

Pastor's Page

*Be still and know that I am God.
I am exalted among the nations.
I am exalted in the earth.
Psalm 46:10*



Pastor Kris Schroeder
pastor.kris@mlutheran.org

A CALL TO WORSHIP!

It's Sunday morning. Do you find yourself running late? Arguing with a spouse or child in the car? Wondering if you have a role to play in worship that morning? Do you find yourself thinking, "I hope it's not cold in the sanctuary" or "I don't feel much like talking to anyone." OR... do you find the still small voice of God calling you yet again to "COME?" "Come and be near."

When I worked as a chaplain at Mayo Clinic, AZ, I would often suggest patients return to Psalm 46 as scripture calls us to "Be still, and know that I am God." God calls. Yes, God still calls. Continually! Yet too often we keep moving in the other direction or don't turn our mind or voice off long enough to listen and heed the call of God's voice.

When I was a little girl, playing outside with my friends in our neighborhood, my dad would whistle when it was time to come home. It was his call to come near, come home. Sometimes it was loud, and other times it was very faint... but I always heard it... because I expected him to call. I expected him to call me home, and I wanted to be ready to answer his call.

God's calling! Are you listening?? Soon we will enter a new year in the life of the church with the season of Advent. Advent, the dictionary tells us, is "the arrival of a notable person." Jesus! Jesus is about to arrive. So let's not waste our time. Let's get our minds and hearts ready!

Often our sanctuary is full of life: talking, laughter, rustling of papers, jingling of keys, and much more. You and I both know that our hearts and minds are also full of life and shout in a different way (the voices in our head). There are many opportunities throughout our worship service to "be still and know," but all too often, "life" takes over, and we silence God's invitation.

During the upcoming Advent season, I invite you to take advantage of these "still" moments during worship: prelude, introduction to hymns, offering, pauses during prayer and communion, to name a few. Use these moments to settle your mind, calm your heart, silence your tongue so that when the mighty voice of God calls, however still or small it might be, you will not only be able to hear but will be ready to respond... as a Child of the Living God.

~ Pastor Kris

December Notes:

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES OF WORSHIP

**Noon - Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary**

Dec 6 - Hanging of the Greens

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2023

10:00 a.m. Advent 4
5:00 p.m. Candlelight
7:00 p.m. Candlelight

All services with Lord's Supper

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

10:00 a.m. Service

**Lessons & Carols Service
(No Communion)**

DECEMBER SERVICES OF WORSHIP

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

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

| Date | Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. (also livestreamed) unless otherwise noted |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 3 | Advent 1 <i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i> - Setting One |
| Dec. 10 | Advent 2 <i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i> - Setting Two |
| Dec. 17 | Advent 3 Worship Led by Children & Youth |
| Dec. 24 | Advent 4 10:00 a.m. <i>With One Voice</i> - Setting Five Bread of Life |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 31 | Lessons and Carols at 10:00 a.m. (no Communion) |





Claire Strand
Director of Outreach
claire@mlutheran.org

Contact Claire Strand if you have news to report in Life Passages.

Prayer Ministry
If you or a loved one needs to be lifted up in prayer contact Claire.

Katrina Strand
Nursery Attendant
nursery@mlutheran.org

Dana Burton
Council Representative for Outreach
outreach@mlutheran.org

DONATIONS

PANTRY ITEM

Towels 27x52
dark colors

KIT MINISTRY

Mac & Cheese

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

- † Pat Miller's father, Harry Miller, died [REDACTED] years old and a veteran of the Korean War.
- † Private inurnment for Rex Schaffer was held on [REDACTED]

Mission Spotlight: MLC Giving Mall

Messiah's Annual Giving Mall

November 26- December 24

Honorariums to one (or more) of Messiah's missions or to ELCA Good Gifts make great gifts. Forms and gift cards are at the "Mission Control" desk in the Narthex.



More Great Reasons to Give via MLC's Giving Mall

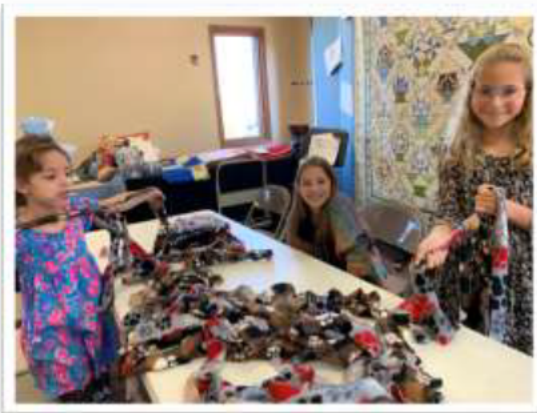
1. It's a perfect gift for that someone who has *everything* --- or wants *nothing*.
2. Easy to wrap, mail, and transport.
3. Cannot be returned or exchanged.
4. Customizable to match the interests of the recipient.
5. The gift will show up on your 2023 MLC Giving Statement.

Thank you for supporting MLC's Missions & Ministries

A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.
Proverbs 18:16

November Month in Pictures

Thank you to Bonnie Flowers and Whitney Morse for capturing all the great youth action in November!



Music & Worship Notes

...I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise .

-Hebrews 2:12



Staff & Leadership

Randall Fields

Music Director/
Choir Director
musicdirector@
mlutheran.org

Melanie Payne

Organist
melanie.payne@
mlutheran.org

Laura Peterson

Council Representative for
Worship & Music
worship_music_rep
@mlutheran.org

Midweek Advent Services

Midweek noon Advent worship will be in the Fellowship Hall to make the service more personal.

The All Saints congregation, upon closing their congregation, graciously donated their hymnals, some banners, and the blue Advent paraments. The traditional purple signifies royalty and penitence. The blue reflects the night sky and the waters of Genesis, and it is the traditional color of Mary. Blue is also the color of Hope. The Lutheran church allows the use of both colors. As the blue paraments will not fit the altar in the sanctuary, we will continue using the purple paraments there, and gratefully use the gifts in the Fellowship Hall.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 6 | Hanging of the Greens 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall/7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary |
| Dec. 13 | Advent services with Holden Evening Prayer at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall/7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary |
| Dec. 20 | Advent services with Holden Evening Prayer at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall/7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary |

10:00 a.m. Service Announced for Christmas Eve (Morning) & New Years Eve (Morning)

Since the 4th Sunday in Advent falls on December 24, a single 10:00 a.m. Service of Worship with the Lord's Supper will take place the morning of Christmas Eve. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services of Worship with the Lord's Supper will be held at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.** New Year's Eve (Sun., Dec. 31) Sunday service will be a single service at 10:00 a.m. following a Lessons and Carols format.

Ring & Sing

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Ring & Sing Christmas concert will be December 10th at 6:30 p.m. All music groups are encouraged to prepare a piece and participate. Monetary donations will be received at the door for the Madison Public Library.

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

All rehearsals will be cancelled December 27th due to the Christmas holidays, with adult rehearsals resuming January 4. Notabella will rehearse on Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. Children's groups will be off from December 17th until January 9th

| | | | |
|--|---|------------|--------------------------|
| Cherub Choir (PK-1 st) | Wed 6-6:30 p.m. | Room 7 | Claire Strand, director |
| Seraph Choir (2 nd -6 th) | Wed 6-6:30 p.m. | Room 11-12 | Laura Simeone, director |
| Messiah Choir (7 th -Adult) | Wed 7:45-8:45 p.m. | Sanctuary | Randall Fields, director |
| Instrumental Ens. (7 th -Adult) | Sun 9:45 a.m. (2 nd /4 th) | Sanctuary | Larry Frakes, director |

The Instrumental Ensemble is always looking for more players but is especially in need of brass. *A permanent director is also sought!* There will be no rehearsal Dec. 24th.

Band Led Worship will resume on January 21, 2024.

The Worship and Music Committee's next meeting is January 16, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Please contact Laura Peterson at worship_music_rep@mlutheran.org if you would like to serve in worship in any capacity. We would love to help you serve.

Messiah Youth

Junior & Senior Youth:

Junior Youth - grades 6-8

Senior Youth - grades 9-12

youth@mlutheran.org

POC: Bonnie Flowers

MLC's Youth Groups

MOEs (Messiah Older Elementary) - grades 3-5

POC: Whitney Morse

Moes_youth@mlutheran.org

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

Dec. 3 - Regular Classes

Dec. 10 - Practice for the December 17 Worship in the sanctuary

Dec. 17 - The children and youth will lead both worship services with a special Christmas message and have a birthday party for Jesus in the Parish Hall between the services

Dec. 24, 31 - No Sunday School (Winter break)

Jan. 7 - Sunday school resumes

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

Youth Group Meetings for December

The Senior Youth and Junior Youth meet on Sunday evenings from 5:00-6:30 unless otherwise noted. They begin as a large group in the Parish Hall and then split for other activities.

Dec. 3: Regular Youth Group - Nativity Escape Room at the church

Dec. 10: Attend Ring & Sing

Dec. 17: Christmas Party at Pastor Kris's house! Bring a Christmas snack and a Naughty Santa gift of \$10 or less

Dec. 24, 31: No Youth Meeting

MOES (Grades 3-5)

The next MOES event will be in January. Watch for information from Whitney Morse.

Next Youth Committee Meeting: Monday, Jan. 15 at 2:00 p.m. (MLK Day)

ELCA Southeastern Synod Youth Events

Olivia Sullivan represented MLC at the **All Tennessee Youth Gathering** Nov. 11-12 in Tullahoma, TN along with close to 100 other youth from the Southeastern Synod.

The **All Georgia Youth Gathering** will be held Feb. 23-25 in Dahlonega, GA. Watch for details coming out soon.

ELCA Youth Gathering 2024

MLC currently has 7 youth and 3 adults registered to attend the Gathering next summer! Please keep these young disciples in your prayers as we prepare to attend this meaningful event and watch for ways you can help.

Iron Bowl Challenge Fundraiser

Thank you to all who contributed to our youth by voting for your favorite team.

The winner of our Iron Bowl Challenge was Auburn! On Nov. 26 the Fellowship Coffee was decorated for the Auburn fans -- *a consolation given the circumstances of the Iron Bowl*. By far the biggest winners were our youth, with donations of \$171 raised to assist them in attending the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer! (See photo at right).

Creche Display in the Narthex

During this season of Advent, take some time to see the creche on the side table in the narthex that MLC's 4th & 5th graders made for Pastor Kris. We are thankful for its addition to our journey toward Bethlehem.



MLC News Flashes...

"Warm & Wooly"

Pop Up Handmade Market

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Fellowship Hall | 9:30 - 11:00 AM
All Sales Support *Lunches for Learning*
Cash, Check & Credit Cards

When You Shop -- L4L Children Are Fed



Share the warmth of Jesus

Give hats, gloves, and scarves for our homeless neighbors. Donation bin in the Narthex.

Click & Connect...

Click the underlined text or box for details.

Women's Book & Social Club

Contact Janell Zesinger if you're interested!
jzesinger@knology.net

Our non-book-reading meeting social will be Monday, December 18 (Tentatively at Phil Sandovals).

For January, Pastor Kris has agreed to join the book club for a discussion of her book [*Trials to Triumph: A True Story of Faith and Hope*](#). All MLC women are welcome to attend and your RSVP is appreciated. The event will be at the Kilby home.

Men of Messiah (MoMs)

are planning their annual December Manly Man Gift Exchange mid December. Please contact Mark Zesinger at mzesinger@deloitte.com

Comforters

The group will take some time off around the holidays. They normally meet on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
POC: Jeanette Beamer

Kit Ministry

The group will take December off. They normally meet on 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

December Reminders & Notes:

- Please be sure to check emails for any schedule changes due to remediation work.
- **Please mail church offerings to MLC's Official Post Office Box!**
Messiah Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 526
Madison, AL 35758



SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS



Wednesday Night Dinner Volunteer Sign Up

MLC ministry groups are encouraged to sign up to cook a Wednesday Night Dinner as a team. All WND grocery expenses are reimbursable. For more information reach out to Dorothy Seitz at seitzd@mlutheran.org or Kari at fellowship_rep@mlutheran.org

December 2023

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

| Sundays | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| Looking Ahead: January 10 - Wednesday Night Dinners Resume February 14 - Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins March 24 - Passion of our Lord / Palm Sunday March 31 - Resurrection of our Lord / Easter | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Advent Begins 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW 1 w/ LS 9:45 a.m. Welcome Reception for Melanie Payne 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (all ages) 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW1 w/LS 6:30 p.m. Notabella 5:00 Youth Group Nativity Escape room (at church) | 4 4:45 p.m. Owen's House Kitchen Duty | 5 9:00 a.m. Comforters | 6 12:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens Advent Worship 5:00 p.m. 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation 5:30 p.m. Wed Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 7:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens Advent Worship 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Ring & Sing 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW 2 w/ LS 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Rehearsal for Dec 17 9:45 a.m. Warm & Woolly Sale 9:45 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW 2 w/LS 6:30 p.m. Ring & Sing | 11 | 12 9:00 a.m. Comforters | 13 12:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer Advent Worship 5:00 p.m. 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation Classes 5:30 p.m. Wed Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer Advent Worship 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir | 14 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Warm & Woolly Sale 8:30 a.m. Worship: Children & Youth Led (Advent 3) w/LS 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Birthday party for Jesus 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Children & Youth Led (Advent 3) w/LS 5:00 Youth Group Christmas party at Schroeder Home | 18 4:45 p.m. Owen's House Kitchen Duty 6:30 p.m. Women's Book & Social Club (Christmas Social) | 19 | 20 12:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer Advent Worship 7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer Advent Worship | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 10:00 a.m. WOV Bread of Life w/LS 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/LS 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/ LS | 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols Service | JAN 1 NEW YEAR'S BLESSINGS | <p>Christmas Break - Pastor Kris and most of MLC's staff plan to use this week to rest and enjoy time with their families. MLC's church office hours will be minimally staffed this week. If you need urgent assistance, please email or call the church office (numbers below) and leave a message.</p> <p>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 rebecca@mlutheran.org Submissions are typically due the 3rd Sunday of every month. Submit photos to (256)617-8530.</p> | | | | |

Many Thanks From the German Food Fest Committee!

The German Food Fest Committee (Dana Burton, Kari Pitchko, Taylor Burton, Jutta DeMarsh) would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many volunteers who helped make this year's event a success! Whether you got covered in flour at baking day, set up tables, washed dishes, packaged cakes, greeted community members, helped with kids, decorated, or anything else, this event would not have been possible without you, and we are truly appreciative. Our attendance was up approximately 30% this year, and we received many positive comments from visitors, including:

- "Your church has such a positive atmosphere"
- "I really appreciated that there were helpful volunteers everywhere!"

Thank you for being "God's People, Reaching Out" and helping us create an event where all feel welcome at our church

[VIEW THE GERMAN FOOD FEST PHOTO GALLERY](#)

Fellowship News

A welcome reception for MLC's new organist Melanie Payne will be held between services in the Fellowship Hall on Dec. 3. Join us to give Melanie a warm welcome to the MLC family!

"FOODIES" fellowship groups will resume for the Winter/Spring of 2024. "Foodies" is open to all ages and stages, singles or couples interested in sharing in home meals together. What it involves is groups of six or eight gathering together once a month for meals. Hosting duties are rotated each month with the hosts preparing the main dish, while others in the group bring sides, desserts, to complement the meal.

Groups are drawn at random at the start of the year. Sign up information will be coming out mid December. Foodies is a wonderful way to get to know other members of MLC.

-Kari Pitchko



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

MESSIAH Messenger

December 2023
Volume 36, Issue 12

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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
Melanie Payne Organist/Accompanist
Katrina Strand..... Nursery Attendant

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

