

Mount Olive Lutheran Church



2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 5, 2021
9:00 am

office@molive.org
www.molive.org
(507) 288-1580



A Reconciling in
Christ Community

2830 18th Avenue NW
Rochester, Minnesota 55901



Mount Olive is a welcoming and inclusive congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), serving our neighbors in Rochester, Minnesota. Our core identity is lived out in four ways: *Worship, Service, Education, and Fellowship.*

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."

WELCOME CENTER

Visitors, as you leave the Sanctuary, directly to the right on the corner, you'll find a host who will welcome you and can answer questions you may have about Mount Olive. Please talk to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or if you need a hearing assistance device. Feel free to contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life if you have further questions or are interested in membership at Mount Olive.

CHILD CARE

Childcare for infants through 4 years old is available in the Mount Olive nursery, located at the end of the front entry hall. Pagers are available for communication with parents.

COMMUNION

We celebrate Holy Communion each week. All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. If you choose to come forward, please cup your hands to receive a wafer. You are then invited to take a small cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Gluten free wafers are available upon request; please verbally indicate your choice to the server. Leave your empty cup in the basket provided.

VIDEO RECORDING

Services are recorded and published on YouTube. Note that parishioners will not generally appear in the recording unless seated in the front rows of the sanctuary. You can find the services at www.youtube.com/MountOliveELCA.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Smith Family

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM *(Please stand as you are able. You are invited to make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.



P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *(please stand)*

“Advent Kyrie”



1 God of mer - cy, hear your child - ren: we feel lost, a - fraid, a - lone.
 2 God of mer - cy, hear your child - ren: Guide us toward your breaking dawn;
 3 God of mer - cy, hear your child - ren: be our hope when hope is gone.



Nur - ture, guide, sup - port, be - friend us. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Pave the way with peace and jus - tice.. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Help us birth a new to - mor - row. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.



WORD

2nd Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV)

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight— indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: Word of God, Word of life,

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11 (NRSV)

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: Word of God, Word of life,

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please stand.)*

“Alleluia”

Al - le-lu, al-le-lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL**

Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

"Growing Love"

Pastor Glenn Monson

A moment of silence follows the sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please stand.)*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

ELW #631

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | <p>Love divine, all loves excelling,
 Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
 Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
 all thy faithful mercies crown.
 Jesus, thou art all compassion,
 pure, unbounded love thou art;
 visit us with thy salvation,
 enter ev'ry trembling heart.</p> | 4 | <p>Finish then thy new creation,
 pure and spotless let us be;
 let us see thy great salvation
 perfectly restored in thee!
 Changed from glory into glory,
 till in heav'n we take our place,
 till we cast our crowns before thee,
 lost in wonder, love, and praise!</p> |
| 2 | <p>Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
 into ev'ry troubled breast;
 let us all in thee inherit;
 let us find thy promised rest.
 Take away the love of sinning;
 Alpha and Omega be;
 end of faith, as its beginning,
 set our hearts at liberty.</p> | | |



SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM – ANNIE AASE BLOCK

From the Iona Abbey Worship Book

C: We believe in God above us, Maker and Sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of all that is. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of compassion, he died forsaken; he descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb; he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present; and his kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

BAPTISMAL WELCOME

“Make this Child Yours”

P: Refrain:

Take this child, make her yours, make her part of your family.
From your love she has come; in your love may she always be.
Let not time or age take her from your family.
May she grow; may she stay close to you.

To you, dear Lord, we praise thee,
For the blessings of your perfect gift.
To you, dear Lord, our heartfelt thanks,
We lift our voice in praise.

C: Refrain

Silence is kept for reflection.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

L: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

L: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you. *(Please share a sign of God’s peace with one another.)*

MEAL

Please be seated.

GATHERING OF GIFTS & OFFERINGS

The practice of making an offering during worship is an ancient one. Even before offerings were used for ministry needs and personnel, offerings were given simply as an expression of gratitude to God. Today our offerings do both: they provide needed funds for ministry and they are a way of expressing our gratitude to God for all the blessings we receive.



OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Please stand.*) “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW #244

- 4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
 arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
 With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
 the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray:

C: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places...
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is our God, the cre - a - tor.



God of pow - er, God of might, your glo - ry fills the u - ni - verse.



Blest is he who comes to us and bears your ho - ly name.



Ho - san - na in ex - cel - sis, Sav - ior God, Most High.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

God is made known to us through a variety of names and images. You are encouraged to use language of your choosing for the Lord's Prayer, including the way you address God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

P: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace. All are welcome here!

Please be seated.

All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. If you choose to come forward, please cup your hands to receive a wafer. You are then invited to take a small cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray.

Gluten free wafers are available upon request; please verbally indicate your choice to the server.

Leave your empty cup in the basket provided.

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN****“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”**

ELW #256

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.</p> | <p>3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.</p> |
| <p>2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.</p> | |

POST COMMUNION BLESSING *(Please stand.)*

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING**BENEDICTION**

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: **Amen.**



SENDING HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW #264

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!</p> | <p>3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!</p> |
| <p>2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!</p> | <p>4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!</p> |

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Welcome, Worship Guests!

Thank you for joining us for worship today. You are always welcome. You may also visit our website, www.molive.org, to learn about other ways you can be part of life at Mount Olive. You can sign up there to receive our weekly email updates which contain information about upcoming events as well as links to the weekly online services, newsletters, and lots more.



Worship Participants

Preaching	Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson
Presiding Minister	Rev. Luke Hollander
Organist/Pianist	Deacon Travis Beck
Assisting Minister	Bob Thomsen
Lector	Gloria Schad
Greeter	Sandy Dalquist
Ushers	Loren Else, Tom Rigby
Communion Assistant	Sandy Dalquist
Nursery	Carrie Fletcher
Welcome Desk	Barb Granquist
Altar Guild	Sharon Parker

Congregational prayers for healing and comfort ...

- ◆ All Homebound members
- ◆ Mount Olive members and friends who are ill, grieving, or recovering from surgery.
- ◆ Our companions in ministry in Kijota, Tanzania and Bogota, Colombia. May the Spirit of God fill them with faith, hope, and joy, as they live out the good news and proclaim it.
- ◆ People suffering with COVID-19 in the U.S. and abroad. Give strength to those who minister to them, and bring hope and healing to all.
- ◆ Our country as we learn to confront and stamp out the curse of racism in our land. Help us to be one in mind and spirit as we go forward together.

Prayers of Thanksgiving... Annie Aase Block, baptized today, and her parents, Logan and Kristin Block, and sponsors as they raise her in the faith.

Flowers are given to the glory of God by: The Fletcher Family in memory of Carrie's mother, Deb Butruff. Logan and Kristin Block and Annie Block's grandparents in celebration of her baptism.

Worship Volunteers Needed

Worship volunteers are needed for the 9:00 am Sunday services and Christmas Eve. We're looking for greeters, ushers, communion assistants, lectors and assisting ministers. At this time, we're asking that all volunteers are vaccinated. Sign up at the Welcome Desk today, or click here: www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449a5a92aa1fb6-mount1. Contact Nancy Britson, with questions—nancy@molive.org or 507-288-1580.



Rochester Pops Orchestra Celebrates the Season

Rochester Pops Orchestra celebrates the "Glad Tidings" of the Christmas season Sunday, **December 19, 2021**, 6:30 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church. Enjoy a mix of traditional Christmas favorites as well as some new and exciting selections. Tickets are available now

at www.rochesterpops.com or by calling the box office at 507-318-0801. Ticket sales will also be available in the Gathering Area following worship today through Sunday, December 12th.



Monday Book Group

The **Monday Book Group** gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature. They will meet via Zoom on **December 13** at 6:30 pm. This month's selection is **The Paper Bag Christmas: A Novel** by Kevin Alan Milne. You'll enjoy this sweet and moving Christmas story. If you would like to be added to the email list and receive the Zoom invitation for December, contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

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. Dates have been added for 2022. 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!

Sheet Collection for Global Health Ministries

During the month of December, we will be collecting white cotton sheets to be used for bandage rolling. The sheets may be new or gently used and without stains. The Sunday school children will be rolling bandages for their Service Sunday in January. Drop your sheets in the collection bin in the entryway.

60th Anniversary Fund

It's not too late to contribute to the **60 for 60 Fund** in celebration of our anniversary year. The goal is to raise \$60,000 by year-end for our mission partners in Rochester and across the globe. Special giving envelopes are available on the usher's table.

Forum Today– Wall of Wonder Wrap-Up

Join Deacon Travis Beck in the Fellowship Hall for Forum at 10:10 am this Sunday as he wraps up our look back at the last 60 years with the “Wall of Wonder”. Help us begin to imagine new possibilities for our future ministry together. Next Sunday, a guest from the Reel Hope Project will share information about their organization, including videos of Minnesota foster kids who are currently waiting to be adopted.

Assistance Planned for Afghan Refugees

Mount Olive will soon be helping to welcome an Afghan family to Rochester. We are looking for volunteers to work directly with the family or behind the scenes. Soon, a sign up sheet to provide items for the family we have been assigned will be available. If you are interested in this ministry, contact Carrie Fletcher at carrie@molive.org.

Mitten Tree and More for Elton Hills School

All donations to the Mitten Tree are due by December 5. If you did not have a chance to purchase any items, you may donate funds which will be used by Elton Hills staff. Envelopes are available on the tree or you may make a gift by clicking the green “Donate Now” button at the bottom of the church website- www.molive.org. Please indicate “mitten tree” in the comment section.

There is also a need for nut-free, individually wrapped snacks at the school. Label your donation: “For Elton Hills” and leave them in the Gathering Area cupboard labeled for neighborhood schools. Gift-cards for groceries and other supplies would also be appreciated. Please leave gift cards in the office drop box in an envelope labeled “Elton Hills”.

Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will meet on **December 14** at 10:00 am in the library. Yarn, needles, patterns, and guidance are supplied; contact Vickie Kubly—507-282-7696 if you’d like to attend. Call Vickie or the church office if you know someone in need of a shawl.

Olive Branch Church

Olive Branch Church continues to meet on



Olive Branch

Monday evenings at Gray Duck Theater, 619 6th Ave NW, Rochester. Doors open at 5:30 pm for snacks and coffee in the coffeehouse, church is at 6:00 pm in the theater.

Contact Pastor Lisa at lisa@molive.org with any questions.

This Week at Mount Olive

Sunday, December 5

9:00a - Worship Service
 10:00a - Coffee Fellowship
 10:10a - Forum
 11:00a - Tailgate Worship Service
 1:00p - Confirmation Retreat
 4:00p - Al-Anon Meeting

Monday, December 6

6:00p - Olive Branch Church
 at Gray Duck Theater
 6:30p - Scout Troop Meeting

Tuesday, December 7

9:30a - Staff Meeting
 3:30p - Families First
 5:00p - Bolder Options
 5:30p - Congregational Life

Wednesday, December 8

3:30p - Families First
 6:30p - Advent Worship
 7:00p - All Ages Artist Studio
 7:30p - Mount Olive Choir

Thursday, December 9

9:00a - Mount Olive Quilters
 5:30p - Facility & Grounds Team
 7:00p - Cub Scout Meetings
 7:00p - In the Process Al-Anon
 7:15p - Glory Bells
 8:15p - Mount Olive Brass

Friday, December 10

9:30a - Ripe Olives
 2:00p - Scouts

Saturday, December 11

8:30a - Men's Discipleship (Z)
 9:00a - How Al-Anon Works
 9:00a - Altar Guild Setup
 2:00p - Christmas Party Set-up

Sunday, December 12

9:00a - Worship Service
 10:00a - Coffee Fellowship
 10:10a - Forum
 11:00a - Tailgate Worship Service
 3:00p - Women's Christmas Party
 4:00p - Al-Anon Meeting

Advent Devotions by Pastor Glenn

Pastor Glenn has written devotions for each week in Advent. Each set includes a passage of Scripture, a brief reflection, and a prayer. You may pick up a copy from the basket on the Welcome desk. They are also accessible digitally through the church website.

Ripe Olives Celebrates Christmas Songs

The Ripe Olives, Mount Olive's group for retired folks, meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. On **December 10**, we will be joined by Mount Olive's Director of Worship, Music, and Arts, Travis Beck, as he presents ***Feliz Navidad: Christmas Songs & Carols Around the World***. Together, we'll explore the cultural heritage of some of our best-loved carols (Did you know "Deck the Halls" is Welsh?) and discover some new carols along the way. There'll be a simple continental breakfast, coffee, and juice. Please sign up in the Gathering Area at church or RSVP to Nancy Britson - nancy@molive.org.



Next Sunday's Readings:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rejoice, the LORD is in your midst

Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice, the Lord is near

Luke 3:7-18

One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire

Mount Olive Anniversary Christmas Ornaments

One way to celebrate Mount Olive this Christmas is to buy one of the newly-commissioned 60th Anniversary Christmas ornaments, available now for as long as they last. Please know that about half of your \$5 purchase will go towards the 60th Anniversary Fund. Stop by the table in the Gathering Area to purchase one for your tree. Buy one for friends and family afar too.



Women's Christmas Party - A Swedish "Fika"

All women of the congregation are invited to a special Christmas gathering on Sunday, **December 12** at 3:00 pm. We'll be celebrating the delightful Swedish custom of "Fika". Fika simply means making time to share a break with friends for a cup of coffee or tea, conversation, and a "little lunch". We'll sing some hymns from our congregation's Swedish heritage and enjoy holiday fare, asking everyone to wear a mask when not eating or drinking. We'll also learn about the Afghan Refugee Project and have an offering to support this project. Please come and bring a friend! **Sign up in the Gathering Area.** Hosted by Mary Circle.

All Ages Make Christmas Cards with Artist Studio

On Wednesday, December 8, following Advent worship at Mount Olive, 7:10 – 8:30 pm, we are offering an Artist Studio Workshop for all ages. We will use alcohol inks, paint markers, stickers and more to create beautiful Christmas cards! Please register to reserve your spot and help us know how many to prepare for. Suggested Donation: \$5 per person or \$10 per family. This is a joint effort of Olive Branch and the Mount Olive CYF program. Register online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/209423540447>

Held in the Seasons: Advent

Let's just say tact was not John the Baptizer's strong suit. The next couple weeks, we get a pointed message from the one who as a fetus jumped in Elizabeth's body as Mary entered the room. He said (yelled?), "Wake up! Repent! Be generous! And be on the lookout for Jesus who will change your life!" *Deep breath* What in your life is calling for change right now? This blue season of Advent holds us as we consider what it takes to be ready.



Midweek Advent Worship Wednesday

This Wednesday evening, December 8, you are invited to our Mid-week Advent Worship at 6:30pm. The service will be in the sanctuary using Holden Evening Prayer as the liturgy. Additionally, we will celebrate Holy Darkness, which draws on some learnings of those who have engaged in anti-racism work. The themes of these services will embrace the darkness of these long Advent nights as a place where we encounter the beauty and mystery of God. Each week will offer a different emphasis: December 8 – “Darkness is Beautiful”.



Santa Lucia Day Observed December 12



St. Lucia Day will be celebrated in worship next Sunday, December 12. Observed since the early days of Mount Olive, this Swedish tradition is meant to bring hope and light during the darkest days of the year. We will be listening to the Santa Lucia story, singing the familiar carol, and enjoying the procession of Santa Lucia and the Star Boys. While we are unable to have the traditional St. Lucia reception following the service, we hope you'll enjoy fellowship time with the traditional decorations.

Anniversary Clothing Orders Arriving Soon

Clothing orders are in production and will likely be available to pick up beginning Dec. 12. If you placed an order, watch your emails for details.

MOUNT OLIVE STAFF

Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	glenn@molive.org
Rev. Lisa Janke	<i>Associate Pastor of Outreach</i>	lisa@molive.org
Rev. Luke Hollander	<i>Associate Pastor of Children, Youth, and Family</i>	luke@molive.org
Deacon Travis Beck	<i>Director of Worship, Music, and Arts</i>	travis@molive.org
Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan	<i>Cantor of Olive Branch</i>	richard@molive.org
Bill Hollander	<i>Congregational Administrator</i>	bill.h@molive.org
Nancy Britson	<i>Director of Congregational Life</i>	nancy@molive.org
Carrie Fletcher	<i>Director of Service and Social Outreach</i>	carrie@molive.org

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