



PASTOR'S PAGE

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. - Psalm 119:105

Dear Friends of the Reigning Messiah,

WHAT IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THESE STRANGE DAYS? If we open our Bible **to the middle, we will find ourselves in the book of Psalms.** The Bible is the story of God and God's people. Putting the Psalms right in the middle of that story is perfect placement.

BEFORE THE PSALMS are accounts of God creating everything, the fall of humanity, the call of Abraham and Sarah, the Lord saving the enslaved nation of Israel by their exodus from Egypt, and then Israel taking possession of the Promised Land.

AFTER THE PSALMS are God's prophets of both gloom and hope, the Jews' tragic exile in Babylonia, and prophetic promises of a coming Messiah. Then comes the New Testament--the Messiah arrives on earth as we hear the stories of Jesus's birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. That is followed by the birth of the Church when the Spirit of the risen Jesus blew into this world to make disciples of all nations, including people like you and me. Look at that! Listen to that!

WHEN WE ARE GRASPED BY THE GRAND SWEEP OF GOD'S WORD, we realize what a rich, precious heritage we have as Christians! The Psalms belong in the middle of God's Word because they speak into the MIDDLE of our LIVES. The Psalms bestow upon us timeless expressions of both sorrows and joys during our pilgrimages through this life. *Even these days?* Yes, especially these days.

DURING MY SABBATICAL IN THE FALL OF 2018, my older brother Craig and I visited Dachau prisoner of war camp near Munich. In Dachau, over 30,000 Jews and political prisoners were killed during World War II. Jewish writer Elie Wiesel tells of gentle Hasidic Jews of Eastern Europe walking with the elderly and the children toward the gas chambers. As they walked to their deaths, **they sang the Psalms** in Hebrew.

ON THE FAR EDGE OF DACHAU CAMP, Craig and I stepped into a memorial chapel and saw written on the wall in German "*Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord*" from Psalm 130. The Psalms have carried people through the worst of times—not just for centuries, but for almost three millennia. As God's children in this time, we would be naïve to think God no longer speaks to us through the Psalms. Notice...

THE PSALMS ALSO SPEAK TO OUR JOYFUL TIMES. The Psalms give us words to express our happiness and hopefulness throughout life. "*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth...For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*" (Psalm 100).

INDEED, WE WILL FIND OURSELVES IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS. That is why am I beginning a series of sermons based on the Psalms this summer. The Psalms were born among our ancestors in faith who faced similar situations to those we are experiencing these days. *We are People of the Word* because our Lord always provides the Word we need to hear this day.

Grace and peace, peace, peace,

Pastor Scott Peterson



JULY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

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

July 5	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
July 12	LBW Setting 1
July 19	WOV Bread of Life
July 26	LBW Setting 2

Services are now online! Due to recent health concerns, services of worship will occur exclusively online until further notice. Visit MLC's website at mlutheran.org for viewing instructions and to access the readings, hymns, bulletins, 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

- † Chris Fossum announces the birth of a granddaughter She weighed 7 lbs 13 ozs and was 21 inches long. Proud parents are Adam and Kim Fossum.
- † Pamela Sparks announces the birth of her 4th grandchild, She weighed 8 lbs 15 oz and was 22.5 inches long. Proud parents are Lindsey and Brian Sparks.
- † Judy Starkloff, wife of Karl Starkloff and charter member of Messiah Lutheran Church, passed away on May 30th. Judy was 74. A memorial service for Judy will take place at Messiah on Sunday, July 19th.
- † Bailey Erickson's father passed away peacefully on June 21st, Father's Day, surrounded by family.

Thank You!

Thank you to Mary Ann Stasiak, Gary and Linda Heideman, Andrew King, and everyone who supported June's outdoor plant sale. It was good work done using social distancing. About \$569 was raised for the mission to replace the street sign with an electronic messaging sign.

Comforters Update by Claire Strand

Even though they haven't been able to meet, ministry coordinator Jeanette Beamer says MLC's blanket makers have been very busy. Since safer-at-home practices began, individuals have been sewing quilt tops, tying quilts, and making face masks in their homes.

Kit Ministry Update by Rhonda Gaede

2020 will be the first year in quite a few that will not see the arrival of a truck at Messiah Lutheran Church around the third week of August. The synod has decided there is not a safe way for that collection to happen.... But that doesn't mean the Kit Ministry hasn't been active and won't continue to be. For example, Diane Davis and her merry band of Sara Galyon, Laura Peterson, and Chris Fossum did our biannual consignment shopping for baby clothes. What troopers! We are planning a personal care kit assembly activity to be held outside—stay tuned to E-News for the details.



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirector@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.*

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Continue to Worship!

Online service of worship videos are available Sundays at mlutheran.org and on YouTube. If you know of anyone who needs assistance with accessing online services of worship, please contact Lois or the Church Office. We have resources to help!

MLC Music Groups Continue in July

Seraph Choir Zoom

Wednesday, July 1 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15 6 p.m.

Messiah Choir

Wednesday, July 1 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15 7:30 p.m.

Instrumental Ensemble Zoom Fellowship

Thursday, July 2 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, July 16 7:15 p.m.

Instrumental Ensemble OUTSIDE Rehearsal

Saturday, July 11 9:30 a.m. "Christmas in July!"

Contemporary Team Fellowship

Saturday, July 11 11:00 a.m.

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

A Few Words on Liturgy...

This Month's Topic: The Creed

The inclusion of a Creed began in the earliest worship liturgies and was added by the Western church. It is the public confession and acceptance of the faith of the whole Church and a spoken renewal of our Baptisms. There are three Creeds in the Western tradition: Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian. Written in that order historically, each is longer than the previous Creed. With each new Creed, the early Church was defending the faith against new heresies. The first written, the Apostles' Creed is the most used at MLC.

Hymn of the Month

"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

The tune "WAREHAM" was composed by William Knapp (1698-1768) and is the tune for several hymns. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), an English Methodist minister and hymnwriter, wrote the text of "The Church of Christ, in Every Age" in 1969. Fifty years later, it still speaks to us:

*Across the world, across the street,
The victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
And never live before they die.*

*Then let the servant Church arise,
A caring Church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humanity.*



Sara Galyon
 Director of Youth and
 Christian Education
 Ministries

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

MOEs

MOEs are going strong with Zoom meetings every Thursday morning at 11:00. We are also offering pop-up games for MOEs, Junior Youth, and Senior Youth with 24 hour notice via email. Please email youth@mlutheran.org if you are not currently receiving emails about your child's group.

Junior Youth

Junior Youth will continue to meet via Zoom at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Senior Youth

Senior Youth will now meet via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. for a mid-week check in, and Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.

Innovation in Faith Formation

Throughout the month of July, Sara will be working on how we innovate the way we do Faith Formation in this unpredictable time. How can we turn Faith Formation back over to families? How can we blend online and in-person meetings so that this new system continues to work for us when we can meet together again, instead of becoming something we just did in an emergency? Lots of really awesome things are coming, so keep an eye out!



Vacation Bible School

Online VBS July 13-17

The Dynamic Duo of VBS (St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and Messiah) are back together again for this year's Online VBS Compassion Camp! Look for more info coming via E-News and emails!

Left: Sara Galyon has been making and delivering custom goodie bags for any MLC child or youth filled with all of their favorite things! Parents! Contact Sara at youth@mlutheran.org if you would like one for your son or daughter.

More smiles on the Month in Pictures Page.

NEWS FLASHES

ONLINE SERVICES CONTINUE—WHAT'S NEXT?

Per the June 5, 2020 Covid-19 e-mail to members. MLC's Church Council has formed a task force now actively working to plan and prepare for resumption of in-person worship, and advise the Church Council on decisions relating to that. *Please pray for the members of the MLC's Covid-19 Task Force, its Church Council members, and Messiah's staff. Task Force members are Rhonda Gaede (chair), Kari Pitchko, Dana Burton, Bob Gustafson, Dick Azzam, and Pastor Scott.*

Pre-recorded Sunday Services will continue until the Church Council approves a date for in-person worship.

Please continue to be patient through this pandemic which has gone on far longer than any of us hoped. Please protect yourself and others from the spread of Covid-19 by taking the precautions the CDC recommends. There are still resources including masks, hymals for loan, Small Catechisms, Christ in Our Home devotion booklets, and emergency food and supplies available on MLC's "Give and Take" cart located at the main entry of MLC building. Please call the Church office if you have other concerns at 256 721 0041.

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

TENTATIVE PLANS: *Judy Starkloff Memorial Service*

The Memorial Service for Judy Starkloff is tentatively scheduled for 9 a.m. on July 19, at MLC.

Also, tentative plans are for a reception at the outdoor pavilion of Creekside Plantation in Mooresville, AL starting at 11 a.m.

Preparations are underway with the hope being that the service will be streamed live to be viewed. Watch for additional details to be shared soon.

Vacation Bible School

Online VBS July 13-17

The Dynamic Duo of VBS (St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and Messiah) are back together again for this year's Online VBS Compassion Camp! Look for more info coming via E-News and emails!

Need to Connect with Your Ministry Group?

Messiah Lutheran Church purchased a large group Zoom account. It is available for your use if you would like to have a video meeting with your ministry group.

Please contact Sara Galyon at youth@mlutheran.org.

She can set up a meeting time and give you co-hosting instructions. She does not need to sit in the meeting once it's set up.

The paid Zoom account offers you the ability to meet longer than the 40 minutes allowed on free Zoom accounts.

Communications Corner

Not finding MLC E-News in Your Inbox?

There's been a slight uptick in members letting us know that they aren't receiving Tuesday and Thursday MLC E-News. More often than not, these messages are being delivered, they just are being directed to the person's spam / junk folders. The other reason might be you are using a webmail provider such as AOL, Yahoo, or Hotmail. According to Mailchimp (the email service we use) *these providers throttle delivery, which can sometimes result in emails taking about 24 hours to be delivered to a specific email account.*

To help with this, I've posted some helpful tips from the Mailchimp support page on MLC's website at <https://mlutheran.org/email-troubleshooting/>

The posts gives specific steps you can take to help make emails from office@mlutheran.org get delivered to your inbox.

While most of the issues can be resolved at the end user level, Sometimes it does happen that a typo sneaks into a member's email address when added or updated. We are happy to double check and update your email in Mailchimp. If a couple have different emails, we can certainly add each of you separately so you won't miss a thing.

Members— Be Scam Savvy

Periodically members will notify the church office that they have received an strange request in an email that looks like it's from Pastor Scott or from one of our @mlutheran.com (or .org) webmails. Know this...

Neither Pastor Scott nor MLC's Council will ever contact you via email to request that with an "urgent" or "sensitive" matter by purchasing gift cards or making a money transfer!

Because we have our domain emails out on our website, individuals (and bots) can pick them up and then "spooft them" to look like it's being sent by the email but really it is not.

With phishing schemes becoming more and more sophisticated, it's more important than ever to be savvy about scams.

Here is a useful guide to discerning fraudulent emails vs. ones that are legitimate.

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>

Blessings, Meredith Kilby, Communications Director

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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*

Fellowship News from Sonja Pedersen

Thank you to everyone that is joining the Zoom Fellowship Gatherings! It is such a blessing to see and talk with our friends and Messiah family!

Vacation Memories Zoom - July 11th at 10 a.m.

In this fellowship chat, we want to hear about a vacation memory that makes you smile! One I have is taking my grandson David to Coco Beach when he was four. He already knew the directions to everywhere and quickly informed us when we turned the wrong way!

[Editor's Note: The craziest things happen on vacation. I slow-danced with a talking trash can once. This could be the most entertaining Fellowship Zoom yet!]

Sunday School Stories Zoom - July 25th at 10 a.m.

Gather around and share a favorite memory of a Sunday School class. One of my first memories is of my Sunday School teacher, a kind elderly lady who was always so sweet. She never seemed to get flustered with all of us little disciples, even when she told the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den and we bombarded her with questions in our wonder. And she gave us butter-scotch candies! If that story made you smile, then please join our chat for more tales to make you grin from ear to ear!

PRAYER FAMILIES

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

Redacted Content

HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH COVID-19 FREE! Members and friends! **In an effort to keep you, the church, and 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.

MONTH IN PICTURES—JUNE



God Loves You! Pastor Scott standing out on HWY 72 waving at passing motorists with his new "God Loves You" sign (Pastor Scott reports that the "God Loves You" sign gets more honks than his earlier, "God Bless You" sign).



Thank you, Mary Ann Stasiak for organizing a successful plant sale fundraiser for the Electronic Sign Fund. Mary Ann also heads up MLC's landscape committee and she and husband Ed have things looking so good around MLC's exterior.



Members participating in the Weekly Zoom Fellowship Time take their Mug Shot. The Sunday morning fellowship includes brief words of welcome followed by small group discussions on light, conversation starting topics. The link to join the Fellowship time is included in every Thursday e-news.



Sara Galyon

Delivers a bag of Favorite Things "physical distancing style" to one MLC's youngsters.

More pictures can be found in the [online photo gallery for June!](#)

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 am Sr. Youth Check-In 4:00 pm Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg NO "When You Pray" Class w/ Pastor Scott—resumes 7/8 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Meet 7:30 pm Messiah Choir Zoom Meet	2 11:00 a.m. MOEs Zoom Meeting 7:15 pm Inst. Ensemble Zoom Fellowship	3 Church Office Closed	4
5 Online Service Available at 8 a.m. WOV Service of Word/Prayer 4:00 pm Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg 6:00 pm Sr. Youth Virtual Mtg	6 Church Office Closed	7	8 10:00 am Sr. Youth Check-In 4:00 pm Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg 4:30pm "When You Pray" Class w/ Pastor Scott	9 11:00 a.m. MOEs Zoom Meeting 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting Online	10	11 9:30 am Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal 10 am Vacation Memories Zoom 11 am Contemporary Team Fellowship
12 Online Service Available at 8 a.m. LBW Setting 1 4:00 pm Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg 6:00 pm Sr. Youth Virtual Mtg	13 Online VBS Compassion Camp	14 Online VBS Compassion Camp	15 Online VBS Compassion Camp 10:00 am Sr. Youth Check-In 4:00 pm Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg 4:30pm "When You Pray" Class w/ Pastor Scott 6:00 pm Seraph Choir Zoom Meet 7:30 pm Messiah Choir Zoom Meet	16 Online VBS Compassion Camp 11:00 a.m. MOEs Zoom Meeting 7:15 pm Inst. Ensemble Zoom Fellowship	17 Online VBS Compassion Camp	18
19 Online Service Available at 8 a.m. WOV Bread of Life 4:00 pm Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg 6:00 pm Sr. Youth Virtual Mtg	20	21	22 10:00 am Sr. Youth Check-In 4:00 pm Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg 4:30pm "When You Pray" Class w/ Pastor Scott	23 11:00 a.m. MOEs Zoom Meeting	24	25 10 am Sunday School Stories Zoom
26 Online Service Available at 8 a.m. LBW Setting 2 4:00 pm Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg 6:00 pm Sr. Youth Virtual Mtg	27	28	29 4:00 pm Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg 4:30pm "When You Pray" Class w/ Pastor Scott 6:00 pm Sr. Youth Virtual Bible Study	30 11:00 a.m. MOEs Zoom Meeting	31	

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 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

JULY 2020
Volume 33, Issue 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Pastor's Page | Services of Worship
- 2 Life Passages | Outreach Report
- 3 Music Notes
- 4 Messiah Youth & Education
- 5 News Flashes
- 6 Communication Corner | Birthday List
- 7 Fellowship News | Prayer List
- 8 Month in Pictures
- 9 Calendar Page
- 10 Contact Information

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
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

