MESSIAH MESSENGER



From the desk of



Pastor Kurt Hoover

NEXT

What is NEXT? We asked that question after building our Family Life Center (FLC). Are we going to build out some of the things we put on hold? Add a stage and storage to the east side of the gym?

As it turned out, what was next was a global pandemic which God used to update our building with new flooring and signage. Online worship began.

We asked what was NEXT after we got back to worshipping in person and the youth groups and life groups could start meeting again safely. We had a vision for some revisions to the constitution; to raise up leaders in new ways; to expand our relationship with the YMCA after working together and provide e-learning for our community. How are we going to use this new building, not just for ourselves but as a service to the community?

Turned out, what was next was a lawsuit and a public appeal to our community to save our church, which God used to double down on our service to the community. God used our connections with other community partners like Pray Joliet, the YMCA, and Cup of Cold Water to tell our story. The church would not have been saved if not for our service to the community.

We now have a dozen new community partners including NAMI and Joliet Christian Women, and our own programs like Lil Loves, MOMCo (formerly MOPS), Sing Praise and Stay-N-Play, just to name a few. God has blessed us with 250 families who enter our parking lot each week. We are just figuring out how to invite those families into the ministry of Messiah. This didn't happen before the FLC and the pandemic!

We asked what was NEXT after the lawsuit. The financial burden was solved, but we lost families and momentum. What energy the pandemic left behind was crushed by the lawsuit. It was as if we were starting from scratch. The doubts crept in. We have a vision for rebuilding, new young staff, ideas and creativity, fresh perspective... and then we lost a key staff member when we sent our associate pastor to lead a church in Georgia.

So, what is NEXT? We will continue to address this question in worship through the end of September. I am excited for what God has in store.

In Christ,



Thank you for your generous donations to supply school supplies to 11 children. We worked with families who utilize Lil Loves and provided each student with a \$70.00 gift card for Walmart which could be used for school supplies, clothes etc. Thank you to Vicki Dallmann for helping coordinate this for us.

Upcoming Events:

Messiah Gives Back!



Thank you for being a beacon of hope!



Sunday, **September 29** 9 am - 1 pm Register here:



Please join us at the Living Alternatives Banquet at the Bolingbrook County Club on Thursday, **October 17** at 6 pm. Sign up in the office or see Pat Burke.

Pat Burke, Director Gerry Boe, Donna Stier and Gary Phillips Stewardship Team



Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month.

Food donations are also needed. Sign up in the Narthex or online at: mlcjoliet.org/life-groups

Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, **September 9.**



Enjoy a family meal and then, at 6:30, head to:

- MKW (K-5th grades)
- Head2Heart (6th-8th)
- F.A.M. (high schoolers)
- Women's Bible Study

LIVE2LEAD

Messiah will be hosting the Live2Lead Leadership Conference on October 24! Learn from world-class leadership experts so you can implement a new action plan with renewed passion and commitment.

Prepare to accelerate your own leadership abilities during this one day event that is jampacked with leadership principles and personal growth techniques from their time-tested teaching. Whether you lead a large organization or want to be a better mentor to those around you, Live2Lead will give you meaningful and relevant insights so you can implement a new action plan and lead with renewed passion and commitment! Advance ticket purchase is required. Please go to Live2Lead.com for more info, or touch base with Pastor Kurt.



Thank you!

The staff at Messiah would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the angels who have volunteered to help in the front office.

You are so appreciated!

-Vicki

FOR THE LADIES OF MESSIAH



Starting Wednesday, **September 11** from 6:30-8 pm there will be a seven-week Women's Bible Study. The book is \$12 and there are scholarships available. Whether you've never read the Bible, have followed Jesus for years, or find yourself somewhere in between, this study will help you explore the question, "Who is Jesus?". Using the "I Am" statements in the Gospel of John, authors Courtney Doctor and Joanna Kimbrel demonstrate how to observe, interpret, apply and reflect on key Bible verses about Jesus' identity. Weekly prayers, memory verses, brief commentaries, and discussion questions help women to see Jesus, trust him alone for salvation, and proclaim his goodness to others. All ladies age 16 and older are welcome!



YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO JOLIET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S

"LET'S GET ORGANIZED!" LUNCHEON at Messiah Lutheran Church Wednesday, September 18, 11:30am-1:30pm, \$20.00 inclusive

Choose SHAKLEE, choose healthy with Marilyn, 708-280-3881.

We will talk about getting organized and ideas for downsizing!

Guest speaker, Audrey Marie Hessler, will share nonsensical tales of her mother, and lessons she did learn from her!!

RSVP by September 12 by contacting Barb at 815-439-2076 or mrs.brutus56@gmail.com, or call Sonya at 815-727-1626.

"Joliet IL Christian Women's Connection" - Like us on Facebook!
Next luncheon Wed., October 16 www.stonecroft.org

MESSIAH KIDZ CLUB HAPPENINGS!



Kindergarten – 5th grade: Starting September 11! Join us on Wednesday nights, 6:30-8 pm. Come at 5:30 for family dinner (see page 3).

Questions? Contact Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com or 815-735-7897

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school for pre-K through 5th grades is upstairs, and 6th-8th graders meet in the classroom off of Fellowship Hall! All groups meet at 9:30 am.

MESSIAH KIDS REMIND GROUP

Parents of Sunday school aged children (K-5th grade) can join the Messiah Kids Remind group by texting the code mlcmk to 81010, or by going to:

https://www.remind.com/join/mlcmk

It will be used to send reminders and notifications about Sunday school and any events we have planned. Contact Kimber Drummond at christianed@mlcjoliet.org with questions.

MESSIAH KIDS SUNDAY (Sundays at 11:00 am, ALL YEAR AROUND)

Messiah Kids (MK11) is for all kids, grades K-5th, and takes place during the 11:00 am service! Here's how it works: You will check in like you do for Sunday school at the computer in the Narthex. Then, just before the sermon, the kids will be dismissed and can leave to be with their friends. They will meet leaders in the Narthex and head to the Family Life Center (FLC) for Bible study, worship, and games. **MK11 team members are needed!** Please sign up in the Narthex, or see Leslie to get involved.



Attention Parents:

Messiah's Youth Choir will rehearse on September 8th and 15th, upstairs, during Sunday school.

We perform during the 9:30 service on September 22.

Please be sure choir members wear their choir shirts on performance dates!

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES

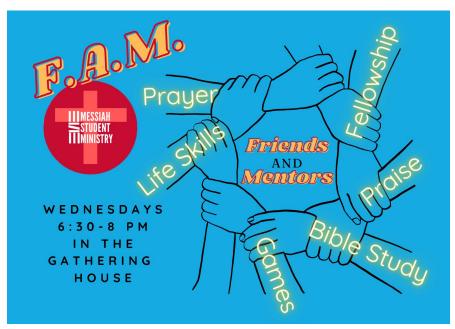


Be sure to sign up for Messiah Student Ministries on Remind to keep up to date on this and other upcoming events.

Use this link https://www.remind.com/join/messiahst or use class code @messiahst within the app.

HEY 6th-12th GRADERS!

Sunday morning Bible study is back! We meet at 9:30 am. 6-8th graders meet in classroom 101 (off of Fellowship Hall) and high schoolers are currently joining in with the Insight group in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, comments, or are looking to connect regarding youth news, events, ministries for students in 6-12th grades, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kate Richmond via email at stumin@mlcjoliet.org or call the church office.



FRIENDS AND MENTORS (F.A.M.)

remind

A ministry for high school students and recent graduates.

F.A.M. is a chance to connect with peers and those who have navigated the path ahead of you, to learn life skills and other lessons learned along the way.

We play games, learn practical life skills, pray for each other, sing praise and more!

We kick off on Wednesday, September 11! YOU belong here!

Come at 5:30 and join us for family dinner (see page 3).

HEAD 2 HEART



H2H (otherwise known as Confirmation) meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 beginning on **September 11**. All 6-8th graders are welcome! Come at 5:30 and join us for Family Dinner most Wednesdays - see the menu on page 3 - (Soup Suppers during Lent) in Fellowship Hall. If you missed orientation night in August, just reach out to the church office and we'll get you in touch with H2H leader Kersten Stier.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events sponsored by the Messiah Youth Board:



OPPORTUNITIES - GET INVOLVED!

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Join us for adult Bible study on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall.

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. Arrangements are \$25 each.

BLOOD DRIVE AT MESSIAH

September 29. See details & registration code on page 2.

DAYBREAK SHELTER

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month. Food donations are also needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, September 9.

FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS

Tie up your shoes and meet in the Family Life Center for Faith & Body! We meet each Thursday starting **September 12** from 9-10 am. It's exciting to think how many miles we will walk this year while simultaneously strengthening our faith! Please register here:

https://messiahlutheranchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2426227

HELP WANTED!

The Lay Ministry Board is looking for nursery help (high school age) on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. This is a paid position. Please inquire with Tom Bond at tlbond7@hotmail.com.

LIL LOVES MINISTRY

Lil Loves at Messiah aims to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the Tri-county area by providing **FREE** assistance with diapers and much needed baby supplies. Lil Loves is available on a by-appointment basis, and those interested can sign up on our website.



Lil Loves thanks you for your donations of:

- *Diapers and Pull-ups *Wipes *Baby Wash/Shampoo *Baby Lotion
- *Toiletry items for the moms such as deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, etc.

Trial-sized toiletry items are especially appreciated, rather than full-sized. If you'd like to donate, please place your items in the black bin in the Narthex, and call the church office for more information! Please note that we are **NO LONGER ABLE TO ACCEPT BABY FORMULA OR USED CLOTHING** (these items are happily accepted at the Pregnancy Resource Center, located at 903 Infantry Dr., Suite 600, in Joliet).

Messiah Gives Back!

LIVE 2LEAD

Messiah will be hosting the Live2Lead Leadership Conference on October 24! Learn from world-class leadership experts so you can implement a new action plan with renewed passion and commitment. Prepare to accelerate your own leadership abilities during this one day event that is jam-packed with leadership principles and personal growth techniques from their time-tested teaching. Whether you lead a large organization or want to be a better mentor to those around you, Live2Lead will give you meaningful and relevant insights so you can implement a new action plan and lead with renewed passion and commitment! Advance ticket purchase is required. Please go to Live2Lead.com for more info, or touch base with Pastor Kurt.

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. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, **September 24**. Text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or email to regency118@comcast.net for more info.

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 second & fourth Tuesday from 6:30-8 pm. Our next meeting is **September 10**. Email Mike Brown at evangelism@mlcjoliet.org for more info.

MICRO PANTRY

Did you know that Messiah has a food pantry? This ministry is 100% donation-driven, and is maintained by the Evangelism Board. You can support this ministry through prayer, and through monetary and/or food donations. Contact the church office for more info, or leave your donations in the bin in the Narthex. EXPIRED ITEMS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

MOMC 9

M

Formerly MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Attention moms of little ones!

MOM Co resumes it's twice-monthly meetups on
Friday, September 6 at 9:15 am.

Childcare is provided!

MOMCo meets every-other Friday in Fellowship Hall.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN TICHURCH C

MLC OFFICE HOURS

The office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9 am - 3 pm. Saturdays and evenings are by appointment. Staff is always available by appointment, so please don't hesitate to ask!

OWLS

We are trying something new this season of OWLS! Since we are without our chef, we ask that everyone sign up in the Narthex to bring an appetizer, snack, salad, or dessert (light finger-foods).

Our September theme is "Reminiscing School Days" and October will be "Share Your Hobby!"



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. Text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or email to regency118@comcast.net for more info.

PRAYER TEAM

Our in-person Prayer Team meets Thursday mornings at 10:15 in the Fireside Room for approximately one hour, to pray together over our prayer request list. For more info text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or by email to regency118@comcast.net, or Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com.



<u>PRAY JOLIET</u> is a united effort to pray for the needs of the Joliet area – for the individual and the community. It's good to be with people that believe in the power of prayer! We hope to see you on **September 8**.

OUILTERS

See page 12.

SING PRAISE

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 has created 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! For more info, reach out to Justin Brown at worship@mlcjoliet.org. We meet every-other Saturday at 6:30 pm in the FLC - our next gathering is September 14.



STAY-N-PLAY

Stay-N-Play resumes on **September 10** from 9:30-11 am! You may ask, "What is Stay-N-Play?" We open our Family Life Center to the community for FREE open gym time for children five and under. It's a great place for caregivers and children to make connections with other caregivers and to have a safe place for children to play. Please like our Facebook page (MLC Stay-n-Play Playgroup) for additional information and share with your friends and neighbors. We are also in need of a few more Messiah volunteers (once a month) to make coffee and welcome Stay-N-Play guests. This is a great way for outreach to the community and to let them experience a little of who we are here at Messiah. Please contact Sherri Unyi in the office for more info.

WAYS TO GIVE

We will have an offering time during the services, but you can give any time during the week using one of the following ways:

- 1) Go to: bit.ly/MLCGiving
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet and follow the instructions given.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.
- 4) Mail your check to the church at: 40 Houbolt Rd., Joliet, IL 60431

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

See page 4 for upcoming events for the ladies of Messiah!



Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Join the Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir sings at the 9:30 Sunday services, from September through May, with special music at services during Advent, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

When the Children's Choir is performing, we perform at the 8 am service. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:45 pm.

We are always looking to welcome new members and hope to continue to grow this ministry at Messiah! There are no formal audition requirements, and being able to read music is not an issue... you will learn your part from practice and from hearing other voices in your section! Our first performance this season will be **September 15**!



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!

Lunch will be provided and childcare is available upon request.

Please RSVP to the church office by September 18.

MESSIAH QUILTERS



Quilt Sunday is **September 22**! The 120+ quilts we have created this past year will be on display on the pews, and there will be a special blessing of the quilts at each service. They will then be packed up and delivered to a Lutheran World Relief (LWR) ingathering in Naperville the first part of October.

LWR distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war-torn Europe following the second World War. Within a decade, the ministry was reaching around the globe. Today, an average of 300,000 quilts are lovingly given worldwide each year. They are used as for warmth, shelter from the sun, keeping their animals warm, to carry their belongings or even as a floor covering. They

have been distributed at orphanages and homes for the elderly. Our quilts have shipped to Zambia, Tanzania, Dominica, Iraq, Georgia and Mali. Most recently they were distributed to the foreign sailors who were stranded in Baltimore harbor when the bridge collapsed.

In addition to our quilts for LWR, we also make smaller quilted and crocheted lap robes and baby quilts for Lil Loves (another Messiah ministry!), Hope Ministry, Morning Star Mission and Exodus World Services. And because nothing is wasted, our scraps are put in pillowcases and donated to the Will County Humane Society for animal beds.

As you sit in the Sanctuary on the 22nd on one of our quilts, look around at the sea of patchwork fabric that has been lovingly sewn together to create them. Think about the families who will receive them and what it must mean to them to receive this beautiful and useful gift from someone halfway around the world as proof that there are people who love them.

Messiah Quilt Ministry began over 30 years ago. Through the years we have met monthly and made over 2,600 quilts that have been sent to LWR.

We also assemble sewing kits to LWR consisting of three yards of fabric, needles, buttons and thread. They are used in vocational training programs to teach young woman and men sewing skills that they can use to earn an income. Last year we shipped 40 fabric kits.

This year we will be having a door offering at each service and quilts for sale in the Narthex. The money collected will be used for the cost of shipping each quilt (\$2.80) to LWR, cost of batting (\$8.40 per quilt), crochet thread, fabric kit shipping (\$1.80 each) and miscellaneous expenses such as machine repairs.

We have a group of 10-15 ladies who faithfully attend on the third Tuesday of each month to prepare the fabric, sew the tops together, sandwich the top, batting and bottom together, tie and sew the bindings to complete each quilt. You do not need to be a sewer/quilter to join us and we have sit-down jobs. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, **September 17** from 9 am – noon.

Think about stopping in to see what we are all about and joining us for friendship, fun and refreshments!

If you would like to sew at home, we have many quilt tops ready to be sewn together. Everything is prepared in kit form for you. If this is something you would like to do, contact Kathy Mueller at scpbklane@aol.com or 815-953-6601 for more information or with any questions you may have.

Our church family has truly blessed us this past year with donations of fabric, sheets and many hands that have allowed us to create these quilts. For your continued support and prayers --- Thank you everyone!!!



Quilt Sunday 2023

Our Quilters!

Quilt Sunday 2024 is September 22!





Join us for

Online Worship



Can't make it to church this week? The 9:30 am service is available for streaming online on our Facebook and YouTube pages. Links to both are at mlcjoliet.org

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



- 3 Bob & Carol Zirzow
- 4 Stan & Mary Etta Buhr
- 6 Paul & Gail Crisp
- 7 Fred & Pat Hibbert
- 15 Jim & Deb Umbaugh
- 17 Bob & Gayle Arko
- 19 Greg & Deb Dole
- 23 Gene & Debby Gruber
- 26 Phil & Chris Pribnow
- 28 Herb & Linda Hallberg



- 1 Brian Werner
- 2 Carol Gordon
- 3 Fae Damon Bennett Lindstrom
- 4 Aimee Gipes
- 6 Beverly Allbert
- 7 Sara Johnke Shirley Oder
- 9 Patty Ally
- 10 Nora Burke Patrick King
- **12** Elaine McGrath
- 13 Craig Stone
- 16 Courtney Park
- 18 Alyssa Brownlow
- 19 Eric Boe Jim Umbaugh
- **21** Pat Boe
- 22 Kari Liberty
- 24 Lisa Boe Arnitta Eldred
- 26 Luke Fiday Casey Moauro
- 27 Tom Michalski
- 28 Ethan Boe Jada Kittler Kathleen Olalde Deb Umbaugh

SEPTEMBER SERVERS

	Counters		Readers 8:00
09/01/24	Judy Fowler, Deb Dole	09/01/24	Paul Allen
09/08/24	Dan Stukel, Harold Stier	09/08/24	Beth Hohisel
09/15/24	Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer	09/15/24	Deb Dole
09/22/24	Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock	09/22/24	Greg Dole
09/29/24	Judy Fowler, Deb Dole	09/29/24	Randy Ling
	Ushers 8:00		Readers 9:30
09/01/24	Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel	09/01/24	Doug Potts
09/08/24	Paul Allen, Don Cyborski	09/08/24	Matthew Fiday
09/15/24	Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller	09/15/24	Jane Costello
09/22/24	Craig Stone, Don Cyborski	09/22/24	needed
09/29/24	two needed	09/29/24	Doug Potts
	Ushers 9:30		Readers 11:00
09/01/24	Bill Unyi, Brandon Fiday	09/01/24	Tom Bond
09/08/24	Jeff Holmes, Alan Costello	09/08/24	Molly Hoover
09/15/24	Paul Allen, Brandon Fiday	09/15/24	Tom Bond
09/22/24	Alan Costello, Brandon Fiday	09/22/24	needed
09/29/24	Brandon Fiday, Roger Gordon	09/29/24	Tom Bond
	Ushers 11:00		Crostora 8:00
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09/01/24	Gary Phillips, Brandon Fiday	09/01/24	Kirk Brandmire, one needed
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Worship Coordinator Justin Brown Tech Coordinator Nikolai Stier Youth & Building Administrator Kate Richmond Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann

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Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover Associate Pastor: vacant Choir Director Herb Alexander Children's Choir Director Season Lawler Organist Rose Ann Sochan

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