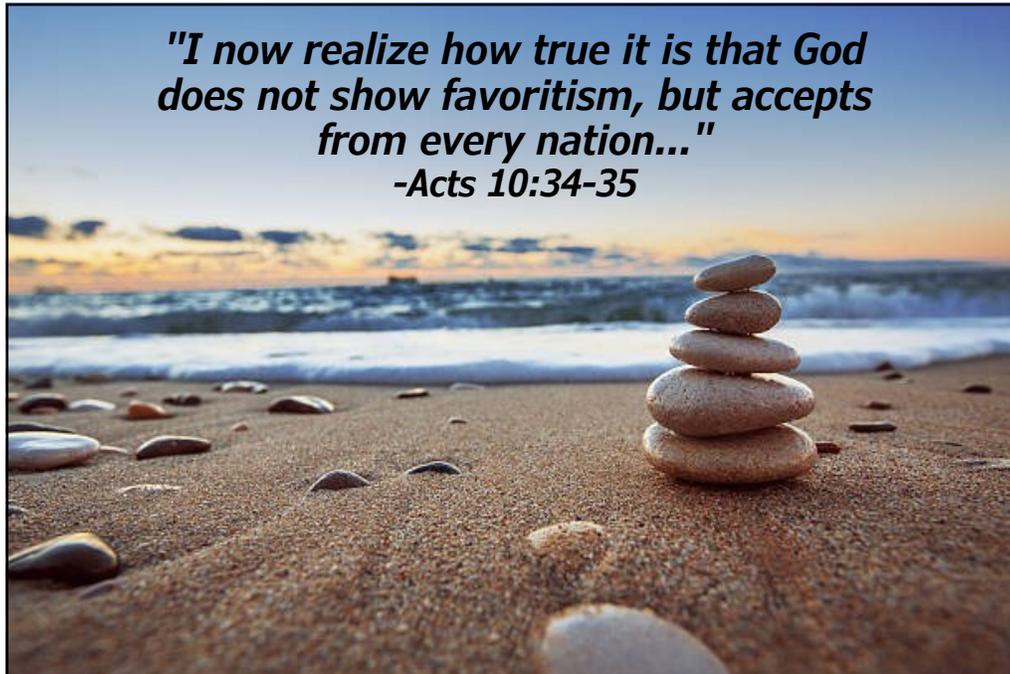




**Family Praise & Worship**  
**March 1, 2026**  
**10:45 a.m.**



*"I now realize how true it is that God  
does not show favoritism, but accepts  
from every nation..."*  
*-Acts 10:34-35*

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover  
Worship Coordinator Justin Brown  
Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier

40 Houbolt Rd.  
Joliet, IL 60431

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# WORSHIP TODAY

**Call To Worship**

**Welcome**

**Worship Through Songs**

**Worship Through Giving**

**Children's Message**

**Worship Through Hearing God's Word**

**Message**

**"Bold Prayer: Foreigner"**

Pastor Kurt Hoover

*A manuscript for this sermon and those previous can be found in the Narthex.*

**Worship Through Song**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness**

**Communion**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Closing Song**

**FIRST READING, Deuteronomy 10:12-22 (NIV)**

Reader: needed

<sup>12</sup> And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup> and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

<sup>14</sup> To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. <sup>15</sup> Yet the LORD set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. <sup>16</sup> Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. <sup>17</sup> For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. <sup>18</sup> He defends

the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. <sup>19</sup> And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. <sup>20</sup> Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. <sup>21</sup> He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes. <sup>22</sup> Your ancestors who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

## **SECOND READING, Acts 10:23-35 (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. <sup>24</sup> The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. <sup>25</sup> As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. <sup>26</sup> But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

<sup>27</sup> While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. <sup>28</sup> He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. <sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

<sup>30</sup> Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me <sup>31</sup> and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. <sup>32</sup> Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.' <sup>33</sup> So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

**MESSIAH**  
CHURCH

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP**

Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Worship 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
on  
Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

Easter Sunday  
April 5<sup>th</sup>, breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m.  
Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

**Sign up in  
the  
Narthex.**

# *Celebration Sunday at Messiah*

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29**



We'll celebrate with a combined worship service  
at 10 a.m. in the Family Life Center  
and our annual Youth Parade.



You're invited to worship with us this

*Easter*

04/02 ~ Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.  
04/03 ~ Good Friday Tenebrae Service  
& Choir Cantata 7:00 p.m.  
04/05 ~ Easter Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Easter breakfast is served  
beginning at 7:30!



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## **NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

### **ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY**

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings during Education Hour.

### **COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME**



Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 9:40 a.m. and will continue until after the later service gets out. If you are an 8:30 attender - stay late! If Family Praise & Worship is your service - come early! Make new friends!

### **CONNECT WITH MESSIAH**

You can use this QR code to let us know you're new, tell us that you're interested in next steps at MLC, submit prayer requests, fill out a Connect Card, and give online.

Scan here to connect with MLC:



**Online Giving** - There are two convenient ways to do it:

- 1) On our website at <https://www.mlcjoliet.org/give>.
- 2) Through the Church Center app on your phone or tablet, or scan the QR code above.

### **DAYBREAK SHELTER - WILL YOU HELP SAVE OUR PARTNERSHIP?**

For 35 years Messiah has prepared & served dinner once a month to those less fortunate at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Our long-time coordinator has stepped down and we are looking for a volunteer (or two) willing to take the baton. This would entail coordinating volunteers & food donations, light shopping, and communicating with Daybreak staff as needed. **Please reach out to the front office for more information.**



### **EASTER LILIES**

We are now collecting Easter lily orders with a deadline of March 11<sup>th</sup>. Please drop your completed order form and payment in the offering plate. Order forms may be found on the Ushers' Table in the Narthex.

### **FAITH & BODY**

Lace up your shoes and enjoy a walk in the Family Life Center, weekly on Thursdays (Sept-May) from 9-10 a.m. Everyone walks at their own pace and it's a great time for fellowship.

### **MEMORY BEARS**



Messiah's Memory Bears Group normally meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. next meeting is **March 24<sup>th</sup>**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email [regency118@comcast.net](mailto:regency118@comcast.net) for more info.

### **OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)**

OWLS meets on the second Tuesday of every month at noon, September-May. We enjoy a light lunch together, play trivia, and usually feature a guest speaker or entertainment! Our next luncheon is on **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. We ask that everyone **sign up in the Narthex** so we have a headcount and to let us know what finger food, appetizer, salad or dessert you will bring to share.



### **PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

Items for the bulletin are due by the end of the day each Tuesday, and newsletter material is due the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### **QUILTERS**

Messiah Quilters meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. We have a lot of quilts ready to complete and if you can tie a knot, you can help us out! We even have jobs you can do sitting down. Think about stopping in and see what we do.

If you are unable to join us and would like to sew at home, we have kits available and can show you how easy it is to sew a quilt top together.

We are in need of clean sheets of any size, flat or fitted (no stains or holes) to be used as the backs of our quilts. You can drop them off in the basket provided in the Narthex. Thank you, in advance!

*Quilters continued...* Contact Kathy Mueller at (815) 953-6601 or [scpbklane@aol.com](mailto:scpbklane@aol.com) for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **March 17<sup>th</sup>**!

### **STAY-N-PLAY**

Our FREE weekly open gym play group for kids five and under (along with their caretaker) meets in the Family Life Center every Tuesday morning (Sept-May) from 9:30 -11. Bring the littles for play time! Adults enjoy coffee on us!

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

Women's Bible Study is planning to begin a new series after Easter. Details coming soon. For more information please reach out to Sherri Unyi or Laurel Ling.

### **YOUNG ADULT "IGNITE" BIBLE STUDY**

For those out of high school and older - Join us for coffee and Bible Study in classroom #101 Sunday mornings during Education Hour.

## **MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grades)**

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Our Children's Choir will perform during the 10:45 service on March 22 and April 26. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.



### **EASTER EGG HUNT & CANDY DONATIONS**

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is March 28<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. We'll start at 1 with a Story Walk in the FLC, and the hunt will begin at 2 outdoors (weather permitting). We are asking for your **donations of unopened candy**. There is a collection basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

### **J-CHURCH**

J-Church is the third Sunday of every month (except December) at 10:45 in the FLC.

### **MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)**

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club!

### **MILE MARKERS**

- First Communion (4<sup>th</sup> grade) March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>,  
Communion April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Registration is open** in the Church Center app or here:



### **NERF BATTLE**

Dudes (5 and up), you're invited to an epic showdown! Bring your partner and NERF gun and we will provide the ammo and safety gear! We will have target practice, capture the flag, zombie freeze and prizes and treats. The battle will take place on Saturday, **March 14<sup>th</sup>** from 1-3 p.m. in the FLC.

**Registration is open** in the Church Center app or here:



### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> groups meet upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> in the Youth Room!

For more info on ministries for kids pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at [childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org) or Megan Kuhn, Christian Ed. Director, at [christianed@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:christianed@mlcjoliet.org).

# MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades)

## **BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)**

Bible Study for high schoolers is in the Fireside Room.

## **FRIENDS AND MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS**

FAM meets on Wednesday evenings from 6-8.

## **HEAD 2 HEART (H2H)**

Our H2H (Confirmation) program for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders runs on Wednesdays evenings from 6-8.



## Coffee Shop Fundraiser sponsored by our 2026 Chicago Mission Trip Team

Please support our 2026 Mission Trip Team on Sundays, March 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall as they whip up delicious hot/cold brewed and iced coffees (with special flavors) for your enjoyment!



For more info on ministries for students 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at [stumin@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:stumin@mlcjoliet.org).

GET READY FOR OUR CHURCH

## ★ PICTORIAL DIRECTORY ★

Be a part of our 2026 church directory! We will be taking pictures of our families for our directory **before and after services on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>** in the fellowship hall. (*The pictures will only be used for our directory and for our members only*). This will be a great time to confirm the information we have on file.

Our Messiah Quilters will be completing a **Signature Quilt** to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The squares will be next to the photo booth for you to sign before and after the services on March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.



## Grief Support Group

Please join Messiah's new Grief Support Group on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. in Room 101. This group offers caring and confidential space for those walking through loss.

You are not alone.

We are here to support one another.

-Pat Burke & Judy Fowler

## ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor Altar flowers, please sign up in the Narthex or call the office at 815-741-4488. Arrangements are \$25 each.

### THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

#### **SUNDAY, March 1**

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:40 a.m. Education Hour  
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship  
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

#### **MONDAY, March 2**

n/a

#### **TUESDAY, March 3**

9 a.m. Stay-N-Play

#### **WEDNESDAY, March 4**

5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper  
6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW  
7 p.m. Worship

#### **THURSDAY, March 5**

9 a.m. Faith & Body Challenge  
10:15 a.m. Prayer Team  
12 p.m. Staff Meeting  
1 p.m. Grief Support Group  
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

#### **FRIDAY, March 6**

n/a

#### **SATURDAY, March 7**

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

#### **SUNDAY, March 8**

8 a.m. Coffee Shop Fundraiser  
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:40 a.m. Education Hour  
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship  
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

### ATTENDANCE

#### **LAST WEEK:**

8:30: 86  
10:45: 81  
K-5<sup>th</sup>: not reported  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: 5  
High School: 4  
Ignite: 1  
Insight: 26  
Online: 23

### 2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359  
YTD Operating Budget: \$106,824  
YTD Giving Received: \$77,768  
Needed Each Week: \$13,353  
Received Last Week: \$6,689

### STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

#### **2 Corinthians 9:11**

You will be enriched in every way  
to be generous in every way,  
which through us will produce  
thanksgiving to God.

Messiah office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,  
otherwise by appointment. Please call (815) 741-4488.

