

# The Messenger

June/July 2021

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

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## A Note from Your Seminarian:

Dear Siblings in Christ,

It is with joy that I share with you that I have completed my Master of Divinity studies and graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary on May 22nd. While the past year has been full of challenges and new adventures as all of us learned to navigate life in a global pandemic, it was also a time of continued growth and excitement for what is to come in my ministry journey. I have spent the last two years completing my pastoral internship at Faith Lutheran Church in Arlington, VA, and while graduation brings the end of my internship, I will continue to serve Faith through June.

Part of my discernment in the last year has been examining where I am being called next, and I am thrilled to share that in July I will be moving to New Jersey to begin a one-year advanced master's degree (Th. M.) at Princeton Theological Seminary. At Princeton, my focus will be on the intersection of pastoral care and ecology, exploring how care for our bodies, minds, and souls also includes and requires the care of creation.

I give thanks for all the ways you, as a congregation, have cared for me, supported me, and prayed for me during these past 4 years. I have been incredibly blessed to have a home congregation filled with generous people who have helped lift the financial burden of attending seminary and listening to God's call. May you continue to find ways to support and raise up new leaders for the church, and trust in God's promise to always work through each of us to do a new thing.

In hope of the Spirit's presence,

Miriam Hanson



## Congregational Picnic 2021

FREE FOOD! GAMES! GOODNESS!  
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN  
SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH NOON

## Congregational Picnic June 13

Sunday, June 13th, join us at noon for a catered picnic following a special 11:00 am worship service on the front lawn. There'll be free food featuring grilled burgers, hotdogs, brats, sides, and cookies. Afterwards, stay to enjoy games for people of all ages. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to spread on the lawn. We'll be celebrating the launch of a year-long program for our community.

Read more on page 6!

## Senior Recognition

Mount Olive recognizes four outstanding youth that have completed high school in the midst of a global pandemic. Congratulations to Grant Hafeman, Emily Kuehl, Andrew Langemo and Brody Vrieze! Blessings on your next steps – we will be praying for you and look forward to seeing you around. On Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a formal recognition at the 11:00 am worship service on the lawn.



Emily Kuehl



Andrew Langemo

## Caring for Creation Team Forming

If you are a person who loves the outdoors, critters and bugs, flowers and trees, water and wind, and you have a passion for preserving it, this new team is for you. Convening for the first time this summer, the team will look at how Mount Olive might be more intentional about caring for creation. Maybe we will plant some pollinator beds, or maybe we will pick up trash, maybe we will advocate for clean water at the state legislature or maybe we will be encouragers of Mount Olive members to be better caretakers of creation. The sky's the limit. If you are interested, please contact Stewardship Team members, Keith Hanson ([kchanson89@gmail.com](mailto:kchanson89@gmail.com)) or Regina Seabrook ([rseabrook@gmail.com](mailto:rseabrook@gmail.com)).

## Summer Gardeners – You're On!

The vegetable gardens on the east lawn have been planted and the flower beds around the church are growing vigorously. The door is now wide open for anyone loving to garden to join the fun. If you'd like to help with tending the flower beds and gardens around the church, contact Bill Hollander in the church office – [bill.h@molive.org](mailto:bill.h@molive.org). If you would like to be part of the vegetable garden team, contact Carrie Fletcher – [carrie@molive.org](mailto:carrie@molive.org).

## Women of the ELCA Update

The Mount Olive Women of the ELCA continued their discussion with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner about the ELCA social statement called Faith, Justice, & Sexism: A Call to Action at their Spring Meeting in May. The women shared their thoughts and wisdom as they once again delved into the meaning of this powerful document.



Election of officers for the leadership board has been postponed until a later date. Regina Seabrook will stay on as interim president, Gloria Schad will continue as secretary and Lynn Nelson will serve as Treasurer-elect. The board will schedule a summer meeting to make some decisions about moving forward and preparing for next year.

### Summer Women's Fellowship Events

The executive committee is interested in exploring opportunities for fellowship with the women of the congregation during the summer and welcomes your ideas. Do we want to go hiking or fishing? Perhaps a day trip to the North Shore? Please contact Regina Seabrook ([rseabrook@gmail.com](mailto:rseabrook@gmail.com)) if you are interested in being part of the organizing of a summer fellowship activity or two!

## Worship Indoor or Outdoor Every Sunday!

With our kickoff Sunday on May 23 for indoor worship, we are now fully into our interim schedule – indoor worship every Sunday at 9:00 am, tailgate worship every Sunday in the parking lot at 11:00 am. There is no need to pre-register for indoor worship. Worshippers are simply asked to self-screen for COVID and sign-in when entering the church. At this time, we are asking everyone to wear masks and social distance. For tailgate worship, all worshippers are asked to provide their own elements for Holy Communion. If the weather is inclement, Tailgate Worship continues with worship leaders leading from the Fellowship Hall, and worshippers staying dry and comfortable in their cars, listening via FM radio. Guests are always welcome at both indoor and outdoor worship. A reminder that in this interim time, we are experimenting and trying this schedule/format on for size to help us discover what a more permanent model might look like going forward. Changes will be promptly communicated.

## Online Worship Continues

As many of you already know, we've returned to worshiping in-person in the sanctuary after a long quarantine, and it's been great to see and hear everyone! From hymn singing to crying children, it's wonderful to hear the sounds of in-person worship again. But while we're excited to be worshiping in-person again, we know that our online presence must continue. To make that happen, we've made the leap from pre-recorded online worship to livestreamed worship, a process that required purchasing new technology and demands ongoing efforts to make the best use of equipment we already have on hand. It means the tightly edited worship we came to expect during the pandemic will be a live recording of in-person worship, with all the messiness that comes with it. We'll continue to experiment and make the online worship experience as engaging and flawless as possible, but it will take some time to work all the bugs out. We appreciate your patience as we continue to learn how to do livestreamed worship well, and we welcome your feedback on how we can improve the experience. Please let us know if you encounter any issues with video or audio, and feel free to contact us with any suggestions you might have regarding our online worship. Your feedback will help us to make your online worship experience better. Thank you!

## Worship Volunteers Needed

Worship volunteers are needed this summer to keep our indoor services running smoothly and to make everyone feel safe and welcomed each Sunday morning. At this time, we will be asking that all volunteers are fully vaccinated as a safety precaution. Click here to sign up: [www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449a5a92aa1fb6-mount1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449a5a92aa1fb6-mount1) or contact Nancy Britson, Volunteer Coordinator, with your availability or questions—[nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org) or 507-288-1580 ext. 202. We're looking forward to seeing you!



In-person Pentecost worship was a wonderful celebration!

## 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!



## Fellowship

### Mount Olive Fans to attend Minnesota Twins Game



While the Minnesota Twins season has not begun in the fashion nearly everyone expected, diehard fans everywhere are still rooting them on. Who knows? Maybe by August things will look different. In any case, Mount Olive is once again making the trek to Target Field to see our beloved Twins play on Sunday, **August 15<sup>th</sup>** as they take on the Tampa Bay Rays. The game begins at 1:10 pm, so we will leave the Mount Olive parking following indoor worship at 10:45 am and return following the game. For both a great seat in the first rows of Section 138 in right field and a seat on a comfortable coach bus, the cost is \$45. Guests are always welcome. **All reservations need to be made and paid for by Sunday, August 1.** A sign up sheet will be present in the church entry. Go Twins!

### Save the Date for Berne Pizza Artisan Market Night

Mark Wednesday **August 4<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar for a fun night at Berne Wood-Fired Pizza. That night, Olive Branch will be a part of their Artisan Market and they will have their usual delicious pizza and concerts from two bands,

*The Local Hooligans* and *Hair Metal Radio*. You can browse booths containing items for sale from many local artists. To avoid a long wait for your pizza, you can pre-order at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/august-4-event-the-local-hooliganshair-metal-radio-tickets-152853495921> For directions to Berne and more information, click on the following link:

[www.bernepizza.org/home-2021](http://www.bernepizza.org/home-2021) Contact Pastor Lisa with any questions - [lisa@molive.org](mailto:lisa@molive.org).



## Education

### Mount Olive Online VBS

Pastor Luke has decided to create a series of videos for an online Vacation Bible School. These videos will be targeted for our elementary and pre-school age youth. The plan is to have an IN-PERSON event with music and games to kick off this VBS experience on Wednesday, **August 11** at 6:00 pm. Details are still in progress, but watch your emails for more information as we get closer to the date.



### Pub Theology Takes a Summer Hiatus

Pub Theology has been suspended for the summer months to make room for Olive Branch church to launch. Watch for news of our return in September.

### Women's Summer Bible Study

For the months of June, July, and August, a women's Bible study will be offered on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the church library. All women, regardless of their membership in a circle, are welcome to attend. The study, entitled "Just Love part 2: Just L.I.F.E. (Liberation Is For Everyone!)" by Rev. Angela Khabeb is available for free from the *Gather Magazine* website. If you'd prefer a printed copy, ask Nancy in the church office. The study may also be downloaded to your tablet from this link:

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/summer-2021-just-love-part-2/>

We hope to see you on Tuesdays, **June 22, July 27, and August 24!**



## Family Camping at Chester Woods

A number of families have already reserved their campsites at Chester Woods, about 15 minutes east of Rochester, for the weekend of **July 16-18, 2021**. If you enjoy camping, outdoor activities and fellowship, we hope you will consider joining us for this annual event! You can call 507-328-7350 to reserve your campsite now, as sites are already filling up. Mount Olive families are booking in the 25-35 block. Families will be encouraged to prepare their own meals as a COVID safety precaution. Those that aren't interested in camping are still welcome to show up on Saturday at the park to participate in the swimming, fishing, kayaking and more. Additionally on Saturday at 4:00 pm, Pastor Luke will lead a short outdoor worship. If you have any questions, email [luke@molive.org](mailto:luke@molive.org).



## High School Hikes

In preparation for our trip to Colorado, participants are encouraged to log as many miles on the trail as possible. We had one great hike out at Chester Woods last month and have two more scheduled this June. We will meet at the church parking lot on Monday, **June 14** at 9:00 am and Wednesday, **June 30** at 7:00 pm. There are some great trails right around the church and we will see if we can hike over 5 miles! All high school youth are invited and are encouraged to bring a friend if they like.

## Colorado Youth Trip

We currently have 18 high school youth joining Pastor Luke and Kris Liedtke on a great adventure! We will backpack, white-water raft, and swing from the treetops on the high ropes course as we encounter God in the mountains of Colorado. This will be a trip of a lifetime and Pastor Luke is curious to see where it may lead our youth. It was trips like this that led to his call to ministry. We are leaving on **July 24<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 am and will arrive at Rainbow Trail Lutheran camp on July 25<sup>th</sup>. They will lead us through bible study and adventure. We will return late on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> and will tell the congregation about our experiences in worship on August 8. It is not too late to help support this trip! We are looking for additional donations to help us pay for our two vans. Also, please pray for our safety and fun!



**SUMMER CAMP**

**REGISTER TODAY**

## Summer Camp Registration is Open!

Good Earth Village is offering intergenerational camps and Adventure Days this summer! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are unable to offer traditional overnight youth camps. Siblings can save \$10 with code **SIBLING21** on any Adventure Day camp registrations. Visit [goodearthvillage.org/summer2021](http://goodearthvillage.org/summer2021) to learn more about these great offerings.

Please call 507-346-2494 or email [info@goodearthvillage.org](mailto:info@goodearthvillage.org) with any questions or concerns.





## Olive Branch In-Person Church is Underway – Invite Your Friends & Family



We met for the first time on Monday, June 7th at Little Thistle Brewery. Our first experiment with church at a brewery was a success! We were 21 adults and 4 children enjoying music, midrash, and some lighthearted fun. It is our hope that we will continue to be at Little Thistle on Mondays throughout the summer, and we will keep trying new things each week. Interested in checking it out? We gather at 5:30 pm – feel free to grab a drink and join us on the patio. Olive Branch is Mount Olive’s out-reach community so please share this invitation with others you think would like the Olive Branch vibe. Facebook Event Page:

[www.facebook.com/events/482702409470009](https://www.facebook.com/events/482702409470009)



## Olive Branch Receives Grant for Mount Olive

June 13th marks the launch of “Held in the Seasons: A Year of Noticing.” Last month, we received the great news that our application to the Calvin Institute for a worship grant was approved. We are receiving \$14,000 to support a year-long program deepening Mount Olive’s appreciation of the liturgical seasons. As we move through the church year together, we’re planning seasonal events loaded with learning, imagination, music and art.

### Kick-Off Event Schedule – June 13th

- 9:00 am:** Indoor worship with guest preacher  
Rev. Dr. Jan Rippentrop Schnell
- 11:00 am:** Outdoor worship on the lawn with guest  
preacher & graduate recognition
- 12:00 pm:** BBQ catered by HyVee: burgers, brats, hotdogs  
and sides
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm:** Outdoor games, activities and fellowship  
for all ages
- 1:00 – 2:15 pm:** Indoor session with Rev. Dr. Jan Rippentrop  
Schnell and music by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan



## New Director of Service and Social Outreach Ministry

At the May Church Council meeting a recommendation was made and enthusiastically endorsed that Carrie Fletcher be hired as the new Director of Service and Social Outreach Ministry. Carrie is a long time member of the Mount Olive staff, wearing many different hats over her tenure. She has had a longtime involvement with social outreach, particularly hunger-related ministries, so this was a natural step for Carrie. She will continue in some of her previous duties as she begins her work in this new area on July 1.



### A Note from Carrie

Hello! My name is Carrie Fletcher and I have been an active part of the Mount Olive faith community for many years. Some of you may know me as Ms. Carrie from the nursery and some of you may have seen me working in the church office. I love kids and serving others. It will be my goal to find a way for people of all ages to be involved in some sort of service at Mount Olive. A colored picture, a handmade card, a homemade meal, or a quilt sewn with love are just a few of the ways we can serve others. I am looking forward to working with all of you! Please reach out to me with any service suggestions or if you are looking for a way to get plugged in. [carrie@molive.org](mailto:carrie@molive.org) or 288-1580 ext. 209.



## Mount Olive Quilters

Another 25 large quilts were taken to the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) warehouse in South St. Paul in May. That makes 105 quilts given to LWR so far this year. Fabric donations are very badly needed for making the quilt tops. We cut out 11, 8, and 6 inch squares of cotton fabric for the tops. Right now we have no fabric to be cut for the tops. Donations of clean, cotton fabric may be left in the cupboard in the Gathering area. There are packages in that cupboard of baby and large quilt top squares that need to be sewn as well.

Last summer quilt fabric was used to make 1,126 masks. Of that number we sent 100 face masks to LWR. We were a small part of the 123,985 face masks made for LWR to be given to some of the world's poorest communities, where families have little means to protect themselves from Covid 19. Contact Elaine Monson, 507-272-6404 if you have any questions or have a larger quantity of fabric to donate.

## Dorothy Day Hospitality House Meals Needed

Dorothy Day Hospitality House has resumed serving meals to their guests. Mount Olive provides the evening meal on the first Friday of each month. The next open dates are July 2 and August 6. If you would be willing to drop off a meal or order pizza to serve approximately 14 people at 6:00 pm, please sign up at the Gathering Area cabinet or contact Jene Bodensteiner, Dorothy Day House volunteer coordinator for Mount Olive - [jbode6@icloud.com](mailto:jbode6@icloud.com).



## Meal Donation Opportunities for Homeless Families

Is cooking your passion? Prepare your favorite meal and share it with the guest families at the Family Promise North Star House! The number of meals needed and any food allergy information is listed on the sign up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4fa4aa22a3f94-prepare> Please contact Erin Sinnwell, Mount Olive member and Family Promise Board President with any questions: [etracy515@hotmail.com](mailto:etracy515@hotmail.com) or 507-990-6079.





# Dinner Served for Family Circle Learning Center Families

On Wednesday, June 9th, Mount Olive provided a dinner of hamburgers, hotdogs, beans, chips, and a drink to all of the families and staff served by Family Circle Learning Center. Family Circle Learning Center is the daycare that is housed at Mount Olive. The families were also invited to worship at Mount Olive and to the Congregational Picnic on June 13th. On a hot day, this gesture of good will was appreciated by all who dined. (120+!) Thank you to Bill Hollander for organizing and to Terry Krieger, Mark Masbruch, and Paul Schaefer for helping to prepare and serve!



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

If you have pastoral care needs, are hospitalized, or have other joys or sorrows to share, please contact Pastor Glenn, Pastor Lisa, or Pastor Luke using the contact information below or leave a note on the back of a Connection Card available from the church pew.

### 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:*

*All gender identities and sexual orientations*

*All races and ethnicities*

*All ages and abilities*

*All economic statuses and education levels*

*All faith journeys and personal histories*

*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."*



### Mount Olive Lutheran Church

2830 18th Ave. NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
507-288-1580 Website: [molive.org](http://molive.org)



A Reconciling in  
Christ Community

### Mount Olive Staff

**The Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson**  
Senior Pastor

[glenn@molive.org](mailto:glenn@molive.org) Ext. 206

**The Rev. Lisa Janke**  
Associate Pastor of Outreach

[lisa@molive.org](mailto:lisa@molive.org) Ext. 205

**Deacon Travis Beck**  
Director of Worship, Music, and Arts

[travis@molive.org](mailto:travis@molive.org) Ext. 203

**The Rev. Luke Hollander**  
Associate Pastor of Children, Youth, and Family

[luke@molive.org](mailto:luke@molive.org) Ext. 207

**Richard Bruxvoort Colligan**  
Cantor of Olive Branch

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

**Bill Hollander**  
Congregational Administrator

[bill.h@molive.org](mailto:bill.h@molive.org) Ext. 204

**Carrie Fletcher—Director of Service and  
Social Outreach and Nursery Coordinator**

[carrie@molive.org](mailto:carrie@molive.org) Ext. 209

**Nancy Britson**  
Director of Congregational Life

[nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org) Ext. 202