



PASTOR'S PAGE

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

—Mark 10:13-14

Dear Friends of the Reigning Messiah,

NEVER WASTE A CRISIS! Heroes of the Christian faith often became heroes by the ways they responded to crises. Not only viral health crises gave birth to courageous faith. Among our ancestors in faith are those who were overrun by marauding barbarians, those who stood up when pagan rulers tried to crush Biblical faith, and those who were fed to the lions.

AT MLC, WE HAVE A LEGACY of making faith-based, adventurous decisions. Our congregation flourished because God used those decisions to bless missions in ways beyond what we could envision. In the process, we have been used for God's purposes.

THAT HAS BEEN OUR LEGACY. What will our legacy be coming out of this unique, challenging time?

What if we keep "**stepping forward**," doing things like:

- Completing the electronic sign to reach out to the tens-of-thousands passing by the MLC building on Highway 72?
- Transforming "Sunday School" and "Adult Education" into "Faith Formation," recognizing parents as the primary Christian educators for our children? Also recognizing the need for adults to grow in faith, prayer, and Bible knowledge throughout our lifetimes!
- Celebrating God's gifts of newborn arrivals in the Gipner and Pitchko families? These two children are signs of God's plans for the next generation of disciples.

What else should be born into our legacy during this time of crisis?

CRISES FORCE US TO CHANGE. Change is painful. Jesus knew that throughout His earthly life. He died a torturous death and was raised by a glorious resurrection. **Jesus eternally changed the future for you and me.** As an old hymn proclaims, "O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, a shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home."

NEVER WASTE A CRISIS! Faith leaders in the midst of a crisis realize "This is the time for changes that can transform us to be wiser, tougher, and united to bless our children and the generations to come."

IN SEPTEMBER, WE EMPHASIZE OUR STEWARDSHIP (our management) of the gifts our Lord has entrusted to us. Each Sunday, a disciple will give a Temple Talk on the theme "What will be our legacy?" Speakers will be Bob Gustafson, Stephanie Gillespie, Rebecca Mast, and Tim Pitchko. "**Planning for Mission Sunday**" on September 27, will culminate the month.

PEOPLE BROUGHT CHILDREN TO JESUS hoping he would touch them. Jesus not only touched them, He blessed them. As disciples of Jesus, touching others with God's love is our legacy to share.

Grace and peace,

-Pastor Scott Peterson

SEPTEMBER SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

Available for Online Viewing Sundays starting at 6:00 a.m.

September 6 WOV Bread of Life

September 13 LBW Setting 1

September 20 WOV Service of Word/Prayer

September 27 LBW Setting 2

Catch us online! Due to health concerns, services of worship will occur exclusively online until further notice. Visit MLC's website at mlutheran.org for viewing instructions, 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
Instant Mashed Potatoes

KIT MINISTRY

4 oz. Bars of Soap

Members may also designate offerings to:

Food Pantry & Kit Ministry

OUTREACH Life Passages



Deaths

- † Pat Esteppe's mother Rosemary Sappington passed away on August 9th.
- † Pierre Kolowe's mother Justine Kolowe passed away on August 8th.
- † Julia Naefe's aunt Kay Beth Allen passed away on August 18th.

Births

- † Tim and Kari Pitchko announce the birth of their son. Proud grandparents are Mike and Sue Doubleday.
- † Judy Sylvester announces the birth of her great-granddaughter She was 5 lbs. 8 ozs. Proud parents are Kendall and Jessica Bane. Proud grandmother is Tammy Stender.

Graduation

- † Kyle Thompson graduated from Auburn University this summer with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He will stay in Auburn as a graduate research assistant while pursuing a Masters in Mechanical Engineering.

Marriage

- † Ben Azzam and Valerie Eiben were married on August 29th.

Outreach Update - God's work. Our hands. Sep. 12

by Claire Strand

"God's work. Our hands." day of service is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

This year our church — and our world — are living through the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical distancing has forced congregations to cancel in-person worship and move to virtual services. We miss gathering with family and friends to share God's love in person. But amid this devastating situation we continue to be church together.

Throughout the ELCA we are witnessing the love and concern God's people have for one another. During this time, our congregations continue to support ministries that assist vulnerable people in their communities. These acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For "God's work. Our hands." we come together to restore and reconcile our communities. You do this kind of work every day — loving your neighbors and making your community a better place. **This year's GWOH day of service will be on Saturday, September 12th, from 9 am to noon at the CASA Vegetable Garden.** Some rules are in place, so please sign up ahead of time (form will be in e-news). You can sign up for both shifts if you'd like. You must bring your working gloves and mask.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Messiah Lutheran Church - Madison, AL
www.mlutheran.org



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, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

Writer Catherine Arnott Cameron (1927-2019) penned the words to this hymn in 1967, using imagery of the space age in the first two verses. The shape-note tune "Holy Manna" was probably composed in the 20th century. The third verse of the hymn calls us to new endeavors, guided by our Creator Lord.

*As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew:*

*Children of creative purpose,
serving others, hon'ring you.*

*May our dreams prove rich with
promise; Each endeavor well
begun;*

*Great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.*

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship Online

We often hear "worship is the most important thing we do as disciples" and "everything we do as the Lord's church flows from worship." Although we are not currently able to meet in person to worship together, we can worship "together" as brothers and sisters in Christ in our own homes. Online worship is available using TVs, computers, laptops, tablets, and phones. You can even join a Zoom meeting each week to watch and participate in worship together with others.

This is an important time to be the church for each other, for others in our lives, and for the world. Be fed, be nourished, and be empowered by the Word of God spoken during services of worship each week. You will hear messages of hope and perseverance. Let's keep listening!

Have questions? Need help accessing the services of worship? Contact Lois Graff at musicdirector@mlutheran.org or (256) 658-0276, or contact the Church Office at (256) 721-0041.

MLC Music Groups in September

Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsals

Wednesdays beginning September 9

Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsals

Wednesdays beginning September 9

Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More

Wednesday, September 2 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16 7:30 p.m.

Instrumental Ensemble Zoom Fellowship

Thursday, September 3 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 17 7:00 p.m.

Instrumental Ensemble OUTSIDE Rehearsal

Saturday, September 19 9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship & Music

Saturday, Saturday 19 11:00 a.m.

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

Talent Show Oct. 1

Because we had so much fun doing the Zoom Talent Show on June 24th, there will be another on October 1! Singing, dancing, readings, skits, pet tricks? Put your family-friendly acts together and join in the fun. Contact Lois soon to sign up!

MLC YOUTH & EDUCATION MINISTRIES



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

Come out to the CAR-nival!

Come join us for our Rally Sunday on Sept. 6! from 9 to 11 a.m. We couldn't even imagine not celebrating the start of a new school year without a Rally Sunday Carnival, but this year, we're switching it up for safety! **Families will drive through the MLC parking lot and stop at 6 stations with kids completing carnival style games from their cars.**

There will also be a take home **Faith Formation** kit, complete with an at home "*Blessing of the Devices*" for this virtual start to the school year.

To aid in planning and safety, **please sign up for your time slot on this [Car-nival Rally Day form](#).** The form will also be posted to www.mlutheran.org Email Sara at youth@mlutheran.org if you need assistance or have questions. **If you don't get a chance to sign up and still want to attend, please let Sara know.**

Youth Group Meetings

The Junior and Senior Youth are meeting Sunday nights in homes— check the calendar page for dates and times. **MOEs will meet in Person on Saturday, September 19 outdoors 6 - 7 p.m. (location TBD)** details to follow via email. Please make sure Sara has your correct email address if your child is in 3rd-12th grade so you can stay up to date on all of the latest information.

Online Faith Formation - For All Households of MLC

Our faith formation is moving online! Every two weeks, we will have a different theme, working our way through the Books of Moses from September through April. Families will be able to access the material through Google Classroom and engage with the material throughout the weeks. There will be two ways to engage:

Solo. Individual households can access the information and engage at their own pace. We also encourage families to practice **Faith5** nightly. If the solo option sounds right for your house, let Sara know so she can get you the appropriate class code.

Small Group. Cross-generational small groups will form to engage in the material together. Part of their time together (online or in person as we progress through the year) will be used to practice Faith5 as well (along with nightly practice at home with families).

If you want to be part of a small group, we are asking that you commit to a semester (September through December) with your group, and we'll reevaluate the structure in December.

If the small group option sounds like something you're interested in, please contact Sara youth@mlutheran.org or complete the [Faith Formation Survey](#) which was also sent out via e-news.



NEWS FLASHES

Adult Study with Pastor Scott:

HOW LUTHERANS INTERPRET THE BIBLE

This class is based on video presentations from New Testament Professor Mark Allen Powell **on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

Pastor Scott will moderate these weekly one-hour classes. Each of Dr. Powell's presentations can 'stand alone', so if you miss a class, please come back the next Thursday. Dr. Powell serves 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 which can be accomplished at home.

New volunteers always sought and welcome!

POC: Diane Davis & Rhonda Gaede

MASKS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

If you are interested in sewing up pre-made mask kits, or sewing up masks to support Lutheran World Relief, please contact Elaine Shriver.

- A limited number of fabric masks are available at the Church office. Please call if you need one.



Parents! Please sign up for your 20 minute slot (to complete the stations) on the Car-nival SignUp Genius Form.

See Page 4 for additional details!

Walk (Anywhere) for Alzheimers on Saturday, September 12th!

You can join or donate directly to the Messiah and Friends ALZ Team by visiting their team page.

https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2020/AL-Alabama?team_id=623799&pg=team&fr_id=13258

'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.

COVID 19 TASK FORCE UPDATE

Messiah's Covid-19 Task Force is discussing when, how, and where MLC might resume in-person, physically-distanced Services of Worship.

Be on the lookout for an upcoming survey for members on the subject in upcoming MLC E-news.

Please participate when the survey comes out. It will help MLC's Task Force and Church Council better understand our member's views and concerns about attending in-person worship as we move forward into September.

Rhonda Gaede, Task Force Chair

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.

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.

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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 \$47K. More gifts are welcomed 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 SURVEY for Adults, Too!

Exciting stuff coming for faith formation at Messiah! This means we need YOU to consider joining a small group for the fall semester. Small groups have many options for how they'll meet, and probably won't meet more than twice a month, as we will do 2 lessons per month from our Books of Moses curriculum. Please fill out the survey to help us better place you in a small group (or if you don't plan to participate at all fill it out too).

<https://forms.gle/93BRQ74DqS7i7rat6>

Here are some reasons why you should consider a small group for at least the upcoming semester:

- Helps us feel closer as a community during a time when we aren't seeing much of one another.
- Our faith grows differently together than it does on our own.
- Lots of people are lonely right now and would love to see your face, however they see it.

MONTH IN PICTURES—AUGUST



Messiah's Instrumental Ensemble gathered for an outdoor rehearsal on August 15th.

Several recordings of the ensemble have been used for the pre-recorded online services.



August 1st - Kit Ministry Coordinator **Diane Davis** poses with donated school supplies in the back of "Jumbo" (Claire Strand's Ford Explorer).

This was the second "Jam Pack Jumbo" donation drive of the summer.

Participants in the contact-free drive by event were treated to freezy-pops.

Do you have pictures of you or others involved with church ministry or mission? **Please send them to newsletter@mlutheran.org . Thanks!**

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
•		1	2 7:30pm Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More	3 5pm 'How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" adult class on Zoom 7pm Inst. Ensemble Zoom Fellowship	4	5
6 Online Service Available at 6 a.m. WOV Bread of Life 9-10:30am Rally Sunday CAR-nival (sign up for time to attend) 6:30pm Sr. Youth outdoor meeting	7	8	9 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation Classes Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal	10 5pm 'How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" adult class on Zoom 7pm Church Council Mtg	11	12 Gods work. Our Hands Service Project see. Pg 2 Walk Anywhere to Defeat ALZ
13 Online Service Available at 6 a.m. LBW Setting 1 5pm Jr. Youth outdoor meeting 6:30pm Sr. Youth outdoor meeting	14	15	16 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation Classes Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 7:30pm Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More	17 5pm 'How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" adult class on Zoom 7pm Inst. Ensemble Zoom Fellowship	18	19 9:30am Inst. Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal 11am Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship & Music 6:00 - MOES meeting
20 Online Service Available at 6 a.m. WOV Service of Word/Prayer 6:30pm Sr. Youth outdoor meeting	21	22 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. HAPC Finding Hope Class See. Pg. 5	23 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation Classes Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal	24 5pm 'How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" adult class on Zoom	25	26
27 Online Service Available at 6 a.m. LBW Setting 2 5pm Jr. Youth outdoor meeting 6:30pm Sr. Youth outdoor meeting	28	29	30 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation Classes Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal	Coming in October Oct. 1 - Zoom Talent Show		

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

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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

SEPTEMBER 2020
Volume 33, Issue 9

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Contact Information

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Randall Fields.....Adult Choir Director
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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

