



Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025
8:30 a.m.



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
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

December 7, 2025

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear," #128 v. 1 -4



1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2. Still thru the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, Whose forms are bend-ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has-t'ning on, By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world:
Who toil a-long the climb-ing way With pain-ful steps and slow,
When with the ev-er-cir-cling years Shall come the time fore-told,



"Peace on the earth, good-will to men, From heav'n's all-gra-cious King!"
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,
Look now! for glad and gold-en hours Come swift-ly on the wing:
When the new heav'n and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King,



The world in sol-lemn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
And ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
O rest be-side the wea-ry road And hear the an-gels sing.
And the whole world send back the song Which now the an-gels sing.

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.



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.



Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here
their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM

"What Child Shall Come?"
arr. Patrick Liebergen, 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



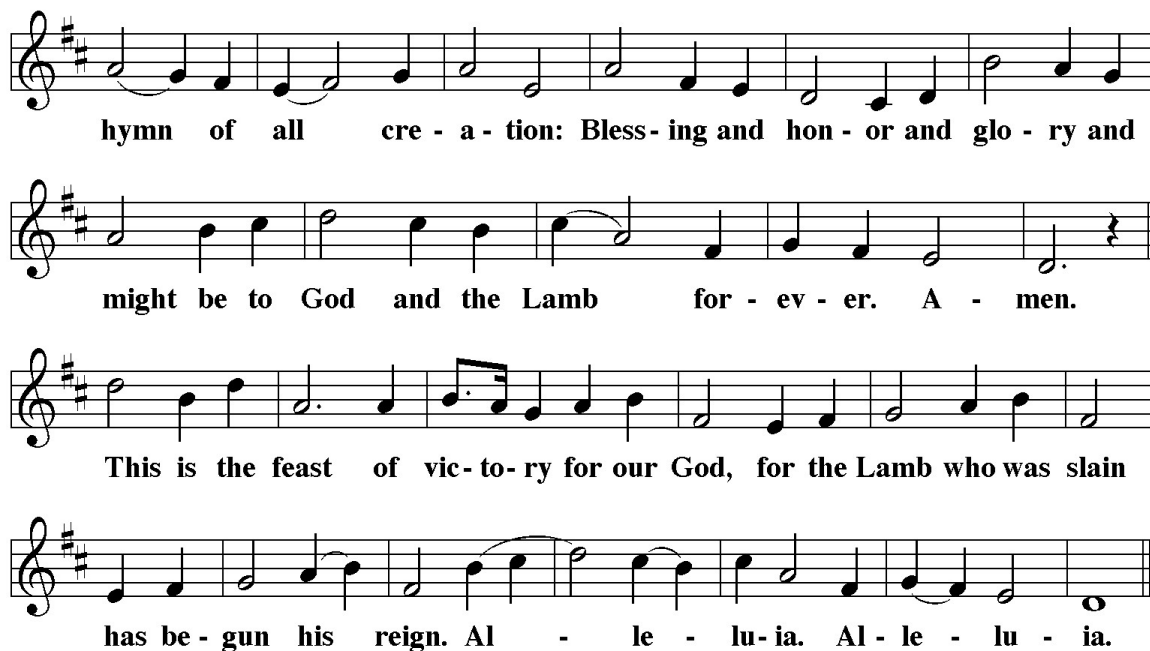
strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



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

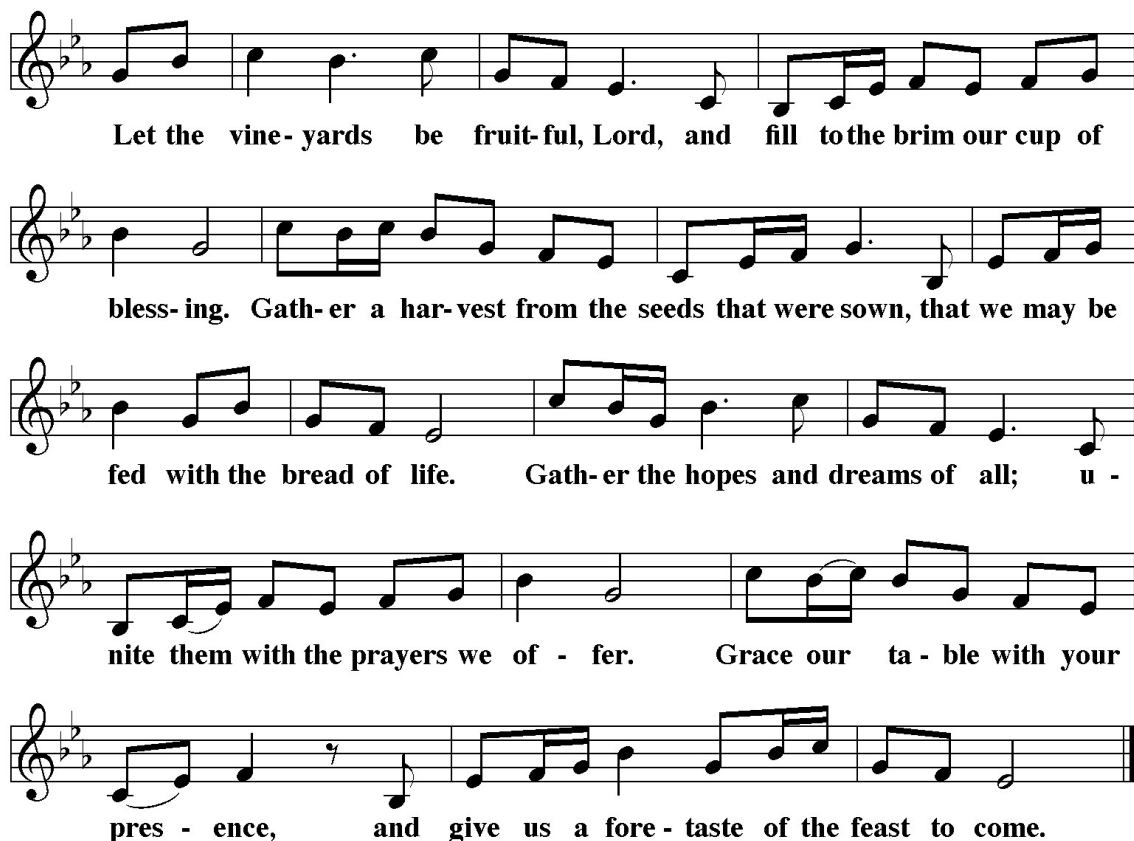
Leslie McFarland

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, Acts 1:12-14 (ESV)

Reader: Jane Costello

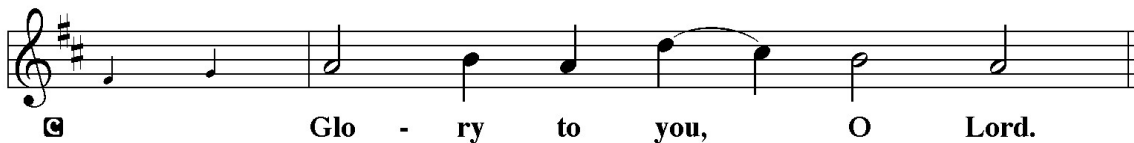
¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

SECOND READING, Luke 1:34-38 (ESV)

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

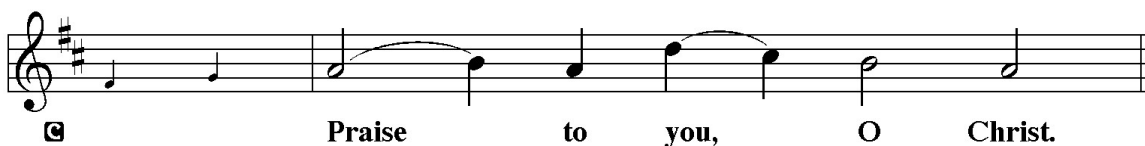
³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

GOSPEL, Luke 8:1-3, 19-21 (ESV)



¹ Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

¹⁹ Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. ²⁰ And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." ²¹ But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."



MESSAGE

"The Servant's Heart"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem," #141 v. 1-4



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love,
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el. 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.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4. The lyrics 'And al - so with you.' are written below the staff.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All:

We lift them to the Lord.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4. The lyrics 'We lift them to the Lord.' are written below the staff.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All:

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F#, C#). The melody consists of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4. The lyrics 'It is right to give him thanks and praise.' are written below the staff.

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:

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F#, C#). The melody consists of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:' are written below the staff.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F#, C#). The melody consists of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4. The lyrics 'Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' are written below the staff.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F#, C#). The melody consists of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4. The lyrics 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes' are written below the staff.

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F#, C#). The melody consists of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D5, C5, B4, A4. The lyrics 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' are written below the staff.

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: Paul Allen, Joy McClintock, Cindi Souza

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"



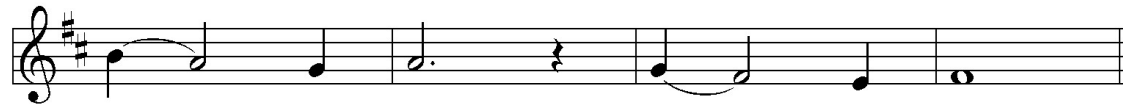
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 HYMNS

"Once in Royal David's City," #155 v. 1-4

"Away in a Manger," #157 v. 1-3

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

"How Great Our Joy!," #144 v. 1 & 2



1. While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tid - ings brought an
2. There shall be born, so he did say, In Beth - le - hem a
3. There shall the Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall re -
4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, That ev - er joy our



an - gel bright.
Child to - day. How great our joy! Great our joy!
deem us all.
hearts shall fill.



Joy, joy, joy, Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in



heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING ADVENT

Join us for mid-week worship on Wednesday evenings during Advent:
December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PIANO CONCERT

Our very own pianist Rose Ann Sochan will present a concert, "Celebrate the Magic of the Holiday Season," featuring Rose and other special musical guests on Sunday, December 7th at 3 p.m. Admission is complimentary and all are welcome!

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CANTATA

Our annual Christmas Cantata will be on Sunday, December 14th during the 8:30 service. Please attend and hear our wonderful choir celebrate the birth of Jesus in song.



LCMC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Please help yourself to a special Advent Devotional, courtesy of LCMC! Copies are available in the Narthex. If you prefer a digital copy, please reach out to Vicki in the office.

MESSIAH KIDS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We invite you to come to our Children's Christmas Program on December 21st at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us at 5, 7 and 11 p.m. for Christmas Eve worship.

Gifts for Baby Jesus is a tradition here for children on Christmas Eve!



We invite children to bring gifts for baby Jesus to our 5:00 or 7:00 p.m. services. These gifts are items needed by newborn children and new mothers: diapers, clothing, blankets, etc. Please identify on the wrapped package what each item is, the sizes and who it is for. These gifts will reach the community through our Lil Loves ministry and Living Alternatives. Thank you for your willingness to give!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING

ADVENT



*Please join us
for worship:*

December 3

December 10

December 17

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.



Messiah Kids Christmas Program



December 21st at 9:45
in the Sanctuary,
during Education Hour

We invite you to come watch our Christmas Pageant this holiday season,
with songs we all know and a beautiful story told by our students!

Participating students, please attend the dress rehearsal
from noon-2 p.m. on Saturday, December 20th.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings at 9:30! Our current series focuses on reading through the New Testament. We'll go from Matthew to Revelation in three months!

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME



Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 9:30 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!

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

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to those less fortunate at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Food donations are also needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, December 8th.

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.

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. **Memory Bears does not meet in December.** Our next meeting is January 27, 2026. 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 **December 9th**.

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. Questions may be directed to Pat Burke, Pat Buchenau, or Lisa Winters.



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 or email regency118@comcast.net 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 by email regency118@comcast.net, 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

The next Messiah Quilting Day (3rd Tuesday each month) will be on December 16th 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 **December 16th**!

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!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FAMILY DINNER & FAMILY PRAISE NIGHT

Wednesday Family Dinner will take place the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Your RSVP is important to us - a sign up list is posted in the Narthex. We can also use help with setup and cleanup, if you are able to assist, please sign up in the Narthex.

Family Praise Night, also the first Wednesday of every month, is from 6-6:30 p.m. (right after dinner) in the cafe area of the FLC. Join our children and student ministries for a time of praise, kids' showcase, and a short message!

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women's Bible Study will resume in January! Watch for details!

Our ladies' **Christmas Tea** is Saturday, **December 13th** from 1-3 p.m.
SAVE THE DATE.

Tickets are available in the Narthex.

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 at 9:30.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will perform during the 10:30 service on January 25, February 22, March 22, and April 26. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

J-CHURCH

J-Church is the third Sunday of every month (except December) at 10:30 in the FLC.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club! On **December 17th** we will have a **Share Celebration**!

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.



"MARY'S SONG," SUNDAY MORNINGS DURING ADVENT

explores the beginning and ending of Luke from the women's perspective, tying together the Nativity with the end of the Gospel.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided in honor of our lovely and talented Rose Sochan.

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 (December 7)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (streamed)
9:30 a.m. Education Hour
10:30 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship
3 p.m. Rose's Piano Concert

MONDAY (December 8)

8-1:30 Homeschool Co-op (full campus)

TUESDAY (December 9)

9:30 a.m. Stay-N-Play
12 p.m. OWLS
2 p.m. Chosen Bible Study

WEDNESDAY (December 10)

6 p.m. H2H, FAM, MKW
7 p.m. Advent Worship

THURSDAY (December 11)

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

FRIDAY (December 12)

SATURDAY (December 13)

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
1 p.m. Women's Christmas Tea

SUNDAY (December 14)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (streamed)
with Choir Cantata
9:30 a.m. Education Hour
10:30 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

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



ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30 a.m.: 40
10:30 a.m.: 65
Insight: 15
Ignite: 2
HS: n/a
K-5th: n/a
6th-8th: 3
Online: 29

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068
YTD Operating Budget: \$627,755
YTD Giving Received: \$552,107
Average Weekly Need: \$13,078
Received Last Week: \$35,449

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 37:21

The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives.

Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Building Liaison Kate Richmond
Youth Director Kersten Stier
Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi