

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org



PASTOR'S PAGE

I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. –1 Corinthians 15:3-5

Dear Friends of the Risen Messiah,

ARE YOU ANXIOUS FOR EASTER TO ARRIVE? I am. For decades I have noticed that celebrating the **bodily** resurrection of Jesus from the dead **raises our spirits**. We need that, especially this year. Over the last 12 months, we have been living on hope. The resurrection of Jesus renews our hopes. Thank God, hope is one of the three greatest gifts the Holy Spirit gives to us as disciples (*see 1 Corinthians 13:13*).

11 THINGS WE MAY CELEBRATE "OVER" THE SEASON OF EASTER:

(I wrote this list four years ago and decided to bring it back for this Easter.)

- 1. LIGHT OVER DARKNESS** - Longer days remind us Jesus is the light of the world.
- 2. FREEDOM OVER BONDAGE** - As God's children, we are free to love and to serve.
- 3. LIFE OVER DEATH** - Jesus overcoming death promises new and eternal life for you.
- 4. FORGIVENESS OVER REVENGE** - Before He died on the cross, Jesus forgave His enemies. Then the risen Jesus forgave His disciples.
- 5. HOPE OVER DESPAIR** - No loss nor problem is too great for our Lord to overcome.
- 6. TRUTH OVER LIES** - Jesus is the way, the **truth**, and the life. He will last; lies will not.
- 7. GOOD OVER EVIL** - Sin, death, and the devil tried to silence Jesus. They failed.
- 8. KINDNESS OVER CRUELTY** - *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."* --Ephesians 4:32
- 9. FAITH OVER UNBELIEF** - Jesus entrusted Himself fully to His Father.
- 10. CARING OVER APATHY** - *"Jesus had compassion on the people."* --Mark 6:34
- 11. LOVE OVER HATE** - *For God so loved the world, God gave His only Son...*

WHERE IS #12? I LEFT THAT FOR YOU TO COMPLETE. What will you celebrate "**over**" because Jesus is risen from the dead? We still have abundant life to live and to share. How might we honor our Lord who gave everything good for us? How might we celebrate the life we are now free to live?

Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come again!!!

Pastor Scott Peterson

Holy Week at MLC

Maundy Thursday (Apr. 1)

- 7 p.m. Online Worship

Good Friday (Apr. 2)

- 7 p.m. Online Worship

Resurrection of Our Lord (Apr. 4)

- Online Worship Available starting 6 a.m.
- 7 a.m. Sunrise Outdoor Worship with the Lord's Supper
- 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship with the Lord's Supper

APRIL SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

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

April 4	LBW Setting 2
April 11	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
April 18	LBW Setting 1
April 25	WOV Bread of Life

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

April 4	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
April 11	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
April 18	LBW Setting 1
April 25	WOV Bread of Life w/LS





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

Graduations

- † Mikayla Mast graduated from the Defense Information School Public Affairs & Communication Strategy Qualification Course at Ft. Meade on March 19. She will now complete a three-month internship at Training and Doctrine Command followed by an intern rotation at the Pentagon.

Deaths

- † Deby Boss's sister Sande Staub passed away on March 13th.



Outreach Spotlight: On Eagle's Wings

by Lois Graff

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32

In 1999, the mission of *On Eagle's Wings* was begun. That means that for 22 years, MLC has been supporting this mission of walking with and listening to, teaching and learning with the indigenous people of northern Canada. What began with Bible Camps 22 years ago has grown into relationships that are second and even third generation!

During the pandemic, when Bible Camp teachers were not allowed into communities for safety, *On Eagle's Wings* remained present. (Thankfully,

Covid-19 vaccinations have been prioritized in Canada's remote communities.) Last summer, 1100 virtual Bible Camp kits were prepared for families. These kits were sent to communities throughout the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and northern Alberta. Community leaders, counselors, and local ministry leaders helped to distribute them to those who had no access because of geography or resources. A youth and young adult Bible study curriculum was also introduced to the Northern diocese and community leaders. The ministry is communicating with communities via telephone, texts, and zoom calls.

From the Rev. Lesley Hand, Executive Director of *On Eagle's Wings*....

"I cannot separate God's activity in the lives of northern people from you and your faithful support over the years. For your gifts have been making, and continue to make, it possible to be present in the communities, to teach Bible Camps, make pastoral visits, offer training opportunities for teens and adults, and develop vital resources such as our Bible Camp, Sunday School, and Bible study curricula. Sending a donation regularly may seem like a small thing to you, a seed; however, your love and generosity are the very Spirit-inspired acts that make the seeds of children's lives grow into beautiful trees in God's Kingdom. We could not have touched so many lives without you. Thank you!"

***On Eagle's Wings* Ecumenical Ministries**

Website:

www.oneagleswingsnorth.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/oneagleswingsecumenical/

Designated Giving Instructions

Please note

"On Eagle's Wings" on your giving envelope or in the memo line of your check.



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirector@mlutheran.org

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

The Music at Messiah concerts are currently suspended.

"Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna!

Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:

All creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding,

See, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding

Bring a taste of love unknown.

-WOV 672 vs. 1

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Online and Outdoor Worship

Online worship is available any time after 6 a.m. on Sundays. Outdoor worship is at 10:30 a.m. (*weather permitting*). You may park and listen to the service of worship 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 Easter Sunday, April 4 and on April 25.

MLC Virtual Choir

There's still time to take part in the virtual choir project! If you are interested or would like more information, contact Randall Fields at rfields35824@gmail.com. Be involved in this first-ever MLC venture!

MLC Music Groups in April

Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship, maybe Trivia!

Wednesday, April 14 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 28 7:30 p.m.

Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship & Music

Saturday, April 17 11:00 a.m.

Instrumental Ensemble OUTDOOR Rehearsals (*weather permitting*)

Saturday, April 10 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 24 11:00 a.m.

Notabella Rehearsals

Watch E-News for updates!

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

Hymn of the Month

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

Brian A. Wren (1936 -), wrote the text of this Easter hymn. A pastor for five years, Wren then began working for social organizations, writing, lecturing, and hymn writing. William P. Rowan (1951 -) has written several hymn tunes in addition to this hymn tune, "Jackson New." According to the Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology, Rowan "discovered the witness of congregational song" when singing in a Lutheran church choir. Although Wren wrote the words to match the meter and tone of Rowan's tune, this hymn has also been set in other hymnals to the tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (Methodist) and "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (Presbyterian).

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

The MOEs, Junior Youth, and Senior Youth are really enjoying being back in the swing of things! It is a joy to gather together in small groups with precautions, and we are grateful for our time together.

MOEs (Messiah Older Elementary)

The MOES will meet on April 17th from 12:30-2. Bring a sack lunch (or snack) and a chair or blanket, and we will (weather permitting) have an outdoor lunch and play some games outside!

Junior Youth

The Junior Youth will meet at the following times:

- April 11, 5-6 p.m. in the Parish Hall
- April 25, 5-6 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Senior Youth

The Senior Youth will meet at the following times:

- April 4 - No Meeting (Easter Sunday)
- April 11, 6-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall
- April 18, 6-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall
- April 25, 6-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall



NEWS FLASHES



COFFEE & CAMP CHAIRS starts April 11th. **Sunday Morning Fellowship will begin in-person and physically distanced outdoors on April 11th at 9:30 a.m.** in the corner of MLC's parking lot under the big shade tree. Bring your own coffee mug or thermos, and folding chair. All are welcome! No guided discussions are planned, this is just a time for us to chat and reconnect with each other prior to the outdoor service of worship starting at 10:30 a.m. Come and go as you please.

This will be 'Weather Permitting' and replace the Sunday morning Zoom Fellowship.



PLANT SALE

**Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. - Noon
& Sunday, May 2, around worship**

The sale will take place at MLC's Parish Hall sidewalk & porch. Physical distancing measures will be used.

Many kinds of plants will be available for both sun and shade.

If you have plants you would like to donate, please contact Mary Ann Stasiak at (703) 402-7810 or masta-siak2019@gmail.com. Proceeds will be used for landscaping around the new electronic sign.

#40-40-40 CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS & SUPPORTERS!

To give your "40" designate "40-40-40" or "ELCA World Hunger" on your offering envelope. Additional ways to give listed in upcoming e-news.



MLC's Earth Day Service Project for the CASA Vegetable Garden Sat., April 24th 9—Noon

Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound (CASA) of Madison County's vegetable garden grows fresh, organic produce for their aging clients 60 years old and older. Volunteers then deliver the harvest to their clients who have a need for access to fresh produce.

On Sat. April 24th from 9 a.m. to Noon, MLC will be doing typical garden activities like mulching, weeding, and harvesting to help provide produce to those in need! Please sign up below!

All gardening tools are supplied at the garden, but all volunteers are required to bring and wear their own masks and gloves. The garden is open rain or shine. They only close in the event of lightning or severe storms.

Sign-Up to Volunteer, Below

<https://forms.gle/ArX9D3FYF8NiniRY7>

HAPC Class for Care of Grandparents

The next Huntsville Association for Pastoral Care (HAPC) School of Applied Ministry class will be "The Spiritual Care of Grandparents" on Tuesday, April 13, 6:00-8:30 p.m. It will be offered both in person at the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church (600 Governor's Dr.) and via Zoom. More details to come.

Grandparents have an important ministry responsibility with their grandchildren and need support and encouragement in that ministry. And sometimes grandparents encounter very stressful situations with grandchildren: grief, estrangement, mental illness, addiction, crime, and even rearing grandchildren. Those grandparents especially need spiritual care and support. We will be looking at both "normal" grandparenting and also "crisis" grandparenting in "The Spiritual Care of Grandparents." Watch for more information!

MONTH IN PICTURES



(L-R, Top to Bottom) **Ground was broken on MLC's New Electronic Sign** on Mon. March 22nd. **Rick and LeeLinda Baggett** had their hearts (and hands) full of donations for the Food Pantry and Kit Ministries. **Claire Strand** rolls donations out of the Narthex to clear a path for more! **Leslie Leeper** pauses between recording the Sunday Online Service readings. *Thank you, Leslie for your service this past year!*

The mid-week Live-stream AV Team includes **Lee Seitz, Stephen Strand** (pictured), Paul Zutter and Meredith Kilby. Over the course of the live-streamed services, the team was able to make significant improvements to the sound and visual quality with hardware and internet upgrades.



Update From the COVID-19 Task Force

Background Information: The number of cases, both nationally and in Alabama, has declined dramatically from their peak values. For example, the seven-day average on March 21, 2021 was 558, down from a peak of 3079. Hospitalizations have followed a similar trend. The CDC has issued new guidelines for indoor gathering for people who have been fully vaccinated and for schoolchildren. Warmer weather means that the aerosols responsible for virus spread are dispersing faster than they were when the weather was colder. Close to 20% of Alabamians have received at least one dose of vaccine, with approximately 11% being fully vaccinated. These are all positive indicators and have led the task force to work towards resuming indoor worship. Some concerns remain, however, because of the more highly contagious variants that have emerged, the rising cases worldwide, the coming expiration of the statewide mask mandate, and the opinion of some epidemiologists that there is another surge ahead, though no one knows for sure.

At this time, the task force foresees retaining an outdoor service for a time after resumption of indoor worship. An online option is here to stay. The task force is leaning towards no singing, masking, and distancing for indoor worship. Prior to resuming indoor worship, the task force has made two recommendations, which have been approved by the Council: a) making masks optional at outdoor worship while maintaining distancing; and 2) opening up the Fellowship Hall and Parish Hall to outside groups within the guidelines established for these spaces and scheduling coordination with the church staff.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

A MESSAGE from the OFFICERS of MLC

Dear Members of Messiah Lutheran Church,

On March 17, 2020, the leadership of MLC decided to discontinue live in-person worship. This past March 22nd marked the anniversary of our first recorded on-line service of worship. Now we are wondering: ***When will MLC go back to live indoor worship?*** Jesus is the light of the world. In this pandemic we are getting glimpses of light on the horizon. Here are a few updates.

The number of new cases of COVID-19 in the United States and in the state of Alabama has been declining since mid-January. This is good news. We now have three different vaccines being administered around the country. This is good news. After watching the COVID-19 numbers decline and studying the CDC guidance on outdoor activities, the MLC COVID-19 Task force recommended we allow people to stop wearing masks during outdoor worship. The Council approved this change which will become effective on Sunday, April 11. Some of us will continue to wear masks outdoors and others will stay in cars. Your personal decision on this will be respected.

In the last year COVID-19 has forced the leadership of MLC to make some difficult decisions. Some think we have moved too slowly toward getting back to normal. Some will think allowing people to be without masks in outdoor worship is moving too fast. The challenge before us is to move ahead together as MLC with the love which Christ has given to us and the love which Christ commands us to give each other. We share a longing to be together, including worshipping in MLC's Sanctuary. That is good news.

On Resurrection Sunday, April 4, we will have an outdoor Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m., and another outdoor service at 10:30 a.m. On Tuesday, April 6, the COVID-19 Task Force will meet seeking plans for beginning indoor services of worship.

As we take steps toward a 'new normal' that allows in-person worship again, we are not all going to agree on each change. In this time of transition let's be guided by God's love which St. Paul beautifully described in 1 Corinthians 13: *Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."*

Thank you for staying united in our mission as "God's People, Reaching Out". Our Lord has a gracious future planned for us.

Beloved let us love one another as together we serve our Lord.

Steve Leeper, Vice-President, *Rhonda Gaede*, Treasurer, *Laurie Campbell*, Secretary

Pastor Scott Peterson, President

CHURCH COUNCIL

Report to the Congregation from the March Council Meeting:

- The Parish Hall and Fellowship Hall are available for MLC small group meetings. If interested, contact the church office.
- The sanctuary is available for prayer or meditation. Please contact the office to schedule a time.
- The COVID-19 Task Force discussed use of masks during outdoor worship and will meet April 6 to discuss when to return to indoor worship.
- Ground has been broken for construction of the new electronic sign.
- MLC Congregation Meeting with elections will take place May 2.
- Electronic giving to MLC is moving to the company Vanco. Info will be sent to all currently using online giving. If interested in beginning online giving, more info coming soon. Contact people: Rhonda Gaede, (treasurer@mlutheran.com) or Marc Neely, (finsec@mdneely.com)
- Andrew King, Rebecca Alferink, and Pastor Scott will be Voting Members attending the virtual SE Synod Assembly, Sat., June 5 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PRAYER FAMILIES

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

Council Elections

The Nominating Committee is meeting to secure nominees for the elections at the Sunday, May 2, Congregation meeting. Offices to be elected are Vice-President, Secretary, Council Representatives for Outreach, Stewardship, Fellowship, Finance, Youth Representative, Faith Formation Superintendent (formerly Sunday School Supt.), and the 2021-22 Nominating Committee. Any Confirmed member of MLC may volunteer to be on the ballot for these offices. Please call MLC office for more information 256 721 0041.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Congregation Meeting

NOON | Sunday, May 2

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

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LOOKING AHEAD: May 1 & 2 - MLC Plant Sale Fundraiser May 2 - Congregation Meeting with Elections May 23 - Confirmation Sunday – Pentecost Day				1 Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. Online Worship	2 Good Friday 7 p.m. Online Worship	3 Easter Vigil
4 EASTER SUNDAY 6 a.m. Online Worship: LBW Setting 2 7 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Worship w/LS 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS	5	6	7 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal	8 7:00 pm Council Meeting	9	10 11 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal
11 6 a.m. Online Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: WOV Service Word/Prayer 12 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation (Online) 1 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation (Online) 5 p.m. Jr. Youth Meeting 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting	12	13	14 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship	15	16	17 11 a.m. Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship & Music 12:30 p.m. MOEs Gathering
18 6 a.m. Online Worship: LBW Setting 1 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: LBW Setting 1 12 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation (Online) 1 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation (Online) 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting	19	20	21 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal	22	23	24 9 a.m. Earth Day Service at CASA Vegetable Garden 11 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal
25 6 a.m. Online Worship: WOV Bread of Life 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: WOV Bread of Life w/LS 12 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation (Online) 1 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation (Online) 5 p.m. Jr. Youth Meeting 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting	26	27	28 5 p.m. Seraph Choir Zoom Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Zoom Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship	29	30	

Group Zoom Worship
Maundy Thursday and Good Friday
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

April 2021
Volume 34, Issue 4

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Contact Information Messiah Lutheran Church mlutheran.org

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Staff

Rev. Scott Peterson.....Pastor
Claire Strand.....Director of Outreach Ministries
Lois Graff.....Director of Music Ministries
Vicar 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

