

# Friends, Family & Faith

*Intergenerational Ministry with Children, Youth, Families, and Adults*



2015-2016



## ***Opportunities***

- Education -
- Intergenerational Learning -
- Trips -
- Social Media -
- The Journey of Baptism -
- Confirmation -

# Mount Olive Lutheran Church

2830 18<sup>th</sup> Ave NW Rochester, MN + 507.288.1580 + [molive.org](http://molive.org) +  

# Friends, Family, & Faith

There are many opportunities for growth as we learn together about God's story in the scriptures, our world today, and where our stories are woven into God's story as we live as the community of Jesus. Classrooms for children and youth are staffed with at least two adults to ensure safety and an environment where all are loved and valued. The programs outlined below help open us to God's incredible world, amazing love, and ever-present grace.

## Sunday Mornings

### Little Leapers

On the first Sunday of each month, parent(s) and child(ren) who have not yet started Sunday School can come for caring conversation and fellowship as our little ones take a LEAP into FAITH! This group meets in the Youth Room. (Rm 13)



### Adult Forum

Sunday mornings at 9:15, the Adult Faith Ministry Team sponsors an intergenerational forum in the Fellowship Hall. Other education classes are offered to enrich our spiritual lives and prepare us for nurturing our family and serving our greater community. More information is found in the Faith and Fellowship Ministry brochure (which is green in color).

### Age 3 - Grade 5

As a part of the SPARK (Augsburg Fortress) curriculum, children ages 3 (by September 1) up through grade 5 are taught with lessons that correspond to the Revised Common Lectionary Bible (the weekly scripture readings), which helps them (and their families) better understand what is happening in worship on a particular Sunday. Each week, students and their teachers gather together to explore scripture, enjoy fun activities, pray, and grow in faith and community.



### Worship Participation & Leadership

Ushers, lectors, acolytes, musicians, assisting ministers, communion servers, and other volunteers help to lead us in worship every week. There are many places for people of all ages to join in and assist, either as families, groups, or individually. Children are always an important part of our worship together, and are encouraged to worship with their families in the sanctuary. If needed, there is a staffed nursery that utilizes a pager monitoring system for your convenience. Children's sermons are given during the 8 & 10:30am worship service (9:30 during the summer worship schedule)

### Grade 6 - Grade 8

Students gather for relationship building and education, using *Connect* and *Reform Ancestors*, which are published by Augsburg Fortress. Both curricula explore scripture themes, and connect them to real life with activities, videos and humor.



### Nursery

Mount Olive welcomes all children to worship to learn together where our stories are woven into God's story, as we live as community of Jesus. If needed a nursery is available directly off the sanctuary for those children ages 0-4 years old. Supervision is provided during the education hour and the 10:30 am worship service. The nursery is available for parents to use during the Saturday evening and 8:00 am worship service. Activity bags are available for older children, found by the usher station.

# Intergenerational Education

## Wednesday Evenings

### Intergenerational Gathering Metamorphosis

Beginning October 7

New this year: Following the meal at 5:30 pm we will begin a table discussion to introduce the theme for the night and then move in to worship.

Following the service of music and word the youth (6th grade up) and adults (including parents, grandparents, all friends and members of the congregation, are invited to a facilitated discussion time that will allow us to explore scripture more deeply.

We will learn how God's Story is interwoven within our story. Time for conversation and interactive experiences will encourage and motivate positive growth in our faith life as individuals and as a community. Materials will be provided.



### Grade 1 - Grade 5

We meet on Wednesday nights during the fall, winter and spring. Class will meet from 6:35 to 7:30 beginning Oct. 7. We begin with a short devotion and then move on to a service project. The fall quarter is spent decorating a tree for the Hiawatha Festival of Trees. The proceeds from the sale of the tree benefit Hiawatha Homes here in Rochester. Winter quarter embraces service opportunities such as blanket tying, packing food, baking cookies for the firefighters and more. Spring quarter is spent on other projects benefitting the church and community. This is a great way for our children to learn the importance of service. Please complete a registration form that can be found on the sign-up table in the gathering area. Contact Carrie Fletcher at [cxnfletcher@gmail.com](mailto:cxnfletcher@gmail.com) if you have questions.



### Grade 6 - Grade 8

Students begin the Confirmation process in 6th grade, and join together on Wednesdays at 6:00pm to learn, serve, laugh, and grow. See page 7 for more information. Class begins in October.

### High School

High school students and adults are invited to come at 6:00pm and explore the beauty of how God's Story is woven in our story. Time for conversation and interactive experiences will encourage and motivate positive growth in our faith life as individuals and as a family.

### Music

Various musical opportunities are available on Wednesday nights. The Worship, Music & Arts Ministry brochure (gold in color) provides more information about what is available.

# Youth Activities



## Summer Trips

Mount Olive's destination trips provide a unique opportunity for students to spend time with peers and leaders in an uninterrupted setting. It is a chance to change routines and get away from our usual contexts to learn and grow. Together, we focus on each other, on God, and what God is doing in us and in our world. A Mission/High Adventure trip is being considered for 2016. More information to come this fall.

## Cool Stuff

Mini Youth Gathering - Pumpkin Patch Trip  
Movie Nights - Bonfires - Skiing - Bunko  
Laser Tag - Sledding - Bowling are all activities that we have experienced together through the year.

*(Watch for updated monthly listings via the Messenger, emails, and worship bulletins)*

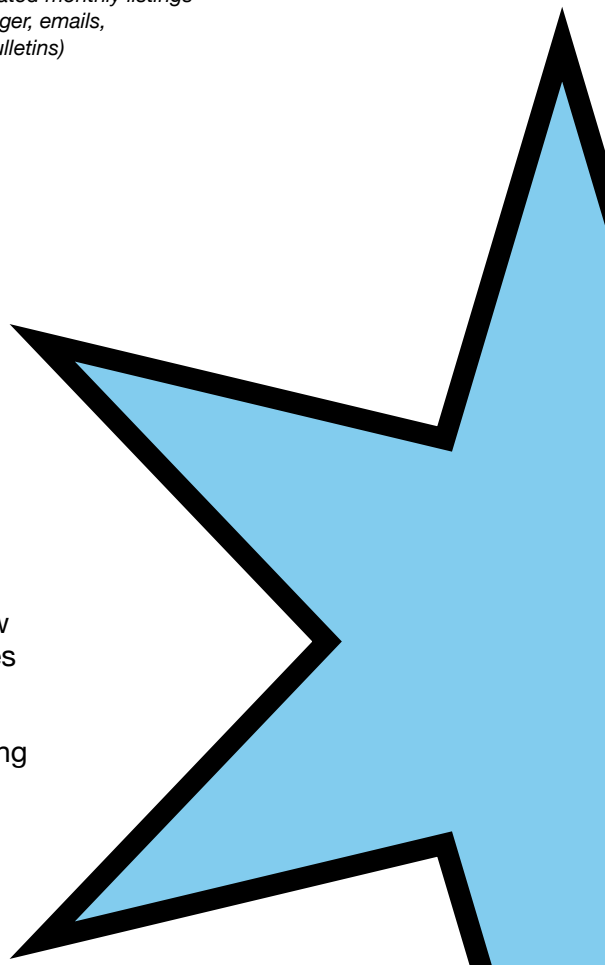
## Service

Serving within the Mount Olive community, Rochester community and the greater world is a strong focus at Mount Olive. A few of the organizations that the youth have served include the Interfaith Hospitality Network-Salvation Army - Lutheran World Relief - Channel One Food Bank-Community Food Response - Global Barnyard

## Social Media

Visit the blog at [moliveontheway.wordpress.com](http://moliveontheway.wordpress.com) and see how students, parents, leaders, and families share about experiences in the community of Mount Olive. Summer trips, photos, and insights about God's grace and presence in our lives are common themes. This year, high school students will be blogging about world religions.

Interactive content is also shared via **facebook** and **youtube**. Search for Mount Olive Lutheran Church.



# Intergenerational Activities

## Adventure Club

Each month, the Adventure Club gathers at a location in or around Rochester. The group is intergenerational, made up of people drawn together by the opportunity to join in an all shared adventure. The dynamic and diverse Adventure Club crew explores a wide array of activities, everything from the outdoors of hiking, birding, biking, canoeing, skiing, baseball, trolley rides, and skating, to the arts of the indoors with drama, music and painting — sometimes at *Canvas and Chardonnay*. The best way to discover the wide range of outings is to participate in an adventure that appeals to you. This group also hosts *High Adventures* throughout the year. Contact [sara@molive.org](mailto:sara@molive.org) if you would like your name added to the monthly email notification list.



## Walk or Run for God (and yourself)!

Have you wanted to increase your walking or running? Are you in a rut? Are you scared to start? We have a group for you: *Walk or Run for God!*

When we gather, we begin with a devotion and then (weather permitting) go outside and run or walk for 30 minutes. We want you to do what you can and know you can improve. We will end with water, snacks, and fun conversation for the last 20 minutes. Meeting places vary, and we are always trying some new areas, even the RCTC indoor track. The first gathering will be the end of September at noon. Site TBA Contact Sara at [sara@molive.org](mailto:sara@molive.org) or Shannon Heldt at [grombuddy@yahoo.com](mailto:grombuddy@yahoo.com) if you have questions

## Music and Drama

Throughout the year, music and drama opportunities are available for people of all ages. Children often sing several times throughout the year during worship. In December, children and youth will have the chance to be part of a Christmas Pageant scheduled for December 20 at 9:15 am.. The Worship, Music & Arts Ministry brochure (gold in color) provides more information about what is available.



# Baptismal Journey

## Baptism

Preparation for baptism begins with a conversation with a pastor. Please call Mount Olive at 507.288.1580 to schedule a thirty minute meeting with one of our pastors to discuss your child's baptism.

## Bible Presentation

Story Book Bibles are presented to the 3 year olds beginning Sunday School, and a Reader Bible is presented to our 2nd graders to continue nurturing their faith with the Holy Scripture.

## Communion

People of all ages (yes, even small children!) are welcome to join the whole church at the Communion table. An intergenerational session called *Welcome to Communion: An Introduction to the Sacrament* is available twice a year for those who want to learn more about the sacrament. Both young and old are welcome. Please contact Pastor Paul or Sara Hollander if interested.

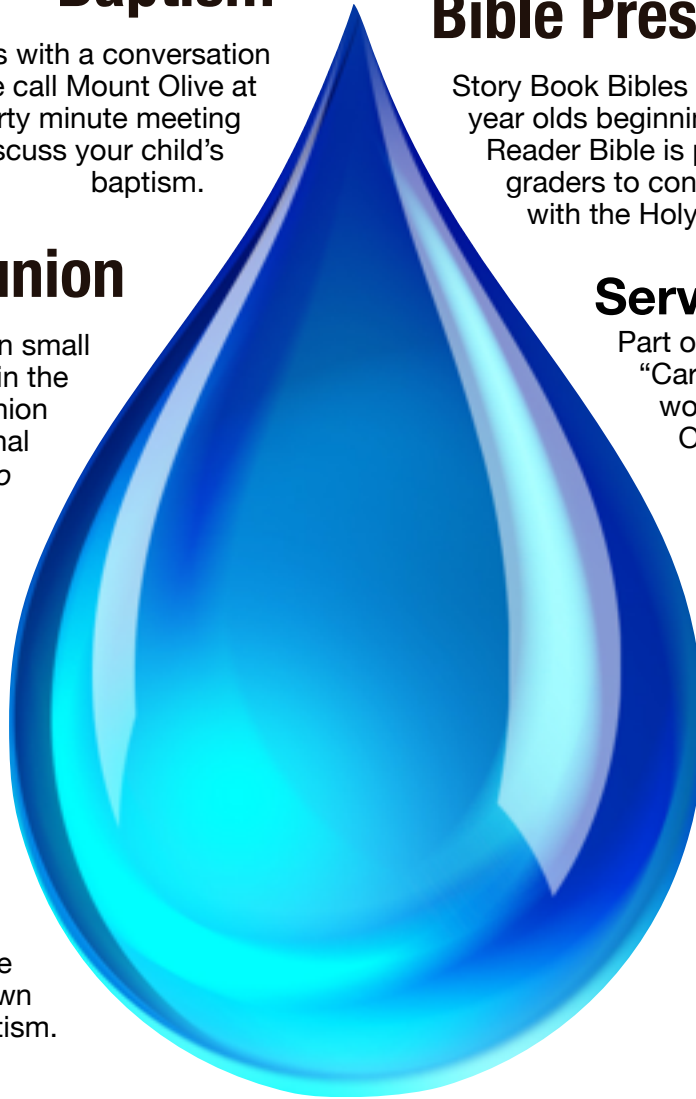
## Confirmation

See page 7 for more information about the confirmation process, also known as Affirmation of Baptism.

## Service/Outreach

Part of the baptismal call is to "Care for others and the world God made".

Opportunities abound to reach out and serve as an individual or a family. Opportunities include: Interfaith Hospitality Network, Lutheran World Relief personal and baby care kits, serving meals for Salvation Army, Dorothy Day House and the Wednesday evening meals. Many ministries both in and outside of the church are ready for your partnership.



**transformed**  
by the *renewing*  
of your minds

Romans 12:2

# Confirmation

*When 6th grade starts, everything changes. Students have a whole new set of challenges: making new friends, taking on new responsibilities, dealing with hormones, body changes, and expectations at home and at school. With a growing ability to see the consequences of different actions, students are increasingly considering who they are and who they may become.*

*For this reason we feel that **Head to the Heart Confirmation Ministry** provides a rich learning environment for students in this transitional time. It is a relational, experiential model that blends education, service, worship and fellowship. This advanced curriculum encourages critical thinking through large-group and small-group discussion.*

## Education

On Sundays students in Grade 6 share their journey together as a class, learning about how we mark time as people of faith. Grades 7 and 8 gather together to engage a high-energy, interactive presentation and then split into small groups for further learning and growth. Students in Grade 9 join with their peers in Youth Forum. On Wednesdays, youth, parents and other congregational members will explore God's Story through a time of worship and guided small groups. This is a time to dig deeper, learning to reflect where our story is richly woven into God's story. Students in Grade 10 affirm their baptism on Reformation Sunday in October, after reflecting on their personal faith journey through a process of writing and sharing a faith statement.

## Worship

Participation in and leadership with worship at Mount Olive gives the students a chance to learn about this central, communal expression of our faith. When in worship, engagement and participation is encouraged. One of the ways we help facilitate engagement is through sermon notes. When in worship and listening to the sermon, students should pay close attention to listen for how the pastor is describing God's work in our lives and world. Sermon notes help identify that *Good News*, and are reviewed weekly by pastors, with occasional feedback given.

## Service

Students will serve others, both at the church or in the community, learning how to love and serve all of our neighbors. This can include serving as an acolyte in worship, helping with Rally Day and other church gatherings, or working with the Interfaith Hospitality Network, Ronald McDonald House, Salvation Army and other services.

## Fellowship

Not only will students connect with one another, but they will also get the opportunity to grow in relationship with the rest of the congregation. Fun activities include outdoor activities, music and drama, as well as Adventure Club and the other cool stuff on page 4.





Your word  
is a lamp for my feet  
a light on my path

*Psalm 119:105*

**Children's Ministry Team:** Jessi Hafeman (Council Rep), Sara Hollander (Staff Rep), Jen Boysen, Carrie Fletcher, Serena Oudekirk, and Sara Swartwood **Youth Ministry Team:** Bob Welsh (Council Rep), Pastor Paul Moody (Staff Rep) Sara Hollander (Staff Rep), Colin Boysen, Phil Lashinski, Preston McKeon, Brad Stensland, Kim Welsh, Pam Wright.

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*Sara Hollander is Mount Olive's Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry. Sara's work connects all generations of the church to learn, develop, and grow together in faith.*

*Sara was born and raised in Milaca, MN, and has a strong Lutheran background. She obtained a Youth and Family Ministry degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2007. Previously, she received her BA in Biology and Psychology from Luther College and her MA in Rehabilitation Counseling from Gallaudet University in Washington DC.*

*For the past 25 years, Sara has worked with youth and families as a counselor and instructor within various working environments. Most recently, she was the coordinator for Youth and Family Ministries for Zion Lutheran Church in Iowa City.*