



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026
8:30 a.m.

Therefore I tell you,
the kingdom of God
will be taken away from you
and given to a people
producing its fruits.



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

October 4, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"All Glory, Laud and Honor," 173 v. 1-3



1. All glo - ry, laud and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels Are prais - ing Thee on high,
3. To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring: Thou
And mor - tal men and all things Cre - at - ed make re - ply: The
To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise: Thou



art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son, Who
peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went: Our
didst ac - cept their prais - es— Ac - cept the praise we bring, Who



in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One!
praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.
in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra - cious King! A - men.

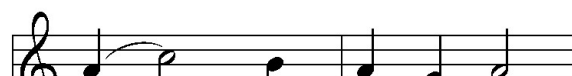
THE KYRIE

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

All: 

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

All: 

Lord, have mer - cy.

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: 
Lord, have mer - cy.

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

All: 
Lord, have mer - cy.

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

All: 
A - men

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM

"People Need the Lord," arr. Tom Fettke,
led by Herb Alexander

CONFESSION 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. **Amen.** ³

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

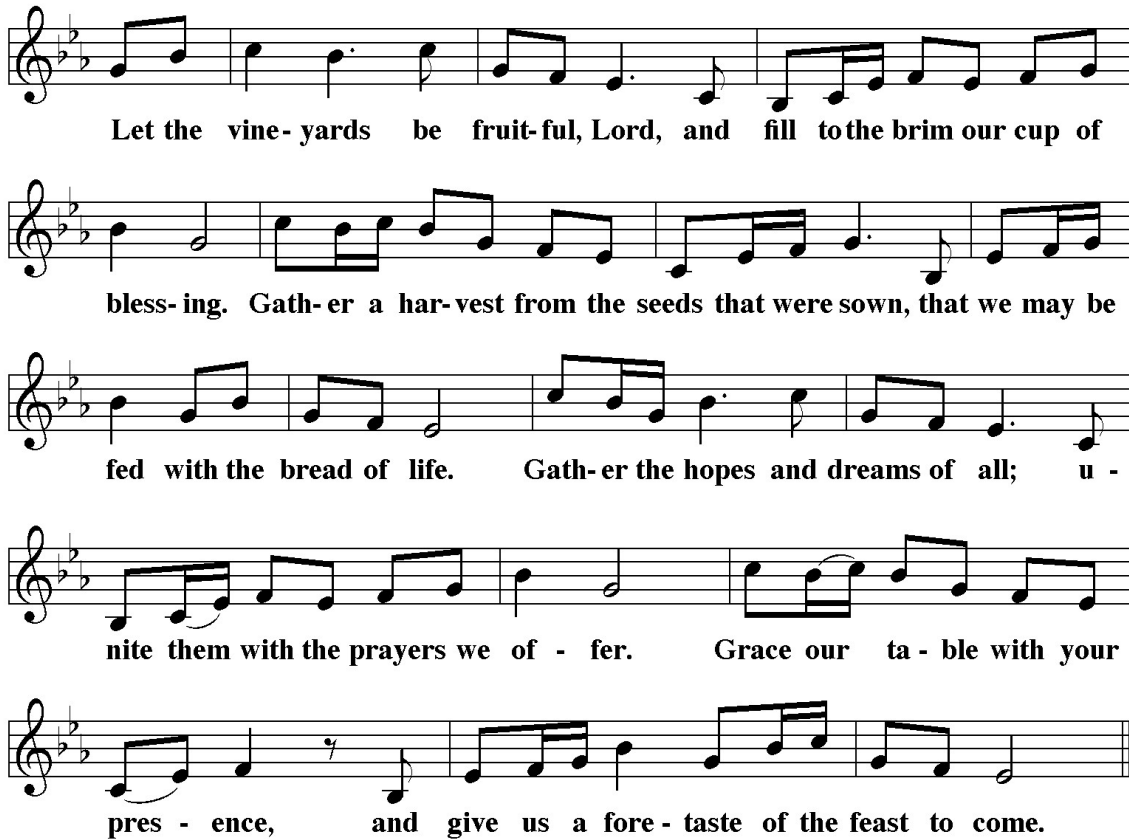
Leslie McFarland

THE OFFERING

Rose Ann Sochan

OUR RESPONSE

"Let the Vineyards"



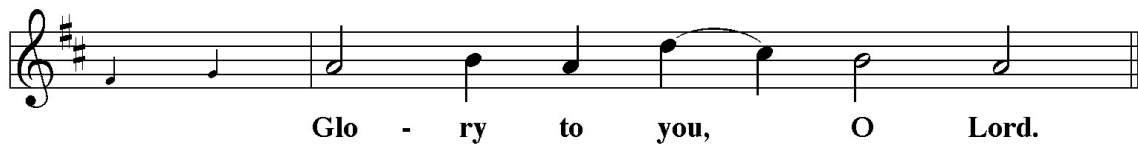
Let the vine- yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless- ing. Gath- er a har- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

FIRST READING, Isaiah 5:1-7 (ESV)

Reader: Doug Potts

¹ Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³ And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

SECOND READING, Matthew 21:33-46 (ESV)

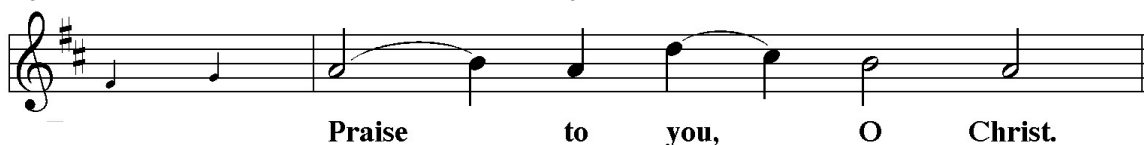


³³ "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴ When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵ And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴ And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.



MESSAGE

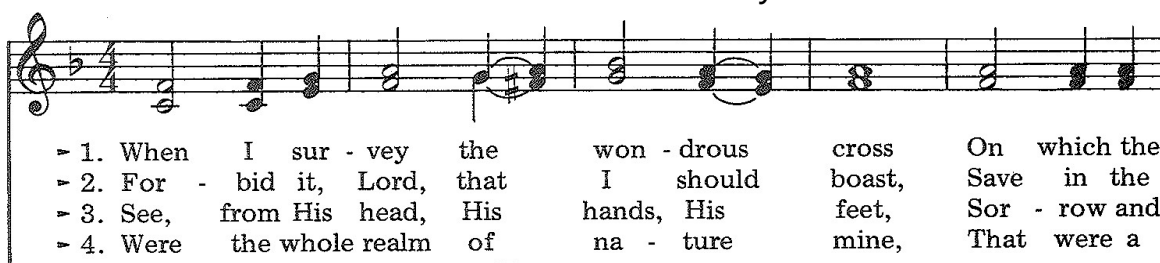
"Kingdom Life: Abundant Fruit"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," #185 v. 1-3



Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small: Love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most— I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

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:

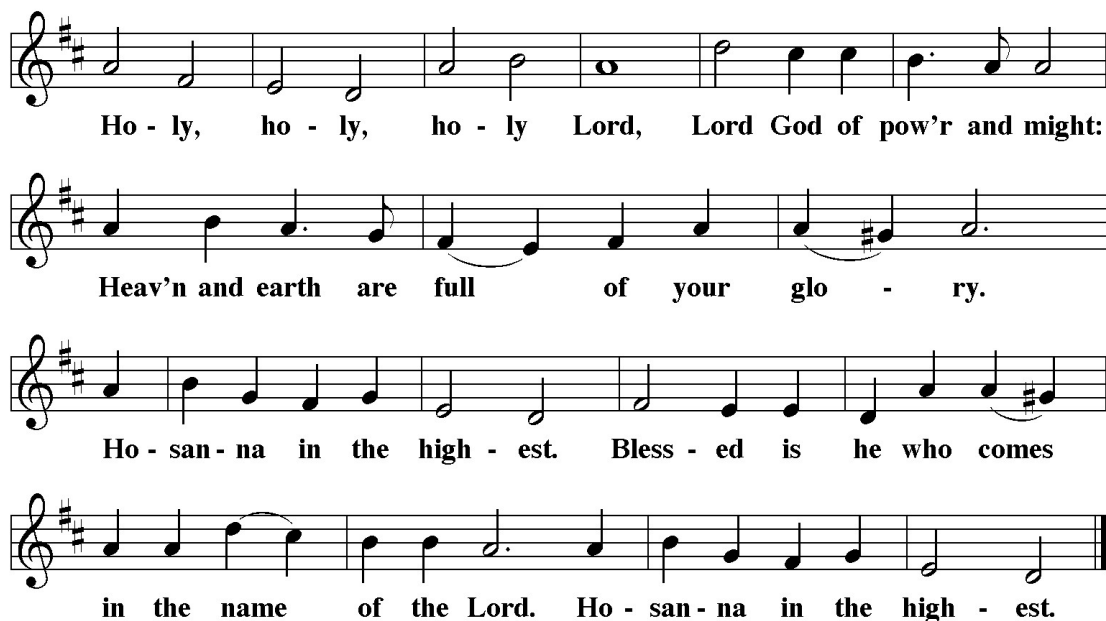
We lift them to the Lord.

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:



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: Tom Bond, Bev Korby, Doug Potts

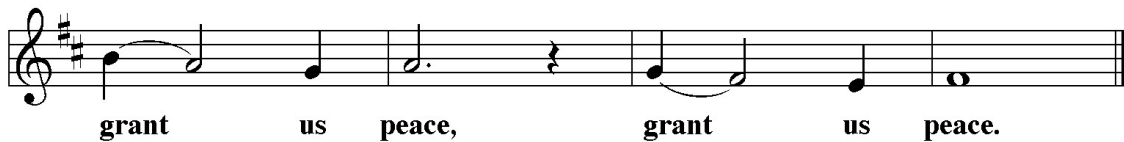
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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"





COMMUNION HYMN

"Lead Me to Calvary," #176



1. King of my life, I crown Thee now, Thine shall the glo - ry be;
2. Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid, Ten - der-ly mourned and wept;
3. Let me like Ma - ry, through the gloom, Come with a gift to Thee;
4. May I be will - ing, Lord, to bear Dai - ly my cross for Thee;

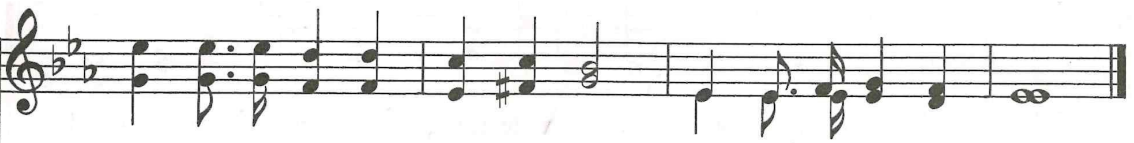


Lest I for-get Thy thorn crowned brow, Lead me to Cal - va - ry.
 An - gels in robes of light ar - rayed Guard-ed Thee whilst Thou slept.
 Show to me now the emp - ty tomb, Lead me to Cal - va - ry.
 E - ven Thy cup of grief to share, Thou hast borne all for me.

Refrain



Lest I for-get Geth - sem - a - ne; Lest I for-get Thine ag - o - ny;



Lest I for-get Thy love for me. Lead me to Cal - va - ry.

COMMUNION HYMN

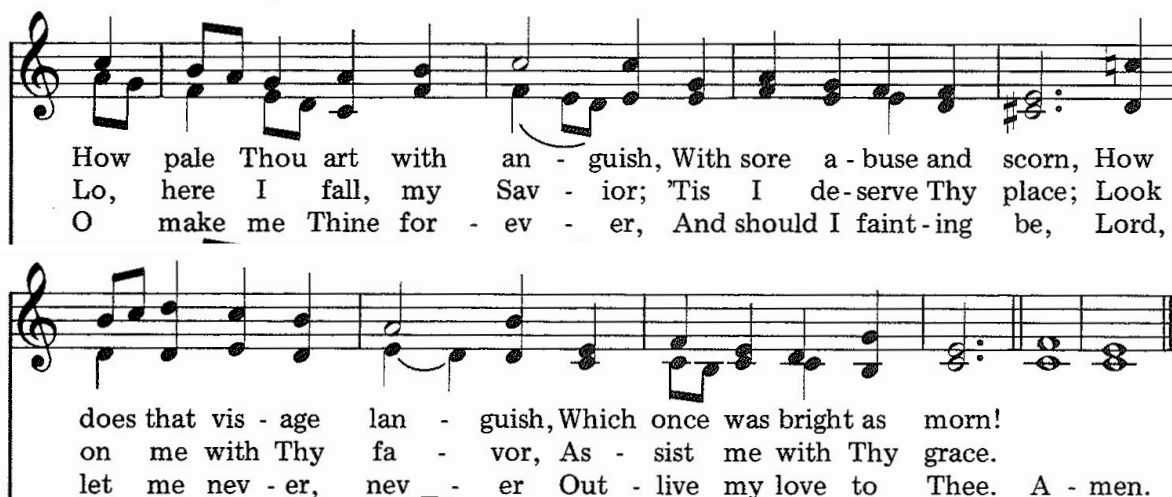
"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," #178



1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;
3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear-est Friend.

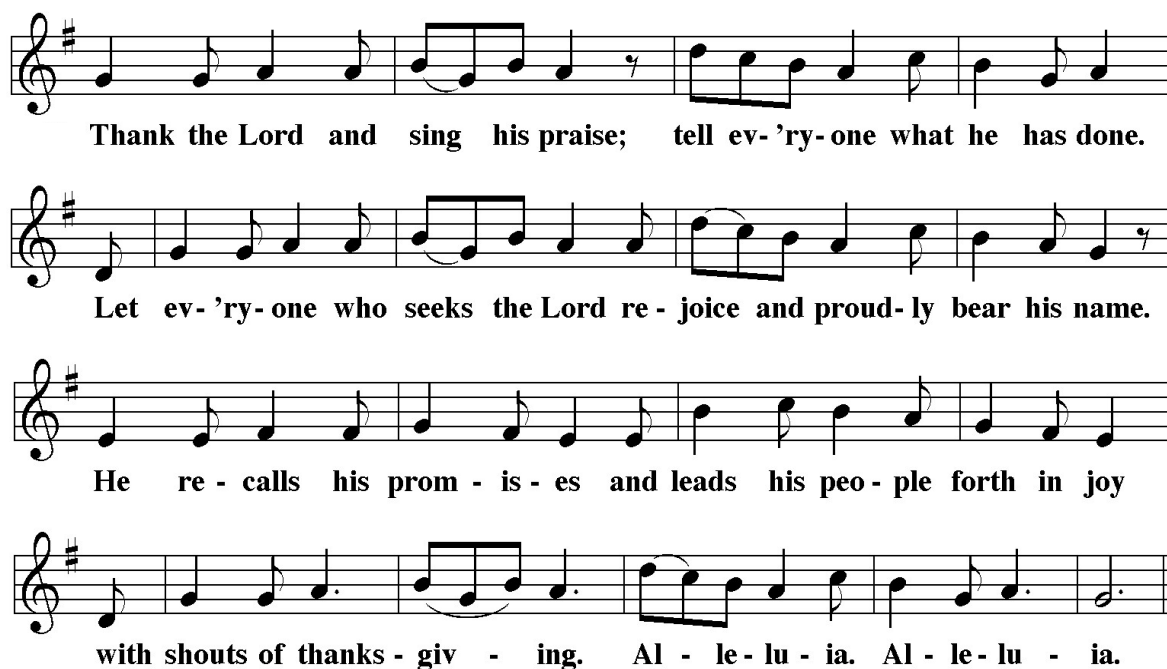


Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns Thine on - ly crown:
 Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
 For this, Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?



How pale Thou art with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn, How
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior; 'Tis I de - serve Thy place; Look
O make me Thine for - ev - er, And should I faint - ing be, Lord,
does that vis - age lan - guish, Which once was bright as morn!
on me with Thy fa - vor, As - sist me with Thy grace.
let me nev - er, nev - er Out - live my love to Thee. A - men.

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

"Rock of Ages," #204 v. 1-3



1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my-self in Thee;
2. Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy law's de - mands;
3. Noth-ing in my hand I bring, Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling;
4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When my eyes shall close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress, Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure, Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly, Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die!
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my-self in Thee. A-men.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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SANCTUARY CHOIR

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 p.m.,
with performances every Sunday during the 8:30 service.
If you'd like to join in, reach out to Herb Alexander.
or call the church office.

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 is entitled, "The Character of God."

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 attendee - 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.

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.

*Grief
Support
Group*

INTERVARSITY VISION CONFERENCE - Volunteers needed

InterVarsity's annual Vision Conference is November 6-8 at Messiah, and they are looking for volunteers to serve the college students in the name of Jesus. For more information, reach out to Leslie McFarland.

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 **October 27**. 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!



A variety of soups (and beverages) will be provided for our **October 13** luncheon as we celebrate "Autumn Fest," and we'll feature a presentation by the Joliet Historical Museum. We ask that everyone **sign up in the Narthex** so we have a headcount, and to let us know if you will bring finger food, appetizer, salad or dessert 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 October 20. 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 **October 20!**

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 BIBLE STUDY

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



Our current series, "God Won't Leave You There: Joseph's Story," is an incredible testimony of jaw-dropping faith and patient perseverance in the face of devastating trials that will leave you in awe at what God can do in and through one person. It's a powerful reminder that wherever you find yourself, God is at work putting the pieces of your life together to bring about His sovereign plan.

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 p.m.

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

Join us for mid-week Bible Study, connect with peers, play games, sing praise and more! FAM meets on Wednesday evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

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 p.m.

MAFIA NIGHTS - Attention 6th-12th graders!

Join us for Capture the Flag/Tag in the Dark! Mark your calendar for MAFIA nights on **October 9 & November 13** from 6-10 p.m. Bring friends, and \$5 per person if you'd like to join us for pizza.

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.

Candy donations are needed for Trunk-or-Treat! Be sure to mark your calendar for our annual Harvest Fest & Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, October 23 from 6-8 p.m. This year's event will be in collaboration with our partners at the YMCA, so we are expecting a lot of guests. If you wish to donate candy for this event, there is a bin in the Narthex. Thank you!





**Boxes will be available
in the Narthex on
October 11!**







Sunday, November 1
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Register here: 



We would like to thank Suzy Prybell for her work and dedication as the leader of our Altar Guild. Suzy has stepped down from that role and we are in need of a replacement. Duties include creating a schedule for Communion set up, ordering replacement supplies and organizing/heading up church decorations. Please prayerfully consider stepping up for this position as a leader or co-leader. Contact Pat Burke at 815-931-1427.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided by Herb & Laurel Alexander
in celebration of their 42nd 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

Sunday, October 4

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, October 5 n/a

Tuesday, October 6 10 a.m. Stay-n-Play

Wednesday, October 7 1 p.m. Women's Bible Study 5 p.m. Family Dinner 6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

Thursday, October 8 9 a.m. Faith & Body 10:15 a.m. Prayer Group 12 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:15 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 9 6 p.m. Mafia Night

Saturday, October 10 9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Sunday, October 11 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: 88
10:45: 56
Online: 30
Insight: 32
K-5: 9
MSM: 3
HS: 0
Young Adult: 1
MKW: 5

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$520,769
YTD Giving Received: \$404,426
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$5,468

STEWARDSHIP VERSE **OF THE WEEK**

2 Corinthians 9:11

You will be enriched in every way to
be generous in every way, which
through us will produce thanksgiving
to God.

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

