



Easter Sunday
April 5, 2026
8:30 a.m.



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE


Rose Ann Sochan

CHOIR INTROIT


"On the Third Day," arr. Alan Pote, led by Herb Alexander

OPENING HYMN


"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," #217 v. 1-4




1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!



Sons of men and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
Fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
Dy - ing once He all doth save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids Him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

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

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM "The Day of Resurrection," arr. Joey Hoelscher,
led by Herb Alexander

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.

All: 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds," #367 v. 1-3, *ELW*



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
set heart and will on things a - bove that we
and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, 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



bles-sing. 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.

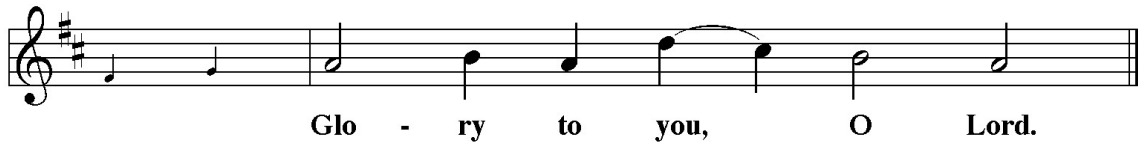
FIRST READING, Acts 14:8-18 (ESV)

Reader: Jane Costello

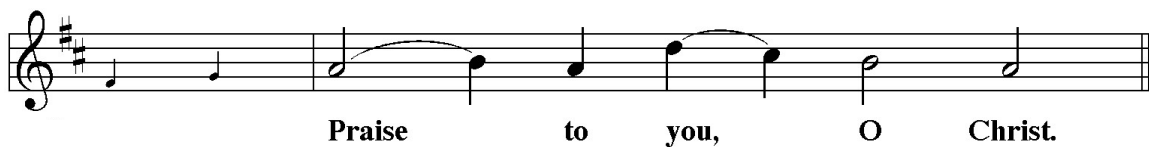
⁸ Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰ said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. ¹¹ And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" ¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, ¹⁵ "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. ¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all the

nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." ¹⁸ Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

GOSPEL READING, John 20:11-18 (ESV)



¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.



MESSAGE

"Bold Prayers: Living God"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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



HYMN

"He Lives," #220 v. 1-3



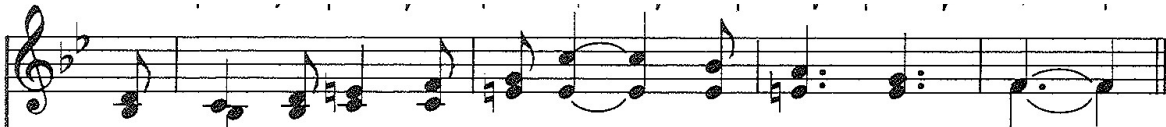
1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day;
2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care,
3. Re - joice, re-joyce, O Christ - ian, lift up your voice and sing



I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er men may say;
And tho' my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
E - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!



I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer,
I know that He is lead - ing thro' all the storm - y blast,
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,



And just the time I need Him He's al - ways near.
The day of His ap - pear - ing will come at last.
None oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.



Refrain
He lives, He lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day! He walks with me and
He lives, He lives,



talks with me a - long life's nar - row way. He lives, He lives, sal -
He lives, He lives,



va - tion to im - part! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with - in my heart.

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: **And al - so with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

All: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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, Angie Mitchka, Cindi Souza

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"



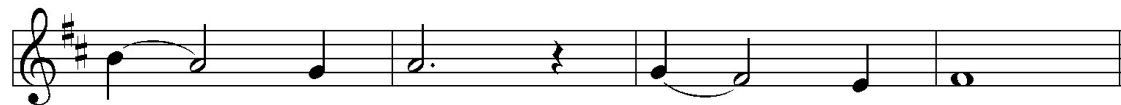
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

"Thine Is the Glory," #227
"Christ Arose," #216

COMMUNION BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION HYMN



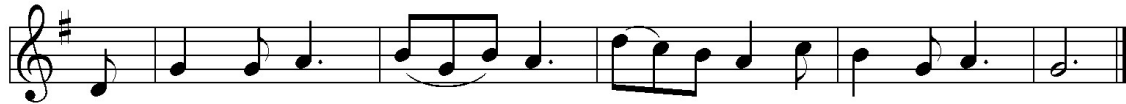
Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



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

"Our God Reigns," #229 v. 1-3



1. How love - ly on the moun-tains are the feet of him
2. He had no state - ly form, He had no maj - es - ty,
3. Out from the tomb He came with grace and maj - es - ty,

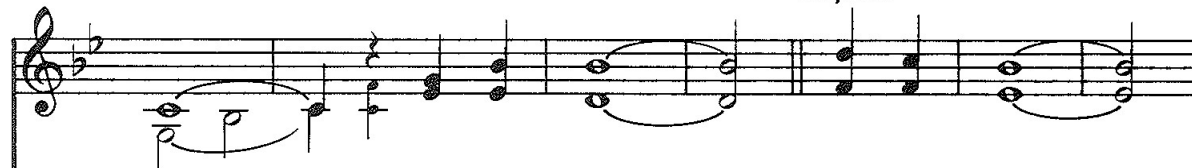


who brings good news, good news An - nounc-ing
That we should be drawn to Him. He was de -
He is a - live, He is a - live. God loves us



peace, pro - claim - ing news of hap - pi - ness. Our God
spised and we took no ac - count of Him, Yet now He
so. see here His hands. His feet. His side. Yes. we

Refrain



reigns, Our God reigns!
reigns with the Most High. Our God reigns!
know, He is a - live.



Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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



Join Us For Breakfast

Easter breakfast is served from 7:30-10:45 a.m.

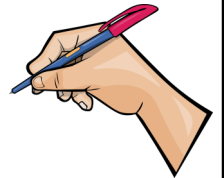
We're serving delicious, homemade **Breakfast Casseroles** (with a vegetarian option!) And...

Sausage **Biscuits & Gravy**
Irish Potatoes **Fresh Fruit**
Donuts/Pastries **Coffee/Fruit Juices**

Free will offering proceeds go to support
Messiah Student Ministries.

HAVE YOU SIGNED YOUR QUILT SQUARE?

As part of our 125th Anniversary Celebration, the Messiah Quilters are assembling a signature quilt. Each family has the opportunity to sign a 4" fabric square with your family members names. These will all then be sewn together to create a wall hanging for our church that will become a wonderful memory of all our families here at Messiah.



We already have nearly 100 blocks that have been signed. If you haven't done so, there is still time to sign a block on Sunday, **April 12th** before and after the services. We will be in the Fellowship Hall. At the same time, you can also get your photo taken for the new church directory that is being prepared.

If you are unable to make this date and want to be included in the signature quilt, you can contact me and I can write out your block for you. Final date for blocks is April 30th. Don't be left out! Kathy Mueller, scpbklane@aol.com, 815-953-6601.



VBS is June 22-26!

Registration is OPEN!

Calling for VBS volunteers! There will be a **Volunteer Workshop** on **Sunday, June 7th** at 9:40 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Email VBS@mlcjoliet.org.

Register here:



Volunteers are also asked to register!

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings during Education Hour.

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 Terry Anzalone.

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.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Please join Messiah's new Grief Support Group on the **first Thursday every month** at 1 p.m. in Room 101. This group offers caring and confidential space for those walking through loss. 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. next meeting is **April 28th**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email regency118@comcast.net for more info.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)

OWLS meets on the second Tuesday of every month at noon, September-May. We enjoy a light lunch together, play trivia, and usually feature a guest speaker or entertainment! Our next luncheon is on **April 14th**. We will be serving a ham dinner. We ask that everyone **sign up in the Narthex** so we have a headcount and to let us know what finger food, appetizer, salad or dessert you will bring to share.



QUILTERS

Messiah Quilters meet the 3rd Tuesday each month 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.

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 **April 21st**!

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 9:30-11. Bring the littles for play time! Adults enjoy coffee on us!



Bible Study: Our Wednesday afternoon Bible Study begins a new six-week session on **April 8th** from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We'll follow the book, "How Do You Walk the Walk You Talk," by Kay Arthur. This study of vital passages from Ephesians will help you discover what God says about the lifestyle of a true believer.

Bunco: Join us for Bunco on Saturday, **April 18th** from 1-4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Beth at 815-735-7897.

Spring Luncheon: Our next luncheon is Sunday, **May 3rd** from noon-2 p.m. and will feature a salad bar, games and prizes! Get your tickets in the Narthex on Sundays, April 19th and 26th. Free will offering will be collected and childcare will be available.

For more info on Messiah Women's Ministries, please reach out to Sherri Unyi.

YOUNG ADULT "IGNITE" BIBLE STUDY

For those out of high school and older - Join us for coffee and Bible Study in classroom #101 Sunday mornings during Education Hour.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will share their final perform for this season during the 10:45 service on Mother's Day **May 10th**. (Please note date change from April 26.) For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

J-CHURCH

J-Church is the third Sunday of every month (except December) at 10:45 in the FLC.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club! Our program year **ends on April 8th**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre-K through 5th groups meet upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6th-8th in the Youth Room!

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th grades)

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)

Bible Study for high schoolers is in the Fireside Room.

FRIENDS AND MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

FAM meets on Wednesday evenings from 6-8.

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H)

Our H2H (Confirmation) program for 6th-8th graders runs on Wednesdays evenings from 6-8.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers this morning are provided by Gary Ally in honor of our Risen Savior.

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

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5

7:30-11 a.m. Easter Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship

1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, April 6

Office closed

TUESDAY, April 7

9 a.m. Stay N Play

WEDNESDAY, April 8

1 p.m. Women's Bible Study

6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

THURSDAY, April 9

9 a.m. Faith & Body Challenge

10:15 a.m. Prayer Team

12 p.m. Staff Meeting

FRIDAY, April 10

n/a

SATURDAY, April 11

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

10 a.m. Erma Turner Visitation,
Funeral Service at 11 a.m.

SUNDAY, April 12

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:40 a.m. Education Hour

10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship

1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

10:00: 190

Online: 24

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359

YTD Operating Budget: \$173,590

YTD Giving Received: \$129,721

Needed Each Week: \$13,353

Received Last Week: \$9,520

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.

