

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

April 6, 2025
11:00 a.m.
Family Praise and Worship



Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover, Guest Preacher Kersten Stier
Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

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WORSHIP TODAY

Call To Worship

Welcome

Worship Through Songs

Worship Through Giving

Children's Message

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

Message

"Revealing God's Character"

Kersten Stier

Worship Through Song

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Communion

Worship Through the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Closing Song

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:25-28 (ESV)

Reader: Kimber Drummond

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶ 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.

²⁷ 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"? ²⁸ 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)

²⁵ "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? ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ 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)

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

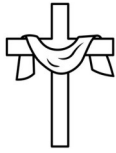
GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:16 (ESV)

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

**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.



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP

Wednesdays during Lent



through Wednesday, **April 9th**.

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 13th

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
- 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. Our current series studying Ezekiel will wrap up on April 6th. Insight will not meet on April 13th or 20th and **will resume on April 27th**. 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 14th.

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 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 8th**. 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. 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 next luncheon on **April 8th** 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 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, or reach out to Beth Hohisel at 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 15th**! 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!

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 18th**. 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 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, **April 12th** 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-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.

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

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)

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.

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.

HEAD2HEART

H2H (otherwise known as Confirmation) meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. All 6th-8th graders are welcome! **April 16th 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 6th through 12th grade, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at 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 (6th-12th): 0
Messiah Kids (K-5th): 17

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?