



August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:15 a.m.

*Rally Sunday
Celebration Service*



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan
Praise Team Justin Brown, Izak Richmond, Nikolai Stier
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

August 30, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN

"Rise Up, O Church of God," #293 v. 1-4



- 1. Rise up, O Church of God! Have done with less - er things;
- 2 Rise up, O Church of God! His king-dom tar - ries long;
- 3. Rise up, O sons of God! The Church for you doth wait,
- 4. Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have trod;



Give heart and mind and soul and strength To serve the King of kings.
Bring in the day of broth-er - hood And end the night of wrong.
Her strength un - e - qual to her task, Rise up, and make her great!
As fol - l'wers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O Church of God!

KINGDOM LITANY BASED ON PSALM 145

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,

All: and all your saints shall bless you!

Leader: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom

All: and tell of your power,

Leader: to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,

All: and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

All: and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

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

All: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG OF PRAISE

"The Lion and the Lamb," led by the Praise Team

- Verse 1 He's coming on the clouds
 Kings and kingdoms will bow down
 Every chain will break
 As broken hearts declare His praise
 For who can stop the Lord Almighty?
- Chorus Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah
 He's roaring with power and fighting our battles
 And every knee will bow before Him
 Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
 For the sins of the world, His blood breaks the chains
 And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
 Every knee will bow before Him
- Verse 2 Open up the gates
 Make way before the King of kings
 The God who comes to save
 Is here to set the captives free
 For who can stop the Lord Almighty?
 (Chorus)
- Bridge For who can stop the Lord Almighty?
 Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
 Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
 Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
 Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
 Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
 Who can stop the Lord?!
- (Chorus)



SONG OF PRAISE

"Jesus Paid It All," led by the Praise Team

Verse 1 I hear the Savior say
 "Thy strength indeed is small
 Child of weakness, watch and pray
 Find in Me thine all in all"

Chorus 'Cause Jesus paid it all
 All to Him I owe
 Sin had left a crimson stain
 He washed it white as snow

Verse 2 Lord, now indeed I find
 Thy pow'r and Thine alone
 Can change the leper's spots
 And melt the heart of stone
 (Chorus)

Verse 3 And when before the throne
 I stand in Him complete
 Jesus died my soul to save
 my lips shall still repeat
 (Chorus)

Tag Sin had left a crimson stain
 He washed it white as snow
 He washed it white as snow
 He washed it white as snow

Bridge Oh, praise the One who paid my debt
 And raised this life up from the dead
 Oh, praise the One who paid my debt
 And raised this life up from the dead
 (Chorus), (Tag)

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.

All: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stephanie Feehan

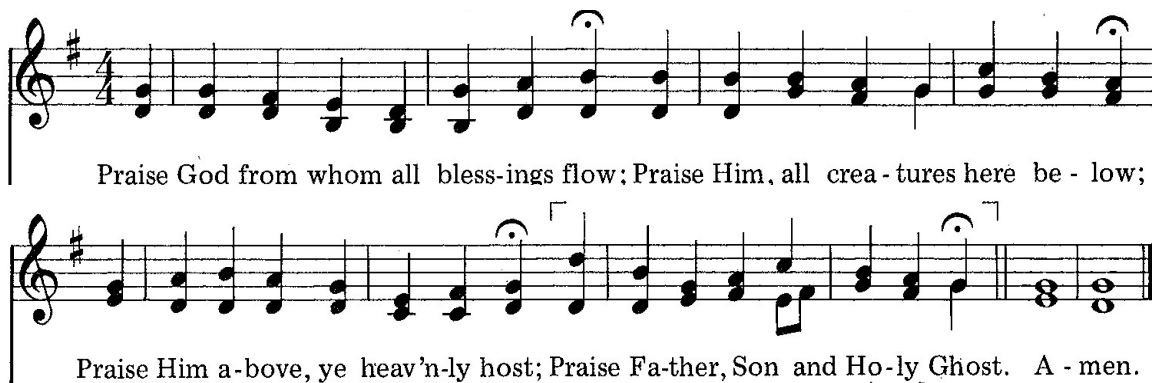
OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

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.

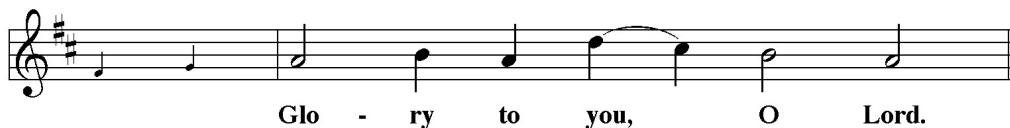
FIRST LESSON, Jeremiah 10:10-13 (ESV)

Reader: Jane Costello

¹⁰ But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

¹¹ Thus shall you say to them: "The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens." ¹² It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. ¹³ When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

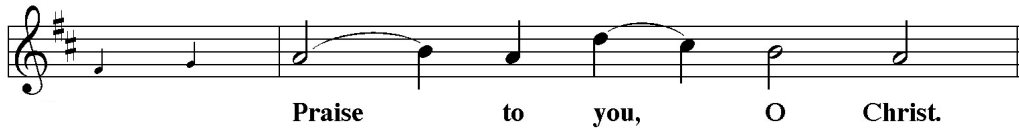
SECOND LESSON, Matthew 16:21-28 (ESV)



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."



MESSAGE

"Kingdom Life: Love Makes Sacrifices"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

A manuscript for this sermon and those previous can be found at the greeter's table near the FLC main entrance.

HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation," #277 v. 1-4



1. The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war,
 4. Yet she on earth hath un - ion With God the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word:
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion One Lord, one faith, one birth;
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;
 And mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won:



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride; With
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food, And
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest, And
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we, Like



His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
 to one hope she press - es, With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
 them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with Thee. A - men.

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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Servers: Terry Anzalone, Tom & Lynn Bond, Jane Costello,
Rowan & Diane Hedden, Cindi Souza, Lynn Tapella

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"



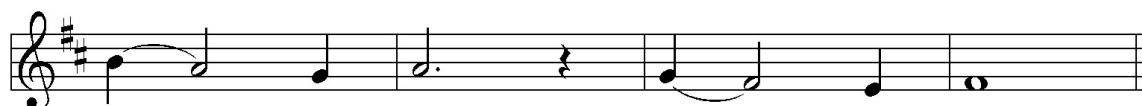
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 HYMNS

"Open My Eyes, That I May See," #381 v. 1-3



1. O-pen my eyes, that I may see Glimp-ses of truth Thou hast for me;
2. O-pen my ears, that I may hear Voic-es of truth Thou send-est clear;
3. O-pen my mouth, and let it bear Glad-ly the warm truth ev-'ry-where;



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key, That shall un-clasp and set me free.
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear, Ev-'ry-thing false will dis-ap-pear.
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare Love with Thy chil-dren thus to share.



Si-lent-ly now I wait for Thee, Read-y, my God, Thy will to see;



O - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
O - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine! A - men.

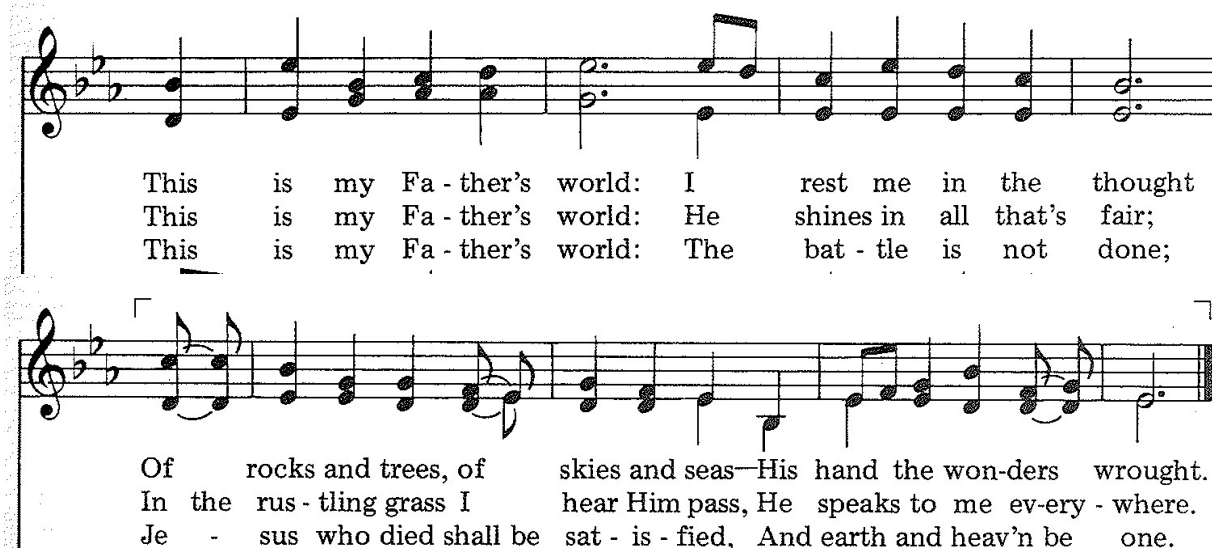
"This Is My Father's World," #58 v. 1-3



1. This is my Fa - ther's world, And to my lis - tening ears
2. This is my Fa - ther's world, The birds their car - ols raise,
3. This is my Fa - ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get



All na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
The morn-ing light, the lil - y white, De - clare their Mak-ers praise.
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought
This is my Fa-ther's world: He shines in all that's fair;
This is my Fa-ther's world: The bat-tle is not done;
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the won-ders wrought.
In the rus-tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev-ery-where.
Je-sus who died shall be sat-is-fied, And earth and heav'n be one.

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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

"God So Loved," led by the Praise Team

- Verse 1 Come all you weary, come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the Water, come and thirst no more
- Verse 2 Come all you sinners, come find His mercy
Come to the table, He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for
- Chorus For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
- Verse 3 Bring all your failures, bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there with open arms
See His open arms

Chorus For God so loved the world that He gave us
 His one and only Son to save us
 Whoever believes in Him will live forever
 The power of hell forever defeated
 Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom
 For God so loved, God so loved the world

Bridge Praise God, praise God
 From whom all blessings flow
 Praise Him, praise Him
 For the wonders of His love
 Praise God, praise God
 From whom all blessings flow
 Praise Him, praise Him
 For the wonders of His love
 (Chorus)

Outro Bring all your failures, bring your addictions
 Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
 Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world

POSTLUDE

Praise Team

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

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**Please join us after the service
 for our annual picnic
 as we celebrate Rally Sunday!**

Special Notice:
 Our **Digging Deeper** event is to be postponed to a later date.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - Save the dates!

Saturday, September 19 - Dinner Banquet at 5:30 p.m.

RSVP here:

Sunday, September 20 - Reception Celebration between services



ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday morning Bible Study for adults is at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. Our current series is entitled, "The Character of God."

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME



Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. and will continue until after the later service gets out. If you are an 8:30 attendee - stay late! If Family Praise & Worship is your service - come early! Make new friends! If you'd like to help with Sunday morning coffee, please reach out to Joyce Pawlowski at 630-890-1203.

CONNECT WITH MESSIAH

You can use this QR code to let us know you're new, tell us that you're interested in next steps at MLC, submit prayer requests, fill out a Connect Card, and give online.

Scan here to connect with MLC:



Online Giving - There are two convenient ways to do it:

- 1) On our website at <https://www.mlcjoliet.org/give>.
- 2) Through the Church Center app on your phone or tablet, or scan the QR code above.

FAITH & BODY - 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 - Resumes September 3!

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!

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!**

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 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

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

PRAY JOLIET

Sunday, September 6
6-8 p.m.

Doors open at 5:30

St. Paul MB Church
1404 S. Briggs St. in Joliet

THE KINGDOM LIFE

FALL 2026 SERMON SERIES



As a Christian you live
in a unique Kingdom
sustained by the words of
your church family.

†
How has your family been
changed by the church?

†
How will your family change
the world?

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

THE KINGDOM LIFE.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

*Holy Communion is offered weekly
during both services.*

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:40 a.m. Education Hour for all ages

- Summer Sunday School for K-8th (kicks off September 13)!
- High School Bible Study (year-round)!
- "Insight" Bible Study for adults!

10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship

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!**



DAILY DEVOTIONAL PODCAST "WORD PLAY!"

God has a Word for you!

Hosted by Pastor Kurt Hoover and Nikolai Stier,
we delve into the Scripture readings for the coming week
by focusing on one word in the passage.

Look for a new episode each weekday as we exchange insights
into the word of God ...along with some nerdy banter.

Find us on Spotify here:



ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar Flowers are sponsored by Pattie Sarcletti in loving memory of Ollie.

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

RALLY SUNDAY, August 30

10:15 a.m. Rally Sunday Celebration Service
and Church Picnic
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, August 31

n/a

TUESDAY, September 1

n/a

WEDNESDAY, September 2

n/a

THURSDAY, September 3

10:15 a.m. Prayer Group
12 p.m. Staff Meeting
1 p.m. Grief Support Group

FRIDAY, September 4

n/a

SATURDAY, September 5

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

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

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 75
10:45: 48
Online: 17
HS: 3
Insight: 21

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$4,40,651
YTD Giving Received: \$339,392
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$7,796

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 2:6

Now may the Lord show steadfast
love and faithfulness to you.
And I will do good to you because
you have done this thing.

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

