



Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2026
8:30 a.m.

*Holy
Spirit*

GOD IS CLOSER THAN WE THINK.

Romans 8:9-11

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

May 17, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"Near the Cross," #385 v. 1-4



1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross— There a pre - cious foun - tain,
2. Near the cross, a trem-bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;
4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, Hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



Free to all, a heal - ing stream, Flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
There the Bright and Morn - ing Star Sheds its beams a - round me.
Help my walk from day to day With its shad - ows o'er me.
Till I reach the gold - en strand Just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross Be my glo - ry ev - er,



Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest, be - yond the riv - er.

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. **Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PRAISE

"When We Are Living," #639 v. 1-3, ELW



1 *Pues si vi - vi - mos,* *pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,*
1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find



y si mo - ri - mos *pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.*
and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . . .
when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace,
those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind;



Sea que vi - va - mos *o que mu - ra - mos,*
Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
and when we help them, or when we feed them,



so - mos del Se - ñor, *so - mos del Se - ñor.*
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.



HYMN OF PRAISE

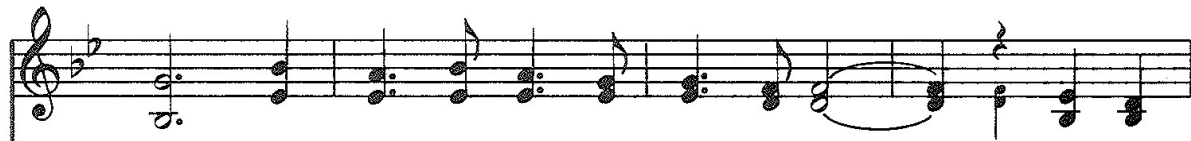
"Our God Reigns," #229 v. 1-3



1. How love - ly on the moun-tains are the feet of him
2. He had no state - ly form, He had no maj - es - ty,
3. Out from the tomb He came with grace and maj - es - ty,

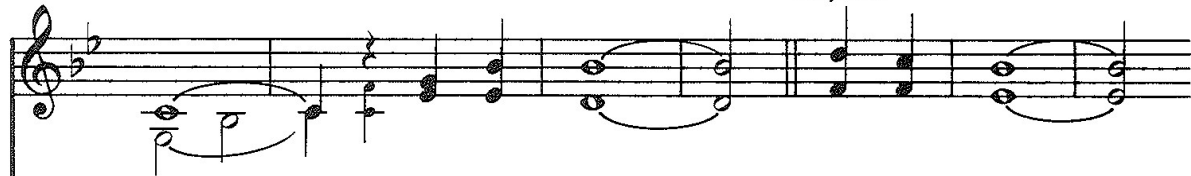


who brings good news, good news An - nounc-ing
That we should be drawn to Him. He was de -
He is a - live, He is a - live. God loves us



peace, pro - claim-ing news of hap - pi-ness. Our God
spised and we took no ac - count of Him, Yet now He
so. see here His hands. His feet. His side. Yes. we

Refrain



reigns, Our God reigns!
reigns, with the Most High. Our God reigns!
know, He is a - live.



Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

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, Acts 1:4-11 (ESV)

Reader: Paul Allen

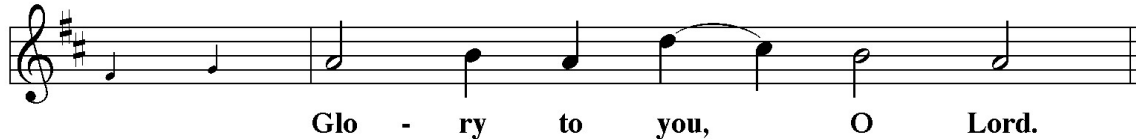
⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

SECOND LESSON, Romans 8:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

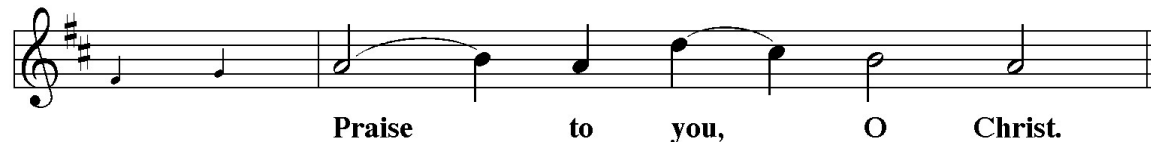
THIRD LESSON, Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 (ESV)



¹⁶ And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him.

¹⁷ After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, "Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. ¹⁸ When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. ¹⁹ But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. ²⁰ For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain."

³⁰ He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.



MESSAGE

"The Conclusion of Acts"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

HYMN

"Jesus Lives, and So Shall I," #224 v. 1-3



1. Je - sus lives, and so shall I: Death, thy sting is gone for -
2. Je - sus lives and reigns su - preme: And, His king - dom still re -
3. Je - sus lives—and by His grace, Vic - t'ry o'er my pas - sions
4. Je - sus lives— I know full well Naught from Him my heart can
5. Je - sus lives—and death is now But my en - trance in - to

ev - er! He for me hath deigned to die, Lives the
 main - ing, I shall al - so be with Him, Ev - er
 giv - ing, I will change my heart and ways, Ev - er
 sev - er, Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell, Joy nor
 glo - ry; Cour - age, then, my soul, for thou Hast a

 bands of death to sev - er. He shall raise me
 liv - ing, ev - er reign - ing. God has prom - ised—
 to His glo - ry liv - ing. Me He rais - es
 grief, hence - forth for - ev - er. None of all His
 crown of life be - fore thee. Thou shalt find thy

 from the dust: Je - sus is my hope and trust.
 be it must: Je - sus is my hope and trust.
 from the dust: Je - sus is my hope and trust.
 saints is lost: Je - sus is my hope and trust.
 hones were iust: Je - sus is my hope and trust. A - men.

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: Marvina Allen, Doug Potts, Lynn Tapella

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"



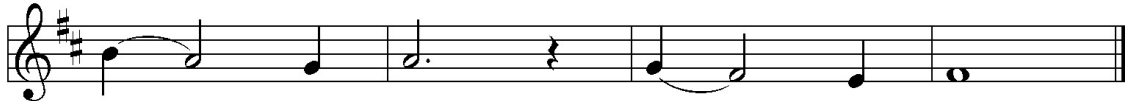
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

"It Is Well with My Soul," #493



- 1. When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like
- 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, tho' tri - als should come, Let this blest as -
- 3. My sin— O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, My sin— not in
- 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled



sea - bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,
part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,

Refrain

“It is well, it is well with my soul.”
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul. It is well with my
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well
 “E - ven so”— it is well with my soul.

soul, with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Love Lifted Me,” #505

1. I was sink-ing deep in sin, Far from the peace-ful shore, Ver - y deep-ly
 2. All my heart to Him I give, Ev - er to Him I'll cling, In His bless-ed
 3. Souls in dan-ger, look a-bove, Je - sus com-plete - ly saves; He will lift you

stained with-in, Sink-ing to rise no more; But the Mas - ter of the sea
 pres - ence live, Ev - er His prais-es sing; Love so might - y and so true,
 by His love Out of the an - gry waves; He's the Mas - ter of the sea,

Heard my de-spair-ing cry, From the wa-ters lift - ed me, Now safe am I.
 Mer - its my soul's best songs; Faith-ful, lov-ing ser-vice, too, To Him be - longs.
 Bil - lows His will o - bey; He your Sav-ior wants to be, Be saved to - day.

Refrain

Love lift - ed me! Love lift - ed me! When noth - ing
 e - ven me! e - ven me!

else could help, Love lift - ed me. Love lift - ed me.

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


"Thine Is the Glory," #227 v. 1-3



1. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; End - less is the
2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, Ris - en, from the tomb; Lov - ing - ly He
3. No more we doubt Thee, Glo-rious Prince of Life! Life is naught with-




vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet us, Scat - ters fear and gloom; Let His church with glad - ness
out Thee; Aid us in our strife; Make us more than con-qu'rors,



Rolled the stone a - way, Kept the fold - ed grave-clothes Where Thy
Hymns of tri - umph sing, For her Lord now liv - eth; Death hath
Through Thy death-less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan With Thy

Refrain



bod - y lay. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-qu'ring Son;
lost its sting. power and love.



End - less is the vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won. A - men.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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



Our summer session will run July 5th through August 16th for k-8th.



WEAR RED FOR
Pentecost
Sunday, May 24th

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings during Education Hour. Insight will finish up on May 17th and will take a brief break. Summer startup info coming soon.

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, ends May 21st) from 9-10 a.m. Faith & Body has ended for the summer.

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. Our next meeting is **May 26th**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! We'll also have a bonus "sewing day" on Thursday, June 11th at 12:30 p.m... more details coming soon! Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 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! **OWLS is on break for summer and will resume in September.**



PRAY JOLIET

Come together to pray at Pray Joliet's upcoming Prayer Walk, Saturday, May 23rd! Walks take place the 4th Saturday of each month (April to October) 8-10 a.m. The May 23rd location is still in the works... Watch Messiah's Facebook page for details as soon as they become available.

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 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 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 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 **May 19th**!

STAY-N-PLAY

Our FREE weekly open gym play group for kids five and under has ended for the summer.

WOMEN'S GARDEN GETAWAY



Join the Messiah Women's Group for a fun morning at the Elwood Children's Garden on Wednesday, **June 10th**. The garden is a free, whimsical and interactive garden that offers fun and nature's beauty for all ages. The garden has themed small scale areas including Peter Rabbit's Garden, beautiful flower gardens and so much more to see!

We will carpool from Messiah, leaving at 9 a.m., or you can meet us at the Children's Garden at 9:30. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy in the pavilion. The Elwood Children's Garden is located at 801 N. Chicago Street in Elwood.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW) SUMMER PROGRAM

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 this morning - **Field Day!** 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-round.

FRIENDS AND MENTORS (FAM) AND HEAD2HEART (H2H)

FAM & H2H will continue meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 through May 6th. We'll then have a few weeks off until Summer SALT begins.

SUMMER S.A.L.T. KICKOFF

This summer we will meet in a combined format for 6th-12th graders! Our **kickoff party** will be on Wednesday, **May 27th** from 6-8 p.m. at the Stier's home. Our summer program will meet at church from 6-8 p.m. June 3rd through August 5th. *Please note that we will not meet on 07/22 or 07/29.*

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

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

Saturday, September 19th - Dinner Banquet (time TBD)

Sunday, September 20th - Reception Celebration between services



Sunday, May 24th

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Donate and receive a \$25 eGift Card!

Register at: www.versiti.org/IL

or scan here:



VBS is June 22-26!
Registration closes June 1st

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!

SAVE THE DATE:

Baccalaureate and Graduation Ceremony and Brunch

June 14th – 9:45 a.m.

We will celebrate all of our students, pre-K through college graduates. We ask that students, together with parents, complete information packets telling us about the student's accomplishments. These **packets are due by Sunday, May 17th** and should be turned in to the bin in the Narthex. Additional copies of the packets can also be found there. Please be sure to RSVP for the June 14th celebration and brunch as well.

Contact Leslie 630-518-8825 or Lisa 815-922-9028 with questions.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided by Doug & Beth Hohisel
in celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary.

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

FIELD DAY! SUNDAY, May 17

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour (*end date
for all but high school group*)
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, May 18 n/a

TUESDAY, May 19 9 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. PPC Meeting

WEDNESDAY, May 20 11:30 a.m. Joliet Christian Women lunch

THURSDAY, May 21 9 a.m. Faith & Body Challenge (*end date*) 10:15 a.m. Prayer Team 12 p.m. Staff Meeting

FRIDAY, May 22 n/a

SATURDAY, May 23 9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

PENTECOST SUNDAY, May 24 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Blood Drive 9:40 a.m. Education Hour (*high school only*) 10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship 1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 102
10:45: 58
Online: 26

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$253,708
YTD Giving Received: \$198,888
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$9,191

1st Quarter 2026
Actual Income vs. Expense:
-\$14,823

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.

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

