

**MESSIAH**  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**April 6, 2025**  
8:00 a.m.  
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Pastor Kurt Hoover  
Guest Preacher Kersten Stier  
Organist Rose Ann Sochan  
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland  
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander  
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Jane Costello  
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Joliet, IL 60431  
815.741.4488  
[www.mlcjoliet.org](http://www.mlcjoliet.org)

# Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

April 6, 2025

8:00 a.m.

*Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully*

## PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

## OPENING HYMN

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness," #43 v. 1-3



1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, There is no  
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest, Sun, moon and  
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, Thy own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee; Thou chang - est not, Thy com -  
stars in their cours - es a - bove Join with all na - ture in  
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
man - i - fold wit - ness To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.  
hope for to - mor - row, Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

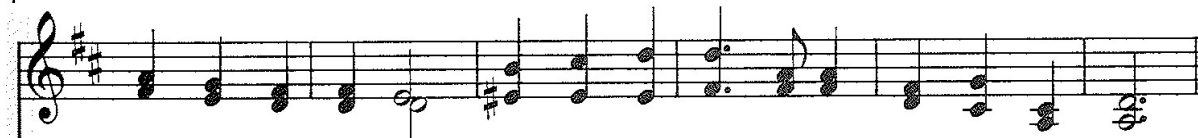
### Refrain



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed— Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

## THE KYRIE



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



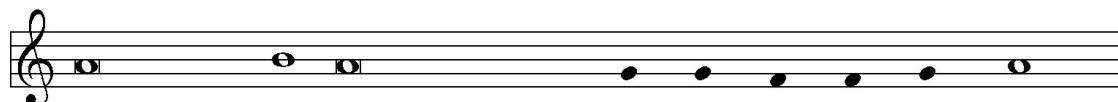
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** A - men

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

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.

## SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SELF-EXAMINATION

Leader: Most merciful God,

**All: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is the Feast"



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

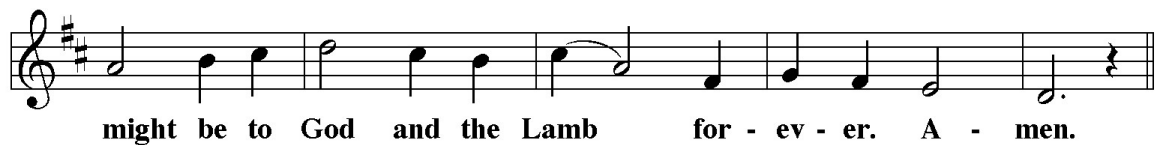


**B** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and





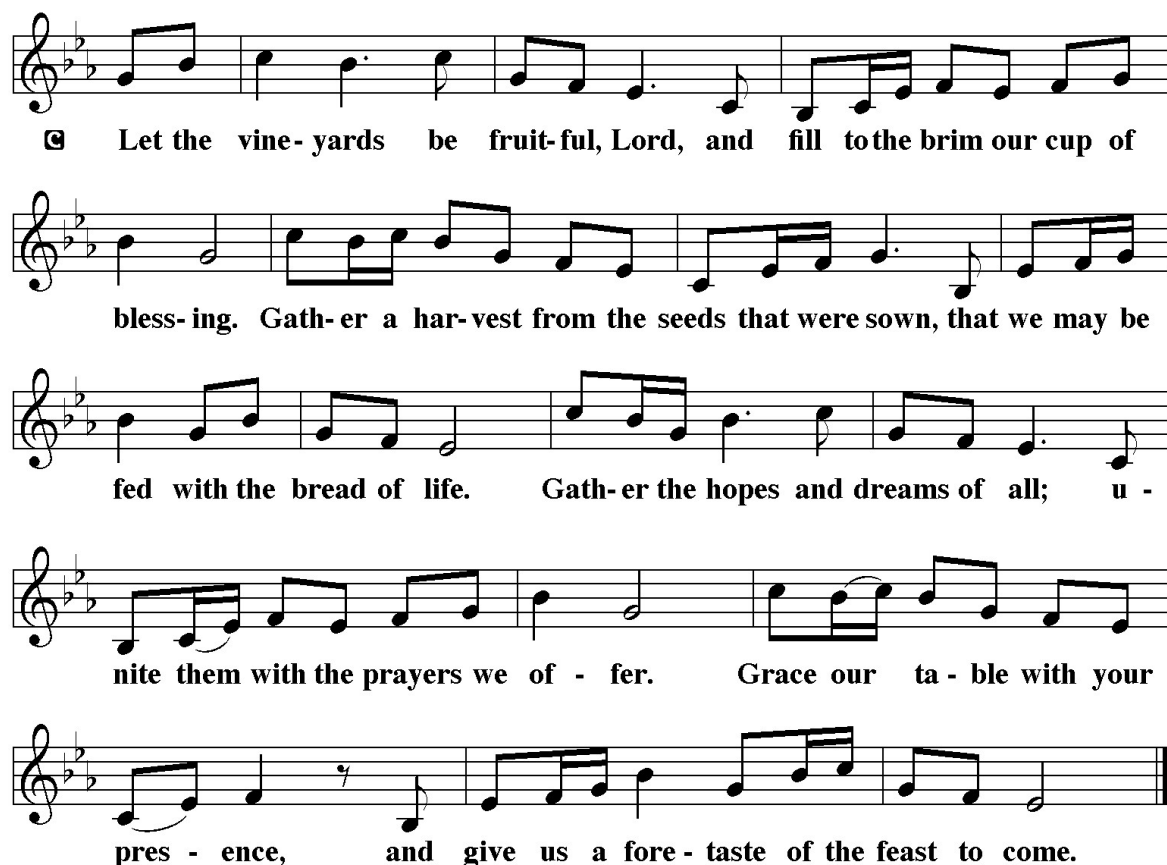
## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## THE OFFERING

Rose Ann Sochan

## OUR RESPONSE

"Let the Vineyards"



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

**Isaiah 40:25-28 (ESV)**

Reader: Deb Dole

<sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

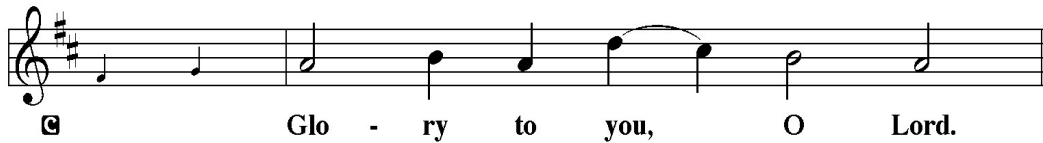
**Ezekiel 18:25-29 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup> When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>27</sup> Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall

save his life. <sup>28</sup> Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

## GOSPEL LESSON

**Romans 5:8 (ESV)**

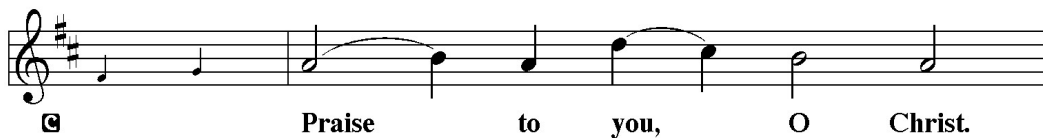


<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## GOSPEL LESSON

**John 3:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



## MESSAGE

**"Revealing God's Character"**

Kersten Stier

# John 3:16

For God so loved the  
world that He gave  
His one and only Son,  
that whoever believes  
in Him shall not perish  
but have eternal life.

# HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision," #382 v. 1-2, 4

*Unison*



1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;  
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son,  
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.  
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.  
 High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.  
 Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**G** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is indeed right and salutary...  
we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**G** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

**All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Servers: Randy & Laurel Ling, Bev Korby, Paul Allen

## 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"



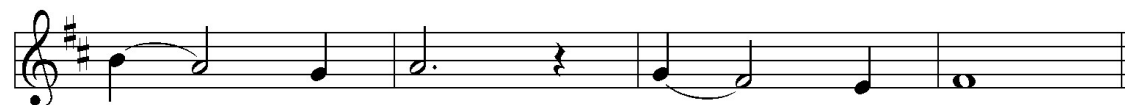
☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 HYMNS

"It Is Well with My Soul," #493 v. 1-3

"Trust and Obey," #349 v. 1, 4, 5

## THE COMMUNION BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION HYMN



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

## THE BENEDICTION

### CLOSING HYMN

"How Great Thou Art," #4 v. 1, 3



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
2. When thro' the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the <sup>\*</sup>worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly  
home. what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

*Refrain*



thun - der, Thy pow'r thro' - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.  
gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze. Then sings my  
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin.  
ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God, how great Thou art.



soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my

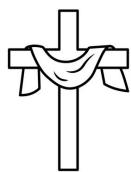


soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

## POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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



## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP

### Wednesdays during Lent

through Wednesday, **April 9<sup>th</sup>**.

Supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by worship at 7 p.m.

BE SURE TO **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX** TO BRING  
SOUP, SALAD, BREAD OR DESSERT.



## CELEBRATION SUNDAY AT MESSIAH!

**Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

We'll celebrate with combined worship at 10 a.m. in the FLC  
and will include our annual Youth Parade.



### 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:



### OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., or by appointment. Holiday weeks may vary.

### 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.



## **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.

## **NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Insight)**

We meet in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 9:30. Our current series studying Ezekiel will wrap up on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Insight will not meet on April 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> and **will resume on April 27<sup>th</sup>**. More details to follow. We'd love to have you join us!

### **ALTAR FLOWERS - Sign up in the Narthex!**

Our Altar flowers sign up chart is on the Connect Wall in the Narthex. Arrangements are \$25 each and may be taken home with you after the 11:00 service.

### **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 p.m. 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, April 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### **FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS**

Tie up your shoes and meet in the Family Life Center for Faith & Body! We meet every Thursday morning from 9-10. 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>

### **MEMORY BEARS**

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets the fourth Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We have jobs that do not require sewing! Come check us out on **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email to [regency118@comcast.net](mailto:regency118@comcast.net) for more info.

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

Mark your calendar - 3M meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We're currently discussing the book of Exodus. Please join us on **April 8<sup>th</sup>**. Email Mike Brown at [gonzopal2017@cheerful.com](mailto:gonzopal2017@cheerful.com) for more info.

### **MOMCo**

Attention moms of little ones! MOMCo meets on Friday mornings twice a month from 9:15-11:15. For more info please contact Amy Miller at [amy12miller@gmail.com](mailto:amy12miller@gmail.com).

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

Join us the second Tuesday of every month (September-May) at noon. Our next luncheon on **April 8<sup>th</sup>** will feature our very own Wayne & Linda Zoellick who will demonstrate Cross painting techniques for beginners. We ask that everyone **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX** to bring an appetizer, snack, salad, or dessert (light finger foods). Sub sandwiches will be provided.

## **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 to [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 to [regency118@comcast.net](mailto:regency118@comcast.net), or reach out to Beth Hohisel at [bhohisel@hotmail.com](mailto:bhohisel@hotmail.com).

## **QUILTERS**

Messiah Quilters meets the third Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is on **April 15<sup>th</sup>**! 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 to 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](mailto:scpbklane@aol.com) for more information or any questions you may have.

## **STAY-N-PLAY**

Stay-N-Play, our **FREE weekly play group** for kids five and under along with their parent/guardian, meets every Tuesday morning in the FLC from 9:30-11!

## **STROLLER FIT MOM'S CLUB**

Attention moms with stroller-aged children! Bring your littles with you in the stroller for an opportunity to socialize & GET EXERCISE with other like-minded moms! We generally meet every-other Friday morning at the church from 9:30-10:30. We will walk outdoors, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, we'll meet in the Family Life Center. Our next meeting is on **April 18<sup>th</sup>**. Please reach out to Season Lawler for more info.

## **WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING LENT**

See page 12 for information on Lenten Wednesdays... Soup Suppers and worship schedule.

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

Keep an eye out for information on **Bunco** nights and our next session of **Women's Bible Study**.

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

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Children's Choir will wrap up our season in April with rehearsal the 6<sup>th</sup> and our final performance on **April 27<sup>th</sup>**.

## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Saturday, **April 12<sup>th</sup>** from 1-3 p.m. Outdoors, weather permitting. Kids - Don't forget to bring your Easter basket and friends! Free event.

## **J-CHURCH**

Fun for Messiah youth of all ages (kids, tweens & teens)! J-Church is the **third Sunday of each month** at 11:00 in the FLC. We will not meet on Easter Sunday.

## **MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)**

Kids in K-5<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. Contact Beth Hohisel [bhohisel@hotmail.com](mailto:bhohisel@hotmail.com) or (815) 735-7897 for more info.

## **MILE MARKER WORKSHOPS for parents and kids**

**Fourth grade: "First Communion,"** in the Gathering House

Sessions: March 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> (during Sunday School)

Breaking Bread: Messiah kitchen, Palm Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

First Communion: Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m.

Register here:



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Make sure to bring your children to Sunday school, upstairs in our youth classrooms, on Sunday mornings at 9:30.

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 Kimber Drummond, Christian Ed. Director, at [christianed@mlcjoliet.org](mailto:christianed@mlcjoliet.org).

## **MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades)**

**MSM PARENTS' NIGHT** is Wednesday, **April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

During this time our 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will be in the FLC  
assisting with setup for the Stamp Club Show.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to the Youth Room on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Our high schoolers meet in Classroom #101 off of Fellowship Hall.

## **HEAD2HEART**

H2H (otherwise known as Confirmation) meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. All 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome! **April 16<sup>th</sup> will be movie night!**

## **YOUTH MINISTRY: F.A.M.**

Students in high school & beyond are invited to be a part of our Wednesday evening student ministry program - Friends and Mentors = **F.A.M.** Students. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m.

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).

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar flowers this morning are provided by Arnitta Eldred  
in loving memory of loved ones who have passed.

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 (April 6)**

8 a.m. Worship  
9:30 a.m. Worship (+online),  
Sunday School & Bible Study for All Ages  
11 a.m. Family Praise & Worship  
1 p.m. Cristo Rey

### **MONDAY (April 7)**

7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Homeschool (full campus)

### **TUESDAY (April 8)**

9:30 a.m. Stay-N-Play  
12 p.m. OWLS  
6:30 p.m. 3M

### **WEDNESDAY (April 9)**

5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper (last one)  
6:30 p.m. H2H, FAM, MKW  
7 p.m. Worship

### **THURSDAY (April 10)**

9 a.m. Faith & Body  
10:15 a.m. Prayer Team  
11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **FRIDAY (April 11)**

n/a

### **SATURDAY (April 12)**

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal  
1 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt

### **PALM SUNDAY (April 13)**

10 a.m. Celebration Worship in FLC  
1 p.m. Cristo Rey

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **LAST WEEK:**

8:00 am: 63  
9:30 am: 62  
11:00 am: 46  
Online: 35

MSM (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>): 0  
Messiah Kids (K-5<sup>th</sup>): 17  
Insight: 12

## **2025 GIVING**

Operating Budget: \$680,068  
YTD Operating Budget: \$170,017  
YTD Giving Received: \$148,255  
Average Weekly Need: \$13,078  
Received Last Week: \$9,408

## **STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK**

### **Corinthians 9:6**

Or is it only Barnabas and I  
who have no right to refrain  
from working for a living?

Worship Coordinator Justin Brown  
Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann  
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler  
Building Liaison Kate Richmond  
Youth Director Kersten Stier  
Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier  
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi  
Worship Intern Faye Werner