

MESSIAH MESSENGER



2025

BLESSED TO SERVE



From Pastor's Desk

Pastor Kurt Hoover

I am so thankful for all the ways our staff and membership stepped up in my absence. This is God's ministry through you, and it is clear that you care deeply about what God is doing through this church family. As Pr. John Nelson preached – we are saved to serve. It is the natural response of thanksgiving and fulfilling service.

Nothing fell through the cracks while I was on medical leave. It was this time last year that I had my first heart palpitations. However it took several months for the doctors to figure out what was going on. I did not know I was going to have surgery until the end of February. I had very little time to work ahead, which makes the support of the staff and membership all the more impressive, although I am not surprised. After all, it is not just the pastor that God uses at the center of His Bring, Build, Bump ministry here. That ministry happens through our members.

The major work we were not able to complete before last spring was our nominating process. That means your invitation to be an elected leader here at Messiah is still open. We have three board chair positions yet to fill and five or six team members. It is our hope next year to change the constitution to make these leadership positions more about the ministry and less about council work and meetings. The council requirement of board leadership would only extend to four key leaders instead of all nine.

The bottom line is this: The church is the people. And your servant leadership is needed here. Please prayerfully say, "Yes!" to God's invitation to serve in church leadership. We are blessed to serve!

In service to the King,

pastor.hoover@mlcjoliet.org

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

8:30 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:30 A.M. EDUCATION HOUR (OPTIONS FOR ALL AGES!)

10:30 A.M. FAMILY PRAISE & WORSHIP



STEWARDSHIP

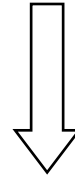
Giving Thanks Through Generosity

Thanksgiving reminds us to celebrate God's abundant blessings in our lives. Stewardship during this season calls us to respond with gratitude by offering our time, talents, and treasures in service to God and neighbor. As we share generously, we participate in God's work in the world and make His love visible to others. This season, let our giving be an expression of thanksgiving, reflecting the joy and abundance of God's grace in our lives.

Don't forget to pick up an **Operation Christmas Child** gift box to fill with Christmas gifts!

With God's grace,

- *Gerry Boe*, Stewardship Director, stewardship@mlcjoliet.org



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

shoeboxes are available in the Narthex.
The collection will go through November 9th!

Since 1993, God has used Samaritan's Purse to deliver **over 200 million** shoebox gifts to children in need all over the globe, and Messiah has been a proud supporter for many years! For box-filling suggestions and more, visit their website [here](#).



Building Use Info From **BUILDING LIAISON KATE RICHMOND**

I recently shared a new, electronic Building Use Request that has proven very helpful in coordinating the use of our facility between the many Messiah ministries and outside groups. I have now rolled out a **separate version** of this form that caters specifically to **Messiah's own ministries!** Moving forward, please submit one of the following to reserve space as reservations are no longer being taken by phone:

- Messiah ministries:
<https://messiahlutheranchurch.churchcenter.com/calendar/forms/21933>
- Private events or outside groups:
<https://messiahlutheranchurch.churchcenter.com/calendar/forms/14255>

Once your request has been received, I will be in touch to finalize your request. Email me at bulding@mlcjoliet.org for more information.

Thank you,

- *Kate*



Wednesday Family Dinners

JOIN US FOR FAMILY DINNER

THE FIRST WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH
5:30-6:00 PM

FREE WILL OFFERING ACCEPTED * DESSERTS WELCOME
PLEASE SIGN UP (IN THE NARTHEX) SO WE HAVE
A HEADCOUNT FOR THE MEAL.

THERE IS ALSO A SIGN UP LIST FOR VOLUNTEERS
TO HELP WITH SETUP/PREP & CLEANUP.



Family Praise Night, also the first Wednesday of every month, is from 6-6:30 p.m. (right after dinner) in the cafe area of the FLC.

Join our children and student ministries for a time of praise, kids' showcase, and a short message!

All Saints Service of Remembrance



Wednesday, November 12th at 7 p.m.

Please bring a photo of your loved one
to place on the Altar before the service.



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Join us for worship at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26th.



ALTAR GUILD is seeking volunteers
to help decorate the church for Christmas!

When? **Saturday, November 29th** at 9 a.m.

Many hands make light work!



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING

ADVENT



*Please join us
for worship:*

December 3

December 10

December 17

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.



**NEW
PODCAST**

**Messiah's new Daily Devotional Podcast,
"Word Play!"**

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 both [Audacy](#) & [Spotify](#) here...

Audacy:



Spotify:



Jesus' words of grace are enough for you (2 Cor. 12:9).

Jesus says, "You have all you need.

You are not missing anything."



NAPERVOICE

FALL CONCERT 2025

Naperville's philanthropic choir with the mission "Sing well. Do good."



NaperVoice's fall concert is Sunday, **November 16th** at 4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in Naperville. Admission is \$21.50 for adults, \$16.50 for seniors. Please **select Herb Alexander** as the credited choir member.

This performance will include a variety of new repertoire from classical, folk, jazz, and musical theater genres. The choral works will each reflect the seasons of the year and comment on the seasons of our own lives, and a young dancer will interpret two works through movement.

Act soon, as [tickets](#) for this event sell out early. Purchase here:



*Enjoy your favorite songs
of the Christmas season
with a piano concert featuring
our very own Rose Ann Sochan
along with other special guests!*

*Sunday, December 7th
at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary.*



SANCTUARY CHOIR

rehearses on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 p.m.

and performs weekly during the 8:30 service.

If you'd like to join in, reach out to Herb Alexander
at halex12240@gmail.com or call the church office.



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 (please scroll to the bottom of the page). You can also view or print the bulletin, if you'd like to follow along!



ONLINE *giving*



Two convenient ways to give online:

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

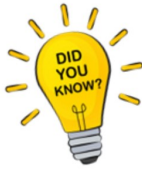


Fast *Simple* *Secure*

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!



MESSIAH KIDZ CLUB (K-5TH GRADE)



Parents of children (K-5th 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!



CHILDREN'S CHOIR IS BACK!

Children's Choir will perform on **November 23rd**, **January 25th**, **February 22nd**, **March 22nd**, and **April 26th** during the 10:30 service. Please contact Season Lawler for more information.

J-CHURCH

J-Church is the 3rd Sunday of every month (except December) at 10:30 in the Family Life Center!



MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW is Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. beginning (through April 8th, 2026). For more info, contact Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com or (815) 735-7897.

Register here:



SUNDAY SCHOOL EDUCATION HOUR

Pre-K through 5th grade groups meet at 9:30 upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6th-8th in the Youth Room!

Register here:



Would you please consider donating any of the following items to our Kidz Club Sunday School? Items may be left in the food pantry collection bin in the Narthex, **clearly marked for "Sunday School."** Thank you, in advance!

Paper Towels	Facial Tissue	Hand Sanitizer
Clorox Wipes	Dixie Cups	Invisible Tape
Pretzels	Play-Doh	Goldfish Crackers
5" Blunt-tip Scissors		Dry Erase Cleaner

VBS 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for **Emerald Crossing VBS: June 22-26, 2026**

*...an Irish adventure through Psalm 23,
providing hope to an anxious generation.*



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.

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6TH-12TH GRADE)

BIBLE STUDY EDUCATION HOUR (SUNDAY MORNINGS)

- 6th-8th grade Bible Study meets in the Youth Room at 9:30!
- Bible Study for high schoolers is in the Fireside Room!

FRIENDS AND MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

Mid-week Bible Study and much more! Connect with peers, play games, learn life skills, pray, sing praise and enjoy fellowship! FAM runs Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.!

HEAD 2 HEART

Our H2H (Confirmation) program for 6th-8th graders Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.!

MAFIA NIGHT Mark your calendar!



Capture the Flag/Tag in the Dark
with colored lights and strobes!

**Friday,
November 14th**
6-10 p.m.

For 6th-12th graders - Bring friends!
Cost? \$5 per person for pizza



For more info on ministries for students 6th through 12th grade,
email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at stummin@mlcjoliet.org.

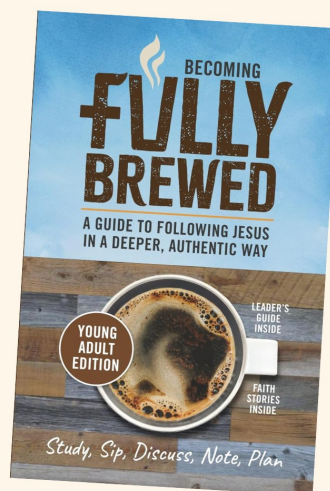
YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"IGNITE!"
**YOUNG ADULT
BIBLE STUDY**
FOR THOSE POST-HIGH SCHOOL
AND OLDER

**SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30
IN CLASSROOM #101**



COME FOR COFFEE,
CONNECTION, AND
CONVERSATION.



Young Adults!
Join the new
IGNITE Bible Study
(Education Hour) just
for you! We're
gathering out-of-
high-school through
30-somethings in a
"Guide to following
Jesus in a deeper,
authentic way."

Bring friends!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED!

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY EDUCATION HOUR



New Testament
Bible Study

Insight Bible Study
will begin a new series on October 5th...

We'll go from
Matthew to Revelation
in three months!

*Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30
in Fellowship Hall!*

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.

DAYBREAK SHELTER



Daybreak Shelter



Can you spare 1-1/2
hours once a month to
prepare, serve
or donate at
Daybreak Shelter?
2nd Monday
5:30 -7pm

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to those less fortunate at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Food donations are also needed. Sign up in the Narthex. Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, **November 10th**.

FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS

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.



LIL LOVES MINISTRY - Proudly going on our 5th anniversary!

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

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets at the church from 9 a.m.-noon, usually on the 4th Tuesday of each month. **Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, our November meeting has been moved to Friday the 21st.** Did you know that we make stuffed teddy bears (and dogs) 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. Text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or email regency118@comcast.net for more info.



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 food donations in the bin in the Narthex. **NO EXPIRED ITEMS, PLEASE.**

MLC OFFICE HOURS

The office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and evenings are by appointment.

OWLS

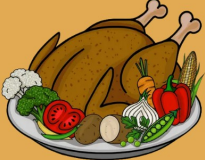
OWLS meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon, September through May. In November, we'll enjoy a turkey dinner and feature a guest speaker from Busey Bank! Be sure to sign up in the Narthex.

Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors

OWLS



Tuesday, November 11th



We will celebrate with a turkey dinner.
Turkey & gravy will be provided.
Sign up in the Narthex to let us know a headcount
and what side dish or dessert you will bring!
Our November luncheon will feature a guest speaker from Busey Bank.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH



PRAYER CHAIN

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 or email regency118@comcast.net 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 by email to regency118@comcast.net, or Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com.



PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Just a friendly reminder that **Sunday bulletin** material must be received in the front office by the end of the day each Tuesday. Material for the **newsletter** is due the 20th of each month.

QUILTERS

The next Messiah Quilting Day will be on **November 18th** from 9–2. 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**, 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.

Quilters, continued next page...

We hope you had a chance to see the colorful display of quilts on Quilt Sunday, October 5th that were a result of our dedicated quilters' work this past year! We boxed **140 quilts and 25 fabric kits** and they are on their way to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland. Thank you to our quilters and to all of our congregation for your support in materials and financially that allow us to continue with this quilting mission.



**Quilt
Sunday
2025!**



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 **November 18th**!

STAY-N-PLAY

Stay-N-Play is our **FREE** weekly play group that opens our gym for kids five and under along with their parent/guardian. We meet on Tuesday mornings (September-May) in the FLC from 9:30-11! Please like our Facebook page ([MLC Stay-N-Play Playgroup](#)) for additional information, and share with your friends and neighbors!

Stay-N-Play is in need of hosts! Contact Sherri Unyi if you are available serve as an MLC Stay-N-Play Ambassador to help set up toys, make coffee, greet our guests and answer questions. Guests are required to supervise their own children.



FOR THE LADIES OF MESSIAH

BIBLE STUDY

Our fall Women's Bible Study session focuses on "Discerning the Voice of God," by Priscilla Shirer. Please reach out to Sherri Unyi for more info. As always, we meet in our cozy Fireside Room! Wednesday afternoons from 1-2:30 and Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8.

Our fall session goes through **November 19th**. We will take a brief winter break and resume with a new series in January! Watch for more info!



CHRISTMAS TEA

Ladies - Mark your calendar for our Christmas Tea on Saturday, **December 13th** from 1-3 p.m. Details to follow.

JOLET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN

You and your friends are invited to Joliet Christian Women's upcoming luncheon in Messiah's Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, **November 19th**, 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$20.00 includes a catered lunch. They'll welcome speaker Elaine James of St. Charles, IL and will also enjoy a "Seek & Find" game!

RSVP by Nov. 12th by contacting Barb at 815-439-2076 or mrs.brutus56@gmail.com, or call Sonya at 815-727-1626. Check out their website at <https://www.stonecroft.org/>

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!



- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Joyce Smith | 16 - Olivia Bowman |
| 2 - Tom Bond | Kathy Mueller |
| Kim Ciuffini | 18 - Greg Gipes |
| Zayden Lawler | 19 - Greg Dole |
| 3 - Mark Snider | 20 - Austin Bernhard |
| 4 - Tim Boe | 21 - Bennett Kerber |
| 7 - Carol Thompson | 22 - Gary Ally |
| 8 - Trish Gillman | Tessa Stutte |
| 9 - Jane Stukel | 23 - Nikolai Stier |
| 11 - Marcy Vickers | 24 - Sharon Anderson |
| Evelyn Weiss | 25 - Bentley Steffen |
| Presley Weiss | 26 - Janet Potts |
| 12 - Ryan Southcomb | 27 - Kenny Fowler |
| 13 - Jesse Cohoon | Ryan Liberty |
| 14 - Abigail Burnett | Darlene Strong |
| Chris Hoelscher | 28 - Jenny Fowler |
| Elena Prybell | Keith Thompson |
| 15 - Liz Stutte | 29 - Anthony Burnett |
| | 30 - Bev Korby |



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES!

2 - Ryan & Kathryn Kittler
15 - David & Kateryna Calderon

NOVEMBER SERVERS

Counters

11/02/25 Judy Fowler, Zach Hoelscher
11/09/25 Ken Skinner, Dan Stukel
11/16/25 Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer
11/23/25 Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock
11/30/25 Judy Fowler, Zach Hoelscher

Ushers 8:30

11/02/25 Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel
11/09/25 Bill Unyi, Alan Costello
11/16/25 Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller
11/23/25 Craig Stone, Paul Allen
11/30/25 Alan Costello, Bill Unyi

Ushers 10:30

11/02/25 Gary Phillips, Darryl Hoelscher
11/09/25 Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer
11/16/25 Jeff Holmes, Josh Johnke
11/23/25 Darryl Hoelscher, Gary Phillips
11/30/25 Josh Johnke, Jeff Holmes

Communion Assistants 8:30

11/02/25 Nancy Bertnik, Jane Costello,
Paul Allen
11/09/25 Randy Ling, Joy McClintock,
Jane Costello
11/16/25 Tom Bond, Marvinna Allen,
Cindi Souza
11/23/25 Bev Korby, Joy McClintock,
one needed
11/30/25 Randy Ling, Tom Bond,
Jane Costello

Communion Assistants 10:30

11/02/25 Linda Hallberg, Terry Anzalone,
one needed
11/16/25 Terry Anzalone, Darryl Hoelscher,
one needed

Readers 8:30

11/02/25 Kate Richmond
11/09/25 Jane Costello
11/16/25 Sherri Unyi
11/23/25 Paul Allen
11/30/25 Angie Mitchka

Readers 10:30

11/02/25 Molly Hoover
11/09/25 needed
11/16/25 Kate Richmond
11/23/25 Molly Hoover
11/30/25 needed

Greeters 8:30

11/02/25 Bev Korby, Pat Boe
11/09/25 Wayne Lauffer, Nancy Bertnik
11/16/25 Kirk Brandmire, one needed
11/23/25 Bev Korby, Pat Boe
11/30/25 Marty Hohisel, one needed

Greeters 10:30

11/02/25 Donna Stier, Lynn Tapella
11/09/25 two needed
11/16/25 Lynn Tapella, Cindi Souza
11/23/25 two needed
11/30/25 two needed

Thanksgiving Eve 7 p.m.

Greeters: Marty Hohisel, one needed
Ushers: Bill & Billy Unyi
Reader: needed
(no Communion)





The Fundraiser

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES

ORDERS DUE BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

NAME	QTY	10"PIE	PRICE	TOTAL
Classic Pumpkin	---		\$15	---
Apple Crumble	---		\$15	---
Pecan Praline	---		\$16	---
Cherry Cobbler	---		\$16	---
Chocolate Pecan	---		\$17	---

TOTAL ENCLOSED -----

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND INCLUDE "PIES" IN THE MEMO

SCAN TO



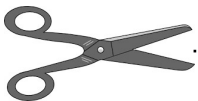
ORDER
ONLINE



PICKUP

8:30 - NOON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD



Help beautify our
Sanctuary this
Christmas!

If you would like
to sponsor a
poinsettia plant,
please complete
this form or call
the church office
(815) 741-4488.



The cost is
\$20.00 per plant,
and you may
take yours home after worship on Christmas Eve.

Poinsettia Sign-Up

PLEASE ORDER BY PLACING YOUR CHECK
AND THIS FORM IN THE OFFERING PLATE.

Deadline to order is November 13th

NAME _____

PHONE _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS: _____ (\$20.00 each)

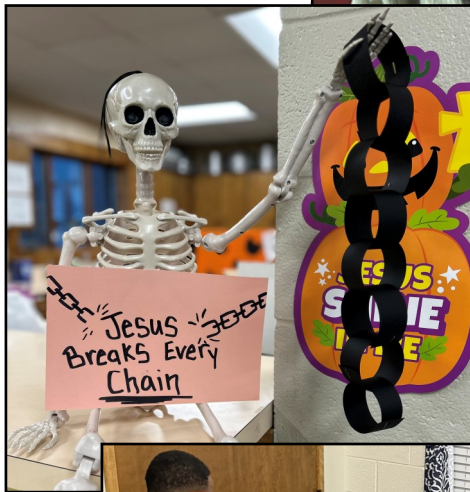
IN HONOR/MEMORY OF _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

*Please make checks payable to: Messiah Lutheran Church
and note "POINSETTIA" on the memo line. Thank you!*

HARVEST FEST & TRUNK-OR-TREAT

October 24, 2025



MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 26
at 7 p.m.





**Boxes are available
in the Narthex!**

Collection ends November 9th



MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Associate Pastor: vacant
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi
Building Liaison Kate Richmond
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland

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

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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