

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH · ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA · 507-288-1580 · MOLIVE.ORG A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

An Evening to Celebrate Tanzania

On Friday, April 27th at 6:30 pm, the Fellowship Hall of Mount Olive will be filled with the smells, sights, and sounds of Tanzania. That evening we will be hosting the bishop of the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), Alex Seif Mkumbo, on one of his few stops during his brief time in Minnesota this spring. Bishop Alex leads one of the fastest growing areas of Lutheranism in the world, of which we are a companion synod. He will inspire us that evening with stories of the mighty work God is doing in our companion synod.

In addition to the talk by Bishop Alex, and a delicious dinner of Tanzanian food prepared by our own Mount Olive members. We will also hear from the members of Mount Olive who will be traveling to Tanzania this fall. They will tell of their hopes to connect deeply with our siblings in Christ in the Central Diocese, to learn what their needs are for education and technology, and



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come home fully ready to establish a companion covenant with the Central Diocese of the ELCT, even as we have with the Lutheran Church in Colombia.

Our goal is to raise \$5000 during this event. This money will be used in a variety of ways:

- Fundraising dinner expenses,
- A few remaining travel expenses for the Mount Olive mission team,
- Gifts and Honoraria for our Tanzanian hosts,
- Educational projects and technology needs that we encounter while in Tanzania.

Members and friends of Mount Olive *of all ages* are encouraged to join in this inspiring event. Tickets for the event are \$25/person, and a free-will offering will be taken in order to reach our goal.

Please be praying for safe travel for Bishop Alex and his wife as they come to the U.S. Pray also that God's spirit would move boldly to lead us to give generously so that this trip can be a wonderful next step in our long and fruitful relationship with our siblings in Christ in this far-off land.

Blessings,

Pastor Glenn

Day on the Hill a Success!

On Tuesday, March 13 six members and friends of Mount Olive journeyed to St. Paul to attend Day on the Hill, the annual event sponsored by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC). The mission of the JRLC is to advocate for people with little voice in our society, especially the chronically poor, homeless, unemployed, incarcerated, and disenfranchised. This year we were advocates for:



1) Affordable Housing; 2)Childcare for families experiencing homelessness; 3) Reduction of fees and fines for minor traffic violations amongst the poor; and 4) Tax reform benefitting the poorest Minnesotans. Those attending included Mount Olive members, Pam and Gary Hansen, Brad Natzke, Pastor Glenn, and Pastor Paul.

Concentric Circles of Blessing are Happening!

In case you are wondering why the thank you notes are piling up on the office bulletin board, the answer is YOU! Your gifts have made it possible for us to go well beyond our anticipated goal at this point in the year and provide substantial support to many of our mission partners. Because of your generous support we have already disbursed **\$31,667** to mission partners this year! This includes nearly \$7000 to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, over \$2700 to Lutheran Campus Ministries, and over \$3000 to Next Chapter Ministries, our ministry partner in Rochester reaching those impacted by crime. Thank you so much for your generous support of the mission and ministry of Mount Olive! The concentric circles of blessing begin with you.

Rochester Muslim Community Circle Open House

In case you have never attended one of the Rochester Muslim Community's open houses, you still can. They happen every 3rd Saturday of the month, 10:00 – 11:30 am, at 315 Elton Hills Drive NW, Suite 300. These open houses are an opportunity to come and talk to Muslim neighbors, ask any questions you might have, and clarify what you hear about Islam in the media. Light refreshments are also served. Please come!



Next Chapter Ministries Gala

On April 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm, friends and benefactors of Next Chapter Ministries (NCM) will gather at the Rochester International Event Center to celebrate and support the work of NCM at their Annual Restoration Celebration. This event reflects the mission of NCM: to RESTORE those impacted by crime to God, family, and community. Mount Olive members and friends are invited to attend to hear success stories of this program from the past year. Olmsted County Sheriff Kevin Torgerson is the keynote speaker. Mount Olive has sponsored two tables; please contact Sherry Will by April 2 if you are interested in joining the group-sherry@molive.org-288-1580 ext. 210. For more information go to nextchapterrochester.org or talk to Pastor Glenn.

Good Earth Village

Camp is a place filled with unconditional love, overflowing joy, and where a Christ-centered community is felt at its core. Registration for summer 2018 programs is now available! For more information, please visit goodearthvillage.org. Call 507 -346-2494 with any questions or concerns. Register by April 29 and get a free t-shirt. Register siblings for camp and save 15% with code SIBLING18

Easter Worship Services

Join us for Easter Morning Festival Worship on April 1! 8:00 am and 10:30 am - Services with Holy Communion and music from Mount Olive's brass, bells and choir groups. Come to the Fellowship Hall between services for hot cross buns, coffee and juice, and other delicious treats.

The Easter Season

April begins our movement into the *season* of Easter. Yes, that's right! Easter isn't just a day, it's a season of the church year that is dedicated to the proclamation of Christ's resurrection life in the midst of (and beyond!) death. Just as we spent 40 days in the season of Lent moving *to* the Cross, we now spend 50 days in the season of Easter moving *through and beyond* the cross. What does this mean for us? Perhaps it means we keep an extra eye towards the life emerging around us: from the weather to the earth around us to the hopefulness we are witnessing in the lives of others. Happy Resurrection to you all!

Waldorf Choir Performance at Mount Olive

We were pleased to host the Waldorf Choir for Sunday worship services on March 11. The choir sang a variety of selections from their spring tour. Special thanks to the choir and to the volunteers from Mount Olive who provided overnight housing, breakfast, and lunch for the choir. It was wonderful to have this group of young musicians at Mount Olive.

Worship Volunteer Update

At each worship service, volunteers serve in many roles! More volunteers are <u>always</u> needed; all ages are welcome! Training is available for new volunteers.

How do I get involved? Volunteers receive regular notices via the online sign-up site, *Sign Up Genius*. To receive an invitation to the website, or if you "don't do computers" but are willing to serve, please contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, and she will help you: nancy@molive.org, 288-1580 ext. 202. Sign up opportunities are also on the Lenten table in the front entry.

Current Volunteer Schedules are emailed to all participants monthly. The schedules and Sign Up Genius links are also available on the church website, molive.org, under "Service".

Flowers in the Sanctuary

If you would like to provide flowers on the chancel, sign up at the Gathering Area cabinet where you will find the calendar and payment envelopes. You may place orders for special occasions or in memory of loved ones. Please write your name and the designation for the flowers on both the calendar and the payment envelope. Your envelope may then be placed in the offering plate or the office drop box. Thank you!



Second Sunday Service

April 8 is the 2nd Sunday of Service for all of our Sunday School Students. We will be rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries. Please bring clean white bed sheets to church by April 1 and place in the wooden bin in the entryway. These will be torn to make bandages, and the rolled bandages sent overseas to be used by health care workers who aid the wounded.

Habitat for Humanity

Sign up in the Gathering Area to help with work on a Habitat reconstruction home. The date is Saturday, April 14, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, with lunch provided. Mount Olive helps on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Salvation Army

Thank you for the hotel-sized toiletry items that were donated over the last two months. They filled 6 plastic grocery bags which were delivered to the Salvation Army. The people there were so thankful to receive them. Small gifts make a world of difference to those in need.

Family Promise

A big thank you to all of the Mount Olive volunteers who helped as we hosted homeless families for Family Promise from Sunday March 18 through March 25! Your help makes it possible for these homeless families to achieve independence!

Please save the date for the Family Promise Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 19, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. More details to come! Contact Erin Sinnwell with questions: 507-990-6079

Food For Friends

Providing groceries for John Adams Middle School students in the *Food for Friends* Program continues each week that school is in session. Volunteers are needed to pick up the food and deliver to Mount Olive where packing is done each Wednesday at 7:30 pm. Another volunteer delivers the filled bags to John Adams. Please sign up at the Gathering Area table to help out as a driver or food packer. If you have questions or need to arrange a substitute, contact Warren Kemplin- at 507-254-4932 or Mark Schultze at 507-254-4164.

Channel One Food Drive

During our Lenten Food Drive, your gifts of food and money to the Channel One Food Bank were amazing. The chancel was covered with canned goods, boxed food items and bags of personal care items. Thank you for your generous outpouring of love to help feed those in need here in our community. The total donated will be shared in the May Messenger.

Ronald McDonald House

A big thank you to everyone who has donated pop can tabs over the last year. Nine pounds of tabs were collected. We will continue to collect pop tabs; bring them to the container on the Gathering Area table.

Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters have been busy this winter. Fiftyfive baby quilts were given to Families First this past month. A large donation of fabric has been received, which enables us to continue our service.

You are invited each week to enjoy quilting and fellowship with the Mount Olive Quilters. Come Thursday mornings at 9:00 in the Fellowship hall to tie quilts, cut squares, sew bindings, and prepare batting. Quilts are then sent to many locations. No quilting experience is required! If you have any questions contact Elaine Monson, 507-272-6404

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, April 10 at 9:00 am

Our members continue to knit and crochet prayer shawls to comfort those who are experiencing a difficult time. We meet each month on the 2nd Tuesday at 9:00 am and always welcome new members to join us in this ministry. If you



or someone you know are in need of a prayer shawl please contact Peg Whitley at 288-9033 or the office staff.

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& STNETTOS

construction fashion exposé

STUDS, STRUTS A Benefit for Rochester Area Habitat for Humanity Thursday, April 19, 2018 **Mayo Civic Center Auditorium**

Studs, Struts & Stilettos is a Construction Fashion Exposé de-

signed to showcase the creativity and resourcefulness of the building industry professionals, while at the same time raising funds for Rochester Area Habitat for Humanity. All of the designs showcased will be inspired by, and partially created from, materials used in the building industry. Go to rochesterareabuilders.com for more information and to purchase tickets for

the event. VIP Tickets - \$85 includes the VIP & Cocktail Reception, preferred seating and a glass of champagne at the show, and the After Party. General Admission - \$35 in advance, \$40 at door includes access to the Cocktail Reception, a seat at the show, and the After Party.

April Service Highlight-Community Food Response

Community Food Response is a non-profit, volunteer-led organization that helps those with food insecurities receive a nutritious meal. Food is collected from area restaurants, hospitals, cafeterias and local businesses. The food is sorted and then distributed, free of charge. In addition to helping those that are hungry, CFR helps reduce the amount of food waste that would otherwise be generated.

CFR serves adults and families with children in need; many of them do not qualify for other forms of assistance. Clients can receive food after they register with CFR and they obtain a CISS identification card that is issued by CFR and other county agencies. Clients sign up for this card at their first visit and bring it with them each time they come. No one is turned away, and clients don't have to provide financial or employment information to qualify for this program or to receive food.

CFR has two locations: Bethel Lutheran Church, 810 3rd Avenue SE. Food is distributed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. The new second location is at The Exchange, 3945 10th Avenue NW. Food is distributed every Monday and Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. CFR is closed on major holidays.

The food is already prepared and is either fresh or frozen. There are many food options including: soups, sandwiches, salads, vegetables, meat dishes, pasta dishes and some desserts. Some of the food items require re-heating and some must be kept in a refrigerator or freezer if not eaten immediately.

Mount Olive helps to staff the location at The Exchange every third Mon-

day of the month. We have a driver that collects the food from Hy-Vee on Circle Drive, Madonna Towers and Hy-Vee on 37th St. The food is then taken to The Exchange and sorted into coolers based on the type of food it is. Two volunteers are needed from 3:00 to 4:00 pm to help sort

the food. Then, two more volunteers help to distribute the food.

When a client comes in to receive food, they tell the CFR Board volun-

teer the number of people in the family and then the distributors put food together to feed that number of people. A list of what to include in the distribution bag is compiled based on the food that was collected that day. Middle schoolers and adults are welcome to help. There is a sign-up located in the Gathering Area and training is provided. If you would like more information about this wonderful opportunity, please contact: Carrie Fletcher, CFR Liaison, at cxnfletcher@gmail.com.







Women of the ELCA Spring Event Women ef the ELCA

The Zumbro River Conference spring meeting is Thursday, **April 19** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ostrander, MN. Registration begins at 4:45 and dinner is at 5:30. Pastor Emily Carson, Director of Communications for the SE MN Synod of the ELCA is the speaker. The evening includes fellowship, dinner, a brief business meeting, a worship service, and the keynote speaker. Mount Olive hosted this event in 2017. Please register by Friday, April 6 at a cost of \$15. Mail check payable to SE MN Synod WELCA to Gwen Kubista, 532 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55951. Gwen's home phone: 507-593-7776 Cell: 507-273-9870

Note: Women of the ELCA circle study leaders, please attend the monthly leader preparation meeting led by Pastor Glenn. The meeting for March leaders is on Tuesday, **April 3** in the front Conference Room at 5:30 pm. Bring your study book and a Bible.

Sunday Forums in April

On Sundays following Easter we will again be hosting conversations on a variety of topics during our Forum time at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. The lineup is as follows:

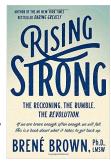
- April 8 Service Sunday all ages are invited to roll bandages for Global Health Ministries
 - 15 Mount Olive member, Steve Will, presenting "Lessons from Luther"
 - 22 Guest, Dr. Phil Quanbeck, presenting "Jerusalem in the News: Three Things American Christians Need to Know about Jerusalem Today"
 - **29** Guest, Dr. LaPrincess Brewer, presenting "We've Come This Far by FAITH!: Promoting Heart Health Within the Community."

The Market as God – A Spring Book Study

According to Harvey Cox, Harvard scholar and author of the new book, *The Market as God*, "the Market has deified itself." This means that those who serve in this "business theology of supply and demand" believe that the Market is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present. As a form of idolatry the Market has its own "doctrines, prophets, and evangelical zeal to convert the world to its way of life." For five Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, beginning April 18th, Pastor Glenn will lead a discussion of this important new book. Please sign up in the Gathering Area, where you can order a copy of the book. It is also available from Barnes and Noble in Apache Mall or Amazon in book or e-reader version.

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

Faith Seeking Understanding reads and shares conversations about a variety of books and videos on theology, spirituality, social justice, and Christianity and our changing church. FSU's next meeting is on the first Tuesday of March at 6:30 pm. The group meets **April 3** to discuss *Rising Strong* by Brené Brown. This will be the last gathering until next fall. Meet in the Mount Olive library. If you have any questions, please contact Kailea Mattheis, Director of Children, Youth, and Family at kailea@molive.org or 507-288-1580 ext. 207.





Pub Theology-Back to the Brewery!

In April, Pub Theology, led by Pastor Paul, will be back at LTS Brewing Co. beginning Monday **April 9th** (we won't meet on Monday April 2nd). Topics are always sent out a day ahead of time and can be found at <u>rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com</u>. Come and join as you're able to think about faith, life, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our world today. Come to socialize or order a beer at 5:30 pm, discussion begins at 6:00 pm. See you at the pub!

Inclusive Church Taskforce Update

The Inclusive Church Taskforce is continuing to guide Mount LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION V Olive's journey toward becoming a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) congregation. RIC is a designation for Lutheran communities that publicly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. The Inclusive Church Taskforce would like to invite you to participate in two upcoming events to learn more:

- **April 22** *Sexuality and Scripture* Come to the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 worship service. The youth will be serving brunch to help raise funds for summer missions and programming. Come for a great meal while hearing about what the Bible has to say about sexuality as well as reconsidering some passages that tend to be used to marginalize LGBTQ+ folks. If you would like to go further into the Bible and how it affirms the LGBTQ+ community, Pastoral Intern Alex Aivars from People of Hope Lutheran Church is hosting a Bible Study the third Monday of every month at Cafe Steam from 7:30-8:30pm. The next meeting is Monday, April 16. Email Alex for more information: alex@peopleofhope.com
- May 6 Question & Answer Session The Inclusive Church Taskforce will hold a Question and Answer session during the Sunday Adult Forum time at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall where we can talk together about what we have learned so far in this process, as well as ask some questions that may still be on our hearts. We will also begin a congregational poll to see if we are ready to hold a vote for becoming Reconciling in Christ (read more about RIC here: reconcilingworks.org).

If this Taskforce or mission is something you feel called to participate in, please consider this an invitation to join the team in any capacity.

The Inclusive Church Taskforce Team: Randi Beyerl, Becky Lashinski, Jake Johnson, Seth Knight, Mickaela Pasch, David Johnston, Elmer Odland, Paula Freitag, Tom Rigby, Jan Wiersma and Pastor Paul Moody



Youth Lock-in:

On April 14 from 6:30 pm-midnight we are having a youth lock-in for Metamorphosis students and any older youth who would like to attend. We'll start the evening with pizza and games. An Outreach Team comprised of students from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD will put on the lock-in. They prepare many lock-ins throughout the school year planning games and a Bible Study to make this event fun for all who attend. On Sunday, these students will join the 8th-12th graders during the education hour to talk

about faith and college. Help is needed from the congregation to host these college students on the night of the 14th, please contact Kailea Mattheis if you are willing to host a few students-kailea@molive.org.

Spring Metamorphosis

Wednesdays after Easter (beginning April 18), we will gather to Proclaim Community! Join us as we take what we've learned all year and begin to figure out what it means to live in community. Come for the meal at 5:30, table discussion at 6:00, evening worship, and closing by 7:30 pm.

Everyone is welcome!

Coming in May - A church rummage sale benefiting youth summer trip!

Spring cleaning? Consider donating your "treasures" to

the youth rummage sale coming Saturday, May 12. Watch for more info. in the May *Messenger* and Sunday bulletins.



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RAYERS

SANDRA DALLA

Ripe Olives

Ripe Olives is a group of Mount Olive's seniors (60+) who meet monthly for fellowship. We gather next on Friday, **April 13**. Breakfast is provided with a free will offering. **Please sign up in the Gathering Area to join in the fun and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!** Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with questions 288-1580 ext. 202.

Monday Book Group

The Monday Book Group gathers again on **April 9** at 6:30 pm in the Library for their monthly book discussion. This month, the discussion will surround *Prayers for Sale* by Sandra Dallas. Sandra has created an unforgettable tale of a friendship between two women, one with surprising twists and turns, and one that is ultimately a revelation of the finest parts of the human spirit. New readers are always welcome to join the group. Contact Jodi Schoer for more information, mjschoer@charter.net or 288-1951.

Adventure Club

The Mount Olive Adventure Club is a diverse and dynamic group of people of all ages that enjoy exploring a wide variety of activities! If you would like to be added to the Adventure Club email list or Facebook group, contact Erin Sinnwell—etracy515@hotmail.com or Rachel Carlson—carl1347@morris.umn.edu

Trivia Night-Meet at Pappy's Place, 1635 Hwy 52 North for trivia on Tuesday, **April 24** at 6:15 pm (Trivia starts at 6:30 pm). Winners get a \$20 gift card to Pappy's Place! This activity is for ages 16 and older, so please invite other friends and family to join. Sign up in the Gathering Area if you'd like to join us.



If you have any questions please call Rachel Carlson at 612-816-1215 or Erin Sinnwell at 507-990-6079. **Pizza and Bunco Night-**Save the date for a Pizza and Bunco night at Mount Olive on Friday, **May 11** at 6:30 pm. Watch for more details coming soon.

Summer Camping Trip-Adventure Club will have its 4th annual camping trip **July 13-15** at the Old Barn Resort near Lanesboro. Arrive Friday evening when you can and get your tents set up. On Saturday morning we'll have breakfast together over the campfire. Many bike into Lanesboro for the day to walk around downtown, go tubing, canoe, or play at the park. In the afternoon, head back to the campgrounds for swimming in the pool, a potluck supper, games, songs, and a small worship service. Sunday morning we have a quick breakfast and pack up to head back to Rochester. There are spots reserved for July 13-15 for the Mount Olive group - both tent and camper spots. Call the Old Barn Resort to reserve your spot - (507) 467-2512! Email Erin Sinnwell with any questions: <u>etracy515@hotmail.com</u>

Pops Orchestra Concert

The Rochester Pops Orchestra and Chorale presents "When You Wish Upon A Star" Sunday, April 29, 2018, 3:00 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church.

Celebrating the magic that makes Disney, Pixar, and Dreamworks films come to life, the Orchestra and Chorale dedicate a concert packed full of timeless classics and fun, spirit -filled selections.

Tickets are available now at <u>www.rochesterpops.com</u> or by calling the box office at 507-318-0801. Tickets will also be for sale in the narthex beginning on Sunday, April 8, 2018.

Lyra Baroque Orchestra Concert

On Friday, April 6 at 7:30 pm the world-class Lyra Baroque Orchestra will present a concert, "Music for a King", at Mount Olive. Tickets are \$25 at the door (\$20 for seniors/ MPR members). Come and enjoy wonderful music right here in Rochester. The preconcert talk by the director, Jacques Ogg, begins at 6:45 pm.

ellowship



Little Leapers Meet April 8

Little Leapers is a group for parents of newborns through tots not yet in Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School. Come and join in conversation and fellowship with your child! We will meet in the nursery at 9:15 am on Sunday, April 8 at 9:15 am. Everyone is welcome! Contact Serena

Oudekirk with any questions- Serena.Oudekirk@grarate.com.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Many thanks to everyone who helped prepare and serve soup for our mid-week Lenten soup suppers. Thanks also to all who contributed to the offering for ELCA World Hunger. Your contributions help to create sustainable solutions to the root causes of poverty and hunger!





Tanzania Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner

You are invited to this special dinner on Friday, April 27, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Tickets at a price of \$25/person will be on sale April 1- 22 after Saturday and Sunday worship services in the Gathering Area. Please help support the five Mount Olive members, Pastor Glenn Monson, Mark and Karen Masbruch and Steve and Sherry Will, who will be taking a mission trip to renew our relationship with the Lutheran church and school in Kijota, the Lutheran Bible Institute in Kiomboi, and the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). Trip dates are Sept. 25-Oct. 10,

Mark Masbruch on the 2011 Mission Trip

2018. In addition to purchasing tickets for this authentic Tanzanian meal, financial support may be given using the Tanzania Mission Trip Giving Envelopes available at the ticket table and during the Tanzania Fundraising Dinner. Thank you so much for your support. Together we can reach our goal of raising \$5000.

Women's Day of Service

Mount Olive Women's Day of Service- All women and girls in grades 6-12 are invited to a day of service, fun, and fellowship on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Bring your mother, daughter, grandma, aunt, niece, friend and neighbor! Please register at the table in the front entry where you may also sign up for the different service activities.

Schedule for the day:

8:30 am- Habitat ReStore volunteers meet at Mount Olive 9:00 am- All other volunteers meet at Mount Olive-

Opening Devotion

9:15 am- Work session 1- Get started working. 10:30 am- 15 minute break 10:45 am- Work session 2 12:15 pm- Lunch

12:45 pm- Closing Prayer

What to bring: Please bring items for the Channel One Birthday Bags- cake mix, can of frosting, birthday candles, and a small toy to fit in small bag.

Congregational Brunch

Please join both the Inclusive Church Taskforce and the Middle School Youth going to Michigan this summer for a brunch on April 22 following the 10:30 service. The youth will be serving the food while the Taskforce holds a discussion. There will be a free-will donation to help cover the costs of the Michigan trip. Please see the Inclusive Church Taskforce's article on page 9 for more information on the discussion.





Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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