



**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 10, 2026**  
8:30 a.m.

stop doubting and  
*Believe*  
John 20:27

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover  
Pastor Emeritus David Nygard  
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan  
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander  
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.  
Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 741-4488  
[www.mlcjoliet.org](http://www.mlcjoliet.org)

# Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

May 10, 2026

8:30 a.m.

*Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully*

## PRELUDE

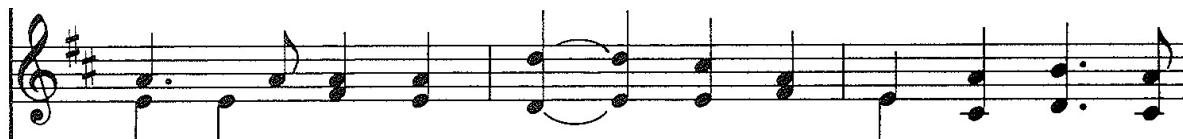
Rose Ann Sochan

## OPENING HYMN

"Holy, Holy, Holy," #262 v. 1-3



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,  
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,  
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



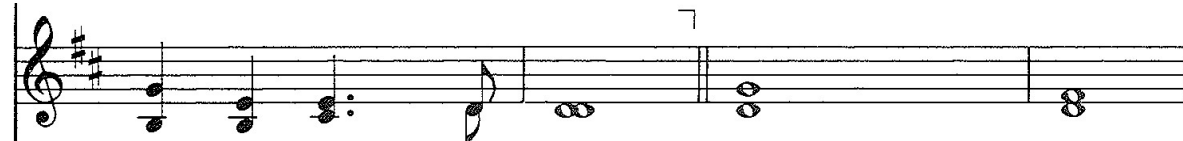
Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to  
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y  
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and



Thee; Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!  
sea; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim  
see; On - ly Thou art ho - ly -  
sea; Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!



mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three Per - sons,  
fall - ing down be - fore Thee, Which wert and art and  
there is none be - side Thee, Per - fect in pow'r, in  
mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three Per - sons,



bles - ed Trin - i - ty!  
ev - er - more shalt be.  
love and pur - i - ty.  
bles - ed Trin - i - ty! A - men.

## LITANY FROM PSALM 139:1-6

Leader: You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

**All: You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

Leader: You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.

**All: Before a word is on my tongue, you, Lord, know it completely.**

Leader: You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me,

**All: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.**

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

"O, How I Love Jesus," #529 v. 1-2



1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;  
2. It tells me of a Sav-ior's love, who died to set me free;  
3. It tells me what my Fa-ther hath In store for ev-'ry day,  
4. It tells of One whose lov-ing heart Can feel my deep-est woe.



It sounds like mu-sic in my ear, The sweet-est name on earth.  
It tells me of His pre-cious blood, The sin-ner's per-fect plea.  
And, tho I tread a dark-some path, Yields sun-shine all the way.  
Who in each sor-row bears a part That none can bear be-low.

*Refrain*



O, how I love Je-sus, O, how I love Je-sus,



O, how I love Je-sus— Be-cause He first loved me!

## HYMN OF PRAISE

"Amazing Grace," #202 v. 1, 2, 4



- 1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
- 3. The Lord has prom-ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;
- 4. Thru man-y dan - gers, toils and snares, I have al - read - y come;
- 5. When we've been there ten thou-sand years, Bright shin-ing as the sun,



I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.  
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved.  
He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

"We Are the Reason," #209 (2X)

*Unison*



We are the rea - son that He gave His life, We are the rea - son that He



suf-fered and died. To a world that was lost He gave all He could give,



to show us the rea - son to live. live.

## 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

Leslie McFarland

## 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, Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)

Reader: Angie Mitchka

<sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

## SECOND LESSON, John 20:19-31 (ESV)



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

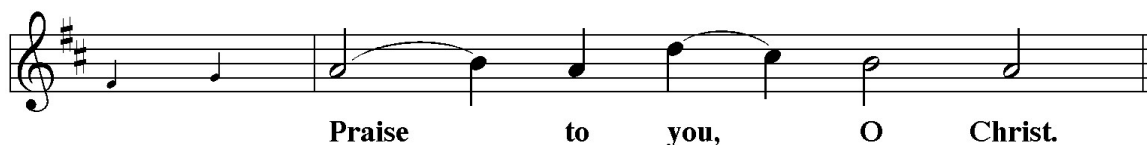
But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



## MESSAGE

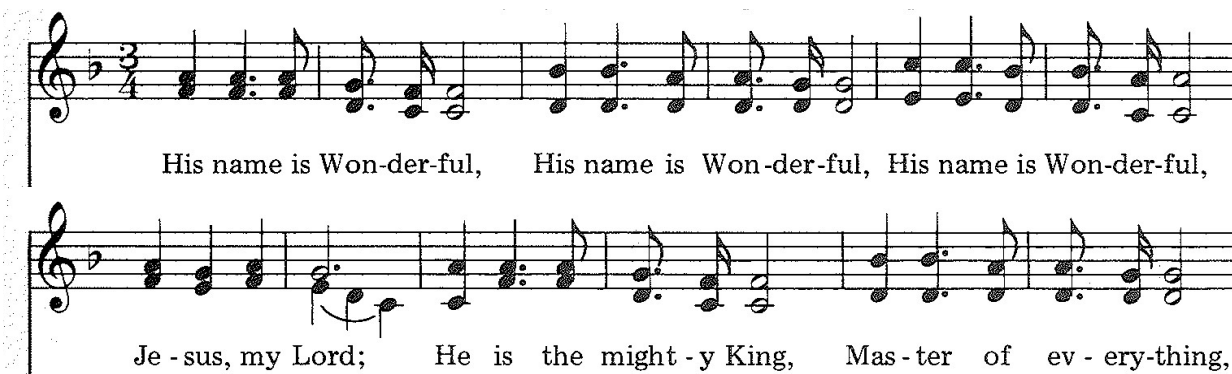
### "Even Believers Have Doubts"

Pastor Emeritus David Nygard

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

## HYMN

"His Name Is Wonderful," #101 (2X)



His name is Won - der-ful, Je - sus, my Lord. He's the great Shep-herd, the

Rock of all a - ges, Al - mighty God is He; Bow down be-

fore Him, Love and a - dore Him, His name is Won - der-ful, Je - sus, my Lord.

## 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, Tom Bond, Bev Korby

## 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.



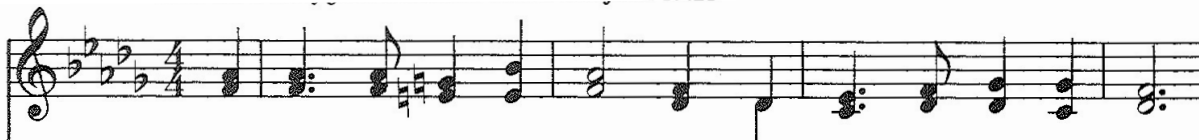
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

# COMMUNION HYMN

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus," #183 v. 1-3



- 1. Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand—
- 2. Up - on that cross of Je - sus Mine eye at times can see
- 3. I take, O cross, thy shad - ow For my a - bid - ing place;



The shad - ow of a might - y Rock With - in a wea - ry land;  
The ver - y dy - ing form of One Who suf - fered there for me;  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than The sun - shine of His face;



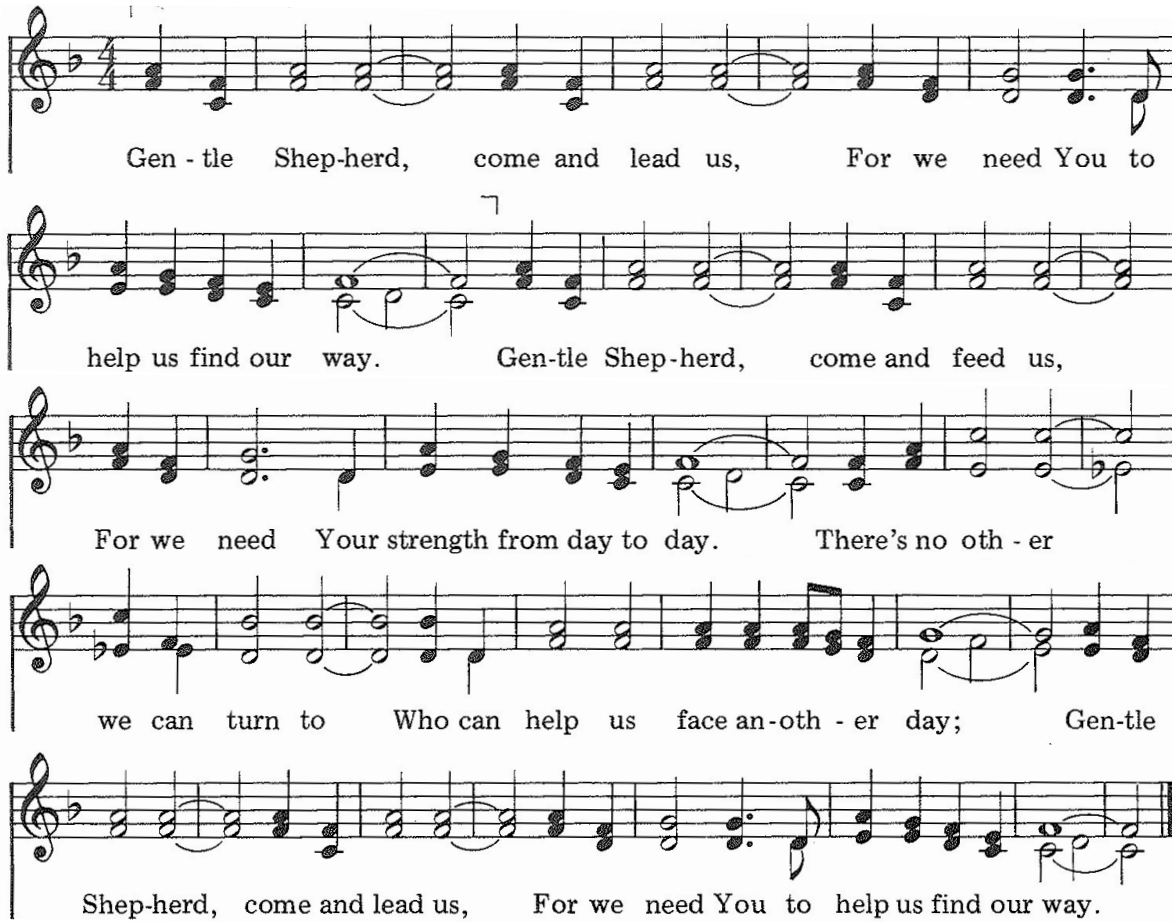
A home with - in the wil - der - ness, A rest up - on the way,  
And from my smit - ten heart with tears Two won - ders I con - fess—  
Con - tent to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,



From the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, And the bur - den of the day.  
The won - ders of re - deem - ing love And my un - wor - thi - ness.  
My sin - ful self my on - ly shame, My glo - ry all the cross.

## COMMUNION HYMN

"Gentle Shepherd," #458 (2X)



Gen - tle Shep-herd, come and lead us, For we need You to  
help us find our way. Gen-tle Shep-herd, come and feed us,  
For we need Your strength from day to day. There's no oth - er  
we can turn to Who can help us face an-oth - er day; Gen-tle  
Shep-herd, come and lead us, For we need You to help us find our way.

## 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

"We Bow Down," #97 v. 1-2, *Maranatha*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of six staves of music. The first two staves contain the first two verses of the hymn. The following four staves contain the chorus, which is repeated twice. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are as follows:

1. You are Lord of cre-a - tion and Lord of my life, —  
 2. You are King of cre-a - tion and King of my life, —

Lord of the land— and the sea;      You were Lord of the heav - ens be -  
 King of the land— and the sea;      You were King of the heav - ens be -

fore there was time,      And Lord of all lords\_ You will be.      We bow  
 fore there was time,      And King of all kings\_ You will be.      We bow

down— and we wor - ship You, — Lord. We bow down— and we  
 down— and we crown You the— King. We bow down— and we

wor - ship You, — Lord.      We bow down— and we  
 crown You the— King.      We bow down— and we

wor - ship You, — Lord.      Lord of all lords\_ You will be. —  
 crown You the— King.      King of all kings\_ You will be. —

# POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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

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## **VBS is June 22-26!**

### **Registration is OPEN!**

**Calling for VBS volunteers!** There will be a **Volunteer Workshop** on **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** at 9:40 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Email Stephanie at [VBS@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:VBS@mlcjoliet.org).

Register here:



Volunteers are also asked to register!

→ **SAVE THESE DATES FOR 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!** ←

Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> - Dinner Banquet (time TBD)

Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> - Reception Celebration between services

# **NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

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

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings during Education Hour. Insight will finish up on May 17<sup>th</sup> and will take a brief break.

## **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.

Our **online giving app** now offers some new features designed to streamline the process. You will have the option to split your donation between giving funds. It will be easier to donate via ACH (only a flat \$0.30 processing fee per transaction, versus the 2.15% plus \$0.30 for credit cards). Previous donations will be saved, and better security with identity verification. All to make it easier to donate online.

## **FAITH & BODY**

Lace up your shoes and enjoy a walk in the Family Life Center, weekly on Thursdays (Sept-May, ends May 21<sup>st</sup>) from 9-10 a.m.

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

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

*Grief  
Support  
Group*

## **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. Our next meeting is **May 26<sup>th</sup>**. We have jobs that do not require sewing! We'll also have a bonus "sewing day" on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m... more details coming soon! Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 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 final luncheon until fall is May 12<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.



## **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. Text Cindi Souza at (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 text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or reach out to Beth Hohisel at [bhohisel@hotmail.com](mailto: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 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.

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 **May 19<sup>th</sup>**!

## **STAY-N-PLAY**

Our FREE weekly open gym play group for kids five and under has ended for the season and is on break until September.

## **YOUNG ADULT "IGNITE" BIBLE STUDY**

For those out of high school and older. Ignite is paused for the summer, hoping to resume in the fall.

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

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Our Children's Choir will share their final performance for this season during the 10:45 this morning. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

## MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW) SUMMER PROGRAM

MKW has ended for the program year. Our **summer MKW kickoff** is on **June 17<sup>th</sup>** and runs through July 29<sup>th</sup> (except during VBS week). We'll meet Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club!

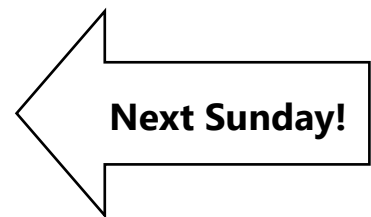
## NATIONAL BIBLE BEE

Messiah will once again host the National Bible Bee this summer, **June 10<sup>th</sup>** through August 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 p.m.! Registration is open at [BIBLEBEE.ORG](http://BIBLEBEE.ORG). For more info please reach out to Leslie.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER SCHEDULE

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! We'll wrap up our program year on **Field Day, May 17<sup>th</sup>**! Our summer session will run July 5<sup>th</sup> through August 16<sup>th</sup> for k-8<sup>th</sup>.

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 and will continue year-around.

### FRIENDS AND MENTORS (FAM) AND HEAD2HEART (H2H)

FAM & H2H will continue meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 through May 6<sup>th</sup>. We'll then have a few weeks off until Summer SALT begins.

### SUMMER S.A.L.T. KICKOFF PARTY

This summer we will meet in a combined format for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders! Our **kickoff party** will be on Wednesday, **May 27<sup>th</sup>** from 6-8 p.m. at the Stier's home. Our summer program will meet at church from 6-8 p.m. June 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup>. *Please note that we will not meet on 07/22 or 07/29.*

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).



**Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Donate and receive a \$25 eGift Card!**

Register at: [www.versiti.org/IL](http://www.versiti.org/IL)

or scan here:



**the walk**  
pregnancyresourcecenter

**Join the Pregnancy Resource Center of Joliet for  
their annual Walk fundraising event on  
Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>!**

**Donate or register here:  
[event.fundeasy.com/31712](http://event.fundeasy.com/31712)**

The entire content of this block is enclosed in a black rectangular border. It features a logo for "the walk pregnancyresourcecenter" with a red circular graphic containing a white flower-like pattern. On either side of the logo are illustrations of a man and a woman walking. Below the logo is text announcing a fundraising walk event on Saturday, May 16th, and providing a registration link.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided by Alan & Jane Costello  
in loving memory of Shirley Oder.

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, May 10**

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, May 11**

n/a

#### **TUESDAY, May 12**

12 p.m. OWLS (*end date*)  
2 p.m. "Chosen" Bible Study (*end date*)

#### **WEDNESDAY, May 13**

1 p.m. Women's Bible Study (*end date*)  
6 p.m. FAM & H2H Finals Study Night

#### **THURSDAY, May 14**

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

#### **FRIDAY, May 15**

n/a

#### **SATURDAY, May 16**

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

#### **FIELD DAY! SUNDAY, May 17**

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:40 a.m. Education Hour (*end date*  
*for all but high school group*)  
10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship  
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

### ATTENDANCE

#### **LAST WEEK:**

8:30: 89  
10:45: 70  
Online: 18

### 2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359  
YTD Operating Budget: \$240,355  
YTD Giving Received: \$189,698  
Needed Each Week: \$13,353  
Received Last Week: \$14,189

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2026

Actual Income vs. Expense:  
-\$14,823

### STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

#### **Matthew 13:16**

But blessed are your eyes because  
they see and your ears  
because they hear.

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

