



PASTOR'S PAGE

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.
—Psalm 34:8

Dear Friends of the living Messiah,

THANK GOD FOR THIS SEASON OF WONDERFUL FOODS! Our Thanksgiving feasts may be over, but now as we move into the Advent season leading to Christmas, more delicious foods are anticipated and being created.

WHAT ARE YOUR COMFORT FOODS? Have you found in these unsettled times that some foods calm a troubled soul? Good bread, oyster stew, and Smokey's Brunswick Stew are comfort foods for me. What are yours? Are some of your comfort foods connected to warm memories of previous holiday seasons?

"TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD," wrote the Psalmist. That makes our Lord sound like a comfort food. In Ezekiel 3, the Lord tells the prophet, *"Eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it."* Ezekiel reports, *"Then I ate it; and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey."* God's Word is given for us to digest—not the paper and ink, but the faith, hope, and love in that Word is life-giving nourishment on our faith journeys.

The HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE is comfort food for many of us. Holden will be our liturgy for Wednesday Advent Services. These online services will be available on www.mlutheran.org beginning at 7:00 p.m. on December 2, 9, 16, and 23. Gerry Myers and I will sing the Holden leader parts. Let's be comforted by beautiful Advent and Christmas music, and consume the rich, nourishing lyrics.

THE THEME OF MY ADVENT MEDITATIONS IS "DO NOT BE AFRAID." We will consider those words in relationship to the *Angel Gabriel* (12/2), *Joseph of Nazareth* (12/9), *young Mary* (12/16), and *You and Me* (12/23). The heart of the Holden Evening Prayer service is in the stories we hear in Advent: *The Annunciation* by Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:26-38), and *Mary's Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55).

THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING CARRIES OVER INTO THIS FILLING SEASON. In so many ways, we will be blessed when we open our hearts and *"Taste and see that the Lord is good!"* The good news of Jesus the Messiah, who came to earth for you, is comfort food in this season and always. May our Lord fill you with good things in this blessed time of our Lord.

Advent hope and Christmas joy to you,

Pastor Scott Peterson

DECEMBER SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

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

December 6 WOV Bread of Life
December 13 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
December 20 LBW Setting 2
December 27 LBW Setting 1

Outdoor Service at 10:30 a.m.*

December 6 WOV Bread of Life w/LS
December 13 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
December 20 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
December 27 *No Outdoor Worship*

**weather permitting*

Advent Services of Worship

Online or Zoom Worship—7 p.m.

December 2 Holden Evening Prayer
December 9 Holden Evening Prayer
December 16 Holden Evening Prayer
December 23 Holden Evening Prayer

Christmas Eve Service of Worship

Online and Outdoor

December 24





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



- † Andrew King was commissioned as Messiah Lutheran Church's Disaster Response Coordinator on November 15th.
- † William Strand received a positive endorsement decision from the Southeastern Synod Candidacy Committee. This enables William to begin an internship.

Inspiritus Advent Offering – Bringing Hope

This year, *Inspiritus* (formerly Lutheran Services of Georgia and Lutheran Services in Tennessee) will be our Advent offering designee for their work responding to the recent Gulf Coast hurricanes. *Inspiritus* assists communities throughout AL, GA, and TN when disaster strikes. They are currently on the ground after Laura, Sally, and Zeta storms to provide chain sawing, tarping, mucking, gutting, and debris removal services. *Inspiritus* focuses on providing long term recovery assistance for families and individuals who have unmet needs following a natural disaster. Their work includes assisting and managing home repairs and construction and assessing each family's or individual's comprehensive needs and ensuring those needs are met. Through your generosity and support, we're bringing hope to the people who need it most.

Outreach News

by Claire Strand

Angel Tree

The Salvation Army has many angels who need adoption this year. For safety this year, Messiah's outreach is advising the use of the Salvation Army's online Angel Tree adoption option. Angels are adopted by pasting the link below in your browser and following instructions on each page.

https://www.tsamm.org/angeltree/adopt.dpi?c=07F97CC68EEBF81AFCD32F6FC0AAD7E1F17E0C00&aid=B0D7EFA8D7E82AB3&fbclid=IwAR1lozozP8GHtjmrDGaZ_jPU9OTsrbOZ4TIKuxb4Xb7oMrK0uTRq_I5Rb5w

All gifts will need to be taken to the donation site rather than to the church.

Please take your gifts to the Salvation Army office at 2114 Oakwood Ave. in Huntsville by December 11th. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 - 4 p.m. with a closed lunch from 12-1 p.m. If you need assistance, please call Claire Strand.



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirec-
tor@mlutheran.org

LBW and WOV Hymnals and Holden Evening Prayer liturgy booklets 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

"Holy Child within the Manger"

Marty Haugen (1950), composer of Holden Evening Prayer, wrote the words to this Christmas hymn. Haugen received a degree in psychology at Luther College and a Master's in pastoral studies at St. Thomas in St. Paul. His music has been used extensively in Lutheran, Catholic, and other traditions. Haugen continues to serve as a composer and worship event speaker. These lyrics echo Mary's Magnificat:

*Holy Child within the manger,
long ago, yet ever near;
Come as friend to ev'ry
stranger, come as hope for
ev'ry fear.*

*As you lived to heal the broken,
greet the outcast, free the bound,*

*As you taught us love unspoken,
teach us now where you
are found. WOV #638 vs 1*

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Online and Outdoor Worship Continue

Thank you for your faithfulness in worshipping during this time. God's Word does not return empty. *"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."* Isaiah 55:11

Online worship is available any time after 6 a.m. on Sundays. E-News includes the link every Sunday morning, or you can access it at mlutheran.org or directly from YouTube. Zoom worship is available for those who would like to worship "together" online. The Zoom link is also included in Sunday's E-News.

Outdoor services of worship (*weather permitting*) provide 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.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on December 6 and 20 at the outdoor services of worship. Instructions for outdoor worship and Holy Communion are on the website and in E-News. Please stay tuned to the MLC website for outdoor worship weather cancellations. Be prepared to worship in your car should the weather turn cold.

A **Christmas Eve** service of worship will be available online on December 24. An outdoor in-person service of worship is also being planned. Stay tuned for more details on that in the coming weeks.

Advent services of worship will be available on the church website on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16, and 23. The *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy will be used. If you'd like, pick up a liturgy booklet to use at home from the *Give and Take* cart on Sunday mornings or during Church Office hours.

Christmas CDs

Christmas piano music CDs are available for \$15. All proceeds will benefit Lutheran World Relief. Please contact Lois Graff at musicdirector@mlutheran.com or (256) 658-0276 or the Church Office.

Talent Show

If you are interested in performing in a Zoom Talent Show in January, contact Director of Music Ministries, Lois Graff. A show will be scheduled if there are enough acts!

MLC Music Groups in December

Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 5 p.m. (*no rehearsals Dec 23 or 30*)

Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. (*no rehearsals Dec 23 or 30*)

Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More

Wednesday, December 2 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16 8:00 p.m.

Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship & Music

Saturday, December 12 11:00 a.m.

Instrumental Ensemble OUTDOOR Rehearsal

Saturday, December 5 11:00 a.m.

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

MLC YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION



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

Festive Faith Formation

Intergenerational Faith Formation will take a break for the month of December to allow families time to focus on being present together during Advent.

We have an exciting offering for families this season, a devotional called *"Watching and Waiting: A Family Christmas Movie Guide,"* which explores themes of Advent and Christmas through the movies *The Polar Express*, *The Grinch*, *Elf*, and *A Muppet Christmas Carol*. Sara will send the PDF home for families to use via email, so watch for it! If you don't receive it, please let Sara know.

Youth Group in December

Due to rising COVID numbers, Junior and Senior Youth will take a break from meeting in person for the month of December. We will meet via Zoom from 5-6 p.m. for Junior Youth and 6-7 p.m. for Senior Youth on December 6th, 13th, and 20th. Watch your emails for the links.



November 22! We made it to the moves!

Advent Map is Online at www.mlutheran.org/adventmap

Messiah Youth have put together an Advent Map which is meant to help you explore the story of expectation and waiting that leads up to the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The youth have come up with questions you might use to wonder about this story together. The map has six stops each with its own Bible reading and questions. The instructions can be viewed or downloaded on www.mlutheran.org/adventmap.

We Are People of the Word: What Does This Mean?

NEW ADULT CLASS STARTS DEC. 3: *We are People of the Word: What does this mean?* Classes on Zoom 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays. This weekly class will have 12 'standalone' sessions, so please attend as you are able. The class will be led by Pastor Scott and Dick Azzam. If you are interested in getting emails about class plans please email Pastor Scott Peterson at his att.net email or call the Church Office at 256.721-0041.

NEWS FLASHES

NEW ADULT CLASS STARTS THURS. DEC. 3!

We are people of the word: What does this mean? Details on Page 4.

Zoom Class! All are welcome! Come when you can!

Zoom Fellowship Sundays at 9 a.m. All are welcome!

We hope to see your "mug" there! The Fellowship Zoom starts with a brief devotional and includes a time to share and chat with other members.

Sunday Zoom Fellowship 9:00 am | Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89596647305?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89596647305?pwd=RVYySTI0QVF3aVppSDJ3dWNRnRTZz09)

[pwd=RVYySTI0QVF3aVppSDJ3dWNRnRTZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89596647305?pwd=RVYySTI0QVF3aVppSDJ3dWNRnRTZz09)

Meeting ID: 895 9664 7305 | Passcode: 590417

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89596647305#,,,,,0#,,590417# US

(Chicago)

Group Zoom Worship at 10:30 a.m. All are wel-

come! No sign up necessary! Just click on the meeting link and enjoy watching the online service at the same time. Participating member may be asked to read the lessons.

Topic: Online Worship | Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81661281281?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81661281281?pwd=NXZ4NUUpCZG5kYTdFakdVR1lySW1LUT09)

[pwd=NXZ4NUUpCZG5kYTdFakdVR1lySW1LUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81661281281?pwd=NXZ4NUUpCZG5kYTdFakdVR1lySW1LUT09)

Meeting ID: 816 6128 1281 | Passcode: 265100

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81661281281#,,,,,0#,,265100# US

(Chicago)

Midweek Advent Worship Zoom

Join us at 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings for a group viewing of the pre-recorded Advent services of worship.

Join Zoom Meeting—Advent Worship

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83355117646?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83355117646?pwd=cnN6RUF EK0VHdklEOWZOYUdQQnJsUT09)

[pwd=cnN6RUF EK0VHdklEOWZOYUdQQnJsUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83355117646?pwd=cnN6RUF EK0VHdklEOWZOYUdQQnJsUT09)

Meeting ID: 833 5511 7646

Passcode: 890304

One tap mobile

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 833 5511 7646

Passcode: 890304

Find your local number: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83355117646?pwd=cnN6RUF EK0VHdklEOWZOYUdQQnJsUT09)

[kwh8zK6Jv](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83355117646?pwd=cnN6RUF EK0VHdklEOWZOYUdQQnJsUT09)



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES of WORSHIP

Online

and

In-Person

Outdoor Service of Worship

4:30 p.m.

Is being planned to include the Lord's Supper, singing of Christmas carols, instruments, service of light.

Stay tuned for more details!



It's time to order Christmas poinsettias.

Poinsettias will be used to beautify the chancel space for our online services in December and for the online Christmas Eve service. The cost is \$9.00 per poinsettia and includes an optional dedication of your choice which will be listed during the online Christmas Eve service of worship and printed for the in-person, outdoor service of worship on December 20th. **The order deadline is December 13th.** Order online and pay by check to Messiah Lutheran Church. The form below has additional details.

<https://form.jotform.com/MLCmadison/poinsettia-form>

Paper forms will be available on Sunday mornings on the "Give and Take Cart"

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!



MLC's new outdoor terrace (located between the sanctuary and education wing) was completed on November 22nd.

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.

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

Construction to begin on MLC's New Electronic Sign!

At the Congregation Meeting on Sunday, November 15th, the MLC Congregation voted to move ahead with building a two-sided electronic sign.

Construction will begin early 2021 with completion expected in March. Moving ahead with this planning required a loan from a MLC household with 0% interest.

Gifts to the Sign Fund will continue to be welcomed until this loan is fully repaid.

For more information and to see what the new MLC Electronic marquee will look like (based on renderings) please visit [Church Documents \(Protected\) - Messiah Lutheran Church \(mlutheran.org\)](#)



First Lunch on MLC's New Outdoor Terrace!

On Saturday, November 21st, volunteers take a break from the hardscape project to enjoy sandwiches provided by the Huwaldt family. MLC's Scout Troop 8 proposed the construction and the project to support two Eagle Scout projects. Jacob Huwaldt raised money and coordinated with Peter Woods on the construction and volunteer work days for the scouts. Justin Rhodes plans to raise money and build benches and tables to furnish the outdoor space as his Eagle Scout project.

PRAYER FAMILIES

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

MONTH IN PICTURES—NOVEMBER 2020



(Above) Newsletter Editor Rebecca Mast chillin' before Instrumental Ensemble at MLC! (Below) **MLC's Handy MOM group** (an outreach of the *Men of Messiah* Fellowship group) helped a MLC member clean up and remove debris from a tree that was damaged by a wind storm.



(Below) Mark and Beth Thompson load up their car and trailer with boxes of LWR Kits and Quilts to take up to Chattanooga, TN. Read more about this year's Kit Ministry and Comforters efforts at: <https://mlutheran.org/quilt-and-kit-blessing-sunday-nov-1-2020/>



(Below) **Another Jam Packed Jumbo!** Director of Outreach, Claire Strand, stands next to "Jumbo" the Strand's Ford Explorer that's filled with over 100 cake mixes and cans of frosting. MLC members donated the food items in support of area Lutheran Church's Thanksgiving bag program. This was the first year no extra food needed to be purchased. Thank you all!



DO YOU HAVE PICTURES TO SHARE?

We love to see what our church members continue to do through our ministries!

You can email the messages to newsletter@mlutheran.org or text them to

256-617-8530. Please include a short caption to go along with your photo.

Thank you!

December 2020



Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 4 p.m. 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation classes 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal 8 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More Online Advent Midweek Worship available at 7 p.m. Zoom Group Worship at 7 p.m.	3	4	5 11 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal
6 6 a.m. Online Worship WOV Bread of Life 9 a.m. Zoom Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship WOV Bread of Life w/LS 10:30 a.m. Group Worship Zoom 5 p.m. Junior Youth Zoom mtg. 6 p.m. Senior Youth Zoom mtg.	7	8	9 4 p.m. 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation Classes 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal Online Advent Midweek Worship available at 7 p.m. Zoom Group Worship at 7 p.m.	10 7pm Church Council Mtg	11	12 11 a.m. Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship & Music
13 6 a.m. Online Service WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9 a.m. Zoom Fellowship 10:30 Outdoor Worship WOV Service of Word/Prayer 10:30 a.m. Group Worship Zoom 5 p.m. Junior Youth Zoom mtg. 6 p.m. Senior Youth Zoom mtg.	14	15	16 4 p.m. 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation Classes 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal 8 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More Online Advent Midweek Worship available at 7 p.m. Zoom Group Worship at 7 p.m.	17	18	19
20 6 a.m. Online Service 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 5 p.m. Junior Youth Zoom mtg. 6 p.m. Senior Youth Zoom mtg.	21	22	23 Online Advent Midweek Worship available at 7 p.m. Zoom Group Worship at 7 p.m.	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed Online Service Available at 3:00 p.m. Outdoor Service Time 4:30 p.m.	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26
27 6 a.m. Online Service LBW Setting 1 9 a.m. Zoom Fellowship No Outdoor Worship Today 10:30 a.m. Group Worship Zoom	28	29	30 NO Confirmation Classes	<p><i>Merry Christmas</i></p>		

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 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

DECEMBER 2020
Volume 33, Issue 12

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

Contact Information

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Phone: (256) 721-0041

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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

