

by Pastor Scott Peterson  
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## PASTOR'S PAGE

Jesus says to disciples, *"I give you a **new commandment**, that you **love one another**. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."* --John 13:34

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

**WHO DID JESUS REFUSE TO TALK TO?** No one. Jesus talked to family, friends, neighbors, strangers, and his enemies too. Jesus even spoke to dead people right before they came back to life. Everyone was worthy of being addressed by Jesus.

**WHO DO YOU AND I REFUSE TO TALK TO?** When Jesus called His first 12 disciples **one** disciple (Matthew) was a tax collector whose job required collaborating with the occupying forces of the Roman Empire. **Another** disciple (Simon the Zealot) got his name from his determination to violently drive the enemy Roman forces out of the Holy Land. Why did Jesus put those two together among His chosen ones? Could it be that Jesus wanted us to learn what His first disciples learned: *Love your enemies?*

**THE WAY JESUS LOVES US IS OUR MODEL FOR LOVING OTHERS**--despite our differences. When disciples come together to follow Jesus *every other matter* is no longer *most important*. Jesus commands us: *"love one another."* *"Love is the Way"* was the theme of sermons during the season of Lent which spilled over into Easter season. Jesus was the pioneer and perfecter of **'Agape'** love--that is **self-giving love** for all. **'Agape'** saturated Jesus' words, and actions. **Are we ready to follow?**

**MIGHT WE TAKE GOD'S LOVE INTO A LAB?** This would mean not just hearing about God's love, but testing applications of *'agape'* love in our words and actions. In the (relative) safety of a classroom we could experiment--exploring the properties of God's love. The goal is to be equipped with God's love to take it into our worlds in order to build relationships the ways Jesus did.

**ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, A NEW ADULT CLASS "Let Us Love One Another"** will begin at 9:45 a.m. Laurie Campbell and I will co-teach this class devoted to learning how to put into action Jesus' model of loving one another. Jesus came down from heaven on a mission to fix broken relationships. Jesus puts us in a right relationship with God. And, Jesus guides disciples to be in healthy relationships with others. This will be interesting.

Grace and peace, and this July especially enjoy our freedoms,

*Pastor Scott Peterson*

*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*

### JULY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

#### Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

July 4           WOV Service of Word/Prayer  
July 11           LBW Setting 2  
July 18           Bread of Life w/LS  
July 25           Now the Feast w/LS

#### Sundays at 11 a.m. (also livestreamed)

WOV Service of Word/Prayer  
LBW Setting 2  
Contemporary Service w/LS  
Now the Feast 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](mailto:claire@mlutheran.org)

## OUTREACH needs

### PANTRY ITEM

Bars & Crackers

### KIT MINISTRY

70 Ct. Notebooks

*Members may also designate offerings to:*

**Food Pantry  
&  
Kit Ministry**

# OUTREACH

## Life Passages

### Deaths

- † Tonny deJong, mother-in-law to Anita deJong, died on June 11th.
- † Lee Dobbins, Lisa Bartel's nephew, died on June 15th.
- † Jerry Sawyer died Friday, June 25th.

### Births

- † Brooklyn Elaine Sampson was born to parents Mark & Tammy Sampson of Huntsville. She is the 14th great-grandchild of Diane Cline.



## Outreach Spotlight: Owen's House by Claire Strand

### LET'S GET BACK TO SERVING IN PERSON!

**One of Messiah Lutheran Church's mission activities is to help fund the purchase of healthy food for the women and children at Owen's House, a part of Downtown Rescue Mission. Before COVID-19 visited us, we also helped on the supper service line twice a month. We suspended this in-person support over a year ago.**

**As we begin to return to normal activities, some members are ready to return to serving supper meals. We are considering serving meals the we are looking for days to serve each month, starting in August.** If you are interested in this mission work, please contact Bill Emerson ([bemerson@knology.net](mailto:bemerson@knology.net)) or Claire Strand ([claire@mlutheran.org](mailto:claire@mlutheran.org)).

Owen's House provides housing, food, and training to women and children. Some women are in a multi-month program that teaches life skills and helps them find jobs. Owen's House also provides meals and emergency overnight housing for homeless women and their children.

Since Owen's House primarily depends on donated food to feed these women and children, the food purchased with our donations helps provide a more balanced diet by filling in any gaps in the donations. This is especially true for breakfast, although we also help with fruit and milk at evening meals.

Anyone desiring to financially support this outreach program can donate to MLC's giving program, either online or by noting "Owen's House" on checks.

**Diapers and wipes are always needed. We'll be collecting them all this month.**



### OWEN'S HOUSE

To designate gifts, please indicate "Owen's House" on your offering envelope or check.

For more information visit [downtownrescuemission.org](http://downtownrescuemission.org)

To volunteer contact Claire Strand or Bill Emerson



**Lois Graff**

Director of Music  
Ministries

musicdirector@mlutheran.org

## Hymn of the Month

"Go, My Children,  
with My Blessing"

An old Welsh tune, this hymn was given new life by hymnwriter Jaroslav Vajda (b. 1919). A Slovak Lutheran pastor, Vajda wrote many hymn texts and translations. His father and two brothers were also pastors! The last verse of this familiar hymn includes the Aaronic blessing (Numbers 6:24-26) used in many liturgies.

*"I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.*

*I the Lord will smile upon you, and give you peace.*

*I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.*

*Go, my children, I will keep you, and give you peace."*

- WOV 721 vs. 4

# WORSHIP & MUSIC

## Worship

Indoor worship has resumed at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings and is livestreamed to MLC's YouTube channel, available also for later viewing. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at July 18 and July 25 services of worship. More information can be found on MLC's e-news, website <https://mlutheran.org/> or by calling the Church Office.

## MLC Music Groups in July (Watch E-News for updates!)

### **Messiah Choir** Rehearsals

Sunday, July 18 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 25 10:00 a.m.

### **Contemporary Team** Rehearsal

Saturday, July 17 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Instrumental Ensemble** Rehearsal

Saturday, July 24 at 11:00 a.m.

## COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS CHANGING IN JULY!

### .....from the *Messiah Lutheran Church Council*

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come...LBW #320*

Dear Members and Friends of MLC,

The following recommendations from the MLC COVID-19 Task force were approved by the Church Council on June 10:

- 1) **Beginning Sunday, July 4**, fully vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask in the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. indoor services of worship. This includes singing.
- 2) **Also beginning July 4**, those wanting to worship where everyone is required to wear a mask are encouraged to gather in the Parish Hall at 11:00 a.m. for a livestream video of the service in the Sanctuary. Distribution of the Lord's Supper in the Parish Hall will be brought by Communion Assistants wearing masks. (*Our hope is this will benefit parents with children too young to receive the vaccine and those unvaccinated for medical or other reasons.*)
- 3) **Now:** Fully vaccinated people are not required to mask when inside MLC building--**24/7**. (*All MLC staff members are fully vaccinated.*)
- 4) **Now:** If not vaccinated, please wear a mask whenever inside MLC building out of concern for the safety of unvaccinated children and others.
- 5) **Now:** Holy Hill Church, the Scouts troop, and Weight Watchers have agreements which enable them to meet in MLC building.

May God bless and watch over us all. — MLC Church Council



**Vicar Sara Galyon**  
Director of Faith  
Formation

[youth@mlutheran.org](mailto: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

## Training for all Youth and Children's Volunteers

We need everyone who might work with children in the coming year(s) to attend a training on July 15th at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Childcare will be provided if needed (please RSVP for childcare by July 11th). If you cannot attend this training and plan to work with youth or children, please let Sara know at [youth@mlutheran.org](mailto:youth@mlutheran.org)

## Changes Coming to Youth Groups!

The Junior Youth will begin meeting EVERY Sunday beginning in August! We have an incredibly active Junior Youth group and want to encourage their community building by offering a chance to meet every week! Junior Youth will meet from 5-6:30 p.m.

Senior Youth will continue to meet from 6-7:30 p.m. weekly.

## Special Events

The MOEs event for July will be Vacation Bible School at St. Matthews! Hope to see you there July 12-14th!

The Junior and Senior Youth will attend a Trash Pandas game on July 25th at 6 p.m. We have been invited to attend with Stone River United Methodist Church (where Sara's spouse is the Pastor to Students). Tickets are \$16. RSVPs are due to Sara via email or text by July 7th.

Senior Youth will have a pool party on July 18th from 6-8 p.m. at the Zesingers' home.

Junior Youth will have a pool party on August 8th from 3-5 p.m. at the Fedricks' home.

## Calendar

July 4 - No Youth

July 11 - Junior Youth 5-6:30 p.m. / Senior Youth 6-7:30 p.m.

July 12-14 - Vacation Bible School

July 15 - Training for Children/Youth Volunteers

July 18 - Senior Youth Pool Party 6-8 p.m. at Zesingers' home

July 25 - Trash Pandas Game with Stone River UMC (Junior and Senior Youth)

### Vacation Bible School

**July 12 - 14th**

**6 - 8 p.m.**

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**

**786 Hughes Road**

**Register at:**

[https://stmatthewsmadison.org/digital\\_faith/events/3185379](https://stmatthewsmadison.org/digital_faith/events/3185379)

### Confirmation Classes

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Confirmation classes begin on August 11. This two-year program for youth 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older is a study of the Old and New Testaments and Luther's Small Catechism. It prepares students to affirm the faith they entered through Baptism. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

# MONTH IN PICTURES



Right: Great fun was had at the June 13th Tie-Dye Party for MLC families.

Families dyed t-shirts, celebrated student promotions to new youth groups, played Ga-Ga ball, and enjoyed Kona Ice Cream treats.



Above:  
Seminarian William Strand and wife, Kayla, were blessed and sent on June 27th. The couple is heading to Grand Marais, MN for William's

internship there. A reception (with beautiful Lutheran Rose Cookies) was held out on the courtyard. See William's update in the June 2021 Messiah Messenger.



MLC's Disaster Relief Mission Trip to Cookeville, TN had volunteers help rebuild a home that was damaged by recent tornadoes. The team also enjoyed some treats! [View more pictures online!](#)

## JULY BIRTHDAYS



**Sign up for 2021 Chancel Flowers by calling the Church Office at (256)-721-0041.** You may also stop by and visit during office hours, M-F 8:30 a.m. to Noon to specify your preferred Sunday. All flowers are given to the Glory of God and include an optional dedication printed in the bulletin in celebration, memory, or honor of a loved one of the sponsoring household. The cost is \$25.

**Please help our church staff maintain accurate member records!** Email [office@mlutheran.org](mailto:office@mlutheran.org) or call 256-721-0041 Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Thank you! Bobbey & Meredith.

# July 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LOOKING AHEAD:</b> <b>August 8: Rally Day</b> <b>August 11: Confirmation Classes begin</b> <b>August 22: LWR Kit and Quilt Blessing;</b> <b>Bishop Strickland visit</b>				1	2	3
<b>4 INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>  <b>8:30 a.m. Worship:</b> WOV Service of Word/Prayer <b>11:00 a.m. Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> WOV Service of Word/Prayer	5 Office Closed	6	7	8	9	10
<b>11</b> <b>8:30 a.m. Worship:</b> LBW Setting 2 <b>11:00 a.m. Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> LBW Setting 2  5 - 6:30 p.m. Jr Youth 6 - 7:30 p.m. Sr Youth	12	13	14	15  6:00 p.m. Youth/Children's Volunteer Training	16	17  10:00 a.m. Contemporary Team rehearsal
<b>VBS at St. Matthew's Episcopal</b>						
<b>18</b> 8:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal <b>8:30 a.m. Worship:</b> Bread of Life w/LS <b>11:00 a.m. Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> Contemporary Service w/LS  6:00 p.m. Sr Youth Pool Party at Zesingers' home	19	20	21	22	23	24  11:00 Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Men of Messiah Trash Pandas Game</b>                      Tentative date: Friday, July 23                      Check the MoMs emails for details and updates!                 </div>						
<b>25</b> <b>8:30 a.m. Worship:</b> Now the Feast w/LS 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal <b>11:00 a.m. Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> Now the Feast w/LS  6:00 p.m. Jr/Sr Youth Trash Pandas game	26	27	28	29	30	31

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

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Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. **Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** All are welcome. Our website is [www.mlutheran.org](http://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](mailto:info@mlutheran.org).

**Newsletter submissions may be sent to Rebecca Mast at [newsletter@mlutheran.org](mailto:newsletter@mlutheran.org)  
Submissions are typically due the 3rd Sunday of every month. Submit photos to [communications@mlutheran.org](mailto:communications@mlutheran.org)**



The monthly newsletter and calendar for Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) Madison, Alabama

# Messenger

July 2021  
Volume 34, Issue 7

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## Contact Information Messiah Lutheran Church [mlutheran.org](http://mlutheran.org)

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  
Vicar Sara Galyon.....Director of Faith Formation  
Bobbey Huwaldt.....Office Manager  
Meredith Kilby...Communications Director, Office Manager  
Randall Fields..... MLC Choir Director

**Find up-to-date information at [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org)**

