



PASTOR'S PAGE

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

*When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law,
in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children...
So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir, through God.
—St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-5,7*

*"The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."
O Little Town of Bethlehem by Philip Brooks LBW #41*

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS? That question may bring a wave of excited anticipation or a tidal wave of dread. Some dread the Christmas season because it is a marathon of frantic preparation work and/or it dredges up memories of Christmases past that left wounds. For others, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," as Andy Williams sings. So...

HOW CAN PREPARATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS BE JOYFUL THIS YEAR? Perhaps we should all start out with this prayer: "Lord, what can I do this year so my preparations are centered on You? As You have given me hope, grant me the joy of giving hope to others on their journeys through this season with us." (This is a big prayer, but I think I can help.) I believe God has resources for us if we will pause to consider "How God Gets Ready for Christmas." That will be the theme of our Wednesday Advent services on December 4, 11, and 18 at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

HOW GOD GETS READY FOR CHRISTMAS is a wondrous epic--beyond our imaginations, yet the Bible tells the story. It is an adventure with prophets, kings, women and men, young and old, poverty and riches, birth and rebirth, filled with shocking twists and turns. Above all, God is the Director of this greatest story ever told. This old, old story is a Christmas gift from God for you and me as we search for hope and peace in this world. (Think **we have a lot to do** to get ready for Christmas? **Think of what God did** and is still doing.)

THANK GOD WE DON'T NEED TO SAVE THE WORLD! That is God's work, and this is the story of how God is doing it. God is very, very different from us, yet we are God's beloved children, created in the image of our heavenly Father. Our identity as God's children is a gift to cherish in every season.

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO BEGIN ADVENT: On Sunday, December 1, we will celebrate the Baptism of Abigail Mae McGeorge at the 11:00 a.m. service. *New life!* Our Lord keeps giving it, and it is God's gift for you, too.

O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel!

Pastor Scott Peterson

DECEMBER SERVICES OF WORSHIP

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship | WOV = With One Voice
ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship | LS = Lord's Supper

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

December 1	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
December 8	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
December 15	WOV Bread of Life w/LS
December 22	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
December 29	LBW Service of the Word

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

December 1	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
December 8	WOV Bread of Life w/LS
December 15	LBW Setting 2
December 22	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
December 29	LBW Service of the Word



Advent Mid-Week Services of Worship:

"How God Gets Ready for Christmas" — December 4, 11 & 18, 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services of Worship:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper — December 24 at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.



Claire Strand
Director of Outreach

claire@mlutheran.org

Contact Claire Strand if you would like to announce significant transitions in the life of our community of faith, including birth, death, Baptism, graduation, Confirmation, job change, relocation, engagement, marriage, or any other life passage!

Claire Strand also leads Messiah's Prayer Ministry.

If you or a loved one needs to be lifted up in prayer, email claire@mlutheran.org

OUTREACH:

PANTRY ITEM
Baby Wipes

KIT MINISTRY

Dark Bath Towels

Members may also designate offerings to:

**Food Pantry
&
Kit Ministry**

OUTREACH

Life Passages

- † David and Stephanie Gillespie announce the birth of their daughter Cecelia Ann Gillespie .
- † Geraldine Arnold Vaughn, aunt to Georgann Trexler and acting grandma to Melani Mooneyham and Joshua Trexler, passed away in Elizabethtown, PA. She was 97 years old.



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: Owen's House

by Bill Emerson

A fresh opportunity for Messiah Lutheran Church to give a hand to local women and children in poverty has arrived.

Owen's House, a new part of Downtown Rescue Mission, provides a temporary home for women and children who have no place to stay. Owen's House provides classes, clothing, and food for up to 100 women and children in need.

Owen's House currently provides daily meals to residents. Much of the food is donated from a variety of sources, and their supply of any given food type fluctuates depending on what is donated at the time. For example, sometimes Owen's House has very little milk to serve their residents, but at other times, government programs and individual citizens supply plenty of milk. Donations of fresh fruit and vegetables are plentiful in the summer months, but not during the winter.

The Messiah Church Council approved at their November 14 meeting to allow funds to be raised for Owen's House to purchase food that will help ensure balanced and healthy meals are available. This will help the children grow up healthy. By guaranteeing a stable source of nourishing and wholesome food, we will reduce the risk of obesity and diabetes in mothers and children.

Owen's House would like to count on having sufficient fresh eggs, milk, orange juice, fresh fruit, and many other nutritious foods. In the winter months, they would also like to improve the lunch meals with fresh fruit and vegetables.

Besides supporting Owen's House through donations, church members are invited to help on the serving line at least once a month at an Owen's House evening meal and to eat with those we serve. This will provide a chance to have fellowship with and get to know those we help. Details are being worked out and will be available soon.

A dedicated account for this new mission is up and running. With your support, MLC plans to give \$1000 a month so that food may be purchased. **If you are interested in donating, please write "Owen's House" on the memo line of your check.**

Fast Facts:

Owen's House for Women and Children

What is it? A 30,000 sq. ft. housing facility on Evangel Drive in Huntsville, completed in 2018

Provides: Temporary shelter, food, clothing, and classes for up to 100 women and children

What are the needs?

- Funds to ensure consistent supply of fresh food staples
- Evening Meal Volunteers once a month



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirec-
tor@mlutheran.org

M³ Groups

Cherub Choir

(PreK-1st) - Wed 6 p.m.

Seraph Choir

(2nd-6th) - Wed 6 p.m.

Guitar with Ric

(7th-12th) - Wed 6:00
p.m.

Notabella

(7th-Adult) - Wed 6:30
p.m. (rescheduled dur-
ing Advent)

Messiah Choir

(7th-Adult) - Wed 7:45
p.m.

Instrumental

Ensemble

(7th-Adult) - Sun 12:15
p.m. (biweekly)

"I Used to Play"

(7th-Adult) - Thurs 7
p.m.

Talk to Lois Graff about
other music opportuni-
ties at Messiah!

WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES

Ring and Sing Concert

It's that time of year! Come to Messiah Lutheran on Sunday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. for the 21st annual Ring and Sing Concert. Many musical groups will be participating, along with the ever-popular audience participation ring-along! Donations will support the Madison Public Library.

Christmas Eve Worship

Bring family, friends, acquaintances, and anyone you meet to Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. We are trying something new! *Come and See!*

Talent Show January 25

Start practicing your talent acts now! A Talent Show is scheduled for Saturday, January 25th. A dinner will precede the show, and donations will support the *On Eagle's Wings* mission. Contact Lois for more information.

Music at Messiah

The next Music at Messiah concert will be the Lopez Tabor Duo (violin and piano) on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Sponsorships are always welcome. Information may be found at musicatmessiah.org.

A Few Words on Liturgy...

This Month's Topic: Nunc Dimittis

The Nunc Dimittis, also called the Song of Simeon, comes from Luke chapter 2. This canticle is based on Simeon's words when he recognizes the infant Jesus as the Messiah when Jesus is presented by Mary and Joseph in the Temple in Jerusalem. Liturgically, "*Now You Dismiss Your Servant*" is sung as a post-communion canticle in lieu of the more often used "*Thank the Lord*."

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Hymn of the Month

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722), a notable hymn writer of the Pietistic school, wrote many hymns which are still in use today. "*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*" is one of his best known and includes imagery of Jesus' Second Advent. The tune "*Haf Trones Lampa Fardig*" is a Swedish folk melody.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;

Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see

The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free! LBW #25

MLC YOUTH & EDUCATION MINISTRIES



Sara Galyon
Director of Youth and
Christian Education
Ministries

youth@mlutheran.org

December Schedule

Senior Youth (gr. 9-12)

Dec. 1
Youth Group 6-7:30 p.m.
Dec. 8
Game Night 5-7:30 p.m.
Dec. 15
Ring and Sing 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 22
4th Sunday Dinner 5-7:30 p.m.
Dec. 29
No Activities

Junior Youth (gr. 6-8)

Dec. 8
Game Night 5-7:30 p.m.
Dec. 22
4th Sunday Dinner 5-7:30

MOEs (gr. 3 - 5)

Dec. 14
MOEs Serve! 11:00 a.m.

Junior and Senior Youth

Game Night

On Sunday, December 8th, the Junior and Senior Youth will have a game night together to celebrate the coming end of this semester! All Junior and Senior Youth are invited to church from 5-7:30 p.m. to play games together and eat some pizza! Please RSVP to youth@mlutheran.org so Sara can have enough pizza!

Ring and Sing

On Dec. 15, in lieu of our regular youth group meeting, the Senior Youth will meet at 6:00 p.m. and attend the Ring and Sing concert together.

MOEs (Messiah Older Elementary)

MOEs Serve!

The MOEs will help prepare the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 14, at 11:00 a.m. We will meet at Messiah in the Narthex and work until 12:30, and then we will head over to Mod Pizza for lunch. Bring \$10 for lunch. Pick up will be at Mod Pizza at 1:00.



MOEs at *Altitude* Huntsville Nov 23!
Photos by Sara Galyon



Sunday School Corner *Happy Birthday Jesus!*

Come join the children of Messiah for a birthday party complete with cake as our Sunday School classes present their gifts to Jesus with a short play during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.) on December 15 in the Parish Hall.

December Sunday School Calendar

Dec. 1 and 8: Christmas play rehearsals in the Parish Hall
Dec. 15: Christmas Play "Happy Birthday Jesus"
Dec. 22: One room Schoolhouse in room 11/12
Dec. 29: No Sunday School

Class Time Change: During Advent, the Wednesday "Read the Bible in A Year Class" will meet from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. in Classroom 7.

NEWS FLASHES

WARM & WOOLY SALE

Lunches for Learning Pop-Up Sale
Sunday, Dec. 8th in Fellowship Hall
Between & After Services of Worship

MLC Mission Crafters will have an inventory of scarves, cowls, hats, etc. just in time for winter weather and for gifting. The Warm & Wooly Sale will also have a display of handmade Christmas ornaments. So while you are making your list and checking it twice, take advantage of a shopping opportunity with an added bonus - all proceeds benefit our *Lunches for Learning* mission!

MLC GIVING MALL 2019

Give to others in need in our community and world through Messiah's Giving Mall!

Choose to designate a gift to any one of a long list of local and global missions or MLC outreach activities and teams. Order forms & Giving Mall Cards are in the Narthex.

What a perfect gift for someone who says, "I already have everything." Or says, "I don't want anything except time with you!"

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, December 9 @ 7 p.m.

Hosted by Janell Zesinger

This month's meeting is a **No Reading Required!** get-together! Stay tuned for details!

Upcoming: Jan. 3, *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* by Brene Brown.

Host: Lisa Bartel

All MLC Women, Guests Welcome! POC Janell Zesinger

Kit Ministry is Taking a Break!

MLC's Kit Ministry will not meet the month of December. See you next year!



CASA RAMP BUILD

December 7, 2019

Meet at Shaggy's in Huntsville at 7 a.m.

Rescheduled from Nov. 23rd. All are welcome to participate. POC is Joe Stuart if you have questions.

COMFORTERS

The Comforters will meet Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 at 9:00 a.m. Contact Annette Joens for info.

If you were a winning silent quilt auction bidder, please pay at the church office before picking up your item(s). Thank you.

Info: mlutheran.org/project/comforters



DOING THE MOST GOOD

The **Salvation Army's Angel Tree** allows people to help buy Christmas presents for children in need. MLC picked up 25 angels from the Salvation Army, and they are ready to be adopted.

Please choose your angel at the Welcome Center. It's a good idea for 2 households to co-adopt an angel. Be sure to sign your name on the list when you choose your angel and when you return your gifts. Instructions and a large bag are included with your angel. Please keep your gifts unwrapped (although you may include wrapping paper if you wish). **All gifts must be returned to MLC by noon on December 8th.**

NEWS FLASHES, CTD.

Christmas Flowers

Be sure to order your poinsettias and other holiday plants by Wednesday, December 11, in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins for placing in the offering plate, or you may call the office. The cost for each plant is \$9. Many of you admired the Amaryllis plants we displayed last year. There will only be 10 this year, and they will be available for purchase for \$18 after December 29. Questions??? Please contact either Judi McMillin or Linda Heideman.

Electronic Sign Fund

On November 10, MLC Congregation voted to pursue purchasing an electronic sign. This versatile sign will offer substantial outreach to the thousands of people passing by each day. Projected to cost about \$65K, there is currently over \$17K in the fund. Please consider this opportunity to make a big difference in the lives of many. Donations should be marked "Electronic Sign Fund".

And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard -Romans 10:14

Fellowship News

Fellowship Cookie Exchange

It's finally here! The Fellowship Cookie Exchange will be December 7th at 10 a.m. Please bring five dozen (60 total) cookies for the exchange. Light refreshments will be provided. Look for a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center!

Can You "Lent" a Hand?

Looking ahead, Fellowship could use some help with the Lenten Lunches. Are you interested in helping out? Contact Fellowship Representative Sonja Pedersen to get started!

Did You Know...?

Niches for MLC's Columbarium are still available!

Information about MLC's Columbarium is available in the church narthex literature display closest to the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in securing a niche for yourself or a loved one, please email Pastor Scott Peterson at scott@mlutheran.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Committee

President: Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.com

Vice President: Steve Leeper
vicepres@mlutheran.com

Treasurer: Greg Kilby
treasurer@mlutheran.com

Secretary: Laurie Campbell
secretary@mlutheran.com

Council Representatives

Worship and Music: Taylor Burton
worship_music_rep@mlutheran.com

Outreach: Andrew King
outreach_rep@mlutheran.com

Education and Youth: Janell Zesinger
education_rep@mlutheran.com

Youth Representative: Rebbecca Meyer
youth_rep@mlutheran.com

Stewardship: Tim Pitchko
stewardship_rep@mlutheran.com

Fellowship: Sonja Pedersen
fellowship_rep@mlutheran.com

Finance: Dan Byers
finance_rep@mlutheran.com

Property: Pete Woods
property_rep@mlutheran.com

Did we miss something? Please call the office at 256-721-0041. Thank you!

Viva Italia! From October 28 to November 8th, Pastor Scott Peterson led a group of twenty-six adults on a bus tour of Italy. The tour included a mixture of famous sights, museums and stops in Naples, Capri, Rome, Pisa, Assisi, San Gimignano, Florence, Milan and Venice. To view more pictures visit the [2019 Italy Trip Photo Gallery](#).

PRAYER FAMILIES

Please lift these Messiah households in your daily prayers. **On Sundays, please remember to pray for the groups listed in *bold*.**



**Michaelangelo's
"David" in Florence**
Photo: Ali King



Gondola ride through the Grand Canal
Photo: Andrew King

MONTH IN PICTURES

Digital viewers: View more pictures online!



Great fun at the 2019 Annual Chili Cookoff & Costume Contest. Congratulations to Mark Zesinger who took home first place for Best Chili. Thank you to Sonja Pedersen for leading the event this year! View more pictures of the event online in the [October 2019 Month in Pictures Gallery](#).

Anita deJong traveled to Honduras Nov 17-20 to attend the graduation ceremonies at the two schools MLC sponsors through the Lunches for Learning mission.

Anita's late husband, Gerard deJong, was a key fundraiser for the Kindergarten building at Benito Montoya ES that now bears his name (shown).

See more of Anita's Trip

Photos in the [November 2019 Month in Pictures Gallery](#).



Sign up to Usher, Today! Ushers are needed throughout the year and opportunities are plentiful during Advent and Christmas. Here Kari Pitchko makes "ushering" a family affair with boys Greyson and Colin.

MoMs

(Men of Messiah) enjoyed a hearty fish fry on Nov 15 at the Kilby home. Pastor blackened fish on the big skillet outside while Greg pan fried inside.



December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 6:00 pm Senior Youth meet	2	3 9:00 am Comforters	4 12:00 noon Advent Service 5:00 pm 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation 5:30 pm Wednesday Nite Café 6:00 pm Cherub and Seraph Choirs 6:00 pm Guitar with Ric 6:00 p.m. Read the Bible Class 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45 pm Messiah Choir	5 8:30 am Morning Study Group—The Reason for God, chapter 14	6	7 10:00 am Fellowship Cookie Exchange
8 8:30 am Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 am Worship: WOV Bread of Life w/LS 12:15 pm Instrumental Ensemble 5:00 Junior/Senior Youth Game Night	9 7:00 pm - Women's Book and Social Club	10 9:00 am Comforters	11 12:00 noon Advent Service 5:00 pm 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation 5:30 pm Wednesday Nite Café 6:00 p.m. Read the Bible Class 6:00 pm Cherub and Seraph Choirs 6:00 pm Guitar with Ric 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45 pm Messiah Choir	12 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	13 7:00 pm Bridge Club Fellowship Hall	14 11:00 am MOEs Serve!
15 8:30 am Worship: WOV Bread of Life w/LS 9:45 am Sunday School Program "Happy Birthday Jesus" 11:00 am Worship: LBW Setting 2 6:30 Ring and Sing Concert	16	17	18 12:00 noon Advent Service 5:00 pm 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation 5:30 pm Wednesday Nite Café 6:00 p.m. Read the Bible Class 6:00 pm Cherub and Seraph Choirs 6:00 pm Guitar with Ric 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45 pm Messiah Choir	19 8:30 am Morning Study Group— The Reason for God, Epilogue 7:00 pm <i>I Used to Play</i> Instrument Workshop	20	21
22 8:30 am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 am Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 5:00 4th Sunday Youth Dinner	23	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 JOYOUS CHRISTMAS!	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 8:30 am Worship: LBW Service of the Word No Sunday School 11:00 am Worship: LBW Service of the Word No Junior/Senior Youth meetings	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Office Closed	<i>Looking Ahead:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 1—New Year's Day 2020—Office Closed • Jan 17-20 Youth Ski Trip to Lutheridge • Jan 25 - Annual Talent Show • Feb 1 - Lopez Tabor Duo - Music at Messiah Concert • March 6 - Ash Wednesday 			

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758
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Organization
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Huntsville, AL
Permit No. 454

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. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. Adult Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. Our website is www.mlutheran.org. Church office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 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 Rebecca Mast at newsletter@mlutheran.org

Submissions are typically due the 3rd Sunday of every month! Submit photos to communications@mlutheran.org

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



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Contact Information

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Phone: (256) 721-0041

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday –Friday

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Claire Strand.....Director of Outreach Ministries
Lois Graff.....Director of Music Ministries
Sara Galyon.....Director of Youth & Education Ministries
Bobby Huwaldt.....Office Manager
Meredith Kilby...Communications Director, Office Manager
Randall Fields.....Adult Choir Director
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

Find up-to-date information at www.mlutheran.org

