

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Family Praise & Worship
December 14, 2025
10:30 a.m.



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Pastor Emeritus David Nygard
Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

815.741.4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

WORSHIP TODAY

Call To Worship

Welcome

Worship Through Songs

Worship Through Giving

Children's Message

Leslie McFarland

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

Message

"Surprised By Joy"

Pastor David Nygard

(Copies of this sermon and others can be found in the Narthex.)

Worship Through Song

Prayers of Intercession

Worship Through The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Worship Through Proclaiming Our Faith

Announcements

Closing Song

GOSPEL LESSON, Luke 2:8-20 (NIV)

Reader: Molly Hoover

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING ADVENT

Join us for mid-week worship on Wednesday evenings during Advent:
December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 7 p.m.

LCMC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Please help yourself to a special Advent Devotional, courtesy of LCMC!
Copies are available in the Narthex. If you prefer a digital copy,
please reach out to Vicki in the office.



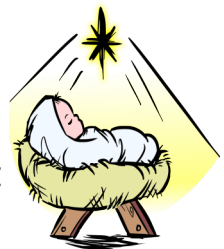
MESSIAH KIDS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We invite you to come to our Children's Christmas Program
on December 21st at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us at 5, 7 and 11 p.m. for Christmas Eve worship.

GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS is a tradition here for children on Christmas Eve! We invite children to bring gifts for baby Jesus to our 5:00 or 7:00 p.m. services. These gifts are items needed by newborn children and new mothers: diapers, clothing, blankets, etc. Please identify on the wrapped package what each item is, the sizes and who it is for. These gifts will reach the community through our Lil Loves ministry and Living Alternatives. Thank you for your willingness to give!



BAPTISM SUNDAY



Mark your calendar - Baptism Sunday on **January 18, 2026**. This will be an opportunity to be baptized, or to reaffirm the promise made to you in your own baptism... an opportunity to invite family and friends to place that promise upon their children, as well. Please see Pastor Kurt if you or a family member would like to be baptized.

Messiah Kids Christmas Program



December 21st at 9:45
in the Sanctuary,
during Education Hour

We invite you to come watch our Christmas Pageant this holiday season,
with songs we all know and a beautiful story told by our students!

Participating students, please attend the dress rehearsal
from noon-2 p.m. on Saturday, December 20th.



Christmas Eve Worship

5:00, 7:00, and 11:00 p.m.

**Just a reminder that 2025 year-end gifts will need to be received
in the church office by noon on December 31st.**

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings at 9:30! Our current series focuses on reading through the New Testament. We'll go from Matthew to Revelation in three months!

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 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. **Memory Bears does not meet in December.** Our next meeting is January 27, 2026. 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 **January 13th**.



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. Questions may be directed to Pat Burke, Pat Buchenau, or Lisa Winters.

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.

Rejoice

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

The next Messiah Quilting Day (3rd Tuesday each month) will be on December 16th 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 **December 16th**!

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

Women's Bible Study will resume in January! Watch for details!

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 at 9:30.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will perform during the 10:30 service on January 25, February 22, March 22, and April 26. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

J-CHURCH

J-Church is the third Sunday of every month (except December) at 10:30 in the FLC.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club! On **December 17th** we will have a **Share Celebration!**

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.

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



PODCAST

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.

AVAILABLE ON BOTH AUDACY & SPOTIFY
(MLC JOLIET)

Audacy: 

Spotify: 

My heart is full with love and gratitude for everyone who made my concert day so special. Each of you who joined in whether in person or online added pure joy to the day. I was touched by the beautiful gifts that were unexpected but very much appreciated. A special thanks to the women's ministry for their help in making everyone feel so welcome. Thanks to Pastor Kurt for his support and to everyone who joined in to make the day successful. I truly couldn't have done it without you. Much love for a wonderful Christmas -- Love Rose Ann

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.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

SUNDAY (December 14)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (streamed)
with Choir Cantata
9:30 a.m. Education Hour
10:30 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY (December 15)

TUESDAY (December 16)

9 a.m. Quilters
9:30 a.m. Stay-N-Play

WEDNESDAY (December 17)

6 p.m. H2H, FAM, MKW
7 p.m. Advent Worship

THURSDAY (December 18)

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

FRIDAY (December 19)

SATURDAY (December 20)

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY (December 21)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (streamed)
9:45 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
10:30 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

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



ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30 a.m.: 100
10:30 a.m.: 73
Insight: 28
Ignite: 2
HS: 4
K-5th: 8
6th-8th: 9
Online: 17

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068
YTD Operating Budget: \$640,833
YTD Giving Received: \$564,015
Average Weekly Need: \$13,078
Received Last Week: \$11,907

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Ephesians 5:20

Always give thanks to God the Father
for everything, in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ.