

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
✠ CHURCH ♡

Family Praise and Worship
April 21, 2024
11:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Pastor Kurt Hoover
Pastor David Stier
Interim Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Interim Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier

40 Houbolt Rd.
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WORSHIP TODAY

Call To Worship

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Welcome

Temple Talk - Brian Wielbik

Worship Through Songs

Worship Through Giving

Children's Message

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

Message

"Empty 3: Known" by Pastor Kurt Hoover
(Copies of this sermon and others can be found in the Narthex.)

Worship Through Song

Prayers of Intercession

Communion

Worship Through the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Temple Talk - Stephanie Knudsen-Feehan

Closing Song

OUR OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 33:12-17 (ESV)

Reader: Donna Stier

¹² Moses said to the Lord, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷ And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

OUR EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

OUR GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:1-18

¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 it now to connect with MLC:



ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is an easy way to give to MLC, and there are three ways to do it:

- 1) Go to this link: churchcenter.com/giving
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

HAPPENING TODAY: BLOOD DRIVE AT MESSIAH: It's not too late to donate!

Today's Blood Drive is from 9 am - 1 pm in the FLC. If you didn't have a chance to pre-register, they are accepting walk-ins.

HAPPENING TODAY: NAPERVOICE SPRING CONCERT

Napervoice will present "Wonderful World: Music from Six Continents" today at 4 pm, at Grace Methodist Church in Naperville. Go to napervoice.org to order tickets, or scan the QR code on the Community Board in the Narthex. Please be sure to use Herb Alexander's name so he receives credit for your ticket sale! Proceeds from this concert will benefit Mays Music Centre of Excellence in Naperville, who will be joining us for one of the gospel pieces.

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

We are in need of volunteers to set up and/or clean up our Sunday coffee table in Fellowship Hall. Our new list starts June 2, and our current rotation is approximately every six weeks. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Carol Gordon at (815) 685-1485.

ATTENTION LADIES

Join us for Bunco Night on Friday, **April 26**, from 6:30-10 pm in the Gathering House. Don't know how to play? No worries! We will teach you! Please let Beth know if you plan to attend: bhohisel@hotmail.com or (815) 735-7897.

PASTOR KURT'S SABBATICAL

The Lay Ministry Board has approved Pastor Kurt's scheduled sabbatical. He will be gone for an eight-week sabbatical from May 20 to July 14. Pastor Dave will provide pastoral support during this time. The intention of the sabbatical program is to provide an extended time of personal study and reflection to enhance the ministry here at Messiah Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please contact any Lay Ministry Board member or Brian Wielbik, Congregational President.

INSIGHT" ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Sundays at 9:30 am)

Tom Bond and Kenyon Gjerde are currently leading the group in a new study series from "Sermon on the Mount."

MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)

Hey guys - Need a break from the hassle of life? Join us as we spend an hour and a half in God's Word. Add your voice to the conversation. No judgment. No anxiety. No stress. Just men enjoying the fellowship of other men in the presence of God. Bring your Bible and your questions/comments and join us every 2nd & 4th Tuesday from 6:30-8pm. Contact Mike Brown via email at evangelism@mlcjoliet.org for more info.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)

OWLS is for active retirees who enjoy participating in activities such as crafts, listening to speakers, food, fellowship, and more! We hold a monthly luncheon on the second Tuesday in Fellowship Hall, from noon to 2 pm. Our final event for this season is **May 14**, and we will celebrate with a PICNIC-style menu of burgers and hotdogs, along with all the fixins! Be sure to sign up in the Narthex to bring a salad, side or dessert.

MEMORY BEARS

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets here at the church from 9 am-noon once a month (sometimes twice!) to make stuffed teddy bears out of the clothing of people who have passed away, to comfort the grieving. We would love to have you join us! We have jobs that do not require sewing, as well as jobs that do. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, **April 23**. Contact Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or by email to regency118@comcast.net.

PRAYER CHAIN

Messiah uses an email-based (not in-person) 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 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.

FAITH & BODY CHALLENGE GROUP (Thursdays 9 - 10 am)

The Faith & Body Group meets on Thursdays mornings, September through May, in the Family Life Center (FLC) from 9 – 10 am for walking, stretching and faith-building time. There is no cost, and you are welcome to bring friends! Please register on the Messiah website under Faith & Body. Contact Sherri at (815) 741-4488 or email bookkeeper@mlcjoliet.org for more information.

SING PRAISE LIFE GROUP

Messiah's newest Life Group, Sing Praise, is a space where individuals come together to worship in a blended style, combining contemporary and traditional elements to create a dynamic and uplifting atmosphere. Whether you love to sing, play an instrument, or simply want to soak in the presence of God, you'll find a home here. All are welcome, regardless of background or experience level. We meet every-other Saturday, and our next meeting is on **April 27** at 6:30 in the FLC. For more info, reach out to Justin Brown at worship@mlcjoliet.org.

MESSIAH QUILTERS

The next Messiah Quilting Day will be Tuesday, **May 7** from 9 am – 2 pm (a bonus quilting day). 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 put a quilt top together. We will also be quilting on Tuesday, **May 21**, (our regular third Tuesday quilting day).

Contact Kathy Mueller (815) 953-6601 at scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **May 7!**

PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER WALK 2024

Join us to support the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) of Will County by walking or sponsoring a walker for Walk 2024. The walk is Saturday, **May 4** from 9:00-11:00 am at Judson Church in Joliet (Black Rd. & Infantry). If you cannot attend, you can still walk on your own time. PRC is one of our benevolence partners. They are committed to providing excellent care to those facing pregnancy decisions through authentic relationships that display grace, hone life and foster community. The funds from Walk 2024 will benefit local women, babies and families.

ECLIPSE GLASSES COLLECTION

Don't throw away your eclipse glasses! There is a collection basket in the entryway outside the front office - Please donate your undamaged glasses, and they will be sent to those less fortunate in Latin America so they may **safely** view their upcoming eclipse!

MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP

Pastor Dave Nygard will lead us in worship on Mother's Day, **May 12**.

MESSIAH KIDS

PRE-K THROUGH 5th GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 9:30 am)

Make sure to bring your children to Sunday school, upstairs in our youth classrooms, on Sunday mornings.

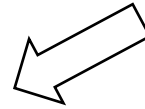
MESSIAH KIDS SUNDAYS AT 11

We encourage all kids pre-k thru 5th grade to be a part of Messiah Kids' at 11 am after the children's message, in the Family Life Center (FLC). Kids will experience God during this time with weekly themes, songs, short movie clips, games and prizes. All are encouraged to attend.

STAY N PLAY (Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30)

Stay N Play is a weekly playgroup for children five and younger that meets in the Family Life Center (FLC) on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30. This group is open to church members and to the community. Coffee is provided (for the adults, of course!). Parents/caregivers must stay and keep an eye on their children. No registration is needed - We'd love to have you join us!

SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS



Have your K-5th grader join us for a great time on Wednesday evenings this summer! It's a fun night of worship, lessons, games, crafts, and connection with the Bible and friends! **Our summer session will run June 5 through July 10** at 6:30 pm. Contact Beth Hohisel bhohisel@hotmail.com or (815) 735-7897.

HEAD2HEART WORKSHOP FOR 5th GRADE+

Owning my Faith (5th grade +) Parent(s)/guardian(s) who attend this evening workshop will receive an introduction to MLC's Confirmation Program. The objective of this time is to outline expectations of participation for both parents and students as well as create a parents' network of support by sharing experiences of raising pre-teens in today's world. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, **April 24. Join us for pizza at 6 pm, and the workshop starts at 6:30.** While parents and pastors meet, students get to have fun with the current H2H group as they transition from the H2H program to our awesome summer youth ministry.



More info on our website:

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES

S.A.L.T. (Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 pm)

S.A.L.T. is a time for high school students to interact with their faith.

HEAD2HEART

HEY MIDDLE SCHOOLERS! Please note that we will be on break for summer - our **final meeting is April 24**. Join us at 6 pm for pizza! (Note the time change.)

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY (Sundays at 9:30 am)

HEY HIGH SCHOOLERS! Perhaps you are old enough to start reading fairy tales again? Join us for Sunday Bible Time at 9:30 in classroom 204 upstairs. We will journey into Narnia, get to know the fictional characters, and connect them with the truth of Jesus.

SUMMER CAMP AT LITTLE GALILEE

Summer Camp for high schoolers is June 23-28, and July 7-12 for students entering 6-9th grades this fall. Registration is open, and the cost will increase after June 1.

Register at <https://littlegalilee.org/registration>

or reach out to Kate Richmond for more info at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.

YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir will rehearse one final time this morning, in preparation for our performance on **April 28** at the 9:30 service. Please be sure your choir member wears their choir shirt on the 28th! This will be our last performance until we resume in September.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

SUNDAY (April 21)

8 am Worship
9-1 Blood Drive
9:30 am Worship+Online Worship,
Sunday School for All Ages
11 am Family Praise & Worship,
Messiah Kids
12 pm Youth Board
1 pm Cristo Rey Bilingual Worship

MONDAY (April 22)

n/a

TUESDAY (April 23)

9 am Memory Bears
9:30 am Stay-N-Play
6:30 pm 3M

WEDNESDAY (April 24)

6 pm H2H pizza!
6:30 pm H2H Workshop, SALT

THURSDAY (April 25)

9 am Faith & Body
10:15 am Prayer Group
11:30 am Staff Meeting

FRIDAY (April 26)

6:30 pm Women's Group Bunco

SATURDAY (April 27)

9 am Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30 pm Sing Praise

SUNDAY (April 28)

8 am Worship
9:30 am Worship+Online Worship,
Sunday School for All Ages
11 am Family Praise & Worship,
Messiah Kids
1 pm Cristo Rey Bilingual Worship

STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:00 am: 64
9:30 am: 90
11:00 am: 49

Online: 136
MSM (6th-12th): 12
Messiah Kids (K-5th): 13
Insight: 12

Online counts are estimates only.

2024 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$763,541
YTD Operating Budget: \$220,252
YTD Received: \$175,127
Average Weekly Need: \$14,683
Received last week: \$8,376

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Mark 12:43-44

"Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."