

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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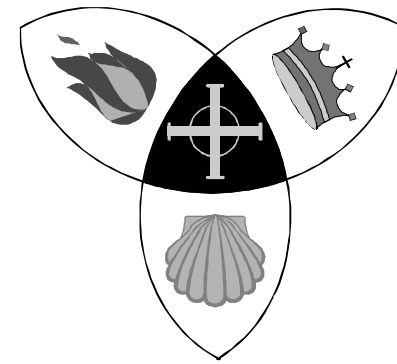
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Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is www.mlutheran.org.** Church Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Managers. The Pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. Pastor/Developer is Rev. Mark Borseth. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: info@mlutheran.org. For newsletter articles call Stacy Tidwell.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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September 2010



1st Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, September 12

*For no one can lay any foundation
other than the one that has been laid;
that foundation is Jesus Christ. -1 Corinthians 3:11*

Dear Friends of the Reigning Messiah,

SHOULD THE SANCTUARY BE EXPANDED at Messiah Lutheran Church? Last November a Congregation Meeting authorized the formation of a Building Committee to pursue this possibility. So, the Church Council appointed that Committee in early 2010. The Building Committee has been working with an architect while keeping in dialogue with worship leaders and the Council as a design has been developed.

A SEPTEMBER 19th CONGREGATION MEETING will decide whether to keep pursuing sanctuary expansion or to stop the process and associated expenditures. (I like the way MLC is organized: Major decisions are made by the Congregation, not a board or an individual.)

SO, HOW DO WE DECIDE? Two big factors are pretty obvious:

1.) About twice a month, one of MLC's Sunday services is uncomfortably full. (As I am writing we were crowded at the 11:00 service on August 8, and crowded at the 8:30 service on August 15.)

2.) Expanding the sanctuary will cost a lot; a whole lot.

OK, that is one reason to expand and one reason not to expand.

So, how do we decide?

THIS IS CERTAIN: MLC IS CALLED TO EXPAND OUR MISSION.

Expanding the sanctuary would enable growth in the number of people in worship at MLC. Worship is central for us as Lutherans. On the other hand, expanding our mission could be pursued in other directions which would not require an expanded worship space.

MLC IS GOING TO BUILD on the foundation that is Jesus Christ (see above). Whether that involves bricks and mortar, wood and paint, the Congregation will decide. Or, whether that involves new mission ventures near and far, the Congregation will decide. But, our Lord and his living Spirit have already decided MLC is going to build our mission. God keeps sending more people and resources for mission, so I believe our Lord clearly has let us know that He intends MLC's mission to grow.

WHAT EXCITEMENT! WHAT FUN! MLC is not faced with decisions on how to survive, or what must be cut back. We are meeting to discern: How is our Lord calling us to grow? Let's celebrate this together. Let's decide on this together. Then, let's move ahead together with the mission of our Lord. Whatever we build, we build upon the foundation that is Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Peterson

Education News by Linda Peirce

SUNDAY SCHOOL...has resumed at 9:45 a.m. for all ages 2-adult. This year's theme is "Fishers of People."

Adult Class Offerings

Theology and Issues Do you like to study and discuss your faith as it relates to issues we have to deal with in our life? You may want to be part of a new class being led by Bob Loshuertos. The class will select the issue they wish to discuss, do some study on it and then discuss what our faith has to say to that issue in class. At the first session we will select the topic from the desires of the class. Issues will be announced so that if others want to join the class for a particular issue they can. However, it will be necessary to be present for the first class to help select future topics. Examples of issues may be: oil spill, immigration, domestic violence, poverty, welfare, affluence, constitutional reform. **The first class will be on Sunday, August 22.** Contact: Bob Loshuertos.

Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups: A Renovaré Resource for Spiritual Renewal All are invited to begin this study August 29. Books are available on line or through various bookstores for individual purchase. This will be a year long course beginning with writings from C.S. Lewis. The book includes various classical writers including Martin Luther and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Each reading is accompanied by an introduction and meditation by Richard J. Foster. Each entry includes a related biblical passage, discussion questions, and individual and group exercises. Devotional readings include: The Prayer-Filled Life; The Virtuous Life; The Spirit-Empowered Life; The Compassionate Life; The Word-Centered Life; and The Sacramental Life. Contact: Bonnie Jane Peterson.

New adult class to begin:

Beginning Sept. 12, Pastor Scott will begin a class that studies and discusses the assigned Bible readings (lessons/gospel) for that Sunday. All are welcome to attend.

Senior Youth are meeting every Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall for Bible Study and Fun!! All 9th-12th grade students are welcome. Please see Pastor Mark or Dan Casey for more information.

Help Wanted: We need Help!! We need a sponsor or co-sponsors for our **Junior Youth** group. The Jr. Youth usually meet once a month. If you are interested in sponsoring our children in grades 6-8 for a monthly activity/meeting, please tell Claire Strand, Pastor Scott, or Linda Peirce.

More help wanted: The **Tweens** are looking for a sponsor or co-sponsors. If you are interested in helping to plan activities for this group of children in grades 3-5, please speak with Claire Strand, Debi Peterson, or Linda Peirce.

Incarnation Information September 2010

We have some exciting weeks at Incarnation from mid-August to mid-September. We are finalizing our new mission statement, we are being led into the community to do door knocking by Pastor Bill and Helen Funk, we have visitor lunches after church on September 5 & September 19, and we celebrate our 1st anniversary of worship with the help of Messiah who will be coming out for worship (10:45 am) and a picnic on September 12.

As Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." The need for our ministry in the Harvest area is not the limiting factor. We don't need more harvest, we need to equip more workers in Harvest. Bill & Helen Funk's ministry is our attempt to not just send them to do work for us, but to have them teach us how to better go out into the harvest around us. We don't need a few people to get busier, we need everyone to be equipped and sent.

People from Messiah, now is the time for you to invite your friends who live in the Harvest area to check out Incarnation. We have lots of great things going on – visitor lunches on September 5 & 19 and the picnic with Messiah on September 12. It is also a time to get connected as Confirmation and Bible study begin (with Sunday school staring not too far down the road). We are optimistic about the future, but we need the ongoing financial, prayer and people support from Messiah to keep us on track.

I hope to see many of you at the anniversary worship and picnic, on a Sunday morning or knocking on doors with the Funks.

Contact Pastor Mark (Pastor@incarnation-elca.org or 256-859-5155) if you need more information about:

- Door Knocking with the Funks (Why not do a 2-hour stint to help out Incarnation? You don't need to say a word!)
- Confirmation (starting in September)
- Adult Bible study (starting September)
- Sunday School (starting soon)
- Being part of the ministry of Incarnation in any other way

INTERESTED IN GUATEMALA??

If you are called to be a missionary to Guatemala, but have not been able to go because of your complicated schedule, you can help choose the dates of next year's trip. Speak up now! The dates for next year's mission trip to Guatemala will be determined by those who will be going. Discussions will begin in September, so let Bill Emerson or Pastor Scott know of your interest soon.



August Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice LS = Lord's Supper

Sundays at 8:30am

Sept. 5 Now the Feast w/ LS

Sept. 12 Chicago Folk w/LS

Sept. 19 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Sept. 26 WOV Service Word/Prayer

Sundays at 11:00am

Sept. 5 LBW Setting 2

Sept. 12 *Worship at ILC (10:45)*

Sept. 19 Contemporary Service

Sept. 26 ELW Setting 1 w/LS

Incarnation Lutheran Church

1st ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, September 12, Messiah will conclude its 20th anniversary celebration by worshipping at Incarnation to celebrate the first anniversary of their first service of worship. Worship at Incarnation begins at 10:45 a.m. and will be followed by a picnic. Please come as we give thanks to God for blessing ILC and MLC.

Congregation Meeting Sunday Sept. 19 @ Noon

AGENDA: CONSIDER SANCTUARY EXPANSION

Members will receive a mailing with information on design and cost. Confirmed members are voting members. All are welcome.

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 will be included. Contact Claire Strand.

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

- Natalie Jane Zesinger was baptized August 1st. Baptismal sponsors were David Zesinger and Heather Sabo.

BIRTH: *Lord, you knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13*

- Walker Aloysius Goebel was born Aug. 23. He weighed 7lbs 8oz. Proud parents are Heidi and Ian Goebel. Proud grandparents are Wayne and Bobbi Walker

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

- Allie Wade and Stefan Schmidt were married August 14 at MLC. The couple will reside in Birmingham.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

by Mary Ann Stasiak

Wednesday Night Café will be picking up again after Labor Day. Dorothy Seitz has volunteered to organize Wednesday Night Café again this year – thank you Dorothy for making time in your life for this important ministry! Please help her by

volunteering to help cook, serve, or clean up – clean up help is always especially needed and never has enough volunteers.

Coffee in Fellowship Hall after 1st service is a great time to talk to friends, new and old, and catch up on the week's events. We had the same opportunity for the 2nd service during the summer, with great success. We'd like to continue that same opportunity for folks attending the 2nd service during the year – please join us for a cup of coffee in Fellowship Hall after 2nd service, and enjoy seeing your friends and neighbors for a few relaxed minutes. Please look for the sign up sheet at the Welcome Center to help with coffee after the 2nd service.

Messiah will join **Incarnation Lutheran Church in celebrating its 1st anniversary on Sunday, 12 September** at Incarnation. Beth Mumaw has graciously volunteered to help produce this event; she will be Messiah's point of contact for the celebration. Messiah will provide meats, cheese, and sandwich rolls – donations of side dishes and desserts would be much appreciated.

Messiah's Bob Losheurtos will host **AARP driving classes** on Saturday September 18 and 25, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Attendance at both of these sessions can reduce car insurance costs for seniors. Janice and Bill Murphy will be registering people for the class

Messiah, like the rest of the Huntsville area, has enjoyed growth in membership this year. We will have a special **New Member Reception September 26** after the 2nd service.

Bridge Club has moved permanently to the second Friday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, this month on September 10. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share - Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, September 11 at Messiah at 7 a.m. The next **OWLS** (Older Wiser Lutherans for 50+ year olds) event will be in September – keep watching for details on these events.

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

Electronic Offerings Are Coming to a PC Near You

While you are online paying utility bills or setting up an automatic mortgage payment, have you ever mused, "I sure wish I could send my tithes and offerings to Messiah Lutheran as easily as I pay my bills." Well, soon you will be able to go online on your PC or Mac, 24/7, and schedule a one time or automatically recurring offering to any fund or activity at MLC. The new Online Giving program was approved by Council for roll out in September.

This web based program will allow you complete flexibility from the security of your home or office using your personal user name and password. After initial enrollment via any web browser, you'll be able to start, stop or modify single or periodic offerings in just a few key strokes. The church will receive your offering on the date you select, while you will have full control of personal reports and changes. Since our Financial Secretary will be the only one that sees your individual gifts as he electronically imports them into our offering data base, you will have the security of your confidential giving while still receiving the same periodic offering reports you now receive. Reports will now include all the gifts you give via the offering plate, your Online Giving, and other donations to Messiah. Soon you'll no longer have to rush to write your offering check or scurry through your wallet as the offering plate is being passed your way on Sunday. More info will be available via announcements, informal presentations, and one-on-one discussions. Can't wait to get started? Contact Lee Smith.

MUSIC NEWS from Lois Graff

The Gift of Music

Martin Luther wrote, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." It is time for you to use your musical gifts (or learn music) by participating in one or more of the many choir opportunities waiting for you at Messiah Lutheran Church! Children's and youth musical groups are beginning September 8. Bell Choirs and Adult Choir are making music now but need more ringers and singers. For information, email Lois Graff.

Wednesday evening groups:

Cherub Choir	6:00-6:30pm	Grades K-1
Seraph Chime Choir	6:00-6:30pm	Grades 2-4
Junior Choir	6:00-6:30pm	Grades 5-6
Youth Ensemble	6:30-7:00pm	Grades 7-12
Notabella Choir	6:30-7:30pm	
Adult Choir	7:30-8:30pm	

Sunday afternoon groups:

Instrumental Ensemble	12:15-1:15pm	Grades 7-Adult
Cantabile Bell Choir	5:30-6:30pm	Grades 7-Adult

Dinner Theater Thank You

Thank you to all who supported and attended this year's Beatles Review Dinner Theater. Over \$1,500 was raised which will be evenly split between music programs at Messiah and the ILAG (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala). Hurricane storms destroyed many crops in the village of Israel. Funds from the Dinner Theater have already been sent to the ILAG enabling replanting of most of those crops. Special thanks to Songae Wasmoen and Holy Hill Korean Church members, Jill Casey and Anita deJong who prepared and donated the delicious dinner. And thank you to the musicians, the sound & light tech (yes, you Paul Zutter!), organizers Laura Peterson and Dick Azzam, decorators Linda Zutter and Robin Douglass, etc, etc.

AARP Driver Safety Class

AARP Driver Safety class will once again be offered here at Messiah. It will be taught on Sept. 18 & 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The eight hour class offers safety features and strategies for driving. Persons over 55 may receive a discount on their insurance for completing the class. Classes will be taught by Bob Loshuertos. Register by contacting Bill or Jan Murphy.

Comforter's will resume meeting every Tuesday in September starting with Tuesday, September 7 @ 10 a.m.. Sending service for the quilts will be August 29th at both services. Questions call Annette Leens.

OUTREACH NEWS

from Claire Strand and Jacquie Fry

Thank you to all who contributed to the **school bus school supplies**. We delivered the materials to be given out by SS Kids August 7 in time for the opening of school. If you brought in supplies since then, or still have some at home and are wondering if you missed it all, or if you are still seeing the sales out there, fret not. I am still collecting supplies and will deliver them to the Huntsville Assistance Program. There will continue to be children in need of school supplies throughout the year. We continue to collect games, toys, and books, new or gently used, for Milestone. Milestone is expanding and can use items appropriate for infants to 12 years old.

The box for blankets, pillows, and coats for all ages is now in the narthex and will be available for your donations of unneeded used or new items through the fall. We will be working with the North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless again. The people at First Stop were thankful for the blankets and pillows last year.

ALS of Alabama - Wednesday Nite Cafe opens this year on September 8th with a spaghetti dinner to support ALS of Alabama. Different styles of sauces will be offered as well as an ice cream sundae buffet.

Donations of your handicrafts (i.e. woodwork, canned fruits or vegetables, needlework, baked items, metalwork, photographs, paintings) are wanted for the **Handmade Market** in October to fund lunches at Benito Montoya elementary school in Honduras through *Lunches for Learning*. For more info, contact Jackie Myers.

Mission Trip to Honduras- Sixth graders from the school Messiah sponsors, Benito Montoya, will graduate November 24th. A group from Messiah will be traveling to attend this life-changing event (life-changing for them and us). A 6th grade diploma is a ticket out of poverty in Honduras. Travel is scheduled for Monday 11/22-11/25 (Thanksgiving day). The mission team will experience Thanksgiving in a different, possibly more meaningful way under an avocado tree with tamales in place of turkey. To be part of this trip, please contact Claire Strand.

September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5pm 2 nd year Confirmation Class begins 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Bailey Erickson Alexis, Christian</i>	2 8:30 am Morning Study Group 7:00 pm LWR Kit assembly in Fellowship Hall <i>Jon Erler</i>	3 <i>Dave & Judee Erwin</i>	4 <i>Ronald & Patricia Esteppe Kaitlyn</i>
5 8:30am Worship Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 No Sunday School 11:00am Worship: LBW Setting 2	6 Labor Day <i>Thomas & Lisa Fedrick Ryan Katelyn</i>	7 10:00 am Comforters <i>Randall Fields</i>	8 5pm 2 nd yr. Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Jeff & Bonnie Flowers Anna</i>	9 Church Council 7pm <i>William & Shirley Forbes</i>	10 7:30 pm Bridge Club <i>Larry & Terry Frakes</i>	11 7 am Men’s Breakfast <i>Dennis & Jacquie Fry Rachel</i>
12 8:30am Worship Chicago Folk w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 10:45am Worship AT INCARNATION Noon –Picnic Celebration at Incarnation	13 <i>Catherine Frye Kendall</i>	14 10:00 am Comforters <i>Eugene & Edith Frye</i>	15 5pm 2 nd yr. Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Gary Garrison</i>	16 8:30 am Morning Study Group <i>Chris & Beth Gloe Samantha</i>	17 <i>Ian & Heidi Goebel</i>	18 8:30 am AARP Driving Class <i>Jeff & Lois Graff</i>
19 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Contemporary Service Noon: CONGREGATION MEETING	20 <i>Ken & Nancy Grant Lori</i>	21 10:00 am Comforters <i>Dee Dee Grimes Winston</i>	22 5pm 2 nd yr. Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Mark & Patricia Grimes Joseph</i>	23 <i>Robin Grubis</i>	24 <i>Jack & Debbie Gulden</i>	25 8:30 am AARP Driving Class <i>Rob & Melissa Gurner</i>
26 8:30am Worship WOV Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship ELW Setting 1 w/LS Noon: New Member Reception	27 <i>Bob & Audrey Gustafson</i>	28 10:00 am Comforters <i>Brian & Staci Hackenberg Cassidy, Connor</i>	29 5pm 2 nd yr Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>John & Amanda Hampel John II, Jacob</i>	30 8:30 am Morning Study Group <i>Peggy Hanna</i>	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sunday September 19	