

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Family Praise & Worship
December 7, 2025
10:30 a.m.



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

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

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www.mlcjoliet.org

WORSHIP TODAY

Call To Worship

Welcome

Worship Through Songs

Worship Through Giving

Children's Message

Leslie McFarland

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

Message

"The Servant's Heart"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

(Copies of this sermon and others can be found in the Narthex.)

Worship Through Song

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Communion

Worship Through the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Closing Song

FIRST READING, Acts 1:12-14 (ESV)

Reader: Amy Melton

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

SECOND READING, Luke 1:34-38 (ESV)

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

GOSPEL, Luke 8:1-3, 19-21 (ESV)

¹ Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

¹⁹ Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. ²⁰ And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." ²¹ But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."



"MARY'S SONG," SUNDAY MORNINGS DURING ADVENT

explores the beginning and ending of Luke from the women's perspective, tying together the Nativity with the end of the Gospel.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING ADVENT

Join us for mid-week worship on Wednesday evenings during Advent:
December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PIANO CONCERT

Our very own pianist Rose Ann Sochan will present a concert, "Celebrate the Magic of the Holiday Season," featuring Rose and other special musical guests on Sunday, December 7th at 3 p.m.
Admission is complimentary and all are welcome!

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CANTATA

Our annual Christmas Cantata will be on Sunday, December 14th during the 8:30 service. Please attend and hear our wonderful choir celebrate the birth of Jesus in song.



LCMC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Please help yourself to a special Advent Devotional, courtesy of LCMC! Copies are available in the Narthex. If you prefer a digital copy, please reach out to Vicki in the office.

MESSIAH KIDS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We invite you to come to our Children's Christmas Program on December 21st at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us at 5, 7 and 11 p.m. for Christmas Eve worship.

Gifts for Baby Jesus is a tradition here for children on Christmas Eve!



We invite children to bring gifts for baby Jesus to our 5:00 or 7:00 p.m. services. These gifts are items needed by newborn children and new mothers: diapers, clothing, blankets, etc. Please identify on the wrapped package what each item is, the sizes and who it is for. These gifts will reach the community through our Lil Loves ministry and Living Alternatives. Thank you for your willingness to give!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING

ADVENT



Please join us

for worship:

December 3

December 10

December 17

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings at 9:30! Our current series focuses on reading through the New Testament. We'll go from Matthew to Revelation in three months!

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME

Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 9:30 a.m. and will continue until after the later service gets out. If you are an 8:30 attendee - 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

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to those less fortunate 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, December 8th.

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.

MEMORY BEARS



Messiah's Memory Bears Group normally meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. **Memory Bears does not meet in December.** Our next meeting is January 27, 2026. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email 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 **December 9th.**

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. Questions may be directed to Pat Burke, Pat Buchenau, or Lisa Winters.



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 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, or reach out to Beth Hohisel at 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 20th of each month.

QUILTERS

The next Messiah Quilting Day (3rd Tuesday each month) will be on December 16th 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 for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **December 16th**!

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!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FAMILY DINNER & FAMILY PRAISE NIGHT

Wednesday Family Dinner will take place the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Your RSVP is important to us - a sign up list is posted in the Narthex. We can also use help with setup and cleanup, if you are able to assist, please sign up in the Narthex.

Family Praise Night, also the first Wednesday of every month, is from 6-6:30 p.m. (right after dinner) in the cafe area of the FLC. Join our children and student ministries for a time of praise, kids' showcase, and a short message!



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women's Bible Study will resume in January! Watch for details!

Our ladies' **Christmas Tea** is Saturday, **December 13th** from 1-3 p.m.
SAVE THE DATE.

Tickets are available in the Narthex.

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 at 9:30.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will perform during the 10:30 service on January 25, February 22, March 22, and April 26. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

J-CHURCH

J-Church is the third Sunday of every month (except December) at 10:30 in the FLC.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club! On **December 17th** we will have a **Share Celebration!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre-K through 5th groups meet upstairs in the Kidz Club, 6th-8th in the Youth Room!

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

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th 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 6th-8th graders runs on Wednesdays evenings from 6-8.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided in honor of our lovely and talented Rose Sochan.

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 (December 7)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (streamed)
9:30 a.m. Education Hour
10:30 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship
3 p.m. Rose's Piano Concert

MONDAY (December 8)

8-1:30 Homeschool Co-op (full campus)

TUESDAY (December 9)

9:30 a.m. Stay-N-Play
12 p.m. OWLS
2 p.m. Chosen Bible Study

WEDNESDAY (December 10)

6 p.m. H2H, FAM, MKW
7 p.m. Advent Worship

THURSDAY (December 11)

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

FRIDAY (December 12)

SATURDAY (December 13)

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
1 p.m. Women's Christmas Tea

SUNDAY (December 14)

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (streamed)
with Choir Cantata
9:30 a.m. Education Hour
10:30 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30 a.m.: 40
10:30 a.m.: 65
Insight: 15
Ignite: 2
HS: n/a
K-5th: n/a
6th-8th: 3
Online: 29

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068
YTD Operating Budget: \$627,755
YTD Giving Received: \$552,107
Average Weekly Need: \$13,078
Received Last Week: \$35,449

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 37:21

The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives.

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

