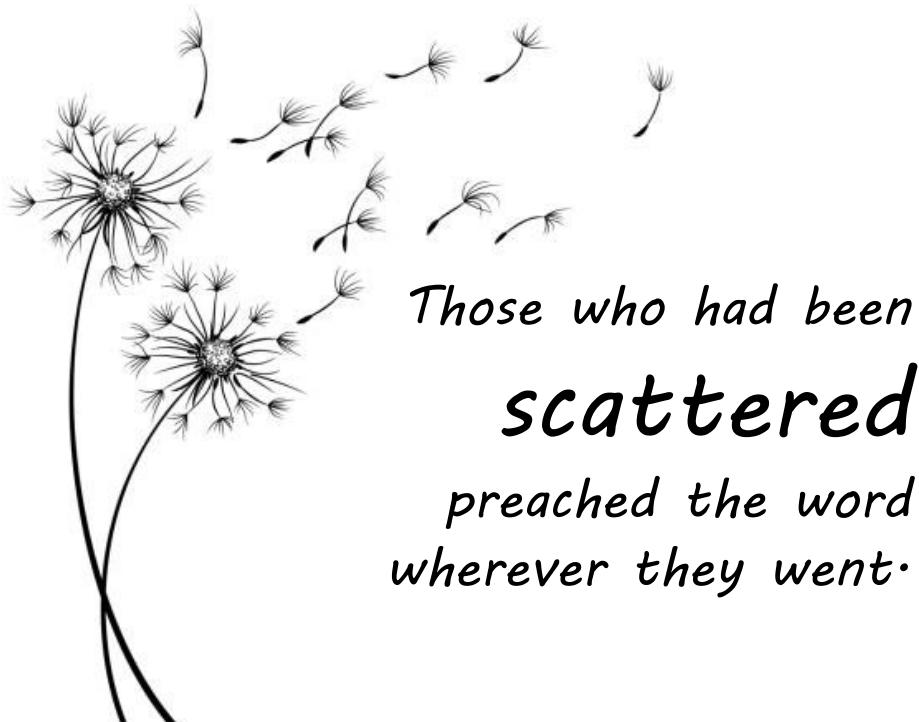




Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 8, 2026
8:30 a.m.



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Pastor Emeritus David Nygard
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
February 8, 2026
8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness," #43 v. 1-3

HOLY SPIRIT LITANY ADAPTED FROM PSALM 51

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
All: **and renew a right spirit within me.**
Leader: Cast me not away from your presence,
All: **and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**
Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
All: **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
All: **Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM

"The Table of Grace," arr. John Carter,
led by Herb Alexander

HYMN OF PRAISE

"We Have Come into His House," #588 v. 1-2

1. We have come in - to His house and gath-ered in His name to
2. Let's for - get a - bout our-selves and mag - ni - fy His name and

wor - ship Him. We have come in - to His house and
wor - ship Him. Let's for - get a - bout our - selves and

gath - ered in His name to wor - ship Him. We have
mag - ni - fy His name and wor - ship Him. Let's for -

come in - to His house and gath-ered in His name to wor - ship Christ the
get a - bout our - selves and mag - ni - fy His name and wor - ship Christ the

Lord. Wor - ship Him, Christ the Lord.
Lord. Wor - ship Him, Christ the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE**"Gentle Shepherd," #458 (2X)**

Gen-tle Shep-herd, come and lead us, For we need You to help us find our way. Gen-tle Shep-herd, come and feed us, For we need Your strength from day to day. There's no oth - er we can turn to Who can help us face an-oth - er day; Gen-tle Shep-herd, come and lead us, For we need You to help us find our way.

HYMN OF PRAISE**"Something Beautiful," #519 (2X)**

Some-thing beau-ti-ful, some-thing good; All my con - fu - sion He un-der - stood; All I had to of - fer Him was bro-ken - ness and strife, But He made some - thing beau-ti - ful of my life.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Leader: Holy and Gracious God,

All: I confess that I have sinned against you this day and every day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace and live each day for You.

Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Leslie McFarland

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

RESPONSE

Doxology #625



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here be - low;



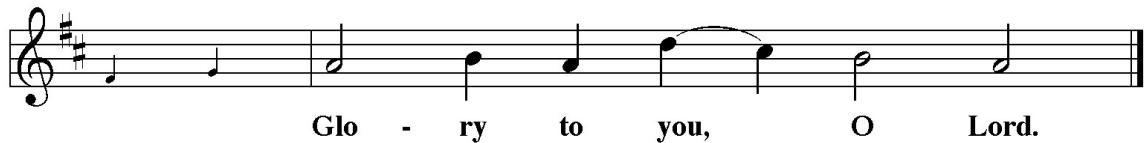
Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

FIRST LESSON, Acts 8:4-8 (NIV)

Reader: Jane Costello

⁴ Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. ⁵ Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. ⁶ When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷ For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was great joy in that city.

SECOND LESSON, Acts 9:32-43 (NIV)



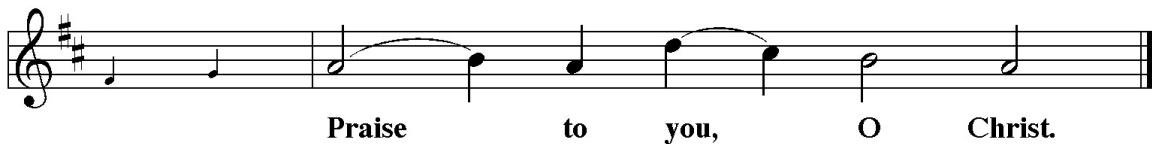
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

³² As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. ³⁴ "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. ³⁵ All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷ About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴² This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.



Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE "Our God Heals" (How God Works In Us and Through Us)

Pastor David Nygard

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

HYMN

"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus," #335 (2X)



Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, Look full in His won-der-ful face,
won-der-ful face,



And the things of earth will grow strange-ly dim In the light of His glo-ry and grace.

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: Tom Bond, Doug Potts, one needed

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"



A musical score in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "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.



A musical score in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "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;



A musical score in G major, 2/4 time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "grant us peace, grant us peace."

grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus," #183 v. 1-3



1. Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand -

2. Up - on that cross of Je - sus Mine eye at times can see
3. I take, O cross, thy shad - ow For my a - bid - ing place;



The shad - ow of a might - y Rock With - in a wea - ry land;

The ver - y dy - ing form of One Who suf - fered there for me;
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than The sun - shine of His face;



A home with - in the wil - der - ness, A rest up - on the way,

And from my smit - ten heart with tears Two won - ders I con - fess -
Con - tent to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,

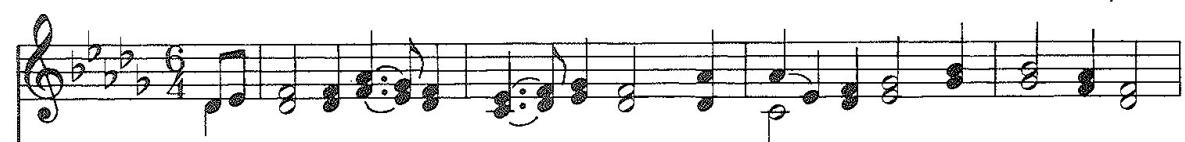


From the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, And the bur - den of the day.

The won - ders of re - deem - ing love And my un - wor - thi - ness.
My sin - ful self my on - ly shame, My glo - ry all the cross.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Just As I Am," #342 v. 1-3



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!

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 HYMN

"Blessed Assurance," #345 v. 1-2



POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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New series begins February 22nd!



YOU'RE INVITED TO A



Daddy & Daughter SWEETHEART DANCE

Feb 21st 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Lots to enjoy!

- DJ AND DANCING
- PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES
- LIGHT SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS
- CRAFTING
- RAFFLE

Messiah Lutheran Church
40 Houbolt Rd., Joliet, IL 60431
in the Family Life Center
(enter through gym doors)



Questions? Reach out to Megan Kuhn
christianed@MLCJoliet.org

Registration is required, please scan QR code above.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings during Education Hour. We are currently studying the Book of Acts, which will continue throughout the Season of Epiphany.

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME



Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 9:40 a.m. and will continue until after the later service gets out. If you are an 8:30 attender - stay late! If Family Praise & Worship is your service - come early! Make new friends!

CONNECT WITH MESSIAH

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

Scan here to connect with MLC:



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

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

DAYBREAK SHELTER - WILL YOU HELP SAVE OUR PARTNERSHIP?

For 35 years Messiah has prepared & served dinner once a month to those less fortunate at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Our long-time coordinator, Karen Rebuehr, has discerned the need to step down and we are looking for a volunteer (or two) willing to take the baton. This would entail coordinating volunteers & food donations, light shopping, and communicating with Daybreak staff as needed. **Please reach out to Karen or call the front office for more information.**

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.

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 **February 24th**. 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 **February 10th** and we'll welcome special musical guests, the **Ukelele Strummers!** 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.



PRAYER CHAIN

Messiah uses an email-based Prayer Chain made up of people willing to pray for our members, community, and nation in times of crisis. Prayers are shared amongst the group via email and are kept confidential as much as possible. Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email regency118@comcast.net for more info.

PRAYER TEAM

Our in-person Prayer Team meets Thursday mornings in the Fireside Room from 10:15-11:15 to pray together over our prayer request list. For more info text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or by email regency118@comcast.net, or reach out to Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Items for the bulletin are due by the end of the day each Tuesday, and newsletter material is due the 20th of each month.

QUilters

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.

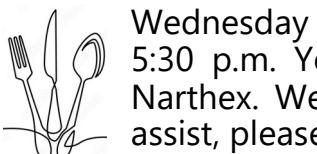
We are in need of clean sheets of any size, flat or fitted (no stains or holes) to be used as the backs of our quilts. You can drop them off in the basket provided in the Narthex. Thank you, in advance!

Contact Kathy Mueller at (815) 953-6601 or scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **February 17th!**

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!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FAMILY DINNER & FAMILY PRAISE NIGHT



Wednesday Family Dinners take place the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Your RSVP is important to us - a sign up list is posted in the Narthex. We can also use help with setup and cleanup. If you are able to assist, please sign up in the Narthex.

Family Praise Night, also the first Wednesday of every month, is from 6-6:30 p.m. (right after dinner) in the cafe area of the FLC. Join our children and student ministries for a time of praise, kids' showcase, and a short message! **Please note that on March 4th, we'll have Lenten Soup Supper & Worship.**



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women's Bible Study will wrap up on February 11th, and we plan to begin a new series after Easter. Details coming soon. For more information please reach out to Sherri Unyi or Laurel Ling.

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 perform during the 10:45 service on January 25, February 22, March 22, and April 26. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Mark your calendar for our second annual Daddy Daughter Dance on **February 21st** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for young ladies pre-K and older, along with their dad or chaperone. Registration is now open in the Church Center app or by following the QR.



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!

MILE MARKERS

- My New Bible (2nd grade) presentation February 15th.
- First Communion (4th grade) March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, Communion April 2nd.

1st Communion



Registration is open in the Church Center app or here:

NERF BATTLE



Dudes (5 and up), you're invited to an epic showdown! Bring your partner and NERF gun and we will provide the ammo and safety gear! We will have target practice, capture the flag, zombie freeze and prizes and treats. The battle will take place on Saturday, **March 14th** from 1-3 p.m. in the FLC. *Registration will open February 12th.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Help Wanted! Our Christian Education team is looking for substitute teachers for Sunday School during Education Hour. Must be high school age or older. Please inquire with Leslie McFarland or Megan Kuhn.

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.

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.

MAFIA NIGHT

6th-12th graders - mark your calendar for our next MAFIA NIGHT! Friday, **February 27th** from 6:30-10 p.m. Bring \$5 if you'd like to join us for pizza! Invite friends!

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



SANCTUARY CHOIR

rehearses on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 p.m.
and performs weekly during the 8:30 service.

If you'd like to join in, reach out to Herb Alexander
or call the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor Altar flowers, please sign up in the Narthex or call the office at 815-741-4488. Arrangements are \$25 each.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

SUNDAY, February 8

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour,
 New Member Class
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, February 9

n/a

TUESDAY, February 10

9 a.m. Stay-N-Play
12 p.m. OWLS
2 p.m. "Chosen" Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, February 11

1 p.m. Women's Bible Study (ends)
5:30 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

THURSDAY, February 12

9 a.m. Faith & Body Challenge
10:15 a.m. Prayer Team
12 p.m. Staff Meeting

FRIDAY, February 13

n/a

SATURDAY, February 14

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY, February 15

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour,
 New Member Class
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship,
 J-Church
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

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



ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 90
10:45: 60
K-5th: 11
6th-8th: 6
High School: 3
Ignite: 0
Insight: 28
Online: 26

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$66,765
YTD Giving Received: \$54,902
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$12,300

STEWARSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

2 Corinthians 2:14

But thanks be to God, who in Christ
 always leads us in triumphal
procession, and through us spreads
 the fragrance of the knowledge of
 Him everywhere.

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