

Pastor's Page

Pastor Diana Bottin
pastordiana@mlutheran.org

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:6

THANK YOU LOIS GRAFF

God is continually challenging us and pushing our boundaries. This happened again with the announcement of Lois' retirement. I give thanks to God for her gifts and all she has done for and with Messiah. It is always a delight to work with someone with so much competency in their area of expertise. This allows me to focus on other areas. I have worked with many musicians, but Lois by far has been the most gifted. She will be missed. Again, this is a time for Messiah to re-evaluate how it distributes its "work load". You have had a history of relying on a few to do much. I pray you **search out new leaders before falling back on those who are already serving.**

Mid-Week Advent Services:

This year's Advent services will focus on "Amazing Births." Gifts will be gathered and sent to help parents in need through Christmas Charities Year-Round Operation Believe '22. We will look at Isaac, Samuel, John the Baptist, and Jesus. The youth will be participating in the December 18 & 23 worship service.

Looking Forward:

I am excited about the energy over the German Food Fest in October. Not about its success, but because it was something that has never been done before, yet people came together to try something new not knowing how it will turn out. You also opened up Messiah in a new way to strangers. You allowed a lot of people who had never been here to freely wander your walls and use your facilities. In this you opened up what God has given you to others. This is the gospel. My hope and prayer is that you build on this. It is what will help keep Messiah relevant - exploring new and different ways to reach the people of Madison/Huntsville with the Gospel - not that doing so will result in new members, but in doing so, God's love and grace is spread. I continue to pray that God continues to prepare both you, and your next pastor, for each other.

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Diana

Advent Services

Advent Mid-week Services of Worship

Advent services of worship using *Holden Evening Prayer* will be at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. on December 7, 14 & 21.

The Mid-week Service meditation theme is "Amazing Births."

We will look at the birth of Isaac, Samuel, John the Baptist, and Jesus.

Advent Offerings

Unless otherwise designated, Advent Offerings will be shared equally between MLC's Kit Ministry and Christmas Charities Year Round.

Gift Drive

There also will be a gift drive for infants & toddlers for Christmas Charities Year Round's Operation Believe '22

Pastoral Transition Resources:

www.mlutheran.org/pastoral-transition-resource-page

DECEMBER SERVICES OF WORSHIP

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

December 4	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
December 11	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
December 18	WOV Bread of Life w/LS
December 25	Lessons & Carols w/LS

*All livestreamed services are available on www.mlutheran.org/online-services/

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

Sundays at 11 a.m. & Livestreamed*

LBW Setting 1 w/LS
LBW Setting 2 w/LS
WOV Bread of Life w/LS
Lessons & Carols 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

PANTRY ITEM

Canned Soup

KIT MINISTRY

4 oz Bars of Soap
(Any brand but only 4 oz)

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

- +John Shriver's mother Irene Shriver passed away
- +Dagmar Miller's uncle Ralf Eulenberger passed away
- +Vicki Grewe's father Vernon Esch passed away

Outreach Spotlight: Christmas Charities Year Round

Christmas Charities Year Round (CCYR) provides assistance to basic living needs year-round at no cost. They provide clothing recycling, a medical equipment loan program, a mobile closet to schools, beds and dressers to the financially stressed, and Operation Believe, their Christmas program for children. CCYR was designated by Messiah's church council to receive half of our Advent giving. **We are also collecting infant and toddler necessities and toys. For more information visit <https://ccyr.org/>**

CCYR is located at Lehman Ferry Road Southwest Suite P&Q Huntsville, Alabama 35801



Salvation Army Angel Tree

Twenty Angels are available for adoption in the Narthex. Be sure to sign the Angels out on the form.

Please return your gifts to MLC by Monday, December 5th. 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, along with the tag, inside the provided bag. **Please place these under the Christmas tree in the Chancel.**



Messiah's Giving Mall Opens November 27 to December 24th

Honorariums to any MLC ministry make great gifts! An easy-to-use form and gift cards are provided. (Located in the Narthex)

ELCA Good Gifts make great gifts too!

Use the catalog and form to support ministries of the ELCA in 80 countries. Gift cards provided. (Located in the Narthex)



Lois Graff
Director of Music
Ministries

musicdirector@
mlutheran.org

Advent and Christmas at MLC

Advent Mid-Week Services of Worship

December 7th
December 14th
December 21st

Advent services of
worship using *Holden*
Evening Prayer at
12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services of Worship

December 24th

Candlelight Services with
the Sacrament of the
Lord's Supper at
5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Lessons and Carols

December 25th

Lessons & Carols at
8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

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

Ring and Sing Concert

The 24th annual Ring and Sing Concert is Sunday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m.! Come to enjoy listening, singing, and ringing. Several music groups will be participating, along with the ever-popular audience participation ring-along! Donations will support the Madison Public Library.

Music, Music, Music!

Come to sing, ring, and play instruments to the glory of God! Messiah's music

groups are preparing for Christmas and the Ring and Sing. Contact Lois Graff if you would like more information.



Music Groups and Locations:

Cherub Choir (PK-1 st)	Wed 6-6:30 p.m.	Room 7	Claire Strand, dir.
Seraph Choir (2 nd -6 th)	Wed 6-6:30 p.m.	Room 11-12	Lois Graff, dir.
Notabella (7 th -Adult)	Wed 6:30-7:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Rhonda Gaede, dir.
Messiah Choir (7 th -Adult)	Wed 7:30-8:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Randall Fields, dir.
Instrumental Ens. (7 th -Adult)	Sun 12:15 (bi-wk)	Sanctuary	Lois Graff, dir.

Hymn of the Month

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

Written by Lutheran pastor Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) and first published in 1599, *Wachet Auf* appears in German and English hymnals. Nicolai was an esteemed and influential theologian and preacher during times of Roman Catholic and Calvinist controversy. This hymn and "Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern" are two of his most well-known hymns. In 1731, Johann Sebastian Bach wrote a church cantata of this hymn, which is regarded as one of his most mature and popular sacred cantatas.

Zion hears the watchmen singing, and in her heart new joy is springing.

She wakes, she rises from her gloom, for her Lord comes down all-glorious,

The strong in grace, in truth victorious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come.

Oh, come, you Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna!

We go until the halls we view where you have bid us dine with you.

-LBW 31 vs 2

Messiah Youth**Junior & Senior Youth:**

Interim POC
Sarah Walker
youth@mlutheran.org

MOES:

Currently Vacant

MLC's Youth Groups

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

Christian Education**Bonnie Flowers**

Council Representative for Youth & Education
education_rep@mlutheran.com

Janet Sullivan/Chris Berry

Co - Sunday School Superintendents
sundayschool@mlutheran.org

YOUTH SCHEDULE

Both Groups meet at 5:00 p.m. *

12/4 Christmas party

12/11 Ring and Sing (6 p.m.)

12/16 Senior Youth Waffle House night (7 p.m.)

*As suits the occasion and when there is adequate adult supervision, each the groups will break into their small groups to connect and share with one another.



Messiah Youth & Christian Education

December Schedule for Junior and Senior Youth (5:00-6:30 p.m.):

- Dec. 4: Christmas party with Ms. Sarah's famous hot chocolate bar! Bring your favorite snack, cookies, or finger food to share. Drinks will be provided. Bring a \$10 gift for our gift exchange (there will be a few extra on hand, as well). The cling wrap gift ball will be included in the festivities!
- Dec. 11: Participate in and/or attend the annual Ring and Sing concert! (starts at 6:30 p.m.)
- Friday Dec. 16 (7:00-9:00 p.m.): Senior Youth post-finals evening at Waffle House! Come rest, relax and recover from your studies. Friends are always welcome. Come as you are able.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday, Dec. 4 and 11 - Kids will first meet in the sanctuary to rehearse music for the Christmas program before moving into Sunday School classrooms. Even if students won't be in town for the holiday program, they can enjoy learning songs.

Sunday, Dec. 18 - DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL - We will have a short Sunday School Lesson in our regular classrooms followed by a Happy Birthday Jesus Party. There are often gifts at birthday parties, so we are asking families to consider bringing a gift of new unwrapped toys to the party to support Christmas Charities Year Round.

Sunday, Dec. 18 - During BOTH Worship Services - Our children and youth will be participating in these services. This will include music, narration, and staging of our Advent lessons. We will do this again, on Wednesday, December 23 during the Advent Service. **Families that are able to participate are asked to talk to Bonnie Flowers or Janet Sullivan.**

Wednesday, Dec 23 - MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICE Again children and youth to participate in worship and sing songs learned in Sunday School. We are looking for volunteers to act out the Gospel. We would love to have Mary, Joseph, Angels, Donkey and Sheep for this service. **Please let us know if your child can attend this service.**

Sunday School Dates At A Glance:

Dec 18 - Shortened SS Class - Happy Birthday Jesus Party, Youth Worship Participation

Dec 19 - Jan 3 School Break

Dec 25 - No Sunday School for Pre-K to Grade 12

Jan 1 - No Sunday School for Pre-K to Grade 12

Jan 8 - Sunday School Classes resume

Jan 15 - Group Sunday School Class- Group Kit Ministry Activity (MLK weekend)

Teachers Sought!

If you've walked the halls during the Sunday School hour on Sunday mornings, you've likely seen and even heard our children's and youth classes. Each class is deepening their knowledge and having some fun along the way. To keep this ministry alive, we need your help. We are looking for adults (age 25 or older) to serve in this ministry.

WE NEED:

- Substitute teachers to fill in when a teacher is sick or traveling
 - Teachers for a new class for ages 2-3
 - Youth Group assistant
- If you are willing to help with this ministry, please contact Janet Sullivan or Bonnie Flowers.

CYMT Update:

As was discussed at the congregation meeting, CYMT does not have a candidate who would be ready to start in January. They will keep all our information on file and continue searching for a match for us in the spring when they have more candidates applying for next school year.

If they find a candidate who seems to match what we are looking for, we will have a chance to meet with the person and mutually decide whether to move forward with the placement, which would begin in July.

In addition to continuing through this process with CYMT, the council will continue to explore other possible options through the synod and other avenues.

MLC News Flashes...



24th Annual Ring and Sing

December 11, 2022

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.

KIT MINISTRY

will not meet in December and will resume on January 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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



Above: Susan Burrer shops all-year-round to fill gift boxes for Operation Shoebox. When it comes time to pack, she enlists the help of Marsha Wade in putting the boxes together. This year they put together fifty boxes. Below: Super Shoppers Diane Davis and Joy Le scored over \$300 dollars worth of infant items for MLC's Kit Ministry team.

[View More
November
Pictures
Online!](#)



Farewell and Thank You Reception for Lois Graff

Sunday, January 8, 9:45 a.m.

There are a number of ways we will thank and recognize Lois' dedicated service to MLC since its beginnings in 1989. Please stop by the Narthex to sign her farewell card through January 8. You may also contribute to her farewell gift. Scan the QR code at right to go to the Paypal donation site. We will collect donations through Monday, December 26. Additional celebration details to follow via e-news.



Christmas Poinsettias \$15.00 each

Twenty-five poinsettias will beautify MLC's Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. 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 your 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.

MLC COMFORTERS

meets Tuesday mornings 9:00 a.m.—Noon
Dec. 6 & 13. in the Fellowship Hall
(Resumes Jan. 3, 2023)

Thank you to everyone who supported the
November Quilt Auction.

Interested in being a Comforter? Contact
Jeanette Beamer

December Reminders

- Pick up your 2023 Giving Envelopes. They will be on tables in the Narthex through mid December.
- Order and pay for your poinsettias by Monday, December 12.
- Stop by the Church Office after December 5 to pick up your copy of the new MLC Photo Directory. Details on price to follow.
- Let Janet Sullivan know if your child can participate in the December 18 & December 21 Services of Worship. See page 4 for details.

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LOOKING AHEAD: January 8— Lois Graff Farewell				1	2 10:00 a.m. Bridge Club	3
4 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 12:15 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Junior/Senior Youth Christmas party 5:30 p.m. Notabella	5	6 9:00 a.m. Comforters	7 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 12:00 p.m. Advent Worship 5:00 p.m. 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation classes 5:30 Wed Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir	8 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	9	10
11 New Member Sunday 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 6:30 p.m. Ring and Sing concert	12 6:30 p.m. Women's Book & Social Club Meets @ Kilby home	13 9:00 a.m. Comforters	14 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 12:00 p.m. Advent Worship 5:00 p.m. 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation classes 5:30 Wed Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir	15	16 7 p.m. Senior Youth post-finals Waffle House night	17
18 8:30 a.m. Worship WOV Bread of Life w/LS (feat. Sunday School participation) 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School Christmas Party 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: WOV Bread of Life w/LS (feat. Sunday School participation) 12:15 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal	19	20	21 9:30 a.m. Lectionary Study 12:00 p.m. Advent Worship 5:00 p.m. 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation classes 5:30 Wed Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service w/ LS 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service w/ LS
25 BLESSED CHRISTMAS! 8:30 a.m. Worship: Lessons & Carols w/LS 9:45 a.m. Fellowship Coffee (No Sunday School) 11:00 a.m. Worship Lessons & Carols w/LS	26 Church Office on Minimal Staffing through Dec 30	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

LS = Lord's Supper

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 at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** 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: office@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

MESSIAH

Messenger

December 2022
Volume 35, 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. Diana Bottin.....Interim Pastor
Claire Strand.....Director of Outreach Ministries
Lois Graff.....Director of Music Ministries
Bobbey Huwaldt.....Office Manager
Meredith Kilby...Communications Director, Office Manager
Randall Fields..... Messiah Choir Director

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

