

MESSIAH MESSENGER

April 2025

Live a Stewardship Way of Life through:

Gratitude
Generosity
Humility
Faithfulness
Obedience

One way we can share our resources with others is by supporting and participating in the Pregnancy Resource Center's Will County Walk on Saturday, May 17th at 9 a.m. The walk is held at Judson Memorial Church, 2800 Black Road in Joliet. You can walk, run or just show up to collect a cup of coffee. They are also okay if you donate or get donations and can't walk. This is one of two fundraising efforts they hold each year. The walk in May, along with their fall banquet are primary in funding all their programs during the year.

Messiah believes in the work that is being done at the PRC, and we tithe monthly to them. All their services are offered at no cost to the client:

Pregnancy Testing	Ultrasound Scanning
Pregnancy Options Information	STI/STD Information & Testing
Parenting Classes/Education	Abortion Pill Reversal
Resource Assistance	Perinatal Grief Support
After-Abortion Support	Residential Programs

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Sign up to join Team Messiah Lutheran!
- Begin to gather donations!
- If you cannot walk - sponsor a walker!

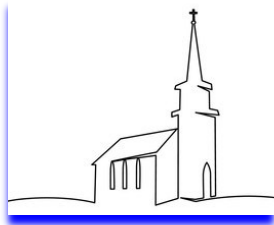
All of this will make a difference in the life of a woman facing a pregnancy who has little or no other support. More information and registration may be found here:

<https://www.pregnancyresourcecenter.org/get-involved/events/will-county-events/>

Pat Burke, Director

Gerry Boe, Donna Stier, Gary Phillips
Stewardship Team





IMPORTANT INFO FROM BUILDING LIAISON KATE RICHMOND

Volunteers needed:

- Cleanup crew after Wednesday Night Dinner (wipe down tables and wash dishes)
- Table setup Monday and Saturday evenings
- Take down tables Wednesdays and Fridays @ 6 p.m.

Sign up for regular weekly setup (or even just once a month).

Every set of hands helps!

Email buidling@mlcjoliet.org to sign up or for more information.

Thank you for serving!

- *Kate*

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

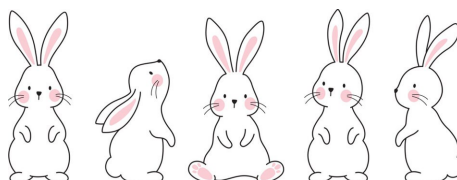
This has been a busy time for Parish Fellowship! We had a funeral and then went right into Lent. Lenten Wednesday Soup Suppers are hosted by our boards, with each taking a week. Parish Fellowship hosted the Ash Wednesday supper with about 70 in attendance. Subsequent suppers have had about 40. Please remember to sign up to help or provide a food donation if you have not done so already. The sign up board is in the Narthex. Lenten Wednesday Soup Suppers are at 5:30 p.m. and are wonderful evenings of fellowship with delicious soups and desserts before heading to worship at 7.



We are also looking to add new members to the team. Carol Gordon, who has been in charge of coordinating Sunday coffee hour, is moving out of state later this year, and her four years on the board is also coming to an end this summer. She hopes to facilitate a smooth transition to a new volunteer! We will miss Carol & Roger and wish them the best. I thank God for their wonderful and faithful service! We will be sharing more info about this position later.

Thank you!

- *Terry Anzalone*, Parish Fellowship Director, 815-531-9781





To our Messiah Family,

Words don't express how loved and supported we have felt over the last three weeks. Knowing so many were praying for us leading up to, during, and following Kurt's procedure provided a peace that surpassed all understanding. It is one thing to *know* others are praying, and an amazing experience to *feel* it!

Kurt's recovery at home has gone better than expected and he is improving each day with his pain and energy levels. There is still a long road ahead but his age, fantastic medical care, overall health and faith in a healing God help us to see that he will be better than ever in a couple of months.

Thank you so much for the continued prayers, meals, cards, gifts and messages that have held us through this uncertain time and meant more than you know.

-Pr. Kurt, Molly, Myka and Eli Hoover

Dear Messiah Family,

Thank you to all those who have been praying for me during my cancer journey. Please keep praying as I have lots of tests coming up.

Thank you so much, I so appreciate your prayers,

-Lynn Tapella

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in You."
Psalm 53:6

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - 40 HOUBOLT ROAD, JOLIET

WEDNESDAY EVENING

LENTEN SERVICES & SOUP SUPPERS

Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Followed by Worship 7:00 - 8:00pm

Ash Wednesday, March 5th

March 12th, 19th, 26th

April 2nd, 9th

Easter Sunday

April 20th, Worship at 8am, 9:30am, 11am

Breakfast starting at 7:30 am!



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.



You're invited to worship with us this

Easter

4/17 ~ Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.

4/18 ~ Good Friday Tenebrae Service
& Choir Cantata 7:00 p.m.

4/20 ~ Easter Sunday 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.

Easter breakfast
will be served
from 7:30-11



40 Houbolt Road, Joliet
815-741-4488
www.MLCJoliet.org

FOR THE LADIES OF MESSIAH



**WOMEN'S
FIESTA
LUNCHEON**

Celebrating that we are all Children of God!
Open to all ages, childcare is provided.
Taco Bar Buffet, Games, and Fellowship
Freewill offering to cover the food cost.

SUNDAY **4** MAY

12:15 - 2 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Pick up your tickets 4/13 & 4/27

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Women's Ministry

JOLET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION

You and your friends are invited to Joliet Christian Women's upcoming luncheon in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, **April 16th**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$20.00 inclusive.



Guest Marta Keane, County Recycling Specialist, will share what and where to recycle. Speaker Donna Sembar of Danville IL will share how her life moved from struggles to peace through sharing God's word as a clown.

RSVP by April 9th by contacting Barb at 815-439-2076 or mrs.brutus56@gmail.com, or call Sonya at 815-727-1626. Like them on Facebook at "Joliet IL Christian Women's Connection." <https://www.stonecroft.org/>

MESSIAH KIDZ CLUB HAPPENINGS! (K-5TH GRADE)

Parents of children (K-5th grade) can join the Messiah Kids group on the Remind app 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.



J-Church is our ministry for kids and youth of **all ages** and takes place during the 11 a.m. service the third Sunday of every month in the FLC! (This ministry replaced MK11 in October 2024.) Please sign up in the Narthex. We meet next on Easter Sunday, **April 20th**.



Kindergarten – 5th grade:

Join us on Wednesday nights, 6:30-8 p.m.

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

MESSIAH'S YOUTH CHOIR



The Children's Choir will rehearse on April 6th and have our final performance this season on April 27th. Reach out to Season Lawler for more info.

Attention Parents!

APRIL YOUTH CHOIR DATES

Our final performance for this season will be in April...
We'll rehearse on 04/06.
We'll perform on 04/27 at the 9:30 service.

Choir shirts should be turned in after this performance.





MILE MARKER WORKSHOPS for parents and kids

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

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

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

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL

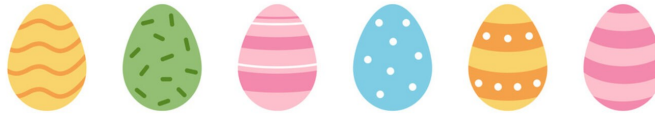
Sunday school for pre-K-5th grades is upstairs at 9:30 a.m.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is June 23-27th at Messiah. See the back cover of this newsletter for a link to more info and registration. \$5 discount for those who register by April 14th!

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–12TH GRADE)

Be sure to sign up for Messiah Student Ministries on the Remind app 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.



BIBLE STUDY

Sunday morning Bible Study meets at 9:30. 6-8th graders meet in the youth room and high schoolers are currently joining in with the Insight group, with a breakout session in classroom 101.

STUDENT NEWS

- F.A.M. continues to meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 (FLC, doors open at 6:15) through May 21st. Don't miss "Ain't No Fools" Bible Trivia Night on April 2nd.
- H2H continues to meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 through May 21st. April 16th will be MOVIE NIGHT!
- No regular Bible Study on Wednesday, April 23rd, as student volunteers are needed for Stamp Show table setup from 6:30-8 p.m.

Our FAM & H2H will transition into summer programming -
SUMMER SALT!

Kickoff celebration on May 28th!

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

OPPORTUNITIES – GET INVOLVED!

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

We meet in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 9:30. Our current series studying the Book of Ezekiel will wrap up on April 6th. Insight will not meet on Palm Sunday, April 13th or Easter Sunday, April 20th. We will resume on the 27th. Watch your Sunday bulletin for information on our upcoming study topic. 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 (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.

DAYBREAK SHELTER



Daybreak Shelter



Can you spare 1-1/2 hours once a month to prepare, serve or donate at Daybreak Shelter?
2nd Monday
5:30 -7pm

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7 p.m. 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, **April 14th**.

FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS

Faith & Body meets on Thursday mornings from 9-10. All are welcome! This is a great way to keep up your healthy routine for 2025! Please register here:

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

FIRESIDE CHATS



Want to know more about the people behind the scenes at Messiah? Well, here it is! We've created a series of podcasts interviewing staff members which may be found on our website at: <https://www.mlcjoliet.org/fireside-chats>. Next season, we will be interviewing some of our board members and having their voices heard as to what they hope to accomplish in their time as leaders at Messiah!



LIL LOVES MINISTRY

Lil Loves at Messiah aims to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the 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. Call the church office for more information. Our Lil Loves ministry helped with well over 100 care packages in 2024, thanks to your loving generosity!

PLEASE NOTE LIL LOVES IS

NO LONGER ABLE TO ACCEPT BABY FORMULA OR USED CLOTHING.

These items are happily accepted at the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center. You may deliver them to: 903 Infantry Dr., Suite 600, in Joliet.





MEMORY BEARS

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets here at the church from 9 a.m.-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. Text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or email regency118@comcast.net for more info.

MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)

Men, mark your calendars... Our men's Bible study group meets the second and fourth Tuesday evening every month. On **April 8th & 22nd** we will be studying the book of Exodus. Email Mike Brown at gonzopal2017@cheerful.com 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 non-perishable food donations. Please leave your donations in the bin in the Narthex. EXPIRED ITEMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

MLC OFFICE HOURS

The office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and evenings are by appointment.



OWLS

(Older, Wiser Loving Seniors)

Join us the second Tuesday of each month
at noon! *(September through May)*

Entertainment is provided!

**Please sign up in the Narthex to bring
an appetizer, salad, dessert or bread/rolls.**



On April 8th OWLS will feature our very own Linda & Wayne Zoellick, demonstrating the art of painting a Cross (for beginners). Sub sandwiches will be provided. Sign up in the Narthex to let us know what appetizer, dessert, salad, etc. you will bring to share. We hope to see you on **April 8th**!



PRAY JOLIET

Next Prayer Walk, from Bicentennial Park in Joliet, is on Saturday, **April 26th** from 8-10 a.m.



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 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.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Just a friendly reminder that **Sunday bulletin** material must be received in the front office by the end of the day each Tuesday. Material for the **newsletter** is due the 20th of each month.



QUILTERS

Messiah Quilters will meet on Tuesday, April 15th from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. 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. You do not have to stay the entire time - whatever time you can give is appreciated.

If you are unable to join us and would like to sew at home, we have kits available with instructions that show how easy it is to put a quilt top together. Contact Kathy Mueller at 815-953-6601 or scpbklane@aol.com for more information. We hope to see you on **April 15th**! See page 15 for a touching article from LWR!

SANCTUARY CHOIR



Our Sanctuary Choir sings on Sunday mornings at the 9:30 service, September through May. When the Children's Choir is performing, we sing at the 8:00 service. Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:45. We are always looking for new members!

For more information please contact Herb Alexander, Sanctuary Choir Director, at halex12240@gmail.com.

STAY-N-PLAY

Stay-N-Play is every Tuesday morning from 9:30-11, when 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!

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 meet next on Friday, **April 18th** from 9:30-10:30 a.m. (just once in April). Please reach out to Season Lawler at seasonsummer4@aol.com for more information.

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 5 for upcoming events for the ladies of Messiah!

VIRTUAL WORSHIP AND SUNDAY BULLETINS

Can't make it to church this week?

The 9:30 a.m. service is live-streamed online on our Facebook and YouTube pages. Links to both are at mlcjoliet.org/worship (please scroll to the bottom of the page). You can also view or print the bulletin, if you'd like to follow along!

**A basket has been provided in the Narthex
if you wish to drop off
prayers, cards and notes
for Pastor Kurt
and the Hoover Family**

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



- 5 - Mark & Lori Burnett
- 10 - Jerald & Susan Kavich
- 15 - Roger & Carol Gordon
- 17 - Ray & Sharon Anderson
- 26 - John & Jan Mueller
- 28 - Richard & Lynn Tapella



- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Mikey Snider | 16 - Bob Zirzow |
| Lina Spielman | 18 - Dan Brozman |
| 3 - Nancy Bugnits | Katy Hester |
| 4 - Mark Ferenzi | 19 - Lyla Luebbing |
| 8 - Susan Kavich | 20 - Judith Motley |
| Alexander Puckett | Richard Smrekar |
| Nathan Puckett | Bryn Werner |
| 10 - Patti Anderon | 23 - Bill Unyi |
| Dan Stukel | 24 - Marjorie McClure |
| 12 - Laurel Ling | Tom Spielman |
| Izak Richmond | 26 - Crystal Harrison |
| 13 - Mike Brown | 27 - Cheryl Rogers |
| Bob Childers | Carol Smrekar |
| 14 - Melanie Brozman | 28 - Jeff Holmes |
| Luke Hester | 29 - Stephanie Knudsen |
| 15 - Aiden Corson | Jack Maser |
| Marty Hohisel | Nathan Southcomb |
| Doug Potts | 30 - Laura Snider |
| Dave Torkelson | |

APRIL SERVERS



Counters

04/06/25 Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock
 04/13/25 Judy Fowler, Deb Dole
 04/20/25 Ken Skinner, Dan Stukel
 04/27/25 Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer

Ushers 8:00

04/06/25 Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel
 04/20/25 Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller
 04/27/25 Craig Stone, Don Cyborski

Ushers 9:30

04/06/25 Bill Unyi, one needed
 04/20/25 Roger Gordon, Josh Johnke
 04/27/25 Alan Costello, one needed

Ushers 11:00

04/06/25 Gary Phillips, one needed
 04/20/25 Gary Phillips, one needed
 04/27/25 Darryl Hoelscher, one needed

Communion Assistants 8:00

04/06/25 Randy & Laurel Ling, Bev Korby,
 Paul Allen
 04/20/25 Nancy Bertnik, Randy Ling,
 Marvinna Allen, Greg Dole
 04/27/25 Pat Anderson, Bev Korby,
 Paul & Marvinna Allen

Communion Assistants 9:30

04/06/25 Rowan Hedden,
 Darryl Hoelscher, one needed
 04/20/25 Rowan Hedden,
 Darryl Hoelscher, one needed

Communion Assistants 11:00

04/06/25 Terry Anzalone, Tom Bond,
 one needed
 04/20/25 Terry Anzalone, Tom Bond,
 one needed

Readers 8:00

04/06/25 Deb Dole
 04/20/25 Greg Dole
 04/27/25 Laurel Ling

Readers 9:30

04/06/25 Angie Mitchka
 04/20/25 Doug Potts
 04/27/25 Sherri Unyi

Readers 11:00

04/06/25 Kimber Drummond
 04/20/25 Lori Spielman
 04/27/25 Doug Potts

Greeters 8:00

04/06/25 Kirk Brandmire, one needed
 04/20/25 Kirk Brandmire, one needed
 04/27/25 Bev Korby, one needed

Greeters 9:30

04/06/25 Larry & Marcy Vickers
 04/20/25 two needed
 04/27/25 Larry & Marcy Vickers

Greeters 11:00

04/06/25 Roger & Carol Gordon
 04/20/25 two needed
 04/27/25 Donna Stier, one needed

**PLEASE NOTE THAT PALM SUNDAY, 04/13,
 IS CELEBRATION DAY WITH ONE SERVICE
 AT 10 A.M. IN THE FLC.**

Additional volunteers will be needed.

Thank you!

Ushers: Paul Allen, Don Cyborski, Jeff Holmes,
 Alan Costello, Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer

Communion: Marvinna Allen, Bev Korby,
 Pat Anderson, Deb Dole

Readers: Jane Costello, Paul Allen

Greeters: Wayne Lauffer

The Port of Baltimore is the starting point for most shipments of Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits. From here, seafarers from all over the world transport them across the seas to ports in Africa, Asia, Latin America and beyond.

But this spring, for the first time in LWR history, the ships themselves were the final destinations — and the seafarers were the intended recipients.

RESPONDING TO THE KEY BRIDGE DISASTER IN BALTIMORE

On March 26, 2024, a cargo ship called the Dali crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge — located just a few miles from Lutheran World Relief's headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland. The bridge collapsed, tragically killing six construction workers. Our prayers remain with those affected by this terrible tragedy.

The wreckage also trapped 10 other ships and their crews in the port for several weeks after the crash. Some ships were able to leave in late April as channels opened up. Others were stuck until mid-May.

Because they originally did not intend to stay in Baltimore more than a day or two, **multiple crews did not have visas that would allow them to leave their ships. They had to remain on board throughout their time in the port.** As a result, they relied on local organizations to deliver food, fresh drinking water and other basic supplies.

YOUR COMPASSION REACHED TRAPPED CREWS IN THE PORT

Lutheran World Relief depends on the hard work and sacrifice of seafarers like these to carry your love around the world. **When dozens of them were stuck on ships in our backyard — separated from their families for weeks on end — we knew we had to offer comfort, support and practical items to make their stay more comfortable.**

The Rev. Joshua Messick, an Episcopalian minister and chaplain, is the executive director of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center. The center welcomes, supports and advocates for crews at the port every day during normal circumstances. Following the Key Bridge collapse, they became the primary point of contact for aid and support — making them an ideal partner for managing the distribution of your LWR Quilts & Kits.

And these supplies were a big hit. Rev. Messick explained, "Most seafarers are men. They tend to have [one] towel, and they tend to not be able to wash them as much as they want to, because fresh water is quite the commodity when you're surrounded by saltwater. So, their towels get really grungy. **You'd think we've handed them a bar of gold when we give them these Personal Care Kits.** Because it's got everything they don't think about needing until they don't have it. And the towels in particular have been an incredible gift."

COMFORT AND SUPPORT FOR SEAFARERS FAR FROM HOME

In total, **more than 150 quilts and Personal Care Kits were distributed across seven ships.**

Until your love reaches every neighbor.

You can see a video of this at lwr.org/blog/2024

Search for the video-your-quilts-kits-offer-warm-hospitality-ships-stuck-baltimore-after-key-bridge

VBS at Messiah JUNE 23rd-27th!



More information
and registration
here:



Volunteers
are
needed!

Early bird registration goes through April 14th! Only \$20!
Camp t-shirt included with all registrations completed by May 26th!
Questions? Email vbs@mlcjoliet.org.

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Associate Pastor: vacant
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi
Building Liaison Kate Richmond
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann
info@mlcjoliet.org
815-741-4488

Organist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Tech Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Youth Director Kersten Stier
Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Worship Intern Fay Werner