

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

PASTOR'S PAGE

*We have **this treasure in clay jars**, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.*

2 Corinthians 4:7

*We know that **all things work together for good** for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.* Romans 8:28



Dear Friends of the Messiah,

OUR GOD TAKES BAD THINGS AND TURNS THEM into very good things. The grandest illustration of this truth is the death and resurrection of Jesus. God came to earth in the person of Jesus bestowing blessings upon everyone He touched, and upon everyone who heard Him speak God's Word. *NOTHING could be better!* In response, people like us murdered Jesus via a torturous crucifixion. *NOTHING could be worse!* Yet, God the Father responded by raising Jesus from death to new life for you and me. NOTHING--*absolutely nothing*--could be better!

I HAD A STROKE. A stroke is *nothing* compared to a **crucifixion**, *but it was bad*. This is what happened: On Monday, August 9, 6:40 a.m., I finished one of my 3X/week exercise classes at a fitness center. Then the two smallest fingers in my right hand tingled and went numb. Soon the whole hand was misbehaving. Next, my lips tingled and drooped on the right side. So I drove less than a minute to the Madison Hospital ER entrance. Through a mask with slurred speech, I told two security guards, "I am having stroke symptoms."

FAST FORWARD: FOUR BRAIN SCANS REVEALED a "minor stroke." *That was bad.* After one uncomfortable night in the hospital, I was discharged with orders: "Rest a lot and see a neurologist ASAP."

SINCE THAT STROKE, GOD HAS DONE MANY GOOD THINGS which far outweigh the bad things. Here are some good gifts I realize God has bestowed since the stroke:

+PRAYER IS POWERFUL. I already knew that, but the power of prayer has taken on new life for me. I have been enlivened by the prayers of the Communion of Saints.

+LYING IN A HOSPITAL BED IS HARDER than visiting someone lying in a hospital bed. That is a good reminder for a pastor who makes hospital calls.

+DO NOT TAKE LIFE FOR GRANTED. Freedom and health can vanish in a moment. Cherish every day, every moment, every blessing—especially the gifts of life bestowed by loved ones.

+SEIZE GOD'S WORD! Memorized Bible verses, the words of the Creeds, hymn lyrics and tunes are nourishing food for souls hungering for hope.

+GOD'S CREATION IS INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL. That beauty surrounds us and dazzles in the eyes of those enlivened by the Spirit of the risen Jesus.

+MY EARTHLY LIFE HAS AN EXPIRATION DATE. On the other hand: Eternal life with our Lord never expires. God's promises of life comfort us when we travel on paths unknown.

THANK YOU, MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH! Your kindness, patience, and prayers all bear strong witness to **this treasure in clay jars** our Lord Jesus, the living Messiah, keeps giving to us.

God's grace and peace is for you,

Pastor Scott Peterson

SEPTEMBER SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Sept 5 LBW Setting 1
Sept 12 LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Sept 19 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
Sept 26 Now the Feast w/LS

Sundays at 11 a.m.

LBW Setting 1
LBW Setting 2 w/LS
WOV Service of Word/Prayer
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
Instant Mashed

Potatoes

KIT MINISTRY

4 oz Bars of Soap

Members may also designate offerings to:

**Food Pantry
&
Kit Ministry**

OUTREACH

Life Passages

Birth

† Jennifer and Michael Montgomery announce the birth of their daughter Emily Clair Montgomery on August 17th. She weighed 7 lbs. and 14 oz. and measured 20.5 inches.

Marriage

† Alex Le and Lindsey Forshee were married on June 26th.

Death

† Jacquie Fry's cousin Greg Manthe passed away on August 9th.



Outreach Spotlight: God's work. Our hands.

By: Claire Strand



**Saturday,
September 11
9 a.m. - Noon**

CASA Garden Work Day

4725 Bob Wallace (just past the Huntsville Botanical Garden)

The **C**are **A**ssurance **S**ystem for the **A**ging and Homebound (CASA) of Madison County's mission is to enable the aging and home-bound to live at home independently, safely, and with dignity.

The CASA Garden supplies fruits and vegetables to the elderly and homebound at no charge.

During our work day, we will be weeding and harvesting produce.

Masks are required. Bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Volunteers should wear closed-toed shoes. CASA will provide all gardening supplies (tools, gloves, etc.).

A parent is required to stay with children under 13 years old.

For more information about CASA and the services they provide, please visit:

<https://casamadisoncty.org/>



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirec-
tor@mlutheran.org

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship

In-person worship is at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The 11:00 a.m. service is livestreamed to MLC's YouTube channel, where it will also be available for viewing afterward. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at the September 12 and September 26 services of worship. More information can be found on MLC's E-News, the website <https://mlutheran.org/>, or by calling the Church Office.

Messiah Musicians

On September 8th, some of Messiah's other musical groups will resume meeting either in person or on Zoom. Continue to watch E-News and bulletins for updates and information. If you wish to be on a group's email/communication distribution list, contact Lois Graff.

Cherub Choir (PreK-1st Grade)

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Seraph Choir (2nd-6th Grade)

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Notabella

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Messiah Choir

Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. (temporarily suspended - COVID)

Instrumental Ensemble

Saturday, Sept 18 9:30 a.m. (Outdoors)

Hymn of the Month

"As Saints of Old"

Presbyterian pastor Frank von Christerson (1900-1996) was born in Finland. He wrote several hymns in addition to "As Saints of Old." Leland B. Sateren (1913-2007) was a conductor, composer of more than 400 choral works, and a prominent figure at Augsburg College. According to *Inside Augsburg*, "[Sateren] is recognized for the excellence he brought to the Augsburg Choir and Augsburg's choral arts program. [...] Among Sateren's many notable accomplishments are premieres of works with the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra and a commissioned piece at the United Nations to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today

To serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,

Teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

-LBW 404 vs. 3



Sara Galyon

Director of MLC Youth

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

MOEs Serve!

MOEs and their grownups are invited to participate in *God's Work Our Hands* on Saturday, September 11th at the CASA Garden in Huntsville. Let Sara know if you plan to attend.

Junior and Senior Youth Updates

The Junior and Senior Youth will continue to meet each Sunday- Junior Youth from 5-6:30 p.m. and Senior Youth from 6-7:30 p.m. We will try to meet outside as much as the weather allows, but bring a mask for our indoor gathering time.

There will be no youth meetings on September 5th for the holiday weekend.

Youth Group Schedule

Every Sunday

Junior Youth—5-6:30 p.m.

Senior Youth—6-7:30 p.m.

Adult Volunteer Training

Please check out our online training for anyone who plans to work with kids in the coming year.

RALLY DAY FUN!

On August 8, MLC resumed Sunday School for all ages. Rally Day included a Blessing of the Learners, Teachers and Backpacks at each service. The theme of this year's Rally Day was "*God's Got Your Back!*" During Sunday School hour, children gathered in the Parish Hall for an opening with Sunday School Superintendent, Dorothy Seitz, then met their new teachers and classmates and finally went outside to enjoy fun and games.



Photos by Neda Ballard

NEWS FLASHES

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT MLC NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED

With the retirement of Miss Judy, Messiah Lutheran Church is seeking to fill the position of Nursery Attendant.

Individuals in the congregation who are interested in this paid position or who have questions about the position can visit the church website at www.mlutheran.org where the job description is listed.

Also, if anyone knows of an individual who would be interested in the position, please refer them to www.mlutheran.org.

MLC COMFORTERS

**Meet Tuesday mornings 9:00 a.m.—Noon
in the Fellowship Hall**

Messiah's Comforters group gathers every Tuesday morning to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief's Quilt Mission, prayer shawls, and other handcrafted items for outreach. You do not need to know how to quilt to be a Comforter.

Questions? Contact Jeanette Beamer

BRIDGE CLUB IS BACK

The group meets the first Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

POC is Mary Ann Stasiak

NEW SIGN DEBT IS SHRINKING!

In February an MLC household gave a \$14K no-interest loan to enable construction of the new electronic sign. That debt is now down to \$2,750. Thank you for all the generous gifts to enable this new outreach tool for those traveling down life's highway on 72W.

CONGRATULATIONS, SARA GALYON!

On Friday, August 20, MLC's Youth Director, Sara Galyon was approved for ordination in Word and Service as a Deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Sara has been on staff at MLC since March 2017 and recently was MLC's Director of Youth and Faith Formation. Vicar Sara's Internship was with MLC and with the Southeastern Synod's Latin X initiative. In July, Sara accepted a full-time position at the In Spiritus mission's Birmingham office. She continues to serve as MLC's Youth Director. We celebrate this exciting time for Sara and her family as they await her ordination and call as a Deacon in the ELCA. God has great plans for Sara and how fortunate MLC is to be blessed by her gifts for youth ministry, faith formation, cultural diversity, and outreach in the ELCA.

AN ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

"Let Us Love One Another," an Adult Class meets at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Laurie Campbell and Pastor Scott co-teach this class focusing on Jesus' model of loving one another. The class is also available via ZOOM. See MLC E-News for information.

FLOWER GUILD UPDATE

Starting Sunday, September 5th, the cost to sponsor Chancel Flowers will be increased to \$30.00 per household. This increase is due to the rising cost of flowers.

COME JOIN THE FLOWER GUILD!

Do you enjoy arranging flowers or have a desire to learn? The Flower Guild is looking for volunteers. Responsibilities include picking up and arranging the flowers before placing them in the chancel for Sunday Morning. After the late service, the flowers are either brought home by the sponsoring households, decoratively placed around the church, or taken to a nursing home.

MONTH IN PICTURES



"Tons of Gratitude Sunday" was August 22nd. Above: MLC's Sanctuary with Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits which were blessed and sent. (Photo by Laura Peterson) Below: Members of the Comforters sewing group after placing the quilts. (Photo by Bobby Huwaldt) Below Right: Bishop Kevin Strickland, Pastor Scott Peterson & Pastor Justin Eller. (L Peterson)



Right: After the late service, a catered picnic took place outside in MLC's parking lot. The meal was planned and served by MLC's staff and council members in gratitude for the patience, kindness, persistence, and generosity of MLC members through the last 18 months. (Photo by Laura Peterson)

Digital Viewers —

VIEW MORE PHOTOS FROM "TONS OF GRATITUDE SUNDAY" ONLINE [HERE](#)

TO VIEW MORE PICTURES FROM AUGUST, CLICK [HERE](#).



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

CONTENT REDACTED

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->

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 revised only at your direction.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Committee

President: Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.com

Vice President: Greg Kilby
vicepres@mlutheran.com

Treasurer: Rhonda Gaede
treasurer@mlutheran.com

Secretary: Stephanie Kokan
secretary@mlutheran.com

Council Representatives

Worship and Music: Rebecca Alferink
worship_music_rep@mlutheran.com

Outreach: Andrew King
outreach_rep@mlutheran.com

Education and Youth: Chris Berry
education_rep@mlutheran.com

Youth Representative: Merritt Zesinger
youth_rep@mlutheran.com

Stewardship: Tim Pitchko
stewardship_rep@mlutheran.com

Fellowship: Debi Peterson
fellowship_rep@mlutheran.com

Finance: Lee Smith
finance_rep@mlutheran.com

Property: William Rydbom
property_rep@mlutheran.com

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

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.

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Looking Ahead: October 3: <i>Planning for Mission Sunday</i> October 31: Reformation Sunday November 14: <i>Planning for Mission Congregation Meeting</i>			1 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation	2	3 7:00 p.m. Bridge Club	4
5 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 1 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 1	6 LABOR DAY <i>Church Office Closed</i>	7 9:00 a.m. Comforters	8 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal	9 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	10	11 9:00 a.m. God's Work Our Hands—CASA Garden Work Day
12 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 5:00 p.m. Junior Youth mtg. 6:00 p.m. Senior Youth mtg.	13	14 9:00 a.m. Comforters	15 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal	16	17	18 9:30 a.m. Inst. Ensemble Rehearsal
19 8:30 a.m. Worship: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: WOV Service of Word/Prayer 5:00 p.m. Junior Youth mtg. 6:00 p.m. Senior Youth mtg.	20	21 9:00 a.m. Comforters	22 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal	23	24	25
26 8:30 a.m. Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Now the Feast w/LS 5:00 p.m. Junior Youth mtg. 6:00 p.m. Senior Youth mtg.	27	28 9:00 a.m. Comforters	29 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal	30	31	

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

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Organization
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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 at 8:30 a.m. and 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

September 2021
Volume 34, Issue 9

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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
Sara Galyon..... Youth Director
Bobbey Huwaldt.....Office Manager
Meredith Kilby...Communications Director, Office Manager
Randall Fields..... MLC Choir Director

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

