Youth and Education Ministries

**MEETING TIMES** (unless another special event is scheduled)  
 Sr Youth meet Sundays @ 6PM  
 Jr Youth meet 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays @ 5PM  
 Tweens meet per event

SEE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE OF  
 KERT'S OFFICE (LIBRARY) FOR  
 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

**Feb 1 - SOUPer Bowl of Caring** - Donations of Cans of Soup to support our food pantry. Jr Youth will be collecting soup following each service in the narthex.

**Feb 1 & 8 - Jr Youth CARNATION Sales** begin....Cost is \$1.00 and will be sold before and after each service. The flowers will be delivered on **Feb 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**TWEENS...** watch for the new date for the Cookie House Construction this month and HORSEBACK RIDING coming up in March!

**Feb 15 - BON FIRE for BOTH Jr & SR HIGH** at the RYAN'S Home, 173 SMITH ROAD, Harvest. A map will be available at the church. See Kert for more information!

**Feb 20 - 7:00 PM - LOST & FOUND FAREWELL TOUR** @ All Saints Lutheran Church - 12100 Bailey Cove

**Looking Ahead:**

- 30Hr Famine will be March 6 & 7. More details to come! *Thanks to Kari Pitchko for planning this!!*
- SESYLO will be March 20-22 for those that have registered!

## My Favorite Bible Verse

By Adam Neely

***Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. --Luke 23:34***

Luke 23:34 is my favorite Bible verse not because of its overwhelming cheerfulness (it has none), nor because it casts the human race in the best possible light (it thoroughly does the opposite), but because it provides a startling contrast between the strength of Christ, ironically made most evident as he hangs upon the cross, and the overriding weakness and sinful nature of God’s people as they cast lots for Jesus’s clothes, serving as both a constant reminder of our desperate need to be in a right relationship with God and reassurance that Christ’s death was not in vain. Before diving deeply into this loaded verse however, let’s begin with the obvious. Jesus is plainly about to die one of the most horrible deaths imaginable. Crucifixion was reserved for only the very worst of criminals. In such a situation, a plea for mercy, or indeed any other reaction at all would be more expected than, “Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” These are the very same people who have flogged, beaten, humiliated, and spat on Jesus for almost twenty hours; and yet he defies conventional wisdom by begging God first and foremost to forgive them.

Jesus was at times throughout his ministry thought to be a prophet, a lunatic, and the very Son of God. Ironically, Jesus was killed both for none of these reasons and for all of them at once as the inscription “King of the Jews” can testify. One is left to wonder if the devil’s spirit had infected all noteworthy leaders every bit as thoroughly as Judas, the betrayer. Regardless, evil forces were enough at work to claim this pseudo-victory. Yet up to his death, knowing he will spend three days in hell for sins he has not committed, Jesus’s focus remains not on himself but on the needs of the uncaring, broken world around him. It was for this that Jesus resisted Satan’s temptations at the start of his ministry, for this that he had taught, healed, prayed, and toiled. And so, at the very climax of his mission, as Jesus is once again tempted (this time by the religious leaders, Roman soldiers, and even one of his fellow criminals) to let himself down from the cross, Jesus remains faithful to his calling. The masses have as little an effect on Jesus as Satan himself, symbolizing that no matter what the situation, Jesus will triumph. Herein lies the good news for all of us sinners. Amen!

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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 February 18<sup>th</sup>.