

Pastor's Page

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." —Matthew 11:29



Pastor Kris Schroeder
pastor.kris@mlutheran.org

Follow & Grow

We now find ourselves in the season of the Church we call Pentecost. As I reminded you during the sermon a couple weeks ago, the color of the season is green. I like to think of it as the lush, deep green we all hope our lawn produces! Pentecost is also the season of growth, growth in our relationship with God and one another and growth in our spiritual lives. Fortunately, our season of Pentecost is not short. In fact, we find

ourselves in this season of growth until Reformation on Sunday, October 30th. Ultimately this gives each of us time to do exactly what the season is designed for:

G-R-O-W-T-H!!!

So take time. Make time. Pick up your Bible (on your phone is fine too!) and read more of God's precious word, written just for you, every day! Pray a little bit more... every day! Challenge yourself. If we truly want to **follow** Jesus, that means that we truly want to *look* like Jesus. And in order to do that... we must **know** Jesus. The only way we will know Jesus, our leader, is to read God's word and be in relationship with God in prayer.

In baptism, we were invited to follow. In baptism, we were planted in the foundation of God. Now is the time to tend the seed and grow. Are you ready?!?

~ Pastor Kris

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Proverbs 2:6

Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, July 30th

Bring your backpacks (or planners, organizers, etc.) to worship on July 30th. The annual blessing of the learners, teachers, and backpacks will take place at both services of worship. Each participant will receive a 2023-2024 Messiah backpack tag.

JULY 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
July 2	LBW Setting 2 w/LS	LBW Setting 2 w/LS
July 9	Bread of Life w/LS	Bread of Life w/LS
July 16	Now the Feast w/LS	Contemporary Service w/LS
July 23	LBW Setting 1 w/LS	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
July 30	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

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

Births

- † Congratulations to Katrina Strand and Jeremiah Pineiro on the birth of their daughter
- † Congratulations to Tracy and Lindsey Porter on the birth of their son

Deaths

- † Jay Perry's mother Carla Perry passed away
- † Zach Dehm's grandmother Jeannette Dehm passed away
- † Doris Mullins passed away at 96 years.

First Call and Ordination

- † William Strand received his first call to serve as pastor to Corinth and St. Mark's Lutheran Churches in Saluda and Prosperity, South Carolina. William's ordination will take place at Messiah Lutheran Church on Monday, July 10th at 6 p.m. with Bishop Ginny Aebischer from the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA presiding.

Mission Spotlight: Kit Packing Fellowship Sunday, July 23 - 9:45 AM



Join us for a Kit Packing fellowship on July 23 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The LWR truck comes next month to pick up our stacks of boxes.

Ministry needs are 4-ounce bars of soap and black or blue ink pens (no gel).

The Kit Ministry team meets regularly on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. New ministry members are always welcome.

OUTREACH

PANTRY ITEM

Rice/Dry Beans

KIT MINISTRY

4 oz. Bars of Soap

Members may also designate offerings to:

**Food Pantry
&
Kit Ministry**

Music & Worship Notes

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

—Psalm 98:4

Worship & Music Leadership

Laura Peterson

Council Representative
for Worship & Music
worship_music_rep
@mlutheran.org

Randall Fields

Music Director/
Choir Director
musicdirector@
mlutheran.org

Ric Birdsong

Interim Contemporary
Ensemble Coordinator

Congratulations to Vicar William Strand. His ordination will take place at 6:00 PM on July 10th. The congregation is invited.

The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild has purchased a cover for the Paten and new paraments as well. The green paraments arrived and were used on June 25th, but the white set has been delayed, possibly until Christmas.

A big thank you goes to Richard Webb and his team, who adjusted the height of the altar so that Pastor Kris could reach the elements more easily.

Worship Service Openings

Please be proactive in these summer months about signing up for worship using the SignUp Genius or by contacting the office. We are in particular need of acolytes.

Dagmar Miller has agreed to be an interim coordinator for the Greeters. We still are in need of a replacement.

Sherry Sarrat has asked to step down from Lector Communion/Assistant Coordinator, so we are in need of a volunteer there as well.

Music, Music, Music!

Come to sing, ring, and play instruments to the glory of God! Many of our groups are on summer hiatus, including Notabella, the Cherub Choir, and the Seraph Choir.

Messiah Choir (7th-Adult) 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 in the Sanctuary. Randall Fields is the director.

The Instrumental Ensemble (7th-Adult) meets at 12:15 p.m. biweekly on Sundays in the Sanctuary. Larry Frakes serves as interim director.

The Instrumental Ensemble is always looking for more players, but is especially in need of brass. The Instrumental Ensemble is also seeking a new director.

Dinner Theater

Dinner Theater will rehearse in the Parish Hall the evening of September 29th, and the performance will take place the evening of Saturday, September 30th. Proceeds will go toward helping to build a new kitchen for a Lunches For Learning school that has just joined the program.

Greg Kilby will coordinate the dinner. Help will be needed in the kitchen.

The current working title for the show is "Sanctuary." Randall is writing a script, in which 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 features some lovely songs from the sixties and seventies.



Messiah Youth

Junior & Senior Youth:
Interim Youth Director
Vicar William Strand
 youth@mlutheran.org
 Until 7/10/2023

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

Co - Sunday School Superintendents
 sundayschool@mlutheran.org

Messiah Youth & Faith Formation

Sunday School

- **July 30: Blessing of the backpacks and briefcases**

- **August 6: Rally Day for Fall 2023 and Sunday School Teacher Installation.**

We are still in need of additional teachers for the fall at several grade levels. We hope that you will prayerfully consider assisting with this important ministry. Please contact Janet Sullivan (cobbsullivan@gmail.com) or Bonnie Flowers (bluebons80@gmail.com) if you are interested or need further information.

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

Vacation Bible School

VBS, which is combined with St. Matthew's and held at Messiah this year, began on June 21 with about 25 children in attendance, and they got to meet some live goats! They then learned about all the ways that donating goats to families in different areas of the world can help them. The overall theme is God's Good Creation and each session is held on Wednesday evening from 5:30-8:00 p.m. on the dates listed below. There is a family friendly dinner from 5:30-6:00 with the VBS activities from 6:00-8:00. Each

week is independent, so you can sign up even if you can only attend some of the weeks. The sessions each week include a scripture reading and activities focusing on one of the animals from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. **And we are working on having live animals at each session!**

July 12 - Theme: God made everyone different and important. Animal: Bees

July 19 - Theme: Working together we can change the world. Animal: Piglets

On the Sundays following each VBS session, youth and children will collect donations for the types of animals we have been learning about to be ordered through the Good Gifts catalog. So save your coins (and bills) to add to the donations each Sunday through July 23!

Youth Group Meetings:

Regular Sunday youth group meetings will resume in August.

- **July 22: More summer fun for the youth developing teamwork skills at an escape room!** Watch the E-News and GroupMe for more details.

Other Youth Activities:


RECAP Affirm (June 11-16): We had 4 students attend Affirm this summer at the University of West Alabama in Livingston, AL. Affirm is a summer youth event of the ELCA Southeastern Synod which is designed to nurture faith, equip youth leaders for today and tomorrow, and train youth in discipleship skills. We are looking forward to hearing them talk about their experiences in a Temple Talk soon.

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 the fall of 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 same time period, 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 Young

MLC News Flashes...

The Rite of Ordination
for
William Francis Strand



By the Grace of God
The Reverend Ginny Aebischer, Bishop of the South Carolina Synod of
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
will Ordain
William Francis Strand
to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament
on Monday, the tenth of July two thousand and twenty-three
at 6:00 in the evening, Central.

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 W
Madison, AL 35758

Your prayers and presence are requested. Reception to follow.
The color of the day is red.

The service will also be live-streamed on Messiah's [YouTube channel](#).

Ordination Reception Volunteers Needed

Help is needed for Set Up (9:45 AM on 7/9),
Appetizer & Other Eats &
Servers and Clean-Up Team on 7/10 Sign up using the link
[Reception Sign Up Form](#) or at Welcome Center.

MLC COMFORTERS

Will be on summer break until July 26

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 each of the graphics for more details



Click the banner above to go to MLC SignUp Page! If you do not see the signup you are looking for, browse the tabs at the top of the page. There are also additional tabs left and right of page!



**God's Good
creation VBS**

Vacation Bible School
Wednesdays - June 21, 28, July 12 & 19
5:30 to 8:00 PM
at Messiah Lutheran Church
with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Register Today!

Nursery Help Wanted!

Messiah is seeking someone to serve on Sunday Mornings in the nursery position while Katrina Strand is on maternity leave. Please let the church office know if you can volunteer to help.

The Personnel Committee is open to having the position "job shared" by two or more people to give more flexibility in scheduling and covering the nursery on Sunday Mornings.

Please contact Laurie Campbell

July Reminders & Notes:

- MLC E-News will be sent on Wednesdays and Sundays through July.
- Please check and empty your church mailboxes when you are at MLC
- Traveling? Please mail offerings to:
Messiah Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 526
Madison, AL 35758
- Pastor, Council Members, or Staff will never directly solicit you to purchase gift cards or other requests "of a sensitive" nature.

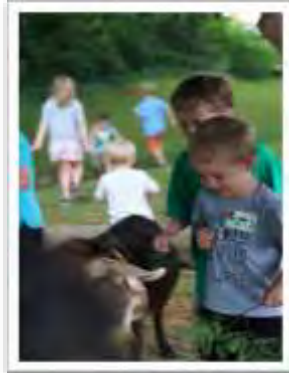


Above: Pastor Kris, Pastor Bill, Bonnie Flowers, and Tim & Kari Pitchko attended the ELCA Southeastern Synod Conference in various capacities. **Below:** Vacation Bible School's 1st Wednesday featured GOATS. The children enjoyed stories, games, and feeding goats.

Right: Pastor Kris poses with cast members of "Sam, the Shams, and the Shepherd King" during dress rehearsal. The children presented the musical at worship on June 11.

Month in Pictures

JUNE MONTH IN PICTURES
[VIEW THE ONLINE GALLERY](#)



[Music Camp Pictures ONLINE Gallery](#). Thank you to the many photographers who contributed!

VOLUNTEERING IS A GIFT!

When you serve, it is a precious gift you give to others. Coordinators train, communicate, and schedule each team so these important roles are filled on Sunday morning. *Contact the Church Office at 256-721-0041 if you need assistance or want to volunteer!*

Acolytes – arrive early to robe and start the service by lighting the candles, assist during worship with the offering and communion, and carry the light out into the world after extinguishing the candles.

Coordinator: Cheryl Rydbom

Lectors - during worship, read the assigned readings for the first two lessons, and lead the responsive reading of the Psalm. You do not need to serve as a Communion Assistant unless you are comfortable.

Communion Assistants serve the communion wine to the congregation and then serve Communion to the Pastor. **Coordinator: OPEN**

Ushers - arrive early, pass out bulletins, direct worshippers forward for Communion, record attendance, collect offerings, and assist the congregation as needed. **Coordinator: Bruce Machamer**

Greeters – arrive early, open the doors, check surroundings, greet people as they come in, and help identify and welcome newcomers.

Coordinator: OPEN Interim Dagmar Miller



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)

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

Consider joining the Children’s Sermon Team!

We would like to thank all the people who have helped with children’s sermons this year. I think many people look forward to the creative ideas each person brings each week. If you would like to join our team, contact Bonnie Flowers at education_rep@mlutheran.org. There are many resources available online to assist you in planning, and it is a fun way to get to know the children in our congregation and to hear their innocent yet often profound ways of seeing things. I would also like to challenge some more males to join us - the children love to hear many perspectives!



Above: Affirm participants sharing a light moment.



Left: MLC Youth had a great time at Point Mallard Waterpark on June 22. The next summer youth gathering is an escape room on July 22. Time TBA

July Birthdays

VOLUNTEERS (Continued from page 6)

Cantors – Sing/lead the sung liturgy for worship when it is needed. **Coordinator: Laura Peterson**

Flower Guild – plan, purchase, and prepare floral arrangements for Sunday and distribute the flowers after the late service. Floral expenses are reimbursed. **Coordinator: Linda Heideman**

Altar Guild – prepare the sanctuary for worship, and when needed, dress the altar and hang the paraments. Members also prepare the elements for communion in advance of the services and typically serve on a rotating schedule.

Coordinator: Jutta DeMarsh

Stream Team – serve as a camera operator or sound engineer for MLC's late service on a rotating basis and other events as needed. **Coordinator: Meredith Kilby**

Counters – sign up to count and record offerings on Tuesday mornings or after the late service on Sunday. Two unrelated people are required to count. **Coordinator: Dennis Fry**

Coffee set up and clean up - one person makes coffee and puts out treats before 9:30 a.m. and then another to help clean up after late service. Serve on a rotating schedule as you are available.

Coordinator: OPEN

Interim – Bobbey Huwaldt

Children's Sermons – Prepare a brief children's sermon based on the lectionary text for the week (at both services) on a rotating schedule. Come join the team. Substitutes are always needed, too!

Coordinator: Bonnie Flowers

Lay Service Leaders, and Lay Preachers - lead and guide the Congregation through a worship service when the pastor is unavailable and no pulpit supply* pastor is required. Lay preachers are periodically asked to prepare and preach a sermon. Lay service leaders and preachers are usually arranged well in advance and at the discretion of the pastor and church council.

**Pulpit supply is when a rostered ELCA minister (or a minister from a communion partner denomination) is paid to lead, preach, and preside at a Sunday worship service with communion. This typically is due to the planned absence of a church's pastor. The ELCA maintains lists of area "Pulpit Supply" pastors for congregations to call.*

Did we miss someone's birthday?

The simple answer may be we just don't have the date in our records. Please call the church office at (256) 721-0041 and let us know. Thank you.

Bobbey Huwaldt & Meredith Kilby Co-Office Managers

Member Directory Update

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.

July 2023

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 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: LBW Setting 2 w/LS	3 4:45 Owen's House Kitchen Serving <i>Office on Limited Staffing</i>	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY <i>Office Closed</i>	5	6 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	7	8
9 8:30 a.m. Worship: Bread of Life w/LS 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Bread of Life w/LS 12:15 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal	10 6:00 p.m. ORDINATION OF WILLIAM STRAND See page 5	11	12 5:30 p.m. VBS God's Good Creation Theme: BEES	13 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry 7:00 p.m. Church Council Mtg.	14	15 10:00 a.m. Contemporary group rehearsal
16 8:00 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal 8:30 a.m. Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 Contemporary group rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Contemporary Service w/LS	17 4:45 Owen's House Kitchen Serving	18	19 5:30 p.m. VBS God's Good Creation Theme: PIGLETS	20 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	21	22 Jr/SR Youth Group escape room outing [time TBA]
23 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Kit Packing Fellowship 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 Messiah Choir rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 12:15 Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal	24	25 9:00 a.m. Comforters	26	27 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	28	29
30 Blessing of the Backpacks (both services) 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: LBW Setting 2 w/LS	31	Looking Ahead August 6 - Rally Day (Sunday School Resumes) & Picnic September 6 - Wednesday Night Dinner Returns September 30 - Dinner / Musical Theater October 14 - Music at Messiah Concert (Brophy Sisters) November 4 - German Food Festival				

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758
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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.** 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

July 2023
Volume 36, Issue 7

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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
William Strand.....Interim Director/Faith Formation
Katrina Strand..... Nursery Attendant

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

