

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

August 17, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Celebration Service



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Jane Costello
Praise Team Nikolai Stier, Brent Cariveau, Heather Brown,
Herb Alexander, Tammie Eigenbauer

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

815.741.4488
www.mlcjoliet.org



Welcome to Rally Sunday Celebration Service!

Be sure to head upstairs after worship
for the unveiling of our newly
renovated Kidz Club!



Then, stick around for our annual
Church Picnic!

Messiah Lutheran Church

August 17, 2025
10 a.m.

Enter Reverently. Worship Joyfully. Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"We Gather Together," #561 v. 1-3

> 1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
> 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
> 3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou Lead - er tri - um - phant,

He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;
Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;
And pray that Thou still our De - fend - er wilt be.

The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning:
Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion:

Sing prais - es to His name: He for - gets not His own.
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be Thine!
Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free! A - men.

PRESENCE LITANY ADAPTED FROM 1 CHRONICLES 29

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel

All: our father, forever and ever.

Leader: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory
and the victory and the majesty,

All: for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.

Leader: Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,

All: and you are exalted as head above all.

Leader: We worship Your Lord in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

All: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

"This Is Amazing Grace," led by Praise Team

Verse 1

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory, the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Chorus

This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love
That You would take my place, that You would bear my cross
You would lay down Your life, that I would be set free
Jesus, I sing for, all that You've done for me

Verse 2

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory, the King of glory
Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Repeat Chorus

Bridge (2X)

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

(2nd time) Worthy, worthy, oh...

Repeat Chorus

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Leslie McFarland

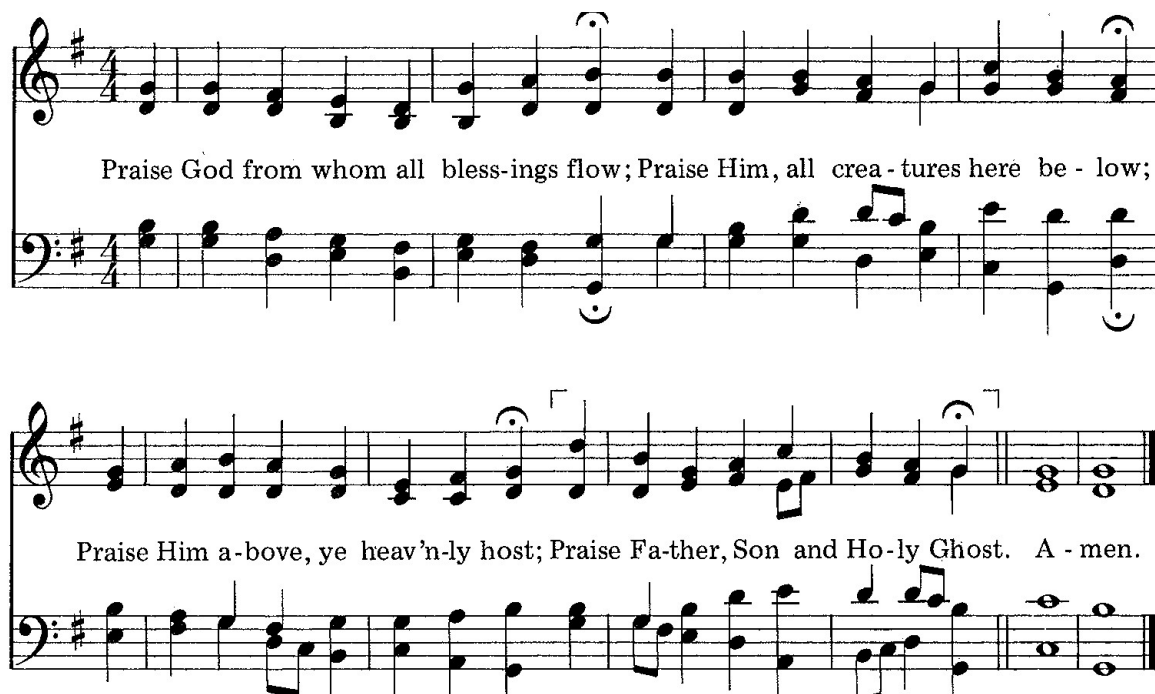
THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Sochan

OUR 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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON, Jeremiah 23:23-29 (ESV)

Reader: Tom Bond

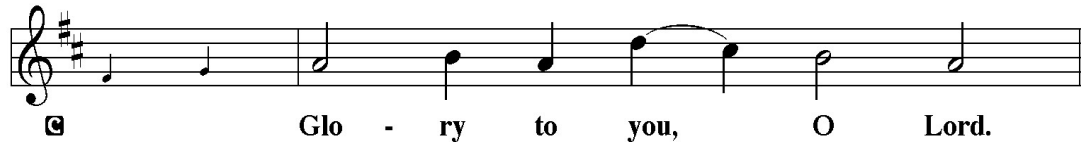
²³ "Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' ²⁶ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON, Hebrews 12:1-3 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

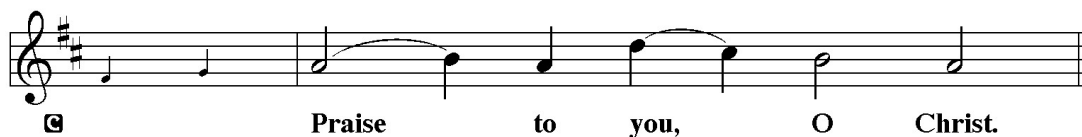
GOSPEL LESSON, Luke 12:49-59 (ESV)



⁴⁹ "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

⁵⁷ "And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸ As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. ⁵⁹ I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny."



MESSAGE

"Division Isn't Just In Math Class"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

A manuscript of this sermon (and those previous) is available in the Narthex.



HYMN

"Love Lifted Me," #505 v. 1-3

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!

1
 else could help, Love lift - ed me.

2
 Love lift - ed me.

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

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Servers: Terry Anzalone, Nancy Bertnik, Tom Bond, Darryl Hoelscher, Randy Ling, Joy McClintock, Donna Stier

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"



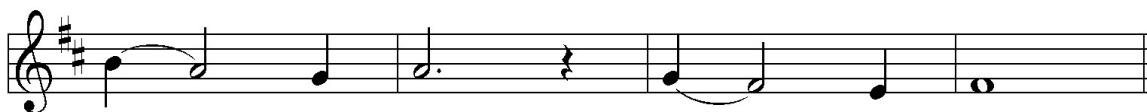
☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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


"Take My Life and Let It Be," #379



1. Take my life and let it be Con - se - cra - ted,
 2. Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse
 3. Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly,
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold— Not a mite would




Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days— Let them
 of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and
 for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with
 I with - hold; Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry




flow in cease - less praise, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 beau - ti - ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 mes - sag - es from Thee, Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
 pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

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.



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.

THE BENEDICTION

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

"The Joy," led by Praise Team

Verse 1

This is the day You made
So I'll rejoice and be glad
Rejoice and be glad in it
This is where I believe
That You are more than enough
More than enough for me

Pre-Chorus

You are faithful to Your promise
You are strong when I am weak
When I'm standing in Your presence
I have everything I need

Chorus

The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength
O my soul bless His Name
All that is within me say
The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength

song continues...

Verse 2

Jesus come what may
You are worthy of all
Worthy of all my praise

Pre-Chorus

You are faithful to Your promise
You are strong when I am weak
When I'm standing in Your presence
I have everything I need

Chorus

The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength
O my soul bless His Name
All that is within me say
The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength

Bridge

Let it rise up like a river
Overflowing Holy Spirit
Let it pour out with no limit
Overflowing Holy Spirit

Chorus

The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength
O my soul bless His Name
All that is within me say
O my soul bless His Name
All that is within me say
O my soul bless His Name
All that is within me say
The joy of the Lord
The joy of the Lord is my strength

POSTLUDE

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

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE BEGINNING AUGUST 24

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

8:30 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:30 A.M. EDUCATION HOUR (FOR ALL AGES)

10:30 A.M. FAMILY PRAISE & WORSHIP



Education HOUR

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD
Growing in Faith Together



Kicks off August 24th at 9:30 for ALL AGES!

K-5th grades in the Kidz Club...

6th-8th grades in the Youth Room...

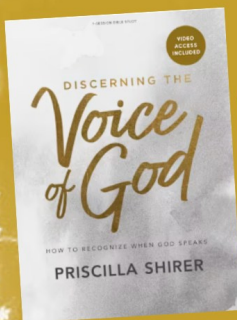
High school kicks off in October...

Adult Insight in Fellowship Hall...

Prayer Station (new!) with interactive tools for individuals,
prayer partners, or small groups.



MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Women's Fall Bible Study

Wednesdays beginning **September 10th**
in the Fireside Room.

Now with two sessions to choose from!

- Afternoons, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
- Evenings, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Discover the root to clear and daily communication with God.

FUNERAL INFORMATION FOR JOHN HINES, JR.

Visitation will take place at Messiah tomorrow morning, August 18th, from 9-11 a.m. Funeral Service at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. burial at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. Private luncheon to follow.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT INSIGHT

We will kick off the 2025-2026 adult Sunday School season next week, on **August 24th** with a short unit on some of Christ's harder to interpret parables, ending on a sermon from Charles Stanley on obedience. We meet in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings at 9:30.



COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME

Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 9:30 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!

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.

DAYBREAK SHELTER

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to those less fortunate at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Food donations are also needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, September 8th.

MEMORY BEARS

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Come check us out on **September 23rd**, Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email regency118@comcast.net for more info.

MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)

3M is on break for the remainder of the summer. Email Mike Brown at gonzopal2017@cheerful.com for more info.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)

Welcome back to a new season of OWLS on Tuesday, **September 9th** at noon! We will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of every month September-May.



We'd love if you would also invite someone friends to come along with you! We know you'll all have a lot of catching up to do so there will not be a speaker in September - but we will have prayer, trivia and fellowship! We ask that everyone sign up in the Narthex so we have a headcount. Also let us know what finger-food, appetizer, salad or dessert you will bring to share. Questions may be directed to Pat Burke, Pat Buchenau, or Lisa Winters.

PRAY JOLIET

You're invited to join Pray Joliet's August walk, on Saturday, **August 23rd**, from 8-10 a.m. at Bicentennial Park (south side of Jefferson). Mark your calendar! Let's give glory to God together and may our prayers be filled with His thoughts. May we be transformed. Let us step forward together following His lead.

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 or email regency118@comcast.net 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 by email regency118@comcast.net, 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

The next Messiah Quilting Day (3rd Tuesday each month) will be on **August 19th** 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.

We are in need of clean sheets of any size, flat or fitted (no stains or holes) to be used as the backs of our quilts. You can drop them off in the basket provided in the Narthex. Thank you, in advance!

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 **August 19th**!



WEDNESDAY EVENING FAMILY DINNERS

Wednesday Family Dinners are coming back soon! Beginning on **October 1st**, dinners will take place the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Sign up lists will be posted in the Narthex a few weeks prior to each.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our fall session of Women's Bible Study kicks off on Wednesday, **September 10th**. We have **added an afternoon session** for those who can't make it in the evenings! Wednesday afternoons from 1-2:30, and evenings from 6:30-8 in the Fireside Room. Our opening series will walk through, "Discerning the Voice of God," by Priscilla Shirer, and discovering the root to clear and daily communion with God.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

J-CHURCH

Due to conflicting events, J-Church will resume the third Sunday in September.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

We kickoff our fall season on **September 10th**! Register here:



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will kick off the new season next week, on **August 24th**, at 9:30 a.m. Pre-K through 5th is upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6th-8th in the Youth Room!

Register here:



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 kicks off in October in classroom #101.

FRIENDS AND MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

We kick off our fall season on Wednesday, **September 3rd** from 6-8 p.m.! FAM will be led by Kate Richmond for the duration of Kersten's maternity leave.

HEAD 2 HEART

Our H2H (Confirmation) program for 6th-8th graders begins this week!

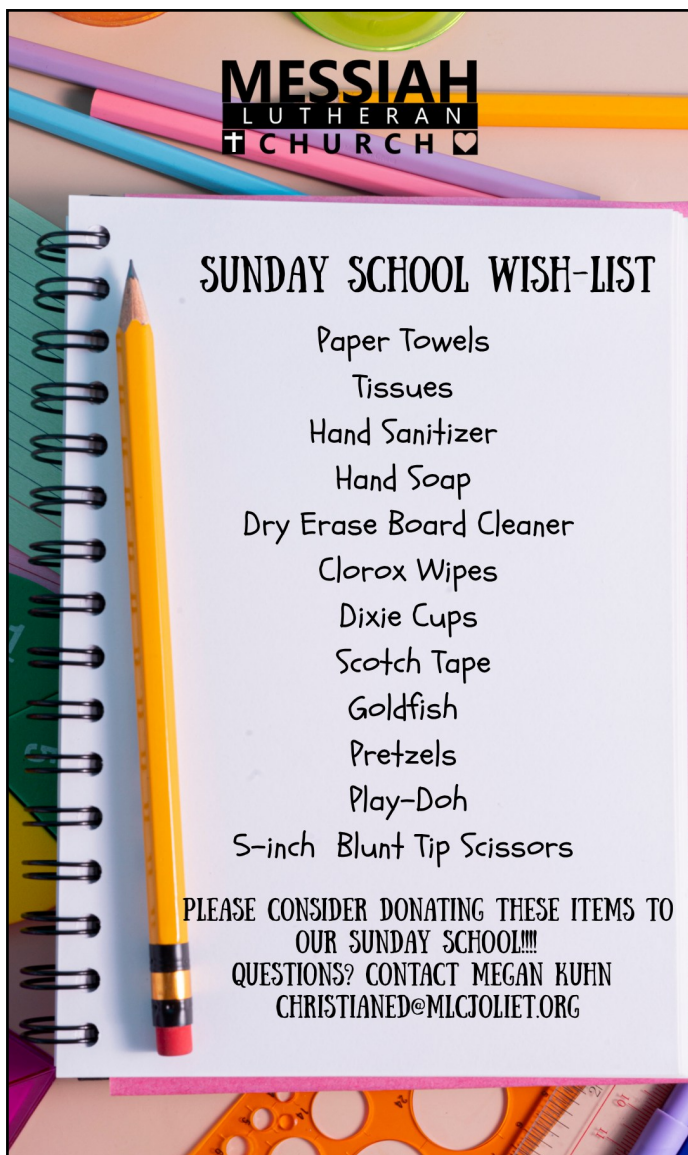
- ◊ Orientation Night, August 20th
- ◊ Program kickoff, September 3rd
- ◊ Parents' Night, September 10th

Program runs Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. H2H will be lead by Mike Brown for the duration of Kersten's maternity leave.

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



Attention
LADIES OF MESSIAH!



Donations to our Kidz Club Sunday School may be left in the food pantry collection bin in the Narthex. Please clearly mark that your donation is for Sunday School.

Thank you, in advance,
for your generosity!

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.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

SUNDAY (August 17)

RALLY DAY!

10 a.m. Combined Worship,
Kidz Club Open House
followed by Church Picnic
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY (August 18)

9-11 a.m. John Hines, Jr. visitation,
11 a.m. Funeral Service

TUESDAY (August 19)

9 a.m. Quilters

WEDNESDAY (August 20)

11:15 a.m. Joliet Christian Women
6 p.m. H2H Orientation

THURSDAY (August 21)

10:15 a.m. Prayer Team
12 p.m. Staff Meeting

FRIDAY (August 22)

n/a

SATURDAY (August 23)

9:30 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY (August 24)

NEW TIMES

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (streamed)
9:30 a.m. Education Hour
for ALL AGES
10:30 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

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



ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30 a.m.: 102
10:00 a.m.: 43
Online: 18
Messiah Kids: n/a
MSM: 0

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068
YTD Operating Budget: \$418,503
YTD Giving Received: \$358,372
Average Weekly Need: \$13,078
Received Last Week: \$10,132

STEWARDSHIP VERSE **OF THE WEEK**

2 Corinthians 9:11

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

Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Building Liaison Kate Richmond
Youth Director Kersten Stier
Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi