

Education 2016 - 2017



Mount Olive Lutheran Church


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Weekends

Sunday Forum

- What?** An intergenerational forum focusing on social ministry partners and other faith based learning. Grab a cup of coffee and join the group!
- Who?** All are welcome, geared towards Middle School and older ages.
- When?** Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m.
- Where?** Fellowship Hall (most days).

Forum Calendar

Date	Topic
September 11	No Forum – everyone is invited to be part of God’s Work, Our Hands Day.
September 18	Bolder Options – Teaching Youth to Succeed
September 25	Next Chapter Ministries – A Network for Changing Lives
October 2	Does God Discriminate Against Women? – Steve Will
October 9	Jeremiah Program – JoMarie Morris
October 16	Nurturing Relationships — Pastor Shelley Cunningham
October 23	Olmsted County Victims’ Services — Amy Thompson
October 30	No Forum – Reformation Sunday/Confirmation Reception
November 6	Gage East & Affordable Housing for the Homeless — Nancy Ashman
November 13	Mission 21 – Empowering Youth Survivors of Sex Trafficking
November 20	Anyuak Faith Community, Austin, MN — Nygare Gilo
November 27	Intergenerational Event – Thanksgiving weekend
December 4	Biblical Archaeology – Session #1
December 11	Biblical Archaeology – Session #2
December 18	No Forum – Children’s Christmas Pageant
December 25	No Forum – Christmas Day
January 1	No Forum – New Year’s Day

Sunday School

What? Sunday School.

PK3 – Grade 5

Preschool and Elementary Sunday School will be using Spark curriculum again this year. It connects us with the scripture lessons that we use in worship each Sunday. Lessons have been set up for the whole year, so you'll be able to download or print out as many lessons as you need from your home computer (or the church). We'll talk more about the SPARK website at the Sunday School Volunteer Training meeting

PK3 will also be using the book series of Read Aloud Bible Stories" by Ella K. Lindval. This series is perfect for reading aloud stories of God's truth with a fun "What Did You Learn?" page that helps children understand how God's Word applies to them today.

Grade 5 In addition to the Spark curriculum, experiential learning to deepen their understanding of worship will be supplemented throughout the year. Areas of worship that will be explored will include but are not limited to making communion bread, acolyte training, reading scripture, ushering, and singing.

Who? 3 year olds through Grade 5.

When? Sunday mornings, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Where? Sunday School Wing



Sunday Metamorphosis

What? A learning forum!

Grades 6-7 will be learning about the seasons of the church year along with Baptized We Live by Daniel Erlander to supplement their learning from Wednesday nights. Both of the curriculums explore Lutheranism as a way of seeing, hearing, teaching, and following Christ.

Grades 8-10 will work with a curriculum out of Spark House called Animate: Practices. Topics will include, but are not limited to: prayer, food, worship, sacraments, money, service, and community. The curriculum provides a guided experience for curious youth to explore faith, wonder, reflect and seek meaning that applies to their lives.

Who? Students in Middle School and High School

When? Sunday mornings, 9:15 -10:15 a.m.

Where? Youth Room 7/8 and Youth Forum 13

Youth Leadership

What? Soul Feed

Youth Leadership is designed for our young adults (16 years and up) who are interested in digging even deeper in their faith exploration through attending various organized leadership opportunities at Mount Olive and within the greater community. Each Sunday we will gather for a devotion from *SOUL FEED* followed by serving. Opportunities of service include, but are not limited to: assisting with Sunday School, helping in the Nursery, preparing for our Service Sunday, and **Breakfast Club** which will have a new twist this year.



Who? Young Adults (ages 16+)

When? Sunday mornings, 9:15 -10:15 a.m.

Where? Room 15

Little Leapers

What? On the first Sunday of each month, parents and children who have not yet started Sunday School join together in the “Children’s Nook” area of the Gathering Area to share in caring conversation and fellowship as our little ones take a *LEAP* into *FAITH*. This year the group will be using a new Spark House curriculum called *frolic*, which provides a social, family-friendly setting for faith to grow.

Who? Parents and youth with children who have not yet started Sunday School. Contact Serena Oudekirk for more information: serena.oudekirk@phhonline.com.

When? The First Sunday of each month at 9:15 a.m.

Where? Children’s Nook in the Gathering Area.



Saturday Men’s Discipleship Group

What? A Bible study seeking to develop meaningful relationships and a better understanding of what it means to be disciples of Christ. This gathering focuses on scripture or a book that helps us to walk closer to the Lord and to our families, and encourages us in being disciples of Jesus. Come as your schedule allows. If you have questions, you can talk with Mark Masbruch, Paul Johnson or Mark Schoer.

Who? Men of all ages. Contact Mark Masbruch for more information: mmasbruch@hotmail.com.

When? Saturday mornings, 8:30 a.m.

Where? Mount Olive Conference Room (by the offices/front door)

Weekdays

Pub Theology

What? Forum with Pastor Paul. Conversation focuses on topics that connect faith, spirituality, and our world. Each week's discussion is posted ahead of time at rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com and via email. If you would like to be included on the email distribution list, please email Pastor Paul at paul@molive.org.

Who? All are welcome.

When? Monday evenings, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at a local brewery or pub.



Pastor Glenn's Bible Study

What? A gathering to study God's word together. From September 7 through November 16, we will make our way through the final book in the New Testament: *Revelation*. The study guide we will be using is called *Breaking the Code* by Princeton New Testament scholar Bruce Metzger. This study promises to be an enriching time for anyone who has wondered what to make of this strange and wonderful book of Scripture. Study guides are \$8.

Who? All are welcome.

When? Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU) Book Group

What? Faith Seeking Understanding is a welcoming and inclusive book group that reads and shares conversations about a variety of books on theology, religion, spirituality, Christianity, and our changing world and Church. Two months will feature video discussions from *Living the Questions*. The video discussion requires no preparation, come and view with the group and share in the conversation. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jody Myers at jodyjpmyers@gmail.com. (See table on next page for schedule of books.)

Who? All are welcome.

When? The first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

FSU Book List

September 6		<p><i>Between the World and Me</i> by Ta-Nehisi Coates.</p> <p>This book, a winner of the National Book Award, is a series of essays, written as a letter to the author's son. Coates confronts the notion of race in America and how it has shaped American history, many times at the cost of black bodies and lives. Thoughtfully exploring personal and historical events, the author poignantly asks and attempts to answer difficult questions that plague modern society. Pastor Glenn will lead discussion of this selection.</p>
October 4		<p><i>Love is an Orientation</i> by Andrew Marin</p> <p>Award winner Andrew Marin's life changed forever when his three best friends came out to him in three consecutive months. He was compelled to understand how he could reconcile his friends to his faith. <i>Love Is an Orientation</i> is changing the conversation about sexuality and spirituality, and building bridges from the GLBT community to the Christian community and, more importantly, to the good news of Jesus Christ. Pastor Paul will lead discussion of this selection.</p>
November 1		<p><i>Video Discussion: Living the Questions</i></p> <p>Bringing together the voices of top Bible scholars and church leaders including Diana Butler Bass, John Dominic Crossan, Amy-Jill Levine, Brian McLaren, Helen Prejean, and John Shelby Spong, pastors David Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy present a lively and stimulating tour of what it means to be a "progressive" Christian.</p>
December		No meeting.
January		No meeting.
February 7		<p><i>Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home</i> by Pope Francis</p> <p>In his second encyclical, <i>Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home</i> (an encyclical on climate change) Pope Francis draws all Christians into a dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home. We as human beings are united by the concern for our planet, and every living thing that dwells on it, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Pope Francis letter joins the body of the Church's social and moral teaching, draws on the best scientific research, providing the foundation for the ethical and spiritual itinerary that follows.</p>
March 7		<p><i>Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible's View of Women</i> by Sarah Bessey</p> <p>Gender roles have been debated for centuries, and now Sarah Bessey offers a clarion freedom call for all who want to realize their giftedness and potential in the kingdom of God. Through a thoughtful review of biblical teaching and church practices, Bessey shares how following Jesus made a feminist out of her.</p>
April 4		<p><i>Video Discussion: Living the Questions</i></p> <p>Bringing together the voices of top Bible scholars and church leaders including Diana Butler Bass, John Dominic Crossan, Amy-Jill Levine, Brian McLaren, Helen Prejean, and John Shelby Spong, pastors David Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy present a lively and stimulating tour of what it means to be a "progressive" Christian.</p>

Wednesday Metamorphosis

What? Metamorphosis is an intergenerational learning forum designed to help us more deeply understand our faith together through shared experiences as we move towards Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation). The program is best experienced as a two year movement. Although it is targeted specifically for students in Middle School to provide meaningful development in preparation for Confirmation, it also provides opportunities for people of all ages to learn, explore, and develop. The tick-tock, Sunday-Wednesday movement allows for diverse voices to be shared and heard while also providing space for Confirmands to grow as a class. Together we will learn what it means to be the people of God in our context, responding to God's Good News for humanity and all creation, following a threefold pattern through Fall, Winter, and Spring: **Proclaim Story**, **Proclaim Justice**, and **Proclaim Community**. Wednesday gatherings are intergenerational, and are open to all in the congregation to participate as ability allows. Sunday sessions compliment Wednesday sessions but are limited to students in Middle School for peer-focused catechesis.

Who? All are welcome, especially students in Middle School with their families.

When? Wednesdays. Mealtime begins at 5:30 p.m., programming runs from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Special Events

Lenten Bible Study

What? A Bible study the Book of Daniel will be our focus this year. Daniel is a book of consolation. The message is clear: *evil will not have the last word*. This course provides an opportunity to ponder our calling as faithful disciples in troubling times. Additionally, each session begins and ends with a devotional component inviting participants to reflect on what they hear in the text and what the message of the text means for us in our calling to discipleship. Study guides are \$8. Watch for a sign-up in February.

Who? All are welcome.

When? Sundays at 9:15 a.m. (in place of the forum) and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. during the season of Lent (begins Sunday, March 5th, and ends Sunday, April 9th).



STEP UP: Leadership Development

What? STEP UP is a day-long leadership development experience that will introduce youth to college level concepts of leadership and will help them develop a stronger personal plan for continuing to grow as a leader. Cost is \$10 and space is limited. Pick up an application for this event from Sara Hollander.

Who? High School Youth

When? November 3, 2016 & March 2017 (TBA)

Where? Gustavus Adolphus College

Women's Retreat

What? *"No man is an island." The words ring as true now as when poet John Donne penned them almost 400 years ago. But finding deep, nurturing relationships in today's over-scheduled, under-connected world isn't always easy. Does it feel like your days are busy but your soul is parched? Do you long for the camaraderie and joy that comes when you feel truly connected to and supported by sisters in Christ? We'll spend time with women of the Bible who faced their own unique challenges finding community, and learn how to nurture healthy relationships that remind us we are not on life's journey alone. Join the women of Mt. Olive for a weekend of faith, friends, and fun -- and be refreshed as you let your heart rest in the love of Jesus. - Shelley Cunningham*

Pastor, writer, parent, friend: of all the roles that describe Shelley Cunningham, the one that gives her the most confidence and peace is *child of God*, mostly because it's the only one that offers her grace for all the missed deadlines, basketball games, and girls' nights out. She finds Christ's word best dwells in her when she sings hymns, teaches confirmation class, hikes outdoors, and spends time with other faithful women. Come and learn as Shelley Cunningham walks with us in faith. Registration begins September 17.

Who? Women of all ages.

When? October 14th - 15th

Where? Mount Olive Fellowship Hall





Women's Circles

What? Women of the ELCA is a vibrant group at Mount Olive! The focus is on fellowship, Bible study, and service at church, the community and around the world. (Look for service details in the Service brochure). All women at Mount Olive are considered a part of this group and we encourage you to participate as you are able. This year we will be using the People of Faith Series for our circle Bible Studies which meet September-May. This series highlights 8 different characters in the Bible: Adam, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Rachel, Joseph, Moses and Joshua. This course invites us to, "Open Scripture. Join the Conversation," and connect Bible, life and faith.

On Saturday March 11th, there's a special Mount Olive Women's Day of Service that is a perfect event to make new friends while serving others. Service projects include: Habitat for Humanity, Channel One, quilting, and knitting prayer shawls, etc. We conclude by sharing a meal together.

There are six organized circles at Mount Olive that meet monthly during the program year for Bible study, discussion and spiritual care. See table, below, for circle meeting times and locations. Questions, or want to join a circle? Contact: Sherry Sanden Will, president Women of the ELCA at sher05@charter.net.

Who? Women of all ages.

When? See tables, below.

Calendar: Circle Meeting Times and Locations

Circle	Meeting Time	Location
Anna Circle	Third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.	Mount Olive
Lydia Circle	Second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.	Mount Olive
Mary Circle	Fourth Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m.	Members' Homes
Naomi Circle	Fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m.	Mount Olive
Rachel Circle	Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.	Mount Olive
Ruth Circle	Fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.	Mount Olive

Calendar: Women of the ELCA

Date	Event & Details
September 17-18	Quilt Celebration Reception (2000+ quilts) after each service
October 14-15	Women's Retreat in the Fellowship Hall. Friday: 6:30-8:30pm, Saturday: 9am-4pm
November 1-30	Tree of Thanksgiving
November 6	Board Meeting at 11:45 a.m.
December 5	Women of the ELCA Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by Mary Circle
December 11	St. Lucia Sunday hosted by Naomi and Rachel Circles
January 8	Board Meeting at 11:45 a.m.
January 29	Hosting Meal for the Annual Congregational Meeting
February 26	Board Meeting at 11:45 a.m.
March 1	Ash Wednesday Soup Supper
March 4	World Day of Prayer
March 11	Women's Day of Service from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
April 20	Women of the ELCA Zumbro River Spring Conference Gathering 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 pm at Mount Olive
May 14	Thankoffering, Quilts, and Prayer Shawl Blessing (Mother's Day)
June	Project Comfort Coffee to support the Quilt and Care Kit Shipping Fund
July 13-16	Women of the ELCA Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, MN

Sacramental Mystagogy

*The best way to learn about the Sacraments is to participate in them. We call this **mystagogy**: teaching through participation in the mystery of God's presence in, with, and under the Word, the Water, the Bread and the Wine. We have ongoing opportunities for you to learn about what it means to be invited into Baptism and Communion.*

Baptism

Preparation for baptism begins with a conversation with a pastor. Please contact the Church Office at 507.288.1580 to schedule a thirty minute meeting with Pastor Glenn or Pastor Paul to learn, share, and prepare for this important congregational event.

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 (October 19 and February 8). Both young and old are welcome.



