



August 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 a.m.

REMEMBER THE
Sabbath day
BY KEEPING IT HOLY

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Guest Preacher Kersten Stier
Guest Pianist Sue Malmberg
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 9, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Sue Malmberg

OPENING HYMN

"We Gather Together," #561 v. 1-3



1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou Lead - er tri - um - phant,

He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;
Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;
And pray that Thou still our De - fend - er wilt be.

The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning:
Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion:

Sing prais - es to His name: He for - gets not His own.
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be Thine!
Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free! A - men.

LITANY BASED ON PSALM 46

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,

All: an ever-present help in trouble.

Leader: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

**All: though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.**

Leader: He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;

**All: I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."**

Leader: The Lord Almighty is with us;
All: the God of Jacob is our fortress.
 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

"Majesty," #74 (2X)

Maj - es - ty, wor-ship His maj - es - ty. Un - to

Je - sus be all glo - ry, hon - or, and praise. Maj - es - ty,

king-dom au - thor - i - ty flow from His throne un - to His own;

His an - them raise. So ex - alt, lift up on high the name of

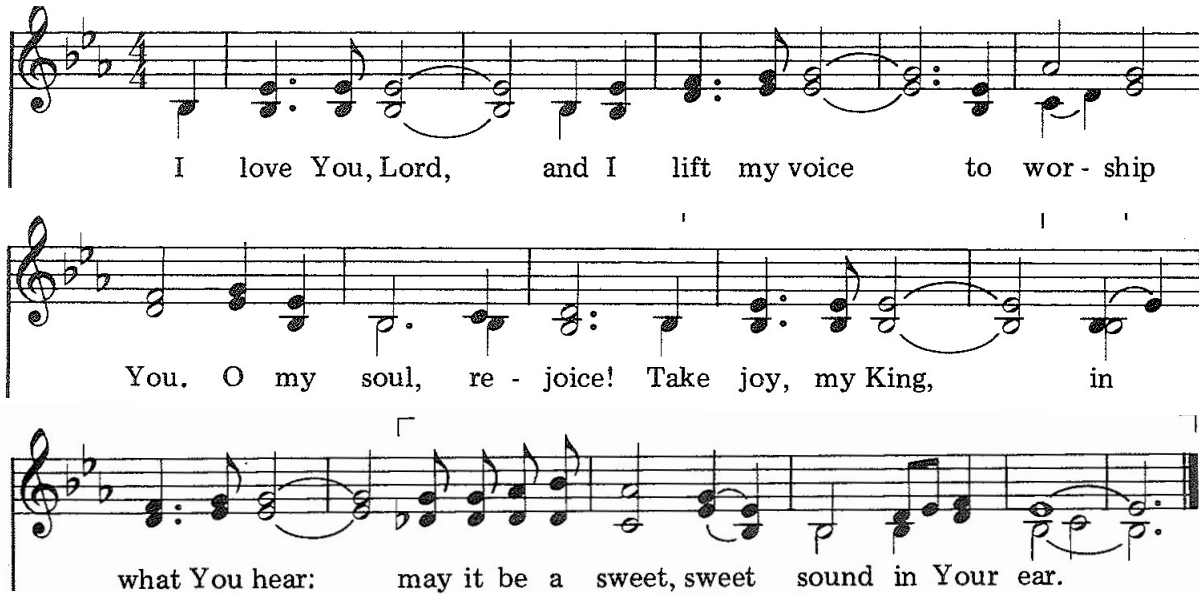
Je - sus. Mag - ni - fy, come glo - ri - fy Christ Je - sus, the King.

Maj - es - ty, wor-ship His maj - es - ty;

Je - sus who died, now glo - ri - fied, King of all kings.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"I Love You, Lord," #80 (2X)



The musical score is written on three staves in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing chords. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice to wor - ship
You. O my soul, re - joice! Take joy, my King, in
what You hear: may it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sue Malmberg

RESPONSE

Doxology #625



FIRST LESSON, Exodus 20:8-11 (NIV)

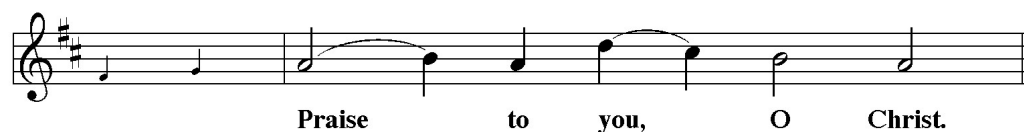
Reader: Jane Costello

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

SECOND LESSON, Hebrews 4:9-11 (NIV)

⁹ There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰ for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

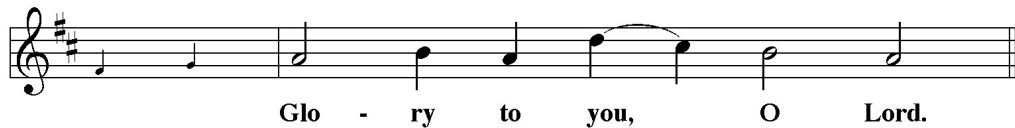
THIRD LESSON, Mark 2:23-27 (NIV)



²³ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

²⁵ He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶ In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

²⁷ Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."



MESSAGE **"The Sabbath: God's Answer to a Restless Age"**
Student Ministries Director Kersten Stier

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

HYMN

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit," #252 v. 1-2

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, And I
sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, And I
know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; There are
know that it's the pres - ence of the
Lord. Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet heav-en-ly Dove,
Stay right here with us, Fill-ing us with Your love; And for these
bless - ings We lift our hearts in praise: With-out a doubt we'll know
that we have been re-vived, When we shall leave this place.

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: Nancy Bertnik, Joy McClintock, Lynn Tapella

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"



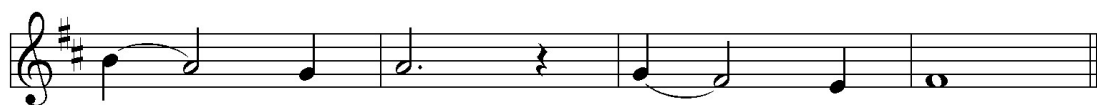
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

"Let Us Break Bread Together," #323 v. 1-4



1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)
 2. Let us drink the cup to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)
 3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)



Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)
 Let us drink the cup to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)
 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)

Refrain

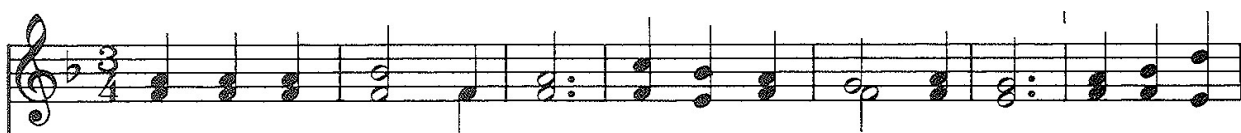


When I fall on my knees with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me.)

"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.

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

"Be Thou My Vision," #382 v. 1-4

1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son,
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.
Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

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

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DAILY DEVOTIONAL PODCAST

“WORD PLAY!”

God has a Word for you!

Hosted by Pastor Kurt Hoover and Nikolai Stier,
we delve into the Scripture readings for the coming week
by focusing on one word in the passage.

Look for a new episode each weekday as we exchange insights
into the word of God ...along with some nerdy banter.

Find us on Spotify here:



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 attender - 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.

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**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! 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 **August 18!**



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 15!

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)

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW) SUMMER PROGRAM

Our MKW program has been canceled for this summer.

NATIONAL BIBLE BEE

The National Bible Bee has been canceled for this summer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We meet upstairs in the Kidz Club during Education Hour at 9:40 a.m. Our summer session for K-8th graders will run through August 16.

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.

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H) - Orientation Night August 19!

Our H2H Confirmation Program for 6th-8th graders runs on Wednesdays evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8. Be sure to make note of these important dates:

August 19, Orientation Night
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.

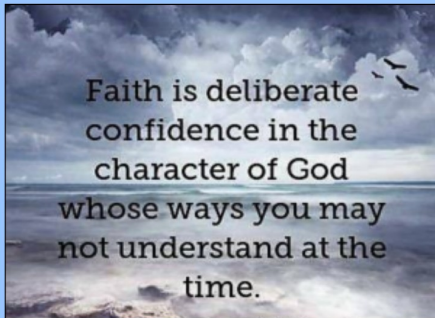
Made-to-Order Messiah Apparel & Accessories!



Coffee Mugs, Lanyards & MORE!

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





Insight Bible Study

new series begins August 9th...

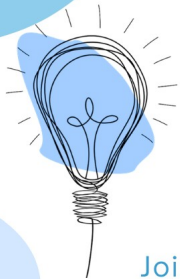
“The Character of God”

Our faith should not depend on outcomes,
rather should rely on God's character
as it's foundation.

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall!



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:



SANCTUARY CHOIR

Resumes soon! Rehearsals will be on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 p.m.
and performances weekly, during the 8:30 service.
If you'd like to join in, reach out to Herb Alexander
or call the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Our Altar flowers are provided by Chuck & Nancy Bugnits
in celebration of their 42nd anniversary.

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 9

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour for all ages
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, August 10

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Staff Quarterly
Planning Meeting

TUESDAY, August 11

n/a

WEDNESDAY, August 12

n/a

THURSDAY, August 13

10:15 a.m. Prayer Group

FRIDAY, August 14

n/a

SATURDAY, August 15

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY, August 16

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour for all ages
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 79
10:45: 47
Online: 17
Kids: 6
MSM: 0
HS: 3
Insight: 20

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ
Jesus as Lord, continue to live your
lives in Him, rooted and built up in
Him, strengthened in the faith as you
were taught, and overflowing
with thankfulness.

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

