

# Pastor's Page

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen"*

*2 Peter 3:18*



**Pastor Kris Schroeder**  
pastor.kris@mlutheran.org

## Growing in Faith ... at Every Age

When we are baptized and welcomed into the Body of Christ, we (or our parents) make a commitment to continually grow our faith. Too often though, we view this as a role for the young or young in the faith. Not true! **Faith takes a lifetime to nurture and develop. It is not something we achieve and then place on a shelf to admire like a trophy.** Faith is an ever-growing entity, regardless of age or

knowledge. As with most aspects of life, the more we commit to growing our faith, the greater the result. Sadly, we tend to want great results without making the effort. The season of Pentecost will be upon us as the end of the month arrives. **Pentecost is a time when the church focuses on growth, spiritual growth.**

I have been in your presence for barely a month. But I can attest that there is plenty of opportunity for EVERYONE to grow their faith. In the moments I am asked, "How do I grow my faith" I often steer folks to think *outside* our box of "norm." The box that says, "I read my Bible from time to time", or "I go to Bible study, sometimes", or "I read a daily devotional." These are certainly a start, but definitely not the finish line. **Our faith grows through the study of God's word, but there is so much more. The components of faith development come from creating opportunity to be in community with others, making time to serve those in need, and using our God given gifts.** Faith is not a solitary act. God continually places opportunities in our midst to expand and nurture our relationship with God and one another.

So...take a step out of your ordinary routine. Welcome or greet someone you may not know (or don't know well) and invite them into conversation, acts of service, study, and fellowship at MLC. Christ has set a path before us. Let us be Christ to one another as we continue to grow God's love, as we show the world that "Love is Alive!"

Hope & Joy-filled blessings. ~ Pastor Kris

### May Highlights

**Congregation Meeting with Elections & Parsonage Sale Motion is Sunday, May 7 9:45 a.m. MLC Sanctuary**

**Last Wednesday Night Dinner is May 10.**

**Graduate Recognitions & Rush to Serve "Expo" on Sunday, May 14**

**Pentecost Sunday is May 28th! Wear your red!**

## MAY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

**Date: Sundays at 8:30 a.m.**

**Sundays at 11 a.m. & Livestreamed\***

*Note: All Services will include the Lord's Supper unless noted:*

May 7  
May 14  
May 21  
May 28

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.  
LBW Setting 1  
LBW Setting 2  
Now the Feast  
Pentecost LBW Setting 2

Sundays at 11 a.m.  
LBW Setting 1  
LBW Setting 2  
Contemporary Service w/LS  
Pentecost LBW Setting 2





**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

### PANTRY ITEM

Deodorant

### KIT MINISTRY

4 oz. Bars of Soap

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

- † Georgann Trexler's sister Nancy Woody passed away on April 15th.
- † Debbie Shipman's brother William Metz passed away on March 26th.
- † Stephen and Claire Strand announce the engagement of their daughter Katrina Strand to Jeremiah Pineiro.
- † Kaitlyn Esteppe and Andrew Rose were married on April 22.

## Outreach Spotlight: Kentucky Disaster Recovery Mission Trip

By Andrew King, Council Outreach Representative

### MLC Helping Long Term After Disaster Strikes!

**For this year's annual mission trip, we'll be returning to Kentucky to support long term disaster recovery efforts from the 2021 tornadoes that impacted the western part of the state.** Thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed in the storm, mainly in low income areas and disproportionately impacting renters. The response effort is currently active in three counties: Graves (where Mayfield is located), Marshall, and Hopkins.

### How can you help?

- ♥ **Volunteer with our mission team! Dates are June 21 - June 25.** Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older, and youth under 18 must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Beyond that, the main requirement is that you have a willing heart. A construction manager oversees our work and also provides instruction (a great opportunity to learn a new skill). Our project will be determined once we know how our team's skills match with the current needs. Everyone has gifts that can contribute to disaster ministry. **Please let Andrew King know if you are interested at [andrew.t.king42@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.t.king42@gmail.com)**
- ♥ **Donate:** We'll be collecting Lowe's gift cards for homeowners we serve to assist with unmet needs. Lowes Gift Cards can be placed in an offering envelope (just note the amount on the card or on the envelope) or given to Andrew King or Claire Strand.
- ♥ **Pray:** Please pray for all those impacted by natural disasters and those responding to them. The MLC mission team greatly appreciates your prayers and you are always with us in Spirit as we serve!

# Music & Worship Notes

... 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

## Worship & Music Leadership

### **Laura Peterson**

Council Representative  
for Worship & Music  
worship\_music\_rep  
@mlutheran.org

### **Randall Fields**

Interim Worship Music  
Coordinator/  
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, has accepted the position as Camp Director.** Registration is open now! Check your E-News and the Music Camp website at: <https://musiccamp.mlutheran.org/>

## Music Director Job Opening

Upcoming guest accompanists include Miriam Conrad, Amanda Weiland, and Steven Schneider. If you know someone who might be interested in applying for the position of Music Director, see the information below:

Messiah Lutheran Church in Madison, Alabama, seeks a part-time Music Director to accompany worship and integrate music into the congregation's mission. Together with the pastor and worship committee, the Music Director selects liturgy and hymns. Piano or organ proficiency is required. Job description and details for applying for the position are at: [www.elca-ses.org/classifieds](http://www.elca-ses.org/classifieds). If you know someone who might be interested, please pass the word.

## Music, Music, Music!

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

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

The Instrumental Ensemble is always looking for more players, but is especially in need of high (trumpet) and low (baritone, euphonium, tuba) brass.

Note: The last Wednesday for Cherub & Seraphs will be May 10th.

**CONTEMPORARY BULLETIN CHANGE:** Starting in May, we're going to try just having the song lyrics printed in the congregational bulletins for MLC's monthly Contemporary Worship. For those who prefer to see the lyrics and the music, the black binders will still be available.

**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/Chris Berry**

*Co - Sunday School Superintendents*  
 sundayschool@mlutheran.org

# Messiah Youth & Faith Formation

**MLC Youth Group Meetings:**

*Each Sunday junior and senior youth groups meet from 5:00-6:30.*

April 30: All youth are encouraged to attend the installation of Pastor Kris at 2:00 pm and the reception that follows (no evening mtg)

May 7, 14 & 21: Regular Youth Group

**Other Youth Activities:**

**House of the Harvest Volunteering:** Thank you to all who came out to volunteer at House of the Harvest on March 18, April 1, and April 22. We had a good turnout of youth and their families and I think everyone enjoyed participating in this ministry and will look forward to continuing this in the future. The Youth as a group were glad to have been a part of something that touched so many lives directly. They seemed excited that we were continuing serving there through the 22nd. Others mentioned the fun they had working and interacting with a lot of different people.

**Affirm:** This year Affirm is being held at the university of West Alabama from June 11th through the 16th. We would love it if any youth would like to sign up this year. For more information and where to sign up head over to this link:

<https://www.sesyouth.org/affirm>

**Messy Games:** Tentatively Messy Games will be happening. We hope to have some old favorites and some new games to try out as we celebrate the new youth aging in. Date and place TBD.

**Messiah Faith Formation Updates:****Sunday School:**

Children's Sunday School will run the following schedule with preK thru middle school aged children meeting at the church and senior high youth meeting at Starbucks each morning.

April 30 - Regular Classes

May 7, 14 - Regular Classes

May 21 - Last day of Sunday School end of year party! Watch for details in the E-News!

**VBS TO FEATURE "GOD'S GOOD GIFTS"**

VBS will again be combined with St. Matthew's and will be held at Messiah this year. We have decided it will be held on Wednesday mornings each of the weeks. The theme is "God's Good Creation" and is put out by Lutheran World Hunger Relief. Each week contains a bible reading and activities focusing on one of the animals from the Good Gifts Catalog as follows:

June 21: VBS Day 1 (9:00-12:00) - Bees

June 28: VBS Day 2 (9:00-12:00) - Goats

July 12: VBS Day 3 (9:00-12:00) - Chicks

July 19: VBS Day 4 (9:00-12:00) - Pigs

On the Sundays following each session we can give congregation members the opportunity to contribute to purchasing that type of animal to be donated. Each day also has its own reflective passage that we shall present along with the animal focus. William did this in his internship last year and said it was a lot of fun!

## MLC News Flashes...

### CONGREGATION MEETING

**SUNDAY, MAY 7**

**9:45 AM | SANCTUARY & ZOOM**

Members Please Attend! Quorum Required!

On the agenda: COUNCIL ELECTIONS,  
COUNCIL REPORTS, & PARSONAGE SALE.

Members should refer to the Official E-Notice emailed on Thursday, April 27 for slate of council nominations & agenda details & instructions.

### WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Before we take a break over the summer we will meet on Monday, May 15th. We'll set down the books to socialize and brainstorm titles for the year ahead.

**Time and Location TBD**

POC Janell Zesinger

### MLC COMFORTERS

**Tuesday mornings 9:00 a.m.—Noon**

**Interested in being a Comforter?** Contact Jeanette Beamer

### LWR TRUCK INGATHERING IS AUG 26!

#### 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 :**

## May Reminders & Notes:

- 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
- Remember Pastor Kris will never ask you by text or email to take any kind of monetary action to be handled "discretely."

## Click & Connect...

Click each of the graphics for more details & info.



*This spring, MLC sponsored the planting of 4 rows at the ENABLE garden (formerly CASA).*

A workday is setup for May 6<sup>th</sup> from 9-noon. The garden provides fresh produce to the clients that ENABLE Madison County serves. It's located at 4725 Bob Wallace Avenue next to the botanical gardens.



### "RUSH TO SERVE" MAY 14 | 9:30 - 10:45 AM

#### MLC Parish Hall

The "expo" style event will provide the Congregation an opportunity to see what opportunities are available at MLC to become involved in. We will have handouts that summarize the information for people to take home. We will also attempt to get Time and Talent Survey information to capture people's names. Additional details to follow! POC Tim Pitchko.



Members may fill baskets with items young adults may need in the next phase of their lives such as towels, detergent, copy paper, etc. Baskets will be blessed and delivered to the graduates on May 14, 2023. **Our graduates are Drake Meyer, Jackie Sullivan, Abby Tucker, and James Wessels.** Baskets are located in the Narthex. Please have all items to MLC by 8:30 AM on the 14th.



### 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.

## Parsonage Sale Details

On Friday, April 14, 2023, Messiah Lutheran Church sold its church parsonage at 600 Highland Drive to a couple with young children relocating to the area from Connecticut. Congregation Council members present at closing were Gregory Kilby (Vice-President), Lee Smith (Financial Rep), and Lisa Evers (Property Rep).

The process of selling went very smoothly! The parsonage was listed at \$419,000 on March 13, 2023 with Matt Curtis Real Estate. The first day of the listing, two offers were received. The Parsonage Subcommittee recommended acceptance of a \$429,000 purchase offer with closing in one month.

Once under contract, the home was appraised and inspected and essential repairs requested by the buyers were completed at MLC's expense. Repairs to the home included repairs to the foundation, plumbing, HVAC, and handyman carpentry repairs to seven windows.

As a requirement for closing, MLC held a Special Congregation Meeting on Tuesday, April 11 at 7 p.m., and unanimously approved a resolution approving the sale of the property under the terms listed in the Purchase Contract and to meet Alabama statutes for churches selling corporately owned property.

After repairs, closing costs, real estate commissions, etc.\* MLC expects to clear approximately \$395,000 from the sale.

**\*At the May 7 Congregation Meeting the Council will make a motion to conduct the parsonage sale outside of the 2023 Plan for Mission/Budget; such that preparation costs, repairs, and closing costs are subtracted from the buyer's purchase price and outside of the MLC's 2023 Plan for Mission/Budget; further, the net proceeds will be placed into a designated parsonage proceeds account until the Congregation determines the disposition of the proceeds.**

~ Greg Kilby

Congregation Council Vice President

## Month in Pictures

APRIL MONTH IN PICTURES

[VIEW THE ONLINE GALLERY](#)



**Above:** Youngsters and youth at the April 2 Easter Egg Hunt.  
**Below:** Vicar William Strand enjoys a light hearted moment with two MLC youth as they decorate Easter cookies and plan for the Holy Saturday Prayer stations & Easter Breakfast.



## 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*.**

## Month in Pictures, *Continued*



**Top:** MLC Youth & Volunteers at House of the Harvest Food Distribution on April 22. **Middle:** Many Hands were involved in the Youth Easter Breakfast April 9, including hands made by my congregation Members. **Bottom:** Pastor Kris and her husband Pastor Bill take a moment to pose in front of a welcome cake on her first Sunday at MLC which was April 2, 2023.

## May Birthdays

### OUTREACH UPDATES & REQUEST FROM ROSE OF SHARON SOUP KITCHEN

**Lunches for Learning Update:** Enrollment reports from our schools in Honduras are complete. We are feeding 73 students in the 2 elementary schools and 1 kindergarten that we sponsor. 14 of them are 6<sup>th</sup> graders and will be graduating in November. Thanks for your support and prayers. **Thank you to all who supported the Mini Handmade market. Over \$750 was raised to support these precious young learners.**

**Owen's House Serving Stats:** In the first quarter of 2023, MLC helped provide 2,570 meals, 352 snacks, and 544 lunch bags to the women and children at Owen's House. **Thank you to all who supported the recent Rummage Sale, which raised over \$3,200 which will be shared with Owen's House and MLC's Altar Guild to purchase new paraments.**

**The Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen on North Memorial Parkway** is requesting summer survival supplies for our homeless friends in the area who are at increased risk for dehydration, sunburn and heat exhaustion. Donations of chap stick, sunscreen, bug spray, reusable water bottles and bandanas can be placed in the receptacle in the Narthex.



Claire Strand met up with Pr. Morgan Gordy on April 25 to off load the bathroom shower kits donated by MLC for victims of the Selma Tornados earlier this Spring.

**Monetary Donations are still needed to provide short and long term relief to the devastating tornados that ripped through the Selma area and parts of MS earlier this year!**

### 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



# May 2023

<sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 a.m. Comforters	<b>3</b> 5:30 p.m. Wed Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 6:30 p.m. Notabella 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir	<b>4</b> 7:00 p.m. Kit Ministry	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM <b>ENABLE GARDEN WORK DAY</b> (See pg. 5)
<b>7 CONGREGATION MEETING</b> 8:30 a.m. <b>Worship:</b> LBW Setting 1 w/Lord's Supper 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 9:45 Congregation Mtg. 11:00 a.m. <b>Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> LBW Setting 1 w/LS 4:00 p.m. 1st year Confirmation class 5:00 p.m. Junior/Senior Youth Group Meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 a.m. Comforters	<b>10</b> 5:30 Wed Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 6:30 p.m. Notabella 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir	<b>11</b> 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting  7:00 p.m. Kit Ministry	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 GRADUATE RECOGNITIONS &amp; RUSH TO SERVE EXPO</b> 8:30 a.m. <b>Worship:</b> LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. Rush to Serve Expo. 11:00 a.m. <b>Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> LBW Setting 2 w/LS 4:00 p.m. 1st year Confirmation class (TBD) 5:00 p.m. Junior/Senior Youth Group Meeting	<b>15</b> 6:30 a.m. Women's Book & Social Club Meets	<b>16</b> 9:00 a.m. Comforters	<b>17</b> 6:30 p.m. Notabella 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir	<b>18</b> 7:00 p.m. Kit Ministry	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM— Contemporary Team Setup and Rehearsal
<b>21</b> 8:30 a.m. <b>Worship:</b> Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 a.m. Last Day of Sunday School (Pre-K to Grade 12) 11:00 a.m. <b>Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> Contemporary Service. 5:00 p.m. Junior/Senior Youth Group Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 a.m. Comforters	<b>24</b> 6:30 p.m. Notabella 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir	<b>25</b> 7:00 p.m. Kit Ministry	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Pentecost</b> 8:30 a.m. <b>Worship:</b> LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for adults 11:00 a.m. <b>Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> LBW Setting 2 w/LS	<b>29</b> Office Closed <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 a.m. Comforters	<b>Looking Ahead:</b> June 3-5 - ELCA Southeastern Synod Convention –Chattanooga June 5 - 11 : Messiah Music Camp June 21: Vacation Bible School Starts (Weds to July 19) June 21: MLC Disaster Relief Mission Trip			

Messiah Lutheran Church  
7740 Highway 72 West  
Madison, Alabama 35758  
**Return Service Requested**

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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](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

May 2023  
Volume 36, Issue 5

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## 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..... Messiah 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)

