

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH  

Family Praise and Worship
February 23, 2025
11:00 am

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Love
your Enemies
DO
GOOD
to them
Luke 6:35

Pastor Kurt Hoover
Tech Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland

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WORSHIP TODAY

Call To Worship

Opening Prayer

Welcome

Worship Through Song

Worship Through Giving

Children's Message

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

Message

**"6 Habits of Highly Effective Christians:
Erase Evil with Good"**

by Pastor Kurt Hoover

Worship Through Song

Prayers of Intercession

Worship Through the Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Worship Through Proclaiming Our Faith

Announcements

Closing Song

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 50:20-21 (ESV)

Reader: Tom Bond

²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 12:14-21 (ESV)

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL LESSON

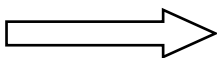
Luke 6:27-36 (ESV)

²⁷ "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³² "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

NEW TO MESSIAH? WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Please join us on Sunday, **March 23rd** from 12:15-2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at the **"Get to Know Messiah"** luncheon & membership information class where you can learn our story, about our people and the vision of Messiah! This is also an opportunity for us to get to know YOU and the best way to support your faith journey. **Lunch will be provided** and childcare is available upon request.
Save the date! Registration info to follow.



CALL COMMITTEE SURVEY - Last Chance!

The deadline to turn in your Call Committee Survey is **February 23rd**.
Copies of the survey and a collection box are in the Narthex.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY AT MESSIAH!

Palm Sunday, April 13th

We'll celebrate with combined worship at 10 a.m. in the FLC and will include our annual Youth Parade.

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 here to connect with MLC:



OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., or by appointment. Holiday weeks may vary.

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.

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.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Insight)

We meet in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 9:30. Our newest series, which will continue into spring, is being led by Kenyon Gjerde and Tom Bond. We'll focus on Ezekiel through the month of February. We'd love to have you join us!

ALTAR FLOWERS - Sign up in the Narthex!

Our Altar flowers sign up chart is on the Connect Wall in the Narthex. Arrangements are \$25 each and may be taken home with you after the 11:00 service.

DAYBREAK SHELTER

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Food donations are also needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, March 10th.

FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS

Tie up your shoes and meet in the Family Life Center for Faith & Body! We meet every Thursday morning from 9-10. It's exciting to think how many miles we will walk this year while simultaneously strengthening our faith! Please register here:

<https://messiahlutheranchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2426227>

MEMORY BEARS

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets the fourth Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Come check us out on **February 25th**. Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email to regency118@comcast.net for more info.

MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)

Mark your calendar - 3M meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We're currently discussing the book of Exodus. Please join us on **February 25th**. Email Mike Brown at gonzopal2017@cheerful.com for more info.

MOMCo

Attention moms of little ones! MOMCo meets on Friday mornings twice a month from 9:15 -11:15. Our next meetup is on **March 7th**.

OWLS (Older Wiser Loving Seniors)

Join us the second Tuesday of every month (September-May) at noon. We ask that everyone **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX** to bring an appetizer, snack, salad, or dessert (light finger-foods). Our next luncheon, a St. Patrick's Day celebration, will be on **March 11th**.

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 to regency118@comcast.net for more info.

PRAY JOLIET

Pray Joliet's spring prayer gathering is Sunday, **March 2nd** from 6-8 p.m. at Mosaic Community Church at 191 S. Larkin in Joliet. The theme is, "Pray Like Daniel." See what happens when we close our eyes and pray together!

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 to regency118@comcast.net, or reach out to Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com.

QUILTERS

Messiah Quilters meets the third Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is on **March 18th**! 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 to 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. Contact Kathy Mueller (815) 953-6601 at scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have.

STAY-N-PLAY

Stay-N-Play, our **FREE weekly play group** for kids five and under along with their parent/guardian, meets every Tuesday morning in the FLC from 9:30-11!

STROLLER FIT MOM'S CLUB

Attention moms with stroller-aged children! Bring your littles with you in the stroller for an opportunity to socialize & GET EXERCISE with other like-minded moms! We generally meet every-other Friday morning at the church from 9:30-10:30. We will walk outdoors, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, we'll meet in the Family Life Center. We meet once in February, on the **28th**. Please reach out to Season Lawler for more info.

WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNERS

Our Wednesday dinners are in need of hosts! **If you would like to host** a future Wednesday Night Dinner, please reach out to Terry Anzalone or Pastor Kurt.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Our next **Bunco** night will be on **March 7th**. For more info or to RSVP, please reach out to Beth at bhohisel@hotmail.com.

Women's Bible Study meets in Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the Fireside Room.

Aspire 2025

You're invited! One night, three hours - Just for women! Saturday, **April 5th** from 6-9 p.m. at Springbrook Community Church in Huntley. Your payment of \$25 can be made online or dropped off at the church office, "Women's Aspire Event" in the memo line.

Register here **by March 5:**



MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

March rehearsals are on the 16th and 23rd. We'll perform on **March 30th** during the 9:30 service. We will wrap up our season in April, with rehearsal on April 6th and our final performance on April 27th during the 9:30 service.

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Join us Friday, **February 28th** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the FLC! There will be dancing, photography, snacks & refreshments. Semi-formal attire requested. Free event.

DADS & DUDES NERF BATTLE

Saturday, **March 29th** from 1-3 p.m. in the FLC. Bring your best Nerf gun. Nerf darts will be provided, along with popcorn and refreshments. Dads, uncles and/or grandpas are welcome! Free event.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, **April 12th** from 1-3 p.m. Outdoors, weather permitting. Kids - Don't forget to bring your Easter basket and friends! Free event.

J-CHURCH

Fun for Messiah youth of all ages (kids, tweens & teens)! J-Church is the **third Sunday of every month** at 11:00 in the FLC.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

Kids in K-5th grades are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. Contact Beth Hohisel bhohisel@hotmail.com or (815) 735-7897 for more info.

MILE MARKER WORKSHOPS for parents and kids

Second grade: "My New Bible"

Sessions: February 16th & 23rd (Sunday School)

Presentation: March 2nd (9:30 service)

To register, follow this link:



Fourth grade: "First Communion"

Sessions: March 16th, 23rd, 30th, April 6th & 13th (Sunday School)

Breaking Bread: Messiah kitchen, April 13th at 9 a.m.

First Communion: Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m.

MOM & ME TEA

Sunday, **March 9th** from 1-3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We'll have treats, crafts and lots of fun! Moms, aunts and/or grandmas are welcome! Free event.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Make sure to bring your children to Sunday school, upstairs in our youth classrooms, on Sunday mornings at 9:30.

For more info on ministries for kids pre-K through 5th grade, email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org or Kimber Drummond, Christian Ed. Director, at christianed@mlcjoliet.org.

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th grades)

BIBLE STUDY

6th-8th graders are invited to the Youth Room on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Our high schoolers meet in Classroom #101 off of Fellowship Hall.

DODGEBALL!

Join us for an evening of fun and dodgeball on Saturday, **March 15th** from 6-9 p.m.

HEAD2HEART

H2H (otherwise known as Confirmation) meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. All 6th-8th graders are welcome!

YOUTH MINISTRY: F.A.M.

Students in high school & beyond are invited to be a part of our Wednesday evening student ministry program - Friends and Mentors = **F.A.M.** Students. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m.

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

Youth *Worship* Night

Wednesday, **February 26th** 6:30-8 p.m. in the FLC
Kids, students and youth of all ages are invited!





COFFEE SHOP TODAY!



Messiah Student Ministries Coffee Shop fundraiser returns this morning, **February 23rd** and also on **March 30th**.

Back by popular demand, our baristas will be whipping up your favorite flavored coffee drinks! Come see us at the kitchen counter from 8 -11 a.m. & get your customized hot/cold beverages!

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 (February 23)

8-11 a.m. Coffee Shop by MSM
8 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Worship (+online),
Sunday School & Bible Study for All Ages
11 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey

MONDAY (February 24)

7:30-2 Homeschool Group (full campus)
6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study

TUESDAY (February 25)

9 a.m. Memory Bears
9:30 a.m. Stay-N-Play
6:30 p.m. 3M

WEDNESDAY (February 26)

6:30 p.m. Youth Worship Night (FAM, H2H),
MKW, Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY (February 27)

9 a.m. Faith & Body
10:15 a.m. Prayer Team
11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY (February 28)

9:30 a.m. Stroller Moms
6:30 p.m. Daddy/Daughter Dance

SATURDAY (March 1)

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY (March 2)

8 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Worship (+online),
Sunday School & Bible Study for All Ages
11 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:00 am: 63
9:30 am: 55
11:00 am: 35
Online:

MSM (6th-12th): 1
Messiah Kids (K-5th): 14

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068
YTD Operating Budget: \$91,548
YTD Giving Received: \$87,634
Average Weekly Need: \$13,078
Received Last Week: \$8,001

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to
overflowing, and your vats will brim
over with new wine.