

The

Messenger

August 2021

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Family Camp Fun

Mount Olive families met at Chester Woods Park the weekend of July 16. Camping, fishing, water sports, s'mores, an outdoor movie, and fellowship were shared by many families. An outdoor church service led by Pastor Luke followed by a camp-style potluck were some of the highlights of the weekend. This annual tradition has been a hit for the young and old alike. With all the fun, everyone left "happy campers."



Youth Give Colorado Trip Report August 8

When you receive this *Messenger*, Pastor Luke, chaperone Kris Liedtke, and 18 youth will be in the midst of a grand adventure to Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in the mountains of Colorado. Join them in worship on Sunday, August 8 at 9:00 am, to hear stories about their adventures and some of the ways they encountered God on the trip. Youth will be helping as volunteers for this service as well. Please come to hear about their experiences and support their faith journey.



2022 Offering Envelopes – Request Them If You Want Them!

Envelope usage is down considerably due to growing use of online giving options like Simply Giving and website payment. This year, we will only be ordering offering envelope boxes for the families who actually want them. So, if you wish to have offering envelopes for 2022, please send Bill Hollander a note at bill.h@molive.org, call him at church, 507-288-1580, or drop a note in the offering basket or the office drop box (next to the mailboxes in the hallway). Additionally, if you would like to convert to electronic giving, he can help you set up that simple process. Thanks!

"Held in Pentecost" Adult Forum

What: Seasonal Celebration of Pentecost

When: Sunday, August 22 10:00-11:00am

Where: The lawn or gathering space.

Who's invited: YOU, silly, and everyone!

Please register so we can order refreshments and gifts for you.

Our big congregational picnic kicked off our "Held in the Seasons:

A Year of Noticing" project. Our thanks to Rev. Dr. Jan Rippentrop-Schnell for her preaching

and workshop-leading that day, and thanks to all who attended! Now, we get to mark each distinctive church season as it comes to us. Our first seasonal treat will be an adult forum, our first since pandemic time. Our guest presenter will be Julie Stevens, Director of Contemplative Practices at Gloria Dei Lutheran in Rochester. Julie is a super-creative spiritual director who will bring her gift for listening and passion for connecting with the natural world. As she leads us to deepen into this Green season, we'll have special refreshments from one of our favorite local spots, music led by Travis and Richard, and each participant will take home a touchstone gift to mark this season. (Thanks, Calvin grant!) **Please plan to attend by registering at the Gathering Area table or at this link:**

www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449a5a92aa1fb6-held



Ability Building Center (ABC) Is Back!

We are excited to say that ABC has resumed some of their cleaning services! They started back at Mount Olive on the 8th of July and will be providing their fantastic cleaning services to us on Monday and Thursday evenings each week. For those who aren't familiar with this, ABC is a local company that provides employment opportunities for people with disabilities. They have been taking care of Mount Olive for MANY years but, due to the pandemic, were unable to have their employees on-site. That has now changed, and we are grateful that they are able to be back with us.

Sunday Fellowship Coordinator Position Open

Do you love working behind the scenes, providing treats and coffee for guests? Do you find joy in expressions of hospitality, by helping people enjoy a time of fellowship following worship? Are you also an organized person, who can also organize others? If all these things sound like you, you are invited to apply for a small, but very important position at Mount Olive, the Sunday Fellowship Coordinator. This is a paid position, and its main task is to organize the Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. A full job description is available, and our Director of Congregational Life, Nancy Britson, is more than happy to answer any questions you might have.

Miriam Hanson preaching August 1

Our seminarian, Miriam Hanson, newly graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, will be our guest preacher on August 1. Miriam will update us on her plans to attend Princeton Theological Seminary to receive training in theology and environmental studies. To show our support for Miriam, we invite you to make a gift to the Keith and Mary Beaver Seminary Scholarship Fund to support Miriam in this new venture. Envelopes are available on the Welcome Desk at church, or you may contribute using the [“donate now”](#) button on the Mount Olive website. Indicate “Hanson Scholarship” in the comment area. Thank you.



Minnesota Adult/Teen Challenge to Present

On Sunday, August 22, several staff members and clients from Minnesota Adult/Teen Challenge (MNTC) will be present in morning worship to tell about their ministry. MNTC is a Christian ministry that helps people with addictive behaviors to begin again to find their way to wholeness. This will be their third visit to Mount Olive, and although they will not be bringing the large choir that usually accompanies their presentation, it still promises to be a very inspiring morning. Be sure to come and bring a friend!



Mount Olive Choir Plans for Fall

What will choir look like this fall? We’re not sure yet. Hopefully choir can be in-person again, but that may not be possible yet depending on everyone’s comfort level. Assuming that we can be in-person, rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:30pm. If you’re interested in joining choir this year, please email Travis for more information.



Worship Volunteers Needed

Worship volunteers are needed this summer to keep our indoor services running smoothly and to make everyone feel safe and welcomed each Sunday morning. Volunteers help with greeting, ushering, reading the lessons, leading prayers, serving communion and more. At this time, we will be asking that all volunteers are fully vaccinated as a safety precaution. If you would be willing to help out, please click here to sign up: www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449a5a92aa1fb6-mount1 or contact Nancy Britson, Volunteer Coordinator, with your availability or questions—nancy@molive.org or 507-288-1580 ext. 202. Training is available.

August Worship Schedule

For the month of August, the current worship schedule continues:

Sunday, 9:00 am—Indoor Worship in the sanctuary

Sunday, 11:00 am—Tailgate Worship in the parking lot

Online Worship— Livestream each Sunday at 9:00 am, available on the Mount Olive YouTube channel after 10:00 am on Sunday.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCqQHPLrP-lcwjKDOLwIGwdA

The fall schedule is still in the works and will be shared as soon as it is available.

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. 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!

VBS – August 11

Mount Olive is going to try something new and host an evening of Vacation Bible School on Wednesday, August 11 at 5pm. Join Pastor Luke for songs, a skit, games and more! This will be for kids of all ages, and parents are encouraged to stick around as well. It will happen on the front lawn. Following our program we will have games and a grill out! Everyone is welcome to come for the fellowship and food which will begin shortly after 6:00 pm. Please RSVP to Pastor Luke so he knows how many to plan for both for the VBS program and for the grill out – luke@molive.org.



Sunday School Plans for Fall

Families with younger kids are still navigating some of the challenges of this pandemic as their children under 12 don't have access to vaccines. Due to this, we are going to try something new for Sunday School this fall. The current plan is to meet masked in a larger group. We will sing songs together, listen to a Bible story, and then break into smaller groups for discussion and activities. This new format encourages parent and inter-generational participation. Pastor Luke is planning to provide online resources as well for those that still aren't comfortable attending in-person. Watch for more details and the Sunday time schedule to come in early September.

Pastor Glenn to Lead Genesis Bible Study

This fall, Pastor Glenn will lead a study of the book of Genesis, one of the most important books in the Old Testament. Much of our theological understanding regarding human origins, the origin of sin and evil, and God's response to brokenness and sin, comes from our reading of the book of Genesis. This 8-session study will be held both in-person and via Zoom technology to accommodate people's schedules and comfort levels regarding in-person gatherings. The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, via Zoom, September 8 – October 27.
- Thursdays at 10:30 am, in the church library, September 9 – October 28.

As always, friends are welcome. Sign up and order a study book (\$10) at church or by calling the office, 507-288-1580.

Suggested Reading by Pastor Glenn

This summer I attended the Interfaith Lecture Series at the Chautauqua Institution in upstate New York and, as part of the Series, I had a chance to hear economist and author, Heather McGhee, speak. She is a person of exceptional gifts, who has, in her research, documented how much hurt has been caused to our whole country by societal practices which have disallowed people of color from fully living the American dream. Her recent book, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, has become a best seller. I highly recommend this book to understand what our racial divide has cost us all, and how much better we are as a country when we face our problems as a society together.





Monday Book Group Plans for New Season

The Monday Book Group has selected its list of books for 2021/2022 and will begin meeting monthly this fall. Some of their meetings will be in person and some on Zoom. At their meeting on **September 13**, which is planned to be in-person, they will discuss *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer. Interested readers have the opportunity to order all the books selected for the year. A book list and order envelopes are available on the Gathering Area cabinet or you may contact Nancy Britson in the church office for more information— 507-288-1580 or nancy@molive.org. Book orders are due by Friday, **August 12**. If you would like to be added to the

email list for the group, sign up in the Gathering Area or contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

Ripe Olives Gatherings

There is a plan for the Ripe Olives, Mount Olive’s group for retired folks, to meet this fall. We’ll meet the 2nd Friday of each month at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We plan to serve a simple continental breakfast, coffee, and juice. We hope for in-person meetings, but if safety, or the weather, do not comply, we can transition to a Zoom format. Here’s the planned line-up for fall:



- **September 10**—Rev. Emily Carson, Assistant to the SEMN Bishop, will present “God in the Garden” The garden is a holy space in which we can encounter the divine mysteries of growth, life, death and regeneration. During our time together, we will explore several spiritual practices related to gardening.
- **October 8**—Paul Johnsen will bring us up-to-date on everything related to electric vehicles
- **November 12**—Bill Hollander will tell about his experiences serving in the Army in Afghanistan
- **December 10**—Christmas Songs Around the World with Travis Beck

Watch for more information in the coming months. Contact Nancy Britson in the church office with questions or to be added to the email list for notifications-nancy@molive.org or 507-288-1580.

Women’s Summer Bible Study Wraps Up



The last session of the women’s summer Bible study, led by Elaine Monson, is coming up on Tuesday, **August 24** at 10:00 am in the church library. All women are welcome to attend. The study, entitled “Just Love part 2: Just L.I.F.E. (Liberation Is For Everyone!)” by Rev. Angela Khabeb is available for free from *Gather Magazine*. If you’d prefer a printed copy, ask Nancy Britson (nancy@molive.org) in the church office. For a download of the study visit the following link: <https://www.gathermagazine.org/summer-2021-just-love-part-2/>. Author-led videos of the June and July studies are also available.

June Video link: www.gathermagazine.org/angela-khabeb-leads-gathers-june-bible-study-session-of-just-l-i-f-e/

July Video link: www.gathermagazine.org/angela-khabeb-leads-gathers-july-bible-study-session-of-just-l-i-f-e/

Women’s Small Group Studies Begin in September

In September, Mount Olive’s women’s small groups will begin their program year. Groups meet at a variety of times, some online and some in-person. The small group studies for 2021/2022 will once again be from *Gather Magazine*. This fall’s study is *The Gift of the Spirit* written by Rev. Sara Olson-Smith, associate pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa. Go to the *Gather Magazine* [website](http://www.gathermagazine.org) or call (844)409-0576 to start your subscription. Two copies of the magazine will be available in the church office. Pastor Glenn leads a monthly session for the study leaders. The first session is **September 7 at 5:30 pm** in the conference room at church. Contact Regina Seabrook, Mount Olive Women of the ELCA President, with any questions or interest in joining a small group - rseabroo@gmail.com.

Olive Branch Church

What: A relaxed time of outdoor church goodness

Where: [Little Thistle Brewing Co](#) (2031 14th St NW Rochester, MN 55901)

When: Mondays 5:30-7pm

Who: You and everybody! We're not looking for "members", just folks who love the Olive Branch vibe.

Lisa and Richard are thrilled to invite you to Olive Branch church this summer! Join at Little Thistle patio for Word, music, faith, questions, and all manner of goodness each Monday evening at 5:30 pm.



Olive Branch at Berne Pizza Artisan Market

Did you know that Olive Branch has an Artist Collective? We are a group of creative people who enjoy being creative in fellowship with one another. You can visit us and peruse our art at the Berne Wood-Fired Pizza Artisan Market Night - August 4, 2021, 4:30 – 8:00 pm. This is a wonderful promotional opportunity for Olive Branch and we will have wall art and greeting cards for sale. There will also be live music and wood-fired pizza, so bring your lawn chairs and plan to stay for the evening. For more information on the concert or to pre-order pizza: <https://www.bernepizza.org/concerts>

Save The Date: Rochester Pride 2021

Plans are underway for Rochester Pride at Mayo Park on September 25, 2021, 12 – 5 pm. Olive Branch will have a display, and we are excited to be there to celebrate the gifts and blessings of the LGBTQIA+ community! If you would like to be a part of the Olive Branch contingent, contact Pastor Lisa—lisa@molive.org.



Service

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, September 12, 2021

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. We are planning to offer many ways to get involved. We will have some take home projects, projects to complete in-between services, and weather-permitting, projects to complete after the Tailgate worship. You will also have the opportunity to donate funds to some of our ministry partners. Please watch for the full list of projects and more details in the September Messenger. If you have project ideas or are willing to help, please contact Carrie Fletcher—carrie@molive.org



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

Mount Olive Quilters

The Quilting group at Mount Olive is in need of fabric donations for making the quilt tops. They cut out 11, 8, and 6 inch squares of cotton fabric for the tops. Currently, they have no fabric available to be cut for the tops. Donations of clean, cotton fabric may be left in the cupboard in the Gathering area. There are packages in that cupboard of baby and large quilt top squares that need to be sewn as well. The Quilting group continues to meet every Thursday at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Elaine Monson, 507-272-6404, if you have any questions or have a larger quantity of fabric to donate.

DONATIONS NEEDED!



Dorothy Day House

Dorothy Day Hospitality House has resumed serving meals to their guests. Mount Olive provides the evening meal on the first Friday of each month. There are several open dates available. If you would be willing to drop off a meal or order pizza to serve approximately 14 people at 6:00 pm, please sign up at the Gathering Area cabinet or contact Jene Bodensteiner, Dorothy Day House volunteer coordinator for Mount Olive - jbode6@icloud.com.

Join Us! Legislative Wrap-Up: A Faith Perspective

The 2021 Legislative Session has concluded! Join the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) leaders and community organizations to hear about policy changes to help struggling Minnesotans and our neighbors in need – and learn more about how the process works. Anne Krisnik, JRLC Executive Director, will share new laws impacting housing, emergency shelter, safety net programs and more. The event will take place **Thursday, August 5, 6:30 – 8 PM** at Mount Olive. RSVP to 612-230-3232 or Joan Miltenberger, Statewide Organizer, at jmilttenberger@jrlc.org.

Next Chapter Ministries BBQ Fundraiser

The next date for Next Chapter Ministry's 11th Annual BBQ Cookout fundraiser is coming up on August 14, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A full meal of BBQ meat and sides is available for drive-through pick up at Christ Community Church, 4400 55th St. NW, Rochester. Go to Next Chapter's website, nextchapterrochester.org/ to order food and/or donate to their fundraiser. Next Chapter Ministry's goal is to eradicate crime, executing a strong focus on the highest crime areas of Rochester and Olmsted County. They strive to accomplish this by taking a holistic approach to ministry that starts with faith, love, and a home.



Bolder Options

Bolder Options is an innovative organization focused on healthy youth development. They offer a comprehensive mentoring program, wellness activities and leadership opportunities, and coordinate family, community, school and county resources in a united effort to support youth who are at-risk for dropping out of school or becoming involved in delinquent or unhealthy behaviors. Youth and mentors engage in goal setting, physical activity, tutoring and community involvement to build confidence, maximize potential, and encourage healthy life skills. If you have any questions about this program or to get involved, feel free to contact the Rochester office for Bolder Options located in Mount Olive or call 507-993-0554.



Save the Date! The annual Family Promise Concert will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 13th. There will be a silent auction and concert. Concert begins at 1:00 pm.

Prayer and Spiritual Care

Are you in need of prayer for yourself or a loved one or have other joys or sorrows to share? Mount Olive has a Prayer Chain, coordinated by Kim Ignatius. If you have a prayer request to share or if you would like to join the prayer chain as one who prays, please contact Kim at: 507-271-6087 or ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net. If you have a prayer request that you would like printed in the bulletin or have news such as hospitalization, birth of a baby, etc., or would like to request a pastoral visit, please contact one of the pastors or Nancy Britson in the church office using the contact information below. Voicemail messages are forwarded automatically to our email addresses. Thank you!

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

2830 18th Ave. NW
Rochester, MN 55901

507-288-1580 Website: molive.org



A Reconciling in
Christ Community

Mount Olive Staff

<p>The Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson Senior Pastor glenn@molive.org Ext. 206</p>	<p>The Rev. Lisa Janke Associate Pastor of Outreach lisa@molive.org Ext. 205</p>	<p>Deacon Travis Beck Director of Worship, Music, and Arts travis@molive.org Ext. 203</p>
<p>The Rev. Luke Hollander Associate Pastor of Children, Youth, and Family luke@molive.org Ext. 207</p>	<p>Richard Bruxvoort Colligan Cantor of Olive Branch richard@molive.org Ext. 210</p>	<p>Bill Hollander Congregational Administrator bill.h@molive.org Ext. 204</p>
<p>Carrie Fletcher—Director of Service and Social Outreach and Nursery Coordinator carrie@molive.org Ext. 209</p>	<p>Nancy Britson Director of Congregational Life nancy@molive.org Ext. 202</p>	