

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

February 9, 2025
8:00 and 9:30 am
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

*Do not judge,
or you too
will be judged.*

Matthew 7:1



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Pastor Emeritus David Nygard
Organist Rose Ann Sochan
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

815.741.4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome To Messiah Lutheran Church

February 9, 2025 8:00 & 9:30 am

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"We Will Glorify," #72 v. 1-4

1. We will glo - ri - fy the King of kings, we will glo - ri - fy the
2. Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in maj - es - ty, we will bow be - fore His
3. He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth, He is Lord of all who
4. Hal - le - lu - jah to the King of kings, hal - le - lu - jah to the
Lamb; We will glo - ri - fy the Lord of lords, who is the great I Am.
throne; We will wor-ship Him in right-eous-ness, we will wor-ship Him a - lone.
live; He is Lord a - bove the u - ni - verse, all praise to Him we give.
Lamb; Hal - le - lu - jah to the Lord of lords, who is the great I Am.

LITANY ADAPTED FROM THE 23rd PSALM

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**All: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

Leader: He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for his name's sake.

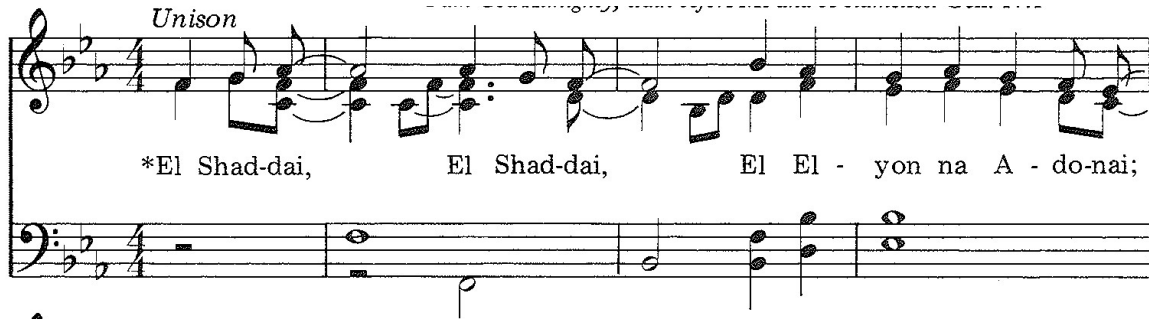
**All: Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.**

Leader: Thou preparast a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

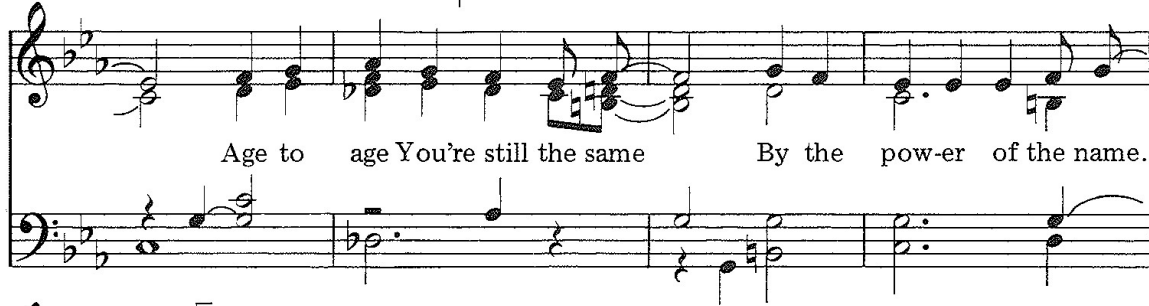
HYMN OF PRAISE

"El Shaddai," #36 (2X)

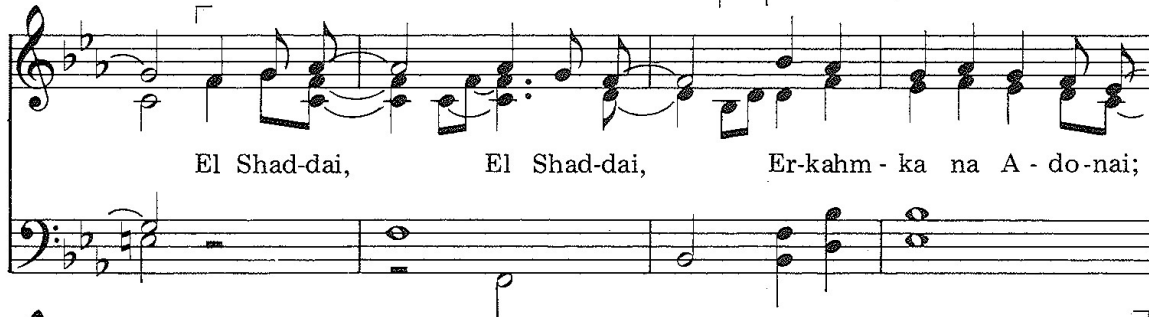
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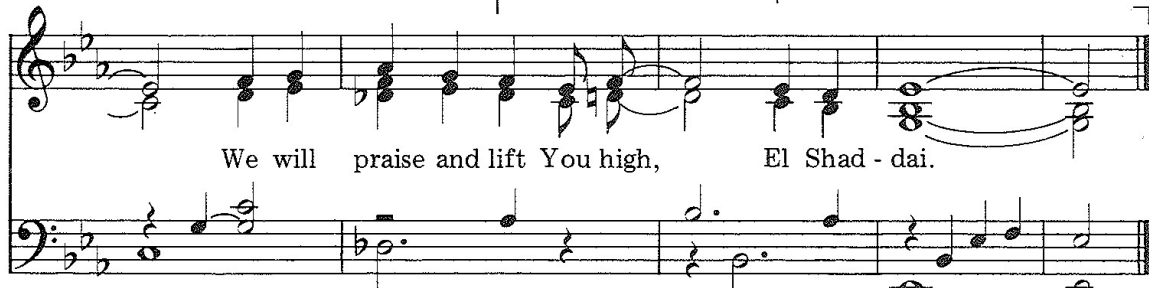
*El Shad-dai, El Shad-dai, El El - yon na A - do-nai;



Age to age You're still the same By the pow-er of the name.



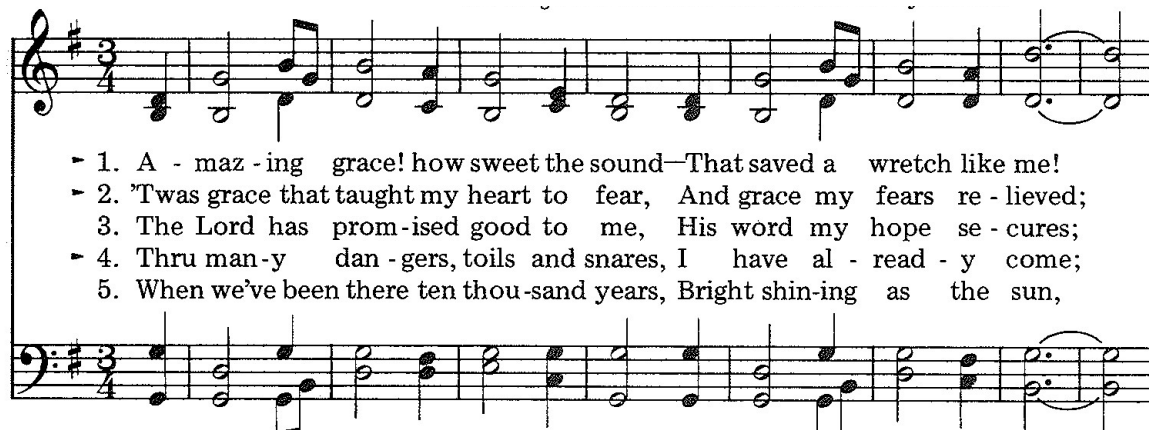
El Shad-dai, El Shad-dai, Er-kahm - ka na A - do-nai;



We will praise and lift You high, El Shad - dai.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Amazing Grace," #202 v. 1-2, 4-5



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.

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.

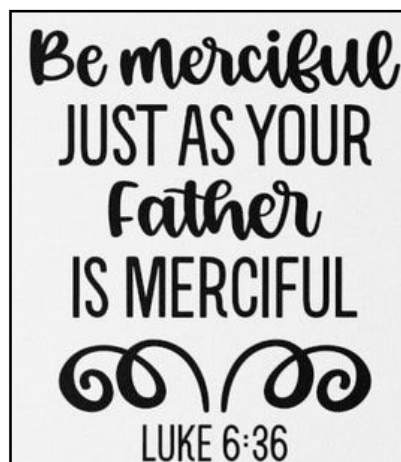
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (8:00)

Kersten Stier

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan



OUR 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.

OUR FIRST GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 7:1-5 (NIV)

Readers: Paul Allen (8:00), Doug Potts (9:30)

¹ "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

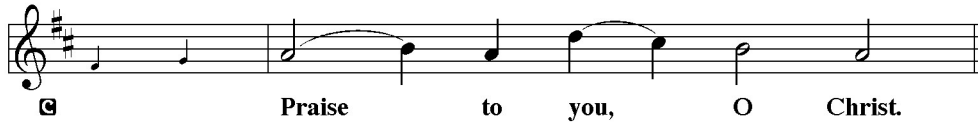
OUR SECOND GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:36-38 (NIV)

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."



MESSAGE

**"6 Habits of Highly Effective Christians:
Do Not Judge Others"**
by Pastor David Nygard

Copies of this sermon and those previous may be found in the Narthex.

HYMN

"Gentle Shepherd," #458 (2X)

Musical notation for the hymn "Gentle Shepherd." The notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of a series of quarter and eighth notes, with a final cadence. The lyrics are written below the staff:

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.

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 (8:00)

Servers: Nancy Bertnik, Pat Anderson, Bev Korby

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (8:00)

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 (8:00)

"Lamb of God"



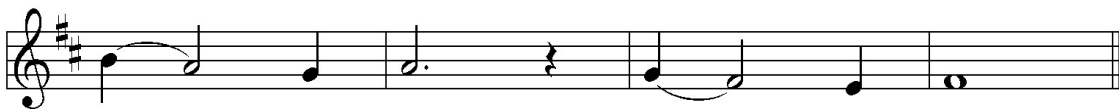
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 (8:00)

"Softly and Tenderly," #326 v. 1-4

Musical notation for the hymn 'Softly and Tenderly'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing for
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, Plead - ing for
3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, Pass - ing from
4. O for the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised, Prom - ised for

you and for me; See, on the por - tals He's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not His mer - cies,
 you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death's night is com - ing,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, He has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

Watch - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,
 Mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come home,
 Com - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,
 Par - don for you and for me.

Ye who are wea - ry, come home; Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

COMMUNION BLESSING (8:00)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (8:00)

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

"Trust and Obey," #349 v. 1 & 3



1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, What a glo - ry He
2. Not a shad - ow can rise, not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quick - ly
3. Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, But our toil He doth
4. But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of His love Un - til all on the
5. Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His



sheds on our way! While we do His good will He a - bides with us still,
drives it a - way; Not a doubt nor a fear, not a sigh nor a tear,
rich - ly re - pay; Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,
al - tar we lay; For the fa - vor He shows and the joy He be - stows
side in the way; What He says we will do, where He sends we will go—



Refrain



And with all who will trust and o - bey.
Can a - bide while we trust and o - bey.
But is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
Are for them who will trust and o - bey.
Nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



no oth - er way To be hap - py in Je - sus, But to trust and o - bey.



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

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Celebration Sunday at Messiah

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

We'll celebrate with a combined worship service
at 10 am in the Family Life Center
and our annual Youth Parade.

MESSIAH
CHURCH

Mark your calendar!
Invite family, friends and neighbors!

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 am-3 pm, 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
- 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 20th of each month.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

We meet in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 9:30. Our newest series, which will continue into spring, is being led by Kenyon Gjerde and Tom Bond. We'll focus on Ezekiel through the month of February. Come join us and participate in the discussion!

ALTAR FLOWERS - SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX

Our Altar flowers sign up chart is on the Connect Wall in the Narthex. 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 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 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, February 10th.

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 here at the church from 9 am-noon once a month (sometimes twice!). We would love to have you join us! We have jobs that do not require sewing! Our next meeting is on **February 25th**. Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email to regency118@comcast.net for more info.

MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)

Men, mark your calendars... We meet again on Tuesday, **February 11th** in the book of Exodus. Email Mike Brown at gonzopal2017@cheerful.com for more info.

MOMCo (Formerly MOPS)

Attention moms of little ones! MOMCo meets on Friday mornings, twice a month from 9:15-11:15. Our next meetup is on **February 21st**.

OWLS (OLDER WISER LOVING SENIORS)

Join us the second Tuesday of every month (September-May) at noon. We ask that everyone **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX** to bring an appetizer, snack, salad, or dessert (light finger-foods). Our next luncheon will be on **February 11th**. In February, we welcome the return of the UKELELE STRUMMERS!

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 weekly 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.

QUILTERS

Quilters will meet again on **February 18th**! We meet from 9 am-2 pm in Fellowship Hall. 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 for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **February 18th**!

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. We meet once in February, on the 28th. Please reach out to Season Lawler for more info.

WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNERS

Our Wednesday dinners are in need of hosts! **If you would like to host** a future Wednesday Night Dinner, please reach out to Terry Anzalone or Pastor Kurt.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our next **Bunco** night will be on **March 7th**. For more info or to RSVP, please reach out to Beth at bhohisel@hotmail.com.

Women's Bible Study meets in Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room.

ASPIRE 2025

Attention Messiah women! You're invited! One night, three hours - Just for women! an evening full of laughter, learning, stories and music! Saturday, **April 5th** from 6-9 pm at Springbrook Community Church in Huntley. We will coordinate carpooling from Messiah and are planning dinner together at Panera Bread in Huntley at 5 pm. Your payment of \$25 can be made online or dropped off at the church office, "Women's Aspire Event" in the memo line.

Register here **by March 5:**



MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

February rehearsal is on the 9th, and we'll perform on **February 16th** at the 9:30 service.



DADDY DAUGHTER SWEETHEARTS DANCE

Join us Friday, **February 28th** from 6:30-8:30 in the FLC! There will be dancing, photography, snacks & refreshments. Semi-formal attire requested. **FREE EVENT!**

J-CHURCH

Our newest ministry for Messiah youth of all ages (kids, tweens & teens)! J-Church is the **third Sunday of every month** at 11:00 in the FLC.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

Kids in K-5th grades are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Contact Beth Hohisel bhohisel@hotmail.com or (815) 735-7897 for more info. See you there!

MILE MARKER WORKSHOPS for parents and kids

Second grade: "My New Bible"

Sessions: February 16th & 23rd (Sunday School)
Presentation: March 2nd (9:30 service)

To register, follow this link:



Fourth grade: "First Communion"

Sessions: March 16th, 23rd, 30th, April 6th & 13th (Sunday School)
Breaking Bread: Messiah kitchen, April 13th at 9 am
First Communion: Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm

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 5th grade, email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org or Kimber Drummond, Christian Ed. Director, at christianed@mlcjoliet.org.

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th grades)

BIBLE STUDY

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

DODGEBALL!

Join us for an evening of fun and dodgeball on Saturday, **March 15th** from 6-9 pm.

HEAD2HEART

H2H (otherwise known as Confirmation) meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. All 6th-8th graders are welcome!

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 pm.

For more info on ministries for students 6th through 12th grade, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.

COFFEE SHOP!

Messiah Student Ministries Coffee Shop fundraiser returns on Sundays, **February 23rd and March 30th**

Back by popular demand, our baristas will be whipping up your favorite flavored coffee drinks on 02/23 and 03/30! Please come see us at the church kitchen counter from 8 -11 am & get your customized hot or cold drinks!



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.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

SUNDAY (February 9)

8 am Worship
9:30 am Worship (+online),
Sunday School & Bible Study for All Ages
11 am Family Praise & Worship
1:00 pm Cristo Rey

MONDAY (February 10)

7:30-2 Homeschool Group (full campus)

TUESDAY (February 11)

9:30 am Stay-N-Play
12 pm OWLS
6:30 pm 3M

WEDNESDAY (February 12)

6:30 pm FAM, H2H, MKW,
Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY (February 13)

9 am Faith & Body
10:15 Prayer Team
11:30 am Staff Meeting
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY (February 14)

n/a

SATURDAY (February 15)

9 am Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY (February 16)

8 am Worship
9:30 am Worship (+online),
Sunday School & Bible Study for All Ages
11 am Family Praise & Worship,
J-Church
1 pm Cristo Rey

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:00 am: 57
9:30 am: 82
11:00 am: 43
Online: 32

MSM (6th-12th): 8
Messiah Kids (K-5th): 7
Insight: 14

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068
YTD Operating Budget: \$65,391
YTD Giving Received: \$70,005
Average Weekly Need: \$13,078
Received Last Week: \$10,433

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 28:7

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

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