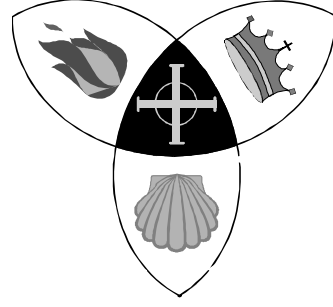


Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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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.com.** Church Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Manager. The pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041. email: info@mlutheran.org. Newsletter submissions may be sent to Beth Gloc:



MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 24: Issue 1 January 2012
www.mlutheran.com



The Word became flesh
and lived among us.

--John 1:14

*Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
who for the sake of the joy that was set before him
endured the cross... --Hebrews 12:1-2*

Dear Friends of the Living Messiah,

AS WE BEGAN A NEW CHURCH YEAR in December I asked for responses at the end of the sermon: *“What NEW BEGINNING could you use this year from MLC? What is something you want to learn in the coming year? Is there a new practice you would like help developing? Or, do you have a question you would like addressed or discussed?” (It is not too late to put a response in the offering plate.)*

LOTS OF GREAT RESPONSES came back. In this newsletter see my answer to one of the **questions**: *“Are we ever good enough?”* Also many ideas were offered for expanding and improving the **ministries** of MLC. But, January is the month to report the personal *New Year’s Resolutions* that were offered.

I WANT TO...

**Learn more about God.*

**Begin to tithe Biblically – 10% (or more) to be obedient.*

**Attend Sunday School during the year.*

**Learn to use the computer.*

**Be a better witness to friends and family.*

**Better deal with getting old and older.*

DO YOU HAVE A NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION? Last August I joined a fitness center. The exercise has been good for me and usually the center is uncrowded. But, in January I expect to be squeezed by people packing the place because of resolutions to *‘exercise more and eat less’*. By February, it should be back to normal. We are notorious for not following through on our good intentions. Change is not easy, especially when it requires discipline, time, and changing routines that have become comfortable. But....

YOU CAN DO IT and God wants to help. *It takes practice to make an intention a habit.* Prayer is a great place to start. And, are there people you and I can report our resolution to and ask them to **urge us** to live up to it? Accountability to another Christian is one way God helps. We are gifts to each other when we speak the truth in love. The **best resolution** I can suggest for the new year is....

COME TO WORSHIP. Worship is where God’s Word is spoken and His Sacraments are received. In worship God’s gifts are given. Our Lord is the best resource we have for ordering everything else in our lives. Jesus continues to go before us; *“the pioneer and perfecter of our faith”*.

Grace and peace, *Pastor Scott Peterson*

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:

The Gospel of Mark beginning Jan. 15

This year most of our Sunday morning gospel readings will be from Mark. Pastor Scott will lead this class to learn about this shortest and earliest of the gospels. Class will meet in the Fellowship Hall (most Sundays) 9:45 - 10:45 from mid-January to the end of February. The focus of the sessions will include summarizing and outlining Mark, and considering authorship and key themes. The class will also study specific Bible texts from Mark especially seeking how they apply to our lives today.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

from Mary Ann Stasiak

There were LOTS of Fellowship events in December – thanks very much to all of the people who made the International Advent Fellowships,

New Member Reception, Bridge Club, OWLS, Christmas Cookie/Ornament Exchange, Wednesday Night Café, and Men's Breakfast possible through your help and dedication. You are very much appreciated!

Bridge Club will be held Friday January 13th 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.

OWLS will meet at the Stasiaks' house to play Dominoes on Saturday, January 28th at 6:30 PM. Bring a hors d'oeuvre and a set of dominoes if you have them (not required – we'll have enough to share).

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 Debi Peterson for her continued leadership of this special ministry. If you can help, please call Debi Peterson. Wednesday Night Cafe will resume after the New Year.

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

* Coordination of Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday nights through Easter

Dates for the calendar:

- Wednesday Night Café: Jan 11, 18, 25
- Bridge Club: Friday Jan 13th 7:30 PM
- OWLS: Sat Jan 28th 6:30 PM

January 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

Jan 1 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Jan 8 Now the Feast w/LS
Jan 15 ELW Setting 1 w/LS
Jan 22 LBW Setting 2
Jan 29 Chicago Folk w/LS

Sundays at 11:00 am

Jan 1 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
Jan 8 Now the Feast w/LS
Jan 15 Contemporary Service
Jan 22 WOV Bread of Life w/LS
Jan 29 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Music Choirs and Ensembles

Enjoy music and glorify God by being active in a musical group at Messiah. The choirs meet on Wednesdays and Sundays and there is always room for more! For more information, contact Lois Graff.

Cherub Choir (Grades K-1)	Wednesday 6:00-6:30pm Directors Taylor Bono, Mikayla Mast
Seraph Choir (Grades 2-6)	Wednesday 6:00-6:30pm Directors Randall Fields, Claire Strand
Youth Choir (Grades 7-12)	Wednesday 6:30-7:00 pm Directors Audrey & Bob Gustafson
Adult Choir	Wednesday 7:30-9:00 pm Director Randall Fields
Notabella Choir	Wednesday 6:30-7:30 pm Director Rhonda Gaede
Instrumental Ensemble	Sunday 12:15-1:15 pm Director Lois Graff

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: Are we ever good enough?

A: No.. we are never good enough, but that is not the last word.

If we could be 'good enough' by our 'own understanding or effort' (see 'Small Catechism' on the Holy Spirit), Jesus would not have needed to come to earth. When we are Baptized and when we hear God's Word and when we receive the Lord's Supper, a '*joyous exchange*' takes place. That is: We get what Jesus has and Jesus gets what we have. What a great trade for us! Jesus gets our sin and failures and mistakes. By God's forgiveness we get Jesus' perfect relationship with our Heavenly Father.

So, when we are in Christ we are MORE than GOOD ENOUGH; **we are perfect**. We do not deserve this and never will be good enough to earn it. So, this is pure gift, pure grace. What we can never be our Lord gives to us! Thanks be to God.

Next month's question... "If God's chosen nation is Israel, why don't the Jewish people accept Jesus as the Messiah?"



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 announced will be included. Contact Outreach Assistant, Claire Strand.

• **Welcome New Members!**

- Keith Bux from Belleville, Illinois
- Chad and Regina Hyatt from Clearwater, Florida
- Greg and Meredith Kilby from Owatonna, Minnesota
- Brandon and Rachel Gardner, Gabe, Nitin, and Kreneck from Madison
- Bill Meyer from Ozark, Missouri
- Jeff and Heather Ostendorff, Gabriel, Kara from northern Virginia

OUTREACH NEWS from Janell Zesinger

Our deepest thanks to everyone who participated in Messiah's Giving Mall this Christmas season! Your generosity has touched people across town and across the world. Wrapped gifts were donated to over 30 children at the Downtown Rescue Mission, blankets and coats were delivered to Christmas Charities and First Stop, and toys and children's clothing were delivered to Madison Crossroads Elementary and Milestone Christian Academy.

Your donations also went to support the MLC Disaster Task Force, the family of Jesse Aguilar, Downtown Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Lunches for Learning, Lutheranch, LWR Kit Ministries, On Eagles Wings, The Lutheran Church in Guatemala, and Comforters.

And through the ELCA Good Gifts program, families across the world will be receiving: 50 Chicks, 2 Pigs, 1 Duck, 1 Goat, 1 Share of a Well, 2 School Fees for Girls, 1 Food for Orphan, 3 Health and Dental for a Child, and 1 Vaccination for a Child

Carpenters for CASA: The third ramp is complete! Over the last few months a team from Messiah has been getting acquainted with the wheelchair ramp ministry at CASA. Now that we know how it is done, we want to expand this ministry. You're invited to express your interest in joining the team by contacting Owen Wasmoen or Joe Stuart.

A special thank you to Jacquie Fry and Claire Strand for your tireless work this season and throughout the year in our Outreach Ministries!

We are blessed to have you!

Youth Zone

Lauren Gray, Director ~ Youth Ministries

youth_director@mlutheran.org

Christmas Wreaths, Garland, Swags, etc.:

The Sr. youth fundraiser for Christmas went very well. We had lots of people order greenery for their homes! Thank you to everyone that purchased something and supported our youth!

Elfin Magic with a Twist:

Over 20 children from the age of 1-14 made it to Elfin Magic with a Twist! There were also 9 senior youth that came to help with supervision. All of the kids had the chance to make crafts for Christmas, and they made as many as they could! We had pizza for dinner and finished 15 pizzas! As we watched Christmas movies to finish out the night, some youth helped Miss Lauren in the kitchen to make fun Christmas chex mix for dessert. Everyone had a great time and hopefully looking forward to next year!

Christmas Program-Bethlehem, Nothing Ever Happens Here! :

Our Sunday School kids put on a wonderful play that focused on the thinking of nothing amazing ever happening in Bethlehem, until the birth of Jesus. The kids worked hard and looked great in their costumes! We also had a prelude of O Come O Come Emmanuel presented by the Seraph Chime Choir. Great job everybody!

Senior Youth Christmas Lock-In:

The Sr. Youth lock-in was a fun night of Secret Santa gift exchange, snacks like popcorn, Christmas cookies and drinks, games such as Christmas Trivia, Christmas movies, and breakfast the next morning with Pastors Amanda and Horatio. A full, but entertaining night was accomplished for the youth.

Spaghetti Lunch/Talent Show

The Spaghetti Lunch and Talent Show will be at 12:00 noon on Sunday, January 29th. Enjoy good food and fellowship that will help support missions.

Education News by Linda Peirce

THANK YOU to all who were involved with the children's Christmas program presentation "Nothing Ever Happens in Bethlehem." More than 55 children, youth, and teachers participated in or helped with the program. Superintendent Gary Garrison described the program as "exciting, humorous, and a rewarding success."

Sunday School classes will resume for all ages, 2 through adult, on January 8. See Sunday School Superintendent Gary Garrison if you need more information about classes for children and youth, or if you would like to help teach or substitute for these classes.

All adults are invited to join one of the following adult education classes:

- "Readings and Discussion in the Book of Mark" is underway in Dottie Hanson's class.
- "A Spiritual Life" Perspectives from Poets, Prophets, and Preachers" is being led by Bonnie Jane Peterson. This study is based on a collection of 24 essays from a book by the same title edited by Alan Hugh Cole Jr. All are welcome to join this class at any time throughout the year, as each Sunday a different essay is discussed.
- "The Gospel of Mark" will be led by Pastor Scott beginning Jan. 15 through the end of February in the Fellowship Hall. This year most of our Sunday morning gospels will be from Mark. The focus of the sessions will include summarizing and outlining Mark and considering key themes and authorship, as well as key texts and how they apply to our lives today.

The Education Committee will meet after the late service on Sunday, January 22. All committee members will be contacted. We will be discussing available Sunday School curriculum for children and youth to consider for 2012-13 and looking at ways to encourage growth in our programs. We will also discuss Messiah's VBS program. All Christian Education teachers and any other members of Messiah are welcome to attend this meeting as we consider the future direction of our education programs.

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, January 29, February 5 and 12, at 12:15 pm. First Communion will be celebrated on Transfiguration Sunday, February 19.

Thank You!

Thank you for supporting last month's *On Eagle's Wings* Advent Breakfast. Over \$1600 in donations were received. *On Eagle's Wings* provides Bible Schools and ministry to children and adults in remote and isolated areas of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut in Canada.



STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Thank you for your service to God and others through ministries of Messiah Lutheran Church. During the last year, these are the approximate number of congregational households active in the following ministries:

Administrative	42
Education/Youth	90
Fellowship	67
Missions (Local & Global)	106
Music	61
Outreach (Congregation)	91
Property/Building	35
Worship Assistance	122

Thank you for all you have accomplished in 2011! We have good work to do in 2012. May the Lord bless our service to His glory.

Spaghetti Lunch/Talent Show

The Spaghetti Lunch and Talent Show will be at 12:00 noon on Sunday, January 29th. Enjoy good food and fellowship that will help support missions.



Comforter's will resume meeting Tuesday, January 3rd. @ 10:00am. For questions, call Annette Joens.

*Leave this page blank - formatting for
Calendar*

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day! 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 11:00am Worship: WOV Serv of Word/Prayer 6:30 Sr. Youth</p>	<p>2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dan & Jill Casey</i> <i>Daniel, Calliope</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 am Comforters</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Terrence & Amy Chance</i> <i>Lauren, Terrence</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30pm Adult Choir</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Doris Chojnowski</i> <i>Tara</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Trudy Clare</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Joy Clavin</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Diane Cline</i></p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:00am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 12:15pm Instr. Ens. 6:30 Sr. Youth</p>	<p>9</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Deborah Coates</i> <i>Savannah, Kennan Brodeur</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 am Comforters</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>David & Camille Cobb</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:00 pm Adult Class 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:30 Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lauren Cole</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 am Morning Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00pm Church Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dorothy Corron</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30pm Bridge Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Linda Cox</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jim & Toni Daniel</i> <i>Christina, Allison</i></p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30am Worship: ELW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School* 11:00am Worship: Contemporary Service 6:30pm Sr. Youth (*New Adult Sunday School Class)</p>	<p>16</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lisa D'Antonio</i> <i>Mary Grace</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 am Comforters</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bob & Diane Davis</i> <i>Andrew, Claire</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:00 pm Adult Class 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:30 Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Terry de la Paz & Bob Smith</i> <i>Olivia, Aleksey Smith</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gerard & Anita DeJong</i> <i>Meggy</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Matthew & Jutta Demarsh</i> <i>Daisy, Sandra, Matthew Jr.</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mike & Sue Doubleday</i></p>
<p>22 8:00am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship WOV Bread of Life w/LS 12pm Education Comm. 12:15pm Instr. Ens. 6:30pm Sr. Youth</p>	<p>23</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Douglas Drahota</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 am Comforters</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>William & Marcie Emerson</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:00 pm Adult Class 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:30 Notabella Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rebecca Englert</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 am Morning Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bailey Erickson</i> <i>Alexis, Christian</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jon Erler</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 pm OWLS at Stasiak's</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dave & Judee Erwin</i></p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30am Worship: Chicago Folk w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12 pm First Communion 12 pm Spaghetti Lunch 6:30pm Sr. Youth</p>	<p>30</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ronald & Patricia Esteppe</i> <i>Kaitlyn</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 am Comforters</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kirk Hamlet</i> <i>Lisa Evers</i></p>				<p>FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE January 18</p>