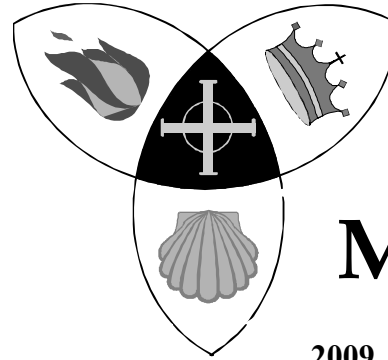


Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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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. Pastor/Developer is Rev. Mark Borseth. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: info@mlutheran.com. For newsletter articles call Stacy Tidwell



MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 21: Issue 9 September
2009
www.mlutheran.com



Worship Begins
at 5551 Hwy. 53
Sunday, September 13
10:45 a.m.

*Pastor Mark's Remarks for September 2009**"Next Departure: 10:45 AM on Sunday, September 13"*

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?" Matthew 16:24-26

I like Messiah. I like the people of Messiah. I like the programs of Messiah. I like Pastor Scott. I like the fantastic church staff. I like the health of Messiah. I like the stability of Messiah. I don't like taking risks. So why do I need to take the next step of moving away from Messiah toward Incarnation and the Harvest community? Jesus didn't call me to safety. He called me to life. Seeking to save my life and play it safe would actually cause me to lose some of who God has called me to be. Maybe it's just a mid-life crisis causing me to want adventure, but I have a sense it is more than that. The church is not meant to help people hold on to their lives, but rather to help them let go of their lives to follow Jesus.

I have the sense that many people are looking for more than just a safe place to go and be fed spiritually every week and then doing the same the next week and the next week and the next week. One thing I hope can be part of the basic identity of Incarnation is inviting people to a life that might not always be safe and predictable, but will be significant and make a difference in the world.

Not that Harvest is a dangerous wilderness where the pioneers of Incarnation are in danger of freezing or starving to death, but there is a sense that the classified ad placed 100 years ago in a London newspaper by South Pole explorer Ernest Shackleton connects with the invitation of Jesus to discover life and meaning by taking the risk of following him.

Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success. Ernest Shackleton

Thanks for your support and prayers. I will not disappear from Messiah, but I will not be nearly as visible as I have been. One thing I hope to do, though, is keep on inviting people to take risks for the sake of the good news of Jesus. Maybe for you it is to take risks here at Messiah. Maybe it is taking risks in your family or work. Maybe for you it is to board a ship car for Harvest and join us for the short-term or long-term as an adventurer.

People wanted for hazardous journey, no wages, no fancy sanctuary or programs, no polished music program, no fine-tuned church council, no endowment fund, returning unchanged doubtful. Discovering real life and meaning the only reward.

Pastor Mark

Church Council Highlights

Facilities Expansion Committee Report: Three forums on "Expanding Worship" were held this summer. After receiving an estimate of between \$430K and 540K to expand the sanctuary, the last Forum focused on options for adding a third service of worship.

Incarnation Lutheran Mission Start Report:

- On Aug 1, Began a 12-month, renewable lease at 5551 Hwy 53
- Sunday worship in Harvest will begin at 10:45 am on 9/13/09.
- Messiah's prayers, people and resources are needed.
- St. Mark's Lutheran provided a sound system.

Stephen Ministry – meets last Thurs of each month

Blessing of the Animals

- 2PM 10/3 coordinator: Jonnianne Ridzelski-McCombs

20th Anniversary planning - MLC organized as a congregation on May 20, 1990. A task force is planning ways to celebrate 20 years.

Lunches for Learning mission in Honduras: A check for \$6000 was sent along with our church logo for the sign at the school. Claire Strand is the church's representative on the board of advisors. Handmade market fundraiser planned 10/18, 10/25, 11/6.

November 15 - Congregation Meeting to set the 2010 budget

Errors or omissions are unintentional – please call corrections to MLC office (721-0041)



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

from Maureen King

THANK YOU to those who attended and helped with the Annual Church Picnic. A special thanks to Gary Garrison, and the Jr. and Sr. Youth groups for overseeing the giant slide and games... these are always the highlight of the day. Thanks to David Beier, Brittiany, Paul Zutter, and Phil Pederson for grilling. And, of course, our Property Committee for their set up and take down. My personal Thank You to those who donated all the wonderful side dishes and desserts that fed all who attended. They are two small words but come from the heart.

Wednesday Nite Cafe' resumed August 26th with dinner provided by the A.L.S. Committee. All donations supported the A.L.S. Team.

The dinner cost is \$3 per person with a family cap of \$15. On a rotating schedule, helping hands are needed for picking up the food, setting up drinks, setting up/serving desserts and cleaning-up. A HUGE THANK YOU to Dorothy Seitz, Debi Peterson and Debbie Neely for serving as Cafe' Coordinators. If you are able to help with the meals, you would be a great blessing to our Fellowship team. To those who have helped in the past, please let Dorothy Seitz (know if you will be volunteering again this year.

Another HUGE THANK YOU is extended to Mary Burke! She has offered to contribute one entire meal each month for this year. We have all enjoyed her wonderful meals in the past. Her first one will be September 16th and you will not want to miss out... it is a universal favorite.

I appreciate everyone's assistance for a successful year.

Ladies Bible Study - Interested in guiding or hosting a Stonecroft Bible Study in September? Contact Judy Johnston

Elfin Magic... is just around the corner. Please call the office if you are interested in assisting with planning this fun event or if you have any questions.

September Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship WOV = With One Voice

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (new)

Sundays at 8:30am

Sept. 6 LBW Setting 2 w/ LS

Sept. 13 WOV Service-Word/Prayer

Sept. 20 ELW Setting 1 w/ LS

Sept. 27 LBW Setting 2

Sundays at 11:00am

Sept. 6 LBW Setting 2

Sept. 13 ELW Setting 1 w/ LS

Sept. 20 Contemporary Service

Sept. 27 Chicago Folk w/ LS

Messiah Musician

Be an M&M! Attend a choir or an ensemble. Sing, ring or play your instrument to the glory of God.

Questions? Call Lois Graff

Cherub Choir (Grades K-1)

Wednesdays 6-6:30pm

Director Lydia Scroggins. Younger children are welcome with consent of director.

Children sing and ring children's handbells.

Director Claire Strand

Fall session - hand chimes.

Directors Bob & Audrey Gustafson

Fall session - vocal.

Director Randall Fields

Seraph Choir (Grades 2-4)

Wednesdays 6-6:30pm

Junior Choir (Grades 5-6)

Wednesdays 6-6:30pm

Youth Ensemble (Grades 7-12)

Wednesdays 6:30-7:00pm

Cantabile Bell Choir

Sundays 5:30-6:30pm

Director Rhonda Gaede

Notabella Choir

Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm

Director Rhonda Gaede

Instrumental Ensemble

(Grades 7-Adult) Bi-weekly

Sundays 12:15-1:15pm

Director Lois Graff

Adult Choir

Wednesdays 7:30-8:30pm

Director Randall Fields

Dinner Theater, Thank You

Thank you to all who supported this year's Dinner Theater, "Comedy Tonight". Money raised will be divided evenly between the music fund and the Lutheran Church in Guatemala.



Commitment Sunday Join in celebrating God's gifts to us during Commitment Sunday on September 27. Please watch for your estimate of giving cards in the mail this month and prayerfully consider your response. God's grace is revealed to us abundantly each and every day.

".....giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph 5:20

Incarnation Information September 2009

We begin Sunday worship on Sunday, September 13 at 10:45 AM at 5551 Hwy. 53. All of you are invited to attend worship whenever you find yourself in the Harvest area on Sunday morning!

There is a lot to do by September 13, but much is already getting done. Please pray for us and ask if there is something you can do to help. Thank you to everyone who has already donated items, time or skills to help us get ready. It's exciting to see the people God is raising up to help in so many ways. We are still in need of people to help out with specific things:

- *Music leaders*
- *Nursery helpers*
- *Children's church leaders*
- *Ushers*
- *Greeters*
- *Providers of snacks for fellowship time*
- *Pray-ers*

...just to name a few of our needs.

Our needs list is posted on our website www.incarnation-elca.org. Check with Pastor Mark before donating anything, because some of these things may have already been donated by the time you read this. We welcome any financial donations. We have lots of up-front costs (signs, first and last month's rent, setting up phone and internet, copyright licenses, building updates, etc.) so any gift will be helpful. This is an exciting (yet terrifying) adventure. Thanks for your support, prayers and encouragement.

Education News - continued

Youth News

SENIOR YOUTH Gatherings – Every Sunday night at 6:30

- Anyone interested in helping John Shriver lead the Sr. Youth next year, please contact Celynn Ballard. All Senior High Youth are invited to join us at 6:30 PM on Sundays in the Youth Room. We will begin with a time for devotions and business and have lots of time each week for fellowship and fun. If you have questions or want to be added to the Senior Youth email list, talk to Pastor Mark or John Shriver.

JUNIOR YOUTH

- A special thanks to Gary Garrison for stepping up to lead our Jr. Youth while we recruit new leaders!
- In August the youth helped assemble SS Kids' (school supply) kits at West Madison Elementary.
- During the Rally Day picnic, Jr. Youth organized and supervised all the games! Thank you Jr. Youth for doing an outstanding job! Special thanks to: A-girl, Chere Amie, Maestro, High Spirit, Fair Maiden, Whome, Mad Max Madison, Mucho Habla, and Wise Walter the Thinker!

TWEENS

- Events are planned monthly. All 3rd – 5th graders are welcome! Contacts: Debi Peterson or Stacy Tidwell

Thank you to all involved in keeping the grounds and courtyard so pretty. Please remind your little ones to be careful around the flowers when they are playing in the playground.

Comforter's will resume meeting every Tuesday in September starting with Tuesday, September 1st @10:00. Sending service for the quilts will be September 6th at both services. Questions call Annette Leens



Handmade Market Oct 18, 25 and Nov 6

Purchase unique Christmas gifts from Messiah artisans. Proceeds benefit Lunches for Learning mission in Honduras. To donate a craft, contact Jackie Myers.

3M (Messiah Men's Ministry)

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, September 12 at 7:00 am

All men are invited to our monthly breakfast. Joe Stuart will be making pancakes again, and the food by itself is enough to make me (Pastor Mark) want to come back. But in addition to good food, we had great time of fellowship and discussing issues of faith and life. Join us Saturday, September 12 at 7:00 AM in the Messiah Parish Hall for good food, fellowship and a time to grow in your faith. Hope to see you then!

Education News

Celynn Ballard

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Thank you to Sarah Walker and the Jr Youth, led by Gary Garrison, for a wonderful Rally Day.
- Curious about the BRITE program? See Sarah Walker for more info
- Adult Sunday School classes for the fall are:
 - Study of Genesis led by Dottie Hanson

THE BOOK OF FAITH The Bible is very important book for our whole culture, and is central to the faith for us as Lutherans and many others in our society.

You can join a class that will begin opening the Book of Faith together. We won't have all the answers, but we do want to share what the Bible means to us and how it may be able to speak to our lives. We will look at what the Bible is for us as Lutherans, ways we can study it, and look at four passages to practice those methods of study.

Some have spent a good deal of time with the Bible. Most of us haven't read it as much as we would like. But together we can come to it anew, as if opening the book for the first time. I would be pleased if you could join us.

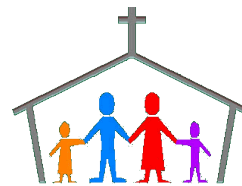
This 7 week class starts Sunday, August 23 @9:45am. Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Shalom, *Bob Loshuertos*

The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World This book is a collection of interviews which is a sampling of the national and global search for meaning through many traditions and some of the ways people hope to communicate about faith issues. "This book is for all those seeking ideas and language that can deepen the faith they already have." We will begin with an introduction giving those interested in participating time to purchase a book from any source they desire. The books are available on line at all the major book web sites for varying prices. Please join Bonnie Jane Peterson in classroom 12 Sunday @ 9:45am. We will meet this entire school year.

GOD'S WORD for Life - An Adult Education Elective, starting Sept 13.

We will survey Christian doctrine, using God's Word, to engage questions about the beginning and ending of life, about marriage and family as places where God gives and guards life, and about our responsibility to show mercy in all stages of life.

We'll examine what God's Word has to say to us about life issues and we will discover how to respond to life and death, vocation and mercy, from the perspective of God's Law and Gospel. Only God's Word has the power to change people's hearts and minds and make a real difference in their lives. Contact: John Morgan. Be sure to bring your Bible!



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.

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

- Dee Dee Grimes announces the birth of her son, Winston Paul Grimes, on July 9th.
- Jack and Debbie Gulden announce the birth of their second grandchild, Cecilia Mae Cornett, born on July 22nd. Parents are Jason and Jennifer Cornett of Cincinnati.
- Bob Loshuertos announces the births of his twin grandchildren, William Andreas and Anna Lauren Loshuertos. Parents are Shannon and Bill Loshuertos of Florida.

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

- Monica Elisabeth Richert was baptized on August 9th. Sponsors are Craig Richert and Lois Graff.

Engagements: *...the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13*

- Elizabeth Lakso and Alexander Vaughn are engaged to be married on July 10th, 2010.

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

- George Morgan passed away August 11th at his home in Athens. He was 84.

OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand



Sending service for blankets, layettes, school and health kits is Sunday, September 6th. Blankets and kits are shipped to the needy all over the world.

New Member Sunday -

We are receiving new members Sept 13. Please contact Pastor Peterson or Claire Strand to join.

Blessing of the Animals

October 3rd, 2pm Messiah Parking Lot. Bring your special pet for a blessing. If your animal is large (horse) or very ill, please bring a picture.

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Incarnation Lutheran Start Date: Sept 13 – 10:45 AM with "Dress Rehearsal" on Wed Sept 9 @ 7pm		1 10 am Comforters <i>STANGER, Lon & Connie Josh , Ben</i>	2 5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Café 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir <i>STARKLOFF, Karl & Judy</i>	3 <i>STASIAK, Ed & Mary Ann</i>	4 <i>STELPFLUG, Ron & Yvonne Gabriella</i>	5 <i>STENDER, Bobbie</i>
6 8:00am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship: LBW Setting 2 ILC Commissioning 6:30 Sr. Youth	7 LABOR DAY <i>STENDER, John & Tammy John, Jessica, Jacqueline, Jennifer, Jacob , Jaxon</i>	8 10 am Comforters <i>STRADLEY, David</i>	9 5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Café 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir <i>STRAND, Stephen & Claire William, Katrina, Michelle</i>	10 Church Council 7pm <i>STUART, Joe & Jean</i>	11 <i>SWEET, Dennis</i>	12 7am Men's Breakfast <i>SYLVESTER, Judy</i>
13 8:30am Worship WOV Serv. Word & Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship ELW Setting 2 w/LS New Members Reception 6:30 Sr. Youth	14 <i>THOMPSON, Mark & Beth Kyle, Meghan</i>	15 10 am Comforters <i>TIDWELL, Brad & Stacy Natalie, Canon</i>	16 5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Café 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir <i>TREXLER, Ed & Georgann</i>	17 <i>TREXLER, Joshua & Alicia</i>	18 Church Council Retreat @ LutherRanch <i>UNDERWOOD, Charles & Lana</i>	19 <i>VAUGHN, Gegory & Paula</i>
20 8:00am Adult Choir 8:30am Worship ELW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Contemporary Serv. 6:30 Sr. Youth	21 <i>WADE, Tim & Marsh Allie, Maddie, Matthew</i>	22 10 am Comforters <i>WALKER, Brian & Sarah Justin , Evelyn</i>	23 5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Café 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir <i>WALKER, Wayne & Bobbi Heather</i>	24 <i>WARREN, DJ & Hillary Abigail, Gina</i>	25 WASMOEN, Owen & Songae Chad, Cory, Chris	26 WEBB, Richard & Bonnie
27 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Chicago Folk w/LS 6:30 Sr. Youth	28 <i>WEBER, Richard & Tammy Michael Ward, Scott Ward, David, James, Laura</i>	29 10 am Comforters <i>WEST, Scot & Sharon Jacob, Jordon, Kyle</i>	30 5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Café 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir WHITAKER, Sam & Ginny	31 <i>WILSON, Ryan & Janine Hunter, Reed</i>	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE September 20	