

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

PASTOR'S PAGE



Jesus said: *Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.*
John 4:35-36

Dear Friends of the restless Messiah,

October 1988: As a Yankee who had just moved into Madison from SW Minnesota, I looked around and was struck by a thought: *"Look around you. **What a fertile mission field!** God must have plans for a great harvest in this place! It even includes an*

area named Harvest." The Holy Spirit began an adventure which fulfilled my dreams and the dreams of others who hoped to be missionaries. Nineteen months later when we organized as a congregation on May 20, 1990, over 60% of the 159 charter members did not have a church home prior to joining MLC.

In March 1994, when MLC completed building a mission outpost, we put pews instead of moveable chairs in the worship space. We designed the altar and pulpit using heavy oak to prevent them from being easily moved. Why? To communicate **stability** as we gathered to worship surrounded by a rapidly **changing** mission field. We wanted Sunday morning worship to be in a sanctuary in the midst of a turbulent world.

"I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting," Jesus said to His first disciples. Jesus' words spoke to us as MLC developed and grew along with this area. In Fall 1988, Madison was on the verge of surpassing 10,000 residents. Recently Madison grew beyond 50,000. Madison County is surging toward 400K. Limestone County has gone over 100K.

May 2021: *"I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting."* A new generation sprung up and is passing by us on life's highway. The speed of change is frightening. No wonder God's messenger angels announced great changes on the horizon beginning with the words **"Do not be afraid."** This is the Lord who still sends Biblical text messages and speaks messages calling us into mission. This is the Lord who came to earth in the person of Jesus to speak God's Word face-to-face with disciples. This is the Lord who called missionary Paul to make disciples for Jesus among Gentiles like us. This is the same Lord who calls us now in 2021.

In the midst of this ever-changing world, God gives stability. God bestows peace in our identity as children of God. Our Lord's unwavering love for us and all God's people is reason to give thanks and praise. Our Lord's call to make disciples gives us missionary work on this great mission field which is ripe for harvest.

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, let's keep looking for more opportunities to serve together. We are people of the Word God has given us to share. That Word is the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Messiah.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Scott Peterson

Jesus said, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* --Matthew 28:19-20

MAY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

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

May 2 LBW Setting 2
May 9 WOV Bread of Life
May 16 WOV Service of Word/Prayer

Outdoor (weather permitting)

May 23 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
May 30 Now the Feast w/LS

Outdoor (weather permitting)

May 2 LBW Setting 2
May 9 Bread of Life w/LS
May 16 WOV Service of Word/Prayer

In-Person and Online

May 23 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
May 30 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



Graduations

- † Anna Flowers, daughter of Jeff and Bonnie Flowers, will graduate from Wake Forest University on May 16 with a B.S. in Mathematical Statistics. She is excited to attend Virginia Tech in the fall with a fellowship to pursue graduate studies in statistics.
- † Katrina Strand will graduate from Regis University on May 1st with an M.S. in Biomedical Sciences.
- † Susanna Burgett will graduate from vet tech school on May 7, 2021. She is a Licensed Veterinary Technician.
- † 2021 High School Graduates are Jonathan Byers, Alexis Erickson, Jacob Hualdt, CJ Kane, Rebecca Meyer, Amanda Peterson, Isaiah VandeGriend, and Ryan West.

Baptisms

- † Charlea Drew Kuske, daughter of Mike and Trista Kuske, was baptized on April 4th.
- † Hattie Rae King, daughter of Forrest and Michelle King, was baptized on April 25th.

Marriage

- † Shannon Burgett and Susanna Stellwagen were married on November 7th, 2020. An official ceremony will be November 6, 2021.

Birth

- † Josh and Kathryn (Holden) Gobble announce the birth of their son Jett.

Deaths

- † Shannon Burgett's brother David Burgett passed away on March 14th.
- † Susanna Burgett's grandmother Anna Stellwagen passed away on March 24th.

Outreach Spotlight: Disaster Relief Mission Trip 2021

by Andrew King

Tentative plans are underway for MLC to have a 2021 Disaster Relief Mission Trip 6/23 to 6/27. There have been various disasters in our Synod over the course of the last year (as well as further back). After much consideration and reading of tea-leaves we feel a trip this year is doable. We'll have to continue to assess the pandemic trends moving forward and abide by any decision of MLC's Covid Task Force as well.

We will continue to partner with Inspiritus for the work. The hope is to have a trip that's closer to Madison this year to provide greater flexibility for those involved. **Exact dates or locations will be finalized once we know who is interested and the team's skills. If you are interested in participating, please fill out this sign-up form:** <https://forms.gle/3R4CsTY9hz1wqE2g8> Filling out the form does not commit you to the trip, It is just a way to gather consistent information so that more informed decisions may be made in selecting a project.



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirec-
tor@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.

"Here in This Place"

Not in the dark of build-
ing confining,

Not in some heaven, light
years away

Here in this place the
new light is shining,

Now is the kingdom, and
now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us
forever,

Gather us in and make us
your own;

Gather us in, all peoples
together,

Fire of love in our flesh
and our bone.

-WOV 718 vs. 4

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Online, Outdoor and In-Person Worship: Schedule Changes!

May 2nd-16th: Online worship videos will be available Sundays starting at 6 a.m. (also on May 23). Outdoor worship will be at 10:30 a.m. (weather permitting).

Beginning May 23rd: Outdoor worship (weather permitting) will take place at 8:30 a.m. Indoor, in-person worship will take place at 11 a.m. and will be livestreamed. After the service, the video recording will be uploaded to the MLC website and YouTube to view at any time. Since they will be videoed in front of a live congregation, these videos will look a bit different from MLC's pre-recorded online worship videos!

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on May 9 and May 23. For more info, visit mlutheran.org or contact the Church Office.

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

Seraph Choir In-Person Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & Trivia

Wednesdays, May 12 and 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship

Saturday, May 15 at 11:00 a.m.

Instrumental Ensemble OUTDOOR Rehearsals (weather permitting)

Saturdays, May 8 and 22 at 11:00 a.m.

Notabella Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Ringers Welcome!

Are you interested in ringing hand bells? Notabella (MLC's hand bell choir) has resumed and is welcoming novice and experienced ringers. Contact Rhonda Gaede at gaeder@uah.edu or Lois Graff for more information.

Music Camp

Little did we know what was ahead when writing the new musical *The Forever Adventure* in early 2020. This was not supposed to be "forever" as in "let's wait 2 years!" However, in early January 2021, when preparations would begin in earnest for a summer Music Camp, COVID-19 vaccines had just started being administered, and it was unclear how safe it would be to have MLC's Music Camp in June.

From Deacon John E. Weit, ELCA's Executive for Worship on April 19, 2021:

"One metric suggests a threshold of 70% to 85% of the nation's population being fully vaccinated as a goal for safe singing in person in larger groups. This means robust singing will likely be one of the last things to fully resume. We continue to trust scientists and medical professionals as they help us to make informed decisions on important worship practices."

For the safety of children, leaders, and the community, the premiere of *The Forever Adventure* will need to wait until June 6-12, 2022.

Hymn of the Month: "Here in This Place"

Marty Haugen (b. 1950), the composer of *Holden Evening Prayer*, wrote the text and tune of this popular hymn. As some members and guests transition back to worshipping in MLC's sanctuary, the hymn reminds us that we are gathered together in whatever spaces God has given us. In homes, outdoors, in churches, we are called to worship our living Lord and be sent out to be "light to the whole human race."



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

Family Tie-Dye Day

On June 6 from 4-6 p.m. and to celebrate our children being promoted into their new groups, we would like to invite any families who wish to celebrate our kids growth and the start of summer vacation to our Tie-Dye Day. Find the form at <https://forms.gle/zu7H9RA7nJv5HeUH6> and register your household for our fun event that will include white "We are CHILDREN of the WORD!" t-shirts, tie dye supplies, gloves, and bags to take shirts home.

From 5-6 p.m. we will have a special visitor: The Kona Ice Truck! Kiddie cups for everyone!

As always, we are one church family and know that families come in many forms, so whatever your family looks like, from 1 person to 10+ people, we encourage you to register and attend this fun summer kickoff event with your church family! Contact Vicar Sara for more info, especially if you'd like to donate tie dye kits for the event.

Vacation Bible School

We will partner with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church again this year for an abbreviated, primarily-outdoor (weather permitting) Vacation Bible School.

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.

RETURN OF CHILDREN'S CHURCH!

That's right, Children's Church is back for our PreK-2nd graders! We will return on May 2 at outdoor worship. We'll use our outdoor courtyard space during Pastor's sermon time and return for the rest of worship. If you would like to help with Children's Church, please contact Vicar Sara at youth@mlutheran.org.

Gotta Go to MOEs... Movie Night!

The MOEs will meet on May 15th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for a movie night in the Parish Hall. Bring a comfortable chair or pillows to make your own comfortable spot and join us for a fun night at the "movies!"

Junior Youth Calendar

May 9: 5-6 p.m. - Parish Hall

May 23: 5-6 p.m. - Parish Hall

Senior Youth Calendar

May 2: 6-7 p.m. - Parish Hall

May 9: 6-7 p.m. - Parish Hall

May 16: 6-7 p.m. - Parish Hall

May 23: 6-7 p.m. - Parish Hall

NEWS FLASHES



Congregation Meeting with Elections Sunday, May 2 at Noon (via ZOOM)



Women of Messiah Lutheran Church are invited to attend a Ladies Luncheon on Saturday, May 1 at 11:00 a.m. The lunch will take place on MLC's new outdoor terrace located on the West side of the sanctuary. Please bring your own lunch. Fellowship will provide beverages. **Please RSVP** to Sonja Pedersen at **fellowship_rep@mlutheran.org** by **April 28th**.



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 mastasiak2019@gmail.com. Proceeds will be used for landscaping around the new electronic sign.



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-planned-for-may-23-2021/>

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. 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. The hope is to keep it relatively local for ease of travel. If you have questions, contact Andrew at **outreach_rep@mlutheran.org**



COFFEE & CAMP CHAIRS is an in-person and physically-distanced outdoor fellowship opportunity on Sundays 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. (May 2, 9, 16) Come and go as you please.

This will be *Weather Permitting* and replaces the Sunday morning Zoom Fellowship.

MONTH IN PICTURES

Left: Diane Davis completed her final 40-40-40 Walk with her niece in Chicago. *Below Left:* Chris Fossum, Jan Murphy, and Rhonda Gaede assemble LWR Layette Kits. *Below:* Ellie Nelson donated this white fringe tree to MLC's parking lot median in memory of husband Jim Nelson. Additional plants will be added soon to other areas of the parking lot.



Andrew King (L) and Chris Fossum (R) helped with church landscaping March 27.

Thank you to Mary Ann Stasiak for coordinating and helping MLC's exterior grounds look great. Thanks to the volunteers as well.

MAY BIRTHDAYS



The Class of 2021 Congratulations, Graduates!

Sending baskets are located in the hallway. Please fill them with items graduates may need in the next phase of their lives, such as towels, detergent, copy paper, etc. **Baskets will be blessed and delivered at the 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Service on May 16.** Please have any gifts to the baskets by that time. Thank you!

Jonathan Byers

Alexis Erickson

Jacob Huwaldt

CJ Kane

Rebecca Meyer

Amanda Peterson

Isaiah VandeGriend

Ryan West

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."

Beginning May 23, the plan is to start live-streaming 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.

Training dates will be announced in May. If you are interested, please contact Meredith Kilby at communications@mlutheran.org so she can schedule the training at a time convenient for you.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW! TRAINING PROVIDED.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Report to the Congregation from the March Council Meeting:

- The old sign in front of the church is gone, and the new electronic sign is in the process of being set up. We will have a new sign soon.
- The next congregation meeting will be on Sunday, May 2 at noon. This meeting will be held via Zoom and will include the elections for the coming year. Watch your mail and E-News for additional information regarding the congregation meeting.
- Synod Assembly will meet virtually on June 5. Pastor Scott, Andrew King, and Rebbecca Alferink will be the voting members representing our congregation.
- The Council voted to begin a socially-distanced, in-person service of worship to recommence inside the sanctuary starting on Pentecost, May 23 at 11:00 a.m. Masks will be required. This service will be streamed for those who do not wish to attend in person. Look for additional information in the newsletter and in E-News. Outdoor services will continue but will move to 8:30 a.m. starting on May 23.
- Groups outside of Messiah Lutheran may now request the use of our Parish Hall and Fellowship Hall. They are required to follow our COVID-19 guidelines and go through the regular process of requesting the use of the facility.

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 met to secure nominees for the elections at the Sunday, May 2, Congregation meeting. Accepting nomination are: Vice-President-Greg Kilby, Secretary-Stephanie Kokan, Treasurer-Rhonda Gaede, Outreach-Andrew King, Stewardship-Tim Pitchko, Fellowship-Debi Peterson, Finance-Lee Smith, Youth Representative-Merritt Zesinger, Faith Formation Superintendent-Dorothy Seitz and Nominating Committee-Dana Burton, Bobbey Huwaldt, Heather Neely, Mark Thompson, Laurie Campbell and Sonja Pedersen. 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

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.

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Looking Ahead:</p> <p><i>Please stay tuned to the MLC's website at mlutheran.org for updates as to the schedule ahead. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (256) 721-0041.</i></p>						<p>1 9—12 PLANT SALE 11:00 AM Ladies Luncheon in the Courtyard</p>
<p>2 Congregation Meeting 6 a.m. Online Worship: LBW Setting 2 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: LBW Setting 2 12 p.m. Congregation Meeting on Zoom 1 p.m. 1st and 2nd Year Confirmation (Online) 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting</p>	3	4	<p>5 4:30 p.m. Seraph Choir In-Person Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Notabella Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 11am MOEs Zoom meeting (subject to change) 5:30 p.m. Faith Formation Class</p>	7	<p>8 11 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal</p>
<p>9 Mother's Day 6 a.m. Online Worship: WOV Bread of Life 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: 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</p>	10	11	<p>12 4:30 p.m. Seraph Choir In-Person Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Notabella Rehearsal 7 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & Trivia</p>	<p>13 7 p.m. Kit Ministry 7 p.m. Church Council Meeting</p>	14	<p>15 11 a.m. Contemporary Team Zoom Fellowship</p>
<p>16 6 a.m. Online Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 12 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation (Online) 1 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation (Online) 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting</p>	17	18	<p>19 4:30 p.m. Seraph Choir In-Person Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Notabella Rehearsal</p>	20	21	<p>22 11 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Outdoor Rehearsal</p>
<p>23 8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Fellowship? 11:00 a.m. Indoor Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 5 p.m. Jr. Youth Meeting 6 p.m. Sr. Youth Meeting</p>	24	25	<p>26 4:30 p.m. Seraph Choir In-Person Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Notabella Rehearsal 7 p.m. Messiah Choir Zoom Fellowship & Trivia</p>	27	28	29
<p>30 8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Fellowship? 11:00 a.m. Indoor Worship & Livestream: Now the Feast w/LS</p>	<p>31 Memorial Day</p>					

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. Beginning May 23rd, 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

May 2021
Volume 34, Issue 5

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Contact Information Messiah Lutheran Church 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
Judy Sylvester.....Nursery Attendant

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

