

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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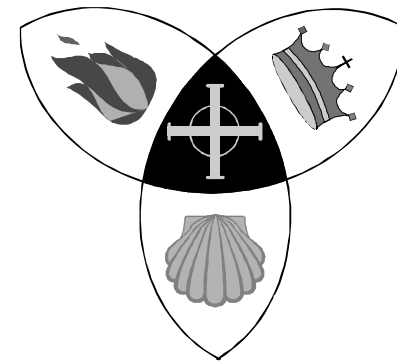
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Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is www.mlutheran.org**. Church Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Managers. The Pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. Pastor/Developer is Rev. Mark Borseth. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: info@mlutheran.org. For newsletter articles call Stacy Tidwell at (256) 325-5046 or email: bstidwell@knology.net.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 22: Issue 4
www.mlutheran.com

April 2010



**Christ has Died,
Christ has Risen,
Christ Will Come Again!**

*“...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are **now** justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through (His) faithfulness.” --Romans 3:23-25*

Dear Friends of the Crucified and Risen Messiah,

WE NEED NEW LIFE. We really need new life. Loved ones are ill; some are dying; some have recently died. Wars grind on. Hatred proliferates. Politics are sadly partisan; more concerned with having power than the public good. The daily news is full of tragedy and much of it close to home--some of it literally in our homes. At times we get a startling clear glimpse of ourselves and realize we are part of the problem. In fact, you and I are dying. Oh, my! *We really, really need new life!*

IS THERE ANY HOPE? That depends on what we are hoping for. If we are hoping to have all those problems simply go away or be solved by others or by ourselves, we are likely to be deeply disappointed. And, if we expect God to suddenly serve our every desire, we are likely to be equally disappointed. We should already know...

OUR LORD DOES NOT PREVENT DEATH. Our Lord has worked some miraculous healing in the past and continues to do so today. Yet, for thousands of years the mortality rate for humans has been remarkably consistent. It is just a matter of time. We can count on one death for every birth. In fact, our Lord died.

JESUS DIED. There was nothing right or fair about Jesus' death. By our sinfulness we get death the old fashioned way: We earn it. But, Jesus did not deserve to die. He did not sin. Yet, He was willing to die, destined to die, even predestined to die. We often hear that Jesus died for us, but that does not mean we do not die. It means that Jesus has gone into death before us. You know what happened after that...

JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD! That Jesus! He has power over death! He showed Himself as the model of new life. He demonstrated new life to disciples—lots of disciples (see I Corinthians 15:3-6).

JESUS ROSE THAT WE MIGHT HAVE NEW LIFE TOO. Jesus' resurrection promises eternal life for all God's children. Yet, that new life begins now (see Romans 3 above). We do not need to wait for new life or die for it to arrive. Our Lord intends that we begin new life and share new life right now. We are called to new life and to announce new life in this world that so desperately needs the hope we have been given. Jesus did not stay dead; neither shall we. Let's share new life today and always.

Grace and peace, Pastor Scott Peterson

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Worship at 7 p.m.
Easter Worship at 10:45 a.m. followed by Easter Brunch at Noon
(please bring food to share)

SEASON OF EASTER FOCUS – PRAYER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Join us in reading Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire (Pastor Mark will be ordering books the day after Easter –cost approx \$14)
Join us in worship on April 11 as we continue our Alpha series by focusing on “Who is the Holy Spirit?” The topic is timely since the assigned reading for the day is Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit on his disciples. We will use the season of Easter to prepare for Pentecost Sunday and the coming of the Holy Spirit!

ASPERGER'S EVENT – TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 27

What is Asperger's, how can I help support people I love who have it, and how can I find others to help me in the process? This is a free event where you can get answers to these and other questions. More info will be coming out soon. Talk to Pastor Mark if you have questions.

Incarnation Information

April 2010

“When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come to you proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom but on the power of God.” 1 Cor. 2:1-5

I came to Alabama to start a new church with the conviction that I didn't want to settle for doing something I could accomplish in my own power or wisdom. Now, as we have begun weekly worship, the default mode would be to settle for growing the church with human wisdom and power. Please pray that we not settle for that!

Even the Apostle Paul knew that if his ministry were to be effective he would need to base it on the cross of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit and not on his own cleverness or personal skill. I am choosing to use the season of Easter to remind myself and the people of Incarnation that what we are doing is bigger than us. I plan on focusing on two things to accomplish this goal – prayer and the Holy Spirit. The resurrected Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on his disciples on Easter evening and told them to wait for the filling of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to enable them to go and do things that were bigger than their abilities. This April and May, we at Incarnation will focus on what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit and how to depend on God's power through prayer.

We want to build Incarnation on something bigger than human creativity, programs and wisdom. We want to focus on “Jesus Christ and him crucified” and do our ministry “with a demonstration of the Holy Spirit and of power” so that the faith of those who are impacted by our ministry “might not rest on human wisdom but on the power of God.”

To encourage people to think about what God can do and not just what we can do, I am inviting people at Incarnation to join me in reading *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire* by Jim Cymbala. He shares how prayer turned his dying church in Brooklyn into a large, dynamic ministry with worship locations around the world. What happened? They decided to rely on prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. A quote from the book that has challenged me is the following (p. 27):

From this day on, the prayer meeting will be the barometer of our church. What happens on Tuesday night (their prayer service) will be the gauge by which we will judge success or failure.”

I sense prayer needs to be the foundation of Incarnation. We are not here to draw people to ourselves but to God. We can draw people to ourselves without prayer, but God will draw people to himself as we pray. So let's become a community of prayer that sees God do things we can't do on our own!

Thanks for your ongoing prayers, visits, and financial support. We are blessed to be partnering with you to do something bigger than us in the Harvest community!



April Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice

Sundays at 8:30am

April 4 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

April 11 WOV Service Word/Prayer

April 18 Now the Feast w/LS

April 25 Youth Service

Sundays at 11:00am

April 4 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Apr. 11 LBW Setting 2

April 18 Contemporary Service

April 25 Youth Service w/LS

Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 1: Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm

April 2: Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 4:

Resurrection of Our Lord: Festival Worship with the

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 7:00 am, 8:30 am & 11:00 am

Rummage Sale Set for May 22

The church rummage sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 22 from 8 a.m.–Noon. Proceeds from the sale will support Habitat for Humanity. You may bring items for donation to the Parish Hall beginning Monday, May 17 through Friday, May 21. *Help is needed on Thursday and Friday to price the items and on Saturday during the sale.* To help with the sale, contact Paulette McNamara.

Collectibles & More Auction

On Saturday, May 1, Messiah will be hosting an auction to support the *On Eagle's Wings* mission. In its 13th year, the auction is a fun way to collect some real treasures and enable the sharing of the Gospel with people in the remote areas of northern Canada.



Do you have any new or like-new items that you would like to donate? Or, would you be willing to donate one of your handcrafted items? Or a service, such as baby-sitting or lessons? Perhaps you have some tickets to a play, sporting event or concert that you are willing to donate?

In the past, we've auctioned everything from beanie babies, coins, and sports memorabilia to live plants, afghans, piano lessons, home décor items, candlelight dinners, baby items and much more! Also, there are numerous ways that you can be involved in helping with this event like baking, picking up donations from local businesses, cataloging, setting up, etc. Please call Sue Doubleday or the church office (721-0041) if you have donations or would like to help in any way.

INTERESTED IN SERVING? Then Volunteer!

The Nominating Committee is meeting and seeking nominees to be on the ballot at the May 2 Congregation Meeting. The following offices will be elected at that meeting:

OFFICERS

Vice-president - 1 year term

Secretary - 1 year term

Treasurer - 1 year term

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Youth Representative - 1 year term

Worship and Music Rep - 2 year term

Education and Youth Rep - 2 year term

Property Rep - 2 year term

Finance Rep - 2 year term

Fellowship Rep. - 1 year term

Non Council Election

Sunday School Supt. - 1 year term

2011 Nominating Committee 1 year term

2 outgoing Council members, 4 at large

Please call the Church Office (721-0041) if you are interested in being on the ballot. Job descriptions are on the website: www.mlutheran.com.

Congregation Meeting

Sunday May 2

12:00 Noon in the SANCTUARY
ELECTIONS and OTHER BUSINESS



LIFE PASSAGES

This newsletter feature announces significant transitions in the life of our community of faith. Birth, Death, Baptism, Graduation, Confirmation, Job Change Relocation, Engagement, Marriage, or any other life passage you would like announced will be included. Contact Claire Strand.

DEATHS: *Remember I am with you always to the end of the age Matthew 28:20*

- Reuben Pressnell, uncle of Rosemary Brooks, passed away on February 23. He was 83.
- Pauline VanMeurs, aunt and Godmother of Linda Zutter, passed away March 1 in Florida.

Births: *You knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13*

- Diane Cline announces the birth of her great grandchild, Pierce Maxwell, son of Elizabeth and Dawson Toungette, of Springhill Tennessee.
- Marc and Janell Zesinger announce the birth of their daughter Natalie Jane Zesinger on March 15. She weighed 6 lbs 11oz and was 20 inches long.

Education con't

JUNIOR YOUTH

- The Jr. Youth are in the midst of preparing for Lutherock camp this summer.
- Diane Davis has agreed to be the Jr. Youth leader (with help from Lisa Bartel for the remainder of the school year). She has actually done most of the work this year. I believe that she may help again next year if a co-leader is found.

TWEENS

- The Tweens plan monthly outings. All 3rd – 5th graders are welcome! Contact Debi Peterson or Stacy Tidwell for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- Thanks to Dorothy Seitz for planning VBS this summer. Please contact her if you are interested in helping.

OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand



Serving the City as One 2010
Sat. April 17, 7:30 a.m. Cross Pointe Church Hughes Rd, across from Bob Jones HS. Our Christian community comes

together to help Huntsville, Madison, and Madison County. Activities needing your support are:

Building planters at nursing homes

Prayer Walking

Laying mulch in Dublin Park

Construction projects through CASA

Madison Clean Up near newly planted rose bushes

Work at Senior Center near Discovery Middle School

Make Lap Blankets for nursing home patients

Handing out water at soccer fields

Care packages for fire stations and police station

Please fill out an orange sign-up sheet available at our Welcome Center and return to Allen Nuss' or Claire Strand's mail boxes, or leave with Church Secretary. Feel free to contact AI after 7:00PM.



On Sunday April 25 after worship, you're invited to the Parish Hall for a Taco Luncheon fundraiser prepared under the direction of our gourmet chef Jackie Myers. Proceeds will be used to sponsor Benito Montoya Elementary School through the Lunches for Learning

program. For more info, visit www.lunchesforlearning.org

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity 2010



House Location: 6344 Banks Rd, Homeowner: Deborah Cowan

Build Schedule: posted on www.mlutheran.com

Or call Gerard deJong

Education News

Sunday School

Easter Break - Sunday, April 4 – No Sunday School
Awards Day and last day of Sunday School - May 16

Please do not forget this years' fundraiser! We are helping Incarnation Lutheran Church buy a baptismal font! We will be collecting money up until awards day.

Please bring in a flower to place in our cross on Easter Morning! It will be located outside in the garden area.

Adult Sunday School:

- April 11, Dottie Hanson's Sunday school class will begin a study based on the book *Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them*, by Liz Curtis Higgs. The book and accompanying workbook are available from amazon.com. Anyone is welcome to join us for this study.

Youth News

SENIOR YOUTH

- The 30 Hour Famine is scheduled for April 24-25. It will include the Jr. and Sr. Youth groups and they will be leading worship on Sunday, April 25.
 - The Sr. Youth enjoyed a bowling outing at The Station #2 on 21 February 2010. There were 15 youth attendees. Adults in attendance included Pastor Mark, Jill Casey, Jonathan Ehler and myself.
 - The Sr. Youth is busy planning for WorldVision's 30 Hour Famine event. The plan is to start the famine at 10 a.m. on 24 April and break the fast with a dinner at 4 p.m. on 25 April.
 - The Jr. Youth will be invited to participate in the 30 Hour Famine
 - Katie Azzam has taken the lead on a Carwash Fundraiser
 - Katie Spence has taken the lead to lead/organize Sunday (25 April) service
 - Pastor Mark has taken the lead to organize games for the youth
 - I will coordinate with Jackie Myers in regards to the Sr. Youth providing assistance with the Lunches 4 Learning taco lunch.
 - We are seeking a parent to organize the "Break the Fast" meal on Sunday evening.
 - The Sr. Youth is also planning for the annual Easter Breakfast Fundraiser in the Parish Hall. The Sr. Youth will be serving Pancakes and casseroles as they have in past years. I need to contact Sr. Youth parents in regards to helping organize the event.
 - John and Jessica Stender are the Sr. Youth who have signed up for Lutherock Camp this year.
 - The invitation to Bishop's School 2010 has been distributed to the Sr. Youth. There have been no responses to date.
 - The Sr. Youth advisors have begun using Text Messaging as a way to communicate with the youth (in addition to email). To date, all text announcements have also been sent to the Sr. Youth email list.
- All 9th – 12th graders are welcome at any or all activities. Contact Dan Casey or Pastor Borseth (pastor@incarnation-elca.org) for information.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

by Mary Ann Stasiak, 325-6233

Saturday, April 3: All Messiah Lutheran members and friends are invited to a special treat: a discussion of the book *Four Spirits* by the author, Sena Jeter Naslund - recipient of the Harper Lee Award for Distinguished Writer and sister-in-law to our own Derelene Jeter. *Four Spirits* is a national bestseller and was a *New York Times Notable Book of the Year*. The discussion will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Huntsville at 9:30 AM on Saturday April 3. Please let Mary Ann Stasiak know if you are coming – St. Mark's would like to know how many plan to attend.

Wednesday Night Café will resume after Easter. Many thanks again to the Lenten Soup Supper host, Betty Roenfeldt, for an outstanding job, and to all those who volunteered such wonderful foods during Lent.

Bridge Club will be moving permanently to the second Friday of every month starting on April 9th, still starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share - Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

Men's Breakfast: will be at Incarnation Lutheran on April 10 at 7 a.m.

OWLS: The Older Wiser Lutherans (OWLS) will be meeting in the Parish Hall for dinner and a discussion on gardening led by Fran and Rex Shaffer. Fran will especially focus on raising tomatoes. See Jan Murphy for further details.

Future Events:

The Mother/Daughter event, intended for all Messiah and Incarnation women and girls who are or have mothers or daughters, will be a fondue party in Parish Hall Saturday May 8 at 11:30 a.m., along with flower arranging. Please watch for the sign up sheet, and contact Mary Ann Stasiak for more information.

A Father/Son event is in the planning stages to be held sometime in June. Watch for more information.

Can you help with an upcoming event? Contact Mary Ann.

Music Camp June 7-11

Messiah's 17th annual Music Camp will be held the week of June 7 – 11. The original musical "Lord, Use Me" will be presented at both services on June 13. The musical recounts the story of St. Francis and the impact that God's call had on his life and has on our lives. If you have questions or would like to help in any way, please contact Lois Graff.



Building Committee Update

At the November 15, 2009 Congregation Meeting Pete Woods, chair of the Facility Expansion Committee (FEC), briefed the congregation on the FECs recommendations.

The congregation voted (49 Yes / 8 No) to move forward with Option #2 that included:

- The MLC Council appoint a Building Committee, and that the Building Committee would:
- Refine the design details – particularly for the interior of the sanctuary
- Request more detailed drawings at a cost of no more than \$18K
- Solicit bids from no fewer than 3 contractors

As a result the church council appointed these people to serve as our

Building Committee:

Bill Emerson: Chair
Peter Woods: Co-Chair
Rhonda Gaede: Treasurer
Ed Stasiak: Secretary
Jack Mast
Janet Smith
Joe Stuart
Pastor Scott Peterson (ex-officio)

The committee held its first meeting January 12, 2010 and has met a total of 5 times.

We appreciate the excellent work done by the FEC and we are using their data as the foundation. We are reviewing submitted requirements and gathering new ideas for improvements. **If you have ideas on what you believe an expanded sanctuary should include, please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the Building Committee.** During our review we realized that even though our task is to provide for a larger and more functional sanctuary and narthex we also need to document, for future use, all requirements received including the needs outside of the sanctuary and narthex.

We are developing a conceptual design with our architect that will meet the needs for an expanded sanctuary and a larger sacristy, and also insure the various music ministries will have room in the sanctuary to accommodate growth. Our plans and recommendations will be submitted to the Church Council before presentation to the congregation. **Please check back here for future opportunities to provide input on the design and updates on our progress.**

We ask that you continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Thriving with Thrivent

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

Thrivent Builds is participating with the construction of this year's house at 6344 Banks Rd NW. The house is being built for Deborah Cowan. This is the 4th consecutive year that we have coordinated with local area Lutheran Churches in this program. Thrivent contributes 65% of the cost, Habitat for Humanity 25% and local congregations 10%.

Won't you please consider volunteering to help with this worthwhile project? Volunteering as a family on a Saturday is a great way to demonstrate to your children the benefits of helping others. We are not only looking for those who are handy with a hammer: we will also have one Saturday where we will need volunteers to provide lunch!

You are guaranteed to come away with more than you give: work days are always a great time of Christian fellowship! Work days begin at 8am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Snacks, lunch and drinks are provided on Saturdays. For more information, please visit thriventbuilds.com.

Thrivent Sponsors Studio 60 at the Senior Center

Thrivent sponsored the new exercise room and snack bar at the Huntsville Senior Center. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was March 24, at 9:30 am with the Chamber of Commerce and news media in attendance.

Also, mark your calendars: there will be a Thrivent booth at the Senior Expo, May 4, at the VBC.

Thrivent's Lutheran Night with the Huntsville Stars

Join us for the 22nd Annual Lutheran Night with the Huntsville Stars on Friday, May 7. Refreshments are included with the price of the ticket in the tent area. Tickets for the game will go on sale soon.

Thrivent is using this event to honor military families and is asking its members to donate phone cards that will enable our brave men and women serving overseas to contact their family members back home.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, May 30, Messiah Lutheran will celebrate the 20th anniversary of our organization as a Congregation. Please save the date for gathering to give thanks to God for blessing MLC over the years and looking forward to our ongoing mission as 'God's People, Reaching Out'.

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service of Worship <i>Kim Nelson Nathan, Andrew</i>	2 7 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service of Worship <i>Allen & Peggy Nuss Troy, Courtney</i>	3 <i>Brian & Cindy Nye Jeffrey, Justin</i>
4 Easter Sunday 7:00am Worship Service LBW Setting 2 w/LS 8:00 – 10:45am Easter Breakfast in Parish Hall 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS No Sunday School 11:00am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS	5 <i>Diane Oliver</i>	6 10 am Comforters <i>Charles & Barbara Olson</i>	7 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Geoff & Jennifer Oltmans Madelyn</i>	8 <i>Brian & Audrey Osterndorf Lydia, Hannah</i>	9 <i>Joe Paxton Nathan</i>	10 7:00 am Men’s Breakfast at Incarnation <i>Paul & Julie Pedersen Lorelie, Leah, Christopher</i>
11 8:30am Worship WOV Word & Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 2	12 <i>Phil & Sonja Pedersen Heidi, Heather</i>	13 10 am Comforters <i>Steve & Linda Peirce</i>	14 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>John & Mary Pendley</i>	15 8:30am Morning Study Group Church Council 7pm <i>Jay & Gretchen Perry Jayson, Ashlyn</i>	16 <i>Kevin & Debi Peterson Shane, Amanda</i>	17 <i>Laura Peterson</i>
18 8:30am Worship Now the Feast w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Contemporary Service 12:15 Instrumental Ens 4:30 pm Notabella Choir 5:30 pm Cantabile Choir 6:30 pm Sr Youth	19 <i>Scott & Bonnie Jane Peterson Christine, Paul</i>	20 10 am Comforters <i>Dieter & Karin Prigmore</i>	21 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Jonianne & Mark Ridzelski-McCombs Brook, Sebastian</i>	22 <i>Nicholas & Marty Rinyu Tabitha</i>	23 <i>Art Rockett</i>	24 <i>Youth 30 Hour Famine Betty Roenfeldt</i>
25 8:30am Worship Youth Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Youth Service w. LS Noon: <i>Lunches for Learning Taco Luncheon</i>	26 <i>Dale & Tammy Rohe Whitney</i>	27 10 am Comforters <i>Bob & Peggie Rowell</i>	28 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Jay & Amy Ruff Holden, Bayard</i>	29 8:30am Morning Study Group <i>Norm & Linda Ruhl</i>	30 6:30 pm OWLS <i>Heidi Sage</i>	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sunday April 18