

JULY 2017

# THE *Messenger*

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

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## *Independence Day – Give Thanks*

David Brooks, longtime columnist for the New York Times, wrote an article this past spring called “The Unifying American Story.” In this article Brooks argued that for centuries Americans have embraced the Exodus story as the story of America. He said that the Exodus story has six acts, beginning with people who are enslaved or oppressed in another land, who revolt against that tyranny, and finally arrive in the Promised Land intent on building the New Jerusalem. Immigrant groups of all sorts, even those Americans brought here against their will as slaves, according to Brooks, have embraced this story. This story is our unifying narrative, he argues.

Near the end of the article Brooks bemoans the fact that this story is no longer taught in our nation’s classrooms. Instead students are introduced to the dark strands of American history – genocide, slavery, oppression, and segregation. Furthermore, the nature of the narrative has now changed, so that the American story is no longer viewed as a grand sweeping vision that speaks to the experience of all people, but as “a series of power conflicts between oppressor and oppressed.”

This article brought me face-to-face with my own conflicting emotions regarding the celebration of our national holidays like Memorial Day and Independence Day. On one hand, I am well aware of the sins of America and have no wish to deny the fact that injustices have been perpetrated on so many different peoples. On the other hand, I am also aware that America is still a place where freedoms that other nations’ peoples long for are truly a part of the fabric of American life. In other words, yes, we have our problems, but we are, in many ways, a free country, and that is nothing to take for granted.

So this year I invite you to join me in celebrating Independence Day. Celebrate and give thanks to God for the fact that, warts and all, we live in a free country – free to worship as we please, free to speak out against or for our leaders, free to assemble, free to bear arms, and free to write laws and decide our own destiny. In a world where so many people lack these freedoms, it seems to me that our independence is worthy of celebration.

*Pastor Glenn*

## Music Director Search Committee News

We said farewell to Brock Besse, our beloved Director of Music, on June 4. It was a grand send-off, with Brock leading a Big Band Extravaganza for the Festival of Pentecost. Since then, the Search Committee has been hard at work. With the posting of our vacancy, we have had multiple applications from candidates all over the country. We have begun narrowing down the list, and completed first interviews with three excellent candidates in June. Our hope and expectation is that we will have a new Director of Music in place by the end of the summer. We covet your prayers as we continue this process.

The Search Committee members are: Pastor Glenn, Pastor Paul, Mark Schoer, Pam Berg, Nancy Britson, Ruth Monson, Brad Natzke, Lara Smoley, and Barb Sorenson.



### Stewardship Team

The Stewardship team is active this summer, enlisting new members and beginning to gain focus by composing our vision and mission statements for our work at Mount Olive. Our hope is that we can have a strong stewardship message this fall which will fully support our hopes to once again become one of the leaders in mission work in the ELCA. Mount Olive has always had a strong mission focus and we will build on that tradition. Stewardship Sunday will be October 15.

### Facility and Grounds Ministry Team

The Facilities and Gardens Team has a busy summer planned. The women's restroom will be getting a bit of a face lift/clean-up with new sinks and paint. The choir loft will be getting some new LED lighting installed so the back row of the choir will have more light to work with. Our sprinkler system will get its 10 year test on the sprinkler heads and a nitrogen infusion system to help reduce the rate of decay (rust) on the inside of the pipes. We have hired a new lawn care service (Leap of Faith) to provide our lawn mowing and they are also treating some of the lawn to improve the looks. Landscaping on the west side of the church is getting new life – Dan Meyer and David Johnston have invested a lot of work to bring the areas to a new level of beauty. A new wall is coming up in the CYF Director's (Kailea's) office. The gardens on the east side of the building are really taking off and will again provide fresh produce for Rochester's hungry. New LED lighting for the Sanctuary has been ordered – this will reduce energy consumption by over 88% and greatly reduce maintenance for light bulb changing. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact Gene Ostrom (Church Council Representative) or Bill Hollander in the church office.

### Volunteer Update

Schedules for July Worship Volunteers and Sunday coffee and cookie fellowship have been distributed to all volunteers. The current schedule is updated regularly and posted on the Mount Olive website, [www.molive.org](http://www.molive.org), under the "Service" tab. Volunteers select their service opportunities via the Sign Up Genius website. More volunteers are always needed; if you would like to receive an invitation to Sign Up Genius or have any questions about volunteering at Mount Olive, please contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life.





## Ugandan Kid's Choir

A choir comprised of children from the poorest parts of Uganda will be sharing their talents by bringing African song and dance to you at a concert on Wednesday, **July 19** at 6:00 pm. The children want to share with you the hope and love they have found through child sponsorship and invite you to start your own journey together with a child. A congregational ice cream social will follow the concert in the fellowship hall. Host families are needed for the children and their chaperones for Tuesday and Wednesday evening that week. If you are willing to host some members of the choir or help with planning, please contact Mark Schoer [mjschoer@charter.net](mailto:mjschoer@charter.net). For more information or to see a video clip of the choir visit [www.ChildcareWorldwide.org/Choir](http://www.ChildcareWorldwide.org/Choir).

## Pentecost Celebration

Pentecost was celebrated at Mount Olive on June 4th with a Big Band Extravaganza at both Sunday Services. We also said "Farewell" to Brock Besse who has moved on to a job at Bethel Lutheran in Rochester. Pictures below show highlights from the service.



Some of the music and more photos from that Sunday are accessible on Mount Olive's YouTube Channel as well as the Mount Olive Facebook page. You can find the links on the Mount Olive website, [www.molive.org](http://www.molive.org).



**Outdoor Worship Service** Services were on the front lawn on Sunday, June 25th with special guest music leader Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. The weather was chilly, but hearts were warmed with God's Word, wonderful music and singing, and the quilts that were blessed in worship that day.



## Worship, Music, and Arts Ministry Team

Here at Mount Olive, the worship and music experiences are recognized as being vital to the health and development of the spiritual life for each of us and our community. The Worship, Music, and Arts Team met following the Lenten and Easter Seasons to assess all aspects of worship and to give suggestions for ways to enhance it in following years. The team also went over the hiring criteria for the new music director. A sincere **Thank You** goes out to our members here at Mount Olive, who continue to bring so much life to our worship services. Whenever we engage in creative activity, whether through word, music, liturgy, or the arts, we experience, in a special way, our connectedness to each other and to the God who created and sustains us all.

## Next Chapter Ministries Annual BBQ and Pie Social

Save this date! On **Saturday, August 19**, the campus of Next Chapter Ministries at 720 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SE will be filled with BBQ stands, all competing for your votes as best BBQ of the weekend. For a modest fee, which will go to support Next Chapter, you can enjoy as many different BBQ recipes as you can handle. Also, not to be missed is the Homemade Pie Competition. Again, you can buy tickets and have as many pie samples as you can hold, and then cast your vote for the best pie of the event. All of this wonderful food and fun, while you support Next Chapter Ministries as they continue to minister to those impacted by crime in our community. All are welcome!

Next Chapter Ministries is also in need of a used van in good condition for their children's ministry. If you or someone you know would be willing to donate this vehicle, or help towards its purchase, please see Pastor Glenn.

## Mount Olive Quilters

**Thursdays at 9:00 am**

**You are invited each week to  
enjoy quilting and fellowship.**

**Quilters continue to meet  
throughout the summer.**

**No quilting experience needed!**

## Quilting Update:

The quilters have assembled 36 packages of quilt squares to be sewn together for large quilt tops. The packages can be found in a plastic container under the Gathering Area table. A large quilt along with smaller quilted items have been made for the fall Good Earth Village Gala and Quilt Auction.

**The quilting group is in need of cotton fabric.** Any questions contact Elaine Monson at 272-6404 or e-mail: [dlmonson@charter.net](mailto:dlmonson@charter.net)

## Mount Olive Victory Garden

The Mount Olive garden is flourishing with recent rains and the tending from dedicated volunteers, the Fletcher Family and Lori Kuhlmann-Leibfried. Some produce has already been harvested and donated to Community Food Response (CFR). Throughout the growing season the crops raised are donated to Family Promise, CFR, Channel One, and Mount Olive.

### **Help is needed throughout the summer to water, weed, and harvest the produce.**

Please sign up to help at the sign-up table in the Gathering Area. You are welcome to check out the garden in the East side yard at any time.

Contact Lori Kuhlmann-Leibfried with questions-  
[LoriKL@hotmail.com](mailto:LoriKL@hotmail.com)



**God's work.  
Our hands.**

Mark your calendars for September 10! Mount Olive will once again be participating in God's Work Our Hands Sunday. This day, designated by the ELCA, is a time to put our faith into action. Planning is underway for service projects for all ages and abilities. Please contact Sherry Will at [sherry@molive.org](mailto:sherry@molive.org) if you are able to lead a project, help with the meal, or participate in the planning process.



**Family Promise** will have a fundraiser at Canvas and Chardonnay on July 6, 6:30-9pm. Participants will be guided in painting a picture of the yellow brick road underneath Dorothy's red shoes with a caption saying "you had the power all



along".

The cost is \$35. \$10 per painter will be donated to Family Promise. Sign up online at: [canvasandchardonnay.com](http://canvasandchardonnay.com)

## Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers for Habitat will resume activity on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month beginning August 12 when a new building project will begin. We can use a crew of 6-8 adults for each shift doing a variety of construction work on this new Habitat for Humanity House. Shifts run 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm, or stay for the day. Lunch is provided. Please sign up ahead of time in the gathering area, or contact Jim Berg at [berg.james2@mayo.edu](mailto:berg.james2@mayo.edu).

## Dorothy Day Hospitality House

Mount Olive volunteers provide and serve the evening meal on the 1st Friday of each month for guests staying at the Dorothy Day House. (The Dorothy Day House provides a short-term live-in situation for people who are homeless or in a personal crisis and need shelter and food.) Please sign up today to participate in this worthwhile service opportunity. We have openings for July 7, August 4 and September 1. If you have never done this before, sign up with someone who has experience. Please contact Anna Strand at [annabstrand@gmail.com](mailto:annabstrand@gmail.com) or sign up in the gathering area where more information is available in the sign up folder.

**Family Promise** held their, *No Place Like Home*, fundraising Gala on June 15. Thanks to Erin Sinnwell and Kathleen Haase for all their hard work in organizing this special evening, and to all those who came to support this important organization. The group attending from Mount Olive is pictured below.



## F.I.S.H. (Fun in Serving Him)

This Mount Olive service oriented youth group for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders is in need of a new leader. This program follows the same calendar as Metamorphosis, meeting Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm. Please consider serving our children by becoming a F.I.S.H. leader or volunteer parent. Contact Sherry Will at [sherry@molive.org](mailto:sherry@molive.org).

A big **"Thank you"** to Carrie Fletcher for her years of serving as leader of F.I.S.H. and to Sara Swartwood who was the volunteer parent. **Your service is greatly appreciated!**

## Service and Social Outreach Ministry Team

Service and Social Outreach Ministry (SSOM) Team met with newly hired Director of Missions and Service, Sherry Will, in June. They looked at the many ongoing service projects at Mount Olive, including: Service Sundays, *God's Work. Our Hands*, the Backpack Program, Channel One, Dorothy Day House, Family Promise, F.I.S.H., Community Food Response (CFR), Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Social Service (LSS), the Mitten Tree, the Mount Olive Garden, Neighborhood Schools; Elton Hills and the Alternative Learning Center (ALC), Next Chapter Ministries, Salvation Army, Lutheran World Relief (LWR); Baby Care Kits, Healthcare Kits and Quilting, Tanzania and Colombia. We evaluated where we need more volunteer help, how we could promote the involvement of more volunteers, and how to best spread out our collection of gifts in-kind to benefit the most people. Please keep your eyes and hearts open for service opportunities. It is our hope that every member of Mount Olive will participate in at least one of our service and mission opportunities each year.

## 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 enjoy beer or craft sodas? 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 at Life's Too Short Brewing Co. for Pub Theology, led by Pastor Paul. Topics are always sent out a day ahead of time and can be found at [rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com](http://rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com). Come and join as you're able. **Note that the group will not meet the first two Mondays in July.** See you at the pub!



## Inclusive Church Taskforce Update

Please join us for the July Inclusive Church brunch on Sunday, July 9 after the 9:30 am service! We'll be gathering again at church in the Fellowship Hall for conversation and food. In July we'll be centering our conversation around the questions, *How do we as a community welcome people well?* and *How do we as a community fail in welcoming people?*

These questions are part of the community art project currently posted in the entry hallway and Fellowship Hall windows. Posting your response via sticky note will add richness to the conversation in July! At the end of the brunch the August questions will be revealed. All are welcome, and we're excited to continue in this together.

In June the conversation helped us think about our own stories of welcome and exclusion. The following are links to some additional resources that were offered at the June brunch in case you didn't receive a copy and are interested (use a QR code reader if you've got one on your smartphone):

**"A Mountain I'm Willing to Die On"**  
(Article) from Glennon Doyle  
(of momastery.org) [goo.gl/zLec3v](http://goo.gl/zLec3v)



**"What is Queer?"** (Youtube Video)  
from *Queer + Christian*:  
[goo.gl/nNbEKR](http://goo.gl/nNbEKR)



**God's work. Our Hands. -September 10**



**Rally Sunday-September 17**

**Ministry Fair-September 24**

-The Inclusive Church Taskforce

## Adult Faith Ministry Team

The team met at the end of May to assess our Sunday forums for 2016-17. It was agreed that we had many highlights, including Phil Quanbeck's presentation of the archeology of the Holy Land, our Inter-faith Dialogues with our Muslim, Sikh, Jewish, and Buddhist friends, as well as Pastor Glenn's Lenten Bible study. We have made plans for another full slate of interesting presenters for 2017-18, and will be confirming those as the summer progresses.

## High School Graduate Recognition

Mount Olive's graduating high school seniors were recognized in worship on June 4 at the 9:30 service. A reception in their honor followed the service. Congratulations and blessings to these students for their accomplishments!



Graduates that were able to attend the recognition on June 4 are (left to right) Sophia Natzke, Aiden Coil, Benjamin Schad, Nick Welsh, Eric McCullough, and Nicholas Haugen.

**The ELCA National Youth Gathering** is coming summer of 2018! This is a time where High School Youth, grades 8-12, gather together to worship, serve their neighbors, and explore their faith. The ELCA youth Gathering will take place in Houston, Texas on June 27-July 1, 2018. In order to prepare for this wonderful experience, Pastor Paul and I will host an informational meeting on Wednesday August 2, 2017 at 6:00 pm. We will talk about the budget, fundraising opportunities, travel options, and hand out forms. I encourage all High School youth and their families to attend this meeting and prayerfully consider attending the ELCA Youth Gathering. If you have already been considering attending the gathering but need financial assistance, please talk to me as soon as possible. The ELCA has funds set aside to help youth attend the Youth Gathering and I need to send in forms starting July 15. Hope to see you all at the meeting!

Kailea Mattheis [kailea@molive.org](mailto:kailea@molive.org)



All families are invited to pick up Sunday School Registration forms following the worship services on July 2 and 9. Look for the table in the front entry to pick up your family's envelope with registration forms inside for each child. Please update the forms, changing or inserting any information and return them to Kailea as soon as possible.

## Children Youth and Family Ministry Team

At the end of May, the Children Youth and Family Ministry Team met to welcome Kailea, regroup for summer planning, and make sure each team member is equipped to be an "advocate and bridge builder" among the varied ministry areas of the congregation. This team functions mostly in deployed form, that is, its members are deployed among the other ministry teams of the congregation. These deployed CYF Team members then advocate for the inclusion of children, youth, family in all areas of congregational life, so that we can continue to grow as an intergenerational community. If you have ideas for deepening or extending the CYF ministries of Mount Olive, be sure to reach out to a team member: Jen Boysen, Sara Swartwood, Carrie Fletcher, Jessi Hafeman, Serena Oudekirk, Renee Kuehl, Gloria Schad, or the staff reps Kailea & Pastor Paul.



## Mount Olive Softball

The Rochester church softball league has begun and Mount Olive's team is having a great season! Their Co-ed games are played on Tuesday evenings at McQuillan Fields and last one hour with lots of friendly competition. Players high school age through adult are welcome. **Come join the fun!** Spectators are always welcome as well! Jason Sinnwell ([sinnweja@gmail.com](mailto:sinnweja@gmail.com)) and Ryan Buus ([rjbuus@gmail.com](mailto:rjbuus@gmail.com)) are the co-managers this year.



## Fair Trade Coffee

Stop by the **Fair Trade Coffee** display in the Gathering Area to check out the varieties of ground and whole bean coffee and tea available for purchase. You can also sign up to sponsor the coffee on an upcoming Sunday. For \$15 you can help offset the cost of the coffee served during fellowship time and celebrate an occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, or the memory of a loved one.

## Altar Flowers

You may sign up to provide the flowers that 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 \$30 and bud vases are \$7.50-\$13.50.



**Adventure Club Fun at Berne Wood Fired Pizza**  
Join the Adventure Club Facebook page for more pictures and notifications of events!

## Congregational Life and Hospitality Ministry Team

The team met for the first time in June. This team will be working on building on the connections with visitors and members in a meaningful way. We discussed ways that we have felt welcomed and unwelcome when a first time church visitor. The team also worked to compose vision and mission statements to guide us. Throughout the summer, the team will assess the concept of hospitality by being attentive as a visitor at other churches as we travel. We also committed to being exceptional "welcomers" at Mount Olive.



## July Adventure Club Outings-Join in the Fun!!

**Rochester Honkers Game:** Join the Adventure Club on Friday, **July 7** for a Honkers baseball game. The game starts at 7:05pm at Mayo Field in downtown Rochester. Tickets are \$8.00. Ages infant-3 years old are free. Someone will arrive early to get a spot for Mount Olive in the bleachers. You may bring a blanket and some cash to help out Bolder Options in the 50/50 raffle at the game. Sign up in gathering area.



**S'mores at The Schads:** Please join us at the home of Mike and Gloria Schad for S'mores on Sunday evening, **July 23**, 6:30-8:30 pm. Bring lawn chairs, roasting sticks, and a few chocolate bars to share. Marshmallows and graham crackers will be provided. The Schad's address is 2330 48th St NE. Sign up in gathering area.

**3rd Annual Old Barn Resort Camping Trip:** On **August 11-13**, your family is invited to camp with the Adventure Club at the Old Barn Resort in Lanesboro, MN. Campsites are going fast and need to be reserved as soon as possible. Reserve yours at [barnresort.com](http://barnresort.com). On Friday evening-Sunday morning we will cook food over fire, bike into Lanesboro, go tubing or canoeing, play in the resort park, get ice cream downtown, and have lots of time for fellowship and singing around the campfire. We hope you can join us!



The newly elected Mount Olive Women of the ELCA officers for 2017-2018 with terms beginning June 1, 2017 are: Denise Foy- President- 1 year term, Renee Schaefer- Vice President- 1 year term, Pam Berg-Treasurer-2 year term, Regina Seabrook- Secretary- 2nd year of 2 year term. Congratulations to the following recipients of the Mount Olive Triennial Convention Scholarship. Ruth Monson, Sherry Sanden Will, Tracy Schramm, and Erin Sinnwell. Each of these ladies received \$300 toward their registration fee to the 2017 Triennial Convention in Minneapolis this July.

## Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis

The Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA takes place July 13-16 in Minneapolis. We are pleased to announce that there will be 14 women from Mount Olive attending.

The Triennial Gatherings are a great opportunity for women to experience outstanding speakers, dynamic worship, and to meet women from all over the country. Online registration is open through **July 12** at [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org). For more information on registration, or to join the Mount Olive women in their planning, contact Ruth Monson (507-319-0578 or [ruth.a.monson@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.a.monson@gmail.com) )

### In-Kind Donations for Triennial Gathering

At each Gathering, in-kind donations make an impact on the community that hosts the group as well as women and girls around the world. The Mount Olive women attending are asking members of the congregation to consider donating gift cards (\$10 or more to Target or Wal-Mart) and/or NEW socks or underwear-for men, women, boys or girls in all sizes. The items collected will be used in the Minneapolis area. A basket for donated clothing will be in the front entry. Envelopes will be available for gift cards. Contact Erin Sinnwell with questions 507-990-6079.



# Mount Olive Lutheran Church

2830 18th Ave. NW

Rochester, MN 55901

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

507-288-1580

[molive.org](http://molive.org)

**Summer Worship Schedule:**

**Saturday 5:00 pm**

**Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am**

## Mount Olive Staff

**The Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson**

**Senior Pastor**

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Ext. 206

**The Rev. Paul Moody**

**Associate Pastor**

[paul@molive.org](mailto:paul@molive.org)

Ext. 205

**Kailea Mattheis**

**Director of Children, Youth, and Family**

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**Bill Hollander**

**Congregational Administrator**

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**Director of Congregational Life**

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**Sherry Will**

**Director of Missions and Service**

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Ext. 210

**Carrie Fletcher—Administrative Assistant  
and Nursery Coordinator**

[carrie@molive.org](mailto:carrie@molive.org)

Ext. 209

**Tina Coil—Nursery Assistant**

## Spiritual Care

Mount Olive has a Prayer Chain, coordinated by Kim Ignatius. If you have a prayer request and would like the prayer chain to be in prayer for you or someone you love, please contact Kim at: 507-271-6087 or

[ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net](mailto:ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net).

**Please contact the church staff if you have any prayer concerns:**

- Pastor Glenn: [glenn@molive.org](mailto:glenn@molive.org)
- Pastor Paul: [paul@molive.org](mailto:paul@molive.org)
- Church office: 507-288-1580

