

Messiah Lutheran Church  
7740 Highway 72 West  
Madison, Alabama 35758

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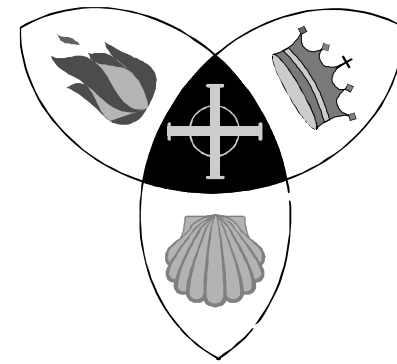
Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is [www.mlutheran.com](http://www.mlutheran.com).** Church 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.

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# MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 21: Issue 9      October 2009  
[www.mlutheran.com](http://www.mlutheran.com)



**Halloween Party &  
Chili Cook-off  
Oct. 24**



*Let your light so shine before others,  
that they may see your good deeds*

*and glorify your Father in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:16*

*'A mighty fortress is our God.'* --Martin Luther

Dear Friends of the Reigning Messiah,

**WHAT DOES 'LUTHERAN' MEAN?** Since this is the newsletter of Messiah *Lutheran* Church that word '*Lutheran*' must be significant to us. Perhaps you already know Martin Luther was a university professor and Augustinian monk serving a remote German university in the first half of the 16th century. The story of Martin Luther is rich and colorful, but it certainly is not his personality that defines what '*Lutheran*' means.

LUTHER'S REDISCOVERY OF THE GOSPEL transformed him. Then, as he preached and taught, all of Europe and eventually the whole world changed. What *Lutheran* means is best summed up in three "**alone's**".

**THE BIBLE ALONE** is the source and rule for Lutheran proclamation, faith, and life. Luther recognized the Bible is the inspired word of God to us. The Bible, not our experience, reason, culture, politics, or science, is our final authority.

**FAITH ALONE** puts us in a right relationship with God. This faith which justifies us to God is not our doing, but a gift from God. The gift of faith is given to us because Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the dead to save us from sin, death and the devil. Jesus and *His faithfulness* is God's definitive action for us. And...

**GRACE ALONE** means that it is God's unmerited favor that saves us from the powers of sin, death, and eternal punishment. We are chosen to be God's children not because we in any way deserve that, but because our Lord is loving and merciful to us.

LUTHERANS DO NOT WORSHIP MARTIN LUTHER. Rather, we are grateful that Luther was a faithful witness who points us away from our sinful selves to our Lord and Savior. In Germany the heirs of Luther call themselves '*evangelicals*', not '*Lutherans*'. '*Evangelical*' is the name Luther preferred because...

**WE ARE THE GOOD NEWS PEOPLE!** '*Evangelical*' comes from the Greek work for '*good news*'. (*'Gospel'* is the old English equivalent which also means '*good news*'.) So, what does '*Lutheran*' mean? It means we, like Martin Luther did long ago, are called to celebrate and share the good news of what God has done to save sinners like us.

WE HAVE THE BEST NEWS for now and eternity. God honored us with the joy and responsibility to share the good news of Jesus where we live and around the world. This year Reformation Sunday is October 25, when we celebrate our Lutheran heritage. See you in church.

*Grace and peace,*  
*Pastor Scott Peterson*

## **Church Council Highlights**

**Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of MLC:** Planning efforts continue. Charter members will receive a rose on December 20. Dates for the celebration are in Pastor Scott's report in the looking ahead section.

**Korean Mission Church** - There is a desire to start a Korean mission church in the area and they have requested to meet in the Messiah Lutheran Parish Hall on Sunday afternoons.

Motion: Motion to allow the Korean Mission Church utilize our facility with 10% of offerings to be directed to Messiah Lutheran Church.

**November 15** - Congregation Meeting to set the 2010 budget.



## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

**Wednesday Nite Cafe'** - Dinner is provided each Wednesday Nite starting at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome! Cost is \$3 per person with a cap of \$15 per family. Thanks for all the help with the wonderful meals! We are still looking for someone to make reminder phone calls and to help with clean-up following the meals. If you are

interested, please call Dorothy Seitz. ***There will not be dinner the week of Fall Break - October 7.***

**The Grand Chili Cook-off / Halloween Party** is Saturday, Oct. 24 at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall. Bring your special recipe of chili. Costumes welcome!!

**Calling All Bridge Players!!** Looking for a relaxing evening of friendly bridge and fellowship? If so, then this is your lucky day. Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak are starting a Messiah Lutheran Bridge Club. The Club will meet the first Friday night of every month at 8:00 p.m. starting November 6<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested, please leave your name and phone number in their church mailbox, drop them an email

**Elfin Magic...** is just around the corner. This annual event allows children to make Christmas gifts for family members. Please call the office if you are interested in assisting with this fun event or if you have any questions.

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**Bell Ringers needed!** Try a hand bell choir at Messiah. No musical experience needed. Come to Cantabile Bell Choir on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. Try it, you'll like it!

## **Open Forum Notes from Pastor Scott**

On Sunday, September 20, two Open Forums were held (9:45 and Noon) to discuss the decisions made at the August ELCA Churchwide Assembly allowing ordination of Pastors living in committed same-gender relationships. About 75 people total attended and shared thoughts, opinions, and questions. Unquestionably this is a troubling and divisive issue in the ELCA and the broader church.

For those who did not attend and for those who did, I will write a synopsis of the comments and discussion. This will be placed in member mailboxes at church. Additional copies will be available in the Church Office.

It was requested that future Open Forums be held on this issue as others in the ELCA also weigh and consider possible responses. Watch for notices on the next Open Forum.

My counsel as the Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church is that at this point we exercise some patience. This does not mean inaction. It means patience so our words and actions are not pre-mature or hasty. I believe

that the Holy Spirit is at work and will lead Messiah Lutheran faithfully through this.



Grace and peace, *Pastor Scott Peterson*

# October Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship *(new)*

## Sundays at 8:30am

**Oct. 4** LBW Setting 2 w/ LS

**Oct. 11** WOV Service-Word/Prayer

**Oct. 18** Now the Feast w/ LS

**Oct. 25** LBW Setting 2 w/ LS

## Sundays at 11:00am

**Oct. 4** LBW Setting 2

**Oct. 11** Now the Feast w/ LS

**Oct. 18** Contemporary Service

**Oct. 25** ELW Setting 1 w/LS

### **Messiah Lutheran Church Members and Friends,**

If you have not yet done so, please fill out an Estimate of Giving card and place in the offering or get it to Financial Secretary Marc Neely. More cards will be available during service of worship on October 4 and 11. After prayerful discernment, please complete your card and return it. Giving is one way we serve as disciples.

*And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

2 Corinthians 9:10



### **Blessing of the Animals**

A “*Blessing of the Animals*” community service of worship to celebrate God’s creation will be held at Messiah on October 3 at 2 p.m. Bring your animal companions to church for a special blessing.

## **Incarnation Information**      **September 2009**

THANK YOU to everyone at Messiah for your prayers, kind words, financial gifts, gifts of items, sharing of time and talents, coming to Incarnation worship services and other events, and lots of other ways you have supported Incarnation!!!

Since my last newsletter article:

1. The County Building Inspector approved use of the building (the Friday before our first Sunday worship!)
2. We had a wonderful first worship on Sunday, September 13 at 10:45 am. We had 79 people including many from Messiah who came to show support.
3. We have gotten our building pretty much ready to go thanks to all of the hard work and donations of lots of people.
4. We have begun Wednesday church night using *The Alpha Course*. We meet Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 for fellowship, study and food. You are welcome to join us any time!
5. I (Pastor Mark) have started dividing office hours between Incarnation and Messiah. The best times to find me at Messiah are Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

I will continue to be at Messiah Sunday nights for Senior Youth meetings, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm for Confirmation class, and the Saturday mornings we have our men's breakfast. If you want to learn more about what is going on at Incarnation, please check out our website ([Incarnation-elca.org](http://Incarnation-elca.org)) or contact Pastor Mark (230-5387 or [pastor@incarnation-elca.org](mailto:pastor@incarnation-elca.org)).

Please visit us on a Wednesday night or Sunday morning or just stop by to see the building and have a cup of coffee (it is best to call ahead to make sure I am there). We continue to need one-time visitors, regular visitors and people who are committed to being part of Incarnation for the long haul. Maybe you want to help out with the nursery or children's church on occasion. Maybe you want to help out with a project at the church. Just let me know if you want to help in these or other ways.

You can continue to make donations to Incarnation by giving to Messiah and designating your gift for Incarnation, or you can make checks directly to

Incarnation and we will make sure you get a giving statement at the end of the year.

Thanks for everything. It is such a blessing to know all of you at Messiah are part of my Mission Team! Pastor Mark Borseth

## Education News - continued

### JUNIOR YOUTH

The Jr. Youth is still in need of leadership. If you are interested, please contact Celynn Ballard.

### TWEENS

- The Tweens try to plan monthly outings.
- During September, they met at Madison Square Mall to play Safari (blacklight) mini-golf.

All 3rd – 5th graders are welcome! Contact Debi Peterson or Stacy Tidwell for more information.

### CRADLE ROLL

- We are in need of someone to manage the Cradle Roll program. It involves keeping updated files on the new births at Messiah and mailing parents materials that will support their Christian education at home.
  - Thanks to Helen Kollman for doing such a fantastic job over the years of maintaining Messiah's Cradle Roll!
- 



Claire Strand.

## 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

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

- Deborah Coates announces the birth of her grandson, Ryan Taylor White, on July 27. He was 6lbs, 3oz. Parents are Stephanie and Rodney White.

**BAPTISM:** *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..." Matthew 28:19*

- Winston Paul Grimes, Leslie Susan Kidd, Crystal Gail Miller, Jerry Raymond Diaz, Angelique Kathleen Kidd, and Preston Caleb Whisman were baptized on September 6.

**Death:** *Remember I am with you always to the end of the age Matthew 28:20*

- Betty Roenfeldt's sister-in-law Meri Brauer died September 9.
- Pat Esteppe's father died September 1.
- Dave Erwin's brother-in-law died September 4.



## Education News

*Celynn Ballard*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### **God's Children, Reaching out!**

This month Messiah's 7th and 8th graders put together over 100 Lutheran World Relief kits! Our wonderful students also created bulletin covers for Incarnation's first service. We will continue our mission work with a new fundraiser. The Sunday School children are going to donate a baptismal font to our new mission church, Incarnation Lutheran in Harvest. Our Sunday school offering will help cover the cost.

Flu season is upon us! We do award good attendance but please keep your child home if they are running a fever or have any other flu like symptoms. Teachers also get sick, so we are in need of subs. Lesson plans are provided. Please contact Sarah Walker or Cheryl Byers if you are interested.

#### **Adult Sunday School:**

- Room 12 - "The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World" with Bonnie Jane Peterson
- Room 11 - The book of Genesis Bible study with Dottie Hanson
- Room 8 - "THE BOOK OF FAITH" with Bob Losheurtos - 7 weeks
- Parish Hall – Later in October, Pastor Scott will begin a weekly study on the assigned Bible texts for that Sunday. Watch for info.
- Fellowship Hall - "God's Word for Life" with John Morgan

## Youth News

### SENIOR YOUTH

- Sr. Youth had a lock-in on August 29 for the purpose of cleaning the pews in the sanctuary (scrubbing them down with Murphy Soap, and then oiling them with a light oil). Between cleaning and oiling they had a barbecue on the patio. After all the hard work, they watched a movie and tried to get a few hours of sleep before people started arriving for church. Lots of fun and work.
- They are currently trying to set up a canoe outing in October and then possibly a trip to Lutheranch in early November.
- Senior Youth are running Messiah Mugs again...please stop by and enjoy a cup of coffee!
- Anyone interested in helping John Shriver lead the Sr. Youth, please contact Celynn Ballard

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

## 3M (Messiah Men's Ministry)

### Men's Breakfast – Saturday, October 24 at 7:00 am

Come join the men of Messiah and Incarnation at Incarnation--5551 Hwy 53 in Harvest--on Saturday, October 24 at 7 a.m. We are not meeting on the second Saturday as we usually do since it is school break weekend. We have decided to meet this month at Incarnation so everyone can get to see the new building and there will be more likelihood men from Incarnation will attend. Come for a time of food, fellowship and good discussion about faith issues. Contact Pastor Mark if you have any questions.

## OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand



### ***Blessing of the Animals***

Bring your pets to be blessed! October 3: 2 p.m. Messiah Lutheran Church parking lot (in case of rain, service will be held underneath the porch outside of the front doors) For large (horse) or very ill animals, please bring a picture.

## **Handmade Market**

Oct. 17, 2 p.m.-5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall Oct. 18, 25 and Dec. 6 before/after worship. Purchase unique Christmas gifts from Messiah artisans. Over 80 special items on sale. Proceeds benefit Lunches for Learning in Honduras. To donate a craft, contact Jackie Myers.



On September 6, MLC dedicated an astounding 2,100 lbs of aid for Lutheran World Relief. The 2,100 pounds consisted of 34 pounds of soap, 118 quilts, 195 layettes, 625 school kits, and 150 health kits.

The **Outreach Committee** meeting to discuss Holiday Missions October 18, Noon, in Room 12.

**Welcome new members!** On September 13th we received into membership Kay Swanson, Marge Spaulding, Barbara and Pete Corwin, Pat and Kaitlyn Esteppe, Dave Maehr, Chuck and Barbara Olson, and Trish and Mark Grimes.



Checkout **Messiah's renovated website**. Log on to [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org)

# OCTOBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:30am Morning Study Group  Church Council 7pm  <i>WOODS, Pete &amp; Devonee Abby, Aaron</i>	2     <i>YOO, Gloria Paul, Angela</i>	3  2pm Blessing of the Animals    <i>ZESINGER, Mark &amp; Janell Merritt, Jamie</i>
4  8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship: LBW Setting 2 6:30 Sr. Youth	5     <i>ZUTTER, Paul &amp; Linda</i>	6  10 am Comforters    <i>ALCOCER, OZ &amp; Liz, Nicolas</i>	7  Fall Break No Dinner or Choirs or Confirmation classes   <i>ALFERINK, Rebecca</i>	8      <i>ALLEN, Barbara</i>	9      <i>ARMSTRONG, Tracy &amp; Staci William, Zachary</i>	10      <i>AZZAM, Dick &amp; Barbara Benjamin, Katelan</i>
11 8:30am Worship WOV Serv. Word/Prayer NO Sunday School 11:00am Worship Now the Feast w/LS 12:00 Instrumental Ens 6:30 Sr. Youth	12     <i>BALDRIDGE, Christopher &amp; Jessica</i>	13  10 am Comforters    <i>BALE, Eric</i>	14  5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Caf�e 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir  <i>BALLARD, Tom &amp; Celynn Thomas, Kate</i>	15      <i>BARTEL, Mark &amp; Lisa Alison, William</i>	16      <i>BEACH, Holly Andrew, Alex</i>	17  2-5pm Handmade Market     <i>BEIER, David Bethany</i>
18 Handmade Market 8:30am Worship Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Contemporary Serv. 12:00 Outreach Meeting 6:30 Sr. Youth	19      <i>BERRY, Christine</i>	20  10 am Comforters    <i>BISHOP, Corwin &amp; Barbara</i>	21  5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Caf�e 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir  <i>BLEVINS, Chuck &amp; Lyn</i>	22  8:30am Morning Study Group      <i>BOEHME, Craig &amp; Linda</i>	23      <i>BOEHME, Matthew &amp; Kelli Gwen, Julian</i>	24  7am Men's Breakfast at Incarnation  6pm Halloween Chili Cook Off   <i>BONAKER, Michael &amp; Patrea</i>
25  Handmade Market 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship ELW Setting 1 w/LS 12:00 Instrumental Ens 6:30 Sr. Youth	26      <i>BORSETH, Rev Mark &amp; Betsy Nathan, Andrew, Peter</i>	27  10 am Comforters     <i>BOXX, Danny &amp; ChristinaCoraccio Amanda</i>	28  5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Caf�e 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir   <i>BRIDGE, Scott</i>	29       <i>BROOKS, Ricky &amp; Rosemary Jeni</i>	30       <i>BROWN, Greg &amp; Kerri Alexandra, Savannah</i>	31       <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE October 18</b>