

# 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

## An Invitation to Come

Perhaps you have noticed the words I've been using to invite you to communion. This is **very** intentional. As God's children, faith is a living entity of our lives. Sometimes we feel very close to God—other times, so far away. Sometimes God makes all the sense in the world, while other times God is so perplexing we can't see straight. When we wrestle with our faith, we wind up acknowledging that this thing we call faith is greater than we ourselves!

As we have just celebrated the day of Pentecost, the time in which the Holy Spirit floods our life and envelops us, we now find ourselves living in the "season" of Pentecost. This season is meant to be one of growth. After all, the color for this season is green.

We all know growth doesn't happen all at once. Growth takes time. Growth takes effort. Growth takes rest. When something grows, it receives nourishment from many different sources. The growth of our faith is no different.

It is my desire that you will pay close attention to our communion invitation. Despite the ups and downs of life, despite the mood we find ourselves in Sunday after Sunday... God has promised to never change. God has promised to embrace us in new and different ways and meet us where we are. The question is: are we ready to feel the Spirit in ways we never dreamt possible?

**God has promised to always receive us with open arms, so...**

*Come... you who feel strong in your faith, and those who might feel weak.*

*Come... you who know God deeply, and those who desire to know Him more.*

*Come... you who have seen or experienced the mighty works of God, and those who wish they could.*

*Come... those who understand... and those who find God a bit overwhelming and confusing.*

*Come... all are welcome... God will meet you here!*

*~ Pastor Kris*

## June Highlights

### Messiah Music Camp

June 5 - 11

*"Sam the Shams and the Shepherd King"*

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### Disaster Relief Trip

June 21 - June 24

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### God's Good Creation VBS

June 21, 28, July 12 & 19

## JUNE 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.
June 4	Service of the Word
June 11	Music Camp
June 18	Bread of Life
June 25	LBW Setting 1

11 a.m. & Livestreamed
Service of the Word
Music Camp
Contemporary Service
LBW Setting 1





**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](mailto: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

- † Drake Meyer graduated from James Clemens High School and will play college baseball at Beville State Community College.
- † Jackie Sullivan graduated from Bob Jones High School and will study chemical and biomolecular engineering at Georgia Tech.
- † Abby Tucker graduated from Athens High School and will study forensic psychology and play softball at Calhoun Community College.
- † James Wessels graduated from Sparkman High School and will attend the University of North Alabama.

## Mission Spotlight: Sunday Worship Coordinators

### ARE YOU A PLANNER WHO ENJOYS LEADING TEAMS? COME JOIN THE COORDINATOR'S CLUB!

Coordinators are essential to things flowing smoothly on Sunday mornings, and that includes the coffee so many of us enjoy! Coordinators actively recruit, train, & schedule volunteers on their team rosters to serve on a regular basis. They regularly communicate with their team and the church office. Many use MLC's SignUp Genius site as a tool for scheduling and sending reminders out. Here are the current coordinators and their contact information. **We are currently seeking new coordinators for the Greeters, Coffee Makers, and Lectors/Communion Assistants.**

**Ushers:** Bruce Machamer, (256) 945-7974, [bnmacham68@gmail.com](mailto:bnmacham68@gmail.com)

**Altar Guild:** Jutta DeMarsh. (256) 714-1901, [matthew.demarsh@att.net](mailto:matthew.demarsh@att.net)

**Acolytes:** Cheryl Rydbom, (256) 457-1200, [cwrydbom@gmail.com](mailto:cwrydbom@gmail.com)

**Flower Guild:** Linda Heideman, (256) 464-6516(h), [mmeh@1976@gmail.com](mailto:mmeh@1976@gmail.com)

**Stream Team:** Meredith Kilby (256) 617-8530, [meredith.kilby@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.kilby@gmail.com)

**Counters:** Lee Smith, (256)772-5763(h), [leemad@knology.net](mailto:leemad@knology.net)

**Greeters: Open** Dagmar Miller (interim) (256) 617-0436, [dagmar.miller@att.net](mailto:dagmar.miller@att.net)

**Coffee: Open** Bobbey Huwaldt (Interim) (256) 682-8294, [jbhuw@me.com](mailto:jbhuw@me.com)

**Lectors: Open** (call the church office (256) 721-0041)

If you are interested in serving and would like to get on the distribution list and schedule, please contact the individuals above or call the church office. Thank you!!

### 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

*Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob. Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our festival day.*

*-Psalm 81:1-3*

## 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

## Music Camp June 2023

Mark your calendars for June 5 – 9 with presentations of the musical on Sunday, June 11. The musical is **Sam, the Shams, and the Shepherd King**. The musical tells the story of how the child Samuel learns of God's purposes and promises and serves the Lord as judge and prophet, ushering the way for Israel's greatest king, David, and his promised descendant, Jesus.

Stephanie Gillespie, Music Camp's Music Director for nearly a decade, is serving as Camp Director again.

### Music Director

It is with great excitement that MLC announces that we have concluded the search for a Music Director! Randall Fields has accepted our offer to be Messiah's part-time Director of Music Ministries & Choir Director. Randall has fulfilled many of Messiah's needs for the Director of Music role in recent months, and we are eager to move forward with him officially filling the position.

### Music Accompanist Sought

We will now begin seeking a permanent part-time organist.

Messiah Lutheran Church in Madison, Alabama seeks a part-time organist to accompany worship. Piano or organ proficiency is required. Job description and details for applying for the position will be posted soon, and a link will be on our page. If you know someone who might be interested, please pass the word.

Upcoming guest accompanists include Miriam Conrad and Steven Schneider. Gretchen Perry and Bob Davis will also be assisting with providing wonderful music for worship this month.

### Music, Music, Music!

Many of our groups are on summer hiatus, including Notabella, the Cherub Choir, and the Seraph Choir. Messiah Choir meets Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, and at 10:00 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.

The Instrumental Ensemble (7<sup>th</sup>-Adult) meets biweekly on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. The Ensemble is still seeking a new director, but Larry Frakes is directing in the interim. The Ensemble is always looking for more instrumentalists, especially brass players!

### The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild has purchased a cover for the Paten, and new paraments as well. The green paraments are scheduled to arrive in July, but the white set has been delayed, possibly until Christmas.

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



**Messiah Youth**

**Junior & Senior Youth:  
Interim Youth Director  
Vicar William Strand**  
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**

*Co - Sunday School*

*Superintendents*

sundayschool@mlutheran.org

# Messiah Youth & Faith Formation

**Sunday School**

- August 6: Mark your calendars for Rally Day for Fall 2023.
- Thank you so much to all the people who taught or substituted for Sunday School this year! This important ministry to the children of Messiah is greatly appreciated. It definitely does take a village! Next year, we will need additional teachers at several grade levels. Please contact Janet Sullivan ([cobbsullivan@gmail.com](mailto:cobbsullivan@gmail.com)) or Bonnie Flowers ([bluebons80@gmail.com](mailto:bluebons80@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Vacation Bible School**

VBS will again be combined with St. Matthew's and will be held at MLC this year with the theme of God's Good Creation. **It will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on June 21 and 28 and July 12 and 19. Each session will begin with an optional family friendly meal. Each week is independent, so you can sign up even if you can only attend some of the weeks.** The sessions each week will include a scripture reading and activities focusing on one of the animals from the ELCA Good Gifts Cat-

alog as follows: **Please visit MLC's Website at [mlutheran.org](http://mlutheran.org) to register!**

- June 21 (5:30-8:00) - Theme: God created the world and it is good. Animal: Goats
- June 28 (5:30-8:00) - Theme: God can use you whatever size you are. Animal: Chicks
- July 12 (5:30-8:00) - Theme: God made everyone different and important. Animal: Bees
- July 19 (5:30-8:00) - Theme: Working together we can change the world. Animal: Piglets

On the Sundays following each session, we will offer congregation members the opportunity to participate through donations to purchase that type of animal to be donated through the good gifts catalog.

**Youth Group Meetings**

On May 21, the Youth Groups met to rearrange the youth room, followed by an end of the year ice cream sundae party! This included putting together some large shelving units to help consolidate our storage. See the month in pictures to view the process and our preliminary results!

Regular Sunday youth group meetings will resume in August. Several special events are being planned for the summer. Watch the E-News and Youth GroupMe for surveys to vote on your favorite activities and for further details.

**Other Youth Activities**

**Youth Lock-In:** To celebrate the all the work done by the youth group during the Easter season, we hosted a Lock-in for them on April 28. We had 9 youth attend with 8 staying overnight. We began on Friday with a little bit of review about worship and communion, including a tour of the Sacristy and a lesson in preparing the elements from Vicar William. We went bowling that evening, which was a fun team-building event. Following that, we invited Pastor Kris and her husband Bill to attend and help us with a short worship service using *Holden Evening Prayer*. The youth took on parts of the service including music, readings, and serving communion. They enjoyed trying things they had not done before. In the morning, we had a breakfast of some of our leftover Easter casseroles. Our service project included

## MLC News Flashes...

**Music Camp Sunday is June 11**

**Worship will be held in the  
Parish Hall that Sunday!**

### 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**

## June Reminders & Notes:

- **Turn in your Time and Talent Sheets by June 30, 2023. Thank you!**
- When sending monetary donations to MLC please use MLC's new PO Box. Messiah Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 526, Madison, AL 35758
- Lowes Gift Cards for the Disaster Relief Trip can be placed in offering envelopes or given to Andrew King or Claire Strand.
- Members may request a digital copy of the online member directory at any time. Just email [office@mlutheran.org](mailto:office@mlutheran.org)
- Remember Pastor Kris will never ask you by text or email to take any kind of monetary action to be handled "discreetly."

*(Continued from page 3)*

### Worship Service Openings

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

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

## Click & Connect...

Click each of the graphics for more details & info.



**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 to the left and right of what is shown.



### 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 [campbell2215@bellsouth.net](mailto:campbell2215@bellsouth.net) (256) 683-8698

# Month in Pictures

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



**Left & Below:** Pastor Kris was installed at her April 30 Installation. Pr. Justin Eller presided. Pastor Bill preached. A lovely reception followed in the Parish Hall. **Bottom left:** Pastor Kris enjoys some fellowship with two MLC youngsters on the last day of Sunday School on May 21.



That evening MLC youth set to work on rearranging and reorganizing the youth room. They ended the evening with an ice cream Sunday bar.



**Below:** A dedicated team of Handy-MoMs led by Richard Webb, gathered on May 9 to reduce the height of the altar to make it more comfortable for Pastor Kris and Altar Guild members. Once it was cut down, the team came back and added quarter-round wooden moulding to finish the look. Great job team! We now can see our new pastor much better during worship!



# Prayer Families

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



## COUNCIL INFORMATION

### Executive Committee

**President:** Neda Ballard

**Vice President:** Rhonda Gaede  
vicepres@mlutheran.org

**Treasurer:** Lee Smith treasurer@mlutheran.org

**Secretary:** Joe Huwaldt  
secretary@mlutheran.org

### *Council Representatives*

**Worship and Music:** Laura Peterson  
worship\_music\_rep@mlutheran.org

**Outreach:** Dana Burton  
outreach\_rep@mlutheran.org

**Stewardship:** Janell Zesinger  
stewardship\_rep@mlutheran.org

**Education and Youth:** Bonnie Flowers  
education\_rep@mlutheran.org

**Fellowship:** Kari Pitchko  
fellowship\_rep@mlutheran.org

**Property:** Lisa Evers  
property\_rep@mlutheran.org

**Finance:** Dennis Fry  
finance\_rep@mlutheran.org

**Youth Representative:** Ana Ballard  
youth\_rep@mlutheran.com

### *Non-Council Position*

Sunday School Superintendent: Janet Sullivan  
sunday\_school\_supt@mlutheran.org

# June Birthdays

*(Continued from page 4)*

cleaning the parish hall and assisting in setting it up for the installation of Pastor Kris.

**Affirm (June 11-16):** We have several students signed up to attend Affirm this summer, which is being held 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. Please pray for these young disciples as they travel to this camp in mid June.

**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 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](mailto:education_rep@mlutheran.org)

## 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



# June 2023

*Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

1 Peter 8

DSunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LOOKING AHEAD:</b> July 26 - Comforters Resume August 6 - Rally Day				<b>1</b> 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	<b>2</b> SYNOD CONFERENCE	<b>3</b> SYNOD CONFERENCE
<b>4</b> 8:00 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal <b>8:30 a.m. Worship:</b> Service of the Word 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School <b>11:00 a.m. Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> Service of the Word	<b>5</b> <b>MUSIC CAMP</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 a.m. Music Camp Dress Rehearsal
<b>Music Camp: 9 AM - 4 PM Daily</b>						
<b>11 MUSIC CAMP SUNDAY</b> <b>8:30 a.m. Worship:</b> Music Camp w/LS in Parish Hall 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal <b>11:00 a.m. Worship &amp; Livestream: in Parish Hall</b> Music Camp w/LS	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry  7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 a.m. Contemporary group rehearsal
<b>Affirm (Youth Group Trip @ University of West Alabama)</b>						
<b>18</b> 8:00 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal <b>8:30 a.m. Worship</b> Bread of Life w/LS 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Contemporary group rehearsal <b>11:00 a.m. Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> Contemporary Service w/LS	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21 VBS</b> 5:30 p.m. VBS Dinner 6:00 p.m. VBS "Goats"	<b>22</b> 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry  Jr. / Sr. Youth Activity  Point Mallard	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Disaster Relief Trip to Mayfield, Kentucky</b>						
<b>25</b> <b>8:30 a.m. Worship:</b> LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Messiah Choir rehearsal <b>11:00 a.m. Worship</b> LBW Setting 1 w/LS	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28 VBS</b> 5:30 p.m. VBS Dinner 6:00 p.m. VBS "Chicks"	<b>29</b> 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	<b>30</b>	

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](http://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](mailto:office@mlutheran.org).  
**Newsletter submissions may be sent to Rebecca Mast at [newsletter@mlutheran.org](mailto:newsletter@mlutheran.org)**  
**Submissions are typically due the 3rd Sunday of every month. Submit photos to [communications@mlutheran.org](mailto:communications@mlutheran.org)**



The monthly newsletter and calendar for Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) Madison, Alabama

MESSIAH

# Messenger

June 2023  
Volume 36, Issue 6

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Growing in Faith| Services of Worship
- 2 Life Passages | Sunday Coordinators
- 3 Music Notes | Music & Worship Updates
- 4 Messiah Youth & Education
- 5 News Flashes, Click & Connect Features
- 6 Month in Pictures
- 7 Prayer Families | Council Information
- 8 June Birthdays, | Youth Travel Dates
- 9 Calendar
- 10 Contact Information & Staff information.

## Contact Information Messiah Lutheran Church [mlutheran.org](http://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](http://www.mlutheran.org)

