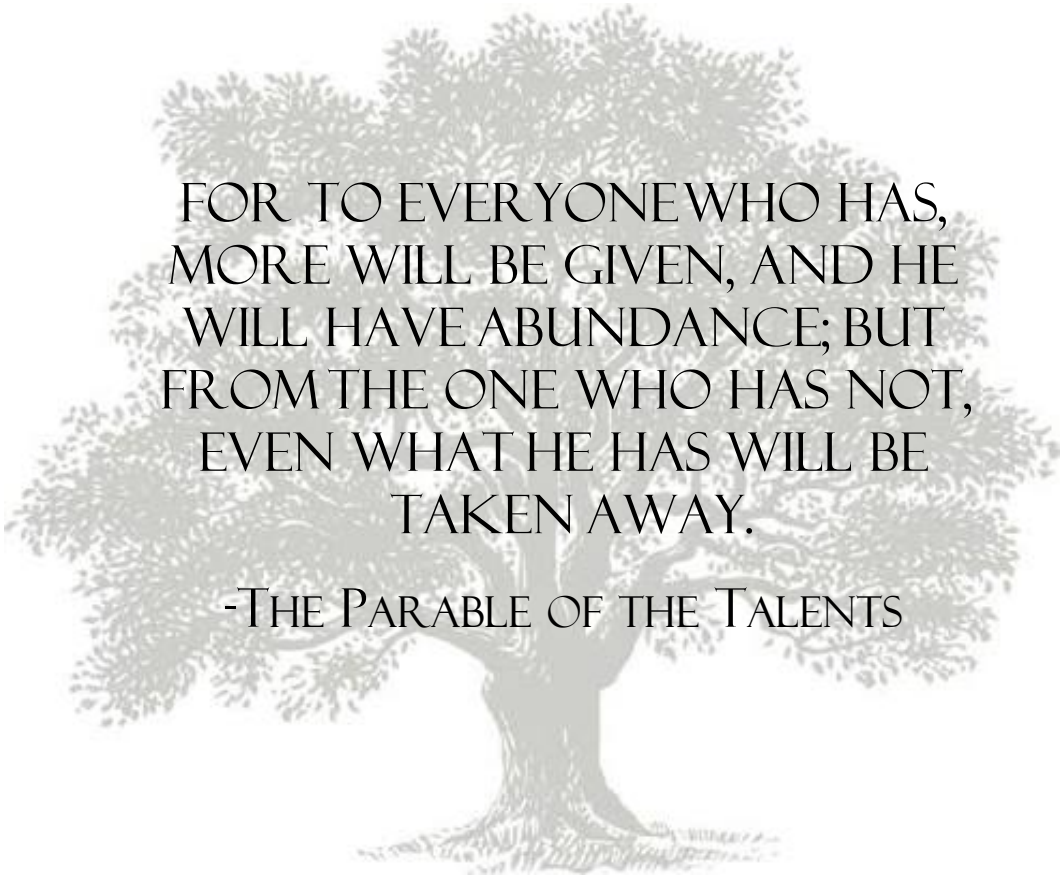
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

November 15, 2026
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 a.m.



FOR TO EVERYONE WHO HAS, MORE WILL BE GIVEN, AND HE WILL HAVE ABUNDANCE; BUT FROM THE ONE WHO HAS NOT, EVEN WHAT HE HAS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY.

-The Parable of the Talents

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

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

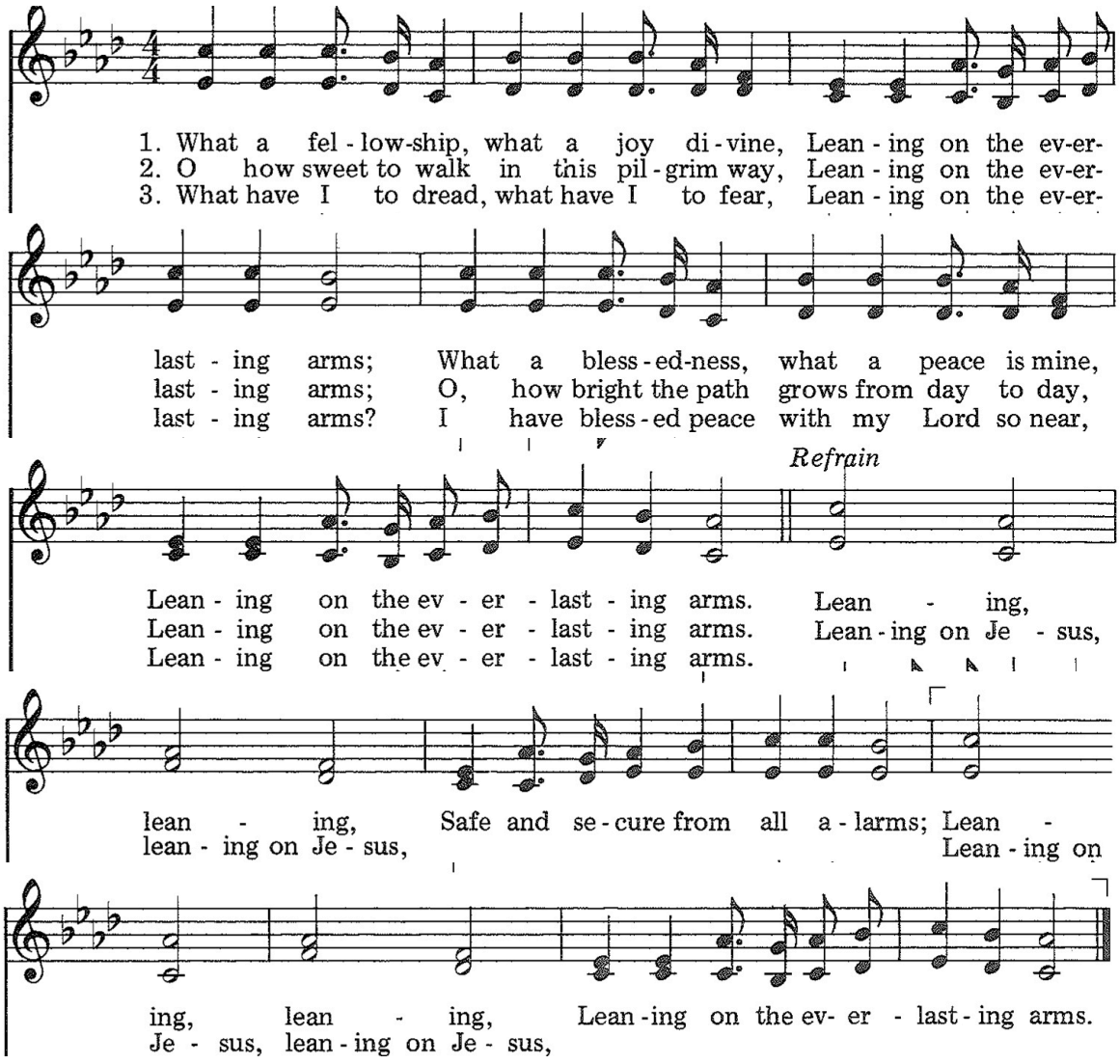
(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church
November 15, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," #354 v. 1-3



KINGDOM LITANY BASED ON PSALM 145

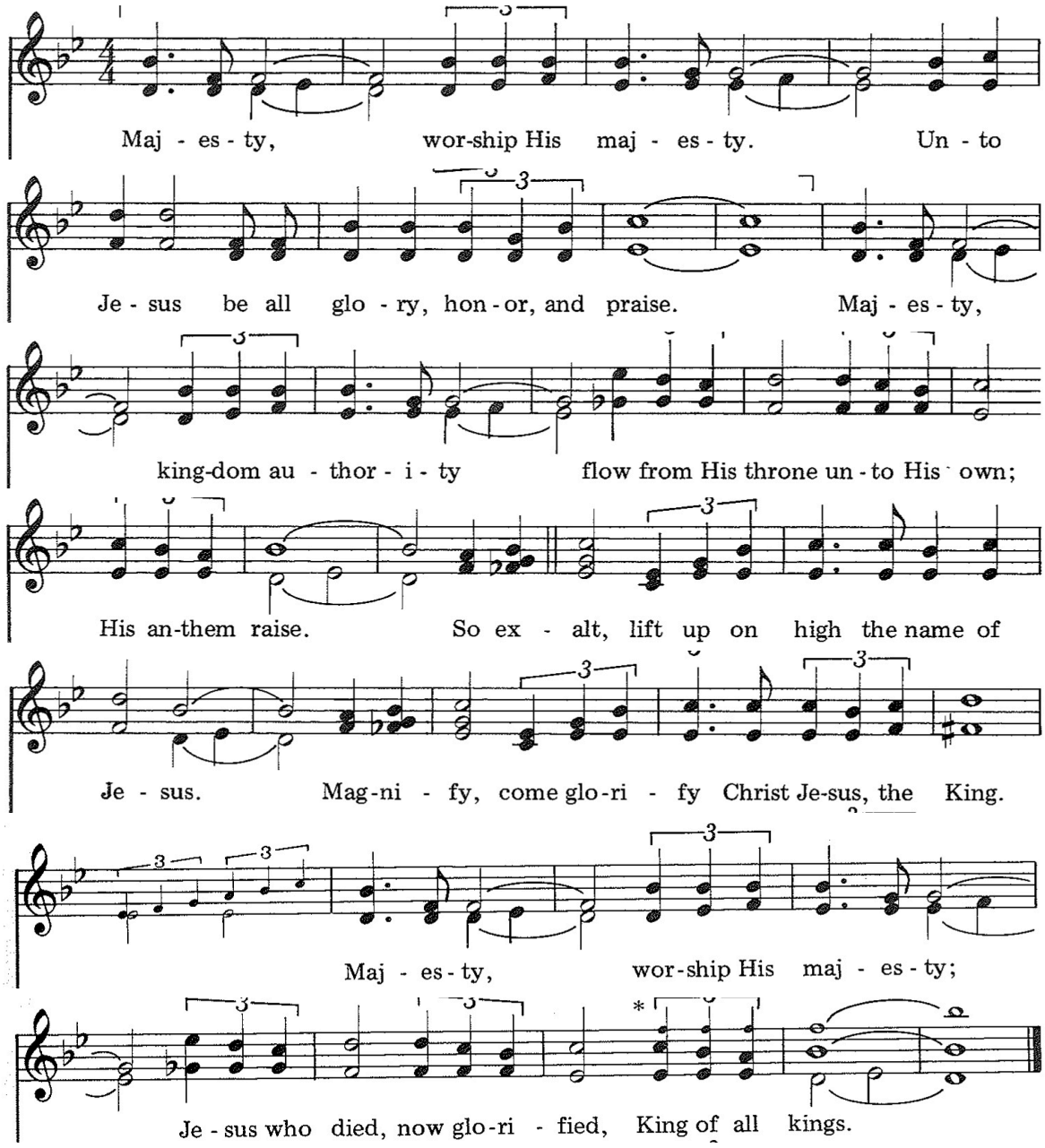
Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
All: and all your saints shall bless you!
Leader: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
All: and tell of your power,
Leader: to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
All: and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
All: and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

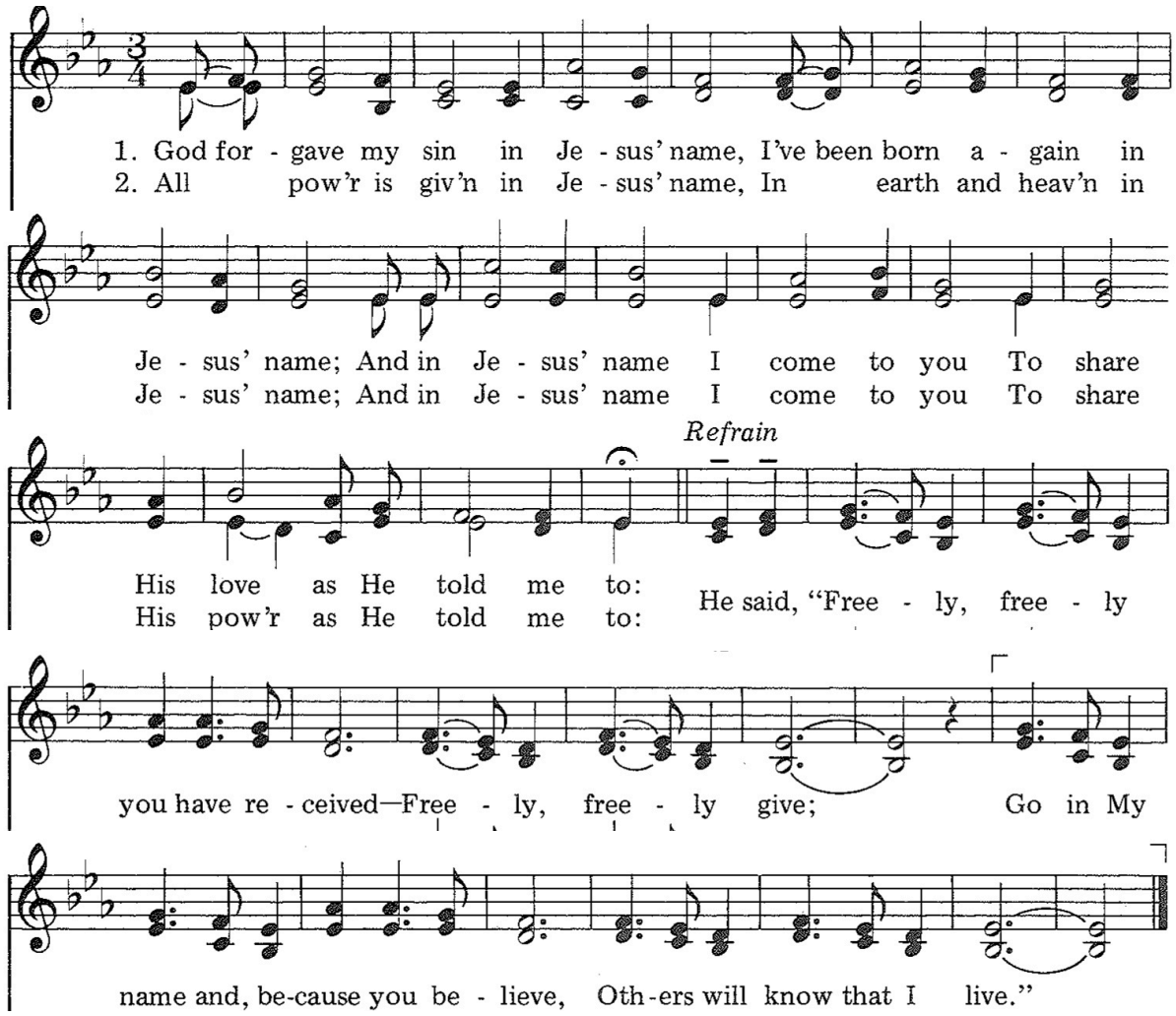
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM "Lord, Make Us Holy and Pure," arr. David Lantz III, led by Herb Alexander

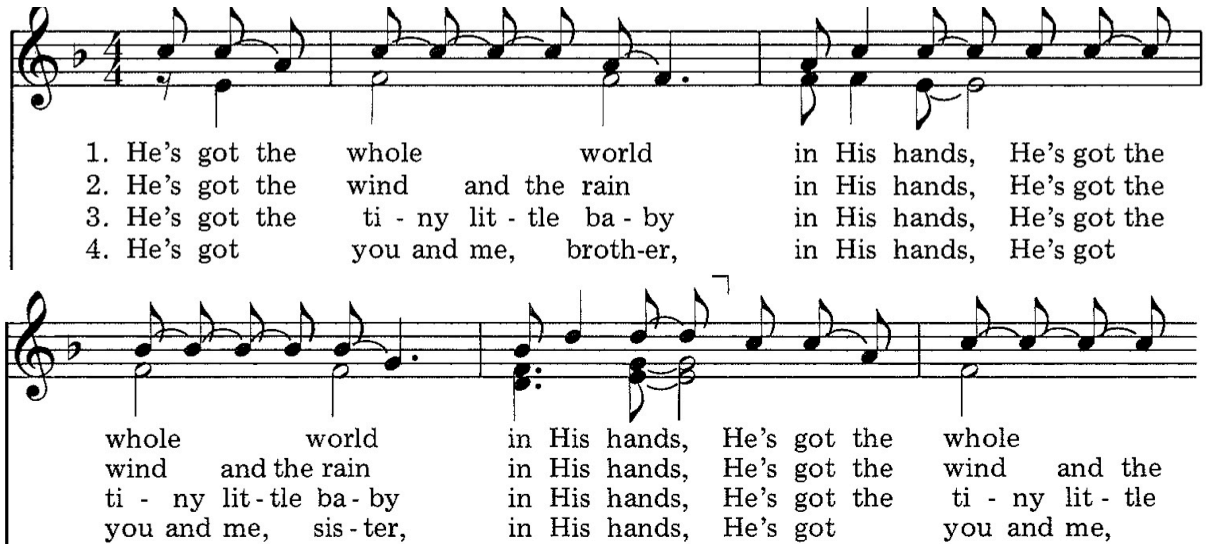
HYMN OF PRAISE "Majesty," #74 (2X)

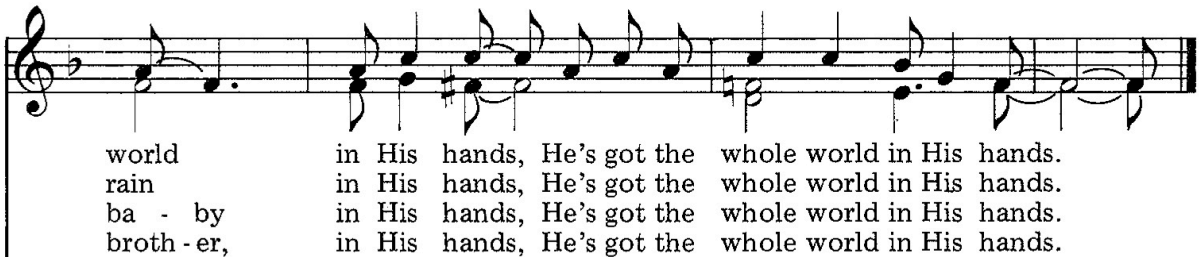


HYMN OF PRAISE "Freely, Freely," #447 v. 1-2



HYMN OF PRAISE "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," #344 v. 1-4





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.

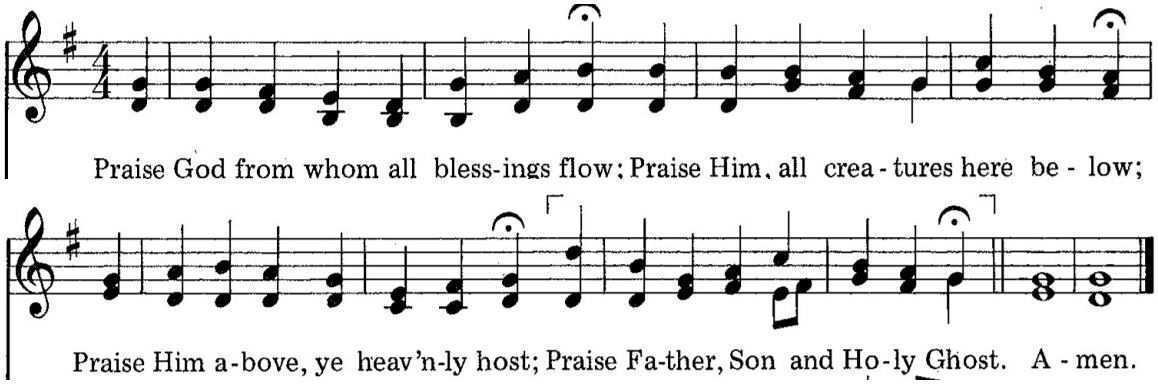
Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Leslie McFarland

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Rose Ann Sochan

RESPONSE Doxology #625

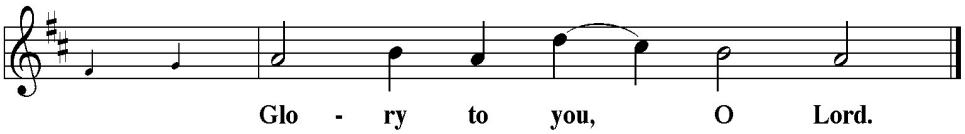


FIRST LESSON, Deuteronomy 16:13-17 (NIV) Reader: Doug Potts

13 Celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the
produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. 14 Be joyful at your
festival—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the
Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns. 15 For
seven days celebrate the festival to the Lord your God at the place the Lord will
choose. For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work
of your hands, and your joy will be complete.

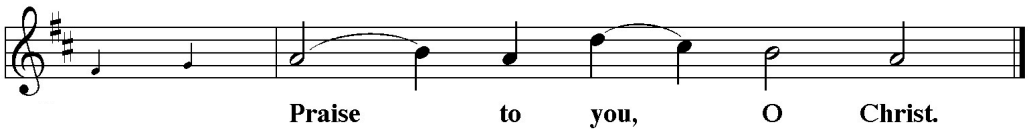
16 Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the
place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks
and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty-
handed: 17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your
God has blessed you.

SECOND LESSON, Matthew 25: 14-30 (ESV)



14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and
entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to
another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had
received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five
talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But
he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his
master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and
settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came
forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five
talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done,
good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over
much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you
delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said
to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I
will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had
received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard
man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,
25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have
what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant!
You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?
27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming
I should have received what was my own with interest.
28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to
everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from
the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the
worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.'

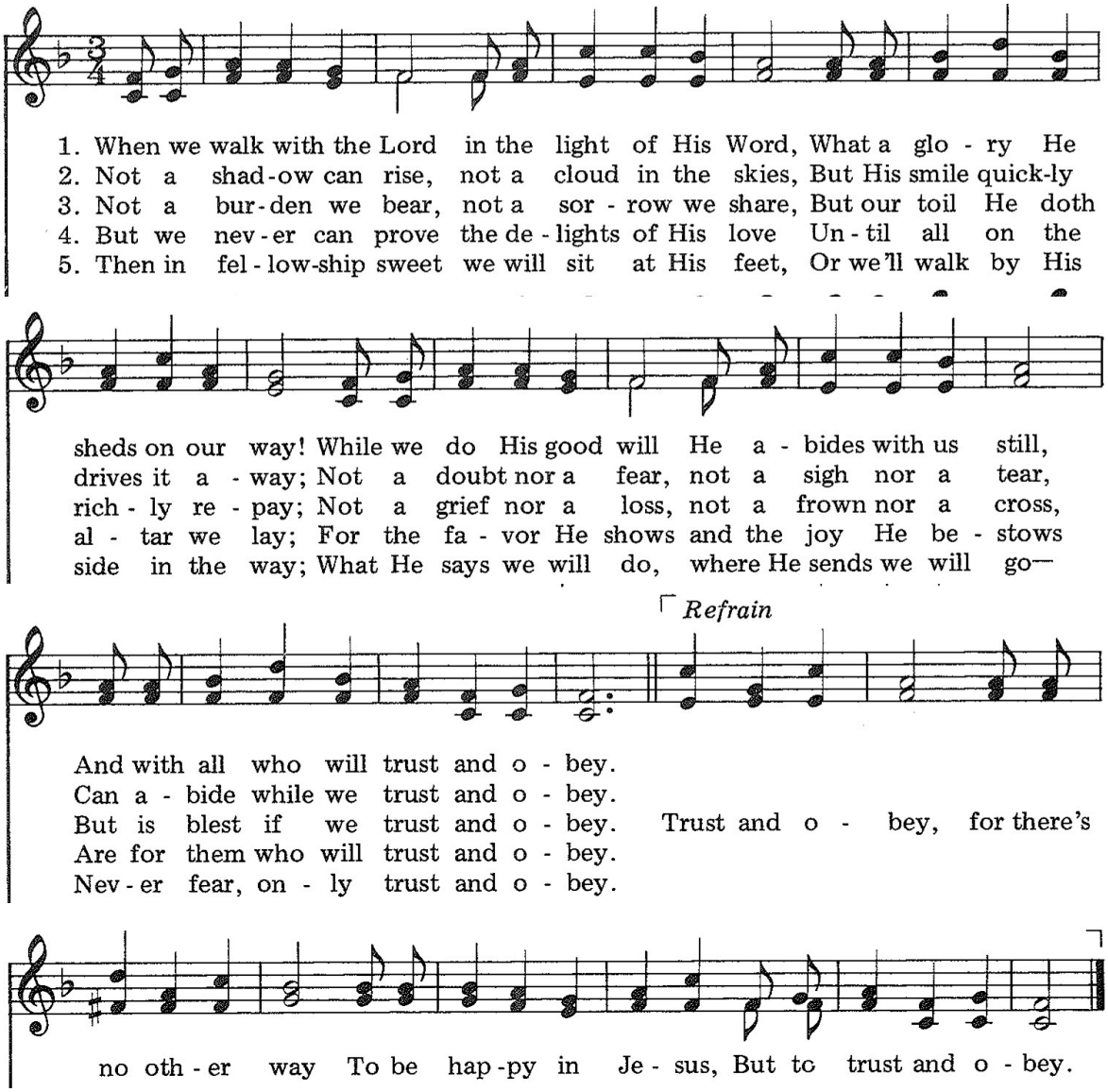


MESSAGE **"Kingdom Life: Known"**

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

HYMN "Trust and Obey," #349 v. 1-4



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.

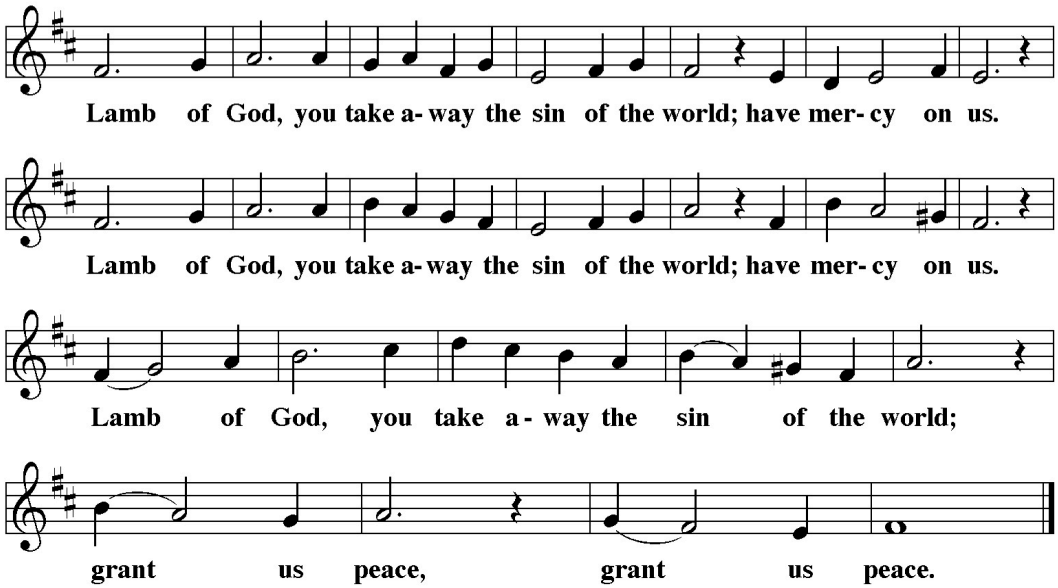
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Servers: Nancy Bertnik, Doug Potts, Lynn Tapella

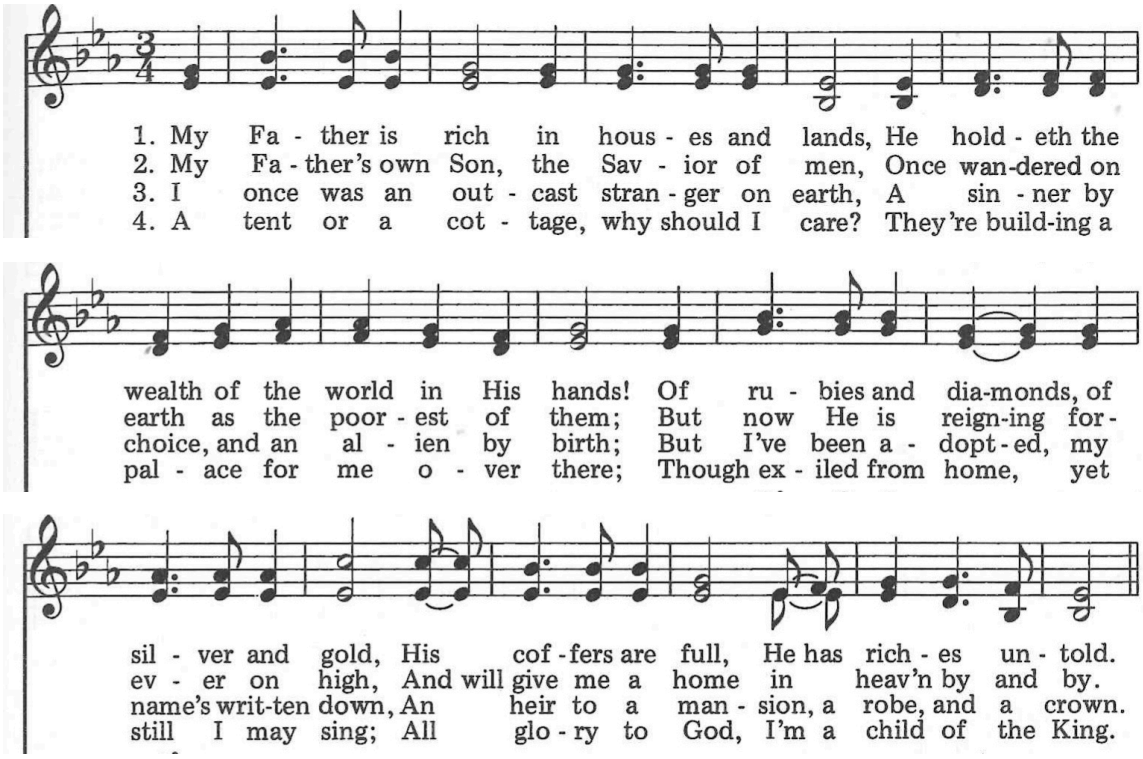
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

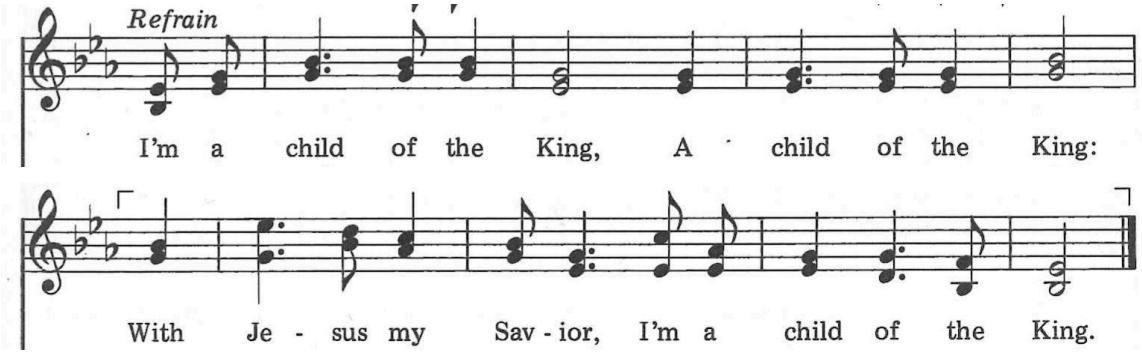
THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "Lamb of God"

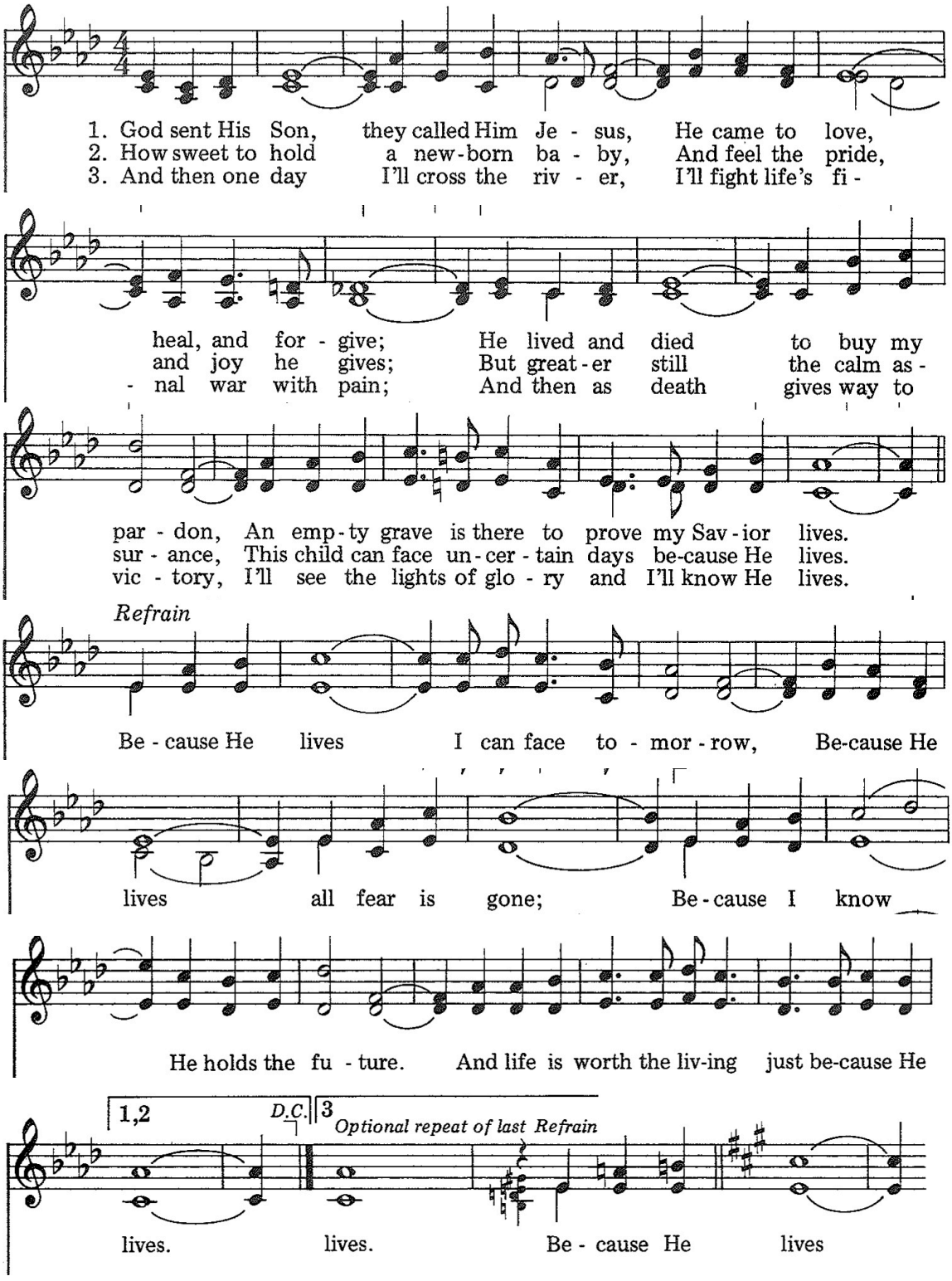


COMMUNION HYMNS "A Child of the King," #352





"Because He Lives," #213



COMMUNION BLESSING

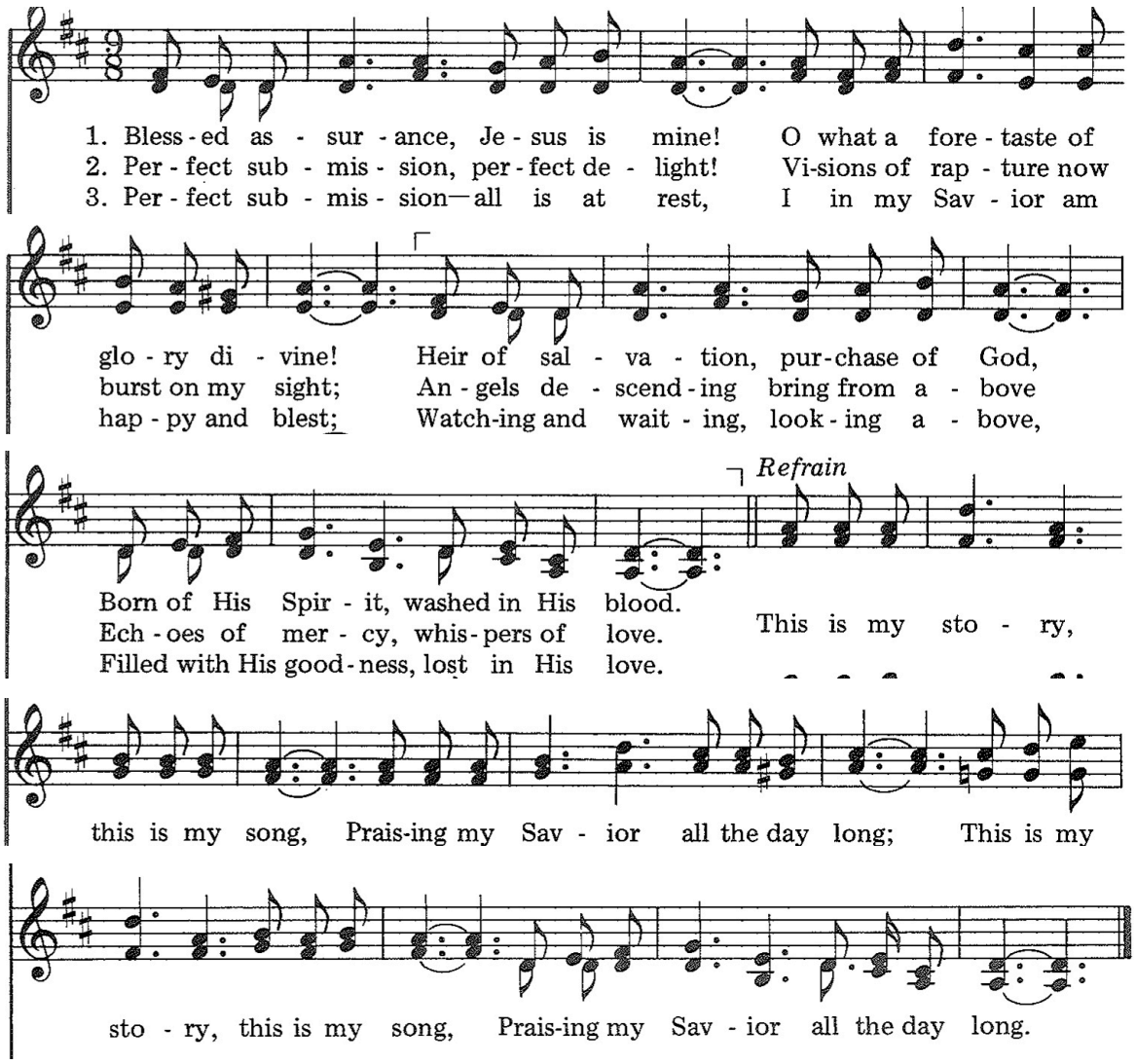
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

"Blessed Assurance," #345 v. 1-2



POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY
Our Sunday morning Bible Study for adults is at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. Our current series focuses on The Ten Commandments.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING AT MESSIAH
Volunteers are needed to decorate the Sanctuary to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Saturday, **November 28** at 9:30 a.m. We welcome families, children, youth, and adults! There is a job for everyone. A sign up list can be found in the Narthex so we can be sure to have enough hot cocoa and treats on hand for all!

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 Insight is finished. 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.

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.

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 Grief Support Group on the **first Thursday every month** (Sept-May) at 1 p.m. in Room 101. This group offers caring and confidential space for those currently walking through loss or those who have suffered loss in the past. You are not alone - We are here to support one another. Questions may be directed to Pat Burke or Judy Fowler.



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. Our November meeting was rescheduled for noon on **November 18** due to Thanksgiving. Machine sewists are needed! Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

MESSIAH APPAREL & ACCESSORIES
Check out the Messiah apparel and accessories display in the Narthex!
Purchase clothing, hats, mugs & more by scanning this QR code:

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)
OWLS meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at noon, September-May. We enjoy a light lunch together, play trivia, and usually feature a guest speaker or entertainment!



Ham dinner, and beverages will be provided for our **December 8** luncheon as we celebrate with a white elephant gift exchange and enjoy Christmas carols led by Jeanette Wegemer. We ask that everyone sign up in the Narthex so we have a headcount, and to let us know what 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. Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 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, reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478, or 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 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The next quilting day is November 17. 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. 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 backs for our quilts. There is a collection basket in the Narthex. 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 **November 17**!

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 10-11:30. Bring the littles for play time! Adults enjoy coffee on us! Please like our Facebook page (MLC Stay-N-Play Playgroup) for additional information, and share with your friends and neighbors!

women's ministries

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Join us for Women's Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons at 1 in the Fireside Room!

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA
Join us on **December 12** from 1-3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for Christmas Tea! Tickets will be available in the Narthex 11/22,11/29 and 12/06.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Those post-high school and older are invited to join us for Bible study on Sunday mornings during Education Hour in classroom #101. Coffee and occasional breakfast treats will be provided.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
For information please reach out to Season Lawler.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)
MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club! Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5!

SUNDAY SCHOOL
We meet upstairs in the Kidz Club during Education Hour at 9:40 a.m.

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th grades)

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)
Bible Study for high schoolers is in the Fireside Room continues year-round.

FRIENDS & MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS - Moved to Tuesdays
Join us for mid-week Bible Study, connect with peers, play games, sing praise and more! FAM meets on TUESDAY evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8 *with the exception of this coming week, we will meet on Wednesday to share in Friendsgiving.*

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H)
Our H2H Confirmation Program for 6th-8th graders runs on Wednesdays evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5!

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. For students **6th through 12th grade**, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.

Change of address:
We've been notified of a change of address for Lynn Jelm, who was included in our November Prayer Request Insert. Please correct Lynn's address to: 695 Vermillion St., Coal City, IL 60416

UPCOMING DEADLINES

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Boxes are due TODAY, November 15.



Order here:

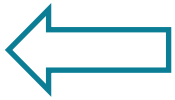


If you would like to sponsor a Christmas poinsettia, orders are due by 3 p.m. tomorrow, November 16. Order forms are available in the Narthex, or you may call the office.





New time this year!





Dear Messiah Family,

Thank you so much for thinking of my Mom, Dad and our family during this difficult year. When I would go to Iowa this summer and fall, there were always comments about how many notes and cards they got from people at Messiah. There was also a beautiful arrangement at the funeral that is now at our house, reminding us of what a caring and supportive church family we have! Thank you for your love for all of us!

-Molly, Kurt, Myka and Eli Hoover

Dear Messiah Family,

Thank you so much for the overwhelming kindness, love, and generosity you showed to me during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your thoughtful cards, encouraging words, and generous gifts truly touched my heart.

Serving as your pastor is one of the greatest blessings of my life. While I am deeply grateful for every gift and kind gesture, I treasure your ongoing prayers and faithful partnership in ministry most of all. It is an honor to walk alongside you, worship together, and watch God work in our church community.

Thank you again for making me feel so loved, supported, and appreciated.

-Pastor Kurt

Dear Messiah Family,

Thank you for your gifts, cards and comments that I received as part of Pastor Appreciation Month. You were very kind and generous as individuals and as a congregation. I enjoy being your Pastor Emeritus, giving sermons, singing in the choir, and visiting the sick. I appreciate the recognition that you showed to Karen for her love and witness. God bless you.

-Pastor Dave Nygard

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.

The **2027 Altar flower sign up list** in on the Greeter's table in the Narthex. Reserve your dates now!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Sunday, November 15
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour for All Ages
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

Monday, November 16
n/a

Tuesday, November 17
9 a.m. Quilters
10 a.m. Stay-n-Play
6 p.m. PPC Meeting

Wednesday, November 18
1 p.m. Women's Bible Study
5 p.m. Friendsgiving Family Dinner
6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

Thursday, November 19
9 a.m. Faith & Body
10:15 a.m. Prayer Group
12 p.m. Memory Bears, Staff Meeting
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, November 20
n/a

Saturday, November 21
9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Sunday, November 22
8:30-noon Thanksgiving Pie Pickup
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour for All Ages
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:
8:30: 102
10:45: 64
Online: 24
Insight: 41
K-5: 9
MSM: 4
HS: 6
Young Adult: 0
MKW:

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: $694,359
YTD Operating Budget: $600,888
YTD Giving Received: $499,553
Needed Each Week: $13,353
Received Last Week: $11,672

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Philippians 4:19
And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

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

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH