



It's hard to believe that the early Church didn't seem to care much for celebrating Christmas, since it's such a big part of our lives these days. But perhaps we can gain wisdom from the early Jesus-followers, in that their winter celebrations made room for a contemplative preparation before Christmas, in the season of Advent, similar to the way that Lent helps us prepare for Easter.

Advent gives us space to wonder where God might soon appear, and how God's near arrival will change our world in wonderful ways. But Advent is also a time when we recognize that there are still some parts of God's promised "Peace on Earth" that are waiting to be fulfilled. As a community, we are making space for this contemplative journey towards Christmas. We will continue to join for worship and Holy Communion on Saturdays and Sundays, with the addition of Midweek Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. As we are sent from these worship spaces, our Advent devotionals will provide ongoing conversation and prayer partners for us as we approach Christmas and all its joy and celebration. We hope that it will be a meaningful season for you and those you love.

God's peace be with you,

Pastor Paul

MOUNT OLIVE LIFE

November 22, 2015

**A Glorious Day
at Mount Olive**



**The installation of
Rev. Dr. Glenn
Monson**



Listening Circles with Pastor Glenn

Our new senior pastor, Glenn Monson, is all ears and he would like to hear from you. Please come to one of the Listening Circles scheduled in December to center around the following questions:

- **Where have we been?** (What is the story of Mount Olive?)
- **Where are we now?** (What's going on right now in Rochester? What's our context? What are we equipped for?)
- **Where are we going?** (What are your hopes and dreams for Mount Olive? What is God calling us to?)
- **What is the best route to take in getting to our destination?** (Are there things we need to let go of? Things we need to be sure to retain? Things we need to consider trying?)

Please come to one of the scheduled meetings and share your stories, hopes and dreams.

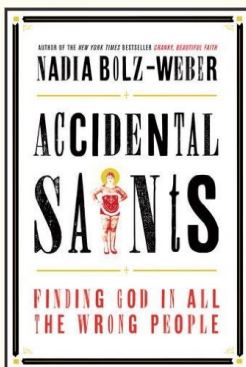
One more note: During one Sunday in January all worshippers will have a chance to weigh-in via a brief questionnaire which will explore how we both give and receive through Mount Olive.

These Listening Circles are for people of all ages, and all will be held at the church. Various times have been selected to accommodate different schedules:

Dec. 9 at 7 pm
Dec. 10 at 1 pm
Dec. 14 at 6 pm
Dec. 15 at 1 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2015						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 7 pm	10 1 pm	11	12
13	14 6 pm	15 1 pm	16	17	18	19

Pub Theology See what's trending.



Come to **Forager Brewery** on Monday nights for food and catching up at 5:30. The discussion begins at 6:00.

The conversation is inspired by Nadia Bolz-Weber's new book: *Accidental Saints*. Pastor Paul Moody distributes the discussion information by email and it

online at Rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com. If you would like to be included on the email distribution list, please email Pastor Paul at paul@molive.org.



Special Event and Schedule Change:
Pub Theology Beer and Carols at Forager Brewery
Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00 pm

This is a joint event with People of Hope Lutheran Church!

Pub Theology is not meeting on Monday, December 21 or 28.

FRIENDS, FAMILY AND FAITH MINISTRY

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

Intergenerational Event

November 29
from 9:15-10:15 am

Come help prepare symbols of Advent to send with the beautiful quilts that are being sent to the Pine Ridge Reservation.

This event takes place during the regular Sunday School hour.

High School & College Youth

November 29 at Noon

Harry Potter Marathon while baking cookies for Shelters



November 30

5:00 - 8:00 pm

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Sign up in the Gathering Area



December 6, 9:30 - 10:15 am

Parents of infants and toddlers not yet in Sunday School join together in conversation and fellowship.

Meet monthly on the first Sunday in the newly renovated room #13.



College Kids Coffee & Cocoa with Pastor Glenn, Pastor Paul and Sara

Monday, December 21, 10:00 am

Young adults, ages 18-22 (ish), are invited to a fellowship hour on December 21 at Mount Olive to meet Pastor Glenn. RSVP to Sara (sara@molive.org) if possible, so we can plan appropriately. Parents, please share this event with your college age young adult!

ADVENTURE CLUB:

- **December 13:** Sunday 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Join Brock and Sara for caroling and fellowship. Meet at Mount Olive. After caroling, enjoy coffee, cocoa and treats. Please bring a plate of cookies to share!
- **December 22:** Tuesday 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Meet at the Forager Brewing Co. for *Pub Theology Beer and Carols* along with People of Hope Lutheran Church!

Children's Christmas Program

December 20
9:15 am
Fellowship Hall



Come and hear again the infancy narratives of Christ, complimented with music from our children and youth.

Santa Lucia Celebration and Receptions Sunday, December 13

A Christian legend from the fourth century tells of a girl named Lucia. After her death, she was made a saint because of her strong Christian faith, charity, and love for people in need. Hundreds of years later, the legend grew following Lucia's appearance in famine stricken Sweden. St. Lucia arrived on a ship, emblazoned with light, sailing across Lake Vanern. The ship carried food for the hungry, which saved many.

Mount Olive has its roots in the Swedish Lutheran Church, and celebrates St. Lucia on the Sunday in December closest to December 13; this year it falls on the exact date. Traditionally our high school girls portray St. Lucia. The Starboys and Mint Girls are children from Kindergarten through second grade. The *Santa Lucia* song will be presented by soloist Sarah Kowalski accompanied by Brock Besse on the organ.

After both Sunday services, everyone is invited to the fellowship hall for the traditional Swedish Lussekatter rolls and coffee. Naomi Circle is hosting this event, assisted by Rachel Circle.



Mark your
calendars now!



Metamorphosis Intergenerational Winter Wednesdays

January 6 - February 3
6:00 - 7:30 pm

Metamorphosis allows us to engage in worship through Bible stories in a way that engages many voices and encourages families to continue the discussion throughout the week. All are welcome and invited to join this journey of Metamorphosis! A way to allow our minds to "Be Transformed".



Youth Service Trip Meeting December 13, 11:30 am

**We are going to Pine Ridge Indian
Reservation July 17-22, 2016**

Are you interested in serving? Learn more about this opportunity at a meeting on December 13 at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary. Contact Sara Hollander if you have any questions.

ADULTS

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

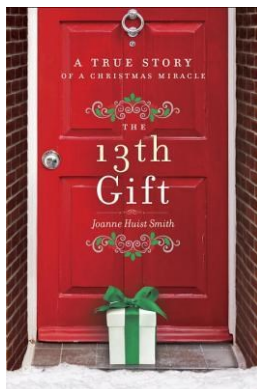
December 1	Video Clip Discussion: <i>The Science of Mindfulness</i>
January 4	FSU is not meeting in January

Faith Seeking Understanding reads and shares conversations about books on theology, religion, spirituality and Christianity and our changing church. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jody Myers at jodyjpmyers@gmail.com.

Monday Book Group

December 14

Bring a wrapped used book and a small potluck dessert.



The 13th Gift

By Joanne Huist Smith

After the unexpected death of her husband, Joanne Huist Smith had no idea how she would keep herself together and be strong for her three children. But 12 days before Christmas, presents begin appearing on her doorstep with notes from their "True Friends." This true story about the power of random acts of kindness will warm the heart.

All are welcome.

Meet in the Mount Olive library the second Monday at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please Contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net or Darlene Vowels at vowelsjd@charter.net.



**Sunday
Forum
9:15 am**

**Grab some coffee and gather
in the fellowship hall.**

- December 6 - Simplifying Gift Giving
- December 13 - Santa Lucia Reception
- December 20 - Enjoy the Children's Christmas Program
- December 27 - No Forum

**Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, December 8
9:00 am**



All knitters and crocheters are invited. Yarn, treats, guidance, wisdom, support, and humor are shared! Gather in the front conference room.



Women's Christmas Party

Monday, December 7 - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

All women are invited

Theme: Life Giving Water

Speaker: Nicole Pearson, Mount Olive member, will present *Insights on an Eastern Congo Orphanage*

Free Will Offering: will support Clean Water through ELCA World Hunger
Enjoy fellowship with women of all ages, stimulating conversation and delicious Christmas treats. Please come as you are.

Santa Lucia Sunday

Sunday, December 13

After both Sunday services, everyone is invited to the fellowship hall for the home baked traditional Swedish Lussekatter rolls and coffee. Mount Olives roots are in the Swedish Lutheran Church. The Santa Lucia celebrated is a longtime Mount Olive tradition. Naomi Circle is hosting the receptions, assisted by Rachel Circle.



Ripe Olives

Potluck Breakfast and Concert

• Friday, December 11 at 9:30 am

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a pot-luck breakfast and social time with discussion/ planning for the concert on December 20. Please sign up sheet in the gathering area.

• Sunday, December 20 at 7:00 pm

A Christmas Concert by the Rochester Pops Orchestra directed by Brock Besse at Century High School.



Rochester Pops Orchestra

© 2014 Rochester Pops Orchestra

Mount Olive Quilters

Each Thursday, 9 am

You are invited each week to enjoy quilting and fellowship.



SERVICE AND SOCIAL OUTREACH MINISTRY (SSOM)

"Gift Giving Day" Sunday December 6 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

Come to browse and select from a variety of unique, meaningful giving options that change lives locally and around the world in honor of a friend or loved one for Christmas!

You will receive a commemorative ornament to acknowledge the meaningful gift purchased.

As well, donations of the items listed below are being accepted for Interfaith Hospitality Network, Lutheran World Relief, and the Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Ministry.

- **Yarn:** Lion Brand Homespun yarn.
- **Batting:** size 72" by 90", polyester
- **Thread:** 500 yds. all purpose thread (any color)
- **Socks:** Any size and color



Habitat for Humanity Gift Wrapping Fundraiser December 19

Please join the Service and Social Outreach Ministry team and Habitat for Humanity for a day of gift wrapping at Apache Mall. Sign up in the gathering area. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Sinnwell at 507-990-6079 or email her at etracy515@hotmail.com.

Fair Trade Coffee

Stop by the **Fair Trade Coffee** display in the gathering area to check out the varieties of ground and whole bean coffee and tea available for



*Fair Trade Coffee
and Tea make great
Christmas gifts.*

purchase. You can also sign up to sponsor the coffee on an upcoming Sunday. For \$15 you can help offset the cost of the coffee served during fellowship time and celebrate an occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, or the memory of a loved one.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing November 30 or December 5



You are invited to sign up in the gathering area for half-hour bell ringing shifts at HyVee North.

Other dates and times are available.

You may register at:

<https://www.registertoring.com>

Spiritual Companions Meeting

December 13 at 11:30 am

If you are interested in being involved in the caring ministry of the congregation please come to a meeting with Pastor Glenn on December 13 at 11:30 am. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Glenn, his email address is glenn@molive.org.

Altar Flowers

The 2016 schedule is now available

You may sign up to brighten the sanctuary with flowers. Place orders for birthdays, anniversaries, baptismal birthdays, births, or in memory of loved ones. Sign up in the gathering area, fill out an envelope and include payment. Place order at least one week in advance.



Worship Volunteer Update

December Worship Volunteer Schedules have been sent to all participants. The schedule is also available on the church website. Here is a direct link:

<http://tinyurl.com/lmjbljr>

Volunteers are needed for Advent Evening Prayer (Wednesdays at 6 pm) and Christmas Eve services (4 and 7 pm). Contact Nancy if you are available. Communion assistants, nursery attendants, and ushers are needed.

Volunteers will also be invited to help at worship services in January via the online sign up site: **Sign Up Genius**. If you do not receive the email invitation or "don't do computers" but are willing to serve, please contact Nancy Britson, Volunteer Coordinator, and she will help you: nancy@molive.org 288-1580 ext. 210.

Thank You Jenn DeClercq!

The Altar Guild would like to thank Jenn DeClercq. Jenn volunteered to provide the sanctuary Christmas tree in honor of her nephew and Godson, Samuel Floberg, who was injured in an ambush in Afghanistan while on combat patrol. A rocket launched grenade severed his right leg and he continues to suffer with the effects of Traumatic Brain Injury. The same grenade killed the driver of the convoy, Corporal Nathan Goodiron, who was Sam's best friend.



Advent and Christmas at Mount Olive

Weekly Worship with Holy Communion

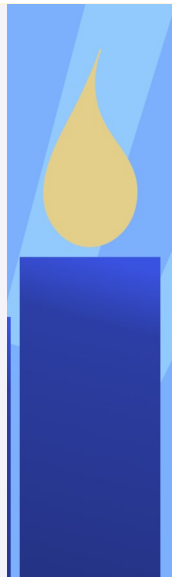
Daily Advent Devotions

Midweek Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6:00

Christmas Eve Services: December 24

Candlelight Worship with Communion

4 pm and 7 pm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> <div>D e c e m b e r</div> <div>2 0 1 5</div> </div>		1 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Service and Social Outreach Ministry Team 6:30p Faith Seeking Understanding Book Group 7:30p Glory Bells Rehearsal 8:00p Volleyball	2 5:30p Youth Brass Rehearsal 6:00p Advent Evening Prayer 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	3 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 7:00p 'In the Process' AI- Anon	4 6:00p Serve at Dorothy Day House	5 8:30a Men's Discipleship 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 5:00p Worship
6 Advent 2 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Education Hour Forum - Simplifying Gift Giving 9:30a Little Leapers 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship	7 5:30p Pub Theology 6:30p Women of the ELCA Christmas Party	8 9:00a Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Executive Council Meeting 7:15p Volleyball 7:30p Glory Bells Rehearsal	9 5:30p Youth Brass Rehearsal 6:00p Advent Evening Prayer 7:00p Listening Circle with Pastor Glenn 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	10 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 1:00p Listening Circle with Pastor Glenn 5:30p Facility & Grounds Ministry Team 5:30p Adult Faith Ministry Team 7:00p 'In the Process' AI- Anon	11 9:00a Ripe Olives	12 8:30a Men's Discipleship 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 9:00a Habitat for Humanity Work Day 5:00p Worship
13 Advent 3 8:00a Worship 9:00a St. Lucia Reception 9:15a Education Hour 10:30a Worship 11:30a St. Lucia Reception 11:30a Spiritual Companions Meeting 11:30a Youth Service Trip Informational Meeting 3:00p Christmas Caroling 7:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Rehearsal	14 5:30p Pub Theology 6:00p Listening Circle with Pastor Glenn 6:30p Monday Book Group 6:30p Lydia Circle	15 9:15a Staff Meeting 1:00p Listening Circle with Pastor Glenn 6:00p Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team 6:30p WomenHeart of SE MN Support Group 7:30p Glory Bells Rehearsal	16 5:30p Youth Brass Rehearsal 6:00p Advent Evening Prayer 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	17 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 7:00p 'In the Process' AI- Anon	18 7:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Rehearsal	19 8:30a Men's Discipleship 9:00a Altar Guild Setup & Meeting 10:00a District 41 AI-Anon Meeting 1:00p Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 5:00p Worship
20 Advent 4 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15p Children's Christmas Program 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 7:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Christmas Concert (Century High School)	21 10:00a College Youth Gathering	22 9:15a Staff Meeting 7:00p Pub Theology Beer and Carols	23 6:00p Advent Evening Prayer 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	24 Christmas Eve 4:00p Christmas Eve Service 7:00p Christmas Eve Service 7:00p 'In the Process' AI- Anon	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 	26 8:30a Men's Discipleship 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 5:00p Worship
27 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship	28	29 9:15a Staff Meeting	30	31 7:00p 'In the Process' AI- Anon		