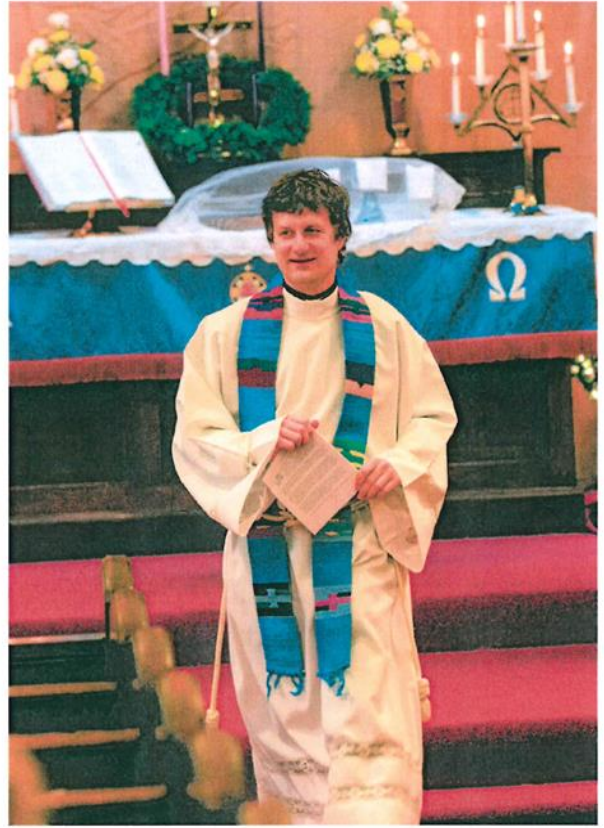


ANNUAL REPORT

2017



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In 2017, Lutherans around the world observed the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are called to foster unity within the church and to live into God's calling together in the years ahead. Through our more than 3.7 million members and friends, we will continue to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

We are church together, united by a common vision.

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

We are church for the sake of the world, united by a common purpose.

Together in Jesus Christ, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.



As we strive to live into this vision and purpose, we face many challenges. In a radically individualistic society, we seek to create and sustain life-giving relationships and communities that connect us to God and one another. In a society that is becoming increasingly secular while facing many tensions, we seek to proclaim the gospel and share the story of Jesus as a source of hope, inclusion, peace and reconciliation. And, in a world that misuses power and authority while struggling with growing inequality, we seek to follow Jesus who spoke publicly for those who were oppressed and marginalized.

As your church family gathers to make decisions about using the gifts God has entrusted to you, may you remember that by the tender love of God, by the ceaseless pursuit of the Spirit, we are members of the body of Christ. We are family. We share our lives. We love each other. By the reconciling expression of God's grace, we can live confidently and generously in this community of faith and in service of others because we are joined in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Living together in community with Christ,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7



Mount Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rochester, Minnesota

57th Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 12:00 pm

A. Call to Order – Amy Determan

B. Opening Prayer – Rev. Paul Moody

C. Approval of Minutes from the 2017 56th Annual Congregational Meeting

D. Staff/Team Reports

E. Financial Reports

1. 2017 Treasurer's Report – Don Halley, Congregational Treasurer
2. 2017 General & Building Fund Report– Bill Hollander, Congregational Administrator

F. New Business 2018

1. Inclusive Church Taskforce Team Update – Taskforce Team Member
2. Report of Nominating Committee
 - a. Election of Council Leadership and Voting Members – Amy Determan
3. Proposed 2018 Budget – Bill Hollander, Congregational Administrator
4. Adoption of 2018 General and Building Fund Budgets – Amy Determan
5. Proposed amendment to Constitution – Amy Determan
6. Adoption of Constitution amendment – Amy Determan
7. Expressions of Gratitude for Service to Mount Olive
 - a. Amy Determan, President
 - b. Lori Kuhlman-Leibfried, Secretary
 - c. Greg Heldt, Finance Chair and Stewardship
 - d. Barb Granquist, Mutual Ministry
 - e. Dave Mickelson, Adult Faith Ministry
 - f. Lori Lewis, Endowment
 - g. Mark Schultze, Service and Social Outreach
 - h. Charlie Guy, Council Youth Representative
 - i. Carolyn Goulet, Nominating Committee
 - J. Eric Fosdick, Columbarium Committee

G. Report of Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson

H. Lord's Prayer and Benediction

I. Adjournment

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Mount Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Mount Olive 56th Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2017

I. Call to order

Amy Determan called to order the regular meeting of the Mount Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church 56th Annual Congregational Meeting at 12:18 on January 29, 2017 at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN.

II. Quorum

A Quorum of 103 people was counted by Greg Heldt

III. Opening Prayer: Pastor Paul Moody

IV. Approval of Minutes from the 2016, 55th Annual Congregational Meeting

Notes of correction:

- Amy Determan called the meeting to order
- Quorum of 85 people were counted by Greg Heldt

Motion to approve the minutes with the corrections noted

1st Ross Parker, 2nd Peter Heldt

All in Favor

Motion Passed

V. Staff/Ministry Team Reports

- Review of staff reports. No comments, questions nor additions were made to the reports.
- Review of Ministry Team Reports. No comments, questions nor additions were made to the reports.

Motion to adopt all Staff and Ministry Team reports as written

1st Dick Geier, 2nd Lori Kuhlmann-Leibfried

All in Favor

Motion passed

VI. Financial Reports

A. 2016 Treasurer's Report: Don Halley, Congregational Treasurer

- Title should be: 2016 Treasurer's Report
- We took in a total of \$759,000.00 and spent ~\$704,000.00 resulting in an increase of \$55,546.14 total current assets.
- We spent \$1418.10 on capital improvements
- We paid \$69,000.00 on the mortgage leaving a balance of \$744,862.36.
- Most of the increase in the Endowment fund was due to an increase in the market value. A total of \$1669.58 was from interest and dividends.
- General Income: took in \$611,744.85 and spent \$573,851.47, leaving a surplus of \$37,893.38. There was a net transfer out to other funds of ~\$5000.00
- If you look at the actual in the budget and look at the budget difference, there are some discrepancies. In previous years the actual numbers were net, they included income and expense. This year in the actuals, the totals are noted and the reimbursed expenses are in the budget difference.

B. 2016 General and Building Fund Report: Bill Hollander, Congregational Administrator

- Bill expresses his thanks to everyone present and for the giving received.
 - The increased giving will mean an increase in benevolence giving.
- The staff did a great job working with decreased programming dollars.
- This year, the pledged giving is up 6% over the pledging of last year.
- The Annual budget meeting was 2 weeks ago and there were some excellent questions.
 - Questions addressed dealt with the differences seen in the actuals vs. budget. The additional income we had covered those expenses. For ex: The bus trip to the Swedish institute... it registered as an expense, but everyone reimbursed Bill for the trip.
- Bill offered to provide an in-depth review of the financial records if anyone is interested.

Motion to accept the 2016 Treasure Reports and the General and Building Fund Reports

1st Mark Masbruch, 2nd Regina Seabrook

All in Favor

Motion Passed

VII. New Business 2017

A. Report of Nominating Committee

1. Election of Council Leadership and Voting Members: Amy Determan

Full Council:

Endowment Fund Representative:

Jim Berg (1st yr. of 3 yr. term)

Children/Youth Ministry Team (have 2 Members as these teams combined this year):

Renee Kuehl (1st yr. of 1st three yr. term)

Jesse Hafeman (2nd yr. of 2nd three yr. term)

Youth Representative:

Charlie Guy

Non-Council, elected leaders and offices:

Endowment Team:

Lori Kirkland-1 yr. term

Mark Masbruch-2 yr. term

Jim Berg-3 yr. term

2017 Synod Assembly Voting Members: elected every year for a 1 yr. term

Regina Seabrook (recused from the ballot, currently on the SEMN Synod council)

Jerry and Norma Wollenberg

Sophia Natzke

2017 Synod Assembly Alternates:

Dick and Lucy DeRemee

We do not have a youth/young adult

2017 Nominating Committee:

Eric Klavetter (1st yr. of 3 yr. term)

Carolyn Goulet (volunteered to fill a 1 yr. term, replacing Mark Schoer in his final year) ... this was approved by council to add this on

2017 Columbarium Committee

Chris Miller

- *Correction to the Annual Report:* The date on page 30 should be January 29, 2017.
- *Nominations from the floor:*
 - Bill Hollander nominated Renee Schaefer for the Synod Assembly Voting Member... Renee accepted. Second to support Bill's nomination of Renee... Regina Seabrook.
 - Second call for nominations from the floor: none; Final call for nominations from the floor: none

Amy Determan made a motion to accept the members for election for 2017 including the addition of Renee Schaefer and removal of Regina Seabrook for Synod Assembly

1st Sally Hines, 2nd Carol Fosdick

All in Favor

Motion Passed

B. Proposed 2017 Budget: Bill Hollander, Congregational Administrator

- Bill presented a balanced budget
- Areas of Increase:
 - Mutual Ministry (staff raises and increases in health care).
 - Facilities: we had to have a few different forms of inspection (i.e sprinkler system)
- Program funding is staying the same with a slight raise in Worship, Music and Arts
- Building budget: We did not spend as much \$ on the parking lot repair as the facilities team did some maintenance items themselves ... therefore a carry-over from last year's building budget in 2017
- The budget anticipates more income than what we anticipate spending.
- Library space in the gathering area will get updated (furniture and shelving) by the Library team
- There will be upgrades to the women's restroom
- Question: The Benevolence is the same (currently at 6%, was at 10%).
 - The Goal of the Council is to get it back up. Bill notes the congregation has given specifically to benevolences/ministries, around the world and in our own community, outside of the budget, totaling another ~\$11,000.00

Motion made by Amy Determan to Accept the 2017 General and Building Fund Budget as presented

1st Sharon Parker, 2nd Donna Grever

All in Favor

Motion Passed

C. Proposed amendments to the constitution: Amy Determan

- Letters were sent out to the congregation prior to the meeting seeking approval to bring our Mt. Olive Lutheran Church Constitution into conformity with the modeled constitution for congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as amended by churchwide assemblies from 2010-2016. We have not done this since 2009.
- Copies were made available for review.

- Questions: none

Amy Determan made a motion to accept the proposed amendments to the Mount Olive Lutheran Church Constitution

1st Bill Hollander, 2nd Greg Heldt

All in Favor

Motion Passed

D. Proposed changes to Bylaws: Amy Determan

- The Endowment bylaw needed to be updated. The chapter in the current constitution states...*"This chapter in the bylaws will be replaced and will serve as the adopted mission goals, policies and procedures for the fund."* The Endowment Committee created that chapter and it was approved at the council meeting. Now it needs to be approved at the Congregational Meeting.
- Proposed bylaw change will state...*"The Mount Olive Mission Endowment fund shall be an established fund of the congregation. The Endowment Fund Team shall be responsible for the administration of the fund. This fund shall be administered according to the policies set forth in the operations document of the fund. Any modifications to the operations document of the fund must be approved by the congregation. The Endowment Fund Team shall report to the church council which shall serve as the trustees for the fund, making an annual report to the congregation."*
 - The reference to the operations document of the fund has been in place for many years and no changes were made to that this past year as the team reconvened.
- Questions: none

Amy Determan made a motion to accept the proposed change to chapter 6 in the Endowment bylaw update to our Mount Olive Bylaws

1st Richard Willis, 2nd Terry Krieger

All in Favor

Motion Passed

E. Inclusive Church Taskforce Team Introduction/Plan: Randi Beyerl, Jake Johnson, Becky Lashinski

- Began out of a shared grief for the post night club shooting in Orlando, FL 2016 and a desire to have a faithful community response. The Mt Olive Church Council approved the proposal to move forward with the framework that would guide the conversation of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation (RIC). With the assistance of the Executive Church Council, a core team to steer the effort was organized.
 - Core Team Members of the Inclusive Church Taskforce Team: Paula Freitag, Mickaela Pasch, Randi Beyerl, Becky Lashinski, Jake Johnson, Elmer Odland, Tom Rigby and David Johnston. Pastor Glenn and Pastor Paul attend as well. Other congregation members who have expressed an interest are also involved.
- The team is working through the Guidelines given by Reconciling Works, a Lutheran Organization that helps churches work through the process of becoming a living, fully inclusive church (www.reconcilingworks.org). Hoping this framework can be a model for our community to discuss other complex subjects as well.
- The team has had a couple of meetings to get to know and to start building relationships with each other. There will be larger conversations and education opportunities coming throughout the year. There will be time and space to have your voice heard. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to ANY of the team members, anytime by person, phone, text, etc.

F. Expressions of Gratitude for Service to Mount Olive

1. Bob Welsh: Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team
2. Eric Klavetter: Endowment Committee
3. Cassie Mullenbach: Council Youth Representative
4. Rachel Carlson: Nominating Committee
5. Mark Schoer: Nominating Committee
6. Nancy Wiitanen: Columbarium Committee

G. Report of Senior Pastor: Pastor Dr. Glenn Monson

- *Getting to know each other:*
 - Worship, bible class, meetings, visiting... etc.
- What have I learned?
 - Mt. Olive loves to worship; loves to learn; desires to be stretched in service; likes to be together and are very supportive financially and in other ways.
- I'm getting to know Rochester more via Pastor meetings, community partner meetings, preaching at Homestead.
 - Involved in the city wide interfaith leaders group.

Have visited all our neighboring churches within a mile of Mt Olive to determine what they do in the neighborhood to prevent duplication.

- What have I learned:
 - Ministry partners are eager to partner with us; Rochester has many more needs that need to be addressed; Opportunities for service in our neighborhoods: Gage East; Community Food Response is setting up a NW location; Interfaith dialogue is still a new thing for Rochester; Ministry to seniors is a growing area.
- Passions and Joys:
 - We love missions, fellowship, hospitality, spiritual growth, worship and music, children/youth/family
- How are we doing?
 - Excellent work in Missions and outreach. We partner with 12 different community agencies to do ministry in this community. We are growing our partnerships: Gage school, Next Chapter Ministry, Community Food Response, quilters made 2000 quilts. Prayer shawls were made, Mt Olive Garden donates food to the community food response and there is a Columbia Mission trip in March
- Fellowship:
 - Adventure club, Pub theology, Book club, sports teams etc.
 - Spiritual Companions: our most vulnerable people have been contacted and all have a spiritual companion
 - Meals: Nancy and Sherrie-Belle Brinkworth do a great job!
 - Prayer Chain: Kim Ignatius does a great job!
 - Hospitality: Nancy Britson and other great helpers
 - Little Library is on our property
 - Social media: new position will be concentrated on outreach... Muslim community center, reconciling in Christ... we are home to so many groups (scouts, widow group etc.)
- Spiritual Growth:
 - Metamorphosis, Sunday school, discipleship, Pub theology, bible study, WELCA bible study, Sunday forums, communion instruction
- Worship and Music: Brocks music is outstanding! Choirs of all ages, altar guild...
- Children, Youth and Family: Children are a part of worship and will continue to be engaged. Fish program on Wednesdays is done by Carrie... Sunday school on Sundays... etc.
- Facilities: well maintained (thanks to Bill Hollander) and ABC.
- Finances: are doing well.
- Staff restructuring: candidates are emerging. 3 teams are ready to go for interviewing.
- Congregational life and hospitality team has been formed.
- All teams have working mission statements... all have a focus
- Endowment committee is organized again.
- End of life workshop will be presented.
- Hospitality: You ALL are the key to welcome anyone and everyone... attend to their needs...
- Going forward... what can you expect?
 - You can expect us to continue to explore and expand worship offering and music
 - We are intentionally going to explore what hospitality means thru our RIC dialogue, faith dialogue and to think about welcome strategies.
 - Nancy's new position as the Director of Congregational Life: has a component of hospitality strategies
 - We want to expand our Missions and Outreach... plan to revive our Tanzania connection / continue Mission Columbia and build on mission partners / build our financial base to once again become a leader in the ELCA Mission support
 - You can expect the new staff to continue to develop our website, our social media presence and our electronic outreach
 - You can expect that our new CYF director is going to be instructed to develop robust programs for children and youth and will be working with Sunday School leaders to equip family to be "incubators"
 - You will continue to see offerings to stretch and equip us in biblical & theological knowledge with bible and theological studies, etc.
 - You will continue to see that we care for one another... spiritual companions, Pastor Paul and Pastor Glenn's work and general care
- Art Exercise: Tracing your hand... God's work, Our Hands
 - 4 pillars:
 - **Worship** (Brock or Ministry of Music with worship and music team)
 - **Fellowship** (Nancy... currently do not have a team to do hospitality and congregational life, Nancy has been working with volunteers... we are creating Congregational life and Hospitality team: with a mission statement that says we intend to have hospitality strategies in place and congregational connection strategies in place)

- **Education** (CYF director... currently vacant. We do have an Adult education team and a youth team)
- **Service** (Social Service Outreach and Ministry director... currently vacant but plan to hire someone for 12 hrs./week. We do have a SSOM team)
 - Support (other staff: Bill is our administrator and facilities manager, will have a web master and a publication designer. The team includes: facilities, finance, endowment, mutual ministry)
 - Having fully working and focused teams creates energy and momentum
- Special thank you for your services
 - Jolene Baker
 - Gloria Rosencrants
 - Carolyn Goulet
- **2021 will be our 60th Anniversary**
 - What is God's hope for us at that time? Pastor Glenn is looking for a group of people who are willing to meet and to begin to think and pray about this. Goal is to draw up a 5-yr. plan and put together a timeline to celebrate our 60th Anniversary... what do we want to accomplish and how can we celebrate

H. Lord's Prayer and Benediction

VIII. Adjournment

Amy Determan adjourned the meeting at 1:36 p.m.
Minutes submitted by: Lori Kuhlmann-Leibfried

Pastor Glenn Monson

Senior Pastor

When we entered 2017 we knew it would be a year of living into our new staff configuration; we did not know how much newness that would bring. As the year began we had a vacancy at our Children, Youth and Family Director position, we had not yet filled our new positions of Administrative Assistant/Web Site Director, or our Director of Missions and Service, and Nancy Britson was in the midst of beginning her new role as Director of Congregational Life. To say that we were looking at lots of newness was an understatement. But then in May we learned that Brock Besse, our gifted Director of Music, Worship & Arts, had accepted a new position elsewhere and that he would be leaving, so we were in store for even more change. I am very happy to report that as the year went on, God blessed us with wonderful candidates for each of our open positions, and as we enter 2018 we are fully staffed with an exceptional team. Our team members are as follows:

Carrie Fletcher – Administrative Assistant, Web Site Director/Nursery Coordinator

Sherry Will – Director of Missions and Service

Nancy Britson – Director of Congregational Life

Bill Hollander – Congregational Administrator

Kailea Mattheis – Director of Children, Youth and Family

Travis Beck – Director of Worship, Music, and Arts

Paul Moody and Glenn Monson – Pastors

I am so grateful to each of these staff members for their faithfulness, hospitality, hard work, compassion, giftedness, and good humor. We have a wonderful time together doing the work of leading this congregation.

You might think with all the staff changes that little work could be accomplished as the year unfolded. Nothing could be further from the truth. All of our new staff “hit the ground running” and we have continued to work hard and see many things accomplished in each of our Four Pillar areas. Some of the highlights of the year were:

Fellowship: Inclusive Church Task Force was very active, meeting regularly, and hosting summer brunches around the subject of welcome; we hosted our interfaith neighbors for Sunday Forum interfaith conversations in February; we hosted an Ending Well Workshop, led by our own Chris Miller, which helped us think about end-of-life issues; a new Congregational Life and Hospitality team was formed to help us think intentionally about how we welcome one another and our guests.

Worship: We offered an integrated Three Great Days format for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil, which brought us through those days in one great drama in three acts; we enjoyed a musical feast on Pentecost Sunday led by Brock Besse and ensemble; with Travis Beck’s leadership we introduced a new jazz liturgy on Sunday mornings and a midweek contemplative worship in Advent.

Service: Mount Olive received the 2017 Interfaith Community Social Justice Award from the Joint Religious Leadership Coalition of Minnesota; we expanded our ministry partnership with Next Chapter Ministries by helping them complete their new teen ministry house, The Refuge; Twelve Mount Olive members traveled to Bogota, Colombia to begin our new partnership with members of the Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO). This resulted in a covenant between Mount Olive and IELCO to establish ongoing relationships and financial support between partners. Our partner congregation in Bogota is Lluivias de Gracia (Rain of Grace); we began renewing our partnership with the Lutheran Church of Tanzania and provided \$2375 for technological needs at Kiomboi Lutheran Theological College; we enjoyed a multi-faceted God's Work Our Hands Day which resulted in much good work around the community.

Education: Our intergenerational confirmation program, Metamorphosis, continued with strong participation, and we celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism for 19 of our youth on Reformation Sunday; we gave strong support to member Miriam Hanson who began seminary studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in the fall by promising her \$10,000 in scholarship each year of her studies; we enjoyed strong participation in Pub Theology led by Pastor Paul and in all our adult studies, Intro to Lutheranism in the winter, Book of Daniel in Lent, and Book of Romans in the fall; Sunday School Rally Day was a celebration of our children with inflatables, food, and games for all.

As we look forward to the future, with the Spirit of God working mightily in our members and friends, an outstanding staff in place, a strong financial position, and a growing commitment to mission beyond our walls, we have reason for optimism. Even more than that, we have the sure knowledge that, come what may, God is leading us, and through us God can do vastly more than we can think or imagine.

Thank you to our many fine leaders who are completing their terms in office this year, particularly to outgoing president, Amy Determan, who has led the congregation through the transitions into my tenure as your senior pastor. What a blessing she has been to me and to our congregation. We look forward to the next chapter in our life together as people called to share with all the world the good news of Christ's coming amongst us.

Pastor Paul Moody

Associate Pastor

Dear people of Mount Olive, it has continued to be a privilege to serve together this year in the ministry of Christ. I am so deeply thankful for the sacred spaces we have experienced together: in worship, service, education and fellowship; at Metamorphosis, around the Pub Theology table, in homes and around the community. God's divine presence continues to emerge as we live life together, making sense of what it means to be people in the Way of Jesus.

As has been the case in years past, your creativity and willingness to explore hospitality and justice continues to be inspiring. Our movement together from dynamic worship (including some of our most memorable festival day services!) outwards, into neighbor-focused relationships, has been a gift to me, to Rochester, and to the larger world. Your generosity of spirit and resources is astounding, even in the midst of a difficult year of profound political disagreements and continued violence around the country. Indeed, the work of the Inclusive Church Taskforce has perhaps never been more important, creating space for us, as a community, to listen, to learn, and to be drawn into the cycles of death and resurrection through which God is making new life known.

I am also so deeply appreciative of my colleagues on staff and our work together. Nancy, Bill, Carrie, Sherry, Kailea, Travis, and Pastor Glenn, you continue to be excellent partners who are not only exceedingly patient as we try many new things together, but you put up with my many eccentricities as well. Thank you.

Above all, I am thankful that God has continued to be faithful, meeting us at the Font and at the Table, and in the relationships that flow from those places. May such grace continue to flow!

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Paul

Amy Determan

Council President's Report

2017 was a rich year for the Mount Olive family. Through restructuring of staff roles, discussing what it truly means to be inclusive and welcoming, and building some new local and international community connections we continued to grow in our faith journeys. These endeavors were in addition to the already numerous community outreach programs we participate in. The enrichment of our own lives was sustained through abundant worship, music & educational opportunities provided by staff and members of the congregation.

Pastors Glenn & Paul continue to fill our cups weekly through delivery of The Word and Sacraments, offering thought provoking sermons connected to our daily lives. They support us through bible studies & Metamorphosis, as well as building relationships and sustaining us through challenges in our lives.

We welcomed Kailea Mattheis this year as our Director of Children, Youth & Family. She has gotten to know our younger members and their families while keeping Metamorphosis alive, as well as offering new ideas to engage all generations. This year we said good-bye to Brock Besse after 4 years as our music director. We were thrilled to welcome Deacon Travis Beck this fall as our new Director of Music and saw him quickly become acclimated to Mt. Olive. He has already offered us many of his musical gifts and developed strong relationships within the staff and congregation. We look forward to his talents and creative ideas moving forward.

In addition to Kailea & Travis, we also welcomed Sherry Sanden Will as Director of Missions and Social Outreach, providing a much needed leader to help organize and guide the many outreach programs in which Mt. Olive is involved. Carrie Fletcher took on the role of administrative assistant while still supporting us as Nursery Coordinator. Nancy Britson took on additional responsibilities as Director of Congregational life, including the establishment of a much needed Congregational Life and Hospitality Team to assist in sustaining the work she leads within our walls. Bill Hollander continues to maintain our physical space and also providing administrative guidance in our day to day functioning.

Our Inclusive Church Taskforce Team is in the midst of guiding us through what it means to be an inclusive and welcoming congregation. This important work is leading us towards dialogue around becoming a Reconciling in Christ community. We have also started some new relationships within our greater community, with connections to organizations such as Next Chapter Ministries & Gage East Empowerment Center.

As I reflect on my time as president, it is evident that God is supporting and guiding us to live in service to one another and to the communities that surround us locally and globally. Many thanks to all of you as you continue to contribute your time, talents & resources to support work within & outside of Mount Olive. This is an exciting time at Mt. Olive and I feel blessed to be a part of this vibrant congregation and eager to see where God will lead us in 2018 and beyond.

Blessings in the year to come,

Amy Determan

Proposed Mount Olive Lutheran Church Constitutional Change

CHAPTER 11 (11.01)	
Current Constitution	Proposed Change
The officers of this congregation shall be a president, secretary, and treasurer	The officers of this congregation shall be a president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer.
CHAPTER 11 (11.04.01)	
Current Constitution	Proposed Change
Not Applicable	<p>The president-elect shall be elected for a period of three years, the last two of which he/she shall serve as president of the congregation. A new president-elect shall be elected at the beginning of the president's final year in office.</p> <p>The president-elect shall assist the president, the council, the boards, and the committees to further the goals and missions of the congregation as directed by the president and the council. The primary duty of the president-elect is to learn the functions of the council, boards, and committees in preparation for taking over the presidency.</p>
CHAPTER 13 (13.01)	
Current Constitution	Proposed Change
The <i>Executive Committee</i> shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Property chairperson(s), Financial chairperson, Mutual Ministry chairperson, and the pastor(s). The Congregation Council shall elect from its membership a Vice-president to serve for the year at the first meeting after the Annual Meeting.	The <i>Executive Committee</i> shall be comprised of the President, President-Elect (when applicable), Secretary, Treasurer, Property chairperson(s), Financial chairperson, Mutual Ministry chairperson, and the pastor(s).

Comparative Church Statistics: Mount Olive Lutheran Church

Categories	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Average Worship:	349	313	285	284	276
8:00 AM	99	95	85	89	89
10:30 AM	180	168	155	153	147
5:00 pm Sat .	71	50	45	42	41
Summer (June-Aug)	273	241	226	241	230
Lent Midweek	226	146	146	150	141
Easter Sunday	661	567	537	489	467
Thanksgiving (Eve)	116	154	125	170	139
Advent Prayer Services	n/a	n/a	35	n/a	37
Christmas (Eve)	604	570	526	507	495
Membership:					
Baptized	751	762	768	751	708
Confirmed	661	603	622	630	598
Education:					
SS Total / SS Average	112 / 75	112 / 70	110/80	93/42	61/33
Sunday Confirm Total / Ave.	53 / 42	45 / 26	39/21	38/20	27/15
High School Total / Average	39 / 17	51 / 14	35/11	27/9	39/8
Adult Sunday Average	40	34	35	26	34
Wednesday Night Average	154	129	123	121	108
Changes:					
Baptisms	23	6	13	7	11
Confirmations	5	15	11	12	21
Weddings	3	2	2	3	2
Funerals	7	8	5	4	4
Transfers Out	15	12	47	21	32
Transfers In	40	17	42	38	28
Statistical Adjustment		1	-1		-46

Worship, Music, & Arts Report

Travis Beck, Director of Worship, Music, & Arts

As I write this, it is January 2nd. In just over a week, I will have been serving at Mount Olive for just four months—and what a four-month whirlwind it has been. Commuting from Iowa, housesitting, house shopping, house selling, house buying, moving, meeting new people, working with new colleagues, and learning the traditions of a new congregation. Whew!

My role here, as I envision it, is not to come in and try to “fix” what I think is broken. It is not *my* worship but *our* worship, and you have called me to be its steward. My primary goal this first year, then, is to learn all I can about this congregation and its worship life. As part of that learning process, I gave the staff and music ensembles a survey that asked some basic questions: What should we do more of? What could we do better? What might we do differently? What’s something new we might try? What unexplored opportunities do you see? What are the biggest challenges that you see? If you were me, what would you focus on? Their responses have helped me to better understand the values and expectations that are part of Mount Olive’s worship life.

Though I don’t understand my role here as the “fixer,” our mission statement describes us as *ambassadors for Christ, rooted to grow and serve*, and worship is an important place to be challenged to grow. In light of that, we explored a few new avenues in worship this fall that may have challenged many of our worshipers to grow in new ways. We learned a new setting of the communion liturgy—a jazz setting that pushed us into new musical territory. We tried a midweek Advent service that created a quiet, contemplative space amid the busy-ness of December. We experimented with a sung response after the prayers of intercession during the weekend services in Advent. And the nature of worship here at Mount Olive challenges me to continue to improve my organ-playing skills and to learn new organ repertoire for prelude, postlude, and offertories.

As I seek to learn the ins and outs of worship here at Mount Olive, assessing the worship and music budget was essential. On the right you’ll see a basic breakdown of worship and music expenses (I’ve omitted the cost of substitute organists). Our biggest category is altar and worship supplies, which includes dry cleaning of robes and altar cloths, communion supplies, and candles and candle oil. Since Mount Olive places a strong emphasis on liturgy and values communion as a central part of our worship life, this is to be expected.

The next biggest categories are Instrument Tuning & Repair (which includes maintenance of the organ, handbells/chimes, and pianos) and Music Library (which includes the purchase of hymnals and songbooks; liturgies like Holden Evening Prayer; percussion and other instruments; and music for choir, bells, brass, soloists, and other musicians). With a tradition of strong choral and instrumental music, these expenses are crucial for maintaining Mount Olive’s vibrant worship life.

After that is “Copyright,” which includes our copyright licenses. In this digital age where printed music is easily accessible online and printing customized bulletins unique to our congregation can be done with a click of the mouse, it is important to make sure we are in compliance with copyright law and being good stewards of the musicians and artists whose work contributes to our expressions of worship each week. These license fees ensure that artists are compensated for their work.

Finally, there is the vague “Miscellaneous Worship & Music” category, which includes the purchase of worship planning resources; sanctuary decorations, like flowers and the Moravian star; and accessories like music stands and stand lights. Though some items in this budget category are visible and tangible, others, like worship planning resources, help facilitate the work that goes on behind the scenes to make our worship services possible.

Moving into 2018, I’m excited to continue to worship and make music with you as ambassadors for Christ, rooted to grow and serve. *Soli Deo Gloria*: to God alone be the glory.

Kailea Mattheis
Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

This past spring, I began my first year at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. My starting date was May 23, 2017. It has been a wonderful experience to see how involved this community is.

Our high school students (8th-12th graders) have been preparing to go to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX, by hosting multiple fundraisers and studying the Getting Ready Materials prepared by the ELCA.

The 6th and 7th graders are participating in Metamorphosis, the confirmation program here at Mount Olive. They have spent the fall learning about God's Saving acts in the Old Testament on Wednesday evenings. In addition, they have received a new curriculum resource from Sparkhouse called "Colaborate" in order to learn more about the Bible and Lutheran history and theology.

Our Preschool and Elementary age students have continued to use Sparkhouse's Spark Lectionary Curriculum resource to learn more about the lessons they hear in worship. They have participated in Service Sundays throughout the year doing projects for people in need around the globe. These projects include rolling bandages for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), packing Blizzard boxes for senior citizens in Mankato, and making personal care kits for LWR.

Little Leapers have been meeting the first Sunday of each month to encourage building relationships between our youngest members and their parents and providing room for conversation.

2017 has been successful thanks to all of your time and commitment to the education program here at Mount Olive. Thank you for everything you have done. I am looking forward to what 2018 will bring!

Bill Hollander
Facility Manager/Church Administrator

The Facilities and Grounds Ministry Team has continued with its dedication to the maintenance and appearance of Mount Olive. This work continues to save thousands of dollars every year through volunteer expertise and effort. It is a joy and a privilege to get to work with the members of this team and a special thanks to Gene Ostrom for his continual dedication and all the heart he puts into Mount Olive with his team leadership.

Financially, the church has enjoyed another exceptional year of giving by our membership. The church's benevolence this year was nearly \$35,000 over the budgeted amount of \$34,750. On top of this, the church was able to give a \$10,000 scholarship for Miriam Hanson in seminary. Our cash reserve is rapidly approaching the goal of three months of operating expenses.

For 2018, Mount Olive is able to increase its budgeted benevolence by \$25,000 over 2017. This is because of our members who spoke out about the membership's desire to improve benevolence and a church council who listened and responded.

Another goal that was outlined two years ago was to become better stewards of our Mount Olive space. We have added another renter (Classical Conversations, a home schooling cooperative) and are seeing increases in requests for use for concerts and recitals. This not only increases income for the church but allows others to benefit from this wonderful building.

Nancy Britson

Director of Congregational Life

In January of 2017, my job title changed to Director of Congregational Life. My role continued to change as we had an eventful year in the church office, welcoming three new staff members and Carrie Fletcher in a new role as well. Each day I am thankful for this wonderful group of people to work with! We all try to support each other in challenging and busy times and “put our heads together” to work out new ways to accomplish our day-to-day tasks. Some of the things I have been working on this year are:

- **Volunteers**-I continue to coordinate all of the volunteers for worship services each week as well as Sunday morning coffee fellowship, office volunteers, and a variety of other volunteer needs. I rely on the online program Sign Up Genius to make the scheduling process as simple as possible. I am very thankful for the large pool of willing volunteers at Mount Olive that always step up to help as they are able. My goal is always to find ways to involve new people and a good match for everyone’s skills.
- **The Congregational Life and Hospitality Team**- One of my responsibilities is to help with the leadership of the newly formed Congregational Life and Hospitality team. We began meeting in June, worked on a vision and mission statement together, and continue to work on creating an atmosphere of welcome and hospitality for everyone at Mount Olive. Look at the team’s report for more specific information about initiatives that the group is working on. This is really a wonderful and caring group of people!
- **New Members**- In 2017, we welcomed 27 new members to Mount Olive. It has been great to see many of them, including our new staff members, get integrated into the life of the church, make new friends and connections, and begin to think of Mount Olive as their home. These are our goals for all members and something we continue to work on as staff and ministry teams. I have appreciated Carrie Fletcher’s help in this area with updating the database, mailboxes, nametags, and all of the tasks that are needed when new members join the church.
- **Publications**-I have been more involved with publication of our weekly bulletins and *The Messenger*, especially in the last few months. There was a bit of a learning curve, but I enjoy working on these publications each week with other staff, and I appreciate their willingness to help with editing as needed.
- **Small Groups**-In February of 2017, I started coordinating the Ripe Olive’s group to enliven this opportunity for Mount Olive’s seniors. We have had a variety of programs, and there couldn’t be a better group of folks to serve as they are so appreciative and kind. I also help in a more minor way with the other small groups, ordering materials, making sign-up sheets, etc. Again, there are several wonderful group leaders who do so much in leadership of our book and study groups, Women of the ELCA, fellowship tables, Adventure Club, and sports teams.

Congregational events, Wednesday and Lenten meals, and day to day office tasks round out my days, making each one new and varied. Thanks again to all of the members, volunteers, and fellow staff members who are so supportive of me and make my job a pleasure.

Congregational Life and Hospitality Team

Council Representative: SueAnn Collinge **Team Members:** Paul Johnson, Kay Luinstra, Susan McKeown, Serena Oudekirk, Darlene Vowels, Nikka Vrieze, Pastor Glenn Monson

Vision Statement:

"When a person enters Mount Olive, they experience attentiveness to their needs, an intentional engagement, and a concern for their well-being in a warm, caring, and inclusive environment."

Mission Statement:

"We commit ourselves to developing strategies to equip, educate, and inspire a culture of genuine welcome and hospitality for all."

Mount Olive's newest Ministry Team, the Congregational Life and Hospitality Team, began meeting in early June. Among our first tasks, was to write the vision and mission statements you see above. As we have continued to meet, we have strategized how to reach these goals.

Some of those strategies have been:

- Learning from visiting other churches, ie. how are visitors treated, looking at their signage, printed materials, parking, etc. and noting how Mount Olive can improve in these areas.
- To be an "exceptional welcome" ourselves- Seeking out visitors and new members to engage them in conversation and intentionally speak words of welcome and introduce them to the pastors and others. We are also stressing that all have the responsibility of creating a culture of hospitality and reaching out to new people when they attend Mount Olive.
- Training worship volunteers- focusing on hospitality when training ushers, greeters, and everyone who interacts with visitors.
- Using connection cards in the pews and following up with visitors- sending emails, making calls, and sending invitation postcards with handwritten notes to Christmas services.
- Designated space in the pews where visitors can easily find seating in the sanctuary.
- A Sunday forum on Hospitality.
- Creating parking spaces especially for visitors.
- A congregational statement of welcome spoken in services.
- As many members of the team as possible will attend a **Renew Retreat** at Trinity in Owatonna on Feb. 24th. The topic is *The Dance of Radical Hospitality* and is sponsored by the SE MN Synod. Anyone is welcome to attend, for more information and registration- <http://semnsynod.org/renew/> (Registration is due by February 15 and the cost is \$15.)

Sherry Will

Director of Missions and Service

It has been my pleasure to serve as Mount Olive's Director of Missions and Service during the second half of 2017. I am continually amazed at the volunteer leadership here at Mount Olive. My first big project was organizing "God's work. Our hands." Sunday on September 10. Amazingly, around 200 individuals 18 months to 80+ years, completed 16 different projects on that day.

"God's work. Our hands." Projects:

- 23 colored and created 4 creation baby quilts that were donated to tiny patients at Rochester Methodist Hospital.
- 25 created 30+ cards for fire fighters and EMTs
- 8 harvested 36 pounds of produce from the Mount Olive Garden.
- 17 made 300 turkey and cheese sandwiches for Love One Another in the Twin Cities
- 25 rolled 247 cloth bandages for Global Health Ministries
- 12 quilters tied 10 quilts for NAMI SE MN
- 10 knitted 40+ hats for local schools and children in Colombia
- 16 assembled 15 care kits for Next Chapter Ministries
- 16 assembled 30+ baggies for the homeless to be distributed through the local Salvation Army
- 31 cut and tied 22 twin size fleece blankets (in 2 hours!) to be distributed through the local SA
- 11 tore down & constructed walls, sanded floors, installed lights, etc. at the Next Chapter Youth House
- 13 weeded and bagged 12 yard bags full of weeds at the Family Promise Day Center
- 14 sang and played piano at The Homestead
- 31 baked and/or delivered cupcakes, drinks and thank you notes to the 5 local Fire Stations and 1 Gold Cross Station
- Advocacy letters were written on issues of child hunger, the environment, international aid and migration and sent to Washington, DC.
- 13 prepared and served lunch for 140 hungry volunteers.

Special thanks go to the planning committee:

SueAnn Collinge, Warren Kemplin, Serena Oudekirk, Linda Schueler, Peg Whitley, and Steve Will

Second Sunday of Service Projects:

- October 8- 119 Blizzard boxes (cold lunches) were packed by Sunday school children and donated to Lutheran Social Service, Meals on Wheels in Mankato.
- November 12- 57 Personal Care Kits were assembled and delivered to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). All items included in the kits were donated. Thank you.

Service and Social Outreach Ministry Team

Chair: Sherry Will **Council Representative:** Mark Schultze

Team: Jim Berg, Carrie Fletcher, Pam Hansen, Cathy Hanson, Lori Kuhlman-Leibfried, Elaine Monson, Mark Schultze, Erin Sinnwell, Jason Sinnwell, Anna Strand, Peg Whitley, and Ann Willis **Staff Liaisons:** Pastor Glenn Monson, Pastor Paul Moody

Three new continuing projects were added to our list of services:

- **Community Food Response (CFR)** which provides surplus food from local businesses to families in need at the Gage East complex. Mount Olive Members organized, packaged food and handed out food on the third Monday of the month beginning in August. Thank you Carrie Fletcher for getting this important project up and running.
- The **NP (Non-Profit) Community** collection bin in the parking lot which accepts donations of clothing and other items. We received 10 cents per pound for clothing items and 5 cents for other household items. All proceed collected went to Next Chapter Ministries.
- The ongoing collection of personal care items for the **Salvation Army (SA)**. We delivered two large bags of items to the SA in the fall of 2017.

Other continuing projects:

- **Neighborhood Schools**-In September, many items were collected for the Alternative Learning Center (ALC), and again in November, the Mitten Tree collected winter clothing for students at ALC as well as local neighborhood schools. Thank you Pam Hansen and Ann Willis for all your work.
- **Channel One Food Bank** collection was ongoing throughout the year. More than 600 pounds of food was donated during 2017.
- **Dorothy Day House**- Mount Olive volunteers served meals to the homeless staying at the house on the first Friday of every month. Thank you Anna Strand for keeping this project going.
- **Family Promise**- Mount Olive hosted for five weeks during 2017. Special thanks to Jason and Erin Sinwell and Mark Schultze for helping to fill the many volunteer slots required to keep this program running.
 - 3 queen beds along with bedding and other items were donated for this program to make our guests more comfortable. Thank you Jim Haase for organizing this project.
 - The Mount Olive Choir participated in the November 17, Family Promise Fundraising Concert at Bethel Lutheran. Thank you Erin Sinnwell for all your work on this important fundraiser.
- **Food for Friends** (formerly the Backpack Program)- Every week that school was in session, food from Channel One was packed in bags by volunteers at Mount Olive (we no longer use backpacks) and delivered to John Adams Middle School. We served 35-55 families each week. Thank you Mark Schultze and Warren Kemplin for your many hours of service on this project.
- **Habitat for Humanity**- Beginning in September, Mount Olive volunteers worked on a new house build from 9 am-4 pm the second Saturday of each month. In addition, in December, a group of Mount Olive members wrapped gifts at the mall for Habitat's biggest fundraiser of the year. Thank you Jim Berg for keeping this project going.
- **Mount Olive Garden**- Volunteers planted and tended the Mount Olive Gardens raising more than 200 pounds of produce which was donated to CFR. Thank you Fletcher family and Lori Kuhlman-Leibfried for your many hours tending the gardens.
- **Mount Olive Quilters**- This group met each Thursday to assemble quilts that were sent near and far to appreciative recipients. In 2017, quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief, the Crisis Nursery, the Rochester Women's Shelter, NAMI, Colombia, the Good Earth Village auction, and more! Thank you Elaine Monson, Sandy Schlenker and Gail

Forstie for all the time you dedicate to this important mission.

- **Next Chapter Ministries-** This ministry supports those impacted by crime. **The Refuge**, a newly acquired house for teens was in grave need of repairs. Mount Olive volunteers Bill Hollander and Gene Ostrom, along with a dozen others were instrumental in tearing out old walls and building new ones to get the house ready for use. Not only did volunteers give of their time and skill, but donated more than \$3000 in materials to bring the project to completion. In May, new and gently used kitchen items were collected for the Next Chapter houses.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry-** Member met the 2nd Tuesday each month knitting and crocheting prayer shawls for those in a difficult time of transition, experiencing loss, or illness. They crafted a good supply of shawls as well as 52 hats beautifully knitted hats (part of God's work. Our hands.). 25 of these were sent to a Mountain congregation in Colombia, South America and the other 27 given to students at Rochester Schools. In addition, packed up 24 knitted and crocheted blankets for Little Singer Community School in Winslow, AZ, Wounded Knee School District in Manderson, SD, and OST Child Protection Services in Pine Ridge, SD. Thank you Peg Whitley for keeping this ministry going.
- **Lutheran World Relief (LWR)** - Thanks go to Cathy and Keith Hanson for their work on organizing the assembling of 90 LWR Personal Care Kits in March and 57 in November. These kits go all over the world to help those in need.
- **Salvation Army-**In December Mount Olive members volunteered two hours in December ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle.

Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers at Mount Olive, your time and talents make a world of difference to the people you serve.

Missions

Mission Colombia 2017

Team members: Terry, Carrie, Joey, and Daniel Krieger, John Langemo, Pastor Glenn and Ruth Monson, Nicole, Sonja, Nels Jr., and Mardoche Pierson, and Sherry Will

March 11 2017, 12 Mount Olive members along with our guide, Holly Dalager of Austin, MN, had the pleasure of taking an 11 day trip to Bogota, Colombia to forge a relationship with our partner synod IELCO (the organized Lutheran church in Colombia). Our goal was to make a connection, find out how we could support IELCO and its members, and draft a covenant between our congregation and IELCO. Terry and Carrie created the blog, walking2gether, which was updated daily during our time in Colombia to inform our congregation back here in Minnesota. This trip was filled with life changing and emotional experiences as we connected with the beautiful people of Colombia sharing in the richness of the Colombian culture and experiencing extreme poverty on the outskirts of the city. It was also great to spend time with ELCA Missionaries Curtis and Katie Kline.

The results of our trip:

- We have partnered with the mission congregation, Lluvias de Gracia in Porvenir, Bogota, Colombia. We will be defining this relationship in 2018.
- The following covenant was signed April 19, 2017 by both Mount Olive and IELCO:
Walking 2Gether with Iglesia Evangelica Luterano de Colombia;
Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Rochester Minnesota;
Mission Colombia Proposal to Church Council.

Upon our return from a visit to Bogota, Colombia (March 10-20, 2017) the members of the Mission Colombia Team of Mount Olive Lutheran Church propose the following for moving forward in active accompaniment with the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO):

- **OVERALL GOAL:** To be supportive spiritually, personally, and financially of the Education Ministry of IELCO.

- **SPECIFIC AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT:** Pastoral education and formation, Christian leadership development for lay leaders and school teachers, Lutheran formation for students and teachers in the Lutheran schools of IELCO, sufficient funding for scholarships for students of Lutheran schools.

Strategies of Accompaniment:

- We will establish regular communication for mutual encouragement and dialogue between Mt. Olive members and members of IELCO congregations;
- We will pray regularly for the education ministries of IELCO;
- We will pray regularly for ELCA missionaries, Curtis and Katie Kline, in Colombia;
- We will encourage and support regular visits between members of Mount Olive and the leaders of IELCO;
- The Sunday School students and teachers of Mount Olive will be supportive of and in communication with the Sunday school students and teachers of IELCO congregations;
- The Missions budget of Mount Olive will include a generous contribution to the Emmaus Road Foundation for scholarships for students;
- The Missions budget of Mount Olive will include a generous contribution to the IELCO School of Theology to support pastoral education and formation;
- The Missions budget of Mount Olive will include a generous contribution to the overall Education ministry of IELCO;
- The pastors of Mount Olive and the pastors of IELCO would be in support of and become resources for each other.

Mission Tanzania

Plans are underway for a fall 2018 trip to Tanzania.

2017 Mutual Ministry Report

Chair: Mike Vance **Council Representative:** Barb Granquist,

Team Members: Jenn DeClercq, Keith Hanson, Paul Johnsen, & Carrie Krieger

The Mutual Ministry Team is called to care & pray for the pastoral, professional and support staff leaders of our congregation. We fulfill our purpose through regular contact with staff to listen/hear their concerns & joys; recognition of birthdays & employment anniversaries and staff treats for special occasions throughout the church year.

In 2017, the mutual ministry team maintained its representation with members Jenn DeClercq, Barb Granquist, Keith Hanson, Paul Johnsen, Carrie Krieger, and Mike Vance. Mike Vance continued to serve as the chair of Mutual Ministry, and Barb Granquist served as the council liaison for the majority of the calendar year with Keith Hanson as her primary backup during her time away from Rochester in the summer.

2017 was a year full of staff welcomes and goodbyes. Brock Besse left his position as the Director of Music and was replaced by Travis Beck. Sherry Will, Kailea Mattheis, Tina Coil, and Carrie Fletcher each also filled and assumed new roles on the Mount Olive staff. With a full staff roster, the Mutual Ministry looks forward to working with and serving all staff in 2018.

The Mutual Ministry team marked several important events this year including:

- All staff was served a "Mardis Gras" lunch on February 28
- Pastor Paul's 5th year of service on September 29
- Travis Beck's Installation celebration on October 1
- Goodies were presented during staff meetings during Advent
- Birthday and celebration cards for all staff members throughout the year

This Mutual Ministry team continues to be a joy to work with and a great asset to our staff. We eagerly await to see God's plans for 2018 and continually search for ways to serve Mount Olive's congregation and its exceptional staff.

Adult Faith Ministry Team

Council Representative: David Mickelson

Staff Liaison: Pastor Paul Moody
Members: Pastor Glenn Monson, John Eppley,
Lorna Podvin, Sara Swartwood, Renee Schaefer, and Gloria Schad

Anyone is welcome to join our team to help guide our decisions. Some of our team members provide information by representing various Faith Ministry groups within our congregation.

Our team met quarterly over the past year: 2/21/17, 5/23/17, 8/22/17, and 11/11/17. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2018.

Forum time is during the education hour on Sundays, 9:15-10:15.

Over the past year Forum topics have included: Interfaith Dialog, Inclusive Church Taskforce, Affordable Housing, Stewardship Presentation, Lutheran Reformation, Women of the ELCA Triennial Report, Living the Questions, ELCA Social Statement on Criminal Justice, and Lenten Bible Study. Thank you to the members of our congregation who have stepped forward to lead these Forums, as well as those invited to lead us from outside of our congregation.

We are always considering forum topics for our next program year. We invite your suggestions or comments to Pastor Paul or any of our ministry team members.

Altar Guild

Co-Leaders: Sharon Parker and Sandy Schlenker

The Altar Guild continues their duty of preparing the sanctuary and altar for meaningful worship.

We serve communion with bread and cups the first Sunday of each month and choices of wine and grape juice for intinction or a common cup for the remaining Sundays. We offer gluten free wafers at all services.

We have a wedding and funeral committee who helps with funerals and weddings. We have developed a check list for funerals since it is becoming more common not to have a funeral home involved.

The Altar Guild folded palm bud stems and were on hand on Palm Sunday to help the Sunday School students fold them if they came into the Fellowship Hall. Carolyn Goulet donated the palm plant, as she has for several years. If anyone is interested in donating just contact the Pastors or Sharon Parker.

We held the Saturday evening outdoor service inside because it was so windy and cold; the Sunday services were outdoors.

We can always use new members so if you would like to join our team or come to see what we're about, join us at a meeting which is usually held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in the old Library (except for June, July & December). Every member is so good about covering and doing the necessary work.

This year our Christmas tree was donated by Roger Morse and Jeanette Ramseth in honor of their loved ones who have gone to live with the Lord. We had a progressive process this year for Advent again. The 1st Sunday of Advent, the tree was bare, the 2nd Sunday (also Lucia Sunday), the tree had lights. The 3rd Sunday the tree was totally decorated. The children's Christmas program was held between services.

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Team Report

Council Representative: Renee Kuehl, **Members:** Carrie Fletcher, Jessi Hafeman, Serena Oudekirk, Gloria Schad, Sara Swartwood, Pastor Paul, Kailea Mattheis

Mission statement: We the CYF Ministry Team are advocates and bridge builders nurturing all God's Children to build trust in God.

Structure: We are currently working as both advocates and bridge builders for our youth by engaging with other ministry teams. We are setting goals and partnering with all ministry teams to engage our youth in the four pillars of Mount Olive's faith life.

Worship & Music

- Jessi Hafeman is the CYF liaison to the Worship & Music Team - meets on Tuesdays, which Jessi can no longer make - CYF team will update liaison at our next meeting
- Travis was hired this year
- The Christmas program was Dec 17 during the education hour and was a great success
- A new hand bell choir is being established – all ages are welcome to join!

Congregational Life & Ministry

- Postcards were handwritten by the Oudekirk Family and addressed to families with kids are Little Leapers aged inviting them to join services during the Christmas season in an effort to make people feel more welcome receiving a personal note
- Discussed the idea of setting aside parking for new parents & visitors and/or areas in fellowship hall for toddler play ... very prelim conversations that we need to discuss with the Pastors

Education

- The 2017 Sunday School year began on September 24th (Rally Sunday was Sept 17)
- Bibles were given to 4th grade and PK1 students on Oct 22
- Fundraisers for youth gathering the summer of 2018 have included a silent auction, Reformation Festival, bake sale
- Oct 29, 19 youth affirmed their baptism

Social Service

- Service Sundays are 2nd Sunday of every month during the education hour
- Mission trip to Colombia in March
- Backpacks, Dorothy Day, Habitat, Family Promise – sign ups in gathering are
- Metamorphosis students are required 14 service hours a year

Fellowship

- Adventure Club outings this year included:
 - Sunday night at the Riverside Concert
 - a night in Berne for Pizza and Music
 - s'mores night
 - attending a Honker's Game
 - Northwoods Orchard
 - attending an Ice Hawks game
 - caroling & cookies
- Adventure Club FAMILY CAMP in August at the Old Barn Resort in Lanesboro was a big success and is scheduled again for July 2018
- Mount Olive Softball team was this year's champs!!
- Planned Adventure trip to UP is Aug 2018

Stewardship Team

Finance and Stewardship Chair: Greg Heldt

Stewardship Team: Pastor Glenn, Keith Hanson, Jim Haase, Greg Heldt, Lynn Nelson, Mark Pasch, Deb Peterson

We've reached the end of a very successful giving season and have planned a 2018 budget that will continue to meet our goals as returning to being a more benevolent congregation within the ELCA. People say giving is not a contest among congregations. Well, it sure feels good to talk about it, though! Great work to all!

We have many exciting opportunities moving forward. When I became Stewardship and Finance Chair in 2015, we were facing many challenges that we as a congregation were able to work through. We were in a state of transitional leadership and our financial obligations were constantly being discussed.

Changes in staff benefits and continued reductions to benevolence occurred during these hard times.

We found many ways to improve our economic standing. This was only possible with the hard work of Bill Hollander and Don Halley, who were able to enact smart fiscal programs when our giving was not aligned with our expenditures.

You, as a congregation, saw our need for improvement and have shown your support and commitment to giving. I'm not talking about just keeping the building running and taking care of our wonderful staff.

I mean the important things! Constructing our vision of growing circles of giving that start at our own community, extend to our areas of need locally, and on to the world through our ELCA partnerships. Way to go!

Facility and Grounds Ministry Team

Council Representative: Gene Ostrom **Team Members:** Jim Berg, Curt Britson, Wayne Diercks, Steve Determan, David Johnston, Warren Kemplin, Dan Meyer, Brad Natzke, Gina Risløw, Mike Schad, Paul Schaefer, Mark Schoer, Tracy Schram, Richard Willis and Bill Hollander

The Facilities and Grounds Ministry Team remained active in helping keep the church maintained and updated in its needs, much through volunteer effort, that continues to save the church thousands of dollars each and every year. This year a few of the more significant projects included: Improving our data security by backing up our server to the cloud (thanks to Walt Allen); Adding a Nitrogen system to our fire suppression equipment to extend the life of the iron pipes for our sprinklers; Changing all Sanctuary lighting to LEDs which improved the lighting and decreased energy consumption by 88%; Updating the women's restroom improving its appearance; Significant landscaping on the west side of the building, and; Removal of the large, dead Maple tree on our west lawn.

This is our list of possible projects for 2018. They will be started as funds come available.

Library improvements.	\$5,000.00
Sanctuary spotlights and lighting controls	\$1,500.00
Additional Storage Shed	\$7,000.00

Worship, Music, and Arts Ministry Team

Chair and Council Representative: Mark Schoer **Team Members:** Pastor Glenn, Pastor Paul, Travis Beck, Barb Sorensen, Mark Schoer, Barb Seide, Grant Natzke, Brad Natzke, Sharon Parker, Sandy Schlenker, Nancy Britson, Becky Lashinski, and Jessi Hafeman

Vision: "Every aspect of our worship experience at Mount Olive elevates and inspires God's people in their encounter with the mystery of the presence of God."

Mission Statement: "To coordinate the varying aspects of worship by enhancing communication and collaboration among worship leaders and the people of God."

The Worship, Music and Arts Committee of Mount Olive Lutheran prayerfully continues our focus on our Vision and Mission statements to help us fulfill the worship needs of our congregation. This includes some of the very visible ministries of Mount Olive Lutheran, including altar guild, choirs and musicians, worship volunteers, and more. The Altar Guild's work has been and continues to be an essential part in the care and preparation of our worship space. We are thankful for all those who make our communion experience so meaningful throughout the year. The Altar Guild is also responsible for decorating the worship space for various liturgical days/seasons such as for Easter, Thanksgiving Eve, and Christmas.

We are grateful for Brock Besse's ministry with us. We are so appreciative for all the meaningful music that Brock presented throughout the church seasons. This past June, we wished Brock well as he journeyed forward with a new music ministry. God's Blessings to Brock Besse.

Mount Olive prayerfully journeyed forward in search of our new Director of Music. We were grateful to our Lord guiding us to Travis Beck. Travis Beck's ministry in worship and music has displayed a very meaningful experience for everyone in our worship services. We are so grateful for Travis and Samantha Beck's ministry's joining our Mount Olive Family!!! We give Thanks to the Music Director Search committee for their work: Pastor Glenn, Pastor Paul, Mark Schoer, Pam Berg, Nancy Britson, Ruth Monson, Brad Natzke, Lara Smoley, and Barb Sorenson.

Pastor Glenn, Pastor Paul and Travis Beck continue to look for new liturgical options to glorify God in our worship spaces. We are very blessed to have Pastor Glenn's, Pastor Paul's and Travis Beck's musical gifts and ministries that are shared with each of us during our worship services. Travis continues to enrich our worship services with the Handbell Choir, the Adult Choir, and the Brass ensemble which continue to present many special pieces. Travis continues to creatively reach out to our adult and youth members sharing their musical gifts with us during worship in very meaningful ways.

Our Sunday school youth have appreciated Travis' passionate energy to minister and direct them in song and programming throughout the church season. Travis continues to involve children and youth in the worship service. In addition, Travis spends time teaching kids in choir and Sunday School about the liturgical year and the songs of the faith. We are so grateful for the adult members helping Travis with these music selections arranged with our youth. We pray that these opportunities will lead to a lifetime of worship attendance and leadership for the children in our midst.

Our life together in worship has really come to life this year. So many creative and meaningful services involving the experience with prayer, confession, communion, song and word. Pastor Glenn with his trombone, Pastor Paul "cantor" and Travis Beck's music selections have reached out in new ways to enrichen our worship experiences.

Just a few reflections on some of the services this past year:

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday we once again “hide the Alleluias” during the Children’s Moment in worship. This is the sign to us that the season of Lent is about to begin. In the season of Lent we refrain from singing alleluia, not because we have nothing to praise God for, but because we want to focus ourselves clearly on the suffering and death of Jesus, and be drawn more deeply into our understanding of what that means for us. Lent is also traditionally a time to carve out more time for worship and for spiritual formation, as well as a time when we go beyond our regular offerings to give additional gifts to our Lord’s ministries. Ash Wednesday services included an extended time of confession. Prior to announcing the absolution, the presiding minister invites all worshippers to come forward to receive the Imposition of Ashes-the sign of the cross imposed on our foreheads. The minister says, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” This serves as a stark reminder that “only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life. We were all invited to join in this important first step in following our Suffering Savior towards Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. This brought us forward to the very meaningful Easter Vigil Service on Saturday evening and then our Easter Festival Services on Easter Sunday

Pentecost was celebrated at Mount Olive on June 4th with a Big Band Extravaganza at both Sunday Services, with Pastor Glenn featuring his trombone.... what a Joy to take in!!!!

Outdoor Worship Services were held on Saturday night inside because of inclement weather and on the front lawn Sunday, June 25th with special guest music leader Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. The weather was chilly, but hearts were warmed with God’s Word, wonderful music and singing, and the quilts that were blessed in worship that day

This summer we also enjoyed a choir comprised of children from the poorest parts of Uganda sharing their talents at a concert on July 19th here at Mount Olive which was open to all. A congregational ice cream social followed. We lift up thanks to the Host families for the children and their chaperones, which made this beautiful time together possible.

A Service of Music and Scripture was held on Thanksgiving Eve at 7:00 pm. We experienced musicians and readers of all ages as we acknowledged God’s goodness, gave thanks for God’s abundance, and were inspired to grateful service. All worshippers were asked to bring an offering of non-perishable food, or a money gift for our hunger ministries.

On the first three Wednesdays in December, we held midweek services at Mount Olive. A brief meditative service was offered on December 6, 13, and 20 at 6:30 pm. An invite for us all to come and enjoy a time of quiet worship amidst the hubbub of the holiday time.

We came together as a faith family on Christmas Eve to remember and celebrate the mystery of Christ’s incarnation and to continue this tradition proclaiming Christ’s presence in our lives. On December 24, the 4th Sunday of Advent, morning worship services were at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. Evening Festival Christmas Eve services were at 4:00 pm (a candlelight service with bells and brass) and at 7:00 pm (a candlelight service with choir)

Nancy Britson has continued to see good response by members with their volunteer sign-ups online. She appreciates the many who continue to help out with each worship service. Nancy has been working with Pastor Paul and Travis Beck providing worship volunteer training with members. Good attendance has been experienced with these training sessions as well as some new faces coming forward to serve in these ministries.

As a committee, we are very grateful to each person who helps with any aspect of worship here at Mount Olive. Altar guild, worship volunteers, singers, ringers, the many youth and adult instrumentalists, acolytes and everyone else who helps in any way, THANK YOU! Your service helps us to worship more fully, and for that we are grateful. God calls us together, through the Holy Spirit, each week to form a community as we worship. We are fed and nourished at the Table, and then we go out to serve, to be Christ's hands in our community and world. We are grateful for the gift of worshiping together at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, and look forward to many more inspiring and wonderful opportunities to praise and thank God for all the things God has done!

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Schoer

Women of the ELCA

President: Denise Foy **Vice President:** Renee Schaefer **Secretary:** Regina Seabrook **Treasurer:** Pam Berg

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) is part of a national organization of women. Our purpose statement is "As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world." (womenoftheelca.org) All women at Mount Olive are part of this organization, whether or not they are involved in any of its activities. I encourage you to find one activity or event that you might enjoy and try it out this year. There are several opportunities throughout the year.

I feel blessed to have a wonderful, dedicated team of women who have supported me as I begin my term as president. I would especially like to recognize the work of our officers: Renee Schaefer (Vice President), Regina Seabrook (Secretary), Pam Berg (Treasurer) and Sherry Sanden Will (past-president, member at large).

We started out 2017 by organizing the annual meeting meal in January. This is our only fundraiser for the year. Under the leadership of Nancy Britson, Renee Schaefer and Sherry Sanden Will, fifty volunteers provided food, prepared the meal, and served 123 members. From the generous donations, we raised \$701 that was used to support our activities throughout the year.

In March, the Women of Mount Olive helped kick off our Lenten Soup Suppers by coordinating and serving the Ash Wednesday meal. We also supported the World Day of Prayer event which was held at Good Shepard Lutheran Church on March 4.

Another March activity was our Women's Day of Service, coordinated by Jene Bodensteiner and Sherry Sanden Will. Close to 25 women participated in serving our community in different ways. Service opportunities included: Habitat ReStore (site leader: Pam Berg), Channel One (site leader: Jene Bodensteiner), quilting (activity leader: Regina Seabrook), prayer shawls (activity leader: Peg Whitley) and Lutheran World Relief projects (activity leader: Cathy Hanson). After their time of service, the women gathered for a fellowship lunch together.

The Triennial Gathering was held in Minneapolis in July. Because it was so close, we had fourteen women from Mount Olive who were able to attend. Scholarships were provided for four of the women. Ruth Monson did a wonderful job of organizing our registration, offerings, rides, and everything else needed for the

gathering. There were several wonderful sessions and all felt re-energized for our work in the church and community. A common theme throughout the Gathering was focused on Social Justice and Immigration. Several who attended shared some of their learnings about these issues at the Adult Forum on November 9.

In December, we celebrated Christmas with a wonderful gathering hosted by Mary Circle. Sixty women attended to hear Nancy Cashman from Center City Housing speak about their program for homeless youth at Gage East Apartments. We were able to provide her with \$400 in donations, in addition to the gift cards and personal items provided. At this event, we had a short business meeting and approved our budget for 2018.

Our Saint Lucia Celebration on December 10 was well organized, as usual, this year. Naomi Circle coordinates this event, with assistance from Rachel and Anna circles. It is always enjoyable to see the youth involved in these Mount Olive traditions.

In addition to the special events, WELCA supports small group of women that gathers to support each other and study God's word, called "circles". Our circles are doing well this year. We have seventy-seven women involved in our six circles. This fall, the previous members of Anna circle chose to disband their circle and join other groups. At the same time, we had a request for a new circle so Anna circle is "new" this year. The new Anna Circle had several women with families, so childcare is provided during their meetings. Kailea Mattheis organizes the youth and their parents as the providers of the child care, using the funds to support their summer youth trips. The bible study that was selected for this year is "The Life of Martin Luther". The studies are short but provide opportunities for discussion. I send a heartfelt thank you to the leaders of each circle, who also are part of the WELCA Board.

Current circles include:

Circle	Meeting date / time	Chair
Anna	2 nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm with childcare	Erin Sinwell
Lydia	2 nd Monday, 6:30 pm	Jolene Baker
Mary	4 th Friday, 9:30 am	Nancy Britson
Naomi	4 th Tuesday, 1:00 pm	Sharon Parker
Rachel	4 th Thursday, 6:30 pm	Jodi Schoer
Ruth	4 th Tuesday, 9:00 am	Peg Whitley

I would like to thank all those on the WELCA board and every member who has supported our efforts throughout the year. *For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God. (1 Thessalonians 3:9)*

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Foy

Women of Mount Olive President, 2017-18

**A Ministry Report of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA
in celebration of the ministry that took place throughout 2017**

We join together in giving thanks for the multitude of ways the Holy Spirit is at work through the people and congregations of our Southeastern Minnesota Synod!

DEVELOPING LEADERS

- 4 Ministers of Word and Sacrament were ordained
- 1 Minister of Word and Service was commissioned
- 191 rostered & lay leaders participated in the Fall Theological Conference in November 2017
- 22 active ministry candidates across 6 seminaries are participating in the candidacy process
- 258 congregational leaders participated in the RENEW! event in Spring 2017
- 3 candidates for rostered ministry were approved and sent into the wider church to serve as either Word and Sacrament or Word and Service Ministers
- 11 rostered leaders participated in the Difficult Conversations Training

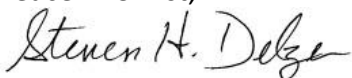
EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS

- 11 congregations took part in Stewardship for All Seasons, utilizing a stewardship coach for a year
- 4 congregations worked with LEAD (Living Everyday As Disciples), receiving a congregational assessment and coaching for a year
- 7 congregations participating in the Hope in Christ process, discerning together what it means to follow Jesus
- 39 congregations were in the call process
- 18 congregations called a rostered leader
- 512 people attended the 2017 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly

ACCOMPANYING GLOBAL PARTNERS

- 52 congregations partnered with congregations, schools, rural clinics and a hospital in Tanzania & Colombia
- 1 congregation visited congregations and ministries within the Lutheran Church in Colombia (IELCO)
- 1 congregation partnered with medical staff at Iambi Hospital within the Central Diocese of Tanzania
- 7 synod delegates representing congregations and the Office of the Bishop, visited partner congregations, schools, and health ministries within the Central Diocese of Tanzania
- 2 synod delegates representing 2 congregations and the Office of the Bishop traveled to Colombia to participate in the Lutheran Women's Encounter (Assembly) and visit with the Lutheran Church in Colombia
- 3 synod representatives attended 2017 Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C.
- Synod delegates, including leaders from the 5 South Sudanese Worshipping Communities and the Office of the Bishop attended the South Sudanese Consultation in Chicago, IL
- An AMMPARO Team (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) was formed in the synod
- Rev. Wal Reat, ELCA Missionary to South Sudan, visited congregations during his appointed home visit to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod
- 4 synod delegates, representing 2 congregations, a South Sudanese Worshipping Community, and the Office of the Bishop participated in the inauguration of the Reconciliation Lutheran Church, Community Center, and Primary Health Clinic in Juba, South Sudan and visited congregations in Gambella, Ethiopia with Rev. Wal Reat

Peace in Christ,



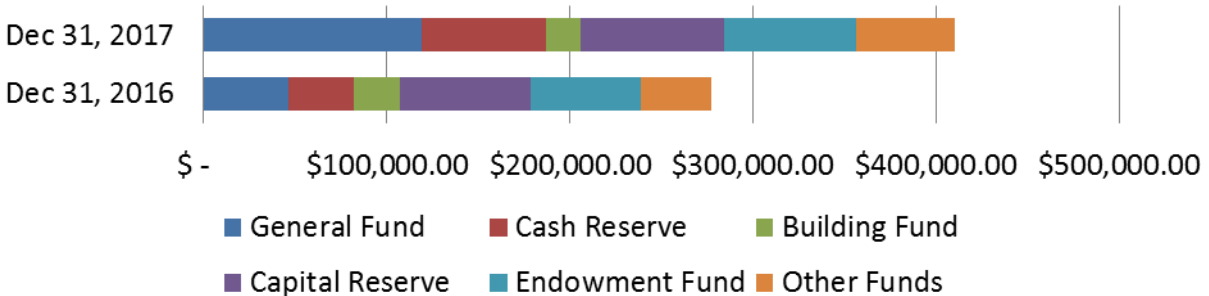
Steven Delzer, Bishop

2017 Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet

Current Assets		Dec 31, 2017	Dec 31, 2016	\$ Change
	Checking/Savings Accounts	\$ 329,804.82	\$ 216,893.17	\$ 112,911.65
	Endowment Fund Account	\$ 80,290.90	\$ 60,368.63	\$ 19,922.27
Total Current Assets		\$ 410,095.72	\$ 277,261.80	\$132,833.92
Fixed Assets				
	Land	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ -
	Buildings and Contents	\$ 3,089,922.95	\$ 3,078,757.01	\$ 11,165.94
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 3,565,018.67	\$ 3,421,018.81	\$143,999.86
Liabilities				
	Mortgage	\$ 672,853.77	\$ 744,862.36	\$ (72,008.59)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ 672,853.77	\$ 744,862.36	\$ (72,008.59)
NET ASSETS		\$ 2,892,164.90	\$ 2,676,156.45	\$216,008.45

Fund Balances



	Dec 31, 2017	Dec 31, 2016	Change
Checking/Savings Funds	\$ 338,444.72	\$ 216,893.17	\$ 121,551.55
General Operating Fund	\$ 119,087.79	\$ 46,246.82	\$ 72,840.97
Cash Reserve	\$ 67,682.99	\$ 35,886.17	\$ 31,796.82
Capital Funds	\$ 97,871.33	\$ 96,390.62	\$ 1,480.71
Memorial Funds	\$ 7,241.19	\$ 6,591.19	\$ 650.00
Mission Funds	\$ 27,942.55	\$ 14,303.93	\$ 13,638.62
Program Funds	\$ 18,618.87	\$ 17,474.44	\$ 1,144.43
Endowment Fund	\$ 71,651.00	\$ 60,368.63	\$ 11,282.37
Principal	\$ 48,408.27	\$ 46,743.17	\$ 1,665.10
Income	\$ 11,091.27	\$ 8,878.21	\$ 2,213.06
Market Change	\$ 12,151.46	\$ 4,747.25	\$ 7,404.21
Total Funds	\$ 410,095.72	\$ 277,261.80	\$ 132,833.92

General Fund Income and Expenses and Proposed 2018 Budget

General Income/Expense	2017	Budget	2016	Proposed 2018 Budget
51-0001 General Offering	\$ 575,865.72	\$ 564,099.00	\$ 555,120.65	\$ 547,250.00
51-0002 Loose Offering	\$ 6,078.22	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,556.47	\$ 5,000.00
51-0003 Sunday School	\$ 281.23	\$ -	\$ 336.73	
51-0004 Seasonal Offerings	\$ 10,221.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,636.86	\$ 8,000.00
51-0005 Initial Envelopes	\$ 408.00	\$ -	\$ 261.00	
51-0006 General fund pregiving	\$ 25,814.24	\$ -	\$ 14,450.00	\$ 23,750.00
51-0099 Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,473.64	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,866.62	\$ 1,000.00
51-6000 Expense Reimbursements	\$ 6,989.89	\$ -	\$ 8,891.19	
52-00 General Designated Giving	\$ 16,873.75	\$ -	\$ -	
53-0001 Interest	\$ 9.63	\$ -	\$ 6.72	
53-0002 Use of Facilities	\$ 13,137.26	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,990.12	\$ 10,000.00
53-0003 Funerals	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00	
53-0004 Weddings	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00	
54-0001 Thrivent Choice	\$ 2,786.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,252.00	\$ 3,000.00
55-0001 Refunds	\$ 1,352.84	\$ -	\$ 476.49	carry-over from '17 30,182.00
Total General Fund Income	\$ 663,191.42	\$ 588,099.00	\$ 611,744.85	\$ 628,182.00
60 - Christian Education	\$ 14,663.42	\$ 7,900.00	\$ 12,656.61	\$ 8,150.00
61 - Youth Ministry	\$ 2,010.95	\$ 100.00	\$ 367.98	\$ 1,958.00
62 - Finance	\$ 10,501.26	\$ 10,130.00	\$ 10,986.72	\$ 10,900.00
63 - Fellow ship	\$ 1,069.51	\$ 550.00	\$ 1,105.38	\$ 250.00
64 - Mutual Ministry	\$ 383,575.12	\$ 457,669.00	\$ 430,552.86	\$ 449,251.00
66 - Church Operations	\$ 16,563.81	\$ 16,600.00	\$ 19,773.93	\$ 16,300.00
67 - Evangelism	\$ 257.88	\$ 800.00	\$ 661.96	\$ 350.00
68 - Property	\$ 50,097.99	\$ 50,800.00	\$ 49,337.04	\$ 51,400.00
69 - Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
70 - Executive Committee	\$ 1,710.12	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 4,813.24	\$ 1,500.00
71 - Mission/Outreach (SSOM)	\$ 857.83	\$ 600.00	\$ 360.62	\$ 21,300.00
72 - Benevolence	\$ 53,983.89	\$ 34,750.00	\$ 36,937.16	\$ 59,750.00
73 - Worship, Music and Arts	\$ 15,257.51	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 8,607.97	\$ 7,073.00
Total General Fund Expense	\$ 550,549.29	\$ 588,099.00	\$ 576,161.47	\$ 628,182.00

Building Fund					
Expenses		2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2016 Actual	2018 Proposed
Commercial Loan (mortgage)		\$ 97,997.00	\$ 97,997.00	\$ 97,997.00	\$ 97,997.00
Capital Reserve Fund		\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,600.00
Library Improvements		\$ -	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Bathroom Upgrades		\$ 850.00	\$ 550.00		
Parking Lot Repair		\$ 250.00	\$ 450.00		\$ 528.00
Lighting		\$ 5,050.00			\$ 1,500.00
Misc. Capital Improvements		\$ 4,537.00			\$ 1,500.00
Additional Storage Shed					\$ 7,000.00
Total Expenditures		\$ 115,284.00	\$ 110,597.00	\$ 104,597.00	\$ 120,125.00
Income					
Envelope Pledged		\$ 97,383.00	\$ 105,325.00	\$ 97,610.00	\$ 111,000.00
Envelope Unpledged		\$ 6,630.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,186.00	\$ 5,500.00
Lighting		\$ 6,300.00			
Carry over		\$ 3,897.00	\$ 3,897.00		\$ 3,625.00
Building Fund Support		\$ 114,210.00	\$ 114,222.00	\$ 108,532.00	\$ 120,125.00

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
“Ambassadors for Christ, Loving and Serving God’s People”
Council Members and Leaders and Annual Meeting Ballot
January 28, 2018

Mount Olive Council Members and Leaders:

Executive Committee:

President: **Open for Election**

Vice President: **To be called at the February 2018 Full Council Meeting**

Treasurer: Don Halley (third year of second three-year term)

Secretary: **Open for Election**

Finance Chair and Stewardship Ministry Team: **Open for Election**

Facility and Grounds Ministry Team: Gene Ostrom (third year of first three-year term)

Mutual Ministry Team: **Open for Election**

Full Council:

Adult Faith Ministry Team: **Open for Election**

Worship and Music Ministry Team: Mark Schoer (third year of first three-year term)

Endowment Fund Representative: **Open for Election**

Service and Social Ministry Team: **Open for Election**

Children/Youth Ministry Team: Renee Kuehl (second year of first three-year term)

Congregational Life & Hospitality Team: **Open for Election**

Youth Representative: **Open for Election**

Non-Council, elected leaders and offices:

2018 Nominating Committee: Paul Schaefer (2019 end), **Open for Election (X2 positions)**

Columbarium Committee: Ramona Purnell (2019 end), Chris Miller (2020 end), **Open for Election**

2018 Synod Assembly Voting Members: **Open for Election**

Endowment Committee: Mark Masbruch (end 2019); Jim Berg (end 2020); **Open for Election**

Mount Olive Council Ballot:

Full Council:

President: Jim Berg

Secretary: Deb Peterson

Finance Chair and Stewardship Ministry Team: Tom Rigby

Mutual Ministry Team: Paul Johnsen

Endowment Representative: Loren Else

Adult Faith Ministry Team: Kris Liedtke

Service & Social Ministry Team: Ann Willis

Congregational Life & Hospitality Team: Sue Ann Collinge

Youth Representative: Samantha Fletcher

Non-Council, elected leaders and offices:

2018 Synod Assembly Voting Members:

Renee Schaefer

Jake Johnson

Sophia Natzke

2018 Synod Assembly Alternates:

Vicky Kubly

Phil Lashinski

Kailea Matheis

2018 Nominating Committee: Joan Odland (fulfilling term ending 2020); Lori Kuhlman-Leibfried (First year of three year term)

2018 Columbarium Committee: Dan Meyer

LITANY

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

God has joined us to one another, in congregations, in our denomination, and with Christians around the world. As church together, we faithfully strive to participate in God's reconciling work, near and far.

Together, we are partners in ministry.

We plant new congregations and renew existing ones; we work with ethnic ministries to reach all God's people; we develop and share resources for God's work when we gather.

Together, we are partners in ministry.

We support The Lutheran World Federation's global communion of churches and send more than 200 missionaries to more than 40 countries; we facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths that God's love may spread far and wide.

Together, we are partners in ministry.

We equip current and future leaders through our colleges, universities, seminaries and lay ministry schools; we engage in hopeful conversation about current economic, environmental, political, public and social issues.

Together, we are partners in ministry.

Christ has freed us *from* sin and death, even from ourselves, so that we can live with and for our neighbors; in worship we cry out to be forgiven, fed and equipped that our faith may be aligned with our lives and our lives with God's good purposes.

Scattered into the world, we do God's work.

Sent into the world – in every relationship, in every daily task, in every corner of life – we provide daily bread for our neighbors, nurture hope and faith, and work for a healed, reconciled and just world.

Scattered into the world, we do God's work.

On the highway and in the skies, in jails and in offices, in the unemployment line and at the mechanic's shop, in kitchens and in classrooms, shopping for toys or hoping to find our next meal, in nursing homes and in the voting booth, God is at work, providing for our needs and for our neighbors' needs.

Scattered into the world, we do God's work.

Gracious God, you call us together, and you send us out. Give us strength to be your people, both when we gather and when we scatter. Deliver us from service of ourselves alone, and deliver us from service to the welfare of our congregations that we may do the work you are calling us to do, alone and together. Whether in our daily lives or in and through our congregation, may we always seek common good. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan

Music: LINSTAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter

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