

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
† CHURCH ♡



Easter Sunday

Family Praise & Worship
March 31, 2024
11 am

Pastor Kurt Hoover
Pastor David Stier
Interim Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Interim Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier

40 Houbolt Rd.
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WORSHIP TODAY

Call To Worship

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Welcome

Worship Through Songs

Worship Through Giving

Children's Message

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

Message

"Death, Where Is Your Sting?"

by Pastor Dave Stier

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

Worship Through Song

Prayers of Intercession

Worship Through the Lord's Prayer

Worship Through Proclaiming Our Faith

Announcements

Closing Song

OUR GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:1-18 (NLT)

Reader: Tom Bond

¹ Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ² She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. ⁴ They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. ⁸ Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— ⁹ for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then they went home.

¹¹ Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. ¹² She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her.

"Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him."

¹⁴ She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. ¹⁵ "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

¹⁶ "Mary!" Jesus said.

She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher").

¹⁷ "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 it now to connect with MLC:



ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is an easy way to give to MLC, and there are three ways to do it:

- 1) Go to this link: churchcenter.com/giving
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.

OPPORTUNITIES - Get Involved

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.

BLOOD DRIVE AT MESSIAH

We will have a Blood Drive on **April 21** from 9 am - 1 pm, in the FLC.
Register here:



DAYBREAK SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5 - 7 pm on the second Monday of each month. A team of Messiah members & friends meets at the shelter to set up and serve dinner. Sign up in the Narthex.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY LIFE GROUP

Ladies - Have you heard what a blessing our new Women's Ministry Life Group has been? We'd love to have you join us for fun & fellowship! Please contact Sherri Unyi in the church office if you would like more information.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)

Our OWLS group is for active retirees who enjoy participating in activities such as crafts, listening to speakers, food, fellowship, and more! We hold a monthly luncheon on the second Tuesday in Fellowship Hall, from noon to 2 pm. Our next one is **April 9!** The menu will consist of chicken chunks (donated by Chicken-N-Spice). Please sign up in the Narthex.

NAPERVOICE SPRING CONCERT

Napervoice will present "Wonderful World: Music from Six Continents" on Sunday, **April 21** at 4 pm, at Grace Methodist Church in Naperville. Go to napervoice.org to order tickets, or scan the QR code on the Community Board in the Narthex. Please be sure to use Herb Alexander's name so he receives credit for your ticket sale!

MEMORY BEARS

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets here at the church from 9 am-noon once a month (sometimes twice!) to 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, as well as jobs that do. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, **April 23**. Contact Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or by email to regency118@comcast.net.

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. You can make a difference through the gift of your prayers. Contact Cindi Souza at regency118@comcast.net or Pastor Dave Stier at pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org to become a partner.

FAITH & BODY CHALLENGE GROUP (Thursdays 9 - 10 am)

The Faith & Body Group meets on Thursdays mornings, September through May, in the Family Life Center (FLC) from 9 – 10 am for walking, stretching and faith-building time. There is no cost, and you are welcome to bring friends! Please register on the Messiah website under Faith & Body. Contact Sherri at (815) 741-4488 or email bookkeeper@mlcjoliet.org for more information.

MESSIAH QUILTERS

The Messiah Quilters meet next on Tuesday, **April 16**. Please note that our "bonus day" has been rescheduled (from April 2) to May 7. We will be working 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 put a quilt top together.

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

POW! (PRAYER OUTREACH WARRIORS)

Join us for a time of silent or spoken prayer (as you are lead.) We spend time in adoration and thanksgiving to our Lord, and then pray specifically for our church and the leading of the Holy Spirit. You'll be amazed at how quickly this time goes by! If you've never joined a prayer group, this is the one to start with. We meet monthly and have two options. We hope you will join us.

When: **April 3** - the 1st Wednesday at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary, or
April 6 - the following Saturday at 10:00 am in the Gathering House

Questions may be directed to Beth Hohisel 815-735-7897
or Cindi Souza 815-931-8478.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY DINNERS

Wednesday Night Family Dinners will resume this week, **April 3**, at 5:30.

INSIGHT" ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Sundays at 9:30 am)

Tom Bond and Kenyon Gjerde are currently leading the group in a new study series from "Sermon on the Mount." Please note that Insight will not meet on Easter Sunday.

SING PRAISE LIFE GROUP

Messiah's newest Life Group, Sing Praise, will meet every-other Saturday, beginning **April 13**, at 6:30 pm in the FLC. Are you passionate about worship and prayer? Are you seeking a community where you can dive deeper into your faith through blended worship experiences? Look no further!

Sing Praise is dedicated to creating a space where individuals can come together to worship in a blended style, combining contemporary and traditional elements to create a dynamic and uplifting atmosphere. Whether you love to sing, play an instrument, or simply want to soak in the presence of God, you'll find a home here. All are welcome, regardless of background or experience level. For more info, reach out to Justin Brown at worship@mlcjoliet.org.

MESSIAH KIDS

PRE-K THROUGH 5th GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 9:30 am)

Make sure to bring your children to Sunday school, upstairs in our youth classrooms, on Sunday mornings.

MESSIAH KIDS SUNDAYS AT 11

We encourage all kids pre-k thru 5th grade to be a part of Messiah Kids' at 11 am after the children's message, in the Family Life Center (FLC). Kids will experience God during this time with weekly themes, songs, short movie clips, games and prizes. All are encouraged to attend.

STAY N PLAY (Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30)

Stay N Play is a weekly playgroup for children five and younger that meets in the Family Life Center (FLC) on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30. This group is open to church members and to the community. Coffee is provided (for the adults, of course!). Parents/caregivers must stay and keep an eye on their children. No registration is needed - We'd love to have you join us!

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (Wednesdays at 6:30 pm)

Have your K-5th grader join us for a great time on Wednesday evenings. It's a fun night of worship, lessons, games, crafts, and connection with the Bible and friends! **Our last night is April 17**. Watch for info on our new Summer MKW! Questions? Contact Beth Hohisel bhohisel@hotmail.com or (815) 735-7897.

HEAD TO HEART WORKSHOP FOR 5th GRADE+

Owning my Faith (5th grade +) Parent(s)/guardian(s) who attend this evening workshop will receive an introduction to MLC's Confirmation Program. The objective of this time is to outline expectations of participation for both parents and students as well as create a parents' network of support by sharing experiences of raising pre-teens in today's world. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, **April 24. Join us for pizza at 6 pm, and the workshop starts at 6:30.** While parents and pastors meet, students get to have fun with the current H2H group as they transition from the H2H program to our awesome summer youth ministry.

More info on our website:



MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES

S.A.L.T. (Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 pm)

S.A.L.T. is a time for high school students to interact with their faith.

HEAD2HEART (Wednesdays from 6:15 to 8 pm)

HEY MIDDLE SCHOOLERS! Come join us for nights of instruction and fun as we teach Luther's catechism and play games! Please note that we will be on break for summer - our **final meeting is April 24.**

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY (Sundays at 9:30 am)

HEY HIGH SCHOOLERS! Perhaps you are old enough to start reading fairy tales again? Join us for Sunday Bible Time at 9:30 in classroom 204 upstairs. We will journey into Narnia, get to know the fictional characters, and connect them with the truth of Jesus.

SUMMER CAMP AT LITTLE GALILEE

Summer Camp for high schoolers is June 23-28, and July 7-12 for students entering 6-9th grades this fall. Registration is open, and the cost will increase after June 1.

Register at <https://littlegalilee.org/registration>

or reach out to Kate Richmond for more info at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.

GAME NIGHT!

Join us on Saturday, **April 6**, from 3-8 pm for all ages Game Night! Bring a snack and beverages to share, along with your favorite game.

VBS AT MESSIAH: JULY 15-19, 2024!

Mark your calendar for **Mystery Island VBS!**

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

EASTER SUNDAY (March 31)

7:30-11 Easter Breakfast
8 am Worship
9:30 am Worship+Online Worship,
1 pm Cristo Rey Bilingual Worship

MONDAY (April 1)

n/a

TUESDAY (April 2)

9:30 am Stay-N-Play
10 am Lauralee Williams Visitation
11 am Celebration of Life

WEDNESDAY (April 3)

5:30 pm Family Dinner
6:15 pm H2H, POW!
6:30 pm SALT, Messiah Kids

THURSDAY (April 4)

9 am Faith & Body
10:15 am Prayer Group
11:30 am Staff Meeting

FRIDAY (April 5)

n/a

SATURDAY (April 6)

9 am Worship Team Rehearsal
10 am POW!
3 pm Game Night

SUNDAY (April 7)

8 am Worship
9:30 am Worship+Online Worship,
Sunday School for All Ages
11 am Family Praise & Worship,
Women's Ministry Meeting,
Messiah Kids
1 pm Cristo Rey Bilingual Worship

STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:00 am: 74
9:30 am: 100
11:00 am: 67

Online: 154

MSM (6th-12th): 13

Messiah Kids (K-5th): 13

Insight: 13

Online counts are estimates only.

2024 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$763,541

YTD Operating Budget: \$176,201

YTD Received: \$139,553

Average Weekly Need: \$14,683

Received last week: \$10,158

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 95:2

"Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise."

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to give the gift of Altar flowers, please call the office at 815-741-4488. Arrangements are \$25 each.