

THE

February 2018

Messenger

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Members of Mount Olive,

Throughout time, women have fought for their rights. This has been especially present in 2017, from the women's marches to countless women speaking out against sexual harassment. These women have made such an impact that in November 2017 "The Silence Breakers" were named TIME Magazine's person of the year. This group consists of some of the women who spoke out and brought attention to sexual harassment in society.

Since its creation, the ELCA has taken a stance on social issues. Twelve statements on various social and justice issues have been published since 1991. In 2009 at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, a task force was created to begin working on a new social statement regarding Faith, Sexism, and Justice. This task force has since put together a draft of a social statement entitled "Social Statement on Women and Justice", which is very fitting for our society at this moment in time. The creators of this statement are hoping this statement will be considered by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

This social statement addresses the injustices women face and how the ELCA intends to respond to these injustices. As part of the ELCA we are given the chance to respond to the draft of the statement before it is considered for publication. We at Mount Olive would like to create a task force to respond to this statement. Please contact me, Kailea Mattheis, at kailea@molive.org ASAP if you would like to join the conversation. Anyone is welcome to join this task force. We would love to begin meeting before February ends. Thank you for considering joining our response.

Kailea Mattheis

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Schedule		Inside This Edition:
Ash Wednesday February 14	Noon Worship with Imposition of Ashes 5:00 pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes 5:45 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes	Congregational Life page 2
Wednesdays beginning February 21	5:45 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Bible Study: <i>Exodus</i> 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer service with drama	Worship page 3
Saturdays	5:00 pm Worship	Service pages 4-5
Sunday Mornings	8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study: <i>Exodus</i> 10:30 am Worship	Calendar pages 6-7
		Education pages 8-9
		Fellowship pages 10-11

Time to Sign up for Day on the Hill

The Joint Religious Leadership Coalition of Minnesota is once again sponsoring a Day on the Hill at the capitol in St. Paul. This is the day when concerned members of faith communities from all over the state meet to lobby our state legislators on behalf of “the least ones” in our communities: the poor, homeless, orphaned, hungry, unemployed or underemployed, the immigrant and the incarcerated. The Day on the Hill this year is Tuesday, March 13, and registration is \$45, which includes lunch. We will be carpooling from Mount Olive at 7:00 am, and returning around 4:00 pm. For more information and registrations, see Pastor Glenn, or go to jrlc.org.



Conquer Your Debt

Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota is happy to announce that they have opened a financial counseling office in Rochester. Mr. Chad Larimer, a certified financial counselor, is available to help you get out of debt and build financial success. He is available for appointments at his office in the United Way building, 903 West Center Street, Suite 208, by calling (507) 512-1019 or toll free 888-577-2227. LSS Financial Counseling is a non-profit, full-service credit counseling agency.

New Member Orientation

Are you interested in membership at Mount Olive? There will be an informational coffee for interested visitors on **February 4** following the 8:00 service. Please come to the library at **9:00 am** meet the staff and ministry team leaders, other new members, and learn about everything going on at Mount Olive. New Members will be received into membership on **February 18** at the 10:30 service. A reception will follow the service to give everyone a chance to extend a warm welcome to the new members. For more information, please contact Nancy Britson, nancy@molive.org.

Synod RENEW Event is February 24

What does it mean to be truly welcoming to all people? What does this mean for our facilities, our parking lots, our behavior as leaders or members, our policies regarding involvement? On Saturday, Feb. 24, 10:00 – 3:00 pm, members of churches from around the SE Minnesota Synod will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna, to discuss the theme of Radical Hospitality. Specifically on this day we will consider what Radical Hospitality means with regard to our global companions. How do we show hospitality to our siblings in Christ from South Sudan, Tanzania, and Colombia? If you are interested in attending, please see Director of Congregational Life, Nancy Britson, or Pastor Glenn.



Southeastern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Equipping congregations and leaders to follow Jesus into a changing world.
 Developing leaders • Equipping congregations • Accompanying global partners



Thank you to all our dear Mount Olive friends who've sent cards and given us sympathies for the passing of my mother, Dorothy Mullenbach. I was blessed to have had her for so many years and now I will have the memories. I appreciated your prayers in her final days that were a struggle for her and her family. ~Sharon Parker

Welcome

Ash Wednesday Worship is February 14

It is a Valentine's Day beginning to Lent this year as Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. Worship will include the traditional Imposition of Ashes (opt.) for all worshippers, followed by Holy Communion. Service times for Ash Wednesday worship only are noon, 5:00 pm, and 7:00 pm. A simple soup supper will be provided at 5:45 pm for all worshippers.

Lenten Worship Dramas

Facing our Fears is the name of the series we will encounter during our midweek services in Lent. Along with the liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer, we will watch a short drama by members of Mount Olive, followed by a brief reflection by one of the pastors. Worship begins each Wednesday in Lent at 7:00 pm. Guests are always welcome.

New Bell Choir

Do you have an interest in playing hand bells? We will be adding a second bell choir designed for new and inexperienced players. If you've never played bells before and wish to learn, or you have only limited experience and want to improve your technique, this bell choir is for you! Rehearsals will be from 6:30-7:15 pm on Thursday evenings in the music room. Adults and youth, ages middle school and up, are invited. For more information if you're interested in joining, contact Travis Beck at travis@molive.org



World Day of Prayer

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
2124 Viola Rd. NE, Rochester

Friday, March 2, 2018

10:00 am - Coffee, Treats, and Fellowship

10:30 am - Worship Service

Program: The women of Suriname

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. Everyone is welcome. Contact Dorothy Ostrom for more information— 288-2297

Worship Volunteer Update

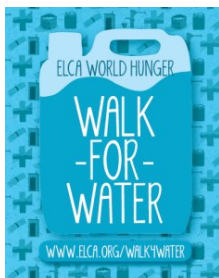
At each worship service, volunteers serve in many roles: greeters, ushers, communion assistants, assisting ministers, acolytes, nursery volunteers and more. More volunteers are always needed, especially during the busy season of Lent with midweek services. Families are encouraged to serve together—all ages are welcome. Training is available for new volunteers.

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

Second Sunday Service

On the Second Sunday of each month, we are focusing our education hour on service. This month, on February 11, beginning at 9:15 am, we will assemble Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits. All ages are encouraged to participate. Throughout the year, members of Mount Olive have sewn and collected infant clothing for these Baby Care Kits that are shipped all over the world to mothers and their newborns. These kits help welcome the littlest ones into a caring international community and swaddle them with love! Thank you to everyone who has donated or sewn items for these kits. Please contact Cathy Hanson with any questions or to volunteer to help with sewing or assembling kits. To learn more about LWR Project Promise, including where kits are helping, visit build-kits-of-care.org.

LWR is in need of knit fabric for making gowns for the baby care kits for next year. Anyone willing to donate knit fabric can place it in the cupboards in the Gathering Area. Thank you.



ELCA Walk for Water

During the Sunday School hour on January 14, you could find the children on their *Walk for Water*. The track set up inside the church was 1/10th of a mile and wound through a flooded river, a hot desert, and over a bumpy obstacle, with a stop at a clinic that treated water borne diseases such as malaria, worms and lead poisoning. Students started the trek with empty water jugs that were filled along the way. Later, they brought their offerings to the sanctuary where they dropped them into a tin watering can. Students collected coins over a one month time period dropping a coin in their special drinking cup whenever they used water at home. It was a good reminder of how fortunate we are here in Rochester to have clean, safe drinking water. The congregation also participated that morning during the Children's Moment. The children went out into the congregation with offering baskets to collect coins, which were then added to the watering can. It filled to almost overflowing! The offering totaled over \$425. **Thank you to everyone who participated!**

Dorothy Day House

We are still in need of volunteers to make the meal for residents of Dorothy Day Hospitality House on March 2 and April 6. Mount Olive serves the evening meal on the first Friday of every month. If you are available, please sign up in the Gathering Area, where you will find a folder with more information or contact Anna Strand at annabstrand@gmail.com.



Habitat for Humanity

The house at 2290 Cedar Park Ct. SE is complete and the family has moved in. Thank you to all who made this possible. Please note there is no current Habitat build in Rochester, so Mount Olive won't be helping on the 2nd Saturday until further notice.



Channel One Food Bank

Our annual Lenten collection of food for Channel One is almost here, beginning Ash Wednesday and concluding on Palm Sunday. This time of year, the food supply is much lower at Channel One, so they can use the help of each and every one of us. We encourage each family at Mount Olive to bring a bag full of groceries or make a \$10 donation to Channel One. There will be grocery bags with attached grocery lists and envelopes for monetary donations on a table in the front entry of the church. You may return your filled bags to this table. Items should be non-perishable and not close to expiring. The following is a list of suggestions for their most needed items: canned tuna, ham and chicken, peanut butter, canned/dried beans, canned fruits, canned vegetables, rice, dried pasta, flour, sugar, oil, and personal care products.

Family Promise

Mount Olive is hosting Family Promise families February 18-25. There are many tasks needing volunteers. Visit the sign-up table in the entryway at church or you can sign up online at molive.org. Anyone can help with setup and take down. All other tasks require that the volunteer have training or be recertified in the last three years. Initial training must be done in person, but recertification can be done by going to familypromiserochester.org and clicking on "GET INVOLVED" then "Volunteer". Contact Mark Schultze or Jason and Erin Sinnwell with questions.



Building community, strengthening lives.

Food For Friends

Please note that during the season of Lent we will be packing Food for Friends at 6:15 pm on Wednesdays instead of the usual 7:30 pm. Come join us for the Lenten meal at 5:45pm then help pack meals to feed 35-55 children at John Adams Middle School and their families. Please sign up at the Gathering Area table to help out as a driver or food packer. If you have questions or need to arrange a substitute, contact Warren Kemplin at 507-254-4932 or Mark Schultze at 254-4164.

February Service Spotlight - Mount Olive Quilters

March 2017, a team of 12 Mount Olive members took a trip to visit members of IELCO our partner synod in Bogota, Colombia. We brought with us a large suitcase filled with quilts lovingly made by the Mount Olive Quilters. There were 8 or 9 full size and more than a dozen baby quilts. When we opened the suitcase at the IELCO office, the members there were amazed and overjoyed. "What beautiful blankets!" they told us. "What do you call this kind of craft? We don't have anything like this in Colombia." They had never seen a patchwork quilt before. We gave the quilts to members of IELCO including Bishop Ata and our interpreters and tour guides including Curtis and Katie Kline, our ELCA missionaries. We gave one to a lovely woman, who treated our entire group to a delicious spaghetti dinner in her home, we handed out small quilts to two different elders living on the hillside of Soacha, an impoverished neighborhood, and we'll never forget the tears in little 90+ year old Estefania as we presented her with a quilt. Thank you to all who donated fabric, pressed and cut, sewed, tied and bound all these blankets. Your loving hands reached to the equator to our neighbors in Colombia, and your beautiful patchwork quilts were a treasure and comfort to many.



Joining the Mount Olive Quilters is one way YOU can get involved in service to others. This group has a well-established process for making quilts that go to Lutheran World Relief as well as many different groups in need. Anyone can participate, from the experienced seamstress to the one who has no sewing experience. The quilters meet **every Thursday morning from 9-11:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall, or you can take a quilt top kit home, and sew on your own time. Please contact Elaine Monson (dlmonson@charter.net) or Sherry Will (sherry@molive.org) to get involved in this important ministry.



Prayer Shawl Ministry-Tuesday, February 13 at 9:00 am

Our members continue to knit and crochet prayer shawls to comfort those who are experiencing a difficult time. We meet each month on the 2nd Tuesday at 9:00 am and always welcome new members to join us in this ministry. If you or someone you know are in need of a prayer shawl please contact Peg Whitley or the office staff.

Sunday Forum

Each Sunday at 9:15 am we gather in the Fellowship Hall to hear from congregational and community resource people about various topics where faith and society overlap. In February, join us each Sunday at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall for these stimulating discussions:

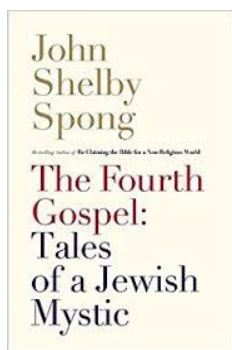
Interfaith Forum- On Sunday, February 4 at 9:15 am, we are once again welcoming some of our interfaith siblings in Rochester to join us for a conversation regarding our faith. This time the conversation, moderated by Pastor Glenn, will explore the question: "How does your understanding of faith/spirituality inform your relationship to the wider culture?" We will hear from members of the Sikh, Muslim, Jewish, and Avatar communities. All are welcome.

Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Bible study, led by Pastor Glenn, is offered on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. It will focus on the Book of Exodus, which contains stories considered to be the central stories of the Old Testament. The stories of God's choosing Israel, leading them out of slavery, establishing a covenant, and giving them the Law, remain central to our understanding of the faith to this day. You may sign up and attend either on Sunday or Wednesday, or you may switch back and forth according to your schedule. We will do the same lesson each Wednesday and Sunday for 6 weeks, beginning Sunday, February 18. We meet in the church library Sundays at 9:15 am and Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Books are \$7.00. Sign up in the entry at church where you will find payment envelopes for the book.

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

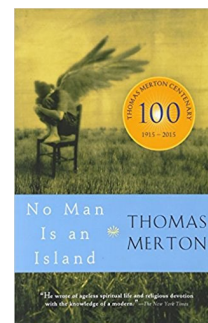
Faith Seeking Understanding reads and shares conversations about a variety of books and videos on theology, spirituality, social justice, and Christianity and our changing church. FSU's next meeting is on the



first Tuesday of February at 6:30 pm. The reading for **February 6** is *The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic* by John Shelby Spong. All are welcome to join the discussion.

The group also meets **March 6** to discuss *No Man is an Island* by Thomas Merton. A recapitulation of his earlier work *Seeds of Contemplation*, this collection of sixteen essays plumbs aspects of human spirituality.

Meet in the Mount Olive library. If you have any questions, please contact Kailea Mattheis, Director of Children, Youth, and Family at



Pub Theology

Do you enjoy thinking about faith, life, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our world today? Do you like to gather with others for stimulating conversation and being opened to new ideas? If any of these sound like you, come join us Monday nights for Pub Theology, led by Pastor Paul. Meet us at the Hy-Vee Market Grill at the 37th Street Hy-Vee. Topics are always sent out a day ahead of time and can be found at rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com. Come and join as you're able. Order food or a beer at 5:30 pm, conversation begins at 6:00 pm. See you at the pub!

144 Envelopes! Youth Fundraiser

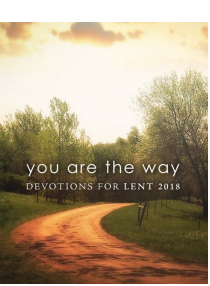
Our youth have the option to take two different trips this summer, including the Upper Peninsula Trip and the ELCA Youth Gathering. These trips give youth a chance to explore their faith and learn more about God and God's world. Until mid-February, you can help by participating in the "144 Envelopes" fundraiser. Stop by a table in the entry way to pick up an envelope with a number on the front. That number is the amount of money you would like to donate. You decide your level of help! If all envelopes are picked up and fulfilled the youth will raise enough to cover both trips! Please prayerfully consider helping the youth explore their faith in a new place. Thanks!

Welcome To Communion Class

People of all ages (yes, even small children!) are welcome to join the whole church at the Communion table. Pastor Paul will lead an intergenerational session called *Welcome to Communion: An Introduction to the Sacrament* for those who want to learn more about the sacrament on Sunday, **February 25 at 11:45 am**. Both young and old are welcome. Sign up in the Gathering Area.

Sunday School Offerings

After visiting our partner synod, IELCO, in Colombia last March, Mount Olive joined in a covenant with them. Our goal is to be supportive- spiritually, personally, and financially- of the Education Ministry of IELCO. Until the end of the school year, our young people will be giving their support through their Sunday School offering. This will go to the Colombian Education Ministry of IELCO to help with educational programs there. Thank you for supporting our brothers and sisters in Colombia.



Lenten Devotionals

The title of our Lenten devotionals this year is "You are the Way." These daily devotionals explore the "I am" statements of Jesus: I am the way, the truth, and the life; I am the good shepherd; I am the true vine; I am the light of the world; I am the bread of life; I am the resurrection and the life. Each week will be devoted to one of these rich sayings of Jesus. Pick up a copy for yourself at the church welcome desk and spend the Lenten season reflecting on the sufficiency of Christ for all things.

Inclusive Church Taskforce Update

We had the tremendous opportunity to learn from Vangie Castro, member of the Board of Directors at Gay Lesbian Community Services of SE MN on the morning of Sunday, January 7th. During the presentation we were introduced to the Gender Unicorn and learned about the difference between sex, gender, and sexuality. We learned about a new term—gender and sexual diversity (GSD)—that is emerging as a more inclusive term for the LGBTQ+ community. Learning about microaggressions led to some lively small group discussion and sharing practices that can extend our welcome. Some of the ideas included modifying intake forms, adding preferred pronouns to name tags, and re-phrasing questions when meeting someone new. Vangie's presentation is available at the Inclusive Church Taskforce table. Please reach out to the Inclusive Church Taskforce with any questions you may have!

Coming this Spring 2018: Discussion on Sexuality and Scripture

It is important to reflect on what Scripture says about human sexuality. We plan to offer an event where we can explore important Scripture passages and learn together what these verses may mean for us today. Stay tuned for a date and time. Thank you for your continued interest and participation in this important community work! -The Inclusive Church Taskforce

Ripe Olives

Ripe Olives, the group for Mount Olive's seniors, meets again on Friday, **February 9** at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. This month will feature a travel presentation by Mount Olive Member Paul Johnsen on his trip to Germany. Paul will show pictures of the Luther sites that he visited and share other information about his trip. Feel free to invite friends or new members. Everyone is welcome! Breakfast is provided with a free will offering. Sign up at the Gathering Area table. Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with questions 288-1580 ext. 202.



Monday Book Group

The Monday Book Group gathers again on **February 12** at 6:30 pm in the Library for their monthly book discussion. This month, the discussion will surround the **poetry of Robert Frost**. Selected poems have been shared with the group members. One of the most celebrated poets in America, Robert Frost's works are primarily associated with the life and landscape of New England. He was a poet of traditional verse forms and metrics and remained aloof from the poetic fashions of his time. New readers are always welcome to join the group. Contact Jodi Schoer for more information, mjschoer@charter.net or 288-1951.

Adventure Club

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

Upcoming activities include:

Family Movie Night—Join the group on Friday, **February 16** at 6:30 pm for a movie. We will be watching **Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium** on the big screen in the Fellowship Hall. The movie is rated G. Following is a description of the movie:

Molly Mahoney is the awkward and insecure manager of Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium, the strangest, most fantastic, most wonderful toy store in the world. But when Mr. Magorium, the 243-year-old eccentric who owns the store, bequeaths the store to her, a dark and ominous change begins to take over the once-remarkable Emporium.

Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Sign up in the Gathering Area if you'd like to join us. If you have any questions please call Rachel Carlson at 612-816-1215 or Erin Sinnwell at 507-990-6079.



Theater Outing—On Friday, **March 2** at 7:30 pm, the Adventure Club plans to attend a play presented by Wits' End Theatre in Chatfield entitled *Abraham Lincoln for the Defense*. Mount Olive member Jim Haase is a part of the cast. Watch for more information in February bulletins and the sign up sheet in the Gathering Area. The cost for general admission tickets is \$15.



Scout Pancake Breakfast February 4

Following both services on February 4th, the scouting groups that meet at Mount Olive will host a pancake breakfast. Come and enjoy pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. A free-will offering will be collected to support the scouts.



Little Leapers Meet February 4

Little Leapers is a group for parents of newborns through tots not yet in Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School. Come and join in conversation and fellowship **with your child!** We meet the first Sunday of each month in the library nook of the gathering area at 9:15 am. The next

meeting is **February 4** at 9:15 am; everyone is welcome! Contact Serena Oudekirk with any questions- Serena.Oudekirk@grarate.com.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Soup suppers will be served each Wednesday night during Lent from 5:45-6:45. The first meal will be Ash Wednesday, February 14. Many volunteers are needed each week to bring soup, serve and clean up. Helping with a soup supper is a great opportunity for fellowship while working together. Small groups or ministry teams are encouraged to choose a week and sign up to serve together. The sign up sheet is in on the Lenten table in the entry at Mount Olive. The freewill offering for the meals will go to ELCA World Hunger. Contact Nancy Britson with questions at nancy@molive.org.



WinterFest Pancake Breakfast

Come on out and enjoy a pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 10, from 8:00 to 11:00 am. This is a fundraiser for the youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer, and it is also a part of Rochester's WinterFest celebrations. We will be co-hosting this event with our ministry partner, Bolder Options. Tickets will be available the day of the event.

Please check out the website <https://www.rochesterwinterfest.com/events/2018/2/10/pancake-breakfast> for more information. Thank you for your continued support of the Mount Olive Youth!



Annual Meeting Meal

Thank you from all the Women of the ELCA for your generous contributions at the annual meeting meal. Your continued support of our many events and projects is greatly appreciated and has been a blessing to so many within our congregation, our community, and across the globe.



April 21– Save the date for our third annual Women's Day of Service. Women and girls, aged middle school and up, will gather to do acts of service both at Mount Olive and in the community. Lunch will be provided. A sign up sheet will be available beginning in March. Contact Sherry Will for more information or to offer your help– sherry@molive.org

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

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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Rochester, MN 55901

Office Hours: 9:00AM-4:00PM Mon.-Thurs.

9:00AM-noon Fri.

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