



July 19, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 a.m.



*The one who sowed
the good seed is
the Son of Man.*



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 19, 2026
8:30 a.m.

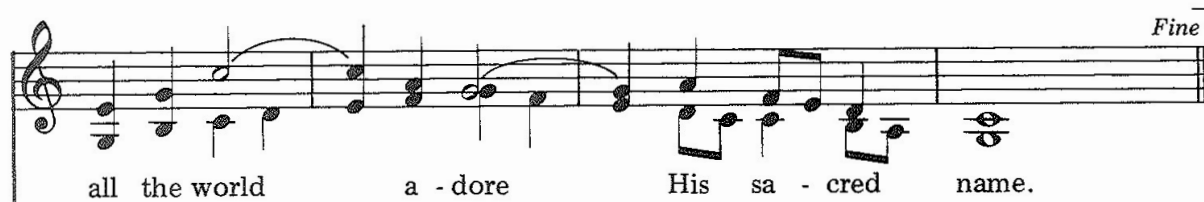
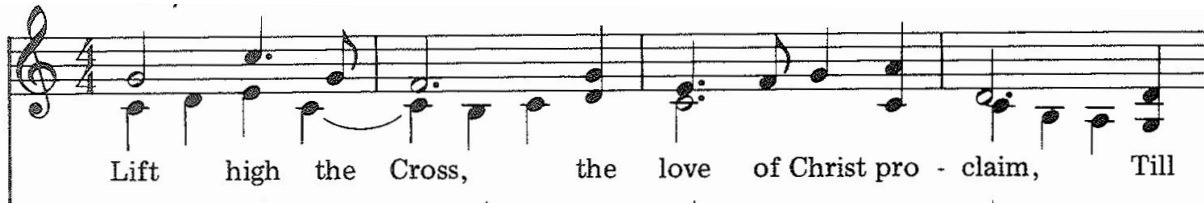
Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

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



Parts Optional



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

"Rise Up, O Church of God," #293 v. 1-4



- 1. Rise up, O Church of God! Have done with less - er things;
- 2 Rise up, O Church of God! His king-dom tar - ries long;
- 3. Rise up, O sons of God! The Church for you doth wait,
- 4. Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have trod;



Give heart and mind and soul and strength To serve the King of kings.
 Bring in the day of broth-er - hood And end the night of wrong.
 Her strength un - e - qual to her task, Rise up, and make her great!
 As fol - l'wers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O Church of God!

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus," #335 (2X)



Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, Look full in His won-der-ful face,
 won-der-ful face,



And the things of earth will grow strange-ly dim In the light of His glo-ry and grace.

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

Kersten Stier

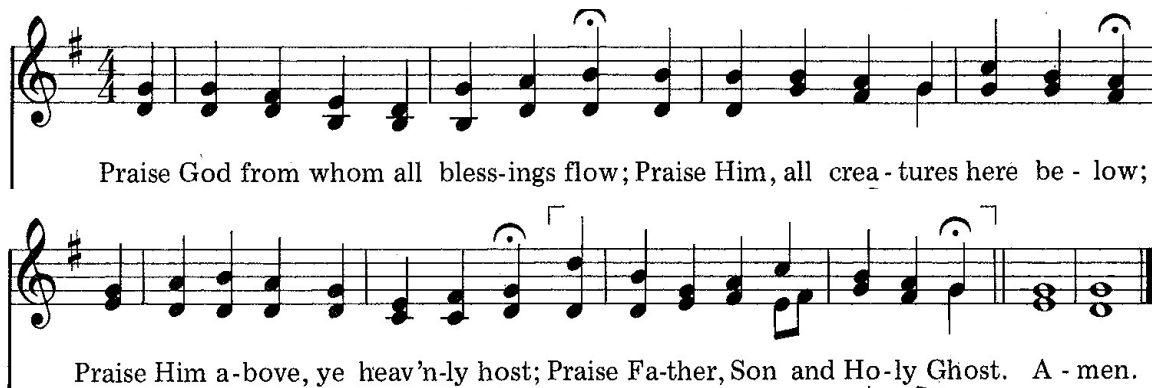
OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

RESPONSE

Doxology #625



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

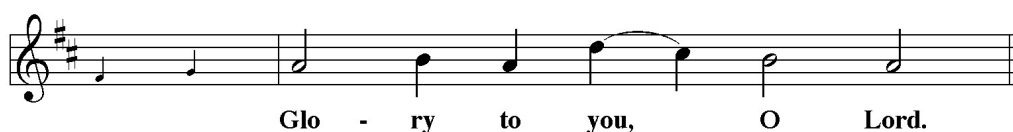
Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

FIRST LESSON, Isaiah 44:6-8 (NIV)

Reader: Jane Costello

⁶ "This is what the LORD says— Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. ⁷ Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come— yes, let them foretell what will come. ⁸ Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

SECOND LESSON, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (NIV)



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

²⁸ "'An enemy did this,' he replied.

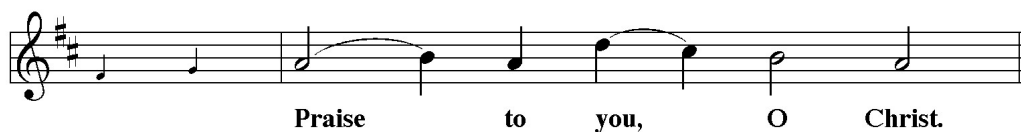
"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

²⁹ "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

³⁷ He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.



MESSAGE **"Discipleship: Ministry Among the Weeds"**
Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

Amen!

HYMN

"Let Your Heart Be Broken," #315 v. 1-3



1. Let your heart be bro - ken For a world in need— Feed the mouths that
2. Here on earth ap - ply - ing Prin - ci - ples of love— Vis - i - ble ex -
3. Blest to be a bless - ing, Priv - i - leged to care, Chal - lenged by the
4. Add to your be - liev - ing Deeds that prove it true— Know - ing Christ as
5. Let your heart be ten - der And your vi - sion clear— See man - kind as



hun - ger, Soothe the wounds that bleed, Give the cup of wa - ter And the
pres - sion God still rules a - bove, Liv - ing il - lus - tra - tion Of the
need Ap - par - ent ev - 'ry - where, Where mankind is want - ing Fill the
Sav - ior, Make Him Mas - ter too: Fol - low in His foot - steps, Go where
God sees, Serve Him far and near; Let your heart be bro - ken By a



loaf of bread— Be the hands of Je - sus, Serv - ing in His stead.
Liv - ing Word To the minds of all who've Nev - er seen and heard.
va - cant place, Be the means thru which the Lord re - veals His grace.
He has trod, In the world's great trou - ble Risk your - self for God.
broth - er's pain, Share your rich re - sourc - es— Give and give a - gain.

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: Paul Allen, Nancy Bertnik, Jane Costello

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

"As the Grains of Wheat," #465, ELW



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in-to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

COMMUNION HYMN

"I Love to Tell the Story," #297



1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, Of Je - sus
2. I love to tell the sto - ry—'tis pleas - ant to re - peat What seems, each
3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best Seem hun - ger -

and His glo - ry, of Je - sus and His love; I love to tell the
time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet; I love to tell the
ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest; And when in scenes of

sto - ry be - cause I know 'tis true, It sat - is - fies my long - ings
sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard The mes - sage of sal - va - tion
glo - ry I sing the new, new song, 'Twill be the old, old sto - ry

Refrain

as noth - ing else can do.
from God's own ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry! 'Twill be my
that I have loved so long.

theme in glo - ry— To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.

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

"In Christ There Is No East or West," #285 v. 1-4



1. In Christ there is no East or West, In Him no South or North;
2. In Him shall true hearts ev - 'ry-where Their high com-mu-nion find;
3. Join hands then, broth-ers of the faith, What - e'er your race may be;
4. In Christ now meet both East and West; In Him meet South and North.



But one great fel - low - ship of love Through-out the whole wide earth.
His serv - ice is the gold - en cord Close bind - ing all man - kind.
Who serves my Fa - ther as a son Is sure - ly kin to me.
All, Christ-ly souls are one in Him Through-out the whole wide earth.

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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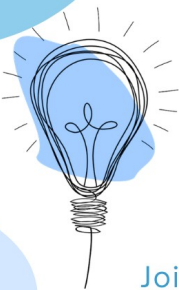
MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

Digging DEEPER

September 11th 6:00-8:30pm
September 12th 9:00am-2:00pm
Fellowship Hall - food provided!

Join us for this dynamic, two-day event led by Pastor Kurt and Kersten Stier where we'll discuss your questions about the Bible, Scripture, Lutheran Doctrine and Christianity.

All ages event! Scan this code to submit questions:



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. The current topic is "Resurrection of the Body."

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 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.

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 **July 28th**. 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. **Please note that we will not meet in July.** 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

Altar flowers are provided by John & Leah Kewenig in celebration of their 54th anniversary, and by Judy Fowler in loving memory of Ron.

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 19

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

MONDAY, July 20

n/a

TUESDAY, July 21

6:30 p.m. PPC Meeting

WEDNESDAY, July 22

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

THURSDAY, July 23

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

FRIDAY, July 24

n/a

SATURDAY, July 25

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

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

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 95
10:45: 43
Online: 12
Kids: 3
MSM: 2
HS: n/a
Insight: 24

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$373,886
YTD Giving Received: \$284,271
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$8,992

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

2 Corinthians 4:15-16

All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

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

