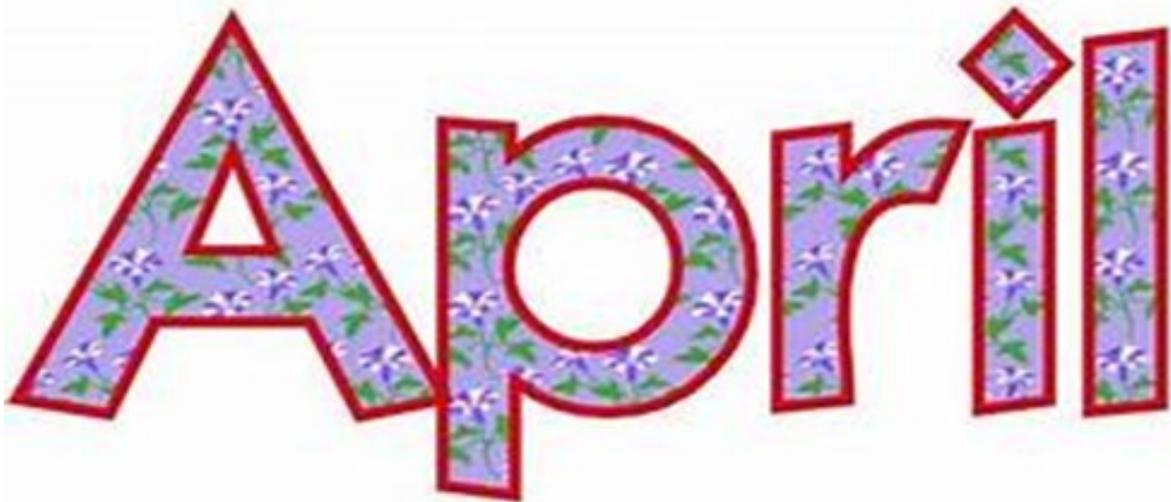


# MESSIAH MESSENGER

## 2022



April

**MESSIAH**  
**LUTHERAN**  
**✠ CHURCH ♡**

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Joliet, IL, 60431

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# FROM PASTOR HOOVER

## A Direct Invitation

*<sup>8</sup>In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup>He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked **directly** at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup>and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. – Acts 14:8-10*

We as the church have a unique 6-month window to directly invite people back to church and a renewed relationship with God.

This reading from Acts gives us a snapshot of the early church. A person in need of healing and the person through whom God is going to provide it. Paul looks directly at the man and invites him to walk. What does that look like today?

God may use you to give hope to a friend struggling with medical fears. It maybe a prayer or the simple support of a friend when in need. But, more likely, God is going to invite others to walk with him by an invitation to serve, worship, or make new friends. The 'lame' in our life maybe since birth. More often it is a 10 or 20-year ailment. Whether 2 years of Covid isolation or ten years of estrangement, the 'lame' in your life are those who have no way of walking with God.

For the next 6 months you have the unique opportunity to ask one simple question: 'Have you gotten back to church yet?' I have heard this conversation among people I would least expect. I have heard it at the gym, in the grocery store and outside of school. There is a genuine curiosity among people who didn't go to church that often to begin with. They want to know what the church looks like during and after Covid.

God is going to use you to look directly in someone eyes and ask, 'Have you gotten back to church.' The conversation from there may revolve around worship. It may be talking about Sunday school and the hopes for young children making new friends. You might find God using you to help someone discover their loneliness and their need for human connection.

Whether 2 years or 10, this Spring, Summer and Fall matters! This is the season of revival and reconnection. The blind will see, and the lame will walk ...as God has promised!

In Christ,  
Pr. Kurt Hoover

# FROM PASTOR STIER

Better together

Read [Hebrews 10: 19-39](#)

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. (Hebrews 10:25)

The Day is drawing near. As you think about the prophecies coming true right before your eyes, you probably look up expecting to see Jesus in the clouds anytime. So, what are believers reminded to do as they see the day drawing near? Well Hebrews 10:25 says that followers of Christ should be meeting together and encouraging one another. Whether it be at church, in your own homes, or as you go about your day, be sure to meet with fellow believers. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

What does the Bible say to do when you meet? The previous verse says, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” Colossians 3:16 says, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.” Ephesians 5:18-21 says to be filled with the Spirit, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God and each other, give thanks to the Father and submit to one another in Christ.

The apostle James exhorts believers to confess their sins and pray for one another (James 5:16). And when you pray remember to pray for the Holy Christian Church, our church body and her people, our United States, her citizens, and governing authorities. Pray for unity, peace, freedom, and security. And remember that Jesus said, “Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matthew 18:20). What most people miss when they cite this verse is that it’s actually at the end of a section on conflict resolution. Let’s look at the whole section and remember who is speaking here. It’s Jesus.

“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. <sup>16</sup> But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church [leaders]. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

<sup>18</sup> “I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

<sup>19</sup> “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:15-20).

We have had no shortage of conflict in our country and in our world, these last several years (Just look at what’s happening in Ukraine, but don’t just look, PRAY for the people of Ukraine,

yes, but also for the people of Russia). Sadly this conflict ,this “war”, has also infected the church. But if we follow Jesus’ prescription on conflict, I truly believe we can once again be united and make ole Scratch shake in his boots. But as long as we are divided and as long as we are not gathering together, he is winning. Let’s claim this year, 2022 for Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit send the enemy back into the shadows cowering at the name of Jesus and truly afraid of His followers united in one Holy Christian Church.

**Come join us, I’m praying to see you on Easter Sunday if not before.**  
Want to go deeper today. Read [1 Thessalonians chapter 5](#)

In His Awesome Grip  
PD2 a.k.a. Pastor Dave Stier

## **MLC NEWS**

### **OFFICE CLOSED THE WEEK AFTER EASTER**

Please note the church office will be closed the week of April 18–23. The Lay Ministry Board decided that our staff needs some time off after the busy Easter season and the intensity of the demands on them over the past two years. Please support them with prayer as they take some well deserved rest. Any emergency needs can be communicated to Beth Hohisel, Tom Bond, or Pastor Kurt.

### **MLC PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

Please note that content for the weekly bulletin is due by noon each **Wednesday** & content for the monthly newsletter is due by the **22nd** of each month. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **ONLINE WORSHIP**

The 9:30 am service is available for streaming online on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

### **PRAYER CHAIN**

Messiah uses a prayer chain made up of people willing to pray for our members, community and nation in times of crisis. The 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](mailto:regency118@comcast.net) or Pastor Dave at [pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org) to become a partner.

### **OFFERING**

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

- 1) Go to this link: [bit.ly/MLCGiving](https://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 with any of these, please email  
worship@mlcjoliet.org or call the church office at 815-741-4488

## **GET INVOLVED**

### **DAYBREAK SHELTER VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:00 pm to 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.

### **MICRO PANTRY**

Messiah has developed a micro-food pantry that is housed in the closet across from the church office. 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. Thank you so much Marty Hohisel for your constant help in organizing the food that comes in!

### **LIL LOVES MINISTRY**

Lil Loves Ministry is a ministry at Messiah, and its aim is to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the Tri-county area. The store, located in the Gathering House, will be available on an appointment basis, and those interested can sign up at [mlcjoliet.org/lil-loves-ministry](http://mlcjoliet.org/lil-loves-ministry). Lil Loves needs your donations of diapers, formula, wipes, and other baby and family items to build up stock in the store. If you'd like to donate, please place your items in the black bin in the narthex. In need of **BABY SOAP**, onsies size 24 months and up, diapers size 5 and up, and Pullups.

### **MESSIAH QUILTERS**

We are having an extra quilting day on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 9 am – 12 pm. We have so many quilts ready to be tied and you don't need any sewing or quilting experience to help us. And we have other tasks besides tying that need to be done, including sit-down jobs. Drop by and see what we are doing.. Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 12 pm. **WE NEED:** any size sheets or pillow cases without rips, tears or stains. Place them in basket in the narthex. Thank you for your many donations!

A recent release from Lutheran World Relief states “The reaction families have to their newly acquired quilts is priceless. It’s as if they’ve just been given a rare antique. And in

so many ways, it is every bit as valuable to them. Quilts can be used in so many ways – as a soft place to sleep, to wrap little ones, or as a partition for a bit of privacy in a crowded displacement camp. More than once I’ve heard someone say their quilt was the most beautiful thing they own. But nothing quite beats the moment they realize that not only are they receiving a special gift, but that someone actually made it for them. Someone they don’t know, and will never meet, cared and was thinking of them, halfway around the world.”

If you would like to sew at home, we have many quilt tops ready to be sewn together. We have the larger size we make for Lutheran World Relief and a smaller lap robe size/ baby quilt size we make for Lightways Hospice and Lil’ Loves. Sewing consists of sewing the blocks together into rows, sewing the rows together and adding a border. Everything is prepared in kit form for you. If this is something you would like to do, contact Contact Kathy Mueller at scpbklane@aol.com or 815-953-6601 for more information or any questions you may have.

### **MEMORY BEARS**

The Memory Bears Life Group meets together once a month to make teddy bears out of clothing from people who have passed away to comfort the grieving. We also make and sell bears once a year to raise money for supplies and children’s charities. With the lost time with Covid and orders having not slowed down, we really could use your help. We meet next on April 13th, 9:00-11:30 and regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 9:00 am to Noon.

## **MESSIAH KIDS**

### **KIDS EASTER EVENT**

Calling all kids in grades Kindergarten through 5th! You’re invited to Easter fun with crafts, games and an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 9th from 1:00-3:00. Watch for the sign-up sheet.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

It’s happening! Vacation Bible School is back June 6-10. Volunteers from 6th grade through adult will be needed. Watch for registration and volunteer sign-up sheets.

### **MESSIAH KIDS SUNDAY 11 AM**

Messiah Kids continues during the 11:00am service!

Here’s how it works: you will check in for the service 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 games. It’s for all kids grades K-5<sup>th</sup>. **Volunteers are needed! See Kimber Drummond or Pastor Dave to get involved.**

### **AWANA (Wednesdays at 6:30 pm) - last night is April 6th**

For Prek-6th grade! We’ll start up again in September.

# MLC STUDENT MINISTRY

## HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 9:30 am upstairs)

High school students (9th-12th grade) meet every Sunday in the youth room for a great time of fellowship and discussion about God's word. Consider yourself invited!

## IGNITE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (April 8th & 9th)

Students, join us at Harvest New Beginnings in Oswego. For 7th-12th grades. This is a conference for leaders and student to learn, grow, and have fun while worshipping our God. Cost is \$50. Sign up and stay the night at the church after the Friday conference.

## CENTER LAKE BIBLE CAMP (June 26th—July 1st)

5th-9<sup>th</sup> grades go to Tustin, MI to learn about the Bible while partaking in exciting camp activities consisting of kayaking, bike riding, horseback riding, paintball, and more!

## HIGH ADVENTURE TRIP (July 17th-July 23<sup>rd</sup> ) for 9th-12th grades.

We go to Mount Hope, WV to challenge students through adventure and nature activities while they learn more about God and learn to trust in him during the activities. We will also visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Petersburg, KY.

## HEAD2HEART (Wednesdays at 6:15 pm) - last evening is April 27

Head2Heart classes end April 27th, but watch for exciting activities in May!

## SALT (Sundays at 4:30 pm)

Hey, high school students! SALT continues on Sunday nights! Come on out and enjoy the fun, fellowship and study in the FLC.

# MLC EVENTS

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR RON SARVER

Ron Sarver's celebration of life service is at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 2, here at MLC

## CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER: A PRESENTATION—April 3rd

Jews for Jesus will be at all three services on April 3rd to present the link between the Jewish feast of Passover and the last supper Jesus shared with His disciples.

## SAVE THE DATE—MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Hey Guys, Need to connect with other Christian men? Feeling that you are just missing something? Feeling the need to get "back to the basics" of being a Godly Man? After a lot of prayer and seeking God's will, Messiah will once again have a Men's Ministry. **Messiah Men**. We'll meet a few times a month and even do some guy trips and gatherings. Come check us out starting Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30. Our goal isn't to add another commitment to your life, it's to help ease your burden so you can be the Man God wants you to be.

Keep an eye out for more information soon, or ask Caleb Valkovich, Brian Werner or Mike Brown what's going on.

### **DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**Pastor Stier will be leading this three-week class starting Sunday, April 24th at 9:30 am.** Every Christian has been given supernatural abilities called spiritual gifts to glorify God and be used by Him, and one day we will give an account for how well we used them. The Bible teaches that each and every Christian has been gifted with supernatural abilities called spiritual gifts. We read about them all over the New Testament, but the responsibility is on us to unwrap them and figure out where to use them. This class will not only help you understand what spiritual gifts are but will also help you discover yours and how to put them to use for God's glory. All are welcome. If you did the intensive 90min class in February this class will still be good for you to attend, as we'll have more time to dig into what God is doing.

### **PRAYER GROUP (Thursdays at 10 am)**

In the Fireside Room and on Zoom platform. Email [pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org) for more information.

### **MOSAIC (Sundays at 9:30 am)**

Mosaic is a “next level” Life Group ministry for 18-20 somethings AKA Mosaics or Millennials. Mosaic focuses on a life of worship through; service, fellowship, prayer, and music, all the while discussing Biblical truths. To join this group, simply come to the study at the Mosaic room (the classroom off of the fellowship hall).

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

Insight Sunday school meets in the Fellowship Hall and will continue through the summer. April 10 with Doug Pott, and April 24 with Pastor Stier for Spiritual Gifts. No INSIGHT April 3 (Jews for Jesus) or April 17 (Easter).

### **PROGRAMMING WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER**

The weather is warming up and so is our kids/youth/adult programming. Keep an eye for information about all that’s being offered this summer to keep everyone engaged.

### **MAY SERMON SERIES**

Looking forward to May, join us each week for the Word of God Speak sermon series.

## FROM THE BOARDS

### Stewardship Thank you's

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank our member for participating in the "Change for Hope" Baby Bottle Fundraiser Living Alternatives. We collected \$731.33. "Thank you so much from our center! We greatly appreciate it!!"  
Aimee Merritt Will County Director.

For more information visit: <https://www.pregnancyresourcecenter.org/donors>  
The donation portal is open all year at <https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/website/?m=5473786>



Be sure to join in our Easter happenings!

#### April

- 3 *Jews for Jesus at all services*
- 4 *Deadline to order Easter lilies*
- 9 *Kids Easter event 1-3 pm*
- 10 *Palm Sunday*
- 14 *Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm*  
*First Holy Communion-7:00 pm*
- 15 *Good Friday Tenebrae service -7 pm*
- 17 *Easter Sunday!*
  - Sunrise campfire—6:00 am*
  - Easter Services 6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am*
  - Sonrise Easter Breakfast 7:30-11:00 am*

<b>Counters</b>			<b>Readers 8 AM</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
4/3/22	Brian Wielbik, Dan Stukel		Beth Hohisel	4/3/22
4/10/22	Gayle, Arko, Wayne Lauffer			4/10/22
4/17/22	Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock			4/17/22
4/24/22	Judy Fowler, Norina Schroth		Beth Hohisel	4/24/22
		<b>S</b>		
<b>Ushers 8 AM</b>		<b>E</b>	<b>Readers 9:30 AM</b>	
4/3/22	Jerry Bucheneau, Dan Stukel	<b>R</b>	Jane Castello	4/3/22
4/10/22	Mike Joho, Don Cyborski	<b>V</b>	Marcy Vickers	4/10/22
4/17/22	Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller	<b>I</b>	Jane Costello	4/17/22
4/24/22	Craig Stone, Mike Joho	<b>N</b>		4/24/22
		<b>G</b>		
<b>Ushers 9:30 AM</b>			<b>Readers 11 AM</b>	
4/3/22	Lou Mahalik, Bill Unyi		Tom Bond	3/6/22
4/10/22	Jeff Holmes, Brandon Fiday		Doug Potts	3/20/22
4/17/22	Roger Gordon, Brandon Fiday		<b>Greeters 8 AM</b>	
4/24/22	Aimee Gipes, Stephanie Gregoles		NEED HELP	4/3/22
		<b>A</b>	NEED HELP	4/10/22
<b>Ushers 11 AM</b>		<b>T</b>	NEED HELP	4/17/22
4/3/22	Gary Phillips, Harold Stier		NEED HELP	4/24/22
4/10/22	Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer		NEED HELP	
4/17/22	HELP NEEDED		<b>Greeters 9:30 AM</b>	
4/24/22	Mike Scarcelli, Darryl Hoelscher		NEED HELP	4/3/22
		<b>M</b>	NEED HELP	4/10/22
<b>Communion Assistants 8 AM</b>		<b>E</b>	NEED HELP	4/17/22
4/3/22		<b>S</b>	NEED HELP	4/24/22
4/10/22		<b>S</b>	NEED HELP	
4/17/22		<b>I</b>	<b>Greeters 11 AM</b>	
4/24/22		<b>A</b>	NEED HELP	4/3/22
		<b>H</b>	NEED HELP	4/10/22
<b>Communion Assistants 9:30 AM</b>			NEED HELP	4/17/22
4/3/22	Gary Ally, Rowan Hedden		NEED HELP	4/24/22
<b>Communion Assistants 11 AM</b>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Would you like to help serve?</b>  <b>Call the Church Office at 815-741-4488 or</b>  <b>Email office.Manager@mlcjoliet.org!</b></p>	
4/3/22	Tom & Lynn Bond			
4/17/22	Doug Potts			

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## April 1

Patti Anderson  
Lloyd & Summar Evans  
Andy Hawkinson  
Carli Johnson  
Jacob Johnson  
Addison Petrinis  
Mikey Snider  
Lina Spielman

## April 2

Linda Hodge

## April 3

Nancy Bugnits  
Brooke Rogina

## April 4

Mark Ferenzi

## April 5

Mark & Lori Burnett  
Jake Mahalik

## April 6

Nathan Puckett  
Bonnie Smith

## April 7

Skylar Chaplin  
Skyler Craig

## April 8

Alex Puckett  
Nathaniel Puckett

## April 9

Rebeca Huguley  
Kayla Craig

## April 10

Patti Anderson  
Clint Parnell  
Dan Stukel

## April 12

Declan Henry  
Laurel Ling  
Izak Richmond

## April 13

Mike Brown  
Treaa Scarcelli

## April 14

Tonya Bavone  
Melanie Brozman  
Kerri Courtright  
Keegan Krumwiede  
Brock Vainowski

## April 15

Aiden Cordon  
Roger & Carol Gordon  
Martha Hohisel  
Doug Potts  
Dave Torkelson

## April 16

Barb Dodd  
Bob Zirzow

## April 17

Ray & Sharon Anderson  
Scott & Danielle Binkley  
Bill & April Henry

## April 18

Dan Brozman  
Katy Hester  
Lydia Magemeneas  
Dana Stier

## April 19

Lyla Luebbing

## April 20

Bill & Pam Fox  
Amanda Lundeen

## April 21

Sophia Nicola

## April 22

Judy Motley  
Richard Smrekar  
Bryn Werner

## April 23

Kyle Christensen  
Hannah Miller  
Bill Unyi

## April 24

Marjorie McClure  
Tom Spielman

## April 26

Landon Baikie  
Riley Baikie  
Zachary Baikie  
Crystal Harrison  
John & Jan Mueller  
Sophie Sleyko

## April 27

Carol Smrekar

## April 28

Jim Holgren  
Jeff Holmes  
Ruth Silverman  
Richard & Lynnn Tapella

## April 29

Stephanie Knudsen-Feehan  
Jack Maser

## April 30

Anne Atwood  
Stephanie Gregoles  
Jim Manning  
Noah Manning  
Laura Snider



# Happy Easter

ADDRESS

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