

# Fellowship 2018 - 2019



## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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With One Mind  
Striving Side by Side  
For the Faith  
of the Gospel

Philippians 1:27



Photos from the Adventure Club  
Family Camp Out

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## Little Leapers

On the third Sunday of each month, beginning in October, parents and children who have not yet started Sunday school join together in the "Pond". The "Pond" is located in classrooms 3 & 4 of the Education Wing. The group will meet from 9:15 –10:15 am to share in caring conversation and fellowship as our little ones take a leap into faith.

Contact Serena Oudekirk for more information:

[serena.oudekirk@grarate.com](mailto:serena.oudekirk@grarate.com).

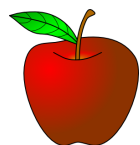


## Mount Olive Adventure Club

Plans are coming together for lots of fun Adventure Club activities this fall and winter. The Mount Olive Adventure Club is a diverse and dynamic group that explores a wide array of activities, everything from concerts to campouts, bike rides to hockey games. Events are intergenerational and family friendly. Members, visitors, and friends are all welcome!

### Moonlight Paddle at Chester Woods

Join the Adventure Club **September 22** for a fun event at Chester Woods Park near Eyota. Meet in the church parking lot at 7:15 pm to carpool to the park where we will enjoy an evening canoe trip or hike by moonlight. Look for the sign up sheet in the Gathering Area where you will find more specific details.



### October - Apple Orchard or Pumpkin Patch Trip

Join us at a local pumpkin patch or orchard for some fall fun! Activities will include: wagon rides, animals to pet, apples and pumpkins for sale and more! Sign up in the Gathering Area beginning in October.

### November - Annie

We will attend the family musical *Annie* at the Rochester Civic Theatre. Watch future Messengers and bulletins for show times and ticket costs. This will be a fun performance for all ages!



### December - Caroling at Senior Living Facilities

Meet at church on Sunday, December 16 at 1:45 pm to carpool to local senior living facilities for caroling. All ages are welcome. Following caroling, we will meet back at church for some Christmas treats.

**Following are more activities planned for 2019; watch your bulletins and *The Messenger* for further Details as the dates get closer:**

**January**-Skiing at Welch Village on January 21– the Martin Luther King holiday, so there is no school.

**February**-Bowling for all ages

**March**-Attending a local theatre or concert performance geared towards adults

**April**-Easter Egg Hunt at Mount Olive

**May**-Twins Baseball Game

### Summer 2019-Family Camp Out

Families gather for a weekend in July or August for a campout at a local campground. Outdoor meals, bike rides, swimming, camp fires, picnics, ice cream, s'mores, games, crafts, and a small worship service fill the weekend creating memories outside Mount Olive, and inside God's natural beauty.



## Fellowship Tables

Traditionally, Fellowship Tables have been groups of seven to nine adults that meet three or more times during the program year to share a meal and fellowship in homes. In recent years, we have added **Restaurant Tables**, a group that has their meals in restaurants. Once again, this year there will be both options for Fellowship Tables. These groups are a great way to branch out, meet new people, and bond with long-time friends without a huge time commitment.

**Restaurant and Home Fellowship Tables** are formed for one program year and are open to adult couples and singles. Please indicate your preference for one of these groups on your registration form. Pick up your forms at the Gathering Area sign up counter and return to Nancy Britson. Each group will have a volunteer organize their first meeting. Most groups will begin gathering in November, but anyone may join in anytime during the year. Following the first meeting, the group sets its own schedule for the remainder of the year.

Direct any questions to Nancy Britson ([nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org))



## Fellowship Throughout the Year

Each year, new fellowship opportunities present themselves, such as the Twelfth Night Celebration first offered in 2018 and pictured below. Mount Olive members enjoy opportunities to gather together “just for fun”. If you have an idea for an activity or outing that you would like to share with Mount Olive friends, please contact any member or the Congregational Life and Hospitality team, listed on the back cover.

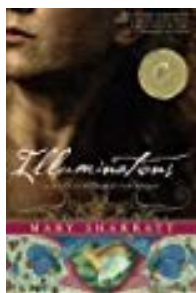


## Monday Book Group

This group gathers to discuss a wide variety of literature. Individuals are welcome to discuss one book or attend every month to discuss them all! We have leaders volunteer each month to lead the discussion. The group meets in the Mount Olive library the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Please join us for some wonderful discussion and fun!

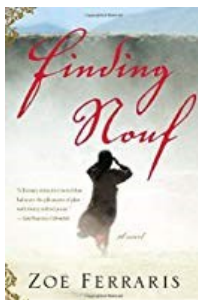
Contact Jodi Schoer at [mjschoer@charter.net](mailto:mjschoer@charter.net)

### September 10 Illuminations by Mary Sharrett



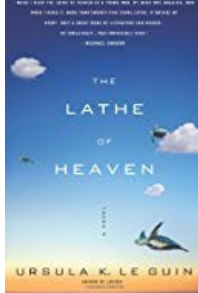
A work of historical fiction, this biography of medieval mystic Hildegard von Bingen tells the story of one of the most extraordinary women of the Middle Ages. Offered to the Church at the age of eight, Hildegard was entombed in a small room where she found comfort and grace in studying books, growing herbs, and rejoicing in her own secret visions of the divine.

### October 8 Finding Nouf by Zoe Ferraris



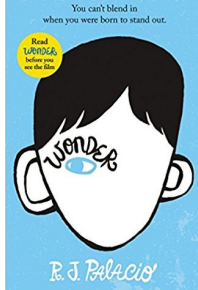
This suspenseful tale offers an unprecedented window into Saudi Arabia and the lives of men and women there. When sixteen-year-old Nouf goes missing, her family calls on Nayir al-Sharqi, a desert guide, to lead a search party. Ten days later, just as Nayir is about to give up in frustration, her body is discovered by anonymous desert travelers. Nayir takes it upon himself to find out what really happened to her.

### November 12 The Lathe of Heaven by Ursula LeGuin



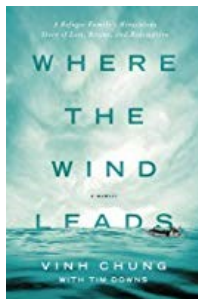
*The Lathe of Heaven* is an eerily prescient novel from award-winning author Ursula K. Le Guin that masterfully addresses the dangers of power and humanity's self-destructiveness, questioning the nature of reality itself. Set in a future world where one man's dreams control the fate of humanity, it is a classic of the science fiction genre.

### December 10 Wonder by R.J. Palacio



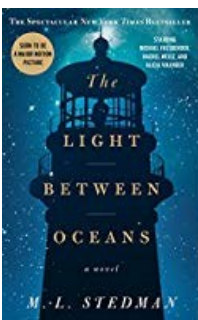
August Pullman was born with a facial difference that prevented him from going to a mainstream school. At his new school, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. R.J. Palacio has called her novel "a meditation on kindness" --indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship.

### January 14 Where the Wind Leads by Dr. Vinh Chung



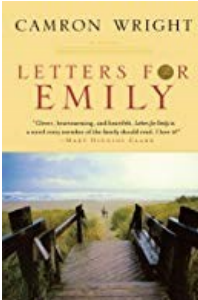
The first-hand account of a Vietnamese refugee who now lives the American dream. *Where the Wind Leads* is the remarkable account of Vinh Chung and his refugee family's daring escape from communist oppression for the chance of a better life in America. It's a story of personal sacrifice, redemption, endurance against almost insurmountable odds, and what it truly means to be American.

### February 11 The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman



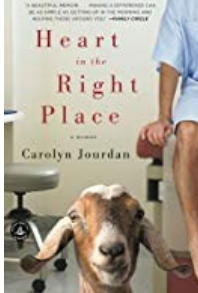
After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock. To this isolated island, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one still-birth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby.

### March 11 Letters for Emily by Camron Wright



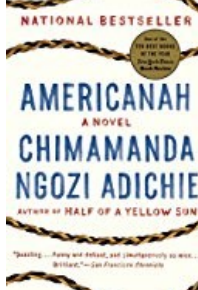
Harry Whitney is dying. He has Alzheimer's disease, and he knows his "good" time is dwindling. So he compiles a book of poems for his favorite granddaughter, Emily, hoping that his words of hard-won wisdom will heal the old wounds that are tearing his family apart. But Harry's poems contain much more than meets the eye -- clues and riddles that lead to an extraordinary cache of letters and a promise of hidden gold.

### Anril 8 Heart in the Right Place by Carolyn Jourdan



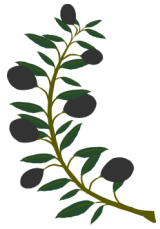
Carolyn Jourdan, an attorney on Capitol Hill, thought she had it made. But when her mother has a heart attack, she returns home—to the Tennessee mountains, where her father is a country doctor and her mother works as his receptionist. Jourdan offers to fill in for her mother until she gets better. She comes to understand what her caring and patient father means to her close-knit community.

### May 13 Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



A young couple departs military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze with a post-9/11 America closed to him, plunges into a dangerous life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland.





## 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 from September through May for fun, learning, and fellowship! Past programs have included travelogues, craft shows, musical offerings, and special interest talks. Breakfast is provided with a freewill donation. Everyone is welcome to attend, sign up sheets are on the Gathering Area table one month in advance of each program.

**October 12**-Staff from Olmsted County Public Health will talk about the variety of services for seniors that they offer as well as giving some tips for healthy senior living.

**November 9**-Funeral planning with Pastor Glenn. Learn more about the parts of the funeral service and how to make choices for your service and leave those plans for loved ones.

**December 8**-Prepare for the Christmas season with special music from Travis Beck, Mount Olive's Director of Worship, Music, & Arts.

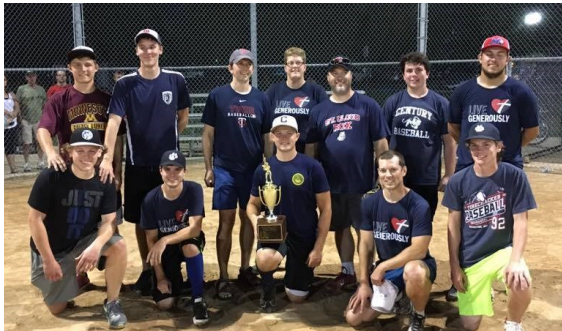
Sign up in the Gathering Area prior to each event. Watch the bulletin, and *The Messenger* newsletter for further information about programs coming up in 2019!

Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with questions - 288-1580 ext. 202 or [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org).



## Softball Team

The Rochester church softball league begins in May every year. Co-ed games are played on Tuesday evenings at McQuillan Fields and last one hour with lots of friendly competition. Players ages high school through adult are welcome to join the fun. New players are always welcome and needed. Spectators are always welcome!



Watch for the sign up in the Gathering Area in early spring. There is a participant fee of \$25 to help defray the cost of team registration. For more information contact Team Manager, Jason Sinnwell ([sinnweja@gmail.com](mailto:sinnweja@gmail.com)) or Nancy Britson ([nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org))

## Spiritual Companions

Spiritual Companions are a group of Mount Olive members who visit with our most vulnerable folks – those homebound or in need of extra support due to illness or life circumstances. The group meets together a few times a year to assess individuals needs. The companions meet with their assigned member on a schedule that works for the parties involved. Sometimes something as simple as a shared cup of coffee means a lot!

If you'd like to know more about this important ministry for yourself or know of someone in need of companionship, please contact Pastor Glenn Monson, [glenn@molive.org](mailto:glenn@molive.org), or call the church office– 288-1580. Requests are kept confidential.

## Weekend Fellowship at Mount Olive

Each weekend there is fellowship time with coffee, cookies, and lemonade following both Sunday services. This is a great time to connect with friends or welcome visitors to the congregation. Receptions for new members, confirmation, Saturday evening receptions, and other congregational meals throughout the year are also times to connect in fellowship with others.

If you would like to be involved with planning, providing food, or serving, please contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life at [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org).



## Women's Fellowship

Mount Olive's Women of the ELCA is a vibrant group involved with many aspects of the congregation as they serve in many ways and participate in Bible study small groups. The women also provide numerous fellowship opportunities throughout the year. Some, like the annual Christmas party, are for women only, while others like the St. Lucia celebration and graduation reception serve the entire congregation. All women are invited to participate in fellow-



ship events whether they are a member of a small group or not. Please join us for the Women's Christmas Party on Monday, **December 3rd** and the St. Lucia receptions following services on **December 9th**. For more information, please contact Renee Schaefer, Women of the ELCA president-[vettelady54601@yahoo.com](mailto:vettelady54601@yahoo.com)



## Congregational Life and Hospitality Ministry Team

Is there anything more important to a member of a church, a neighborhood, or a community than feeling welcomed? Probably not. The Congregational Life and Hospitality team looks intentionally at how we welcome visitors and connect members and newcomers in our congregation. We know that it is easy for us to assume that we are a *welcoming* church, however, there may be little things that we do, which we are not even aware of, that are actually *unwelcoming*. This team attempts to identify and correct any bad habits we have, as well as to consider ways that we make connections as people of God. By this strategy, we hope to enlarge our circle and welcome more people into the Mount Olive community.

**Vision Statement:** "When a person enters Mount Olive, they experience attentiveness to their needs, an intentional engagement, and a concern for their well-being in a warm, caring, and inclusive environment."

**Mission Statement:** "We commit ourselves to developing strategies to equip, educate, and inspire a culture of genuine welcome and hospitality for all."

**Chair:** Nancy Britson **Council Representative:** SueAnn Collinge

**Team Members:** SueAnn Collinge, Paul Johnsen, Juliana Martin, Susan McKeown, Serena Oudekirk, Nikka Vrieze, Paul and Renee Schaefer

**Staff Liaisons:** Pastor Glenn Monson and Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life