MESSIAH MESSENGER Vélosius 2024



NEW SEASON, SAME VISION

"And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes." Mark 1:22

As I have said in our January BUSY series – When Jesus shows up you are going to discover where your allegiances lie, and you are (more likely than not) going to be pretty embarrassed about most of what you are doing or striving to be.

When Jesus shows up, as promised, He reveals the secular things in life we have somehow been conned into worshipping other than the creator of those things. Jesus comes forgiving and saving, which means you will be confronted with your sin and need, with authority!

In worship sin is forgiven! You are saved from false hope, promises and 'r'eligion. As we hear from God in the absolution – we rest in that peace and rise every morning to serve Him.

Because of Jesus you are God's promise to a lost and distracted world. God is **Bringing** people into a relationship with Him and His people through you. God is **Building** you up to be like Christ. God is **Bumping** into the world through you.

This is freeing, life-giving work. It's often as simple as just being present with others so that they can feel heard. Go in my name, and because you believe, others will see that I live. It is the power of Christ's presence working through the broken vessels which are our mortal lives.

Dream with me about five ways we may see this work happen as God makes His appeal through the families of Messiah and we bring the Church into our daily lives. I invite you to pray with me about five things I hope to see in 2024 that all come out of our BRING, BUILD, BUMP measures. I would love to see:

- Our online presence supported by Catechism instruction and 1517 Podcasts in addition to worship services.
- A baptism invitation initiative that leads to five or more adults baptized.
- Use our existing community connections to rebuild our Children's Ministry.
- 20 of our members attend **Pray Joliet** evening gathering March 3, 6-8 pm.
- A door-to-door campaign thanking our community for Saving Messiah.

Because of Jesus you are free to be His promise!

In Christ,

RESOLVE OR REGRET?

"So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."

And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as "temporary residents." For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory."

1 Peter 1:13-21

In a classic Peanuts cartoon, Charlie Brown tells Lucy that this is his year of decision. He shows her a list of things in his life he wants to correct and announces that he's resolved to be a better person.

Lucy says, "Not me. I'm going to spend this whole year regretting the past. I'm going to cry over spilled milk, and sigh over lost loves." She insists that it's too hard to improve. She tried it once and it drove her crazy. "Forget the future," she says. "Regret the past. Why did I do this? Why did I do that? Why? I regret it all! Oh, what regrets! What remorse! What anguish!"

2

Charlie Brown sighs and throws his list away.

In one way Lucy is right. Regret is probably easier than resolve. Lying down in a spiritual and emotional rut requires no risk, no effort, and no strength of will. But it's no way to live. And it's not how God wants us to approach life as His children.

Peter was an impetuous follower of Jesus who often put his foot in his mouth. But his two letters in the New Testament are filled with vivid images of how to live with resolve, not regret.

The phrase "prepare your minds for action" (1 Peter 1:13) is also translated "gird up the loins of your mind (KJV)." It's a word picture of a man tucking his long cloak into his belt to be ready to move freely. It speaks of our determination to live for Jesus because our hope is completely in Him (v.21).

A list of resolutions is a guide for what we do. But an attitude of resolve encompasses how we live out our desire for holiness each day. It springs from the grace and hope we've received through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross for our sins.

Let's leave the remorse to Lucy and resolve to face this year with purpose through the power of God.

In His Awesome Grip,



Yortof Dave Stiel

Because our members were so generous in December we were able to distribute \$6,800 from tithing to our 15 benevolence partners.

The members of Elma, NY at St. Paul's Lutheran Church thanked us for our \$1,000 donation to help rebuild their burned down church.

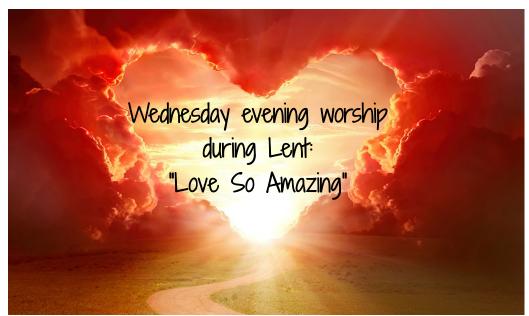
Mark your calendars for a blood drive at Messiah on Sunday, April 21 from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm.

The Stewardship Committee reviewed our 15 benevolence partners and created a top tier of four benevolence partners. We increased the amount we would give them with increased visibility to our congregation while keeping our budget the same. The top four partners are LCMC, Living Alternatives, Morning Star Mission and Pastor Paul.

Pat Burke

Messiah Gives Back!





We know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

We couldn't earn it, we don't deserve it, still You give Yourself away.

BEGINNING ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 - Join us Wednesdays evenings during Lent for Soup Supper at 5:30 (sign up in the Narthex), followed by worship at 7 pm.

BLOOD DRIVE AT MESSIAH

Registration link to follow! Save the date - April 21.

Messiah Lutheran Church will host a blood drive Sunday, **April 21**, 7:30-1:30. Our goal is **25** units of blood!

Thank you again for being a beacon of hope!





Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Join the Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir sings at the 9:30 Sunday services, from September through May, with special music at services during Advent, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

When the Children's Choir is performing, we perform at the 8 am service.

We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:45 pm.

We are always looking to welcome new members and hope to continue to grow this ministry at Messiah! There are no formal audition requirements, and being able to read music is not an issue... you will learn your part from practice and from hearing other voices in your section!

For more information please contact our Sanctuary Choir Director, Herb Alexander, at halex12240@gmail.com.

Attention Parents:



Messiah's Youth Choir holds a rehearsal the <u>third</u> Sunday of every month, upstairs, during Sunday school.

We perform during the 9:30 service on the <u>fourth</u> Sunday of every month.

Please be sure choir members wear their choir shirts on the fourth Sunday for our performances!



GREETERS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Can you smile? Are you friendly?

If so, you are just the person we are looking for to welcome members and visitors to Messiah on Sunday mornings! Consider joining our First Impressions Team! If you are interested, call the church office or email Lynn at Idbond7@gmail.com.

MEAL TRAIN

We have an ongoing need for volunteers to help with our Meal Train ministry. Call the church office for more info.

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO JOLIET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S

"A VISIT WITH CORRIE" LUNCHEON at Messiah Lutheran Church Wednesday, February 21, 11:30am-1:30pm, \$20.00 inclusive

Gayle Haas of Aurora, IL speaks on "A Visit with Corrie"

Gayle takes great pleasure in developing and performing monologues of historical and fictional characters. In this talk, she portrays Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch Holocaust survivor. Gayle will share a powerful story of God's love and forgiveness as she portrays Corrie while engaging her audience with true stories of Corrie's life growing up in Haarlem, Holland and her family's work with the Dutch underground during WWII.

RSVP by February 13 by contacting Barb at 815-439-2076 or mrs.brutus56@gmail.com, or Sonya at 815-727-1626.

"Joliet IL Christian Women's Connection" - Like us on Facebook!

Next luncheon Wed., March 20 www.stonecroft.org



Attention Messiah Women!

You are invited for a night just for women. An evening full of laughter, learning stories, and music. We will coordinate carpooling and dinner at Panera Bread beforehand.

Your payment of \$25 for the show can be made online or dropped off at the church office. (Women's Aspire Event in the memo line.)

Please contact Jeanette Wegemer or Sherri Unyi for additional information.

Please register here:





Not too early to get these on your calendar!

May 17-19, Spring Church Family Camping Trip (this is NOT Memorial Day Weekend).

\$50 deposit for RV sites due w/ reservation request.

Aug. 30-Sep. 2, 12th Annual Labor Day Church Family Camping Trip. \$100 deposit required for RV Labor Day reservations, due by Feb. 28.

Oct. 11-14, Fall Church Family Camping Trip (Columbus weekend).

Our prayer is that all three will be at Mendota Hills Campground. It's just over an hour away from MLC. People can join us just for the day on Sat. or Sun., if they wish.

COMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH & TEENS



MILE MARKERS OF FAITH

My New Bible Workshop (2nd grade +) February 4 & 11

This workshop for students and their parent/guardian explores the Bible, God's love letter to the world. Discussion, games, and activities teach Bible basics: how it was written, organized, how we use it, and highlights key stories and truths found within it. The workshop is offered

once per year on <u>Sunday mornings at 9:30</u>. This is highlighted by a time during church services when parents place a Bible (a gift from MLC) in their child's hands. **The**

workshop is February 4 & 11 and the presentation is February 18. Invite friends and family to be a part of this special Mile Marker in your child's life! Register here: https://bit.ly/3vjZLs6

Sacrament Workshop First Communion (4th grade +) February 25 - March 24 In order to be prepared to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion and all of its benefits, 4th grade students and their parent/guardian are invited to participate in this five-session workshop, normally held during Lent. Older students who were previously unable to complete the workshop are also encouraged to attend. Hands-on activities help families grow in their understanding of God's coming to us in and through the

sacraments of both Holy Communion and baptism. Offered once per year on Sunday mornings at 9:30, the workshop culminates in a special first Communion service on Maundy Thursday (just before Easter). The Maundy Thursday/first Communion service is March 28. Invite friends and family to be a part of this special Mile Marker in your child's life!

Register here:

https://bit.ly/3TL98ei

Every child develops in their own unique way so, any child of any grade is welcome to attend any Mile Marker Workshop with their parent, if the parent feels this is a benefit to them and their child.

To learn more about Mile Markers of Faith, please visit our website at:



Kindergarten – 5th grade: Join us on Wednesday nights, 6:30-8 pm!

What is it? Formerly Awana, it's a fun night of worship, lessons, games, crafts, and connection –with the Bible and friends!

Extras Store nights, theme nights, getting to know your

Bible.

Registration \$15 per child. Maximum of \$45 per family.

Questions? Contact Beth Hohisel bhohisel@hotmail.com or 815-735-7897.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school continues at 9:30 am for ages preK-5th grade.

MESSIAH KIDS REMIND GROUP

Parents of Sunday school aged children (K-5th grade) can join the Messiah Kids Remind group by texting the code mlcmk to 81010, or by going to:

https://www.remind.com/join/mlcmk

It will be used to send reminders and notifications about Sunday school and any events we have planned. Contact Kimber Drummond at cemlcjoliet@gmail.com with questions.

MESSIAH KIDS SUNDAY (Sundays at 11:00 am)

Messiah Kids is for all kids, grades K-5th, and takes place during the 11:00 am service! Here's how it works: You will check in like you do for Sunday school at the computer in the Narthex. Then, just before the sermon, the kids will be dismissed and can leave to be with their friends. They will meet leaders in the Narthex and head to the Family Life Center (FLC) for Bible study, worship, and games. **MK11 team members are needed!** Please sign up in the Narthex, or see Leslie McFarland or Pastor Dave Stier to get involved.

Stay-N-Play is a weekly playgroup for children five and younger that meets in the Family Life Center (FLC) on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30. This group is open to everyone in the community. Parents/caregivers must stay to keep an eye on their children. Coffee (for adults) is provided. Please come join us for some fun!



Christian Education presents...

Family-Friendly 911

Saturday, February 24 at 3 pm

Does your child know YOUR name and address?

Does your child know when & how to call 911?

Get expert answers to all your questions!

Register here:



MESSIAH LUTHERAN

Christian Education presents...



FAMILY

MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 - DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 "INSIDE OUT" MOVIE SHOWING AT 7.

KIDS CAN WEAR THEIR PJ'S!
BRING BLANKETS, PILLOWS, LAWN CHAIRS!
POPCORN, CHIPS & DRINKS PROVIDED!





Save the date for summer camps at little gallee

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
JUNE 23-28

STUDENTS ENTERING 6TH-9TH GRADES IN FALL '24"
JULY 7-12

<u>SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY</u> for 9th-12th graders meets from 9:30-10:30 in the Gathering House to have coffee/tea and fellowship, watch a short video, and discuss the topic of the week. Stop in and check it out!

HEAD 2 HEART

H2H (otherwise known as Youth Group or Confirmation) meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:15. All 6th-8th graders are welcome! Come at 5:30 and join us for Family Dinner most Wednesdays (Soup Suppers during Lent) in Fellowship Hall.

SALT

Wednesday evenings, High Schoolers meet from 6:30-8 pm. Come at 5:30 and join us for Family Dinner most Wednesdays (Soup Suppers during Lent) in Fellowship Hall, followed by games in the FLC, or get your homework done in between – help is available if you need it!

If you have questions, comments, or are looking to connect regarding youth news, events, ministries for students in 6-12th grades, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kate Richmond via email stumin@mlcjoliet.org or call the church office.



VBS 2024 - July 15-19

Details to follow. Mark your calendar now!



OPPORTUNITIES - GET INVOLVED!

FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS

Our Faith & Body group is dedicated to helping each other to improve our health. We meet September through May in the FLC from 9-10 am for walking, stretching and faith building time. There is no cost. Please register on the Messiah website under Faith & Body. Questions? Contact Sherri at 815-741-4488 or email bookkeeper@mlcjoliet.org.

DAYBREAK SHELTER

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month. A team of Messiah members meets at the shelter to set up and serve dinner. Food donation needs include canned fruit cocktail, juice, potato salad, buns, baked beans, and cookies. Sign up in the Narthex. Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, February 12.

PRAYER TEAM (Thursdays at 10:15 am)

Prayer Team meets in-person in the Fireside Room on Thursday mornings. Come join in the privilege of praying for others! See Pastor Stier for more information.

MESSIAH OUILTERS

We will next meet on Tuesday, **February 20** from 9 am-12 pm. 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 to see what we do. If you are unable to join us and would like to sew at home, we have kits available.

If you want to plan ahead, there will be an extra quilting date on **March 5** (in addition to our regular third Tuesday meeting on **March 19**). Contact Kathy Mueller at 815-953-6601 at scpbklane@aol.com for more information. Hope to see you on **February 20**!

POW! (PRAYER OUTREACH WARRIORS)

You are invited to join a newly organized time of prayer for our church. It is in addition to the Thursday morning Prayer Team. This extra time of prayer will focus on inviting the Holy Spirit to lead and guide our church as we seek to be faithful to Jesus Christ and be known for sharing His love and teachings – both within our church family as well as outside our church walls. We will meet monthly to pray for our pastors and staff, leadership, ministries, life groups, those serving, outreach opportunities as well as specific events (i.e., VBS, WinterBlast). We hope you will join us. We started in January! Attend either Wednesday evening or Saturday morning. Questions may be directed to Beth Hohisel (815) 735-7897 or Cindi Souza (815) 931-8478.

When: The first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The following Saturday at 10:00 am in the Gathering House.

MEAL TRAIN

We all know someone who may be overwhelmed during a difficult time. Perhaps an illness, surgery, loss of a family member or a job, or the challenge of a new baby. Messiah has formed a Meal Train for anyone who would like to prepare and deliver a meal to someone in need. To sign up for the Meal Train Team or request a meal, please visit mlcjoliet.org/meal-train.

3M MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Bring your Bible (paper or digital) and join us from 6:30 - 8 pm the second and fourth Tuesdays each month in the Fireside Room. We are currently studying Genesis.

INSIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Insight meets in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Kenyon is currently leading the group, studying the Book of Acts. We'd love for you to join us!

LIL LOVES MINISTRY

Lil Loves at Messiah aims to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the Tricounty area by providing FREE assistance with diapers and much needed baby supplies. Lil Loves is available on an appointment basis, and those interested can sign up at mlcjoliet.org/lil-loves-ministry. Just to give you an idea of how valuable this ministry is to our community, we were able to help nearly 100 families from June through December of 2023!

Messiah Gives Back!

Lil Loves thanks you for your donations of:

*Diapers and Pull-ups *Wipes *Baby Wash/Shampoo

*Baby Lotion *Toiletry items for the moms such as deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, etc.

Trial-sized toiletry items are especially appreciated, rather than full-sized. Please note that we are **no longer able to accept baby formula or used clothing** (these items are happily accepted by Living Alternatives). If you'd like to donate, please place your items in the black bin in the Narthex, and call the church office for more information!

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Calling all moms from pregnancy onward to join a supportive community of moms! Each meeting has a different topic related to parenting, and childcare is provided. We get to know each other more, watch a video of a MOPS speaker, have a discussion, and end with a devotional. In 2024, MOPS will meet the **second and fourth** Fridays every month September through May. Contact Amy at amy12miller@gmail.com with any questions.



MEMORY BEARS

Our Memory Bear group makes teddy bears out of the clothing of people who have passed away, to comfort the grieving. We also make and sell other bears and dogs to raise money for supplies and children's charities.

If you are interested in joining our group, we would love to have you! We always need sewers but not all the jobs require sewing. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) from 9 am-12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please call Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 for more information. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 27.

MICRO PANTRY

Did you know that Messiah has a micro food pantry? This ministry is 100% donation-driven, and is maintained by the Evangelism Board. You can support this ministry through prayer, and through monetary or food donations. Contact the church office for more info, or leave your donations in the bin in the Narthex. EXPIRED ITEMS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

PRAYER CHAIN

Messiah uses an email-based (this group does not meet in person) Prayer Chain comprised of people who continually pray for our members, community, and nation in times of crisis. Prayers are confidential and anonymous, as much as possible. You can make a difference through the gift of your prayers! Contact Cindi Souza at regency118@comcast.net or Pastor Dave Stier at pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org to become a partner.

O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Loving Seniors)



O.W.L.S. meets the second Tuesday of every month from September through May, at noon. Entertainment, entrees, and beverages provided! Please sign up in the Narthex if you'd like to bring a side dish, salad, bread, or dessert. We hope to see you at our next luncheon on **February 13**!

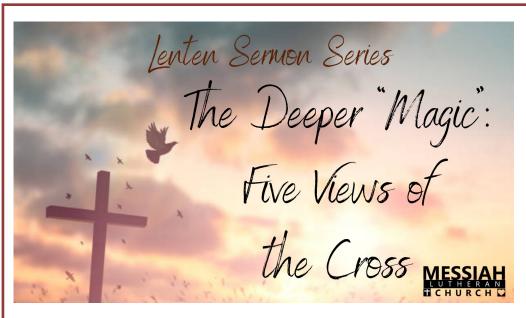
MLC OFFICE HOURS

The office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9 am-3 pm. Saturdays and evenings are by appointment. Staff is always available by appointment, so please don't hesitate to ask!

WAYS TO GIVE

We will have an offering time during the services, but you can give any time during the week using one of the following ways:

- 1) Go to: bit.ly/MLCGiving
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet and follow the instructions given.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.
- 4) Mail your check to the church at: 40 Houbolt Rd., Joliet, IL 60431



New sermon series for Sundays in Lent!

Feb. 18

What it means for God

Feb. 25

What it means for **Satan**

Mar. 3

What it means for Jesus

Mar. 10

What it means for the World

Mar. 17

What it means for the Church

Pastor Dave Nygard will be preaching on **Palm Sunday**, March 24. Join us for an early Easter, March 31 - worship at 8, 9:30 & 11 am. There will not be a Sonrise Service this year.



Online Worship

Join us for



Can't make it to church this week? The 9:30 am service is available for streaming online on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Links to both are at mlcjoliet.org

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



4 - Greg & Aimee Gipes Ron & Judy Fowler21 - Doug & Janet Potts28 - Roger & Diane Zuehl



- 1 Sarah Haussy
- 3 Irene Chaplin Jackie Zite
- 4 Mike Holmes
- 6 Kersten Stier
- 10 Andrew Wiley
- 11 Herb Hallberg
- 12 Abigail Burke
- 14 Ezren Lawler
- 15 Chris Pribnow
- 16 Matthew Chaplin Waylon Johnke
- 17 Gene Gruber Michael Prybell

- 18 Jean Cleary Elaine Brown Ellen Parnell Roger Zuehl
- 19 Nathalie Ferenzi
- 21 Liam McDonald Kristen Michalski Pam Stromsta
- 23 Erin Eldred
- 24 Maven Lawler
- 25 Teagan King

FEBRUARY SERVERS

	Counters		
02/04/24	Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer		Readers 8:00
02/11/24	Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock	02/04/24	Paul Allen
02/18/24	Judy Fowler, Norina Schroth	02/11/24	Randy Ling
02/25/24	Harold Stier, Dan Stukel	02/18/24	Deb Dole
		02/25/24	Greg Dole
	Ushers 8:00		_
02/04/24	Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel		Readers 9:30
02/11/24	Don Cyborski, Paul Allen	02/04/24	Sherri Unyi
02/18/24	Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller	02/11/24	Doug Potts
02/25/24	Don Cyborski, Craig Stone	02/18/24	Doug Potts
		02/25/24	needed
	Ushers 9:30		
02/04/24	Bill Unyi, Brandon Fiday		Readers 11:00
02/11/24	Jeff Holmes, Brandon Fiday	02/04/24	Donna Stier
02/18/24	Roger Gordon, Brandon Fiday	02/11/24	Tom Bond
02/25/24	Aimee Gipes, Alan Costello	02/18/24	Tom Bond
		02/25/24	Matthew Fiday
	Ushers 11:00		
02/04/24	Gary Phillips, Brandon Fiday		Greeters 8:00
02/11/24	Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer	02/04/24	Nancy Bertnik, needed
02/18/24	Gary Phillips, Brandon Fiday	02/11/24	Bev Korby, needed
02/25/24	Darryl Hoelscher, Brandon Fiday	02/18/24	Beth Hohisel, needed
		02/25/24	Gerry & Pat Boe
Communion Assistants 8:00			
02/04/24	Bev Korby, Nancy Bertnik		Greeters 9:30
02/11/24	Randy & Laurel Ling	02/04/24	needed
02/18/24	Julie Bajt, Christy Werner	02/11/24	Darryl & Cindi Souza
02/25/24	Paul & Marvina Allen	02/18/24	Larry & Marcy Vickers
		02/25/24	needed
Communion Assistants 9:30			
02/04/24	Darryl Hoelscher, Jane Costello,		Greeters 11:00
00/40/04	Doug Potts	02/04/24	needed
02/18/24	Rowan Hedden, Doug Potts,	02/11/24	Brandon & Aubrey Fiday
	needed	02/18/24	Roger & Carol Gordon
02/25/24 Kim Ciuffini			
Communion Assistants 11:00			

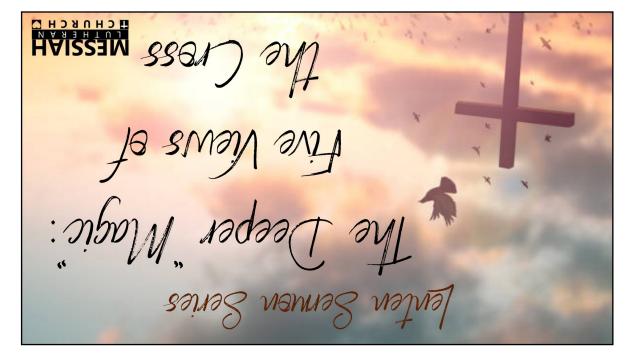
02/04/24 02/18/24

Donna Stier, needed Tom & Lynn Bond





40 Houbolf Rd. Joliet, IL 60431 (815) 741-4488



Interim Worship Coordinator Justin Brown

Interim Tech Coordinator Nikolai Stier

Organist Rose Ann Sochan

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover

Associate Pastor David Stier

Choir Director Herb Alexander
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Interim Student Ministry Administrator Kate Richmond
Interim Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann
info@mlcjoliet.org 815-741-4488