

Meet Pastor Bottin



My mother and I pose in front of the Edgar Martinez statue in Seattle.

I was asked the other day “Why do things have to change? Why can’t they stay the same?” My reply to those questions were simply: When do we stop the change? Should we stop it now? Should it have been stopped in 2018 before anyone ever heard the word “COVID-19?” What if change had stopped in 1818? We would be living without running water and electricity in our homes.

Change happens every day all around us. Sometimes it is so small we don’t even register it, while other times you can’t miss it. Both you and I are experiencing and will continue to experience the “can’t miss it” type of change. You are experiencing your first pastoral change at Messiah Lutheran. Me, I will be uprooting and moving across the country with my mother Inge.

My name is Pastor Diana Bottin (Bow-teen). I am an intentional trained interim pastor. I have been doing interim ministry in the Northwest Washington Synod since my ordination in 2009. I can’t imagine doing any other kind of ministry. The gift that God has given me to enter into a congregation that is grieving the loss of their beloved pastor, help them through rediscovering who they are now, and then seeing them welcome a new pastor with open arms is a true blessing.

In 2019 I became a widow. My late husband Chris was a deputy sheriff for 30 years before passing away from a Glioblastoma. Together he and I accomplished the goal of catching a game in all the major league baseball stadiums.

God has given us all many gifts. One of mine comes in the form of athleticism. Growing up, you could always find me on a field chasing a soccer ball. I have played since the first grade (my mom was my first coach). My playing paid for college and has taken me many places. I was forced into retirement in April of this year when I simply could not put off a full knee replacement any longer. Although my soccer playing days are over, I have been able to return to kickboxing. I enjoy mowing the lawn, quiet moments, watching football, and puzzles.

I am so looking forward to meeting each of you as we discover together who you were, who you are now, and who God is calling you to be in the future. Calling your next settled pastor is a process that does take time, but together with God’s help, we will walk through this process.

~ *Pastor Diana Bottin*

FEBRUARY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Feb 6	WOV Service of Word/Prayer
Feb 13	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
Feb 20	LBW Setting 2
Feb 27	Now the Feast w/LS

Sundays at 11 a.m. & Livestreamed

WOV Service of Word/Prayer
LBW Setting 2 w/LS
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

Diapers and Wipes

KIT MINISTRY

Infant Socks

Members may also designate offerings to:

Food Pantry & Kit Ministry

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

- † Marc and Debbie Neely announce the engagement of their daughter Heather Neely to Evan Root.
- † Tracy Armstrong's mother Mary Armstrong passed away January 13th.
- † Lois Graff's nephew and godson Ryan Ulbricht passed away
- † Kinsley Dorminey, Hunter and Ella Ingram, Sophie Lakso, Alec Alexander Martin, and Thomas Seitz received their First Communion.
- † David and Stephanie Gillespie announce the birth of their son, Austin James Gillespie in January
- † Greg and Meredith Kilby share the happy news of two grand-nieces being born on January 21, 2022:

Outreach Spotlight: Lunches for Learning A Message from Executive Director Phil Dodson

Dear Messiah Lutheran Church,

As we remain optimistic that L4L will be able to return to normal operations early in 2022, we wanted to share a note of gratitude with you directly from Honduras regarding what Messiah Lutheran Church helped us achieve in 2021 under challenging conditions. Letters from both Benito Montoya and Jesus Tadeo Flores are attached.

Many of the principals at the 46 schools in the Lunches for Learning program have told us how grateful their communities are that L4L remained with them in 2021. With so many non-profit organizations having essentially ceased operations for much of the past two years in Honduras, our Honduran friends are truly grateful that L4L sponsors and donors made it possible for us to pivot and find an alternative way to deliver nutrition to the kids - especially considering that access to the classroom was so limited.

Thank you for your continued commitment to God's precious children in rural southern Honduras!

Phil

L4L Executive Director

From Benito Montoya:

We write to you with all our love and gratitude thanking to be our sponsor Messiah Lutheran Church. We teachers, parents, and student wrote this letter to thank you for your support and collaboration to our school through the program that

(Continued on page 8)



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 Sunday mornings. The 11:00 a.m. service is livestreamed to the Parish Hall and on MLC's YouTube channel, where it is also available for later viewing. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at the February 13 and 27 services of worship. More information can be found on MLC's E-News, on mlutheran.org, or by calling the Church Office.

Lenten Services of Worship

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd. Services of worship will be on March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 and April 6, Maundy Thursday April 14, and Good Friday, April 15 at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. (livestreamed).

Music Camp June 2022

Mark your calendars for June 6 – 10 with presentations on June 12. The musical is The Forever Adventure! God conceived and carried out an elaborate, wondrous plan to fix what we broke. Follow the thread of God's magnum opus through history ... including Dirt Adam, Mother Sarah and Father Abraham, Jacob (a.k.a. Israel), Liberator Moses, Rock Star David, and Hot John the Baptist. The campers will see God had them in mind when launching The Forever Adventure!

The camp runs Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with Saturday morning dress rehearsal and Sunday presentations during worship. Week-day mornings are full of music, crafts, drama, recreation, worship, and a snack. After a sack lunch (from home), campers will enjoy afternoon activities like roller skating, bowling, movies, etc. Cost is \$95. Family plans: \$75 second child, \$55 third child. For more information, contact Lois Graff at musicdirector@mlutheran.org or visit musiccamp.mlutheran.org.

Messiah

Musicians

Cherub Choir (PreK-1st Grade)

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Seraph Choir (2nd-6th Grade)

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Notabella (7th Grade-Adult)

Sundays 6:30 p.m.

Messiah Choir (7th Grade-Adult)

Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

Instrumental Ensemble (7th Grade-Adult)

Sundays, Feb 13 & 27
12:15 p.m.

Hymn of the Month

Siyahamba

"We Are Marching in the Light of God" originated as a South African folk song and was rewritten as a hymn by Andries Van Tonder in 1952. The cyclical nature of the song lends itself to community and movement and is widely sung by school and church choirs, including children's choirs. Jesus is the "Light of the World," which makes this hymn especially significant during the season of light, Epiphany.



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

MOEs Serve!

MOEs will meet Saturday, February 5, to decorate valentines for our Messiah family! This will be our third time with this project and it is always a fun day. Feel free to bring your favorite art supplies. We will meet in the Parish Hall from 1:00 -2:30 p.m. ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

Junior Youth

The Junior Youth will meet from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 6, and 27.

Senior Youth

The Senior Youth will meet from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 6, and 27.

There will be no youth meetings on February 20 due to the three-day weekend in observance of Presidents' Day.

Sunday School

No Pre-K through Grade 12 Sunday School on February 20 due to the Presidents' Day holiday.

Please stay tuned to MLC E-News and your email inboxes for updates and information.

2nd Year Confirmation: Different Bat-Time, Different Bat-Channel!

Starting January 23, Second Year Confirmation classes will take place on Sundays from 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. in classroom 11/12.

Laurie Campbell will teach the classes.

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 Lois Graff. You may also attend by Zoom. Weekly Bible readings are posted on Tuesday's E-News as are any changes to the meeting schedule.

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.

The class will resume on February 13.

MLC News Flashes...



MLC Totes For Mission

Pick up your Epiphany gift from the Narthex. Use these totes for your personal shopping... or better yet, use them for gathering items we need for church ministries such as food pantry needs or kit ministry needs. **Happy Epiphany! Jesus Christ is the light of the world!**

KIT MINISTRY

Meets Thursday evenings in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Prefer to help at home? There are many ways to be a Kit Ministry "minion."

POC: Rhonda Gaede

CASA VALENTINE TREAT BAGS

Help share the love to area CASA clients! Bring your treat bags to MLC by 2/10.

Fill the bags with the following:

Postage Stamps, notecards, ink pen, small hand lotions, sugar free treats and, hand sanitizers.

Help us reach MLC goal of collecting 40 valentine treat bags! POC: Claire Strand

MLC COMFORTERS

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

Interested in being a Comforter? Contact Jeanette Beamer jcbeamer44@gmail.com

Mask Policy

Effective January 9, 2022 MLC Council requires non-cloth, surgical style masks to be worn at all times while inside Messiah Lutheran Church.

All are encouraged to bring and wear their own non-cloth surgical style masks (KN95, N95) if possible. Disposable surgical masks are available at each entrance.

Please continue to sit in the pews marked with ribbons and maintain physical distance from others wherever possible.

MLC's Covid-19 Task Force will continue to meet regularly and recommend changes of its Covid-19 safety precautions to MLC's Church Council.

40-40-40
Disaster Ministry Appeal

March 2 - April 16, 2022

#FortyForLent



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EPISCOPAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

To benefit
Southeastern
Synod
Disaster
Response

40 Days | 40 Miles | \$40

SAVE THE DATE

FOR MUSIC CAMP 2022

"The Forever Adventure"

June 6-10 with presentations on June 12

See page 3 for details.

**40-40-40 For Southeastern Synod Disaster Response
March 2 to April 16
For details : <https://www.elca-ses.org/fortyforlent>**

January 9, 2022 - Pastor's Last Sunday

Farewell Pastor Scott

January 9, 2022 was Pastor Scott Peterson's final Sunday at MLC.

Prior to worship, Pastor Scott was presented with a few additional gifts of appreciation for his and Bonnie Jane's 33 years of service to MLC.

MLC's Comforters group gave Pastor Scott a handmade quilt. MLC's Church Council presented Pastor Scott with a framed montage highlighting his 33 years as MLC's pastor: from its early days in the Union Hall, through three building expansions, to the recent completion of the electronic marquee. In the middle of the montage is the verse Philippians 1:3-9. This was the verse read as part of the official December 12 farewell program.

The last gift captured one of the most enduring and endearing sermon memories of Pastor Scott -- his annual fishing sermon when he revealed which of his Canadian fishing trip companions landed the largest Northern Pike (aka Walter). Virgil Burrer lined up Huntsville cartoonist Don Harper to capture Pastor Scott with his "Walter". In the cartoon, the fish thinks... "Not Fair! God is on his side" while Pastor Scott thinks, "Amen!"

As the services drew to a close, Dr. Rhonda Gaede, MLC's Treasurer, officiated Pastor Scott's Resignation of Call, formally concluding his thirty-three years as MLC's founding pastor.

Sent with Pastor Scott were many cards and written words of appreciation from MLC members which were collected over the past several weeks.

Pastor Scott now serves as Interim Pastor for Christ the Lord Lutheran Church in Lawrenceville, Georgia. He and Bonnie Jane recently bought a home in Chattanooga, TN near children, grandchildren and family members.

Pastor Scott's legacy as MLC's founding pastor is unchanged. Godspeed, best wishes and good health to Pastor Scott & Bonnie Jane in their next chapter.



February Birthdays

February Transition Update

MLC's Church Council met with our interim pastor, Pastor Diana Bottin (pronounced "Bow-teen") via Zoom on January 13 for introductions and discussions on the Interim Agreement. The Interim Agreement highlights some goals Pastor Diana will focus on as we progress through the call process over the next year and defines Pastor Diana's compensation as our Interim Pastor.

Pastor Diana starts on February 1 and will reside in MLC's parsonage for the term of her service. Pastor Diana's first Sunday leading worship is Sunday, February 6. Pastor Diana will be installed as MLC's interim pastor on February 13 by Pastor Johnathan Hemphill, Assistant to the Bishop of the Southeastern Synod.

A town hall meeting on the transition took place on Sunday, January 23, at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It was also offered via Zoom. One outcome of the meeting was the creation of a transition page on mlutheran.org to highlight and communicate activities and information about the pastoral transition and call process. It is located at

<https://mlutheran.org/pastoral-transition-resource-page/>

Here you'll find:

- Pastor Diana's introduction (also on page 1)
- a link to the Southeastern Synod Call Process Manual
- a link to Messiah's Constitution and Bylaws
- Ways that MLC members can stay informed and be engaged in the process

The call process is a time-tested method whereby we will find our next long-term pastor. We cannot rush this transition process and will keep praying that the Holy Spirit will guide us and Pastor Diana as we go through this transition process together.

Thank you for your steadfast patience and support in the year ahead!

Greg Kilby,
MLC Council Vice-President

Did we miss a birthday? Do we have a good phone number for you? It may be we don't have it in our records!

If you have moved, have new contact information or wish to update your families' church record, please let us know.

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*

(Continued from page 2)

benefit all children in learning process, we are so excited you choose us to provided lunches that is very helpful for the students especially during this hard pandemic time.

With your program you support and reach the most remote and poor schools in this area, we hope that working together we will be able to harvest fruits for the future of our children and convinced of your labor, our effort and the parents help we will go ahead our community.

I thank mercy God who touched your heart with his infinitive kindness will reward your obedience multiplying blessing for you and your families.

We pray for you and we are grateful.

We hope to see you soon, I say goodbye sending love and my best wishes.

From Jesus Tadeo Flores:

Messiah Lutheran Church, Madison, Alabama kind hug from the teachers, parents and students.

After this brief regard we want to show you a huge thank for share with our students that grain of sand you provided, it is a great benefit for our children, we are so proud that every year you were present and we hope to continue in that way.

God bless the life of each one of you, best wishes in your life, God bless you and if God allows it we hope to see you next year.

QR Code for Giving to MLC



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

Contact Marc Neely, MLC's Financial Secretary, at fin_sec@mlutheran.org if you have questions concerning your financial giving to MLC

Prayer Families

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

Content Redacted

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

February 2022

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." ~ [John 16:33](#)

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HIGHLIGHTS - Pastor Diana Bottin's 1st Sunday at MLC is Sunday, February 6.		1 9:00 a.m. Comforters	2 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal	3 10 a.m. Women of the Word 7 p.m. Kit Ministry	4 7:00 p.m. Bridge Club	5 1:00 p.m. ALL YOUTH & MOES Serve - Valentine Service Project - Parish Hall
6 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 12:15 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation class 5:00 p.m. Junior Youth 6:00 p.m. Senior Youth	7	8 9:00 a.m. Comforters	9 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal	10 7 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7 p.m. Kit Ministry	11	12
13 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 12:15 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation class 12:15 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal	14 Valentine's Day	15 9:00 a.m. Comforters	16 5:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation class 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir and Seraph Choir rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal	17 10 a.m. Women of the Word 7 p.m. Kit Ministry	18	19 10 a.m. Contemporary Team Rehearsal
20 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 2 9:45 a.m. No-PreK-Grade 12 Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Contemporary Service 12:15 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation class	21 Presidents' Day	22 9:00 a.m. Comforters	23 5:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation class 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir and Seraph Choir rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal	24 7 p.m. Kit Ministry	25	26
27 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 12:15 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation class 12:15 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Junior Youth 6:00 p.m. Senior Youth	28	MARCH 1	MARCH 2 ASH WEDNESDAY	LOOKING FORWARD: Lent March 2 - April 13 Passion Sunday - April 11 Resurrection of our Lord - April 17 Pentecost Sunday - June 5 Music Camp - June 6 - 12		

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.** 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 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

February 2022
Volume 35, Issue 2

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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. Diana Bottin..... Interim 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..... Messiah Choir Director
Karen Miskelly..... Nursery Attendant

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

