

The Messenger

JANUARY 2022

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Held in the Seasons” for the New Year

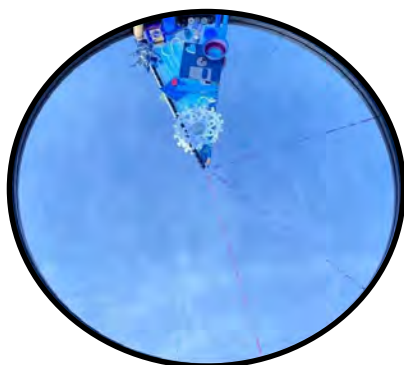
Thanks to our grant from the Calvin Institute of Worship, our congregation has been exploring the uniqueness of the seasons of the church year.

We started last summer with a delightful congregational picnic and Rev. Jan Rippentrop-Schnell preaching at worship. Though not all of us were present, this was really the first large gathering we’d invited people to attend since the pandemic lockdown.

In August, Gloria Dei Lutheran’s spiritual director, Julie Stevens, led us to explore the gifts of the time after Pentecost we sometimes call Ordinary Time. To match the theme of nourishment and growth, participants took home a potted hearty mum.

Currently, we’re right smack in the middle of the first trilogy, if you will, of the liturgical seasons in the church year. Just like every year, Advent saw us longing and preparing for God’s presence which gave way to Christmas breakthrough when we celebrated the reality of Emmanuel-- Jesus’ name that means God With us. Two weeks of Christmastide usher us into the season of Epiphany, which is about the people of God enacting God’s presence on earth here and now.

As we live into the season of Epiphany, you might notice themes of sharing, proclaiming, and celebrating. Join us for the Held in the Seasons forum on January 2nd as our guest presenter Rev. Karl Rist leads us in exploring this fascinating season that holds us. As always, we’ll enjoy Fiddlehead pastries and coffees plus a touchstone gift for all participants.



We hope you’ve enjoyed the journey so far! There will be upcoming seasonal introductions to Lent, Easter, and the Day of Pentecost at which time we close the grant project with a final celebration. Watch for a Springtime Wrap event featuring good food, fun, special worship, and a headline concert from a national musical artist. Thanks for the ways you have participated!

~Pastor Lisa Janke and Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Pastor Lisa is directing the creation of a large mosaic calendar which is being assembled through the year using colorful household objects. See the progress in the photo above.

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Annual Meeting is on January 30 at 10:15 am

This year, because of our present schedule, we will be holding the Annual Meeting of the Congregation during our Sunday Forum time following the 9:00 worship service. All confirmed members are encouraged to attend. Some of the agenda items for this important meeting are:

- Election of Council officers and Team members, including a President-elect.
- Presentation and approval of the 2022 budget
- Approval of the updated Endowment Fund Operations Document
- Report of staff and teams on ministry progress in 2021 and plans for the New Year.



Church Council Openings are Your Opportunity

Do you want to know the “inside scoop” on the ministry and mission of Mount Olive? Do you want to be an influential voice in the workings of this ministry? If you do, God may be calling you to an elected position at Mount Olive. There are a number of openings and your interest will be welcomed. The openings this year are:

- President-elect
- Treasurer
- Columbarium Committee
- Endowment Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Ministry Team Member
- Synod voting members and Synod voting member alternates

If you feel God might be calling you to any of these positions or you have someone you’d like to recommend, please reach out to the Nominating Committee: Lori Kuhlmann-Leibfried - loriKL@hotmail.com, Mark Masbruch - mmasbruch@hotmail.com, or Paul Schaefer - paulschaefer@chartermi.net. Thank you.

New Year's Resolutions

Do you make resolutions for the new year? Here is a suggestion: This year, resolve to review (or create) your estate plan and insurance. Insurance can provide financial support for you and your loved ones when you are unable to do so. An estate plan expresses your wishes in advance for your care and your loved ones' care in situations when you are unable to express your wishes.

For example, if you become critically ill or injured:

- What types of life-saving or life-extending health care measures would you want?
- Who would you want to make health care decisions for you?
- Who would you want to handle your financial matters?
- How would you want to provide for the care and support of the loved ones who depend on you?

When you die:

- How would you want to provide for your loved ones?
- Who would you want to administer your estate?
- Would you want to support any of your favorite causes with a legacy gift?

If you have already created an estate plan, does it express your current wishes? If you have not yet created an estate plan, consider meeting with an estate planning professional to get your wishes expressed in writing. If you would like to support Mount Olive with a legacy gift, please see www.molive.org/index.php/planned-giving for more information.

Open Budget Meeting January 16

If you would like to take a detailed look at the 2022 proposed budget, come to the Open Budget Meeting on January 16. Meet in the library at 10:15 am. This is an opportunity to go over the budget and ask any detailed questions.

2022 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for anyone who requested them will be placed in your church mailbox. Contact Bill Hollander in the church office- bill.h@molive.org - if you would like envelopes or have any giving questions.

Pastor Glenn's Devotions

Continuing a practice he began in March 2020, Pastor Glenn is providing daily devotions around selected scriptures which are matched with each week of the liturgical year. In each devotion, there is a substantial portion of scripture, a reflection, and prayer. You are welcome to pick up a hard copy each week at church, or access them [online](#). You are also welcome to forward them to others for their use. Pastor Glenn's first set of devotions, written in 2020, will soon be published by Wipf & Stock, under the title *Quarantining With God*. A release date has not been announced.

Santa Lucia Day Observed December 12

On Sunday, December 12, Mount Olive celebrated the Festival of Saint Lucia. Kate Klavetter portrayed Lucia along with star boys Tyler Rislow and James Sinnwell. Check out the Mount Olive



[Facebook](#) page for more pictures and video of the celebration. The video of the worship service is also available on the [archive](#) page on the Mount Olive website.



Worship Volunteer Opportunities

Worship volunteers are needed this winter to keep our 9:00 am Sunday services running smoothly. We ask that all volunteers are fully vaccinated. If you would be willing to help out, please click here to sign up: www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449a5a92aa1fb6-mount1 or contact Nancy Britson, Volunteer Coordinator, with your availability or questions—nancy@molive.org or 507-288-1580 ext. 202. Training is available for new volunteers.

Altar Flowers

The 2022 schedule is now available to sign for providing flowers to brighten the sanctuary each week. Place orders for birthdays, anniversaries, baptismal birthdays, births, or in memory of loved ones. Sign up in the Gathering Area, fill out an envelope and include payment. Place orders at least one week in advance. Bouquets are \$40 and bud vases range from \$7.50 to \$13.50.

Winter Worship Schedule Updates

Sunday, 9:00 am—Traditional Worship— a full service with Holy Communion in the sanctuary.

Wednesday, 6:30 pm—Wednesday worship with Holy Communion in the Fellowship Hall. Regular weekly services resume on January 5 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. These services are not recorded.

Online Worship—The 9:00 am worship service is livestreamed from the Sanctuary each Sunday, and is also available on the Mount Olive [YouTube channel](#) following the service. The link is shared on www.molive.org along with past [worship](#) services.

2nd Sunday of Service – Bandage Rolling

On **January 9**, the Sunday school children will roll bandages for Global Health Ministries. Meet in the Gathering Area at 10:15 am to help. Global Health Ministries is a Lutheran organization that gives medical support to dozens of countries. Even the most basic supplies are often lacking at mission hospitals and clinics overseas. Many of the health facilities have limited access to clean affordable bandages, an item that is used everyday in the care of their patients.



Afghan Evacuee Program Update

We have finally met our family of four! Zorha (Mom), Zahir Shah (Dad), Mohammed (4-year-old little boy), and Osman (14-month-old little boy). Volunteers from Mount Olive and People of Hope helped to move the family to their permanent apartment the week before Christmas. We discovered that Google Translate is a life saver! Thank you to those who donated supplies to help the family furnish their new apartment. We will continue to share updates and further needs with the congregation as we continue this journey.

Channel One

Channel One needs your support. Donors are helping us to provide food for over 11,800 families each month, but there are still many individuals and families facing hunger right now. If you are able, consider making an online donation to assist us in addressing food insecurity.

<https://www.helpingfeedpeople.org/donate/donate-paypal/>



Dorothy Day House

Mount Olive's commitment to the Dorothy Day Hospitality House is to provide a meal to the guests staying there on the first Friday evening of each month. We need volunteers for the month of **February** and beyond. When you sign up to serve Dorothy Day House, you only need to order a meal or deliver a home cooked meal to the house before 6 pm that Friday you signed up to serve. The house volunteers will serve and clean up after the meal. The guests and the volunteers are required to wear masks and practice social distancing as recommended by the CDC but are not mandated to be vaccinated. When you wish to volunteer to serve Dorothy Day Hospitality House you may either sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area at church or contact me. Thank you for your service! Jene Bodensteiner, Volunteer Coordinator for Dorothy Day House at Mount Olive. E-mail: jbode6@me.com. Phone:(507)287-0257 or (507)398-2009.

Family Promise Seeks Volunteers

Family Promise continues to use Sign-Up Genius to gather volunteers for providing meals. Please be aware that Family Promise cannot share information about vaccination status of staff and guests, so if you choose to deliver the meal in person, mask wearing is strongly encouraged. For no contact delivery, there is a blue bin right in the front entry way of the North Star House, 913 1st Street NW in downtown Rochester, where you can put the food around 6:00 pm. Here is the link for the meal sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4fa4aa22a3f94-prepare>. For a list of in-kind donations that the house needs click this link: <https://www.fprochestermn.org/wish-list>



Baby Care Kit Collection

Mount Olive has been collecting items for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) since 1996. Since then, Mount Olive has donated: 1,043 Baby Care Kits.

These gifts in the past have been sent to over 20 different countries to help parents and babies in need. LWR Baby Care Kits are distributed as part of emergency relief efforts, but they are also given to encourage expectant women to seek prenatal care. The kits help welcome the littlest ones into a caring international community and swaddle them with love!

Below is a list of the items needed, or you may pick up the list on a Baby Care Kit card in the Gathering Area this month to donate to Lutheran World Relief. In the past, t-shirts (up to size 2T) and flat fold cloth diapers were most needed. Please contact Cathy Hanson with any questions or to volunteer to help assemble kits - 507-398-3917.

2 T-shirts Light weight cotton	2 Receiving Blankets Flannel or cotton up to 52"	4 Cloth diapers Flat fold preferred	1 Hand towel Dark color preferred
2 pairs of socks	2 4-5oz bars of gentle soap In original wrapping	2 Diaper pins or large safety pins	

Neighborhood Schools

Thank you for the donations of money and winter items for the children at Elton Hills Elementary School. We also purchased some gift cards for a few families that were in dire need of extra food and other items. We will be using some of the donated funds to purchase nut-free snacks for the children.

Snow Removal Help Needed

Family Service Rochester is seeking volunteers who would be willing to lend a hand with snow removal for senior homeowners. Volunteers are matched with a homeowner to assist for the winter season after each snowfall. Don't have the capacity to commit for the whole winter? We're also looking for "substitute" snow shovelers! To find a neighbor who needs a hand, contact Family Service Rochester at 507-287-2010 or volunteers@familyservicerochester.org

Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will meet on **January 18** at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Yarn, needles, patterns, and guidance are supplied; please contact Vickie Kubly if you would like to join the group—507-282-7696. If you would like to request a prayer shawl for someone who is experiencing illness, loss, or a difficult time, please contact Vickie, or you may call the church office at 507-288-1580.

Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters meet each Thursday morning at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to prepare and tie quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief and local service organizations. Everyone is welcome to join them. The quilters can always use more cotton fabric for making the colorful quilt tops. Donations may be left in the Gathering Area cabinet, where there are also small and large quilt top kits for sewing at home. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Grever at 507-206-4605.



Red Kettle Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

On Saturday, December 4, Mount Olive members, Wendy and Kerry Dennison helped to ring the bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Fundraiser. Thank you for volunteering to ring!

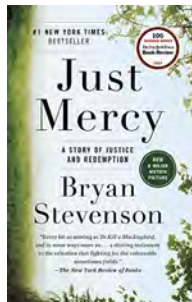


Sunday Forums Feature Legislators and Others

January promises to be an especially lively month for Sunday Forums. We have special guests and presenters from our community and beyond, including members of the state legislature who will gather in a round table discussion on January 23. We meet each Sunday at 10:10 in the Fellowship Hall. Grab a cup of coffee and join us. Here's what's planned:

- **January 2** – Come and learn from special guest Rev. Karl Rist about the rich tradition of Epiphany. We hope that in coming you will have an epiphany – an aha!
- **January 9** – Service Sunday – Come out and roll bandages for Global Health Ministries
- **January 16** – The Mount Olive Team Exploring Anti-Racism (MOTEAR) will introduce the book, *Just Mercy*, and the Equal Justice Initiative, founded by the author, Bryan Stevenson.
- **January 23** – Four state legislators: Senator David Senjem, and Representatives Liz Bolden, Duane Quam, and Tina Liebling will be part of a round table discussion around affordable childcare in Minnesota. As part of the morning we will explain our partnership with Families First of MN and how that has provided an affordable childcare option for working families in Rochester. This should be a robust discussion!
- **January 30** – Annual Meeting of the congregation
- **February 6** – Interfaith Dialogue with our Muslim, Jewish, and Sikh friends.

“Just Mercy” Book and Movie Invite



The Mount Olive Team Exploring Anti-Racism invites you to read *Just Mercy* with us, and to join our Sunday Forum on January 16th, where we will show an interview with the author, Bryan Stevenson, and the Equal Justice Initiative he founded. In February, we will watch the movie together at Gray Duck Theater on Sunday, February 27 at 4:00 pm. If you would like to provide the funding to sponsor this free event for Mount Olive members and friends, please contact Pastor Lisa—lisa@molive.org.

Note that there are two versions of the book, the original and a young adult adaptation – both provide a wealth of information. Samples of these two versions are available to peruse in the Gathering Area to help you decide which is for you. We will have several copies of *Just Mercy* available to borrow, Jan 9-23, thanks to the Rochester Public Library. You can sign out a copy in the church office during this time.

Pastor Glenn's January Bible Study

Being the Body of Christ, a Study in First Corinthians, is the title of Pastor Glenn's 4-week Bible Study, January 19 – February 9. This short study will look at passages in the 12th and 13th chapters of I Corinthians which explore our giftedness as members of the Body of Christ. Study guides are \$6 each and available soon. Sign-up in the church entry way. Classes will be held each Wednesday at 7:30 pm via Zoom, and Thursday mornings at 10:30 am in the church library.

Women's Small Groups

In January, Mount Olive women's circles will resume meeting for fellowship and a study from *Gather Magazine*. The study beginning in January is entitled *The kingdom of God: What does it mean for God to be in charge?* by New Testament scholar Mark Allan Powell. Learn more at www.gathermagazine.org or this [link](#). **Study Leaders for the January meeting dates will meet with Pastor Glenn on Tuesday, January 4 at 5:30 pm in the conference room near the office.** Contact Nancy Britson in the office if you are interested in joining one of the small groups, which meet at a variety of times. - nancy@molive.org.

2022 Summer Youth Trip

Next year is the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis from July 24-28! We will be staying overnight at a hotel with other churches. The cost will be about \$350 for registration. The plan is to fundraise food and lodging costs. If you are currently in 8th -12th grade, you are eligible to participate in this exciting event with Pastor Luke. Several thousand Lutheran students from across the country come together to worship, learn, play and serve together. This high energy event is sure to be one you will remember. There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, January 12, at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Pastor Luke if you are interested – luke@molive.org.



Sunday School Volunteers Needed!

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, there will be Sunday school classes. Pastor Luke will be focusing more on worship leadership, which means we need volunteer support to make Sunday school possible. Pastor Luke will continue to be available for support during Sunday school and has provided detailed lesson plans and resources for each class to make volunteering as easy as possible. Additionally, there will be an **informational meeting for all parents and volunteers on Sunday, January 9**, following worship.

Sunday school will start at 10:15 am following worship. It will start with large group music and a Bible story. Then we will break into smaller groups for activities and diving deeper into the Biblical story. This will target 6th grade and younger, however, we would love support from middle and high schoolers – this would be an excellent volunteer opportunity!

Volunteers Needed – music leaders, large group story tellers, and small group leaders are needed to help with Sunday School. Sign up for the week(s) that work for you. Please see the December email from Pastor Luke or contact him for more details – luke@molive.org.

***Note** – we will watch the progress of COVID-19, especially with the emergence of the Omicron variant, and make decisions accordingly to keep our kiddos safe. When we can meet, everyone will be asked to wear a mask and it is recommended that everyone who can be is vaccinated.

High School Fellowship

We are looking for fun events to get on the calendar for high school fellowship. If there is something that you would be willing to lead or host – like ice skating, sledding, a movie or video game night – please contact Pastor Luke and we will get it on the schedule. We are looking to shake things up and try new ways of gathering for high schoolers in 2022.

Confirmation

Wednesday evening confirmation class will begin again on January 19th. We will meet, 6:30-8 pm, every other Wednesday through April 27. These classes will continue to be supplemented with a three hour retreat once a month on Sundays. Look for more details via email.

Men's Discipleship

Men's Discipleship is a Bible study group for men meant to move them closer to God and to help them understand God's will in their lives. They meet weekly, on Zoom, on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am. They will not meet January 1. They are studying 1st Corinthians in their continuing study of Paul's letters. This group is open to anyone in the congregation. Contact Mark Masbruch for more information and the Zoom link-mmasbruch@hotmail.com.

The Olive Branch Way: Midrash & Meal

If you haven't visited Olive Branch Church, maybe you've wondered what it's like. Well, in some ways, it's a lot like the traditional movements of Mount Olive worship: Gathering, Word, Response, Sending. Two elements that are a bit different are how we engage the Bible and how we enact Holy Communion.

When it comes to encountering the ancient scripture, we rarely if ever read directly from the Bible. Instead, the community is invited directly into *midrash* - an ancient Jewish practice of immersion that involves imagination among and beyond the words in the book. Midrash often involves following our curiosity into something generative. Often, we'll create fresh stories, music, or even theatrical scenes. What we consistently experience is a delicious sense of discovery that feels like spiritual formation. We wonder: Is this what Jesus did with his students?

Meal-wise, just like Mount Olive, we share Holy Communion every week. Visitors are sometimes surprised to see on our Table a big loaf of bread and bottles of sparkling juice! Olive Branch uses fresh, hand-made breads from local bakeries both to support local bakers and to offer a generous meal that might even fill us up. We have butter on hand, sometimes even honey. We call for seconds until the loaf is gone. Since some of us have sensitivities to alcohol, we use juice so children and those of us in recovery can partake without reservation. And during the meal, after a song from Richard, we talk. Listening carefully to one another's stories and insights is often the best part of the evening.

Next month, we'll share more about our unique liturgy. Meantime, if you're curious, be welcome at Olive Branch Church any Monday night. We're not looking for members-- just people who enjoy this unique way of practicing faith.



Free Movie Night at Gray Duck!

Two days before Groundhog Day, we'll be screening "Groundhog Day" Monday, **January 31st** at 6:00 pm. (Comedy, 1993, rated PG, Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell) Doors open at 5:30 pm for popcorn, treats, and cocoa at Gray Duck Theater & Coffeehouse: 619 6th Ave NW Rochester. Feel free to bring friends!

Olive Branch Church

Olive Branch Church continues to meet on Monday evenings at Gray Duck Theater & Coffeehouse, 619 6th Ave NW, Rochester. Doors open at 5:30 pm; church starts at 6:00 when you hear the strum. It's led by Pastor Lisa and Richard BC, visitors are always expected. Thanks for your support of this exciting outreach ministry! Questions? Contact Pastor Lisa at lisa@molive.org.





Monday Book Group

The **Monday Book Group** gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature. They will meet via Zoom on **January 10** at 6:30 pm. This month's selection is *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. If you would like to be added to the email list and receive the Zoom invitation for January, contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

Ripe Olives Craft and Hobby (and More) Show

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. Did you pick up a new hobby during this long pandemic or have a craft that you've enjoyed for years? On **January 14**, we will have a **Craft, Hobby (and More) Show** by the Ripe Olives themselves, a return of one of the favorite past programs. Everyone is encouraged to bring examples of their handiwork, crafts, hobbies, or favorite occupations to put on display (or give a verbal description if non tactile). During the program time, each person will be given the opportunity to "show and tell" if they choose and answer questions from the audience. There'll be a simple continental breakfast, coffee, and juice. Please RSVP to Nancy Britson in the church office, 507-288-1580 or nancy@molive.org or sign up in the Gathering Area at church. If we need to change to a Zoom format due to COVID, you will be notified.

Upcoming Concerts at Mount Olive

Mount Olive will host two concerts from Lyra Baroque in January:

Saturday, January 15, 5:30 & 7:30 pm

Lyra Baroque Orchestra presents "The Grand Tour with Chloe Fedor"-

The tradition of Grand Tours spans from the early seventeenth century with horses and carriages up through the nineteenth century with its steam locomotion. Pack your bags and dust off your passport for a musical journey to Paris, Rome, Leipzig, and London with violinist Chloe Fedor. Click [here](#) for the ticket purchase link or go to www.lyrabaroque.org for more information and COVID guidelines for each concert.

Thursday, January 20, 7:00 pm

Lyra Chamber Concert, "Joy Reimagined"- Members of Lyra with guest Chloe Fedor present a string quartet concert featuring Franz Joseph Haydn's radiant String Quartet in C Major, Op. 20, No. 2, and works by Saint-George and Brunetti. Click [here](#) for the ticket purchase link or go to www.lyrabaroque.org.



Wall of Wonder Timeline Results

As part of our 60th anniversary celebration this fall, we invited our Mount Olive members and friends to help create the "Wall of Wonder," a visual timeline of the last 60 years, including key people and events from Rochester, Minnesota, the United States, and beyond. Thank you to everyone who helped create the Wall of Wonder over the past few months, and special thanks to those who attended the forums in November and December to wrap up this project. A PDF version of the Wall of Wonder, complete with the titles and additional events and information that were discussed at the forums, is now available on our website: <http://molive.org/wp-content/uploads/Wall-of-Wonder.pdf>

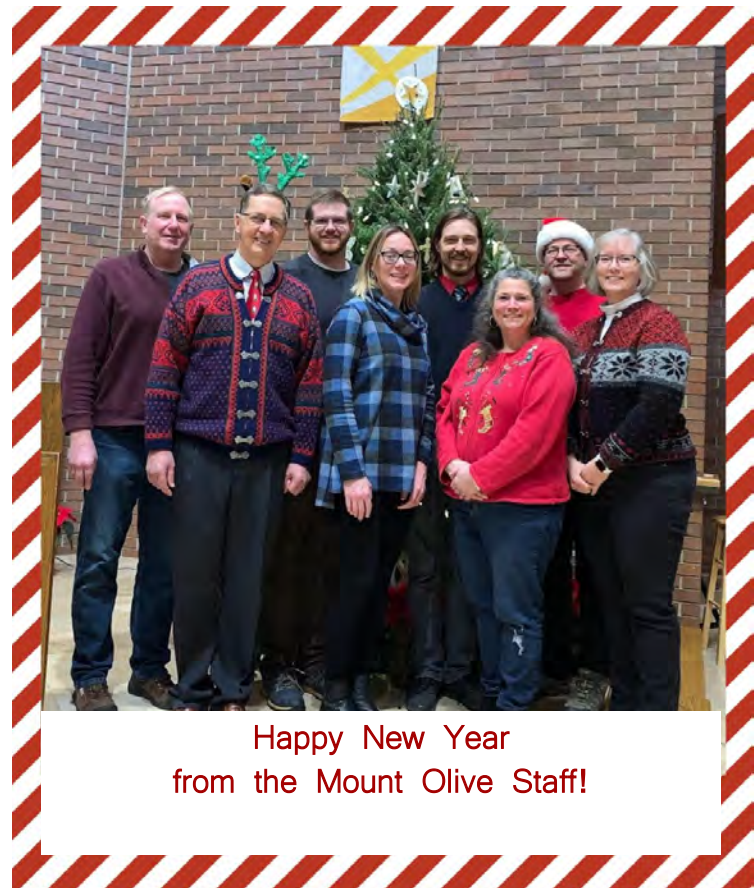


Mount Olive's Inclement Weather Policy



When the snow flies and the wind chill is -20 degrees, is there still quilting group? Bible study? Worship? Here are the quick guidelines for winter weather:

- If school is cancelled because of inclement weather, all weekday church activities, including evening activities, are cancelled.
- If school dismisses early and community evening events are cancelled due to poor weather, all evening church activities are also cancelled.
- Worship on Sunday is rarely cancelled. In the rare event that this occurs, we will have notification on our website, www.molive.org, our [Facebook page](#), and on the [KTTC](#) television channel.
- Always use your judgment before driving in bad weather. If MNDOT advises no travel except in emergency cases, please assume that means church activities as well.



Happy New Year from the Mount Olive Staff!

Thank you!

Special thanks for altar guild members, choir, brass, and bells group members, special music players, and Holden Evening Prayer leaders for helping to make Advent and Christmas Eve Worship services so beautiful.

Mount Olive's Welcome Statement:

"We trust that God calls Mount Olive Lutheran Church to a ministry of reconciliation. We embrace as a gift the diversity of our neighborhood and the world, and we extend God's hospitality by welcoming, hearing, and treasuring:

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

As Christ welcomes all, we too welcome the full inclusion of all people into the life, ministry, and sacraments of Mount Olive, joining in a journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect."



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Mount Olive Staff

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Carrie Fletcher —Director of Service and Social Outreach and Nursery Coord. carrie@molive.org Ext. 209	Nancy Britson Director of Congregational Life nancy@molive.org Ext. 202	