

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Easter Sunday



Christ is risen!

**April 20, 2025
8:00 & 9:30 a.m.**

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Pastor Emeritus David Nygard
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Organist Rose Ann Sochan

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

815.741.4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome To Messiah Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

8:00 & 9:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently. Worship Joyfully. Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

CHOIR INTROIT

"He Is Alive!"

arr. Jay Althouse, led by Herb Alexander

HYMN

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," #217 v. 1-4

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and four numbered parts. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The final system includes a bass clef line at the bottom.

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sons of men and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
Fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
Dy - ing once He all doth save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids Him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

LITANY

Leader: He is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Leader: He is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Leader: They went to the tomb early Sunday morning to grieve the death of Jesus.

All: They wondered who would roll away the stone but the tomb was empty. The grave could not hold Jesus.

Leader: He appeared first to the women and then to the disciples.

All: Over five hundred people saw him. They touched his hands and heard his sermons.

Leader: Because he lives we will live also.

All: Our God is an awesome God. We praise his name forever.

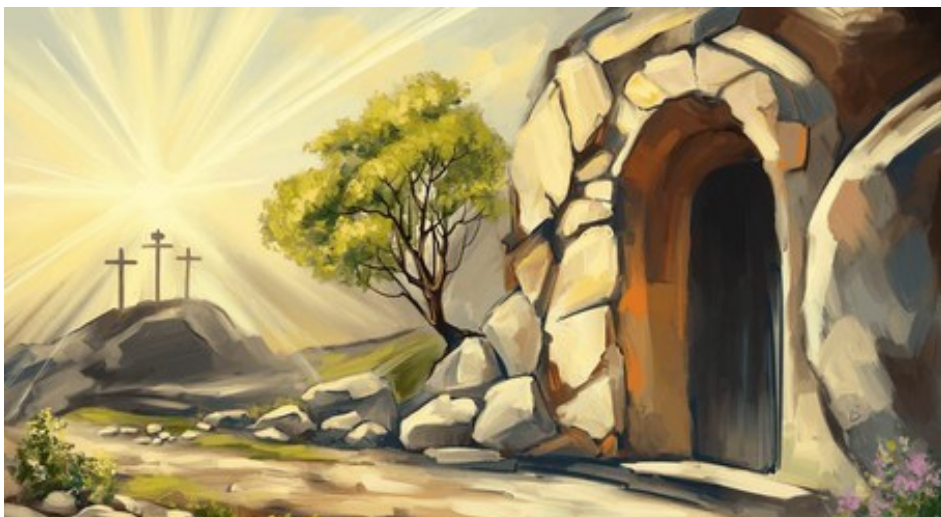
Leader: He is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

WELCOME

CHOIR ANTHEM

"On the Third Day,"
arr. Allen Pote, led by Herb Alexander



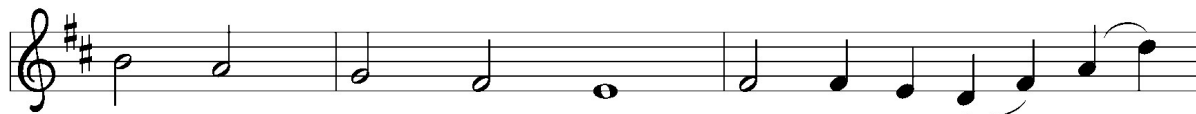
He is risen

HYMNS OF PRAISE

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives," LCMS #264 v. 1-4, 7-8



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

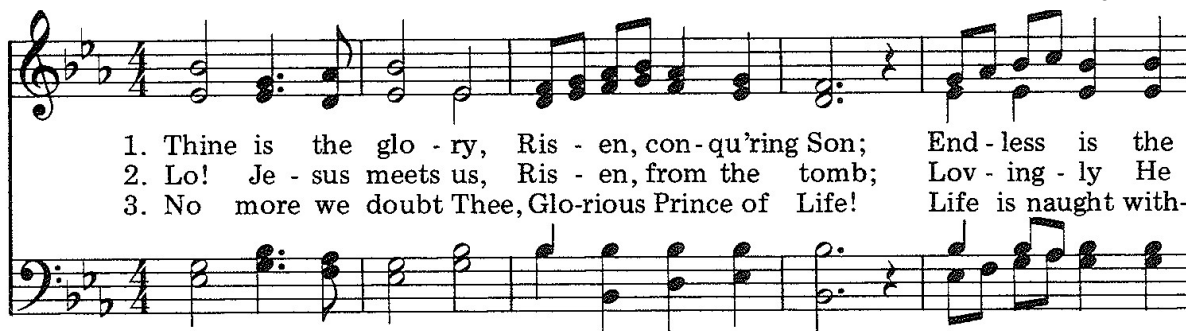
5 He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

"Thine Is the Glory," #227 v. 1-3



1. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; End - less is the
2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, Ris - en, from the tomb; Lov - ing - ly He
3. No more we doubt Thee, Glo - rious Prince of Life! Life is naught with-

vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets us, Scat - ters fear and gloom; Let His church with glad - ness
 out Thee; Aid us in our strife; Make us more than con-qu'rors,

Rolled the stone a - way, Kept the fold - ed grave-clothes Where Thy
 Hymns of tri - umph sing, For her Lord now liv - eth; Death hath
 Through Thy death-less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan With Thy

Refrain

bod - y lay. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-qu'ring Son;
 lost its sting. power and love.

End - less is the vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won. A - men.

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)

THE OFFERING

Rose Ann Sochan

OUR RESPONSE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A - men.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 10:36, 39-43 (NIV)

Readers: Greg Dole(8:00), Doug Potts (9:30)

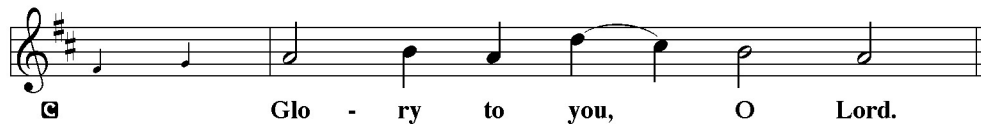
³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁹ "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross,⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.⁴¹ He was not seen by all the

people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:1-9, 11-18 (NIV)



¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

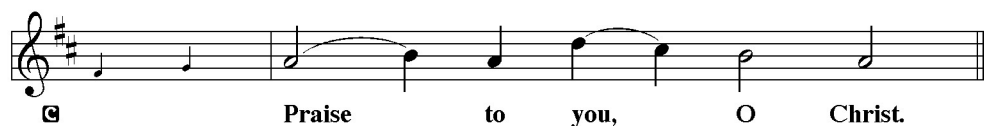
Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.



MESSAGE

"Easter Is the Brightest Day of All"

Pastor David Nygard

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

HYMN

"He Lives," #220 v. 1-3

The hymn is written in G major, 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are as follows:

1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day;
 2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care,
 3. Re - joice, re - joice, O Christ - ian, lift up your voice and sing

I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er men may say;
 And tho' my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
 E - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!

I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer,
 I know that He is lead - ing thro' all the storm - y blast,
 The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,

And just the time I need Him He's al - ways near.
 The day of His ap - pear - ing will come at last.
 None oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

Refrain

He lives, He lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day! He walks with me and
He lives, He lives, He lives,

talks with me a - long life's nar - row way. He lives, He lives, sal -
He lives, He lives,

va - tion to im - part! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with-in my heart.

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, Randy Ling, Marvinna Allen, Greg Dole

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN (8:00)



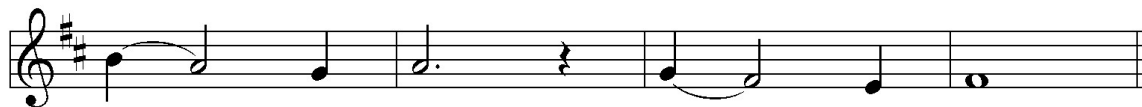
☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 (8:00)

"Were You There?" #181 v. 1, 2, 4
"Majesty," #74

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.

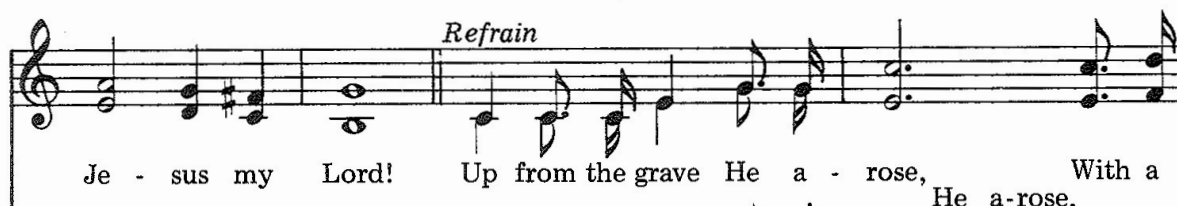
BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Christ Arose," #216 v. 1-2



- 1. Low in the grave He lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior! Wait - ing the com - ing day,
- 2. Vain - ly they watch His bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior! Vain - ly they seal the dead,
- 3. Death can-not keep his prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior! He tore the bars a - way,



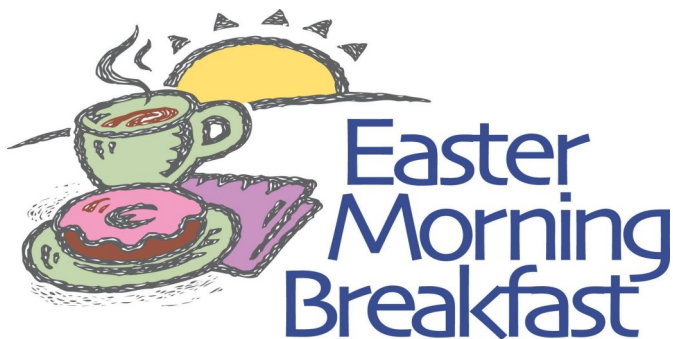
Je - sus my Lord! Up from the grave He a - rose, With a
He a-rose,

might-y tri-umph o'er His foes; He a-rose! He a - rose a Vic-tor from the
dark do - main, And He lives for - ev - er with His saints to reign, He a -
rose! He a-rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

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



7:30-11 a.m.

Egg casseroles
Pancakes
Irish potatoes
Cereal and oatmeal
Coffee & decaf
Milk

Biscuits & gravy
Sausage
Pastries & donuts
Fresh fruit
Fruit juices

Served by Messiah Student Ministries
Cost: Your donation - All proceeds support MSM

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
- 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 BIBLE STUDY (Insight)

We meet in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 9:30. Insight will not meet on Easter Sunday and **resume on April 27th**. We'll break for summer, with our last session on May 18th. 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, May 12th.

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>

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

If you would like to donate to help those affected by the earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand, please visit the LWR website at lwr.org/Myanmar.

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 22nd**. Text Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or email to 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 22nd**. Email Mike Brown at 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 (September-May). For more info please contact Amy Miller at amy12miller@gmail.com.

OWLS (Older Wiser Loving Seniors)

Join us the second Tuesday of every month (September-May) at noon. Our final luncheon this season will be on **May 13th** in honor of Mother's Day. A catered lunch and dessert will be provided and we ask that everyone **RSVP ON THE CHART IN THE NARTHEX** so that we have a headcount.

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 for more info.

PRAY JOLIET

Prayer Walks are starting again! Saturday, **April 26th**, from 8-10 a.m. we step off again. Prayer Walks are enriching and always unique. Prayer changes things. It matters. Praying out in the community informs your prayers. Come on and pray with us!

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, or reach out to Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com.

PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

Pregnancy Resource Center's Will County Walk is on Saturday, May 17th at 9 a.m. at Judson Memorial Church, 2800 Black Road in Joliet. Questions should be directed to Pat Burke at stewardship@mlcjoliet.org.

Register here:



QUILTERS

Messiah Quilters meets the third Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting (bonus day!) is on **May 6th** along with our regularly scheduled meeting on **May 20th**! 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.

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! **May 13th** will be our final playdate before we break for summer.

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 **May 2nd**. Please reach out to Season Lawler for more info.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Ladies! Our Fiesta Luncheon will be Sunday, **May 4th**, from 12:15-2 p.m. We'll have a Taco Buffet, games and fellowship! There will be a free will offering to help offset the cost of lunch. Be sure to pick up your tickets on Sunday, April 27th before or after the services, in the Narthex.

Our next session of **Women's Bible Study** starts on Wednesday, **June 11th**, 6-8 p.m. We'll walk through "My Personal Petitions Prayer Journal" by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. *Prayer is personal to God. Shouldn't it be personal to you?*

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir will wrap up the season with our final performance on **April 27th**.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL - ENDS ON FIELD DAY, MAY 18th

Make sure to bring your children to Sunday school, upstairs in our youth classrooms, on Sunday mornings at 9:30. We'll finish our program year on May 18th.

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)

MSM PARENTS' NIGHT is Wednesday, **April 23rd**
at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
During this time our 6th-12th graders will be in the FLC
assisting with setup for the Stamp Club Show.

MSM SUMMER SCHEDULE

6th-12th graders will continue to meet over the summer (June-August)
for Midweek Bible study on Wednesday nights from 6-8 p.m.!

Also - Mark your calendar for these special events:

- ♦ **WORSHIP NIGHT - May 24th**
- ♦ **SUMMER PARTY - May 28th**
- ♦ **BONFIRE/WORSHIP - June 11th**
- ♦ **VBS VOLUNTEER POOL PARTY - June 27th**
- ♦ **BONFIRE - July 30th**
- ♦ **POOL PARTY - August 6th**
- ♦ **BONFIRE - August 30th**

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)

- 6th-8th grade Sunday Bible Study will wrap up for the program year on April 27th.
- Our high schoolers will continue to meet throughout the summer in Classroom #101.

H2H (Head2Heart/Confirmation) & FAM (Friends and Mentors)

H2H and FAM will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings through April 30th. After a brief break our summer program, in a combined format for 6th-12th graders, will kickoff on Wednesday, May 28th at 6 p.m. in the FLC.

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

VBS AT MESSIAH IS JUNE 23-27!



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.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

EASTER SUNDAY (April 20)

Breakfast served 7:30-11 a.m.

8 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Worship (streamed online)

11 a.m. Family Praise & Worship

1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

MONDAY (April 21)

Church Office Closed

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

TUESDAY (April 22)

9 a.m. Memory Bears

9:30 a.m. Stay-N-Play

6:30 p.m. 3M

WEDNESDAY (April 23)

6:30 p.m. Messiah Kids' Wednesday,
MSM & MSM Parents' Night

THURSDAY (April 24)

9 a.m. Faith & Body

10:15 a.m. Prayer Team

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

FRIDAY (April 25)

9:15 a.m. MOMCo

SATURDAY (April 26)

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY (April 27)

8 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Worship (streamed online),
Sunday School/Bible Study for all ages

11 a.m. Family Praise & Worship

1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

10:00 a.m.: 210

Online: 12

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068

YTD Operating Budget: \$196,217

YTD Giving Received: \$178,217

Average Weekly Need: \$13,078

Received Last Week: \$7,348

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Deuteronomy 14:23

Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.

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