

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

PASTOR'S PAGE

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. —John 1:14

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

"WE ARE PEOPLE OF THE WORD." I keep saying. What does that mean for us now? I believe we are at another "pivot point" in our life together as MLC. We pivoted when the pandemic caused us to discontinue in-person worship in March 2020. Now we pivot again in the early stages of returning to a new normal. What will it be like as we re-gather? We cannot know all the details, but we can be certain that God's Word and the Spirit of our risen Lord will go forward with us. This is especially good news for our graduates and Confirmands as they step into new realities in this ever-changing world.

"QUESTIONS" IS THE TITLE of the excerpt below from Frederick Buechner's book ***Beyond Words***. I found it helpful in assessing "things that matter always, life-and-death questions about meaning, purpose, and value." So I commend this to you as we seek our way ahead as MLC guided by the Word who became flesh and lived among us.

"ON HER DEATHBED. Gertrude Stein is said to have asked, 'What is the answer?' Then, after a long silence, 'What is the question?' Don't start looking in the Bible for the answers it gives. Start by listening for the questions it asks.

We are much involved, all of us, with questions about things that matter a good deal today but will be forgotten by this time tomorrow—the immediate wheres and whens and hows that face us daily at home and at work—but at the same time we tend to lose track of the questions about things that matter always, life-and-death questions about meaning, purpose, and value. To lose track of such deep questions as these is to risk losing track of who we really are in our own depths and where we are really going. There is perhaps no stronger reason for reading the Bible than that somewhere among all those India-paper pages there awaits each one of us, whoever we are, the one question that (though for years we may have been pretending not to hear it) is the central question of our individual lives. Here are a few of them:

- ? For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? (Matthew 16:26)
- ? Am I my brother's keeper? (Genesis 4:9)
- ? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)
- ? What is truth? (John 18:38)
- ? How can anyone be born after having grown old? (John 3:4)
- ? What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:3)
- ? Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? (Psalm 139:7)
- ? Who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:29)
- ? What shall I do to inherit eternal life? (Luke 10:25)
- ? When you hear the question that is your question, then you have already begun to hear much. Whether you can accept the Bible's answer or not, you have reached the point where at least you can begin to hear it too."

Grace and peace to you, my beloved people of MLC,

Pastor Scott Peterson

JUNE SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

8:30 a.m. Outdoor (weather permitting)

June 6 Bread of Life
June 13 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

8:30 a.m. Indoor

June 20 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
June 27 Now the Feast w/LS

11:00 a.m. Indoor and Streamed

Bread of Life
LBW Setting 2 w/LS

11:00 a.m. Indoor and Streamed

Contemporary Service
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

OUTREACH needs

PANTRY ITEM
Toiletries

KIT MINISTRY

Blue or Black Pens
(no gel)

Members may also designate offerings to:

**Food Pantry
&
Kit Ministry**

OUTREACH

Life Passages

Confirmation

† On May 23rd, Ana Ballard, Aaron Woods, James Zesinger affirmed the Christian faith they entered in Baptism.

Deaths

† Linda Zutter's sister Julie Seiz passed away on May 21st



Outreach Spotlight: House of the Harvest by Claire Strand

House of the Harvest (HotH) was begun in 2015 by administrators and students of the Sparkman Middle School family in the Harvest/Toney area. On a typical Saturday, **HotH serves a hot breakfast and groceries to between 150-250 families at an old fire station facility-turned-food pantry.** During the COVID-19 pandemic, a drive-through was set up at Harvest Elementary School.

Feeding people isn't the number one priority, though; their mission is to point people to the Trinity— Father, Son, and Spirit— using what they call Priority One: prayer. Every guest is promised prayer. The food is what brings people together to receive it.

A few weeks ago, MLC was approached by HotH and asked to support a project to enlarge their back deck. The back deck is the seating area for the breakfast. It only seats 40 at a time. Too often people have to eat and run. The proposed new deck will seat 100, allowing more comfort and time to receive prayer and all the blessings that come from gathering in His name, including building relationships. Our gracious God enabled a generous gift from the people of MLC that got HotH near their fundraising goal. The new deck will be built later this summer.

On Saturday, June 12th, Messiah's outreach is planning a service day at HotH. No signup necessary- just show up at 7:15 a.m.

The address is 9144 Wall Triana Hwy. in Harvest, AL. Parking is across the street. Once the deck is completed, we will hold another service day at HotH.

This is a great way to see in person the wonderful mission of House of the Harvest.



House of the Harvest

www.houseoftheharvest.com

9144 Wall Triana Hwy
Harvest, AL 35749

To support House of the Harvest with your financial gifts, please write "House of the Harvest" on your giving envelope or on the memo line of your check.



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.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship Opportunities

Services of worship in the sanctuary resumed on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. The worship schedule has reverted to the pre-pandemic times of 8:30 and 11 a.m. In early June, the 8:30 a.m. service will be outdoors (weather permitting), and the 11 a.m. service will continue indoors. Indoor worship is livestreamed to MLC's YouTube channel and is also available for later viewing. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at the June 13 and June 27 services. Surgical masks will be worn during worship for everyone's safety. More information (and policies and changes) can be found on MLC's E-News, on the website mlutheran.org, or by calling the Church Office. These are exciting days! Thank you for your patience during these transitions.

Messiah Choir Rehearsals

Messiah's Choir has begun meeting again! The summer schedule begins June 6. Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. with an additional Wednesday rehearsal on June 2 at 7:30 p.m. God has given us voices to sing praises. Director Randall Fields is exceptional and teaches as he directs. Feel free to show up at any rehearsal! Questions? Contact Randall at rfields35824@gmail.com or Lois Graff. For the time being, surgical masks will be worn in choir practice.

MLC Music Groups in June (watch E-News for updates)

Messiah Choir Rehearsals

Wednesday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Sundays, June 6, 13, 20, 27 at 9:45 a.m.

Contemporary Team Rehearsal

Saturday, June 19 at 11:00 a.m.

Instrumental Ensemble OUTDOOR Rehearsal (weather permitting)

Saturday, June 12 at 11:00 a.m.

Hymn of the Month: "Built on a Rock"

A Scandinavian hymn, the text was written by Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1872). Grundtvig was a pastor and poet, among other things and "was one of the most influential people in Danish history as his philosophy gave rise to a new form of nationalism in the last half of the 19th century" (Dictionary of Hymnology). Norwegian composer and organist Ludvig M. Lindeman (1812-1887) composed the tune specifically for Grundtvig's text, which was, incidentally, the first hymn Lindeman composed.

*Through all the passing years, O Lord,
Grant that, when church bells are ringing,
Many may come to hear God's Word
Where he this promise is bringing:
I know my own, my own know me;
You, not the world, my face shall see;
My peace I leave with you. Amen.*

LBW 365 vs. 5



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

MLC YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION

Mark Your Calendars! VBS July 12-14th with St. Matthew's Episcopal

We will partner with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church again this year for an abbreviated, primarily-outdoor (weather permitting) Vacation Bible School. This will be an evening VBS again with an Ice Cream Party on Wednesday evening for us to wrap up our shortened time together this year. **The event will happen at St. Matthew's from July 12-14 (more info to come).** A VBS-at-home kit will also be provided for those who wish to participate at home. Register here <https://stmatthewsmadison.org/digital-faith/events/3185379> for our Knights of North Castle VBS!

Youth Groups

Senior and Junior Youth will return to our normal schedule, Junior Youth meeting the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 5-6:30 and Senior Youth meeting from 6-7:30 every week, giving us more time together throughout the summer. As the summer progresses, we may find opportunities for fun events, **so please keep checking your emails from Vicar Sara so you can be in the know.** If you need to be added to the email list, please email youth@mlutheran.org.

The MOEs June event is the Family Tie-Dye party on June 6th from 4-6 p.m., so we hope to see you there!

All students entering the 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades are welcome to begin attending their new groups after June 6th.

Parents should be on the lookout for a new permission and medical form coming to you via email in the month of June. These forms will be required annually and kept in a lock box as they contain private information.



MOES enjoyed a fun movie event in the Parish Hall on May 15th

NEWS FLASHES

A NEW OPTION TO BENEFIT MLC MEMBERS

Private and Safe Storage of Personal Documents and Information

Wills: As a service to our members, MLC now offers a secure and fire-proof storage location for your Last Will & Testament documents. After you securely seal your documents in a marked envelope, they will be placed in a locked safe in the church for later retrieval, per your directions. All documents will be returned to you at your request at any time.

Emergency Contact Listing: Have you ever wished for a method to ensure your designated representative(s) are contacted in case of an accident or emergency? This could be especially important if your emergency contacts are not local and you are not able to make that vital contact. MLC will keep a private listing of your contact information as necessary. We will contact your emergency contact person(s) only if the Pastor and staff are notified of a circumstance in which you cannot make that personal contact.

More Information? Contact Pastor Scott or our Outreach Director, Claire Strand, for specifics on both services. Participation in these programs is voluntary. All information and documents will be privately held and



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. Sponsoring households are may choose to enjoy take-home sized arrangements of the flowers which are available after the 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship concludes.

VANCO ONLINE GIVING SITE UP AND RUNNING!

On April 18, Tim Pitchko, MLC's Council Representative for Stewardship gave a Temple Talk on MLC's new Online Giving Platform. You can view the Temple Talk and Transcript below.

<https://mlutheran.org/online-giving-transitions-to-vanco>

JOIN MLC'S STREAM TEAM!

Lois Graff, Director of Worship and Music Ministries and Meredith Kilby, Director of Communication, are looking for volunteers 16 years or older interested in serving on MLC's newly formed "Stream Team."

MLC is now livestreaming the 11:00 a.m. in-person (indoor) Service of Worship every Sunday. The goal is to have about ten to twelve people trained to work in teams of two each Sunday. One person is needed for sound, and another will operate the cameras and produce the live feed.

Hands On Training dates are tentatively set for Sunday mornings in June from 9:30 a.m. to Noon. Please contact Meredith Kilby at

communications@mlutheran.org

LEARN SOMETHING NEW! TRAINING PROVIDED.

DISASTER RELIEF MISSION TRIP PLANNED

Are you interested in sharing your time and gifts on an Messiah Lutheran Church Disaster Relief team? Tentative dates for a trip have been set for 6/23-6/27. The location of the trip is to Cookeville, TN. If you are interested, please take a moment to let organizer Andrew King know by filling out this online form.

<https://forms.gle/3R4CsTY9hz1wqE2g8>

By knowing who is interested and what gifts they have to offer, Andrew will be able to assess what projects the team may be best suited for. If you have questions, contact Andrew at outreach_rep@mlutheran.org

MONTH IN PICTURES

[View the May Online Gallery](#)



Above: On May 16 MLC blessed College and High School Graduates and distributed "sending baskets" to 8 MLC HS Seniors.

Right: On May 23 (Pentecost), MLC resumed worshiping in its Sanctuary and **Ana Ballard, James Zesinger, and Aaron Woods** (below) were Confirmed. A reception on MLC's new outdoor terrace was held following the Service of Worship.



Thank you to the Rydbom family for helping prepare MLC for resumption of Sanctuary worship and activities! Dad **William** (above) power-washed the children's courtyard and made repairs to the playground fence. Not shown are twins **Sarah and Logan Rydbom** who helped pull weeds and tidy up plantings from the space. William also ran network cable to the Sanctuary Sound desk so that a wired connection could be made for livestreams. Mom **Cheryl** was spied staining picnic seating in the new outdoor terrace. **The Sign is Finally Here!** On Monday, May 17, the new electronic marquee was installed and operational. Above: **Meredith Kilby, Bob Gustafson, and Claire Strand** were on hand when it was powered on. The finishing touches to the sign are expected to be completed soon.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

An Update from William Strand: *We're Minnesota Bound!*

Regarding my schooling, candidacy, and time in seminary, Kayla and I have gotten to the point where it is time for us to go on an internship. I was Endorsed to go on internship via my Candidacy committee, and then through the seminary we discerned a position at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church as a joint internship.

I will be spending most of my time at Bethlehem with my supervisor while also spending part of my time at Trinity. Trinity has housing that they have opened to us, so we will be staying in their vicarage (effectively their parsonage).

Both congregations are in Grand Marais, Minnesota on the north shore of Lake Superior. It is a rural town and is the last township before the Canadian border. We are quite anxious to get started there and are making preparations now for the start on July 11th 2021.

This is the last step in my seminary education before I graduate, and we want to thank everyone at Messiah that has supported us and been part of my seminary education. Messiah has always been great to us. We are thankful for the leadership, education, and worship that I have been able to be a part of here and the programs that Kayla participated in as well.

"A Blessing and Sending"

FOR WILLIAM AND KAYLA STRAND

is planned during the

JUNE 27, 2021 - 11:00 AM SERVICE

-An Outdoor Reception to Follow

All are invited to a farewell reception for William and Kayla on Messiah's new outdoor terrace following worship.

At the reception, please locate the journaling Bible (a Bible with wide margins for notes and drawings) and add your personal message inside the Bible next to your favorite verse or a verse that holds special meaning for William and Kayla's time away in Minnesota for internship.

WHY MASKS?

Why are we asking people to wear surgical masks on Sunday Mornings?

SHORT ANSWER: So, we can safely sing in worship.

DETAILS: MLC Council and Covid Task Force decided to allow singing in worship only after reviewing a study done by professors at MIT. <https://indoor-covid-safety.herokuapp.com/>

Dr. Rhonda Gaede, Chair of the Task Force, communicated with these professors and used their tools to calculate what could safely be done in our worship space. After discussing that study's conclusions, the Task Force and Council agreed it would be safe to allow singing in worship if those attending wore disposable surgical masks.

SPECIFICS:

UK Variant, Singing, Mask/Fit Compliance 95 %
 Surgical masks 100 people for 65 minutes
 Multiple layer cotton/silk 100 people for 20 minutes
 Cotton/flannel 100 people for 11 minutes
 No mask 100 people for 5 minutes

500 adult and 150 children's disposable surgical masks were ordered at a cost of 17 cents each. They will be given to worshipers entering the building this Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

That is WHY we are asking you to wear a surgical mask:
 So, we can safely sing.

Covid vaccination percentages for Madison County
 5/21/21
 ALL ages: 34% AGE 18+: 43% AGE 65+: 76%

(If you have not been vaccinated,
 Pastor Scott encourages it for everyone's safety.)

We eagerly anticipate lessening safety protocols for indoor worship should continue to trend positively to do that.

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 256 721 0041.

PRAYER FAMILIES

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

June 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PLEASE READ YOUR E-NEWS TO STAY INFORMED</p> <p>Please be sure to read your weekly MLC E-News to stay informed through this time of transition. More details on planned indoor worship can be found on https://mlutheran.org/indoor-worship-</p>		1	2 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal	3	4	5 9:30 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal
6 8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: Bread of Life 9:45 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal 9:45 a.m. A/V Training 11:00 a.m. Indoor Worship & Livestream: Bread of Life 4 p.m. Family Tie-Dye Party	7	8	9	10 7 p.m. Church Council Meeting	11	12 7:15 a.m. Service Day at House of the Harvest
13 8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal 9:45 a.m. A/V Training 11:00 a.m. Indoor Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 5 p.m. Jr. Youth Meeting 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19 11 a.m. Contemporary Team Rehearsal
20 8:30 a.m. Indoor Worship WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:45 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal 9:45 a.m. A/V Training 11:00 a.m. Indoor Worship & Livestream: Contemporary Service 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting	21	22	23 Disaster Relief Mission Trip to 6/27	24	25	26
27 8:30 a.m. Indoor Worship Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal 9:45 a.m. A/V Training 11:00 a.m. Indoor Worship & Livestream: Now the Feast w/LS 12:00 p.m. Reception for William and Kayla Strand 5 p.m. Jr. Youth Meeting 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting	28	29	30	LOOKING AHEAD Vacation Bible School July 12 - 14		

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

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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 outdoor (weather permitting) at 8:30 a.m. and indoor at 11:00 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

June 2021
Volume 34, Issue 6

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Contact Information Messiah Lutheran Church mlutheran.org

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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
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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

