

THE

December 2019

Messenger

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Midweek Worship in Advent

On 3 consecutive Wednesdays in Advent, December 4, 11, and 18, at 7:00 pm, we will gather in the Gathering Area for a brief service of prayers, readings, and song around the theme, "Preparing in Christ's Presence." Each week will offer a different emphasis:



December 4: "Do Less" What can you let go of or erase from your to-do list in order to be more present with Christ this Advent?

December 11: "Experience Wonder" How can we experience wonder for God's works and be fed by wonder in the midst of this busy season?

December 18: "Hold on to Hope" How can we hold on to hope in the midst of the world's troubles?

Each service offers times for silent reflection as well as opportunities for conversation and reflection using various activities as suggested. Come and receive the gift of quiet, reflection, and community in this season of preparation.

Winter Solstice Event

Sunday, December 22, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Amid the hustle of the Christmas season, you are invited to pause and take a deep breath. The longest night of the year beckons us to reflect on the darkness and be honest about both the pain and the gifts we might find there. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a time of music, readings and reflection. You are invited to bring friends who may struggle during this season. We are creating a space where all might feel welcome, regardless of their previous church experience.

Christmas Eve Festival Worship Services

4:00 pm—Candlelight Service with Bells and Brass

7:00 pm—Candlelight Service with Choir



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This Day in Mount Olive History

It was Christmas Eve, 1961. Mount Olive had just broken ground for its first building in July. As the holidays neared the congregation began to get excited. Would they be able to worship in their new sanctuary before the first of the year? The answer was yes! Christmas Eve would be the first service. What joy there was that year! The celebration of the birth of Christ coincided with the celebration of a new sanctuary. Unforgettable.



Dining for the Dining Hall a Great Success!

Thank you to everyone who donated food, baked treats, gave a gift, worked at the event and/or just came and enjoyed the Swedish Meatball Supper on

November 1. We sold every ticket, as well as nearly all of the baked goods that were donated. While gifts continue to come in, the total to-date raised is over \$11,000, and the sum received for the dining hall project since we began this effort is now approaching \$22,000. Our goal is to raise the entire \$30,000 by year-end. If you have not yet contributed to

this effort, your gifts are still needed. Thank you very much!



60th Anniversary Fund is a Great Vehicle for Year-end Gifts



If you are looking for a way to make a year-end gift, we have a suggestion: the Mount Olive 60th Anniversary Fund. A gift to this fund will provide support for the following:

Congregational: Video/Projection System payoff, Olive Branch start-up costs
Local: Family Promise day center

Regional: Good Earth Village cabins, lodge and shower house updates

Global: Kijota Hull High School, Tanzania – Dining Hall construction; Lutheran Bible Institute of Kiomboi, Tanzania – Optic Cable installed

Long-term: Seminary Scholarship Fund, Kijota Hull High School Scholarship Fund

You may leave your gift undesignated to be decided by Church Council, or you may designate your gift for any of the projects listed. Thank you.

Stewardship Results are Strong

Thank you to all who have returned their pledge card for 2020. We are well on our way to reaching the goal of 150 pledges for 2020. To date, we are looking for 25 more pledges to make that happen, hoping to reach our goal of \$510,000 pledged. If you have not yet made a financial pledge for 2020, please do so ASAP. It is vital that the Church Council knows the intentions of all members as they make budget plans for 2020.

Christmas Eve at Mount Olive

These are some of the messages you will hear this Christmas Eve at both 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm at Mount Olive:

From the prophet **Isaiah**: "People who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

From the apostle **Paul**: "The grace of God has appeared!"

From **the angels**: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"

What glorious good news this is! Accompanying these proclamations will be music, carols, candlelight, prayers, and the gift of Christ's body and blood in the service of Holy Communion. Come, be fed, be strengthened, and be renewed in hope. Christ is born! Alleluia!



Youth-Led Worship Service

On Sunday, November 17, Mount Olive youth used their gifts to lead worship. Thank you to all of the youth for being an essential part of our church community. What a wonderful representation of hope and energy!



Altar Flowers and Poinsettias

The 2020 schedule is now available to sign up to provide the flowers that brighten the sanctuary each week. Place orders for birthdays, anniversaries, baptismal birthdays, births, or in memory of loved ones. Sign up in the Gathering Area, fill out an envelope and include payment. Place orders at least one week in advance. Bouquets are \$40 and bud vases range from \$7.50 to \$13.50.

You may order poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Advent and the Christmas season for \$8. Pick up an order envelope from the table in the entry or contact Nancy in the church office. **Orders will be due by December 1.**



Worship Volunteers Needed

Many worship volunteers are needed for weekend and Christmas Eve services in December. Keeping the services running smoothly takes many participants. Have you considered helping out? There is a particular need for communion assistants, ushers, and acolytes. All of those that serve are so appreciated! If you are available to join the team of volunteers at Mount Olive, please contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, 288-1580 ext. 202 or nancy@molive.org for more information. Sign up links are available on the church website molive.org on the service tab or see the sign up sheets at the Welcome Desk following most services. Thank you!

2nd Sunday Service Project- Christmas Ornaments



On November 10, the Sunday school children participated in making Christmas ornaments to send to the immigrant and refugee children detained after crossing the U.S. border. These ornaments will be distributed through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). Special thanks go to Linda Schueler for organizing such a fun, colorful activity. See more photos on the bulletin board near the nursery.



ELCA Good Gifts Update

Thank you to those that purchased items for God's Global Barnyard and the Good Gifts event. Through your generosity, we will be purchasing over \$1300 worth of Chicks, Pigs, Goats, Honeybees, and some school uniforms. Watch for this event to take place again in 2020. Special thanks to Carrie Fletcher and the middle school youth who participated in this worthy cause.

Red Kettle Bell Ringing

On Saturday, December 7, 1:00-3:00 pm, Mount Olive members will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Fundraiser. Stop by and see them at HyVee North on 37th St. The sign-up sheet is full, but you can still help by choosing your own time slot at www.registertoring.com.



DOING THE MOST GOOD™



Save the date for Family Promise Training

Four times a year, for a week at a time, Mount Olive hosts homeless families participating in Family Promise. Families have their morning and evening meal and stay overnight at the church. A variety of volunteers are needed to make this program succeed. A volunteer training will be held by Erin and Jason Sinnwell at

Mount Olive in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **January 5th** following the second service. A free lunch will be served at 11:45 am, training will begin at noon and we should be done by 1:15pm. This training can be for current volunteers who need to go through training every 3 years or for new volunteers. From cooking to driving to fellowship there are many things that you can offer the families. Sign up in the Gathering Area.

Family Promise Host Week- Mount Olive's next hosting dates for homeless families are **January 26 - February 2**. Please sign up online (the link is available on the Service tab at molive.org) or at the table in the entry at church. Contact Erin Sinnwell for more information: etracy515@hotmail.com or 507-990-6079.

Family Promise Choir Concert

The 2019 Family Promise choir concert was a huge success. Over \$10,000 was made this year with the silent auction and concert offering. A huge thanks to Travis Beck and the Mount Olive Choir for all of their time and talents. Travis and Brock Besse did an amazing job planning and directing. New groups performing this year included the Arioso homeschooled choir, Polished Brass and the First Players concert choir.



Mitten Tree Drive Concludes

The Mitten Tree will be on display in the Gathering Area through December 1. Thank you for your generous contributions to date! You may place gently used or new (elementary through middle school sized) coats, snow pants, snow boots, wool socks, hats, gloves, and/or mittens under or on the tree. The goal of this ministry is to help kids at neighborhood schools stay warm over the winter by providing them with appropriate gear. Your help makes a difference! Contact Ann Willis with any questions— eawillis@charter.net.



Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

All knitters and crocheters are invited to attend our next meeting on **December 10** at 9:00 am. Yarn, needles, treats, and guidance are provided. The group meets from September to May to knit or crochet prayer shawls and hats. If you would like to join the group of knitters or would like to request a shawl for someone who is experiencing illness, loss, or a difficult time, contact Peg Whitley - peg.whitley@gmail.com or call the church office at 288-1580.



“Thank you” for NICU Care Package Project

Thanks to all of you who provided supplies and financial support for making care packages for NICU parents and staff members. The response we received was overwhelming! Your contributions will help to support parents on a difficult and stressful journey.

Travis and Samantha Beck



Nora Beck pictured with the items donated.



Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters meet each Thursday morning at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to prepare and tie quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief and local service organizations. Everyone is welcome to join them. There are small and large quilt top kits to be picked up to sew at home. They are available in the cabinet in the Gathering Area. The quilters can always use more cotton fabrics for making the colorful quilt tops. Donations may be left in the Gathering Area cabinet. If you have any questions, call Sandy Schlenker at 507-529-8215.

Dorothy Day Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed to serve the evening meal the first Friday of each month for guests staying at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House, a temporary homeless shelter in downtown Rochester. Volunteers provide and share a family-style meal with the guests in the home's dining room. We are currently in need of volunteers for **January 3, February 7, and March 6**. Sign up in the Gathering Area where you will find more information. Contact Jene Bodensteiner at jbode6@me.com with questions or to volunteer.

Lutheranism 101 – Leading to Adult Confirmation

Pastor Glenn will once again be leading a 4-week study in the foundations of the Lutheran Faith, but with a little different twist. This time, he is extending a special invitation to adults who have never been confirmed in the Lutheran Faith. Perhaps you have been a member of Mount Olive for years, but you grew up in a non-Lutheran tradition, or were not a member of any church and you have always wanted to be a confirmed Lutheran. This class is for you. The class will begin Wednesday, **January 8** at 6:30 pm, and run for 4 consecutive Wednesdays. At the completion of the class, we will discuss together other steps leading to the rite of confirmation in the spring. For any questions, talk to Pastor Glenn.

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

The Faith Seeking Understanding book group will resume meeting in January 2020 at a local movie theatre. We look forward to viewing “Just Mercy” starring Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Foxx, based on the book by the same title by Bryan Stevenson, a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer. This #1 New York Times Bestseller has been described as a powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us and a call to fix our broken justice system. In preparation for the movie event, FSU participants may wish to read “Just Mercy,” learn more about EJI: the Equal Justice Initiative, and watch related videos that can be found online. Pastor Lisa will share some related links with the group via email in early December. If you are interested in being included in FSU emails, please message lisa@molive.org. Once the movie is released, we will schedule a time to view it together, then gather at a nearby restaurant for discussion. We hope to find a Sunday matinee option on January 12 or 19, 2020.

Pub Theology News

As Pub Theology gathers in December, we will be exploring our Advent worship themes of simplicity, wonder, and hope. The group continues to enjoy the amazing hospitality at Fiddlehead Coffee Co. every Monday night.

It is a beautiful place to gather, with ample free parking. It is also a place where we have been enjoying delicious family style meals offered by hosts who are excited to open the doors just for us and are beginning to know us by name. There is no cost to participate and purchasing food and drink is completely optional. A generous portion of the family style meal costs \$10/person and drinks (beer, wine, specialty coffee, hot chocolate, seltzer) vary in price around \$5 each. We gather at 5:30 pm for casual conversation, along with food and drink as desired, and our discussion takes place from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. **(Note that the group will not meet Monday, December 23 or 30, resuming January 6)** You can find out weekly topics on our blog: rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.org. Sign up directly on the blog to get updates by email, or ask [Pastor Lisa](#) or [Travis Beck](#) for help doing so.



Men's Discipleship

Men's Discipleship is a Bible study group for men meant to move them closer to God and to help them understand God's will in their lives. They meet weekly on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in the front conference room at church. They will continue to study the book of Acts. This group is open to all men of the congregation. Contact Mark Masbruch for more info - masbruch@hotmail.com.

Women of the ELCA - Important Dates:

December 2 - Women's Christmas Party hosted by Mary Circle

December 8 - St. Lucia Sunday sponsored by Naomi, Rachel, and Miriam circles.

January 7 - Monthly study leader preparation with Pastor Glenn in the front Conference Room at 5:30 pm. Bring your Gather Magazine and a Bible.



Youth Christmas Program December 15

On December 15 at 9:15 am the Mount Olive Youth will be putting on a Christmas Program. They will be performing "A Confounding Christmas Story" written by Mount Olive's own Jessi Hafeman along with singing some of our favorite Christmas carols – 'O Come, All Ye Faithful', 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', and 'Angels We Have Heard on High.' Please come and join them for what promises to be an entertaining telling of the Christmas Story. There will be a dress rehearsal for all Sunday School Students at 10:00 am on Saturday, December 14.

Summer Youth Trip Announced

Middle and High School Youth are invited to take a trip to the Rocky Mountains they will never forget! We will enjoy spectacular views from the trails while hiking in the mountains, test our team building skills on the marvelous high ropes course, white-water raft down the Arkansas River and more!

Who – Middle & High School Youth

When – July 26 – August 1, 2020

Where – Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, Colorado

Deadline: In order to make travel arrangements, registration and a \$100 deposit are due by **December 21**. The youth will be participating in a number of fundraisers including a bake sale on December 14 & 15 and an envelope fundraiser following Christmas that will help keep the costs of the trip down. Scholarship funds are also available. Please speak with Intern Luke if you have any questions-luke@molive.org.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

AFTER THE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

BETWEEN SERVICES & AFTER LATE SERVICE

Bake Sale Help Needed

As you are doing your holiday baking, please consider contributing to the youth bake sale as well! The sale isn't limited to cookies, but will include other holiday favorites and food related gift items as well. Please bring your homemade items, packaged festively, to the church kitchen between 8:30 am and 11:00 am on Saturday December 14 or prior to the 5:00 pm service that evening. No need to price.

There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Area with more information about contributing baked items or other treats.

Adults and youth are also needed to help with the sales on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, Dec. 14 and 15. Please

sign up in the Gathering Area to help. If you have any questions, please contact

Carrie Krieger- ckrieger@charter.net or Intern Luke Hollander - luke@molive.org.





Monday Book Group

The Monday Book Group gathers again on **December 9** at 6:30 pm, in the library, for their monthly book discussion and a time of Christmas fellowship. The December selection is *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. The story, written in 1865, is considered to be one of the best examples of the literary nonsense genre. Bring a gently used book for a gift exchange and a Christmas treat to share. New readers are always welcome to join the group. Contact Jodi Schoer for more information, mjschoer@charter.net or 288-1951.

Ripe Olives

Ripe Olives is a group for Mount Olive's most experienced members, mostly retired folks. They meet the second Friday of the month at 9:30 am for fun and fellowship! Their next meeting is Friday, **December 13**. We'll celebrate the coming of Christmas with treats, conversation, and fun selections of music from a favorite local group, *Triple Berry Pie*. The group is made up of Mount Olive member, Karen Masbruch, joined by Anjanette Bandel, Ruth Casper, and Susan Shephard as the accompanist. Breakfast will be provided with a freewill donation. Everyone is welcome to attend, sign up at the Gathering Area table. Contact Nancy Britson with questions 288-1580 ext. 202 or nancy@molive.org.



Christmas Caroling for All on December 8

A great tradition at Mount Olive is our annual caroling outing to local senior living facilities just prior to Christmas. Those who carol, those who sing along, and those who listen are all blessed. Plan now to join people of all ages as we gather to carol on Sunday, **December 8**. We will meet at the Mount Olive

parking lot at 1:30 pm to carpool to facilities that are home to some of our members. After caroling, we will go back to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy some Christmas treats and hot chocolate. Please bring a treat to share. Sign up in the Gathering Area.



**Mount Olive Women's
Christmas Party
Monday, December 2, 2019
6:30 pm**

All women of the congregation are invited to this special gathering at the beginning of the Christmas Season. The speaker will be Habibo Haji, who will tell her inspiring story of overcoming adversity as a young girl in Somalia, coming to America, getting her education, and fulfilling the American Dream for her family. As usual, delicious food and Christmas music will also be included. There will be a free will offering for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Child care will be offered as needed in the Mount Olive Nursery.

We hope you can join us; please come and bring a friend!

Bach's Christmas Oratorio

CANTATAS I, V, VI & CANTATA BWV 91

On Friday, **December 6**, 7:30 pm, The Bach Society of Minnesota will present Bach's Christmas Oratorio at Mount Olive. Johann Sebastian Bach's call to joy and celebration will be presented entirely by the Bach Society of Minnesota with baroque orchestra, chorus, and soloists.

BSM's annual holiday offering (a favorite with Minnesota audiences) will be led by Artistic Director Matthias Maute featuring soprano Sarah Brailey, alto Clara Osowski, tenor Nicholas Chalmers, and bass Jonathan Ten Brink. Together the acclaimed singers and musicians of the Bach Society announce the Holidays as Bach would have done in his own time. The Bach Society is pleased to offer members of Mount Olive Lutheran a special discount of **half price tickets (\$15)** with promo code **MOLC** when checking out online. Go to bachsocietymn.org for tickets. A pre-concert talk begins 30 minutes prior to the concert.



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Fellowship



St. Lucia Sunday Celebration December 8

On Sunday, December 8, we will celebrate the Festival of Saint Lucia as part of Mount Olive's Swedish heritage. The custom in Sweden on Saint Lucia Day is for the oldest daughter in a family to be up long before daybreak to serve coffee and lussekatter buns. She wears a long white dress with a red sash, and on top of her head is a wreath with lighted candles portraying St. Lucia as she served the poor. Naomi, Rachel, and Miriam Circles are busy preparing for the procession of Saint Lucia and her star boys

which will take place during each worship service. After the services, come to the Fellowship Hall for coffee and lussekatter buns and mints served by the mint girls. **Additional bakers for the buns are needed**, contact Sharon Parker for the recipe and directions—269-0385 or sharonk2001@msn.com.

Little Leapers Attend Christmas Program

Little Leapers is a fellowship group for parents and their children who have not yet started Sunday School. On Sunday, December 15, the group is invited to attend the Children's Christmas program at 9:15 am in the sanctuary. Seating will be reserved near the front for parents and little ones. Contact Kaitlin Maus for more information: kaitlinridl@gmail.com.



Pops Orchestra Christmas Concert Tickets on Sale

The Rochester Pops Orchestra presents *Mistletoe & Holly* on Sunday, **December 15, 2019**, 6:30 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church. Join the Rochester Pops Orchestra as they celebrate the holidays with a concert full of selections from Christmas standards we all know and love to new seasonal favorites. There's something for everyone to enjoy. The featured guest vocalist is Mary Lieser. Tickets are available in the Gathering Area through December 8, online at www.rochesterpops.com, or by calling the box office at 507-318-0801.

60th Anniversary Event #4: Pastor Siri to Give Concert in January



Many members of Mount Olive will remember Pastor Siri Strommen, who served as Associate Pastor at Mount Olive 2006-2012. Pastor Siri serves now at Atonement Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Minnesota. In addition to her pastoral duties, Pastor Siri finds time to perform as a folk musician, having released another album this year, "Leaving the Garden." In conjunction with our 60th anniversary, Pastor Siri will give a concert at Mount Olive on Friday, January 31 at 7:00 pm. A freewill offering will be taken for the 60th Anniversary Fund.

Women of the ELCA National Gathering Planned for July 2020

On July 16-19, 2020, the Women of the ELCA nationwide gathering will be in Phoenix, Arizona. Early bird registration is now open. Mount Olive Women of the ELCA offers scholarship funds to divide among the members who wish to attend. Worship services, informational sessions, Bible study, and active events are planned as a way for women across the country to learn their place in the body of Christ. For more information about the gathering, Women of the ELCA, or to join one of the small groups, please contact Regina Seabrook at rseabroo@gmail.com or 651-285-3912.



www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page

Prayer and Spiritual Care

Mount Olive has a Prayer Chain, 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, 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 and prayed for by the congregation at worship services, please contact Pastor Glenn, Pastor Lisa, Intern Pastor Luke, or Nancy Britson in the church office or leave a note on the back of a Connection Card available from the church pew.

Volunteer Drivers URGENTLY NEEDED!

Elder Network's medical transportation program offers rides to home-bound, independent seniors. The program has grown by 35% in 2019, and demand is growing as winter approaches. As a volunteer driver, you provide door-to-door rides for mobile seniors to medical, dental and other health related appointments. While we are hoping to find drivers that could offer one ride per week; you volunteer when you are available, and select the rides that fit your schedule. For more information, please contact Kristin Mannix at 507-285-5272.

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:

<i>All gender identities and sexual orientations</i>	<i>All races and ethnicities</i>
<i>All ages and abilities</i>	<i>All economic statuses and education levels</i>
<i>All faith journeys and personal histories</i>	

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."



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Mount Olive Staff

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