

**MESSIAH**  
**LUTHERAN**  
**CHURCH**    
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

**Family Praise & Worship**  
**March 15, 2026**  
**10:45 a.m.**



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

40 Houbolt Rd.  
Joliet, IL 60431

815.741.4488  
[www.mlcjoliet.org](http://www.mlcjoliet.org)

# WORSHIP TODAY

**Call To Worship**

**Welcome**

**Worship Through Songs**

**Worship Through Giving**

**Children's Message**

**and dismissal to J-Church**

Leslie McFarland

**Worship Through Hearing God's Word**

**Message**

**"Bold Prayers: False Prophets"**

Pastor Kurt Hoover

*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**

**FIRST LESSON, Acts 8:14-25 (ESV)**

Reader: Jeff Holmes

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, <sup>15</sup> who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." <sup>20</sup> But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup> You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup> Repent,

therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. <sup>23</sup> For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." <sup>24</sup> And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

<sup>25</sup> Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

## SECOND LESSON, Acts 13:4-12 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup> When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. <sup>6</sup> When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. <sup>7</sup> He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup> But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. <sup>9</sup> But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him <sup>10</sup> and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup> Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.



## Coffee Shop Fundraiser sponsored by our 2026 Chicago Mission Trip Team

**Please support our 2026 Mission Trip Team this morning  
from 8-11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**  
as they brew up delicious hot/cold and iced coffees  
(with special flavors) for your enjoyment!



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>.

# *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.**

### **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 **April 14<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.



### **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](mailto: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](mailto:regency118@comcast.net), or reach out to Beth Hohisel at [bhohisel@hotmail.com](mailto: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 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.

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](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>.

## 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.

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).



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR  
**EMERALD CROSSING VBS!**  
**JUNE 22-26**  
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

**Answers VBS**  
**EMERALD CROSSING**  
An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

QR code for registration

**Calling for VBS volunteers!** Please be sure to register using the above QR code. There will be a **Volunteer Workshop** on **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** at 9:40 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Email [VBS@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:VBS@mlcjoliet.org).

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

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 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,  
J-Church  
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

#### **MONDAY, March 16**

n/a

#### **TUESDAY, March 17**

6:30 p.m. PPC Meeting

#### **WEDNESDAY, March 18**

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

#### **THURSDAY, March 19**

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 20**

n/a

#### **SATURDAY, March 21**

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

#### **SUNDAY, March 22**

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: 84  
10:45: 72  
K-5<sup>th</sup>: 10  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: 5  
High School: 3  
Ignite: 1  
Insight: 23  
Online: 24

### **2026 GIVING**

Operating Budget: \$694,359  
YTD Operating Budget: \$133,531  
YTD Giving Received: \$102,608  
Needed Each Week: \$13,353  
Received Last Week: \$10,425

### **STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK**

#### **James 1:2-4**

Count it all joy, my brothers,  
when you meet trials of various  
kinds, for you know that  
the testing of your faith  
produces steadfastness.  
And let steadfastness have its full  
effect, that you may be perfect and  
complete, lacking in nothing.

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

