



Family Praise & Worship
September 27, 2026
10:45 a.m.



By what authority?

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier

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WORSHIP TODAY

Call To Worship

Welcome

Worship Through Songs

Worship Through Giving

Children's Message

Pastor Kurt

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

Message

"Kingdom Life: Delayed Inspiration"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

Worship Through Song

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Benediction

Closing Song

FIRST LESSON, Ezekiel 18:25-32 (ESV)

Reader: needed

²⁵ "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶ When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷ Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?"

³⁰ "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live."

SECOND LESSON, Matthew 21:23-32 (ESV)

²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I will, sir,' but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Thank you to everyone who contributed or purchased a quilt on Quilt Sunday!

I hope you all had a chance to see the quilts displayed on the pews and in the Narthex on Quilt Sunday, October 13. It was a colorful sight! We have boxed and are prepared to ship 88 quilts and 21 fabric kits to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse (LWR) in Minnesota. Your generous donations enable us to help defray the cost of shipping these items and purchase the supplies needed to create the beautiful quilts. LWR will send these quilts and kits somewhere in the world where they are needed to assist people with their daily lives and give them comfort and hope.





SANCTUARY CHOIR

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 p.m.,
with performances every Sunday during the 8:30 service.
If you'd like to join in, reach out to Herb Alexander.
or call the church office.



It's come to our attention that Rose Sochan's
phone number was misprinted in the new church
directory. Please make a note of the correct
number: 815-823-5006

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 is entitled, "The Character of God."

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.



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.

*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. Our next meeting is **October 27**. 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!



A variety of soups (and beverages) will be provided for our **October 13** luncheon as we celebrate "Autumn Fest," and we'll feature a presentation by the Joliet Historical Museum. We ask that everyone **sign up in the Narthex** so we have a headcount, and to let us know if you will bring finger food, appetizer, salad or dessert 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 October 20. 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 **October 20!**

STAY-N-PLAY - begins September 29

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

Join us for Women's Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons at 1 in the Fireside Room!



Our current series, "God Won't Leave You There: Joseph's Story," is an incredible testimony of jaw-dropping faith and patient perseverance in the face of devastating trials that will leave you in awe at what God can do in and through one person. It's a powerful reminder that wherever you find yourself, God is at work putting the pieces of your life together to bring about His sovereign plan.

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 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

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 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 Wednesday evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

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 p.m.

MAFIA NIGHTS - Attention 6th-12th graders!

Join us for Capture the Flag/Tag in the Dark! Mark your calendar for MAFIA nights on **October 9 & November 13** from 6-10 p.m. Bring friends, and \$5 per person if you'd like to join us for pizza.

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

THE KINGDOM LIFE

FALL 2026 SERMON SERIES



† How does God's family change your family? †

Jesus united Heaven and Earth.
You are already in...

THE KINGDOM LIFE.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

*Holy Communion is offered weekly
during both services.*

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:40 a.m. Education Hour for all ages

- Sunday School for K-8th!
- High School Bible Study (year-round)!
- "Insight" Bible Study for adults!

10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided by Gerry Boe in celebration of Pat's 80th birthday.

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, September 27

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, September 28

n/a

Tuesday, September 29

10 a.m. Stay-n-Play

Wednesday, September 30

1 p.m. Women's Bible Study
5 p.m. Family Dinner
6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

Thursday, October 1

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

Friday, October 2

n/a

Saturday, October 3

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Sunday, October 4

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: 96
10:45: 39
Online: 27
MKW: 9

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$507,416
YTD Giving Received: \$398,957
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$10,005

STEWARDSHIP VERSE **OF THE WEEK**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus 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.

