



July 26, 2026
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 a.m.

The kingdom of heaven
is like
TREASURE.



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Paul Allen, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

July 26, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," #26 v. 1-4



1. A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los-ing,
3. And tho this world, with dev-ils filled, Should threat-en to un-do us,
4. That word a-bove all earth-ly pow'rs, No thanks to them, a-bid-eth;



Our help-er He a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.
Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choos-ing.
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri-umph thru us.
The Spir-it and the gifts are ours Thru Him who with us sid-eth.



For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe—His craft and pow'r are
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is He— Lord Sab-a-oth His
The prince of dark-ness grim, We trem-ble not for him— His rage we can en-
Let goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al-so— The bod-y they may



great, And, armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e-qual.
name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat-tle.
dure, For lo, his doom is sure: One lit-tle word shall fell him.
kill; God's truth a-bid-eth still: His king-dom is for-ev-er. A-men.

LITANY BASED ON PSALM 8

Leader: When I look at Your heavens,

All: the work of your fingers,

Leader: the moon and stars,

All: which You have set in place,

Leader: what is man that You are mindful of him,

All: and the son of man that You care for him?

Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PRAISE

"We Are the Reason," #209 (2X)

We are the rea - son that He gave His life, We are the rea - son that He
suf-fered and died. To a world that was lost He gave all He could give,
to show us the rea - son to live. live.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melody with various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The lyrics are placed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Jesus Paid It All," #210 v. 1-3

1. I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small!
2. Lord, now in - deed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine a - lone,
3. For noth - ing good have I Where - by Thy grace to claim -
4. And when be - fore the throne I stand in Him com - plete,
Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."
Can change the lep - er's spots And melt the heart of stone.
I'll wash my gar - ments white In the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.
"Je - sus died my soul to save," My lips shall still re - peat.

Refrain
Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crim - son stain— He washed it white as snow.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and a 3/4 time signature. It features a melody with various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The lyrics are placed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"More Precious Than Silver," #237
(3X, 3rd time a cappella), *Maranatha*

Lord, You are more pre - cious than
sil - ver, Lord, You are more
cost - ly than gold; Lord, You
are more beau - ti - ful than dia - monds, and
noth - ing I de - sire com - pares with You.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Leader: Holy and Gracious God,

All: I confess that I have sinned against you this day and every day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace and live each day for You.

Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Kurt

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

RESPONSE

Doxology #625

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be - low;

Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

FIRST LESSON, Deuteronomy 26:16-19 (NIV)

Reader: Paul Allen

¹⁶ The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. ¹⁷ You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in obedience to him, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws—that you will listen to him. ¹⁸ And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands. ¹⁹ He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.

SECOND LESSON, Matthew 13:44-52 (NIV)

Praise to you, O Christ.

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

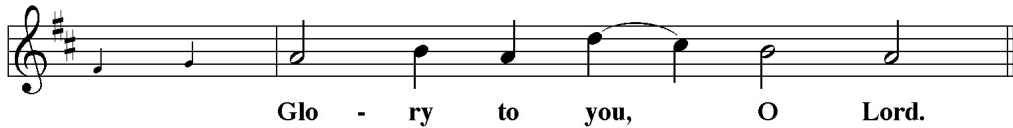
⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

"Yes," they replied.

⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

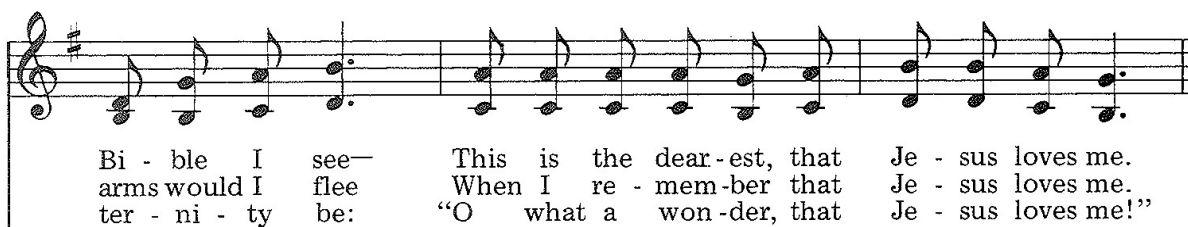


MESSAGE **"Discipleship: Ministry to the Treasured"**
Pastor Kurt Hoover

A manuscript for this sermon and those previous can be found in the Narthex.

HYMN

"Jesus Loves Even Me," #357 v. 1-3



Refrain



WORDS OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Servers: Marvinna Allen, Angie Mitchka, Lynn Tapella

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

"Lamb of God"



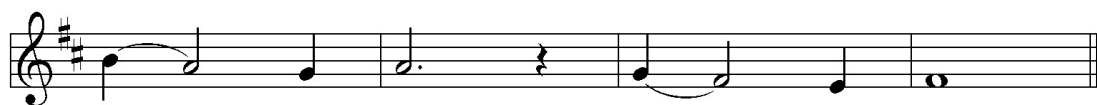
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Blessed Assurance," #345
"Let Your Heart Be Broken," #315

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you Father for the gift of salvation. Thank you Lord Jesus for this holy meal and the sacrifice of Your life. Thank you Holy Spirit for awakening faith within our hearts. We hear your voice in this meal and celebrate Your holy presence. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"All for Jesus," #368 v. 1-3



1. All for Je - sus, all for Je - sus! All my be-ing's ran-somed pow'rs:
2. Let my hands per-form His bid - ding, Let my feet run in His ways;
3. Since my eyes were fixed on Je - sus, I've lost sight of all be - side;
4. Oh, what won-der! how a - maz - ing! Je - sus, glo-rious King of kings,



All my tho'ts and words and do - ings, All my days and all my hours.
Let my eyes see Je - sus on - ly, Let my lips speak forth His praise.
So en-chained my spir-it's vi - sion, Look-ing at the Cru - ci - fied.
Deigns to call me His be - lov - ed, Lets me rest be-neath His wings.

Refrain



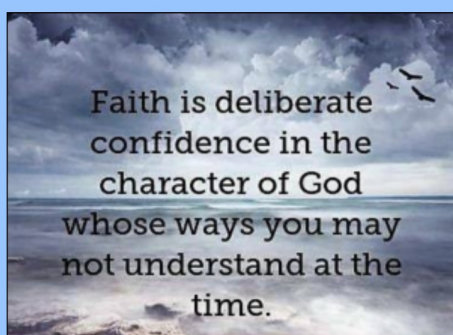
All for Je - sus! all for Je - sus! All my days and all my hours;
All for Je - sus! all for Je - sus! Let my lips speak forth His praise;
All for Je - sus! all for Je - sus! Look-ing at the Cru - ci - fied;
All for Je - sus! all for Je - sus! Rest - ing now be-neath His wings;



All for Je - sus! all for Je - sus! All my days and all my hours.
All for Je - sus! all for Je - sus! Let my lips speak forth His praise.
All for Je - sus! all for Je - sus! Look-ing at the Cru - ci - fied.
All for Je - sus! all for Je - sus! Rest - ing now be - neath His wings.

*God will never lead you to a place
where His grace cannot keep you.*

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Insight Bible Study

new series begins August 9th...

“The Character of God”

**Our faith should not depend on outcomes,
rather should rely on God’s character
as it’s foundation.**

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall!



MEMBERSHIP Class

**Tuesday
August 4th
6-8 p.m.**

New to Messiah? Want to learn more?

Have you been attending and want more info on becoming a member?

We want to get to know you and connect you with our many groups and ministries! Please join us at the

“**Get to Know Messiah**” Membership Class where you’ll 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!

Dinner is provided & childcare will be available upon request.

Call the church office for more info
at 815-741-4488.

Register here:



NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - Save the dates!

Saturday, September 19th - Dinner Banquet at 5:30 p.m.

RSVP here:

Sunday, September 20th - Reception Celebration between services



ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday morning Bible Study for adults is at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. We're wrapping up our current series, "Introduction to the Holy Spirit," over the next couple of weeks and we'll kick off a new series on August 9th entitled, "The Character of God."

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME



Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 8:30 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! If you'd like to help with Sunday morning coffee, please reach out to Joyce Pawlowski at 630-890-1203.

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.

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. Our next meeting is **August 25th**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

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. Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 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, reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478, or 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

Messiah Quilters meet the 3rd Tuesday each month from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The next quilting day is August 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 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.

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 **August 18th**!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES CAMPAIGN

We are collecting monetary donations for our annual School Supplies Campaign throughout the month of July. Scan the QR code to give electronically, or by cash or check using an envelope available in the Narthex.



MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW) SUMMER PROGRAM

Our MKW program has been canceled for this summer.

NATIONAL BIBLE BEE

The National Bible Bee has been canceled for this summer.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our summer session for K-8th graders will run through August 16th. We meet upstairs in the Kidz Club.

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 continues year-round.

SUMMER S.A.L.T. (for both FAM and H2H groups)

This summer we're meeting in a combined format for 6th-12th graders! Our summer program meets at church on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 through August 5th.

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

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, July 26

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour for all ages
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY, July 27

n/a

TUESDAY, July 28

n/a

WEDNESDAY, July 29

6 p.m. Summer SALT (6th-12th graders)

THURSDAY, July 30

10:15 a.m. Prayer Group
12 p.m. Staff Meeting

FRIDAY, July 31

n/a

SATURDAY, August 1

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY, August 2

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m. Education Hour for all ages
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 80
10:45: 39
Online: 20
Kids: 2
MSM: ?
HS: 3
Insight: 15

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$387,848
YTD Giving Received: \$291,848
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$7,552

STEWARDSHIP VERSE **OF THE WEEK**

2 Corinthians 9:11

You will be enriched in every way
to be generous in every way,
which through us will produce
thanksgiving to God.

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

