



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." –Galatians 4:4-5

*"Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all."
–Romans 5:18*

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

"HOW GOD FIXED WHAT WE BROKE" is the theme of the mid-week Lent 2020 services. This is our story. Our God conceived and carried out an elaborate, wondrous plan to deliver people needing forgiveness and new life. For that we can thank God, because forgiveness and new life are exactly what we need.

BEGINNING ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, with services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m., we will start with *Feuding* Adam and Eve and then follow the thread of God's *magnum opus* through history. Our Lenten journey will include visits to *Mother Sarah* and *Father Abraham*, Jacob (*a.k.a. Israel*), *Liberator Moses*, *the King David*, and *Hot John the Baptist*. We will arrive in Holy Week with Jesus and His *Confused* disciples.

HERE IS OUR SCHEDULE:

Services at Noon & 7:00 p.m.

February 26 – Ash Wednesday: "Dirt and His Wife"

March 4: "She was Beautiful, He was Strong"

March 11: "Family Intrigue?"

March 18: "We've got to get out of this place!!"

March 25: "He's a Rock Star"

April 1: "The Greatest Prophet and You Can Trust Him"

April 9 – Maundy Thursday: "Last Will and Testament"

April 10 – Good Friday: "He Will Save"

(These Bible stories and God's work in them will also be the theme of the children's musical for Music Camp Week in June.)

LENT IS A LONG SEASON! We start in Winter, and we end in Spring. We start in the gritty ashen darkness of our sin and move toward the brightness of new life dawning in Christ. This Lenten pilgrimage has been traveled by our ancestors in faith who carried God's gift of faith in order to hand it on to us. As the days lengthen, let's journey together sharing God's rising light.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Scott Peterson

FEBRUARY 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.

Feb. 2	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Feb. 9	Epiphany Service of Light/Song
Feb. 16	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Feb. 23	Now the Feast w/LS

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Feb. 2	Now the Feast w/LS
Feb. 9	Epiphany Service of Light/Song
Feb. 16	Contemporary Service
Feb. 23	LBW Setting 2 w/LS





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 needs

PANTRY ITEM

Canned meats

KIT MINISTRY

Infant socks

Members may also designate offerings to:

Food Pantry & Kit Ministry

OUTREACH



Life Passages

- † Leonardo (Lalo) Diaz, grandson of Eva and Frazier Douglass, received his Baptism on January 12th.
- † Jack Thomas Perry was born January in Nashville. Proud parents are Ally and Jayson Perry. Proud grandparents are Gretchen and Jay Perry. At birth Jack weighed 8 pounds and one and a half ounces.
- † Jim Fossum passed away from pancreatic cancer. His memorial service was Jan. 25 at MLC.

Update: Owen's House Mission

Last month, volunteers from Messiah served dinner twice at the Owen's House shelter for women and children at the Downtown Rescue Mission. We're scheduled to serve each month on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings. Thanks to your generous donations, breakfasts each day have been supplemented with milk, fresh eggs, and fresh fruit.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

by Claire Strand

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbors in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk reduction by helping communities build their assets, thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

LDR is responding to wildfires in Australia, flooding in Indonesia, fires in California, a typhoon in Japan, the earthquake in Peru, refugees in Serbia, the cyclone in India, and much more. To learn more about LDR's work, visit elca.org and view their blog. You can also sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts.

In 2019, your generous gifts to assist the work of LDR totaled \$5,970! Thank you!



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

To give: designate "Lutheran Disaster Response" on your check/offering envelope.

Or give to LDR online at

<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse?ga=2.249569230.95147883.1580048584.843030779.1573743623>



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 6:30
p.m.

Notabella

(7th-Adult) - Wed 6:30
p.m.

Messiah Choir

(7th-Adult) - Wed 7:30
p.m.

Instrumental Ensemble

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

"I Used to Play"

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

Contemporary Band

3rd Saturday - 10 a.m.

Messiah Minstrels

Rehearse as needed

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

WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES

Music at Messiah Feb 1

The *Lopez Tabor Duo* will perform Saturday, February 1st at 7 p.m. in the MLC sanctuary. The Duo features violinist Alfonso Lopez, concert master of the Venezuela Symphony Orchestra, and pianist Michelle Tabor. Lopez is one of the most versatile and prominent musicians of his generation in Venezuela, and Tabor has performed and lectured extensively. Their two-part program features traditional repertoire followed by a virtuosic violin showpiece and music from the Hispanic world. Sponsorships are always welcome. Information may be found at musicatmessiah.org or at the concert.

Epiphany Service of Light and Song

On Sunday, February 9th, a service of readings and hymns will highlight the season of Epiphany.

Talent Show January 25

Thank you to all who supported the Talent Show and Dinner fundraiser. Over \$1,200 was donated for the *On Eagle's Wings* mission.

Music Camp 2020

Dates are June 8 – 12 with presentations on June 14. Registration available soon! The working title of this new musical is "The Forever Adventure"!

A Few Words on Liturgy...

This Month's Topic: Invocation/Confession and Forgiveness

While the Invocation was previously understood as being done by the minister as a part of private devotion time before worship, Lutheran liturgy made it part of the service of worship. *"We formally express our 'awareness' of the presence of God, we place ourselves in that presence, and invoke the divine blessing upon the service which is to follow."*¹

Acknowledging the principle of the priesthood of all believers, Reformers added the Confiteor (Confession) as a congregational introduction to worship. We turn from ourselves to the grace and mercy of God and the declaration of grace is announced to all.

¹ The Lutheran Liturgy (Luther D. Reed)

Hymn of the Month

"O God of Light"

Sarah Ellen Taylor (1883-1954) wrote the text of this hymn. She was born in England, the daughter of clergy, and was a schoolteacher in America. One of her mission schools was in Talladega, Alabama. Australian-born Barrie Cabena (1933-) composed the tune, "Atkinson," which is one of nearly 500 compositions he has written.

*O God of light, your Word, a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way
And show your grace, your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day. LBW 237*



Sara Galyon
Director of Youth and
Christian Education
Ministries

youth@mlutheran.org

February Schedule

Senior Youth (gr. 9-12)

Feb. 2
Movie Outing 12:30 p.m.
Feb. 9, 16
Youth Group mtg. 6:00 p.m.
Feb. 23
4th Sunday Dinner 5-7:30 p.m.

Junior Youth (gr. 6-8)

Feb. 9
Youth Group mtg. 5-6:30 p.m.
Feb. 23
4th Sunday Dinner 5-7:30

MOEs (gr. 3 - 5)

Feb. 9
MOEs GO! 1:30-3:30 p.m.

MLC YOUTH & EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Epiphany Party Success!

We had so much fun at our Epiphany Party on January 12th with 35 kids from 3rd-12th grade. Our three teams, Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, completed challenges together, and ultimately Team Frankincense was our winner!



MOEs (Messiah Older Elementary)

MOEs GO! The MOEs are going roller skating Sunday, February 9th at 1:30 at Roller Time. We'll skate from 1:30-3:30. Bring \$10. Parents should plan to stay (or have another adult stay). You are welcome to join us for skating or to simply watch! MOEs is our older elementary group for 3rd-5th graders. Please RSVP to youth@mlutheran.org.

Junior Youth

The Junior Youth will meet on February 9th for regular youth group from 5-6:30 and again for 4th Sunday dinner on February 23 from 5-7:30. We always have a lot of fun together and would love for your middle schooler to join us!

Confirmation Retreat

All students who are currently in Confirmation 1 or 2 or who have already been confirmed are invited to attend the Confirmation retreat at Lutheranch March 27th-29th. We will leave after school on Friday the 27th and

travel to the Holy Trinity House at Lutheranch in Georgia. We will return the evening of the 29th. This is our first ever Confirmation retreat, and we are excited to dig into what it means to be confirmed (whether we are about to be or we did it years ago). Having these times away together creates safe spaces to talk about issues of faith and life with peers and trusted adults that don't always happen in an hour meeting setting. We hope you'll join us for a fun and faith-filled weekend. Cost is \$100 plus money for dinner on the way down and back. RSVP or send any questions to youth@mlutheran.org.

Senior Youth

The Senior Youth will go to Cineplanet in Madison on Feb. 2 to see *Just Mercy*. The youth who attended National Youth Gathering in 2018 heard Mr. Stevenson speak. This movie is based on his experiences as written in his book with the same title. Based on current showtimes, we will plan to attend the 12:30 showing. We will discuss the movie (or book, if you want to read it) at our next youth group meeting. There will be no other youth group meeting on February 2nd. Janell Zesinger will be the adult contact for the day of the event. Please RSVP to youth@mlutheran.org.

All other Senior Youth meeting dates and times are the same.

NEWS FLASHES

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS During Lent led by Pastor Scott

The Prodigal God by Timothy Keller will be our textbook. "Keller uncovers the essential message of Jesus, locked inside his most familiar parable. Within that parable Jesus reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This book will challenge both the devout and skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way" (from the book cover).

The textbook may be ordered online used for about \$5; new for about \$10.

Class will meet in the Parish Hall from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. on Sundays:

Feb. 16 – Introduction to *The Prodigal God*
Feb. 23 – Chapter 1: *The People Around Jesus*
Mar. 1 – Chapter 2: *The Two Lost Sons*
Mar. 8 – Chapter 3: *Redefining Sin*
Mar. 15 – Chapter 4: *Redefining Lostness*
Mar. 22 – Chapter 5: *The True Elder Brother*
Mar. 29 – Chapter 6: *Redefining Hope*
Apr. 5 – Chapter 7: *The Feast of the Father*

👐👐 Please "Lent" a Hand 👐👐

Lenten Soup Suppers are fast approaching!

February 26th is Ash Wednesday, and leadership help is needed for the Lenten Soup Suppers. Help is needed for set up, clean up, and providing food as well. Use the SignUp genius site on mlutheran.org or the volunteer sheet located on the Welcome Center. Thank you!

Sonja Pedersen - Fellowship Chair

fellowship_rep@mlutheran.org

Disaster Relief Information

The tentative date for MLC's Disaster Relief Mission Trip is June 3rd through June 7th. Additional information and sign-ups will be coming soon.

POCs: Andrew King & Claire Strand

COMFORTERS

Quilt Auction Fundraiser

Jim and Sue Hofer recently donated a lovely quilt topper that was Sue's mother. **The Comforter's converted it to a quilt and are auctioning it off to raise money for a new sewing machine!** The quilt is located in the Narthex. Simply write your bid on the running bid sheet. Highest bid wins! The auction will conclude on Sunday, February 16th after the late service. The Comforters will meet every Tuesday in February at 9:00 a.m. Contact Annette Joens for info. mlutheran.org/project/comforters

Kit Ministry

Kit Ministry meets Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

2/6, 2/13, & 2/27

New volunteers always sought and welcome!

POCs Diane Davis & Rhonda Gaede

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Below are the upcoming reads for the rest of spring if there are any Messiah women wanting to join in on the discussion! Contact Janell Zesinger if you are interested in attending and would like to be included on her email roster.

jzesinger@knology.com

For **February 10** we will read, "**Educated: A Memoir,**" by **Tara Westover** Host, time TBA

The **March 9** pick is, "**Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End.**" Host, time TBA

The **April 13** read is a novel that some of you may already know and love: "**Redeeming Love,**" by **Francine Rivers**. Buy it for your spring break reading!! Host, time TBA



Important changes to AARP Appointment policy!

Members --

Free AARP tax preparation and e-filing will take place in MLC's Parish Hall on Mondays and Thursdays, Feb 3 - April 13.

To schedule an appointment, clients must call 256-384-4627 on either Monday or Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers will be staffing that phone line during those hours, so please call back if you first get a busy signal.



What might God say through MLC's Electronic Sign

Every single day, thousands of motorists pass in front of Messiah's prime Highway 72 frontage. They are churched and unchurched, residents and non-residents, citizens and foreign born. They share two very important things in common: Vision which enables them to drive, and; Brains to think about their lives while they do it.

What might God say to our passersby to give them something to think about? In a recent sermon Pastor Scott came up with some possible messages.

"What about the kids?" - God

"I gave my all for you." - God

"I love you. Please listen to me." - God

"I speak here. I listen here, too." - God

"Ever lost a child? I have." - God

"Got troubles? Give them to me." - God

"Looking for a mission? Inquire within!" - God

"Need a church home? There's a room here for you." - God

We may never know what those thousands of passersby will think after reading the messages we plan to put before them on the Electronic sign. We do know we are called to announce the good news of Christ for this world.

Expect to see and hear more about the outreach potential the new electronic sign will give us to live out Messiah's mission as *"God's People, Reaching Out."*

At the end of January the balance of the Electronic Sign Fund grew to over \$21,000.

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: Rebecca 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

MONTH IN PICTURES

Digital viewers: View more pictures online!



On Thursday, January 9, the first team of MLC volunteers gathered at the recently built Owen's House for Women and Children in Huntsville to help serve dinner. MLC will continue to support the Owen's House mission with teams of volunteers twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Contact Bill Emerson if you want to be added to a team! *Thank you volunteers!*



Jan 11-13, MLC youth enjoyed a winter retreat at Lutherock. More pictures in the online gallery above.



On **Sunday, January 12**, Messiah's young adults and families gathered in the Parish Hall for a *Meal and Meet-up* event. Pastor Scott organized the event with Claire Strand as an opportunity for this vital and growing segment of our church family to get to know one another better and learn about opportunities that exist for adults and younger families at MLC.

On **Jan 25**, MLC held its annual Talent Show to support "On Eagle's Wings Ecumenical Ministries" A wonderful and entertaining mix of acts were presented. At right is Messiah's Cherub choir ringing two short musical excerpts from the movie "Star Wars."

You can view all the acts by clicking this link [here](#) on the digital edition of the Messiah Messenger on [mlutheran.org](#)



Jan 26 Baby Yoda came to Messiah! A skilled crafter, Kimberly Dennig, wears the hand-made Baby Yoda hat she designed and knit!

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Looking Ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 29 - One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School March 30 - April 3 - Spring Break - Madison Schools April 5 - Passion / Palm Sunday - Easter Egg Hunt - Holy Week April 12 - Resurrection of our Lord - Easter May 17 - Last Day of Sunday School Pre-K to Gr. 12 June 8 - 12 Messiah Music Camp 						1 CASA RAMP BUILD 7:00 am Music at Messiah Lopez Tabor Concert 7 pm
2 8:30 am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 12:30 Sr. Youth movie outing	3	4 9:00 am Comforters	5 5:00 pm 1st Year Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed. Night Café 6:00 pm Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Seraph Choir 6:30 pm Guitar with Ric 6:30 pm Notabella 7:30 pm Messiah Choir	6 7:00 p.m. Kit Ministries 7:00 pm <i>I Used to Play</i> Workshop	7	8
9 8:30 am Worship: Epiphany Service of Light/Song 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 am Epiphany Service of Light/Song 12:15 pm Instrumental Ensemble 1:30 MOEs Go! @ Roller Time 5:00 Jr. Youth Meet 6:00 pm Sr. Youth Meet	10 7:00 p.m. Women's Book Club Location TBA	11 9:00 am Comforters	12 5:00 pm 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed. Night Café 6:00 pm Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Seraph Choir 6:30 pm Guitar with Ric 6:30 pm Notabella 7:30 pm Messiah Choir	13 8:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:45 Serving at Owen's House 7:00 pm Kit Ministries 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	14 7:00 p.m. Bridge Club	15
16 8:30 am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 am Worship: Contemporary Service 6:00 pm Sr. Youth Meet	17 President's Day (office closed)	18 9:00 am Comforters	19 5:00 pm 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed. Night Café 6:00 pm Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Seraph Choir 6:30 pm Guitar with Ric 6:30 pm Notabella 7:30 pm Messiah Choir	20 7:00 pm <i>I Used to Play</i> Workshop	21	22
23 Transfiguration Sunday First Communion 8:30 am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 am Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12:15 pm Instrumental Ensemble 5:00 pm Jr/Sr Youth Fourth Sunday Dinner	24	25 9:00 am Comforters Men of Messiah (MoM) <i>(Details to be announced)</i>	26 Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 5:00 pm 1st & 2nd Yr. Confirmation 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 pm Cherub Choir 6:00 pm Seraph Choir 6:00 pm Guitar with Ric 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 8:00 pm Messiah Choir	27 4:45 Serving at Owen's House 7:00 pm Kit Ministries 7:00 pm <i>I Used to Play</i> Workshop	28	29 LEAP DAY!

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
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



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Contact Information

Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Highway 72 West Madison, AL 35758

Phone: (256) 721-0041

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

Staff

Rev. Scott Peterson.....Pastor
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

