

# MESSIAH MESSENGER

# June 2026



Pastor's Pen /

"...we hear them telling in our own tongues  
the mighty works of God."  
(Acts 2:11)

We hear them telling the stories that grandma and grandpa used to tell us as kids in our own native tongue... we are children of God trusting in the Father once again.

The Old Covenant, remembered in Pentecost, was based on the Ten Commandments. These rules for life are what make you Jewish. They are what makes you a part of God's family. And the temptation was to think that they also might save you. If I can just keep my worship only attached to God, I am worthy of saving. Sadly, the First Commandment does the opposite. It kills our resolve and identity as an obedient child of God. There has to be another agreement.

Adding to this dilemma was the threat of ritual sacrifice. Dating back to the first animal sacrifice between God and Abram in Genesis 15. The sacrifice was a promise of forgiveness. The animal takes the punishment you deserve. But it could also feel like a threat. May this happen to you if you do not do as you have promised. Namely, keep the Ten Commandments. Ironically, it is God who makes the promise in Genesis 15, not Abram. The ritual sacrifice has always had more to do with what God does, than what we promise to do.

Then comes the final sacrifice. Jesus' death on the Cross. And the whole picture is finally revealed. May what happened to Jesus on the Cross happen to you when you fail. May you die to self, and your failure and your independence... resurrected to cling to Christ and His promise, and His presence once again.

There is a new life to be had. Not someday after you die, but here and now.

*We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*  
– Romans 6:4

This is the New Covenant. The new agreement. You will trust and believe in God as your Father because of what He has done.

That is the story of Pentecost and that is the story of Acts. The story of you, the church, then and now.

Enjoying the freedom of the King,



[pastor.hoover@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:pastor.hoover@mlcjoliet.org)



# STEWARDSHIP

*Empowered by the Spirit*

Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live as Christ's disciples. Stewardship during this season invites us to respond to God's Spirit by offering our time, talents, and treasures in service, generosity, and ministry. Just as the Spirit filled the early church with boldness and purpose, we too are called to share God's blessings, build up our community, and bring the love of Christ to the world.

- *Gerry Boe*, Stewardship Director, [stewardship@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:stewardship@mlcjoliet.org)

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:40 a.m. Education Hour  
Summer Sunday School for K-8<sup>th</sup> runs July 5<sup>th</sup>-August 16<sup>th</sup>!  
High School Bible Study remains in session year-round!

10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship  
*Holy Communion is offered weekly during both services.*



A Night of  
Baseball and Fun!  
June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:35pm

- Wear a **red shirt** so we stand out
- Get there early to hear Herb Alexander sing the National Anthem
- See Sherri Unyi for questions
- Order your tickets here \$10 each →





# “Saved to Serve”

Where will you serve?

## YOU are needed to help fulfill our mission!

Consider serving in an area that’s near to your heart:

*Do you have a heart for children? Our many family ministries can use your support!*

*Are you handy and like to fix things? We need many hands to care for our campus!*

*Do you enjoy helping in the kitchen? Parish Fellowship may be the place for you!*

*Do you keep up with happenings? Lend your eyes & ears to our Public Relations team!*

### **WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEERS TO HELP IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

#### **Daybreak Shelter**

For the first time in 35 years we have had to pause our once-per-month commitment serving dinner to those less fortunate at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. We are looking for a volunteer (or two) willing to serve as ministry leader which would entail coordinating volunteers & food donations, light shopping and communicating with Daybreak staff as needed.

#### **Roadside Sign Updates**

We're hoping to find one or two people willing to keep our roadside sign updated. This would be a half an hour commitment that would vary in frequency, depending on the church season (sometimes every-other week, sometimes every-other month).

#### **Stay-N-Play Ambassadors**

Stay-N-Play, Messiah's FREE weekly play group, opens our gym for kids five and under. Stay-N-Play meets every Tuesday morning (September-April) from 9:30-11. This important ministry is at risk of closing it's doors after the end of this season if we are unable to recruit hosts to help set up toys, make coffee, greet our guests and answer questions. Guests are required to supervise their own children!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REACH OUT TO LAY MINISTRY DIRECTOR,  
PAT BURKE AT [LAYMIN@MLCJOLIET.ORG](mailto:LAYMIN@MLCJOLIET.ORG) OR CALL THE FRONT OFFICE.**

*Thank you, in advance for your thoughtful consideration!*



# VIRTUAL WORSHIP AND SUNDAY BULLETINS

**Can't make it to church this week?** The 8:30 a.m. service is live-streamed online on our Facebook and YouTube pages. Links to both are at [mlcjoliet.org/worship](http://mlcjoliet.org/worship) (please scroll to the bottom of the page). You can also view or print the bulletin, if you'd like to follow along!



MESSIAH  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

## ONLINE giving



Two convenient ways to give online:

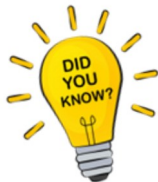
- 1) On our website at [www.mlcjoliet.org/give](http://www.mlcjoliet.org/give).
- 2) Church Center app on your phone or tablet.



*Fast*

*Simple*

*Secure*



**Download the Church Center app!** It's not just for online giving.

- You can also:
- View our church calendar!
  - Receive event notifications & reminders from MLC directly to your phone (with notifications enabled)!
  - Register for events that request sign-ups!



### Giving Statements

**Please help Messiah be *greener* and consider switching your statement delivery method from US Mail to EMAIL. Call the church office if you'd like to do this!**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED!

### **ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY EDUCATION HOUR**

We meet in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 9:40. We are currently on break, but information on our summer schedule is coming soon! We'd love to have you join us!



### **ALTAR FLOWERS - Sign up in the Narthex**

If you'd like to help beautify our Sanctuary and sponsor Altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, or to memorialize someone important in your life, the sign up chart is on the Connect Wall in the Narthex (outside the Fireside Room). Arrangements are \$25 each and may be taken home to enjoy after Sunday services have ended.

### **FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS**

We're currently on break until September, but please join us when we resume! 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 MINISTRY**

Messiah's Grief Support Group meets on the first Thursday of every month 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. Please reach out to Pat Burke or Judy Fowler for more information.



### **LIL LOVES MINISTRY**

Lil Loves at Messiah aims to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the area by providing **FREE** assistance with diapers and much needed baby supplies. Lil Loves is available on a by-appointment basis, and those requesting assistance may sign up on our website.

Lil Loves thanks you for your donations of:

- \*Diapers and Pull-ups
- \*Wipes
- \*Baby Wash/Shampoo
- \*Baby Lotion
- \*Toiletry items for the moms such as deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, etc.

Trial-sized toiletry items are especially appreciated, rather than full-sized. If you'd like to donate, please place your items in the black bin in the Narthex. Our Lil Loves Ministry has helped many, many families in need with care packages thanks to your loving generosity!

WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT FORMULA OR USED ITEMS.  
Formula and used baby clothes are happily accepted at  
Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center  
at 903 Infantry Dr., Ste. 600, in Joliet.



### **MEMORY BEARS - "Bears Sewing Class" on June 11<sup>th</sup>**



Messiah's Memory Bears Group normally meets at the church from 9 a.m.-noon, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, making stuffed teddy bears (and doggies) out of the clothing of people who have passed away, to comfort the grieving. We would love to have you join us! We have jobs that do not require sewing.

In June, we'll also hold a special **Memory Bear Sewing Class!** Do you have a sewing machine and enjoy sewing at home? Join our first ever Memory Bear Sewing Class on Thursday, **June 11<sup>th</sup>** from 12:30-3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 for more info. Hope to see you on **June 11<sup>th</sup>** and our normal June meeting has been bumped out one week, to **June 30<sup>th</sup>**, due to VBS.

# hello



June 21<sup>st</sup>!

## **MICRO PANTRY**



Did you know that Messiah has TWO food pantries? Our indoor pantry is in the hallway across from the offices and our outdoor "Blessing Box" is on the sidewalk right outside the office! This ministry is 100% donation-driven, and you can help to support it through prayer, monetary and/or nonperishable food donations. Please leave your nonperishable food donations in the bin in the Narthex. **NO EXPIRED ITEMS, PLEASE.**

## **OFFICE HOURS & PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

The office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and evenings are by appointment. **Sunday bulletin** material must be received in the front office by 2 p.m. each Tuesday. Material for the **newsletter** is due the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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

OWLS meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at noon, September through May. Every month our luncheon includes entertainment/activities and terrific fellowship! A sign up list will be posted in the Narthex in August to get a headcount and to let us know what dish you will bring to share. OWLS resumes on September 8<sup>th</sup>.



Messiah uses an email-based (not in-person) 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 confidential and anonymous as much as possible. Text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 for more info.

## **PRAYER TEAM**

Our in-person Prayer Team meets Thursday mornings at 10:15 in the Fireside Room for approximately one hour, to pray together over our prayer request list. For more info text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or email Beth Hohisel at [bhohisel@hotmail.com](mailto:bhohisel@hotmail.com).

## **QUILTERS - June 2<sup>nd</sup> Bonus Day!**

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.



Contact Kathy Mueller at (815) 953-6601 or [scpbklane@aol.com](mailto:scpbklane@aol.com) for more information or any questions you may have. In June, we have added a **bonus day** on Tuesday, **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**, in addition to our regular quilting day of **June 16<sup>th</sup>**! Hope to see you there!

## WORD PLAY! PODCAST - *God Has a Word for You*



Hosted by Pastor Kurt Hoover and Nikolai Stier, you'll find a new podcast each weekday morning that delves into the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday, focusing on one word in each passage. We'll also feature occasional guest pastors from our area and other LCMC members.

Tune in as they exchange insights into the Word of God... along with some nerdy banter! Each 7-8-minute podcast is available on Spotify here:



Jesus' words of grace are enough for you (2 Cor. 12:9).  
*Jesus says, "You have all you need. You are not missing anything."*

# MESSIAH KIDZ CLUB (K-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

Parents of children (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) can join the Messiah Kids group on the Remind app by texting the code mlcmk to 81010, or by going to:

<https://www.remind.com/join/mlcmk>



We'll send reminders/notifications about Sunday School and events!



## MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW) FOR SUMMER

Our summer MKW kickoff is on **July 1<sup>st</sup>** and runs through July 29<sup>th</sup> (except during VBS week). We'll meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club!

## NATIONAL BIBLE BEE

Messiah will once again host the National Bible Bee this summer, **June 10<sup>th</sup>** through August 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 p.m.! Registration is open at BIBLEBEE.ORG. For more info please reach out to Leslie.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER SCHEDULE

Our summer session for K-8<sup>th</sup> graders will run **July 5<sup>th</sup>** through August 16<sup>th</sup>.

## VBS REGISTRATION CLOSES JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR  
**EMERALD CROSSING VBS!**  
**JUNE 22-26**  
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

EMERALD CROSSING  
An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There will be a workshop for all **VBS volunteers** on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. **Questions? Reach out to VBS Director, Stephanie Knudsen-Feehan at [vbs@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:vbs@mlcjoliet.org).**

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 and will continue year-around.

## **SUMMER S.A.L.T. (for both FAM and H2H groups)**

This summer we will again meet in a combined format for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders! We kicked off last week off with a party at the Stier's home - Hope you were able to make it! Our summer program will meet at church from 6-8 p.m. **June 3<sup>rd</sup>** through August 5<sup>th</sup>. *Please note that we will not meet on 07/22 or 07/29.*

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).

# FOR THE LADIES OF MESSIAH



**MESSIAH**  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

women's ministries

*Women's Garden Getaway*

Elwood Children's Garden  
Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

Carpool from Messiah at 9 a.m.  
or meet us there!  
Bring a sack lunch.



Questions? Reach out to Sherri Unyi.

The Elwood Children's Garden is located at 801 N. Chicago Street in Elwood.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## JOLET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN

You and your friends are invited to Joliet Christian Women's upcoming luncheon in Messiah's Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, **June 17<sup>th</sup>** at 11:15 a.m. \$22.00 includes a catered lunch, a special guest speaker/presentation and good fellowship. June will feature a presentation on "Steps to Have a Happy, Healthy Heart."

**RSVP by June 10<sup>th</sup>** by contacting Barb at 815-439-2076  
or [mrs.brutus56@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.brutus56@gmail.com), or call Sonya at 815-727-1626.

Check out their website at <https://www.stonecroft.org/>.

Next luncheon is July 15<sup>th</sup>.

## PRAY JOLIET

Christ followers of all ages are invited to Pray Joliet's monthly prayer walks which take place the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from April to October from 8-10 a.m. We go to a different location each month around the Joliet area and walk and pray. Paths are good for strollers and walkers! Locations are announced the week prior and are posted on Messiah's group Facebook page, or you may call the church office.





HELP! We are looking for help in updating our church history. We have the booklets from our 75<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, but need to update the last 25 years and maybe even collect more information dating back further! So, if you have any photos, flyers, letters, programs, booklets of the people and events that have transpired over the last 25 years here at Messiah, we would love to see them. If you have a memory

you would like to share, we would love to hear it directly from you or you can write it down for us. If you were part of an event or activity and have a great story or fun memory, we would love to hear that also!

We are gathering this information now. A basket labeled "Messiah Memories" is provided in the Narthex for you to drop your info in. If you have photos (or other memorabilia) and want them back, include your name and phone and we will return them to you. Also, if you are able to identify any or all of the people in a photo, that would be wonderful!

Original charter members of Hauge Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Nels Nelson	Jacob Wetteland	Ole Eddy	Iver Eddy	A. Thorson
G. Stnerson	Alfred Johnson	Austen Jones	Christ Erickson	

Are you related to any of these people? Let us know! Be sure to check out the historical photos on the Community Board in the Narthex. You can contact Kathy Mueller, 815-953-6601 or [scpbklane@aol.com](mailto:scpbklane@aol.com) for more information or questions on Messiah's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

## *Our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 1901-2026!*

Our story continues as our growth continues!

As part of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Pastor Nygard wrote and lead a Congregational Talent Night that included a reproduction of a Marx Brother's radio program from the 1930's, and helped plan a dinner dance with the Praise Band that raised money to reduce our debt. Also, a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Quilt was made by members of the quilting group and dedicated.

With 100 years behind us, Messiah looked to the future. Over the next few years, our church is busy volunteering at Daybreak Shelter and church picnics with up to 200 are held (one included line dance lessons). VBS was well attended each year with anywhere from 100-200 children, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets fed 40-50 each year and we participated in the Shorewood Parade passing out water bottles to meet people in our neighborhood. Our youth participated in work camps in Green Bay, WI , Rocky Mount, NC. We held a Salute to Dad's Picnic, a Sock Hop and a Mother-Daughter Banquet with 145 in attendance. Our evangelism continues to reach out with groups such as Memory Bears, Quilters, AWANA, ALPHA, Book Chat, Couples Group, MOPS and OWLS.

In 2002, with our Sanctuary Choir decked out in red, white and blue, Music Director Herb Alexander led the National Anthem at the Jackhammers game in Joliet. Over 130 of our members cheered them on!

2004 -2006 saw some personal changes. In 2004, Pastor Lou Quetel accepted a call to another church, long time secretary Myrtle Duvick retired and Jeanette Wegemer became the new secretary. In 2006, Pastor Dan Metzger became Associate Pastor and Dave Steir became the Youth Director.

A Strategic Planning Committee was formed to look at long-range plans. There were 373 households with at least one member, and Sunday attendance averaged 392. The "300 Family Challenge," sponsored by the Stewardship Board, was an option for each Messiah Family to consider giving an additional \$1000 beyond their tithe over the next three years to attempt to pay off our mortgage and be debt free by 2007.

In 2005, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and last Annual Scandinavian Dinner was held with 425 attending.

After polling the congregation in 2006, the 8:00 Sunday morning service was designated as a weekly Communion service. In deference to our Lutheran heritage, a more formal liturgy based on the Lutheran Book of Worship was introduced and is being followed on the first Sunday of each month at both the 8:00 and 9:30 services. The 11:00 service was reformatted to include an all-volunteer Praise Worship Team which provided an opportunity for a variety of young people and adults to lead this worship service and express their praise to God. Rose Ann Santorineos was recognized for 30 years of dedicated service as our organist and pianist.

In 2009, Pastor Metzger was called to a German Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania who needed a pastor who could speak German. In 2010, Pastor Kurt Hoover was called to Messiah. We officially became affiliated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) in September 2010. A new Constitution was approved in 2012 as part of our change from ELCA to LCMC.

In October 2012, we were officially annexed into the City of Joliet and our address changed to 40 Houbolt Rd. In 2013, we were finally able to hook up to water from the City of Joliet.

Also in 2012, a surprise 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party was held for Pastor Dave Nygard using a Scandinavian theme with approximately 120 people in attendance.

With all that was happening, and considering our growth, the congregation voted in September of 2013 to begin a fundraising campaign to build a Family Life Center (FLC). This expansion would house a gymnasium, meeting/classrooms, storage areas and would be used to accommodate our growing Youth Ministry for gatherings and events along with encouraging social activities for our church family. The "Growing God's Family Campaign" began with a Celebration Dinner in February 2014 and \$1,243,262 was pledged by over 300 congregational members. In the summer of 2017, a FLC Groundbreaking Ceremony was held!

*To be continued next month. Stay tuned!*

# Discipleship

SERMON SERIES  
 MAY 31 - AUGUST 23, 2026



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover  
 Bookkeeper Sherril Unyi  
 Building Liaison Kate Richmond  
 Children's Choir Director Season Lawler  
 Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland  
 Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann  
 info@mlcjoliet.org  
 815-741-4488

Organist Rose Ann Sochan  
 Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander  
 Tech Coordinator Nikolai Stier  
 Youth Director Kersten Stier  
 Worship Coordinator Justin Brown