

MESSIAH MESSENGER



2024

From the desk of



Pastor Kurt Hoover

FISHERS OF MEN

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." Mark 1:17

What do you picture when Jesus talks about fishing?

When I was eight years old, my brother and I would try to catch 15 lb carp with tiny hooks and 8 lb test fishing line. Needless to say, it did not work very well. We simply left the carp in our boat-dock-village with little brass hooks decorating their lips and a distaste for our best bait.

Little did my brother and I know we needed to get a better hook and stronger line. We focused on the bait. The carp were just sitting there at the top of the water. Turns out bread, balled up on the hook, worked the best of all our attempts. You just had to get the fish to bite before the bait fell apart.

Is that how the Gospel works? No. The Gospel is so much more powerful than that concept of fishing with bait. Yet we find ourselves thinking, "If we can just teach our people to set the hook."

When Jesus promised to make disciples into "fishers of men," they did not picture that they would be casting out a lure and hoping that someone might bite. The image for these professional fishermen was not a lure, but that of a net. The Gospel is not a bait we must get someone to bite on by their own free will and logical understanding.

The Gospel is a net. An all-powerful, all encompassing, reality that sweeps over us and captures us in the wonder of God's almighty presence.

How powerful is the Gospel? With how much attention and care must you treat this fulfilled and at-hand energy? How much do you need to be aware of what God is doing through you in order for God to use you to repent another person's faith?

It turns out the Gospel is much more powerful than we ever could imagine. It is more than a set of words or a feeling. It is a guarantee. The belief that God knows the words a person needs to hear to be set free from the empty promises currently tugging at their hip. God knows what creates trust in His promise.

And that power is not dependent on the preacher, a well-rehearsed sermon or a casual conversation. The Gospel is words of promise that sweeps over us and captures us in the presence of our Almighty God.

In Christ,

Pr. Stier



CALLED TO BE SAINTS

From the desk of



Pastor David Stier

“Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

What is a saint? When we declare, in the Apostles’ Creed, that we believe in the “communion of saints,” who are we talking about? Especially virtuous and long-suffering people? Martyrs and missionaries who suffered for their faith? Persons of exceptional piety and devotion canonized by church councils? I remember the girl in our church youth group who said that a saint was, “Someone you look up to and admire, but you wouldn’t want to date.” What is a saint?

Sainthood, as portrayed in the New Testament, applies to all who are Christians. Saints are the people of God. If you are a believer, a follower of Christ, you are a saint. You say, “Me? But I’m such a sinner.” Of course you are, but we are saints not because of any personal righteousness, but because of the unfathomable grace of God. God chose you, not the other way around. As for personal righteousness, you would be hard-pressed to name a doctrinal error or a moral failing that the Corinthian church didn’t possess. Yet Paul began his letter by saying that the Corinthians were, “...called to be saints...”

Christian friend, however lowly and humble you may consider yourself to be, whatever your sins and struggles, you are a saint, sanctified and set apart, chosen by God to help fulfill God's purpose in the world. How will you live out your sainthood today? As you pray, ponder how you are being called to live out your sainthood.

In His Awesome Grip,

PD2
aka. Pastor Dave Stier



The Stewardship Committee is hosting a blood drive on Sunday, April 21 from 9 am to 1 pm in the Family Life Center. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood and/or platelets. Approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S., to allow for blood transfusions as life-sustaining

and life-saving procedures. Less than 10% of the eligible U.S. population (38%) donates annually. There is no substitute for human blood. One in seven people entering a hospital need blood. Your help is needed for this important resource, please sign up by using the QR code below or in person.

Ken Skinner secured 3,000 white crosses from St. Jude's Church in Joliet that is closing. The crosses will be placed on our front lawn to represent unborn children aborted without giving them a chance to live. Thank you, Ken and Rowan, for picking up the crosses and bringing them to Messiah. We are looking for a location to store them.

Pat Burke
Stewardship Director



Sunday, April 21, 9 am - 1 pm.
Register here:



Thank you for being a beacon of hope!



Lenten Sermon Series
The Deeper "Magic":
Five Views of
the Cross

**Sunday Sermon Series
in Lent continues...**

- Mar. 3
What it means for **Jesus**
- Mar. 10
What it means for **the World**
- Mar. 17
What it means for **the Church**

Pastor Dave Nygard will be preaching on **Palm Sunday**, March 24.
Join us for an early Easter, March 31 - worship at 8, 9:30 & 11 am.
There will not be a Sunrise Service this year.

A graphic for Lenten Soup Suppers. The background is a grey stone wall. The text is in a mix of cursive and bold sans-serif fonts. In the bottom right corner, there is a photo of a black bowl filled with soup and vegetables. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for 'MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH' with social media icons for Facebook and Instagram.

Lenten Soup Suppers

**JOIN US WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
DURING LENT.**

**SOUP SUPPER AT 5:30 PM,
FOLLOWED BY WORSHIP
AT 7 PM**

SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.



*OUR REGULAR WEDNESDAY FAMILY
DINNERS RESUME APRIL 3, 5:30 PM.*



Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Join the Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir sings at the 9:30 Sunday services, from September through May, with special music at services during Advent, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

When the Children's Choir is performing, we perform at the 8 am service.

We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:45 pm.

We are always looking to welcome new members and hope to continue to grow this ministry at Messiah! There are no formal audition requirements, and being able to read music is not an issue... you will learn your part from practice and from hearing other voices in your section!

For more information please contact our Sanctuary Choir Director, Herb Alexander, at halex12240@gmail.com.

Parents, mark your calendars!

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

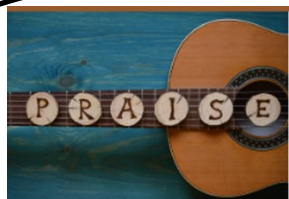


Messiah's Youth Choir will hold extra rehearsals in March & April:

March 10 & 17, April 14 & 21

We perform during the 9:30 service on March 24 and April 28.

*Please be sure choir members wear their choir shirts for our performances!
April 28 will be our final performance until we resume in September.*



Join us for

**Online
Worship**



Can't make it to church this week? The 9:30 am service is available for streaming online on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Links to both are at mlcjoliet.org

.....
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO **JOLIET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S**
"CARING FOR HOUSEPLANTS" LUNCHEON at Messiah Lutheran Church
Wednesday, March 20, 11:30am-1:30pm, \$20.00 inclusive

Featuring Michelle, owner of Internode Greenery & Home, will tell us how to care for our houseplants and common pests.

Guest speaker Donna Sembar will tell us how to have security and freedom to accept and be ourselves without the approval of others. As a young wife, she tried to hide her true feelings and learned that she could be free to be who she really is.

RSVP by March 13 by contacting Barb at 815-439-2076 or mrs.brutus56@gmail.com, or Sonya at 815-727-1626.

"Joliet IL Christian Women's Connection" - Like us on Facebook!
Next luncheon Wed., April 17 www.stonecroft.org

.....

Women's Social

Let's Learn



Bring a friend



Friday, March 22nd
7 - 10 pm
in the Gathering House
(Same time as Mafia)



Women's Ministry 



Wednesday evenings
during Lent:
"Love So Amazing"

Worship at 7 pm



FAMILY CAMPING TRIPS

May 17-19, 2024

Aug. 30-Sep. 2, 2024

Oct. 11-14, 2024



Not too early to get these on your calendar!

May 17-19, Spring Church Family Camping Trip (this is NOT Memorial Day Weekend).
\$50 deposit for RV sites due w/ reservation request.

Aug. 30-Sep. 2, 12th Annual Labor Day Church Family Camping Trip.
\$100 deposit required for RV Labor Day reservations, due by Feb. 28.

Oct. 11-14, Fall Church Family Camping Trip (Columbus weekend).

Our prayer is that all three will be at Mendota Hills Campground. It's just over an hour away from MLC. People can join us just for the day on Sat. or Sun., if they wish.

PRAY JOLIET

MARCH 3, 2024
SUNDAY • 6-8PM

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3212 ESSINGTON RD, JOLIET IL

COMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH & TEENS



*Kindergarten – 5th grade:
Join us on Wednesday nights, 6:30-8 pm!*

What is it? Formerly Awana, it's a fun night of worship, lessons, games, crafts, and connection –with the Bible and friends!

- Extras Store nights, theme nights, getting to know your Bible.
- Registration \$15 per child. Maximum of \$45 per family.
- Questions? Contact Beth Hohisel bhohisel@hotmail.com or 815-735-7897.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school continues at 9:30 am for ages preK-5th grade.

MESSIAH KIDS REMIND GROUP

Parents of Sunday school aged children (K-5th grade) can join the Messiah Kids Remind group by texting the code mlcmk to 81010, or by going to:

<https://www.remind.com/join/mlcmk>

It will be used to send reminders and notifications about Sunday school and any events we have planned. Contact Kimber Drummond at cemlcjoliet@gmail.com with questions.

MESSIAH KIDS SUNDAY (Sundays at 11:00 am)

Messiah Kids is for all kids, grades K-5th, and takes place during the 11:00 am service! Here's how it works: You will check in like you do for Sunday school at the computer in the Narthex. Then, just before the sermon, the kids will be dismissed and can leave to be with their friends. They will meet leaders in the Narthex and head to the Family Life Center (FLC) for Bible study, worship, and games. **MK11 team members are needed!** Please sign up in the Narthex, or see Leslie or Pastor Dave Stier to get involved.

STAY-N-PLAY

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 everyone in the community. Parents/caregivers must stay to keep an eye on their children. Coffee (for adults) is provided. Please come join us for some fun!



MYSTERY ISLAND VBS

AT MESSIAH
JULY 15-19, 2024

Grab your sunscreen and get ready for a taste of paradise as you track down the one true God at Mystery Island!

Save the dates!

Registration information coming in April.



MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES



2024 LITTLE GALILEE
CHRISTIAN CAMP
SUMMER SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 4

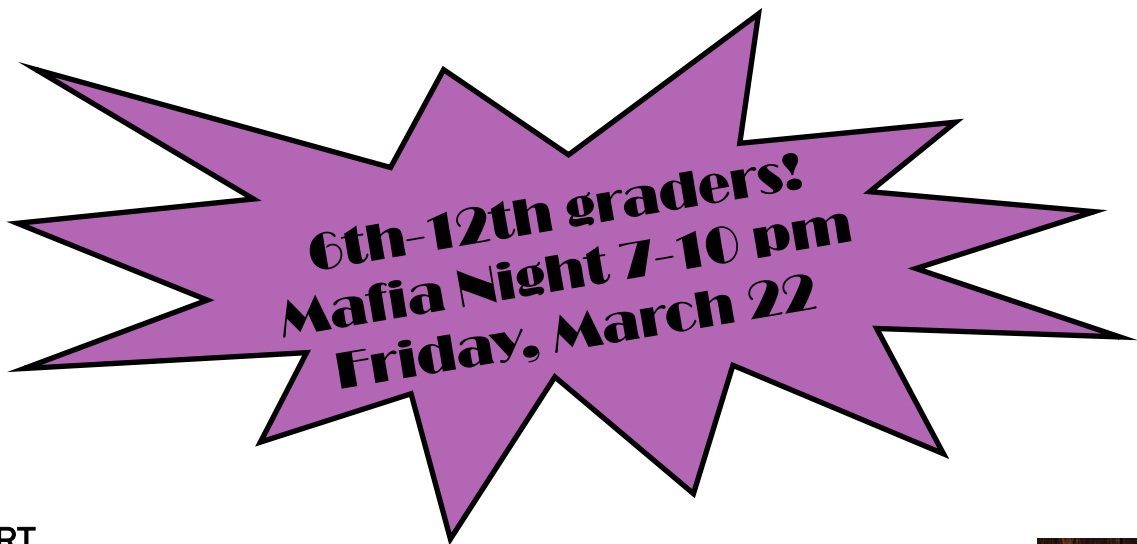
Cost increases after June 1, 2024.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, JUNE 23-28

STUDENTS ENTERING 6TH-9TH GRADES IN FALL '24, JULY 7-12

HEY HIGH SCHOOLERS! SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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.



HEAD 2 HEART

H2H (otherwise known as Youth Group or Confirmation) meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:15. All 6th-8th graders are welcome! Come at 5:30 and join us for Family Dinner most Wednesdays (Soup Suppers during Lent) in Fellowship Hall.



SALT

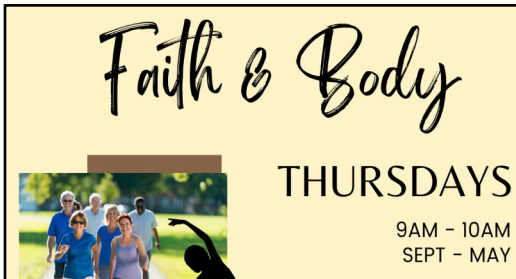
Wednesday evenings, High Schoolers meet from 6:30-8 pm. Come at 5:30 and join us for Family Dinner most Wednesdays (Soup Suppers during Lent) in Fellowship Hall, followed by games in the FLC, or get your homework done in between – help is available if you need it!

If you have questions, comments, or are looking to connect regarding youth news, events, ministries for students in 6-12th grades, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kate Richmond via email stumin@mlcjoliet.org or call the church office.

OPPORTUNITIES – GET INVOLVED!

2025 MISSION TRIP

Mission minded? Are you interested in foreign mission? Are you looking for a new way to serve God's kingdom? Join us for a study on missions according to the Bible at 9:30 am on Sunday, March 10, during Insight. If you would like to join us in 2025 for an international mission trip to Guatemala, plan to attend a mission-specific informational meeting at 12:15 pm on March 10. Please note that you **MUST ATTEND** both Insight and the informational meeting on March 10 if you would like to go on the 2025 mission trip.



Our Faith & Body group is dedicated to helping each other to improve our health. We meet September through May in the FLC from 9-10 am for walking, stretching and faith-building time. There is no cost. Please register on the Messiah website under Faith & Body. Questions? Contact Sherri at 815-741-4488 or email bookkeeper@mlcjoliet.org.

DAYBREAK SHELTER

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month. A team of Messiah members meet at the shelter to set up and serve dinner. Food donation needs include canned fruit cocktail, juice, potato salad, buns, baked beans, and cookies. Sign up in the Narthex. **Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, March 11.**

PRAYER TEAM (Thursdays at 10:15 am)

Prayer Team meets in-person in the Fireside Room on Thursday mornings. Come join in the privilege of praying for others! See Pastor Stier for more information.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Trinity Christian School of Shorewood is holding an Open House on Tuesday, March 19 from 6-8 pm. They serve preschool through 8th graders. You can pre-register for a time slot at www.trinitychristian.info/open-house.cfm. Walk-ins are welcome, too!

3M MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Bring your Bible (paper or digital) and join us from 6:30 - 8 pm the second and fourth Tuesdays each month in the Fireside Room. We are currently studying Genesis.

MESSIAH QUILTERS

The Messiah Quilters are meeting twice in March – Tuesday, March 5 and Tuesday, March 19 from 9 am – 12 pm. If you *really* want to plan ahead, there will also be an extra quilting date on Tuesday, April 2, in addition to our regular third Tuesday of April 16.

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.

Our Messiah quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief and then sent somewhere around the world to be used by someone less fortunate who is struggling with chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster and conflict. The quilts can be used as a shield against the cold and rain or for warm bedding. They can be tent, floor covering or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back. The need is great and we could really use your extra hands.

Contact Kathy Mueller 815-953-6601 at scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on March 5 and March 19!

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 hour 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: March 6 - the 1st Wednesday at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary, or
March 9 - 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.

LIL LOVES MINISTRY



Lil Loves at Messiah aims to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the Tri-county area by providing **FREE** assistance with diapers and much needed baby supplies. Lil Loves is available on an appointment basis, and those interested can sign up at mlcjoliet.org/lil-loves-ministry. Just to give you an idea of how valuable this ministry is to our community, we were able to help **nearly 100 families** from June through December of 2023!

Lil Loves thanks you for your donations of:

*Diapers and Pull-ups

*Baby Lotion

*Wipes

*Toiletry items for the moms such as deodorant,
toothpaste, feminine hygiene, etc.

*Baby Wash/Shampoo

Messiah Gives Back!

Trial-sized toiletry items are especially appreciated, rather than full-sized. Please note that we are **no longer able to accept baby formula or used clothing** (these items are happily accepted by Living Alternatives). If you'd like to donate, please place your items in the black bin in the Narthex, and call the church office for more information!

INSIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Insight meets in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:30. We are currently studying the Book of Acts. We'd love for you to join us!

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)



Calling all moms from pregnancy onward to join a supportive community of moms! Each meeting has a different topic related to parenting, and childcare is provided. We get to know each other more, watch a video of a MOPS speaker, have a discussion, and end with a devotional. In 2024, MOPS will meet the **second and fourth** Fridays every month September through May. Contact Amy at amy12miller@gmail.com with any questions.

MEMORY BEARS

Our Memory Bear group makes teddy bears out of the clothing of people who have passed away, to comfort the grieving. We also make and sell other bears and dogs to raise money for supplies and children's charities.

If you are interested in joining our group, we would love to have you! We always need sewers but not all the jobs require sewing. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) from 9 am - 12 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please call Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 for more information. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, **March 26**.

MICRO PANTRY

Did you know that Messiah has a micro food pantry? This ministry is 100% donation-driven, and is maintained by the Evangelism Board. You can support this ministry through prayer, and through monetary or food donations. Contact the church office for more info, or leave your donations in the bin in the Narthex. **EXPIRED ITEMS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

PRAYER CHAIN

Messiah uses an email-based (this group does not meet in person) Prayer Chain comprised of people who continually pray for our members, community, and nation in times of crisis. Prayers 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.

O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Loving Seniors)

O.W.L.S. meets the second Tuesday of every month from September through May, at noon. Entertainment, entrees, and beverages provided! Please sign up in the Narthex if you'd like to bring a side dish, salad, bread, or dessert. We hope to see you at our next luncheon on **March 12** for corned beef & cabbage!



MLC OFFICE HOURS

The office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9 am-3 pm. Saturdays and evenings are by appointment. Staff is always available by appointment, so please don't hesitate to ask! 12



HELP WANTED!

Would you like to help us keep our outdoor church sign up-to-date? We like to change it periodically to coincide with our newest sermon series topic, special services or events. It's a small commitment - an hour every month or two. Please get in touch with Judi Enix or Vicki Dallmann for more info.
Thanks for your consideration!



Messiah Gives Back!

THANK YOU to Messiah's January Daybreak volunteer crew (from left):
Gerry Boe, Pat Boe, Karen Rebuehr, Noah Melton, Aimee Gipes,
Darrick Melton, Leah Melton, Lou Ciuffini.
Learn more about Daybreak on p. 10.

WAYS TO GIVE

We will have an offering time during the services, but you can give any time during the week using one of the following ways:

- 1) Go to: bit.ly/MLCGiving
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet and follow the instructions given.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.



Giving Statements

Please help Messiah be **greener** and consider switching your statement delivery method from US Mail to **EMAIL**.
Call the church office if you'd like to do this!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



- 3 - Terry & Joy McClintock
- 6 - Paul & Shannon Capps
- 7 - Gerry & Pat Boe
- 12 - Leonard & Lisa Winters



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Jaime Dykstra | 16 - Roger Gordon |
| 2 - Victoria Cordon | 18 - Mike Scarcelli |
| Janice Holmes | Morgan Nuyttens |
| 3 - William Johnke | 19 - Leah Melton |
| Ryan Kittler | 20 - Eva Hauge |
| Prudencia Moore | Dominic Hester |
| Ken Skinner | 24 - Bristol Haussy |
| 4 - Jerry Buchenau | Samuel Remus |
| 6 - Dave Nygard | 25 - Julie Bajt |
| Katie Snider | 27 - David Freeman |
| 7 - Kathy Sievers | Anita Schultz |
| 8 - Aubrey Murphy | 29 - Gabrielle Anderson |
| Joseph Sleyko | Ray Anderson |
| 9 - Matthew Fiday | Ken Neese |
| Doug Hawkinson | Rose Sochan |
| 13 - Pat Burke | Jeanette Wegemer |
| 14 - Jacob McDonald | 30 - Barbara Culinovic |
| Angie Mitchka | 31 - Luke McDonald |
| 15 - Rowan Hedden | |
| Michael Poole | |



MARCH SERVERS

Counters

03/03/24 Dan Stukel, Harold Stier
 03/10/24 Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer
 03/17/24 Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock
 03/24/24 Judy Fowler, Deb Dole
 03/31/24 Dana Stier, Zac Hoelscher

Ushers 8:00

03/03/24 Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel
 03/10/24 Don Cyborski, Paul Allen
 03/17/24 Wayner Lauffer, Bob Miller
 03/24/24 Don Cyborski, Craig Stone
 03/31/24 needed

Ushers 9:30

03/03/24 Bill Unyi, Brandon Fiday
 03/10/24 Jeff Homes, needed
 03/17/24 Roger Gordon, Brandon Fiday
 03/24/24 Aimee Gipes, Alan Costello
 03/31/24 needed

Ushers 11:00

03/03/24 Gary Phillips, Brandon Fiday
 03/10/24 Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer
 03/17/24 Gary Phillips, Brandon Fiday
 03/24/24 Darryl Hoelscher, Brandon Fiday
 03/31/24 needed

Communion Assistants 8:00

03/03/24 Jane Stukel, Bev Korby
 03/10/24 Nancy Bertnik, Marvina Allen
 03/17/24 Jane Stukel, Pat Anderson
 03/24/24 Randy & Laurel Ling
 03/31/24 Greg & Deb Dole

Communion Assistants 9:30

03/03/24 needed
 03/17/24 needed

Communion Assistants 11:00

03/03/24 needed
 03/17/24 needed

Readers 8:00

03/03/24 Paul Allen
 03/10/24 Beth Hohisel
 03/17/24 Randy Ling
 03/24/24 Kate Richmond
 03/31/24 Paul Allen

Readers 9:30

03/03/24 Sherri Unyi
 03/10/24 Jane Costello
 03/17/24 Jane Costello
 03/24/24 Doug Potts
 03/31/24 Doug Potts

Readers 11:00

03/03/24 Donna Stier
 03/10/24 Matthew Fiday
 03/17/24 needed
 03/24/24 Tom Bond
 03/31/24 Tom Bond

Greeters 8:00

03/03/24 Gerry & Pat Boe
 03/10/24 Bev Korby, Nancy Bertnik
 03/17/24 John & Leah Kewenig
 03/24/24 Beth Hohisel, needed
 03/31/24 two needed

Greeters 9:30

03/03/24 Kim Ciuffini, needed
 03/10/24 Darryl & Cindi Souza
 03/17/24 two needed
 03/24/24 two needed
 03/31/24 two needed

Greeters 11:00

03/03/24 Roger & Carol Gordon
 03/10/24 Brandon & Aubrey Fiday
 03/17/24 Kim Ciuffini, Donna Stier
 03/24/24 Kim Ciuffini, needed
 03/31/24 two needed





40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431
(815) 741-4488

You're invited to celebrate

Easter

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

at

Breakfast from 7:30 - 11 am

Worship at 8, 9:30 and 11 am



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Associate Pastor David Stier
Choir Director Herb Alexander
Choir Director Season Lawler
Children's Choir Director Rose Ann Sochan
Organist
Interim Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Interim Tech Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Interim Student Ministry Administrator Kate Richmond
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Interim Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann

info@mlcjoliet.org

815-741-4488