

**MESSIAH**  
L U T H E R A N  
† C H U R C H ♡

**April 14, 2024**  
**8:00 & 9:30 am**

*Third Sunday of Easter*



Pastor Kurt Hoover  
Pastor David Stier  
Organist Rose Ann Sochan  
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander

40 Houbolt Rd.  
Joliet, IL 60431

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

# Welcome To Messiah Lutheran Church

April 14, 2024  
8:00 & 9:30 am

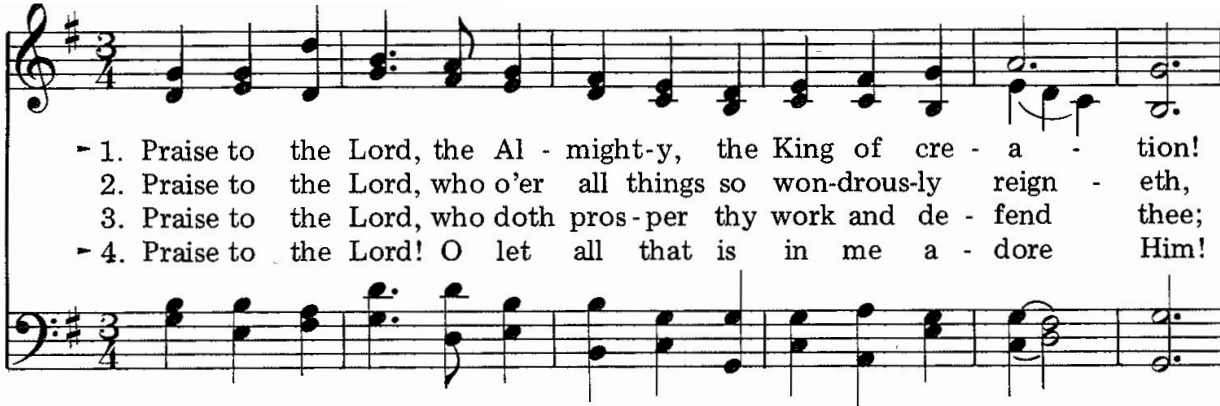
Enter *Reverently*, Worship *Joyfully*, Live *Faithfully*

## PRELUDE

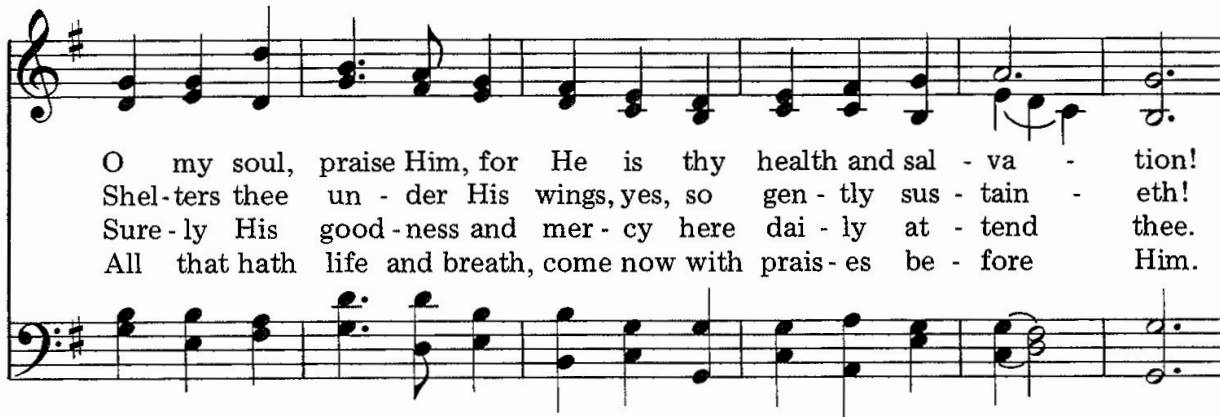
Rose Ann Sochan

## OPENING HYMN

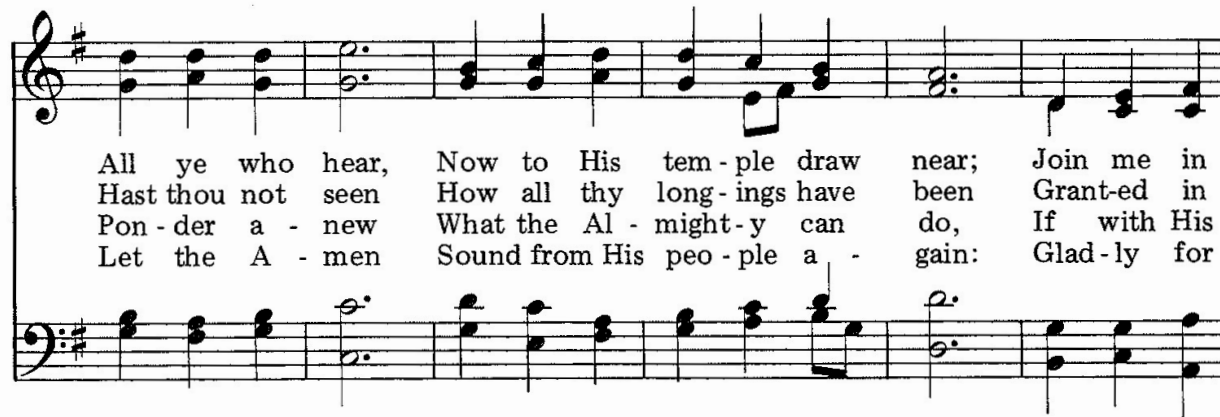
"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty", #8



- 1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might-y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign - eth,  
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend thee;  
- 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore Him!



O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!  
Shel-ters thee un - der His wings, yes, so gen - tly sus - tain - eth!  
Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.  
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore Him.



All ye who hear, Now to His tem - ple draw near; Join me in  
Hast thou not seen How all thy long - ings have been Grant - ed in  
Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can do, If with His  
Let the A - men Sound from His peo - ple a - gain: Glad - ly for

Optional transition to "Praise the Lord!"



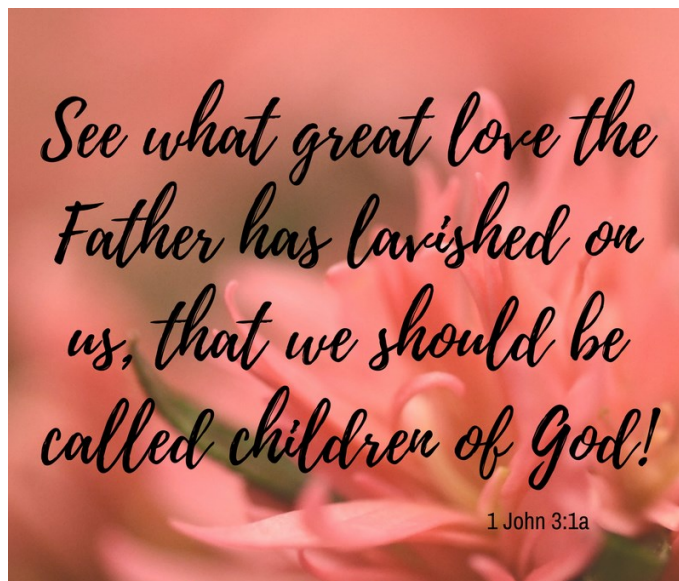
glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
what He or - dain - eth?  
love He be - friend thee.  
aye we a - dore Him. A - men. Him.

### EMPTY LITANY ADAPTED FROM ISAIAH 45 (ESV)

- Leader: The Lord says, "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!"  
**All: For He is God, and there is no other.**  
Leader: Only in the Lord, it shall be said of Him,  
**All: are righteousness and strength;**  
Leader: to him shall come and be humbled  
**All: all who were incensed against him.**  
Leader: In the Lord all the offspring of the church  
**All: shall be justified and shall glory.**  
Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
**All: Amen.**

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM (9:30)



HYMN OF PRAISE

"My Faith Has Found a Resting Place", #405

1. My faith has found a rest - ing place—Not in de - vice or creed:  
 2. E - nough for me that Je - sus saves—This ends my fear and doubt;  
 3. My heart is lean - ing on the Word—The writ - ten Word of God:  
 4. My great Phy - si - cian heals the sick— The lost He came to save;

I trust the Ev - er - liv - ing One— His wounds for me shall plead.  
 A sin - ful soul I come to Him— He'll nev - er cast me out.  
 Sal - va - tion by my Sav - ior's name— Sal - va - tion thru His blood.  
 For me His pre - cious blood He shed— For me His life He gave.

*Refrain*

I need no oth - er ar - gu - ment, I need no oth - er plea; It

is e - nough that Je - sus died, And that He died for me.



## HYMN OF PRAISE

"Spirit of the Living God", #247 (3X)  
*Last time without accompaniment.*

Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Spir - it of the

Liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,

use me. Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

## 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.

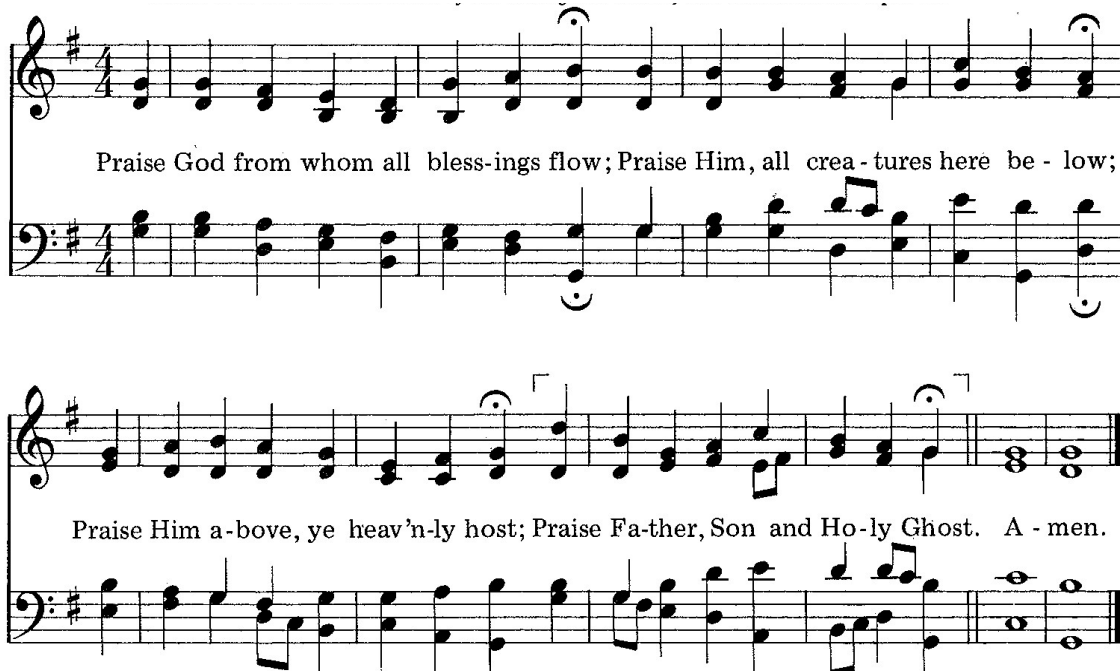
## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (8:00)

### THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

### OUR RESPONSE



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.

### OUR OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

**Acts 3:11-21 (ESV)**

Readers: Randy Ling (8:00), Jeff Holmes (9:30)

<sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

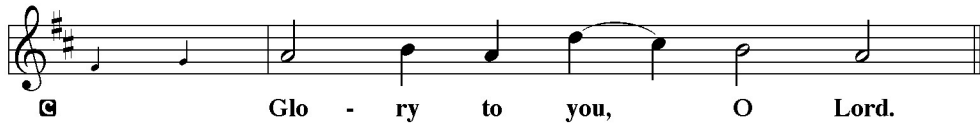
## OUR EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 3:1-3

<sup>1</sup> See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

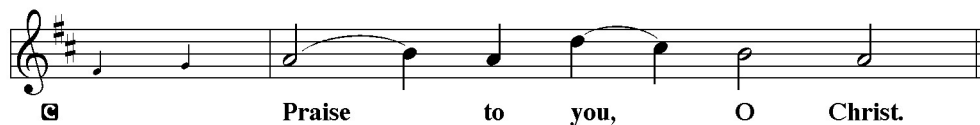
## OUR GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:36-49



<sup>36</sup> As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" <sup>37</sup> But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" <sup>39</sup> See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate before them.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."



## MESSAGE

**"Empty 2: Opened" by Pastor Kurt Hoover**

(Copies of this sermon and others can be found in the Narthex.)

HYMN

"Open My Eyes, That I May See", #381



1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see Glimp - ses of truth Thou hast for me;
2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear Voic - es of truth Thou send - est clear;
3. O - pen my mouth, and let it bear Glad - ly the warm truth ev - 'ry - where;



Place in my hands the won - der - ful key, That shall un - clasp and set me free.  
And while the wave - notes fall on my ear, Ev - 'ry - thing false will dis - ap - pear.  
O - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare Love with Thy chil - dren thus to share.



Si - lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read - y, my God, Thy will to see;



O - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
O - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine! A - men.



## 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

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:00)

Servers: Jane Stukel, Beverly Korby

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION (8:00)

### 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 (8:00)

"Lamb of God"



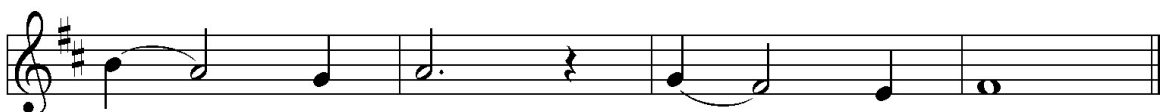
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 HYMNS (8:00)**

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today", #217  
"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation", #276

**COMMUNION BLESSING (8:00)**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (8:00)**

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.

**THE BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN**

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

☐ *Refrain - Unison*

Musical notation for the first part of the hymn, featuring a treble and bass clef in 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ pro - claim, Till"

Musical notation for the second part of the hymn, featuring a treble and bass clef in 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "all the world a - dore His sa - cred name." The piece ends with a "Fine" marking.

*Parts Optional*

Musical notation for the optional parts of the hymn, featuring a treble and bass clef in 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, 2. Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign, 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on this glo - rious Tree, 4. Set up Thy throne, that earth's de - spair may cease 5. For Thy blest Cross which doth for all a - tone,"



*Return to Refrain*

Our King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.  
 As Thou hast prom - ised, draw men un - to Thee.  
 Be - neath the shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.  
 Cre - a - tion's prais - es rise be - fore Thy throne.

**POSTLUDE**

Rose Ann Sochan

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

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2008 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
 Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #35178., CCLI License No. 854341



## 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 it now to connect with MLC:



## ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is an easy way to give to MLC, and there are three ways to do it:

- 1) Go to this link: [churchcenter.com/giving](http://churchcenter.com/giving)
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.

## NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

### PASTOR KURT'S SABBATICAL

The Lay Ministry Board has approved Pastor Kurt's scheduled sabbatical. He will be gone for an eight-week sabbatical from May 20 to July 14. Pastor Dave will provide pastoral support during this time. The intention of the sabbatical program is to provide an extended time of personal study and reflection to enhance the ministry here at Messiah Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please contact any Lay Ministry Board member or Brian Wielbik, Congregational President.

### BLOOD DRIVE AT MESSIAH: Donors still needed

We will have a Blood Drive on **April 21** from 9 am - 1 pm, in the FLC.

Register here:



### MICRO FOOD PANTRY

Did you know that Messiah has a food pantry? It is housed in the hallway closet across from the church office. This ministry is 100% donation driven and is maintained by the Evangelism Board. You can support this ministry through prayer and through food or monetary donations.

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

Hey guys - Need a break from the hassle of life? Join us as we spend an hour and a half in God's Word. Add your voice to the conversation. No judgment. No anxiety. No stress. Just men enjoying the fellowship of other men in the presence of God. Bring your Bible and your questions/comments and join us every 2nd & 4th Tuesday from 6:30-8pm. Contact Mike Brown via email at [evangelism@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:evangelism@mlcjoliet.org) for more info.

### 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 in the Narthex. Arrangements are \$25 each.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY DINNERS

Wednesday Night Family Dinners (5:30) will continue through **April 17**.

### **OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)**

OWLS is for active retirees who enjoy participating in activities such as crafts, listening to speakers, food, fellowship, and more! We hold a monthly luncheon on the second Tuesday in Fellowship Hall, from noon to 2 pm. Our final event for this season is **May 14**, and we will celebrate with a PICNIC-style menu of burgers and hotdogs, along with all the fixins! Be sure to sign up in the Narthex to bring a salad, side or dessert.

### **NAPERVOICE SPRING CONCERT**

Napervoice will present "Wonderful World: Music from Six Continents" on Sunday, **April 21** at 4 pm, at Grace Methodist Church in Naperville. Go to [napervoice.org](http://napervoice.org) to order tickets, or scan the QR code on the Community Board in the Narthex. Please be sure to use Herb Alexander's name so he receives credit for your ticket sale!

### **MEMORY BEARS**

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets here at the church from 9 am-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, as well as jobs that do. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, **April 23**. Contact Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or by email to [regency118@comcast.net](mailto:regency118@comcast.net).

### **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. You can make a difference through the gift of your prayers. Contact Cindi Souza at [regency118@comcast.net](mailto:regency118@comcast.net) or Pastor Dave Stier at [pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org) to become a partner.

### **FAITH & BODY CHALLENGE GROUP (Thursdays 9 - 10 am)**

The Faith & Body Group meets on Thursdays mornings, September through May, in the Family Life Center (FLC) from 9 – 10 am for walking, stretching and faith-building time. There is no cost, and you are welcome to bring friends! Please register on the Messiah website under Faith & Body. Contact Sherri at (815) 741-4488 or email [bookkeeper@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:bookkeeper@mlcjoliet.org) for more information.

### **MESSIAH QUILTERS**

The next Messiah Quilting Day will be Tuesday, **April 16** from 9 am – 2 pm. 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 put a quilt top together. If you want to plan ahead, our quilting days for May will be Tuesday, May 7 and Tuesday, May 21.

Contact Kathy Mueller (815) 953-6601 at [scpbklane@aol.com](mailto:scpbklane@aol.com) for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **April 16!**

## **INSIGHT" ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Sundays at 9:30 am)**

Tom Bond and Kenyon Gjerde are currently leading the group in a new study series from "Sermon on the Mount."

## **SING PRAISE LIFE GROUP**

Messiah's newest Life Group, Sing Praise, kicked off yesterday! Sing Praise is a space where individuals come together to worship in a blended style, combining contemporary and traditional elements to create a dynamic and uplifting atmosphere. Whether you love to sing, play an instrument, or simply want to soak in the presence of God, you'll find a home here. All are welcome, regardless of background or experience level. Our next meeting is on **April 27** at 6:30 in the FLC. For more info, reach out to Justin Brown at [worship@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:worship@mlcjoliet.org).

## **MOPS**

Calling all moms from pregnancy onward to join a supportive community of moms! Meetings take place every-other Friday (Sept.-May) at 9:15 am. The next meeting is **April 19**. Each meeting has a different topic related to parenting. Childcare is provided! We get to know each other more, watch a video from a MOPS speaker, have a discussion, and end with devotion. Contact Amy at [amy12miller@gmail.com](mailto:amy12miller@gmail.com) with any questions.

## **ECLIPSE GLASSES COLLECTION**

Don't throw away your eclipse glasses! There is a collection basket in the entryway outside the front office - Please donate your undamaged glasses, and they will be sent to those less fortunate in Latin America so they may **safely** view their upcoming eclipse!

## **MESSIAH KIDS**

### **PRE-K THROUGH 5th GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 9:30 am)**

Make sure to bring your children to Sunday school, upstairs in our youth classrooms, on Sunday mornings.

### **MESSIAH KIDS SUNDAYS AT 11**

We encourage all kids pre-k thru 5th grade to be a part of Messiah Kids' at 11 am after the children's message, in the Family Life Center (FLC). Kids will experience God during this time with weekly themes, songs, short movie clips, games and prizes. All are encouraged to attend.


### **STAY N PLAY (Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30)**

Stay N Play is a weekly playgroup for children five and younger that meets in the Family Life Center (FLC) on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30. This group is open to church members and to the community. Coffee is provided (for the adults, of course!). Parents/caregivers must stay and keep an eye on their children. No registration is needed - We'd love to have you join us!

## **MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (Wednesdays at 6:30 pm)**

Have your K-5th grader join us for a great time on Wednesday evenings. It's a fun night of worship, lessons, games, crafts, and connection with the Bible and friends! **Our last night is April 17.** Watch for info on our new Summer MKW! Questions? Contact Beth Hohisel [bhohisel@hotmail.com](mailto:bhohisel@hotmail.com) or (815) 735-7897.

## **HEAD TO HEART WORKSHOP FOR 5th GRADE+**

Owning my Faith (5th grade +) Parent(s)/guardian(s) who attend this evening workshop will receive an introduction to MLC's Confirmation Program. The objective of this time is to outline expectations of participation for both parents and students as well as create a parents' network of support by sharing experiences of raising pre-teens in today's world. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, **April 24. Join us for pizza at 6 pm, and the workshop starts at 6:30.** While parents and pastors meet, students get to have fun with the current H2H group as they transition from the H2H program to our awesome summer youth ministry. More info on our website: 

## **MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES**

### **S.A.L.T. (Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 pm)**

S.A.L.T. is a time for high school students to interact with their faith.

### **HEAD2HEART (Wednesdays from 6:15 to 8 pm)**

HEY MIDDLE SCHOOLERS! Come join us for nights of instruction and fun as we teach Luther's catechism and play games! Please note that we will be on break for summer - our **final meeting is April 24.**

### **HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY (Sundays at 9:30 am)**

HEY HIGH SCHOOLERS! Perhaps you are old enough to start reading fairy tales again? Join us for Sunday Bible Time at 9:30 in classroom 204 upstairs. We will journey into Narnia, get to know the fictional characters, and connect them with the truth of Jesus.

### **SUMMER CAMP AT LITTLE GALILEE**

Summer Camp for high schoolers is June 23-28, and July 7-12 for students entering 6-9th grades this fall. Registration is open, and the cost will increase after June 1.

Register at <https://littlegalilee.org/registration>  
or reach out to Kate Richmond for more info at [stumin@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:stumin@mlcjoliet.org).

### **YOUTH CHOIR - IMPORTANT DATES**

This month the Youth Choir will have two rehearsals, April 14 & 21.

We will perform on April 28 at the 9:30 service. Please be sure your choir member wears their choir shirt on performance dates!

Also note that April 28 will be our last performance until we resume in September.

## **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

### **SUNDAY (April 14)**

8 am Worship  
9:30 am Worship+Online Worship,  
Sunday School for All Ages  
11 am Family Praise & Worship,  
Messiah Kids  
1 pm Cristo Rey Bilingual Worship

### **MONDAY (April 15)**

n/a

### **TUESDAY (April 16)**

9 am Quilters  
9:30 am Stay-N-Play

### **WEDNESDAY (April 17)**

11:30 am Joliet Christian Women  
5:30 pm Family Dinner  
6:15 pm H2H  
6:30 pm SALT, Messiah Kids

### **THURSDAY (April 18)**

9 am Faith & Body  
10:15 am Prayer Group  
11:30 am Staff Meeting

### **FRIDAY (April 19)**

9 am MOPS, Memory Bears

### **SATURDAY (April 20)**

9 am Worship Team Rehearsal  
6:30 pm Movie Night

### **SUNDAY (April 21)**

8 am Worship  
9-1 Blood Drive  
9:30 am Worship+Online Worship,  
Sunday School for All Ages  
11 am Family Praise & Worship,  
Messiah Kids  
12 pm Youth Board  
1 pm Cristo Rey Bilingual Worship

## **STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE**

### **LAST WEEK:**

8:00 am: 75  
9:30 am: 51  
11:00 am: 43

Online: 146  
MSM (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>): 11  
Messiah Kids (K-5<sup>th</sup>): 13  
Insight: 16

Online counts are estimates only.

## **2024 GIVING**

Operating Budget: \$763,541  
YTD Operating Budget: \$205,568  
YTD Received: \$166,750  
Average Weekly Need: \$14,683  
Received last week: \$16,765

## **STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK**

### **Psalm 28:7**

"The Lord is my strength and my shield;  
my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me.  
My heart leaps for joy, and with  
my song I praise Him."

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you would like to give the gift of Altar flowers, please call the office  
at 815-741-4488. Arrangements are \$25 each.

Interim Worship Coordinator Justin Brown  
Interim Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier  
Interim Student Ministry Administrator Kate Richmond  
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland  
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler  
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi  
Interim Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann