

MESSIAH MESSENGER

September 2025

From the desk of

FAITH & GIFT CARDS



Pastor Kurt Hoover

I have asked for some wild things of church members before but I have never, nor will I ever, ask you for gift card serial numbers.

In Iowa we had a laborer who had been working on the roof die of a heart attack. At one point, four of us staff members climbed the ladder onto the roof. We brought the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and watched helplessly as the shocks did nothing.

Later, I was caring for this man's widow who had driven from two towns over to the hospital. I asked if there was anything we could do. One of her concerns was that she had not taken any time to stop for gas and her tank was way past "E."

At that time I called a church member directly and asked them to bring a can of gas to the hospital and put it in the orange Camaro parked across from the front door. When my faithful parishioner arrived, I was busy talking to another family member in front of the hospital and all I could do was give my guy a thumbs up as he took the liberty to crawl into this lady's car to pop the gas lid.

It was a bonding experience as we both took risks to help someone in need. I believe this is the same reason churches are targeted for gift card fraud. It is an honor to be asked a favor directly by your pastor. It is fulfilling when the act of service is something you can do. The email requests slowly invest you into the process, one step at a time, until you make the big sacrifice with the promise of repayment.

If you were duped by the bandits in our recent targeting, do not feel bad. They know what they are doing and have honed their skills for many years. They are the enemies that Jesus has commanded us to love.

And here is the irony: This attack unintentionally reconnected us with some of our members who had lost their church connection or ability to worship. What others meant for evil, God was still able to use for good.

The Real,

pastor.hoover@mlcjoliet.org

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

8:30 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:30 A.M. EDUCATION HOUR (OPTIONS FOR ALL AGES!)

10:30 A.M. FAMILY PRAISE & WORSHIP



On Wednesday, August 20th, a fraudulent source obtained our church directory. Members began receiving phishing emails from an imposter posing as Pastor Kurt. The imposter ultimately requested the purchase of gift cards.

Due to this breach, please be aware that all emails from Pastor Kurt will originate from pastor.hoover@mlcjoliet.org only. No other email domains will be used other than "@mlcjoliet.org". If there is ever any question about the legitimacy of communication claiming to be from Messiah, please call the church office.

We would like to remind everyone that Pastor Kurt (or any representative of the church) **will not for any reason** ask for any type of monetary consideration via email or text message.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

Our Ministry partner, Living Alternatives, is celebrating their 40th year of ministry in 2025! They're planning a celebration during their annual banquet on October 16th. The event will take place at 7 p.m. at the Bolingbrook Golf Club, welcoming special guests The Rhythm Makers Orchestra! Rhythm Makers will take us back in time to classics from the 1920s, 30s and 40s, including some Gospel music with a distinctive 40s twist!

*Happy
40th!*

Messiah will have a reserved table at the event. Please contact me if you are interested in attending.

With God's Grace,

- *Gerry Boe*, Stewardship Director, stewardship@mlcjoliet.org



PARISH FELLOWSHIP

The Rally Day picnic was well attended and everyone was pleased with everything! A special thank you to Izak Richmond for grilling the hot dogs, and also to the wonderful PF team who helped set up, serve, clean up, and provide desserts. Thanks to a brilliant idea from Pat Anderson, we filled the ice cream cups ahead of time... Guests simply needed to grab a cup and add toppings!

Larry & Marcy Vickers have agreed to host Wednesday Night Dinners once a month, beginning October 1st. They will take place on the first Wednesday each month at 5:30 p.m. It is important that you sign up in the Narthex so we have a headcount for food planning. There will be a free will offering. Thank you to Marcy & Larry!

God's blessings to you all!

- *Terry Anzalone*, Parish Fellowship Director, 815-531-9781,
parishfellowship@mlcjoliet.org



**ON SEPTEMBER 28TH, MESSIAH WILL WELCOME SPECIAL GUEST
KATHERINE WHITE OF INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

Katherine (White) Perez Gomez is a Campus Staff Minister for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Joliet Junior College. Born and raised in a Christian home in Morris, IL, and a recent JJC alumnus, she has grown in love for JJC's campus and has felt a burden to see God's light and life transform lives there. Katherine is currently raising support to minister on campus full time and is excited to witness more moves of God as she continues to meet students, strengthen leaders and invite them all into a closer relationship with God. She currently lives in Morris with her husband, Luis, and loves making food for her loved ones, and connecting with God in nature.



Katherine will deliver Temple Talks at both services on 09/28 and will speak during Education Hour. Join us and learn more about InterVarsity and their vital presence on hundreds of college campuses, courageously proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior, engaging in discipleship around Scripture, and loving people of every ethnicity and culture!

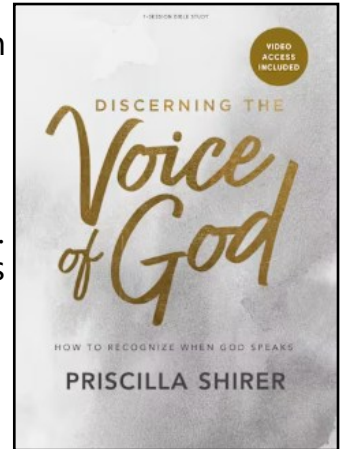
FOR THE LADIES OF MESSIAH

BIBLE STUDY - New session 09/10!

We have exciting news! We'll begin our 7-week fall session on **September 10th**, and are adding an afternoon option!

NEW! ---> Wednesday **afternoons** from 1-2:30
---> Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8

We'll be studying "Discerning the Voice of God," by Priscilla Shirer. Books will be available for \$8. Please reach out to Sherri Unyi. As always, we will meet in our cozy Fireside Room!



BREAKFAST RETREAT



Please RSVP to Sherri in the church office, or pick up your tickets in the Narthex on Sunday mornings through September 14th!

CHRISTMAS TEA

Ladies - Mark your calendar for our Christmas Tea on Saturday, **December 13th** from 1-3 p.m. Details to follow.



JOLET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN

You and your friends are invited to Joliet Christian Women's upcoming luncheon in Messiah's Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, **September 17th**, 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$20.00 includes a catered lunch. They'll welcome speaker Sue McConaughy of Dixon, IL to share her story of being abandoned at birth and how it changed her life. Lightways Hospice & Illness Care will be sharing how their compassionate approach supports patients and families with dignity and peace.

RSVP by Sept. 10th 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!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir will resume in October. Details to follow.



J-CHURCH

J-Church resumes on Sunday, **September 21st** at 10:30 in the FLC! We'll continue meeting the 3rd Sunday of every month (except December).



MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW is Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. beginning **September 10th**. For more info, contact Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com or (815) 735-7897.

Register here:



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre-K through 5th grade groups meet at 9:30 upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6th-8th in the Youth Room!

Register here:



Would you please consider donating any of the following items to our Kidz Club Sunday School? Items may be left in the food pantry collection bin in the Narthex, clearly marked for "Sunday School." Thank you, in advance!

Paper Towels	Facial Tissue	Hand Sanitizer
Clorox Wipes	Dixie Cups	Invisible Tape
Pretzels	Play-Doh	Goldfish Crackers
5" Blunt-tip Scissors		Dry Erase Cleaner

VBS 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for **Emerald Crossing VBS: June 22-26, 2026**

*...an Irish adventure through Psalm 23,
providing hope to an anxious generation.*



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–12th GRADE)

BIBLE STUDY EDUCATION HOUR (SUNDAY MORNINGS)

- 6th–8th grade Sunday Bible Study meets in the Youth Room at 9:30 Sunday mornings!
- Bible Study for high schoolers kicks off in October in classroom #101 (date to follow).

FRIENDS AND MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

We kick off our fall season on Wednesday, **September 3rd** from 6–8 p.m.! FAM will be led by Kate Richmond during Kersten's time away.



HEAD 2 HEART

Our H2H (Confirmation) program for 6th–8th graders begins this week!

- > Program kickoff, **September 3rd**
- > Parents' Night, September 10th

H2H runs Wednesdays from 6–8 p.m., and will be lead by Mike Brown during Kersten's time away.

MAFIA NIGHTS ARE BACK! Mark your calendar!

What? Capture the Flag/Tag in the Dark
with colored lights and strobes!

When? Fridays, 6–10 p.m.
→ **October 10th**
→ **November 14th**

Who? 6th–12th graders - Bring friends!

Cost? \$5 per person for pizza



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

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings at 9:30! We've just started a short unit on some of Christ's harder to interpret parables, ending on a sermon from Charles Stanley on obedience.

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

A yellow sign for Daybreak Shelter. On the left is a photo of hands serving food from a large pot. To the right of the photo, the text reads: "Can you spare 1-1/2 hours once a month to prepare, serve or donate at Daybreak Shelter? 2nd Monday 5:30 -7pm". The top left of the sign features the "Life Groups" logo with the tagline "Love. Serve. Share." and the text "Daybreak Shelter" in a large, bold, black font.

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, **September 8th**.

FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS - Resumes September 4th!

Lace up your shoes and enjoy a walk in the Family Life Center, weekly on Thursdays (Sept-May) beginning **September 4th** from 9-10 a.m. Everyone walks at their own pace and it's a great time for fellowship.

LIL LOVES MINISTRY - Proudly going on our 5th anniversary!

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 may 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 many, many families in need with care packages 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 Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center at 903 Infantry Dr., Ste. 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.



MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)

Our Men's Bible Study is currently on break. Info to follow soon.

MICRO PANTRY



Did you know that Messiah has TWO food pantries? Our indoor micro pantry is in the hallway across from the offices and our outdoor "**Blessing Box**" is on the sidewalk right outside the office! 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.**

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. We look forward to welcoming you back on **September 9th**! You all have a lot of catching up to do since we last met in May, so there will not be a speaker this month. We do need a headcount so please sign up in the Narthex and also let us know what finger-food, appetizer, salad or dessert you will bring to share!

Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors

OWLS

returns on

Tuesday, September 9th!

Sign up in the Narthex to let us know
a headcount and what finger-food,
appetizer, salad or dessert you will bring!



PRAY JOLIET

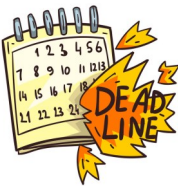
Pray Joliet's Fall Ingathering is next Sunday, **September 7th** from 6-8 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church, 18101 W. Oak Ave in Lockport. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Big parking lot. Lots of friendly folks to welcome you. Come and let's pray together!

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

Meets next on **September 16th**! *See pages 13-14 for more info!*

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 is our **FREE** weekly play group that opens our gym for kids five and under along with their parent/guardian. It meets Tuesday mornings (September-May) in the FLC from 9:30-11! We resume on **September 9th**! Also, please like our Facebook page (MLC Stay-n-Play Playgroup) for additional information and share with your friends and neighbors!

Stay-N-Play is in need of two additional welcome hosts. Contact Sherri Unyi if you are available to help set up toys, make coffee, greet our guests and answer questions. Guests are required to supervise their own children.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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





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



Missing your sunglasses?



Found: One pair of valuable, high-end sunglasses. Call Vicki in the front office to claim them.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS!



- 3 - Bob & Carol Zirzow
- 4 - Stan & Mary Etta Buhr
- 7 - Fred & Pat Hibbert
- 17 - Bob & Gayle Arko
- 23 - Gene & Debby Gruber
- 26 - Phil & Chris Pribnow
- 28 - Herb & Linda Hallberg



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Brian Werner | 19 - Eric Boe |
| 2 - Carol Gordon | Jim Umbaugh |
| 3 - Fae Damon | 20 - Hazel Erzinger |
| 4 - Aimee Gipes | 21 - Pat Boe |
| 6 - Beverly Allbert | 22 - Kari Liberty |
| 7 - Madison Collins | 24 - Lisa Boe |
| Sara Johnke | Arnitta Eldred |
| 9 - Patti Ally | 26 - Luke Fiday |
| 10 - Nora Burke | Casey Moauro |
| 12 - Elaine McGrath | 27 - Tom Michalski |
| 13 - Craig Stone | 28 - Ethan Boe |
| 17 - Linda Zoellick | Jada Kittler |
| | Kathy Olalde |



SEPTEMBER SERVERS

Counters

09/07/25 Judy Fowler, Zach Hoelscher
09/14/25 Ken Skinner, Dan Stukel
09/21/25 Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer
09/28/25 Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock

Ushers 8:30

09/07/25 Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel
09/14/25 Bill Unyi, Alan Costello
09/21/25 Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller
09/28/25 Craig Stone, Paul Allen

Ushers 10:30

09/07/25 Gary Phillips, Josh Johnke
09/14/25 Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer
09/21/25 Darryl Hoelscher, Josh Johnke
09/28/25 Darryl Hoelscher, Gary Phillips

Communion Assistants 8:30

09/07/25 Lynn Bond, Cindi Souza,
Doug Potts
09/14/25 Tom & Lynn Bond,
Rowan Hedden
09/21/25 Cindi Souza, Bev Korby,
Doug Potts
09/28/25 Bev, Korby, Paul Allen,
one needed

Communion Assistants 10:30

09/07/25 Terry Anzalone,
Darryl Hoelscher, one needed
09/21/25 Terry Anzalone, two needed

Readers 8:30

09/07/25 Angie Mitchka
09/14/25 Paul Allen
09/21/25 needed
08/31/25 Angie Mitchka

Readers 10:30

09/07/25 needed
09/14/25 needed
09/21/25 Tom Bond
09/28/25 Donna Stier

Greeters 8:30

09/07/25 Beth Hohisel, one needed
09/14/25 Gerry & Pat Boe
09/21/25 Bev Korby, one needed
09/28/25 Kirk Brandmire, one needed

Greeters 10:30

09/07/25 Lynn Tapella, Cindi Souza
09/14/25 Lynn Bond, one needed
09/21/25 Darryl & Cindi Souza
09/28/25 Donna Stier, one needed

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!



Education HOUR

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD
Growing in Faith Together

Sunday mornings at 9:30

Bible Study & Sunday School options for ALL AGES!

K-5th grades in the Kidz Club...

6th-8th grades in the Youth Room...

High school kicks off in October...

Adult Insight in Fellowship Hall...

Prayer Station (new!) with interactive tools for individuals,
prayer partners, or small groups.








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





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

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

40 Houbolt Rd.
 Joliet, IL 60431
 (815) 741-4488
info@mlcjoliet.org

MESSIAH QUILTERS

The next Messiah Quilting Day will be on **September 16th** from 9 am – 2 pm. 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, 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.

Mark your calendars for **Quilt Sunday, October 5th**. All our quilts will be displayed on the pews in the Sanctuary and are an awesome sight. We will have some quilts for sale in the Narthex after each service and a door offering to help defray the cost of the batting and shipping of the quilts. You can even pick your favorite quilt off the pews to purchase that day!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

This year, Lutheran World Relief celebrates their 80th anniversary. While the world has changed and evolved, their core mission has remained the same through all those

years. LWR dutifully loves their neighbors, wherever they are, and stays with them for as long as needed. This was the driving force that started LWR in 1945, when neighbors across the globe needed love and support after WWII. Lutherans banded together and were some of the first to arrive and last to leave—walking alongside their neighbors until they walked on their own. Thank you for your support and commitment to this loving legacy of helping God's children in need—no matter how far or how long it takes.

LWR efforts this year included sending quilts and kits to Mali and Lebanon, for the children and families fleeing their homes from violence and rebuilding at displacement camps. Quilts were also sent for those affected by wildfires and floods here in the United States.

Our quilting ministry here at Messiah began over 30 years ago. Through the years we have met monthly and made over 2,700 quilts that have been sent to LWR and around the world. Our group of 10-15 volunteers faithfully attend on the third Tuesday of each month to prepare the fabric, sew the tops together, sandwich the top, batting and bottom together, tie and sew the bindings to complete each quilt.

continued...

We also assemble sewing kits for LWR consisting of three yards of fabric, needles, buttons and thread. They are used in vocational training programs to teach young woman and men sewing skills that they can use to earn an income.

THANK YOU to everyone that supports our quilting mission with time, donations and prayers!

Contact Kathy Mueller (815-953-6601) at scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **September 16th**.



Quilt Sunday
at Messiah is
October 5th,
2025!



Messiah
Quilters at
work!

