

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Family Praise and Worship
April 7, 2024
11:00 am



Pastor Kurt Hoover
Pastor David Stier
Interim Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Interim Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier

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WORSHIP TODAY

Call To Worship

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Welcome

Worship Through Songs

Worship Through Giving

Children's Message

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

Message

"Empty 1: Filled"

by Pastor Kurt Hoover

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

Worship Through Song

Prayers of Intercession

Communion

Worship Through the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Closing Song

OUR NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 4:32-35 (ESV)

Reader: Tom Bond

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had

everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

OUR EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 1:4-2:2

⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

OUR GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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
- 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.

OPPORTUNITIES - Get Involved

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. Need more information? Contact Mike Brown via email at evangelism@mlcjoliet.org.

What guys are saying, "I look forward to going out to hang with the guys."

- Paul Allen

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.

BLOOD DRIVE AT MESSIAH

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

Register here:



DAYBREAK SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5 - 7 pm on the second Monday of each month. A team of Messiah members & friends meets at the shelter to set up and serve dinner. Sign up in the Narthex.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY LIFE GROUP

Ladies - Have you heard what a blessing our new Women's Ministry Life Group has been? We'd love to have you join us for fun & fellowship! Please contact Sherri Unyi in the church office if you would like more information.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)

Our OWLS group 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 next one is **April 9!** The menu will consist of chicken chunks (donated by Chicken-N-Spice). Please sign up in the Narthex.

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 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.

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 or Pastor Dave Stier at 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 for more information.

MESSIAH QUILTERS

The Messiah Quilters meet next on Tuesday, **April 16**. Please note that our "bonus day" has been rescheduled (from April 2) to May 7. We will be working 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.

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY DINNERS

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

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, will meet every-other Saturday, beginning **April 13**, at 6:30 pm in the FLC. Are you passionate about worship and prayer? Are you seeking a community where you can dive deeper into your faith through blended worship experiences? Look no further!

Sing Praise is dedicated to creating a space where individuals can 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. For more info, reach out to Justin Brown at worship@mlcjoliet.org.

MOPS

Calling all moms from pregnancy onward to join a supportive community of moms! Meetings take place the second and fourth Fridays of every month at 9:30 am. 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 with any questions.

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 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.

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 7)

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

MONDAY (April 8)

n/a

TUESDAY (April 9)

9:30 am Stay-N-Play
12 pm OWLS

WEDNESDAY (April 10)

5:30 pm Family Dinner
6:15 pm H2H
6:30 pm SALT, Messiah Kids

THURSDAY (April 11)

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

FRIDAY (April 12)

9 am MOPS

SATURDAY (April 13)

9 am Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30 pm Sing Praise! Worship

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

STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK (Easter):

8:00 am: 145

9:30 am: 160

11:00 am: 83

Online: 176

MSM (6th-12th): n/a

Messiah Kids (K-5th): n/a

Insight: n/a

Online counts are estimates only.

2024 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$763,541

YTD Operating Budget: \$190,885

YTD Received: \$149,986

Average Weekly Need: \$14,683

Received last week: \$10,432

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 2:6

"Now may the Lord show steadfast love
and faithfulness to you.
And I will do good to you because
you have done this thing."

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