

MESSIAH MESSENGER

2022



MESSIAH
L U T H E R A N
† C H U R C H ♡

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FROM PASTOR HOOVER

Refined

The themes of Lent often revolve around testing. Jesus being tested in the Wilderness. The repentance of Jerusalem. Or even a random fig tree unable to produce fruit. And of course there is Jesus' passion. This Lenten season we examine God's refining power in our lives. Just as Silver is refined in the fire, God is using this season of Lent to melt away the doubts in our lives.

"And he shall sit as a **refiner** and **purifier** of silver" (Mal. 3:3). "For thou, O God, hast **proved** us: thou hast **tried** us, as silver is tried" (Psa. 66:10). "...in the midst of the furnace; they are even the dross of silver" (Ezek. 22:18).

The Silversmith – In a women's Bible Study they came across this verse, "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This puzzled the women and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of them offered to find out the process of refining silver. That week, she visited a silversmith and watched as he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot. Then she thought again about the verse, that "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. **If the silver was left a moment too long** in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, how do you know when the silver is fully refined? He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy – **when I see my image in it** – *Author unknown*

The modern process of silver melting uses acids. This is partly because of how painstaking it is to use heat to purify silver. I believe that makes the illustration of purifying silver even more meaningful.

Each day God is at work in us pruning away the chaff of life. It could be a bad habit or a reshuffling of priorities. I encourage you to ask what God is doing in such things. This study forced me to find synonyms for the word 'impurity.' Impurity synonyms are 'contamination, pollution, dirt' ... What are the impurities God is refining in your life?

The impurity that makes the silver unable to reflect God's presence in our lives is more directly tied to our doubts. The dirt that I see God removing from my life is less about what I do or how I treat others. The smear on the lens is the way I put my trust in foreign objects. I trust my plan over God's plan. I trust rules, governing powers, or a nest egg for my security. I expect God to change my world. Instead he is at working changing me. God is preparing me for His kingdom where the brokenness of this world has been burned away.

In Christ,
Pr. Kurt Hoover

FROM PASTOR STIER

Civic Life

Read: Romans 13:1-7

“Pay to all what is owed to them”. (v. 7)

With three children, my wife and I could claim a significant savings on our taxes at one time. However, as they grew up and tax code changes were made, my taxes skyrocketed. After I began grouching about it, my wife reminded me to be thankful for all the things taxes paid for: roads, police, and a legal system. So, I tried instead to write the check with gratitude.

Paul doesn't write Romans 13 with the United States in mind. In fact, Rome's next emperor, Nero, would unleash a brutal attack to purge Christians. The first Christians had no expectation for a government to approve of them. At best, they prayed for governments to simply tolerate them. So how might we apply Paul's instructions to our current realities?

We begin by understanding that all authority exists under God's sovereignty (v. 1). Jesus said to Pilate in John 19:11, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.” We engage in civil government for the common good (Rom. 13:3) by paying taxes, voting, and the like.

There are limits, however. We cannot obey the government when doing so is disobedience to God. Daniel prayed when King Darius forbade it (Daniel 6), and the midwives in Egypt did not obey Pharaoh's edict to kill the Hebrew boy babies (Exodus 1). Pastors joined their congregations in taking up arms against England and even fought for freedom of the slaves in the civil war. Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Karl Barth faced death for standing in opposition to Hitler. Even today some Christians face prison and death for obeying Christ. Recently pastors in California and Canada have been arrested for conducting worship services and just singing. But if you find yourself living in a place where civil society allows you to live in peace, let your citizenship be an example to all for the common good.

As you pray, pray for governing authorities to honor God, and respect the Christian faith.

In His Awesome Grip,

PD2 a.k.a Pastor Dave Stier

MLC NEWS

MLC PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Please note that content for the weekly bulletin is due by noon each **Wednesday** & content for the monthly newsletter is due by the **22nd** of each month. Thank you for your cooperation.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We celebrate with Christine Murray on her next chapter working for Lewis University. Christine came to Messiah in 2019 working part-time as our administrative assistant. She also pioneered our first Children's Ministry Outreach. Christine's last day in the office will be March 18th. We will not be able to replace Christine right away. Please let us know if you are able to volunteer in the church office while we manage this transition.

ONLINE WORSHIP

The 9:30 am service is available for streaming online on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

OFFICE HOURS CHANGE

We have changed the office hours from 9-3pm Mon-Fri, Saturdays by appointment for the foreseeable future. The staff is always available by appointment so please don't hesitate to ask.

PRAYER CHAIN

Messiah uses a prayer chain made up of people willing to pray for our members, community and nation in times of crisis. The prayers are confidential and as anonymous as much as possible. You can make a difference through the gift of your prayers. Contact Cindi Souza at regency118@comcast.net or Pastor Dave at pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org to become a partner.

OFFERING

We will have an offering time during the service, but you can give any time during the week using one of the following ways:

- 1) Go to this link: bit.ly/MLCGiving
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet and follow the instructions given.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.
- 4) Mail your check to the church at: 40 Houbolt Rd, Joliet, IL 60431

If you need assistance with any of these, please email

worship@mlcjoliet.org or call the church office at 815-741-4488

GET INVOLVED

PRAY JOLIET(Sunday March 6, at 6pm at Mosaic Church)

A lot of congregations in the area are coming together to pray for the needs of Joliet. Find Pray Joliet on Facebook for more information or just show up!

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion classes will begin on March 13th in the Family Life Center, during the 9:30 hour. All grades are welcome but please plan on attending if your student is in 4th or 5th grade and or has not yet received instruction. At least one parent is to attend the class with their child, and the class will run for five (5) consecutive weeks. On Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 pm the class will receive their first communion.

Please register at bit.ly/1stCommMLC if you plan to attend. Questions? Contact Pastor Stier at pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org.

DAYBREAK SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month. A team of Messiah members meets at the shelter to set up and serve dinner. Food donation needs include canned fruit cocktail, juice, potato salad, buns, baked beans and cookies. Sign up in the narthex.

MICRO PANTRY

Messiah has developed a micro-food pantry that is housed in the closet across from the church office. This ministry is 100% donation driven and maintained by the Evangelism board. You can support this ministry through prayer, and through monetary or food donations. Contact the church office for more info. Thank you so much Marty Hohisel for your constant help in organizing the food that comes in!

LIL LOVES MINISTRY

Lil Loves Ministry is a ministry at Messiah, and its aim is to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the Tri-county area. The store, located in the Gathering House, will be available on an appointment basis, and those interested can sign up at mlcjoliet.org/lil-loves-ministry. Lil Loves needs your donations of diapers, formula, wipes, and other baby and family items to build up stock in the store. If you'd like to donate, please place your items in the black bin in the narthex. In need of **BABY SOAP**, onsies size 24 months and up, Pullups, size 6 and 7 diapers.

MESSIAH QUILTERS

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 from 9 am – 12 pm. We have lots of quilts ready to be tied. We also have other tasks besides tying that need to be done, including sit-down jobs. No sewing or quilting experience is required. Please join

us if you can.

If you would like to sew at home, we have many quilt tops ready to be sewn together. We have the larger size we make for Lutheran World Relief and a smaller lap robe size/ baby quilt size we make for Lightways Hospice and Li'l Loves. (We just donated 43 to Lightways in February). Sewing consists of sewing the blocks together into rows, sewing the rows together and adding a border. Everything is prepared in kit form for you. If this is something you would like to do, contact Kathy Mueller at scpbklane@aol.com or 815-953-6601 for more information or any questions you may have.

Our church family has truly blessed us with donations of fabric, sheets and many hands that allow us to create our quilts so they can be distributed around the world as part of Lutheran World Relief. Thank you everyone!

MEMORY BEARS

The Memory Bears Life Group meets together once a month to make teddy bears out of clothing from people who have passed away to comfort the grieving. We also make and sell bears once a year to raise money for supplies and children's charities. With the lost time with Covid and orders having not slowed down, we really could use your help. We meet the Fourth Tuesday of each month from 9:00 am to Noon.

MESSIAH KIDS

MESSIAH KIDS SUNDAY 11 AM

Messiah Kids continues during the 11:00am service!

Here's how it works: you will check in for the service like you do for Sunday School at the computer in the narthex. Then just before the sermon the kids will be dismissed and can leave to be with their friends. They will meet leaders in the narthex and head to the FLC for games. It's for all kids grades K-5th. **Volunteers are needed! See Kimber Drummond or Pastor Dave to get involved.**

AWANA (Wednesdays at 6:30 pm) -

For Prek-6th grade! Your children can come any Wednesday. Don't miss out. Check out Facebook for cancellations and special events.

MLC STUDENT MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 9:30 am upstairs)

High school students (9th-12th grade) meet every Sunday in the youth room for a great time of fellowship and discussion about God's word. Consider yourself invited!

HEAD2HEART (Wednesdays at 6:15 pm)

Head2Heart confirmation classes continues through Lent. Talk to Brian (brian@mlcjoliet.org) about getting your middle school student involved.

SALT (Sundays at 4:30 pm)

Hey, high school students! SALT continues on Sunday nights! Come on out and enjoy the fun, fellowship and study in the FLC.

MAFIA (March 11 from 7-10pm)

7-12th grade are welcome! Bring \$5 for pizza. Invite your friends.

INDOOR CAMPING (March 11-13, starting after Mafia) For 7-12th grade

Bring a sleeping bag, toiletries, and clothes. Free food and access to showers.

CENTER LAKE BIBLE CAMP PARENT MEETING (After 11am service March 20)

5th –9th grade parents, please attend this meeting about summer camp. The dates are June 26-July 1 at CLBC in Tustin, MI.

SALT Bonfire Night (March 20, from 4:30-6pm)

Brian Werner is giving his testimony. Come by for a smore and find out why Brian Werner is a youth leader!

MLC EVENTS

CHOSEN LIFE GROUP

Starting on March 8th Tuesday, 630pm at Harold & Donna Stier's house we will be going through the Chosen book. Bring a snack and we will get the books to you when we can. Contact Dave Stier @ pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org for more information.

PRAYER GROUP (Thursdays at 10 am)

In the Fireside Room and on Zoom platform. Email pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org for more information.

MOSAIC (Sundays at 9:30 am)

Mosaic is a "next level" Life Group ministry for 18-20 somethings AKA Mosaics or Millennials. Mosaic focuses on a life of worship through; service, fellowship, prayer, and music, all the while discussing Biblical truths. To join this group, simply come to the study at the Mosaic room (the classroom off of the fellowship hall).

INSIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Sundays at 9:30 am)

Insight Sunday school is in full force and we couldn't be more excited. They are meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

FROM THE BOARDS

Stewardship– God’s Providential Care

“Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God’s providential care. We understand that we’re not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there’s more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: “Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God’s provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord’s Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God’s provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn’t stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God’s gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. “For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (Luther’s Small Catechism, 16).

LENTEN SERVICES

Refined

Just as silver is refined in the fire, God is using this season of Lenten to melt away the doubts in your lives.

March 6- Sabbath Refined

March 13- Jerusalem Refined

March 20- People Refined

March 27- Jesus Refined

April 3- Tradition Refined

Jews for Jesus Presentation

April 10 - Celebration Refined

April 17- Easter Sunday

SUNDAY SERVICES

**Sunrise- 6:30am, 8:00am,
9:30am, 11:00am.**

**Gather at 6:00 for
Twilight campfire.**

Lent: Sundays

COME JOIN US!



Joy through Pain

Wednesday Lent Series

Lenten Soups- 5:30pm-6:30pm

Worship Service- 7:00pm

March 2-April 6, 2022

Counters			Readers 8 AM	
Date	Name		Name	Date
3/6/22	Dana Stier, Gerry Hauge		Doug Potts	3/6/22
3/13/22	Brian Wielbik, Dan Stukel		Doug Potts	3/13/22
3/20/22	Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer		Deb Dole	3/20/22
3/27/22	Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock		open	3/27/22
		S		
Ushers 8 AM		E	Readers 9:30 AM	
3/6/22		R	Sherri Unyi	3/6/22
3/13/22		V	Marcy Vickers	3/13/22
3/20/22		I	Jane Costello	3/20/22
3/27/22		N	Doug Potts	3/27/22
		G		
Ushers 9:30 AM			Readers 11 AM	
3/6/22			Doug Potts	3/6/22
3/13/22			Donna Stier	3/20/22
3/20/22			Greeters 8 AM	
3/27/22			NEED HELP	3/6/22
		A	NEED HELP	3/13/22
Ushers 11 AM		T	NEED HELP	3/20/22
3/6/22			NEED HELP	3/27/22
3/13/22			NEED HELP	
3/20/22			Greeters 9:30 AM	
3/27/22			NEED HELP	3/6/22
		M	NEED HELP	3/13/22
Communion Assistants 8 AM		E	NEED HELP	3/20/22
3/6/22	Randy Ling, Kate Joho	S	NEED HELP	3/27/22
3/13/22	Pat Anderson, Ruth Ann Ungeran	S	NEED HELP	
3/20/22	Deb Dole, Christy Werner	I	Greeters 11 AM	
3/27/22	Pat Anderson, Randy Ling	A	NEED HELP	3/6/22
		H	NEED HELP	3/13/22
Communion Assistants 9:30 AM			NEED HELP	3/20/22
			NEED HELP	3/27/22
			NEED HELP	
Communion Assistants 11 AM			<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Would you like to help serve? Call the Church Office at 815-741-4488 or Email office.Manager@mlcjoliet.org!</i></p>	

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 1

Emilia Belsha
Jaime Dykstra

March 2

Grant Rogina
Janice Holmes
Mariana Lopez
Victoria Cordon

Grant Rogina

March 3

Ken Skinner
Prudence Moore
Ryan Kittler
William Johnke
Terry & Joy McClintock

March 4

Jerry Buchenau
Jessica Martin
Roger Matteucci
Carol Brandmire

March 6

David Nygard
Katie Snider
Paul & Shannon Capps

March 7

Barbara Sullivan
Kathy Sievers
Gerry & Pat Boe
Eden Nicola

March 8

Joseph Sleyko
Mike Joho
Tara Arnott
Aubrey Murphy

March 9

Doug Hawkinson
Matthew Fiday
David & Julie Blish

March 10

Reyna Carreno

March 11

March 12

Annalyssa Manning

March 13

Pat Burke

March 14

Angie Mitchka
Anthony Rathbun
Gabriella Leupold
Jacob McDonald
Mary Mitchka
Marc & Michelle Magrini

March 15

Jackson Nordstrom
Kaci Courtright
Madilyn Erzinger
Michael Poole
Rowan Hedden
Shary Kimecko

March 16

Roger Gordon
Wanda Konow

March 17

Almy Gerstenkorn

March 18

Aubrey Murphy
Jamie Benson
Mike Scarcelli
Morgan Nuyttens

Leesa Fox

Ethan Jenkins

March 19

Bruce Vainowski
Jaxson Bodenhamer
Leah Melton

March 20

Brad Johnson
Dominic Hester
Eva Hauge
Megan Hines

March 21

Mason Magemeneaus

March 22

James & Bonnie Anderson

March 23

Koen Hurstik

March 24

Bristol Haussy

Sam Remus

March 25

Julie Bajt

March 26

Joshua Mathis
Dominick Gerovac

March 27

Anita Schultz
Annette Seidel
Dave Freeman
Jessica Kowalczyk

March 28

Rae Ann Bennett

March 29

Ray Anderson
Gabrielle Anderson
Jeanette Wegemer
Gwen Bauc

March 30

Barbara Culinovic
Ella Manning

March 31

Steve Anderson
Luke McDonald



March

6 Pastor Nygard
 13 Laurel Ling
 20 Harold Stier
 Donna Stier
 27 Doug Potts

Insight

Please Note: Messiah Lutheran Church is not currently using any emails ending in mjc-joliet.org. To contact us please call the church at 815-741-4488.

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ADDRESS