MESSIAH MESSENGER



2026

From Pastor's Desk

Pastor Kurt Hoover

And Jesus (holding a Roman coin) said to them,
"Whose likeness and inscription is this?"
(Matthew 22:20)

You will be having many conversations about the influences of AI on the next generation. And you have something to say! God shapes the world through human connection.

The church addresses the largest concern coming out of AI. The very real loss of human connection. It's not a matter of if, but how many people will turn to AI to replace the actual human relationships provided by their family and community. And as good as AI will be at replacing real human connections, there is one thing it cannot do... It cannot bear the image of God.

AI cannot be inscribed upon and given words of eternal life in real time. Only the Spirit can give us the words of eternal life. Words we take for granted every day. You are the product of every word inscribed upon your parents, teachers, coaches and friends that were given to you at specific times of learning and growing and becoming who you are.

When we as humanity take God out of that equation there is not telling what the result will be. What delusions of grandeur, privilege and self-justification can be produced when a human being is cut off from actual human connection? When this happens, we will truly know what it means to be separated from God. The gnashing and grinding of teeth that comes from being cast into the outer darkness.

AI is not the devil, but it is only (and only ever will be) inscribed upon by us. It cannot bear God's spirit in the way you and I can. Take confidence in the way in which God uses each of us to shape His world. You are a part of a Kingdom that has never been so needed in the world. You bear the image of God!

Whose likeness and inscription have been carved into your very being… by grandma and grandpa, mom and dad, every Sunday school lesson and moment of worship?

You bear the image – the likeness and inscription - of God.

Enjoying the freedom of the King,

Pr. Kurt

pastor.hoover@mlcjoliet.org

ALTAR GUILD - Help needed!

We are looking for someone to lead the Altar Guild. This includes scheduling, ordering supplies, and training new members. We also need volunteers to sign up to prepare and set up Communion.

Please prayerfully consider stepping up as an Altar Guild leader or co-leader. I can be reached at 815-931-1427.

-Pat Burke, Lay Ministry Director, layministry@mlcjoliet.org

EVANGELISM - Meet our new director!



My name is Greg Dole. Next year, my wife Deb and I will be 20-year members of Messiah Lutheran. We generally attend the first service. Recently, I decided to deepen my commitment to serving our Lord and our church by agreeing to serve as Messiah's evangelism director. Messiah members who are interested in taking small actions to strengthen faith and unity within our congregation and promote Messiah through community engagement are invited to join me on the Evangelism Committee!

Do you have a family member or friend who is unable to attend church and would appreciate receiving Holy Communion? Pastor Kurt will be leading an upcoming class on delivering the Sacrament of Holy Communion using Communion kits supplied by Messiah. For more information, please reach out to me at 815-519-0959.

-Greg Dole, Evangelism Director, evangelism@mlcjoliet.org

PARISH FELLOWSHIP



The Parish Fellowship board wears many hats! Funeral luncheons have been a very big part this year. We have had nine funerals at Messiah since the beginning of the year. We did four or five luncheons and a few dessert/coffee receptions. I have a small, but dedicated team who have affectionately been nicknamed, "Messiah Marthas!" We're always in need of extra help if you can find it in your heart to help in any way.

For a funeral there is usually set up the day before which includes covering tables, making cold drinks, and setting up as much as possible. Donations of baked goods are always needed, too. The day of the funeral is serving & cleaning up.

Having a funeral luncheon at Messiah has changed over the years. Pastor(s) meet with the family for planning. If the family wants something at Messiah they will be given a couple of menus. Currently we order from Babe's Hot Dogs, Nikos, & Cemeno's. You will then be put in contact with me and I'll get everything ordered. The meal is paid for by the family, and all desserts, drinks (coffee, ice tea, tea, and lemonade) are provided by Messiah. If the family would like a dessert/coffee reception, there is no cost as we will get volunteers to donate desserts.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns!

- Terry Anzalone, Parish Fellowship Director, 815-531-9781

STEWARDSHIP

Giving Thanks Through Generosity

Thanksgiving reminds us to celebrate God's abundant blessings in our lives. Stewardship during this season calls us to respond with gratitude by offering our time, talents, and treasures in service to God and neighbor. As we share generously, we participate in God's work in the world and make His love visible to others. This season, let our giving be an expression of thanksgiving, reflecting the joy and abundance of God's grace in our lives.

Don't forget to pick up an **Operation Christmas Child** gift box to fill with Christmas gifts!

-Gerry Boe, Stewardship Director, stewardship@mlcjoliet.org

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

shoeboxes are available in the Narthex.
The collection will go through November 15!

Since 1993, God has used Samaritan's Purse to deliver **over 200 million** shoebox gifts to children in need all over the globe, and Messiah has been a proud supporter for many years! For box-filling suggestions and more, visit their website here.

COME HELP US DECK THE HALLS FOR JESUS!

A Messiah Lutheran Church Christmas Family Celebration



The Christmas season is a wonderful time to come together as a church family and celebrate the greatest gift of all — the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! This year, Messiah Lutheran Church is inviting all of our congregation to be part of our Christmas decorating tradition. We want to welcome families, children, and members of all ages to join in the fun!

Families will have the opportunity to sponsor and decorate one of our three Christmas trees. Together, we will also prepare our church for the season with beautiful wreaths, garland, and our nativity display, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

And what would a Christmas celebration be without a little extra fun? Children can look forward to prizes, while everyone enjoys hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, and fellowship with their church family.

Most importantly, this is more than decorating trees! It is an opportunity to build connections, share traditions across generations, and prepare our hearts and our church to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As we gather, decorate, laugh, and work together, may our sanctuary reflect the joy, hope, and love that Christ brings into the world.

Bring your family, invite a friend, and help us make this
a joyful new Messiah tradition! Saturday, November 28 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11 (ESV)





Join us on **November 1**
for a dessert reception to honor
Rose Ann Sochan's
50th anniversary at Messiah!

Where: in the Narthex
When: 9:40 a.m. (between services)



Prayer Vigil

November 14
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Prayer will be led by our
pastors and leadership.
Please sign up in the Narthex.



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Join us for worship at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING

ADVENT



Please join us for worship:

December 2

December 9

December 16

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH



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.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP AND SUNDAY BULLETINS

Can't make it to church this week? The 8:30 a.m. service is live-streamed online on our Facebook and YouTube pages. Links to both are at mlcjoliet.org/worship (please scroll to the bottom of the page). You can also view or print the bulletin, if you'd like to follow along!

Opportunities to Get Involved!

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY
Our Sunday morning Bible Study for adults is at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. Our current focusses on The Ten Commandments.



ALTAR FLOWERS - 2027 List is Posted
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 and may be taken home after the late service. The 2027 list is now available - Reserve your dates!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO MESSIAH
Christmas gifts to Messiah will be allocated 75% to the church bell and 25% to updating exterior signage.

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 Insight is finished. 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.

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.



LIL LOVES MINISTRY

Lil Loves at Messiah aims to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the area by providing **FREE** assistance with diapers and much needed baby supplies. Lil Loves is available on a by-appointment basis, and those requesting assistance may sign up on our website.

Lil Loves thanks you for your donations of:

**Diapers and Pull-ups* **Wipes* **Baby Wash/Shampoo*
**Baby Lotion* **Toiletry items for the moms such as deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, etc.*

Trial-sized toiletry items are especially appreciated, rather than full-sized. If you'd like to donate, please place your items in the black bin in the Narthex. Our Lil Loves Ministry has helped many, many families in need with care packages thanks to your loving generosity!



WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT FORMULA OR USED ITEMS.
Formula and used baby clothes are happily accepted at
Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center
at 903 Infantry Dr., Ste. 600, in Joliet.

MEMORY BEARS - Rescheduled for November



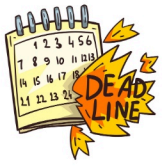
Messiah's Memory Bears Group normally meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our November meeting is being rescheduled due to Thanksgiving. Watch your Sunday bulletin for the new date. Machine sewists are needed! Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

MICRO PANTRY



Did you know that Messiah has **TWO** food pantries? Our indoor micro pantry is in the hallway across from the offices, and our outdoor "Blessing Box" is on the sidewalk right outside the office! This ministry is 100% donation-driven, and you can help to support it through prayer, monetary and/or nonperishable food donations. Please leave your nonperishable food donations in the bin in the Narthex. **NO EXPIRED ITEMS.**

OFFICE HOURS & PUBLICATION DEADLINES



The office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and evenings are by appointment. **Sunday bulletin** material must be received in the front office by 2 p.m. each Tuesday. Material for the **newsletter** is due the 20th of each month.

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!

In November, we will celebrate our veterans. We'll feature a speaker from the Will County Health Department to talk about healthy holiday eating. Turkey, gravy, and mashed potatoes will be provided. We ask that everyone **sign up in the Narthex** so we have a headcount, and to let us know what you will bring to share (salad, side dish, dessert, rolls).





PRAYER CHAIN

Messiah uses an email-based (not in-person) Prayer Chain made up of people willing to pray for our members, community and nation in times of crisis. Prayers are shared amongst the group via email, and are confidential and anonymous as much as possible. Reach out to Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or regency118@icloud.com for more info.

PRAYER TEAM

Our in-person Prayer Team meets Thursday mornings at 10:15 in the Fireside Room for approximately one hour, to pray together over our prayer request list. For more info reach out to Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or regency118@icloud.com, or Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com.

QUILTERS



Messiah Quilters meet the 3rd Tuesday each month from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The next quilting day is November 17. 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 **November 17**!

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 see our Facebook page for additional information, and share with your friends and neighbors!

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT MESSIAH



WORD PLAY! PODCAST - ***God Has a Word for You***



Hosted by Pastor Kurt Hoover and Nikolai Stier, you'll find a new podcast each weekday morning that delves into the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday, focusing on one word in each passage. We'll also feature occasional guest pastors from our area and other LCMC members.

Tune in as they exchange insights into the Word of God…
Along with some nerdy banter!



Each 7–8-minute podcast is available on Spotify here:

Jesus' words of grace are enough for you (2 Cor. 12:9).
Jesus says, "You have all you need. You are not missing anything."

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY is back!

Those post-high school and up are invited to join us in Classroom #101 on Sunday mornings during Education Hour for Bible study, lively discussion, coffee and occasional breakfast treats. Led by Mike Brown.

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!

For the Ladies of Messiah

BIBLE STUDY
Please join us for Women's Bible Study on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room!

BUNCO - Saturday, January 16 at 1 p.m
Ladies, roll the dice, catch up with friends, and win prizes at our next Bunco meetup - no experience needed, takes just two minutes to learn!





Messiah Kidz Club (K-5th grade)

Parents of children (K-5th grade) can join the Messiah Kids group on the Remind app by texting the code mlcmk to 81010, or by going to: https://www.remind.com/join/mlcmk

We'll send reminders/notifications about Sunday School and events!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Our Children's Choir will perform during the 10:45 service on select Sundays. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)
MKW meets on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club! Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5!

MKW
MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS
Connect with the Bible and Friends

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We meet upstairs in the Kidz Club during Education Hour at 9:40 a.m.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2027 - June 14-28

SPY U: UNCOVERING COUNTERFEITS, DISCOVERING THE ONE TRUE GOD



Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to train special agents to detect false intel and to know, love, and live for the one and only God. When cadets arrive at Spy University, they'll uncover counterfeit views of God and recognize the one true God of the Bible, find that God is a trinity, collect clues to reveal how to become a child of God, crack codes to discover attributes of God, and discover that God created them and wants to be their first love.

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)

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!

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!

MAFIA NIGHT



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

Community Events

JOLET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN



You and your friends are invited to Joliet Christian Women's upcoming luncheon in Messiah's Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, November 18 at 11:30 a.m. $22.00 includes a catered lunch, a special guest speaker/presentation and good fellowship. November will feature an **Elvis impersonator**, and a guest speaker.

RSVP by November 11 by contacting Barb at 815-439-2076 or mrs.brutus56@gmail.com, or call Sonya at 815-727-1626.
Check out their website at https://www.stonecroft.org/.
Next luncheon & Christmas cookie sale is December 9.

livingalternatives pregnancy resource center

Did you know that the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) offers a once per month drive-up event called "Will County Curbside Care" that provides two dozen diapers and a package of wipes per vehicle? This event is offered the 2nd Monday of every month from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., while supplies last, and no appointment is necessary! PRC is located at 903 N. 129th Infantry Dr., #600, in Joliet. PRC is one of the ministry partners that Messiah regularly tithes to.

NaperVoice
SING WELL. DO GOOD.™

"Gather in Gratitude: American Sings at 250"

NaperVoice's fall 2026 concert is Sunday, **November 15** at 4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in Naperville. Admission is $21.50 for adults, $16.50 for seniors, $6 for students 13 and older.

Purchase your advance tickets here as they do sell out, and please **select Herb Alexander** as the credited choir member.

This performance will celebrate the wonderful variety of American choral music, including classical, folksong, gospel, jazz, and Broadway genres. Featuring composers Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber, Rosephanye Powell, George Gershwin, Andrea Ramsey, Moses Hogan, and Randall Thompson.

NaperVoice Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds for local charitable organizations through their unique "Concerts for a Cause" strategy. Proceeds from this concert will benefit Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans based in Wheaton.



November Birthdays



1 - Joyce Smith
2- Tom Bond
Kim Ciuffini
Zayden Lawler
3 - Mark Snider
4 - Tim Boe
7 - Carol Thompson
8 - Trish Gillman
9 - Jane Stukel
11 - Marcy Vickers
Evelyn Weiss
Presley Weiss
12 - Ryan Southcomb
13 - Jesse Cohoon
14 - Abigail Burnetti
Chris Hoelscher
Elena Prybell
15 - Lori Burnetti
Liz Stutte
16 - Olivia Bowman
Kathy Mueller
18 - Greg Gipes
19 - Greg Dole
20 - Austin Bernhard
21 - Bennett Kerber
22 - Gary Ally
Tessa Stutte
23 - Nikolai Stier
24 - Sharon Anderson
25 - Bentley Steffen
26 - Janet Potts
27 - Kenny Fowler
Darlene Strong
28 - Jenny Fowler
Keith Thompson
29 - Anthony Burnetti
30 - Bev Korby
Marsha Smith



November Anniversaries

2 - Ryan & Kathryn Kittler
15 - David & Kateryna Calderon

October Servers

Communion Assistants 8:30

11/01/26	Joy McClintock, Angie Mitchka, Doug Potts
11/08/26	Nancy Bertnik, Jane Costello, Cindi Souza
11/15/26	Nancy Bertnik, Doug Potts, Lynn Tapella
11/22/26	Jane Costello, Joy McClintock, Lynn Tapella
11/29/26	Tom & Lynn Bond, Jane Costello

Communion Assistants 10:45

11/01/26	Linda Hallberg, Darryl Hoelscher
11/08/26	Terry Anzalone, one needed
11/15/26	Terry Anzalone, Linda Hallberg
11/22/26	Terry Anzalone, Darryl Hoelscher
11/29/26	Terry Anzalone, one needed

Counters

11/01/26	Judy Fowler, Zach Hoelscher
11/08/26	Ken Skinner, Dan Stukel
11/15/26	Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer
11/22/26	Bob Miller, Joy McClintock
11/29/26	Judy Fowler, Zach Hoelscher

Greeters 8:30

11/01/26	Jean Cleary, one needed
11/08/26	Bev Korby, Wayne Lauffer
11/15/26	Nancy Bertnik, Marty Hohisel
11/22/26	Darryl & Cindi Souza
11/29/26	two needed

Greeters 10:45

11/01/26	two needed
11/08/26	Beth Hohisel, one needed
11/15/26	Lynn Tapella, one needed
11/22/26	Lynn Tapella, one needed
11/29/26	two needed

Readers 8:30

11/01/26	Doug Potts
11/08/26	Jane Costello
11/15/26	Doug Potts
11/22/26	Paul Allen
11/29/26	Jane Costello

October Servers, continued...

Readers 10:45

11/01/26	needed
11/08/26	needed
11/15/26	needed
11/22/26	needed
11/29/26	needed

Ushers 8:30

11/01/26	Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel
11/08/26	Alan Costello, Bill Unyi
11/15/26	Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller
11/22/26	Paul Allen, Craig Stone
11/29/26	Alan Costello, Bill Unyi

Ushers 10:45

11/01/26	Gary Phillips, Darryl Hoelscher
11/08/26	Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer
11/15/26	Josh Johnke, one needed
11/22/26	Gary Phillips, Darryl Hoelscher
11/29/26	Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer

Thank you to the Pastoral Care Team and church family at Messiah for the wonderful cards and well wishes while recovering from my knee replacement surgery and other medical issues. It helped me immensely, knowing that poeple were thinking of me and including me in prayer during this difficult time. God bless you all!

-Wayne Zoellick

Thank you to my church family for your prayers and friendship during this difficult time. I am deeply touched by your kindness with cards, flowers, calls, and most of all your love for Bob and I.

-Gayle Arko





Pie Fundraiser

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES

ORDERS DUE BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

NAME _____

QTY	10"PIE	PRICE	TOTAL
___	Apple	$15	_____
___	Chocolate Pecan	$15	_____
___	Pecan	$15	_____
___	Pumpkin	$15	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND INCLUDE "PIES" IN THE MEMO

SCAN TO ORDER ONLINE

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

PICKUP
8:30 - NOON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Help beautify our Sanctuary this Christmas!

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia plant, please complete this form or call the church office (815) 741-4488.



Poinsettia Sign-Up

The cost is
$20.00 per plant,
and you may take yours home after worship on Christmas Eve.

PLEASE ORDER BY PLACING YOUR CHECK AND THIS FORM IN THE OFFERING PLATE.

Deadline to order is November 16.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS: _____ **($20.00 each)**

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF _____

_____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

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



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi
Building Liaison Kate Richmond
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann
Organist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Tech Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Youth Director Kersten Stier
Worship Coordinator Justin Brown

info@mlcjoliet.org 815-741-4488