

June 2019

THE

Messenger

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Alternative Worshipping Community – *The Olive Branch*

If you were at the annual congregational meeting in January, or you have been following some tidbits of news since then, you know that Mount Olive is about to begin a new adventure that we think is very exciting; *we are launching an alternative worshipping community*. This does not mean we are starting a new congregation; rather it means that we are providing another expression of our Word and Sacrament ministry on Sunday mornings at an offsite location, in the hopes that anyone who does not feel comfortable in a traditional worship setting will find this location and mode of worship accessible to them. In a very concrete way this is the newest expression of our commitment to be a radically welcoming community, taking us a step beyond our designation as a Reconciling in Christ congregation, openly welcoming members of the LGBTQ community. We believe that people who gather to worship at *The Olive Branch* will also begin to organically organize themselves to study, serve, and enjoy community life together, so that the four pillars of Mount Olive will be present there as well. We also anticipate that some members of Mount Olive will float between these two expressions of community.

Our tentative plans are to spend the summer gathering resources, personnel, and equipment for this new community, and then to have everything ready to launch in the fall. We will need lots of creative minds thinking together about how this new venture will look. If you'd like to be part of this creative team, be sure to talk to Pastor Glenn soon. What an exciting time it is to be the people of God!

Missionaries Curtis and Katie Kline

For the last 5 years, Curtis and Katie Kline have accompanied the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO) with the support of Mount Olive and the ELCA. We were privileged to have them visit Mount Olive on two occasions, most recently last June as they led a workshop. They recently announced that they will be concluding their work as ELCA Missionaries to Colombia on June 30, 2019. They will be moving to Fort Collins, Colorado where Curtis will begin a doctorate program. Katie will graduate from a master's program at Luther Seminary and begin looking for new work.

Please continue to pray for the ministry of IELCO and all the ministries that continue in Colombia. And pray for a smooth transition for Curtis and Katie as they end their ministry in Colombia and start a new one here in the USA. For more updates follow their blog-

8000feetandcounting.blogspot.com.



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Bishop's Election News

Every six years the synod elects a new bishop to lead the 171 congregations of the Southeastern MN Synod of the ELCA. As many of you know, Pastor Glenn is one of the seven nominees that was endorsed by conference assemblies in March, and has now gone through three discernment conversations at various locations throughout the synod. The synod assembly, where the actual election will be held is May 31-June 1 at the Mayo Civic Center. You can watch the results come in if you go to the synod web site, semnsynod.org and click on the related link. Perhaps by the time you receive this newsletter the results will be known.

60th Anniversary Kickoff is June 23 Following Outdoor Worship

The 60th Anniversary celebration of Mount Olive is about to begin! Our Kickoff Event will be held Sunday, June 23, following the outdoor 9:30 am service that day. Plans are to have a potluck lunch, games and prizes for kids, and lots of fun. Our hope is to have quarterly events this year and next as we move towards our actual 60th anniversary in March 2021. Stay tuned for more details. If you'd like to be part of the planning for any of these events, you are invited to contact Pastor Glenn - glenn@molive.org.

Hull High School in Kijota, Tanzania is Counting on Us

You may not know that Mount Olive built the first dining hall for Hull High School in Kijota, Tanzania, many years ago, when that school only housed 30 students. Now Hull High School, an important ministry part-



Students on the Hull campus.

ner of ours, has grown to over 200 students! Needless to say, the dining hall we built is now completely insufficient. Students generally eat outdoors these days. Because this is a crucial part of the campus, and because Mount Olive built the first one, we want to build the new dining hall at Hull High School. The cost has been estimated at \$30,000. As part of the 60th anniversary fund, we hope to raise that money this year – indeed, *as soon as possible*, so that the construction can begin. Be praying and preparing now for your support of this important ministry.



Teachers at the Hull school.

Summer Gardeners Needed

If you have a "green thumb" and would like to help maintain the church's flower beds this summer, your assistance would be most welcome! Help with weeding, watering, dead-heading flowers, or even planting annuals would be welcome. Keeping things looking nice takes many hands! Please contact Bill Hollander - bill@molive.org or Dallas Oudekirk - dwoudekirk@gmail.com if you are willing to adopt an area.



Thank You Clean Up Volunteers!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the yard clean up in May. Special thanks to Gene Ostrom and Dave Johnston for getting a head start on the season by spreading mulch and spraying for weeds ahead of the work day. All of the help was greatly appreciated!



Pentecost Weekend, June 8-9, Wear Red!

Pentecost weekend this year is June 8-9. This is the single time each year when we celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church, and we begin the long “green season” when the texts we read in worship move away from the life of Christ to the teachings of Christ. Everyone is encouraged to come out in red finery that day. It is a day to celebrate the presence of God’s Spirit at Mount Olive and throughout the Church of Christ. Celebrate!

June 23 Worship is Both Indoor and Outdoor

For the past several years, we have enjoyed offering outdoor services one weekend each summer. At the request of a number of our members, the pattern has been modified to accommodate worshippers for whom outdoor worship is difficult. The schedule for June 22 and 23 will be as follows:



Saturday 5:00 pm – worship on the outdoor patio, east side of the Gathering Area
(in the case of rain, we will be in the Gathering Area.)

Sunday 8:00 am – worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday 9:30 am – worship on the west lawn – if you like, you may bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

Remember, the congregational pot-luck will follow the 9:30 am service!



Summer Schedule Now in Place

It’s hard to believe, but Memorial Day Weekend has come and gone, and that means that our Summer Schedule has begun. We now worship Saturdays at 5:00 and Sundays at 8:00 and 9:30. Happy Summer!

Worship Volunteers Don’t Get the Summer Off

During the busy summer months, volunteers are still needed for all of our worship services! Mount Olive uses an online program called Sign Up Genius to schedule volunteers. Sign up to serve at a day and time that works for you. You will receive an automatic reminder as well as additional details and directions from Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life. The Sign Up Genius links are available via invitation and are also accessible from the Mount Olive website, molive.org on the Service tab. If you “don’t do computers”, you may also call Nancy with your availability, 288-1580 ext. 202. Consider yourself invited!!



Volunteers enjoyed “Thank You” receptions in their honor in May.



Quilts for Family Promise Hosting

"God bless you. Sweet dreams." These words appear on the backs of several of the quilts made for Family Promise hosting. Special thanks go to those who volunteered their time during Thursday quilting and the 2019 Women's Day of Service. A total of 16 quilts, plus one from Helen Russell and Barb Granquist, were completed for a total of 17 beautiful

new quilts. Our guests will be blessed by the comfort you have provided. Thanks also to Thrivent Financial for providing \$250 to help fund this project and to Barb Seide for applying for this grant.



Family Promise Volunteer News

Mount Olive hosts homeless families enrolled in Family Promise again **June 2-9**.

Families, many with young children, stay at Mount Olive overnight for one week at a time. Volunteers host in the evening and/or overnight, provide an evening meal, and provide transportation. The families also receive support from Family Promise staff to help them achieve sustainable independence. Look for the sign-up sheet in the entryway, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/yabq5rwc>, or go to the Mount Olive website, molive.org and click on [Sign up](#) under News and Events: Family Promise (IHN) Hosting. If you would like more information about becoming a trained volunteer with this worthwhile program, please contact Jason or Erin Sinnwell—etracy515@hotmail.com or Sherry Will, Directory of Missions and Service—sherry@molive.org.

Save the Date: The first annual *FamilyFest: A Promise Picnic* will be held Saturday, August 10th, 2019 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3:00-8:00 pm. The event will include bands, food and games. All proceeds will go to Family Promise. Watch for more information to come in July.

Youth Help with Litter Bit Better

The confirmation students, along with Luke Hollander and Nathan and Carrie Fletcher, helped to make the community of Rochester better by



participating in the Litter Bit Better clean-up. The group spent several hours on a Sunday afternoon cleaning up the area in and around Foster Arend Park. Many volunteers contributed and collectively made a pile of more than 8 tons of trash in Rochester.



Dorothy Day Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to serve the evening meal the first Friday of each month for guests staying at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House, a temporary homeless shelter in downtown Rochester. Volunteers provide and share a family-style meal with the guests in the home's dining room. We are currently in need of volunteers for **July 5 and August 2**. A sign up sheet is on the cabinet in the Gathering Area. Contact Jene Bodensteiner at jbode6@me.com with questions or to volunteer.



God's work. Our hands. Sunday

It's not too early to start thinking about *God's work. Our hands. Sunday*, to be held on **September 8**, 9:00 am-11:00 am. Please mark this date on your calendar. Please contact Sherry Will at sherry@molive.org if you have an idea for a project or would like to be a project leader. Together we are making a difference!



God's work.
Our hands.

Next Chapter Ministries Gala

The Next Chapter Gala held at the Rochester International Event Center on May 3 was attended by 15 Mount Olive members. It was a fun night of dining



Sherry won a MyPillow!

and learning about the important work of Next Chapter Ministries. Special guest speaker, Mike Lindell, CEO of MyPillow shared his struggles of addiction to crack cocaine and how God was there along the way.



Victory Gardens Growing

The Mount Olive Victory Gardens, located on the east side of the church yard, were planted in late May. You can expect to see potatoes, beans, peas, carrots, lettuce, radishes, tomatoes and more, harvested in a few months. The produce is donated to Community Food Response or Families First. If you are interested in joining the team to tend the gardens this summer, please contact Lori Kuhlmann-Liebfried at lorikl@hotmail.com.



Bob Liedtke (above) and Joshua Fletcher (right) preparing the gardens

Garden Fair Benefits LSS/LINK

On June 1, 2019, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, there will be a Garden Fair at the History Center of Olmsted County at 1195 West Circle Dr. NW, Rochester. This charity event with many vendors, plants, food, and kids activities benefits Lutheran Social Service/LINK. LINK (Living INdependently with Knowledge) is a program that provides support for youth who are at risk or experiencing homelessness. Admission is a non-perishable food item or a cash donation. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Renee Schaefer at vettelady54601@yahoo.com or 507-398-3723 for more information.



Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters continue to meet at 9:00 am each Thursday throughout the summer.

Anyone is welcome to join the group in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday mornings, no sewing experience is required. If you have any questions, call Elaine Monson at 272-6404



Sunday School students presented songs, the creed, and recited the books of the Bible on the last Sunday of Sunday School on May 19. Thank you students and teachers for your good work!

Women of the ELCA

Mount Olive Women finished the program year this spring with their last circle meetings and several events:



Homemade Market - The Homemade Market, a new event this year, was very successful, raising \$850 to support the benevolence provided by Mount Olive Women of the ELCA. Thank you to everyone who made items to sell, helped with the sale, and those who made purchases.

Women's Spring Meeting - A small group of women were present to enjoy the Spring Meeting on Monday, May 6. Guest speaker Karen Edmonds presented about *Project Legacy*, a group that does outstanding work with disadvantaged youth of color. An offering was collected to support programming for these youth. New officers for 2019/2020 Women of the ELCA were elected at the spring meeting.

The new executive board is: President: Regina Seabrook, Secretary: Gloria Schad, Treasurer: Jolene Baker, and Member at Large: Renee Schaefer.

Thankoffering Sunday- On May 11 and 12, a special offering in the amount of \$710 was collected to support the the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA including triennial conventions, conferences, leadership, communications, justice and advocacy work and more. Thank you!

Women's Summer Bible Study

For the months of June, July, and August, a women's Bible study will be offered on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. All women, regardless of their membership in a circle, are welcome to attend. The study, entitled "Lessons from Esther", is available for free from the *Gather Magazine* website. Copies of all three studies will also be available at church. Look for the table in the entry or ask in the church office. The study may also be downloaded to your tablet from this link:

www.gathermagazine.org/summer-2019-for-such-a-time-as-this-lessons-from-esther/ We hope to see you for the first study on Wednesday, **June 19!** If you would like more information about Women of the ELCA , please contact Renee Schaefer -[vettelady54601 @yahoo.com](mailto:vettelady54601@yahoo.com) .

Vacation Bible School June 17-21

Hosanna Lutheran Church in Rochester has graciously invited the children of Mount Olive **(who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade)** to join the children of Hosanna for VBS under the leadership of Good Earth Village camp counselors.

It will be a great week of fun, faith learning, and meeting new friends!

The registration date has passed, but you may contact Darcy Youngstrom at

darcy.youngstrom@hosannalutheran.org if you have any questions/concerns or are able to volunteer in ways not listed on the registration form.



High School Graduate Recognition

Mount Olive's graduating high school seniors were recognized in worship on May 19 and sent with a blessing and a gift from the congregation. A reception in their honor followed the service. We would like to extend our congratulations to the Mount Olive youth graduating from high school this year:



(pictured from left to right) **Grant Natzke, Charlie Guy, Kayle Pierce, Samantha Fletcher, and Grace Freed.**

Good Earth Village Camp

Summer Programs at Good Earth Village near Spring Valley begin in June for children ages 3 and up and families. Registration is still available! Pick up an informational brochure on the Gathering Area cabinet or sign up online at goodearthvillage.org. Call 507-346-2494 with any questions or concerns.



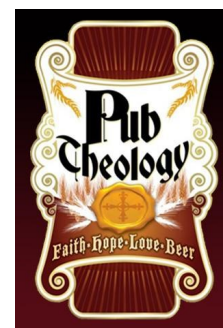
Spark Monthly Program

SPARK! at the History Center of Olmsted County, 1195 West Circle Dr. SW, is a monthly program designed specifically for people living with memory loss and their care partners. Programs will be offered the first Monday of every month. The next meeting is Monday, **June 3**, 10:30-noon at the History Center and the topic is Civil War Soldiers. Register by calling Aaron Saterdalen at 507-282-9447 or email:

programs@olmstedhistory.com

Pub Theology

Pub Theology meets for their weekly discussions on Monday evenings, 5:30-7:30 pm at Hy-Vee on 37th St. If you enjoy thinking about faith, life, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our world today, come join the group, led by Luke Hollander. Meet us at the Hy-Vee Market Grille at the 37th Street Hy-Vee. Topics are always sent out a day ahead of time and can be found at rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com. Order food or a beer at 5:30 pm, conversation begins at 6:30 pm. See you at the pub!





Young Adult Bonfire

Are you in your 20's and looking to build friendships and community? If so, please join Lisa and Luke at their place for a bonfire on Thursday, June 27 at 7:00 pm! We will provide beverages and snacks (and the fire). This is intended as a social event to get to know other young adults at Mount Olive. Please connect with Luke by email for details - luke@molive.org. We look forward to seeing you!



Welcome New Members!

Several new members were welcomed to Mount Olive in May. Those joining the congregation are: Sarah Brock, Dean and Kim Jensen, Nichole Jorgenson, Luke and Adie Hollander, Kristin and Ali Hurley and Adley, Pam Lawrence, and Noah Wittenberger and Katie Jensen, Camden and Jagger. Please seek out these new members of the congregation and give them a warm welcome! New member brochures with information about each family are available at the Welcome Desk. Contact Nancy Britson in the church office to receive an updated electronic or printed membership directory - nancy@molive.org or 288-1580 ext.202.

Adventure Club Happenings

The Mount Olive Adventure Club is a diverse and dynamic group of people of all ages that enjoy exploring a wide variety of activities.

Bus Trip to the Twins Game

A full bus of 55 people left Mount Olive to see the Minnesota Twins take on the White Sox on May 24th. Pictures were not available yet to share here, but check out the church Facebook page to see the fun that was had by all in attendance!

June and July - "Your Event Here"

Do you have a favorite summer event or activity that you would like to invite your Mount Olive friends to? If so, choose an event and learn the details; we can help you spread the news, provide a sign up sheet and publicity at church. Contact Nancy Britson for more information—nancy@molive.org.

August - Family Camp Out

The 5th Annual Family Camp Out will be **August 2-4**. This year, the location has moved to Chester Woods Park just East of Rochester. Anyone who is not camping is welcome to make the 20 minute drive to visit for the day on Saturday, August 3rd. Large campsites, great fishing, canoeing, kayaking on the reservoir, and swimming will be among the activities. Chester Woods also has over 10 miles of awesome hiking trails and a playground for the kids. The cost for a camp site with electricity is \$65 and a day pass to visit is \$10. There are also 2 camping cabins. Visit the park website to learn more and to reserve your site and join the fun. Interested parties may contact Jason Sinnwell-sinnweja@gmail.com. or Mike Vance-mjvance@gmail.com.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST!



Scout Pancake Breakfast

The scout groups that meet at Mount Olive will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, June 2 following both morning worship services. Come and enjoy pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. A free-will offering will be collected to support the scout's plans for a summer high adventure outing at Northern Tier near Ely, MN.



60th Anniversary Kick Off Event and Congregational Pot-Luck

June 23, 2019 at 10:45 am



Come to kick off Mount Olive's 60th Anniversary celebration on June 23rd following the 9:30 am worship service. The planning committee would like 60 different potluck dishes served! Bring a dish to share; table ware and beverages will be provided. Following lunch, there will be games and prizes for the kids, a bouncy house, and fun for all ages. **Mark your calendar and sign up in the Gathering Area.**

Holden Village Trip Departs June 7

A group of Mount Olive members led by Pastor Glenn and Ruth Monson will depart for a trip to Holden Village on June 7. Holden Village is a wonderful Lutheran retreat center (home of Holden Evening Prayer) in the Cascade Mountains of eastern Washington. The group will enjoy inspiring scenery, music and worship, classes and lectures, and wonderful hiking. Please come to worship on **June 2nd** as we recognize the group in worship and send them off with a prayer and blessing.

Summer Fellowship Help Needed

Following each Sunday worship service, coffee and cookies are served in the Fellowship Hall for everyone in attendance. This is a great time for old friends to catch up, to welcome new members and visitors, and for everyone to enjoy making connections. Your help is needed to keep this tradition alive this summer! As regular volunteers go on vacation or take a summer break, others are needed to fill in. If you are willing to spend a few minutes serving coffee, lemonade, and cookies and cleaning up afterwards, your help would be appreciated! Please contact Nancy Britson, Directory of Congregational Life for more information or look for the Sign Up Genius link on the Service tab at the Mount Olive website, molive.org.



Mount Olive Softball Team

The Rochester church softball league is well underway and continues having games on Tuesday evenings into the summer. Check the church calendar for game times. **More players, ages high school through adult, are welcome to join the team.** Games are played at McQuillan Fields and last one hour with lots of friendly competition. Spectators are always welcome! There is a participant fee of \$30 to help defray the cost of team registration. Please contact team manager Jason Sinnwell if you are able to play - sinnweja@gmail.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. 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, or if you would like to join the prayer chain as one who prays, 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 Pastor Glenn or Nancy Britson in the church office or leave a note on the back of a Connection Card available from the church pew. We appreciate your call to the church office in the case of illness, hospitalization, the birth of a baby, or any time you have joys and sorrows to share. Church office: 507-288-1580.

Be A Good Neighbor

Family Service Rochester has made us aware of older people living in the Mount Olive neighborhood who need help with yardwork this summer. They are people living in the 2600 block of 17th Ave. NW and the 2400 block of 19th Ave. NW. If you are interested in helping out occasionally, please contact Jessica Thornton at 507-287-2010 or jthornton@familyservicerochester.org. Thank you.



Forever Families Needed

Lutheran Social Services of MN has an urgent request: Over 800 children are "adoption ready" but have no place to go. If you sense God's call to you to provide a "forever family" for one of these children, you are urged to call 651-642-5990 or go to www.lssmn.org. Thank you very much.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

2830 18th Ave. NW
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Office Hours: 9:00 am-4:00 pm Mon.-Fri.
9:00 am-noon Friday
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