

# Pastor's Page

*How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!  
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
-Psalm 36:7*



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

## Falling Into Jesus!

A few years ago, Bill and I attended a fall prevention class entitled "Falling into Fall, or Not!" In the weeks that led up to the class, that title rang in my mind often! The presenter of the class repeatedly proclaimed, "falling does not have to be a part of aging!"

Recently during worship, we have been focusing our hearts upon who God desires us to be, how our actions and our words matter, and why we should care! Ultimately, it is about having "wise hearts and wise minds." Falling may not be a part of aging, but learning to be wise in God should be.

I never thought fall prevention would have anything to do with faith... but it does! As we move into this season of fall, perhaps we can strive to use the wisdom God has given to us by asking for help when we need it (after all, God created us to be in community and to care for one another), to take things a bit slower than usual (providing a solid foundation with every step), and making time to "fall into" God's holy word.

God's word is a gift, but if we don't make time to truly connect with God's word (the Bible), then it will be difficult to rely upon it when we fall.

-Pastor Kris



## October Highlights

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### Handmade Market

Sat., Oct 12  
9—2 PM

Invite Your Friends

### Pub Theology

Tues., Oct 15  
6:30 p.m.  
See Pg. 8

### Pumpkin Patch Trip

**Oct 19**  
(MOES & MESY Youth)  
See Pg. 4

**Sun., Oct 27**

### Reformation Sunday & Chili Cookoff Costume Contest

5:00 p.m.  
See Pg. 8

## OCTOBER SERVICES OF WORSHIP

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship (Green) | WOV = With One Voice (Blue)  
LS = Lord's Supper | ELW = Evangelical Book of Worship (Red)

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

Date	Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Oct. 6	WOV Setting 5 Bread of Life w/LS
Oct. 13	ELW 1 w/LS
Oct. 20	8:30 - Chicago Folk w/LS; 11:00 Band-Led
Oct. 27	Reformation Sunday, Luther's Chorale Mass from LBW w/LS

All 11:00 a.m. services will be livestreamed on [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org)



## OUTREACH Leadership

**Dana Burton**  
Council Representative for  
Outreach

outreach@mlutheran.org

### WHO TO CALL?

**For MLC Outreach  
Missions & Ministries**  
questions contact  
Dana Burton

**MLC Prayer Ministry**  
If you or a loved one  
needs to be lifted up in  
prayer, please contact  
Pastor Kris Schroeder  
pastor.kris@mlutheran.  
org

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

**Mike & Peggy  
Mabry**

**Stephen Ministry**  
stephenministry@  
mlutheran.org

### OCTOBER

#### DONATIONS

#### PANTRY ITEM

Cake Mixes and  
Frosting

#### KIT MINISTRY

Single Toothbrushes

Members may also  
designate offerings to:

**Food Pantry  
or  
Kit Ministry**

# Outreach

*Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10*

## Life Passages

- + Congratulations to Justin Walker and Emily Asherbranner on their engagement!
- + MLC celebrated the first communion of Colin Pitchko, Kinley Bearb, Miles Bennett, Jackson Bennett Helen Hopkin on Sep. 8 and Dock Hopkin on Sep. 15. God bless these young disciples on their journey of faith.
- + Prayers and sympathy for the family of Jayson Perry who died September 23, 2024.

## Outreach Spotlight: German Food Fest & Thanksgiving Bags with St. Mark's

### German Food Fest

Mark your calendars: Messiah's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual German Food Fest will take place Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>! For the past two years we have welcomed hundreds of visitors to our church during this event, and we need your help to make this year's festival a success! Here are a few ways you can help:

**Spread the Word.** Tell your friends/families/coworkers, share/interact with social media posts, put up posters. Everyone is invited!

**Give.** German Food Fest has a dedicated fund. Contributions that help us cover expenses mean that we can donate more of our proceeds to our designated charity, [Shepherds Fold](#).

**Attend.** Your presence at the festival gives visitors the opportunity to meet members, and contributes to a lively festival atmosphere!

**Volunteer.** This event would not be possible without our amazing volunteers. Help is needed for a variety of activities both the day of the festival and in the months leading up to it. If you can lend a hand, please visit our

### German Food Festival [Signup Genius Site](#)

POC for the event is Dana Burton

### Support Saint Mark's Thanksgiving Bags

#### Help MLC collect 100 Boxes of Cake Mix & Cans of Frosting this October

Messiah Lutheran Church continues to support St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Huntsville's annual Thanksgiving Bag give-away. Again this year we will strive to collect 100 boxes of cake mix and frosting which will be included in the sacks with other items being donated by other organizations and churches.

Donations of cake mix and frosting can be dropped off at the "Mission Control Center" in MLC's Narthex. If shopping is not your thing, members may also make a dedicated offering by writing "Thanksgiving Bags" on the other line of their offering.

# Music & Worship Notes



**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

## HYMN REQUEST FORM

Want to hear a favorite hymn in Worship?  
Place your request here.

SignUp Genius



### Worship

In-person services of worship are scheduled at 8:30 and 11:00, with the Lord's Supper at all the Sunday services of worship in October. The 11:00 a.m. service will be livestreamed each week.

**Musical Groups** Please join us in making a joyful noise to the Lord!

#### Cherub Choir (Pre-K - Gr.1 )

Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Bonnie Flowers and Hannah Seitz lead this group. Additional volunteers are requested.

#### Seraph Choir (Grades 2-6)

Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Laura Simeone leads this group.

#### Notabella (Grade 7 – adult)

Rehearsals are Sundays at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Rhonda Gaede directs this group.

#### Instrumental Ensemble

Rehearsals are on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Larry Frakes continues as the interim leader.

#### Messiah Choir (Grade 7-adult)

Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, led by Randall Fields.

#### Band Led Worship

The team will practice on Oct. 19 at 10:00 a.m. and Oct. 20 at 9:45 a.m. They will lead worship at the 11:00 a.m. service on Oct. 20.

#### MLC Worship and Music Committee

The Committee's next meeting will be in November 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. This meeting is open to anyone who is interested in attending. Please contact Laura Peterson at [worship\\_music\\_rep@mlutheran.org](mailto:worship_music_rep@mlutheran.org) if you are planning to attend.

**Many hands make light work. Please visit SignUp Genius, call the office, or contact Laura at [worship\\_music\\_rep@mlutheran.org](mailto:worship_music_rep@mlutheran.org) if you are willing to serve.**

### ----- Coordinators Needed - *It's a Great Way to Serve and Connect with Others*

- **Flower Guild Coordinator.** The duties involve Flower Guild volunteer coordination and recruitment, communicating with the office, oversight of flower guild expenses, and working with the team on holiday displays.
- **Greeter Coordinator.** The duties involve volunteer coordination, recruitment of members to the greeting roster, and orienting new greeters to the team.
- **Coffee Coordinator.** The duties involve volunteer scheduling and recruitment of the Sunday morning team of coffee makers. There's a good number on the team; they just need a person to schedule and monitor supplies.

If you like cultivating a team and have the time and gifts to serve, please call Laura Peterson or the church office. We'd be happy to get you plugged in.

We also need additional volunteers for the Cherub Choir!

*For the choir director; on the Gittith. A Psalm of Asaph.  
Sing for joy to God our strength;  
Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob.  
Raise a song, strike the timbrel,  
The sweet sounding lyre with the harp.  
-Psalm 81:1-2*

# Messiah Youth & Faith Formation

## Messiah Youth Secondary Youth Groups

**Junior Youth** - grades 6-8

**Senior Youth** - grades 9-12

POC: Bonnie Flowers

youth@mlutheran.org

## **Elementary Youth** Groups

**MOES (Messiah Older**  
**Elementary Students)** -  
grades 3-5

**MESY (Messiah Elemen-**  
**tary Student Youngsters)** -  
grades K-2

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

### **Hannah Seitz**

*Youth Council Rep*

youth\_rep@mlutheran.org

## **Children's and Youth Sunday School Schedule:**

Oct. 6, 13 20, 27 - Regular Sunday School

**Bible Presentation** for students grade 3 and older will be on Reformation Sunday, October 27. If you have children who have not received a Bible and would like to, please contact Janet Sullivan.

**Help Wanted:** Hall monitor needed during the Sunday school hour! Just hang out and read a book or do other work in the hallway area and be ready to help briefly monitor students if a teacher needs to step out or deal with unexpected emergencies such as a clogged toilet (which happened recently!) or other similar events. And additional teachers, assistants, or substitutes are always appreciated. Many hands make lighter work for everyone. Please contact Janet Sullivan if you can help out.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation classes are held each Wednesday from 5:00 -6:00 p.m. in the youth room (classroom 5). Contact instructor Laurie Campbell or Pastor Kris if you have any questions.

## **Adult Faith Formation Classes:**

**Bible Study:** Discuss the book of Acts with Dottie Hanson on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 in classroom 11/12.

**Pub Theology:** Starting October 15 at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to enjoy conversations of faith on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings in MLC's Fellowship Hall. See page 8 for more details.

## **Activities for Secondary Youth Groups**

Secondary youth group meetings are typically from 5:00-6:30 on Sunday evenings. We start as a big group and then split for separate Junior and Senior Youth activities.

Oct. 6: Outdoor activity and worship at a local park

Oct. 13: Halloween planning

Oct. 20: TBD

Oct. 27: Chili Cookoff and Halloween Party

## **Activities for Elementary Youth Groups**

Sat. Oct. 19: **M.O.E.S.** and **M.E.S.Y.** joint visit to a pumpkin patch!

## **Tinsel Trail Tree for MLC!**

MLC will have a tree on the Tinsel Trail in Huntsville this year! Whitney Morse will lead the decorating effort and plans to have all of our youth groups involved in helping to make ornaments and decorating. But we would like all the ministries of MLC to be represented on the tree to give the community a picture of who Messiah Lutheran Church is.

So we invite all ministry groups to participate, which could include music groups, Comforters, MOMs, Pub Theology, Disaster Relief, Kit Ministry, Crafters, Women's Book Club, Stephen Ministry, and many, many more! Be creative and think of a compact way to represent what your group does on ornaments to include on the tree (and make sure they are very durable and weatherproof!). POC: Whitney Morse



# MLC News Flashes...

# Click & Connect...

Click the underlined text or box for details.



## Kit Ministry Resumes!

*The Group will resume on October 3.*

**Kit Ministry normally meets on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Prefer to help at home? Love to shop? There are many ways to be a Kit Ministry volunteer!  
**POC: Rhonda Gaede/Diane Davis**

## Comforters

**Comforters meet weekly on Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall.** They meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Anyone interested is welcome to come and join!  
**POC: Jeanette Beamer**

## Messiah ArtReach

**1st and 3rd Wednesdays**

**11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall**

All Are Welcome | BYO Lunch if you like! :)

No Experience or Supplies Needed.

POC's Peggy Mabry/Beth Thompson/Meredith Kilby

## Women's Book/Social Club

The book club will gather to discuss *The Women* on Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

POC Janell Zesinger

## MoMs (Men of Messiah)

Our Men of Messiah group (MoM's) typically meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month for fellowship. We also organize the HandyMoMs, who assist church members with minor home or lawn projects.

MoMs will help pack Weekend Food Program bags between services on Oct. 27.

Check your email for details on the Tinsel Tree ornament!

POCs Mark Zesinger

Adam Ballard (

## October Reminders & Notes:

- Please turn in your Time and Talent Forms if you have yet to do so that your member records can accurately reflect where you desire to serve MLC.
- **Please mail church offerings to MLC's official Post Office Box and not our church physical address:**  
**Messiah Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 526, Madison, AL 35758**

**Come out and support MLC's Handmade Market,  
Sat., Oct. 12 (9 - 2 p.m. ) & Sun., Oct. 13**

**100% of Your Purchase Supports Lunches for Learning!**

## **MLC's Lunches for Learning Mission...**

For over ten years, Messiah Lutheran Church has been a sponsor of a Honduran lunch program ministry called *Lunches For Learning*. Throughout the year, Messiah conducts fundraising events like the upcoming Handmade Market to raise funds necessary to support the three schools (2 Elementary Schools, 1 Kindergarten) that Messiah sponsors in the Nacaome Valley of Honduras - Benito Montoya and Jesus Tadeo Flores. Over the years MLC has also provided monetary support for *Lunches for Learning's* Special Projects to fund newly refurbished kitchens and bathrooms.

The goal of the *Lunches for Learning* program is simple. It offers the children a nutritious meal each day in school to encourage the children not to drop out in order to search for food. The program provides the raw ingredients for the meals and the parents of the school volunteer and take turns preparing the food in their homes and take it to the school. **Did you know that: 60%–70% of the people in Honduras live in poverty and 20%–30% of elementary school children drop out of school each year so they can search for food?** Most of the children complete little if any education, but if they can make it through just the 6th grade, they will have a much greater chance at a productive life.

## *Prayer Families*

Please lift these Messiah households in your daily prayers. **On Sundays and holidays (including staff vacations) please remember to pray for the groups or individuals listed in bold.**

## **Fellowship Corner**

Kari Pitchko

[fellowship\\_rep@mlutheran.org](mailto:fellowship_rep@mlutheran.org)

Fall activities are fast approaching! Fellowship is in need of people interested in helping with planning, contributing, physical labor, being an emcee, and anything else that comes up. Many of these events are annual, but we would love some fresh eyes and helping hands!

### **UPCOMING DATES FOR FELLOWSHIP:**

- Retirement Reception for Meredith Kilby during Coffee hour on October 20.
- Halloween Chili Cook-Off 5 p.m. - Sunday, October 27 with food, fun, "spooky games" and a canned food drive. Please watch for more details in October.

### **WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP**

- **Wednesday Night Dinners** - every Wednesday 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Kitchen help needed at 4:00 p.m. Sign Up on MLC's SignUP Genius Site
- **Messiah Mugs** – coffee hour in between services. Enjoy coffee but don't carry cash? Scan the QR code on the counter to pay for your coffee. Feel free to pay in advance!

Please contact Kari Pitchko if you would like to help with any specific event OR just events in general OR have some new Fellowship ideas you would like to discuss!



# September 2024 Month in Pictures

**September Photos:** (Photos by: Bonnie Flowers, Meredith Kilby). **Top Row L-R:** After completing their training in late August, on Sep. 8 MLC celebrated the First Communion of six young disciples with a cupcake reception during the fellowship time.; Five of the six pose with Pastor Kris. See page 2 for details.

**Middle Row L-R:** Youth enjoyed Gaga Ball and other games on Sep. 22.; Pr. Bill Schroeder leading the September "Sharing Your Faith" class;

"I built it completely by myself" share one of Ms. Florio's Sunday School students. The class was studying "Creation" and built various items from wood scraps.

**Bottom Row L-R:** Youth Volunteer Justin Walker preps for a foam stick battle during the Jr. & Sr. Youth group's visit to Altitude of Huntsville. **Check out many more photos in the online gallery.**



# Pub Theology



Where Faith is Always on Tap

**Starting in October**  
**Join Us for a**  
**Refreshing Take on**  
**Conversations that**  
**Matter!**

Are you ready for a space where every voice is valued, and all perspectives are welcomed? Come pull up a chair at our **Open and Honest Conversation Table**—where the format is simple and the dialogue is profound: **Beer, Conversation, and God.**

*Whether you're curious about faith, philosophy, or just looking to explore life's big questions, this is your chance to share your thoughts, listen to others, and enjoy soda, tea, beer or wine.*

**Bring your questions. Bring a friend. Bring your favorite beer or wine to share.** Engage with people from diverse religious traditions, philosophical perspectives, and life experiences. It's more than just a discussion—it's a journey of shared discovery and mutual respect.

**Get ready to:**

- Dive into deep conversations
- Hear new viewpoints
- Sip on something delicious

Don't miss out on this unique blend of thought-provoking discussion and good company. **Mark your calendar and come ready to explore, connect, and enjoy!** We will meet in the Fellowship Hall on the **first** and **third** Tuesdays of the month beginning **October 15** at **6:30 p.m.**

See you there! ~ Pr. Bill Schroeder

## Technology & Accessibility Task Forces

**For the Technology Task Force,** we are looking for individuals who have knowledge and interest in helping with the different technologies we use within the church. Possible projects include helping to make sure we are being efficient with our resources, usage across church areas, maintenance, etc.

<https://forms.gle/BmbF4Qwt4PtKr8RJA>

**For the Accessibility Task Force,** we are looking for individuals with knowledge of or experience with needing differing accessibility. We want our space to be a welcoming space for all individuals. With that in mind, we need to look at our space from different perspectives and consider what could be done to make sure our space allows usage with dignity. We want to look at not just physical accessibility, but also auditory, visual, and anything else.

<https://forms.gle/N3yEDKvpmukHKvdR6> Questions? Contact Neda Ballard





**Executive Committee**

Pastor Kris Schroeder (Ex-Officio of All Committees) Pastor.Kris@mlutheran.org

**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:** Peter Woods property\_rep@mlutheran.org

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

**Youth Representative:** Hannah Seitz - youth\_rep@mlutheran.org

**Non-Council Positions / Committees**

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Janet Sullivan — sundayschool@mlutheran.org

**Personnel Committee:** personnel.committee@mlutheran.org

**Financial Secretary:** Marc Neely—finance\_sec@mlutheran.org

**Stephen Ministry:** Mike & Peggy Mabry — stephenministry@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*

October 2024  
Volume 37, Issue 10

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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  
Bobby 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)**

