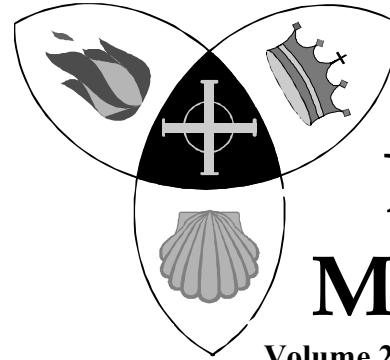


Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758
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Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is www.mlutheran.com**. Church Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Manager. The Pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. Pastor/Developer is Rev. Mark Borseth. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: info@mlutheran.com. For newsletter articles call Stacy Tidwell.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 20: Issue 12

December 2008

www.mlutheran.com



*To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
Who is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:11*

**Sunday School Christmas Program
Wednesday, December 17, at 7 p.m.**

P A S T O R ' S P A G E

And the word became flesh and lived among us... John 1:14

Dear Friends of the Messiah who came to live among us,

WHAT A MESS!!! We hear wave after wave of bad news. When people we love (or we) are the ones losing jobs suddenly this becomes more than just cold statistics. We are talking about hurting people and we are among them. For many of us what we have saved through decades of persistent financial discipline and hard work is evaporating overnight. Others of us have a more profound loss. All we can see is darkness when the question is: "How can I possibly live without my beloved?" *What a mess!*

WHAT A MESS!!! This whole world is bent on rebellion from God. Not a 'cyclical downturn' or a 'phase we are going through', this is the oldest news. From Adam and Eve to you and me, all of us have sinned and fallen short. No 'bail-out' will save us from this mess we have created. This will kill each and every one of us. *What a mess!*

GOD HELP US! Well, **good news**, God did exactly that. That is the Christmas story. Our God, who created everything including us, did not stay detached from the mess we made. God, in the person of Jesus, came to earth, taking on human flesh like ours, and took care of everything. Our Lord did not remove the consequences of our sin. And, our Lord did not prevent us from dying--because dying is exactly what we need. *Our old sinful selves need to die.* God is at work now to raise up a new you and me.

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT INCARNATION. That means: *God took on flesh and lived among us.* In God's infinite wisdom, God decided *incarnation* was the way to fix what we broke--our relationship to the God who made us, loves us, and wants the best for us now and forever.

INCARNATION is the name Pastor Mark has chosen for the new Lutheran church just conceived for the Harvest/Monrovia area. Our Lord was conceived, grew in secret, and then entered this world to bring God's good news for this messy world. So too, this new congregation is now just a twinkle in God's eye, but quickly it will take shape with hands, feet, and a heart determined to care for those in the midst of this messy world.

INCARNATION is also the theme of our Advent mid-week services this year. On Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17, come and listen as Pastor Mark, our Sunday School children, and I '**put flesh**' on the good news of our Lord coming to earth to fix this mess.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Peterson

THANK YOU, LINDA.....HELP WANTED

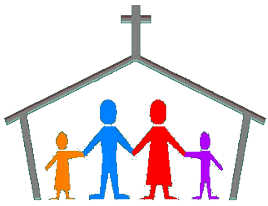
Linda Boehme, who has been the welcoming voice and warm heart of our Office, has accepted a new calling to care for her grandchildren. Thank you, Linda for your faithful and gracious service over the years. Now the Personnel Committee is seeking applications for a new Office Manager to share that job with Cheryl Byers. If you are interested please call Personnel Committee Chair Bob Davis or the Church Office (721-0041).

CALLING ALL TALENTS and APPETITES

The Annual *On Eagles' Wings* Spaghetti Supper and Talent Show will be on January 24th. If you have a talent to share please contact Lois Graff. This will be an evening of good food and good fun that will help support our mission to the children and communities in the NW Territories.

Church Council Highlights

- The Personnel Committee is searching for a part-time Office Manager because of the resignation of Linda Boehme.
- 2008 Advent and Christmas Eve offerings will be divided evenly between the Lutheran Church in Guatemala and Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church (a mission congregation in GA).
- A landscaping proposal from First Commercial Bank was accepted.



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 Outreach Assistant Claire Strand (721-0041).

Many thanks from the ALS Association of Alabama to the Wednesday Nite Café and participants for the donation of \$272.

Installation: *Here I am; send me! -Isaiah 6:8*

- Pastor/Mission Developer Mark D. Borseth was installed November 9th. Pastor Mark and his wife Betsy have three sons, Nathan, Andrew and Peter.

Graduation *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. -Psalm 111:10*

- Adam Le graduates December 19 from Auburn University with a degree in Criminal Justice.

Death: *Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life; John 11:25*

- Hilda Roenfeldt, Betty Roenfeldt's mother-in-law and Debi Peterson's grandmother, died October 30.
- Norma Doubleday, Mike Doubleday's mother, died October 31.
- Lois McGoon, Jan Murphy's mother, died November 12.
- Marc Zesinger's grandmother died November 12 in Erie, PA.

Baptism: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...Matt. 28:19*

- Hannah Marie Seitz, daughter of Dorothy and Lee Seitz was baptized Nov. 2. Her baptismal sponsors are Laurie and Martin Campbell and Maureen King.

OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand

New Member Sunday- *New members will be received on Dec. 7 at the late service with cake and punch following in the Fellowship Hall. To be part of this group, contact Claire Strand or Pastor Scott at 721-0041.*

Messiah is again sponsoring the children of the Breaking Free Rescue Mission. Their names will be hanging on a Christmas tree in the narthex. Anyone can choose a name and purchase gifts for the child. Wrapped gifts need to be placed underneath the Christmas tree in the sanctuary by Dec. 19th.

The "collection turkey" will remain at the welcome center in the Narthex until December 17 to receive donations to purchase hams and turkeys for the Breaking Free Rescue Mission.

The Comforters, Messiah's blanket makers are assembling tied fleece blankets for each child at the Breaking Free Rescue Mission. Contact: Annette Joens.

We had beautiful weather for the Blessing of the Animals on Nov. 8. Pastor Peterson and Pastor Borseth presided and I provided the meditation. About 10 animals were blessed. Special music was provided by Lois Graff and Randall Fields. Thanks to coordinator Jonnianne McCombs and Whitesburg Animal Hospital for treats.

December Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship WOV = With One Voice

Sundays at 8:30am

- Dec. 7** LBW *Setting 1* with Lord's Supper
Dec. 14 WOV *Service of Word and Prayer*
Dec. 21 LBW *Setting 2* with Lord's Supper
& Vivaldi *Gloria* excerpts
Dec. 28 WOV *Service of Word and Prayer*



Sundays at 11:00am

- Dec. 7** LBW *Setting 1*
Dec. 14 *Chicago Folk* with Lord's Supper
Dec. 21 LBW *Setting 2* with Lord's Supper
& Vivaldi *Gloria* excerpts
Dec. 28 LBW *Setting 2* with Lord's Supper

Advent Services at Wednesdays at 7 pm

- Dec. 3** *Holden Evening Prayer*
Dec. 10 *Holden Evening Prayer*
Dec. 17 *Holden Evening Prayer* w/ **Children's Christmas Program**

Christmas Eve Services at 4 pm, 6 pm and 8 pm

- Dec. 24** Candlelight Services with the Lord's Supper



Advent Mid-Week Services of Worship

Make plans to attend Advent services of worship at 7 pm on Wednesdays in December, using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Pastors Mark and Scott will have meditations on the theme *Incarnation*. Everyone is invited to supper served on December 7 and 14 before the Advent Services, beginning at 5:30 pm. The Advent offering received this year will be divided between the Lutheran Church in Guatemala and the Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church, a 7-year-old congregation currently engaged in a capital campaign which will result in a new church home in the spring of 2009.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Everyone is invited to attend a candlelight service of worship with the Lord's Supper on December 24, at 4 pm, 6 pm or 8 pm.

Ring and Sing

Come out for the annual Ring and Sing on December 14. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. and will include music from adult, youth and children's bell and vocal groups. In addition, there will be an opportunity for the audience to ring handchimes as Christmas carols are being sung. The concert is free. A free-will donation will benefit the Madison County library, with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans as a co-sponsor for the event.



On Eagle's Wings Advent Breakfast

The 11th annual On Eagle's Wings Advent Breakfast will be on Sunday morning, Dec. 14. Please offer your continuing support for this mission that proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut in Canada.



"Incarnation Information"

An Update from Pastor Mark on the Harvest Mission Congregation

It's good to be here! Since my family and I arrived on November 1, you have made us feel very welcome. Thank you! So, now that I am here, what do we know about the new congregation in Harvest that wasn't previously known?

First, we have a tentative name – Incarnation Lutheran Church. That is where the name of the update (Incarnation Information) comes from. I will try to pass "Incarnation Information" to you in each monthly newsletter and on the link on the Messiah website.

Why "Incarnation"? I want to make sure the new congregation is constantly reminded to keep their directions straight. The temptation of religion in general is to focus on what we do to get to God, and the motion tends to be from earth toward heaven. But Jesus comes to turn the direction around. Christianity is not how we escape the flesh to get to heaven, but how Jesus chooses to take on flesh and blood to bring heaven to us. That is what "Incarnation" means – "in flesh". Just as he comes to us to bring salvation, he sends us to be his presence "in flesh" in the world.

Incarnation keeps the direction clear. He comes to us in the flesh and sends us into the world to be his body in the world. The direction of salvation is God to us. The direction of Christian life is God with us and in us going into the world. Yes, the day will come when he will come to bring us out, but for now our call is to go in and be an Incarnation of God's love and power in the world.

Once the name is finalized and we have a phone number and email address, a brochure will be developed and visits in the community will begin. If you have questions about the new start or want to be part of what we are doing, please let me know.

God's
blessings!



Youth News (continued)

JUNIOR YOUTH

- **Christmas Fundraiser** - The Jr. Youth will be selling Christmas Ornaments, Christmas Cards, Hot Chocolate in gift bags and miscellaneous baked goods before and after services on Sundays from November 23- December 21. We will need Jr. Youth to man the booth. Please let us know if you can help out. The money will be used to help pay for Lutherock Bible Camp this summer.
- **Nov 23 Congregational Meeting.** - The Jr. Youth provided a hot dog lunch and babysitting.
- **Dec 5 – Jr. Youth Christmas Party.** We are hoping to see a movie that evening and then return the church for snacks and a dirty Santa gift exchange. The kids should bring a snack to share and a wrapped gift, appropriate for a boy or girl. The gift should be between \$5-\$10. We are still working on the Movie choice and once we have that we will send that information out, including the time to gather at the church. SO... more to come on this one.
- **Dec 7 - Jr. Youth Meeting and Elfin Magic Christmas Workshop.** On this day we will gather following second service and hold our Jr Youth meeting. Those who would like to help during Elfin Magic workshop can stay. Youth will help young children with crafts and clean up. Elfin workshop is 1:30 - 3:30pm.
- All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are welcome at any or all activities. Contact Lisa Bartel (mrbartel@knology.net, 837-6917) or Beth Thompson (thompsonmbk@knology.net, 430-2890) for information.

TWEENS

- In September the Tweens ran and jumped their way past the scarecrows and through the maze at the Botanical Gardens. In November, with the help of Sunday School and donations from members of the congregation, the Tweens assembled 25 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Way to go Tweens! Thank You to the parents for all your help.
- The Tweens Youth group is looking for a sponsor to help Debi Peterson. We will sadly say goodbye to Jason and Jayme Gray as they move to Kansas after the holidays. Jason and Jayme, Thank You very much for your help and support.
- All 3rd – 5th graders are welcome. For info, contact Debi Peterson.

OWLS Meet December 19

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) will meet in the Parish Hall on Friday, December 19 for a Christmas Dinner. Be on the lookout for more information.

Contact: Jan Murphy .

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Although we are over six months away from Vacation Bible School, it is never too early to begin planning. If you are interested in helping coordinate next summer's VBS, please contact Celynn Ballard. It would be such a blessing to have several volunteers working together to lead and plan our VBS!

Education News

Celynn Ballard -

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Sunday School attendance is averaging about 65 kids + teachers and 35-40 for adult classes. Thank you to all who give of their time and energy to make our program a success.
- The children are still meeting in the sanctuary to sing prior to going to classes. Everyone is becoming more familiar with the songs and kids are participating more. Feel free to come and join in the singing!
- Bonnie Jane Peterson will begin a new Sunday School class on Nov. 23 and continue for the rest of this 2008-2009 school year: **A Celestial Omnibus: Short Fiction on Faith** edited by: J.P. Maney and Tom Hazuka. Attendees can obtain a copy of the book from most online bookstores. The first story will be discussed on December 7. From the editors: "This book is designed for those who want to explore the mystery and value of life, to consider complex moral issues, to find meaning in their experience. We chose stories from a variety of faith traditions. We looked for authors whose characters move toward moral or ethical crises which pressure them into making difficult and revealing decisions..... These are stories with substance, some of the most powerful stories of our time."

Looking ahead...

- Nov. 30 - No Sunday School – Happy Thanksgiving
- Dec. 13 – 9:00 AM dress rehearsal for Christmas program
- Dec. 17 - 7:00 WEDNESDAY Night – Children's Christmas Program
- December 21st - Birthday party for Jesus (The children will sing Christmas songs, eat a snack and participate in some fun activities!)
- Dec. 28 & Jan 4 - No Sunday School – Christmas & New Year break

Youth News

SENIOR YOUTH

- Senior Youth meetings are on Sunday evenings from 6:30 until 8 p.m.
- The Senior Youth will continue coordinating Messiah Mugs this year, so please make sure to get your coffee on Sunday mornings and support them.
- Outings will be planned once a month. Suggested activities included canoeing, bowling, camping, and climbing. All Sr. youth are invited. For more information, please contact: John Shriver, or Marsha Wade.

JUNIOR YOUTH

On Nov. 16, fourteen Jr. Youth participated in the Christmas Workshop at Grace Lutheran Church. They wrapped shoe boxes and gifts for Operation Christmas Child and Foster Children's Alliance, made crafts for Meals-on-Wheels, decorated cookies for military personnel and college students, and enjoyed a fellowship event with other local youth.



Fellowship Committee News

from Linda Zutter

Christmas Cookie / Ornament Exchange - Saturday, December 13th, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Diane Oliver's home in Madison. Come and enjoy the fellowship; participate in either or both of the exchanges if you choose. To participate in the cookie exchange, bring one dozen of cookies to share and three dozen of cookies to swap. To participate in the ornament exchange, bring a wrapped ornament, \$10 limit. Sign-up at the Fellowship bulletin board or contact Diane Oliver

Wednesday Nite Café - Dinner is provided each Wednesday evening @ 5:30 during the school year. Everyone is welcome. The cost is \$3 per person with a family cap of \$15. On a rotating team schedule, helping hands are needed for set up, meals, and clean up. Contact Café Coordinator, Marsha Wade
No meal on December 24 and 31, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Ladies Bible Study - A small group Bible Study is held at Judy Johnston's home from 11-Noon on Thursdays (*note time change*). Most lessons last one hour to 90 minutes in length. The Stonecroft Ministries study is **1 John - Christ: Our Life**. Please register for the class by contacting Judy Johnston 325-2851.

Congratulations to the winners of the Grand Chili Cook-off held on October 25th - 1st Stephen Strand, 2nd Ellie Nelson, 3rd William Strand.

Interested in helping with an upcoming event? Contact Linda Zutter

Elfin Magic is Sunday, Dec. 7

The Elfin Magic Workshop for Children to make Christmas presents will be Sunday, Dec. 7, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Adult and youth volunteers and supplies are still needed. Please contact Katie O'Connell, if you can help in any way.



CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS

The Altar Guild will be selling Christmas Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Service. These flowers may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. Just fill out the reservation form included in the Sunday Bulletin or call the church office to order yours.



December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Richard & Lynn Russell</i>	2 <i>Peggie Sue Rowell</i>	3 5pm Year 1 Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Year 2 Confirmation 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7pm Advent Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Heidi Sage</i>	4 8:30 a.m. Morning Study Group <i>Norm & Sheilah Scheurich Jennifer, Shaun</i>	5 Jr. Youth Christmas Party <i>Dan & Carolyn Scroggins, Ben, Chase, Lydia</i>	6 <i>Lee & Dorothy Seitz, Walter, Andrew, Hannah</i>
7 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 1 12 New Member Rec. 12:15 Instrumental Ens 1:30 Elfin Magic 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth Group	8 <i>Dan & Michelle Shaffer</i>	9 10 am Comforters <i>Rex & Fran Shaffer</i>	10 5pm Year 1 Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Year 2 Confirmation 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7pm Advent Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>John and Elaine Shriver, Iain, Christopher</i>	11 11 am Bible Study at Judy Johnston's 7:00 pm Church Council <i>Lee & Janet Smith</i>	12 <i>Margaret Smith</i>	13 2:30 pm Christmas Ornament/Cookie Exchange <i>Todd Smith</i>
14 8:30am WOV Serv. of Word & Prayer OEW Breakfast 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Chicago Folk w/LS 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth Group 6:30 Ring & Sing	15 <i>Tim & Kay Spence Katie, Michael</i>	16 <i>Larry Stanbery & Erin Livingston, Masayuki, Yoshiyuki, Hiroyuki</i>	17 5pm Year 1 Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Year 2 Confirmation 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7pm Advent Worship Service & Sunday School Christmas Program 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Lon & Connie Stanger, "Josh, Ben"</i>	18 8:30 a.m. Morning Study Group 11 am Bible Study at Judy Johnston's <i>Karl & Judy Starkloff</i>	19 OWLs Christmas Dinner <i>Ed & Mary Ann Stasiak</i>	20 <i>Ron & Yvonne Stelpflug, Gabriella</i>
21 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS & Vivaldi Gloria Excerpts 9:45 Jesus B'day Party 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS & Vivaldi Gloria Excerpts 12:15 Instrumental Ens 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth Group	22 <i>Bobbie Stender</i>	23 <i>John & Tammy Stender, John, Jessica, Jacqueline, Jennifer, Jacob, Jaxon</i>	24 Christmas Eve 4pm Worship Service 6pm Worship Service 8pm Worship Service <i>Stephen & Claire Strand William, Katrina, Michelle</i>	25 Blessed Christmas Day! Our King is Born	26 <i>Judy Sylvester</i>	27 <i>Amelia Tarrach</i>
28 8:30am Worship WOV Serv. Of Word & Prayer 9:45 NO Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 5:30 Cantabile Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Youth Group	29 <i>Mark & Beth Thompson, Kyle, Meghan</i>	30 <i>Brad & Stacy Tidwell Natalie, Canon</i>	31 No Confirmation or Choirs <i>Ed & Georgann Trexler</i>			NEWSLETTER DEADLINE December 21