

# MESSIAH MESSENGER



## 2025

### Change is Good... You Go First!

Change, while sometimes difficult, is generally considered beneficial as it fosters personal growth, provides new opportunities and keeps life exciting. Embracing change can lead to new perspectives, greater community and possibly meeting new friends.

As I mentioned in my Temple Talk at the April 27<sup>th</sup> services, we are changing to two services on Sundays for the summer, beginning May 25<sup>th</sup>. The specifics are as follows:

- The first service will be at 8:30 a.m. and will be a traditional service.
- The second service will be at 10:00 a.m. and will be family praise & worship.
- Any Sunday School during the summer will take place during the 10:00 a.m. service.
- Communion will take place at every service at 8:30 a.m. and twice a month at the 10:00 a.m. service.

We will be looking for input on these services to not only to improve them, but also to find out if the congregation enjoys them. If we get enough positive feedback, we may look to continue this format beyond the summer.

So, please give these new service times a chance and let us know if there is something you like or do not like about these times. We are all going to get out of our comfort zone and experience something new and hopefully grow in the process. Remember, growth is the goal, not comfort.

*Brian Wielbik*, Congregational President, [president@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:president@mlcjoliet.org)



**MESSIAH  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**SUMMER  
WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**

**NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES FOR SUMMER  
EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

<b>8:30 A.M.</b>
<b>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP</b>
<b>10:00 A.M.</b>
<b>FAMILY PRAISE &amp; WORSHIP</b>



living|alternatives  
pregnancy resource center

## Support PRC's 2025 Walk!

**Saturday, May 17 at 9 a.m.**

**Judson Church, 2800 Black Road**

**Sign up to join the Messiah Lutheran Team!**

**Collect donations!**

*If you cannot walk, sponsor a walker!*



Dear Messiah Family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, love and support over the years, especially the last two. Your cards and prayers always lifted us up during our difficult journey with cancer and your encouragement gave us hope!

-The Fowler and Castillo Families



Dear Messiah Family,

Thank you for your prayers and cards for my knee surgery three weeks ago. Your thoughtfulness has meant a lot to me. I know your prayers have been answered both during the surgery process and through the ups and downs of recovery so far. I feel so blessed and grateful to have the love and support of my church family.

-Lynn Bond



## FOR THE LADIES OF MESSIAH

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Our next session of **Women's Bible Study** starts on Wednesday, **June 11<sup>th</sup>**, 6-8 p.m. We'll walk through "My Personal Petitions Prayer Journal" by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. *Prayer is personal to God. Shouldn't it be personal to you?*



### **FIESTA LUNCHEON**

We hope to see you at the Women's Fiesta Luncheon on **May 4<sup>th</sup>**!

## **JOLET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION**

You and your friends are invited to Joliet Christian Women's upcoming luncheon in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, **May 21<sup>st</sup>**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$20.00 inclusive. We'll feature a style show from Breanna Lynn's Dress Shop. Speaker Delores Leisner from Racine, WI will share how she found identity and purpose.

**RSVP by May 14<sup>th</sup>** by contacting Barb at 815-439-2076  
or [mrs.brutus56@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.brutus56@gmail.com), or call Sonya at 815-727-1626.  
Like them on Facebook at "Joliet IL Christian Women's Connection."  
<https://www.stonecroft.org/>

## **FOR MOMS WITH LITTLE ONES**

### **MOMCO**

MOMCo plans to return in the fall on Friday mornings twice a month. Keep an eye out for details!

### **STROLLER FIT MOM'S CLUB**

Attention moms with stroller-aged children! Bring your littles with you in the stroller for an opportunity to socialize & GET EXERCISE with other like-minded moms! We meet on alternating Friday mornings at the church from 9:30-10:30 and walk outdoors, weather permitting. For our current schedule, please reach out to Season Lawler at [seasonsummer4@aol.com](mailto:seasonsummer4@aol.com).



## **MESSIAH KIDZ CLUB** (K-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# Kids Summer Programs

Training A Generation To Know God

**VBS Wonder Junction**  
6/23-6/27 9-noon  
\$25 VBS Regular Registration

**National Bible Bee**  
6/11/25-8/13/25  
Wednesday's 5-6pm

**Sunday School**  
7/6-8/3

**Messiah Kids Wednesday**  
6/4-7/16  
from 6-8pm

Visit Us At : [www.mlcjoliet.org](http://www.mlcjoliet.org)



Parents of children (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) can join the **Messiah Kids** group on the Remind app by texting the code mlcmk to 81010, or by going to:

<https://www.remind.com/join/mlcmk>

It will be used to send reminders and notifications about Sunday School and events.

### **BIBLE BEE**

We are excited to once again host the **National Bible Bee** at Messiah! We'll meet on Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m., **June 11<sup>th</sup>** through August 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Children's Choir wrapped up the season with their final performance on **April 27<sup>th</sup>**. See you in the fall!

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DOLLAR CHALLENGE**

Please help support our many children's ministries through a Dollar Challenge contribution! Your donation will help offset the expense of kids' events & programs like VBS, and sponsor needed upgrades to their upper level space. The Challenge will go from **May 4<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**.

Envelopes will be available in the Narthex or you may follow this link:



### **J-CHURCH!**

Year around fun for Messiah youth of all ages (kids, tweens & teens) the **third Sunday of each month** at 11:00 in the FLC.

### **KID'S CLUBHOUSE WORK WEEKS**

Our upper level kid's clubhouse will be updated this summer with work weeks June 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. This will include cleaning walls, replacing whiteboards, organizing, decorating, etc. Instructions will be posted in the classrooms, so volunteers can come any time. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. See Leslie for scheduling questions.



### **MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)**

MKW will kickoff our summer program on Wednesday, **June 4<sup>th</sup>** from 6-8 p.m. and will continue through July 16<sup>th</sup>. Contact Beth Hohisel [bhohisel@hotmail.com](mailto:bhohisel@hotmail.com) or (815) 735-7897 for more info.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL - Field Day is May 18<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday School is upstairs in our youth classrooms on Sunday mornings at 9:30. We'll finish our program year on Field Day, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Summer Sunday School will kickoff on **July 6<sup>th</sup>** and go through August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - June 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>**, see back cover for the registration link!

For more info on ministries for kids pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at [childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org) or Kimber Drummond, Christian Ed. Director, at [christianed@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:christianed@mlcjoliet.org).



# MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6<sup>TH</sup>–12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)



The poster features a red cross logo with 'MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES' text, a 'MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH' logo with fireworks, and a 'SUMMER EVENTS' graphic with sunglasses and the text 'WHAT'S COMING UP FOR 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS!'. A bonfire icon is on the left and a pool icon is on the right.

- MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> WORSHIP NIGHT
- MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SUMMER PARTY
- JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> BONFIRE & WORSHIP
- JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> VBS VOLUNTEER POOL PARTY
- JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> BONFIRE
- AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup> POOL PARTY
- AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup> BONFIRE



Be sure to sign up for **Messiah Student Ministries** on the Remind app to keep up-to-date on upcoming events. Use this link:

<https://www.remind.com/join/messiahst>

or use class code @messiahst within the app.

## **BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)**

- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday Bible Study wrapped up for the program year on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- High schoolers will continue to meet throughout the summer in Classroom #101.

## **H2H (Head2Heart/Confirmation) & FAM (Friends and Mentors)**

Our summer program, in a combined format for all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, will kickoff on Wednesday, **May 28<sup>th</sup>** at 6 p.m. in the FLC.

**For more info on ministries for students 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at [stumin@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:stumin@mlcjoliet.org).**

# **OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED!**

## **ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY**

We meet in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 9:30. Insight's last session is on **May 18<sup>th</sup>**. Dates for summer to follow soon! We'd love to have you join us!



## **ALTAR FLOWERS - SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX**

Our Altar flowers sign up chart is on the Connect Wall in the Narthex (outside the Fireside Room). If you'd like to help beautify our Sanctuary and sponsor Altar flowers in honor of a special occasion or to memorialize someone important in your life, please sign up. Arrangements are \$25 each.

## **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 p.m. on the second Monday of each month.

Food donations are also needed. Sign up in the Narthex. Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, **May 12<sup>th</sup>**.

## **FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS**

Faith & Body meets on Thursday mornings from 9-10 (September-May). All are welcome! This is a great way to keep up your healthy routine for 2025! Please register here:

<https://messiahlutheranchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2426227>

## **FIRESIDE CHATS**



Want to know more about the people behind the scenes at Messiah? Well, here it is! We've created a series of podcasts interviewing staff members and volunteers which may be found on our website at: <https://www.mlcjoliet.org/fireside-chats>. Next season, we will be interviewing some of our board members and having their voices heard as to what they hope to accomplish in their time as leaders at Messiah!

## **LIL LOVES MINISTRY**

Lil Loves at Messiah aims to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the area by providing **FREE** assistance with diapers and much needed baby supplies. Lil Loves is available on a by-appointment basis, and those interested can sign up on our website.



Lil Loves thanks you for your donations of:

*\*Diapers and Pull-ups      \*Wipes      \*Baby Wash/Shampoo      \*Baby Lotion  
\*Toiletry items for the moms such as deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, etc.*



Trial-sized toiletry items are especially appreciated, rather than full-sized. If you'd like to donate, please place your items in the black bin in the Narthex. Our Lil Loves ministry has helped with **over 20** care packages year-to-date! Thanks to your loving generosity!

**PLEASE NOTE LIL LOVES IS NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT  
BABY FORMULA OR USED CLOTHING.**

These items are happily accepted at the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center. You may deliver them to: 903 Infantry Dr., Suite 600, in Joliet.

## **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

If you would like to donate to help those affected by the earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand, please visit the LWR website at [lwr.org/Myanmar](http://lwr.org/Myanmar).

## **MEMORY BEARS**

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets here at the church from 9 a.m.-noon once a month (sometimes twice!) to make stuffed teddy bears out of the clothing of people who have passed away, to comfort the grieving. We would love to have you join us! We have jobs that do not require sewing. Text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or email [regency118@comcast.net](mailto:regency118@comcast.net) for more info. Our next meeting is Tuesday, **May 27<sup>th</sup>**.

## **MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)**

Men, mark your calendars... Our men's Bible Study meets the second and fourth Tuesday evening every month, year around! Email Mike Brown at [gonzopal2017@cheerful.com](mailto:gonzopal2017@cheerful.com) for more info.

## **MICRO PANTRY**

Did you know that Messiah has a food pantry? This ministry is 100% donation-driven, and is maintained by the Evangelism Board. You can support this ministry through prayer, and through monetary and/or nonperishable food donations. Please leave your donations in the bin in the Narthex.

**EXPIRED ITEMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## **MLC OFFICE HOURS**

The office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and evenings are by appointment.



Our final **OWLS** luncheon for the season is on **May 13<sup>th</sup>**. Our speaker, Genevieve Shimkus, RN, BSN from Silver Cross Hospital, will talk about ways to prevent stroke and what to watch for.



### **PRAYER CHAIN**

Messiah uses an email-based (not in-person) 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 confidential and anonymous as much as possible. Text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or email [regency118@comcast.net](mailto:regency118@comcast.net) for more info.

### **PRAYER TEAM**

Our in-person Prayer Team meets Thursday mornings at 10:15 in the Fireside Room for approximately one hour, to pray together over our prayer request list. For more info text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or by email to [regency118@comcast.net](mailto:regency118@comcast.net), or Beth Hohisel at [bhohisel@hotmail.com](mailto:bhohisel@hotmail.com).

### **PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

Just a friendly reminder that **Sunday bulletin** material must be received in the front office by the end of the day each Tuesday. Material for the **newsletter** is due the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



### **QUILTERS**

Messiah Quilters meets the third Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting (bonus day!) is on **May 6<sup>th</sup>** along with our regularly scheduled meeting on **May 20<sup>th</sup>**! 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 to 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 put a quilt top together. Contact Kathy Mueller (815) 953-6601 at [scpbklane@aol.com](mailto:scpbklane@aol.com) for more information or any questions you may have.

### **We are in need of clean sheets**

any size (no stains or holes) to be used as backs for our quilts.  
You may drop them off in the basket provided in the Narthex.  
Thank you!

### **SANCTUARY CHOIR**



Our Sanctuary Choir sings on Sunday mornings at the 9:30 service (September-May). When the Children's Choir is performing, we sing at the 8:00 service. Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:45. We are always looking for new members! For more information please contact Herb Alexander, Sanctuary Choir Director, at [halex12240@gmail.com](mailto:halex12240@gmail.com).

## **STAY-N-PLAY**

Stay-N-Play, our **FREE** weekly play group for kids five and under along with their parent/guardian, meets Tuesday mornings (September-May) in the FLC from 9:30-11! **May 13<sup>th</sup>** will be our final playdate before we break for summer. Please like our Facebook page (MLC Stay-n-Play Playgroup) for additional information and share with your friends and neighbors!



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

See pages 2-3 for upcoming events for the ladies of Messiah!



# ONLINE *giving*

Two convenient ways to give online:

- 1) On our website at [www.mlcjoliet.org/give](http://www.mlcjoliet.org/give).
- 2) Church Center app on your phone or tablet,  
or scan the QR code in the pews,  
bulletin or newsletter.



*Fast Simple Secure*

A basket has been provided in the Narthex  
if you wish to drop off  
**prayers, cards and notes**  
for Pastor Kurt  
and the Hoover Family

# VIRTUAL WORSHIP AND SUNDAY BULLETINS

**Can't make it to church this week?** The 9:30 a.m. service is live-streamed online on our Facebook and YouTube pages. Links to both are at [mlcjoliet.org/worship](http://mlcjoliet.org/worship) (please scroll to the bottom of the page). You can also view or print the bulletin, if you'd like to follow along!



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



- 3 - James & Season Lawler
- 9 - Steve & Cindy McPhail
- 12 - Brian & Lynda Wielbik
- 15 - Bill & Sherri Unyi
- 18 - Doug & Beth Hohisel
- 23 - Randy & Laurel Ling
- 28 - Tom & Lynn Bond  
Lou & Kim Ciuffini
- 29 - Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer



- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 - Anne Ogle         | 20 - Kirk Brandmire      |
| 3 - Terry McClintock  | Gavin Hester             |
| 5 - Jane Costello     | Doug Hohisel             |
| Evie Hester           | Ken Schroth              |
| 6 - Dean Cariveau     | 21 - Alison Bogdan-Capps |
| Cindi Souza           | Nate Magrini             |
| 7 - Stan Buhr         | 22 - John Wiley          |
| Ben Knudsen-Feehan    | 23 - Mason Luebbing      |
| 8 - Kathy Hanouw      | 25 - Josh Johnke         |
| Alex Pribnow          | Jerry Kavich             |
| 9 - Sandy Anderson    | Jackson Ogle             |
| 10 - Marlene Petersen | 27 - Mary Etta Buhr      |
| 12 - Debra Waller     | Cynthia Nevsimal         |
| Bill Wilkinson        | 28 - Madelyn Enix        |
| 15 - Dan Bajt         |                          |
| Kevin Snider          |                          |
| 18 - Audrey Endebak   |                          |
| Diane Hedden          |                          |

# MAY SERVERS

## **Counters**

05/04/25 Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock,  
Kirk Brandmire  
05/11/25 Judy Fowler, Kirk Brandmire  
05/18/25 Deb Dole, Zach Hoelscher  
05/25/25 Ken Skinner, Dan Stukel

## **Ushers 8:00**

05/04/25 Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel  
05/11/25 Paul Allen, Don Cyborski  
05/18/25 Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller

## **Ushers 9:30**

05/04/25 Bill Unyi, needed  
05/11/25 Jeff Holmes, Alan Costello  
05/18/25 Roger Gordon, Josh Johnke

## **Ushers 11:00**

05/04/25 Gary Phillips, needed  
05/11/25 Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer  
05/18/25 Gary Phillips, needed

## **Communion Assistants 8:00**

05/04/25 Pat Anderson, Bev Korby,  
Joy McClintock, Nancy Bertnik  
05/11/25 needed  
05/18/25 Pat Anderson, Nancy Bertnik,  
Julie Bajt, Joy McClintock

## **Communion Assistants 9:30**

05/04/25 needed  
05/18/25 needed

## **Communion Assistants 11:00**

05/04/25 needed  
05/18/25 needed

## **Readers 8:00**

05/04/25 Greg Dole  
05/11/25 Paul Allen  
05/18/25 Deb Dole

## **Readers 9:30**

05/04/25 Angie Mitchka  
05/11/25 needed  
05/18/25 Jane Costello

## **Readers 11:00**

05/04/25 Doug Potts  
05/11/25 Kate Richmond  
05/18/25 Tom Bond

## **Greeters 8:00**

05/04/25 Kirk Brandmire, needed  
05/11/25 Bev Korby, Wayne Lauffer  
05/18/25 Nancy Bertnik, needed

## **Greeters 9:30**

05/04/25 two needed  
05/11/25 Darryl & Cindi Souza  
05/18/25 Beth Hohisel, needed

## **Greeters 11:00**

05/04/25 needed  
05/11/25 needed  
05/18/25 needed

## **NEW SERVICE TIMES EFFECTIVE MAY 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Weekend 8:30 & 10:00**

### **Ushers:**

Craig Stone, Don Cyborski (8:30)  
Jeff Holmes, Darryl Hoelscher (10:00)

### **Greeters:**

needed for 8:30  
Darryl & Cindi Souza (10:00)

### **Readers:**

Kate Richmond (8:30)  
Kimber Drummond (10:00)

### **Communion Assistants:**

needed for 8:30

May 26<sup>th</sup>





40 Houbolt Rd.  
Joliet, IL 60431  
(815) 741-4488

## VBS at Messiah JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>!



More information  
and registration  
here:



Camp t-shirt included with all registrations completed by May 26<sup>th</sup>!  
Questions? Email [vbs@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:vbs@mlcjoliet.org).

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover  
Associate Pastor: vacant  
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi  
Building Liaison Kate Richmond  
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler  
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland  
Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann  
[info@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:info@mlcjoliet.org)

Organist Rose Ann Sochan  
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander  
Tech Coordinator Nikolai Stier  
Youth Director Kersten Stier  
Worship Coordinator Justin Brown  
Worship Intern Faye Werner  
815-741-4488