

MESSIAH MESSENGER

JULY 2025

From the desk of



Pastor Kurt Hoover

ANSWERED PRAYERS

*For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

*Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.*

Psalm 139:13-14

I am often asked if I've had to change my diet or get more exercise now that I know I have a heart condition. As I learned in cardiac rehab, I was already doing everything I could to keep my heart healthy prior to my diagnosis. I've also learned that I have almost no risk for coronary artery disease. My vessels, my lungs and the heart itself are in ideal health (other than healing from the surgery). What's more, I rest confident in this knowledge because of all the tests leading up to my surgery and the healthy heart the surgeons observed with their own eyes.

However, this creates another dilemma for my faith. There is nothing that points to my sin that caused my heart anomaly. If anything it was poor choices that alerted me to the problem that I was born with. God created me with a heart defect. This is how I was fearfully and wonderfully made.

I have a natural tendency to ask God in my prayers to show me what I need to fix. That is my expectation of God. He could do it for me, but He wants me to learn from my mistakes. There is a certain type of person He wants me to be and, through trial and error, if I keep talking with Him we will get there together. I am now more confident than ever that this is a silly approach to prayer.

It is silly to assume that there is a certain type of health, or wealth, or success, or life that God is trying to get me to live. And yet these are the things I pray for in my life and in the lives of those I love. (This is what some call "the prosperity gospel.") The promise of God is not health or wealth. Yet these are the things I expect from being close to God.

Being close to God can often feel very different. The closer I am to God the more I am persecuted for my simple beliefs or asked to give up my comfort in order to serve. God answered the many prayers for my health in the last three months. However, He also gave me the need for surgery in the first place. He knew when He knit me together in my mother's womb that I would someday need heart surgery.

continued...

All this to say, God designs each life with its own unique path. Prayer is the work of God to help you see the beauty of that path with all of its twists and turns. God answers the deepest needs of our hearts; prayers far deeper than words can even express.

In anticipation of what God does next,

Pr. Kurt



Bringing hope in Jesus' name is what we strive for and why the Stewardship Committee is set up to tithe offerings made to Messiah. In the last couple of years, I've shared examples from within our community and within our world. I will transition to a new board next month and Gerry Boe will take responsibility for this board. It has been my pleasure to work on the Stewardship Board with Gerry Boe and Donna Stier.

We will start collecting funds for our annual School Supplies Drive during the month of July. You can donate with cash, check or electronically by scanning the QR code on the next page. We'll use this money to buy gift cards that families can use to help prepare for school in the fall. We will collect donations through July 20th.

Here are just a few examples of your love on the move through Messiah's support of Lutheran World Relief: After hurricanes Helene and Milton, your love helped distribute quilts, fabric & sewing kits, bottled water, cash grants, cleaning supplies and more. LWR distributed quilts that our very own Messiah Quilters tied and sewed! They were sent to help people in Virginia whose homes and properties were destroyed. We know that those blankets brought comfort for them when all their possessions were either wet or destroyed.



The Pregnancy Resource Center's Walk 2025 raised \$64,003 this spring and "Team Messiah" was a part of it! PRC's annual dinner fundraiser at the Bolingbrook Golf Club will take place on Thursday, October 16th. Join PRC as they celebrate 40 years of ministry, and we together share the victory of hearts touched and lives transformed through Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center.

God brings people into our lives just when we need them. Vicki Dallmann noticed the same individual routinely filling our Blessing Box food pantry (the new one outside the church office window). It turned out to be Eliza, of Eliza's Angels! Eliza's Angels operates a food truck in the area from which all proceeds go toward assisting the homeless and those less fortunate. Her organization prepares and serves meals weekly at Daybreak. Eliza and her volunteers drive around and stock local outdoor micro pantries three times each week! They also partner with Lutheran Children & Family Services on other community service projects. They are doing amazing work. Check out their website to learn more:

<https://www.elizasangels.com>.



With God's Grace,

-Pat Burke, Director

Gerry Boe, Donna Stier, Gary Phillips
Stewardship Team

SCHOOL SUPPLIES CAMPAIGN

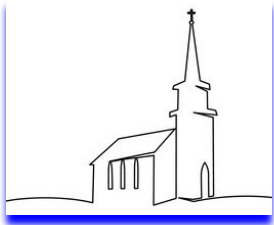


Donate
here:



We are collecting monetary donations through July 20.
You may give electronically in Church Center. Special envelopes are
available in the Narthex if you'd like to donate by check or cash.

THANK YOU!



NEW! Building Use info from BUILDING LIAISON KATE RICHMOND

I recently put together a new, **electronic Building Use Request form** that has proven very helpful in coordinating the use of our facility between the many Messiah ministries and outside groups. Testing has been completed and I am ready to roll this out for all new building use requests. Moving forward, if you or your group would like to reserve space at MLC for an event, please complete this form:

<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*

WELCOME PASTOR JOHN NELSON!

We are excited to deploy Pastor John as provider of the new Caring for Pastors Ministry. This ministry recognizes that too many pastors are quietly struggling and suffering, and many are often filled with discouragement, frustration, and hurt. The mission is to care for pastors; to encourage; to befriend; and to lead pastors to regain their spiritual and emotional health. The goal is that they joyfully and healthfully remain engaged in the ministry to which they serve. Pastor John and his wife Martha have a heart for pastors and their struggles. They have actively provided this ministry for years and now, and after Pastor John's recent retirement from Hosanna! Church they will provide this wonderful ministry through Messiah. Pastor John does all his own fundraising so this ministry will not rely on funds from Messiah. Please pray for Pastor John, his wife Martha, and the pastors they will be supporting.



FOR THE LADIES OF MESSIAH

BIBLE STUDY

Our summer session of **Women's Bible Study** meets on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. We're walking through "My Personal Petitions Prayer Journal" by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. *Prayer is personal to God. Shouldn't it be personal to you?*

JOLET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION

You and your friends are invited to Joliet Christian Women's upcoming luncheon in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, **July 16th**, 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$20.00 includes a catered lunch. They'll welcome guest speakers LeShae Hudson, Joliet Township's Violence Prevention Coordinator, and Cami Lundt from Grafton, WI who will share her story, "Storm of Life," about which she has authored a book. **RSVP by July 6th** by contacting Barb at 815-439-2076 or mrs.brutus56@gmail.com, or call Sonya at 815-727-1626.

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!

BIBLE BEE

We are excited to once again host the **National Bible Bee** at Messiah! We meet on Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. through August 13th.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir is taking a break for summer. See you in the fall!

J-CHURCH

Due to schedule conflicts, J-Church will not take place this summer. See you in September! The third Sunday of each month at 11:00 in the FLC.



MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW's summer program is Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. through July 16th. For more info, contact Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com or (815) 735-7897.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School will kickoff on **July 6th** and go through August 3rd.

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.



HOWDY PARDNER!!!

WONDER JUNCTION VBS

was June 23rd-27th

...an Old West-themed program that took place at Wonder Junction, where kids explored key moments in Jesus' life, emphasizing the wonder of His birth, childhood, ministry, death, resurrection, and return. The children embraced the salvation Jesus offers and were challenged to live for His glory as they await His return.



The kids were also on the lookout for this infamous master of disguise, sometimes known as "Rustlin Kurt Hoover!"

Sightings were reported in these here parts all week!



IT WAS A TOE-TAPPIN'
ROOTIN-TOOTIN TIME!

MARVEL AT JESUS,
LIVE FOR HIS GLORY!

Special thanks to VBS Director **Stephanie Knudsen-Feehan** and all the **wonderful volunteers & staff** who made Wonder Junction so much fun!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for **Emerald Crossing VBS: June 22-26, 2026**
...an Irish adventure through Psalm 23, providing hope to an anxious generation.



MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6TH-12TH GRADE)

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)

- 6th-8th grade Sunday Bible Study has wrapped up for the program year.
- High schoolers will continue to meet throughout the summer in Classroom #101.

H2H (Head2Heart/Confirmation) & FAM (Friends and Mentors)

Our summer program, in a combined format for all 6th-12th graders, has kicked off & is Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the FLC.



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

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED!

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study is on break. We'll resume in August... watch for info!

ALTAR FLOWERS - SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX

Our Altar flowers sign up chart is on the Connect Wall in the Narthex (outside the Fireside Room). 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, please sign up. Arrangements are \$25 each.

DAYBREAK SHELTER

Life Groups
Love. Serve. Share.

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, July 14th.

FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS

Faith & Body meets on Thursday mornings from 9-10 (September-May) and is currently on break for the summer.



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 interested can 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 with **dozens** of care packages year-to-date, thanks to your loving generosity!

PLEASE NOTE WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT FORMULA OR USED ITEMS.

Formula and used baby clothes are happily accepted at the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center. You may deliver them to: 903 Infantry Dr., Suite 600, in Joliet.



MEMORY BEARS

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets at the church from 9 a.m.-noon the 4th Tuesday of each month, and sometimes we throw in a BONUS DAY! We make stuffed teddy bears 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. Our regularly scheduled June meeting fell during VBS, so we meet next on **July 1st and 22nd**.

MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)

Our Men's Bible Study meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m., year around! Email Mike Brown at gonzopal2017@cheerful.com for more info.

MICRO PANTRY

Messiah now has TWO food pantries! Our indoor micro pantry is still in the hallway across from the offices and our new outdoor "Blessing Box" is on the sidewalk right out front! 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.** Thank you!

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. See you when we resume on September 9th! A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex in August.

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

Messiah Quilters meets the third Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is on **July 15th**! 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 to 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 put a quilt top together. Contact Kathy Mueller (815) 953-6601 at scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have.

We are in need of clean sheets

any size, flat or fitted (no stains or holes) to be used as backs for our quilts.
You may drop them off in the basket provided in the Narthex. Thank you!

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Our Sanctuary Choir sings on Sunday mornings at the 8:30 service (September-May). Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:45. We are always looking for new members! For more information please contact Herb Alexander, Sanctuary Choir Director, at halex12240@gmail.com.

STAY-N-PLAY

Stay-N-Play, our **FREE** weekly play group for kids five and under along with their parent/guardian, meets Tuesday mornings (September-May) in the FLC from 9:30-11! We are currently on break for the summer. Please like our Facebook page (MLC Stay-n-Play Playgroup) for additional information and share with your friends and neighbors!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

See page 4 for upcoming events for the ladies of Messiah!



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,
or scan the QR code in the pews,
bulletin or newsletter.



Fast Simple Secure

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!



Dear friends,

Every year, I look forward to packing a shoebox for Samaritan's Purse! I love being involved in bringing the Gospel to children. When a child says YES to Jesus, it's about ETERNITY. Jesus and a toy, you can't beat that. So, please start thinking of what you want to pack in your Operation Christmas Child shoebox! Coming in October.

-Donna Stier

JULY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



- 3 - Kris & Jay Weiss
- 7 - Tim & Kristi Boe
Rowan & Diane Hedden
- 11 - Dave & Karen Nygard
- 12 - John & Sharon Wiley
- 15 - Eric & Lisa Boe
- 18 - Pat & Katy Hester
- 20 - Eric & Jamie Bowman
- 22 - John & Leah Kewenig
- 29 - Bob & Norma Miller
- 31 - Darryl & Chris Hoelscher
Tom & Lori Spielman



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 - Tom Eigenbauer
Grace Weiss | 18 - Karen Nygard |
| 2 - Leonard Winters | 19 - Jesse C. Cohoon |
| 4 - Ethan Cariveau
Lorraine Racich | 21 - Jessica Schroth |
| 5 - Lori Spielman | 22 - Carol Zirzow |
| 7 - Elyssa Boe
Tiffany Trizna | 23 - James Lawler |
| 8 - Peyton Dykstra | 24 - Justin Brown |
| 9 - Bill Unyi | 26 - Gary Doorn |
| 10 - Colton Eldred | 28 - Brenna Luebbing
Nate Wiley |
| 11 - Gil Anderson
Wayne Zoellick | 29 - Kateryna Calderon |
| 12 - Judy Jelm
Luane Jelm-Eickholtz
Julia Spielman | 30 - Bella Magrini
Bella Wieher |
| 13 - Larry Vickers | 31 - Savannah Kuhn
Seraphina Kuhn |
| 16 - Jacob Anderson | |
| 17 - Beth Hohisel
Rod Juell
Norma Miller | |



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!**

JULY SERVERS

Counters

07/06/25 Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock
 07/13/25 Judy Fowler, Zach Hoelscher
 07/20/25 Ken Skinner, Dan Stukel
 07/27/25 Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer

Ushers 8:30

07/06/25 Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel
 07/13/25 Paul Allen, needed
 07/20/25 Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller
 07/27/25 Craig Stone, needed

Ushers 10:00

07/06/25 Gary Phillips, Jeff Holmes
 07/13/25 Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer
 07/20/25 Jeff Holmes, Josh Johnke
 07/27/25 Darryl Hoelscher, Gary Phillips

Communion Assistants 8:30

07/06/25 Randy Ling, Rowan & Diane Hedden
 07/13/25 Cindi Souza, Nancy Bertnik, Angie Mitchka
 07/20/25 Randy Ling, Rowan & Diane Hedden
 07/27/25 Cindi Souza, Angie Mitchka, Joy McClintock

Communion Assistants 10:00

07/06/25 Terry Anzalone,
 07/20/25 Terry Anzalone, Darryl Hoelscher,

Readers 8:30

07/06/25 Sherri Unyi
 07/13/25 Paul Allen
 07/20/25 Angie Mitchka
 07/27/25 Randy Ling

Readers 10:00

07/06/25 Donna Stier
 07/13/25 Tom Bond
 07/20/25 Kimber Drummond
 07/27/25 needed

Greeters 8:30

07/06/25 Bev Korby, Lynn Bond
 07/13/25 Kirk Brandmire, Wayne Lauffer
 07/20/25 Kirk Brandmire, one needed
 07/27/25 two needed

Greeters 10:00

07/06/25 Donna Stier, Lynn Bond
 07/13/25 Darryl & Cindi Souza
 07/20/25 two needed
 07/27/25 Darryl & Cindi Souza





40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431
(815) 741-4488

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES FOR SUMMER



8:30 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
10:00 A.M. FAMILY PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

815-741-4488

info@mlcjoliet.org

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