

# Pastor's Page

"Let all that you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:14 (NRSV)



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

## How Do We Celebrate God's Love?

It seems that each year during the month of February, the images we see and hear are filled with red and pink, hearts and balloons, and of course, CHOCOLATE!!!

Our world has somehow convinced us that the abovementioned items are what is most important as the special day, Valentine's Day, approaches. For many, Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love for one another, for family and friends. Certainly not a bad

idea, but as God's people, we need to take this special day a bit further. It is important for us to be aware that this day can also be filled with loneliness and sadness for some as they recall what isn't or what used to be. Celebrating with a gentle spirit of kindness and compassion may help others who struggle to simply get through the day.

We also must consider how we as God's people celebrate the love God has for us and the love we have for God. Ultimately we have love for one another BECAUSE of God! If it weren't for God, we wouldn't know what it means to give and receive love. We have the opportunity to celebrate the unconditional and indescribable love that God has for us each and every day (not just on February 14th). This is the greatest love.

This year we begin our Lenten Journey on February 14th, with Ash Wednesday. This may seem odd at first, but when we look at it through a faith-filled lens, we can see the greatest gift of love is given to God's people in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

So regardless of what the world defines as "love," may we as God's beloved children choose to celebrate the love of God first, and in doing so, love others with kindness and compassion in all we do, forevermore!

"Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you've got, be resolute, and love without stopping." 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (The Message)

-Pastor Kris

### February Highlights

**Talent Show**  
February 3

**Card Workshop**  
February 10

**Scout Sunday & Souper Bowl of Caring**  
February 11

**Ash Wednesday**  
February 14  
Services at Noon & 7:00 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 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 Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. (also livestreamed) unless otherwise noted**

February 4 Now the Feast w/LS

February 11 Now the Feast w/LS

February 18 WOV Setting 5 (Bread of Life) w/LS at 8:30; Band Led at 11:00 w/LS

February 25 LBW 2 w/LS

**Ash Wednesday Service - Feb. 14 at noon and 7:00 p.m.**

**Lenten Services - Feb. 21 and 28 at noon and 7:00 p.m.**



Undesignated offerings received at the Lenten Services will be directed to MLC's Kit Ministry and New Futures, Inc. Learn more here <https://newfuturesinc.com/about/>



**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.

**Sarah Walker**  
Nursery Attendant  
nursery@mlutheran.org

**Dana Burton**  
Council Representative for  
Outreach  
outreach@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

† [Redacted text]

■ [Redacted text]

## An Important Message from Claire

Dear Ones,  
My own life passages, the birth of a granddaughter, the death of my mother, and my husband's retirement from the Army have brought to light new callings for me. I'd like to spend more time exploring these so I will retire my calling as Messiah's Outreach Director in May. Outreach is widespread and strong because of you. Years ago, God used you to save an unchurched young woman. 🙏 Keep sharing this life-giving word.  
I love you, Claire

## Mission Spotlights: Cards & Caring Ministry, Bible Study on Prayer, and Epiphany Drive

### Card Making Workday Event!

**Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Do you enjoy crafting homemade cards or interested in learning some new techniques? All are invited to come and help make cards that will be given to shut-ins (long term homebound), stuck-ins (short term homebound), and any others at Messiah or in the community who may need love, care, or a little cheer. **All materials and equipment are provided.** You may also make some cards to take with you to use for Valentine's Day which is just a few days ahead.

**This is an open-house style event, so come and go as your time permits.** Feel free to bring a lunch or a friend with you. This care and card ministry is taking form under the inspiration of member Peggy Mabry with plans to meet regularly. So if you aren't able to attend on Feb 10, just let Claire or Peggy Know. *P.S. You can enjoy a sneak peak of Peggy's card making at the Feb. 3 Talent Show.*

### Glory to the Newborn King! Newborn Item Drive for Kids to Love

This Epiphany, place your gift at the feet of the newborn king just as the Magi did centuries ago. A playpen is staged in the chancel near the flower rail, ready to be filled with new toys and necessities for newborns and new parents. All gifts given will be delivered to Kids to Love at the end of the Epiphany season.

*(Continued on page 7)*

### DONATIONS

### PANTRY ITEM

Cans of Soup

### KIT MINISTRY

Towels 27x52  
dark colors

Members may also  
designate offerings to:

**Food Pantry**  
or  
**Kit Ministry**

# Music & Worship Notes



*My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have rescued.*  
-Psalm 71:23



## **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

**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>.** Ash Wednesday services will be held in the Sanctuary at noon and 7:00 p.m. and will include the Lord's Supper and imposition of ashes.

Lenten services will be held at noon and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays for the duration of Lent. The noon services will be held in the Fellowship Hall and will include Holden Evening prayer and a short meditation. The evening services will include portions of Holden Evening Prayer and a dramatic presentation based on *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Lenten offerings will be split between Kit Ministry and New Futures, Huntsville.

### **The Talent Show**

This "Calorie Cabaret" is scheduled for February 3rd at 7:00 p.m. A buffet of desserts will be provided. A free will offering at the door will help defray costs for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Come join us and enjoy the fun before Lent begins.

### **Favorite Hymns**

Music Director Randall Fields asked to conduct a survey to determine the congregation's favorite hymns. He would like to incorporate them into worship as they are appropriate to the message for each Sunday. Be on the lookout for more information in your E-News and Sunday bulletin.

**The Worship and Music Committee**'s next meeting is March 3<sup>rd</sup> between services. This meeting is open to anyone who is interested in attending.

### **Scout Sunday February 11**

William Rydbom is coordinating Scout Sunday. All Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms and participate in leading worship.

### **Musical Groups**

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

#### **Seraph Choir (Gr. 2-6)**

Wednesday at 6 p.m. led by Laura Simeone.

#### **Cherub Choir (Pk-Gr. 1)**

Wednesday at 6 p.m. led by Bonnie Flowers.

#### **Notabella (Gr. 7 to Adult)**

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall led by Rhonda Gaede

#### **Messiah Choir (Gr. 7 to Adult)**

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. (7:45 during Lent) in the Sanctuary, dir. Randall Fields.

#### **Instrumental Ensemble (Gr. 7 to Adult)**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9:45 a.m. Larry Frakes is the interim leader. The Instrumental Ensemble is always looking for more players but is especially in need of brass.

#### **Band-Led Worship**

The team will practice on February 17 at 9 a.m. and again on February 18 at 9:45 a.m. They will lead worship at the 11:00 a.m. service on February 18

#### **Worship Service Openings**

Please contact Laura Peterson at [worship\\_music\\_rep@mlutheran.org](mailto: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**

- Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Regular Sunday School
- Adults: The adult class with Dottie Hanson will continue to study the book of Luke between the services each Sunday.

**Please, can you help? Messiah Children and Youth are in urgent need of substitute teachers for Sunday School / Faith Formation instruction.**

Sometimes our teachers go out of town or get sick, and we need someone to fill in. If you would be willing to fill in, please contact Janet Sullivan, Bonnie Flowers, or the church office.

Note: Self-guided Youth Activity Standards Training and a basic background check are required, all of which can be completed from home. If you have a gift for children and youth, we'd love you to share them at MLC.

**Youth Group Meetings for February**

The senior high and junior high youth groups 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.

Feb. 4: Regular Youth Group and prep for Mardi Gras Wednesday Night Dinner

**Feb. 11: No evening meeting** ( Support the Sunday A.M. "Souper Bowl")

Feb. 18: Regular Youth Group Meeting

Feb. 25: Fourth Sunday Dinner

**Souper Bowl of Caring Feb. 11:** As the NFL teams are preparing to battle it out in the Super Bowl, many are battling hunger. Join the youth on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11 by participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring event. The

youth will be collecting canned soup and cash to support House of the Harvest.

**MOES (Grades 3-5)**

Feb. 25 (12:00-1:30 in room 9/10) - Meet for lunch and make cookies!

**Next Youth Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m. in Classroom 2

**ELCA Southeastern Synod Youth Events**

The Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (SESLYO) Assembly will be held at Lutheranch March 22-24. This is an opportunity for our youth to contribute to the vision of youth ministry in our synod. If interested, contact Bonnie Flowers for more information.

**ELCA Youth Gathering 2024**

We have 7 youth and 3 adults attending the ELCA Youth Gathering this coming summer, and possibly one or two more. Costs are estimated to be about \$1200/ person, and several families are sending more than one youth. Please join us in supporting them by participating in these Fundraisers.

- Envelope Fundraiser: Look for the Envelope Wall in the Fellowship Hall. The number on the envelope matches the amount of money to be donated. Can't find the number you want? Select a "surprise us" envelope and include the amount of your choice. Envelopes should be returned with the specified amount to the church office or may be placed in the offering plate. This event will run through the end of February.



## MLC News Flashes...

### MLC ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

**Saturday, February 3, 2023**  
**MLC Parish Hall | 7:00 p.m.**

This year's talent show will be accompanied by a "calorie cabaret" of desserts and delectables provided by MLC's youth, who will be assisting with the setup. A free will offering at the door will support expenses for the upcoming ELCA 2024 Youth Gathering.

### CARD MAKING FUN & SERVICE

**Saturday, February 10, 2023**  
**MLC Parish Hall | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

All are invited. No supplies or experience necessary.  
 Open-House Format | Bring a Lunch & Friend!

**See Page 2 for details!**

POC Claire Strand / Peggy Mabry

### Women's Book & Social Club

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

February 26 – *All The Light We Cannot See* – Host Lisa Bartel

March 25 – *Hidden Treasures in the Book of Job* – Host TBD

April 22 – *Where the Crawdads Sing* – Host TBD

May TBD, Social Gathering

Our January meeting discussing Pastor Kris' book *Trials to Triumph* will be rescheduled for a later date.

### Comforters

have their regular meetings on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!  
 POC: Jeanette Beamer

### Kit Ministry

**Meets 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" that you can do at home.  
**POC: Rhonda Gaede/Diane Davis**

## Click & Connect...

Click the underlined text or box for details.

### SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS



### Wednesday Night Dinner & Lenten Soup Supper Volunteer Sign Up



**Feb. 1 - Apr. 15**  
**Mon. & Thurs.**  
**MLC Parish Hall**  
*By Appointment Only*

Information & Phone Number

## February Reminders & Notes:

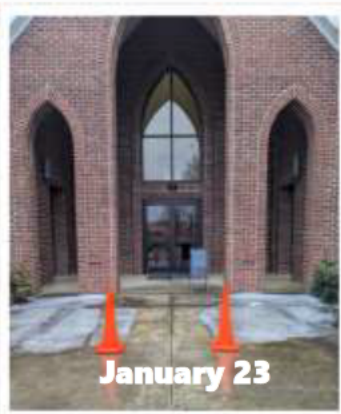
- **Is your household's membership record current?** Please help us keep accurate church rolls by letting us know if you have moved out of town, have a new home or email address, or have adult children who no longer reside with you, have new married names, etc. The office is happy to help update your records. Just call or email us at office@mlutheran.org
- **Members -- Do you need a church directory?** Please just call or email the church office and one can be printed or emailed to you.
- **Please mail church offerings to MLC's Official Post Office Box!**  
**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
**P.O. Box 526**  
**Madison, AL 35758**





## January Month in Pictures

Thank you to all of Messiah's members who snap photos of MLC happenings. If you have pictures to share just let Meredith Kilby know at [communications@mlutheran.org](mailto:communications@mlutheran.org)



### Not So Nice Snow & Ice...

On Monday, January 15, northern Alabama was hit by a winter storm of snow and ice followed by six days of sub-freezing temperatures. This resulted in staff working remotely while thick

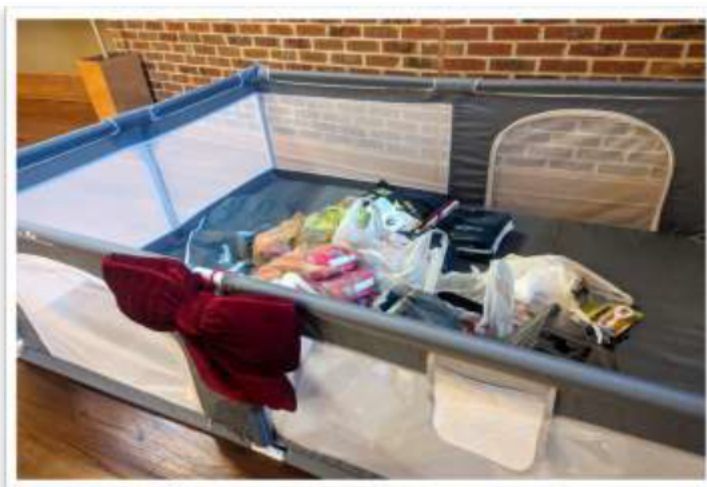
sheets of ice at MLC's stayed frozen causing Sunday worship on January 21 to be held online via Zoom. Thankfully warmer temperatures arrived Monday Jan 22., so that a path could be made for Tuesday morning activities.

**It's a BIG playpen but let's do our best to fill it with essential items for infants such as diapers, wipes, and clothes and more!** Please have your gifts of love to MLC by February 11. Thank you! For more details please see page 2.



### Youth Would Love Your Support



**Be sure to stop by the Fellowship Hall and pick your envelope(s) of choice.** Pick one or any combination of envelopes and tally the numbers and include the envelopes with your financial gift. For details please see page 4.





Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."  
Matthew 22:37

# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LOOKING AHEAD:</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passion/Palm Sunday - March 24</li> <li>Easter Sunday - March 31</li> </ul>				1:00 p.m. Bible Study Prayer Group  6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry  7:00 p.m. Kit Ministry		<b>7:00 PM TALENT SHOW</b> Fundraiser for Youth ELCAYG
<b>4</b> <b>8:30 a.m. Worship:</b> Epiphany Bread of Life w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 9:45 a.m. Call Committee - P. H. <b>11:00 a.m. Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> WOV Set. 5 Bread of Life w/LS  5:00 Junior/Senior Youth Group	<b>5</b> 4:45 p.m. MLC Serves at Owen's House	<b>6</b> 9:00 Comforters  6:00 HAPC Reflective Listening	<b>7</b> 5:00 Confirmation Class <b>5:30 Mardi Gras Wed Night Dinner</b> 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 6:30 p.m. Notabella 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir	<b>8</b> 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry  7:00 p.m. Church Council	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Card Making Workshop</b>
<b>11 Scout Sunday &amp; Souper Bowl Drive</b> <b>8:30 a.m. Worship:</b> LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 9:45 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble <b>11:00 a.m. Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> LBW Setting 1 w/LS  No Youth Group	<b>12</b>  souperbowl.org	<b>13</b> 9:00 Comforters	<b>14 Ash Wednesday</b> 12:00 Ash Wed. Svc. 5:00 Confirmation Class <b>5:30 Lenten Soup Supper</b> 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir <b>7:00 p.m. Ash Wed. Svc</b> 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir	<b>15</b> 1:00 p.m. Bible Study Prayer Group  6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
<b>18</b> <b>8:30 a.m. Worship</b> LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (all) 9:45 a.m. Worship Team Reh. <b>11:00 a.m. Worship &amp; Livestream:</b> Band-Led Worship w/LS  5:00 Junior/Senior Youth Group	<b>19 President's Day</b> Office Closed  4:45 MLC Serves at Owen's House	<b>20</b> 9:00 Comforters	<b>21</b> 12:00 Lenten Service 5:00 Confirmation Class 5:30 Wed Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir	<b>22</b> 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>8:30 a.m. Worship:</b> LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 9:45 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble rehearsal <b>11:00 a.m. Worship</b> LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12:00 MOES lunch and cookie baking 5:00 Youth Group 4th Sunday Dinner	<b>26</b> 6:30 p.m. Women's Book & Social Club	<b>27</b> 9:00 Comforters  5:30 p.m. Youth Committee mtg.	<b>28</b> 12:00 Lenten Service 5:00 Confirmation Class 5:30 Wed Night Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cherub Choir 6:00 p.m. Seraph Choir 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service 7:45 p.m. Messiah Choir	<b>29 LEAP DAY</b> 1:00 p.m. Bible Study Prayer Group		

**Executive Committee**

- Pastor Kris Schroeder (Ex-Officio of All Committees)  
**President:** Neda Ballard—council\_president@mlutheran.org  
**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 Positions / Committees**

- Sunday School Superintendent:** Janet Sullivan — sundayschool@mlutheran.org  
**Personnel Committee:** Laurie Campbell—personnel.committee@mlutheran.org  
**Financial Secretary:** Marc Neely—finance\_sec@mlutheran.org

**Members! MLC staff, officers, or council reps will never solicit you directly for cash, gift cards, etc.**

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 (256)617-8530.



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

MESSIAH  
**Messenger**

February 2024  
 Volume 37, Issue 2

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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  
 Bobbyey Huwaldt.....Office Manager  
 Meredith Kilby...Communications Director, Office Manager  
 Randall Fields..... Music Director, Choir Director  
 Melanie Payne ..... Organist/Accompanist  
 Sarah Walker ..... Nursery Attendant

**Find up-to-date information at [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org)**

