

Pastor's Page

"Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us."

—2 Timothy 1:14



Pastor Kris Schroeder
pastor.kris@mlutheran.org

Perseverance, Change, and Becoming Who God Desires

Throughout scripture, we hear story after story of God's people persevering through difficulty and hardship. Lately, our Sunday readings have focused on the constant tug of war between God and Satan, righteous and evil, good and bad.

Fortunately for us, as God's children, God always prevails--even today! But that does not mean that our lives will be filled with only happiness and freedom. Because we live in this world, we daily meet difficulty and hardship. Whether faced with health issues, family struggles, employment conflicts, economic strain, heartache, or any number of other trying situations... we will face them, guaranteed.

It is our response to tough situations that defines them. How we choose to adapt, change, respond, and compromise reveals much about us and what or who we are made of. Is our response one that is rigid, or does it allow room for growth and development even in the midst of difficulty? Most of us like things to stay the same. We don't want to adapt or compromise. Ultimately, we don't want to CHANGE.

The flip side is this: The goodness of God is forever. The goodness of God is what is stable. BUT... God is also always creating. This means we love a God who adapts. God is creating newness in each of us, everyday. So... by God's design, we are always changing. The question is: are we changing with God?

As God's beloved children, we know that God walks this life's journey with us. We are NOT alone. Therefore, if God's goodness is steady, if God's goodness prevails, if God is always creating newness (even inside of you and me)... then it's time for us to take God's hand, to allow God to teach us how to persevere so that we might grow into the people God desires. What does your response to the situations around you say about you? What do your words and actions tell others is important to you? The choice is ours. Life is about becoming—becoming who God desires!

~ Pastor Kris

August Highlights

RALLY DAY PICNIC & SUNDAY SCHOOL

for all ages resume

August 6

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NEW MEMBER SUNDAY ALZ BAKE SALE

August 13

--

QUILT & KIT BLESSING, KIT MINISTRY PACKING

August 20

--

ALS SPAGHETTI DINNER

Wednesday, August 23

--

LWR TRUCK LOADING

August 27

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS & WED NIGHT DINNERS

Wednesday, August 30

AUGUST SERVICES OF WORSHIP

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship | WOV = With One Voice
LS = Lord's Supper

All services will include the Lord's Supper unless otherwise noted.

Date	8:30 a.m.	11 a.m. & Livestreamed
August 6	Bread of Life w/LS	Bread of Life w/LS
August 13	LBW Setting 1 w/LS	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
August 20	Chicago Folk w/LS	Band-Led Service w/LS
August 27	LBW Setting 2 w/LS	LBW Setting 2 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

Dana Burton
Council Representative for Outreach

outreach@mlutheran.org

DONATIONS

PANTRY ITEM

Vienna Sausages

KIT MINISTRY

Blue or Black Pens
(No Gel Pens)

Members may also designate offerings to:

**Food Pantry
or
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

†Jay and Gretchen Perry announce the birth of their granddaughter

Mission Spotlight: Wednesday Night Dinners

Church Dinners bring convenience and fellowship for those involved in Messiah's Wednesday activities and everyone who attends.

Wednesday Night Dinners are an important ministry at MLC. It helps busy families enjoy family friendly meals with their youngsters before Cherub & Seraph Choir rehearsals, gives youth a chance to eat with their family or peers following confirmation class, and allows everyone an opportunity to gather in Christian fellowship and service.

Wednesday meals will start August 23 with a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser to support ALS Patient Care. Free will donations are greatly appreciated at the door. POC: Claire Strand

Wednesday Night Dinners will begin August 30 and run weekly from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (except for Fall Break & Thanksgiving)

- ♥ Cost per person is \$5.00 for youth & adults, \$3.00 for children 12 & under. Family rate is \$20.00 Cash or check only, please.
- ♥ There will be PBJ and Easy Mac available for parents to prepare for their pickier, younger eaters.
- ♥ Please arrive by 6:15 p.m. if possible. Diners are reminded to clear plates and serving ware around 6:30 p.m. so volunteers can get straight to cleaning up.

Dorothy Seitz is coordinating Wednesday Night Dinners and would love someone dedicated to helping her in the tasks involved.

This year MLC ministry groups are encouraged to sign up to cook a Wednesday Night Dinner as a team. All WND grocery expenses are reimbursable. Just remember to save receipts and fill out a Check Request Form for Kari Pitchko to sign. If you need more detailed information on what's involved, please reach out to **Dorothy.Seitz** or Kari at fellowship_rep@mlutheran.org

The **[Wednesday Night Dinner SignUp Site](#)** is the go to place for volunteers wanting to help with odds and ends of dinner service including bringing ice, milk or assisting with set up or clean up.

Music & Worship Notes

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly! —Psalm 149:1

Worship & Music Leadership

Randall Fields

Music Director/
Choir Director
musicdirector@
mlutheran.org

Ric Birdsong

Contemporary
Ensemble Coordinator

Laura Peterson

Council Representative
for Worship & Music
worship_music_rep
@mlutheran.org

Services of Worship are Also Opportunities to Serve

Please be proactive in these summer months about signing up using the **SignUp Genius link (see pg. 5)** or by **contacting the office**. It helps so much when all of these roles are filled well in advance! Thank you.

A big thank you to Joan Ellsworth, who has agreed to coordinate the Lectors and Communion Assistants. Her email is joanellsworth2@gmail.com

We are still in need of a long-term coordinator for Greeters.

The Worship and Music Committee will meet August 9th at 6 p.m. Please contact Laura Peterson if you have praises or concerns you would like to share.

Music, Music, Music!

Come to sing, ring, and play instruments to the glory of God!

Messiah's Choir is open to all in grades 7 through adult and meets Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.



Instrumental Ensemble is an opportunity for musicians 7th grade to adult to use their talents for the glory of God while also honing their skills. All instruments welcome. **Schedule Note: The Instrumental Ensemble will resume rehearsals on August 13** and continue rehearsals on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The ensemble is especially in need of brass instrumentalists. Larry Frakes is serving as the interim director. If you know of someone interested in being a long-term director for this group, please contact Larry Frakes or Randall Fields.

Other groups — including Notabella, the Cherub Choir, and the Seraph Choir, are on summer break through August. These groups will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals on September 6.

Accompanist Position Still Open

We are still in search of an accompanist. The search team is revising the job description and the advertisement. These will be posted on MLC's website at mlutheran.org when finalized.

Dinner Theater - Save the Date for Saturday, Sep. 30!

This year's Dinner theater, Sanctuary, will take place the evening of Saturday, September 30, at 6:00 p.m. In the show, an unexpected flash flood forces an even more unexpected group of people to take shelter at the highest place in town, Mountaintop Lutheran Church. The show will feature music from the sixties and seventies and a very creative meal planned by Greg Kilby. **Proceeds will help build a new kitchen for a school that has just joined the Lunches for Learning program in Honduras.**

Actors, singers, set builders, costumers, cooks, and willing hands are still needed. If you are interested in being part of this year's show, please contact Randall Fields. If you are interested in helping with the meal, please contact Greg Kilby.

Messiah Youth**Junior & Senior Youth:**

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.org

Janet Sullivan*Sunday School**Superintendent*

sundayschool@mlutheran.org

Messiah Youth & Faith Formation

Sunday School

- August 6: Join us for Rally Day and Sunday School Teacher installation with this year's theme: Follow Jesus!! Meet your teachers! Play games! Enjoy fun snacks!

- August 13, 20, 27 - Regular Classes
- September 3 - Labor Day, Mission or Craft Sunday, No Regular Class
- September 10, 17, 24 - Regular Classes
- October 2-6 - Fall Break

Adults: The adult class with Dottie Hanson will continue to study the book of Luke between the services each Sunday.

Confirmation

Confirmation will be held on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. beginning on August 23. Instead of having separate classes for first and second year Confirmation, this year's class will be a combined class of first and second year students led by Laurie Campbell with other adult assistance. **The focus for this year will be on Lutheran history and catechism. Next year, the**

focus will be on the Old and New Testaments. These two topics will alternate year-to-year as students complete their two-year course of study. Students may begin Confirmation classes starting in 8th grade. Please contact Pastor Kris at pastor.kris@mlutheran.org if you have questions.

Vacation Bible School 2023 - It's "BEE"n REALLY FUN !

Thank you to everyone who helped make our VBS sessions a success this year!! The children really enjoyed meeting, feeding, and holding real-life animals like the ones that can be donated to people in need through the ELCA Good Gifts program. In the various sessions, they fed goats, held baby chicks, learned about beekeeping, and got to pet a cute pig and cow! Your generous donations during this time helped raise funds which will be used to donate some of these animals through the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog. See page 6 for a few photos and check out the online gallery for lots more!

August Youth Group Meetings

August 20 — Messy Games at Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and will include promotions for next age groups. More details to come!

August 27 — 4th Sunday Dinner at MLC from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Other Youth & Young Adult Activities & Update on Staff Vacancy

ELCA National Youth Gathering (July 16-20, 2024): Mark your calendars for the 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, which is open to all youth who will be entering grades 8-12 by Fall 2023!! We need to register this fall (from Sept. 15 to Nov. 1, 2023) to receive the priority rate of \$375 per person. After that, the price increases. There will be additional costs for hotel, transportation, and meals, so the youth will be planning several fundraisers to help cover all of the costs. Watch for ways that you can help our youth participate in this event!!

NEW! ELCA National Young Adult Gathering (July 16-20, 2024): During the National Youth Gathering, the ELCA is also offering a new Young Adult Gathering for individuals aged 18-35. The young adults will have separate activities from the youth but will join with them for the Mass Gathering. For the

MLC News Flashes...



RALLY DAY ALL-CONGREGATION "PICNIC"

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6
@12 PM | Parish Hall

It's hot dog journey featuring famous hot dog Recipes from across the US!



MESSIAH LUTHERAN & FRIENDS

ANNUAL ALZ BAKE SALE!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023

Between and after each Service of Worship

Get your fix for sweets, breads & even some garden vegetables, too!

PRE-ORDER ONLINE!

COME WALK WITH THE TEAM [A+] BIG SPRING PARK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023 1 PM Registration, 2 PM Walk
<https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2023/AL-Alabama>

NURSERY ATTENDANT JOB SHARE

Enjoy Infants & Toddlers? Like a little spending money?

The Personnel Committee is open to having MLC's Nursery Attendant position "job shared" by two (or possibly more) people to give flexibility in covering the nursery attendant position on Sunday Mornings, and at other times as arranged. If interested, please contact Personnel Committee Chair Laurie Campbell at campbell2215@bellsouth.net, (256) 683-8698

MLC COMFORTERS

The Comforters meet on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Interested in being a Comforter?

Contact Jeanette Beamer

LWR TRUCK INGATHERING IS AUG 26!

KIT MINISTRY

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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

POC: Rhonda Gaede/Diane Davis

Click & Connect...

Click the underlined text to launch the item.

Sunday School Student Registration Form

(See page 4)

Aug. 30 First Communion Training Info & Signup

(See Page 8)

ALZ Bake Sale - August 13 Preview & Pre-Order Form (Details, Left)

Wednesday Night Dinner Volunteer Sign Up

(See page 2)

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS



August Reminders & Notes:

- Remember to bring your hand carts and dollies on Sunday August 27 to help load the LWR Trailer.
- MLC E-News will continue to be sent on Wednesdays and Sundays through August.
- Please check and empty your church mailboxes when you are at MLC
- Please mail church offerings to MLC's Official Post Office Box!

Messiah Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 526
Madison, AL 35758

Online Photo Galleries

JULY MONTH IN PICTURES GALLERY

STRAND ORDINATION GALLERY



Left: Pastor William Strand poses with clergy that attended his Ordination that took place on Monday, July 10. Bishop Ginny Aebischer of the South Carolina Synod presided at the service. **Below:** Team Members from the June Disaster Relief Mission Trip were: L to R Virgil Burrer, Chris Berry, Dennis Fry, Jean Stuart, Andrew King, Susan Burrer, Randall Fields, and Martin Campbell. **The Children Attending VBS** had remarkable fun learning about bees and pigs as part of the God's Good Creation VBS curriculum.



DISASTER RELIEF MISSION TRIP GALLERY

Prayer Families

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

YOUTH & FAITH FORMATION *(Continued from page 4)*

Young Adult Gathering, the priority registration cost (Sept. 15 to Nov. 1, 2023) is \$260 (plus hotel, transportation, and meals). We are exploring possible ways to provide some assistance to Messiah young adults and alumni who may be interested in attending. Watch for further details.

If you are interested in attending either of the Gatherings or helping with the planning, please contact Bonnie Flowers at education_rep@mlutheran.org

Update on Calling a Faith Formation and Youth Minister

In July, the council voted to proceed with the process of calling a rostered minister to fill our Faith Formation and Youth position.

As a first step, a small task force is being formed to work on updating our MSP and job description with input from the congregation. Watch for town hall meetings to learn more and to be able to contribute your ideas.

In September, we will be accepting nominations to form a call committee which will finalize the MSP, submit it to the Synod, and receive candidate names to be interviewed. We hope to be able to extend a call in early to mid-2024, and we appreciate everyone's prayerful contributions and participation throughout this process.

~ Bonnie Flowers

Enjoy more pictures from the Youth Outing and Vacation Bible School in the **July Month** in **Pictures Online Gallery!**



Above: MLC Youth enjoyed an afternoon of fun at an Escape Room (Escapology) on August 22.

August Birthdays

First Communion Class August 30 @ 6PM

MLC will host a First Communion class on Wednesday, August 30th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. The class will start in the Sanctuary. Any youth age 7 (grade 2) or older who has yet to receive First Communion instruction is invited to come! *Wednesday Night Dinner will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Messiah's Parish Hall (see page 2 for details).*

The class will be interactive, and it is expected that at least one parent/guardian will be present for the class. Younger youth are welcome to attend after conversation with Pastor Kris.

If there are older youth or adults who would like a refresher on this Lutheran sacrament, they are welcome to signup too.

So we may plan for your attendance, please signup at the button below or contact the office by August 28. Any questions may be directed to Pastor Kris at pastor.kris@mlutheran.org

To Sign Up, click the button below

First Communion Class - August 30



First Communion will be received Sunday, September 10, 2023

Need a Member Directory? Do we need to update your address, email or phone number?

Members may call the church office at (256) 721-0041 or email office@mlutheran.org to request a current printed or digital version of MLC's current member directory and we will be happy to get that to you. It is very helpful when people let us know of new addresses or if we missed a name on the birthday list.. Thank you! Bobby & Meredith

New Member Sunday is August 13

While it's not a requirement to be a member in order to be a disciple, it IS an expression of discipleship to become a church member.

The next reception for new members at Messiah Lutheran Church will be on August 13 at both services.

A group orientation is the Saturday before, August 12th, at 10:30 a.m. If you feel called to membership at Messiah Lutheran Church, please talk to Pastor Kris (pastor.kris@mlutheran.org) or the Director of Outreach, Claire Strand at (claire@mlutheran.org).

August 2023

*"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in them.
~ 1 John 4:16*

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 a.m. Comforters	2	3 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	4	5
6 Rally Day Picnic & Back to Sunday School 8:00 Messiah Choir rehearsal 8:30 a.m. Worship: Bread of Life w/ LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (all) 10:45 a.m. Teacher Meeting 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Bread of Life w/ LS 12:00 Rally Day Picnic	7	8 9:00 a.m. Comforters	9 6:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee meet- ing	10 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry 7 p.m. Church Council Meeting	11	12 10:30 a.m. New Member Orientation
13 New Members Sun. & ALZ Bake Sale 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (all) 9:45 a.m. New Member Reception 10:30 Messiah Choir rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 12:00 pm. New Member Reception 12:15 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal	14	15 9:00 a.m. Comforters	16	17 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	18	19 10:00 a.m. Contemporary Team Rehearsal
20 LWR Quilt & Kit Blessing Sunday 8:00 Messiah Choir rehearsal 8:30 a.m. Worship: Chicago Folk w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Kit Packing 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Band-Led service w/LS 4:00 p.m. Youth "Messy Games" at St. Matthews.	21	22 9:00 a.m. Comforters	23 Spaghetti Dinner ALS Patient Care 5:00 p.m. Confirmation class 5:30 p.m. Spaghetti Fundraiser for ALS Patient Care	24 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	25	26 LWR Trailer on site at MLC
27 LWR Truck Loading after early Service! 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Truck Loading & Sunday School (all) 10:30 Messiah Choir rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12:15 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal 5:00 p.m. 4th Sunday Dinner (to 7:00 p.m.)	28	29 9:00 a.m. Comforters	30 First Communion Class 5:00 Confirmation class 5:30 Wed Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. 1st Communion Class (see page 8)	Looking Ahead September 6 - Wednesday Eve. Music Resumes September 10 - First Communion September 30 - Dinner / Musical Theater October 14 - Music at Messiah Concert (November 4 - German Food Festival)		

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

August 2023
Volume 36, Issue 8

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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

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

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

