



September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 a.m.

Cling to
what is
good.

Romans 12:9

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Pastor Emeritus David Nygard
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Paul Allen, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

September 13, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"We Will Glorify," #224 v. 1-4, *Maranatha*

1. We will glo - ri - fy the King of kings, we will
2. Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in maj - es - ty, we will
3. He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth, He is
4. Hal - le - lu - jah to the King of kings, Hal - le -

glo - ri - fy the _____ Lamb; We will
bow be - fore His _____ throne; We will
Lord of all who _____ live: He is
lu - jah to the _____ Lamb; Hal - le -

glo - ri - fy the Lord of Lords, who _____
wor - ship Him in right - eous - ness, we will
Lord a - bove the u - ni - verse, all _____
lu - jah to the Lord of lords, who _____

is the great "I _____ Am."
wor - ship Him a _____ lone.
praise to Him we _____ give.
is the great "I _____ Am."

QUILT BLESSING LITANY

Please place your hands on a quilt as we dedicate them to serve those in need.

Leader: Gracious God, as we place our hands on these quilts, we join giver and receiver, recognizing the unity of all your people in the body of Christ.

All: We celebrate being the children of God.

Leader: We give thanks for the variety of gifts that compose these quilts: donations of fabric, thread and sewing machines, the faithful people who cut the squares, design the patterns, sew the tops, make backs, assemble, tie and stitch the bindings, donate boxes, pack the quilts, deliver them to an Ingathering and contribute the money which makes the creation and shipping of these quilts possible.

All: We celebrate generosity.

Leader: We give thanks for the fellowship of all who work together to make the quilts, the laughter, the shared stories, the joy of crafting something with one's hands and heart for another and the time to reflect and wonder about the recipient.

All: We celebrate community.

Leader: We send these quilts, as a sign of God's love and blessing for each person who receives one, trusting that their quilt will be a source of comfort and hope in the midst of disaster and fear, a symbol of Christ's love to those who suffer, a reminder that each recipient is a beloved child of God. We pray that these quilts will serve a useful purpose in the life of the recipient; that they will bring warmth in the cold, shelter from the sun and heat, a wall for a home, or a carrier for a few precious belongings. May it be a step in recovering one's life and a message of care from someone they will never meet.

All: We celebrate hope in the midst of life's trials.

Leader: We remember those who have received our quilts in the past and pray that their lives have returned to stability.

All: We celebrate the gift of life.

Leader: We ask that you bless the fruits of our labor and the whole mission of Lutheran World Relief, that together we may minister to our neighbors in need. Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are sewn together in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

All: Amen.



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PRAISE

"We Bow Down," #97 v. 1-2, *Maranatha*

1. You are Lord of cre-a - tion and Lord of my life, —
 2. You are King of cre-a - tion and King of my life, —

Lord of the land — and the sea; You were Lord of the heav - ens be -
 King of the land — and the sea; You were King of the heav - ens be -

fore there was time, And Lord of all lords_ You will be. We bow
 fore there was time, And King of all kings_ You will be. We bow

down — and we wor - ship You, — Lord. We bow down — and we
 down — and we crown You the — King. We bow down — and we

wor - ship You, — Lord. We bow down — and we
 crown You the — King. We bow down — and we

wor - ship You, — Lord. Lord of all lords_ You will be. —
 crown You the — King. King of all kings_ You will be. —

HYMN OF PRAISE

"He Is Exalted," #111 (2X), *Maranatha*

He is ex - alt - ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on — high; — I will

praise — Him. He is ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed and

B $\flat$ C7/B $\flat$ B $\flat$ /C C Dsus D/C

I will praise His name! _____

Gm Dm/F C/E C F Am B $\flat$ F/A

He is the Lord, for - ev - er His truth shall reign;

Gm Dm/F C/E C F Am B $\flat$ F/A

Heav - en and earth re - joice in His ho - ly name. _____

Gm B $\flat$ /F E $\flat$ Maj7 B $\flat$ /C F B $\flat$ /F F

He is ex - alt - ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on high. _____

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

Kersten Stier

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Messiah Quilters/Lutheran World Relief (video)

RESPONSE

Doxology #625

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

FIRST LESSON, Isaiah 53:3-6 (NIV)

Reader: Jane Costello

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

SECOND LESSON, Romans 12:9-21 (NIV)

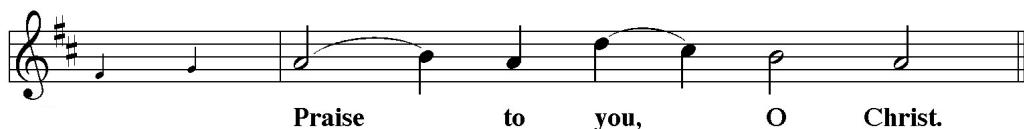
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



MESSAGE

"Do Just the Opposite!"

Pastor David Nygard

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

HYMN

"When We Are Living," #639 v. 1-3 (English)



1	<i>Pues si vi - vi - mos,</i>	<i>pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,</i>
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 . . .



<i>y si mo - ri - mos</i>	<i>pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.</i>
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; . . .



<i>Sea que vi - va - mos</i>	<i>o que mu - ra - mos,</i>
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,



<i>so - mos del Se - ñor,</i>	<i>so - mos del Se - ñor.</i>
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.



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: Jane Costello, Joy McClintock, Lynn Tapella

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;



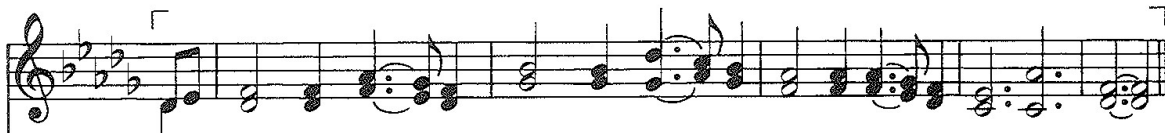
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Just As I Am," #342



1. Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me,
2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
3. Just as I am, tho tossed a - bout With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind—Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, relieve;



And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Yea, all I need in Thee to find— O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

"O, How He Loves You and Me," #513



- 1. O, how He loves you and me. O, how He loves you and
- 2. Je - sus to Cal - v'ry did go, His love for man - kind to



me; He gave His life, what more could He give? O, how He
 show; What He did there brought hope from de - spair: O, how He



loves you; O, how He loves me; O, how He loves you and me!
 loves you; O, how He loves me; O, how He loves you and 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

"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.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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SANCTUARY CHOIR

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 p.m., with performances
every Sunday during the 8:30 service, beginning September 20.
If you'd like to join in, reach out to Herb Alexander.
or call the church office.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Saturday, September 19 - Dinner Banquet at 5:30 p.m. Thank you to those who RSVP'd for the banquet. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Sunday, September 20 - Reception Celebration between services.

BIG NEWS - We will be celebrating past staff during our services on September 20! Pr. Dave Glesne will be preaching, and you will see many other familiar faces as you worship with us at 8:30 & 10:45.

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 **September 22**. Machine sewists are needed! Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

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 October's 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 September 15. 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 **September 15!**

STAY-N-PLAY - Resumes September 22!

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.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will have it's debut performance for this season during both services on **September 20** in honor of Messiah's 125th anniversary. Moving forward, they will perform on the fourth Sunday of most months during the late service. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW kickoff is **September 9!** We'll meet 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. Our summer session wraps up this morning. **Our 2026-2027 program year begins on September 13!**

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, beginning September 9. 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. Parents' **Night is September 16!**

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



DAILY DEVOTIONAL PODCAST “WORD PLAY!”

God has a Word for you!

Hosted by Pastor Kurt Hoover and Nikolai Stier,
we delve into the Scripture readings for the coming week
by focusing on one word in the passage.

Look for a new episode each weekday as we exchange insights
into the word of God ...along with some nerdy banter.

Find us on Spotify here:



Made-to-Order Messiah Apparel & Accessories!



Coffee Mugs, Lanyards & MORE!

**You can check out physical
samples in the Narthex.
Scan here to browse
and place your order!**



THE KINGDOM LIFE

FALL 2026 SERMON SERIES



As a Christian you live
in a unique Kingdom
sustained by the words of
your church family.

†
How has your family been
changed by the church?

†
How will your family change
the world?

†
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

- Summer Sunday School for K-8th (kicks off September 13)!
- 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 Kirk Brandmire in loving memory of Carol.

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

Quilt Sunday, September 13

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 14

n/a

Tuesday, September 15

9 a.m. Quilters
6 p.m. PPC Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

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

Thursday, September 17

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

Friday, September 18

n/a

Saturday, September 19

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. 125th Anniversary Dinner Banquet

Sunday, September 20

8:30 a.m. Celebration Worship (traditional)
9:30 a.m. 125th Anniversary Reception, FLC
10:45 a.m. Celebration Worship
(contemporary)
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 115
10:45: 51
Online: 18
HS: 3
Insight: 22

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$480,710
YTD Giving Received: \$380,155
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$20,214

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.

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

