



Pastor Kris Schroeder

JANUARY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

January 4

Christmas 2:

ELW 4 w/LS

9:30 a.m.*

Pastor Keith Cook
presiding

January 11

Baptism of our Lord:

ELW 4 w/LS

8:30* & 11 a.m.

Pastor Keith Cook
presiding

January 18

2nd Sunday after

Epiphany:

Chicago Folk w/LS

8:30* & 11 a.m. Band Led

January 25

3rd Sunday after

Epiphany:

ELW 3 w/LS

8:30* & 11 a.m.

ELW =
Evangelical Book of Worship (Red)
LS = Lord's Supper
*Livestream

*Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,
"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?"*

(Matthew 2:1b-2a)

Epiphany!



We all know the saying "I had an epiphany"—a moment in time when, all of a sudden, something makes complete sense, almost as if light shined so brightly you couldn't miss it. We will soon find ourselves thrust into the season of the church we call Epiphany, a season of light, as if the light of Christ shines so brightly that we understand more of God than ever before.

I wonder, now that Christmas is over and we've begun to settle into a new year, has any of us paused long enough to consider the answer to the question of the wise men:

"Where is the child, born king of the Jews?"

The child born came for you and for me—the child born to shine light and to be a foundation for all the world, the child who represents kindness and generosity, service to others, and denying oneself.

May each of us make the time not only to ask the same question the wise men asked, but also to find—and perhaps create—moments in which the light of Christ indeed shines brightly among us. May this be a year in which God in Christ Jesus shines not only for each of us, but from each of us, for all the world to see.

Help Your Gift Go Further

Our online giving platform, Vanco, now offers an option to cover processing fees. These fees cost MLC over \$4,000 each year. By opting in, you can help ensure that 100% of your gift supports MLC's ministry.

To cover the 2.9% processing fee for debit and credit card gifts or the 1% fee for bank drafts, cancel your current gift(s) on the Vanco website and set them up again, selecting the option to cover fees during checkout.

Thank you for considering this option to help ensure your full gift supports our ministry.



"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music."

Psalm 98:4



Randall Fields
Music Director;
Choir Director



Hymn Request Form

Want to hear a favorite hymn in worship? Place your request here:



To volunteer for all service and outreach opportunities:

Click or scan the QR code to access SignUp Genius or call the office.



Musical Groups

Contact Randall Fields to get involved in a music group:

Cherub Choir (Grades PK-1)

Seraph Choir (Grades 2-6)

Cherub Choir and Seraph Choir both rehearse Sundays at 5 p.m.

Messiah Choir (Grades 7 - adult) Randall Fields directs.

Rehearses Wednesday night.

Notabella (Bell Choir) (Grades 7 - adult) Rhonda Gaede directs.

Rehearses Sundays at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Additional ringers are welcome.

Instrumental Ensemble (Grades 7 - adult) Mike Mabry directs.

Rehearses 12:15 - 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

Additional players welcome.

The Band

Stephen Strand leads contemporary worship on the third Sunday each month.

Rehearsal is the same Sunday morning and the Saturday before at 10 a.m.

Additional instrumentalists and vocalists are always welcome.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 Lee Seitz	11 Logan Rydbom	21 Lisa Evers
2 Chad Wasmoen	11 Sarah Rydbom	21 Austin Gillespie
3 Richard Webb	12 Neda Ballard	22 Evelyn Root
5 Benedict Gremillion	12 Nora Christensen	23 Elijah Vande Griend
5 Evin Myers	13 Emily Walker	23 Sarah Walker
6 Charlea Kuske	14 Emily Reed	24 Joe Huwaldt
6 Dale Rohe	15 Magnus Vaughn	25 Bonnie Flowers
7 Christine Berry	16 Jack Perry	26 Drake Meyer
7 Jacob Huwaldt	16 Rachael Shiely	27 Shirley Forbes
9 Mae Finch	17 Cheryl Byers	27 Robin Lakso
9 Beth Thompson	18 Mark Hanson	27 Kyle Thompson
11 Kathryn Eaton	18 Eleanor Nelson	29 Robert Davis
11 Meggy McKee	19 Jennifer Montgomery	31 Jennifer Saari
11 Paulette McNamara	20 Jonathan Huwaldt	



"...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 6:20

Mission Endowment Fund

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee has been working hard to define and establish guidelines for Messiah's Mission Endowment Fund. We have completed the Continuing Resolution, which will guide the fund's management, growth, and the funding of future grant proposals that lift up the ministry and outreach of our congregation.

The congregation voted to allocate a portion of the parsonage sale proceeds to help establish the fund. After researching several financial management institutions, the committee recommended Thrivent to the Church Council for approval, and the council accepted the recommendation.

We are now working to complete the application process to officially establish the MLC Mission Endowment Fund – Madison, AL, with Thrivent Financial. Once the fund is officially established, it will take time to grow to a point where we can begin to solicit and distribute grants. The timeframe for this to begin will be when the initial investment (principal) doubles.

Future grants will be offered and distributed from interest and/or dividends only.

The Endowment Fund will continue to grow and be a blessing for sharing the love of Christ with our congregation and beyond.

One of the many ways to share your generosity is through legacy giving. Simply put, legacy giving is remembering Messiah's ministry and the Mission Endowment Fund in your estate planning. The Endowment Committee will be giving a temple talk during worship in January about legacy giving.

Please watch for future announcements with the exact date. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to speak with me (Pr. Bill Schroeder), Dennis Fry, Greg Kilby, or Bill Havard.

From your Mission Endowment Fund Committee, we wish you and your family a blessed and joyous New Year. He is the Light of the World!

**--MLC Endowment
Committee**



Council Minute



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Happy New Year! I wanted to provide two updates from the council:

1. We are still in the call process for a rostered minister of faith formation, and that process continues as we await what God has planned for MLC. However, as that search continues, we are working to hire an interim, part-time youth leader. Our youth volunteers have been doing an amazing job organizing and leading activities and events, which is a considerable amount of hard work—thank you! With this interim position, we want to ensure there is additional support for our youth program and also provide our volunteers with a chance to recharge and refocus.

We will keep you updated as we work through this interim plan.

2. I had previously shared that we were going to begin our long-range planning in 2025. However, it has taken a bit longer than anticipated to finalize the charter for the committee. We want to make sure we are asking the Long-Range Planning Committee to focus on and provide discernment around the right questions. The new goal is to kick off that committee later in January.

I am excited to see what this new year holds for us as we continue to shine God's light in the world and discern how best to be God's people reaching out.

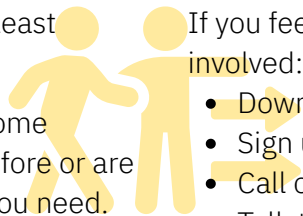
Yours in Christ,
Andrew King, MLC Council President



Sunday Service Needs

Each of our worship services relies on at least **seven volunteers** (in addition to staff).

Our late service is especially in need of some helping hands. Whether you've served before or are brand new, we'll provide all the training you need.



If you feel called to serve, there are lots of easy ways to get involved:

- Download the app and join the groups that interest you
- Sign up through SignUp Genius
- Call or email the church office
- Talk to Laura Peterson

Now Hiring: Interim Youth Leader

Messiah Lutheran Church is accepting applications for an Interim Youth Leader. The Youth Leader will work to nurture fellowship and leadership among youth (grades K-12), create Christ-centered activities, and foster discipleship through mentorship, activities, and relationships.

This role requires good communication skills, a strong personal faith, and the ability to work collaboratively with church staff and volunteers.



Synod Revival Days: 2026



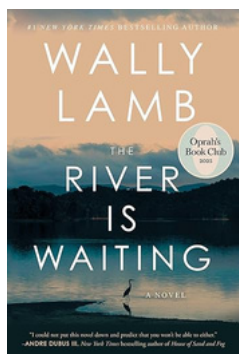
The ELCA Southeastern Synod invites members to register for Synod Revival Days, designed to jumpstart a revival through the church by offering fresh ideas and tool kits to revive congregational ministries and community collaboration. Beginning in January, each event is one day and within driving distance.

If you're interested in attending, contact a member of the Church Council to coordinate registration and transportation for any date.

Women's Book Club

Monday, Jan. 19
6:30 p.m.

The River is Waiting
by Wally Lamb




Winter Collection Continues



Messiah members have been so generous as we collect blankets and outerwear for the homeless in our area to keep them warm during the cold months. We have already made FOUR DELIVERIES to North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless (NACH).

We will continue collecting through February, so keep these items coming:

blankets
hats
sleeping bags
gloves



coats/jackets
scarves
sweaters
socks



Faith Formation

Pub Theology



Where Faith is Always on Tap

Jan. 6 & 20
6:30 p.m.

Engage with people from diverse religious traditions, philosophical perspectives, and life experiences. It's more than just a discussion—it's a journey of shared discovery and mutual respect. January 20th we will have a potluck. Bring a dish to share and join the discussion.

The format is simple: **Beer, Conversation, and God.**

Whether you're exploring faith, philosophy, or life's big questions, this is your chance to share, listen, and enjoy a drink (soda, tea, beer, or wine). Every voice is valued, and all perspectives are welcome.

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study resumes Jan. 11 with a study of *Luther's Small Catechism, An Explanation*.



We invite anyone who is new to Lutheran theology or who is looking for a refresher to join the class. Questions? Email Dottie Hanson at mark5h@att.net.

Youth

NEW Youth Resource

Our youth has a new hub for events and information! It's not linked through the website, since it's only for youth and their families. Check it out!



Secondary Youth Groups: Junior Youth (Grades 6-8) & Senior Youth (Grades 9-12)

Most youth group activities are Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. We start as a big group and then split for separate Junior and Senior Youth activities.

Jan. 4 NO YOUTH GROUP: Holiday Break

Sat. Jan. 10 Huntsville Havoc Game
7 p.m.

Jan. 11 NO YOUTH GROUP

Jan. 18 TBD

Jan. 24 Chili cookoff with costumes and face painting!

Confirmation Class Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

Confirmation classes with Laurie Campbell and Justin Walker every Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. in the youth room (room 5). If you have a young person who is entering grade 8 or above who would like to participate, please contact Pastor Kris or Laurie Campbell.

Southeastern Synod Events All GA Youth Gathering

Feb. 20-22 at Camp Glisson near Dahlonega, GA

Sunday School Schedule: Children & Youth

Jan. 4 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL: Holiday Break

Jan. 11-25 Regular Sunday School classes



"The most important one is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12: 29 - 31

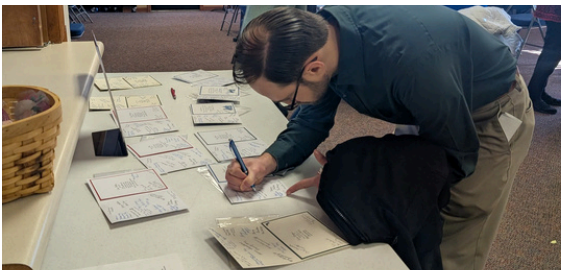
ArtReach Collecting Christmas Cards

Messiah's ArtReach will be collecting new and used Christmas cards in January and February. A collection box will be located at the Mission Control center starting in January. Please bundle any new Christmas Cards with their envelopes with rubber bands.

Your donated cards will be used later on in the year for a planned Christmas Card recycling workshop. If there is an excess of new cards, we'll bundle them up and give to area assisted living nursing homes for their residents.



Messiah ArtReach gathers to craft and get creative twice monthly in the Fellowship Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This month, we meet on January 15 and January 29. In February, we will resume meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. All are welcome! No supplies or skills necessary. Questions? Contact Peggy Mabry, Beth Thompson, or Meredith Kilby.



Christmas Cards for Homebound Members

ArtReach handmade beautiful Christmas cards for 11 seniors from the congregation who are homebound or live in assisted living. Thanks to everyone who stopped by to sign them.

Advent Community Collection

Through Advent and Christmas, we collected baby items for new moms, dads, and babies who might be facing their own difficult life situations. This provided an opportunity to care for people in need locally and globally as we labored through Advent to the foot of the manger.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to send these items to these organizations:



- 419 diapers



- 1,306 baby wipes
- 8 sippy cups
- 12 pacifiers & teethingers
- 40 bibs
- a variety of eating utensils, plates, and bath toys



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

- receiving blanket
- variety of clothing



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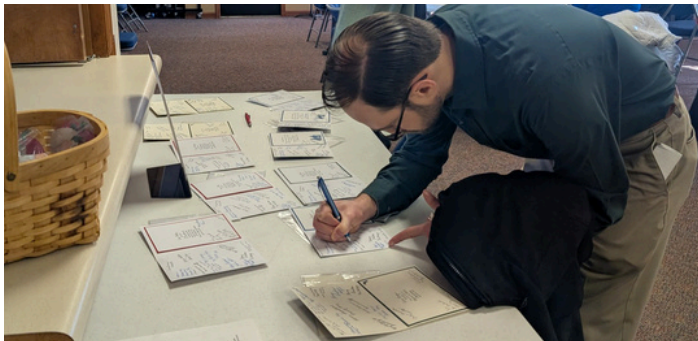
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**FOOD BANK OF
NORTH ALABAMA**

- 419 diapers





Messiah Messenger

January 2026
Page 7

Calendar

JANUARY

Sun.

Mon.

Tues.

Wed.

Thurs. Fri.

Sat.

Click or scan
for our up-to-
date online
calendar:



ELW = Evangelical Book of Worship (Red)
LS = Lord's Supper
*Livestream

Office Closed:
New
Years
Holiday

Christmas 2: ELW 4
9:30 a.m.*
Worship w/LS

Baptism of our Lord: ELW 4
8:30 a.m.* Worship w/LS
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
11 a.m. Worship w/LS
12:15 p.m. Inst. Ensemble Rehearsal
5 p.m. Cherub & Seraph Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Notabella Rehearsal

2nd after Epiphany: Chicago Folk
8:30 a.m.* Worship w/LS
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
11 a.m. Worship w/LS Band Led
5 p.m. SR/JR Youth Group
5 p.m. Cherub & Seraph Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Notabella Rehearsal

3rd after Epiphany: ELW 3
8:30 a.m.* Worship w/LS
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
11 a.m. Worship w/LS
12:15 p.m. Inst. Ensemble Rehearsal
5 p.m. Cherub & Seraph Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Notabella Rehearsal

9 a.m.
Comforters
6:30 p.m.
Pub Theology

9 a.m.
Comforters

9 a.m.
Comforters
11 a.m.
Worship &
Music Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Pub Theology

9 a.m.
Comforters
5:30 p.m.
Men of
Messiah
(MoMs) Meet-
up

5 p.m.
Confirmation
Class
6 p.m.
Wed. Night Dinner
7 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal

5 p.m.
Confirmation
Class
6 p.m.
Wed. Night Dinner
7 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal

5 p.m.
Confirmation
Class
6 p.m.
Wed. Night Dinner
7 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal

5 p.m.
Confirmation
Class
6 p.m.
Wed. Night Dinner
7 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m.
Kit
Ministries

11 a.m.
ArtReach
7 p.m.
Church
Council
Meeting

5 p.m.
Chili
Cookoff

7 p.m.
Youth
Group:
Huntsville
Havoc
Game

10 a.m.
Contemp.
Worship
Setup &
Rehearsal

5 p.m.
Chili
Cookoff



The tree decorated by MOES will be part of the Madison Polar Express Christmas Trail through Monday, Jan. 5.



Thank you to all of our singers, bell ringers, and instrumentalists for making our annual Ring & Sing event so fun for members and the community!



Children presented the Christmas story from the perspective of Joseph (told by three wise people with pink cowboy hats, a bunch of shepherds with an angel, and a humorous guitar-playing sheep).



"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."
2 Corinthians 9:10

Executive Committee

Pastor (Ex-Officio of All Committees) President Vice President Treasurer Secretary	Kris Schroeder Andrew King Lee Smith Rhonda Gaede Joanne Weber	CONTACT US <u>via online form</u>
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Council Representatives

Worship and Music Outreach Stewardship Education and Youth Fellowship Property Finance Youth Representative	Laura Peterson Dana Burton Michael Montgomery Bonnie Flowers -- Peter Woods Dennis Fry Hannah Seitz	CONTACT US <u>via online form</u>
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Non-Council Positions / Committees

Sunday School Superintendent MESY (Messiah Elementary Student Youngsters) MOES (Messiah Older Elementary Students) Personnel Committee Financial Secretary Stephen Ministry	-- Whitney Morse -- Marc Neely Mike & Peggy Mabry	CONTACT US <u>via online form</u>
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Staff

Office Manager Music Director, Choir Director Organist/Accompanist Nursery Attendant Communications Director IT Director	Jill Casey Randall Fields Melanie Payne Hannah Seitz Jan Morrison Chris Elegante	CONTACT US <u>via online form</u>
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MLC staff, officers, or council reps will never solicit you directly for cash, gift cards, etc.