

# MESSIAH

LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**Family Praise & Worship**  
**February 1, 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**

**Worship Through Songs**

**Worship Through Giving**

**Children's Message**

Leslie McFarland

**Worship Through Hearing God's Word**

**Message**

**"LEAP: How Does God Move Us?"**

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 READING, Acts 5:29-42 (NIV)**

Reader: needed

<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

<sup>33</sup> When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. <sup>34</sup> But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little

while. <sup>35</sup> Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. <sup>36</sup> Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. <sup>37</sup> After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. <sup>38</sup> Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. <sup>39</sup> But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

<sup>40</sup> His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

<sup>41</sup> The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. <sup>42</sup> Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

## **SECOND READING, Acts 11:19-21 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. <sup>20</sup> Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

## **THIRD READING, Acts 12:1-4 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. <sup>2</sup> He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. <sup>3</sup> When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. <sup>4</sup> After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

**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.

# **NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

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

Join us in Fellowship Hall, Sunday mornings during Education Hour. We are currently studying the Book of Acts, which will continue throughout the Season of Epiphany.

## **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, Karen Rebuehr, has discerned the need to step 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 Karen or call the front office for more information.**

## **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 **February 10<sup>th</sup>** and we'll welcome special musical guests, the **Ukelele Strummers!** 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 or email [regency118@comcast.net](mailto:regency118@comcast.net) 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 by email [regency118@comcast.net](mailto:regency118@comcast.net), 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 (BONUS day on February 3<sup>rd</sup>!) 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!

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 **February 3<sup>rd</sup> & 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!

## WEDNESDAY EVENING FAMILY DINNER & FAMILY PRAISE NIGHT

Wednesday Family Dinner will take place the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Your RSVP is important to us - a sign up list is posted in the Narthex. We can also use help with setup and cleanup. If you are able to assist, please sign up in the Narthex.

**Family Praise Night**, also the first Wednesday of every month, is from 6-6:30 p.m. (right after dinner) in the cafe area of the FLC. Join our children and student ministries for a time of praise, kids' showcase, and a short message! Please note that on March 4<sup>th</sup>, we'll have Lenten Soup Supper & Worship.



## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Calling all BUNCO lovers! Join us for a fun-filled day of friendly conversation, laughter and excitement on Saturday, **February 7<sup>th</sup>** from 1-4 p.m. Bring a snack to share, and let's roll the dice for some great memories! RSVP is appreciated to Beth at (815) 735-7897.

Women's Bible Study has begun a new 6-week session, from 1-2:30 in our cozy Fireside Room! We are studying the book "Heaven, Hell and Life After Death." Many people are intrigued by what lies beyond death's door, but we live in an age bombarded with many conflicting views. How can we be sure of what is true? Discover what God says about death, dying, and life after death. 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 January 25, February 22, March 22, and April 26. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

### DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Mark your calendar for our second annual Daddy Daughter Dance on **February 21<sup>st</sup>** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for young ladies pre-K and older, along with their dad or chaperone. **Registration is now open** in the Church Center app or by following the QR.



### 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 MARKER WORKSHOPS

- My New Bible (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) February 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>; presentation February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 by following these links:

My Bible



1<sup>st</sup> Communion



### 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 will open February 12<sup>th</sup>.*



## 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 NIGHTS

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders - mark your calendar for our next MAFIA NIGHT! 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).



**MEMBERSHIP Class**

*Sundays  
February 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
9:40 a.m.*

***New to Messiah? Want to learn more?***

Have you been attending and want more info on becoming a member? We want to get to know you and connect you with our many groups and ministries! Please join us at the **"Get to Know Messiah"** membership class where you will learn our story, about our people and the vision of Messiah. This is also an opportunity for us to get to know YOU and the best way to support your faith journey!

**Childcare will be available upon request.**

Contact Pastor Kurt or call the church office for more info.

Register here:



## **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.

Altar flower sponsors: Please return the red tumbler cups to the church office as we have a limited supply and must give them back to our florist for reuse.

## **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

### **SUNDAY, February 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

### **MONDAY, February 2**

n/a

### **TUESDAY, February 3**

9 a.m. Stay-N-Play,  
Quilters (bonus day)

### **WEDNESDAY, February 4**

1 p.m. Women's Bible Study  
5:30 p.m. Family Dinner & Praise Night  
6:30 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

### **THURSDAY, February 5**

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 6**

n/a

### **SATURDAY, February 7**

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal  
1 p.m. Women's Bunco

### **SUNDAY, February 8**

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

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **LAST WEEK:**

8:30: 54  
10:45: 60  
K-5<sup>th</sup>: 4  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: 4  
High School: 4  
Ignite: 0  
Insight: 22  
Online: 26

## **2026 GIVING**

Operating Budget: \$694,359  
YTD Operating Budget: \$53,412  
YTD Giving Received: \$42,601  
Needed Each Week: \$13,353  
Received Last Week: \$6,663

## **STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK**

### **Colossians 3:15**

And let the peace of Christ rule in  
your hearts, to which indeed you  
were called in one body.  
And be thankful.

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

