



PASTOR'S PAGE

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

-Proverbs 2:6

Dear Friends of the Living Messiah,

2020 IS OVER! THANK GOD FOR THAT! We are still alive; certainly different people than we were on January 1, 2020, but still alive. With the hope we have as children of God, we begin a new year.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO AS MLC THIS YEAR? Might we corporately and individually have some "New Year's Resolutions?"

HERE IS WHAT GEORGE SCHULTZ DID to celebrate his 100th birthday on December 19. Shultz served as Secretary of State under Ronald Reagan as they negotiated with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Those meetings led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. For his birthday last month, Schultz did not receive a gift but gave a gift. He wrote:

"THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT THINGS I'VE LEARNED ABOUT TRUST over my 100 years." These brief vignettes bear witness to how essential **trust** is in everything we do. All 10 are good, but my favorite is #10, which, in a way, summarizes the first 9.

"In God we trust." *Yes, and when we are at our best, we also trust in each other. Trust is fundamental, reciprocal and, ideally, pervasive. If it is present, anything is possible. If it is absent, nothing is possible. The best leaders trust their followers with the truth, and you know what happens as a result? Their followers trust them back. **With that bond, they can do big, hard things together, changing the world for the better.***

Last year, we heard so much from politicians, and much of it was not wise. One blessing I celebrate after 30 years as the Pastor of MLC is the trust we have had between the Church Council leadership and the Congregation. We have enjoyed much more light than heat when making decisions. Trust enables that. Schultz's words apply: *With that bond [of trust], they [we] can do big, hard things together, changing the world for the better.*

WHAT BIG, HARD THINGS CAN WE DO TOGETHER IN 2021? Here are three of my New Year's resolutions and a few guiding questions:

- *I am going to get the vaccine ASAP.* I long to get back into the homes of MLC members who cannot get out. I long to talk to you in person.
- *What about the kids?* I believe the pandemic has been especially hard on our young people. How can we nurture them to grow in the faith that gives abundant life?
- *What about the neighbors?* How can we be "God's People, Reaching Out" to the thousands of newcomers in our booming area? I believe the new sign will help. What else should we do?

WHAT ARE YOU HOPING FOR IN 2021? This we know: Jesus has gone ahead of us into the darkness and leads us into His glorious light. With our Lord, the future is bright. I thank God to be walking with you, my beloved sisters and brothers, on this journey of faith.

Grace and peace, *Pastor Scott Peterson*

JANUARY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

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

January 3	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
January 10	LBW Setting 2
January 17	WOV Bread of Life
January 24	LBW Setting 1
January 31	ELW Setting 8

Outdoor Service at 10:30 a.m.*

January 3	No Outdoor Service
January 10	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
January 17	WOV Bread of Life
January 24	Now the Feast w/LS
January 31	Hymn Sing

*weather permitting





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
Pasta and Sauce

KIT MINISTRY

Bath Towels
Dark Colors

Members may also designate offerings to:

Food Pantry & Kit Ministry

OUTREACH Life Passages

† Confirmation

Abigail Warren confirmed her faith in Christ on December 6th at Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany.

† Births

Beth Mumaw announces the birth of a granddaughter,

† Sheilah and Norm Sheurich announce the birth of a granddaughter,

† Deaths

Lon Stanger's aunt Julie Stanger died on December 9th.

Larry and Terry Frakes' son Maxim Voronetsky died on December 10th.

Paulette McNamara's brother Perry Lodholz died on December 12th.



Coming Soon: A New Group for Surviving Spouses!

Conversation. Friendship. Social support. Group outings. Guest speakers.

These are the objectives behind the formation of a new group at Messiah for adults whose spouse has passed away. An initial meeting is being planned for February near Valentine's Day. If gathering in person is still risky, and that is very likely, we will use the Zoom online platform. For more information, please talk to Claire Strand or Karl Starkloff.

Outreach News: Owen's House Update

by Bill Emerson

As we have all last year, MLC continues to support the nearly 100 women and children at Owen's House. In November, the congregation's giving supplied a range of healthy food, including yogurt, eggs, apple and orange juice, muffins, cereals such as Cheerios, peanut butter, and sliced apples. Besides our church and other organizations helping Owen's House, the facility depends heavily on restaurants giving surplus food. Kitchen cleaning supplies, however, are not usually included with donations. To help with this need, MLC will start to provide some of these supplies when our monthly allowance is not totally used to buy food.

Previously, several of us served food at Owen's House on certain Thursday evenings. Hopefully in a few months, we can again help by serving supper to Owen's House residents. Before we resume, we will ask for volunteers who might help. Bill Emerson will again coordinate this service to support those less fortunate than many of us.

Owens House for Women and Children

is an mission of the
Downtown Rescue
Mission

**To Designate Gifts
please indicate**

"Owen's House"

on your offering envelope or check

**For more information
visit**

www.downtownrescuemission.org

[Downtown Rescue Mission](http://www.downtownrescuemission.org)

Point of Contact:

Bill Emerson



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirector@mlutheran.org

LBW and WOV Hymns 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:

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

The tune "Ratisbon" is attributed to Johann Gottlob Werner (1777-1822), a German organist, composer, and teacher. Charles Wesley (1707-1788) wrote the text to this hymn and is believed to have written at least 6500 others! Among other callings, Wesley served as an itinerate preacher and in prison ministry. The lyrics echo John 8: "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'"

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,

Sun of righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;

Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

LBW 265 vs 1

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Online and Outdoor Worship Continue

Online

Online worship is available any time after 6 a.m. on Sundays. Zoom group worship is also available at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Outdoor (weather permitting)

You have two options at the outdoor services of worship:

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

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on January 10 and 24 at the outdoor services of worship, weather permitting. *No outdoor worship on Jan. 3.*

If you have questions regarding worship, please contact the Church Office, Rebecca Alferink, or Lois Graff. Thank you for continuing to worship during this time.

Thank you!

For the last 3+ months, Danny Hopkin has been providing his expertise in post-production work for MLC's online services of worship. His knowledge has improved the quality of the services, and his dedication as a volunteer is remarkable! Thank you, Danny, for recognizing a need and being willing to share the awesome gifts you have been given and developed to facilitate and improve MLC's worship during these challenging days. You are a blessing to many, Danny!

MLC Coffeehouse

A new year, a new name! Why not share a song or a reading with some other MLC peeps? Enjoy a coffee, hot cocoa, or beverage of choice in your home while "zooming" your talents to others. If you are interested in performing in a Zoom Coffeehouse on January 30, contact Director of Music Ministries, Lois Graff. (No auditions! Simply family-friendly, 3 minutes or less, and fit for your peeps!)

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, January 13 & 27 8:00 p.m.

Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship & Music

Saturday, January 16 11:00 a.m.

Instrumental Ensemble OUTDOOR Rehearsals (weather permitting)

Saturday, January 9 & 23 11:00 a.m.

Please email musicdirector@mlutheran.org for more information.

Ring and Sing

The Covid Edition Ring and Sing was uplifting and fun! Thank you to Rhonda Gaede who forged on to make the outdoor event happen. Almost \$400 was raised for the Madison Public Library. Pictures and videos can be viewed at:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/uRsNIB3DxdtkVtZm1>

Erin McDaniels Live Stream Concert

Our own Erin McDaniels is performing a live stream concert on January 10 and January 11 at 1 p.m. She will be singing "songs of comfort and hope for a brighter year." Works by Kurt Weill, Leonard Bernstein, Reynaldo Hahn, and more. Tickets \$20. Information at: <https://www.sparrowlive.com/event-details/erin-mcdaniels-soprano-keith-weber-in-concert>



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

We will reevaluate whether or not youth groups meet in person based on COVID numbers and what schools are doing later in January, so please keep an eye on your emails!

Senior Youth

Zoom meetings Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 at 6 p.m.

Junior Youth

Zoom meetings Jan. 10, 24 at 5 p.m.

MOEs (Messiah Older Elementary)

Meet at church on January 23rd at 12:00-1:30 for some physically distant fun together! Bring your mask and your awesome attitudes! Check your emails for more details.

Faith Formation will resume January 10th. If you would like to receive the at-home emails, or if you would like to be in the online small group, please let Sara know, and she will put you on the appropriate list.



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

Thursday Evenings

5—6 p.m.

Jan 7 thru March 4, 2021

(On Zoom)

ADULT CLASS continues Jan. 7. Classes on Zoom 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays. **This weekly class consists of “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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005960927?pwd=eVorUlgrRVdDa3Y2aHk5azYvZi9sQT09>

Meeting ID: 830 0596 0927 | Passcode: 802820

One tap mobile Dial by your location | +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbgXalEvwd>

Birthday Content Redacted

A note from Sara Galyon, Director of Faith Formation:

Greetings, Messiah Family!

Some of you have been following along on my candidacy journey to become a Deacon over the past few years, and for some of you, this will be brand new information! In our denomination, Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastors) and Ministers of Word and Service (Deacons) go through a similar three-step candidacy process: entrance, endorsement, and finally approval. I have completed my second step, endorsement, and the last leg of my journey includes completing a six-month internship.

An internship for a Deacon candidate normally includes a portion in a congregational setting and a portion outside the walls of the church, as a Deacon's role in the church is to help bridge the gap between the church and the world. My internship will involve me continuing in my role as Director of Faith Formation and will continue to include things that have begun since the pandemic started, like Zoom fellowship and worship. I'll also add a few new things along the way, which will help me with my development as a rostered minister in the ELCA.

The other half of my internship will be working with the Latinx Ministry Initiative of the Southeastern Synod. This brand new initiative seeks to accompany Latinx communities throughout our synod and help congregations utilize the tools they have to journey with their neighbors. My background in Spanish and resource creation is what drew the synod to suggest this as the other half of my internship.





















I'm excited for this new part of our journey together. If you have any questions for me, please reach out! Send me an email (youth@mlutheran.org), and I'll set up a time for us to talk ASAP.

It's a New Year!!! In 2020, did you move or change your preferred contact information? Did we miss a birthday or special life passage? **Please help our church staff maintain accurate member records by letting us know when things change for you!** You can 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

YOUR GENEROUS "HOLY-DAY" GIVING

Thank you for being the hands, heart, and feet of Christ this holy season! Your gifts have helped the world see the light of our Lord in the darkness. Through you the prayers of many have been answered. Your generous giving...

-  gave shoes and career clothes to Christian Women's Job Corps;
-  gave quilts to Davidson Farms home for girls;
-  gave to the Kids to Love foundation;
-  supplied food, blankets, hats, gloves, coats, and toiletries for residents at the Downtown Rescue Mission;
-  gave clothing and began funding for fresh eggs and milk for the women and children at Owen's House;
-  supplied food, toys, and coats to Huntsville Assistance Program in Madison;
-  sent cookie care packages to recent high school graduates;
-  provided 200 boxes of Mac n Cheese so 100 families could have a holiday meal;
-  provided Christmas presents for 25 children through the Salvation Army mission;
-  tied 25 fleece blankets for the children served by the Salvation Army mission;
-  used ringing and singing talent to raise funds for the Madison Public Library;
-  sold handmade crafts to feed school children in Honduras through Lunches for Learning;
-  supported the Christ Kiswahili Lutheran mission to refugee families in Nashville;
-  completed the 39th wheelchair ramp build for CASA;
-  auctioned \$2,000 worth of quilts to help fund the Comforters mission for 2020;
-  supported the Inspiritus mission with Advent offerings;
-  showed community support by attending the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and the Huntsville One Table;
-  gave goats, pigs, and cows to those in need around the world through ELCA Good gifts;
-  beautified the church with special flower commemorations;
-  AND helped victims of disasters through the Lutheran Disaster Response mission.

THANK YOU for being "God's People, Reaching Out" during this holy time in our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
View December's Month in Pictures Online!					1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> Office closed	2
3 6 a.m. Online Service: WOV Service of Word/Prayer No Outdoor Service today	4	5	6 Epiphany 4 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation (online) *No 2nd Year Confirmation today 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal	7 5 p.m. Adult Class	8	9 11 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal
10 6 a.m. Online Service: LBW Setting 2 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Service: LBW Setting 2 w/LS Faith Formation resumes Concert info 5 p.m. Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Virtual Mtg	11	12	13 4 p.m. 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation (online) 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal 8 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More	14 5 p.m. Adult Class 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	15	16 11 a.m. Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship & Music
17 6 a.m. Online Service: WOV Bread of Life 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Service: WOV Bread of Life 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Virtual Mtg	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19	20 4 p.m. 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation (online) 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal	21 5 p.m. Adult Class	22	23 11 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal
24 6 a.m. Online Service: LBW Setting 1 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Service: Now the Feast w/LS 5 p.m. Jr. Youth Virtual Mtg 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Virtual Mtg	25	26	27 4 p.m. 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation (online) 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal 8 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & More	28 5 p.m. Adult Class	29	30
31 6 a.m. Online Service: ELW Setting 8 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Service: Hymn Sing 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Virtual Mtg	Looking Ahead - Feb 17—Lent begins with Ash Wednesday - March 28—Passion / Palm Sunday —Holy Week - April 4 — Resurrection Sunday—Easter					

Zoom Fellowship Resumes January 10 9:00 a.m.

All Welcome

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89596647305?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89596647305?pwd=RVYySTI0QVZlM0VpSDJ3dW5kRnRTZz09)

[pwd=RVYySTI0QVZlM0VpSDJ3dW5kRnRTZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89596647305?pwd=RVYySTI0QVZlM0VpSDJ3dW5kRnRTZz09)

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81661281281?pwd=NXZ4NUpCZG5kYTdFakdVR1lySW1LUT09)

[pwd=NXZ4NUpCZG5kYTdFakdVR1lySW1LUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81661281281?pwd=NXZ4NUpCZG5kYTdFakdVR1lySW1LUT09)

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.** 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

JANUARY 2021
Volume 34, Issue 1

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

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

