



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026
8:30 a.m.

FOR WHERE
TWO OR THREE ARE

gathered

IN MY NAME,
THERE AM I
AMONG THEM.

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

September 6, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

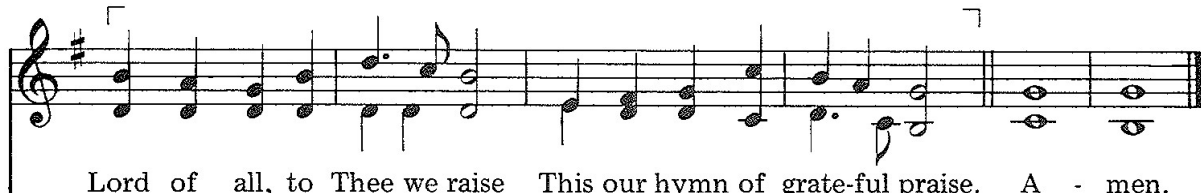
"For the Beauty of the Earth," 560 v. 1-5



- 1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,
- 2. For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
- 3. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child;
- 4. For Thy Church that ev - er - more Lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
- 5. For Thy - self, best gift di - vine, To our race so free - ly given;



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies;
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light:
Friends on earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
Off - ering up on ev - ery shore Her pure sac - ri - fice of love:
For that great, great love of Thine, Peace on earth and joy in heaven:



Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM, LEVI DOUGLAS HERMANN

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.**

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, Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV)

Reader: Jane Costello

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

SECOND READING, Matthew 18:1-20 (ESV)

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

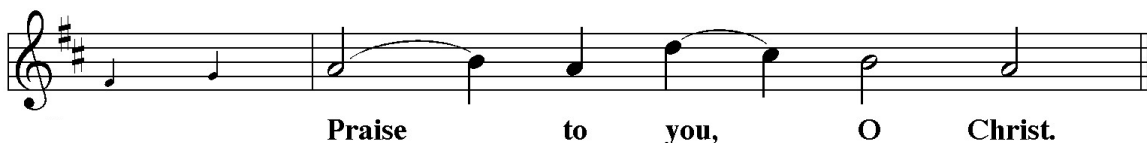
¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³ and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷ "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰ "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."



MESSAGE

"Kingdom Life: Forgiveness 101"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

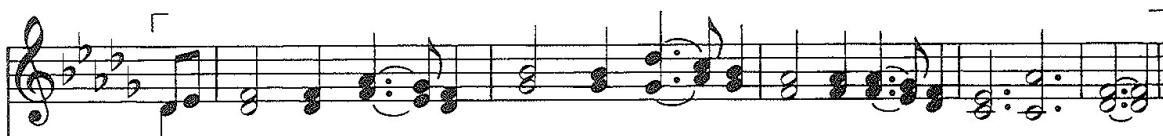
A manuscript for this sermon and those previous can be found in the Narthex.

HYMN

"Just As I Am," #342 v. 1-5



1. Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me,
2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
3. Just as I am, tho tossed a - bout With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind—Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, relieve;



And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Yea, all I need in Thee to find— O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

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:



Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All:

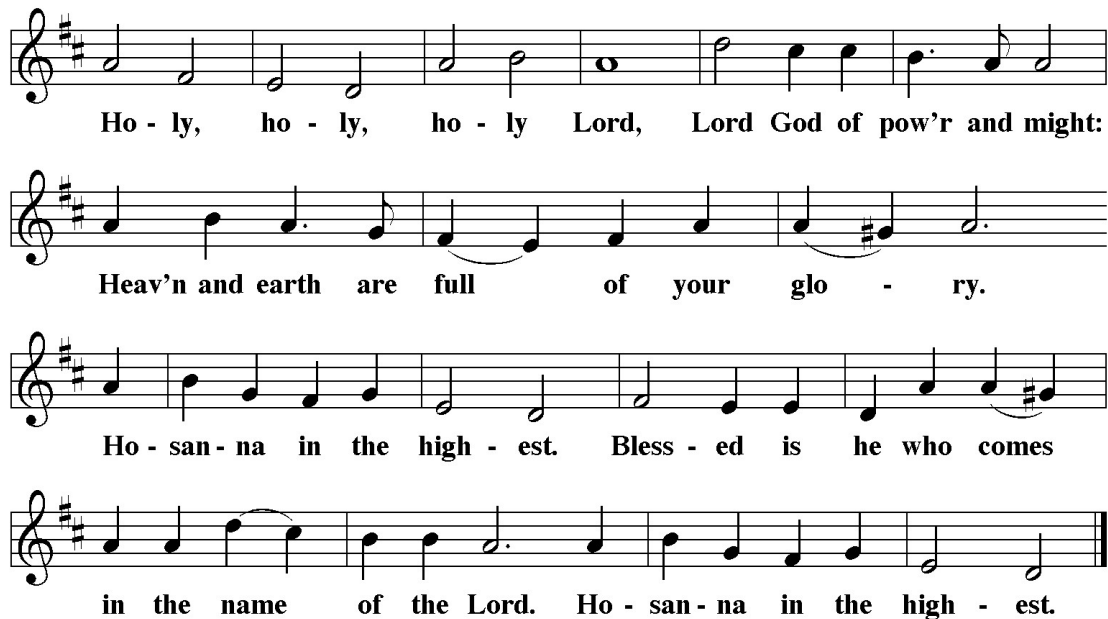


Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All:



Leader: It is indeed right and salutary...
we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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: Nancy Bertnik, Jane Costello, Bev Korby

THE LORD'S PRAYER

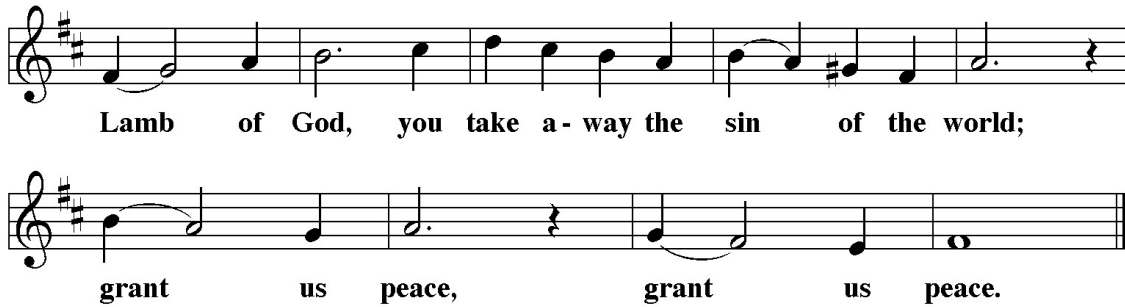
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

"Lamb of God"

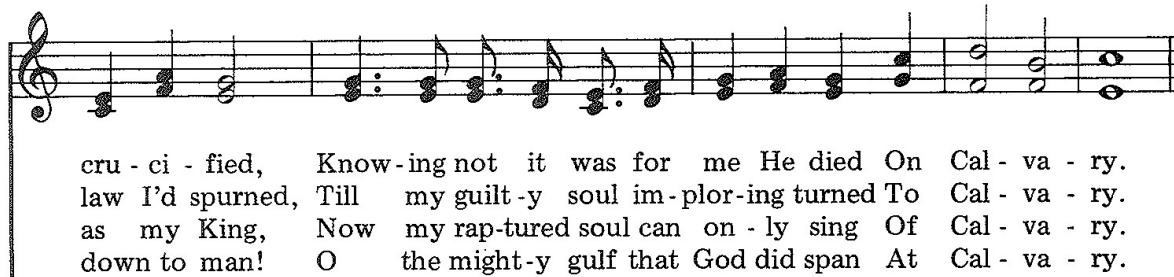
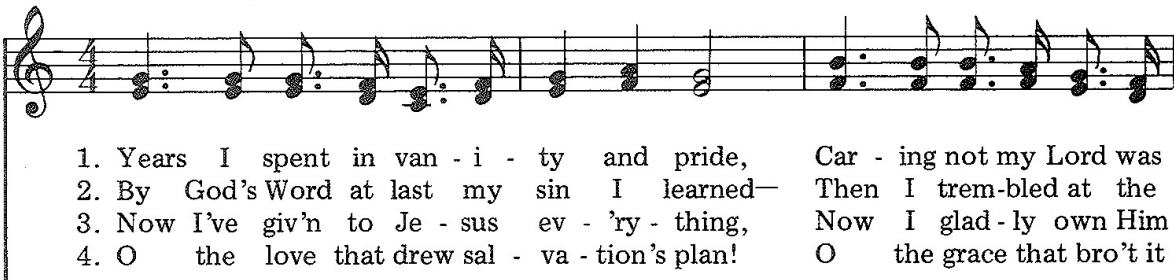


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

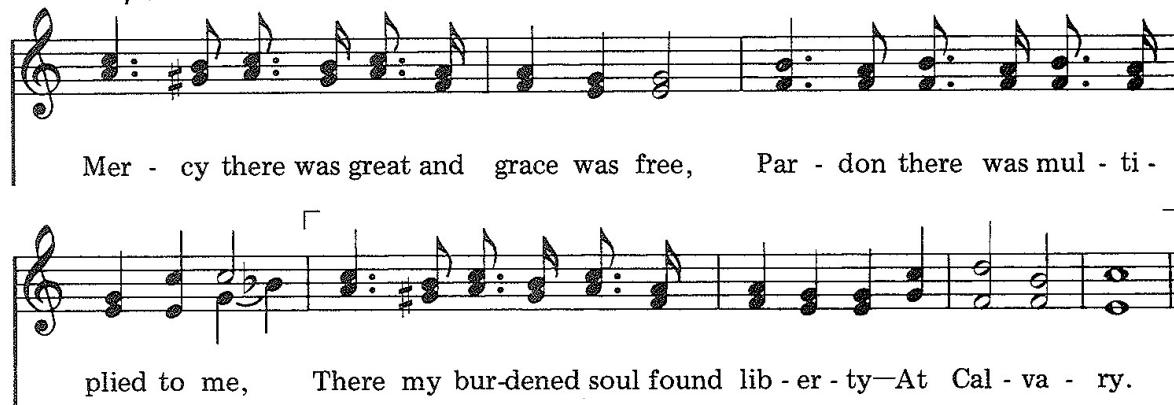


COMMUNION HYMN

"At Calvary," #338

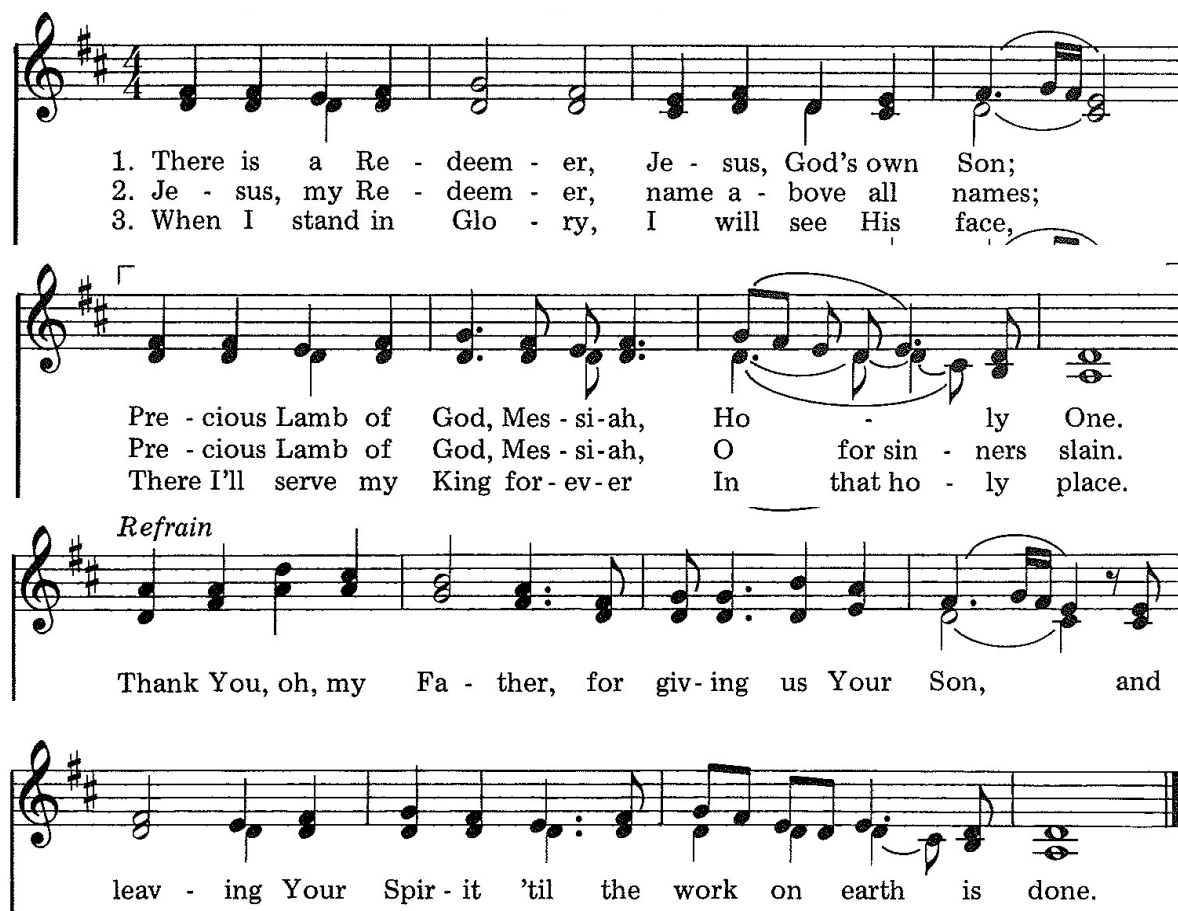


Refrain



COMMUNION HYMN

"There Is a Redeemer," #206



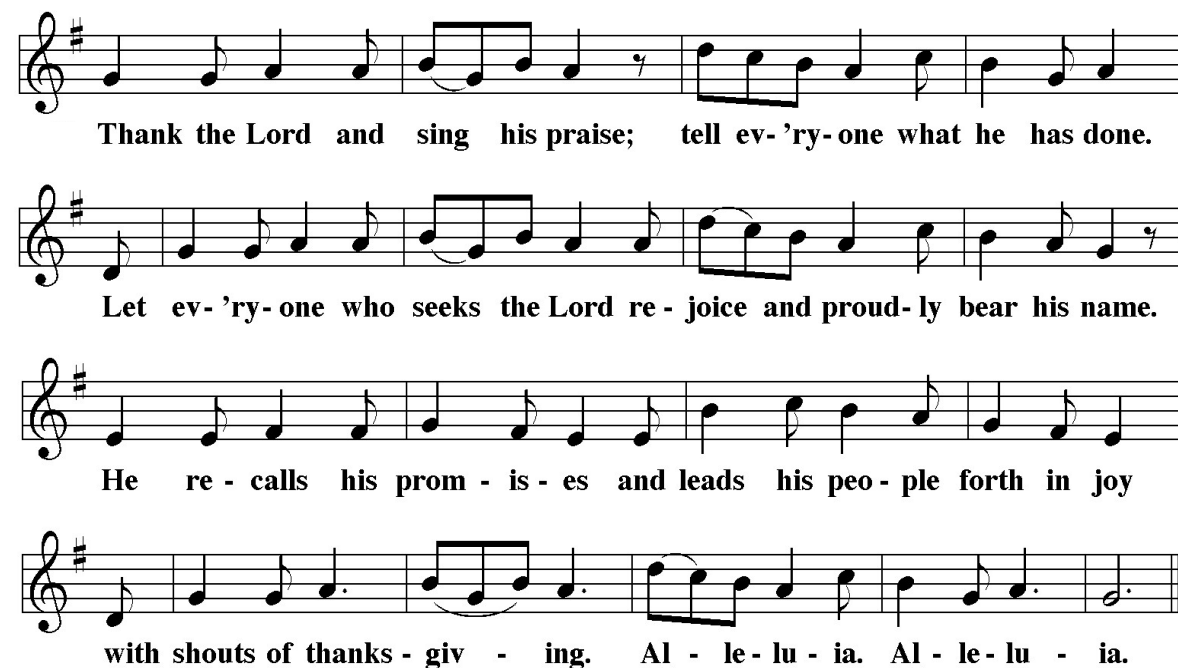
1. There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son;
2. Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names;
3. When I stand in Glo - ry, I will see His face,

Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - ly One.
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, O for sin - ners slain.
There I'll serve my King for - ev - er In that ho - ly place.

Refrain

Thank You, oh, my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us Your Son, and
leav - ing Your Spir - it 'til the work on earth is done.

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

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," #344 v. 1-4



1. He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the
2. He's got the wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the
3. He's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in His hands, He's got the
4. He's got you and me, broth-er, in His hands, He's got



whole world in His hands, He's got the whole
wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the
ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in His hands, He's got the
you and me, sis - ter, in His hands, He's got you and me,



world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.
rain in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.
ba - by in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.
broth - er, in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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*This morning, we celebrate the Holy Baptism of
Levi Douglas Hermann.*

*Congratulations! May God's love
and grace lead you always.*

MESSIAH
 CHURCH
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

THE KINGDOM LIFE

FALL 2026 SERMON SERIES

† How does God's family change your family? †

Jesus united Heaven and Earth.
You are already in...

THE KINGDOM LIFE.

Made-to-Order Messiah Apparel & Accessories!

Coffee Mugs, Lanyards & MORE!

You can check out physical samples in the Narthex.

Scan here to browse and place your order!

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Saturday, September 19 - Dinner Banquet at 5:30 p.m. Thank you to those who RSVP'd for the banquet. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Sunday, September 20 - Reception Celebration between services.

BIG NEWS - We will be celebrating past staff during our services on September 20! Pr. Dave Glesne will be preaching, and you will see many other familiar faces as you worship with us at 8:30 & 10:45.

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 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 - Resumes September 10!



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*

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 **September 22**. Machine sewists are needed! Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors) - Resumes September 8!

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!



Chili and beverages will be provided for September's luncheon as we celebrate "Tailgate & Touchdowns!" Wear your favorite team's jersey! We ask that everyone **sign up in the Narthex** so we have a headcount, and to let us know if you will bring cornbread, crackers, 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 September 15. 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.

Mark your calendar for QUILT SUNDAY - September 13!

All our quilts will be displayed on the pews in the Sanctuary and are an awesome sight. We will have some quilts for sale in the Narthex after each service and a door offering to help defray the cost of the batting and shipping of the quilts. You can even pick your favorite quilt off the pews to purchase that day!

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 **September 15!**

STAY-N-PLAY - Resumes September 22!

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 - Resumes September 9!

Please join us for our new series of Women's Bible Study that kicks off on **September 9** at 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room!

"God Won't Leave You There: Joseph's Story," an incredible testimony of jaw-dropping faith and patient perseverance in the face of devastating trials, 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.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will have it's debut performance for this season during both services on **September 20** in honor of Messiah's 125th anniversary. Moving forward, they will perform on the fourth Sunday of most months during the late service. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW) - Resumes September 9!

MKW kickoff is **September 9**! We'll meet 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 - Resumes September 13!

We meet upstairs in the Kidz Club during Education Hour at 9:40 a.m. Our summer session wraps up this morning. **Our 2026-2027 program year begins on September 13!**

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 - Kicks off September 9!

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, beginning September 9. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H) - First Night of Class is September 9!

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. Be sure to make note of these important dates:

September 9, First Night of Class
September 16, Parents' Night

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 playfully 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 Alan & Jane Costello
in loving memory of Shirley Oder.

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, September 6

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Insight, High School Bible Study
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, September 7

Church Closed - Labor Day

TUESDAY, September 8

12 p.m. OWLS

WEDNESDAY, September 9

10 p.m. Women's Bible Study
5 p.m. Family Dinner
6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

THURSDAY, September 10

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

FRIDAY, September 11

n/a

SATURDAY, September 12

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

QUILT SUNDAY, September 13

Pastor Dave Nygard preaching

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:

10:15: 127

Online: 18

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$467,357
YTD Giving Received: \$359,940
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$20,547

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 28:7

The Lord is my strength and my
shield; my heart trusts in him, and he
helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and
with my song I praise him.

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

