

We Have a Pastor!

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.
Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Members and friends of MLC,

Great news!!! On Sunday, January 29, 2023 Messiah Lutheran Church called its next pastor. We cannot publicize her name in the newsletter, yet — but she has agreed to serve this congregation and we are working on establishing a starting date! Once she has informed her congregation, she will let us know when we can make a public announcement.

A Few Words of Thanks —

Thank you, members of Messiah Lutheran Church, for your involvement and voice in this important process. You elected the Transition Team, completed surveys, attended round-tables, town halls, and many special congregation meetings to support the call process.

Thank you, Transition Team, for your dedicated work on drafting MLC's Ministry Site Profile and painting with words (and data) an accurate self-portrait of MLC and its inherent gifts for worship, ministry, and mission. In addition, you formed a constitution review committee the result of which is a new updated Constitution for MLC as we welcome our new pastor.

Thank you, Call Committee members, for finalizing the MSP and the careful and considered way you interviewed all the recommended candidates and quickly and unanimously identified the primary candidate to move forward for more interviews and discussions with the Congregation Council.

Thank you, Congregation Council and MLC staff for the incredible work you are doing to serve in your ministry areas while also tending to the matters of the call process, job vacancies, the constitution revision, and parsonage matter. While our opinions may sometimes differ, there is deep respect for each other and the important work each person does.

FINALLY — I also want to share some more great news!

In mid-December, I shared that MLC's income was approximately \$8000 less than expenses as of the November 30, 2022 treasurer's report. **Through the generosity of your gifts and an exceptionally strong month of giving in December, we finished the year with income well above expenses and giving that was approximately \$1000 over our 2023 approved budget.** Thank you for your generosity!

God's Peace and Blessings,
Greg Kilby, Congregation Council Vice President

February Highlights

February 5 - Town Hall on MLC Parsonage at 9:45 a.m. Scout Sunday for BSA Troop 404 & 350

February 12 - Special Congregation Meeting on MLC Parsonage at 9:45 a.m. Parish Hall

February 22 - Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday services of Worship at Noon & 7 p.m.

Pastoral Care at MLC until our Next Pastor Arrives

For urgent or emergency Pastoral Care, members should first contact Claire Strand at claire@mlutheran.org or the church office at (256) 721-0041 during business hours (M-F, 8:30 a.m. to Noon).

We are now distributing the Messiah Messenger digitally except for those MLC households who wish to receive a printed copy. If you wish to receive a printed copy. Call the church office. Printed copies will also be available at the welcome center.

FEBRUARY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

Date:	Sundays at 8:30 a.m.	Sundays at 11 a.m. & Livestreamed*
February 5	LBW Setting 2 w/LS	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
February 12	LBW Setting 2 w/LS	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
February 19	LBW Setting 2 w/LS	Contemporary Service w/LS
February 26	Setting TBA	Setting TBA

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





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

- + Kimberly Dennig's father passed away on January 2nd.
- + Ginny Whitaker passed away on January 16th.
- + Michelle Strand graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. in Medical Laboratory Sciences.

Outreach Spotlight: Two for the Price of One!

Weekend Food Program - Packers Wanted!

(not the Green Bay kind, though!)

The Weekend Food Program is looking for packers for March and April bag-packing.

MLC provides weekend food for students at Monrovia and Liberty Middle Schools and Morris P-8.

Your church and community groups are invited to hold a packing day.

Contact program coordinator Devonee Woods.



House of the Harvest Mac 'n Cheese Drive

Shelves at food pantries are typically understocked after the holidays. During the month of February, MLC is conducting a macaroni and cheese food drive for the House of the Harvest. **As always, volunteers are invited to show up at the House of the Harvest any Saturday morning at 7:15 a.m. to help with food distribution. Let Claire or Andrew know if you're planning to volunteer, and we can get a group together!**

House of the Harvest is a ministry based in Harvest, AL that distributes groceries and hot breakfasts to those in need. To learn more, visit www.houseoftheharvest.com or click the image above if viewing digitally.



OUTREACH

PANTRY ITEM

Macaroni and Cheese (for House of the Harvest)

KIT MINISTRY

Bath Towels
(52 x 27)

Members may also designate offerings to:

**Food Pantry
&
Kit Ministry**

Music & Worship Notes

Worship & Music Leadership

Laura Peterson

Council Representative
for Worship & Music
worship_music_rep
@mlutheran.com

Randall Fields

Interim Worship Music
Coordinator/
Choir Director
musicdirector@
mlutheran.org

Ric Birdsong

Interim Contemporary
Ensemble Coordinator

.... 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

Lenten Services of Worship

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. There will be a service of worship with the Lord's Supper and imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them at 12:00 and 7:00 p.m. Pastor Korzun will preside at these services.

Lent continues with Wednesday midweek services on March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Lenten services of worship will be held at 12:00 noon (Service of the Word) and 7:00 p.m. (Holden Evening Service). Lay members will lead and provide brief meditations / devotionals for the Mid-week Lenten services. If you are interested in assisting with these mid-week services please let Laura Peterson know so she can plug you in!

Holy week begins Sunday, April 2 with Passion of our Lord / Palm Sunday and continues with Maundy Thursday Service on April 6, Good Friday Tenbrae Service on April 7. Resurrection of our Lord Sunday is April 9.

Worship & Music Updates

Pastor James Korzun will be preaching and presiding at Sunday morning services through February. The Southeastern Synod office will continue to assist us in finding pulpit supply until our new pastor's starting date.

Until a Director of Music is hired, Randall Fields is coordinating the selection of hymns for each service in coordination with Laura Peterson and the church office. In an effort to reduce the practice time required for guest worship accompanists, fewer orders of worship will be used in this interim period. Ric Birdsong will coordinate the selection of music for Contemporary Service

We are actively advertising the Director of Music position. Information about the position can be found on Messiah's website at mlutheran.org. Please share with anyone you know who may be qualified.

Want to help? Please use the SignUp genius form lector, cantor, usher, greet, acolyte etc.

When you take action to volunteer, you free up the recruitment time needed to do that for volunteer coordinator. Please help us fill our worship assistant roles it makes such a difference when you do. Thank you.

Music, Music, Music!

Come to sing, ring, and play instruments to the glory of God. Below are groups and locations.

Cherub Choir (PK-1 st)	Wed 6-6:30 p.m.	Room 7	Bonnie Flowers, director
Seraph Choir (2 nd -6 th)	Wed 6-6:30 p.m.	Room 11-12	Laura Simeone, director
Notabella (7 th -Adult)	Wed 6:30-7:30 p.m.*	Fellowship Hall	Rhonda Gaede, director
Messiah Choir (7 th -Adult)	Wed 7:30-8:30 p.m.*	Sanctuary	Randall Fields, director
Instrumental Ens. (7 th -Adult)	Sun 12:15pm (bi-wk)	Sanctuary	Larry Frakes, director

**During Lent, starting February 22 and running through April 2, Messiah Choir will rehearse Wednesday evenings from 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Notabella hand bell choir will rehearse Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m.*

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

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.

Messiah Youth & Faith Formation

Update on Youth Position

The council is continuing to keep all options open in our search to fill our youth position. Since our senior pastor position may be filled soon, we plan to include the new pastor in the discussion of which option to follow as well as the interview/decision process.

CYMT: The next window for matching student applicants to congregations will be in late March to early April. If they find an applicant who seems to be a good match for us, we will be able to meet them via zoom and invite them for a visit to decide if we want to go forward with that option. If accepted, they would start in mid-July.

Posting the position: A part-time position of Coordinator of Faith Formation has been posted on our website, the Southeastern Synod website, and the national ELCA Youth Network site.

Calling a Rostered Minister: Once a senior pastor has been installed, calling a rostered minister to fill the youth position could then be another possibility. In that case, we would re-evaluate how things are progressing with the other options to decide which path seems to be the best for our congregation. ~ Bonnie Flowers

We Love Our Messiah Youth! MLC Youth Activities**February 2023 Youth Information**

- ♥ Feb. 5: Senior youth will be planning and preparing for "Souper Bowl" Sunday (donations to benefit House of the Harvest). Junior youth will make valentines for seniors/homebound individuals.
- ♥ Feb. 12: Youth will collect Souper Bowl Sunday donations after each service. There will be a short youth meeting after the second service but no evening meeting.
- ♥ Feb. 19: Regular meeting; Activity TBD
- ♥ Feb. 26: Fourth Sunday Dinner

Looking Ahead to March

- ♥ March 5: Regular meeting; Activity TBD
- ♥ March 12: No meeting (*start of spring break*)
- ♥ March 19: Regular meeting; Activity TBD

More opportunities for youth will be announced via MLC E-News.

Sunday School**Sunday School for Grades Pre-K to Gr. 12 will meet on all Sundays in February.**

This includes Feb 19 which precedes President's Day.

Looking ahead:

Sunday School will be modified on Sunday, March 12 as March 13-17 is Spring Break for City of Madison Schools.

Sunday School will resume on March 19



MLC News Flashes...

Town Hall Meetings to Discuss the Disposition of the Parsonage Feb. 5 at 9:45 a.m. Parish Hall & via Zoom (These meetings will also be recorded)

Congregation Council recommends that the Congregation sell MLC's Parsonage. A set of charts that led the Council to this recommendation is posted on MLC's Protected Documents webpage, below.*

Please review these slides carefully prior to the town hall meetings & the Special Congregation Meeting Feb. 12. Please do not share these slides outside of MLC.

<https://mlutheran.org/documents/>

Special Congregation Meeting planned for February 12 at 9:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall. If you have questions about the Council recommendation, please contact me or a member of Council to discuss. Thank you for your careful consideration. If you cannot view the slides, paper copies are available at the church office through January.

Women's Book Club Spring Schedule

Here are the dates and books for this spring's book club meetings! (Host still needed for March— contact Janell Zesinger if you can help!) Meetings typically start at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 27 – Wholehearted Faith – Host Dana Burton
 Mar. 27 – *The Book of Longings* – HOST TBD
 Apr. 24 – *Channel of Peace* – Host Bonnie Flowers
 May 15-ish – Social Only
 POC: Janell Zesinger

KIT MINISTRY

Thursdays 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 :

MLC COMFORTERS

Tuesday mornings 9:00 a.m.—Noon

Interested in being a Comforter? Contact Jeanette Beamer



Free Tax Preparation Service at MLC

MLC is again hosting a FREE Federal and State tax preparation and filing service conducted by the local AARP TaxAide Service. AARP membership is not required to use this service, nor are there any age or income limits.

The tax preparation service will begin in our Parish Hall on February 2 and will continue every Monday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. until April 15.

For a tax appointment, please call 256-384-4627. Calls for appointments are only accepted on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. (Please note this is not the MLC Church Office phone number.)

POC: Lee Smith

HAP FOOD DRIVE FOR FEBRUARY

Please help the Huntsville Assistance Program two locations fill their pantry shelves which are particularly sparse this time of year.

Requested Items:

Cereal, shelf-table milk, spaghetti sauce (cans/or pastic jars), canned potatoes, macarone & cheese, peanut butter & jelly, vienna sausages, canned chicken and tuna, dried rice & beans (1 lb bags) Chef Boyardee (all kinds) Toilet paper.

Please pick up a shopping list at the Mission Control Center located in the church Narthex.

POC Claire Strand



We would LOVE it if you signed up to help on Sunday morning using our SignUPGenius page! Digital readers can click the icon above and go directly to our page. *Each MLC sign up is on its own tab. If you have questions or need assistance just call the Church office at 256.721.0041.*

Month in Pictures

[VIEW THE ONLINE GALLERY!](#)



(Above) MLC's Owen's House dinner servers for January 2 included some new recruits (Meredith & Greg Kilby, far left & center). Regulars Anita deJong (center left) and Beverly Berry (far right) showed them the ropes. MLC volunteers help serve dinner to homeless women and children at Downtown Rescue Mission's Huntsville campus on the first and third Mondays of each month. POC is Bill Emerson or Claire Strand.



A reception honoring Lois Graff and her thirty-three plus years as MLC's Director of Music was Sunday, January 8.



Special recognition and music in honor of her time at MLC was part of each service, including a Council Proclamation establishing Lois as Director of Music Emeritus of MLC.



Messiah Choir, directed by Randall Fields sang "The Wings of an Eagle" written by Lois inspired by her work with On Eagle's Wings Ecumenical Ministry.

Click the bottom two pictures or their blue arrows which link to these moments of the Jan 8, 2023 11 a.m. service of worship which was livestreamed.



(Left) Weekend Food Program Bags were packed after worship on January 15.

(Below) Messiah Jr. and Senior Youth Gathered in the Parish Hall Kitchen to prepare for their monthly Fourth Sunday family style dinner on January 22. On the menu—Breakfast!



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*.**



Two "Meet and Greet" events were held on January 25 so that members could meet the candidate who was recommended to the Congregation for the Call. (Above) "Union Hall Ladies" Diane Davis, Shirley Forbes, and Dian3 Cline, catch up at the Noon Soup & Sandwich luncheon. (Photo by Diane Davis)(Below) MLC youngsters are all smiles at the Dinner Meet and Greet that featured Lawler's BBQ with loads of yummy sides and desserts.



(Below) A welcome basket was put together by staff and featured custom cookies by Rebecca Engert, a MLC Cookbook, mugs, and other southern specialties.



February Birthdays

MLC Children and Youth are active in learning, growing and serving as young disciples! MLC is blessed with wonderful families, children and youth. Thank you to all the saints among us who work with and encourage our children and youth to explore their faith and participate in the life of the church.



Sunday School



Children's Sermons



Watching over the Stream Desk.



Kit Ministry Packing (January 15)

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Looking Ahead: March 1 through March 29 Midweek Lenten Services continue at Noon & 7 PM* April 2 - Holy Week Begins April 9 - Resurrection of our Lord / Easter Sunday April 22 - MLC Rummage Sale (Pending Council Approval) April 28 - Valley Consort Vocal Concert TBA: Welcome Celebration for our New Pastor</p> <p>*livestreamed service</p>			<p>1 5:00 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub and Seraph Choir 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>2 8:30 a.m. AARP Tax Session 9:00 AM Bridge Group 7:00 p.m. Kit Ministry</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 7:15 a.m. House of the Harvest Food Distribution (see pg. 2)</p>
<p>5 TOWN HALL MTG SCOUT SUNDAY FOR TROOP 404 & 350 8:00 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School All Ages 9:45 a.m. Town Hall (Parsonage) 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 4:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. Sr. Youth (Soup-Er Bowl planning) Jr. Youth (make valentines for seniors & homebound)</p>	<p>6 8:30 a.m. AARP Tax Session 4:45 Owen's House Kitchen Duty</p>	<p>7 9:00 a.m. Comforters</p>	<p>8 5:00 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub and Seraph Choir 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>9 8:30 a.m. AARP Tax Session 7:00 p.m. Kit Ministry 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 7:15 a.m. House of the Harvest Food Distribution (see pg. 2)</p>
<p>12 SOUP-ER BOWL DONATION SUNDAY & CONGREGATION MEETING 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 9:45 a.m. Congregation Meeting re: Parsonage Decision (Parish Hall) 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 4:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation (No Youth Meetings this evening)</p>	<p>13 8:30 a.m. AARP Tax Session</p>	<p>14 9:00 a.m. Comforters</p>	<p>15 4:00 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub and Seraph Choir 6:30 p.m. Notabella rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>16 8:30 a.m. AARP Tax Session 7:00 p.m. Kit Ministry</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 7:15 a.m. House of the Harvest Food Distribution (see pg. 2)</p>
<p>19 8:00 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Contemporary Service w/LS 4:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. Jr. & Sr. Youth Meet</p>	<p>20 President's Day Office Closed 4:45 Owen's House Kitchen Duty</p>	<p>21 9:00 a.m. Comforters</p>	<p>22 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00 p.m. Ash Wed. Service w/LS 4:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub and Seraph Choir 12:00 p.m. Ash Wed. Service w/LS 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>23 8:30 a.m. AARP Tax Session 7:00 p.m. Kit Ministry</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 7:15 a.m. House of the Harvest Food Distribution (see pg. 2)</p>
<p>26 8:30 a.m. Worship: TBA 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:00 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: TBA 4:00 p.m. 1st Year Confirmation 5:00 p.m. Jr. & Sr. Youth Meet 6:30 p.m. Notabella Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 8:30 a.m. AARP Tax Session</p>	<p>28 9:00 a.m. Comforters</p>	<p>M Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</p> <p>A 5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>R 12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>C 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>H 26 27 28 29 30 31</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 at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. Staffed nursery and hearing assist devices available. 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

February 2023
Volume 36, Issue 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 We Have a Pastor | Services of Worship
- 2 Life Passages | WFP - House of the Harvest
- 3 Music Notes | Music & Worship Updates
- 4 Messiah Youth & Education
- 5 News Flashes, SignUp Genius Link
- 6 Month in Pictures with more online!
- 7 Prayer Families, Meet & Greet Pictures
- 8 February Birthdays, More Pictures
- 9 Calendar
- 10 Contact Information

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

Claire Strand.....Director of Outreach Ministries
Bobbey Huwaldt.....Office Manager
Meredith Kilby...Communications Director, Office Manager
Randall Fields..... Messiah Choir Director
Katrina Strand..... Nursery Attendant

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

