



Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026
8:30 a.m.

IN HIM
WE LIVE
& MOVE
HAVE OUR BEING
ACTS 17:28

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

April 19, 2026

8:30 a.m.

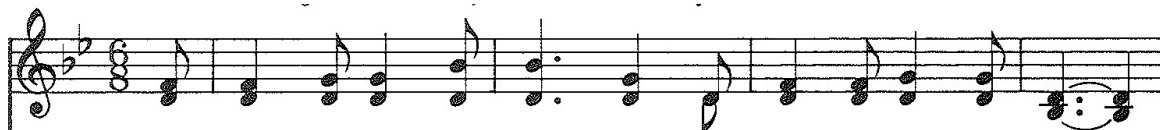
Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"He Lives," #220 v. 1-2



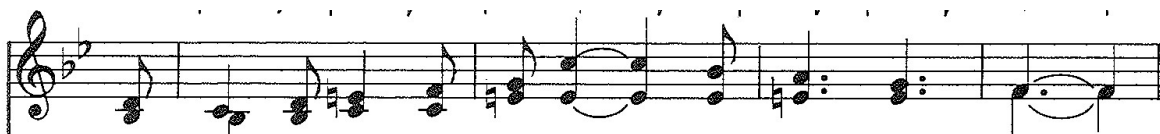
1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day;
2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care,
3. Re - joice, re-joice, O Christ - ian, lift up your voice and sing



I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er men may say;
And tho' my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
E - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!



I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer,
I know that He is lead - ing thro' all the storm - y blast,
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,



And just the time I need Him He's al - ways near.
The day of His ap - pear - ing will come at last.
None oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.



He lives, He lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day! He walks with me and
He lives, He lives.



talks with me a - long life's nar - row way. He lives, He lives, sal -
He lives, He lives,



va - tion to im - part! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with - in my heart.

LITANY BASED ON PSALM 33

Leader: Let all the earth fear the Lord;
All: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!
Leader: For He spoke, and it came to be;
All: He commanded, and it stood firm.
Leader: The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
All: the plans of His heart to all generations.
Leader: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
All: the people whom He has chosen as His heritage!
Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACCALAUREATE TEMPLE TALK

Beth Hohisel

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM

"At the Cross," arr. Mary McDonald,
led by Herb Alexander

HYMN OF PRAISE

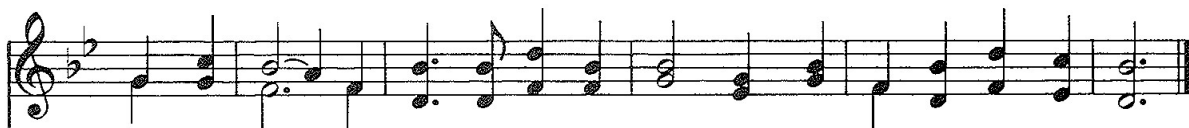
"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," #477 v. 1-3



- > 1. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross, Lift high His roy - al
- > 2. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, The trum - pet call o - bey; Forth to the might - y
- 3. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Stand in His strength a - lone; The arm of flesh will
- 4. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, The strife will not be long; This day the noise of



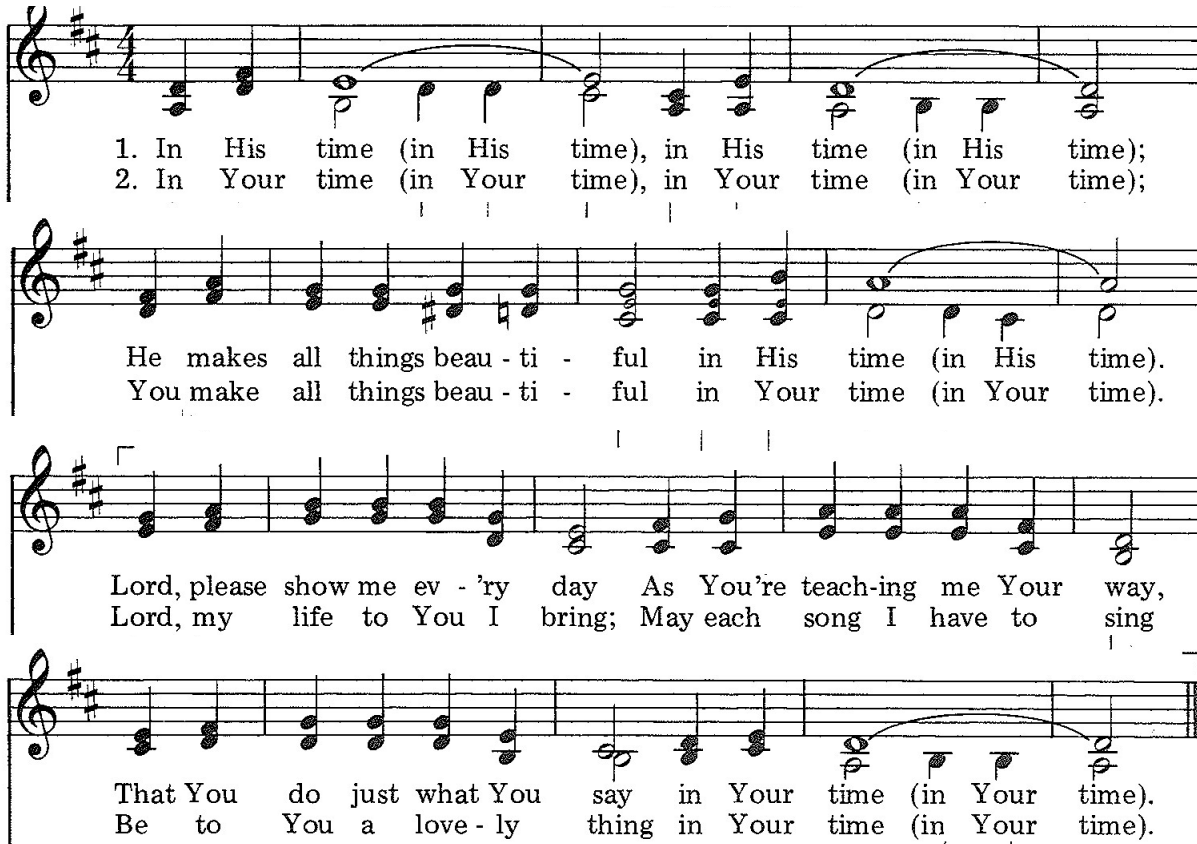
ban - ner, It must not suf - fer loss; From vic - tory un - to vic - tory His ar - my
con - flict In this His glo - rious day, Ye that are men, now serve Him A - gainst un -
fail you—Ye dare not trust your own; Put on the gos - pel ar - mor, Each piece put
bat - tle, The next, the vic - tor's song; To him who o - ver - com - eth A crown of



shall He lead, Till ev - ery foe is van - quished And Christ is Lord in - deed.
num - bered foes; Let cour - age rise with dan - ger, And strength to strength oppose.
on with prayer; Where du - ty calls, or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
life shall be; He with the King of glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"In His Time," #465 v. 1-2



1. In His time (in His time), in His time (in His time);
2. In Your time (in Your time), in Your time (in Your time);

He makes all things beau - ti - ful in His time (in His time).
You make all things beau - ti - ful in Your time (in Your time).

Lord, please show me ev - 'ry day As You're teach - ing me Your way,
Lord, my life to You I bring; May each song I have to sing

That You do just what You say in Your time (in Your time).
Be to You a love - ly thing in Your time (in Your time).

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

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, Galatians 2:17-21 (ESV)

Reader: Paul Allen

¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

SECOND LESSON, Acts 17:22-32 (ESV)



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."

²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

"The Church in Galatia"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

HYMN

"He Leadeth Me," #461 v. 1-3

- 1. He lead - eth me! O bless-ed thought! O words with heav'n-ly comfort fraught!
 2. Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, Nor ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine,
 3. And when my task on earth is done, When, by Thy grace, the vic-t'ry's won,

What - e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me!
 Con - tent, what-ev - er lot I see, Since 'tis Thy hand that lead - eth me!
 E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since God thru Jor - dan lead - eth me!

Refrain

He lead - eth me, He lead - eth me, By His own hand He lead - eth me:

His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, For by His hand He lead - eth me.

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, Bev Korby, Joy McClintock

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

"Gentle Shepherd," #458 (2X)

Gen - tle Shep-herd, come and lead us, For we need You to
 help us find our way. Gen-tle Shep-herd, come and feed us,
 For we need Your strength from day to day. There's no oth - er
 we can turn to Who can help us face an-oth - er day; Gen-tle
 Shep-herd, come and lead us, For we need You to help us find our way.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Because He Lives," #213

1. God sent His Son, they called Him Je - sus, He came to love,
 2. How sweet to hold a new-born ba - by, And feel the pride,
 3. And then one day I'll cross the riv - er, I'll fight life's fi -
 heal, and for - give; He lived and died to buy my
 and joy he gives; But great - er still the calm as -
 - nal war with pain; And then as death gives way to
 par - don, An emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives.
 sur - ance, This child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause He lives.
 vic - tory, I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know He lives.

Refrain

Be - cause He lives I can face to - mor - row, Be-cause He
 lives all fear is gone; Be-cause I know
 He holds the fu - ture. And life is worth the liv-ing just be-cause He
 lives. lives. Be - cause He lives

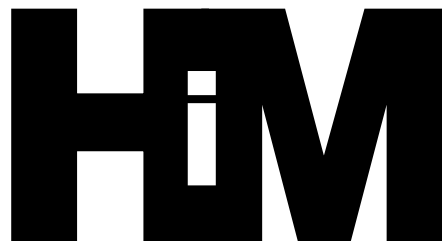
1,2 *D.C.* 3 *Optional repeat of last Refrain*

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

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is," #468 v. 1-5



1. The King of love my Shep-herd is, Whose good-ness fail - eth nev - er; I
2. Where streams of liv-ing wa - ter flow My ran-somed soul He lead - eth, And
3. Per-verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me, And
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, be-side me; Thy
5. And so thru all the length of days Thy good-ness fail - eth nev - er: Good



noth - ing lack if I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
where the ver - dant pas-tures grow With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
on His shoul - der gen - tly laid, And home re-joic - ing bro't me.
rod and staff my com-fort still, Thy cross be-fore to guide me.
Shep-herd, may I sing Thy praise With - in Thy house for - ev - er. A - men.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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VISITING THE CHURCHES
THROUGH

*The Letters
from Paul*

THE CONCLUSION OF ACTS

7-Week Sermon Series: April 12 - Pentecost

- Paul's conversion & first missionary journey
- Letters to the churches in...
 - ... Philippi
 - ... Thessalonica
 - ... Corinth
 - ... Ephesus
 - ... Rome

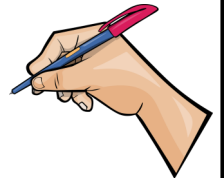
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

—————→ **SAVE THESE DATES FOR 125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!** ←————

Saturday, September 19th - Dinner Banquet (time TBD)
Sunday, September 20th - Reception Celebration between services

HAVE YOU SIGNED YOUR QUILT SQUARE?

As part of our 125th Anniversary Celebration, the Messiah Quilters are assembling a signature quilt. Each family has the opportunity to sign a 4" fabric square with your family members names. These will all then be sewn together to create a wall hanging for our church that will become a wonderful memory of all our families here at Messiah.



If you have not yet signed your square but wish to be included in the signature quilt, please contact me and I can write out your block for you. Final date for blocks is April 30th. Don't be left out! Kathy Mueller, scpbklane@aol.com, 815-953-6601.



PLEASE CHECK OUR LOST & FOUND
located on the coat rack outside the Sanctuary.
There are a number of coats & jackets,
and also a bin of loose items on the shelf above.
Unclaimed items will be donated or discarded
on April 20th.



VBS is June 22-26!

Registration is OPEN!

Calling for VBS volunteers! There will be a **Volunteer Workshop** on **Sunday, June 7th** at 9:40 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Email Stephanie at VBS@mlcjoliet.org.

Register here:



Volunteers are also asked to register!

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings during Education Hour.

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.

Our **online giving app** now offers some new features designed to streamline the process. You will have the option to split your donation between giving funds. It will be easier to donate via ACH (only a flat \$0.30 processing fee per transaction, versus the 2.15% plus \$0.30 for credit cards). Previous donations will be saved, and better security with identity verification. All to make it easier to donate online.

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.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Please join Messiah's new Grief Support Group on the **first Thursday every month** at 1 p.m. in Room 101. This group offers caring and confidential space for those walking through loss. 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. next meeting is **April 28th**. 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 final luncheon until fall is May 12th**. 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.



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 - MAY 5th BONUS DAY!

Messiah Quilters meet the 3rd Tuesday each month 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.

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 **April 21st**! In May, we have added a **bonus day** on Tuesday, May 5th, in addition to our regular quilting day of May 19th!

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!



Bible Study: Our Wednesday afternoon Bible Study began a new six-week session on April 8th from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We're following the book, "How Do You Walk the Walk You Talk," by Kay Arthur. This study of vital passages from Ephesians will help you discover what God says about the lifestyle of a true believer.

Spring Luncheon: Our next luncheon is Sunday, **May 3rd** from noon-2 p.m. and will feature a salad bar, games and prizes! Get your tickets in the Narthex on Sundays, April 19th and 26th. Free will offering will be collected and childcare will be available.

For more info on Messiah Women's Ministries, please reach out to Sherri Unyi.

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 share their final performance for this season during the 10:45 service on Mother's Day, **May 10th**. *(Please note date change from 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 10:45 in the FLC.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW) SUMMER PROGRAM

MKW has ended for the program year. Our **summer MKW kickoff is on June 17th** and runs through July 29th (except during VBS week). We'll meet Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club!

NATIONAL BIBLE BEE

Messiah will once again host the National Bible Bee this summer, **June 10th** through August 12th from 5-6 p.m.! Registration is open at BIBLEBEE.ORG. For more info please reach out to Leslie.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER SCHEDULE

Pre-K through 5th groups meet upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6th-8th in the Youth Room! We'll wrap up our program year on **Field Day, May 17th**! Our summer session will run July 5th through August 16th for k-8th.



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 and will continue year-around.

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.

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, April 19

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

MONDAY, April 20

n/a

TUESDAY, April 21

9 a.m. Quilters, Stay N Play
6:30 p.m. PPC Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 22

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

THURSDAY, April 23

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, April 24

n/a

SATURDAY, April 25

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY, April 26

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: 86
10:45: 73
Online: 23

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$200,296
YTD Giving Received: \$154,465
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$9,515

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

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

