

# Messiah Lutheran Church

## Since 1901...

The church began with Jesus.

The people of God worship today because of Jesus. The church is to serve Him and His word, to share the word of God throughout communities of the world and reveal His life changing word.

The history of Messiah Lutheran Church begins with Jesus and because His word spreads through His people, the word came to Joliet, Illinois around the turn of the century through the work of Norwegian immigrants. In the fall of 1901 folks gathered to worship and Pastor O.O. Risvold was called to be its first Pastor in 1901.

Charter members of the church were the families of: Nels Nelson, Jacob Wetteland, Ole Eddy, Iver Eddy, A. Thorson, G. Stnerson, Alfred Johnson, Austen Jones and Christ Erickson.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1902 the congregation decided to purchase and build a church and parsonage at the corner of Hunter Ave. and McDonough Street. The purchase price for the lot was \$600. The initial church structure was completed in 1903 and the parsonage was not completed until 1912. It must have been a joyous occasion for those early immigrants to see their new church home.

The first name of the church was "Hauge Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church." The race to share Christ's word throughout the Joliet community has run for over 120 years as Messiah Lutheran Church.

## And today.....

The campus on the corner of Houbolt and Jefferson has expanded in 3 stages: First the main Sanctuary was built, then the Fellowship Hall and Sunday school classrooms were added, and finally, the Family Life Center was added in 2018 creating a mecca for the community.

## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

### **Offered at Messiah Lutheran Church.....**

- Regular Worship services on Sunday mornings at 8:00,9:30 and 11:00 am
- Messiah Kids Sunday School at 9:30 am
- Messiah Kids at 11:00 am Sundays
- Messiah Kids Wednesday nights
- Head 2 Heart – confirmation preparation classes and activities
- SALT – high school
- Insight - a weekly adult Sunday School class
- Mosaic – a weekly bible study for young adults 19-29 years old
- 3M Group – Messiah Men’s Ministry meeting twice a month
- O.W.L.S. – Older Wiser Loving Seniors gather for fellowship and food to stay connected.
- Encore – for those 55 and older to connect through activities and adventures.
- Faith and Body Challenge – weekly program keeping participants active.
- Landscaping Club – beautifies the church campus.
- Meal Train – supports those going through difficult times with meals.
- Quilters – make and send beautiful quilts to Lutheran World Relief who distribute quilts to war or poverty ravaged countries.
- Memory Bears – create stuffed bears from clothing of a loved one who passed to bring comfort.
- Prayer Team – meets regularly to pray.

### **Community Use of Messiah Lutheran Church....**

- YMCA morning and afternoon sessions
- Homeschool groups
- Stay-n-Play playgroup for children
- MOPS – Mother of Pre-Schoolers
- Lil’ Loves – a ministry for underserved mothers and babies
- Mini food pantry
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Stamp club
- Celebrations – bridal showers, weddings, baptisms, etc.