



Pastor's Page

by Pastor Scott Peterson
scott@mlutheran.org

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

--John 1:5

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

DECEMBER'S SHORT DAYS and LONG NIGHTS ENVELOP US. In this darkness, thank God our season of Advent announces light and hope. The *Holden Evening Prayer* service poignantly addresses how our Lord brought God's light into the world's darkness. We will focus on God's Word in **four key components** of *Holden* during our Wednesday Advent services at Noon and 7:00 p.m. on December 1, 8, 15, and 22.

1. THE SERVICE OF LIGHT begins *Holden* with these words:

Jesus Christ you are the light of the world. The Light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us now for it is evening, and the day is almost over.

Let your light scatter the darkness, and shine within your people here.

Those words are taken from John 1 and Luke 24. John announces "...in him [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of all people." Luke tells of the risen Jesus walking incognito away from Jerusalem with two discouraged disciples who urge this interesting 'new' companion to stay with them..

2. PSALM 141 from KING DAVID has striking imagery. "Let my prayer rise up like incense before you." Prayers rise to God in heaven just like sweet-smelling smoke from incense at the Temple in Jerusalem. People with their hands stretched up in prayer is the picture here. David affirms his trust in the Lord with his hands high and eyes upward. His plea is clear: "Do not leave me defenseless."

3. The ANNUNCIATION to MARY from angel Gabriel is next (Luke 1:26-38). "The angel said to her 'Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.'" Not Joseph but God is the Father here. Young Mary is the model of faith responding to Gabriel "I am the servant of my God. I live to do your will," This is immediately followed by...

4. The MAGNIFICAT: MARY'S SONG of PRAISE (Luke 1:46-55). In response to Gabriel's announcement, Mary sings "My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you. You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through." Mary's words are patterned after Old Testament psalms of praise: "Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love. As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forever more." How fitting, because the Book of Psalms was Mary's hymnal.

LET'S THANK GOD FOR THE VIBRANT LIGHT OF ADVENT in these dark days. Cling to the promises our Lord bestows as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and as we anticipate Jesus coming again in glory as Lord of all.

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT: Live worship at MLC with masks optional at Noon and at 7:00 p.m. The 7:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed to the Parish Hall (masks required) and to watch at home. MLC Choir Director Randall Fields will bless us as our Cantor singing the leader's parts of *Holden*.

Advent hope and joy to you,

Pastor Scott Peterson

Advent Services

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22

12 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.*

*livestreamed

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

with the Lord's Supper

Friday, Dec. 24

3:00 p.m. (masks required)

5:00 p.m.*, & 7:00 p.m.

*livestreamed

DECEMBER SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Dec 5 WOV Bread of Life w/LS
Dec 12 WOV Service of Word/Prayer
Dec 19 LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Dec 26 Lessons and Carols

Sundays at 11 a.m. & Livestreamed

WOV Bread of Life w/LS
WOV Service of Word/Prayer
LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Lessons and Carols





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

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 ESV

Life Passages

- † Virgil Burrer's mother Claudia Burrer passed away on November 16th.
- † Kay Spence's mother Myrtle Kubichek passed away on November 7th.
- † Diane Davis's father Kevin Doherty passed away on November 1st.



Salvation Army—Angel Tree

Fifteen Angels are available for adoption in the Narthex. Be sure to sign them out on the form. **Please return your gifts to MLC by Monday, December 6.** The church office closes at noon.

Gifts should be unwrapped, although you may include some wrapping paper and tape so the parents can wrap them.

Place all the items inside the large plastic bag along with the tag.

Outreach Spotlight: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF—KIT MINISTRY

Earlier this year, Messiah Lutheran Church and its Kit Ministry shipped over 3 TONS (6,000 lbs.) of personal care, school, and baby care kits to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). *LWR kits reach people worldwide coping with poverty, conflict, hunger, and more.*

How did we do that during a pandemic?! God still performs miracles! That achievement took a lot of work and a lot of money. MLC Council answered the request to jumpstart the ministry for 2022 by designating all Advent worship service offerings to the LWR Kits. Financial giving is an important way to support our Kit Ministry, but there are many other ways:

- **Assemble kits Sunday, December 5th after late service in the Fellowship Hall.**
- Assemble kits weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.
- Check out (like a library book) a "take-home kit" from the table in the Narthex on December 12th. Many things such as bundling pencils can be done at home while watching TV or listening to music!
- Adopt a Dollar General store from the kit table on December 12th and shop it for their towels (this purchase can be reimbursed).
- Donate 4-ounce bars of soap. This size is very specific, but it can be any brand.
- Memo a financial gift to LWR Kits.
- Pray for kit workers and kit recipients.

Questions? See Rhonda Gaede, Andrew King, or Claire Strand.

OUTREACH needs

PANTRY ITEM

Canned Soups

KIT MINISTRY

Toothpaste

Members may also designate offerings to:

Food Pantry & Kit Ministry



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirector@
mlutheran.org

Music & Worship

...but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:18b-20

Worship

In-person worship is at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. The 11:00 service is livestreamed to the Parish Hall and MLC's YouTube channel, where it is also available for later viewing. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at the Dec. 5 and 19 services of worship. More information can be found on MLC's E-News, website <https://mlutheran.org/> or by calling the Church Office.

Advent Worship

On Wednesdays during Advent (December 1, 8, 15 and 22), worship using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy will be at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. The evening service of worship will be livestreamed.

Christmas Eve Worship

Worship at Messiah on Christmas Eve: Candlelight services of worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be at 3:00 p.m. (masks required), 5:00 p.m. (in-person and livestreamed), and 7:00 p.m.

Ring and Sing Concert

It's that time of year! Come to Messiah Lutheran on Sunday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m. for the **23rd annual Ring and Sing Concert**. Several music groups will be participating, along with the ever-popular audience participation ring-along! Donations will support the Madison Public Library.

Lessons & Carols

Enjoy hearing the Word of God and singing favorite Christmas Carols at the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services of worship on Sunday, December 26th!

Messiah

Musicians

Cherub Choir (PreK-1st Grade)

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Seraph Choir (2nd-6th Grade) on Zoom

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Notabella (7th Grade-Adult)

Sundays 6:30 p.m.
(Dec 5)

Messiah Choir (7th Grade-Adult)

Wednesdays 7:45 p.m.

Instrumental Ensemble (7th Grade-Adult)

Sundays, Dec 5 & 19
12:15 p.m.

Hymn of the Month

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

The text of this hymn is attributed to St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (340-397). Ambrose is considered the Father of Church Song because of his introduction of metrical hymnody, which greatly encouraged congregational singing. Ambrose is also well known for his fight against the Arian heresy, a doctrine denying the true divinity of Jesus. Composer Johann Walther (1496-1570) was a distinguished musician and music director and a contemporary of Martin Luther. Together they worked on Luther's German Mass. The tune *Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland* has been arranged for choirs, organ, and more, most notably by Johann Sebastian Bach.

*Savior of the nations, come; show the glory of the Son!
Ev'ry people, stand in awe; praise the perfect Son of God
Not of human seed or worth, but from God's own mystic breath,
Fruit in Mary's womb begun when God breathed the Word, his Son.*

-LBW 28 vs. 1,2



Deacon Sara Galyon
Youth Director
youth@mlutheran.org

Messiah Youth MLC's Youth Groups

MOEs (Messiah Older Elementary) - grades 3-5
Junior Youth - grades 6-8
Senior Youth - grades 9-12

Christian Education

Chris Berry
Council Representative for
Youth & Education
education_rep@mlutheran.com
Dorothy Seitz
Sunday School
Superintendent
sundayschool@mlutheran.org

Messiah Youth & Christian Education

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:7-9

December 5! Jr. and Sr. Youth Christmas Party. Bring a gift under \$10 for the gift exchange, see you from 5-7:30 in the Parish Hall.

Jr. and Sr. Youth Christmas Movie night, December 12, from 4-6:30 pm in the Parish hall. Bring a comfy chair and wear your Christmas jammies if you are so inclined!

Jr. and Sr. youth will not meet Dec. 19 or Dec. 26. Jr. and Sr. Youth will resume January 2, 2022.

MOEs Go will meet Sat., December 11, at 5:30 p.m. at MLC to go to the Galaxy of Lights. We will take a 15 passenger van and all go together or car pool depending on how many MOEs sign up! Register here <https://forms.gle/ACbNsXJpH1P9GfJ8A>

Sunday School News

For the month of December, Pre-K through 12th grade will meet in the Parish Hall during the Sunday School hour for a deep dive exploration of the Christmas story through science, crafts, and even the Peanuts gang!

Pre-K through 12th grade Sunday School will not meet December 26 or January 2.

God's Story—Your Story

This 22-session overview of the Bible class meets Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It is led by Pastor Scott and Lois Graff. You may also attend by Zoom! Weekly Bible readings are posted on Tuesday's E-News.

If you miss a class or want to catch up, visit the class session library at <https://mlutheran.org/gods-story-your-story-session-library/> for each session's readings, handout, and video recording.

MLC News Flashes...



23rd Annual Ring and Sing

December 12, 2021

6:30 PM

Public Invited! All will sing carols and the audience will accompany on chimes. Free will donations may be made to support the Madison Public Library.



Christmas
Poinsettias
\$10.00 each

Twenty-five poinsettias will beautify MLC's Sanctuary at Christmas. If you would like to purchase one and dedicate it to a loved one, please fill out a flower form in your Sunday Bulletin and return it in the offering basket with payment. Dedications will appear as an insert for the Dec. 24 Candlelight Services. The poinsettias will be available for pick up any time after the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Call the church office if you need assistance. 256-721-0041.

Flower Guild POCs: Linda Heideman, Judi McMillan

MLC GIVING MALL

Support MLC Missions and Ministries by giving a Christmas gift in honor of a family or friend! The Giving Mall form has been updated for 2021. Don't forget to take a gift card or ELCA Good Gifts Tag to give to the recipient!

It's a perfect gift to give that someone who says they have everything!

MLC COMFORTERS

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

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's quilt auction. *If you were one of the lucky top bidders, please stop by the church office to pay for and pick up your quilt.*

Interested in being a Comforter? Contact Jeanette Beamer



Blue Christmas - Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

On this day we will hold an online service in honor of lost loved ones and in support of those that are experiencing grief. We know that for many the struggle with darkness and grief is very real especially during this season. This service will include the expression of grief and pain as well as the promise of hope. After the service, the committee will be available for conversations.

Presented by the *Southeastern Synod of the ELCA*

Register at elca-ses.org

Reminders...

- The *On Eagles' Wings* Advent Devotional books are in your member mailboxes. They are also available online!
- Please pick up your 2022 Giving Envelope Booklets. They will be in the Narthex for the first two weeks of Dec.
- If your household still giving electronically through "My Own Giving," please make the change over to **VANCO** as soon as possible. Thanks!
- If you would like a printed copy of MLC's Member Directory, please call the church office. It is also on MLC's website, but your member password is required.
- The Flower Sign Up Board will be cleared in January.
- Help us keep our records straight by letting us know if you have a new address, phone number, or email.

Welcome New Members!



Beverly Berry

Beverly just recently moved to the area. She has already gotten involved with the Comforters blanket makers. Her hobbies are reading, crocheting, crafting, and volunteering.



Vicki Grewe

Vicki moved to Alabama 2 years ago from O'Fallon, Illinois. She is married and has 2 daughters. She is retired from the Air Force. Her hobbies are reading, knitting, baking, and cheering for the St. Louis Cardinals.



Craig, Holly, and Alecander Martin

The Martins are from Tennessee. They moved here in April of 2020 and have been married for 15 years. Holly enjoys singing with the choir.



Anderson and Janet Sullivan, Bailey, Jackie, Elise, and Olivia

The Sullivan family moved to Madison this summer from Hilton Head, SC due to a job change. Previously they also lived in Atlanta. They are Georgia Tech fans and alumni. Bailey attends the University of Maryland. Jackie, Elise, and Olivia are involved in sports.



Hunter and Blakeley Williams, Jude, Jasper, and Winnie

Hunter is from Nashville, and Blakeley is from Memphis. They have lived here for 15 years. They love to travel, hike, and garden.

December Birthdays

Month in Pictures—November

View more pictures on [MLC's Online Gallery](#)



Sunday, Nov. 7 was All Saints Day. Members could pause at MLC's Columbarium to remember loved ones during the Lord's Supper. The candle was from Gerard DeJong's funeral and sits atop a wooden candle stick carved by Jim Nelson. Photo: Ellie Nelson



Thurs., Nov. 11 - Peter Woods and Greg Kilby worked to finish laying sod in MLC's recently landscaped courtyard off between the Sanctuary and the Education wing.

QR Code for Giving to Messiah Lutheran Church!



The QR Code will take you to the Vanco website below where you can quickly give to a designated ministry and if you desire, set up regular giving at intervals you control.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YJTA/home>

If you have any questions or specific concerns about your member giving, please contact Marc Neely, MLC's Financial Secretary at fin_sec@mlutheran.org

Did we miss a birthday? It may be we don't have it in our records.

You can email office@mlutheran.org or call 256-721-0041 during office hours which are Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Thank you! Bobbey Huwaldt and Meredith Kilby.
MLC Office Managers

Congregation Meeting Recap

Thank you to those members of MLC who attended the Sunday, November 14 Congregation Meeting.

The hybrid meeting was held both in-person and via Zoom. 95 members attended and the meeting was called to order at 12:08 pm. *Both items on the agenda were passed by the congregation as follows:*

1. MLC's "2022 Plan for Mission" budget was approved by the Congregation as presented.
2. The Congregation authorized necessary replacement & upgrades to MLC's fire alarm system components. The funds for completing this project will not be paid out of the approved "2022 Plan for Mission." The repair will be paid from funds in MLC's Savings account.

The meeting agenda and "2022 Plan for Mission" budget is available on <https://mlutheran.org/documents/> A password is required to access. Call the church office if you need assistance.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

- Stephanie Kokan, MLC Council Secretary

Prayer Families

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



Searching for Bob Vila!

Volunteers Needed to Help with Property Repairs

- Are you a fan of *do-it-yourself* projects?
- Is your inner artist looking for an outlet to shine?
- Do you enjoy completing little maintenance jobs around your house?
- Is raking leaves or cleaning gutters something that you look forward to all year long?
- Do you enjoy the sense of accomplishment that comes after cleaning with a pressure washer?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we would like you to consider taking on small tasks to keep Messiah's properties in tip-top shape.

We have a variety of projects indoor and outdoor, small and large, waiting for someone who is looking for a challenge.

Please contact William Rydbom (property_rep@mlutheran.com) for more information!

December 2021

For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.
 ISAIAH 9:6

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Looking Ahead:  | | | 1 12:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir (Zoom rehearsal) 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service (also livestreamed) 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal | 2 | 3 7:00 p.m. Bridge Club | 4 |
| 5 8:30 a.m. Worship: WOV Bread of Life w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: WOV Bread of Life w/LS 12:00 p.m. Kit Ministry kit assembly 12:15 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Junior/Senior Youth Christmas party 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal | 6 | 7 9:00 a.m. Comforters | 8 12:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir (Zoom rehearsal) 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service (also livestreamed) 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal | 9 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting | 10 | 11 5:30 p.m. MOES Go! To Galaxy of Lights |
| 12 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 4:00 p.m. Junior/Senior Movie Watching 6:30 p.m. Ring and Sing concert | 13 | 14 9:00 a.m. Comforters | 15 12:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir (Zoom rehearsal) 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service (also livestreamed) 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 12:15 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal | 20 | 21 9:00 a.m. Comforters | 22 12:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service 4:30 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service (also livestreamed) 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed Candlelight Services at 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.* 7:00 p.m. *livestreamed | 25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>  |
| 26 8:30 a.m. Worship: Lessons and Carols 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Lessons and Carols | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve Church Office Closed | <i>Happy New Year!</i> |

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.** A nursery attendant is provided. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. 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, Ala-

MESSIAH

Messenger

December 2021
Volume 34, Issue 12

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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

