



Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 1, 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

February 1, 2026
8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise," #88 v. 1 -4, LCMS

1 Songs of thank-ful- ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su-preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - themes be to thee ad-dressed,
an - themes be to thee ad-dressed,
an - themes be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

God in flesh made man - i - fest.

THE KYRIE

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All:

Lord, have mer - ey.

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

All:



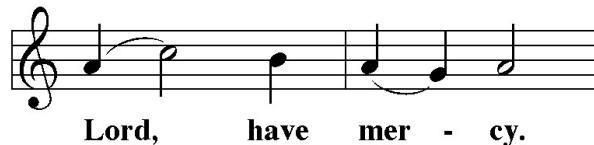
Leader: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All:



Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here
their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

All:



Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All:



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM

"He Leadeth Me," arr. Greg Gilpin,
led by Herb Alexander

CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

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.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SELF-EXAMINATION

Leader: Most merciful God,

All: **We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a believer in Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is the Feast"

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and

strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Leslie McFarland

THE OFFERING

Rose Ann Sochan

OUR RESPONSE

"Let the Vineyards"

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

bless- ing. Gath- er a har- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be

fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

FIRST READING, Acts 5:29-42 (NIV)

Reader: Marcy Vickers

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. ³⁵ Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶ Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷ After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

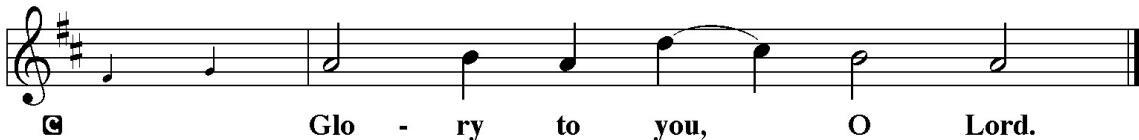
⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

SECOND READING, Acts 11:19-21 (NIV)

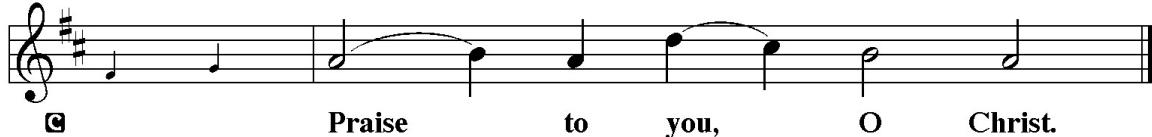
¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

THIRD READING, Acts 12:1-4 (NIV)



¹ It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ² He had James, the brother of John, put to

death with the sword.³ When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.⁴ After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.



MESSAGE

"LEAP: How Does God Move Us?"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

HYMN

"Take My Life and Let It Be," #379 v. 1-2

1. Take my life and let it be Con - se - cra - ted,
 2. Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse
 3. Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly,
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold— Not a mite would

Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days— Let them
 of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and
 for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with
 I with - hold; Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry

flow in cease - less praise, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 beau - ti - ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 mes - sag - es from Thee, Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
 pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And al - so with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is indeed right and salutary...
we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

All: **Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Servers: Nancy Bertnik, Randy Ling, Angie Mitchka

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"



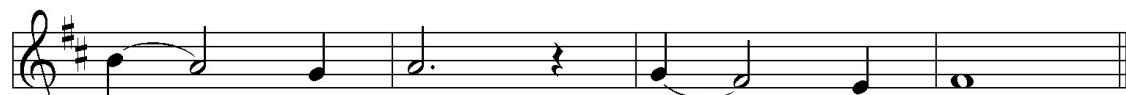
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us.



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 HYMNS

"Near the Cross," #385 v. 1-4
"Whiter Than Snow," #436 v. 1-4



COMMUNION BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION HYMN



Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev- 'ry- one what he has done.



Let ev- 'ry- one who seeks the Lord re - joice and proud- ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision," #382 v. 1-4

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art -
Thou with me, Lord; Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.
 Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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MESSIAH
 LUTHERAN
 CHURCH

WEDNESDAY EVENING

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP

Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 Worship 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 on
 Ash Wednesday, February 18th
 Wednesdays February 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

Easter Sunday
 April 5th, breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m.
 Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

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 **February 24th**. 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.



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! Please note that on March 4th, we'll have Lenten Soup Supper & Worship.



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! RSVP is appreciated to Beth at (815) 735-7897.

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.

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. *Registration will open February 12th.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

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.

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.

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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:



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

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

MONDAY, February 2

n/a

TUESDAY, February 3

9 a.m. Stay-N-Play,
Quilters (bonus day)

WEDNESDAY, February 4

1 p.m. Women's Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Family Dinner & Praise Night
6:30 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

THURSDAY, February 5

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, February 6

n/a

SATURDAY, February 7

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
1 p.m. Women's Bunco

SUNDAY, February 8

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour,
New Member Class
10:45 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: 54
10:45: 60
K-5th: 4
6th-8th: 4
High School: 4
Ignite: 0
Insight: 22
Online: 26

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$53,412
YTD Giving Received: \$42,601
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$6,663

STEWARSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.
And be thankful.

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