

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. 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. Newsletter submissions may be sent to Beth Gloe.



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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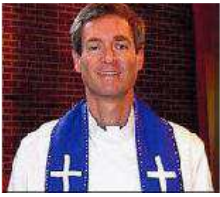
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45am E-100 Bible Study 11am Worship: ELW Setting 8 12:15pm Instrumental Ensemble 12:15pm Foodies Kickoff 5pm Jr. Youth Meeting 6pm Sr. High Meeting	2 9:30am Mom's Bible Study Allen & Peggy Nuss	3 10am Comforters Troy Nuss	4 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Soup Suppers 6pm Cherub Choir 6pm Bible Study 7pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Adult Choir Diane Oliver	5 12pm AGO Organ Recital at MLC Charles & Barbara Olson	6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 30 Hour Famine Jr. & Sr. High Youth </div> Brian & Audrey Osterndorf Lydia, Hannah	7 Don & Lizzie Palmer
8 Daylight Savings Begins 8:30am Worship: Youth Service 9:45am E-100 Bible Study 11am Worship: Youth Service w/LS	9 Joe Paxton Nathan	10 10am Comforters Paul & Julie Pedesen Lorelie, Christopher	11 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Soup Suppers 6pm Cherub Choir 6pm Bible Study 7pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Adult Choir Phil & Sonja Pedersen Heather	12 7pm University of Alabama-Birmingham Chorus & Bob Jones Chorus Performance At MLC Steve & Linda Peirce	13 7:30pm Bridge Club in Parish Hall Jay & Gretchen Perry Jayson, Ashlyn	14 Kevin & Debi Peterson Shane, Amanada
15 8:30am Worship: Bread of Life w/LS 9:45am E-100 Bible Study 11am Worship: Contemporary Service 12:15pm Instrumental Ensemble 5pm Jr. Youth Meeting 6pm Sr. High Meeting	16 9:30am Mom's Bible Study Laura Peterson	17 St. Patrick's Day 10am Comforters Scott & Bonnie Jane Peterson Paul	18 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Soup Suppers 6pm Cherub Choir 6pm Bible Study 7pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Adult Choir Tim & Kari Pitchko Greyson	19 7pm Council Meeting Kert & DeeAnn Reedstrom	20 Jonnianne Ridzelski-McCombs & Mark McCombs Brooke, Sebastian	21 Adam & Erica Roberts Evelyn, Logan
22 8:30am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:45am E-100 Bible Study 11am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS St. Patrick's Corned Beef Luncheon 6pm Sr. High Meeting	23 Art Rockett	24 10am Comforters Betty Roenfeldt	25 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Soup Suppers 6pm Cherub Choir 6pm Bible Study 7pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Adult Choir Dale & Tammy Rohe	26 Bob & Peggie Rowell	27 Jay & Amy Ruff Holden, Bayard	28 Linda Ruhl
29 Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship: Confession & Forgiveness 9:45am E-100 Bible Study 11am Worship: Confession & Forgiveness 12:30pm Council Packs for Weekend Food Pgm 6pm Sr. High Meeting	30 9:30am Mom's Bible Study Eric & Sharon Rutherford Katrina Messinger	31 10am Comforters Larry & Christine Ryan Bailey, Bridie, Brendan				

March 2015

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

Looking ahead...

- April 5th – Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter
- April 26th: Anniversary Celebration of Messiah's First Service of Worship – April 23, 1989
- May 23 & 24 – Celebration of MLC becoming an organized congregation
- June 1 – 5 – Music Camp



Pastor's Page

By Pastor Scott Peterson scott@mlutheran.com

*"My God, my God, **why** have you forsaken me?"*

--Jesus, quoting Psalm 22 in Mark 15:34

Dear Friends of the Crucified Messiah,

IS THERE ANY OTHER QUESTION THAT VEXES US MORE THAN, "WHY, GOD?" We have different details surrounding our 'Why, God' questions.

+Why, God, did you....?

+Why, God, didn't you...?

+Why, God, did you allow...?

+Why, God, do I have...?

+Why, God, is my beloved...?

WHY? I DO NOT KNOW, BUT THIS I KNOW...

+I know we do get answers to some of our 'Why, God?' questions eventually in this life. Looking back, sometimes we see the wisdom in God not answering prayers as we hoped at the time. God knew better and now we understand. But, not always; some 'Why, God?' questions never are answered in this life.

+I know there are more **lament Psalms** than any other type of Psalm. God's chosen people have not been sheltered from hardship, but God's people have known Whom to turn to in their pain and grief. It is not wrong for us to ask God 'Why' or to question 'Where are you God?' Psalms 10, 22, 42, 43, 44, 74, and 88 all include God's people asking 'Why God?' Keep asking God.

+I know that often in lament Psalms **comfort comes in REMEMBERING**. In the midst of our anguish it may help to remember what the Lord has done for us in the past. That gives hope for the future. God is not done with us yet.

+I know it helps me to remember that God's answers to my prayers have included, "Yes," or "Later," and (my favorite) "I have a better idea."

+AND, IT HELPS TO KNOW THAT EVEN JESUS ASKED, "WHY, GOD?" Indeed, that shows Jesus entered fully into our humanity. Our Savior knows all about human suffering from profound experience. There is no place we can go where Jesus has not gone before us. When Jesus cried, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" He was quoting the first verse of Psalm 22; perhaps the most powerful lament Psalm. Jesus knew how that Psalm ended, "**Posterity will serve Him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim His deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that He has done it**" (vs. 30-31).

HIS HEAVENLY FATHER HEARD JESUS' CRY and, at the right time, delivered Jesus from death to life. Our heavenly Father hears our cries of "Why, God?" Keep watching and praying. Our Lord has promised to deliver us in His time. And, our God always keeps His promises.

Lenten hope,
Pastor Scott

March 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

Mar 1	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Mar 8	Youth Service
Mar 15	Bread of Life w/LS
Mar 22	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
Mar 29	Confession & Forgiveness

Sundays at 11:00 am

Mar 1	ELW Setting 8
Mar 8	Youth Service w/LS
Mar 15	Contemporary Service
Mar 22	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Mar 29	Confession & Forgiveness



Life Passages

By Claire Strand 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.

FIRST COMMUNION: First Communion was celebrated by Drake Meyer, Aaron Woods, Abigail Tucker, James Zesinger, and Holden Ruff on Sunday, February 15th.

Fellowship Committee

By Greg Kilby & Christine Ryan



Are you missing your favorite potluck dish or pan? We have a large number of dishes on top of the microwave oven in the Parish Hall kitchen. If unclaimed, they will be put to good use elsewhere. Please check and pick up any dishes you may have left at church during another event!

Bridge Club will be held on Friday March 13 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. New players are welcome! Please contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

Lenten Soup Suppers have started! Please join us for these great Wednesday night meals during Lent. Thanks to Cheryl Byers and Terry Frakes for leading the soup suppers this year! Groups are also welcome to sponsor other soup suppers. Please contact Cheryl or Terry if you or your group can help out!

We will have our annual **St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Luncheon** on March 22. Please look for a sign-up at the Welcome Center. Signing up in advance is very helpful to those planning the lunch!

Wednesday Night Café will continue after Easter. 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!

Mid-Week Lenten Services of Worship

Lent continues in March with services on 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.)

- 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: I Am the Bread of Life...Intern Pastor Rachel, 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 – kits have already begun!

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."

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).

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.

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



BASKETS of PROMISE

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **Baskets of**

BASKETS of PROMISE

"For where your treasure is, there your heart

ELCA Good Gifts Piggy Bank



During Lent our Sunday School children will be bringing home a piggy bank to fill with coins. Money collected by the children will go to the ELCA *Good Gifts Piggy Bank* program. Just \$30 can provide a piglet to a family in need. When this little piggy grows up, she will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year. Pigs help fertilize fields, provide food to eat and can be sold at market for much-needed income. What a BIG difference a pig can make, so stuff those piggies!

First Stop



On March 1st, Clete Wetli, from *First Stop* will deliver a temple talk at Messiah on the work they do to care for and support the homeless in our community. More info about *First Stop* can be accessed at their website, www.firststop.org

Lutheran World Relief



Also during Lent, Rhonda Gaede, will do a Temple Talk with photos of her October visit to the LWR distribution warehouse.

Lenten Offerings

Unless otherwise designated, Lenten Offerings will be equally divided between First Stop Inc., and building a kitchen for our Lunches for Learning school in El Barrial, Honduras.

First Stop Inc., was established in 2001 to reduce the number of homeless persons in Huntsville/Madison County, and provides valuable services in the community by:

- Promoting rehabilitation of our homeless citizens;
- Facilitating their transition from the street into permanent housing
- Assisting their reintroduction into the workforce, and
- Providing life-management-skills training to promote continued stability and growth.

Music Notes

By Lois Graff



Noontime AGO Organ 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 5th, Messiah Lutheran Church will be hosting a recital as part of this series. Organists Lori Larson and Mary Williamson will be the recital performers, featuring works by Bach, Buxtehude, and Franck, among others. Come to enjoy an organ concert at 12 noon on Thursday, March 5th.

University of Alabama-Birmingham Chorus

The University of Alabama-Birmingham Chorus will be performing a concert at MLC as part of their choral tour on Thursday, March 12th at 7 p.m. They will be joined by the Bob Jones High School Chorus, under the direction of Randall Fields. Free and open to the public. Donations accepted.

Music Camp 2014

Music Camp is only 3 months away! Music Camp 2015 will be June 1 - 5, with presentations on June 7. Mark your calendars now for a week of music, learning and fun!

Council Update

1. MLC's first Service of Worship was April 23, 1989, (26 years ago). A 25th Anniversary reception between services on April 26th in the Fellowship Hall is being planned.
2. MLC's Organization was on Sunday, May 20, 1990. This will be celebrated the weekend of May 23-24. On Saturday, May 23rd there will be a gathering at the Union Hall site followed by events at MLC and a casual evening meal. Sunday, May 24th will be festive with special guests, displays, and a meal in the Parish Hall. Thanks to the Committee that is doing lots of good work on this.
3. Plans for Highway 72 widening: The Task Force's spokesman, Ed Stasiak, presented Messiah's issues and suggestions. ALDOT was very receptive about not moving our driveway. They also were going to look into changing the left turn at Lawson Ridge and adding an acceleration lane for the church entrance.
4. Ellie Nelson will be retiring from her work as MLC Office Manager. We will plan for an appreciation celebration on Sunday, May 31st.
5. The Council will be packing for the weekend food program on the 29th of March after late service.

News Flashes!

NEW MLC COOKBOOK To help commemorate MLC's 25th anniversary, we are making a new cookbook that we hope will be available to purchase by Memorial Day weekend. We need our members to help by contributing their favorite recipes. We have lots of wonderful cooks (including guys) in our congregation that can submit recipes. There is a Recipe Collection Sheet here on the web page if you did not pick up a form at the Welcome Center in the narthex. Please consider contributing several of your favorite recipes to make this an excellent cookbook that we can enjoy for years to come. Currently on our committee with me are Kimberly Dennig, Barbara Azzam, and Cheryl Byers. If you would like to join the fun and be on the committee, let me know.
Chairperson: LeeLinda Baggett

HELP WANTED: We have been given so much good news to share that our church sign requires a lot of changes. If you like ladders (and letters) join the marquee team. Talk to Pete Woods, Mark Zesinger, or call the office.



Lenten Soup Suppers 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 or Terry Frakes if you have any questions.

CALLED TO SERVE ON MESSIAH'S CHURCH COUNCIL?

The Nominating Committee is at work to identify and match God-given gifts in members of MLC with offices on Church Council. Elections will be at the Congregation Meeting in May. MLC will elect a Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer to one-year terms as Officers of MLC. Council Representatives from the Fellowship, Outreach, and Stewardship Committees will be elected to two-year terms. A Finance representative will be elected for a one-year term to fill a vacancy, and a Youth representative will be elected for a one-year term. Also, a 2016 Nominating Committee and Sunday School Superintendent(s) will be elected. Position descriptions may be found at the church website under the Council tab. If God is calling you to volunteer to be on the ballot or to nominate another MLC member to serve if elected, please talk to a member of the Nominating Committee. The 2015 Nominating Committee is Cheryl Byers, Toni Daniel, Claire Strand, Lee Smith, Mark Thompson, and Linda Pierce; or you may call the Church Office at (256) 721-0041.

Youth News

30 hour famine for Jr. and Sr. youth will be March 6-7. Sign up sheet is at the Welcome Center. Contact Kari Pitchko for more info or questions.

Messiah Memories Display: “Messiah Remembers”

As part of Messiah’s 25th Anniversary Celebration, all members and friends are asked to share a short memory you have about Messiah, your experiences, and/or our members. Memories may be as short as 2 or 3 sentences but should fit in the form provided. Photos and drawings may also be scanned on the forms. Forms can be found on a link to Messiah’s 25th Anniversary page on Messiah’s website and Facebook pages. Forms are also available at the Welcome Center.

Members are encouraged to share more than one memory; however, each memory should be submitted on a separate form. Members may sign their names or remain anonymous. The memories will be mounted and hung in the church beginning April 19th and will remain hanging through the celebration weekend May 23-24th. After the celebration, they will be stored in a binder for future viewing.

Submissions may 1) be completed directly online from the form posted on the 25th Anniversary page on mlutheran.org, 2) e-mailed as an attachment to messiahmemories@mlutheran.org, or 3) turned in at the narthex Welcome Center.

Wouldn’t it be great if every member would submit a memory? While Memories can be submitted now until after April 19th, we encourage everyone to submit his/her forms early.

Suggested memory categories or prompts are listed below. You are not limited to these categories! Linda Peirce and Meredith Kilby are coordinating the project with the 25th Anniversary Committee. Please e-mail them if you have questions or need more information.

Category	Such as...
Worship	Interesting or inspirational things that happened during worship.
Music	Music ministry moments - or share a favorite hymn or write what music means to you.
Growing in Faith	Remembering Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Bible Studies, Music Camp, etc.
Fellowship Follies	Stories relating to current or past fellowship endeavors.
Messiah Journeys	Memories connected to MLC missions, camps and retreats.
First Impressions	What brought you to Messiah? What were your first impressions or experiences?
In Remembrance	A place to honor the lives of MLC members who have passed or moved on.
Messiah Moments	A place to share any special funny or poignant memory you have including Baptisms, Confirmations, weddings, etc.
Behind the Scenes	Stories from serving on the Altar Guild, Church Council or other church committees working “behind the scenes.”

Month in Pictures - February



The Comforters group, admiring a quilt put together by Lori Mahanna



The Cherub Choir, directed by Claire and Stephen Strand, presenting "Who Did Swallow Jonah" on February 22.



The Youth organized carnations for Valentine's Day



Five of our members celebrated First Communion on February 15th. Pictured with Pastor Scott, (from left to right) Holden Ruff, James Zesinger, Abigail Tucker, Aaron Woods and Drake Meyer.

Month in Pictures – February, continued

On February 15th, Messiah celebrated 25 years since the Church broke ground on Hwy 72 on February 14, 1993. A reception was held with memorabilia from the ground breaking and a “dirt” cake with miniature construction equipment. Thank you to Karl Starkloff for all of the photos from 1993. A video from 25 years ago, courtesy of Bonnie Jane Peterson, can be viewed on the Messiah blog.



My Favorite Bible Verse

By Claire Strand

*As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. –Isaiah 55:10-11*

A pocket dictionary “lives” on my nightstand. I like to know what words mean. Too much of my time is spent trying to understand. A Bible also lives on my nightstand. Reading the 10th and 11th verses of the 55th chapter of Isaiah comforts my vain attempts and shushes all my “whys”. I can't “see” or “understand” the majority of His glories in the world, but when I read these words I feel at peace with that. Lord help me cherish those moments when I can see you and help me to trust that you will transform my brokenness and imperfect work to achieve your purpose.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

From January 16-25, we were so blessed to have been a part of the Partners in Faith Dedication service of the new Cristo Rey Lutheran Church and 22 homes for congregation members in Santa Ana, El Salvador, in conjunction with a Build and helping with the final stages of the Church outside work.

Virgil & Susan Burrer



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



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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 March 22nd.