

THE

Messenger

July 2018

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dearly Beloved People of Mount Olive,

Every summer, the month of July seems to mark “the beginning of the end”. It’s the month to get in many good grill-outs and lake trips; it’s the month when the garden vegetables really take off; and it’s the month when everything seems to pivot and point us towards life beyond summer: the days begin to shorten again, school sales beckon us to ready ourselves for classes, and this year, it holds a special good-bye for us at Mount Olive.

These past years of ministry together have seen us through many seasons of life. Baptisms, weddings, funerals. More than a few staff transitions. Sanctuary art installations and evening prayer services and many a theological conversation at the pub. It has been wonderful. And difficult. And good. And through it all, Christ has met us along the way.

In our worship throughout July, we will hear stories of this Christ who goes with us along the way of life. Week to week, we will hear almost all of Mark chapter 6, orienting us towards life as Christ’s people: the call to be sent, the rejection that can come, not to mention death and loss and grief. But through it all, through the ups and the downs, Jesus persistently shows up and meets us and walks with us through life. I am thankful for this divine presence that goes with us always, even when we part ways.

My last day at Mount Olive will be Sunday, July 15th, and we will be having a good midsummer grill-out at Mount Olive that night as we say goodbye. So, come join us at 5pm as we remember all that we have experienced together these past years.

We will see you there!

Pastor Paul



Farewell Open House for Pastor Paul

Join us on Sunday, July 15 at 5:00 pm for a meal and a chance to celebrate Pastor Paul’s ministry among us. All members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend to bid Pastor Paul and Katie Godspeed on their new venture. A basket will be available for cards at all services that weekend. Please sign up in the Gathering Area to help with the meal.

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Stewardship Team Looking Ahead

It may be summer, but the Stewardship Team is looking to the fall when we will celebrate God's abundance and ask what God is calling us to share with others in the coming year. We are "Compelled by God's Love" to give to others. That is our conviction. Our hope is that in 2019 we will once again assume a leadership role in giving to the worldwide mission of the ELCA, by giving nearly 15% of our budget to missions. Stewardship Sunday is October 14.

Community Sing for the Earth

Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan, son of Mount Olive member Eva Colligan, and Bret Hesla, another fine liturgical musician, will be hosting a community-wide evening of singing about ecology, global community, peace, and justice. One of the features will be their most recent collection of songs, *Prayers for the Earth*. The event will take place on Wednesday, **August 15** at 6:30 pm at Mount Olive. This event will be a fun way of reminding each other of our responsibility to care for God's Creation. All ages, all voices, and people of all faith traditions – anyone who is concerned for the earth – is welcome. Mount Olive members will remember Richard's fun and easy-to-sing music when he led our outdoors services in 2017. A free-will offering will be taken and an ice-cream social will follow. Please come and bring a friend!



Welcome New Members!

New Members were received at Mount Olive on Sunday, June 24 at the 9:30 am outdoor worship service. Joining in June are: Marsha and Eric Anderson and Mark, Mindy, and Tim Schroeder. Please give these new members a warm welcome!



Colombia Trip Reunion

All of the Mount Olive members who went on the Mission Colombia trip in 2017 were able to gather for dinner with missionaries Curtis and Katie Kline when they visited Mount Olive on June 20.



T-shirts Available



Everyone is encouraged to wear their gold *God's work. Our hands.* t-shirts to worship and work on Sunday, September 9. If you didn't get one in previous years, you may order from the table in the front entry beginning July 22. Order forms and payment envelopes will be available. **The deadline to order is August 5.** The shirts are sized from child's small –adult XL (\$7.25), Adult 2XL (\$9.25), Adult 3XL (\$10.25).

Payment is required at time of order. Contact Pam Berg with any questions at pamelakberg@msn.com.

Worship, Music, and Arts Team Supports Projection

At the quarterly meeting of the Worship, Music, and Arts Team in May the group considered a proposal to bring a projection system into the sanctuary. This projection system would not be used for regular liturgy or hymnody, but as a way of enhancing worship when visual elements are needed. The team enthusiastically supported this enhancement to worship. This project now goes back to the Finance team to consider how best to pay for this new system.

High School Graduate Recognition

Mount Olive's graduating high school seniors were recognized in worship on June 3 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 3 are (left to right) Jordan Wright, Jacob Stensland, Mickaela Pasch, Matthew Pasch, Mitchell Olson, and Rachel Kuehl

Outdoor Worship Services June 23 and 24

The weather was beautiful for our annual outdoor worship services! As part of the services, we blessed many quilts, health kits, and prayer shawls made by Mount Olive members. We also welcomed new members and sent our youth and their leaders off to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX with a blessing. A big thank you to Ruth Circle for providing us with a yummy reception after each service. The Project Comfort receptions raised over \$700 for the Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund which covers the cost of sending the quilts and kits around the world to bring comfort where it is most needed.



Worship Volunteer Update

During the busy summer months, many volunteers are still needed for all of our worship services and fellowship time. Please sign up to serve via the Sign Up Genius website. The links are available via invitation and are also accessible from the Mount Olive website, molive.org on the Service tab. You may also contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with your availability. Consider yourself invited!!

Elton Hills Summer School Volunteers

Elton Hills Summer School needs volunteers who are willing to share their skills for one hour per day to lead small informal student groups (no more than seven) mini-skills classes. These are experiences the students may not have in their own lives or cultures. Pam Hansen assembled leader kits and supplies on display in the Gathering Area for skills that are teachable in one week. Skills to share include: cooking, knitting/crochet, hand sewing, classic games, card playing (cribbage), gardening, music, dance, theatre, and others.

The mini-classes are held 10:30-11:30 am for the weeks of July 10-13, 16-20 and 23-27. Volunteers may teach one week or all three weeks if they are willing and able. You can bring as many volunteers as you want to help, including school age children and grandchildren! There is no age restriction for helping. Students love to have high school and middle school mentors. They are great role models!

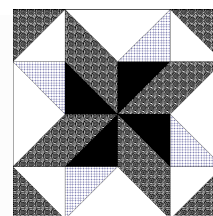
The students in the mini-classes will be from 1st -5th grade (6-11 year olds). Mini-class leaders can specify ages. The instructors/ volunteers do need to fill out the background check information: Go to this website and fill in the form: <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NTA1OmVuLVVT> Direct questions to Ann Willis (507-993-1094) or Pam Hansen (507-289-2738) no later than July 6.



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

God's work. Our hands. is Sunday, Sept. 9.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Please contact Sherry Will at sherry@molive.org if you have a service project idea and/or would like to serve as a project leader. Our hope is to have a dozen or more projects and to get every member of Mount Olive involved in service on that day from the youngest to the oldest.



Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters meet at 9 am each Thursday in the

Fellowship Hall. Once again we are in need of cotton fabrics for making the colorful quilt tops. When talking with friends or relatives, ask if they have any fabric which they no longer need. It would be greatly appreciated! Donations may be left in the Gathering Area cabinet. Eighteen packages of large quilt squares have been assembled and now need to be sewn together. Pick up a package or two to sew from the bin in the Gathering Area cabinet; directions are included. If you have any questions, call Elaine Monson 272-6404.

Monthly Service Opportunities

Regularly scheduled opportunities that Mount Olive members participate in include:

• Serving Meals at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House	1 st Friday of the month
• Construction on the current Habitat for Humanity Project	2 nd Saturday of the month
• Distributing food for Community Food Response (CFR)	3 rd Monday afternoon of the month

See the sign up schedules for the above ministries on the Gathering Area cabinet.
Are you a first time volunteer? If so, put an asterisk * by your name when you sign up, and the project coordinator will pair you with an experienced volunteer.

School Supply Drive

We will be collecting school supplies for the Lutheran Social Service LINK program for youth, ages 16-24, and their children July 15- Aug 12. Supplies needed include: backpacks for older youth (need 50), backpacks for elementary youth, sturdy binders, glue bottles, glue sticks, kid's scissors, colored pencils, highlighters, erasable markers w/erasers, and Kleenex boxes. Place your items in the wooden box in the entry area. We are also collecting items that are in constant need including: new pillows, toothpaste, toothbrushes, full size shampoo, conditioner and body wash, wet wipes, toilet paper, Ziplock bags (gallon and quart size), socks (kids and adults), new underwear (kids and adults), tennis shoes for PE sizes 12 kids-5/6 youth, and Subway \$5.00 gift cards.



Keep your eyes open for the Family Promise sign-up in the entry way beginning July 15. Our host week is August 12-19. The next volunteer training date and time will be published in July bulletins. Volunteers who need to recertify may do so on-line from the [Family Promise website](#).

July Service Highlight - Mount Olive Victory Garden

Mount Olive has been growing and donating produce for the last several years. You will find the gardens on the east side of the building. Originally, there was one garden flat, then two more flats were added, and finally two more. A raised garden trough was the latest addition. Each spring, the "Garden Guild" gets together to decide what to plant. It has been trial and error over the years. Some things grew really well, others did not, and of course, some produce was lost to furry little creatures finding themselves an easy meal. With age comes wisdom, or in this case, increased crop production. The gardens have produced over 200 pounds of vegetables each year since the inaugural season of 2015.

Most of the produce is donated to Community Food Response here in Rochester, MN. Some of the produce is used in meal preparations for the families that are a part of Family Promise. On occasion, some of the produce may be used in serving those that attend the Wednesday night meals.

The garden is planted and cared for by some dedicated folks. Lori Kuhlmann-Liebfried was instrumental in getting the gardens started and she has been a faithful "Garden Guild" member ever since. Much thought goes into the planning and purchase of the seeds and plants that are put into the garden. Since the garden's primary purpose is producing food for those less fortunate, it is important that it is fruitful. The garden requires frequent watering and weeding throughout the growing season and harvesting occurs as needed. In 2017, the garden was still producing at the time of God's work. Our hands. Many tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, and even a few carrots were harvested.



Take a stroll out to the east side of the building and check out the gardens. It is so fun to watch them grow and produce. All ages are welcome and invited to participate in this service opportunity. If you are interested in participating in the "Garden Guild" or have some crop suggestions for next year's growing season, please contact Lori Kuhlmann-Liebfried at Lorikl@hotmail.com.

Mount Olive Women of the ELCA News



Many thanks to Mount Olive's outgoing Women of the ELCA president

Denise Foy for her leadership this past year! We also give thanks in advance to our newly elected board; Renee Schaefer - President, Regina Seabrook - Vice President, Pam Berg - Treasurer, and Jolene Baker - Secretary. These women take office on July 1.

A study for 2018/2019 has been chosen and will be from *Gather Magazine*. Two copies will be available in the church office. A subscription to the magazine, which includes a variety of resources and articles for Christian women in addition to the study, is suggested. Go to the Gather Magazine [website](#) or call (844) 409-0576 to start your subscription. If you are interested in joining a women's small group this fall, please contact Nancy Britson (nancy@molive.org) or Renee Schaefer (vettelady54601@yahoo.com). Watch for a sign up table in the church entry later this summer. There is always room in the circles for new friends!

Women's Summer Bible Study on Prayer

A women's Bible study will continue on the 3rd Tuesday of July and August at 1:00 pm. All women, are welcome to attend. Copies of the study and a sign-up sheet are available on the Gathering Area sign-up table. The study may also be downloaded to your tablet from this link: <https://www.gathermagazine.org/summer-2018-prayer/> We hope to see you at the next study on Tuesday, **July 17!**

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU) 2018-2019 Schedule

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 meets on the first Tuesday of the month beginning in September at 6:30 pm. January will feature a video program, which requires no preparation; come and view with the group and share in the conversation. All are welcome. Stop by the table in the entry at church on July 14/15 and 21/22 for the opportunity to order this year's books. If you have any questions, please contact Kailea Mattheis at kailea@molive.org or 507-288-1580. ext. 207. The selections for the upcoming year are on the right.

September 4	<i>An Other Kingdom</i> by Peter Block, Walter Brueggemann, and John McKnight
October 2	<i>We Belong to the Land</i> by Bishop Elias Chacour
November 6	<i>Living with a Wild God</i> by Barbara Ehrenreich
January 8	<i>Video Presentation - Faith and Life Series: Without Buddha, I Could Not Be a Christian</i> by Paul Knitter
February 5	<i>The Cross and the Lynching Tree</i> by James H. Cone
March 5	<i>The Rebirthing of God</i> by John Phillip Newell
April 2	<i>Coming Full Circle</i> by Steven Charleston & Elaine A. Robinson



Pub Theology continues with Deacon Travis Beck

Even though Pastor Paul is taking a new call in Ohio, that doesn't mean Pub Theology is over! Every Monday evening, we will continue to gather at LTS Brewing Co. from 5:30-7, and conversations will be led by Mount Olive's Director of Music, Worship, and Arts, Travis Beck. Just like always, topics will be sent out a day ahead of time via email, and will also be available at rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com. Come and join as you're able to think about faith, life, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our world today. Visiting starts at 5:30 pm, discussion gets going around 6:00 pm. See you at the pub!

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Team Members Needed

The CYF team is looking for new members who are passionate about Mount Olive's children, youth, and family ministry opportunities. If you would like to help with the planning of the ministry programs for our young members, please reach out to Kailea or any of the other team members: Renee Kuehl, Sara Swartwood, Serena Oudekirk, and Carrie Fletcher. We are looking for at least four more members of varying backgrounds. Please prayerfully consider joining the important work of the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry team! The CYF team's next meeting will be **July 19** at 6:00 pm.



Thank you from the Youth Gathering Group!

Thank you so much for the financial support and the encouragement that has been extended to us as we attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering. We are really looking forward to our time in Houston learning and experiencing how God, God's love, and God's grace changes everything. We also look forward to bringing back what we

are learning and sharing it with you throughout this coming year - especially July 8th, when we briefly talk about our experiences during both of the morning worship services! Again, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to you, without you this trip would not have been possible.



You can stay up to date with our youth's adventure as they blog from the ELCA Youth Gathering. Find the blog entries on the home page of the Mount Olive Website under News and Events and bookmark the [link](#).

Michigan Trip Update

Our middle school youth are looking forward to their summer trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in August. The plans are coming together for these students to have a great time. We ask that you keep this group in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to go experience God's wonderful creation.

There will be a book sale to help cover the remaining costs of the trip for the students going on this trip. Book donations may be left on the marked cart in the entry by July 18. The book sale will take place following all worship services the weekends of July 21/22 and 28/29. If you are willing to help with sorting and arranging the books for the sale, contact Kailea Mattheis in the church office—Kailea@molive.org or 288-1580 ext. 207. Thank you for your support of these students!

Inclusive Church Taskforce Update

Many thanks to all who responded to the welcome statement survey.

We had over 150 responses and of those, 95% affirmed becoming an

RIC congregation (Read more about RIC here: reconcilingworks.org). The Inclusive Church Taskforce has edited the welcome statement based on the feedback provided and will be responding to those who requested follow-up. The updated statement was presented to the Executive Committee and will be shared with the congregation this fall. Over the summer months, we will share additional resources. Watch the Inclusive Church Taskforce table and *The Messenger* for updates. We are also visioning how this work will continue to evolve and grow. If this ministry is something you feel called to participate in, please consider this an invitation to join the team in any capacity. Thank you for growing with us in this life-giving journey.

The Inclusive Church Taskforce Team: Randi Beyerl, Becky Lashinski, Jake Johnson, Mickaela Pasch, David Johnston, Elmer Odland, Paula Freitag, Jan Wiersma, Ann Willis, and Pastor Paul Moody.



Adventure Club News

The Mount Olive Adventure Club is a diverse and dynamic group of people of all ages that enjoy exploring a wide variety of activities. Past adventures have included concerts, Christmas caroling, plays, bike rides, sporting events, and lots more. See below for the activities coming up this summer! As you can see in the inset below, the leaders of the Adventure Club are stepping down. If you have ideas for future events or would be willing to organize a favorite activity this fall, please contact the church office.

Summer Camping Trip - The Adventure Club will have its 4th annual camping trip **July 13-15** at the Old Barn Resort near Lanesboro. Arrive Friday evening to get your tent or camper set up. On Saturday morning, we have breakfast together and then many will bike into Lanesboro for the day. In the afternoon, we head back to the campgrounds for swimming in the pool, a potluck supper, games, songs, and a small worship service. On Sunday morning we have a quick breakfast and head back to Rochester. There are spots reserved for July 13-15 for the Mount Olive group - both tent and camper spots are available. Call the Old Barn Resort today to reserve your spot - (507) 467-2512!

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza - Join the Mount Olive Adventure Club on **July 25** at 5:00 pm for Berne Pizza Night featuring the bands *Smash & Grab* and *Incognito*. Berne Pizza is located at 23148 County Hwy 24, West Concord, MN. Pizzas cost \$18-\$22 (cash or check), and proceeds benefit Zwingli United Church of Christ. Rachel Carlson and Erin Sinnwell will arrive at 5:00 pm and reserve a spot for the group. Please sign up in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel at 612-816-1215.

Greetings Mount Olive Members!

We have very much enjoyed coordinating the Adventure Club activities at Mount Olive for the past two years. The time has come for us step down, which, in turn, will allow us more time to volunteer for additional activities and committees at church. We will be stepping down as coordinators at the end of the summer and would like to pass this wonderful opportunity on to new individuals. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

Thanks,
Rachel Carlson and Erin Sinnwell

Thank You
Rachel and Erin!!

Little Leapers News

We have some exciting news to share with you. The Little Leapers, a group for parents of the congregation's littlest children, is getting their own space! Coming this fall, the group will now meet in "The Pond". *The Pond* will be located in classrooms 3 & 4 of the Education Wing. We are seeking donations of gently used toddler toys and books to fill the space. We will begin taking donations in early July. Watch for more details in the weekly bulletins. If you have any questions about Little Leapers or The Pond, please feel free to contact any of these members: Serena Oudekirk (507) 269-4646, Emily Hamann (507) 951-2167, Linda Schueler (507) 244-0652, Carrie Fletcher (507) 288-1580, or Pastor Glenn Monson (507) 288-1580.



Summer Fun For Kids!

On July 15th, July 29th, August 5th, and August 19th, join Kailea on the side yard (depending on the weather) to play games following the 9:30 am services. Mark your calendars to learn some fun games to play outside!

Monday Book Group - 2018-2019 Book List and Schedule

The Monday Book Group gathers monthly beginning in September to discuss a wide variety of literature including: classics, fiction, poetry, humor, memoirs, history, mystery, Minnesota authors, and youth inspired works. See the list of this year's selections below. Individuals are welcome to discuss one book or attend every month to discuss them all! We have leaders volunteer each month to lead the discussions. The group meets in the Mount Olive library the second Monday of the month beginning in September at 6:30 pm. Please join us for some wonderful discussion and fun! Stop by the table in the entry at church on July 14/15 and 21/22 for the opportunity to order this year's books. If you have any questions, please contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

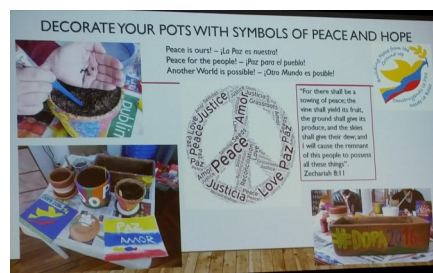
September 10	Illuminations	by Mary Sharrett
October 8	Finding Nouf (Library Book Bag)	by Zoe Ferraris
November 12	The Lathe of Heaven	by Ursula LeGuin
December 10	Wonder (Library Book Bag)	by R.J. Palacio
January 14	Where the Wind Leads	by Dr. Vinh Chung
February 11	The Light Between Oceans	by M.L. Stedman
March 11	Letters for Emily	by Camron Wright
April 8	Heart in the Right Place (Library Book Bag)	by Carolyn Jourdan
May 13	Americanah	by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Colombia Workshop

Mount Olive was blessed to host, Curtis and Katie Kline, ELCA missionaries to Colombia for a Workshop on June 20. The Kline's main theme was, *Building Peace from the Ground Up*, the focus of their work in Colombia. Katie continues to work in education, helping to develop Lutheran educational materials and programs to train Lutheran lay leaders. Curtis' work focuses on reconciliation and providing



opportunities for Colombians on opposing sides of their conflict to reconcile and forgive. Following the presentation, participants decorated small ceramic pots with messages and symbols of peace and planted mint seeds in them. At the close of the evening, everyone enjoyed ice cream sundaes. The Klines expressed gratitude to Mount Olive for its continued financial support of them as ELCA missionaries and asked for continued prayers for them and their ministry.



Thanks to Thrivent for providing a \$250 grant to purchase supplies for this event and to those who served and cleaned up. To stay up-to-date on the Kline's ministry, visit their blog, 8000FeetAndCounting.blogspot.com.



Flowers in the Sanctuary

If you would like to provide flowers on the chancel, sign up at the Gathering Area cabinet where you will find the calendar and payment envelopes. You may place orders for special occasions or in memory of loved ones. Please write your name and the designation for the flowers on both the calendar and the payment envelope. Your envelope may then be placed in the offering plate or the office drop box. Thank you!



Prayer and 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.

If you have a prayer request that you would like printed in the bulletin and prayed for by the congregation at worship services, please contact one of the pastors or Nancy Britson in the church office.

You may also call the church office in the case of illness, hospitalization, the birth of a baby, or any time you have joys and sorrows to share.

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

- Pastor Glenn: glenn@molive.org
- Pastor Paul: paul@molive.org
- Church office: 507-288-1580

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.



Take note of the bulletin board outside the office door where thank-you letters are now posted as they arrive. It is heart-warming to read of the gratitude our mission partners have for Mount Olive.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

2830 18th Ave. NW

Rochester, MN 55901

Summer Office Hours:

9:00 am-4:00 pm Mon.-Thurs.

Closed Friday

Phone: 507-288-1580

Summer Worship Schedule:
Services at 5:00 pm Saturday and
8:00 and 9:30 am Sundays.

Website: molive.org

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