

Pastor's Page

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

-Matthew 2:11b



Pastor Kris Schroeder
pastor.kris@mlutheran.org

SAVOR GOD'S GRACE

It is hard to believe that another year is upon us. Several years ago, I received a small Advent devotional booklet. That little book emphasized savoring God's grace. The more I pondered, and the closer I got to the foot of the manger on Christmas Eve, that word really struck me. **S-A-V-O-R!**

We often relate this word to food that we eat: taking in -- every -- last -- morsel with delight and lingering in enjoyment. Isn't that what God desires for each of us? To take in every morsel of God's goodness, love, and grace in sheer delight and extended enjoyment? As we begin a new year, may we focus on the "savor," taking time to savor God's true goodness, taking time to linger in enjoyment of ALL that God has given AND, in true gratitude, give to others.

We will soon enter the season of Epiphany (January 6th), when the Magi bring gifts to the Christ Child. As you are likely aware, MLC has a strong outreach program. I'd like us to consider the "savor" as we enter this season of light we call Epiphany. In our "savor," we learn to share. God has given each of us much; how will we be the Epiphany light to those who are displaced, outcast, and in need, just like Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus? The opportunities are endless. May others find comfort and support as we share our gifts of gratitude for all the Christ Child has done for us.

Together, may we join the Magi and shower the Christ Child with love!

~ Pastor Kris

A New Year's Message from Council President, Neda Ballard

Dear Members and Friends of Messiah Lutheran Church,

For those that do not know me, my name is Neda Ballard, and I have been serving as your Council President since being elected in May. Our past year has been one of many transitions – calling Pastor Kris, electing a new council, hiring our music director, hiring an organist, and now starting the process of calling a second rostered leader. The way we lead our community has evolved as well. While having a council president is not new, the position being held by a lay person of our community is new, and I am honored to be serving you.

I fully believe we have a loving and talented community filled with people who want to serve. Some are serving already, and others are not quite certain how or where they fit. If you find yourself wondering how you can help, I would be happy to talk with you and help to find the right opportunity for you. One thing I have learned in this

(Continued on page 7)

Save this date!

January 21

MLC Financial Overview Meeting

Time/Location TBA

JANUARY 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
Jan 7	Epiphany <i>With One Voice</i> Bread of Life w/LS—Pastor Keith Cook, presiding
Jan 14	LBW Setting 1 w/LS
Jan 21	LBW Setting 1 w/LS at 8:30; Band-Led service at 11:00 w/LS
Jan 28	LBW Setting 2 w/LS





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

Mission Spotlight: Epiphany / Kids to Love

Glory to the Newborn King! Newborn Item Drive for Kid's 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 nave 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.



Holy-Day Giving for 2023

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ this holiday season! Your prayers for Advent hope led the world through the darkness! You also ...

- ♥ helped provide 100 turkey dinners to local families in need
- ♥ provided warm clothing, socks, scarves, coats, and blankets for clients at the Downtown Rescue Mission
- ♥ cheered 21 children from the Salvation Army Angel program on Christmas morning with gifts of toys, bikes, clothing, and a handmade blanket
- ♥ sent honey buns, snack cakes, and soap to inmates at Limestone Correctional Facility for their Christmas goodie bags
- ♥ provided warm clothing, coats, and sundries to women and children at Owen's House
- ♥ collected 8 lbs of pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham (1 lb= 1,430 tabs)
- ♥ donated \$250 to the Madison Library from the Ring and Sing concert
- ♥ fed school children in Honduras by purchasing handmade "warm and woolys" and tree ornaments
- ♥ shared excess greeting cards, calendars, and notepads with residents at Madison Village
- ♥ answered the urgent call to fill empty food shelves at the local pantry
- ♥ brought beauty to the sanctuary and honor to loved ones with purchases of poinsettias
- ♥ gave generously to Shepherds Fold post-prison transition program
- ♥ funded numerous missions through Messiah's giving mall
- ♥ and supplied precious resources, such as bees, goats, chicks, seeds and gardening tools worldwide through the ELCA's Good Gifts program.

If you would like more information about Messiah's missions and ministries that take place throughout the year, please visit www.mlutheran.org/outreach, email Dana Burton, Congregation Council Rep for Outreach at outreach_rep@mlutheran.org, or Claire Strand, Director of Outreach Ministries at claire@mlutheran.org.

Music & Worship Notes

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

-Psalm 104:33



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

Get into Music in 2024!

Choir rehearsal resumes January 3. Youth choirs resume rehearsing January 10. Come to sing, ring, and play instruments to the glory of God!

Seraph Choir (Gr. 2 to 6) Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Laura Simeone leads this group.

Cherub Choir (Gr. Pre-K to Gr. 1) Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. This Semester Bonnie Flowers will lead this group.

Notabella Handbell Choir (Gr. 7 to Adult)

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

Instrumental Ensemble (Gr. 7 to Adult)

Bi-weekly on 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:45 a.m. Larry Frakes is the interim leader. Potential permanent leaders are under consideration. The Instrumental Ensemble



View more terrific pictures from the 25th Anniversary of MLC's Ring and Sing.

23 Ring and Sing Gallery

Photos by Jack Mast & Laura Peterson

is always looking for more players but is especially in need of brass instrumentalists. If you used to play and want to dust off that instrument - come and join them!

Messiah Choir (Gr. 7 - Adult) is on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Randall Fields directs and Melanie Payne accompanies along with other guest accompanists.

Band-Led Worship The team will practice on January 20th at 9 a.m. and January 21st at 9:45 a.m. They will lead worship at the 11:00 a.m. service on January 21. Ric Birdsong coordinates and plans out the music and ensemble.

Talent Show The program is scheduled for February 3 at 7:00 p.m. All are encouraged to prepare a piece and participate. Please inform Laura Peterson or Randall Fields if you have an act you wish to include.

There's always room for you to help with MLC's Services of Worship!

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.

The Worship and Music Committee's next meeting is January 16th at 7 p.m. This meeting is open to anyone who might be interested in attending.

Thanks are in order to the congregation of All Saints for the banner hanging in the Narthex, and for the Chrismons that adorned the small tree in the Fellowship Hall.

There still a few used green, Lutheran Book of Worship hymnals free to good homes. After their recent closure, All Saints Lutheran Church donated their supply of red, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnals which have been placed in the pews for use during worship. Since the older green LBWs have many of the same hymns but in SATB notation compared to the newer ELW, the office always tries to include the corresponding hymn in the LBW hymnal for worshipers who enjoy harmonizing and singing from hymnals.



MLC Youth with the Creche figures they made for Pr. Kris in front of the banner from All Saints Lutheran.

Messiah Youth & Faith Formation

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

Call Committee Elected!

A call committee has been elected by the council to continue our call process for a second rostered leader. Members will be: **Phillippe Reed (carryover from task force), Valerie Christensen, Diane Davis, Mike Mabry, Dorothy Seitz, and Mark Zesinger.** They will be finalizing the Ministry Site Profile and job description for submission to the synod so that we can receive candidates appropriate to the needs of our congregation. Please discuss your ideas with them and keep them in your prayers as they continue this important discernment process. The team will be installed during worship this January.

Sunday School

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Regular Sunday School

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

Youth Group Meetings for January

The senior high and junior high 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.

Jan. 7: Regular Youth Group with setup for Envelope Fundraiser

Jan. 14: Regular Youth Group with service activity

Jan. 21: Regular Youth Group

Jan. 28: Fourth Sunday Dinner and making desserts for the talent show

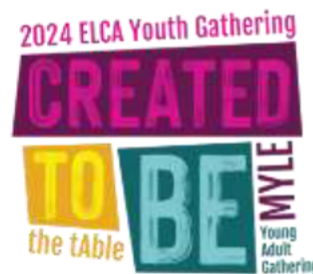
MOES (Grades 3-5): The next MOES event is in the process of being scheduled. Watch for information in the weekly Messiah Messengers about details.

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

ELCA Southeastern Synod Youth Events: 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 ELCA Youth Gathering next summer with an estimated cost of about \$12,000. To help defray the costs for these families, most of whom are sending more than one youth, we will be holding several fundraisers that allow members to show their support in different ways.



Envelope Fundraiser: Starting in January, watch for colorfully decorated envelopes to be displayed in the fellowship hall numbered from 1 to 100. All you need to do is take an envelope with your favorite number on it and put that amount of money in the envelope to put into the offering.

Talent Show on Feb. 3: The youth will be supporting the worship and music committee by participating in the show with their talents and by providing desserts for the evening. A free will offering will help support Youth Gathering costs.

Mardi Gras Wednesday Night Dinner on Feb. 7: The youth will be assisting with the preparation and serving of the meal. A good will offering will be collected.

MLC News Flashes...

Save the Date & Plan to Participate!

MLC ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

Saturday, February 3, 2023

MLC Parish Hall | 7:00 p.m.

Got a talent you'd like to share as part of this evening of music, fun, and fellowship? Just let Laura Peterson or Randall know and they'll put you in the lineup.

~

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

Women's Book & Social Club

Contact Janell Zesinger if you're interested!

jzesinger@knology.net

On January 22, at 6:30 p.m. 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](#) at the Kilby home in Madison. Please RSVP by Sunday, Jan 21 if you are planning on attending.

Comforters

Will resume their regular meetings on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall starting Jan. 9.

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 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 Dorothy.Seitz@comcast.net or Kari at fellowship_rep@mlutheran.org

January Reminders & Notes:

- **2024 giving booklets have been moved to member's mailboxes.** Please make sure you periodically check and empty your MLC mailbox so the space isn't cluttered.
- **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

December 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



Above: Donations being delivered to the Limestone Correctional Facility. Photo by Claire Strand)

Below: Gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree program before being taken to the drop off warehouse. **Bottom.** Bruce Machamer shows off his "manly-man" shower speaker at the Dec. 14 Men of Messiah annual gift exchange.

Thank you to ALL our Youth & Children!

We appreciate all the children and youth who so competently and joyfully led the services of worship on Dec. 17. Most were mentioned in the bulletin, however a few names were accidentally omitted for which we sincerely apologize. We definitely look forward to hearing more from all of these talented young people!

~ Bonnie Flowers & Janet Sullivan

Between the services - MLC's Sunday School participants and leaders enjoyed a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party with crafts and cake!



January 2024

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year! (Office Closed)	2	3 7:30 p.m. Messiah Choir	4 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	5	6 Season of Epiphany begins
7 8:30 a.m. Worship: Epiphany Bread of Life w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Epiphany Bread of Life w/LS 5:00 p.m. Junior/Senior Youth Group Meeting	8	9 9:00 a.m. Comforters	10 5:00 Confirmation Class 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	11 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	12	13
14 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 5:00 p.m. Junior/Senior Youth Group Meeting	15 MLK DAY 2:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting	16 9:00 a.m. Comforters 7:00 p.m. Music and Worship Committee mtg.	17 5:00 Confirmation Class 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	18 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	19	20 9:00 AM—Band-led worship team setup and rehearsal
21 Financial Overview Meeting TBA 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 9:45 a.m. Band-led worship team rehearsal 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: Band-led service 5:00 p.m. Junior/Senior Youth Group Meeting	22 6:30 p.m. Women's Book & Social Club Meets	23 9:00 a.m. Comforters	24 5:00 Confirmation Class 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	25 6:30 p.m. Kit Ministry	26	27
28 8:30 a.m. Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 11:00 a.m. Worship & Livestream: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 5:00 p.m. Junior/Senior Youth Fourth Sunday Dinner	29	30 9:00 a.m. Comforters	Looking Ahead: • February 3 - Talent Show 7 p.m.			

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. 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 (256)617-8530.



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

MESSIAH
Messenger

January 2024
Volume 37, Issue 1

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**Contact Information
Messiah Lutheran Church
mlutheran.org**

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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
 Bobby 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

