



PASTOR'S PAGE

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:9-11

Dear Friends of the suffering, triumphant Messiah,

THE STORY OF GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE FOR YOU IS THE STORY OF LENT.

Beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17, through Good Friday on April 2, our focus in Sunday worship will be the love of God revealed in the life and death of Jesus.

WHY FOCUS ON GOD'S LOVE? WE NEED IT! Only the love of God can heal us in all our brokenness as we live in our deeply divided nation. Family members are fighting over Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Dear old friends are not talking to each other. Electronic communications shout our anger and condemnations for the world to see. None of this pleases God. None of this is good for you or me.

IF YOU AND I WANT TO HEAR GOD'S UNFILTERED LOVE, LISTEN TO JESUS. Watch what Jesus does. Sing "You can have all the rest, give me Jesus." (WOV #777). Everything Jesus said and did was driven by God's love for you and for the people with whom we disagree.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN JESUS' LOVE CHANGES PEOPLE? God's peace washes over us. "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." **Notice:** We do not change the words and actions of Jesus to fit our opinions and prejudices; **Jesus changes us!** We start to talk like Jesus, act like Jesus, and love others like Jesus.

LENT IS A SEASON OF REPENTANCE. The Bible's Greek word for repentance—*metanoia*—literally means "turn around," to change direction and to have a new mind. When that happens, the prayer Jesus taught disciples is getting answered: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven."

THIS IS NOT EASY! Change is never easy. This life was not easy for Jesus, and it will not be for disciples of Jesus. The recurring diabolical trio in Martin Luther's writings is "the devil, the world, and our sinful selves." Jesus came not just to overcome the forces of evil "out there," but also to overcome that part in each of us itching to rebel from God's rule over us.

IN THE MESSAGES I WILL PREACH DURING LENT, I will utilize a powerful new book entitled *Love is the Way* written by Michael Curry, the presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the U.S. Bishop Curry is a Black man whose father's side of the family came from rural Alabama. Once when asked by a reporter, "Will love work in the world we live in today?" He thought long and hard, then replied, "Not only will it work, it is the only thing that will work."

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. –1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another,

Pastor Scott Peterson

FEBRUARY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

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

February 7 LBW Setting 2
February 14 LBW Setting 1
February 21 WOV Service Word/Prayer
February 28 WOV Bread of Life

Outdoor Service at 10:30 a.m. (weather permitting)

February 7 LBW Setting 2
February 14 LBW Setting 1 w/LS
February 21 WOV Service Word/Prayer
February 28 WOV Bread of Life w/LS

Lenten Services Livestreamed: Feb. 17 & 24, at 7:00 p.m. (see pg. 5)





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
Canned Meats

KIT MINISTRY
Infant Socks

Members may also designate offerings to:

**Food Pantry
&
Kit Ministry**

OUTREACH Life Passages



Births

- † Forrest and Michelle King announce the birth of their second daughter Hattie Rae King weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and on January 6th. She measured 19 3/4 inches.
- † Mike and Trista Kuske announce the birth of their daughter Charlea Drew Kuske on January 6th. She weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz. and measured 20 inches.
- † Scot and Sharon announce the birth of their granddaughter Abigail Evelyn West on Sept 28. Proud parents are Jacob and Jessica West.

Engagements

- † Erin McDaniels and Colin Hills are engaged to marry. A wedding in 2022 is planned.
- † Alex Le and Lindsey Forshee are engaged to marry. A June wedding in Tifton, GA is planned.

Outreach News: Lunches for Learning Update

In 2019, MLC made a gift of special project funds to Lunches for Learning (L4L) for the construction of a kitchen and a pair of latrines for 2 schools in desperate need. The kitchen project at Rincon Tablas was nearly finished when the COVID-19 pandemic reached Honduras. The community and construction team were able to complete it just before the country's lockdown.

The lockdown remained in place for the remainder of the 2020 school year, so to everyone's heartache, L4L lost access to their method of distributing food. In late November, we received a sliver of good news: an ease in travel restrictions, which allowed a small crew to complete the latrine project at the Dr. Ery Meija school (before and after photos below).



A normal school year in Honduras begins in February. L4L's Executive Director, Phil Dodson, reported that the Honduran Education Ministry will not permit in-person instruction to resume on schedule this year. Eventually they will begin a phased-in approach with older students returning first.

With that disappointment, the L4L team has devised an alternative way to provide food to our students beginning in February. In coordination with L4L, the principal of each school will distribute a month's supply of rice, beans, and corn to the students' mothers. Once school can safely resume, L4L has a Rapid Response Plan in place to quickly return to regular food distribution. For more details, see the Executive Director's message at lunchesforlearning.org.

Thanks for your continued prayers and support for our ministry to these children.



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirector@mlutheran.org

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

The Music at Messiah concerts are currently suspended.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Lenten Worship

Lenten services of worship will be livestreamed on Feb. 17, Feb. 24, and March 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 7:00 p.m. with a meditation series by Pastor Scott entitled "Running Away from God?" There will be a Maundy Thursday service livestreamed on April 1 and a Good Friday service on April 2. Unless otherwise designated, Lenten offerings will go towards the *Davidson Farms Kids to Love Cottage Program*.

Online and Outdoor Worship

Online worship is available any time after 6 a.m. on Sundays. Zoom worship is also available at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. Outdoor worship is at 10:30 a.m. (weather permitting). You may park and listen to the service on 98.5 FM on your car radio OR bring a lawn chair and sit physically distanced in the parking lot. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on February 14 (Transfiguration Sunday) and February 28.

MLC Music Groups in January

Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsals
Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsals
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More
Wednesday, February 10 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 24 8:00 p.m.

Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship & Music
Saturday, February 20 11:00 a.m.

Instrumental Ensemble OUTDOOR Rehearsals (weather permitting)
Saturday, February 13 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, February 27 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.

Ring and Sing Thank You

The 22nd Annual Ring & Sing on Sunday, December 13, at 3 p.m. was a joyful gathering! Singing carols outdoors with hand chime participation lifted spirits and created a safe atmosphere of fellowship. Over \$450 was raised for the Madison Public Library. Thank you to Rhonda Gaede and to all who gathered!

Hymn of the Month: "O Love, that Will Not Let Me Go"

This hymn's tune was composed by A.L. Peace (1844-1912), and its text was written by George Matheson (1842-1906). Blind from youth, Matheson served as a minister and lecturer and wrote acclaimed prose and poetry. Dr. Matheson said this hymn was "written in the Manse of my former parish one summer evening in 1882. *It was composed with extreme rapidity; it seemed to me that its construction occupied only a few minutes, and I felt myself rather in the position of one who was being dictated to than of an original artist I was suffering from extreme mental distress, and the hymn was the fruit of pain*" (from hymnary.org). The verses begin "O Love", "O Light", "O Joy," and "O Cross," each pointing to our Lord and Savior.

*O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*
-LBW #324 vs 1

MLC YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION



Vicar 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

Update from Vicar Sara

Vicar Sara? What? Did you read that right? You did! A few big things happened between last month's newsletter and the temple talk recorded for January 17th's worship service. One is that a lovely group of people from Messiah have agreed to serve on my internship committee, and I'm excited to work with them as I grow as a candidate for ministry.

Another is the use of the title "Vicar." The Word and Service Roster, or Deacon roster, is a very new thing in the ELCA, only about 3-4 years old, and the process to become a deacon is ever changing. It's common practice to call pastoral candidates on their internship "Vicar," and there wasn't necessarily an equivalent for deacon candidates, so they have decided to use the title Vicar across the board.

Keep an eye on your E-News and the church's Facebook page for more updates! As always, if you have any questions, email youth@mlutheran.org, and I would love to answer them for you!

Youth Meetings

Senior and Junior Youth will meet in person in the Parish Hall this month. We recognize that meeting online is tough, and we look forward to seeing students' faces in person.

Senior Youth Meetings

Feb. 7 | Feb. 14 | Feb. 21 | Feb. 28
Parish Hall, 6-7 p.m.

Junior Youth Meetings

Feb. 14 | Feb. 28
Parish Hall, 5-6 p.m.

MOEs Meeting

MOEs will meet at church Saturday, Feb. 20th from 11-12:30 for some physically-distanced fun. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Lenten Boxes for Families

Faith Formation Ministry is putting together Lenten boxes for any families who want one as a way to engage in some practices together over the Lenten season.

The box will include a family devotional from Illustrated Ministries, a tactile experience for the season, and some tools to create fun artwork for Easter! As always, when we say "family," we mean "whatever your family looks like," as we are all part of God's family.

If you would like a box, please fill out this form by February 10th, thank you!

<https://forms.gle/QeYxsGHXxUAnJbmM8>

Filling out the form helps ensure we have enough materials. There will be a limited number of extras.

YALL Lent Online Study

The Young Adult Lutheran League (YALL) will participate in an online study of the book *Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the Rules*. We will use our private Facebook group to engage the material over the course of Lent. Reading the book is not necessary to participate in the discussion, and if anyone has any questions feel free to reach out to Vicar Sara at youth@mlutheran.org

NEWS FLASHES

Lenten Worship

Lenten services of worship will be **livestreamed** on **Feb. 17, Feb. 24 and March 3, 10, 17 and 24** at **7:00 p.m.** with the meditation series "Running Away from God?"

There will be a **Maundy Thursday service livestreamed on April 1** and a **Good Friday service on April 2.**

The live streams will take place on MLC's YouTube Channel. The streams will remain available on YouTube also after the service has concluded.

Unless otherwise designated, Lenten offerings will go towards the *Davidson Farms Kids to Love Cottage Program.*

To Be Live Streamed

Be Someone's Valentine!

CASA of Madison County is seeking help from groups, families, and individuals to donate Valentine's Day goodie bags for our isolated clients. We are hoping to spread a little love and help with some of the depression experienced due to the continued isolation of many of our aging and homebound neighbors.

Some suggested items to include in the donated goodie bags would be:

- ♥ Postage Stamps
- ♥ Note Cards
- ♥ Small Hand Lotions
- ♥ Sugar-Free Treats

These treat bags could also include a Valentine's Day card.

Please bring items for the bags or completed bags to church by Sunday, February 7.



THE SIGN IS COMING!....Really!

The two electronic sides of the sign are ordered and should arrive by early February.

The contract is signed, and a deposit has been paid to the builder of the structure that will hold the two sides of the electronic sign. Our expectation/hope is that the sign will be up and functioning by the end of February.

A number of gifts for the sign have been received in the last month. We are less than \$15K from covering the total cost. **Thank you for your patience and your generosity! This sign will be a tool for outreach for years to come.**

40-40-40

Lenten Hunger Walk

February 17 - April 3, 2021

40 Days. 40 Miles. \$40

Sign up at
ELCA-SES.org
TODAY!



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

40 Days of Lent. 40 miles. \$40 to ELCA World Hunger!

Bishop Kevin Strickland invites everyone to join him in walking a mile every day over the forty days of Lent, and raising through sponsorship or contribution, \$40 for ELCA World Hunger. **Here's the link to sign up.**

<https://www.elca-ses.org/newsdetail/40-40-40-lenten-hunger-walk-14959783>

JANUARY MONTH IN PICTURES



Left: In the completd men's room are volun-teers Rick & LeeLinda Baggett, Richard Webb, and Lee Smith.



At left (and to be finished) is the women's room across from the li-brary. The stall panels are now in-stalled.



Click on the camera to view more pictures!



Who are these masked painters? Linda Ruhl above, and LeeLinda Baggett, below! Thanks to all who have worked (and continue to work) on the bathroom and Parish Hall Kitchen flooring project. **See more pictures at left.**



Below, left. Is the complet-ed women's bathroom in the education wing.



Smile when you see it. ;)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Content Redacted



MOES made valentines for MLC seniors on Saturday, Jan 23rd. Well done kids!

Photos: Vicar Sara Galyon



Please help our church staff maintain accurate member info by letting us know when something changes for you! Email office@mlutheran.org OR call during office hours which are Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

Thank you!

Bobbey Huwaldt and Meredith Kilby

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

ADULT CLASS on Thursdays 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. **This class consists of “stand alone” sessions, so please attend as you are able.** Here is the line up for the remainder of the classes.

- Feb. 4: “God Spoke Directly to Some”
- Feb.11: “God Spoke through Prophets”
- Feb. 18: “Not God’s Word - Ancient heresies”
- Feb. 25: “Not God’s Word - Modern heresies”
- Mar. 4: “The Last Word—Revelation to John”

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.

Sensing Hope Conversations for Lent— *the Season of Hope*

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. starting Feb 21, 2021

Via Zoom (see calendar for link)

During Lent, the Sunday morning online Fellowship Zoom will look at the hope of Jesus brought to the world through the work of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) LWR’s 2021 Lenten study called Sensing Hope, will be the guide.

We’ll spend five weeks, one for each of the five senses, reading stories about lives impacted by the work of LWR. Each story is followed by discussion questions that will help us think about and nurture hope and action in our lives and congregation. Week one begins on Sunday, February 21st at 9 a.m. on Zoom and focuses on the sense of touch. Although we haven’t been able to “touch” because of COVID-19, our Lord’s work is still touching people across the globe. The Zoom link to join will be in your church E-News. **The series will be led by Claire Strand and Vicar Sara Galyon.**

To accompany this series, Messiah’s outreach wants to provide real tangible hope to LWR recipients by collecting personal care kit items. Bring your “tangible hope” in the form of towels (52x27 lightweight dark colors), soap (4 oz bars), and toothbrushes (individually packaged) to church each week.

You can also bring your “tangible hope” to a Jam Pack Jumbo event scheduled for Saturday, March 27th, 10

PRAYER FAMILIES

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

Content Redacted

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation (Online) 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal	4 5 p.m. Adult Class	5	6
7 6 a.m. Online Service: LBW Setting 2 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Service: LBW Setting 2 12 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation (Online) 6:00 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting	8	9	10 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation (Online) 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal 7:30 Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More	11 5 p.m. Adult Class 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting (via Zoom)	12	13 11 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal
14 6 a.m. Online Service: LBW Setting 1 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Service: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 12 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation (Online) 5:00 p.m. Jr. Youth Meeting 6:00 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting	15	16 The 40-40-40 Southeastern Synod Walking Challenge begins tomorrow. See pg. 5 for details.	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation (Online) 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Lenten Service (Livestream)	18 5 p.m. Adult Class	19	20 11 a.m. MOEs Meeting 11 a.m. Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship & Music
21 6 a.m. Online Service: WOV Service Word/Prayer 9:00 a.m. Zoom Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Service: WOV Service Word/Prayer 12 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation (Online) 6:00 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting	22	23	24 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation (Online) 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service Holden Evening Prayer (Livestream) 8 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More	25 5 p.m. Adult Class	26	27 11 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal
28 6 a.m. Online Service: WOV Bread of Life 9:00 a.m. Zoom Fellowship Outdoor Service: WOV Bread of Life 12 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation (Online) 5:00 p.m. Jr. Youth Meeting 6:00 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting	Looking Ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 28—Passion / Palm Sunday —Holy Week April 4 — Resurrection Sunday—Easter 					

Zoom Fellowship Resumes Feb 21 at 9:00 a.m. with the Sensing Hope Study - See Page 8 for details

Join Zoom Meeting

<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 welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81661281281?pwd=NXZ4NUUpCZG5kYTdFakdVR1lySW1LUT09>
Meeting ID: 816 6128 1281 | Passcode: 265100
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,81661281281#,,,,,0#,,265100# US (Chicago)

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. and outdoor (weather permitting) at 10:30 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

FEBRUARY 2021
Volume 34, Issue 2

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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

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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.....MLC Choir Director
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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

