

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org



PASTOR'S PAGE

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

—John 1:3-4

Dear Friends of the Living Messiah,
Consider the following passage:

LIFE—THE TEMPTATION is always to reduce it to size. A bowl of cherries. A rat race. Am-
no acids. Even to call it a mystery smacks of reductionism. It is the mystery.

AS FAR AS ANYBODY SEEMS TO KNOW, the vast majority of things in the universe do
not have whatever life is. Sticks, stones, stars, space—they simply are. A few things are and
are somehow alive to it. They have broken through into Something, or Something has broken through into
them. Even a jellyfish, a butternut squash. They're in it with us. We're all in it together, or it in us. Life is it. Life
is with us.

After lecturing learnedly on miracles, a great theologian was asked to give a specific example of one. "There is
only one miracle," he answered. "It is life."

Have you wept at anything during the past year?

Has your heart beat faster at the sight of young beauty?

Have you thought seriously about the fact that someday you are going to die?

More often than not, do you really listen when people are speaking to you instead of just waiting for your turn
to speak?

Is there anybody you know in whose place, if one of you had to suffer great pain, you would volunteer your-
self?

If your answer to all or most of these questions is no, the chances are that you're dead.

—by Frederick Buechner, originally published in *Wishful Thinking*

JESUS DIED AN EARTHLY DEATH because of what He said and did. He certainly would answer "yes" to at
least four of the five questions above.

- Jesus **wept** at Lazarus' tomb (John 11:35) and wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41).
- Jesus foretold His **death** four times in the gospel of Matthew: Chapters 16, 17, 20, 26.
- Jesus spoke in parables. He also **listened**. Examples include the Samaritan woman in John 4 and Martha
and Mary in John 11.
- Jesus **suffered** great pain for others, including you and me. His pain was not confined to Good Friday.
We cannot comprehend His mental and emotional suffering.

"I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE," Jesus announces to His disciples. Jesus' **life** was not
only to die for us, but also to shine His light, showing us how to live. The new **life** our Lord has prepared for
us does not begin when someone declares, "She/he has passed." New **life** for us begins immediately after
the words of Baptism are spoken and even before the water has dried.

ARE YOU AND I ALIVE NOW? As disciples, we are not only **alive** now and for eternity, we are **alive** for the
missions Jesus gave us. As disciples, we have the honor of being Jesus' ambassadors to a world dying to
hear the Good News of our Savior.

May our Lord's grace and peace carry you through **Life**.

— Pastor Scott Peterson

AUGUST SERVICES OF WORSHIP

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship | WOV = With One Voice

Available for Online Viewing Sundays starting at 8:00 a.m.

August 2	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
August 9	WOV Bread of Life
August 16	LBW Setting 2
August 23	LBW Setting 1
August 30	Hymn Liturgy

**Catch us online! Due to health concerns, services
of worship will occur exclusively online until fur-
ther notice. Visit MLC's website at mlutheran.org
for viewing instructions, readings, hymns, bulle-
tins, etc.**





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
Peanut Butter

KIT MINISTRY

See items as listed in the Spotlight article.

Members may also designate offerings to:

Food Pantry & Kit Ministry

OUTREACH



Life Passages

- † Andrew and Kristin Gipner announce the birth of their son . (CONTENT REDACTED) He was 7 lbs. 3 ozs. and measured 18.5 inches long.
- † Katie Spence and Ryan Thompson were married on July 18th.

Outreach Update by Claire Strand

Mask Update

MLC's Mask Makers continue to make masks for both the Lutheran World Relief mask effort and for the community as requested and as needs arise. An emphasis will be on making single and/or 5 ct. sets (one for each day of the week) of smaller child-sized masks in time for back to school. If anyone wants to make masks or needs fabric, fabric is available- contact Jeanette Beamer or Claire Strand.

If you are interested in sewing up the pre-cut mask "kits" for Lutheran World Relief, please contact Elaine Shriver.

JAM PACK JUMBO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE SATURDAY, AUG 1

Stores are stocked with school supplies. Our kit ministry needs some! Saturday, August 1st, from 10 a.m. to noon, Messiah will be hosting a no-contact drive-thru school supply drive in Messiah's parking lot. Claire Strand's Ford Expedition (aka "Jumbo") will have its lift gate open for donations of the following: Black or blue ballpoint pens, 70-sheet spiral notebooks, #2 pencils, blunt end scissors, and 24 ct. crayons. Let's fill up "Jumbo" and share with those who are struggling more than ever as this pandemic continues. Dedicated offerings may also be made to "Kit Ministry." There will be popsicles for anyone who stops by on Saturday A.M.! POC Claire Strand.

HAP West

Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP) West, our local city food pantry, is serving record numbers of clients. Please keep food donations coming. Staples in short supply are pasta and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, pancake mix and syrup, and dry rice. Please, no glass containers.

Disaster Relief Mission Trip Update by Andrew King

MLC's disaster relief mission trip is going virtual this year! Working with In Spiritus (formerly Lutheran Services of Georgia and Tennessee), we're putting together an "adopt a home" type of project to help purchase materials and labor for a work site. That way, we can complete much-needed recovery work for a homeowner even if we can't be physically on-site this year. In addition, there will be ways to help connect the homeowner and MLC to build a relationship - one of the special elements of mission trip work. Stay tuned for additional updates on how you can be involved in this project and how we' will all be "traveling" together!



Lois Graff

Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirec-
tor@mlutheran.org

LBW and WOV Hymnals for worship are available to borrow on Give and Take Cart outside Church doors.

Music at Messiah concerts are currently suspended.

Hymn of the Month

"Oh, Blest the House"

The hymn tune was composed by J. Klug and part of the *Geistliche Lieder* (1533). Written by Christoph C.K. von Pfeil (1712-1784), this hymn text reminds us of the value of Christian education in the home.

*Oh, blest the house,
whate'er befall,
Where Jesus Christ is All-in-
-All
For if he were not dwelling
there,
How dark and poor and
void it were!
Then here will I and mine
today
A solemn cov'nant make
and say:
Though all the world for-
sake his Word,
My house and I will serve
the Lord.*

WORSHIP & MUSIC

The Gift of Music

God has given us the gift of music. Music is especially powerful and can help us during difficult times. In these days, have you been using music to heal, to recharge, to worship, to release frustration, to mourn, to pray...? Consider using this God-given gift daily during devotions, free time, work time (if possible), or travel time. Listen on your device. If you like to sing, do it! If you play an instrument, play it! Some suggestions for listening:

Hymns. Look up your favorite hymn on hymnary.org. Listening links are available.

Contemporary Christian Classical. Go to YouTube.com to find these recommendations:

- Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons"
- Beethoven's 9 Symphonies
- Barber's "Adagio for Strings"
- Faure's "Requiem"
- Best of Schubert
- Bach's "Brandenburg Concertos"
- Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man"
- Mozart's "Requiem"

MLC Music Groups in August

- ♫ Seraph Choir Zoom - August 19, 6:00 p.m.
- ♫ Messiah Choir - August 5 and 19, 7:30 p.m.
- ♫ Contemporary Team Fellowship - August 15, 11:00 a.m.
- ♫ Instrumental Ensemble OUTSIDE Rehearsal - August 15, 9:30 a.m.
- ♫ Instrumental Ensemble Zoom Fellowship - August 20, 7:00 p.m.

Email musicdirector@mlutheran.org if you would like to be included in these times of fellowship.

A Few Words on Liturgy...

Conclusion

We started in September of last year with the questions: *What is liturgy? Why is it part of worship? What are the benefits of liturgical worship?*

We learned that liturgy is the voice of God's people lifted up to God through prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and lament. Liturgy has developed over centuries in the church. Some forms have changed or adapted, but the common thread remains. As Lutherans, we believe that the actio of worship belongs to not just one or two but to the entire worshipping congregation. That continues to remain vital in these days of online worship. Participate as part of the whole body of Christ as you raise your voices to God in worship wherever you are.

...but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:18b-20



Sara Galyon
Director of Faith
Formation

youth@mlutheran.org

MLC's Youth Groups

MOEs (Messiah Older Elementary) - grades 3-5

Junior Youth - grades 6-8

Senior Youth - grades 9-12

MLC YOUTH & EDUCATION MINISTRIES

PROMOTION!

We are excited to promote upcoming 3rd Graders, 6th Graders and 9th graders into MOEs, Junior Youth, and Senior Youth, respectively. Promotion Day will be August 16th, which will also be our Senior Send-Off at Senior Youth Group. If you have a 2nd grader coming up into MOEs, please let Sara know by emailing youth@mlutheran.org so she can add you to the email list.

MOEs

MOEs will continue to meet online every Thursday. After the school year starts, we will reevaluate our 11:00 a.m. meeting time to see if we need to change it to accommodate school schedules. Keep an eye out for emails from Sara to indicate a new time for online meetings.

Junior Youth

Junior Youth is back to meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 5-6 p.m. We will meet outdoors at different houses, wearing masks. Please bring your lawn chair and mask. Sign up to host on the sign up genius emailed by Sara in July.

Senior Youth

Senior Youth will also meet outside at homes (bring masks and lawn chairs, please!) and will meet every Sunday evening from 6:30-7:30. Please let Sara know if you'd like to host.

Time for Confirmation!

First year online Confirmation classes for youth 8th grade or older will begin in mid-August. Preparing for Confirmation in the Christian faith is an opportunity for your child to learn more about what is in the Bible, what we believe as Christians with the central message of God's grace and love. Learning God's word for us gives us a stable foundation of faith in an ever-changing world. During the first year, we study the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. In the history and stories, in the words of Jesus and the writings, we discover God's active presence in the lives of God's people.

Contact Lois Graff at jelograff@msn.com or (256) 658-0276 to sign up or ask questions.

Second year online Confirmation classes will be taught by Pastor Scott beginning in mid-August.

HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH COVID-19 FREE! Members and friends! **In an effort to keep you, the church, and the staff as healthy and virus-free as possible, we ask that you do not stop by or access the church building without calling first or being instructed to by staff.** The MLC staff is following recommended sanitation procedures for workspaces and equipment. We anxiously anticipate the day when we all can be together again in person.

NEWS FLASHES

NEW ADULT STUDY

with Pastor Scott begins August 26!

HOW LUTHERANS INTERPRET THE BIBLE

Class will have video presentations from Professor Mark Allen Powell beginning Wednesday, August 26, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

This will be a weekly one-hour class, with Pastor Scott moderating. Dr. Powell is a New Testament professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

The 7 sessions are entitled:

1. *The Word of God*
2. *What Lutherans Say about the Bible*
3. *Where the Bible Comes From*
4. *Interpreting the Bible in Context*
5. *Determining Right from Wrong*
6. *The Many Meanings of the Bible*
7. *Devotional Bible Reading*

Kit Ministry

Kit Ministry will not meet at MLC until CDC restrictions are lifted on church gatherings

Please continue to support Kit Ministry with your donations and by working to complete projects that can be accomplished at home.

New volunteers always sought and welcome!

POC: Diane Davis & Rhonda Gaede

COMFORTERS

Comforter's will not meet at MLC until CDC restrictions are lifted on church gatherings

There may be some at home projects members can do in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

These will be communicated out by either e-mail or MLC E-news.

POC: Annette Joens & Jeanette Beamer

JAM PACK JUMBO SATURDDAY, AUG 1



See Page 2 for details and what to donate.



Do you want to come into Messiah to Pray?

Please call the church office during office hours (8:30—Noon M-F) to schedule a time when the sanctuary is available for individual prayer. A mask is required for all who enter the building.

Finding Hope Class

September 22, 2020

The next HAPC School of Applied Ministry class will be "**Finding Hope in Adversity: Facing Fear, Loss and Grief**".

Presenters will be the Rev. Frank Broyles, Community Service Chaplain, Pastoral Leadership Assessor and Consultant, Former Executive Director, HAPC; Fran Fluhler, Director of Manna House; and the Rev. Carl Malm, Center for Loss, Grief and Change.

The class will be offered on September 22, 6:00-8:30 p.m. Whether the class will be in person or via Zoom is yet to be determined. MLC is a supporting member of the HAPC (Huntsville Association for Pastoral Care), and we are invited to attend.

Owen's House Update by Bill Emerson

During these challenging times for us, the women and children at Owen's House have challenges, too. MLC continues to provide nutritional food to those at Owen's House. The photo below shows some of the women and children at Owen's House. Not pictured are the Emergency Shelter single ladies (they number around 50) and the moms and children from ES. This group can stay a day or a year or more depending on their needs. Some go out to work, to school, or to visit friends throughout the day. Others stay in due to the virus.

Owen's House is now serving between 90-100 residents. The women in the Recovery Program have committed to spend up to a year at Owen's House. These women maintain the building by working in the dining hall, the front or back desks, and the Agape Shop, a thrift store. Recovery Program members attend Bible classes daily as part of building a relationship with God. Other life skills taught include how to handle money, job skills training, and interpersonal skills. There is no fee for these residents, thanks in part to MLC's support.



Did we miss a birthday? Please let us know by calling the church office at (256) 721-0041. Quite often it is because we do not have it in our records.

Staying connected as a church community relies on having accurate information!

If you have recently moved, gotten rid of a land-line, or would like to add an additional email address to our E-News subscription list, please just call or email the office.

Thank you! Bobbey Huwaldt, Meredith Kilby

MLC Office Managers

CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Committee

President: Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.com

Vice President: Steve Leeper
vicepres@mlutheran.com

Treasurer: Rhonda Gaede
treasurer@mlutheran.com

Secretary: Laurie Campbell
secretary@mlutheran.com

Council Representatives

Worship and Music: Rebecca Alferink
worship_music_rep@mlutheran.com

Outreach: Andrew King
outreach_rep@mlutheran.com

Education and Youth: Chris Berry
education_rep@mlutheran.com

Youth Representative: Amanda Peterson
youth_rep@mlutheran.com

Stewardship: Tim Pitchko
stewardship_rep@mlutheran.com

Fellowship: Sonja Pedersen
fellowship_rep@mlutheran.com

Finance: John Burke
finance_rep@mlutheran.com

Property: William Rydbom
property_rep@mlutheran.com



PRAYER FAMILIES

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

THE ELECTRONIC SIGN IS COMING !!!!

Thank you to everyone who continues to give to the Electronic Sign Fund.

The MLC Council decided to move ahead with the construction of the sign using a temporary loan from MLC's own savings.

The sign fund is currently over \$45K. A total of about \$50K is needed to fully fund the sign.

Through this sign we will be getting God's Word out to hungry souls on life's highway .

"And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?" --Romans 10:14b



Faith Formation at MLC

Dear Parents,

Did you know that **you** are your child(ren)'s primary teacher of our Christian faith? You are. What you say and do teaches them more about living our faith than any Sunday School teacher or pastor.

"Faith Formation" are words that are primarily going to replace the words *'Sunday School'* and *'Christian Education'* at MLC. *Faith Formation* is a gift our Lord wants to bestow upon our children and upon us as adults too. A basic, practical tool will help us get started. It is called:

FAITH 5:

+**Share** your highs and lows of the day.

+**Read** a Bible verse or story.

+**Talk** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows.

+**Pray** for one another's highs and lows.

+**Bless** one another.

This is for every evening in every home.

Sara Galyon, MLC's Director of Faith Formation (her new title!) will provide resources and guidance. As parents you are invited to join a 6-week introduction to *FAITH 5* class with Dorothy Seitz, our Faith Formation Coordinator (formerly Sunday School Superintendent) serving as the facilitator.

MONTH IN PICTURES—JULY



Left: Messiah’s crepe myrtles are flush with blooms in July. The knock out roses are nice as well.



Right: Messiah Senior Youth gather with Sara Galyon in the shade at the home of Joe and Bobbey Huwaldt. The youth gathered to catch up face to face though everyone still wore masks.



Left: (July 19) Sonja Pedersen sets out reception “lunch” sacks which Claire Strand, MLC volunteers, and she put together for the outdoor reception following the Memorial Service for Judy Starkloff. The reception was at Creekside at Collier’s End in historic Mooresville, AL.

The Collier’s are good friends of the Starkloff’s and offered the space (which is a wedding venue) for the reception.

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Looking Ahead:</p> <p><i>Please stay tuned to the MLC's website at mlutheran.org for updates as to the schedule ahead. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (256) 721-0041.</i></p>						<p>1 10am-12pm JAM PACK JUMBO School Supply Drive</p>
<p>2 Online Service available at 8 a.m. WOV Service of Word/Prayer 6:30pm Sr. Youth Group outdoor meeting</p>	3	4	<p>5 7:30pm Messiah Choir Zoom</p>	<p>6 11am MOEs Zoom meeting (subject to change) 5:30 p.m. Faith Formation Class</p>	7	8
<p>9 Online Service available at 8 a.m. WOV Bread of Life 5pm Jr. Youth Group outdoor meeting 6:30pm Sr. Youth Group outdoor meeting</p>	10	11	12	<p>13 11am MOEs Zoom meeting (subject to change) 5:30 p.m. Faith Formation Class</p>	14	<p>15 9:30am Inst. Ensemble Outside Rehearsal 11am Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship</p>
<p>16 Online Service available at 8 a.m. LBW Setting 2 Youth Promotion Day and Senior Send-Off 6:30pm Sr. Youth Group outdoor meeting</p>	17	18	<p>19 6pm Seraph Choir Zoom 7:30pm Messiah Choir Zoom</p>	<p>20 11am MOEs Zoom meeting (subject to change) 7pm Inst. Ensemble Zoom Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Faith Formation Class</p>	21	22
<p>23 Online Service available at 8 a.m. LBW Setting 1 5pm Jr. Youth Group outdoor meeting 6:30pm Sr. Youth Group outdoor meeting</p>	24	25	<p>26 <i>How Lutherans Interpret the Bible</i> adult class begins at :430 p.m..</p>	<p>27 11am MOEs Zoom meeting (subject to change) 5:30 p.m. Faith Formation Class</p>	28	29
<p>30 Online Service available at 8 a.m. Hymn Liturgy 6:30pm Sr. Youth Group outdoor meeting</p>	31					

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758
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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 currently online, available at 8:00 a.m.** All are welcome. 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

Messenger

AUGUST 2020
Volume 33, Issue 8

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Contact Information

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Phone: (256) 721-0041

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Claire Strand.....Director of Outreach Ministries
Lois Graff.....Director of Music Ministries
Sara Galyon.....Director of Faith Formation
Bobbey 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

