

Messiah Lutheran Church  
7740 Highway 72 West  
Madison, Alabama 35758

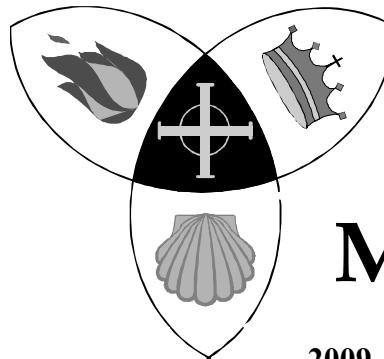
*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Huntsville AL  
Permit No. 454

---

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. 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 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Manager. The pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. Pastor/Developer is Rev. Mark Borseth. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: [info@mlutheran.com](mailto:info@mlutheran.com). For newsletter articles call Stacy Tidwell

---



# MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 21: Issue 7

2009

July

[www.mlutheran.com](http://www.mlutheran.com)



# DISCOVERY CANYON

**Messiah Vacation Bible School**  
**July 13 - 17**

*"I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart and tell about the wonders you have worked." - Psalm 9:1*

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. –Hebrews 13:2*

Dear Friends of the Living Messiah,

**WHY DOES THE CHURCH EXIST?** The short answer is ‘mission’. But so much is packed into that word ‘mission’. What is the Church’s primary mission?

**FIRST**, the Church exists to **worship** our Lord and Savior. A metaphor that Martin Luther liked to use: *Worship is the fountainhead*—Everything else flows out of it. God calls us to do many things, but all of them flow out of our worship of God. To put that another way: We are a worshiping community that has education and outreach and youth ministries and fellowship activities and lots of other things. We are not an education community that also worships; not a social club that also worships. First and above all else, we are a worshiping community.

**THE MONTHS WITH THE MOST GUESTS** in worship are July and August. Many of those guests come looking for a church home. Not many attend a class or an activity to decide if they might want to come to worship. So, worship is the biggest doorway to welcome people into MLC. What is most important to them as they look for a church home?

“**THEY MOST WANT TO HEAR GOOD MUSIC**,” a musician might think. “They most want to hear a good sermon,” a pastor might think. Well, yes, they do want to hear good music and God’s Word. But, most important for most newcomers is this: *“Will these people accept me and care about me.”* Above all they want *compassion and community*. Even if the music is great and the sermon is too, if they sense they are surrounded by people who are uncaring and cold, they will go elsewhere or (much worse) give up on finding a church home.

**SEE WHAT YOUR MISSION IS NOW** on Sunday mornings? Find a guest and find a way to say, “Welcome.” OK, what if you don’t know if the person is a guest or some long-time member you just don’t happen to know? How about this, “I’m (*your name here*). I don’t believe we have met”? Now, if you have hooked into a live prospect, try to find a way to introduce the person to Claire Strand, or Pastor Mark, or me. (But, I will tell you a secret: You taking the time to welcome them will make a much bigger impression than any of us on staff will. That’s because guests think I am just doing my job when I welcome them, but when you care that says much more to them about Messiah Lutheran Church.)

**COME TO WORSHIP**, even though it is summer time. Look for guests and say to them, “Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church.” When you do, you might be talking to an angel (**see top of page**).

*Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott Peterson*

## Church Council Highlights

- Facility Expansion Committee plans – “Open Forums on Expanding Worship” Sundays June 21, July 12 and July 26, 9:45-10:45 am. Work underway in getting drawings from architect as authorized by Congregation
- Fund Raising: Breakfast between services in Fellowship Hall for Lutheran World Relief Kits (June 14) to be organized by Rhonda Gaede

### Special thanks...

Thank you to all the youth and adults who helped to make this year’s Music Camp memorable and enjoyable for the children. It was wonderful to see the following lyrics come to life;

“The Church is like a body. We need every part. put us all together and we’ve got heart.”

Messiah is blessed with many talented, versatile and generous people. Thank you for sharing your gifts with the young people who are learning and growing in their faith.

Lois Graff, Director of Music Ministries

**THE MESSIAH MESSENGER NEWSLETTER** may be received electronically if you prefer. Please contact the church Office if interested: [info@mlutheran.com](mailto:info@mlutheran.com) or 721-0041.

## **Dinner Theater, Saturday, August 22**

SAVE THE DATE for this year's Dinner Theater. It will have a comedy theme and be on Saturday, August 23rd. A delicious dinner will be served at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall followed by an entertaining show beginning at 7 p.m. If you are interested in participating in the show, come to rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be on sale soon.



*No rehearsal on July 5*

## **FORUM on ELCA SEXUALITY ISSUES**

**SUNDAY, JULY 19, at 9:45 a.m.**

August 17-23 the ELCA will have a Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis. (This is done every two years.) The issue dominating the news and our recently completed SE Synod Assembly is whether to ordain as Pastors people living in committed same gender relationships. On Sunday, July 19, at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Pastor Scott will provide background on this issue. There will be opportunity for discussion and questions.

## ***Notes of Thanks***

*Dear Members of Messiah,*

*My family and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all the kindness we received from the congregation. We sincerely appreciate the food, cards, gifts, donations and especially your prayers. Pastor Scott was by my/our side from the time we learned Lynn's diagnosis through Lynn's last day with us. His support and his assistance with the arrangements were invaluable.*

*All our sincere thanks,  
Peggy Hanna and Family*

*To our Dear Friends of Messiah,*

*Lana and I would like to thank you for your financial support; we used it to pay for the summer clinical pastoral training I am doing at Bethel Lutheran Homes in Oshkosh WI. We are so thankful to have a caring, supportive home church. It does not seem possible for a year to pass as quickly as it has here at Wartburg Seminary. My studies are very challenging, yet rewarding! This experience has been humbling for both of us, yet we hold deep in our hearts the call to serve our Lord. We appreciate your support, cards, emails, and most of all your prayers. We look forward to seeing you in August.*

*Peace,  
Charles & Lana Underwood  
Middler attending Wartburg Seminary  
467 Blair Dr. #3, Dubuque, Iowa 52003*

## **Summer Choir Schedule**

Dinner Theater Rehearsals

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Adult Choir

1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 8 am  
2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 10 am

## July Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice

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

July 5	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
July 12	WOV Serv. Word/Prayer
July 19	Bread of Life w/LS
July 26	LBW Setting 2

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

July 5	WOV Serv. Word/Prayer
July 12	Chicago Folk w/LS
July 19	Contemporary Service
July 26	Now the Feast w/LS

# DISCOVERY CANYON

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be the week of **July 13 - 17**. The theme this year will be Discovery Canyon. Come explore the canyon and meet Liz the Lizard, Max the Mantis, Olivia the Owl, Blossom the Burro, and Felix the Fox.

Each day a special character will encourage the children discover God's word through a different Bible verse and theme. The children will participate in Canyon Crafts, Gully Games, Sagebrush Storytelling, and Shadow Science! Sign up at the in the Narthex!

**Volunteers are still needed in all areas!**

**Everyone has something to offer! Sign up in the Narthex!**

**Donations are also needed! Please look for the Discovery Canyon display in the Narthex to sign up for supplies.**

Contact Celynn Ballard or Maureen King

## **"Informal" Senior Youth Gathering at Sonic Wednesday, July 1, at 2 p.m.**

There are no "formal" Sunday night Senior Youth meetings during the summer, but we wanted to provide "informal" opportunities to stay connected. Our next "informal" gathering is Wednesday, July 1 at 2:00 pm at Sonic (just west of Messiah on Hwy 72). We are planning on meeting about once every two weeks during the summer. Talk to Pastor Mark if you have any questions.

**Incarnation Information – July 2009**



***A monthly update from Pastor Mark Borseth***

Our target After a setback, we are starting to move toward getting in a building and starting Sunday worship. It just won't be as soon as we had hoped. The building we were looking at by the Harvest Post Office fell through due to occupancy code issues. With the building falling through, the date to begin Sunday worship also needed to be pushed back

As of right now (assuming building code issues work out – which they are much more likely to do in this newer building) we are exploring the possibility of renting a building on Highway 53 about a mile south of Publix. If we have enough expected offering income to make renting the building feasible, we hope to move in on August 1. And if we get in this building, we plan to have our first Sunday worship at 10:45 on Sunday, September 13. If the building doesn't work out, we will keep looking. Weekly Bible study will begin once we are in the building.

If you want to be part of this ministry in any way – helping with music or nursery, donating chairs or tables, being part of a Bible study or committing to attend worship regularly while we get started, making donations to help with building costs each month – your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Of course, the greatest gift you could give would be your regular prayer for this ministry.

If, in fact, we start Sunday worship in September, my family and I will not be at Messiah on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights so we can use those primary times of connection with people to be in Harvest. That will be very hard since we have been so blessed to be at Messiah.

I will continue to be involved in ministry at Messiah, but my visibility will decrease quite a bit. I will continue to work with the Senior Youth and other ministries that don't happen on Sunday morning or Wednesday night.

Thanks for your prayers and support for Incarnation. It is a blessing to be working with you to begin this new ministry in Harvest-Monrovia. I will let you know more details as we make final decisions regarding the new building and the starting date for Sunday worship in Harvest.

## **Men's Breakfast – Saturday, July 18 at 7 a.m.**

Whether you are interested in being part of the newly-forming Men's Ministry at Messiah or you just want to have a reason to get out and eat breakfast on July 18, this gathering is for you. We will meet in the Messiah Parish Hall at 7:00 am on Saturday, July 18 for breakfast, fellowship, a devotion with Pastor Mark and



 Walk to Defeat ALS

a discussion about the interest people have in starting an official Men's Ministry program at Messiah. Sign up at the Welcome Center or just show up.

## 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.

***Birth:*** *You knit me together in my mother's womb... Psalm 139:13*

- Diane Cline announces the birth of her 4th great-grandchild, Ezra Graham Lindsay, on June 14. Parents are Chris and Vicky Lindsay of Michigan.
- David and Camille Cobb announce the birth of their 12th great-grandchild, Charles David Dogel. Parents are Matt and Ann Dogel of Wisconsin.

***Marriage:*** *the greatest of these is love. I Corinthians 13:13*

- Carolyn Miller and Nick Holland were married June 13 in a ceremony at Messiah.

## OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand

### **We Celebrate New Members!**

On May 31, we welcomed into Messiah's church family

- Tim and Sherry Mansfield, Alexander from Jacksonville, FL
- Rob and Melissa Gurner from Madison
- Norm and Linda Ruhl from Harvest
- Nicholas and Marty Rinyu, Tabitha from Madison
- Joe and Jean Stuart from Niceville, FL
- Chris and Beth Gloe, Samantha from Cedar Rapids, IA
- Kimberly Carper from Lawrenceville, GA

**SS Kids** Each year, school supplies are collected and sorted into backpacks for local school children. An invitation to worship is also included in each backpack. Please place your donations in the basket in the Narthex.

**On Eagle's Wings** Keep in prayers the OEW missionaries and their ministry as they travel to the Northwest Territories this month to lead Bible school.



**Women of the ELCA** If you are interested in being Messiah's delegate for Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA Convention in Savannah, Georgia, Sept. 18-20, please talk to Claire Strand.

**Save the Date: August 29, 2009**

**Joe Davis Stadium**

## Education News

### **Celynn Ballard**

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

- Sunday School teachers are still needed for the upcoming school year.
- Rally Day is set for August 9.
- Dottie Hanson's Sunday School class will continue to meet during the summer. They are studying the book of Hebrews.

## Youth News

#### **SENIOR YOUTH**

- The youth met informally in June at the Atlanta Bread Company. They plan to meet again Wed., July 1 at 2 p.m. at Sonic on Hwy. 72.
- The National Youth Gathering is from July 22 to July 26. Several adult and youth representatives will attend to represent Messiah.
- Some Youth are also planning to participate in Alassippi (the Alabama and Mississippi youth gathering) It is August 21 - 23.

All 9<sup>th</sup> – 12th graders are welcome at any or all activities. Contact John Shriner or Marsha Wade for information.

#### **JUNIOR YOUTH**

Jr. Youth Leaders needed for next year. If you feel led to work with Messiah's Youth, please contact Celynn Ballard

- Five Jr. Youth attended Lutherock Camp the week of June 21-27. The camp is located in Newland, NC.

All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome at any or all Jr. Youth activities. Contact Lisa Bartel or Beth Thompson for information.

#### **TWEENS**

The Tweens will try to meet one or two times over the summer. If anyone has an ideas for the group please contact Debi Peterson All 3rd – 5th graders are welcome!



## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

From Maureen King

**Summer Fellowship Coffee Hosts** - We are in need of individuals or families to host coffee and refreshments following each service during the summer. Help is needed to set up, bring pastry/cookies, and to clean up. Please see sign up sheet on bulletin board under

Fellowship.

I will be available to answer any questions concerning the duties involved. I know that the newest members may not know exactly what is involved in preparing, set-up etc. Any one who is interested and not sure of what is expected, I am planning a little get together for those interested in helping on Wednesday, July 1 at 7p.m., in the fellowship hall. I look forward to meeting anyone interested.

**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY**, August 9 will coincide with Sunday School Rally Day. Following late service, we will have a cookout at the church with games and inflatable slide. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. See volunteer sign up sheet at the Welcome Center to assist with side dishes, grilling, set up, clean up and face painting.

**A Wednesday Night Cafe Coordinator is needed** to oversee the assignment of meals, set up and clean up for the coming school year. Interested?? They will be starting on Wednesday, August 26th. If we had 25 to 30 individuals/families sign up, no one would have to do more than one dinner this year. Please give this weekly event consideration. Contact, Maureen King

**Ladies Bible Study** - Interested in guiding or hosting a Stonecroft Bible Study in September? Contact Judy Johnston  
Be sure to enjoy the coffee and refreshments following each service in the Fellowship Hall.

# July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  2 Sr. Youth Meet  7:30 Dinner Theater Rehearsal  <i>Brad &amp; Theresa Meyer "Rachael Wier, Rebecca, Drake"</i>	2 8:30a.m. Morning Study Group  <i>Patrick &amp; Dagmar Miller "Ryan, Colleen"</i>	3  <i>Tim &amp; Florence Minahan "Aaron, Alex"</i>	4  <i>Boyce &amp; Carol Mix</i>
5  <b>8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 11:00am Worship WOV Word/Prayer</b>	6  <i>Lowell &amp; Melani Mooneyham "Dalton, Ty"</i>	7  <i>John &amp; Faye Moore</i>	8  7:30 Dinner Theater Rehearsal  <i>Gene &amp; Fran Morgan</i>	9  7pm Council Meeting  <i>George Morgan</i>	10  <i>John Morgan</i>	11  <i>Doris Mullins</i>
12  <b>8:30am Worship WOV Word/Prayer 10:00am Adult Choir 11:00am Worship Chicago Folk w/LS</b>	13  Vacation Bible School  <i>Beth Mumaw "Kyle"</i>	14  Vacation Bible School  <i>Bill &amp; Janice Murphy</i>	15  Vacation Bible School  7:30 Dinner Theater Rehearsal  <i>Jim &amp; Anna Musch,</i>	16  Vacation Bible School  <i>Gerry &amp; Jackie Myers "Noah, Adam, Luke, Evin"</i>	17  Vacation Bible School  <i>Marc &amp; Debbie Neely "Heather, Adam"</i>	18  <i>7AM Men' Breakfast</i>  <i>Jim &amp; Ellie Nelson</i>
19  <b>8:00am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship Bread of Life w/LS 11:00am Worship Contemporary Serv.</b>	20  <i>Kim Nelson "Nathan, Andrew"</i>	21  <i>Allen &amp; Peggy Nuss "Troy, Courtney"</i>	22  7:30 Dinner Theater Rehearsal  <i>Brian &amp; Cindy Nye "Jeffery, Justin"</i>	23  <i>Diane Oliver</i>	24  <i>Geoff &amp; Jennifer Oltmans "Madelyn"</i>	25  <i>Brain &amp; Audrey Osterndorf "Lydia, Hannah"</i>
26  <b>8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 10:00am Adult Choir 11:00am Worship Now the Feast w/LS</b>	27  <i>Joe Paxton "Nathan"</i>	28  <i>Paul &amp; Julie Pedersen "Lorelie, Leah, Christopher"</i>	29  7:30 Dinner Theater Rehearsal  <i>Phil &amp; Sonja Pedersen "Heidi, Heather"</i>	30 8:30a.m. Morning Study Group  <i>Steve &amp; Linda Peirce</i>	31  <i>John &amp; Mary Pendley</i>	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> <u>JULY 19</u>