

Messiah Lutheran Church (Messiah) is facing Goliath, a powerful adversary!

An unexpected, devastating crisis threatens the permanent closing of Messiah in Joliet, Illinois, a large congregation that has served the community for over 120 years. And this despite no wrongdoing or accusation of wrongdoing by the church.

In January of 2021, the church's Goliath, the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Receiver filed a federal lawsuit against Messiah demanding payment to the SEC of \$780,165, the full 10 years of donations that had been given to the church by a local business. The SEC accused the local business of recent fraudulent financial dealings.

The church accepted those donations in good faith and is not accused of wrongdoing. However, the donations are no longer available to meet the SEC's demand because they have been used in ministry over the last ten years.

Illinois law does not offer any protection despite *no wrongdoing* on the part of the church. It allows for the claw back of donations to charities based on accused misdeeds of the donor. There are no laws in Illinois to protect nonprofit charities, so no charities in Illinois are safe from facing this same scenario.

Messiah Lutheran Church still needs to raise \$300,000 by November 15<sup>th</sup> to end this case. If Messiah cannot meet this demand, the SEC will increase the amount to \$400,000 and is free to enforce the judgement, resulting in the church not being able to pay its bills and likely forcing the sale of the church building and property, even though Messiah has done nothing wrong.

David trusted God to help him stand against his giant, Goliath. Messiah is trusting God to help it continue in ministry against the huge SEC demand.

Please stand with Messiah by donating and sharing this story with others. Thank you!

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More information can be found in the FAQs.

SaveMessiah.org is supporting Messiah Lutheran Church in its fundraising efforts.