MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026
8:30 a.m.



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann 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

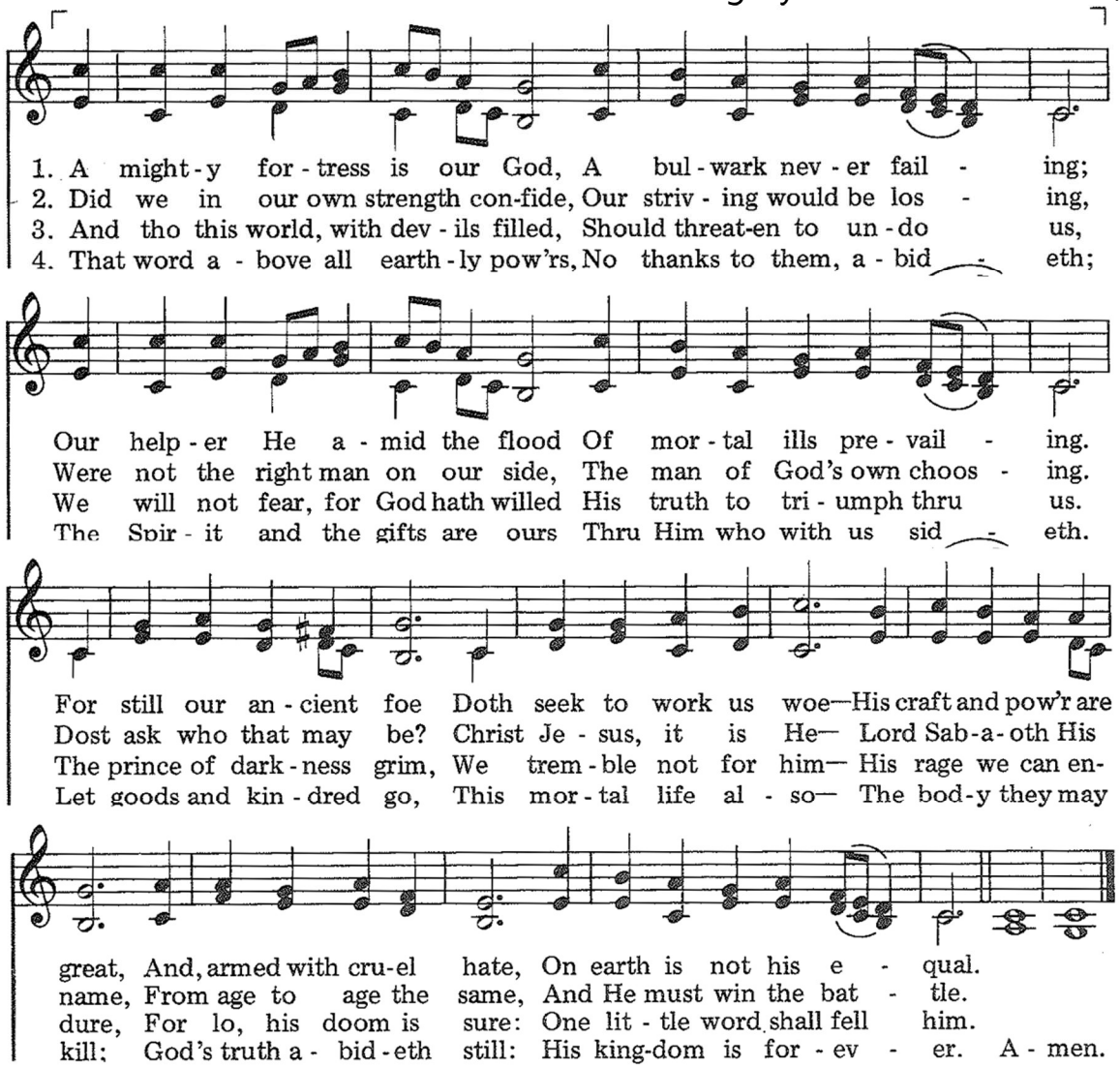
Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

October 25, 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



KINGDOM LITANY BASED ON PSALM 145

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,

All: and all your saints shall bless you!

Leader: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom

All: and tell of your power,

Leader: to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
All: and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
All: and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

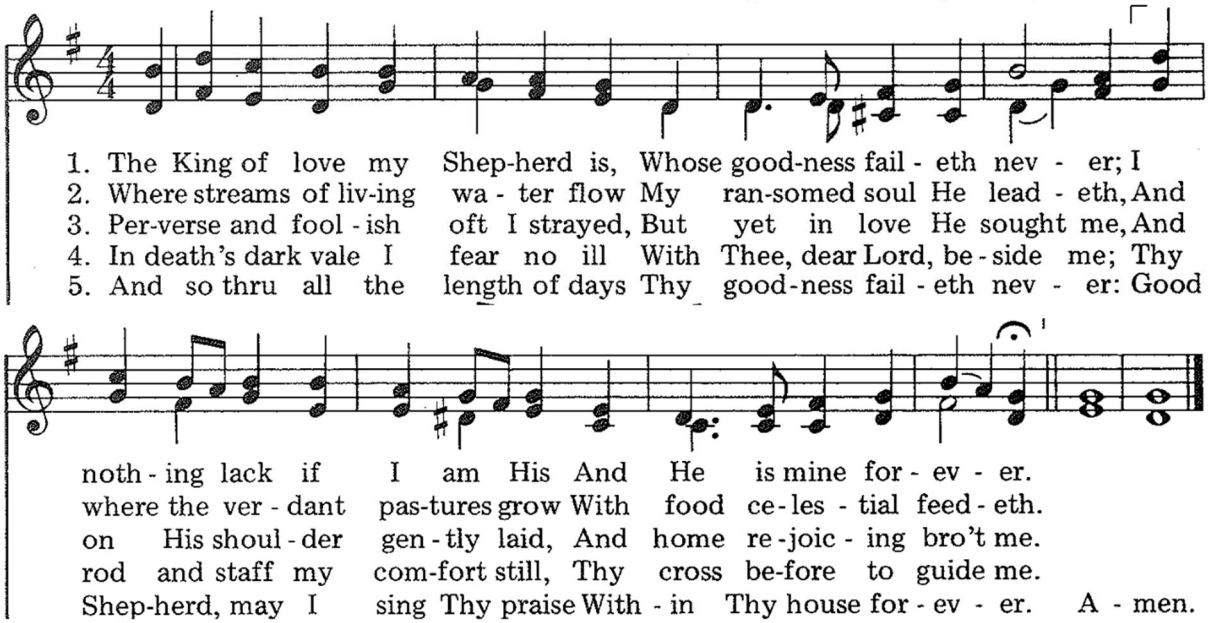
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM "O, How I Love Jesus," arr. Lloyd Larson, led by Herb Alexander

HYMN OF PRAISE "The Church's One Foundation," #277 v. 1-2



HYMN OF PRAISE "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," #468 v. 1-5



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.**

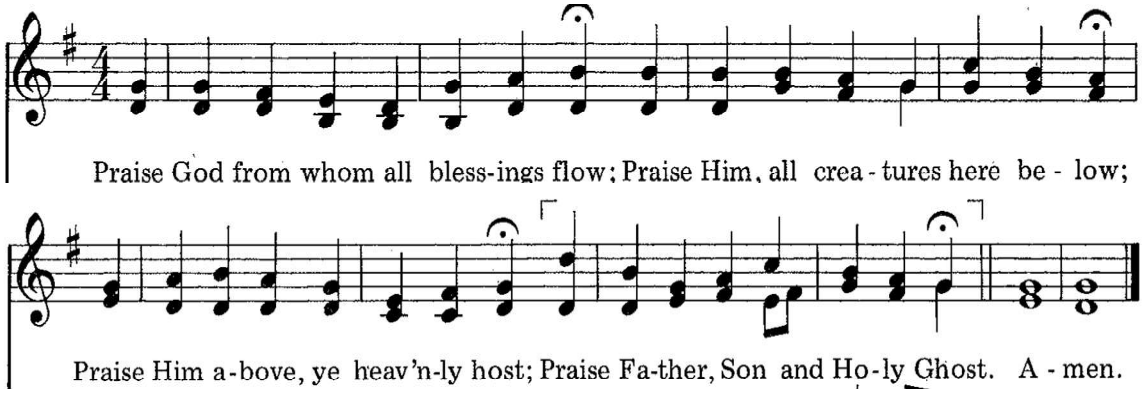
Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Kurt

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Rose Ann Sochan

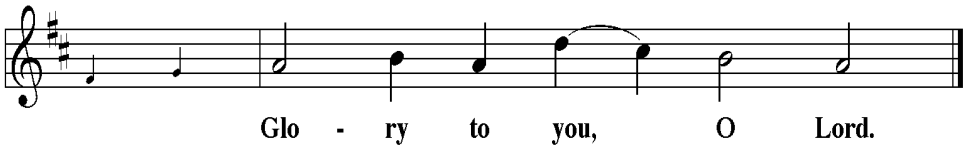
RESPONSE Doxology #625



FIRST LESSON, Revelation 14:6-7 (ESV) Reader: Paul Allen

6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim
to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. 7 And
he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his
judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the
springs of water."

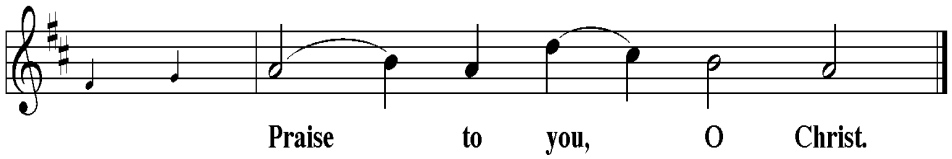
SECOND LESSON, John 8:31-36 (ESV)



31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are
truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved
to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave
to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So
if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.



MESSAGE **"Kingdom Life: ----------"**

Pastor Kurt Hoover

A manuscript of this sermon can be found in the Narthex.

HYMN "How Firm a Foundation," #411 v. 1-4, *LCMS*



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

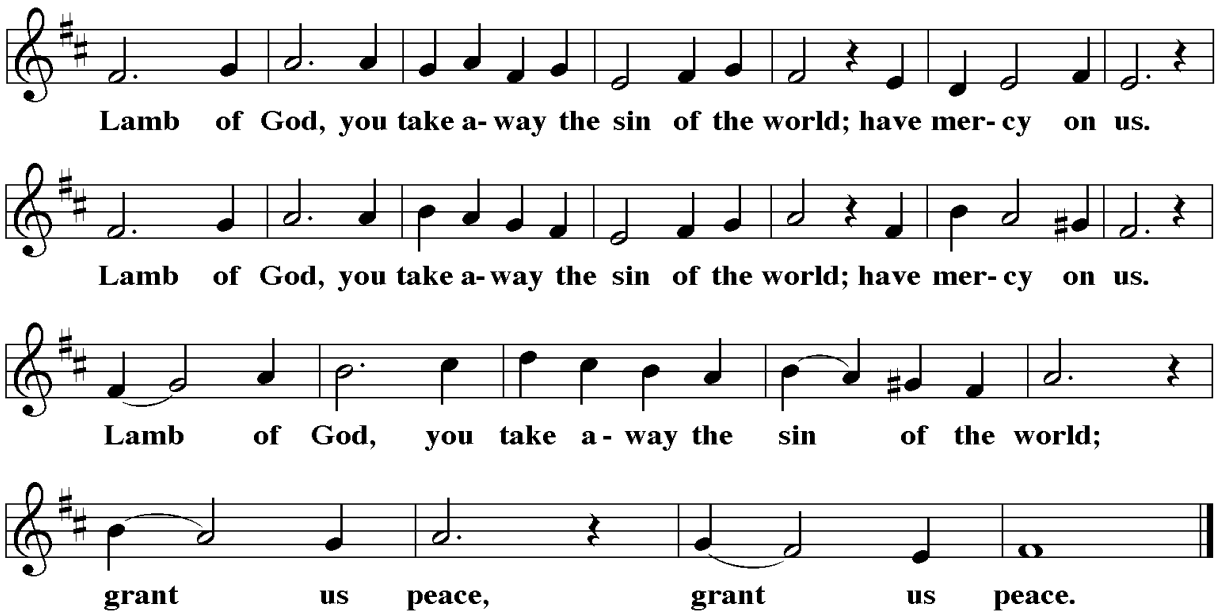
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Servers: Jane Costello, Joy McClintock, Angie Mitchka

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

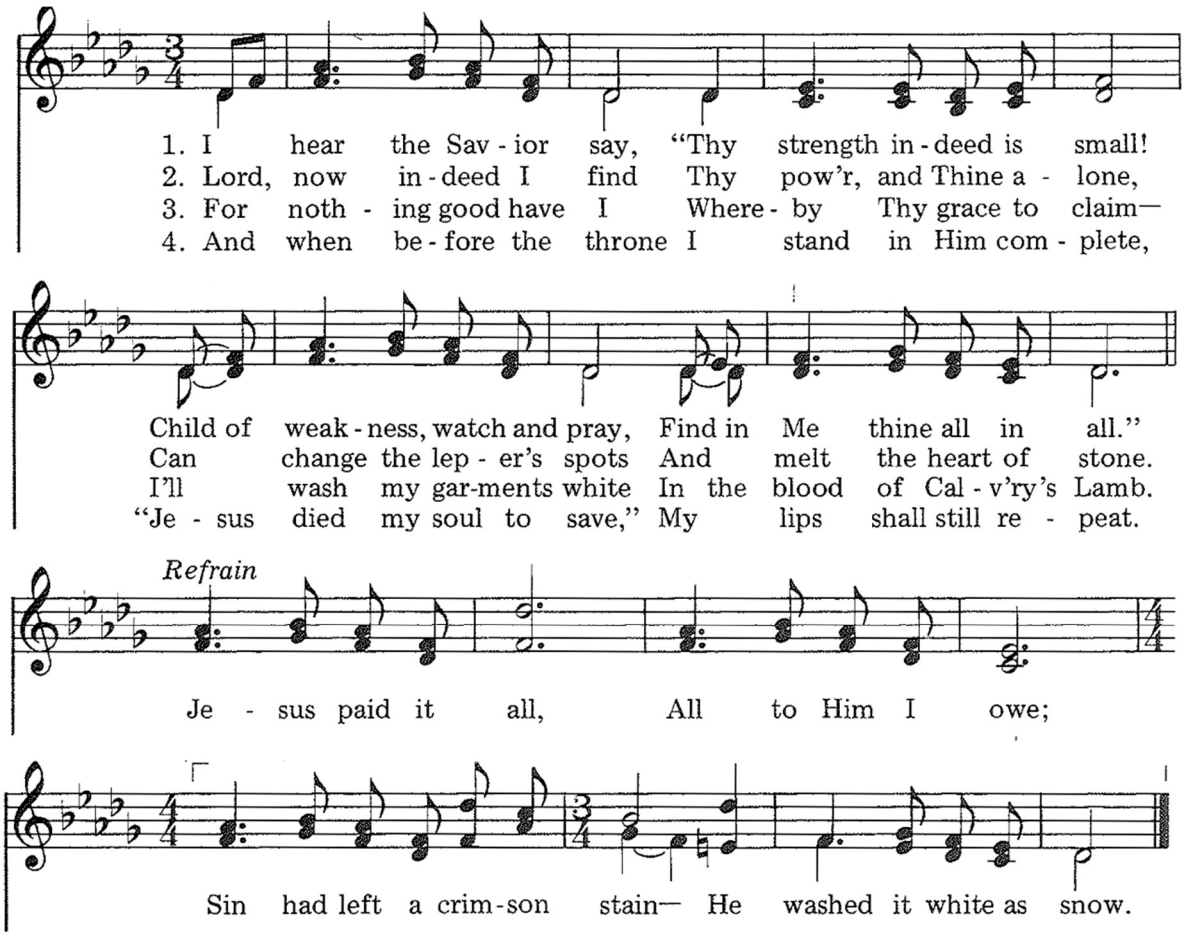
HYMN "Lamb of God"



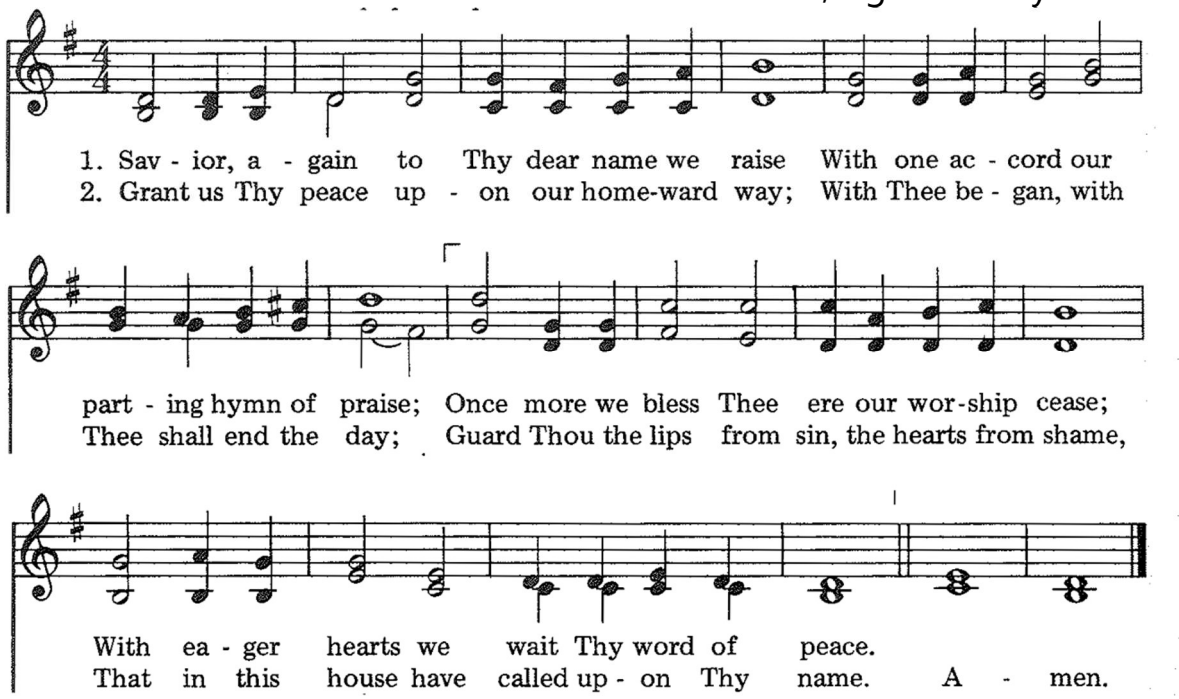


COMMUNION HYMNS

"Jesus Paid It All," #210



"Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name," #604



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 "Lift High the Cross," #304 v. 1-4



POSTLUDE Rose Ann Sochan

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

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Congratulations to our Confirmands!

At this morning's 10:45 service, we celebrate the confirmation of Julia Spielman, Daniel Wieher, Michael Wieher, and Caleb Winters.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and Messiah Lutheran Church is truly blessed by the faithful service & steadfast dedication of Pastor Kurt Hoover, Pastor Emeritus Dave Nygard, and Deployed Pastor John Nelson. We are grateful for the countless hours they give through love, prayer, teaching, encouragement, and spiritual leadership. Their ministry and commitment to our congregation are a blessing to us all. Please take a moment this month to express your appreciation and let Pastor Kurt, Pastor Dave, and Pastor John know how much their service means to you and to the Messiah family. *"Give honor to whom honor is due."* -Romans 13:7

NaperVoice
SING WELL. DO GOOD.™

NaperVoice's fall 2026 concert is Sunday, **November 15** at 4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in Naperville. Admission is $21.50 for adults, $16.50 for seniors, $6 for students 13 and older.

Purchase your advance tickets now as they do sell out, and please **select Herb Alexander** as the credited choir member. Tickets are available at: www.napervoice.org.







NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday morning Bible Study for adults is at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. Our newest series is entitled, "The Ten Commandments."

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 Insight is finished. If you are an 8:30 attender - 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.

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.

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!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Please join Messiah's Grief Support Group on the **first Thursday every month** (Sept-May) at 1 p.m. in Room 101. This group offers caring and confidential space for those currently walking through loss or those who have suffered loss in the past. You are not alone - We are here to support one another. Questions may be directed to Pat Burke or Judy Fowler.

INTERVARSITY VISION CONFERENCE - Volunteers needed

InterVarsity's annual Vision Conference is November 6-8 at Messiah, and they are looking for volunteers to serve the college students in the name of Jesus. For more information, reach out to Leslie McFarland.

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 **October 27.** Machine sewists are needed! Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

MESSIAH APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

Check out the Messiah apparel and accessories display in the Narthex!

Purchase clothing, hats, mugs & more by scanning this QR code:

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)

OWLS meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at noon, September-May. We enjoy a light lunch together, play trivia, and usually feature a guest speaker or entertainment!

Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, and beverages will be provided for **our November 10** luncheon as we celebrate our veterans, and we'll feature a guests speaker from the Will County Health Dept. to talk about diabetes and hypertension. We ask that everyone sign up in the Narthex so we have a headcount, and to let us know what you will bring to share.

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 November 17. 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. 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 backs for our quilts. There is a collection basket in the Narthex.

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 **November 17**!



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 10-11:30. Bring the littles for play time! Adults enjoy coffee on us! Please like our Facebook page (MLC Stay-N-Play Playgroup) for additional information, and share with your friends and neighbors!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Women's Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons at 1 in the Fireside Room!

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Those post-high school and older are invited to join us for Bible study on Sunday mornings during Education Hour in classroom #101. Coffee and occasional breakfast treats will be provided.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

For information please reach out to Season Lawler.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club! Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
We meet upstairs in the Kidz Club during Education Hour at 9:40 a.m.

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th grades)

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)
Bible Study for high schoolers is in the Fireside Room continues year-round.

FRIENDS & MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS
Join us for mid-week Bible Study, connect with peers, play games, sing praise and more! FAM meets on Wednesday evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H)
Our H2H Confirmation Program for 6th-8th graders runs on Wednesdays evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

MAFIA NIGHT - Attention 6th-12th graders!
Join us fort Capture the Flag/Tag in the Dark! Mark your calendar for our next MAFIA night on **November 13** from 6-10 p.m. Bring friends, and $5 per person if you'd like to join us for pizza.

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. For students **6th through 12th grade** email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.

Dear Messiah family,

I wish to thank you all for your prayers and friendship during this difficult time. I am deeply touched by your kindness with cards, flowers, calls, and most of all your love for Bob and I.

Sincerely,
Gayle Arko

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided by Pat Burke in loving memory of Tom.

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, October 25
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, October 26
n/a

Tuesday, October 27
9 a.m. Memory Bears
10 a.m. Stay-n-Play

Wednesday, October 28
1 p.m. Women's Bible Study
5 p.m. Family Dinner
6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

Thursday, October 29
9 a.m. Faith & Body
10:15 a.m. Prayer Group
12 p.m. Staff Meeting
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 30
n/a

Saturday, October 31
9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Sunday, November 1
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Blood Drive
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: 70
10:45: 32
Online: 23
Insight: 29
K-5: 11
MSM: 0
HS: 2
Young Adult: 0
MKW: 6

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: $694,359
YTD Operating Budget: $560,828
YTD Giving Received: $454,248
Needed Each Week: $13,353
Received Last Week: $9,370

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Luke 12:20-21
But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

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

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH