

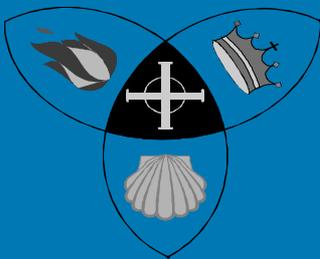
Messiah Lutheran Church  
7740 Highway 72 West  
Madison, Alabama 35758

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**Return Service Requested**

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

June 2012  
Volume 24 Issue 6

*The newsletter and calendar for Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) Madison, Alabama*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 June Calendar
- 2 Pastor's Page/Services of Worship
- 3 Life Passages/Music Notes
- 4 Outreach/Stewardship Thought
- 5 Birthdays/Council Notes
- 6 Fellowship News/News Flashes
- 7 Youth Zone
- 8 Month in Pictures
- 9 Featured Member – The Ostendorff Family

## 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. Ruth Hamilton.....Pastor for the summer

Rev. Scott Peterson.....Pastor

Cheryl Byers, Ellie Nelson.....Office Managers

Claire Strand.....Director of Outreach Ministries

Lauren Gray.....Director of Youth Ministries

Lois Graff.....Director of Music Ministries

Randall Fields.....Choir Director

Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  <i>Scott &amp; Bonnie Jane Peterson Paul</i>	2  <i>Doris Reynolds</i>
3 <i>8am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 11am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer</i>	4  Pastor Ruth arrives!	5  10am Comforters	6  <i>7pm Pastor Ruth's class on the Christian Faith</i>	7	8	9  <i>9am Oh, Brother! Dress Rehearsal</i>
<b>Oh, Brother! Music Camp 9-4pm</b>						
	<i>Jonianne &amp; Mark Ridzelski-McCombs Brooke, Sebastian</i>	<i>Paul &amp; Amanda Rochowiak Peyton</i>		<i>Betty Roenfeldt</i>	<i>7:30pm Bridge Club in Parish Hall Dale &amp; Tammy Rohe Whitney</i>	<i>6pm OWLS: HCC's "Showtune" Linda Ruhl</i>
10 <i>8:30am Worship: Music Camp Presents 9am LWR Pancake Breakfast &amp; MEET PASTOR RUT 10 am Adult Choir 11am Worship: Music Camp Presents w/LS</i>	11  <i>11am Ladies Cancer Survivor Luncheon  Heidi Sage</i>	12  10am Comforters  <i>Norm &amp; Sheilah Scheurich Jennifer, Shaun</i>	13  <i>7pm Pastor Ruth's class on the Christian Faith  Stefan &amp; Allie Schmidt</i>	14    <i>7pm Church Council  Dan &amp; Carolyn Scroggins Chase, Lydia</i>	15    <b>VBS dinner</b>  <i>Lee &amp; Dorothy Seitz Walter, Andrew, Hannah, Thomas</i>	16    <i>8am Father's Day Fish Outing  Dan &amp; Michelle Shaffer</i>
17 <i>Father's Day</i>  <i>8am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 11am Worship: Contemporary Service</i>	18	19  10am Comforters	20  <i>7pm Pastor Ruth's class on the Christian Faith</i>	21    <i>8:30am Morning Study Group</i>	22	23    <i>Todd Smith</i>
<b>AFFIRM for Jr. and Sr. Youth</b>						
	<i>Rex &amp; Fran Shaffer</i>	<i>John &amp; Elaine Shriver Iain, Christopher</i>	<i>Lee &amp; Janet Smith</i>	<i>Joe Paxton Nathan</i>	<i>Steve &amp; Jacqueline Smith Natasha</i>	
24 <i>8:30am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 10am Adult Choir 11am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS</i>	25    <i>Pamela Sparks</i>	26    <i>Tim &amp; Kay Spence Katie, Michael</i>	27  <i>7pm Pastor Ruth's class on the Christian Faith</i>  <i>Lon &amp; Connie Stanger Josh, Ben</i>	28    <i>Karl &amp; Judy Starkloff</i>	29    <i>6pm Thrivent Lutheran Night with Huntsville Stars  Ed &amp; Mary Ann Stasiak</i>	30    <i>Bobbie Stender</i>

Looking ahead...

- July 27 Youth Coffeehouse
- Movie Night in July



## Pastor's Page

By Pastor Ruth Hamilton [Ruth.Hamilton@elca.org](mailto:Ruth.Hamilton@elca.org)

*For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.*

--St. Paul to the Romans 1:11-12

First, let me introduce myself. I am Pastor Ruth Hamilton, and I am on sabbatical from my call to the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA. I serve as assistant to the secretary and the executive for Office of the Secretary administration (our human resources department is fond of long, descriptive titles), which means that I oversee budget, personnel, constitutions, policies, minutes, special projects, and anything else the Secretary needs. I have worked in the Office of the Secretary since 1999, with the exception of 14 months that I spent on internship. Before going to seminary I was a professor of English, and I have been an administrator in a research library and in archives as well.

In addition, since 2005, I have served as Pastoral Assistant for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saint Luke in Chicago. This means I get to do things I really love: leading worship and teaching every week, preaching regularly, and providing pastoral care. I have two grown sons: Geoff, who is married to Maria (a writer and graduate student), lives in New York City, and works in the area of finance, and Greg, who is married to Meredith (a post-doc in biology), lives just outside of San Francisco, and is doing a post-doc in bio-chemistry. In my spare time I love to read and to throw dinner parties.

The next thing I want to say is that I am not crazy. Yes, I know that it's hot and humid in Alabama during the summer (even worse than in Chicago). Yes, I know that a Sabbatical is supposed to be restful and restorative. But when I was considering what would both serve this church and make me happy, I decided that helping someone else go on Sabbatical would fit the bill. So Pastor Delmer Chilton of the Southeastern Synod staff introduced me to Pastor Scott, I talked with Pastor Scott and Messiah's Congregation Council, and here I (almost) am. I could not be more excited and delighted.

The most important thing I want to say is "Thank you." I really appreciate this opportunity to be with you, to get to know each other, and to serve God together. Like St. Paul writing to the Romans, I am looking forward to sharing our gifts and being strengthened, so that "we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith."

See you soon,

*Pastor Ruth*

*MEET PASTOR RUTH at the LWR Breakfast between services on Sunday, June 10, in the Fellowship Hall.*

*Pastor Ruth will teach a class on the Christian Faith on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning June 6.*

## June 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

**June 3** Now the Feast w/LS  
**June 10** Music Camp, *Oh Brother!*  
**June 17** LBW Setting 1 w/LS  
**June 24** WOV Service of Word/Prayer

### Sundays at 11:00 am

**June 3** WOV Service of Word/Prayer  
**June 10** Music Camp, *Oh Brother!* with LS  
**June 17** Contemporary Service  
**June 24** 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.

**DEATHS:** Joe Stuart's mother, Cumi Brannon Stuart, passed away on May 18th at the age of 93.

**GRADUATE:** Charlie Underwood graduated from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa on May 13.

**CONFIRMATION:**

Confirmed on Sunday May 27th were William Mark Bartel, Kaitlyn Nicole Esteppe, Kendall Victoria Michelle Frye, Elizabeth Lynn Joens, Athena Loren Lindsay, Shaun AJ Scheurich, Katrina Marie Strand, and Josef Konrad Tegtmeier-Rottach.

**THANKS:** Christian Erickson would like to thank everyone for their kind support of his Lead America trip. He is extremely grateful and plans on sharing some stories and pictures of the event when he returns at the end of summer.

### **SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY AUGUST 5, at 3:00 PM** **CHARLIE UNDERWOOD'S ORDINATION**

If all goes as expected, Charlie Underwood will be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at MLC on Sunday, August 5. The service will begin at 3:00 p.m. This is in anticipation of a Congregation vote at Elizabeth Lutheran Church in Caldwell, TX, on June 10, to call Charlie as their pastor.

## Music Notes

By Lois Graff



### **Music Camp, Oh, Brother!**

It is almost time for.....Messiah's 19<sup>th</sup> annual Music Camp! Music Camp will be held the week of June 4 - 8 and the original musical will be presented at both services on June 10. Dress rehearsal is on Saturday morning. The musical is the story of Jacob and Esau and focuses on relationships, both with friends and family here and with our Heavenly Father.

The camp lasts from 9 am - 4 pm each day. Campers will enjoy music, drama, arts & crafts, recreation and a snack in the morning. After lunch there is an activity (roller skating, bowling, swimming, etc.) The cost is \$75 per child. Invite your friends and neighbors! Pre-register or register the morning of June 4 at 8 am.

If you have questions or would like to help in any way, please contact Lois Graff.

### **Youth Coffeehouse - July 27**

For more information, contact Lois Graff or Lauren Gray.

### **Summer Choir Schedule**

Summer is a good time to sing with the Adult Choir. Try it. Come and lift your voices to the Lord! Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings:

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 8 am
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 10 am

## Outreach News

### Thrivent Builds with Habitat Humanity – The Johnson's House

By Susan Burrer, Thrivent Chapter Specialist

A BIG thank you to all of Messiah for so faithfully supporting the 2012 Habitat Build by providing monetary gifts, lunches, LABOR, and prayers! Thanks to Paulette MacNamara & her team for heading up the yard sale, providing the last \$500 that Messiah needed to raise for our part of the committed funds. All of us working together truly were *...building lives, one home at a time...* Senchal Johnson and her family's house was dedicated May 19 and they will be able to move in mid-June! God's Blessings for helping make this happen!



## Become a Part of Outreach

By Janell Zesinger

Because I am a mean mom, we're pretty hard-nosed about thank you notes at our house. At some point, in the days following a birthday or Christmas, a chorus of whining and complaining can be heard throughout the house. "It's going to take *forever!*" "Ugh, why do we have to do this?" "It's so not fair!"

Did you see the Outreach Report in this year's Annual Report? Along with the Education and Youth reports, we were the only committee the powers-that-be in the church office granted two pages of real estate. And I still don't think we fit it all in. The breadth of community and global outreach ministries the members of this church contribute their time, talents, and money to amazes me. Each of these ministries was brought to Messiah by a member who felt called to give of themselves to a need greater than their own.

Do you have a new outreach ministry you would like to see at Messiah? (Next year I have no problem pushing the report to three pages...!) Please bring your ideas to Claire Strand or me, and we will do all we can to help you make it a part of Messiah's outreach ministries.

When my children complain about having to write thank you notes, I try to explain what a blessing it is to have so many thank you notes to write. What a blessing it is to me to write this thank you note to you! Thank you all for continuing to live our mission of "God's People Reaching Out."

## Stewardship Thought

*....then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.....The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. Genesis 2:7,15*

During the summer months, consider caring for creation whenever possible. Here are some tips:

- Turn off the lights and TV when you are not in the room
- Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins.
- Pull weeds instead of spraying with chemicals.
- Don't leave water running while brushing your teeth or doing dishes.
- Use old T-shirts as rags for cleaning, dusting or wiping up spills. Try to eliminate paper towels.
- Shop at the farmer's markets in the summer. Buy local produce whenever possible.



## Council Highlights

### Discussed at the May Council Meeting:

1. A permanent address stone has been purchased and will be installed on the front of the sanctuary. It will be similar to the cornerstone that is on the side of the church.
2. Pastor Ruth Hamilton, interim pastor while Pastor Peterson is on sabbatical this summer, will attend the Southeastern Synod Assembly with the Messiah representatives. She will have a one-week overlap with Pastor Scott before she takes over her pastoral duties in his absence.
3. MLC's 2012-13 Council is: Pastor Scott Peterson, Pres.; John Shriver, VP; Toni Daniel, Sec.; Devonee Woods, Treas.; Mike Boyer, Worship & Music; Janell Zesinger, Outreach; Dick Azzam, Ed. & Youth; William Strand, Youth Rep.; Lois Graff, Stewardship; Mary Ann Stasiak, Fellowship; Gerard de Jong, Property; Lee Smith, Finance.

*As a symbol of Messiah's faithful support of Charlie Underwood as he completed his degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, the Comforters presented him with a banner. Charlie graduated on May 13<sup>th</sup>.*



### Thrivent's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutheran Night with the Huntsville Stars

Warm weather is here! And you know what that means: It will soon be time for baseball, hotdogs, popcorn and fellowship!

Friday, **June 29**, has been chosen as the official date for Thrivent's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutheran Night with the Huntsville Stars at Joe Davis Stadium! Please plan to come and enjoy the game, special events, food and fellowship under the big tent.

Tickets may be purchased from your Thrivent advocate/church office or from the Thrivent Huntsville Office: 7500 Memorial Parkway SW, Suite 115M, Huntsville, AL, 256-883-5509. Ticket pricing is as follows: adult tickets are \$12.00; tickets for children 4-12 years old are \$8.00; children 3 years old and younger get in free. The ticket price includes your admission to the big tent as well as your admission to the game.

The gates open at 6pm. Game time is at 6:43pm. The Stars will be playing the Mobile BayBears!

**See you at the Game!**



## Fellowship Committee News

By Mary Ann Stasiak



**Fathers' Day Fishing Outing:** Mark Zesinger will be hosting the Fathers' Day fishing outing on the morning of Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> at Stenders' pond. All dads and kids welcome, all ages! We will meet at Messiah at 8 AM on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Mark at with questions. If it rains, we'll go bowling instead. Please sign up at the Welcome Center so Mark knows how many to expect and can let you know if the plan changes to bowling.

**The OWLS** will be attending Huntsville Community Chorus' presentation of "Showtune" starring Messiah's own Mike Boyer on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. This presentation is a dinner theater; we are hoping to get several tables of 8 together. Tickets are \$30 per person, please contact Janice Murphy for more details

**Wednesday Night Café** is over until school starts in August. Many, many thanks to Debi Peterson for leading this important ministry, and to the many volunteers who made this a great event for Messiah all year through.

**Bridge Club** is on the second Friday of every month starting at 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall, this month on June 8th. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share - Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

**Other upcoming events:**

- Movie Night in July

Can you help with an upcoming event? Contact Mary Ann Stasiak.

## News Flashes!



Comforter's will meet every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m in June. Questions? Call Annette Joens.

**KEEP AWAY - DON'T JOIN US - WE REALLY WISH YOU WOULDN'T COME!**

Ribbons of Courage, MLC's ladies cancer survivor group is the only group in church that does not want new members. However, if you do find yourself qualifying we are here to help you along the way. Our next meeting will be a salad luncheon at Janet Smith's house on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. If you are a lady cancer survivor and have not been contacted please give Janet a call. Everyone else, please stay healthy and don't join us.

## BigHeart Farms Where God's Fruit Grows

June 15<sup>th</sup> is when we'll have our one day VBS! We'll also have a family dinner at the end of our full day where parents can join us for a great meal. See Lauren Gray for more information!

## Youth Zone

By Lauren Gray     [youth\\_director@mlutheran.org](mailto:youth_director@mlutheran.org)

### Vacation Bible School

VBS is taking place this summer on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>! This year we are having VBS all in one day. Our theme, **Big Heart Farms**, is based off of the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:16-26. There is a sign up in the Narthex. We also need certain supplies for crafts and games. You can sign up to bring certain items located on the Sunday school bulletin board. Thank you!

### 30 Hour Famine

We raised over \$1,500 for our 30 hour famine fundraising! Thank you to all who supported our youth!

### 30HF Car Wash

After postponing our car wash, we finally had a sunny Saturday where we washed a bunch of cars and raised over \$300 from donations. Thank you Messiah congregation for bringing your dirty cars for us to wash!

### Affirm

Calling all Jr. High and Sr. High youth! Affirm is closer than you think! This year, Affirm will be held **June 17-22**. Affirm is a five-day youth event of faith, fellowship, and friends. The event offers youth the opportunity to develop the ministry/life skills that allow each individual to know and live out God's affirming touch in Jesus Christ. The **cost for Affirm is \$375**, which includes lodging, all meals, an event t-shirt, and all program costs. **The deadline has been moved to May 31<sup>st</sup>**, so please let Lauren know if you are interested in attending!

### National Youth Gathering

The NYG is coming up fast! We now have 11 youth and 4 chaperones attending. There will be another informational meeting coming up soon, so keep looking for more details.



*Some of our youth washing cars for 30 Hour Famine Car Wash*

## The Month in Pictures – June 2012



Claire Strand presented a \$1,500 donation check to Miss Sherry at The Milestone Christian Academy. This check represents a portion of the offerings made during Lent. The money will be used to improve their kitchen facilities.



Pastor Scott and Gerard deJong at our Lunches for Learning-sponsored school in Honduras.



On Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, the ladies and children celebrated Mother's Day with a Fondue Luncheon where they also decorated wine glasses and candleholders.



The 2012-2013 Church Council was installed on May 13.



The OWLS hosted a potluck dinner as a farewell to Ken and Nancy Grant who will be relocating to Chapel Hill, NC in June..



The Sunday School Awards Ceremony was held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Gary Garrison for presenting the event as well as being Sunday School Superintendant for the year.

## Meet the Ostendorff Family



Jeff, Heather, Gabriel and Kara Ostendorff attended Messiah for the first time in the summer of 2011 and have been members since December 2011. After visiting other churches in the area they settled at Messiah because they thought it was welcoming and family friendly.

Jeff, originally from New York and Heather, from Pennsylvania met when they attended the same college in Pennsylvania. After living in Fairfax, Virginia for 8 years they learned Jeff's job with the Army Contracting Command was being transferred to Huntsville. With a lot of thought and consideration, the decision was made to move with his job. The move allowed Heather to quit her job as a clinical coordinator with a nursing and rehab center and stay home with the kids full time - a

Settling into life in Madison has been an exciting challenge. With the closest family over 14 hours away, the church has helped us find ways to become active in the community. Heather and the kids attend the mom's Bible group on Wednesday mornings. Heather has taught the 2 and 3 year old Sunday School class this past year and will step into the role as the Sunday School Superintendent this next term. Jeff has helped as a counter and intends to become more active in Habitat for Humanity. The whole family acts as greeters and the kids can't wait for VBS this year.

Aside from roles in the church, Gabriel - age 4 - enjoys participating in soccer and classes at the Little Gym. He has a love for cars and sports and building and creating. He has great desire to learn and is always challenging his mind. He's excited to start attending preschool in the fall. Kara - age 3 - is excited to start classes at the Little Gym this summer. She is a creative little girl who loves to do crafts and make music. She has a great imagination and is always playing with her dolls and Barbies. Aside from exploring our new home town and attractions in the area, Jeff enjoys reading, ice hockey and golf and Heather loves to read and scrapbook.

As we continue to settle into our new lives in Alabama and in our church, we hope to become more active as a family with the outreach and ministries of the church.

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

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**June 2012**  
**Volume 24, Issue 6**

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 June 18<sup>th</sup>.