



Baptism of Our Lord
January 11, 2026
8:30 a.m.



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Guest Pastor John Nelson
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

January 11, 2026
8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"O Come, Let Us Adore Him," #82 v. 1-4



LITANY ADAPTED FROM PSALM 148 (NLT)

Leader: Praise the Lord!

All: Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him from the skies!

Leader: Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the armies of heaven!

All: Praise him, sun and moon! Praise him, all you twinkling stars!

Leader: Praise him, skies above! Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!

**All: Let every created thing give praise to the Lord,
for he issued his command, and they came into being.**

Leader: He set them in place forever and ever.

All: His decree will never be revoked.

Leader: Praise the name of the Lord. For his name is very great;

All: his glory towers over the earth and heaven! Praise the Lord!

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

"Lord, Be Glorified," arr. John Purifoy,
led by Herb Alexander

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Freely, Freely," #447 v. 1-2



1. God for - gave my sin in Je - sus' name, I've been born a - gain in
2. All pow'r is giv'n in Je - sus' name, In earth and heav'n in



Je - sus' name; And in Je - sus' name I come to you To share
Je - sus' name; And in Je - sus' name I come to you To share



Refrain
His love as He told me to: He said, "Free - ly, free - ly
His pow'r as He told me to:



you have re - ceived—Free - ly, free - ly give; Go in My



name and, be-cause you be - lieve, Oth-ers will know that I live."



HYMN OF PRAISE

"Gentle Shepherd," #458 v. 1

He tends His flock like a shepherd . . . He gently leads. Isa. 40:11

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.

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 4:1-12 (ESV)

Reader: Marcy Vickers

¹ And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

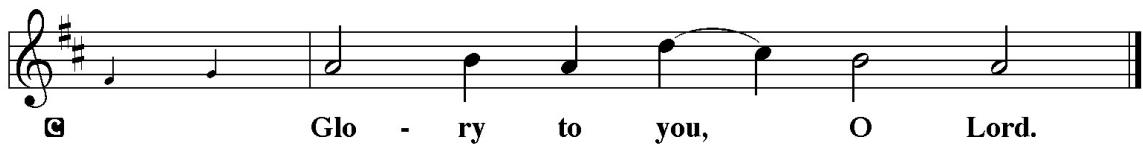
⁵ On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

SECOND LESSON, Acts 5:25-32 (ESV)

²⁵ And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." ²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

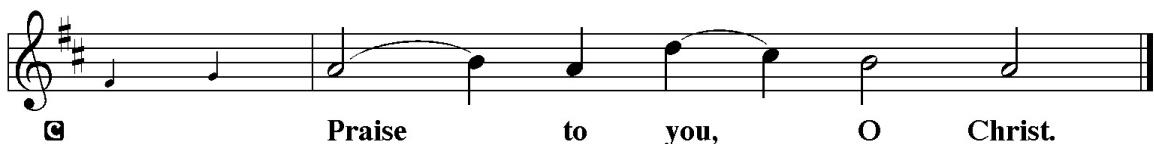
GOSPEL LESSON, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (ESV)



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."



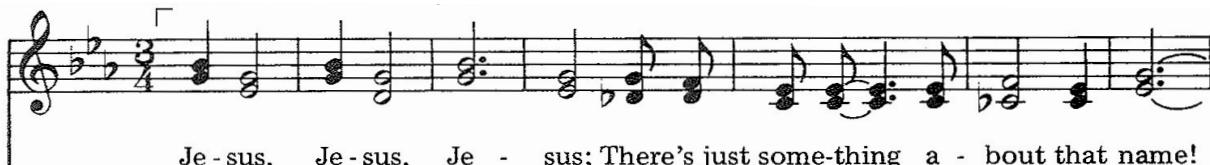
Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

"In the Name of Jesus"
Pastor John Nelson

HYMN

"There's Something About That Name," #102 (2X)



Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus; There's just some-thing a - bout that name!

Mas- ter, Sav-ior, Je - sus, Like the fra-grance af-ter the
 rain; Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus, Let all Heav- en and
 earth pro - claim: Kings and king - doms will all pass a -
 way, But there's some-thing a - bout that name! name!

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

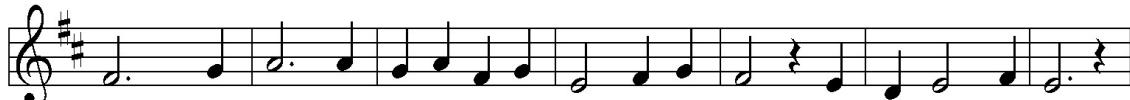
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Servers: Pat Anderson, Bev Korby, Doug Potts

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"**

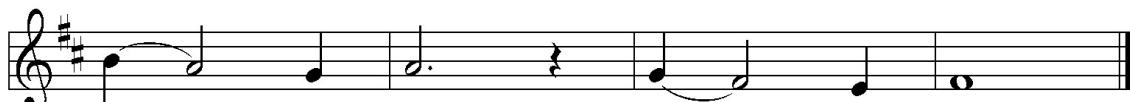
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us.



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;



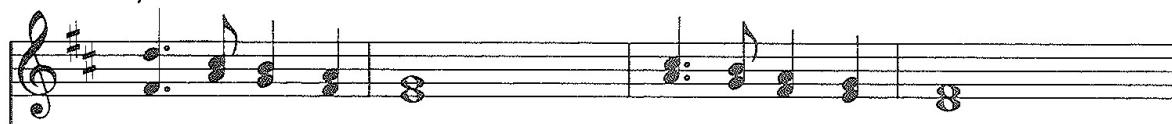
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN**"I Surrender All," #366 v. 1-4**

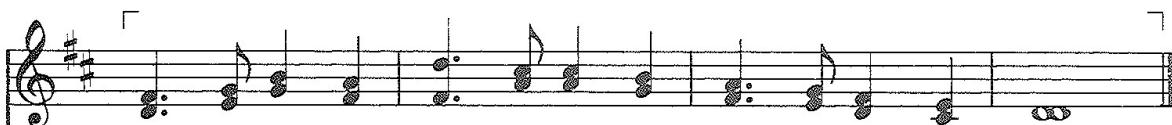
1. All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, All to Him I free - ly give;
2. All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, Hum-bly at His feet I bow,
3. All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, Make me, Sav - ior, whol - ly Thine;
4. All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to Thee;



I will ev - er love and trust Him, In His pres - ence dai - ly live.
 World - ly pleas - ures all for - sak - en, Take me, Je - sus, take me now.
 May Thy Ho - ly Spir - it fill me, May I know Thy pow'r di - vine.
 Fill me with Thy love and pow - er, Let Thy bless - ing fall on me.

Refrain

I sur-ren - der all, I sur-ren - der all.
 I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.



All to Thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur-ren - der all.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision" #382 v. 1-2

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
4. High King of heaven, my victory won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son,
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.
Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

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.

INSTALLATION OF CLERGY

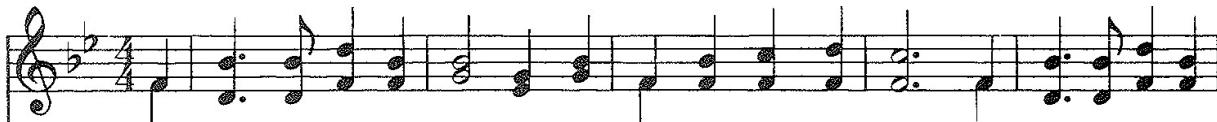
Caring for Pastors Ministry
Pastor John P. Nelson and Pastor Martha Uecker Nelson

We celebrate the mission God has laid upon the hearts of Pastor John and Pastor Martha as we install Pastor John P. Nelson our Called Deployed Pastor of Messiah to Care for Pastors and their family members and Pastor Martha Uecker Nelson, Assistant to this ministry.

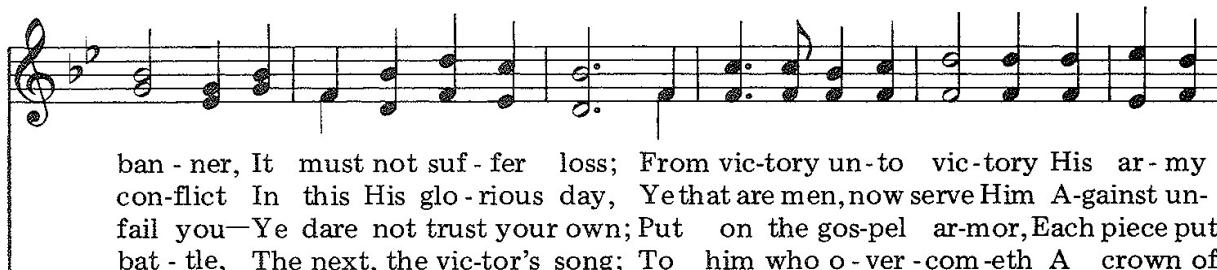
BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

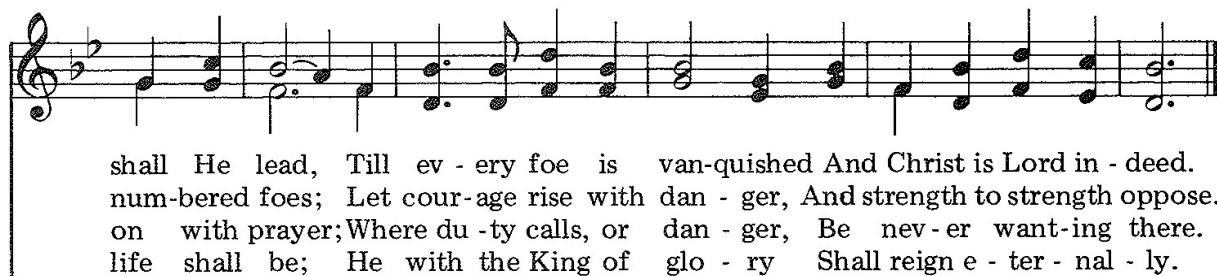
"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," #477 v. 1-2



- 1. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross, Lift high His roy-al
- 2. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, The trum - pet call o - bey; Forth to the might-y
- 3. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Stand in His strength a-lone; The arm of flesh will
- 4. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, The strife will not be long; This day the noise of



ban - ner, It must not suf - fer loss; From vic-tory un-to vic-tory His ar - my con-flict In this His glo - rious day, Ye that are men, now serve Him A-gainst un-fail you—Ye dare not trust your own; Put on the gos-pel ar-mor, Each piece put bat - tle, The next, the vic-tor's song; To him who o - ver - com - eth A crown of



shall He lead, Till ev - ery foe is van-quished And Christ is Lord in - deed. num-bered foes; Let cour-age rise with dan - ger, And strength to strength oppose. on with prayer; Where du - ty calls, or dan - ger, Be nev - er want-ing there. life shall be; He with the King of glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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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.

BAPTISM SUNDAY



Mark your calendar - Baptism Sunday is **January 18th**. This will be an opportunity to be baptized, or to reaffirm the promise made to you in your own baptism... an opportunity to invite family and friends to place that promise upon their children, as well. Please see Pastor Kurt if you or a family member would like to be baptized.

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 **January 27th**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email regency118@comcast.net for more info.



Sundays
February 8th and 15th
9:40 a.m.

New to Messiah? Want to learn more?

Have you been attending and want more info on becoming a member? We want to get to know you and connect you with our many groups and ministries!

Please join us at the **“Get to Know Messiah”** membership class where you will learn our story, about our people and the vision of Messiah. This is also an opportunity for us to get to know YOU and the best way to support your faith journey!

Childcare will be available upon request.

Contact Pastor Kurt or call the church office 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 **January 13th**.

Chili and beverages will be provided in January. 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. Questions may be directed to Pat Burke, Pat Buchenau, or Lisa Winters.



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.

Quilters, continued next page...

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 **January 20th**!

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 Dinner will 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!



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women's Bible Study just began a new 6-week session, from 1-2:30 in our cozy Fireside Room! We are studying the book "Heaven, Hell and Life After Death." Many people are intrigued by what lies beyond death's door, but we live in an age bombarded with many conflicting views. How can we be sure of what is true? Discover what God says about death, dying, and life after death. 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.

J-CHURCH

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

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MESQUITE KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)
MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club!

MILE MARKER WORKSHOPS

Registration is open in the Church Center app or by following these links:

- Let's Pray (Kindergarten) January 18th workshop; presentation January 25th.
- My New Bible (2nd grade) February 1st & 8th; presentation February 15th.
- First Communion (4th grade) March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th; Communion April 2nd. Registration QR to follow.

Let's Pray



registration

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

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.

My Bible



registration

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 NIGHTS

6th-12th graders - mark your calendar for upcoming MAFIA NIGHTS! Fridays, **January 23rd** and **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.

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, January 11

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

MONDAY, January 12

n/a

TUESDAY, January 13

9 a.m. Stay-N-Play

12 p.m. OWLS

WEDNESDAY, January 14

1 p.m. Women's Bible Study

6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

THURSDAY, January 15

9 a.m. Faith & Body Challenge

10:15 a.m. Prayer Team

12 p.m. Staff Meeting

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, January 16

n/a

SATURDAY, January 17

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

BAPTISM SUNDAY, January 18

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:40 a.m. Education Hour

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.



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

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 108

10:30: 70

K-5th: 7

6th-8th: 4

High School:

Ignite: 1

Insight: 29

Online: 23

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068

Giving Received: \$624,555

Average Weekly Need: \$13,078

Received by 12/31/25: \$13,576

Christmas Gifts: \$15,335

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord
has made; let us rejoice
and be glad in it.