



Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026
8:30 a.m.

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Guest Preacher Mike Brown
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

May 3, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"When We Are Living," #639 v. 1-3, ELW



1 *Pues si vi - vi - mos,* *pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,*
1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,
3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find



y si mo - ri - mos *pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.*
and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . . .
when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace, . . .
those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind; . . .



Sea que vi - va - mos *o que mu - ra - mos,*
Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
and when we help them, or when we feed them,



so - mos del Se - ñor, *so - mos del Se - ñor.*
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

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

"Hallelujah! Thine the Glory,"
arr. Mary McDonald, 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.

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

bless - ing. 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, 1 Corinthians 3:4-9 (ESV)

Reader: Jane Costello

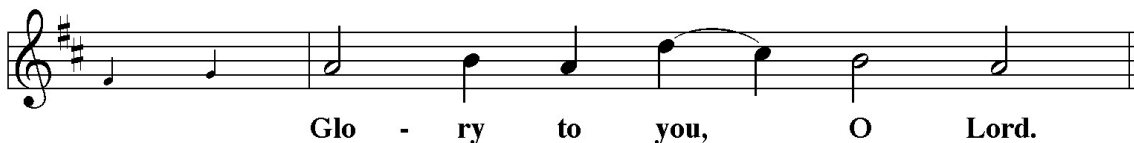
⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

SECOND READING, Ephesians 2:4-10 (ESV)

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

THIRD READING, Acts 20:17-21, 31-38 (ESV)



¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸ being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

"The Church in Ephesus"
Seminarian Mike Brown

HYMN

"Open My Eyes, That I May See," #381 v. 1-3

1. O-pen my eyes, that I may see Glimp-ses of truth Thou hast for me;
2. O-pen my ears, that I may hear Voic-es of truth Thou send-est clear;
3. O-pen my mouth, and let it bear Glad-ly the warm truth ev-'ry-where;

Place in my hands the won-der-ful key, That shall un-clasp and set me free.
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear, Ev-'ry-thing false will dis-ap-pear.
O-pen my heart, and let me pre-pare Love with Thy chil-dren thus to share.

Si-lent-ly now I wait for Thee, Read-y, my God, Thy will to see;

O-pen my eyes, il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
O-pen my ears, il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
O-pen my heart, il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine! A-men.

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

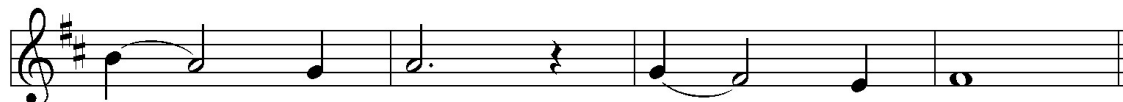
Servers: Nancy Bertnik, Jane Costello, Rowan Hedden

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"



COMMUNION HYMNS

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us," #462

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee," #410



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

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing," #601 v. 1-2



1. Lord, dis-miss us with Thy bless-ing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2. Thanks we give and ad-o-ra-tion For Thy gos-pel's joy-ful sound;



Let us each, Thy love pos-sess-ing, Tri-umph in re-deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of Thy sal-va-tion In our hearts and lives a-bound.



O re-fresh us, O re-fresh us, Trav-eling through this wil-der-ness.
Ev-er faith-ful, ev-er faith-ful To the truth may we be found. A-men.

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

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MESSIAH PHOTO DIRECTORY



We are in the process of taking photos of our members for the new photo directory and would love to have you and your family be a part of it! Sherri Unyi will be **taking pictures this morning** between services (9:30 - 10:45) in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to stop by if you have not already been photographed. Appointments are available during Sherri's office hours over the coming weeks. Call the front office to check availability.



Pastor Emeritus David Nygard will preach at both services on May 10th.

→ **SAVE THESE DATES FOR 125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!** ←

Saturday, September 19th - Dinner Banquet (time TBD)
Sunday, September 20th - Reception Celebration between services

Dear Messiah family,

Thank you for your love and support for Erma and her family over these recent months. Mom was so happy to make Messiah her church home.

Blessings,
The family of Erma Turner

BLOOD DRIVE AT MESSIAH



Sunday, May 24th

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Donate and receive a \$25 eGift Card!

Register at: www.versiti.org/IL

or scan here:



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 Stephanie at 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 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.

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.

Our **online giving app** now offers some new features designed to streamline the process. You will have the option to split your donation between giving funds. It will be easier to donate via ACH (only a flat \$0.30 processing fee per transaction, versus the 2.15% plus \$0.30 for credit cards). Previous donations will be saved, and better security with identity verification. All to make it easier to donate online.

FAITH & BODY

Lace up your shoes and enjoy a walk in the Family Life Center, weekly on Thursdays (ends May 21st) from 9-10 a.m.

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.

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. Our next meeting is **May 26th**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! We'll also have a bonus "sewing day" on Thursday, June 11th at 12:30 p.m... More details coming soon! Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 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 final luncheon until fall is May 12th**. 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 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 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 - MAY 5th BONUS DAY!

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. In May, we have added a **bonus day** on Tuesday, **May 5th**, in addition to our regular quilting day of **May 19th**! Hope to see you there!

STAY-N-PLAY

Our FREE weekly open gym play group for kids five and under has ended for the season and is on break until September.

YOUNG ADULT "IGNITE" BIBLE STUDY

For those out of high school and older. Ignite is paused for the summer, hoping to resume in the fall.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will share their final performance 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.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW) SUMMER PROGRAM

MKW has ended for the program year. Our **summer MKW kickoff is on June 17th** and runs through July 29th (except during VBS week). We'll meet Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club!

NATIONAL BIBLE BEE

Messiah will once again host the National Bible Bee this summer, **June 10th** through August 12th from 5-6 p.m.! Registration is open at BIBLEBEE.ORG. For more info please reach out to Leslie.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER SCHEDULE

Pre-K through 5th groups meet upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6th-8th in the Youth Room! We'll wrap up our program year on **Field Day, May 17th**! Our summer session will run July 5th through August 16th for k-8th.

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 and will continue year-around.

FRIENDS AND MENTORS (FAM) AND HEAD2HEART (H2H)

FAM AND H2H will continue meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 through **May 6th**. We'll then have a few weeks off until Summer SALT begins.

SUMMER S.A.L.T. KICKOFF PARTY

This summer we will meet in a combined format for 6th-12th graders! Our **kickoff party** will be on Wednesday, **May 27th** from 6-8 p.m. at the Stier's home. Our summer program will meet at church from 6-8 p.m. June 3rd through August 5th. *Please note that we will not meet on 07/22 or 07/29.*

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



ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided by Ken Skinner in loving memory of Vickie.

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, May 3

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
12 p.m. Women's Luncheon
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, May 4

n/a

TUESDAY, May 5

9 a.m. Quilters (bonus day!)

WEDNESDAY, May 6

1 p.m. Women's Bible Study
6 p.m. FAM & H2H (end date)

THURSDAY, May 7

9 a.m. Faith & Body Challenge
10:15 a.m. Prayer Team
12 p.m. Staff Meeting
1 p.m. Grief Support Group
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, May 8

n/a

SATURDAY, May 9

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY, May 10

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:

8:30: 96
10:45: 67
Online: 2

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$227,002
YTD Giving Received: \$175,508
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$13,200

1st Quarter 2026

Actual Income vs. Expense:
-\$14,823

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

1 Samuel 12:24

Only fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things He has done for you.

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

