

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH ♡

*Sixth Sunday
after Pentecost*

July 20, 2025
8:30 a.m.

FOR FREEDOM

CHRIST HAS SET US FREE;



**STAND FIRM THEREFORE,
AND DO NOT SUBMIT AGAIN
TO A YOKE OF SLAVERY.**

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist Rose Ann Sochan
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome To Messiah Lutheran Church

July 20, 2025

8:30 a.m.

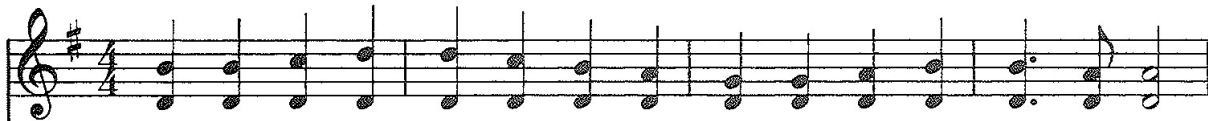
Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

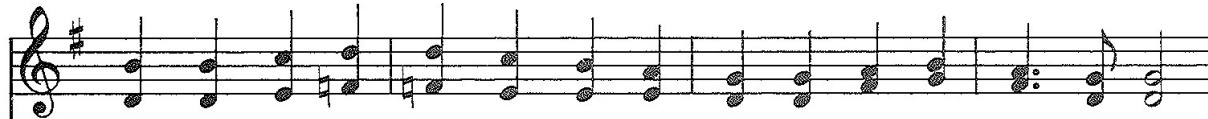
Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," #1 v. 1-4



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther Christ, our Broth - er— All who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.

PRESENCE LITANY ADAPTED FROM 1 CHRONICLES 29

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel

All: our father, forever and ever.

Leader: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory
and the victory and the majesty,

All: for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.

Leader: Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,

All: and you are exalted as head above all.

Leader: We worship Your Lord in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

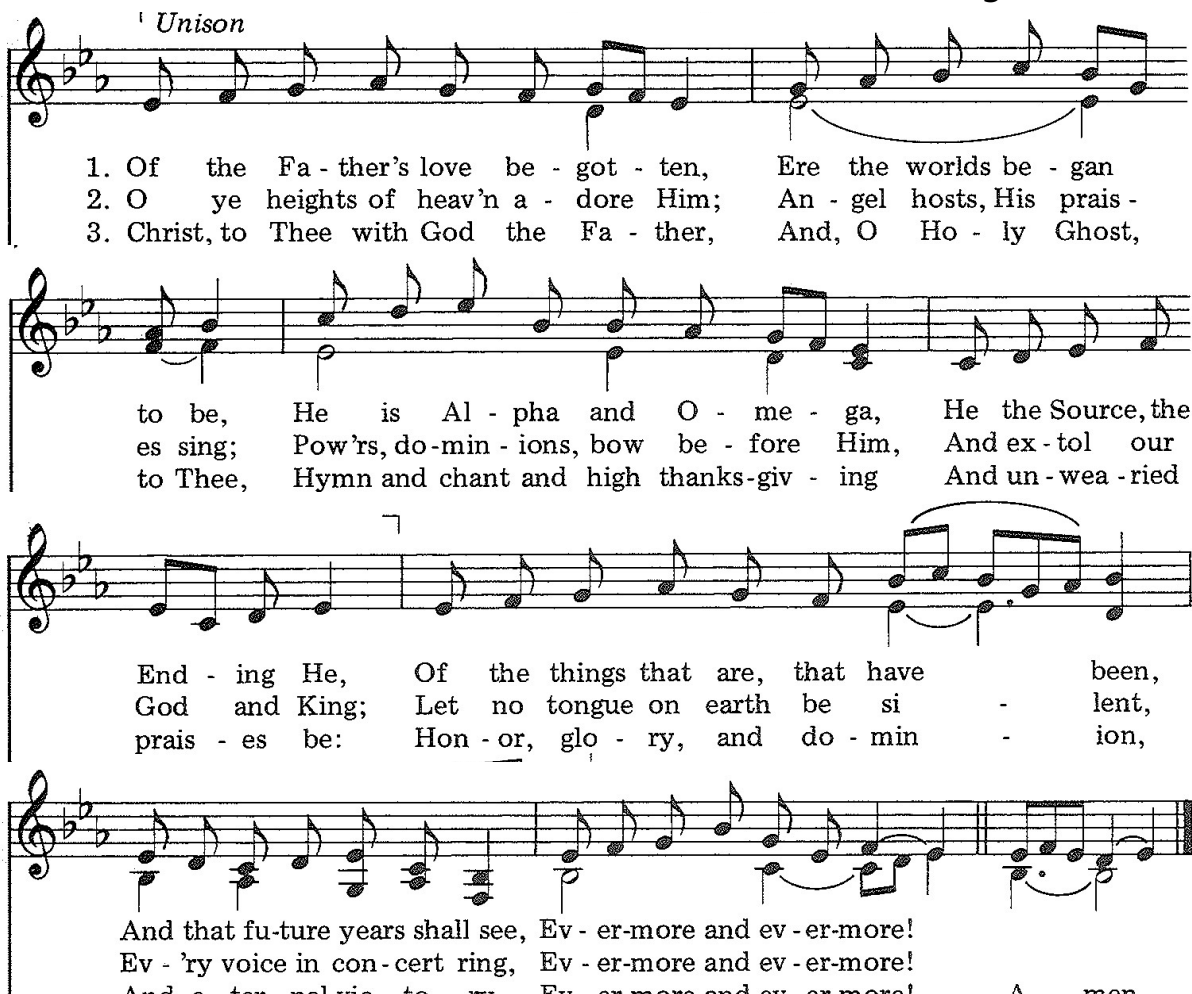
All: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Of the Father's Love Begotten," #118 v. 1-3

Unison



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten, Ere the worlds be-gan
2. O ye heights of heav'n a-dore Him; An-gel hosts, His prais-
3. Christ, to Thee with God the Fa-ther, And, O Ho-ly Ghost,

to be, He is Al-pha and O-me-ga, He the Source, the
es sing; Pow'rs, do-min-ions, bow be-fore Him, And ex-tol our
to Thee, Hymn and chant and high thanks-giv-ing And un-wea-ried

End-ing He, Of the things that are, that have been,
God and King; Let no tongue on earth be si-lent,
prais-es be: Hon-or, glo-ry, and do-min-ion,

And that fu-ture years shall see, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
Ev-'ry voice in con-cert ring, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
And e-ter-nal vic-to-ry, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more! A-men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," #8 v. 1 & 4



- 1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might-y, the King of cre - a - tion!
- 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign - eth,
- 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend thee;
- 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore Him!



O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
 Shel-ters thee un - der His wings, yes, so gen - tly sus - tain - eth!
 Sure-ly His good-ness and mer-cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be - fore Him.



All ye who hear, Now to His tem-ple draw near; Join me in
 Hast thou not seen How all thy long-ings have been Grant-ed in
 Pon-der a - new What the Al - might-y can do, If with His
 Let the A - men Sound from His peo-ple a - gain: Glad-ly for

Optional transition to "Praise the Lord!"



glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 what He or - dain - eth?
 love He be - friend thee.
 aye we a - dore Him. A - men. Him.

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

Leslie McFarland

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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON, Genesis 18:1-10 (ESV)

Reader: Angie Mitchka

¹ And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵ while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

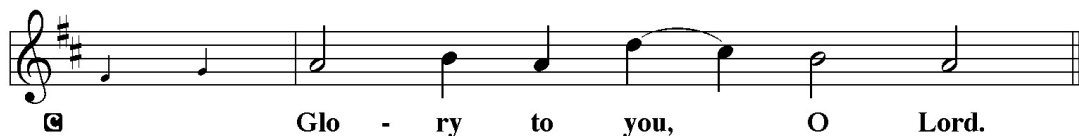
⁹ They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰ The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON, Galatians 5:1-6 (ESV)

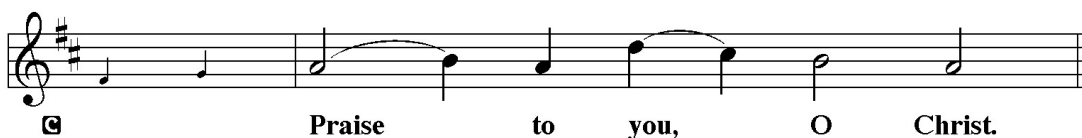
¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

GOSPEL LESSON, Luke 10:38-42 (ESV)



³⁸ Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."



MESSAGE

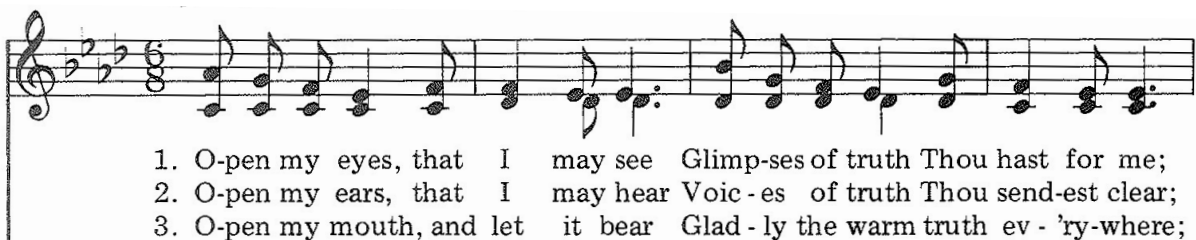
"How to Legislate Relief"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

A manuscript for this sermon and those previous is available in the Narthex.

HYMN

"Open My Eyes, That I May See," #381 v. 1-3





Place in my hands the won-der-ful key, That shall un-clasp and set me free.
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear, Ev - 'ry-thing false will dis - ap-pear.
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare Love with Thy chil-dren thus to share.



Si-lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read-y, my God, Thy will to see;



O - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
O - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine! A - men.

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: Randy Ling, Rowan & Diane Hedden

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;



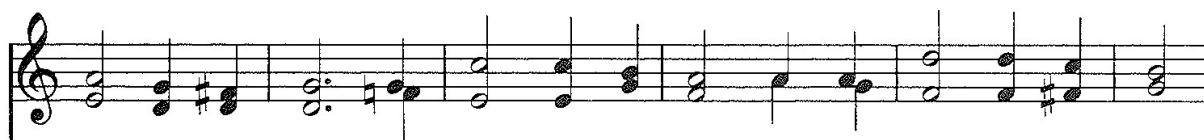
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"It Is Well with My Soul," #493 v. 1-4



- 1. When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like
- 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, tho' tri - als should come, Let this blest as -
- 3. My sin— O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, My sin— not in
- 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled



sea - bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,
part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,



Refrain

"It is well, it is well with my soul."
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. It is well with my
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well
"E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

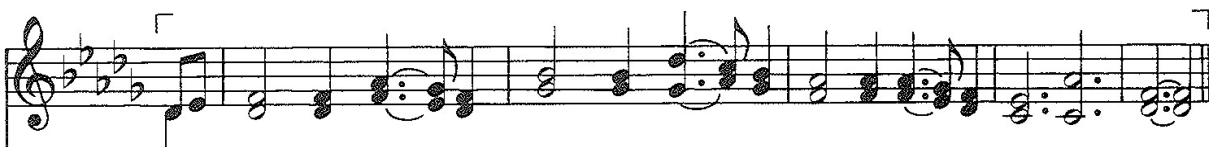


COMMUNION HYMN

"Just As I Am," #342 v. 1-5



1. Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me,
2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
3. Just as I am, tho tossed a - bout With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind—Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
5. Just as I am. Thou wilt re - ceive. Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, relieve;



And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Fight-ings and fears with - in, with-out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Yea, all I need in Thee to find— O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

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

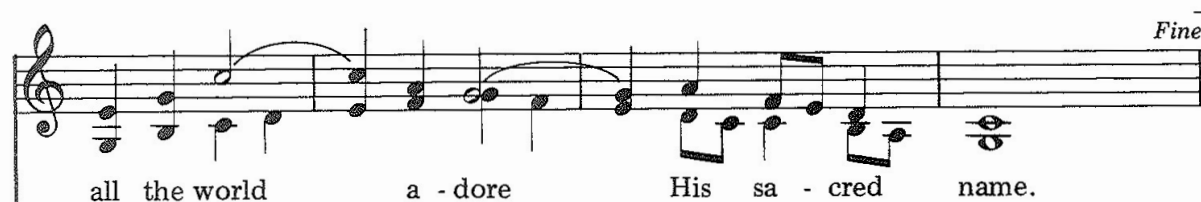
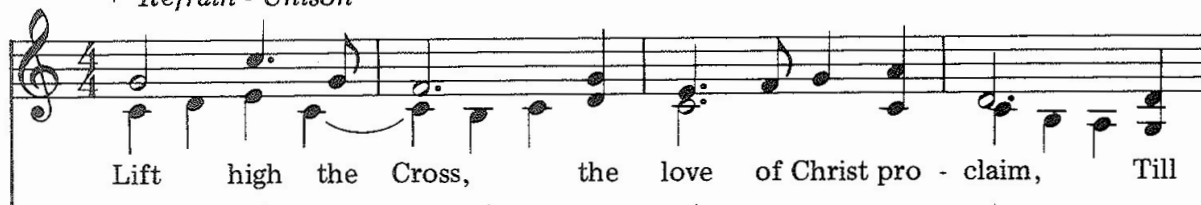
We always have a reason to
praise the Lord!



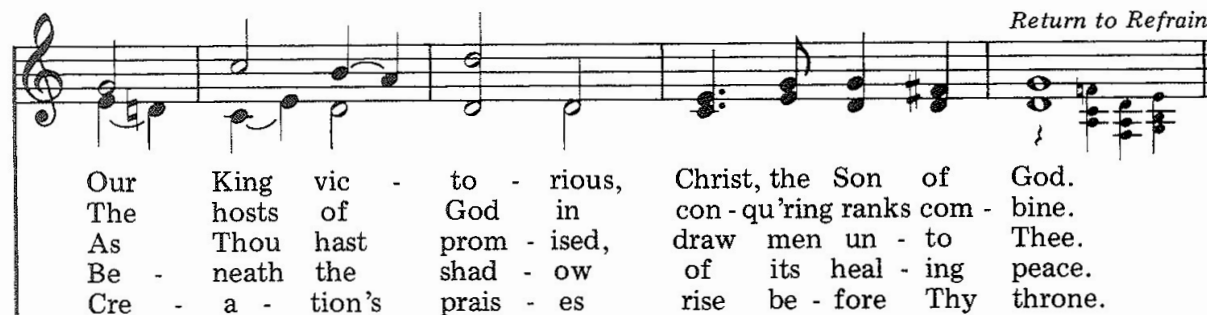
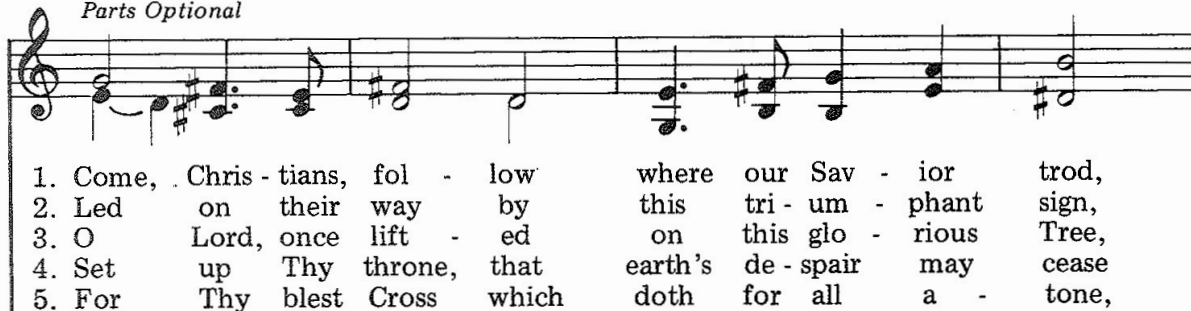
CLOSING HYMN

"Lift High the Cross," #304 v. 1-4

Refrain - Unison



Parts Optional



POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

SCHOOL SUPPLIES CAMPAIGN



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!



Sunday, August 17th
for combined worship
at 10 a.m.
followed by our
annual Church Picnic!



**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES RESUMES
THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, AUGUST 24th!**

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME

Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 9:30 a.m. and will continue until after the 10:00 service gets out. If you are an 8:30 attender - stay late! If 10:00 is your service - come early! Make new friends!

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.

DAYBREAK SHELTER

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to those less fortunate at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Food donations are also needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, August 11th.

MEMORY BEARS

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Come check us out on **July 22nd**. Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email to regency118@comcast.net for more info.

MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)

3M is on break for the remainder of the summer. Email Mike Brown at gonzopal2017@cheerful.com for more info.

PRAY JOLIET - THIS SATURDAY!

The July Prayer Walk will take place on Saturday, **July 26th**, from 8-10 a.m. We'll meet at the NW corner of Larkin & Oneida, near Joliet West High School (street parking).

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. Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email to regency118@comcast.net 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 text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or by email to regency118@comcast.net, or reach out to 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

The next Messiahs Quilting Day (3rd Tuesday each month) will be on **August 19th** 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.

We are in need of clean sheets of 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. Thank you, in advance!

Contact Kathy Mueller (815) 953-6601 at scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **August 19th**!



WORSHIP NIGHT

Messiah Student Ministries and our Worship Team are hosting a whole church Worship Night on Wednesday, **July 30th**, at 6 p.m. in the FLC. Please join us!

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Summer **Women's Bible Study** is on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. We'll walk through "My Personal Petitions Prayer Journal" by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. *Prayer is personal to God. Shouldn't it be personal to you?*

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

BIBLE BEE

We had a great time at the National Bible Bee! Our session has ended for this summer. Join us next year!

J-CHURCH

Due to conflicting events, J-Church will resume the third Sunday in September.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

Our summer program has ended. Stay tuned for our start up date for the fall season.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 10 a.m. upstairs in the Kidz Club and will continue through August 3rd. 6th-8th graders are invited to join in!

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)

MSM SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS

Mark your calendar! Bonfire July 23rd; Worship Night July 30th; Pool Party August 6th; Bonfire August 30th.

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)

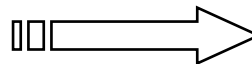
High schoolers continue to meet - *year around* - in classroom #101 at 9 a.m.

HEAD 2 HEART

Our H2H (Confirmation) program for 6th-8th graders begins soon!

- ◇ Orientation Night, August 20th
- ◇ Program kickoff, September 3rd
- ◇ Parents' Night, September 10th

FLC doors open at 5:30 p.m.



6TH-8TH GRADERS

Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 p.m.

September - April

Orientation Night - Mile Markers
August 20th

First Night of Class September 3rd

First Parents' Night Sept. 10th

SUMMER S.A.L.T. (combined for all FAM & H2H students)

Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the FLC through August 6th.

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

SUMMER
S.A.L.T. EVERY
WEDNESDAY
6:00-8:00PM

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRY

MSM SUMMER BIBLE STUDY GROUP 6TH - 12TH GRADERS

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARTIES & BONFIRES

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRY

July 23rd - Bonfire
July 30th - Worship Night!
Everyone is invited - please join us!
August 6th - Pool Party
August 30th - Bonfire

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers this week are provided by
...Lynn Tapella in loving memory of her father, Henry Smeets.
...Judy Fowler in loving memory of Ron.

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 (July 20)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (streamed)
9 a.m. Bible Study for 9th-12th
10 a.m. Family Praise & Worship,
Summer Sunday School for pre-K to 5th

MONDAY (July 21)

n/a

TUESDAY (July 22)

9 a.m. Memory Bears

WEDNESDAY (July 23)

6 p.m. Summer SALT (H2H/FAM),
Women's Summer Bible Study

THURSDAY (July 24)

10:15 a.m. Prayer Team
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

FRIDAY (July 25)

n/a

SATURDAY (July 26)

9:30 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY (July 27)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (streamed)
9 a.m. Bible Study for 9th-12th
10 a.m. Family Praise & Worship,
Summer Sunday School for pre-K to 5th
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30 a.m.: 101

10:00 a.m.: 50

Online: 29

Messiah Kids: 5

MSM: 0

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068

YTD Operating Budget: \$366,190

YTD Giving Received: \$323,108

Average Weekly Need: \$13,078

Received Last Week: \$10,900

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 103:2-5

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget
not all his benefits, who forgives all
your iniquity, who heals all your
diseases, who redeems your life from
the pit, who crowns you with
steadfast love and mercy, who
satisfies you with good so that your
youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Building Liaison Kate Richmond
Youth Director Kersten Stier
Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi

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

