

THE Messenger

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH · ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA · 507-288-1580 · MOLIVE.ORG



COLOMBIA REFLECTIONS

By Pastor Glenn Monson

Bienvenidos a Colombia! Welcome to Colombia! That phrase met us when we arrived in Bogota. That phrase was lived out every moment of every day we spent in Colombia, March 10-20. The staff members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO) were our guides, and the people of congregations, the students and staff of Lutheran and public schools, and the clients of various social service ministries were our hosts, as we were introduced to the ministry of IELCO.

The country of Colombia is heavily Roman Catholic. Some inroads are being made by Pentecostal and Prosperity Gospel churches, but it remains 95% Roman Catholic. Interestingly, only the Roman Catholic Church is recognized by the government as a church. All other churches are classified as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), thus they are regulated and taxed by the state.

IELCO began as a mission endeavor by North American Lutherans in the 1930's. Until 1982 it was classified as a synod of one of the predecessor bodies of the ELCA. In 1982 it was organized as an independent Lutheran Church. IELCO is a small church, comprising only about 1700 members in 22 congregations, but what they lack in size they make up for in passion. They are passionate about their Lutheran identity, God's call to

bring the Lutheran emphasis on grace to the people of Colombia, and about being a voice for justice and peace in their war-torn land.

We went to Colombia at the invitation of ELCA missionaries in Colombia, Katie and Curtis Kline, in order to learn first-hand how we might partner with the ministries of IELCO. While there we learned that IELCO has six basic divisions of ministry: Care and strengthening of pastors and lay pastors, Evangelism, Education, Women's ministry, Youth Ministry, Diaconia (Social Service and Outreach).

Each division of ministry has a staff person assigned, and a worked-out strategy for accomplishing its mission. We were privileged to meet most of the IELCO staff when we were invited to a meeting with Bishop Attahuelpa Hernandez. Our group of 12 Mount Olive members met together on our final night in Bogota, and came to a consensus that we would like to partner with the education ministry of IELCO. This would include our whole congregation as our Sunday School students could communicate with the students of IELCO, our pastors could partner with pastors in Colombia, and our whole congregation could join in strengthening the education ministry of the Colombian church. Please continue to pray for these Lutheran sisters and brothers of ours. They are doing great work in a land that sorely needs to hear a word of grace.

STAFFING UPDATE FROM PASTOR PAUL:

CYF MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Our hiring team has been doing great work and has conducted a series of interviews to fill our vacant Children Youth and Family Ministry Director position. We are focusing in on a candidate and will share more information as we are able. Please continue to support those involved in the process. We look forward to getting the right person for this important position as soon as we can.

PHOTO RETAKES

Did you miss getting your picture taken for our Community Book photo directory? We have scheduled a new photo session on May 2 and 3. If you would like to be pictured, the sign up link is available on the church website or you may contact Nancy in the church office to be added to the list. Every family pictured receives a complimentary 8 x 10 photo as well as a new directory.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

April worship and coffee fellowship volunteer schedules have been sent to all participants. The schedules are also available on the church website under "Service." Volunteers have been invited to help at worship services and fellowship in May via the online sign up site Sign Up Genius. If you did not receive the email invitation or "don't do computers" but are willing to serve, please contact Nancy Britson, and she will help you.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEKEND

Mount Olive is blessed with so many willing volunteers who serve in so many ways! Everyone is invited to receptions following all services the weekend of April 29 and 30. Let the Mount Olive staff serve you in gratitude for all that you do.

SPIRITUAL CARE & PRAYER CHAIN

Mount Olive has a prayer chain which is coordinated by Kim Ignatius. If you have a prayer request and would like the prayer chain to be in prayer for you or someone you love, please contact Kim at 507-271-6087 or Ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net. Please contact the church staff if you have prayer concerns.

INCLUSIVE CHURCH TASKFORCE UPDATE

The Inclusive Church Taskforce continues to gather and prepare opportunities for us all to explore what it would mean to become a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. The team is putting together a resource list of helpful books, blogs, articles, and other information to dive into some of the specific topics that we will examine throughout this process. Over the next several months, the team is planning a congregational event to be held at the church at the end of spring or beginning of summer. There will also be some small group listening sessions throughout the summer to share stories and food, and to talk about our excitements, our apprehensions, our curiosities, and anything else that may be on our hearts. Please feel free to also talk with any of the members, Becky Lashinski, Randi Beyerl, Jake Johnson, Elmer Odland, Paula Freitag, David Johnston, Mickaela Pasch, and Tom Rigby, as well as Pastor Glenn and Pastor Paul if you would like to meet one on one. Did you know that there are 46 *Reconciling in Christ* congregations in the state of Minnesota and two here in Rochester? They are Zumbro Lutheran Church and People of Hope. You can find more information on the ELCA Reconciling Works website: <http://www.reconcilingworks.org>.

EASTER SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

There will be a fellowship time between services on Easter Sunday with hot cross buns and other breakfast pastries, coffee, and juice being served. Please come and enjoy the celebration of the resurrection. To help with serving or providing food, please sign up in the gathering area.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Stop by the Fair Trade Coffee display in the gathering area to check out the varieties of coffee and tea available for purchase. You can also sign up to sponsor the coffee on an upcoming Sunday. For \$15 you can help offset the cost of the coffee served during fellowship time and celebrate an occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, or the memory of a loved one.

GERMANY TRIP

Interested in joining us as we head to Germany for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation? Our trip to Germany will be Sept 27—Oct 6, 2017. There are still many spots available. Contact Pastor Paul if you are interested in joining the group.

WOMEN'S DAY OF SERVICE

On Saturday March 11th, Mount Olive women gathered to perform acts of service in the community and at Mount Olive. Groups volunteered in the community at the Habitat Re-Store and Channel One and at Mount Olive sewing and tying quilts, knitting prayer shawls, cutting and sewing baby jackets, and hemming blankets. Funds for lunch and supplies were provided by Thrivent. The photos to the right are all from the Women's Day of Service.





FUN IN SERVING HIM (FISH)

Our youth service group, Fun In Serving Him, will begin meeting again on April 26. We will meet from 6:30PM to 7:30PM for 4 weeks. Projects will be outdoors if the weather permits. We will be doing some flower planting, food collection for Channel One, litter clean-up and end with a celebration. If you have any questions please contact Carrie Fletcher at cxnfletch@aol.com. The photos below are from the service Sunday on March 12. Students packaged personal care kits and created a Spring flower craft for shut-ins

SPRING YARD CLEANUP

The Facility Team and all willing volunteers will gather at 9AM on Saturday, April 22 to do some spring cleaning up of the church grounds. Bring rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc. for spreading mulch and general trimming and tidying. Please come and bring your friends and family to help out! Rain date on April 29. Sign up in the gathering area.

COMMUNITY FOOD RESPONSE

CFR is a non-profit, volunteer-led organization that provides free meals to hungry people to eat at home or elsewhere. The food they distribute is donated by restaurants, cafeterias, businesses and grocery stores. Mount Olive will be helping with this ministry when they open their second location at a time yet to be determined. They were to open in March but the building that they were going to use is being sold. They will keep us posted with any information as it becomes available. If you have any questions regarding this ministry, please contact Pastor or Carrie Fletcher.

SERVICE SUNDAY

Thank you to all who donated and helped assemble the Personal Care Kits for the Service Sunday in March. All your generous donations will help our neighbors around the world when disaster strikes and they are in need of basic care items. We were able to assemble a total of 90 kits to send to those who are in need. For the May Service Sunday, bandages will be made using sheets. Used or new (WHITE ONLY) flat cotton or cotton blend bed sheets are used. If you can contribute sheets, please leave them in the marked container in the gathering area by April 30. These bandages will be used for wound care.



CHANNEL ONE

Our Lenten collection for The Channel One Food Bank continues through Palm Sunday, April 9th. Visit the table in the front entry for information on needed items as well as donation envelopes.

BACKPACKS FOR JOHN ADAMS

Drivers and Packers are needed for this food program for students at John Adams Middle School. The schedule is always posted on the volunteer sign up table in the Gathering Area. Select the date/time you will perform one or more of these tasks. Contact Warren Kemplin at 254-4932 with questions or for a replacement driver or packer should you have a conflict.

DOROTHY DAY HOUSE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Come and serve at the Dorothy Day Hospitality house in downtown Rochester! Volunteers are needed for May 5, June 2, and July 7. The time commitment is 1.5-2 hours. We serve a delicious meal (anything goes) to the residents which is usually about 25 guests. Past meals have included chili, lasagna, taco bar, etc. It is a great opportunity for a family or a group. Join in the fun! Sign up on the Dorothy Day Volunteer calendar located in the gathering area or contact Anna Strand @617-899-2484 or annabstrand@gmail.com.

MOUNT OLIVE QUILTERS:

THURSDAYS AT 9:00 AM

You are invited each week to enjoy quilting and fellowship. No quilting experience needed!

RIPE OLIVES

Ripe Olives is a group of Mount Olive's seniors (60+) who meet monthly for fellowship, food, and learning. This month the group will meet at the Hy-Vee North Market Grille on 37th St. NW on Friday April 14 at 9:30AM. Meet for breakfast or coffee and a roll. Sign up in the gathering area.



NEXT CHAPTER MINISTRIES RESTORATION CELEBRATION

A group from Mount Olive attended the Next Chapter Ministries Restoration Celebration on Friday, March 17. The photos above are from the event. It was a fundraising dinner to support the programs Next Chapter operates; three residential aftercare homes, support for families of prisoners, a youth center for high risk teenagers, and an outreach for children. More than \$42,000 was raised. For more information on Next Chapter, contact Pastor Glenn.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY :

TUESDAY, APRIL 4 AT 9:00 AM

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

A REFLECTION FROM COLOMBIA

By Sonja Pierson, Joey Krieger, Daniel Krieger, Nels Pierson and Mardoche Pierson

This morning, we traveled to the south end of Bogota to visit the elderly at a soup kitchen in Soacha. As we drove up the mountainside, we noticed the roads were getting worse, there were many stray dogs, and the streets were lined with homes in poor condition. When we arrived at the soup kitchen, everyone made us feel welcome. They shared with us about their lives, danced for us, and then danced with all of us. We helped serve the meal which was potato soup, chicken, rice, peas and carrots, and a potato. Afterward, we visited the homes of two of the people from the soup kitchen. We noticed that one of the homes had holes in the roof. Despite their living conditions, they seemed happy and grateful to God for what they had.

Reflections: Even though the people didn't have much, they found a way to be happy in their situation... They served others before themselves and helped each other... The soup kitchen can help many people, but it can't help everyone... How many houses in Rochester look like these?.. People often focus on what goes wrong, but these people were thankful for what they had and for the caring community at the soup kitchen.

Be sure to check out the blog from the Mission: Colombia trip at <https://walking2getherblog.wordpress.com/> for more pictures and stories. The team will also give a report during the adult forum on April 23.



THE GREAT THREE DAYS

At the end of the season of Lent, we enter into the holiest moments of our Church Year: The Great Three Days of Jesus' Death and Resurrection: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. These three days are part of one movement that culminates in the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, as we move from death to life, celebrating the resurrection of Christ again for the first time. Each year, students in Grade 5 gather before the Maundy Thursday service to learn about and prepare for this special remembrance and proclamation. Families with students in Grade 5, please plan to join us at 6pm on Maundy Thursday (April 13) to learn more about this communal movement from death to life.

SPRING METAMORPHOSIS

Wednesdays after Easter (beginning April 26), we will gather to Proclaim Community! Come and join us as we take what we've learned all year and begin to figure out what it means to live it out in community.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

ZUMBRO CONFERENCE GATHERING

The Zumbro Conference Gathering will take place on April 20. Mount Olive will serve as hosts for the Zumbro River Conference of the Women of the ELCA. The event goes from 4:45 to 8:30PM and includes dinner, music, a speaker— Pastor Nirmala Reinschmidt, and a worship service with communion. There will be displays from a variety of organizations. Designated in kind offerings will go to Family Promise. Items being collected are: diapers, baby wipes, laundry detergent, Kwik Trip gift cards, and any personal items. Registration is \$15 and includes dinner. Registration due Monday, April 10. Please make registration and offering checks payable to SE MN Synod

WELCA. Please write separate checks and indicate "registration" or "offering" on the memo line and indicate your church name and city. Please mail to Gwen Kubista, 532 3rd Street NW; Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

TRIENNIAL GATHERING IN MINNEAPOLIS

The national gathering of the Women of the ELCA takes place July 13-16 in Minneapolis. This is a great opportunity for women to experience outstanding speakers, dynamic worship, and to meet women from all over the country. Mount Olive already has 12 women planning to attend and there is still time to register. Registration and scholarship materials are available in the gathering area. For more information and online registration, visit welcatg.org or contact Ruth Monson (507-319-0578 or ruth.a.monson@gmail.com).

MONTHLY WELCA BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

Monthly Bible study leaders will meet with Pastor Glenn in the front conference room on Tuesday, April 4 at 5:30PM. Please RSVP to Pastor Glenn.

DANIEL BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

Each Sunday at 9:15AM in the fellowship hall, and Wednesday at 6:00PM in the library, Pastor Glenn leads a Lenten Bible study on the Book of Daniel. Guests are always welcome. We will conclude the study on Palm Sunday, April 9.

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING (FSU)

Faith Seeking Understanding reads and shares conversations about a variety of books on theology, religion, spirituality and Christianity and our changing church. The topic for FSU in April is a video from the Living the Questions Series: The Myth of Redemptive Violence. FSU meets on Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30PM. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jody Myers at jodyjpmymers@gmail.com.

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

The Sunday Adult Forum starts each week at 9:15AM. Please grab some coffee and gather in the fellowship hall.

The schedule for April is as follows:

April 2 & 9	Lenten Study of Daniel Continues
April 16	Easter: No Forum
April 23	Mission: Colombia Report
April 30	Fate of the Dakota with Colin Mustful



PUB THEOLOGY

Do you enjoy thinking about faith, life, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our world today? Do you enjoy beer or craft sodas? Do you like to gather with others for stimulating conversation and being opened to new ideas? If any of these sound like you, come join us Monday nights at Life's Too Short Brewing Co. for Pub Theology, led by Pastor Paul. Topics are always sent out a day ahead of time and can be found at rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com. No Reservations Required — come and join as you're able. See you at the pub!

SPRING FORUM AT GUSTAVUS

ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Gustavus Adolphus College is hosting their 5th annual Faith Conference on Saturday, April 22. The topic this year is *Faith, Science, and the Freedom to Serve*. One of the featured speakers, Dr. Philip Clayton, has been featured in the Living the Questions and Painting the Stars curricula during some of our Sunday forums at Mount Olive this year. The event runs from 9AM-12:30PM and is free, but registration is required. Pastor Paul will lead the group. Please sign up in the Gathering Area. More info at gustavus.edu/churchrelations/gacac/faithconference.php

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE

Registration for Summer 2017 Programs Now Available! For more information, please visit <http://goodearthvillage.org/>. Call 507-346-2494 with any questions or concerns.

- Register for Summer Camp Now and Save 10% with code **EARLY17**.
- Register siblings for camp and Save 15% with code **SIBLING17**

PALM SUNDAY INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING- APRIL 9

Please join us during the education hour on Sunday April 9 as we begin our walk into Holy Week. There will be activities available for all ages. Here is a list of all the fun:

- Pet a donkey on the patio
- Hold a baby lamb
- Fold a palm frond cross
- Crafts
- Games
- Snacks

ADVENTURE CLUB - EARTH DAY RUN

Join us Saturday morning, April 22nd for an Earth Day Run! Nature's Playground Challenge: Fun run/walk, 5K and 10 miler. Begins at Soldier's Field Park at 8AM. To sign up go online to: <https://raceroster.com/events/2017/11284/natures-playground-challenge>. Sign up before April 15th to get a free tee-shirt. Use Promo code RUNLOCAL for 15% off registration fees. Please let Erin Sinnwell know if you will be there and we will meet up before the race for a group picture!

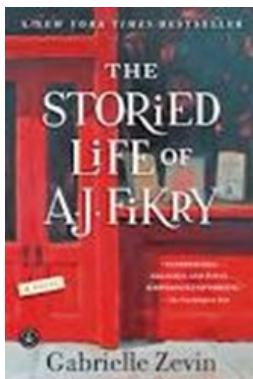
ADVENTURE CLUB - BINGO AND PIZZA NIGHT

Join us on Saturday, April 29 at 6PM in the fellowship hall for BINGO and PIZZA! Sign up is in the gathering area. \$2 per person. All ages are welcome.

MONDAY BOOK GROUP

Monday Book Group will be meeting April 10 at 6:30PM in the library. We will be discussing *The Storied Life of A.J.*

Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin. AJ Fikry owns a failing bookshop. His wife has just died, in tragic circumstances. His rare and valuable first edition has been stolen. His life is a wreck. This is the story of how unexpected love can rescue you and bring you back to real life, in a world that you won't want to leave, with characters that you will come to love. New readers are welcome to join us anytime. If you have questions contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.



MOUNT OLIVE SOFTBALL BEGINS MAY 2

The Rochester church softball league gets underway the week of May 2 and continues into the summer. Co-ed games are played at McQuillan Fields and last one hour with lots of friendly competition. Players ages high school through adult are welcome to join the fun. Spectators are always welcome! Sign up in the gathering area. There is a participant fee of \$25 to help defray the cost of team registration. Jason Sinnwell (sinnweja@gmail.com) and Ryan Buus (rjbuus@gmail.com) will be co-managers this year. Anyone interested in joining the team is invited to a pre-season cookout at the home of Mike and Gloria Schad on Sunday April 30 at 5:00PM. Bring a dish to share and your family. Contact Jason or Ryan for more information or contact Nancy Britson.

ROCHESTER MUSLIM COMMUNITY CIRCLE HOSTING OPEN HOUSE

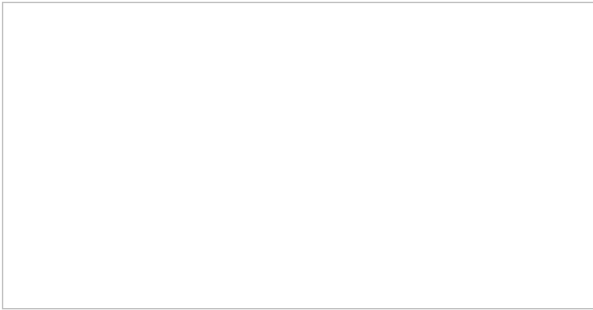
The objectives of this organization are to create a safe space express religious views with a broader group and help promote understanding and harmony among the diverse Rochester area residents. The open house is an opportunity to come and talk to your Muslim neighbors, ask any questions (nothing is off limits), and clarify what you hear about Islam in the media. Kindly share information about this open house with your friends, co-workers, and neighbors. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, email Ahmed Ragab at akragab16@gmail.com. The open house will take place on Saturday, April 15 from 10:00AM-11:30AM at 315 Elton Hills Drive NW, Suite 300, Rochester, MN.



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Ext. 203
Congregational Administrator
Ext. 204
Director of Congregational Life
Ext. 202
Administrative Assistant & Nursery Coordinator
Ext. 209
Nursery Assistant

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- Palm Sunday, April 9**

Maundy Thursday, April 13

Good Friday, April 14

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 15

Easter Sunday, April 16

8:00 AM

10:30AM

7:00PM

7:00PM

7:00PM

8:00AM

10:30AM