

THE Messenger

August 2020

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

COVID-19 Survival Manuals Coming Your Way

A task force of 8 Mount Olive members and Pastor Glenn has been meeting for the last month to consider ministry opportunities in this pandemic time. The group has considered all sorts of activities in the areas of worship, education, fellowship, and service. In each of these areas, it has been the strong consensus of the group that indoor gatherings with over 10 people is ill-advised. This means that worship, Sunday School, fellowship events, and service events will continue to be done online, by individuals at home, outdoors, or possibly within small 'pods' of people who covenant together to stay safe.

Mindful of the fall coming, which means colder weather, less daylight, and even fewer chances to gather together, the task force is now busy preparing what they are calling "A COVID-19 Survival Manual." This manual will include strategies to gain spiritual resilience for the months ahead. We take seriously the twin threats of isolation and depression that may well plague us while we wait for the arrival of a vaccine. Congregational members will soon receive a survey noting many options that will be considered for inclusion in the manual. Watch for the survey online or in the mail, and share your wisdom on how we all can grow in spiritual resilience during COVID time. Stay well.

Baptism Festival September 6

In August, we are pleased to have the baptisms of four children on the schedule. On the first weekend in September, we will have a "Baptism Festival" to celebrate these baptisms and welcoming these children into our family at Mount Olive. Watch the online service that weekend as we celebrate with Word and song that these children are received as children of God and members of our congregation:

- 8/9- **Reece Hanson**, son of Herb and Lindsey Hanson
August Hollander Janke, son of Pastor Lisa Janke and Pastor Luke Hollander
8/16- **Otto Gornick**, son of Andrea and Cade Gornick
8/23- **Kelsey Anderson**, daughter of Nicole and Josh Anderson

Be a Barnabas or a Batnabas of Lutheran Campus Ministry

Barnabas was a colleague of the Apostle Paul's whom we read about in the Book of Acts. He accompanied Paul on many of his missionary journeys and was a great encouragement to him. The name Bar-nabas means "son of encouragement." A feminine version of the same name would be Bat-nabas or "daughter of encouragement." Both mean someone who stands alongside another and gives them courage on their journey.

We have been asked to be such for Lutheran Campus Ministries (LCM) in our Synod this summer. As students prepare to return to college either in-person or online, our campus ministries are going to be important sources of encouragement for these students. Between now and August 14, congregations all over the SE MN Synod are asked to make a special gift to LCM. The Mount Olive Executive Council has already decided to make a gift of \$500 above our yearly pledge. If you would like to be a Barnabas or a Batnabas to LCM, you can add to this sum, by making a gift to Mount Olive by August 14, and marking it "Lutheran Campus Ministries." Thank you very much.



Congregational Life

Special Congregational Meeting Held August 3-9

Intern Pastor Luke Hollander was officially approved by the synod for ordination and call. In order to formally call Pastor Luke to the post of Associate Pastor of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Mount Olive held a special open meeting August 3-9, 2020. All voting members had the opportunity to submit their ballots. Watch your mail for information about the results of the vote and plans for Pastor Luke's ordination at Mount Olive later this summer.

If You Are In Need of Prayer or Pastoral Care, Help with Errands, etc.

If you are having difficulty at this time of crisis, are in need of prayers or pastoral care, help with errands such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, meals, etc., or if you would simply enjoy a friendly phone call on a regular basis, please let us know as Mount Olive staff and volunteers are willing to help. You may contact the church office at 507-288-1580 or email Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org. If you leave a message, we will return your call.

People in need of prayer are being remembered by the prayer chain members and the Mount Olive staff. Prayers requests are sent to the Prayer Chain as they are received by the prayer chain coordinator, Kim Ignatius, and also sent out before weekend services. If you have a prayer request and would like the prayer chain to be in prayer for you or someone you love, or if you would like to join the prayer chain, please contact Kim at: 507-271-6087 or ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net. You may also contact any of the pastors with requests via phone or email.

Zoom Utilized Often

In our "new normal" time, Zoom, a video conferencing format, has been used frequently by Mount Olive groups. Group leaders may contact Bill Hollander or Nancy Britson in the church office for details on getting on the schedule to use the church account for meetings. If you are not yet on Zoom, and would like to be, we can help you to connect with volunteers for tech support. Contact Bill -bill.h@molive.org or Nancy -nancy@molive.org or call the church office at 507-288-1580.

Donations Delivered to Holy Trinity Church



Thank you so much for the outpouring of support we have received through Mount Olive for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Gifts tallied over \$9,600! Pastor Glenn recently delivered the check, met with some of their staff, and witnessed



the efforts they are making to support their community.



Offerings

Your financial gifts are more important than ever during this time. If you do not already give automatically, you may contact Bill Hollander in the church office, to set this up. You may also make a gift by clicking the green ["Donate Now"](#) button at the bottom of the church website homepage, or simply put a check in the mail. Please enter any special designations on the memo of the check or online comment area.

Olive Branch

At the end of June, Olive Branch was featured in a weekly email sent out by the SEMN Synod. Here is what it said:



Olive Branch

Many things came to a halt when the pandemic hit, but the work of the Holy Spirit wasn't one of them. Olive Branch, an emerging faith community in Rochester, is a testament to the surprising things that can happen when all your plans go out the window. Olive Branch is a ministry that seeks to be church for those who have been hurt by the church, and those who need change to happen more quickly than is often possible in established church communities. They value courageous questions, a lifestyle of wonder, and supporting one another when beliefs change. As churches shifted to online worship, Olive Branch began developing liturgical videos and invited other communities to use them. Currently, 105 leaders across the U.S. and Canada have signed up to receive Olive Branch resources by email.

As we enter into Fall, Pastor Lisa and Cantor Richard are gearing up to develop more worship resources, launch an Olive Branch website, and offer more opportunities to gather online for worship, education and fellowship.

Music Program Begins Plans for Fall

Our program year will be starting soon here at Mount Olive. Ordinarily that would mean choir, brass, and bell rehearsals would resume and we'd all get together and make some music. But how will that work in this time of social distance and staying at home? Here's the preliminary plan for resuming our ensembles.



Choir will rehearse virtually via Zoom. There's no way for us to all sing and hear one another at the same time, so these rehearsals will look and feel a bit different from our typical in-person rehearsals. We'll go over the music one voice part at a time and answer questions. Singers will record their parts at home after sufficient rehearsal time and the final choir piece will be edited together for use in worship videos. Because of the amount of time and effort involved in this process, we won't be able to perform as many pieces as we would normally. We'll be focusing on music for festivals and other occasions: Rally Day, Reformation, All Saints, Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas, etc. If you're interested in participating in choir this year, please contact me via email. Choir members should watch their email inboxes for additional information in the coming weeks.

Bells will rehearse in-person in the Fellowship Hall, socially distanced, wearing masks, one player per table (two players, if they share the same household), so we'll be limited to how many players we can have. As I write this, I've scheduled a test rehearsal for tomorrow evening (July 23) with several of our bell players to see how this will work.

Brass will be similar. In-person, in the Fellowship Hall, socially distanced. Obviously, masks won't be doable, but we'll take any other precautions possible to ensure everyone's health.

Again, this is just a preliminary plan. We may discover that some of these practices aren't sustainable or just won't work. We may need to adjust as we go and possibly suspend in-person rehearsals if the situation worsens. Thank you all for your patience in these challenging times. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

~ Travis Beck - travis@molive.org

Special Music Musicians Wanted

Travis continues to look for any musicians willing to record some special music at home for our virtual worship. It could be an instrumental or vocal solo or simply a single verse of a hymn; it could be accompanied or unaccompanied; even just audio if you don't want to appear on camera. Family groups welcome! We want you to be a part of making virtual worship happen. If you're interested, email Travis Beck at travis@molive.org.

Mount Olive Victory Gardens

The gardens have been producing this summer! Recently, cucumbers, onions, and garlic have been harvested and donated to Community Food Response. Other vegetables are still growing and will be ready for harvest soon. If you are interested in helping to weed and water the garden, please contact Carrie Fletcher at cxnfletcher@gmail.com or Lori Kuhlmann-Liebfried at lorikl@hotmail.com.

Fabric Mask Updates

Olmsted Medical Center will once again be receiving donations of fabric masks on August 17. If you'd like information on how to make a mask and contribute to the community collections, patterns and tutorial videos are available on the Mount Olive website, molive.org/service.



Take all completed fabric masks directly to Olmsted Medical Center, Marketing and Foundation Offices, 102 Elton Hills Drive, Rochester, MN, between 8 AM and 12 PM, Monday-Friday beginning August 17.

If you are in need of a mask for yourself or a family member, please contact the Mount Olive office at 507-288-1580 or email nancy@molive.org.

Channel One Regional Food Bank

Channel One is continuing to work hard to help people facing food insecurity. They have teamed up with the City of Rochester, Family Service Rochester, and Cradle 2 Career to provide food boxes to families in need. During this time, Channel One is focusing all volunteer efforts on packing emergency boxes and sanitizing. Several new procedures for volunteering have been implemented. If you are a healthy, low-risk individual, go to helpingfeedpeople.org/volunteer to learn more. Channel One is extremely grateful for your support of the community during this time.



Channel One Food Bank is currently in need of donations to allow the food bank to support all of those currently affected by COVID-19. Since Channel One is no longer accepting donated food from the public, the best way to help is to make a monetary donation. You may click on the [“Donate Now”](#) button on the church website or send a check to Mount Olive. Please indicate Channel One in the “other” section online or your check memo.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday September 13, 2020

Each year, we look forward to this opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. Like everything else this year, “God’s work. Our hands.” will look different. What will remain the same will be the opportunities for every member of the congregation to get involved in some way in serving in one or more of the following ways:

- **Pick Up Projects** - items will be available for pick up at church that can be completed at home.
- **Drop off of items** - We will collect items needed by ministry partners.
- **Donation of funds** - Many of our ministry partners are more reliant than ever on funding. We’ll highlight several options.
- **Service in the community** - There are still ways that individuals can serve directly in the community. We will provide several options.

Watch for the full list of projects and more details in the September Messenger. If you have project ideas or are willing to help out, please contact Nancy Britson—nancy@molive.org



Collection of Items for Family Promise

Family Promise currently does not have any families participating in the program and during this time of Covid-19, they are focusing on helping families that are about to lose housing--a model known as shelter diversion. While we will not be "hosting" or providing meals for any families during our host week in August, we have asked if there are any items they are in need of. There will be a bin near the entrance of the church marked "Family Promise" to collect the following personal care items:

- Men and Women's Shampoo
- Men, Women and Child Body Soap
- Travel Sized Shaving Cream
- Men and Women's Deodorant
- Laundry Detergent
- Individual Shower Caddies
- Adult Toothbrushes
- Pillows



Please make sure all items are **NEW**, nothing used please. Contact Erin Sinnwell (507-990-6079) with any questions. Please drop items off between the dates of **August 10th and August 17th**. (The church doors are open from 6:30 am –5:30 pm Mon.-Fri.)

Lutheran World Relief Sewing Projects Available

Kits of fabric squares and instructions for making Lutheran World Relief quilt tops are now available for pick up at church. The kit bin is in the marked cabinet in the Gathering Area cupboard. Return completed quilt tops to the same cabinet. Contact Elaine Monson at 507-272-6404 with any questions.



Receiving blankets to be hemmed and baby jackets to be sewed are also available to pick up from the cabinet in the Gathering Area. Directions are included for these simple projects. Return finished items to the same cabinet. Contact Cathy Hanson with any questions - 507-398-3917 or kchanson89@gmail.com.

Do You Like to Color, Draw, or Write?



Every week, the worship bulletin is mailed to members of Mount Olive who live in congregate living facilities. We would like to include a colored picture, drawing, or letter. What a great way to put a smile on someone's face and make a new friend. Please include your name and address on the back of your picture so that you may receive a response in return. You can email the pictures to Carrie Fletcher at carrie@molive.org, text a photo to (507) 272-1906, or you can also drop it off at church anytime Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. There will be a labeled bin in the church entryway. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Fletcher at carrie@molive.org.

White Sheet Collection for Global Health Ministry Bandages

During the month of August, please bring new and used **white** bed sheets and place in the wooden bin in the entryway at church. White muslin will also be accepted, but must be in 2 yard (72") lengths. Make sure used sheets and muslin are clean, freshly washed, and placed in a plastic bag. The sheets will be used to make bandages for Global Health Ministries, a Lutheran organization that provides medical aid to impoverished countries. Contact Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org with questions.



Online Sunday School Plans

We will start this program year where we left off in the Spring, with online Sunday school again this Fall. Beginning the Sunday after Labor Day, September 13, the format will include music, a Bible story, a reflection, and finish with an activity and/or a craft. The lessons will be targeted for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. While this is not how any of us envisioned our year, we will do our best to teach Bible stories, engage our youth, and have fun!

Pastor Luke will be responsible for putting together and publishing our Sunday school videos AND **he would like for you to get involved in them too!** Maybe you would like to record yourself leading a craft or an activity... maybe you have musical skills and would like to lead a couple of songs... maybe you have a favorite Bible story and reflection you would like to share. However you'd like to participate, Luke is here to support you. Just ask if you need help with any of the technology.

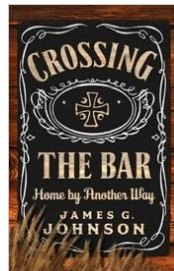
Pastor Luke has a list of the readings that will be used this Fall. Leaders may choose from one of them or pick their own to lead this element of Sunday school. This may be a good year to do some more unfamiliar stories! If you are interested, Pastor Luke will send you a Google doc that can be updated with your selections, or you can let him know as soon as you pick a story so we don't duplicate stories. For music, crafts and activities, any ideas would be welcome and Pastor Luke will plug them in with the most relevant stories. Please involve kids in your videos as much as you can/as much as you feel comfortable.

Luke would like to start receiving videos before September 6, if possible, so he can start working on videos ahead of time. As the year goes, he hopes to do some more creative and collaborative videos as well. So pass along ideas you have and watch for updates/requests!

Please let Pastor Luke know if you have any questions—luke@molive.org or 507-288-1580 ext. 207.

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

Mount Olive's Faith Seeking Understanding book group isn't wasting any time getting started this fall. On Tuesday, **September 1**, 6:30 – 8:00 pm we will gather on Zoom to discuss our first book: ***Crossing the Bar: Home by Another Way***, by James G. Johnson. We're starting with a book that is a relatively easy read, so don't worry about not having enough time to fit it in by September – you got this. FSU always welcomes new members. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive updates and reminders, let Pastor Lisa know. The FSU Zoom Meeting ID for 2020/21 is: 883 1860 1767. If you would like to be added to the email list for FSU we would be very happy to include you – lisa@molive.org.



Pub Theology

Pub Theology continues to meet weekly on Mondays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm on Zoom and has been enjoying this time of connection with each other. While we long to see each other face-to-face, we are taking advantage of this time to try new things like having guest presenters over Zoom and venturing into the world of podcasts! Weekly topics, announcements, and the link to our Zoom gathering continue to be posted at rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com

Fall Book Study on Racism with Pastor Glenn

This fall, Pastor Glenn will be leading a study on the topic which all of us need to learn more about – racism in America. In the aftermath of George Floyd's death, people across the globe have been asking questions like "What exactly *is* racism?" "Where is it found?" and "How am I involved?". Pastor Glenn will be diving into these questions and many others using a new resource called ***Dialogues on Race***. This is a resource especially well-suited for those for whom these questions are rather new. Reserve your copy of the study book (\$10) by emailing Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org or by calling the church office, 507-288-1580. This study will be held via Zoom, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, **September 16 – November 11**. All are welcome.

Creative Fellowship Continues

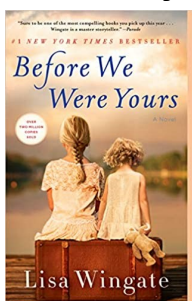
This unusual time has forced us to connect in unique and innovative ways. This summer, friends of Larry and Peg Whitley had a drive-by farewell in the church parking lot before they moved to



Missouri. Ted Granquist was surprised on his birthday with a long line of cars with friends waving and smiling. We encourage you to continue to find creative ways to stay connected; community is so important in stressful times! Please let the Mount Olive staff know if there are ways we can help.



Monday Book Group Resumes



The **Monday Book Group** gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature including: classics, fiction, poetry, humor, memoirs, history, mystery, and more. They are preparing to resume meeting via Zoom on **September 14 at 6:30 pm**. The selection for September is ***Before We Were Yours*** by Lisa Wingate. Billed as one of the most compelling books of the year, this is "A poignant, engrossing tale about sibling love and the toll of secrets."—*People* If you would like to be added to the email list or receive the Zoom invitation for September, contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

Women of the ELCA Update

A Board Meeting to plan for the next program year of the Mount Olive Women of the ELCA will be **August 19** at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Leaders from each circle and program area are encouraged to attend. Please watch your email for the Zoom invitation.

The women's small group studies for 2020/2021 will be from *Gather Magazine*. A subscription to the magazine, which includes a variety of resources and articles for Christian women in addition to the study, is suggested. Go to the Gather Magazine [website](#) or call (844)409-0576 to start your subscription. Online subscriptions are also available. Two copies of the magazine will be available in the church office. Pastor Glenn will lead a Zoom session for the monthly study leaders. The first session is **September 1 at 5:30 pm**. Contact Regina Seabrook, Mount Olive Women of the ELCA President, with any questions or if you are interested in joining a small group - rseabroo@gmail.com.



Women's Ordination Anniversary Celebration

In 2019 and 2020 we celebrate 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely. With gratitude for those who have gone before and hope for the future, the ELCA gives thanks to God for the ministry of women. At Mount



**We Are Church,
We Are Called**

50•40•10

Olive, we celebrate the gifts and service that women, especially Pastor Lisa, have brought to our church and our world as pastors. We will recognize this milestone in worship on August 30th. To learn more about the history of the ordination decision and see other available informational resources, please go to <https://www.elca.org/50yearsofordainedwomen>.



*Thanks to everyone who has been tending
the flowers in the church gardens!*

Mount Olive's Welcome Statement:

"We trust that God calls Mount Olive Lutheran Church to a ministry of reconciliation. We embrace as a gift the diversity of our neighborhood and the world, and we extend God's hospitality by welcoming, hearing, and treasuring:

All gender identities and sexual orientations

All races and ethnicities

All ages and abilities

All economic statuses and education levels

All faith journeys and personal histories

As Christ welcomes all, we too welcome the full inclusion of all people into the life, ministry, and sacraments of Mount Olive, joining in a journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect."



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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**A Reconciling in
Christ Community**

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