



PASTOR'S PAGE

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

Jesus said, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." --Matthew 22:21

Dear Friends of the Reigning Messiah, *(derived from my Sept. 18 sermon)*

HOW MUCH AUTHORITY DOES OUR GOVERNMENT HAVE OVER US? That was at the root of a tricky tax question devised by religious authorities. "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the Emperor or not?" They were attempting to trap Jesus with that question. If Jesus says, 'yes', He will lose favor with the common people who were following Him. If Jesus says, 'no', He will risk arrest by Roman Governor Pilate who was in Jerusalem to keep law and order during the Jewish Passover celebration. Jesus cleverly eluded their trap with the answer above. When it comes to taxes, it is like Jesus is saying...

"SEND BACK TO THE EMPEROR WHAT THE EMPEROR HAS COINED—that makes little difference. The truly **IMPORTANT** matter here is this: **Give to God what is God's!**" Jesus' words here do not eliminate the Emperor or God. Both have their place. So, using modern language: **Where do we draw the line between church and state?** As disciples we might ask it this way: **Where do we draw the line between our Christian faith and our allegiance to this nation?**

LET'S NOT ATTEMPT TO DRAW A STRAIGHT LINE in the sand between church and state. Instead, to diagram this, let us draw one VERY BIG circle. That circle represents **everything** on earth and in heaven. As Christians we believe **everything** is under God's authority. Then in our diagram, inside the large circle we can draw a much SMALLER circle. That circle would represent what is also under government authority.

EVERYTHING IS RIGHTFULLY UNDER GOD, including our 'one nation under God', as we say in our Pledge of Allegiance. While only SOME things are rightfully under the authority of the government. Jesus does not detach God and the Emperor. He just puts them in their proper places.

TO SUM THIS UP: JESUS IS SAYING, "The Emperor/the government CAN claim taxes from you and me. The very money we carry was made by our government to order our lives." But **Jesus' emphasis** falls on the **second part of His reply**, "**Give to God the things that are God's**" The striking way Jesus puts God and government together should open our eyes. Each has a place, but there are definite limits to the Emperor's power. Don't give the government your WORSHIP, or your SOUL. Our WHOLE EXISTENCE is from God. We belong to our Lord, not the government.

WHOMEVER WINS THE ELECTION, as Christians we should have the perspective to realize this is not what is MOST IMPORTANT for us. Our Lord and Savior will be Jesus in the coming years and forever. Jesus gave Himself totally, body and blood, for you. He is the ONLY LASTING AUTHORITY. Our only LASTING HOPE is the risen from the dead Jesus who lives and reigns forever and ever and ever. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

Grace and peace, *Pastor Scott Peterson*

NOVEMBER SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

Online, available Sundays starting at 6:00 a.m.

November 1 LBW Setting 1
November 8 WOV Bread of Life
November 15 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
November 22 LBW Setting 2
November 29 LBW Setting 1

Outdoor Service at 10:30 a.m.

November 1 LBW Setting 1 w/Lord's Supper
November 8 WOV Bread of Life w/LS
November 15 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
November 22 LBW Setting 2 w/Lord's Supper
November 29 LBW Setting 1





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
Instant Mashed Potatoes

KIT MINISTRY

4 oz. Bars of Soap

Members may also designate offerings to:

Food Pantry & Kit Ministry

OUTREACH

Life Passages



Baptism

† Noah Stanley Pitchko, son of Tim and Kari, received his Baptism on Sunday, October 25th.

Confirmation

† Drake Meyer and Abby Tucker confirmed their faith in Christ on Sunday, October 25th.

Deaths

† Bobbi Stender passed away in Florida on Oct 5th, She was 77.

† John Steadman passed away on October 19th. He was 86.

† Julie Pedersen's mother, Priscilla Frisk, passed away on October 14th. She was 88.

Outreach News

by Claire Strand

Thanksgiving Food Bags

In partnership with area Lutheran churches, we are collecting food items to fill Thanksgiving food bags for distribution in the community. Messiah Lutheran Church is providing cake mix and canned frosting (100 of each). If you or someone you know needs food assistance, please inform Claire Strand, Messiah's Director of Outreach Ministries.

Angel Tree

Salvation Army Angel Tree adoptions will be done online this year. Look for the link in your church E-News in early November. This year, you will have to take your gifts to their collection site (to be determined), not the church. More info to come. If you need assistance with the adoption or the delivery, please call on Claire Strand.

First Stop

The homeless clients served by First Stop are in need of these items:

Chapstick, travel size personal hygiene (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, lotion), powdered coffee creamer, instant coffee, disposable ponchos

North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless is currently holding their Annual Blanket and Cold Weather Gear Drive. Items requested are toboggans, gloves, socks, coats, sweat shorts/pants, and scarves.

The Give and Take Cart on Messiah's porch is the place for donations. Look for it during office hours or on Sundays during outdoor worship.



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirector@mlutheran.org

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

The Music at Messiah concerts are currently suspended.

Hymn of the Month

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

John Hughes (1873-1932) composed the tune "CWM RHONDDA" in 1905. It's been used for at least 44 hymns! Pastor/author Harry E. Fosdick (1878-1969) wrote the hymn's text. Fosdick was a professor of practical theology and served Baptist and Presbyterian churches in New Jersey and New York. The lyrics are a prayer for courage, wisdom, and faith:
*Lo! The host of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail his ways!*

From the fears that long have bound us

Free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage

*For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.*

-LBW 415 vs 2

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Online and Outdoor Worship Continue

Online worship is available any time after 6 a.m. on Sundays via the mlutheran.org webpage or directly from YouTube. Need help accessing the online services of worship? Contact Lois Graff at musicdirector@mlutheran.org or the Church Office at (256) 721-0041.

You can also participate in online worship together through Zoom worship! Contact Rebecca Alferink, Worship and Music Council Representative, at freefalling@alumni.purdue.edu.

Worship link and Zoom worship link are posted in the Thursday e-news.

For **outdoor worship** on Sundays at 10:30 a.m., there are two options:

- Drive in, park, watch, and listen to the service of worship to 98.5 FM on your car radio.
- Bring a lawn chair and sit physically distanced in the parking lot. Radios now provided.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on November 1, 8, and 22 at the outdoor service of worship. Instructions for outdoor worship and communion are on the website and in E-News.

This is a time of spiritual growth. We are adapting through challenging times, knowing that our Lord is always beside us, leading and guiding, feeding us with the Word of God. The people of God during the Babylonian captivity were often discouraged, but God continually gave them words of hope. We are not forgotten, children of God!

Advent Worship

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29. On the Wednesdays during Advent (December 2, 9, 16, and 23), online services of worship will be available on the church website beginning at 7:00 p.m.. The *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy will be used. Also, stay tuned for a Zoom worship possibility.

MLC Music Groups in November

Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 5 p.m. (*no rehearsal Nov 25*)

Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 5 p.m. (*no rehearsal Nov 25*)

Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More

Wednesday, November 4 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18 7:30 p.m.

Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship

Saturday, November 14 11:00 a.m.

Instrumental Ensemble OUTSIDE Rehearsal

Saturday, November 7 9:30 a.m.

Please email musicdirector@mlutheran.org for more information or if you would like to receive Zoom links. Watch E-News for updates.



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 & FAITH FORMATION

Let's Go to the Movies!

This month, we're going to utilize the private screening options local movie theaters are offering! Mark your calendars for our movie days at Cineplanet on Hughes Road. The movie screenings are limited to 20 people, so we may not have space for extra siblings or parents, but if you would like to go with your child, please let Sara know so she can keep track of numbers and let you know closer to the date.

Note: Times are subject to change, as the theater does not offer bookings as far out as the writing of this article.

MOEs: Saturday, November 14th, 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$5 per person. Movie TBA.

Junior/Senior Youth: Sunday, November 22, 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$5 per person. Movie TBA.

Please pay attention to weekly emails for any updates or changes on these dates/times.

Meeting Schedule:

Junior Youth: November 8th from 5-6 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Senior Youth: November 1, 8, and 15 from 6-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall

No Youth November 29th (Thanksgiving weekend)

Virtual Costume Contest

KIDS & GROWN UPS! All MLC Encouraged to Participate!

Join us Sunday, November 1st, 3-5 p.m. for our Virtual Costume Contest via Zoom!

Prizes will be awarded for various categories, including (but not limited to) prizes for age groups, best couple costume, best group costume, and "pun-iest" costume. If anyone would like to donate any prizes, please let Sara know at youth@mlutheran.org.

If you plan to participate in the contest, please let us know by filling out the form at <https://forms.gle/A3kLx5TUCxPAXnNM7>, although last minute entries are absolutely welcome!

Check your E-News for the Zoom link closer to the date!

NEWS FLASHES

Do You Want to Come into MLC's Building to Pray? Please call 256-721-0041 during regular 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.

**** CONGREGATION MEETING ****

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

AT NOON (ZOOM)

Please see the mailing for agenda and Zoom meeting details.



Messiah Lutheran Church
ANNUAL COSTUME CONTEST
 SUNDAY | NOV 1 | 3 - 5 PM
LIVE ON ZOOM
FUN FOR ALL AGES!

<<<< **All ages are invited to attend. Let's have some fun. Please see more information on Page 4.**

The Men of Messiah will not meet in November. The group is planning to put together its annual Manly Man Gift exchange. Stay tuned for more details from Mark Zesinger.

HELP US KEEP ONE ANOTHER SAFE

Masks are required to enter Messiah Lutheran Church. Please sanitize your hands after you enter and maintain a six foot physical distance from others.

Please call the church office at (256) 721-0041 ahead of time if you need to stop by the church during office hours, Thank you!

COVID-19 TASK FORCE UPDATE

Messiah's Covid-19 Task Force continues to monitor and assess the pandemic's impact in our local area and advise MLC's Church Council. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, church ministry groups can now meet in the Fellowship Hall and the Parish Hall with set limitations.

1. Fellowship Hall Maximum Occupancy is 8 persons.*
2. Parish Hall Maximum Occupancy is 12 persons.

Additionally, masks are required while inside the church. Physical distancing measures must also be in place and scheduling must be done in advance through the church office.

Facility use by external groups and individual members is not permitted at this time. Use of the education wing and the sanctuary are also not permitted.

**The Fellowship Hall is currently the staging area for the outdoor services, so the Parish Hall is recommended.*

DON'T BITE ON PHISHING ATTEMPTS

A series of phony emails that "look" like they are from Pastor Scott and ask for your help with a "sensitive" or "discreet" matter are surfacing again. **No one on staff or on council will ever email you directly and ask you to send money, purchase gift cards, etc.**

If you click on the sender info, these are not legitimate mlutheran.org emails. Just block the sender's domain or report as spam.

On Eagle's Wings Update



Christ Loves All People...

Virtual Bible Camp

excerpt from Lesley Hand, Executive Director

On Eagle's Wings staff, volunteers, and partner dioceses worked together to create over 1000 virtual Bible Camp activity kits—including DVDs with 30 videos of Bible stories, crafts, and songs recorded by Bible Camp volunteers—to ensure that families from Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik, Ft. McPherson, Behchoko, and Ft. Chipewyan received the Good News that *Christ Loves All People*. In addition, 30 families in the Diocese of Caledonia received kits, along with families in the Yukon, northern Alberta, and Pennsylvania.

Families received an activity kit for each of the 5 Bible stories in the CLAP! curriculum. And each kit contained a full-color booklet complete with prayers, the Bible story, craft instructions, and game suggestions, as well as the supplies needed to make all the crafts. The kits also came with a DVD that contained videos of *On Eagle's Wings* Bible Camp volunteers telling the Bible story, making the crafts, and singing songs from the curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support of *On Eagle's Wings*!

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

CONGREGATION MEETING**Sunday, November 15, 2020****12:00 Noon on Zoom**

All confirmed members are asked to attend so that the quorum is met and the meeting can be conducted without delay.

Please be on the lookout for the congregation meeting notice which will be mailed out early November. It will include the meeting's agenda and instructions on how to attend via the Zoom conferencing app.

As is customary at the November meeting, MLC's 2021 Plan for Mission (aka the annual budget) headlines the agenda. The proposed Plan for Mission will be posted to MLC's website at www.mlutheran.org at around the same time as the notices are mailed. Also on the agenda will be discussed next steps on the electronic sign.

On Sunday, November 8th at 9:00 a.m. there will be a Town Hall Zoom meeting where members can ask questions about the 2021 Plan for Mission.

Thank you in advance for making the congregation meeting a priority.

**New Outdoor Terrace Area at MLC!**

Construction has begun on a large, outdoor stone terrace located inside the fenced front courtyard of MLC. This project was initiated by Jacob Huwaldt as his Eagle Scout project. Additional Eagle Scout projects will involve furnishing the space with benches and tables once all the stone pavers have been laid.

The terrace is accessed from the rear door of the education wing and will be a pleasant, mud-free space for groups to meet outdoors.

If you have questions or would like to support the project, please contact Pete Woods or the Huwaldt's.

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

MONTH IN PICTURES—OCTOBER 2020



Noah Stanley Pitchko was baptized on Reformation Sunday, October 25th. L-R Kari and Tim Pitchko (holding Noah) and sponsors Lauren and Mychal Morgan.



Above: Laura Peterson wore her red on Reformation Sunday and also served as lector. Below: Over 200 Personal Hygiene kits were packed and boxed for Lutheran World Relief on October 17th.



Abigail Tucker above, and Drake Meyer, below were confirmed on October 25.



November 2020

Fall back one hour on November 1, 2020!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Kit and Quilt Sunday 6 a.m. Online Service Available LBW Setting 1 9 a.m. Zoom Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 10:30 a.m. Group Worship Zoom 3 p.m. Costume Contest on Zoom 6 p.m. Senior Youth mtg.</p>	2	3	<p>4 4 p.m. 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation class--2nd year Commandments test 5 p.m. Seraph and Cherub Choirs Zoom Rehearsals 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More</p>	5	6	<p>7 9:30 a.m. Inst. Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal</p>
<p>8 6 a.m. Online Service Available WOV Bread of Life 9 a.m. Zoom Town Hall mtg. to discuss Plan for Mission - Budget 10:30 Outdoor Worship WOV Bread of Life w/LS 10:30 a.m. Group Worship Zoom 5 p.m. Junior Youth mtg. 6 p.m. Senior Youth mtg.</p>	9	10	<p>11 4 p.m. 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation class 5 p.m. Seraph and Cherub Choirs Zoom Rehearsals</p>	<p>12 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting</p>	13	<p>14 11 a.m. Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship 3 p.m. MOEs Movie Outing</p>
<p>15 6 a.m. Online Service Available WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9 a.m. Zoom Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship WOV Service of Word/Prayer 10:30 a.m. Group Worship Zoom 12 noon Congregation Meeting 6 p.m. Senior Youth mtg.</p>	16	17	<p>18 4 p.m. 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation class 5 p.m. Seraph and Cherub Choirs Zoom Rehearsals 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More</p>	19	20	21
<p>22 6 a.m. Online Service Available LBW Setting 2 9 a.m. Zoom Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 10:30 a.m. Group Worship Zoom 6:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. Youth Movie Outing</p>	23	24	25	<p>26 Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p>27 Church Office Closed</p>	28
<p>29 Advent Begins 6 a.m. Online Service Available LBW Setting 1 9 a.m. Zoom Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship LBW Setting 1 10:30 a.m. Group Worship Zoom No Youth Group - Thanksgiving Break</p>	30	<p>Looking Ahead - Pre-recorded Advent Services 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings begin Dec. 2. There will also be ZOOM Group worship offered at 7 p.m.</p>				

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

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
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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 6:00 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

NOVEMBER 2020
Volume 33, Issue 11

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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 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

