

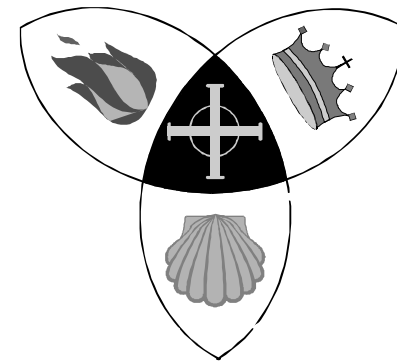
Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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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.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.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER



Volume 21: Issue 11

November 2009

www.mlutheran.com



*O give thanks to the LORD,
for he is good: for his mercy endures forever.*

Psalm 107:1

*'The church is the assembly of saints
in which the Gospel is preached in its purity
and the sacraments are administered rightly.
--Augsburg Confession, Article VII*

Dear Friends of the Messiah,

WHAT MAKES THE CHURCH? To put it another way: What **defines** the church? Lutherans say that the church is people gathered around God's Word and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. **Think of that! How simple! And....**

HOW SURPRISING when we notice all the things that **do not define the church**. The church is not defined by buildings or politics or language or food or ritual or musical style or color of the hymnal or color of the people or the clothes we wear or committees or anything else in all creation: **God's spoken word and the giving of God's Sacraments make the church. (Notice: The Church is defined by God's ACTIONS. It is not static.)**

TWENTY YEARS AGO Messiah Lutheran Church was beginning to take shape. We will be celebrating several 20 year anniversaries in the coming months. Perhaps the beginnings of Incarnation Lutheran Church in Harvest have revived my memories of the early days of Messiah Lutheran.

WE RENTED AN AUDITORIUM in a Union Hall (United Rubber Workers, Local 915—the people who made Dunlap tires). Ah, the Union Hall. I especially liked two things about that Union Hall: 1.) the rent was low; and 2.) I knew everyone would work very hard to get out of there as soon as possible. As we prepared to worship there, we had to figure out....

HOW DO YOU TURN A UNION HALL into a place fit for worship? We found the answer in the Augsburg Confession, Article VII (*see above*). We set up chairs for the saints to sit in, we had a wooden podium for the reading and preaching of God's Word, we used a (fern) stand with a (punch) bowl for our Baptismal font, and we elevated a sheet-draped folding table to be our altar where the bread and wine were consecrated for the Lord's Supper. That was all. And, that was enough—that still is enough to be God's church: God's people gathered around God's Word and Sacraments.

THE ANCIENT SYMBOL FOR THE CHURCH IS A SHIP. These days that ship is in rough waters. Whether we look at developments in recent months, years, or the trends of several decades: A few conclusions are clear. God's church is changing, and though it is not the case in our nation, God's church is growing in this turbulent world.

SO, WHAT ARE WE IN OUR LORD'S CHURCH TO DO? That also is simple: *Cling to God's Word and the Sacraments as we look to our Lord to navigate us through these stormy times.* We prefer sunny skies and calm waters, but it is through storms that our Lord does His best work and we grow in endurance, character, and hope (see Romans 5:1-5).

Grace and peace, *Pastor Scott Peterson*

Free Career Transitions Seminar Nov. 17

This seminar is for anyone contemplating changes in their professional future such as job loss, advancements, entering the job market, re-entering after time off. Conducted by Ken Grant. Advance registration appreciated. **Messiah Lutheran Church, Parish Hall, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6-8pm**

Church Council Highlights

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of MLC: Planning efforts continue. Charter members will receive a rose during worship on December 20. Dates for the celebration are in Pastor Scott's report in the looking ahead section.

Communication: The revised web site was stood up and traffic increased from an average of 1 hit per day to 40 per day.

Policies and Procedures Task Force: Bob Gustafson reported that all electronic copies of policies and procedures have been gathered. The policies and procedures will be dispersed to committees to update policies and procedures into a standard format by the next Council meeting.

Korean Mission Church Start Report: First service of worship was held on Sunday the 27th in the Parish Hall with a video conference service. The attendees were pleased with the service and logistics.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

By Mary Ann Stasiak, 325-6233



The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all who participated in the Grand Chili Cook-Off/Halloween Party and congratulations to the Chili winners: William Strand and Anita deJong! A special thanks to the Junior Youth for providing decorations and games!

Wednesday Night Café – Dinner is provided each Wednesday night starting at 5:30 p.m.. All are welcome! Cost is \$3 per person with a cap of \$15 per family. Thanks for all the help with the wonderful meals! We need help making reminder phone calls and to help with clean up after the meals. If you can help, please call Dorothy Seitz. There will not be dinner the week of Thanksgiving, November 25.

Christmas Cookie/Ornament Exchange – Saturday, December 12, 2-4 p.m. at Diane Oliver's home in Madison. Come and enjoy the fellowship and if you wish to participate in either or both of the exchanges: bring one dozen cookies to share and three dozen cookies to swap; bring a wrapped ornament, \$10 limit. Sign up at the Fellowship bulletin board or contact Diane Oliver.



Elfin Magic is Sunday, Dec. 6

Elfin Magic: Elfin Magic will be on Sunday Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m. This is a fun afternoon where children, ages 2 and up, create beautiful crafts to give as Christmas gifts. Each craft has a small fee attached to it to cover the cost of materials. In order to purchase the correct amount of supplies, a Sign-Up will be posted beginning Sun. Oct. 25 and ending Wed. Nov.11. A sample of each craft will be displayed at the sign-up table. There will be a donation tree for craft items and coupons to Michael's and Hobby Lobby are appreciated. Any questions contact Audrey Osterndorf or Cheryl Byers.

Elfin Magic Outreach Project In addition we will be making stationary packets to give as an Outreach project to those in various homes and shelters (last year we sent Christmas cards to soldiers). For this we need used Christmas cards to cut and use for decoration, empty granola bar boxes and any unused stationary supplies (note cards with envelopes, unused post-it notes, note pads and small journal books). There is a sample of this stationary kit on the Elfin Magic sign-up table. The stationary supplies in the sample came from Michael's and were \$1 per item. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

On Eagle's Wings Advent Breakfast

Enjoy a delicious breakfast on Dec. 13 while supporting a worthwhile mission. Breakfast will be from 9 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Enjoy a hot breakfast after the early service or come hungry before Sunday School or. Donations will go toward sending missionaries to teach Bible School in summer 2010 to remote and isolated areas of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut in Canada.



November Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (*new*)

Sundays at 8:30am

Nov. 1 Chicago Folk w/ LS

Nov. 8 WOV Service-Word/Prayer

Nov. 15 ELW Setting 1 w/ LS

Nov. 22 LBW Setting 2 w/ LS

Nov. 29 Hymn Sing w/ LS

Sundays at 11:00am

Nov. 1 Now the Feast w/ LS

Nov. 8 LBW Setting 2 w/ LS

Nov. 15 Contemporary Service

Nov. 22 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Nov. 29 Hymn Sing w/ LS

Congregation Meeting Nov 15

On Sunday, November 15, there will be a Congregation Meeting to adopt a 2010 budget for Messiah Lutheran Church. All Confirmed members are voting members. Everyone is welcome. Please come to celebrate God's abundant blessings and seek together the future God has planned for us. A mailing of the proposed budget will be sent to members prior to the meeting.

MLC IS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

During services of worship on Sunday, December 20, Charter Members of Messiah Lutheran will be recognized and deceased charter members will be remembered. It was December 17, 1989, that MLC opened its Membership Charter. The Charter was closed on May 20, 1990, when MLC organized as a Congregation with 159 Charter Members. More celebrations are planned in 2010 to mark this 20th anniversary of MLC.

If you are a Charter Member and would like to contribute to the altar flowers on that day, please designate on your check or envelope "Charter Member Flowers" and place in the offering plate. If you have any questions please contact Beth Mumaw.

In May, we will celebrate our 20th Anniversary of organization as a Congregation. We are trying to locate all of our Charter Members to invite them to this celebration. If you know one and have a contact address (email or postal) please contact Bob Loshuertos or the Church Office. Here are some names that we are trying to locate: Robert and Marsha Blakely, Jean Bolton, John and Carolyn Bernot, Michelle Bryan, Linda Byrom, and Irene Carey. More will be listed each month.

We are in our second month of Sunday worship at Incarnation, and we are excited, overwhelmed, joyful, exhausted, hopeful, terrified and learning to depend on God more fully every day! As many of you who have been part of planting Messiah or another church know, the emotional roller coaster can be pretty steep!

With all of that said, I want to thank all of you for your prayers, donations and encouragement. I also want to thank the many of you who have come to attend worship. Our numbers may be small, but we have a wonderful, gifted core group. God has been gathering some great people and creating a wonderful atmosphere at Incarnation. There is really good feel around the place on Sunday mornings that I hope will be welcoming to visitors.

We ask for your prayers and ongoing support as our budget continues to get more challenging. We began paying rent for our building in August, and the amount Incarnation needs to contribute toward my salary and benefits goes up the first of November now that I have been here a year. Budget cuts by the ELCA have added to the amount Incarnation needs to be providing. Please pray for us as we look at our budget and as we do our first pledge drive this fall. Based on current offerings, we will need to come up with between \$2000 and \$3000 additional income each month. Once again, we are learning to depend on God in ever deepening ways!

It has been really hard to find myself at Messiah so rarely during the week. I am there for Senior Youth on Sunday nights, office time Tuesday mornings, office time and Confirmation on Wednesday afternoons and occasionally on Saturdays for Men's group. I miss seeing many of you and invite you to come and visit for worship or just stop by for a cup of coffee.

We will be doing some events together with Messiah, such as youth events and men's group. For example, our new youth leaders, Brandon and Gail Pittman want to invite Messiah people to join us for a Ski outing to Lutheridge in January. We also want to invite you to a Thanksgiving Day potluck.

Thank you for your all of your prayers, friendship, support and encouragement. We have appreciated it and will continue to need it as we try to gain stability and momentum at Incarnation.

God's blessings! Pastor Mark

HAVE THANKSGIVING DINNER AT INCARNATION

No Family in town? No need to be alone! You are invited to join the Incarnation Family, **Nov. 26 at 2 p.m.**, as we share our blessings and our meal on Thanksgiving Day. Turkey and Ham will be provided, just bring a dish to share (side dish, rolls, dessert, etc) and join us in giving thanks to our Heavenly Father for the many blessings in our lives. Bring a friend! Come as you are and enjoy the food, fun, fellowship! Incarnation is located at 5551 Hwy 53 (a mile south of Publix.)

Education News - continued

JUNIOR YOUTH

The Jr. Youth is still in need of leadership. If you are interested, please contact Celynn.

TWEENS

- On October 18, they enjoyed a trip to The Maize in Brownsboro.

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

CRADLE ROLL

- We are in need of someone to manage the Cradle Roll program. It involves keeping updated files on the new births at Messiah and mailing parent materials that will support their child's Christian education at home.

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.

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

- Liz and Oz Alcocer announce the birth of their son, Gabriel Drake Alcocer. Gabriel was born September 26. He weighed 6lbs. and 4 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.

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

- Bonnie Webb's mother, Sally Campbell, passed away on September 25.

NEXT OPEN FORUM: NOVEMBER 8

On Sunday, November 8, at 9:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall, we will have a second round of Open Forums on the ELCA Churchwide Assembly's decision to allow same gender couples in committed relationships to serve as Pastors. At our first Open Forums on Sept 20, much of the discussion was on how we as individuals and as a congregation might respond to this decision. On November 8, I would like to focus on possible responses and learn more about how others in the ELCA are responding.

To me it is very sad that any policy decision on this issue makes it inevitable that God's people will be divided. Some will be deeply hurt and the mission of our Lord's Church is likely to be hindered. What I pin my hopes upon is that our Lord consistently has taken pain, difficulty, and even death to do His best work. So, as I have asked before I ask again, please be patient, keep talking, and do not give up hope. I would be especially saddened if people left MLC without talking about their pain over this issue.

Pastor Scott

Education News

Celynn Ballard,

SUNDAY SCHOOL Flu season is upon us! We do award good attendance but please keep your child home if they are running a fever or have any other flu like symptoms. Teachers also get sick, so we are in need of subs. Lesson plans are provided. Please contact Sarah Walker or Cheryl Byers if you are interested.

Adult Sunday School Classes:

- 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. This study will use a video series by Dr. Terence Fretheim of Luther Seminary. Two weeks will be devoted to each video session. The first week will be spent viewing the video and the second will be a discussion session.
- Room 8 - "THE BOOK OF FAITH" with Bob Loshuertos - 7 weeks
- *NEW! Parish Hall (elsewhere 3rd Sundays) – Pastor Scott' will lead a Bible study of the readings in worship that day. Come any Sunday.*
- Library - "God's Word for Life" with John Morgan

Youth News

SENIOR YOUTH

- Twelve members of the Senior Youth Group did a 7 mile canoe trip down the Elk River in Tennessee on Oct 11. Due to the rain that we have been having this summer, there was plenty of water in the river, and the trip was faster than normal. Pictures taken by Jack Mast can be seen at the Church blog site (www.mlutheran.org). Everyone had a great time enjoying God's creation on a warm fall day, including Jack Mast, Tim Wade and Jay Perry who went along to chaperone and provide support.
- Plans for the coming months include a weekend trip to Lutheranch, and the annual wreath sale.
- Anyone interested in helping John Shriver lead the Sr. Youth next year, please contact Celynn Ballard

All 9th – 12th graders are welcome at any or all activities. Contact John Shriver for information.

Incarnation Youth Ski Retreat– LutherRidge (2 or 3 nights)

January 15-18 or 16-18, 2010, Leave after school on 15th, return morning of 18th. Cost: Lodging/Meals (3 nights): \$135/\$145 (2 nights):\$105/\$115, Lift Tickets: \$37/day, Ski Rental: \$14/day, Snowboard Rental: \$20/day, Lunch @ Ski Resort: \$7/day, Free lessons available at resort, Commitment needed by

Dec. 15, Volunteers needed. Contact Pastor Mark Borseth for more info.

OUTREACH NEWS from Claire Strand

Much gratitude for the love and support you gave to the children of Honduras through the **Handmade Market** sale. We had about 808 items for sale and raised nearly \$3000!

More thanks to all who participated in the **Blessing of the Animals** service of worship last month. The sun shone brightly while 12 dogs and 2 cats received God's blessings.

Holiday Community Outreach from Jacquie Fry

Thank you again to all who donated school supplies this summer. The year moves forward but life is no easier for many in our community. This is going to be a cold winter for the homeless. There is a box in the entry for new or clean used blankets which will be given to First Stop in Huntsville to provide warmth for homeless men, women, and children. This will be a continuing outreach project throughout the cold months.

Another ongoing opportunity for service is the food collection of canned goods and staples. There is a continuing need for food in many parts of our community. Donations from Messiah go to Food Line through Asbury Methodist Church and to HAP (Huntsville Assistance Program). Once again we will collect money to buy turkeys for the holidays. Look for the turkey on the welcome center in the near future.

The Christmas tree will be in the entry again this year to give you the opportunity to brighten the holidays for children at the Downtown Rescue Mission. Pick a child's name from the tree and bring presents to be delivered before Christmas. May God bless each of you richly as we approach Advent and Christmas, and may He make you a blessing in the lives of those around you. Thank you.

Comforter's Quilt Auction This Month

Comforter's annual auction will be held the month of November 2009. Funds will be used to purchase materials for future use in making comforters. Comforters are made and sent to Lutheran World Relief and to local missions. Comforter materials include rolls of batting, thread, fabric, sheets for backings, sewing machines, scissors, crochet thread, pins, and needles. Comforters will be displayed in the narthex. We will receive matching funds from Thrivent. Comforter's will meet every Tuesday in November @ 10:00. Questions Contact Annette.

Ring and Sing

Come out for the annual Ring and Sing on Sunday, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m., with music from adult, youth, and children's bell and vocal groups. There will also 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 co-sponsoring the event.



NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Worship: Chicago Folk w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship: Now the Feast w/LS 12:15 Instrumental Ens 6:30 Sr. Youth	2 <i>James & Bettie Brumley</i>	3 10 am Comforters <i>John and Mary Burke</i>	4 5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Café 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir <i>Paul Burke</i>	5 8:30am Morning Study Group <i>Stephanie Burrer</i>	6 <i>Virgil & Susan Burrer</i>	7 <i>Dan & Cheryl Byers, "Justin, Joshua, Jonathan"</i>
8 8:30am Worship: WOV Serv. Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School &) pen Forum 11:00am Worship: LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12:15pm Open Forum 6:30 Sr. Youth	9 <i>Martin & Laurie Campbell, "Connor"</i>	10 10 am Comforters <i>Kimberly Carper</i>	11 5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Café 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir <i>Dan & Jill Casey, "Daniel, Calliope"</i>	12 Church Council 7pm <i>Doris Chojnowski, "Tara"</i>	13 <i>Trudy Clare</i>	14 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Messiah LC, Parish Hall <i>Joy Clavin</i>
15 8:30am Worship ELW Setting 1 w/LS 11:00am Worship Contemporary Serv. 12:00 Congregation Meeting 6:30 Sr. Youth	16 <i>Diane Cline</i>	17 10 am Comforters 6 pm Career Transitions Seminar <i>Deborah Coates</i>	18 5:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Wed Night Café 6:00 pm Children's Choirs 6:30 pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm Notabella Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir <i>David & Camille Cobb</i>	19 <i>Lauren Cole</i>	20 <i>Dorothy Corron</i>	21 <i>Linda Cox</i>
22 8:30am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS 12:00 Outreach Meeting 6:30 Sr. Youth	23 <i>Jim & Toni Daniel, "Christina, Allison"</i>	24 10 am Comforters <i>Lisa D'Antonio ,"Mary Grace"</i>	25 NO Confirmation No Dinner – Thanksgiving Break <i>Bob & Diane Davis, "Andrew, Claire"</i>	26 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> 2pm Thanksgiving Dinner at Incarnation <i>Terry de la Paz & Bob Smith , "Olivia, Aleksey"</i>	27 <i>Gerard & Anita deJong, "Meggy"</i>	28 <i>Matthew & Jutta DeMarsh "Daisy, Sandra, Matthew jr"</i>
29 8:30am Worship Hymn Sing w/LS 9:45 NO Sunday School 11:00am Worship Hymn Sing w/LS 12:15 Instrumental Ens 6:30 Sr. Youth	30 <i>Adam & Heather Doubleday</i>					NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOVEMBER 15