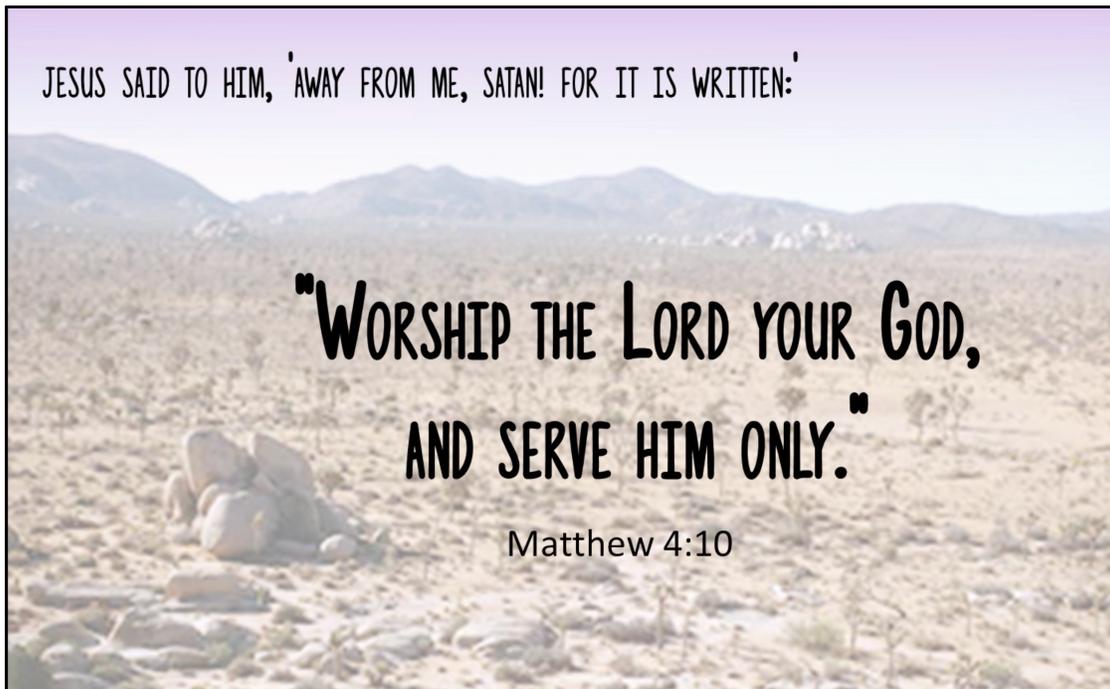




**Family Praise & Worship**  
**February 22, 2026**  
**10:45 a.m.**



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

40 Houbolt Rd.  
Joliet, IL 60431

815.741.4488  
[www.mlcjoliet.org](http://www.mlcjoliet.org)

# WORSHIP TODAY

**Call To Worship**

**Welcome**

**Children's Choir**

"Do Not Fear," led by Season Lawler

**Worship Through Songs**

**Worship Through Giving**

**Children's Message**

Leslie McFarland

**Worship Through Hearing God's Word**

**Message**

**"Bold Prayer: Martyr"**

Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

**Worship Through Song**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness**

**Communion**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Closing Song**

**FIRST LESSON, Acts 9:1-22 (ESV)**

Reader: Kate Richmond

<sup>1</sup> But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the

city, and you will be told what you are to do.”<sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.<sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.<sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,<sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”<sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.”<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.<sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”<sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;<sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.<sup>20</sup> And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”<sup>21</sup> And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?”<sup>22</sup> But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

## **SECOND LESSON, Matthew 4:8-9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.<sup>9</sup> And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”



**MESSIAH**  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP**

Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Worship 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

on

Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

Easter Sunday  
April 5<sup>th</sup>, breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m.!  
Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

**Sign up in  
the  
Narthex.**

# *Celebration Sunday at Messiah*

## **PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29**



We'll celebrate with a combined worship service  
at 10 a.m. in the Family Life Center  
and our annual Youth Parade.



You're invited to worship with us this

# *Easter*

04/02 ~ Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.  
04/03 ~ Good Friday Tenebrae Service  
& Choir Cantata 7:00 p.m.  
04/05 ~ Easter Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Easter breakfast is served  
beginning at 7:30!



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## **NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

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

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings during Education Hour.

### **COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME**



Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 9:40 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!

### **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 - WILL YOU HELP SAVE OUR PARTNERSHIP?**

For 35 years Messiah has prepared & served dinner once a month to those less fortunate at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Our long-time coordinator has stepped down and we are looking for a volunteer (or two) willing to take the baton. This would entail coordinating volunteers & food donations, light shopping, and communicating with Daybreak staff as needed. **Please reach out to the front office for more information.**



### **EASTER LILIES**

We are now collecting Easter lily orders with a deadline of March 11<sup>th</sup>. Please drop your completed order form and payment in the offering plate. Order forms may be found on the Ushers' Table in the Narthex.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. next meeting is **February 24<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

### **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 **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. 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.



### **PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

Items for the bulletin are due by the end of the day each Tuesday, and newsletter material is due the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### **QUILTERS**

Messiah Quilters meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month 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!

*Quilters continued...* Contact Kathy Mueller at (815) 953-6601 or [scpbklane@aol.com](mailto:scpbklane@aol.com) for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **March 17<sup>th</sup>**!

### **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!

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

Women's Bible Study is planning to begin a new series after Easter. Details coming soon. For more information please reach out to Sherri Unyi or Laurel Ling.

### **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 during Education Hour.

## **MESSIAH KIDS** (pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grades)

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Our Children's Choir will perform during the 10:45 service on February 22, March 22, and April 26. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.



### **EASTER EGG HUNT & CANDY DONATIONS**

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is March 28<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. We'll start at 1 with a Story Walk in the FLC, and the hunt will begin at 2 outdoors (weather permitting). We are asking for your **donations of unopened candy**. There is a collection basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

### **J-CHURCH**

J-Church is the third Sunday of every month (except December) at 10:45 in the FLC.

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

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club!

### **MILE MARKERS**

- First Communion (4<sup>th</sup> grade) March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, Communion April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Registration is open** in the Church Center app or here:



### **NERF BATTLE**



Dudes (5 and up), you're invited to an epic showdown! Bring your partner and NERF gun and we will provide the ammo and safety gear! We will have target practice, capture the flag, zombie freeze and prizes and treats. The battle will take place on Saturday, **March 14<sup>th</sup>** from 1-3 p.m. in the FLC.

**Registration is open** in the Church Center app or here:



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

**Help Wanted!** Our Christian Education team is looking for substitute teachers for Sunday School during Education Hour. Must be high school age or older. Please inquire with Leslie McFarland or Megan Kuhn.

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 Megan Kuhn, Christian Ed. Director, at [christianed@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:christianed@mlcjoliet.org).

## MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders runs on Wednesdays evenings from 6-8.

### MAFIA NIGHT this week!

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders - This coming Friday, **February 27<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30-10 p.m. Bring \$5 if you'd like to join us for pizza! Invite friends!

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).



## Coffee Shop Fundraiser

sponsored by our  
2026 Chicago Mission Trip Team

Please support our 2026 Mission Trip Team on Sundays, March 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall as they brew up delicious hot/cold brewed and iced coffees (with special flavors) for your enjoyment!



## **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, February 22**

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

#### **MONDAY, February 23**

n/a

#### **TUESDAY, February 24**

9 a.m. Stay-N-Play, Memory Bears

#### **WEDNESDAY, February 25**

5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper  
6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW  
7 p.m. Worship

#### **THURSDAY, February 26**

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

#### **FRIDAY, February 27**

6:30 p.m. Mafia Night

#### **SATURDAY, February 28**

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

#### **SUNDAY, March 1**

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

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **LAST WEEK:**

8:30: 87  
10:45: 47  
K-5<sup>th</sup>: 10  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: 4  
High School: 3  
Ignite: 1  
Insight: 24  
Online: 21

### **2026 GIVING**

Operating Budget: \$694,359  
YTD Operating Budget: \$93,471  
YTD Giving Received: \$71,079  
Needed Each Week: \$13,353  
Received Last Week: \$6,087

### **STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK**

#### **Psalm 103:2-5**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget  
not all his benefits, who forgives all  
your iniquity, who heals all your  
diseases, who redeems your life from  
the pit, who crowns you with  
steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed  
like the eagle's.

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

