



KNOCKING ON DOORS

We adopted a new vision in 2022 called, "BRING, BUILD, BUMP." The BUMP portion of that vision carries with it the goal and hope that *God will*

BUMP into the world through our daily lives: sending us into neighborhoods, communities, and all cultures.

We use the word BUMP to describe how God's light shines through us into the lives of others, to remind us that God does this in ways we may never know and could not plan for. God loves a lost and distracted world because we are love, not because we have a strategy to be loving.

This is God's work through us. However, we have designated four measures based on congregational and leadership input. The Parish Planning Council (PPC) and staff use those measures to focus our efforts and to celebrate God accomplishing His mission and vision for us.

A wonderful example of how God BUMPs into the world through the people and story of Messiah Lutheran Church in unexpected ways - is our *knock* measure.

We expected our various boards and life groups to find ways to knock on doors. The Messiah Student Ministry (MSM) collecting food for Thanksgiving baskets, for example. We expected to see 100 of our members literally knocking on doors in four different neighborhoods each year. God had something different in mind. The Save Messiah campaign has become the equivalent of knocking on thousands of doors.

People in our neighborhoods, community and various culture groups are forced to ask themselves if they care about a church closing. Many were surprised that their answer was, "Yes." They hope the church will be there if they need it. And they are starting to realize that if they want the church to be there, they need to be a part of it now.

Now is the ideal time to invite your family and friends to celebrate the end of a campaign and a renewing of the church's mission and vision. The community was a part of saving the church and we want them to be a part of it as well.

In the spring, I plan to actually do the door knocking. A new campaign thanking our neighbors for being a part of God saving our church. Would you be willing to be a part of a small team that knocks on doors to say thank you? Let's talk!



Regardless, God is bumping into the world through your daily life. You are God's promise to a lost and distracted world.

In Christ,

REASONS WE EXPERIENCE TRANSITIONS

Read: Genesis 37 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him. (v. 4)

"Why?" is a question people often ask when they face transitions in life, particularly painful ones. Despite the Lord's unchanging love and faithfulness, there are times when you may feel like blaming God for hardships. Let's consider today why you may encounter painful changes and transitions.

First, you may experience a transition because of something you do or neglect to do. In Genesis 37, both Joseph and Jacob contribute toward the jealous and angry attitude of Joseph's brothers. Jacob gave Joseph a coat as his "favored son," and Joseph seemed to elevate himself over his brothers by telling them his dreams (though they would come true). This doesn't justify his brothers' decision to sell him into slavery, but his father's and his own actions each contributed to Joseph's transition to Egypt.

Second, you may experience a transition because of something done to you. In Joseph's case, his brothers' betrayal changed the course of his life. Joseph would experience many transitions in his life because of the actions of other people.

Third, you may experience a transition simply because we live in a fallen world tainted by sin. God was with Joseph in his major transitions and, whatever the cause, He is with you as well.

As you pray, ask God to strengthen you regardless of why you might face a transition, whether painful or not.

In His Awesome Grip,

Dave Sfiel



SAVE THE DATE - NOVEMBER 12 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX SUNDAY

Boxes will be available in the Narthex beginning 10/29. Since 1993, God has used Samaritan's Purse to deliver **over 200 million** Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to children in need and disciple 50 million of these boys and girls.

Messiah has been a proud supporter for many years! Gift suggestions and more, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ

HSS

Dear Messiah Family,

We have been on quite a journey as a church family. A journey of many emotions and a journey of prayer.

We had 11 prayer vigils. Each one very different from the others, and they were held in different locations. We were in the Sanctuary, Family Life Center, the Gathering House, Fellowship Hall, the Fireside Room, and even outside. We prayed as we walked around the church, inside as well as outside. We prayed with music, silently, with sign language, and out loud. On one vigil, even the church bell was rung! While they were all different, they were all led by the Holy Spirit.

This is the season of Thanksgiving. A time when we reflect on all we have to give thanks for. First of all, we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for who He is and for all He does for us. We also want to thank our Messiah Family that were involved with the vigils, for all those who came to the Church to pray, and for those who prayed at home. **Every** prayer was heard and was or will be answered according to His will.

A very special thank you to our Pastors, Kurt and David, for their guidance and leadership. Thank you to those who led the vigils, Pastor Hoover, Pastor Stier, Pastor Nygard, Beth Hohisel, Leslie McFarland, and Lloyd Evans. For our beautiful music by Rose Sochan, Justin Brown, Marie Hohisel, Sam Olson, and for the signing of the Lord's Prayer by Lauralee Williams. To Karen Nygard who drew our praying hands that contained our scripture and prayer suggestions for each vigil. To Sherri Unyi for creating the prayer journals and Vicki Dallmann for all of her assistance. Finally, we thank these individuals who provided our security: Paul Allen, Jerry Buchenau, Allen Costello, Molly Hoover, Dan Stukel, and Mike Wegemer.

The Prayer Vigil Committee would like to continue with future times of prayer. We are in the planning stage. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us. We welcome your ideas and participation.

Blessings and thank you, The Prayer Vigil Committee Pat Burke, Kim Ciuffini, Jane Costello, Marty Hohisel, Beverly Korby, Sherri Unyi, and Cindi Souza

Litigation Update - October 24

God is good, there has been such a great response to our Save Messiah fundraising campaign from our church, community and also countrywide. The total we have received as of 10/24 is \$290,000!

We thank everyone who supported our fund raisers at Chili's, Culver's, Firewater BBQ, Cemeno's, and Hamburgerseria. We're also planning a Save Messiah Bazaar on Sunday, November 12 from 8 am-noon in Fellowship Hall. There will be quilts, bears, candles, cleaning cloths and paintings for sale. We have a restaurant that has said they will donate 500 dinners that we can sell for carryout. We are working to finalize a date and the details for this event.

We are in the final push of the campaign, and it will be a wonderful feeling to reach our goal of \$300,000 and celebrate God's work.

Your Litigation Team,

Gerry Boe, Pat Burke, Beth Hohisel and Brian Wielbik



O Gree

Would you like to know more about Messiah, the LCMC, and Lutheran basics? Mark your calendar for Nov. 1, 8 and 15 from 6:30-8 pm. Please call the church office to RSVP.

Giving Statements

Please help Messiah be greener and consider switching your statement delivery method to EMAIL. Call the church office if you'd like to do this!



MLC BULLETIN BOARD





We continue to support our benevolence partners, even in this difficult time. These partners count on us and others to help them carry out their mission, like Living Alternatives Resource Center in Joliet. They provide pregnancy testing, ultrasound scanning, options information, H.O.P.E.

Pregnancy/Parenting Mentoring, STI/STD Information, and after abortion support all while spreading God's word to their clients. They are a ministry that supplements what churches are doing in the community. As a faith-based organization, their entire operating budget for their 12 centers is funded privately, without the aid of federal or state grant money. They are always looking for volunteers and donations.

In 2023, they welcomed 571 first-time visitors. They have served 1,901 women and families this year. They gave 538 ultrasounds, and 41% of their women coming in for medical appointments were at risk. They are doing God's work within our community, and we are honored to help support them.

We will be handing out shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child in November. So many children around the world look forward to receiving them and hearing about the word of God.

Pat Burke

Stewardship Director

Messiah Gives Back!



COMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH & TEENS



Kindergarten – 5th grade: Join us on Wednesday nights, 6:30-8 pm!

What is it? Formerly Awana, it's a fun night of worship, lessons, games, crafts, and connection – with the Bible and friends!

Extras Store nights, theme nights, getting to know your Bible.Registration \$15 per child. Maximum of \$45 per family.Questions? Contact Beth Hohisel bhohisel@hotmail.com or 815-735-7897.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school continues at 9:30 am for ages preK-5th grade.

MESSIAH KIDS REMIND GROUP

Parents of Sunday school aged children (K-5th grade) can join the Messiah Kids Remind group by texting the code mlcmk to 81010, or by going to:

https://www.remind.com/join/mlcmk

It will be used to send reminders and notifications about Sunday school and any events we have planned. Contact Kimber Drummond at cemlcjoliet@gmail.com with questions.

MESSIAH KIDS SUNDAY (Sundays at 11:00 am)

Messiah Kids continues during the 11:00 am service! Here's how it works: You will check in like you do for Sunday school at the computer in the Narthex. Then, just before the sermon, the kids will be dismissed and can leave to be with their friends. They will meet leaders in the Narthex and head to the FLC for Bible study, worship, and games. It's for all kids grades K-5th. **MK11 team members are needed!** Please sign up in the Narthex, or see Leslie McFarland or Pastor Dave Stier to get involved.



Stay N Play is a weekly playgroup for children five and younger that meets in the Family Life Center on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30. This group is open to church members and to the community. Parents or caregivers must stay and keep an eye on their children. Coffee (for adults) is provided. Please come join us for some fun!



MESSIAH'S YOUTH CHOIR

Parents, mark your calendars! Our preK-8th graders will be rehearsing on the third Sunday of every month at 9:30, during Sunday school! They will perform at the 9:30 service on the fourth Sunday of every month. We ask that they wear their choir shirts on days the group performs.

Thank you to Season Lawler, for heading up this ministry!



Leslie McFarland Children's Ministry Director childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org

MK December's Theme "Humble Beginnings" is a four-part study of the birth of Jesus Christ. Each lesson will explore the value of humility as seen in the characters of



the nativity which includes: Mary, the shepherds, the magic, and Jesus.

Let's Plan!

We are starting to plan for our annual Christmas program. The children will be rehearsing during the Sunday School hour. Please plan to have your children attend to be apart of this great experience.



Parents Night Out: Saturday 11/25, Time: 5-9 pm. Enjoy your Christmas shopping or just a night out while we entertain your kids.

All are welcome! Register by 11/17 at: https://bit.ly/mlcparentsniteout

MORE STUDENT MINISTRIES

<u>SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY</u> for 9th-12th graders has resumed! We meet from 9:30-10:30 in the Gathering House to have coffee/tea and fellowship, watch a short video, and discuss the topic of the week. November topics include Rain, Dust, Noise, and Rhythm. Stop in to find out more!

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are looking for students in 7th-12th grade to become leaders in our YLT ministry! These students take ownership of the youth ministry while working with each other to plan events, trips, lessons, etc. They will also serve as mentors to 6th grade students in Confirmation Class. Contact Kate Richmond at stumin@mlcjoliet.org for more info about becoming a student leader.

HEAD 2 HEART

H2H (otherwise known as Youth Group or Confirmation) meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:15. All 6th-8th graders are welcome!



Come at 5:30 and join us for **Family Dinner** in Fellowship Hall. More info & menus on page 6.



Wednesday evenings, High School continues to meet from 7-8:30 pm. Come early for Family Dinner at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall, followed by games in the FLC, or get your homework done in between - help is available if you need it!

Contact Kate Richmond at stumin@mlcjoliet.org for more info!

MAFIA IS BACK!

Attention 6th-12th graders! In case you missed our awesome September Mafia Night - we'll be doing it again on Friday. November 10 from 7-10 pm. Tell your friends and mark your calendars for a ton of fun! Also, bring your appetite... we'll be having pizza and beverages. Please bring \$5 to help offset the cost of our meal.

What is MAFIA, you might be wondering? It's a mixture of tag, hide-and-go-seek, and capture the flag, with lots of running around! Here's the catch - It's in the dark with strobes and black lights! What a blast!

PIE FUNDRAISER



Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and it wouldn't be complete without a homemade pie lovingly prepared by Messiah Youth! We will once again be making and selling pies to raise funds for student accounts. (Students, you earn \$\$ to put toward Winterblast or other events and activities when you volunteer your time preparing the pies, so keep an eye out for the signup sheet.) Orders can be placed online or in person by Monday, November 13 for

pickup on Sunday, the November 19. "Pie Order" envelopes available in the office or Narthex.



If you have questions, comments, or are looking to connect regarding Youth News, Events, Ministry, etc., please don't hesitate to reach out to Kate via email stumin@mlcjoliet.org or call the church office at (815) 741-4488.

YOU'RE INVITED! GET INVOLVED!

MESSIAH QUILTERS



We will next meet on **Tuesday, November 21** from 9 am-12 pm. 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.

Our Messiah quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief and then sent somewhere around the world to be used by someone less fortunate who is struggling with chronic poverty, LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

illness, natural disaster, or conflict. The quilts can be used as a shield against the cold and rain or for warm bedding. They can be tent, floor covering or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back. The need is great and we could really use your extra hands!

Contact Kathy Mueller at 815-953-6601 at scpbklane@aol.com for more information. Hope to see you on **November 21**!

PRAYER TEAM (Thursdays at 10:15 am)

In the Fireside Room. Come join in the privilege of praying for others! See Pastor Stier for more information.

MEAL TRAIN

We all know someone who may be overwhelmed during a difficult time. Perhaps an illness, surgery, loss of a family member or a job, or the challenge of a new baby. Messiah has formed a Meal Train for anyone who would like to prepare and deliver a meal to someone in need. To sign up for the Meal Train Team or request a meal, please visit mlcjoliet.org/meal-train.

DAYBREAK SHELTER



Sign up to Serve, Prepare, Shop or Donate in the Narthex or online at https://www.mlcjoliet.org/daybreakshelter Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month.

A team of Messiah members meets at the shelter to set up and serve dinner. Food donation needs include canned fruit cocktail, juice, potato salad, buns, baked beans, and cookies. Sign up in the Narthex or online at: mlcjoliet.org/life-groups.

Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, November 13.

LIL LOVES MINISTRY



Lil Loves at Messiah aims to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the Tri-county area by providing **FREE** assistance with diapers and much needed baby supplies. Lil Loves is available on an appointment basis, and those interested can sign up at mlcjoliet.org/lil-loves-ministry. Just to give you an idea of how valuable this ministry is to our community, we were

able to help more than 75 families from June through October!

Lil Loves thanks you for your donations of:

*Diapers and Pull-ups
*Baby Lotion

*Wipes *Baby Wash/Shampoo
*Toiletry items for the moms such as deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, etc.

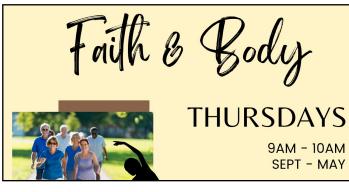
Trial-sized toiletry items are especially appreciated, rather than full-sized. Please note that we are no longer able to accept baby formula. If you'd like to donate, please place your items in the black bin in the Narthex, and call the church office for more information!

Messiah Gives Back!

MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M Group)

Messiahs Men's Ministry, 3M Group, is taking a brief hiatus. Please watch for updates.

FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS



Our Faith & Body group is dedicated to helping each other to improve our health. We meet September through May in the FLC from 9-10 am for walking, stretching and faith building time. There is no cost. Please register on the Messiah website under Faith & Body.

Questions? Contact Sherri at 815-741-4488 or email bookkeeper@mlcjoliet.org.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)



Calling all moms from pregnancy onward to join a supportive community of moms! Each meeting has a different topic related to parenting, and childcare is provided. We get to know each other more, watch a video of a MOPS speaker, have a discussion, and end with a devotional. MOPS meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays every month September through May. Contact Amy at amy12miller@gmail.com with any questions.

MEMORY BEARS

Our Memory Bear group meets once a month to make teddy bears out of the clothing of people who have passed away, to comfort the grieving. We also make and sell other bears and dogs to raise money for supplies and children's charities.

If you are interested in joining our group, we would love to have you! We always need sewers but not all the jobs require sewing. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) from 9 am-12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please call Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 for more information. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 28**.



Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Join the Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir sings at the 9:30* Sunday services, from September through May, with special music at services during Advent, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

*When the Children's Choir is performing, we switch to the 8 am service.

We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:45 pm.

We are always looking to welcome new members and hope to continue to grow this ministry at Messiah! There are no formal audition requirements, and being able to read music is not an issue... you will learn your part from practice and from hearing other voices in your section!

> For more information please contact our Sanctuary Choir Director, Herb Alexander, at halex12240@gmail.com.

MICRO PANTRY

Did you know that Messiah has a micro food pantry? This ministry is 100% donation driven and maintained by the Evangelism Board. You can support this ministry through prayer, and through monetary or food donations. Contact the church office for more info, or leave your donations in the bin in the Narthex.



PRAYER CHAIN

Messiah uses a Prayer Chain made up of people willing to pray for our members, community, and nation in times of crisis. Prayers are confidential and anonymous, as much as possible. You can make a difference through the gift of your prayers. Contact Cindi Souza at regency118@comcast.net or Pastor Dave Stier at pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org to become a partner.

INSIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Insight meets in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:30. We'd love for you to join us!



O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Loving Seniors)

O.W.L.S. meets the second Tuesday of every month from September through May, at noon. Entertainment, entrees, and beverages provided! Please **sign up in the Narthex** if you'd like to bring a side dish, salad, bread, or dessert.

We hope to see you on November 14!

PRAY JOLIET

Pray Joliet is an effort to pray collectively under the banner of Christ for the Joliet area. The aim is to cast a greater, tighter net for the Gospel. Over 50 churches have been represented at these events! We hope you can come out for a prayer walk on **October 28** from 8-10 am, here at Messiah!

November prayer walk info still in the works.

MLC OFFICE HOURS

The office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9 am-3 pm. Saturdays and evenings are by appointment. Staff is always available by appointment, so please don't hesitate to ask!

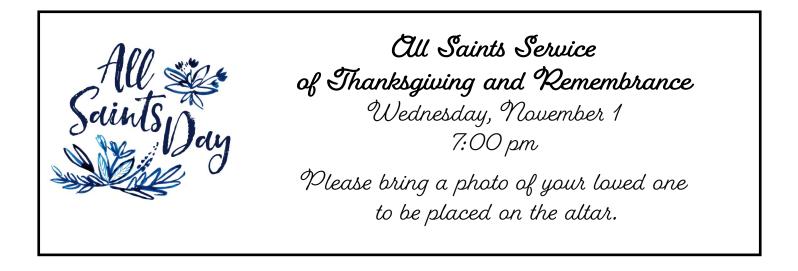
WAYS TO GIVE

We will have an offering time during the services, but you can give any time during the week using one of the following ways:

- 1) Go to: bit.ly/MLCGiving
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet and follow the instructions given.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.
- 4) Mail your check to the church at: 40 Houbolt Rd., Joliet, IL 60431

If you need assistance please email worship@mlcjoliet.org or call the church office at 815-741-4488.

Please note that checks intended for SAVE MESSIAH should be written out to SAVE MESSIAH (not to the church).



In memory of long-time Messiah member, Barbara L. Sullivan March 7, 1935 - September 12, 2023



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



2 - Ryan & Kathryn Kittler
4 - Brian & Christy Werner
15 - Herb & Jackie Zite
17 - Bob & Donna Robertson
18 - Dan & Melanie Brozman



- 1 Joyce Smith
- 2 Alia Baranoski Tom Bond Kim Ciuffini Zayden Lawler Jim Weller
- 3 Cindy McPhail Mark Snider
- 4 Tim Boe Nan Dusak Diane Santorineos
- 5 Kenny Howard
- 6 Jason Beavis
- 7 Carol Thompson
- 8 Trish Gillman
- 9 Joey Beavis Jane Stukel

- 10 Noah Nuyttens Andrew Nygard Julia Remus Maxwell Remus
- 11 Marcy Vickers Evelyn Weiss Presley Weiss
- 12 Ryan Southcomb
- 13 Jesse Cohoon
- 14 Chris Hoelscher Elena Prybell
- 15 Elizabeth Stutte
- 16 Olivia Bowman Kathy Mueller Christy Werner
- 18 Greg Gipes
- 19 Greg Dole
- 20 Austin Bernhard
- 22 Gary Ally Tessa Stutte
- 23 Nikolai Stier
- 24 Sharon Anderson
- 25 Bentley Steffen
- 26 Beth McDonald Janet Potts
- 27 Ryan Liberty Darlene Strong
- 28 Courtney King Keith Thompson
- 29 Anthony Burnetti
- 30 Bev Korby Marsha Smith



NOVEMBER SERVERS

Counters

11/05/23	Judy Fowler,	Norina	Schroth
/ / -	,		

- 11/12/23 Dana Stier, Deb Dole
- 11/19/23 Harold Stier, Dan Stukel
- 11/26/23 Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer

Ushers 8:00

- 11/05/23 Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel
- 11/12/23 Don Cyborski, Paul Allen
- 11/19/23 Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller
- 11/26/23 Don Cyborski, Craig Stone

Ushers 9:30

- 11/05/23 Bill Unyi, Brandon Fiday
- 11/12/23Jeff Holmes, Brandon Fiday11/19/23Roger Gordon, Brandon Fiday
- 11/26/23 Aimee Gipes, Alan Costello

Ushers 11:00

11/05/23	Gary Phillips, Brandon Fiday
11/12/23	Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer
11/19/23	Gary Phillips, Brandon Fiday
11/26/23	Darryl Hoelscher, Brandon Fiday

Communion Assistants 8:00

11/05/23	Paul & Marvina Allen
11/12/23	Julie Bajt, Bev Korby
11/19/23	Nancy Bertnik, Christy Werner
11/26/23	Randy & Laurel Ling

Communion Assistants 9:30

11/05/23	needed
11/19/23	needed

Communion Assistants 11:00

11/05/23	needed
11/19/23	needed

Readers 8:00

11/05/23	Paul Allen
11/12/23	Greg Dole
11/19/23	needed
11/26/23	Deb Dole

Readers 9:30

11/05/23	Doug Potts
11/12/23	Sherri Unyi
11/19/23	Marcy Vickers
11/26/23	needed

Readers 11:00

11/05/23	Matthew Fiday
11/12/23	needed
11/19/23	Tom Bond
11/26/23	Tom Bond

Greeters 8:00

Beth Hohisel, Bev Korby
needed
John & Leah Kewenig
Gerry & Pat Boe

Greeters 9:30

11/05/23	Larry & Marcy Vickers
11/12/23	Karen Rebuehr
11/19/23	Darryl & Cindi Souza
11/26/23	Darryl & Cindi Souza

Greeters 11:00

11/05/23	Roger & Carol Gordon
11/12/23	Brandon & Aubrey Fiday
11/19/23	Kim Ciuffini
11/26/23	Donna Stier



11/22/23 Ushers: Bill Unyi, Billy Unyi Communion: Reader: Jeff Holmes Greeters:



40 Houbolt Rd. Joliet, IL 60431 (815) 741-4488



Organist Rose Ann Sochan

Associate Pastor David Stier

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover

Worship Coordinator Lloyd Evans

OverChoir Director Herb Alexanderd StierChoir Director Herb Alexanderd StierChildren's Ministry Director Leslie McFarlandJoyd EvansStudent Ministry Director Leslie McFarlandchanSecretary/Newsletter Editor Vicki Dallmanninfo@mlcjoliet.org815-741-4488