

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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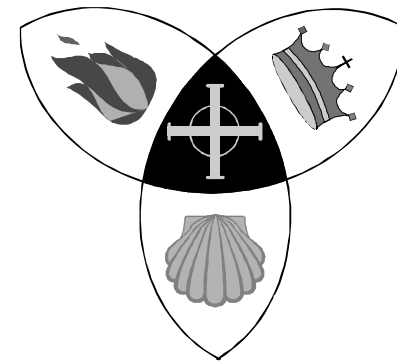
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Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is www.mlutheran.org**. Church Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Manager. 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.

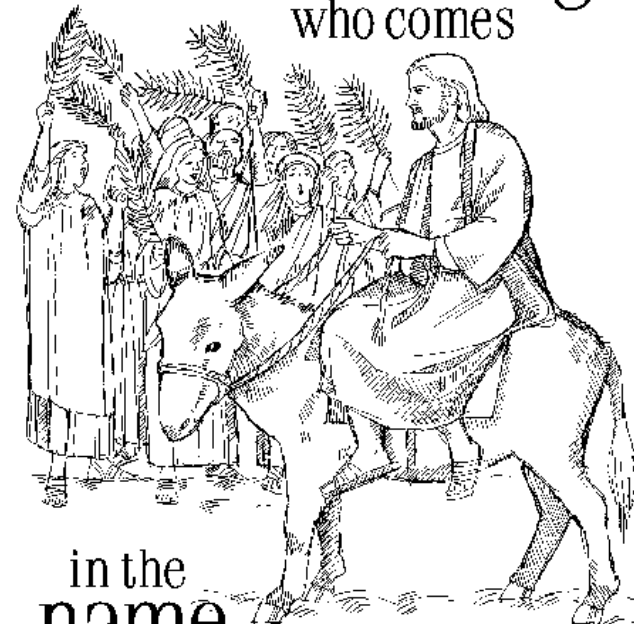
MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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March 2010



*“Blessed is the king
who comes*



*in the
name
of the Lord!”*

Luke 19:38

*For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
--Romans 5:6*

Dear Friends of the Messiah who suffered,

GET A GRIP! When our world seems to be spinning out of control this season of Lent serves as an anchor. When we are anchored we are more likely to hear God's word for us. Lent leads us to look in two seemingly opposite directions—inward and outward.

LENT IS FOR LOOKING INWARD. The traditional disciplines of Lent include fasting, prayer, confession of sins, and meditating on our unworthiness of God's love. Giving up something for Lent reminds us that our Lord gave up everything for us. Personal discipline and introspection reveal our need for a Savior. At the same time...

LENT IS FOR LOOKING OUTWARD. Unable to save ourselves by turning inward we are drawn out to the story of Jesus' saving work for us. Too much of what passes for religion these days is only inward, as if ultimate answers are found by looking inside ourselves. On the contrary: Our Lord came from outside of this world to do His saving work. Even today His Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper come from outside us.

WHEN WE LOOK OUT not only may we see our Lord's saving work, we also see the neighbors God has given for us to serve. As usual Jesus is our model, He took time for fasting and prayer, yet most stories of Jesus tell of Him looking out, reaching out.

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT in our lives? Ponder that in your heart, but realize the answer comes as we look out to God's Word and work. Lent focuses us on Jesus' suffering and death to save this fallen world. Lent prepares us to celebrate resurrection life.

SO, what will you and I do with this new life that our Lord gives?

*Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Peterson*

Spiritual Gifts

Please take the spiritual gifts inventory online at our website homepage (www.mlutheran.com). Paper copies are also located at the Welcome Center or in the Church Office.

Time and Talents - On March 7, you will be invited to offer your gifts of time and talent during worship. A mailing describing opportunities to serve was sent late in February. Please prayerfully consider the time and talents you are being called to share, fill out the form and place in the offering plate.

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10

THRIVING WITH THRIVENT

Thrivent's "Helping Haiti" Campaign a Rousing Success!

In less than one month, Thrivent Financial and its members have contributed \$3 million for earthquake response efforts in Haiti! More than 12,000 Thrivent members contributed to the "Helping Haiti" effort, which provided a \$1 Thrivent Financial contribution to every \$2 members gave to any of four Lutheran relief agencies.

"The generosity of our members continues to amaze and inspire me," said Tim Schwan, vice president of Church and Community Engagement for Thrivent Financial. "Their outpouring of support was immediate and will be a tremendous blessing to the Haitian people who will be recovering from this disaster for a long time to come."

ELCA Disaster Response and three additional Lutheran church body relief organizations that received donations through the "Helping Haiti" effort have provided food, shelter and water to meet immediate needs. They are also committed to continuing their support as Haiti begins to rebuild.

Avenues to keep helping Haiti

Individuals interested in contributing to a Lutheran agency providing relief efforts in Haiti can make a online donations at www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti. For questions or to make a donation over the phone or via U.S. Mail, individuals may call 800-236-3736 between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Central time, Monday through Friday. When prompted, please say "directory" and enter ext. 83003.

In addition, Thrivent Financial encourages donors to make contributions directly to the relief agency of their choice. God Bless You to all who have donated to this worthy cause!



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

By Mary Ann Stasiak

Lenten Soup Suppers, will continue through the month of March. Thanks to those who have volunteered already, please watch for the sign-up sheet on the Fellowship Bulletin Board through this month.

Bridge Club will be held Friday March 5 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. New and experienced bridge players are welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share - Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

Family Game Night: Bring your favorite board game or learn some new games at Family Game Night, 5-9 PM Saturday March 6 in the Parish Hall. Pizza and drinks provided, hosted by Mary Ann Stasiak.

Men's Breakfast: The next Men's Breakfast will be at Messiah, Saturday March 13 at 7 a.m.

OWLS: The Older Wiser Lutherans (OWLS) will be meeting at the Huntsville Community Chorus' Irish Spring Concert on Saturday March 13 at 7:30 PM. See Jan Murphy for tickets and further details.

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 27, and will be organized by Sonja Peterson.

Future Events:

All Messiah congregants are invited to a special treat: a discussion of *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 at 9:30 AM on Saturday April 3. Please join us for this special opportunity for a conversation with this engaging author!

Other upcoming events:

- ILC Kitchen Shower, April 10th/11th
- Mother/Daughter event, Saturday May 8th
- Father/Son event, June

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



New Flower Shelf

With thanks to Richard Webb, the columbarium has a flower shelf to honor those reposed here. There is no flower chart. You're invited to place flowers as you wish in the vase provided.

March Services of Worship



LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice

Sundays at 8:30am

March 7 *Chicago Folk* with Lord's Supper

March 14 LBW *Setting 1*

March 21 ELW *Setting 1* with Lord's Supper

March 28 LBW *Setting 1*

Sundays at 11:00am

March 7 *WOV Service of Word and Prayer*

March 14 ELW *Setting 1* with Lord's Supper

March 21 Contemporary Service

March 28 LBW *Setting 1*

Mid-Week Lenten Services of Worship

All Lenten services begin at 7 p.m. Area Lutheran pastors will come to Messiah Lutheran to preach on the events that happened between Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. The Wednesday services are March 3, 10, 17 and 24. Maundy Thursday, April 1 and Good Friday, April 2 services are at 7 p.m. also.

Lenten Soup Supper Schedule

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, everyone is invited to a soup supper serving between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., there will be a Service of Worship throughout the Lenten season. A sign-up sheet will be located on the Fellowship bulletin board. Please sign up to bring soup, bread, etc. There will be no soup supper on March 17 (Spring Break) or during Holy Week, March 31.

Lent Choir Schedule Changes

Wednesday choir rehearsals will be as follows. All choirs, with the exception of the Adult Choir, are cancelled on March 17 and March 31.

Children's Choirs (Cherub, Seraph and Junior)	6:00 - 6:30 pm
Adult Choir	7:45 - 8:45 pm
Notabella Choir	Sun @ 4:30 pm

On Eagle's Wings Thank you

Thank you to all who supported the On Eagle's Wings Spaghetti Lunch. Over \$1300 was generously donated!

Collectibles & More Auction

This spring, Messiah will be hosting an auction to support the *On Eagle's Wings* mission. On its 13th year, the auction is a fun way to collect some real treasures and support the sharing of the Gospel to 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?

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

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.

Comforters... will meet every Tuesday in March @ 10:00. Thank you to everyone who participated in the silent quilt auction. We can always use sheets, fabric and thread. Questions call Annette Joens.

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.



FIRST COMMUNION: On Sunday, Feb. 14, first communion was received by John Hampel II, Abby Woods, Masayuki Stanbery, James Weber, Laura Weber, Justin Erickson, Adam McNeal, Michelle Strand, Shane Peterson, Natalie Tidwell, Keenan Brodeur, & Hyun Woo Kim

BAPTISM: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...*

- Gabriel Drake Alcocer, son of Osvaldo and Elizabeth Alcocer, was baptized on Sunday, Feb. 21. Gabriel's sponsors are Stefanie and Steven Schumacher.

ENGAGEMENT *the greatest of these is love. I Corinthians 13:13*

- Allie Wade and Stefan Schmidt are engaged to marry in August, 2010.

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

- Irene Pfrommer, sister of Annelese Lange, died Feb. 13 at the age of 90. A memorial service for Irene will be Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm at MLC.

OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand

Messiah is continuing its support of **Milestone Children's Corner**. Milestone is a nonprofit daycare/after-school care facility serving low-income children from 6 weeks to 12 years in Huntsville. The daycare has an outdoor play yard with an unsafe fence. Messiah is collecting funds to assist Milestone in the purchase of a new fence to make the play yard safe. 75% of mid-week Lenten offerings will be given to Milestone. Thank you for donating toys, games, and books. If you would like to donate new or gently used toys, etc, place them in narthex box. They are much appreciated.

A spring fundraiser luncheon for Lunches 4 Learning will be served on April 25. Messiah has committed to sponsoring a school in Honduras on a long-term basis. The proceeds of the luncheon go towards the \$6000 per year needed to provide a basic, nutritious lunch for all the students at our school. In some cases, this lunch is the only meal children have in a day. Providing a meal for students makes it possible for them to attend school. Education of one child can lift the whole family from poverty.

Messiah is participating in **Serving the City**, a joint service day with many other congregations in the Huntsville/Madison area, on April 17. Messiah volunteers will meet at 7:30 a.m. at CrossPointe church (across from Bob Jones) to work. Activities to include construction, school, environmental, servant and in-house projects. More details coming. Serving the City is a great opportunity to make a difference locally.

The yearly **Habitat Build with Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent** is coming in March! Volunteers will be working on building a house with members from other local Lutheran congregations. Watch for the 2 X4 display in the narthex. Adopt a 2X4 for \$10 and "own" a piece of our Habitat house! More information will be posted as soon as available.

Incarnation Information

February 2010

As you read this article, we are nearing six months of worship at our building in Harvest. It is exciting to see what God has done over these past six months and anticipate what God will do in the next six months. Yet with the excitement, we are still at a very critical juncture where much still needs to happen to assure we continue to grow and become viable as a congregation. Please keep us in your prayers and pray about how God may be calling you to be part of this ministry.

Our expenses (building, operating costs, benevolence & Incarnation's portion of Pastor Mark's compensation) have been running about \$1700 per month more than our income. We have some reserves to cover the deficit for a few months, but need to increase our support base (bring in new people) and/or find other income sources (fundraisers or renting meeting space in our building) over the next few months.

We have a wonderful core group of people at Incarnation. It will be exciting to see how God will mix the talents and creativity of the existing group together with the talents and creativity of the new people who will be coming. One thing for sure is that God will be creating a unique identity for Incarnation which will lead to unique programs and ministries to bless those who are part of Incarnation and the surrounding community.

We need your prayers to keep our ministry priorities straight so that we build our ministry on solid foundations. May we build our congregation on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and not the latest church growth models. May we proclaim the grace of God to transform lives and not the transformation of lives to earn God's love. May we draw people into a living relationship with a loving Lord and not a dry, lifeless system of rules and rituals.

Incarnation Car Wash: Saturday, March 27 from 10-2

In an effort to increase our visibility in the community and provide a service to bless people (while hopefully raising a little money at the same time), we will be holding a car wash at our building (5551 Hwy 53) from 10:00 – 2:00 on Saturday, March 27. There will not be a set cost, we will be asking for free-will donations. Come get your car washed or maybe stay and help us wash cars. Pastor Mark will be washing in his clergy shirt and offering to pray for or bless anyone in need of prayers or blessings that day.

Autism Event – Tuesday, April 27 from 5:30-7:30

Several families at Incarnation are directly affected by Autism/Aspergers, and we want to provide an opportunity for learning and connecting with other families who have similar issues. We will be offering a free evening with local experts on Autism/Aspergers and see if there is enough interest to start a support group in the Harvest area.

Join Us for Our Next Worship & Potluck Sunday – March 7

This past month we had several visitors from Messiah for our monthly Worship & Potluck Sunday. They said if they had known ahead of time they would have stayed for the potluck. This email is to help you know ahead of time so you can join us for worship and the potluck. Of course, you are welcome to eat even if you don't bring anything to share.

This month our Worship & Potluck Sunday is March 7. We will worship at 10:45 with the topic "How Can I be Sure About My Faith?" During Lent, what can give us the assurance that it is worth the cost of taking up the cross and following Jesus? Our worship will be followed by a potluck lunch open to everyone. This would be a great Sunday to visit and get to know what is going on at Incarnation. You can go to 8:30 at Messiah and still join us at 10:45 at Incarnation. Thanks for your support. We hope to welcome you soon as a visitor at Incarnation!

Education News

Celynn Ballard

Sunday School

Adult Sunday School:

- Room 12 - "The Life of Meaning: Reflections on Faith, Doubt, and Repairing the World" with Bonnie Jane Peterson
- Room 11 - Dottie Hanson's Sunday school class is finishing up our study of Genesis. Sometime in March, they will begin a study using the book *Bad Girls of the Bible*.
- Parish Hall - Pastor Scott's class Bible Study on CWA Decisions

Youth News

SENIOR YOUTH

- The 30 Hour Famine is scheduled for April 24-25. It will include the Jr. and Sr. Youth groups.
- The Sr. Youth met at The Station at Bridge Street to go bowling on Feb. 21.

All 9th – 12th graders are welcome at any or all activities. Contact Dan Casey or Pastor Borseth (pastor@incarnation-elca.org) for information.

JUNIOR YOUTH

- On Sunday, Feb. 7, the Jr. Youth participated in "Souper Bowl Sunday". Souper Bowl Sunday is a national campaign to fight world hunger. The Jr. Youth provided Temple Talks and accepted contributions from the congregation. Over \$500 was collected and contributed to Lutheran World Relief.
- The Jr. Youth sold valentine carnations as a fundraiser for Lutherock summer camp. On Feb. 13, the Jr. Youth met to prepare the carnations for delivery. After the preparation was complete, they enjoyed a pizza lunch and a trip to the Station at Bridge Street for bowling. The carnations were delivered during Church on Feb. 14.

Thanks to Lisa Bartel for temporarily filling in as Jr. Youth Leader. If you can volunteer to help her, please contact Celynn Ballard.

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 volunteering to lead the planning of VBS this summer. Please contact her if you are interested in helping.

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Sherry Mahafza Zachary, Joseph, Jacob, Jordan</i>	2 10 am Comforters <i>Cori & Lori Mahanna Michael</i>	3 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>JoAnne Maloney</i>	4 <i>Tim & Sherry Mansfield Alexander</i>	5 7:30 pm Bridge Club <i>Tina Marbrey</i>	6 5 pm-9 pm Family Game Night <i>Steve & Patrice Marotta Paisley, Basia</i>
7 8:30am Worship Chicago Folk w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship: WOV Serv. Word/Prayer 4:30 pm Notabella Choir 5:30 pm Cantabile Choir 6:30 pm Sr Youth	8 <i>Jack & Mary Mast Rebecca, Mikayla</i>	9 10 am Comforters <i>Amy McCarthy Charles, Benjamin</i>	10 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Lloyd & Deb McDaniels Erin, Morgan</i>	11 8:30am Morning Study Group Church Council 7pm <i>Ryan McDaniels Jacob</i>	12 <i>Timothy & Nicole McKnelly Libby</i>	13 7:00 am Men’s Breakfast at Incarnation OWLS to HCC Irish Spring Concert <i>Tom & Paulette McNamara</i>
14 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 NO Sunday School 11:00am Worship ELW Setting 1 w/LS 12:15 Instrumental Ens	15 <i>Brad & Theresa Meyer Rachael Wier, Rebecca, Drake</i>	16 10 am Comforters <i>Patrick & Dagmar Miller Ryan, Colleen</i>	17 Spring Break No Confirmation or Children’s Choirs No Church Dinner 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Tim & Florence Minahan Aaron, Alex</i>	18 <i>Boyce & Carol Mix</i>	19 <i>Lowell & Melani Mooneyham Dalton, Ty</i>	20 <i>John & Faye Moore</i>
21 8:30am Worship ELW Setting 1 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship Contemporary Service 4:30 pm Notabella Choir 5:30 pm Cantabile Choir 6:30 pm Sr Youth	22 <i>Gene & Fran Morgan</i>	23 10 am Comforters <i>John Morgan</i>	24 5pm Confirmation 5:30 – 6:30 Church Dinner 6:00pm Children’s Choirs 7pm Worship Service 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Doris Mullins</i>	25 8:30am Morning Study Group <i>Beth Mumaw</i>	26 <i>Bill & Janice Murphy</i>	27 Easter Egg Hunt <i>Jim & Anna Musch</i>
28 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 1 12:15 Instrumental Ens	29 <i>Gerry & Jackie Myers Noah, Adam, Luke, Evin</i>	30 10 am Comforters <i>Marc & Debbie Neely Heather, Adam</i>	31 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Jim & Ellie Nelson</i>			NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sunday March 21