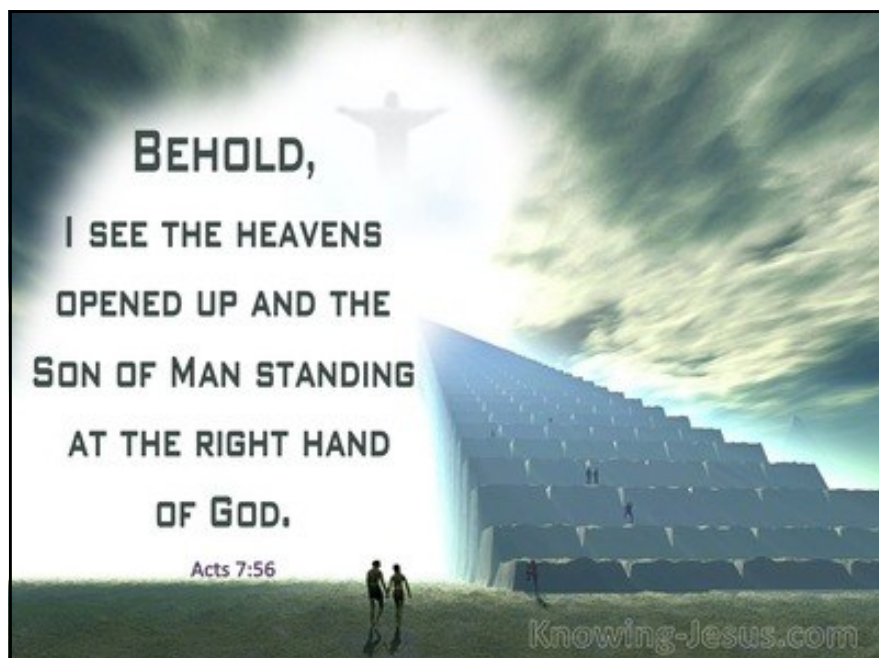




Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 25, 2026
8:30 a.m.



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

January 25, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"Come, Thou Almighty King," #267 v. 1-4



1. Come, Thou Al - might - y King, Help us Thy
2. Come, Thou In - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
3. Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
4. To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal

name to sing, Help us to praise: Fa - ther! all -
might - y sword, Our prayer at - tend! Come, and Thy
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -
prais - es be, Hence ev - er - more; Thy sov - 'reign

glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous, Come, and reign
peo - ple bless, And give Thy word suc - cess: Spir - it of
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart And ne'er from
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see, And to e -

o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
ho - li - ness, On us de - scend.
us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore. A - men.

HOLY SPIRIT LITANY ADAPTED FROM PSALM 51

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
All: and renew a right spirit within me.

Leader: Cast me not away from your presence,
All: and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
 Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
All: and uphold me with a willing spirit.
 Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM

"Be Still and Know," arr. Lloyd Larson,
 led by Herb Alexander

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Standing on the Promises," #271 v. 1 & 4



1. Stand-ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my King, Thro' e - ter - nal a - ges
2. Stand-ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail, When the howl-ing storms of
3. Stand-ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord, Bound to Him e - ter - nal-
4. Stand-ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fall, Lis-t'ning ev - ery mo-ment



let His prais - es ring; Glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
 doubt and fear as - sail, By the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
 ly by love's strong cord, O - ver-com-ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
 to the Spir - it's call, Rest-ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

Refrain



Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God. Stand-ing, stand - ing,
 stand-ing on the prom-is-es,



Stand-ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior; Stand - ing,



stand - ing, I'm stand-ing on the prom-is - es of God.
 stand-ing on the prom-is-es,

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Thy Word," #234 v. 1 & 2, *Maranatha*



Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet and a
light un-to my path. 1. When I feel a-fraid,
2. I will not for-get Your—
think I've lost my way, still You're there right be-side me. And
love for me, and yet my heart for-ev-er is wan-der-ing.
noth-ing will I fear as long as You are near.
Je-sus be my guide and hold me to Your side, and
Please be near me to the end.
I will love You to the end.

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.

"LET'S PRAY" MILE MARKER PRESENTATION



Leslie McFarland

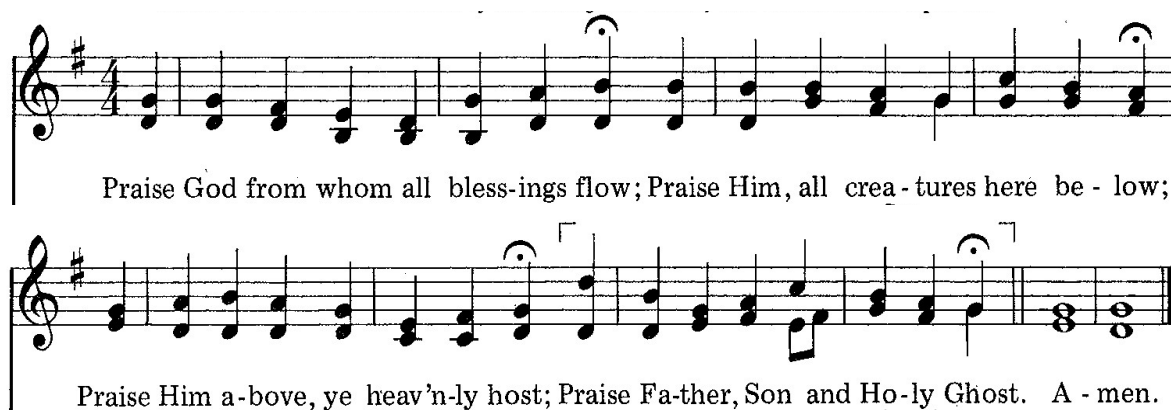
OFFERING

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.

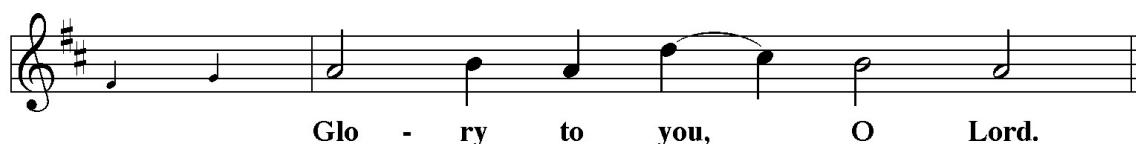
FIRST LESSON, Acts 1:15-22 (ESV)

Reader: Paul Allen

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and "'Let another take his office.'

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."

SECOND LESSON, Acts 7:51-8:3 (ESV)

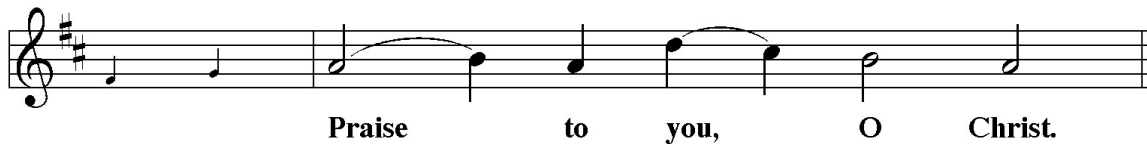


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul approved of his execution.

¹ And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.



MESSAGE

"Holy Spirit LEAPs"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

HYMN

"Faith of Our Fathers," #279 v. 1-4



1. Faith of our fa - thers! liv - ing still In spite of dun - geon,
 2. Our fa - thers, chained in pris - ons dark, Were still in heart and
 3. Faith of our fa - thers! we will strive To win all na - tions
 4. Faith of our fa - thers! we will love Both friend and foe in



fire and sword: O how our hearts beat high with joy
 con - science free: How sweet would be their chil - dren's fate,
 un - to thee, And thro' the truth that comes from God,
 all our strife: And preach thee too as love knows how,



When-e'er we hear that glo - rious word! Faith of our fa - thers,
 If they like them could die for thee! Faith of our fa - thers,
 Man-kind shall then be tru - ly free. Faith of our fa - thers,
 By kind - ly words and vir - tuous life: Faith of our fa - thers,

ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death!
 ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death!
 ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death!
 ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death!

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, Pat Anderson, Doug Potts

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"



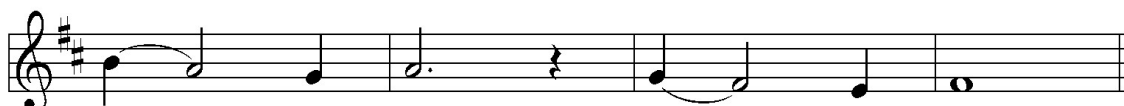
☞ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

"Break Thou the Bread of Life," #274 v. 1-4



1. Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me, As Thou didst
2. Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me, As Thou didst
3. Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me, Thy ho - ly
4. O send Thy Spir - it, Lord, Now un - to me, That He may



break the loaves Be - side the sea; Be - yond the sa - cred page
bless the bread By Gal - i - lee; Then shall all bond - age cease,
Word the truth That sav - eth me; Give me to eat and live
touch my eyes And make me see: Show me the truth con-cealed



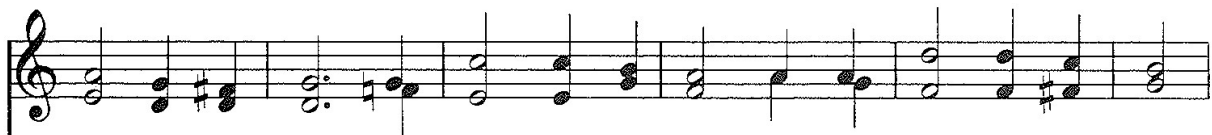
I seek Thee, Lord, My spir - it pants for Thee, O liv - ing Word.
All fet - ters fall; And I shall find my peace, My All in all.
With Thee a - bove; Teach me to love Thy truth, For Thou art love.
With - in Thy Word, And in Thy Book re-vealed I see the Lord. A-men

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.



soul, with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

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

"Rise Up, O Church of God," #293 v. 1-4



1. Rise up, O Church of God! Have done with less - er things;
2 Rise up, O Church of God! His king-dom tar - ries long;
3. Rise up, O sons of God! The Church for you doth wait,
4. Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have trod;



Give heart and mind and soul and strength To serve the King of kings.
Bring in the day of broth-er - hood And end the night of wrong.
Her strength un - e - qual to her task, Rise up, and make her great!
As fol - l'wers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O Church of God!

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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2025 Annual Meeting
today, January 25, 2026
at noon, in Fellowship Hall



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRY

BAKE SALE

FUNDRAISER

Sunday, January 25th
before & after services
in Fellowship Hall.

*Sponsored by Messiah Student Ministries
and all proceeds to benefit Messiah Student Ministries.*



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOU'RE INVITED TO A

- DJ AND DANCING
- PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES
- LIGHT SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS
- CRAFTING
- RAFFLE

REGISTER ON THE CHURCH CENTER APP
OR USE THE QR CODE
IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN.

Daddy & Daughter
SWEETHEART DANCE

Feb 21st 6:30–8:30 p.m.
in the Family Life Center

Questions? Reach out to Megan Kuhn
christianed@MLCJoliet.org

Register here:



Help Wanted! Our Christian Education team is looking for substitute teachers for Sunday School during Education Hour. Must be high school age or older. Please inquire with Leslie McFarland or Megan Kuhn.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings during Education Hour. We are currently studying the Book of Acts, which will continue throughout the Season of Epiphany.

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME



Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 9:40 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!

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 - WILL YOU HELP SAVE OUR PARTNERSHIP?

For 35 years Messiah has prepared & served dinner once a month to those less fortunate at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Our long-time coordinator, Karen Rebuehr, has discerned the need to step down and we are looking for a volunteer (or two) willing to take the baton. This would entail coordinating volunteers & food donations, light shopping, and communicating with Daybreak staff as needed. **Please reach out to Karen or call the front office for more information.**

FAITH & BODY

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.

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. next meeting is **January 27th**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email regency118@comcast.net for more info.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)

OWLS meets on the second 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 **February 10th** and we'll welcome special musical guests, the **Ukelele Strummers!** We ask that everyone **sign up in the Narthex** so we have a headcount and to let us know what finger food, appetizer, salad or dessert you will bring to share.







Sundays
February 8th and 15th
9:40 a.m.

New to Messiah? Want to learn more?

Have you been attending and want more info on becoming a member? We want to get to know you and connect you with our many groups and ministries! Please join us at the “**Get to Know Messiah**” membership class where you will learn our story, about our people and the vision of Messiah. This is also an opportunity for us to get to know YOU and the best way to support your faith journey!

Childcare will be available upon request.

Contact Pastor Kurt or call the church office for more info.

Register here:



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 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 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

Messiah Quilters meet the 3rd Tuesday each month (BONUS day on February 3rd!) 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 at (815) 953-6601 or scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **February 3rd & 17th**!

STAY-N-PLAY

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 9:30-11. Bring the littles for play time! Adults enjoy coffee on us!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FAMILY DINNER & FAMILY PRAISE NIGHT



Wednesday Family Dinner will take place the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Your RSVP is important to us - a sign up list is posted in the Narthex. We can also use help with setup and cleanup. If you are able to assist, please sign up in the Narthex.

Family Praise Night, also the first Wednesday of every month, is from 6-6:30 p.m. (right after dinner) in the cafe area of the FLC. Join our children and student ministries for a time of praise, kids' showcase, and a short message!



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Calling all BUNCO lovers! Join us for a fun-filled day of friendly conversation, laughter and excitement on Saturday, **February 7th** from 1-4 p.m. Bring a snack to share, and let's roll the dice for some great memories! Please RSVP by reaching out to Beth at (815) 741-9983.

Women's Bible Study has begun a new 6-week session, from 1-2:30 in our cozy Fireside Room! We are studying the book "Heaven, Hell and Life After Death." Many people are intrigued by what lies beyond death's door, but we live in an age bombarded with many conflicting views. How can we be sure of what is true? Discover what God says about death, dying, and life after death. For more information please reach out to Sherri Unyi or Laurel Ling.

YOUNG ADULT "IGNITE" BIBLE STUDY

For those out of high school and older - Join us for coffee and Bible Study in classroom #101 Sunday mornings during Education Hour.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will perform during the 10:45 service on January 25, February 22, March 22, and April 26. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Mark your calendar for our second annual Daddy Daughter Dance on **February 21st** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for young ladies pre-K and older, along with their dad or chaperone. Registration is now open in the Church Center app or by following the QR link on page 11 of this bulletin!

J-CHURCH

J-Church is the third Sunday of every month (except December) at 10:45 in the FLC.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club!

MILE MARKER WORKSHOPS

- My New Bible (2nd grade) February 1st & 8th; presentation February 15th.
- First Communion (4th grade) March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, Communion April 2nd.

Registration is open in the Church Center app or by following these links:

My Bible



1st Communion



NERF BATTLE



Dudes (5 and up), you're invited to an epic showdown! Bring your partner and NERF gun and we will provide the ammo and safety gear! We will have target practice, capture the flag, zombie freeze and prizes and treats. The battle will take place on Saturday, **March 14th** from 1-3 p.m. in the FLC. Watch for registration info coming soon.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre-K through 5th groups meet upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6th-8th in the Youth Room!

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.

FRIENDS AND MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

FAM meets on Wednesday evenings from 6-8.

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H)

Our H2H (Confirmation) program for 6th-8th graders runs on Wednesdays evenings from 6-8.

MAFIA NIGHTS

6th-12th graders - mark your calendar for our next MAFIA NIGHT! Friday, **February 27th** from 6:30-10 p.m. Bring \$5 if you'd like to join us for pizza! Invite friends!

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

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.

Altar flower sponsors: Please return the red tumbler cups to the church office as we have a limited supply and must give them back to our florist for reuse.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, January 25

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
12 p.m. Annual Meeting
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, January 26

n/a

TUESDAY, January 27

9 a.m. Stay-N-Play
9 a.m. Memory Bears

WEDNESDAY, January 28

1 p.m. Women's Bible Study
6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

THURSDAY, January 29

9 a.m. Faith & Body Challenge
10:15 a.m. Prayer Team
12 p.m. Staff Meeting
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, January 30

n/a

SATURDAY, January 31

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY, February 1

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

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 98
10:45: 83
K-5th: needed
6th-8th: needed
High School: 3
Ignite: 0
Insight: 22
Online: 26

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068
Giving Received: \$634,997
Actual Expenses: \$574,757

2026 Giving Received
on 01/18: \$16,496

YTD Giving Received: \$33,822

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is,
there your heart will also be.

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



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