

Messiah Lutheran Church  
7740 Highway 72 West  
Madison, Alabama 35758

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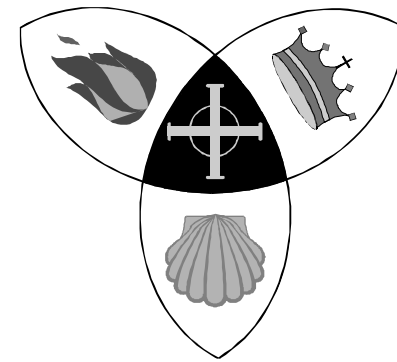
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Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org)**. 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.org](mailto:info@mlutheran.org). For newsletter articles call Stacy Tidwell.

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# MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER



Volume 22: Issue 1  
[www.mlutheran.com](http://www.mlutheran.com)

January 2010

## *Missing*

*Thousands of sons and daughters  
are missing.*

*Please bring them home.*

*My Father is longing for them.*

*Jesus*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

Romans 12:15

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

HOW ARE YOU DOING? Honest answers to that question among those reading these words run the spectrum from 'rejoicing' to 'weeping'. Some of us are doing great; others of us are miserable. Most of us are probably somewhere between those two extremes. Yet, **all** of us Christians have a loving, eternal Lord. Our future is in the best of hands. Even when it may appear to us that our world is falling apart, God promises new and abundant life. We have security that this world cannot offer to us and cannot take away from us.

HOW ARE YOUR 'NEIGHBORS' DOING? However they are doing, St. Paul tells us to join them. Join them when they rejoice and when they weep. Not only will that help neighbors to know they are not alone, it will help you and me too. Just in case you have not noticed: When we help our neighbors (*family, friends, co-workers, even total strangers*) **we feel better**--much better--because we realize God can and does use us. When we conclude there is no use for us that is when we join the ones weeping. When God uses us to care for others that is when we are most likely to be among the rejoicing.

HOW IS MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH DOING? *Oh, my! How can we not rejoice?* God keeps giving us new missions to embrace and new members to share the mission. God keeps giving us more resources to share. In a time and in a world when so many have good reason to weep, we have countless reason to rejoice.

SO WHAT SHALL WE DO? We should do exactly as St. Paul tells us, "*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*" As long as we have neighbors who are hurting we have work to do. As long as we have a Lord who promises us every good gift, we have comforting good news to share.

WHAT IS GOD CALLING US TO DO TOGETHER IN 2010? Some of our mission is obvious--God calls us to be steadfast in His Word: Preaching and teaching and sharing and rejoicing and weeping. Yet, our Lord will have some wonderful surprises for us in the coming year. God will provide new ways for us to rejoice and weep with brothers and sisters. Perhaps this will be the year when all weeping will end, every tear be wiped away, pain and death will be no more (Revelation 21:4). Until that happens though, we have good work to do and a Lord who gives us every good gift to do it.

*Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott Peterson*

## Church Council Highlights

**Title Change:** *Approved the change of Claire Strand's title from Outreach Assistant to Director of Outreach Ministries.*

**New Senior Youth Leader:** *John Shriver has resigned as Senior Youth leader. Dan Casey will be serving as leader with Pastor Mark.*

**Building Committee:** *Appointed the following individuals to the Building Committee: Bill Emerson, chair; Pete Woods, vice-chair, Rhonda Gaede, Jack Mast, Janet Smith, Ed Stasiak, Joe Stuart.*

**Comforters...** will meet every Tuesday in January. Questions call Annette Joens



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## FLOWERS FOR 2010

Look for the 2010 Flower Chart in the narthex this month. Sign up soon to reserve your special Sundays. Two households per Sunday can sign up, making the cost \$22 each.



## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

By Mary Ann Stasiak, 325-6233

There were LOTS of Fellowship events in December – thanks very much to all of the people who made the New Member reception, Elfin Magic, Bridge Club, OWLS, Christmas Cookie/Ornament Exchange, Wednesday Night

Café, and Men's Breakfast possible through your help and dedication. You are very much appreciated!

**Bridge Club** will be held Friday, January 8, 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bridge Club will return to the first Friday of the month in February. Bring a friend and a snack to share! Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

**OWLS:** Watch the Sunday bulletin for OWLS January event.

**Men's Breakfast** is Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00a.m. at Messiah Lutheran Parish Hall.

**Wednesday Night Café:** Dinner is provided each Wednesday evening at 5:30 during the school year. Everyone is welcome. The cost is \$3 per person with a family cap of \$15. Thanks for all the help with the wonderful meals, and a special thank you to Dorothy Seitz for taking on this special ministry. We STILL need help making reminder phone calls and to help with clean up after the meals. If you can help, call Dorothy Seitz. Wednesday Night Cafe will resume Jan. 6.

**Future Events:** Craft Day, February 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., hosted by Elaine Shriver. Bring your portable craft to the Parish Hall for a day of creative camaraderie, a hot soup lunch, and lots of friends to share your craft with.

ILC Kitchen Shower: Rhonda Gaede is planning a kitchen shower for ILC's kitchen, keep watch for the date and time to be announced soon.

**Can you help with an upcoming event?** Contact Mary Ann. We need volunteers to lead two things in the future:

- \* Coordination of Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday nights through Easter
- \* Coordination of funeral receptions as needed



**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.

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

- Mark and Jonnianne Ridzelski-McCombs welcomed an 8lb 7oz baby boy, Sebastian Andrew, on December 11.

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

- Phyllis Ehlers, mother of Annette Joens, passed away December 13th.
- Jack Nelson, brother of Jim Nelson, passed away December 5th.
- John Shaffer, brother of Rex Shaffer, passed away November 22nd.

***THANK YOU*** for the very generous Christmas gift from Messiah Lutheran Church. You are kind and supportive which is deeply appreciated. I look forward to a new year of working together with you in the mission our Lord has given us. --Pastor Scott Peterson

## January Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship WOV = With One Voice

### Sundays at 8:30am

- Jan. 3** Chicago Folk Service with Lord's Supper
- Jan. 10** WOV Service of Word and Prayer
- Jan. 17** LBW Setting 2 with Lord's Supper
- Jan. 24** LBW Setting 2
- Jan. 31** Hymn Sing with Lord's Supper

### Sundays at 11:00am

- Jan. 3** LBW Setting 2
- Jan. 10** ELW Setting 1 with Lord's Supper
- Jan. 17** Contemporary Service
- Jan. 24** Now the Feast with Lord's Supper
- Jan. 31** Hymn Sing with Lord's Supper

## BIBLE STUDY (NOT ANOTHER FORUM) BEGINS JAN. 10

On November 8, at Messiah Lutheran we discussed the **ELCA Churchwide Assembly's decision to ordain those in publicly accountable life-long monogamous same gender relationships**. We concluded the best course of action for us is to do a Bible study on the issues involved. This Bible study will begin on January 10, during Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45). We will begin by looking at the Lutheran understanding of the authority of the Bible. Then Bible professors will be read and heard who have come to differing conclusions on this subject. And we will study Bible passages often quoted seeking to discern what they say to us today. If there is interest this class may be repeated on Wednesday nights beginning in February or March.

--Pastor Scott Peterson

## BUILDING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Meeting on November 15, a Congregation vote directed the Church Council to appoint a Building Committee. The Building Committee is to do preliminary work enabling the possibility of expanding the sanctuary of Messiah Lutheran. All those who were asked by the Council to serve on the Building Committee have accepted. They are Chair Bill Emerson, Vice-Chair Pete Woods, Rhonda Gaede, Jack Mast, Janet Smith, Ed Stasiak, Joe Stuart, and (ex officio) Pastor Scott Peterson. Please remember the Building Committee in your prayers as they begin their work this month.

## FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

For children ten years (or very close) or older, our three sessions of First Communion instruction will be on Sundays, January 17, 24, and 31. We will meet following the 11:00 a.m. service of worship in the Fellowship Hall. For those who complete instruction and are prepared, First Communion will be celebrated on Transfiguration Sunday, February 14, at the 11:00 a.m. service. If you wish to enroll your child, please call the Church Office (721-0041) or talk to Pastor Peterson.

## ***ON EAGLE'S WINGS***

### **Advent Breakfast Thank You**

Thank you for generously supporting the Advent Breakfast last month. Over \$2000 was donated to send missionaries to teach Bible School in the Northwest Territories this summer

### **Spaghetti Supper/Talent Show**

The On Eagle's Wings Spaghetti Supper and Talent Show will be on January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have a talent to share, contact Lois Graff by January 15th. Enjoy an evening of good food and good fun that will help support our mission to the children and communities in the Northwest Territories of Canada.

## **Music Groups at Messiah**

Messiah Musicians .... be an M&M! Come on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons to enjoy singing, ringing and fellowship in one or several of Messiah Lutheran's choirs. There is a choir or ensemble for almost every age and interest. Questions? Call Lois Graff

**Cherub Choir** – *Directors Lydia Scroggins & Heather Neely*  
For Grades K – 1. (Younger children are welcome with consent of director.)  
This group sings and rings bells. Wednesday evenings 6 - 6:30 pm.

**Seraph Choir** – *Director Bonnie Flowers*  
For Grades 2 – 4 Wednesday evenings 6 - 6:30 pm., Vocals

**Junior Choir** – *Director Claire Strand*  
For Grades 5 – 6. Handchimes. Wednesday evenings 6 - 6:30 pm.

**Youth Ensemble** – *Director Randall Fields*  
For Grades 7 – 12 Wednesday evenings 6:30 - 7 pm.

**Cantabile Bell Choir** – *Director Rhonda Gaede*  
For Grades 7 – Adult. Sunday evenings 5:30 - 6:30 pm.

**Instrumental Ensemble** – *Director Lois Graff*  
For Grades 7 – Adult. Bi-weekly Sunday afternoons 12:15 pm.

**Notabella Bell Choir** – *Director Rhonda Gaede*  
Wednesday evenings 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

**Adult Choir** – *Director Randall Fields*  
Wednesday evenings 7:30 - 8:30 pm.

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### **Incarnation Continued...**

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, January 23 at 7:00 AM

We had a wonderful time at Incarnation in December and expect the January breakfast, fellowship and devotional time to be just as good (if not better). Thanks to Larry Stanbery for some great French Toast at our last breakfast! We still need a volunteer to provide breakfast in January. Let Pastor Mark know if you are interested in cooking! If you want to be added to the email list, please contact Pastor Mark ([pastor@incarnation-elca.org](mailto:pastor@incarnation-elca.org) or 256-230-5387). Check out our newly enhanced website ([Incarnation-elca.org](http://Incarnation-elca.org)) for more information!

## **OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand**

### **MEMBER NEWS**

Welcome new members! On Dec. 13, Messiah joyfully received into membership Bailey Erickson, Justin and Alexis and Keith and Kate Correia, Hayden and Devin.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

May God make you a blessing to others. This is certainly true at Messiah. The Christmas Angel tree had 35 names of residents at the Downtown Rescue Mission this year. All were "adopted", most by the end of church services the first Sunday. The bags and boxes poured in. Your generosity in helping to make these children's Christmas happier is greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who contributed. Thanks also to the quilters who made personalized blankets for each of the children on the Angel tree. The families at the Downtown Rescue Mission have a home there until other suitable housing is found and the parents have grown in living skills, including parenting, budgeting, prioritizing, health, and cleanliness. Since we received the list of children, more have arrived. Messiah is providing gift certificates for presents to be bought for these new children at the shelter. Thanks for being a blessing to those in need.

A new ongoing outreach project is working with the Milestone Children's Corner on Jordan Lane in Huntsville. Milestone is a nonprofit daycare for mostly lower-income families and was founded by a Christian teacher about a year ago. There are over 140 children from 6 weeks through 5 years in the daycare and up to 12 years in the after school program. I observed well-behaved, happy children playing, listening to stories, doing homework. Education is stressed, and if a student is having difficulties, tutoring is provided. Milestone can use our help with developmental toys and games and books for all ages to improve their program. There is a partial list in the narthex and donations can be placed in the large box. Thanks to those of you who have already filled the box! If you want to see the full wish list, please see Claire Strand or Jacquie Fry. I asked about good used toys and books and was told that these would be welcomed. This is an opportunity to improve the lives of children in our community now and give them a brighter future.

### **GLOBAL NEWS**

The 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted overwhelmingly to launch [a new churchwide strategy](#) that calls for ministry with people affected by HIV and AIDS worldwide. The Churchwide Assembly also approved the development of a [Lutheran Malaria Initiative](#) by 2011. This is an effort to educate U.S. Lutherans about malaria, advocate for global health initiatives, and raise funds to help combat malaria. For more info, see [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

## Incarnation Information      January 2010

*“Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel...Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.”* Ephesians 6:19-20

So what does Incarnation need most right now? People? Well, we seem to have hit a plateau of about 40-45 people on a Sunday, but that's not what we need most. Money? We still have less money coming in than we have going out each month, but that's not what we need most. Prayer? Yes, prayer is the right answer!

It is hard to see people visit and decide they'd rather go to a bigger, more established church even if it means driving farther to get there. What I have discovered is that if I try to evaluate our ministry by whether we can offer the programs and the polish people are looking for, we will more often than not come up short in comparison. I've decided we can't focus primarily on getting people in with our programs and polish. Rather, we need to get our people out into the community with faith, love and their testimony of Jesus. I've knocked on thousands of doors, but we've had more new people visit because of being invited by a few of our members they know than by a Pastor they don't know.

I have decided we are going to be motivated in 2010 by a mission bigger than what we see on Sunday mornings. We are not going to let ourselves be discouraged - a present reality which is less impressive than some of us (namely me) may have hoped. Ultimately, the sign of the death of any church at any stage of development is when their focus turns toward who is already there rather than outward. I ask you to pray for me and for the leadership and members of Incarnation during 2010 that we would keep our focus outward and that we would not make less community contacts now that worship has started - but more! Maybe you can help us, because the goal I plan to set is bigger than what I can do myself.

The goal I have for Incarnation is that we would see 2010 not as a time of counting people inside, but rather to be counting how many connections we are making outside the building. My goal is that we will make 10000 connections bringing the love of God outside the church walls in 2010. "10,000 in 2010" is the goal I am setting, and I know this goal is much bigger than me. I want Incarnation members to start thinking it is "normal Christianity" to be praying for people and inviting them to church, and that these things are done by everyone, not just the pastor!

What will these 10,000 contacts look like? Finding out a neighbor has cancer and telling them you will be praying for them, offering to rake an elderly neighbor's leaves and not taking any money for it, handing out flyers or knocking on doors inviting people to church, putting people on the prayer chain, bringing food to a coworker whose wife has just had a baby, giving the toys or clothes you no longer use to a friend. The details are not as important as the reason. So what is the reason? We need more people at Incarnation? No! It is as simple as, "Jesus loves you and so do I!"

We are not here to promote ourselves or our church. There is no guarantee that attracting people to us or to our church programs will succeed. But there is a promise by Jesus that when He is lifted up, He will draw people to himself. Maybe they won't be attracted to Incarnation, but if they are attracted to Him, we have been the Incarnation of His presence in this world. What WILL happen is that there will be 10000 times in 2010 where the love of God is shared with our friends, coworkers, classmates and neighbors that wouldn't happen otherwise. And my sense is that people will see something worth being a part of. Please pray that Jesus will be lifted up and that God's presence will be shared regularly by the people of Incarnation!

## Education News

*Celynn Ballard*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Christmas program a huge success!

**Looking ahead...**

**January 10<sup>th</sup> -- Classes begin again!**

#### **Adult Sunday School:**

- Room 12 - "The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World" with Bonnie Jane Peterson
- Room 11 - The book of Genesis Bible study with Dottie Hanson
- Parish Hall - Pastor Scott's Bible Study begins January 10. (See article in this newsletter for details.)

### Youth News

#### SENIOR YOUTH

- There will be no youth group on January 3.
  - Many of you may not know, but John Shriver has stepped down as Sr. Youth Leader. Thanks John for doing an outstanding job! Your dedication was a blessing!
  - Dan Casey volunteered to step in as John's replacement. We are grateful for your new commitment to our youth, Dan!
  - Ski Retreat at Lutheridge January 15-18. It is being organized by the Incarnation Youth Group, but some Messiah youth are going.
  - Senior Youth - Come on Up to Pastor Mark's for a Christmas/New Year's Party!
  - Pastor Mark and Betsy invite all Senior Youth to a Christmas/New Year's party at their house (303 Golden Russet Circle, Harvest, AL 35749 - just east of Sparkman High School) from 6:30-8:00 pm on Sunday, January 10. Bring yourself, friends and a snack to share
- All 9th - 12th graders are welcome at any or all Sr. Youth activities.

#### **JUNIOR YOUTH The Jr. Youth is still in need of leadership. If you are interested, contact Celynn Ballard.**

- On Dec.12, the Jr. Youth had a Christmas Party. Activities included making gingerbread houses, eating Christmas goodies, and Dirty Santa gift exchange.
- Upcoming events include the annual Valentine carnation fundraiser to raise money for Lutherock summer camp.

#### TWEENS

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

# January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  <i>Brian &amp; Amanda Gulden</i>	2  <i>Jack &amp; Debbie Gulden</i>
<b>3</b> 8:30am Worship: Chicago Folk w/LS NO Sunday School 11:00am Worship: LBW Setting 2 12:15 Instrumental Ens	4  <i>Rob &amp; Melissa Gurner</i>	5 10 am Comforters  <i>Bob &amp; Audrey Gustafson</i>	6 5pm 1 <sup>st</sup> yr. Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir  <i>Brian &amp; Staci Hackenberg, "Connor, Cassidy"</i>	7  <i>John &amp; Amanda Hampel, "Jay, Jacob"</i>	8  7:30 pm Bridge Club  <i>Peggy Hanna</i>	9  <i>Mark &amp; Dottie Hanson</i>
<b>10</b> 8:30am Worship WOV Serv. Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship ELW Setting 1 w/LS	11  <i>John &amp; Donna Helinski</i>	12 10 am Comforters  <i>Linda Hemingway</i>	13 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir  <i>Doug Hendrick &amp; Gloria Zalatan, "James, Madison"</i>	14 8:30am Morning Study Group  Church Council 7pm  <i>Bill &amp; Jamie Hetherington, "Amelia, Katie, William"</i>	15  <i>Gertrude Heuer</i>	16  <i>Suzanne Hillin</i>
<b>17</b> 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Contemporary Service Noon-1st Communion Inst. 12:15 Instrumental Ens	18  <i>Burleigh and Esta Hodnett</i>	19 10 am Comforters  <i>Scott &amp; Lisa Hoff, "Morgan"</i>	20 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir  <i>Adele Hoffman, "Kyle, Grace"</i>	21  <i>Jennifer Holden, "Kathryn, Mitchell, Stephanie"</i>	22  <i>Russ Holden</i>	23 7:00 am Men’s Breakfast at Incarnation  <i>Carolyn Holland</i>
<b>24</b> 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 NO Sunday School 11:00am Worship Now the Feast w/LS <u>Noon-1st Communion Inst.</u> <b>31</b> 8:30am Worship Hymn Sing 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Hymn Sing Noon-1st Communion Inst.	25  <i>Ken &amp; Edith Huebschman</i>	26 10 am Comforters  <i>Eleanor Hulebak</i>	27 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir <i>Jerry &amp; Sandi Hulebak, "Sydney, Gunnar"</i>	28 8:30am Morning Study Group  <i>Joe &amp; Bobby Huwaldt, "Jonathan, Jacob"</i>	29  <i>Andris &amp; Annette Ikstrums, "Marisa"</i>	30 OEW Spaghetti Supper & Talent Show  <i>John &amp; Derelene Jeter</i>  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE January 17</b>