



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

8:30 a.m.

JESUS
SAID

Therefore render
to Caesar the
things that are Cae-
sar's, and to
God the things
that are God's.

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Paul Allen, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

October 18, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past," #52 v. 1-3, 6



- 1. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
- 2. Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,
- 4. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
- 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Bears all its sons a - way;
- 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home!
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
They fly, for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the op - 'ning day.
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our e - ter - nal home. A - men.

KINGDOM LITANY BASED ON PSALM 145

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,

All: and all your saints shall bless you!

Leader: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom

All: and tell of your power,

Leader: to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,

All: and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

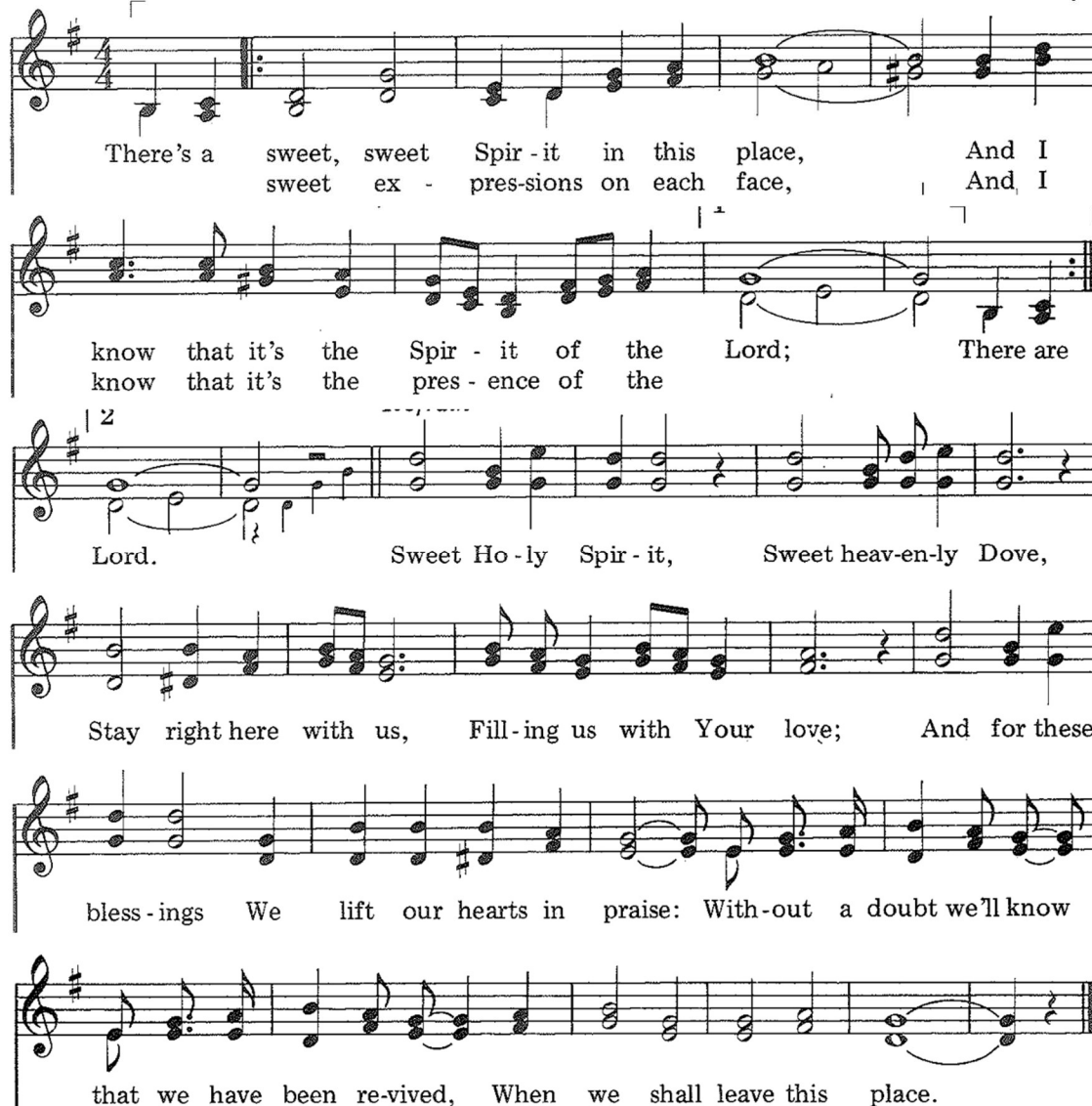
All: and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit," #252 v. 1-2



There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, And I
sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, And I
know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; There are
know that it's the pres - ence of the
Lord.
Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet heav-en-ly Dove,
Stay right here with us, Fill-ing us with Your love; And for these
bless - ings We lift our hearts in praise: With-out a doubt we'll know
that we have been re-vived, When we shall leave this place.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God," #259 v. 1-4



1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new, That I may
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure, Un - til my
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly Thine, Un - til this
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I nev - er die, But live with
love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.
will is one with Thine, To do and to en - dure.
earth - ly part of me Glows with Thy fire di - vine.
Thee the per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Seek Ye First," #42 v. 1-2, repeat v. 1 acapella v. 1-4



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God And His righ - teous - ness,
2. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and ye shall find,



And all these things shall be add - ed un - to you— Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
Knock and the door shall be o - pened un - to you— Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Leader: Holy and Gracious God,

All: I confess that I have sinned against you this day and every day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace and live each day for You.

Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kersten Stier

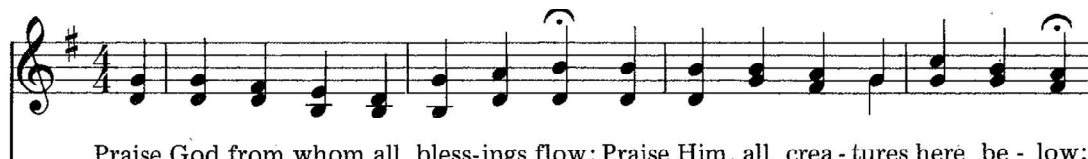
OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

RESPONSE

Doxology #625



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low;



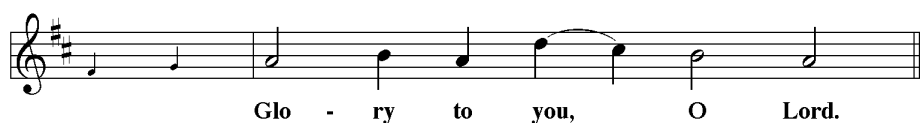
Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

FIRST LESSON, Isaiah 45:1-7 (ESV)

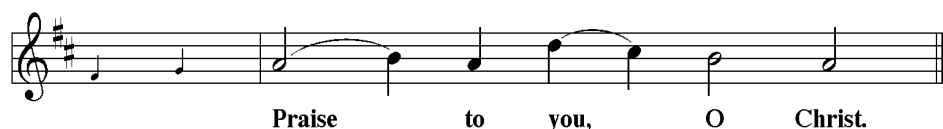
Reader: Sherri Unyi

¹ "Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ² "I will go before you and level the exalted places, will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things.

SECOND LESSON, Matthew 22:15-22 (ESV)



¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.



MESSAGE

"Kingdom Life: Image Bearers"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

A manuscript of this sermon can be found in the Narthex.

HYMN

"This Is My Father's World," #58 v. 1-3



1. This is my Fa - ther's world, And to my lis - tening ears
2. This is my Fa - ther's world, The birds their car - ols raise,
3. This is my Fa - ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get



All na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
The morn - ing light, the lil - y white, De - clare their Mak - ers praise.
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.



This is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought
This is my Fa - ther's world: He shines in all that's fair;
This is my Fa - ther's world: The bat - tle is not done;



Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the won - ders wrought.
In the rus - tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev - ery - where.
Je - sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heav'n be one.

WORDS OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Servers: Tom & Lynn Bond, Lynn Tapella

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

"Lamb of God"



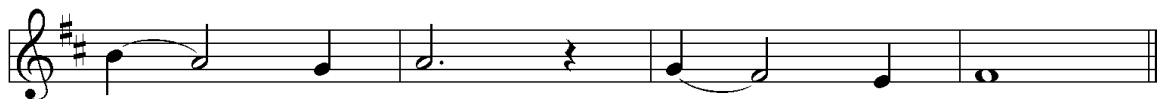
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"We Will Glorify," #72

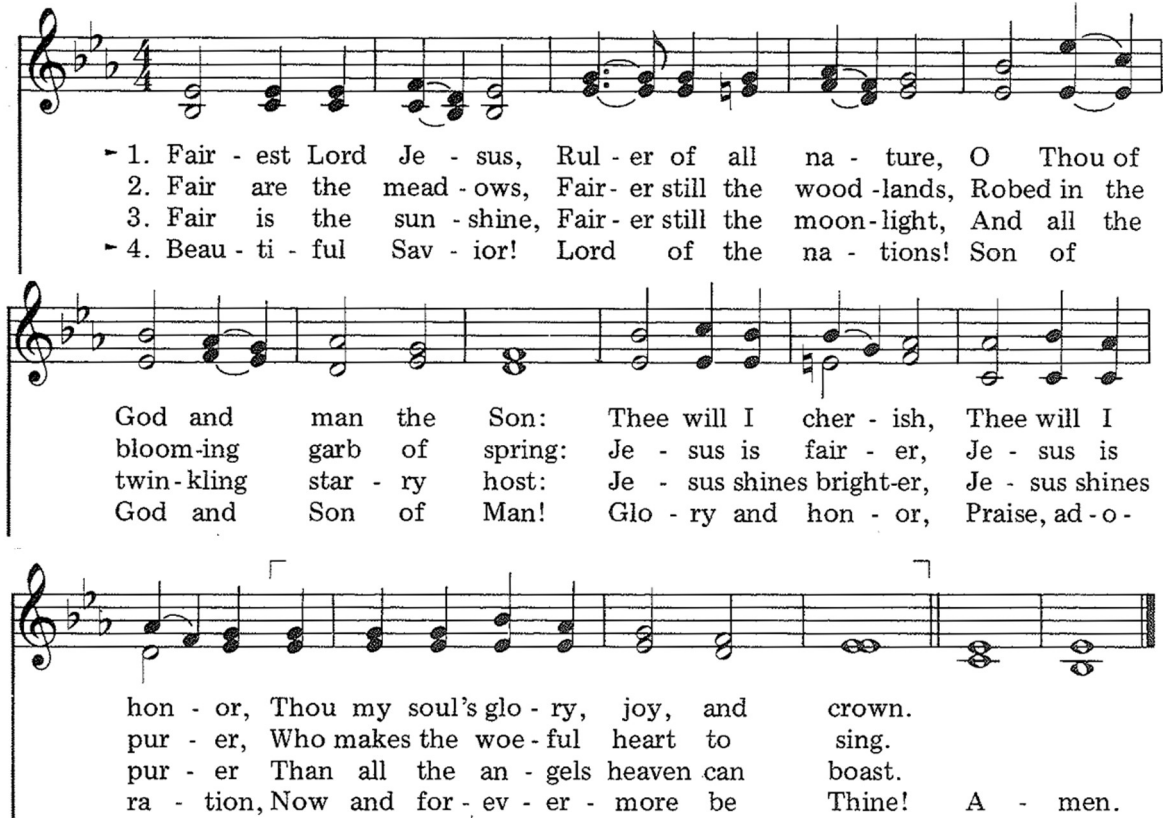


1. We will glo - ri - fy the King of kings, we will glo - ri - fy the
2. Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in maj - es - ty, we will bow be - fore His
3. He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth, He is Lord of all who
4. Hal - le - lu - jah to the King of kings, hal - le - lu - jah to the



Lamb; We will glo - ri - fy the Lord of lords, who is the great I Am.
throne; We will wor-ship Him in right-eous-ness, we will wor-ship Him a - lone.
live; He is Lord a-bove the u - ni - verse, all praise to Him we give.
Lamb; Hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord of lords, who is the great I Am.

"Fairest Lord Jesus," #88



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture, O Thou of
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands, Robed in the
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light, And all the
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions! Son of

God and man the Son: Thee will I cher - ish, Thee will I
 bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
 twin - kling star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -

hon - or, Thou my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er Than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine! A - men.

COMMUNION BLESSING

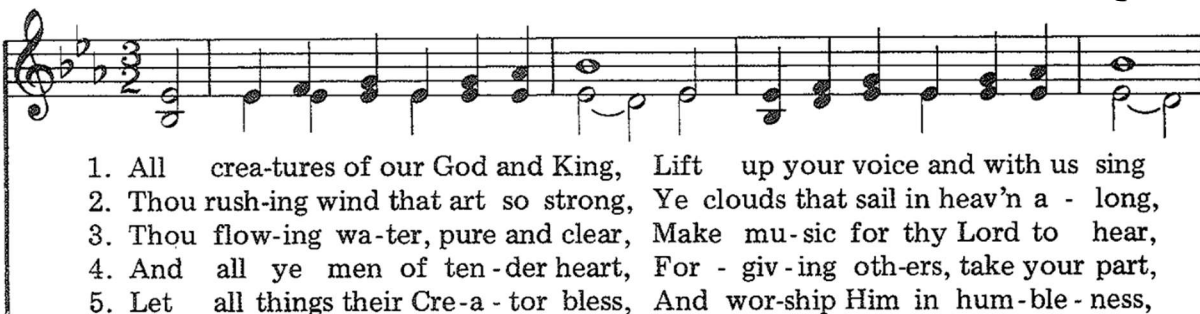
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you Father for the gift of salvation. Thank you Lord Jesus for this holy meal and the sacrifice of Your life. Thank you Holy Spirit for awakening faith within our hearts. We hear your voice in this meal and celebrate Your holy presence. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

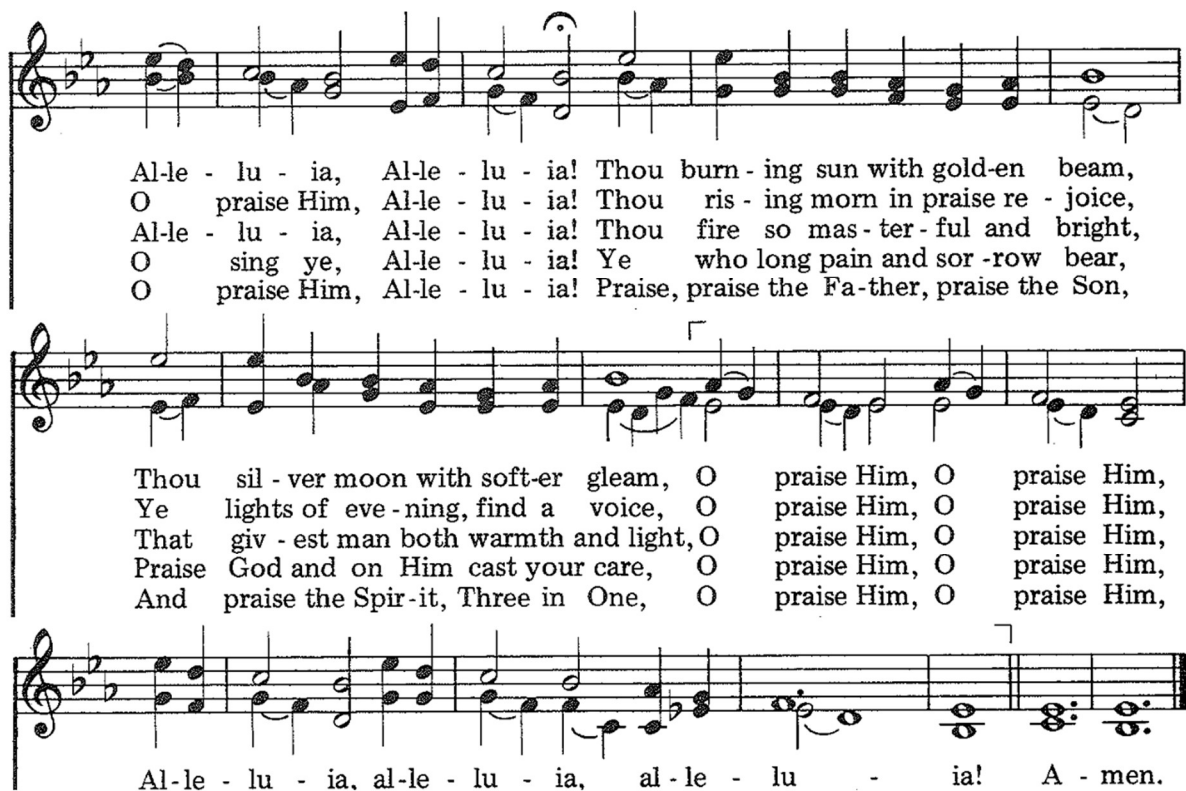
BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"All Creatures of Our God and King," #64 v. 1 & 4



1. All crea - tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing
 2. Thou rush - ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav'n a - long,
 3. Thou flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, Make mu - sic for thy Lord to hear,
 4. And all ye men of ten - der heart, For - giv - ing oth - ers, take your part,
 5. Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, And wor - ship Him in hum - ble - ness,



Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou burn - ing sun with gold-en beam,
 O praise Him, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn in praise re - joice,
 Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and bright,
 O sing ye, Al-le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row bear,
 O praise Him, Al-le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son,
 Thou sil - ver moon with soft-er gleam, O praise Him, O praise Him,
 Ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O praise Him, O praise Him,
 That giv - est man both warmth and light, O praise Him, O praise Him,
 Praise God and on Him cast your care, O praise Him, O praise Him,
 And praise the Spir - it, Three in One, O praise Him, O praise Him,
 Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

*God will never lead you to a place
 where His grace cannot keep you.*

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October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and Messiah Lutheran Church is truly blessed by the faithful service & steadfast dedication of Pastor Kurt Hoover, Pastor Emeritus Dave Nygard, and Deployed Pastor John Nelson. We are grateful for the countless hours they give through love, prayer, teaching, encouragement, and spiritual leadership. Their ministry and commitment to our congregation are a blessing to us all. Please take a moment this month to express your appreciation and let Pastor Kurt, Pastor Dave, and Pastor John know how much their service means to you and to the Messiah family.

"Give honor to whom honor is due." -Romans 13:7



NaperVoice's fall 2026 concert is Sunday, **November 15** at 4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in Naperville. Admission is \$21.50 for adults, \$16.50 for seniors, \$6 for students 13 and older.

Purchase your advance tickets now as they do sell out, and please **select Herb Alexander** as the credited choir member. Tickets are available at: www.napervoice.org.

This performance will celebrate the wonderful variety of American choral music, including classical, folksong, gospel, jazz, and Broadway genres. Featuring composers Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber, Rosephanye Powell, George Gershwin, Andrea Ramsey, Moses Hogan, and Randall Thompson.



**Boxes will be available
in the Narthex on
October 11!**

**MESSIAH
CHURCH**



SANCTUARY CHOIR

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 p.m.,
with performances every Sunday during the 8:30 service.
If you'd like to join in, reach out to Herb Alexander.
or call the church office.



Candy donations are needed for Trunk-or-Treat! Be sure to mark your calendar for our annual Harvest Fest & Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, October 23 from 6-8 p.m. This year's event will be in collaboration with our partners at the YMCA, so we are expecting a lot of guests. If you wish to donate candy for this event, there is a bin in the Narthex. Thank you!

BLOOD DRIVE AT MESSIAH

Save a life
Give Blood

Sunday, November 1

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Register here:

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

versiti

Blood Center of Illinois

11

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday morning Bible Study for adults is at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. Our newest series is entitled, "The Ten Commandments."

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME

Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 8:30 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! If you'd like to help with Sunday morning coffee, please reach out to Joyce Pawlowski at 630-890-1203.

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.

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!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Please join Messiah's Grief Support Group on the **first Thursday every month** (Sept-May) at 1 p.m. in Room 101. This group offers caring and confidential space for those currently walking through loss or those who have suffered loss in the past. You are not alone - We are here to support one another. Questions may be directed to Pat Burke or Judy Fowler.

INTERVARSITY VISION CONFERENCE - Volunteers needed

InterVarsity's annual Vision Conference is November 6-8 at Messiah, and they are looking for volunteers to serve the college students in the name of Jesus. For more information, reach out to Leslie McFarland.

MEMORY BEARS

Messiah's Memory Bears Group normally meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is **October 27**. Machine sewists are needed! Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

MESSIAH APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

Check out the Messiah apparel and accessories display in the Narthex!

Purchase clothing, hats, mugs & more by scanning this QR code:



OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)

OWLS meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at noon, September-May. We enjoy a light lunch together, play trivia, and usually feature a guest speaker or entertainment!

Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, and beverages will be provided for **our November 10** luncheon as we celebrate our veterans, and we'll feature a guests speaker from the Will County Health Dept. to talk about diabetes and hypertension. We ask that everyone sign up in the Narthex so we have a headcount, and to let us know what you will bring to share.

PRAYER CHAIN

Messiah uses an email-based Prayer Chain made up of people willing to pray for our members, community, and nation in times of crisis. Prayers are shared amongst the group via email and are kept confidential as much as possible. Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

PRAYER TEAM

Our in-person Prayer Team meets Thursday mornings in the Fireside Room from 10:15- 11:15 to pray together over our prayer request list. For more info, reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478, or Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

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

QUILTERS

Messiah Quilters meet the 3rd Tuesday each month from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The next quilting day is October 20. 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. 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 backs for our quilts. There is a collection basket in the Narthex. Contact Kathy Mueller at 815-953-6601 or scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **October 20!**

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 10-11:30. Bring the littles for play time! Adults enjoy coffee on us! Please like our Facebook page ([MLC Stay-N-Play Playgroup](#)) for additional information, and share with your friends and neighbors!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Women's Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons at 1 in the Fireside Room!

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Those post-high school and older are invited to join us for Bible study on Sunday mornings during Education Hour in classroom #101. Coffee and occasional breakfast treats will be provided.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

For information please reach out to Season Lawler.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club! Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We meet upstairs in the Kidz Club during Education Hour at 9:40 a.m.

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th grades)

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)

Bible Study for high schoolers is in the Fireside Room continues year-round.

FRIENDS & MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

Join us for mid-week Bible Study, connect with peers, play games, sing praise and more! FAM meets on Wednesday evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H)

Our H2H Confirmation Program for 6th-8th graders runs on Wednesdays evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

MAFIA NIGHT - Attention 6th-12th graders!

Join us for Capture the Flag/Tag in the Dark! Mark your calendar for our next MAFIA night on **November 13** from 6-10 p.m. Bring friends, and \$5 per person if you'd like to join us for pizza.

For more info on ministries for kids **pre-K through 5th grade** email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org or Megan Kuhn, Christian Ed. Director, at christianed@mlcjoliet.org. For students **6th through 12th grade** email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.



DAILY DEVOTIONAL PODCAST

"WORD PLAY!"

God has a Word for you!

Hosted by Pastor Kurt Hoover and Nikolai Stier,
we delve into the Scripture readings for the coming week
by focusing on one word in the passage.

Look for a new episode each weekday as we exchange insights
into the word of God ...along with some nerdy banter.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided by Ken Skinner to the glory of God,
and in loving memory of Vickie.

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, October 18

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

Monday, October 19

n/a

Tuesday, October 20

9 a.m. Quilterrs
10 a.m. Stay-n-Play
6 p.m. PPC

Wednesday, October 21

1 p.m. Women's Bible Study
5 p.m. Family Dinner
6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

Thursday, October 22

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

Friday, October 23

6 p.m. Harvest Fest/Tunk or Treat

Saturday, October 24

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Sunday, October 25

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

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

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 109
10:45: 38
Online: 21
Insight: 31
K-5: 7
MSM: 2
HS: 1
Young Adult: 0
MKW: 5

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$547,475
YTD Giving Received: \$444,877
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$22,919

STEWARDSHIP VERSE **OF THE WEEK**

Psalms 107:1

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever.

