

Fellowship 2019 - 2020



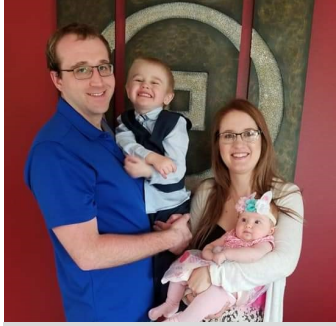
Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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Children, Youth, & Family Fellowship



The Maus Family

Little Leapers

Little Leapers is a group for parents and children who have not yet started Sunday school. They join together to share in caring conversation and fellowship as our little ones take a leap into faith. This year we welcome Tony & Kaitlin Maus as your new

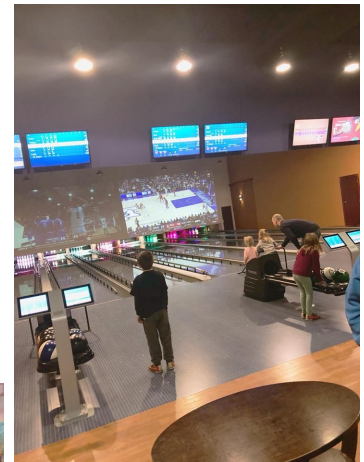
Little Leapers contact family. They have two children, Cameron (3 years) and Ella (6 months). Little Leapers will continue to meet in The Pond (classrooms 3 & 4)

on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 9:15 to 10:15 am. The first meeting will be on September 15th. If you have any questions about this group, please contact Kaitlin Maus at: kaitlinridl@gmail.com.



Pre-School & Elementary Youth Fellowship

Throughout the year, fellowship activities are scheduled for Pre-School and Elementary Youth. Some activities are held during the Education Hour and others are scheduled for non-school days. Events the past year have included bowling, sledding, an orchard trip, Easter egg hunt, and Palm Sunday stations.



Middle School and High School Youth Fellowship



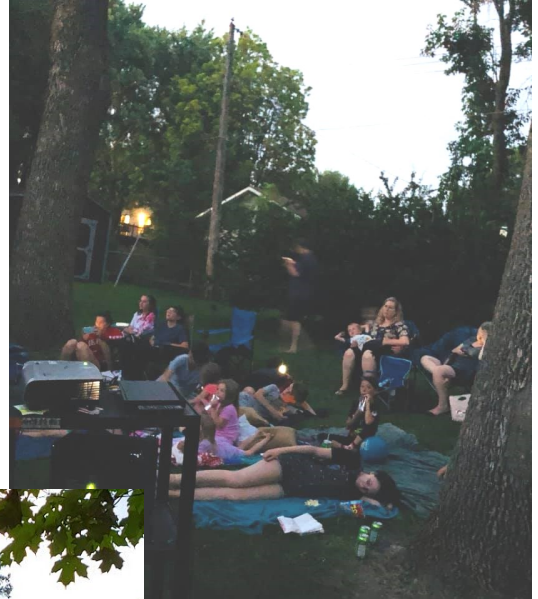
Family Campout Weekend

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. 2019's campout, held at Chester Woods is pictured below. Watch for notification about registration via the newsletter or bulletins.



Intergenerational Fellowship

Every year members of Mount Olive enjoy fellowship events together at various locations. Some of the most popular in recent years are: plays like “A Christmas Carol” at the Civic Theatre, a night at Berne Pizza in the summer, attending a Minnesota Twins game together via coach bus, and the Family Camp-out at Chester Woods in SE Rochester. There are also more modest events like game nights and movie nights held at the church. Watch the bulletin and monthly newsletter to see what is scheduled going forward. Fun and fellowship go together!



Fellowship for All Ages

Each year, new fellowship opportunities present themselves, such as a trip to Holden Village, a quilt retreat, and going to see the Minnesota Twins play at Target field, all 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.



Young Adult Fellowship

Monday Book Group

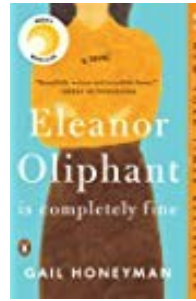
This group gathers to discuss a wide variety of literature. Individuals are welcome to discuss one book or attend every month to discuss them all! Come to discuss one book or attend every month to discuss them all! The group meets in the Mount Olive library the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.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

Contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net

January 13 Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine

by Gail Honeyman

"Beautifully written and incredibly funny, Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine is about the importance of friendship and human connection. I fell in love with Eleanor, an eccentric and regimented loner whose life beautifully unfolds after a chance encounter with a stranger; I think you will fall in love, too!" —Reese Witherspoon



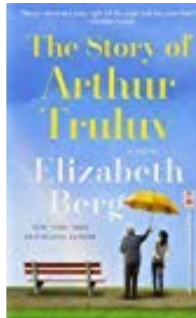
September 9 The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

In an enthralling new historical novel from national bestselling author Kate Quinn, two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.



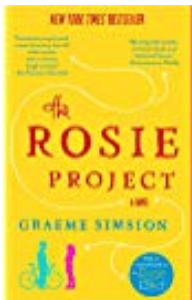
February 10 The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg

Arthur Moses's days each looked the same: He tends to his rose garden and to Gordon, his cat, then rides the bus to the cemetery to visit his beloved late wife for lunch. The last thing Arthur would imagine is for one unlikely encounter to utterly transform his life. The story is a beautiful and moving novel of compassion in the face of loss, of the small acts that turn friends into family, and of achieving happiness at any age.



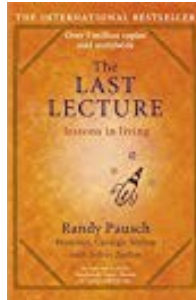
October 14 The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion

The international bestselling romantic comedy "bursting with warmth, emotional depth, and humor," (Entertainment Weekly) featuring the oddly charming, socially challenged genetics professor, Don, as he seeks true love. Graeme Simsion's distinctive debut "navigates the choppy waters of adult relationships, both romantic and platonic, with a fresh take (USA TODAY)



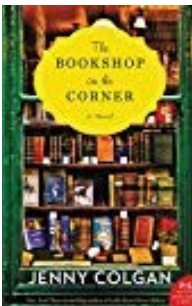
March 9 The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch

The Last Lecture recounts the life of Randy Pausch, from childhood until just before his death, and a lecture he was asked to give as a professor at Carnegie Mellon. In this book, Randy Pausch has combined the humor, inspiration and intelligence that made his lecture such a phenomenon and given it an indelible form. It is a book that will be shared for generations to come.



November 11 The Bookshop on the Corner by Jenny Colgan

Nina is a literary matchmaker. Pairing a reader with that perfect book is her passion and also her job. She was a librarian in the hectic city, but now the job she loved is no more. Determined to make a new life for herself, Nina moves to a village miles away, buys a van and transforms it into a bookmobile changing one life after another with her storytelling.



April 13 Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

With incredible empathy, intelligence, and candor, Jodi Picoult tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice, and compassion—and doesn't offer easy answers. Small Great Things is a remarkable achievement from a writer at the top of her game. It tells the story of Ruth Jefferson, a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience, who is thrust into a difficult situation at her work.



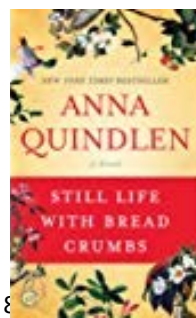
December 9 Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is an 1865 novel written by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll. It tells of a girl named Alice falling through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures. The story is considered to be one of the best examples of the literary nonsense genre.



May 11 Still Life with Bread Crumbs by Anna Quindlen

Brilliantly written, powerfully observed, Still Life with Bread Crumbs is a deeply moving and often very funny story of unexpected love, and a stunningly crafted journey into the life of a woman, her heart, her mind, her days, as she discovers that life is a story with many levels, a story that is longer and more exciting than she ever imagined.



Fellowship Tables

Fellowship Tables are a casual, “no agenda” way to gather to share a meal with friends, new and old. Interested individuals, adult couples or singles, sign up for the groups in September and October. Groups of seven to nine adults are created that meet three or more times during the program year to share a meal and fellowship in homes or restaurants. These groups are a great way to branch out, meet new people, and bond with long-time friends without a huge time commitment.

The groups are formed anew each program year, giving opportunities to meet new people. Listen for an announcement in worship to kick off the sign up period. Registration forms will be found at a table in the entry. On your registration form, you will indicate your preference to meet in homes or in restaurants. Each group will have a volunteer organize their first meeting. Most groups will begin gathering in November. Following the first meeting, the group sets its own schedule for the remainder of the year. As the year goes on, groups may invite new members or extend their meetings into the summer.

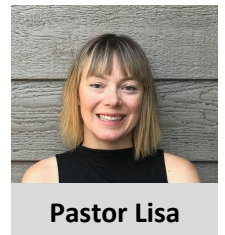
Direct any questions to Nancy Britson (nancy@molive.org)



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, community groups, musical offerings, and special interest talks. A hot breakfast is provided with a freewill donation. Sign up sheets are on the Gathering Area sign up cabinet about one month in advance of each program. Everyone is welcome to attend, feel free to bring a friend. On the line up for this fall:

September 13- Pastor Lisa Janke, Mount Olive’s new Associate Pastor of Outreach will be our guest. Please come to get to know Pastor Lisa better and find out the latest on The Olive Branch, Mount Olive’s Alternative Worshipping Community.



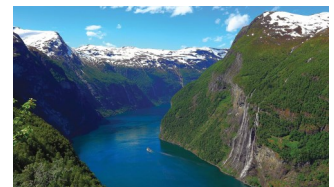
Pastor Lisa



October 11– Kristin Mannix, a Mount Olive member, will speak about Rochester’s Elder Network. As an associate director of the Elder Network, Kristin works with volunteers, donors and sponsors, grant writing, and leads their community outreach and communication efforts. She will speak

about services the Elder Network provides and include insights on successful aging.

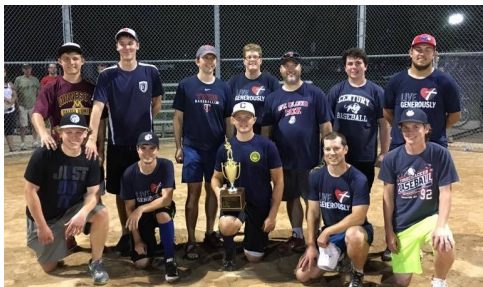
November 8– Ripe Olives coordinator, Nancy Britson, will change to the program role and present a travelogue about her recent visit to Scandinavia. Come to see pictures of the beautiful scenery of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden and learn more about how the “old country” that our ancestors described has modernized.



December 13– It is fitting that the Ripe Olive’s December meeting falls on St. Lucia day, December 13. We’ll celebrate the coming of Christmas with treats, conversation, music, and possibly a game or two.

Watch the bulletin, and *The Messenger* newsletter for more information about these and other programs coming up in 2020!

Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with questions -288-1580 ext. 202 or 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) or Nancy Britson (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, or call the church office– 288-1580. Requests are kept confidential.

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, the Quilt Retreat, and the Spring Meeting 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 fellowship events whether they are a member of a small group or not. For more information, please contact Regina Seabrook, Women of the ELCA President-rseabroo@gmail.com



Men's Fellowship

The men of Mount Olive are always up for opportunities to join together, grow spiritually and have fun together. One of the new events on the horizon for 2020 is a Men's Trout Fishing Retreat at Good Earth Village outside of Spring Valley, post-Easter. The Spring Valley Creek is known to be an excellent trout stream, and Good Earth has the accommodations to house as many as want to attend. Watch for bulletin announcements in the spring of 2020.





60th Anniversary Celebration Events

On March 12, 2021, Mount Olive will be 60 years young! To celebrate that milestone we are hosting a number of fellowship events leading up to that



The Anniversary Celebration
Kick off Potluck, June 23, 2019

grand day. Our goal in hosting these events is to celebrate our congregation, raise significant funds for our mission partners, raise the profile of Mount Olive in the community, and have fun and fellowship together. The following events have already been scheduled, with more to come:

Driving for the Dining Hall – Sunday, September 22, 3:00-6:00 pm at Hadley Creek Golf Club

This event is for all ages. There is a “golf carnival” for kids, 3 years old and up; cost is \$5/child. For those who wish to golf, \$25 will get you 9 holes of golf/cart/prizes/dinner. Anyone can golf just for fun, or you may want to enter the Pastors’ Challenge, wherein you may challenge the pastors in a game of golf. Winners gain bragging rights. Losers will make a donation to the Dining Hall Fund. There is also a “racehorse” component whereby non-golfers may “bet” upon any competitor(s) or pastor(s). Again, losers will make a donation the Dining Hall Fund. The Dining Hall we are raising money for is a facility that is desperately needed at the Hull High School in Kijota, Tanzania, our companion congregation. The total cost of the project is \$30,000. We wish to raise most of that with our 60th anniversary events.

Dining for the Dining Hall – Friday, November 1, 4:00-7:00 pm

This event is for the whole community – anyone who wants to attend. This is “an all hands on deck” event meant to raise significant funds for the Hull High School Dining Hall in Kijota, Tanzania. We will be hosting 4 seatings at 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 pm in our Fellowship Hall, serving a full Swedish Meatball Dinner. The menu is Mashed Potatoes, Meatballs and Gravy, Corn, Cranberry Relish, Lefse and Cookies. Cost is \$15/adult, \$10/child (6-12), Free (age 5 and under). This is a great opportunity for the whole congregation to be involved in service and hospitality, since many people are needed to pull this off. Everything from potato peelers and salad makers, to waitstaff and dishwashers, will be needed. What a great way to start the holidays – dining so that others may dine.

Winter Concert with former pastor, Rev. Siri Strommen

Pastor Siri served at Mount Olive from 2006 to 2012. Since then, she has continued not only as a pastor, but also as a folk musician, recording “Leaving the Garden”, a solo CD, in 2019. As part of our 60th Anniversary celebration, Pastor Siri has agreed to return to Mount Olive in the winter of 2020 and perform a concert. Date TBA.

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.



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, Serena Oudekirk, Nikka Vrieze, Paul and Renee Schaefer

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