

# Messiah Lutheran Church

in the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

**Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA**

8765 West Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631-4197  
773-380-2600 \* [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

**Rev. H. Julian Gordy, Bishop of the Southeastern Synod of ELCA**

100 Edgewood Ave., Ste. 1600, Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-589-1977 \* [www.elca-ses.org](http://www.elca-ses.org)

Interim Pastor Devin Strong

The Saints of Messiah – Ministers

[pastordevinstrong@gmail.com](mailto:pastordevinstrong@gmail.com), 770-940-1442.

6670 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, Alabama 36116

[MessiahLutheran@aol.com](mailto:MessiahLutheran@aol.com) \* 334-277-4213

**December 23, 2018 Forth Sunday of Advent**

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary’s magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ’s advent is for “the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.” It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion-with high delight-“we proclaim the Lord’s death.”

[www.messiahlutheranmgm.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmgm.org)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **VISITORS-** Please introduce yourself and sign our Guest Book in the hallway. We hope you will return to worship with us. If you would like information about membership, please call the office at 277-4213.
- **WELCOME TO OUR LORD’S TABLE** all who are baptized children of God. As Lutherans we teach and believe that Christ is truly physically and spiritually present under the forms of bread and wine; they are his body and blood. Small children and infants are welcome to commune if they have received “first communion instruction,” and should be assisted by their parents. Children who are not yet communing and those who are not baptized are invited to come forward for a blessing. When we are using trays with individual glasses, for those who do not prefer wine, the glasses in the center circle of the trays are filled with grape juice; or you may choose the chalice. Those unable to partake of wine or wheat bread are assured that the fullness of our Lord is received in either of the elements. After communing, please return to your seat for silent prayer.
- **ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP CHART** is hanging on the narthex bulletin board. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, place your name on the date(s) of your choice, and a brief note for what commemoration the flowers are given. We can have up to three sponsors each Sunday. Sponsors will be billed from Ricky Craig at a cost of \$45 per arrangement. You may also provide your own flowers, however they should be on par with the quality of arrangements normally used. Remember to take them home following the 10:45 service to enjoy or share with a friend (or drop by church during the week between 9am-1pm to pick them up). Please return the container to the church.
- The altar flowers for today are given: by: Steve and Liz Wright in honor of their 41<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.
- 
- 

**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS**

**\* New Information**

Tina Ruffa ..... Healing after Mastectomy  
Hannah Chase (age 9) ... \*Bone marrow transplant was successful and is home (friend of Kathryn Willoughby)  
Adriane Duvall ..... \*Successful surgery November 13<sup>th</sup> Long healing process(Kathryn Willoughby’s daughter)  
Pastor Jill Henning ..... Aggressive breast cancer (friend of Pastor and Doris Underwood)  
Bobby Bullock.....\* Quadruple bypass surgery( friend of Chuck Wray)  
\*Ron Hicks(Lunches for Learning Founder).....Hospitalized for diagnostic studies

Please include the names listed in your prayers at home during the following weeks. To add or update someone to the prayer chain, call the church office. We will routinely remove your prayer request from this list after 2-3 weeks, depending on the circumstances. If the need arises, please call the church office to have them returned to the list.

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS**

5:30 pm ..... RSVP Meal \$5 per plate (under 5, free; ages 5-12, \$3)  
6:15 pm ..... Worship  
7:00 pm ..... Choir Practice  
7:00 pm ..... Catechism

**We will not have a Wednesday night meal 12/26/2018**

Please **RSVP** or cancel before Tuesday noon. You can make reservations by contacting the church office (call 277-4213,e-mail mlcoffice@messiahlutheranmgm.org) or place your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hall outside the office. You may also make reservations on the website at [www.messiahlutheranmgm.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmgm.org).

**Remember Our Senior Friends in Retirement Homes, Assisted Living, Nursing Homes, or Semi-Shut-ins at Home**

Jim Lincoln ..... 1555 Taylor Rd B8, Montgomery, AL 36117  
Pastor Robert Graetz ..... 1558 Dunbar St., Montgomery, AL 36106  
Judy Forks ..... 390 Aquil Lane, Pike Road, AL 36064-5002  
Signe Nelson .....5801 Eastdale Dr., #106, Montgomery, AL 36117  
Jane Stambaugh ..... 9819 Mid Pines Court, Montgomery, AL 36117  
Katherine Yaworski ..... Pine Needle Place, 600 Glendale Ave., Greenville, AL 36037

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

Worship Attendance on12/16/18 8:00 am .....38 10:45.....38  
Contributions to Financial Expense Plan on12/16/18 ..... \$4,553.00  
Fiscal Year Contributions thru12/16/18 ..... \$100,939.00  
Fiscal **Y-T-D** Financial Expense Plan Goal ..... \$134,088.00  
Above/(Below) **Y-T-D** FEP Goal as of 12/16/18 ..... (\$33,149.00)  
\*Fiscal Year 2019 FEP Goal ..... \$232,419

**Pastor Strong will be using his personal phone and email. If you need to contact him, his number is 770-940-1442. His email address is: [pastordevinstrong@gmail.com](mailto:pastordevinstrong@gmail.com). He is available even if he is not here.**

**Tina Ruffa wishes to express her sincere gratitude for the thoughts and prayers during her surgery and healing process.**

**Adriane Duvall wishes to express her sincere gratitude for the thoughts and prayers during her recovery from surgery.**

Worship Assistant Schedule			
		December 23rd	December 30 <sup>th</sup> One Service 10:00 am
Altar		Ricky Craig	Lu Ann Marz
Communion Assistant	8:00 am	Steve Wright	Hildredge Sims & Iola Williams
	10:45 am	Judy McCune & Tina Ruffa	
Crucifer	10:45 am	Grayson Hataway	TBD
Greeters	8:00 am	Pat Riggins	Charline Struve
	10:45 am	Katrina Matzer	
Lay Assistant	8:00 am	Gene Klocke	Duane Brookhart
	10:45 am	Kay Owens	
Lector	8:00 am	Doris Underwood	Mark OConner
	10:45 am	Melissa Hataway	
Ushers	8:00 am	Jim Willoughby	Paul Morton
	10:45 am	Jaehee Ashley & Iola Williams	

Schedule for Week of December 23rd		Schedule for Week of December 30th	
<b>SUN:</b> 12/23	8:00am Worship w/Eucharist  10:45 am Worship w/Eucharist	<b>SUN:</b> 12/30	10:00 am Single Service
<b>MON:</b> 12/24	Office Closed 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>MON:</b> 12/31	Office Closed
<b>TUE:</b> 12/25	Office Closed	<b>TUE:</b> 01/01	Office Closed
<b>WED:</b> 12/26	Office Closed	<b>WED:</b> 01/02	9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
<b>THU</b> 12/27	Office Open	<b>THU</b> 01/03	9:30 am Marys and Marthas
<b>Fri:</b> 12/28	Office Open	<b>Fri:</b> 01/04	6:00 pm Pinks and Pearls
<b>SAT:</b> 12/29		<b>SAT:</b> 01/05	9:00 am Yarnovers 1:00 pm Girl Scouts