MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
8:30 a.m.



EMMANUEL
God is With Us

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

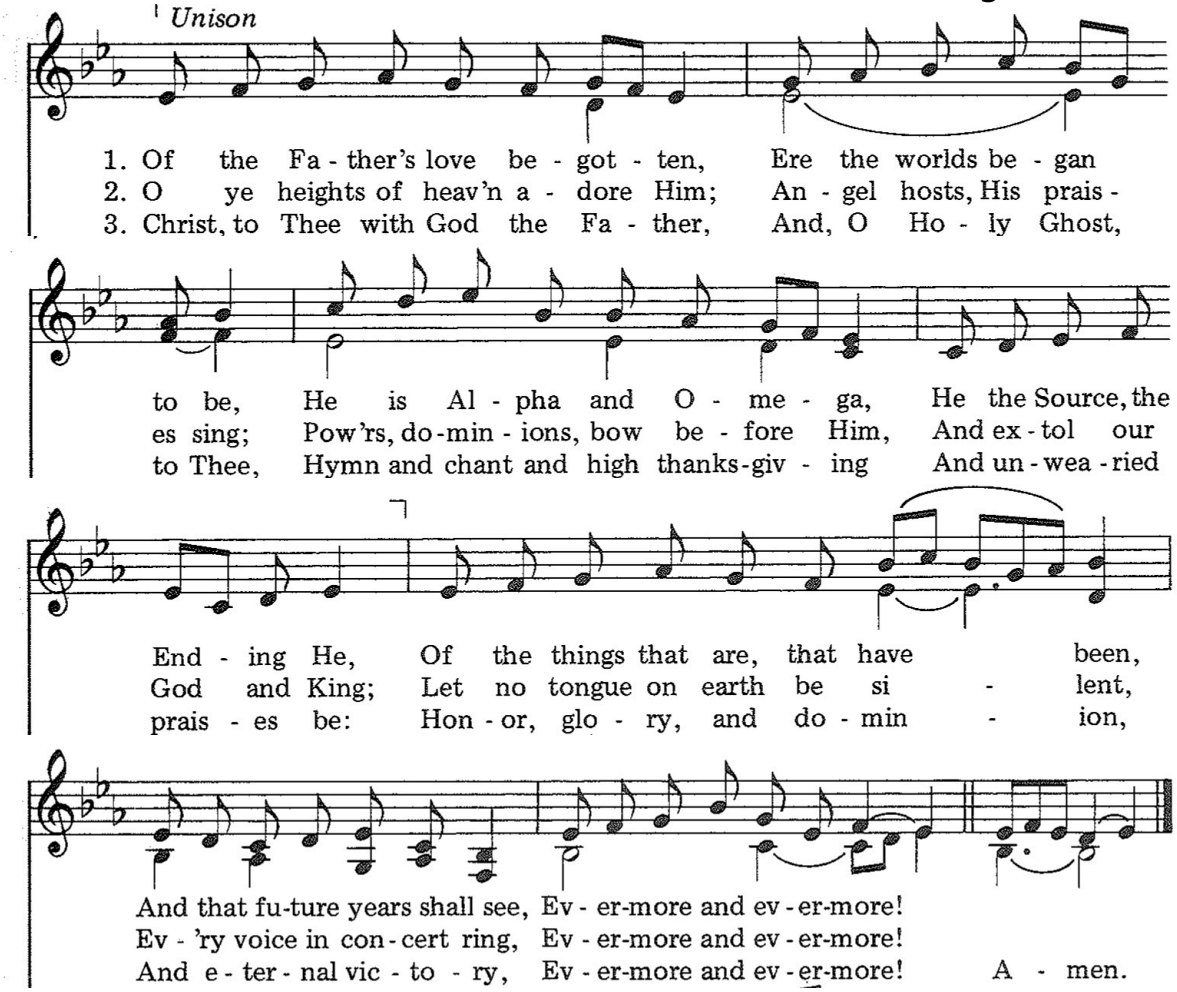
(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church
November 29, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten," #118 v. 1-3



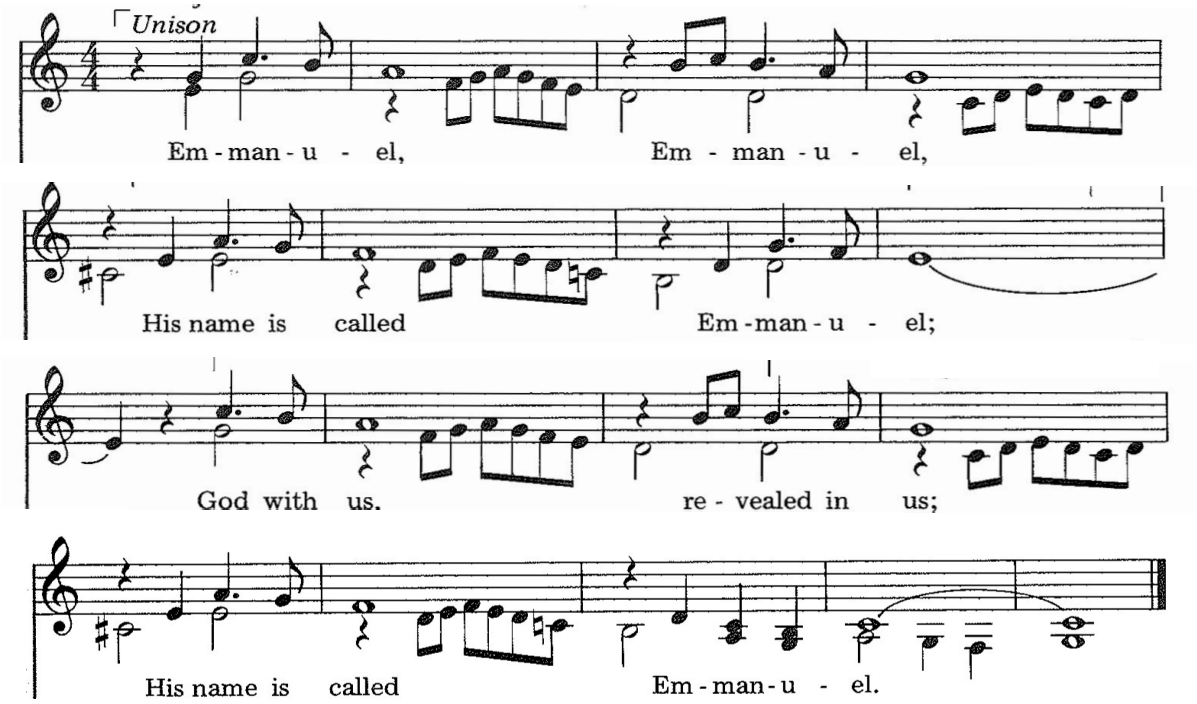
ADVENT LITANY BASED ON PSALM 80

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
All: you who lead Joseph like a flock.
Leader: You who are enthroned upon the cheribum, shine forth.
All: stir up your might and come to save us!
Leader: Restore us, O God;
All: let your face shine, that we may be saved!
Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

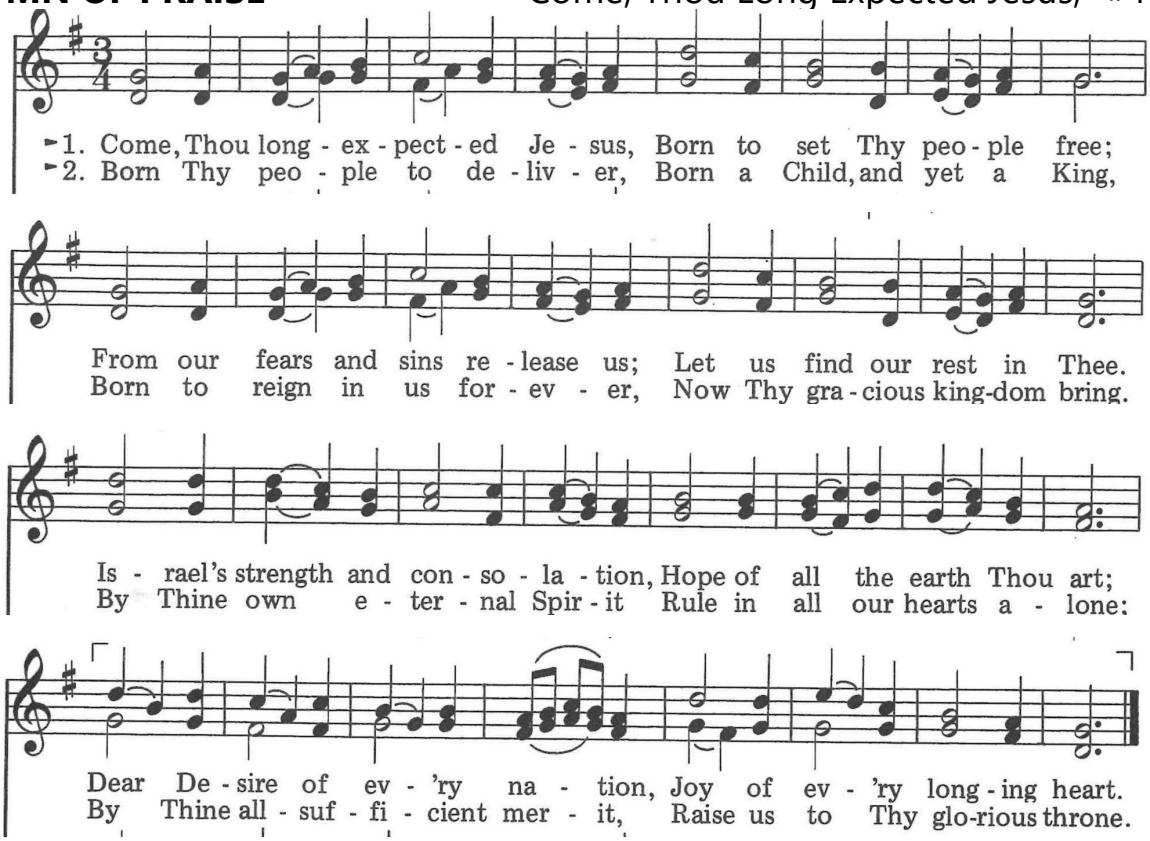
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM "Mary, Did You Know?"
arr. Jack Schrader, led by Herb Alexander

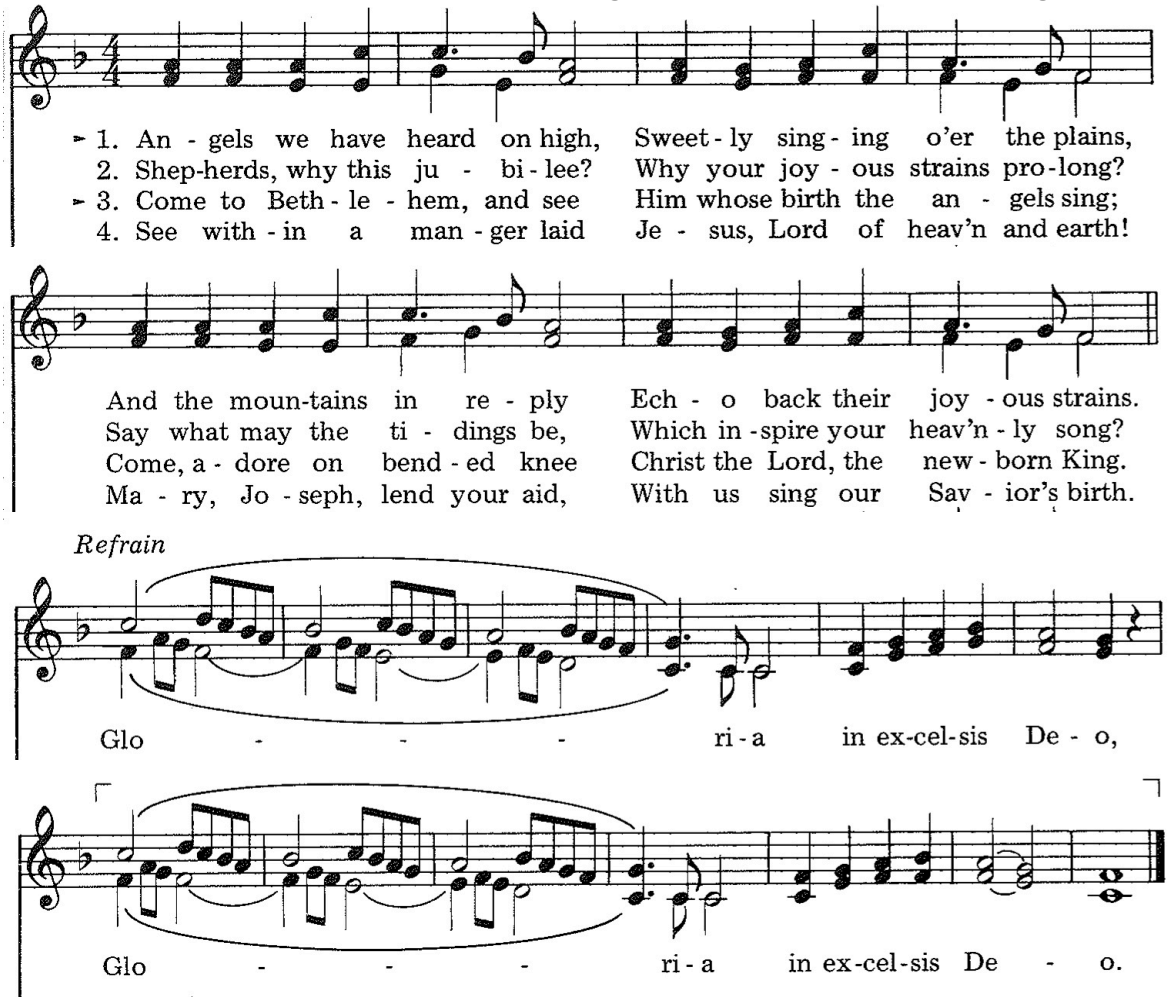
HYMN OF PRAISE "Emmanuel," #134 (2X)



HYMN OF PRAISE "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," #124 v. 1-2



HYMN OF PRAISE "Angels We Have Heard on High," #132 v. 1-2



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.

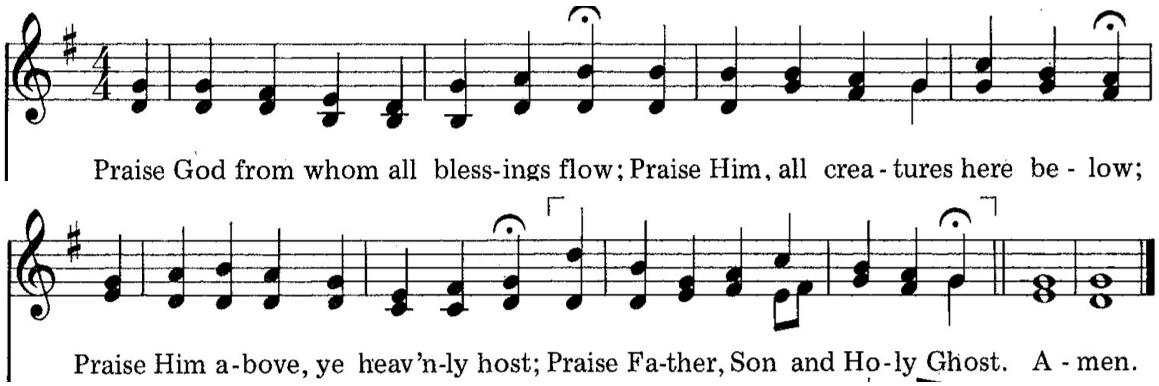
Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Rose Ann Sochan

RESPONSE Doxology #625

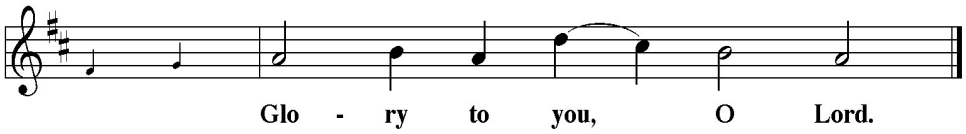


FIRST LESSON, Isaiah 52:1-6 (ESV) Reader: Jane Costello

[1] Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O
Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the
uncircumcised and the unclean. [2] Shake yourself from the dust and arise; be
seated, O Jerusalem, loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter of
Zion.

[3] For thus says the Lord: "You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed
without money." [4] For thus says the Lord God: "My people went down at the first
into Egypt to sojourn there, and the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing. [5] Now
therefore what have I here," declares the Lord, "seeing that my people are taken
away for nothing? Their rulers wail," declares the Lord, "and continually all the
day my name is despised. [6] Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore
in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am."

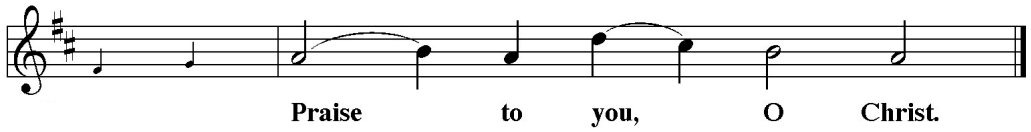
SECOND LESSON, Mark 13:24-37 (ESV)



[24] "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the
moon will not give its light, [25] and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the
powers in the heavens will be shaken. [26] And then they will see the Son of Man
coming in clouds with great power and glory. [27] And then he will send out the
angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to
the ends of heaven.

[28] "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30] Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

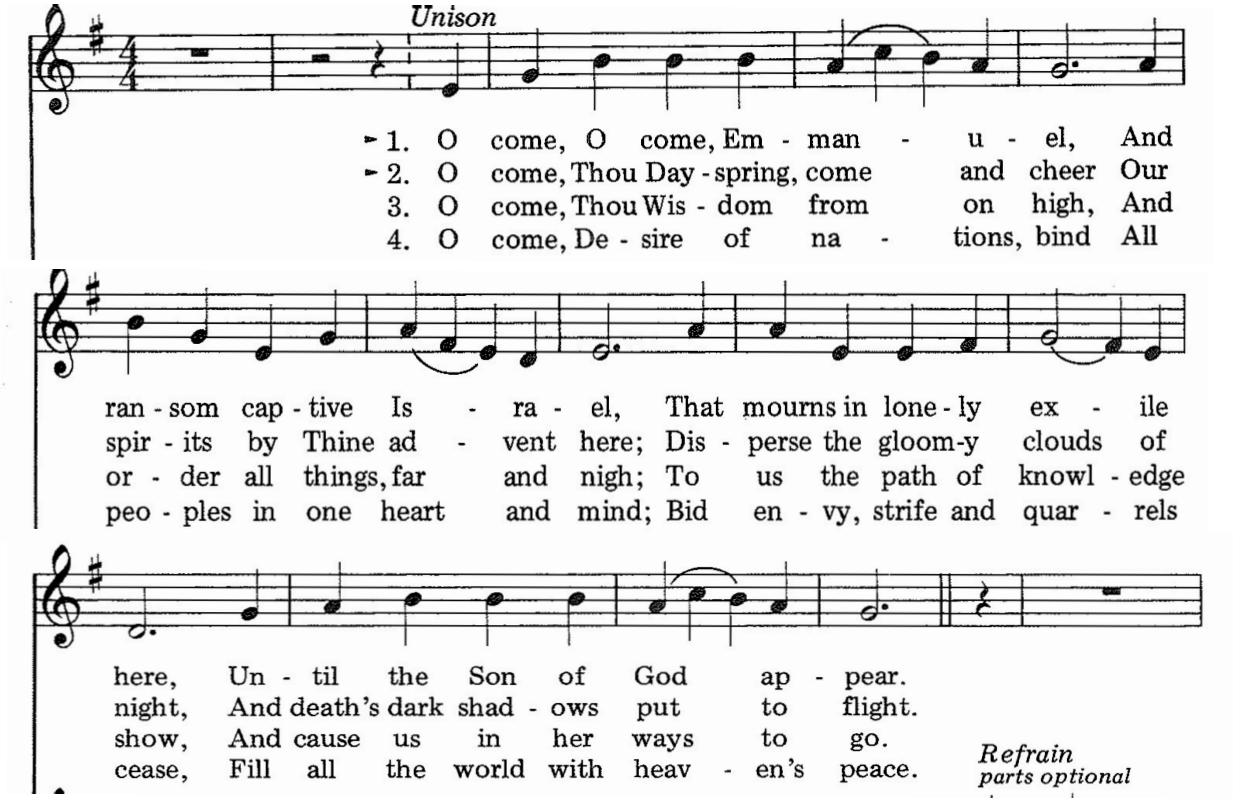
[32] "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. [34] It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. [35] Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— [36] lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

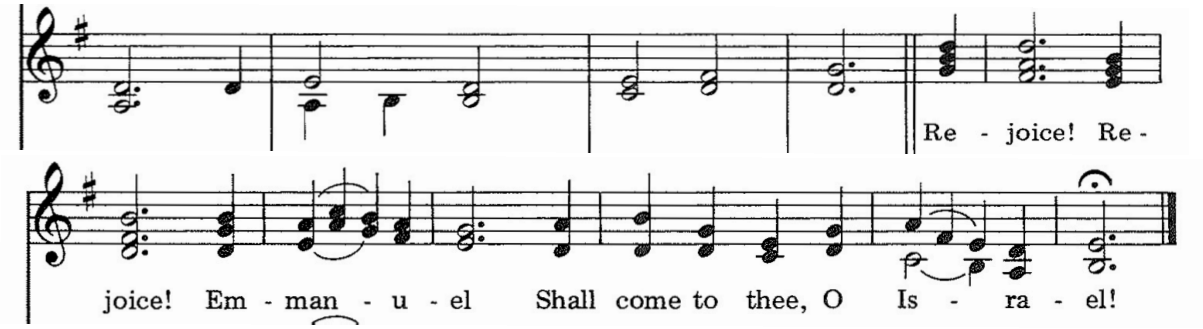


MESSAGE **"No Room: Father Almighty"**
Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #123 v. 1-2





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.

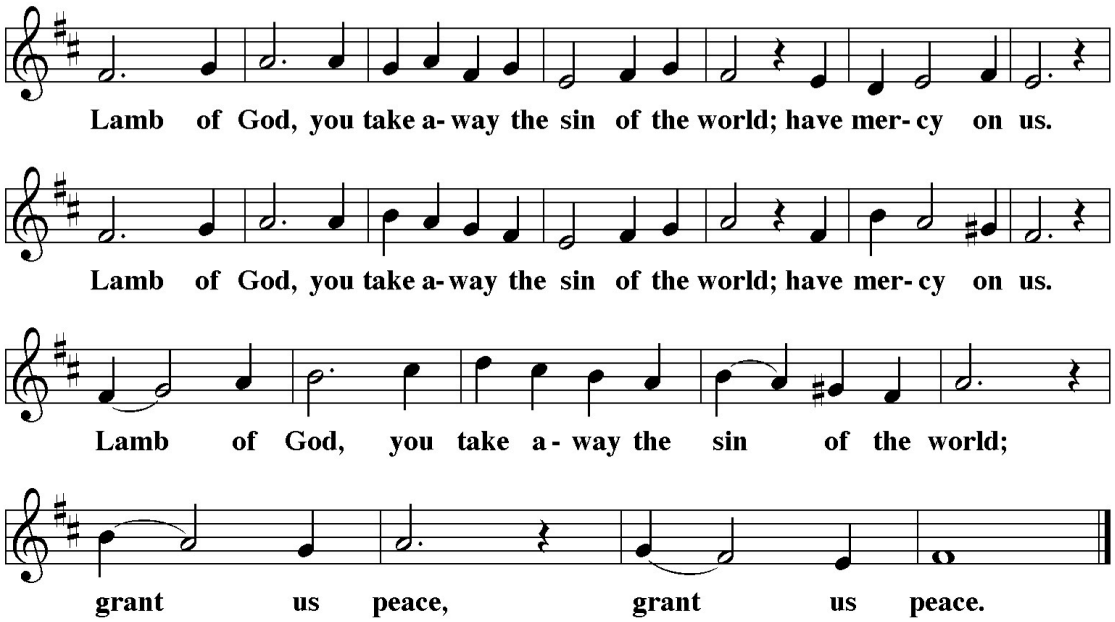
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
Servers: Tom & Lynn Bond, Jane Costello

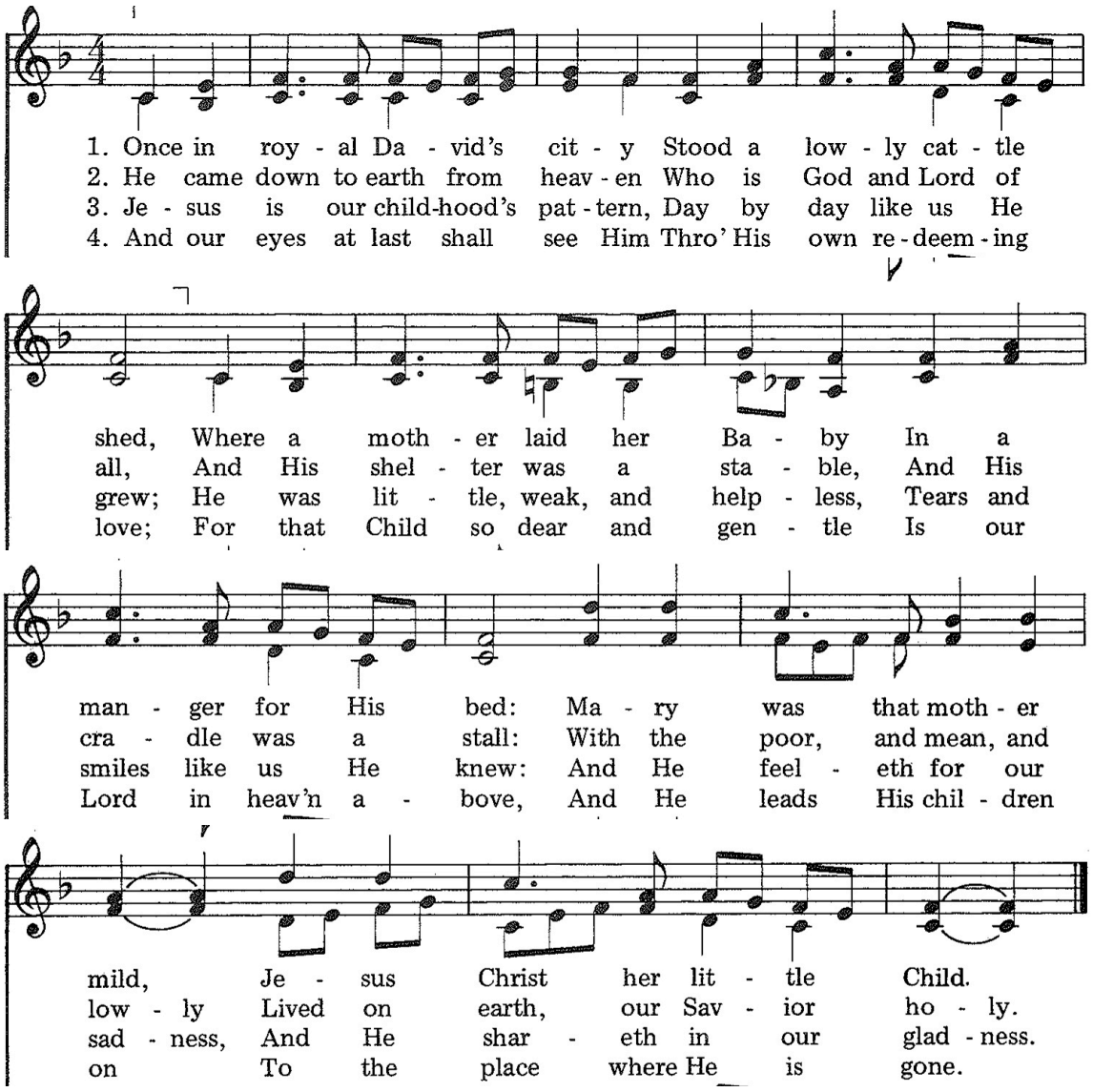
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

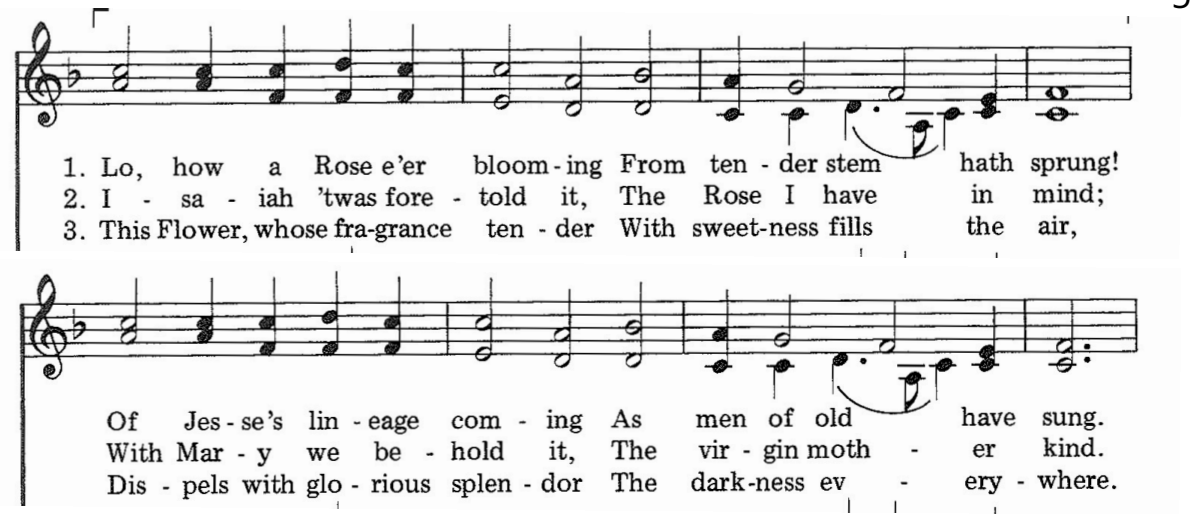
HYMN "Lamb of God"

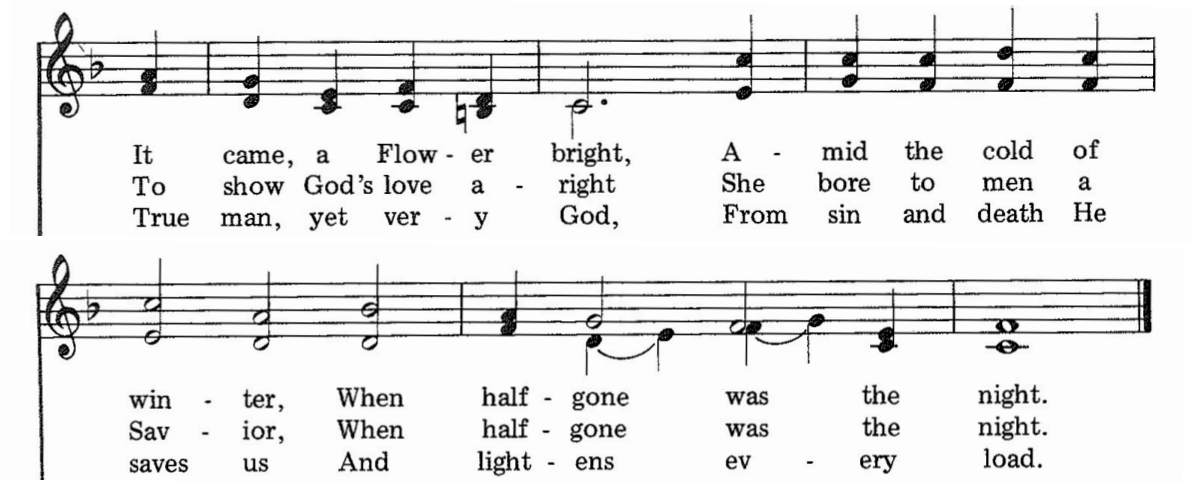


COMMUNION HYMNS "Once in Royal David's City," #155



"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming," #160





COMMUNION BLESSING

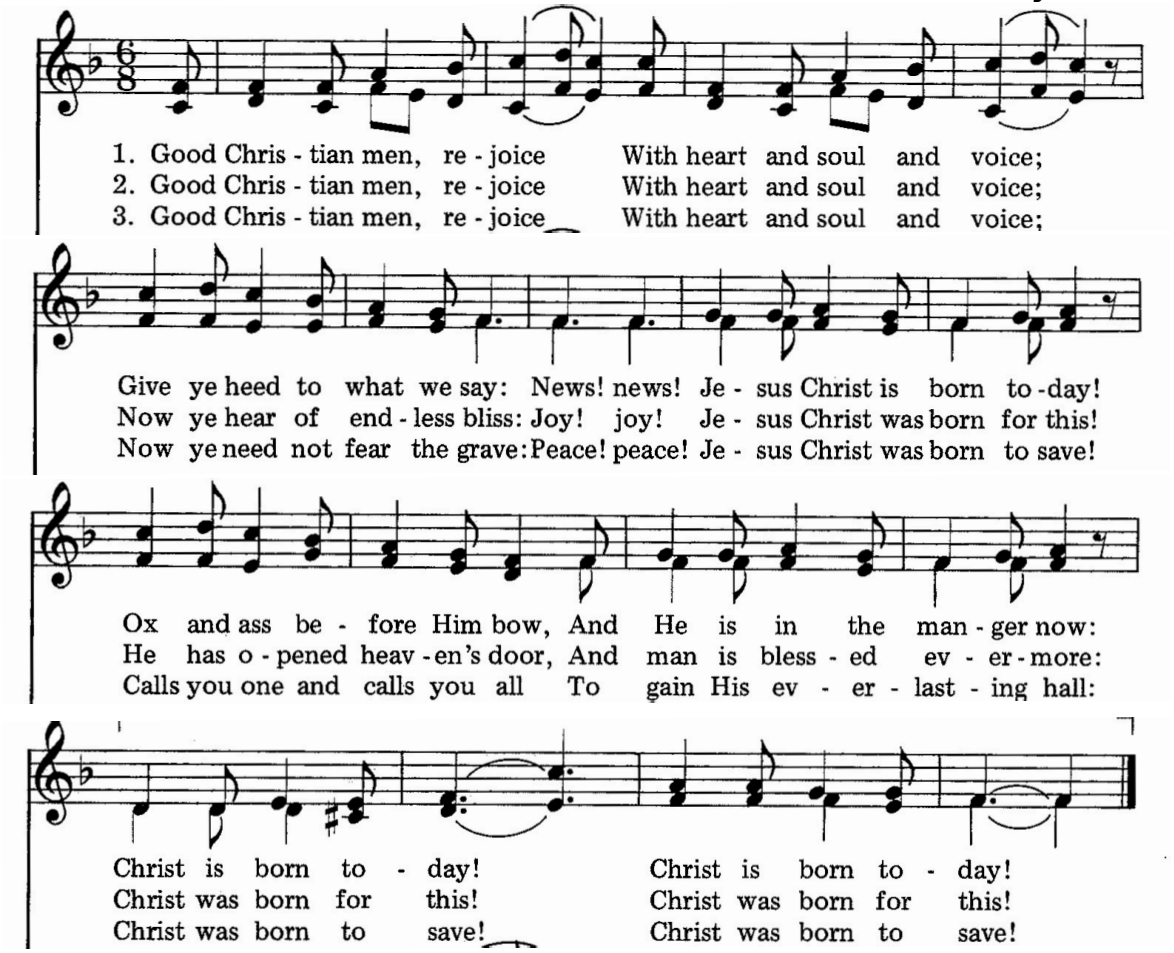
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice," #151 v. 2-3



POSTLUDE Rose Ann Sochan

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

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Messiah 125th Anniversary Christmas Ornaments are available for online purchase at **$5 each** or **two for $8** here:

Kathy Mueller will have them available in the Narthex between services on Sundays, November 29 through December 20. Cash & checks will also be accepted at that time.



New time this year!



Prayer Vigil

December 2
2-5 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Drop in to pray at your own convenience throughout the afternoon. Come early for the 1 p.m. Advent Service or stick around and join us for Family Dinner at 5 pm.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday morning Bible Study for adults is at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. Our current series focuses on The Ten Commandments.

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 Insight is finished. 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.

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.

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!

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.

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

MESSIAH APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

Check out the Messiah apparel and accessories display in the Narthex!
Purchase clothing, hats, mugs & more by scanning this QR code:

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)
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!



Ham dinner, and beverages will be provided for our **December 8** luncheon as we celebrate with a white elephant gift exchange and enjoy Christmas carols led by Jeanette Wegemer. We ask that everyone sign up in the Narthex so we have a headcount, and to let us know what 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. 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 December 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. 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 **December 15**!

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 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
Women's Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons at 1 in the Fireside Room will resume on **January 6**.

CHRISTMAS TEA
Ladies, join us on **December 12** from 1-3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for Christmas Tea! Tickets will be available in the Narthex 11/22,11/29 and 12/06.



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Those post-high school and older are invited to join us for Bible study on Sunday mornings during Education Hour in classroom #101. Coffee and occasional breakfast treats will be provided.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
For information please reach out to Season Lawler.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)
MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club! Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5!

SUNDAY SCHOOL
We meet upstairs in the Kidz Club during Education Hour at 9:40 a.m.

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
Join us for mid-week Bible Study, connect with peers, play games, sing praise and more! FAM meets on TUESDAY evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8.

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H)
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!

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. For students **6th through 12th grade**, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.

Thank You

Heartfelt thanks to all those who sponsored shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Messiah filled 87 boxes this year!





TO OUR NEW STAFF!

We are pleased to share that Angela Sahagun has accepted the position of Communications & Community Engagement Coordinator at Messiah. Angela is a recent graduate of Lewis University with a degree in public relations and advertising, where she developed a passion for storytelling and building meaningful connections. Angela looks forward to finding new ways to connect with, support, and give back to Messiah Lutheran Church and our commmunity!



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Programs for Pre-K - 8th grade

Every Wednesday 5:00-8:00pm

5:00	Family Dinner (Free)
6:00	Family Worship Moment
6:15	Break out into designated bible studies
8:00	Dismissal

Highschool Ministry Meets Tuesdays 6-8pm
40 Houbolt Road, Joliet

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

For more info and full calender :
MLCjoliet.org ('Ministries' Tab)

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.

The **2027 Altar flower sign up list** in on the Greeter's table in the Narthex. Reserve your dates now!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Sunday, November 29
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

Monday, November 30
n/a

Tuesday, December 1
10 a.m. Stay-N-Play
6 p.m. FAM

Wednesday, December 2
1 p.m. Advent Wednesday Worship
2-5 p.m. Prayer Vigil
5 p.m. Family Dinner
6 p.m. H2H, MKW

Thursday, December 3
9 a.m. Faith & Body
10:15 a.m. Prayer Team
12 p.m. Staff Meeting
1 p.m. Grief Support Group

Friday, December 4
n/a

Saturday, December 5
9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Sunday, December 6
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:
8:30: 91
10:45: 43
Online: 26
Insight: 24
K-5:
MSM:
HS: 3
Young Adult:
MKW: 11

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: $694,359
YTD Operating Budget: $627,5941
YTD Giving Received: $531,209
Needed Each Week: $13,353
Received Last Week: $25,205

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Mark 12:43-44

And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

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

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH