



Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026
8:30 a.m.

Jesus answered, "It is written:

MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE,
BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE

mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4



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

March 8, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns," #234 v. 1-3



1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne:
2. Crown Him the Lord of love: Be - hold His hands and side—
3. Crown Him the Lord of life: Who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
4. Crown Him the Lord of heav'n: One with the Fa - ther known,



Hark! how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own!
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
Who rose vic - to - rious to the strife For those He came to save.
One with the Spir - it thru Him giv'n From yon - der glo - rious throne.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
To Thee be end - less praise, For Thou for us hast died; Be



hail Him as thy match-less King Thru all e - ter - ni - ty.
down-ward bends his won-d'ring eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
Thou, O Lord, thru end - less days A - dored and mag - ni - fied. A - men.

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

"Grace," arr. Mark Hayes,
 led by Herb Alexander

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus," #183 v. 1-2



- 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Living for Jesus," #372 v. 1-2



1. Liv-ing for Je-sus a life that is true, Striv-ing to please Him in
2. Liv-ing for Je-sus who died in my place, Bear-ing on Cal-v'ry my
3. Liv-ing for Je-sus wher - ev - er I am, Do - ing each du - ty in
4. Liv-ing for Je-sus through earth's lit-tle while, My dear - est treas-ure, the



all that I do; Yield-ing al - le - giance, glad - heart - ed and free,
sin and dis - grace; Such love con - strains me to an - swer His call,
His ho - ly name; Will - ing to suf - fer af - flic - tion and loss,
light of His smile; Seek - ing the lost ones He died to re - deem,



This is the path-way of bless-ing for me.
Fol - low His lead - ing and give Him my all. O Je - sus, Lord and
Deem-ing each tri - al a part of my cross.
Bring-ing the wea - ry to find rest in Him.



Sav - ior, I give my - self to Thee; For Thou, in Thy a - tone-ment, Didst



give Thy-self for me. I own no oth - er Mas - ter, My heart shall be Thy



throne. My life I give, hence-forth to live, O Christ, for Thee a - lone.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"We Are the Reason," #209 (2X)



We are the rea - son that He gave His life, We are the rea - son that He

suf-fered and died. To a world that was lost He gave all He could give,
to show us the rea - son to live. live.

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

Leslie McFarland

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

RESPONSE

Doxology #625

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low;
Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

FIRST LESSON, Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-6 (NIV)

Reader: Jane Costello

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

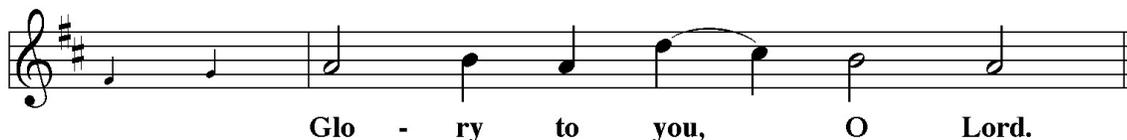
¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

SECOND LESSON, Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)



¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

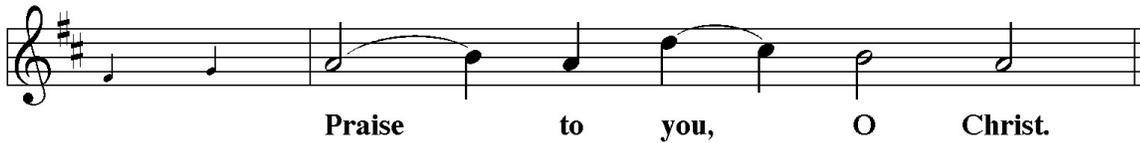
⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.



MESSAGE

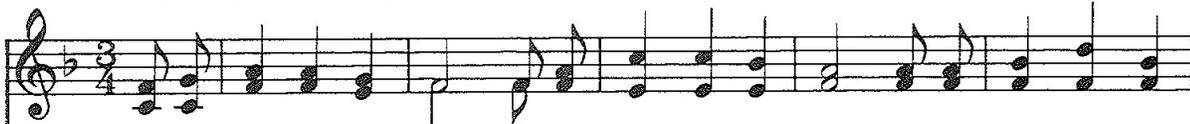
**"Everybody Gets Tempted - Even Jesus"
(The Devil Is a Liar)**

Pastor David Nygard

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

HYMN

"Trust and Obey," #349 v. 1, 2, 4



1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, What a glo - ry He
2. Not a shad-ow can rise, not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quick-ly
3. Not a bur-den we bear, not a sor - row we share, But our toil He doth
4. But we nev-er can prove the de - lights of His love Un - til all on the
5. Then in fel - low-ship sweet we will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His

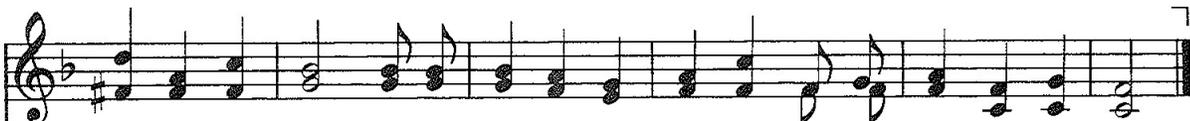


sheds on our way! While we do His good will He a - bides with us still,
drives it a - way; Not a doubt nor a fear, not a sigh nor a tear,
rich - ly re - pay; Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,
al - tar we lay; For the fa - vor He shows and the joy He be - stows
side in the way; What He says we will do, where He sends we will go—

┌ Refrain



And with all who will trust and o - bey.
Can a - bide while we trust and o - bey.
But is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
Are for them who will trust and o - bey.
Nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



no oth - er way To be hap - py in Je - sus, But to trust and o - bey.

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: Nancy Bertnik, Rowan Hedden, Cindi Souza

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"



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

"Rock of Ages," #204 v. 1-4



1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my-self in Thee;
2. Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy law's de - mands;
3. Noth-ing in my hand I bring, Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling;
4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When my eyes shall close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress, Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg-ment throne,



Be of sin the dou-ble cure, Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun-tain fly, Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die!
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my-self in Thee. A-men.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Spirit of the Living God," #247 (2X)



Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Spir - it of the



Liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,



use me. Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

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

"In My Life Lord, Be Glorified," #394 v. 1-3



1. In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied,
2. In my song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied,
3. In Your Church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied,



In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
In my song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
In Your Church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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


WEDNESDAY EVENING
LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP
 Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 Worship 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 on
 Ash Wednesday, February 18th
 Wednesdays February 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

The Soup Supper sign up board is in the Narthex.
 Please let us know if you are bringing a pot of soup to share.


Wednesdays in Lent
Catechism Study
The Ten Commandments



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- NO. 1 ALWAYS PUT GOD FIRST
- NO. 2 WORSHIP ONLY GOD & DO NOT MAKE ANY IDOLS
- NO. 3 USE GOD'S NAME WITH RESPECT
- NO. 4 REMEMBER THE SABBATH
- NO. 5 HONOR YOUR FATHER & MOTHER
- NO. 6 DO NOT HURT OTHERS
- NO. 7 KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE PROMISES
- NO. 8 DO NOT STEAL
- NO. 9 DO NOT TELL LIES
- NO. 10 DO NOT BE JEALOUS

Wednesday evening Lenten worship begins on



Ash WEDNESDAY

February 18th, 7 p.m.

Come early and join us for
 Soup Suppers at 5:30.
 Sign up in the Narthex!

GET READY FOR OUR CHURCH
★ PICTORIAL DIRECTORY ★

Be a part of our 2026 church directory! We will be taking pictures of our families for our directory **before and after services on March 22nd and 29th** in the fellowship hall. *(The pictures will only be used for our directory and for our members only).* This will be a great time to confirm the information we have on file.

Our Messiah Quilters will be completing a **Signature Quilt** to celebrate our 125th anniversary. The squares will be next to the photo booth for you to sign before and after the services on March 22nd & 29th.

Celebration Sunday at Messiah

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29



We'll celebrate with a combined worship service at 10 a.m. in the Family Life Center and our annual Youth Parade.



You're invited to worship with us this

Easter

- 04/02 ~ Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.
- 04/03 ~ Good Friday Tenebrae Service & Choir Cantata 7:00 p.m.
- 04/05 ~ Easter Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Easter breakfast is served beginning at 7:30!



40 Houbolt Road, Joliet
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NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

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 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 has stepped 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 the front office for more information.**



EASTER LILIES

We are now collecting Easter lily orders with a deadline of March 11th. Please drop your completed order form and payment in the offering plate. Order forms may be found on the Ushers' Table in the Narthex.

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 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.

*Grief
Support
Group*

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 **March 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 **March 10th**. 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.



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 **March 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!

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women's Bible Study is planning 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 March 22 and April 26. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.



EASTER EGG HUNT & CANDY DONATIONS

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is March 28th from 1-3 p.m. We'll start at 1 with a Story Walk in the FLC, and the hunt will begin at 2 outdoors (weather permitting). We are asking for your **donations of unopened candy**. There is a collection basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

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

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

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. Register here:



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.

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.

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



Coffee Shop Fundraiser sponsored by our 2026 Chicago Mission Trip Team

Please support our 2026 Mission Trip Team on Sundays, March 8th and 15th from 8-11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall as they brew up delicious hot/cold brewed and iced coffees (with special flavors) for your enjoyment!



ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers this morning are provided by Gerry & Pat Boe in celebration of their 56th wedding anniversary.

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, March 8

8 a.m. Coffee Shop Fundraiser
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, March 9

n/a

TUESDAY, March 10

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

WEDNESDAY, March 11

5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW
7 p.m. Worship

THURSDAY, March 12

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, March 13

n/a

SATURDAY, March 14

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
12 p.m. Don Cyborski Celebration of Life
1 p.m. Nerf Battle

SUNDAY, March 15

8 a.m. Coffee Shop Fundraiser
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: 89
10:45: 63
K-5th: 11
6th-8th: 4
High School: 4
Ignite: 2
Insight: 26
Online: 26

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$120,178
YTD Giving Received: \$92,181
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$13,188

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Colossians 2:7

Rooted and built up in Him
and established in the faith,
just as you were taught,
abounding in thanksgiving.

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

