



August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 a.m.

Don't let the
noise of the world
keep you from hearing
the voice of
the LORD.

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

August 23, 2026

8:30 a.m.

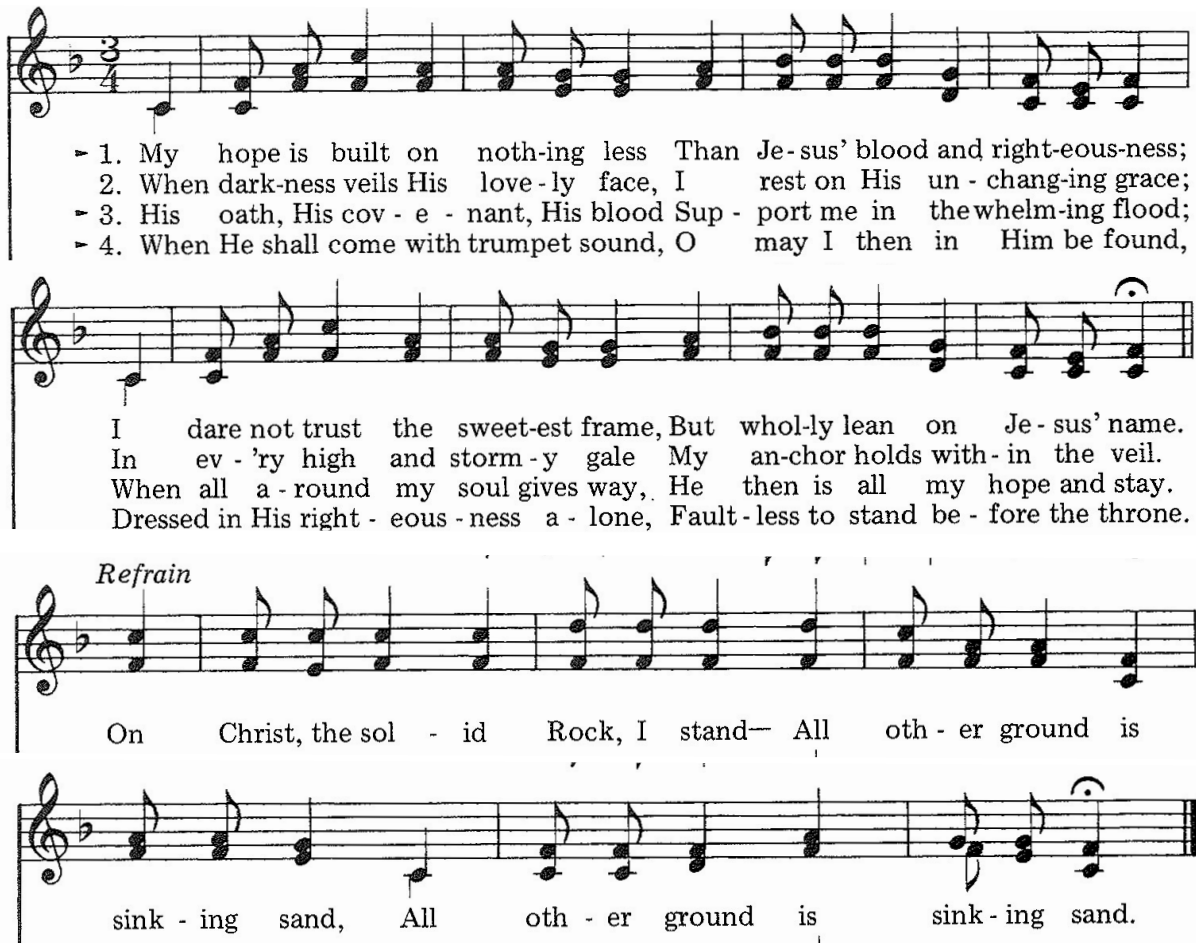
Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"The Solid Rock," #404 v. 1-4



1. My hope is built on noth-ing less Than Je-sus' blood and right-eous-ness;
2. When dark-ness veils His love-ly face, I rest on His un - chang-ing grace;
3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood Sup - port me in thewhelm-ing flood;
4. When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found,

I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, But whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
In ev - 'ry high and storm-y gale My an-chor holds with-in the veil.
When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
Dressed in His right - eous - ness a - lone, Fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand— All oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand, All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

LITANY BASED ON PSALM 8

Leader: When I look at Your heavens,
All: the work of your fingers,
Leader: the moon and stars,
All: which You have set in place,
Leader: what is man that You are mindful of him,
All: and the son of man that You care for him?
Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

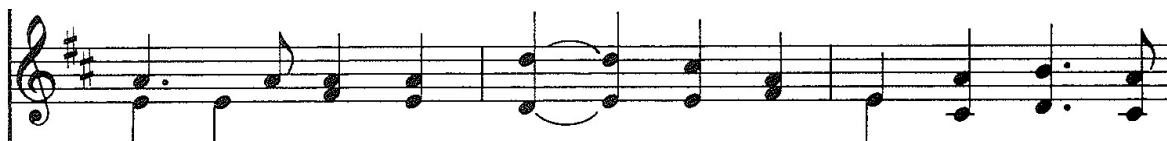
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Holy, Holy, Holy," #262 v. 1-4



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



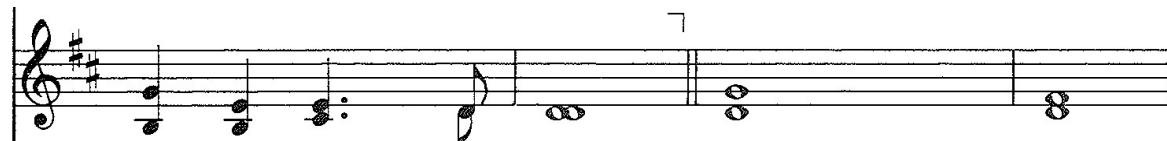
Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and



Thee;
sea;
see;
sea;
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim
On - ly Thou art ho - ly—
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!



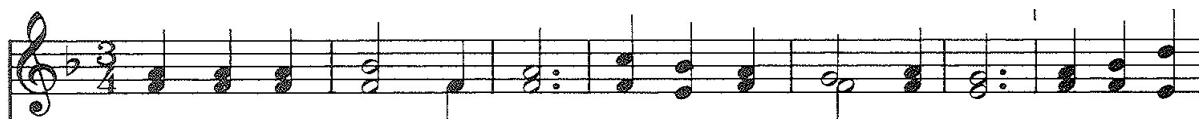
mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three Per - sons,
fall - ing down be - fore Thee, Which wert and art and
there is none be - side Thee, Per - fect in pow'r, in
mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three Per - sons,



bles - ed Trin - i - ty!
ev - er - more shalt be.
love and pur - i - ty.
bles - ed Trin - i - ty! A - men.

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.

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

Pastor Kurt

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 51:1-3 (NIV)

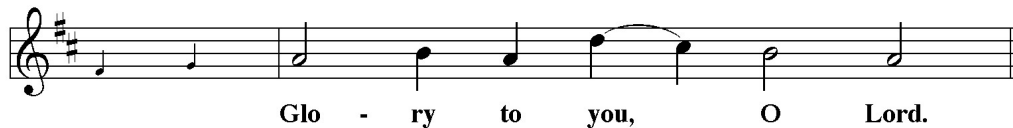
Reader: Paul Allen

¹ "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn;
² look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.
³ The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

SECOND LESSON, Deuteronomy 32:1-4 (NIV)

¹ Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; hear, you earth, the words of my mouth.
² Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. ³ I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! ⁴ He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

THIRD LESSON, Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



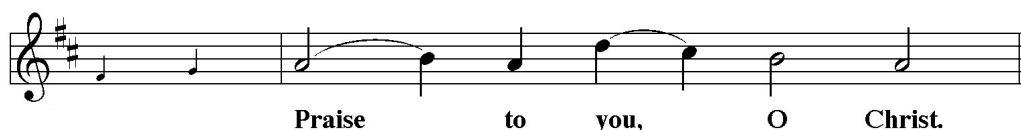
¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



MESSAGE

"Discipleship: Ministry to the Bound"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

HYMN

"In My Life Lord, Be Glorified," #394 v. 1-3



1. In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied,
2. In my song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied,
3. In Your Church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied,

In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
In my song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
In Your Church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

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: Marvinna Allen, Nancy Bertnik, Joy McClintock

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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;



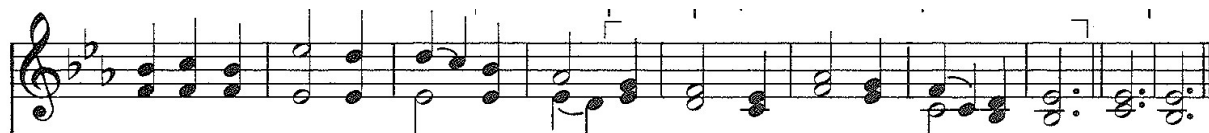
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee," #451



1. O Mas-ter, let me walk with Thee In low-ly paths of serv - ice free;
2. Help me to slow the heart to move By some clear, win-ning word of love;
3. Teach me Thy pa-tience! Still with Thee In clos-er, dear-er com - pa - ny,
4. In hope that sends a shin-ing ray Far down the fu-ture's broad-ening way,



Tell me Thy se-cret; help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
 Teach me the way-ward feet to stay, And guide them in the home-ward way.
 In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that tri-umphs o-ver wrong;
 In peace that on - ly Thou canst give, With Thee, O Mas-ter, let me live. A-men.



"Near the Cross," #385



1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross— There a pre - cious foun - tain,
2. Near the cross, a trem-bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;
4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, Hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er.



Free to all, a heal - ing stream, Flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 There the Bright and Morn - ing Star Sheds its beams a - round me.
 Help my walk from day to day With its shad - ows o'er me.
 Till I reach the gold - en strand Just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross Be my glo - ry ev - er,



Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest, be - yond the riv - er.

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.

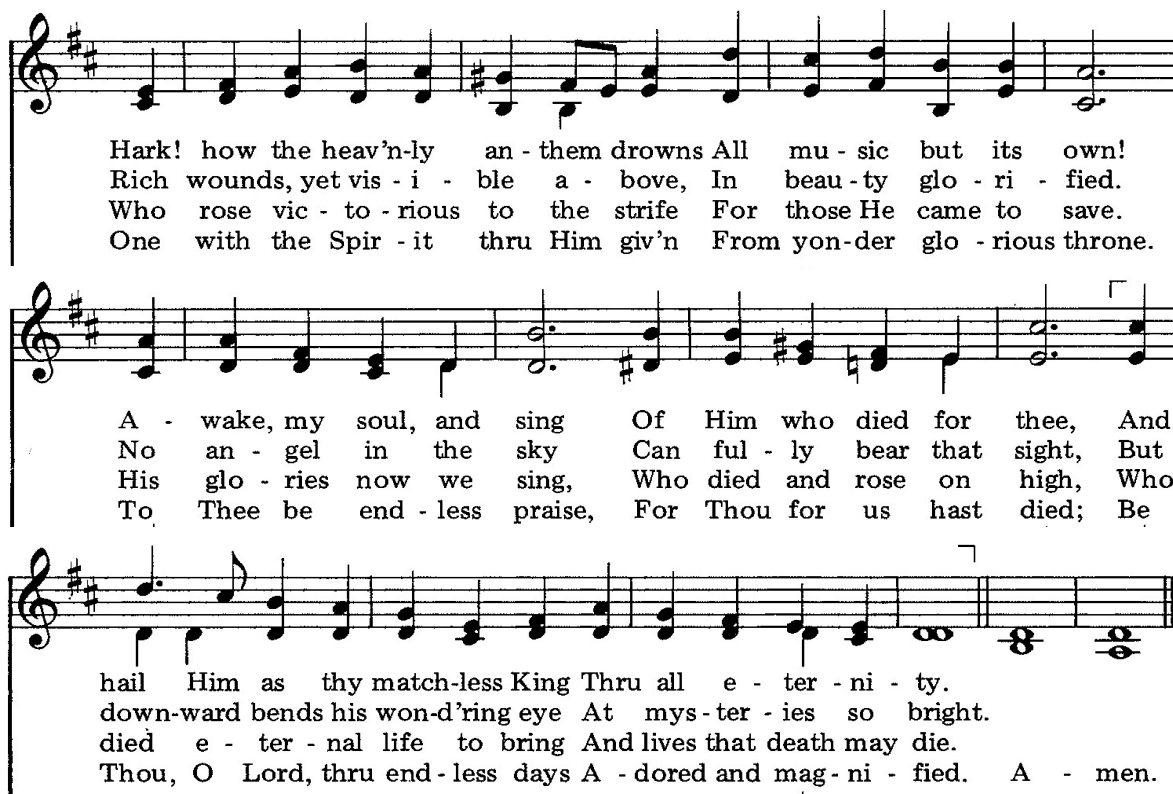
BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns," #234 v. 1-3



1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne:
2. Crown Him the Lord of love: Be - hold His hands and side—
3. Crown Him the Lord of life: Who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
4. Crown Him the Lord of heav'n: One with the Fa - ther known,



Hark! how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own!
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 Who rose vic - to - rious to the strife For those He came to save.
 One with the Spir - it thru Him giv'n From yon - der glo - rious throne.

A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
 No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
 His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
 To Thee be end - less praise, For Thou for us hast died; Be

hail Him as thy match-less King Thru all e - ter - ni - ty.
 down-ward bends his won-d'ring eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
 Thou, O Lord, thru end - less days A - dored and mag - ni - fied. A - men.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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RALLY SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK!

Sunday, **August 30**, we will celebrate Rally Sunday with a single worship service at 10:15 (in the FLC), followed by our annual Church Picnic.



THE KINGDOM LIFE

FALL 2026 SERMON SERIES



As a Christian you live
in a unique Kingdom
sustained by the words of
your church family.

†
How has your family been
changed by the church?

†
How will your family change
the world?

†
Jesus united Heaven and Earth.
You are already in...

THE KINGDOM LIFE.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

*Holy Communion is offered weekly
during both services.*

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:40 a.m. Education Hour for all ages

- Summer Sunday School for K-8th (kicks off September 13)!
- High School Bible Study (year-round)!
- "Insight" Bible Study for adults!

10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - Save the dates!

Saturday, September 19 - Dinner Banquet at 5:30 p.m.

RSVP here:

Sunday, September 20 - Reception Celebration between services



ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday morning Bible Study for adults is at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. This week we kick off a new series entitled, "The Character of God."

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 attendee - 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 - Resumes September 10!

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 - Resumes September 3!

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.

*Grief
Support
Group*

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 **August 25**. Machine sewists are needed! Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors) - Resumes September 8!

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! Our next luncheon is on **September 8**.

Chili and beverages will be provided for September's luncheon as we celebrate "Tailgate & Touchdowns!" Wear your favorite team's jersey! We ask that everyone **sign up in the Narthex** so we have a headcount, and to let us know if you will bring cornbread, crackers, appetizer, salad or dessert 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 August 18. 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.

Quilters, continued...

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 for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **September 15!**



RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday, **August 30**, we will celebrate Rally Sunday with a single worship service at 10:15 (in the FLC), followed by our annual Church Picnic.

STAY-N-PLAY - Resumes September 22!

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 - Resumes September 9!

Please join us for our new series of Women's Bible Study that kicks off on **September 9** at 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room!



"God Won't Leave You There: Joseph's Story," an incredible testimony of jaw-dropping faith and patient perseverance in the face of devastating trials, will leave you in awe at what God can do in and through one person. It's a powerful reminder that wherever you find yourself, God is at work putting the pieces of your life together to bring about His sovereign plan.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will have it's debut performance for this season during both services on **September 20** in honor of Messiah's 125th anniversary. Moving forward, they will perform on the fourth Sunday of most months during the late service. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW kickoff is **September 9!** We'll meet 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. Our summer session wraps up this morning. **Our 2026-2027 program year beings on September 13!**

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 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 - Kicks off September 9!

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, beginning September 9. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H) - First Night of Class is September 9!

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. Be sure to make note of these important dates:

September 9, First Night of Class

September 16, Parents' Night

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

Made-to-Order Messiah Apparel & Accessories!



**You can check out physical
samples in the Narthex.
Scan here to browse
and place your order!**



PRAY JOLIET

Sunday, September 6
6-8 p.m.

Doors open at 5:30

St. Paul MB Church
1404 S. Briggs St. in Joliet



SANCTUARY CHOIR

Rehearsals will be on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 p.m. beginning
September 10 with performances every Sunday during the
8:30 service beginning September 20.

If you'd like to join in, reach out to Herb Alexander.

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

Digging DEEPER

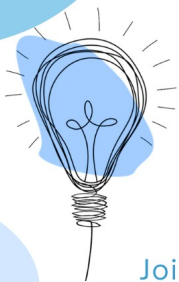
September 11th 6:00-8:30pm

September 12th 9:00am-2:00pm

Fellowship Hall - Food provided!

Join us for this dynamic, two-day event led by Pastor Kurt and
Kersten Stier where we'll discuss your questions about the Bible,
Scripture, Lutheran Doctrine and Christianity.

All ages event! Scan this code to submit questions:



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, August 23

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Insight, High School Bible Study
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, August 24

n/a

TUESDAY, August 25

9 a.m. Memory Bears

WEDNESDAY, August 26

n/a

THURSDAY, August 27

10:15 a.m. Prayer Group
12 p.m. Staff Meeting

FRIDAY, August 28

n/a

SATURDAY, August 29

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

RALLY SUNDAY, August 30

10:15 a.m. Rally Sunday Celebration Service
and Church Picnic
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 93
10:45: 36
Online: 21
Kids: 4
MSM:
HS: 3
Insight: 27

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$440,651
YTD Giving Received: \$331,596
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$10,533

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 95:2

Let us come into His presence
with thanksgiving; let us make
a joyful noise to Him
with songs of praise.

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

