



**Family Praise & Worship**  
**March 8, 2026**  
**10:45 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  
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**

**Worship Through Hearing God's Word**

**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.*

**Worship Through Song**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness**

**Communion**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Closing Song**

### **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.

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

Reader: Molly Hoover

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> 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."

<sup>1</sup> 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'?"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> 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.'"

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

<sup>6</sup> 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)**

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "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.'"

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

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

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

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

# 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!



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## 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 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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. next meeting is **March 24<sup>th</sup>**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email [regency118@comcast.net](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup>**. 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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### **QUILTERS**

Messiah Quilters meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

*Quilters, continued...* 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!

*Quilters continued...* Contact Kathy Mueller at (815) 953-6601 or [scpbklane@aol.com](mailto:scpbklane@aol.com) for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **March 17<sup>th</sup>**!

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 (4<sup>th</sup> grade) March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>,  
Communion April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup>** from 1-3 p.m. in the FLC.



**Registration is open** in the Church Center app or here:

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> groups meet upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> in the Youth Room!

For more info on ministries for kids pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at [childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org) or Megan Kuhn, Christian Ed. Director, at [christianed@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:christianed@mlcjoliet.org).

## MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders runs on Wednesdays evenings from 6-8.



## Coffee Shop Fundraiser

sponsored by our 2026 Chicago Mission Trip Team

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



For more info on ministries for students 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at [stumin@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:stumin@mlcjoliet.org).

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 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>** 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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The squares will be next to the photo booth for you to sign before and after the services on March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers this morning are provided by Gerry & Pat Boe in celebration of their 56<sup>th</sup> 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

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: 89  
10:45: 63  
K-5<sup>th</sup>: 11  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: 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.