

THE Messenger

March 2018

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's hard to believe that I am already a month into my second semester of seminary! The first semester flew by, and while it was full of studying and hard work, it was a wonderful experience. This fall, I took courses in early church history and the Old Testament, studied Greek and Spanish for ministry settings, and took a class designed for personal reflection on one's own faith journey. By mid-December, I was ready for a break and after successfully completing my final exams, I headed back to Minnesota for the holidays. My break at home was short lived however, as I headed to Texas and then on to Mexico for a J-term intensive course. You may think that a 3 week course in Mexico sounds like a break – and I assure you that in many ways, it was – but in reality, the course focused on studying Spanish and the ELCA's work with bilingual populations. This was particularly exciting for me, as I hope to work in a bilingual ministry setting in the future. The chance to improve my language skills and to network with our current bilingual congregations and synods was an opportunity that I could not pass up!



This spring, beyond my regular course load, I will also be working with Lutheran Campus Ministries at The Ohio State University. All seminarians are required to do contextual education in a local congregation, and I was lucky enough to be placed with the students at OSU! While most contextual education sites take place in a more traditional congregational setting, my placement will be unique in that I will be working with college students. It has been fun getting to know the students and their pastor thus far. They have built a very special and inviting community, and it really is a privilege to be welcomed by them. I will be working with the OSU community for the next

year-and-a-half, and am looking forward to honing my pastoral care skills and my teaching abilities as I continue to build these new relationships.

As I make my way on this seminary journey, I continue to be so very grateful for your prayers and support. To those of you who have dropped notes in the mail and sent words of prayer, thank you for your encouragement. And to all of you as a congregation, thank you for being committed to raising up new leaders for a changing church that preaches the Gospel for the sake of the world.

In Christ,

Miriam Hanson

To keep in touch with Miriam, drop a note to her at the following address:
2184 East Main Street, Apt. 303
Bexley, OH 43209

Time to Sign up for Day on the Hill

Each year communities of faith come together at the State Capitol in St. Paul to advocate for those without a voice in our state. This Day on the Hill is sponsored by the Joint Religious Leadership Coalition of MN (JRLC). In 2017 Mount Olive received an award from the JRLC for our work in advocacy. The cost for the day is \$45. Registration is online at jrlc.org. We will be carpooling from Mount Olive at 7:00 am on March 13, and returning by 4:00 pm. Students are also invited at a \$15 rate. For more info. see Pastor Glenn.



Welcome New Members!

New Members were welcomed into membership at Mount Olive on February 18 at the 10:30 service.

Please seek out these new members and give them a warm welcome to the congregation:

- Dan and Sue Heitman
- Brooke Hildebrand
- Ann Johnson
- Dave and Beth Krolak
- Bob Liedtke
- Jill Lundberg
- Tony, Kaitlin, and Cameron Maus
- Sharon Miller
- Pansy Nelson
- Marvin Wicks

Mayo Clinic Hospice Grief Groups

On Monday afternoons (1-2:30 pm) or evenings (6:30-8:00 pm), March 19 through May 7, Mayo Clinic Hospice will again be offering specialized Grief Support Groups to adults in the community who have lost someone through death. The groups are free of charge and open to the public but advanced registration is required.

The purpose of grief support groups is to provide insight and peer support to adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. Generally it is most beneficial to the participant if the death occurred at least three months prior to attending a group. Each group discusses grief issues and members share stories with the guidance of trained and experienced facilitators.

In order to register please contact Kelley Adelsman, Bereavement Coordinator, at 284-4002 or at adelsman.kelley@mayo.edu.



Next Chapter Ministries Gala

On April 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm, friends and benefactors of Next Chapter Ministries (NCM) will gather at the Rochester International Event Center to celebrate and support the work of NCM at their Annual Restoration Celebration. This event reflects the mission of NCM: to RESTORE those impacted by crime to God, family, and community. Mount Olive members and friends are invited to attend to hear success stories of this program from the past year. Mount Olive has sponsored tables; please contact Sherry Will-sherry@molive.org- if you are interested in joining the group. For more information go to nextchapterrochester.org or talk to Pastor Glenn.

Spiritual Companions to Meet

If you are already on the roster of Spiritual Companions or you are interested in learning more about this important visitation ministry to our homebound members, you are invited to a gathering of Spiritual Companions on Thursday, March 15, at 11:00 am in the church library. We will be checking in to see how the ministry is going and assigning new companions. For more information, see Pastor Glenn.

Lenten Mid-week Worship is Dramatic!

Each Wednesday in Lent we gather at 7:00 pm to sing the beloved Holden Evening prayer service, hear the Word preached, and enjoy time together as the Body of Christ. This year the Word will also be heard in dramatic style as a simple skit on the theme *Facing Our Fears* will be presented each week.

Kids are invited for a special Children's Moment during Lenten services. Activities for school-age youth (meet in the Gathering Area) and childcare for little ones (in the nursery) begins at 6:00 pm. Childcare is also offered during the 7:00 pm service.

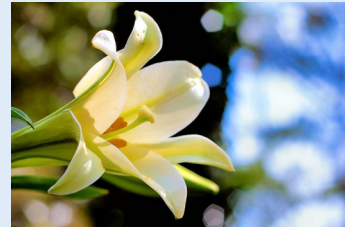
Waldorf Choir Performance at Mount Olive

The Waldorf Choir will be joining us in worship on March 11, performing several pieces as part of their Midwest tour. Hailing from Waldorf University in Forest City, IA, the Waldorf Choir is one of the oldest a cappella choirs in the country. The choir will be arriving the night before and will need places to spend the night. Overnight hosts are needed for 24 singers, if you would be willing to host a choir member or two (or more), please contact Nancy Britson in the church office. Volunteers are also needed to serve the choir members breakfast between services and to pack a bag lunch.

The Great Three Days that Change All Days

Each year, the seasons of the church move us from the 40 penitential days of Lent to the 50 joyous days of Resurrection (Easter). At this pivotal turn, we as God's people observe three of the most important days of the year: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter on Saturday night. This singular movement is known as "The Great Three Days of Jesus' Death and Resurrection", and on each day we gather for moving worship that helps us make sense of what it means that Jesus was killed, that God was present in death, and that persistent divine resurrection life continues to surprise us always.

So, come and join this emotional movement. Come and join the musically and artistically interpretive space. Come and join this communal embodiment of life amidst death and light amidst darkness. All are welcome. Services start at 7:00 pm each night – March 29, 30, and 31.



Sanctuary Flowers for Easter

Flowers to beautify the sanctuary for Easter are available to order through March 18. Follow the directions on the order envelopes in the front entry. The flowers are yours to take after the 10:30 Easter Sunday service or you may leave them to brighten the sanctuary.

Worship Volunteer Update

At each worship service, volunteers serve in many roles! More volunteers are always needed, especially during the busy season of Lent with midweek and Holy Week services. All ages are welcome! Training is available for new volunteers.

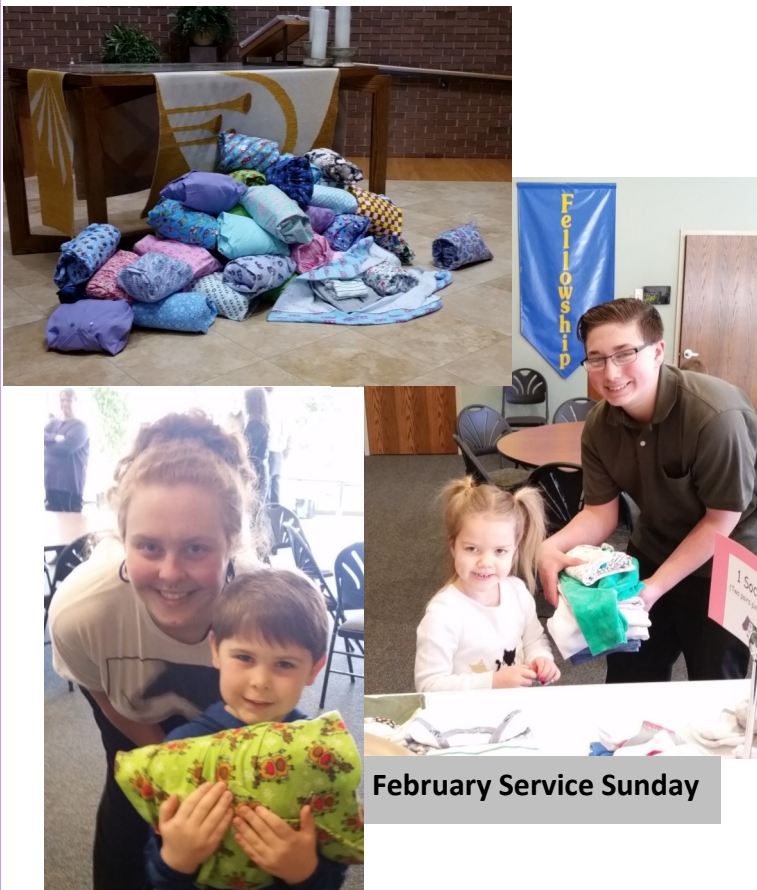
How do I get involved? Volunteers receive regular notices via the online sign up site, *Sign Up Genius*.

To receive an invitation to the website, or if you "don't do computers" but are willing to serve, please contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, and she will help you: nancy@molive.org, 288-1580 ext. 202. Sign up opportunities are also on the Lenten table in the front entry.

Current Volunteer Schedules are emailed to all participants monthly. The schedules and Sign Up Genius links are also available on the church website, molive.org, under "Service".

Second Sunday Service

Thank you to everyone who helped in February and made it possible to send 66 Baby Care Kits to those in need. Thank you to Mount Olive's Women of the ELCA for the designated funds and to Thrivent for the grant money. Special thanks to Elaine Monson, who over the past many years has been sewing most of the baby gowns for the kits. She is looking for donations of knit fabric to help her reach her goal of 2,000 gowns. If you have knit fabric you would be willing to donate, please place it in the LWR cupboards in the Gathering Area. To learn more about LWR Project Promise, including where kits are helping, visit build-kits-of-care.org.



February Service Sunday

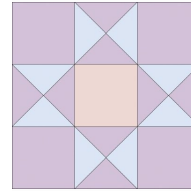
Food For Friends

Please note that during the season of Lent we will be packing Food for Friends at 6:15 pm on Wednesdays instead of the usual 7:30 pm. Come join us for the Lenten meal at 5:45pm then help pack meals to feed 35-55 children at John Adams Middle School and their families. Please sign up at the Gathering Area table to help out as a driver or food packer. If you have questions or need to arrange a substitute, contact Warren Kemplin at 507-254-4932 or Mark Schultze at 507-254-4164.



Lenten Food Drive

12,880 individuals in Olmsted County are food insecure. 4,560 of these are children. Channel One Regional Food Bank, a member of Feeding America, is the largest hunger relief organization in Southeast Minnesota. Channel One provides food assistance to low-income individuals and families through the Channel One Food Shelf Program. We encourage all Mount Olive families to participate in the fight against hunger in Minnesota. Here's how you can help: Take a bag and bring it back filled with non-perishable groceries. A list of needed items is attached to the bag. Place filled bags in or near the blue Channel One food bins. You may also make a monetary donation using the Channel One envelope also available on the table. \$10=40 meals!



Mount Olive Quilters

Thursdays at 9:00 am

You are invited each week to enjoy quilting and fellowship with the Mount Olive Quilters. They meet Thursday mornings at 9:00 in the Fellowship hall to tie quilts, cut squares, sew bindings, and prepare batting. Quilts are then sent to many locations. No quilting experience is required!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, March 13 at 9:00 am

Our members continue to knit and crochet prayer shawls to comfort those who are experiencing a difficult time. We meet each month on the 2nd Tuesday at 9:00 am and always welcome new members to join us in this ministry. If you or



someone you know are in need of a prayer shawl please contact Peg Whitley or the office staff.

Family Promise

Thank you to all of the volunteers who contributed their time for the February host week. Mount Olive is hosting Family Promise families again **March 18-25**, and then not again until August 2018. Visit the sign-up table

in the entryway at church or you can sign up online from the link on the church website, molive.org. Most tasks require that the volunteer have training or be recertified in the last three years. Initial training must be done in person, but recertification can be done by going to familypromiserochester.org and clicking on "GET INVOLVED" then "Volunteer". Contact Mark Schultze or Jason and Erin Sinnwell with questions.



March Service Spotlight - Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief's Vision- *"Empowered by God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ, we envision a world in which each person, every community, and all generations live in justice, dignity and peace".*

Mount Olive has a long standing tradition of helping Lutheran World Relief live out its vision. Every year since 1996 our members stretch their hearts and hands to make it possible to ship out Personal Care Kits, Quilts, and Baby Care Kits to help our neighbors around the world.

Many hands of all ages are needed to help with these kits long before they are ready to be shipped. It starts with dedicated servants that knit baby hats, cut fabric, and sew jackets or blankets using fabric donated or purchased from monies designated by Mount Olive's Women of the ELCA budget or a Thrivent grant.

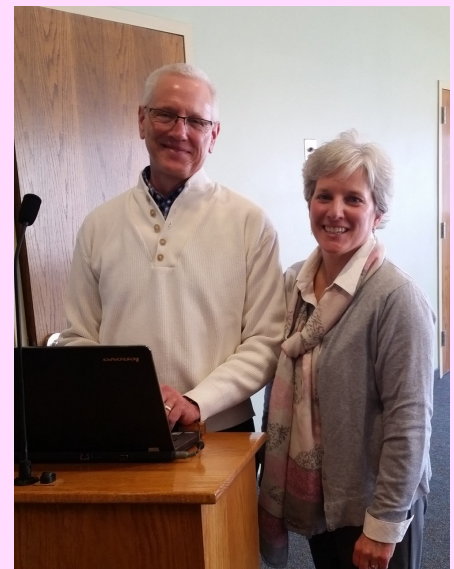
After all the sewing and knitting has been done, the congregation is asked to donate items to complete the kits. Baby jackets, t-shirts, socks, blankets, soap, gowns and diapers are bought and dropped off at the church for assembling the kits. Once a year, a Service Sunday is dedicated for each type of "kit" to be put together. The day of assembling the kits can be an exciting day. Mount Olive members of all ages and abilities come together in service to help their neighbor across the world. These kits are then blessed at the altar and boxed up to be taken to the warehouse in Minneapolis where they will be flown out to those in need. In February, because of your generous donations and service, Mount Olive was able to send 66 Baby Kits.

Working with LWR has also been a tradition in our family since 1996. We had only been members for a few years when Mount Olive started this service project. Maybe it touched our family because this was also the time when our daughter, Miriam had just started Sunday School. This was a service project we could do as a family. Miriam would take great care in picking out the items that she wanted the babies in need to have.

When sewing items for these kits, I like to meditate and pray for those mothers and their babies who will receive these items that most of us take for granted. As a parent, I cannot imagine, due to circumstances beyond my control, not being able to provide for my child's basic needs.

It's such a small and easy thing to donate an item or a little time sewing but it can make such a huge difference to families throughout the world- a helping hand, a sign of comfort and hope for the future.

If you would like to start your own tradition of being involved with Lutheran World Relief in any way please contact: Cathy or Keith Hanson, Care Kit Coordinators, at kchanson89@gmail.com.



Keith and Cathy Hanson



Remember to
set your clocks
ahead on the
weekend of
March 10/11!

Men's Discipleship

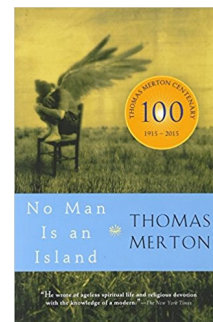
The Men's Discipleship group continues their weekly meetings on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am. This group, open to all men of the congregation, meets for Bible study and fellowship. Contact Mark Masbruch for more info. - mmasbruch@hotmail.com.

Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Bible study, led by Pastor Glenn, is offered on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings through Sunday, March 25. It will focus on the Book of Exodus, which contains stories considered to be the central stories of the Old Testament. The stories of God's choosing Israel, leading them out of slavery, establishing a covenant, and giving them the Law, remain central to our understanding of the faith to this day. You may attend either on Sunday or Wednesday, or you may switch back and forth according to your schedule. This study began on February 18, but new learners are always welcome. We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays at 9:15 am and in the Library on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Books are \$7.00.

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

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's next meeting is on the first Tuesday of March at 6:30 pm. The group meets **March 6** to discuss *No Man is an Island* by Thomas Merton. A recapitulation of his earlier work *Seeds of Contemplation*, this collection of sixteen essays plumbs aspects of human spirituality. In April, the group will conclude with a discussion of *Rising Strong* by Brene' Brown. Meet in the Mount Olive library. If you have any questions, please contact Kailea Mattheis, Director of Children, Youth, and Family at kailea@molive.org or 507-288-1580 ext. 207.



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 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 for Pub Theology, led by Pastor Paul. Meet us at the Hy-Vee Market Grill at the 37th Street Hy-Vee. Topics are always sent out a day ahead of time and can be found at rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com. Come and join as you're able. Order food or a beer at 5:30 pm, conversation begins at 6:00 pm. See you at the pub!

World Day of Prayer

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
2124 Viola Rd. NE, Rochester

Friday, March 2, 2018

10:00 am - Coffee, Treats, and Fellowship

10:30 am - Worship Service

Program: The women of Suriname

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Please come to hear the dynamic speaker and learn more about Suriname. Everyone is welcome. Contact Dorothy Ostrom for more information— 288-2297

Thank you!

Sincere appreciation to everyone who donated during our “144 Envelope” Fund-raiser! With your donations we raised over \$4,000 dollars for the youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering and the U.P. Adventure Trips. This greatly helps cover the costs of both trips. A sincere



thank you on behalf of all the students going on the trips!



Palm Sunday

Come celebrate Palm Sunday on March 25 with lots of fun activities. There will be games, crafts, folding palm crosses, and even a donkey to pet! Please join us during the education hour to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.



Inclusive Church Taskforce Update

The Inclusive Church Taskforce is continuing to guide Mount Olive's journey toward becoming a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) congregation. RIC is a designation for Lutheran communities that publicly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Following is a recap of what we have done so far in this process:

- Sharing personal stories regarding this mission at the May 2017 education hour forum;
- Summer 2017 brunch conversations and sticky note display: Story of Self, Story of Us, and Story of Now;
- Participation in the September Ministry Fair;
- Informational presentation by Ryan from Reconciling Works at the October Forum.
- November: Showing of “For the Bible Tells Me So” documentary (available to check out in the church library); and
- Participation in the SE MN Synod RENEW: The Dance of Radical Hospitality event this past February.

Here are some things to look forward to:

- Late winter/early spring forum on Sexuality and Scripture;
- Another showing of “For the Bible Tells Me So” documentary;
- Additional learning and conversation opportunities at church and in the community; and
- This fall: a consensus-building survey around adopting a clearly inclusive welcome statement and deciding when to vote on becoming RIC.

If this Taskforce or mission is something you feel called to participate in, please consider this an invitation to join the team in any capacity.

For more information about RIC, please visit

reconcilingworks.org.

The Inclusive Church Taskforce Team: Randi Beyerl, Becky Lashinski, Jake Johnson, Mickaela Pasch, David Johnston, Elmer Odland, Paula Freitag, Tom Rigby, and Pastor Paul Moody

An **LGBTQ+ Bible Study** will meet the third Monday of every month, starting in March. The first meeting will be Monday, March 19, from 7:30-8:30 pm at Cafe Steam in downtown Rochester. This is open to any Christian denomination. At the first meeting we will be studying passages in the Bible that are affirming of the LGBTQ+ community. For more information contact Pastoral Intern Alex Aivars from People of Hope Lutheran Church: alex@peopleofhope.com

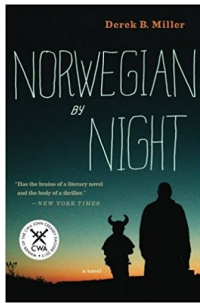


Ripe Olives

Ripe Olives is a group of Mount Olive's seniors (60+) who meet monthly for fellowship. In March, we'll enjoy having time to chat and enjoy treats while playing games. Are you a pro at Scrabble? Enjoy gin rummy or 500? Like backgammon or cribbage? Come and play some of those old favorites with your friends! Everyone is welcome! A continental breakfast is provided with a free will offering. **Please sign up in the Gathering Area to join in the fun and fellowship!** Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with questions 288-1580 ext. 202.

Monday Book Group

The Monday Book Group gathers again on **March 12** at 6:30 pm in the Library for their monthly book discussion. This month, the discussion will surround *Norwegian by Night* by Derek B. Miller.



Sheldon Horowitz has outlived everyone he's known, except his granddaughter, Rhea, who fears he suffers from dementia and convinces him to move from Manhattan to Oslo, where she lives with her Norwegian husband. So the 82-year-old finds himself in a strange land, bemused by placid, orderly Norwegians. When a young woman is murdered in his apartment building, Sheldon shelters her young son and sets out to find a refuge for him.

New readers are always welcome to join the group. Contact Jodi Schoer for more information, mjschoer@charter.net or 288-1951.

Adventure Club

The Mount Olive Adventure Club is a diverse and dynamic group of people of all ages that enjoy exploring a wide variety of activities! If you would like to be added to the Adventure Club email list or Facebook group, contact Erin Sinnwell—etracy515@hotmail.com or Rachel Carlson—carl1347@morris.umn.edu

Theater Outing—On Friday, **March 2** at 7:30 pm, the Adventure Club plans to attend a play presented by Wits' End Theatre in Chatfield entitled *Abraham Lincoln for the Defense*. Mount Olive member Jim Haase is a part of the cast. The sign up sheet and payment envelopes are in the Gathering Area. The cost for general admission tickets is \$15.

Trivia Night—Meet at Pappy's Place, 1635 Hwy 52 North for trivia on Tuesday, **April 24** at 6:15 pm (Trivia starts at 6:30 pm). Winners get a \$20 gift card to Pappy's Place! This activity is for ages 16 and older, so please invite other friends and family to join. Sign up in the Gathering Area if you'd like to join us. If you have any questions please call Rachel Carlson at 612-816-1215 or Erin Sinnwell at 507-990-6079.



Family Fellowship Dinner

Join the Family Fellowship group for dinner on Saturday, **March 3** from 6:00-8:00 pm. The theme for this dinner is "Our Family's Favorite". Everyone is invited to bring their favorite family dish to share. Tableware and beverages will be provided. Sign up in the Gathering Area indicating how many from your family will be there and what you plan to bring. We hope you can join us for a fun evening!!





Little Leapers Meet March 4

Little Leapers is a group for parents of newborns through tots not yet in Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School. Come and join in conversation and fellowship **with your child!** We meet the first Sunday of each month in the library nook of the gathering area at 9:15 am. The next

meeting is **March 4** at 9:15 am; everyone is welcome! Contact Serena Oudekirk with any questions- Serena.Oudekirk@grarate.com.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Soup suppers will continue to be served on Wednesday evenings, March 7, 14, and 21 from 5:45-6:45. There are volunteer opportunities each week to bring soup, serve and clean up. The sign up sheet is in on the Lenten table in the entry at Mount Olive. The freewill offering for the meals will go to ELCA World Hunger. Contact Nancy Britson with questions at nancy@molive.org.



Tanzania Fundraising Dinner

Friday, April 27, 2018

6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Five Mount Olive members, Pastor Glenn Monson, Mark & Karen Masbruch and Steve & Sherry Will, plan to travel to Tanzania this coming September to reconnect with our part-

ner congregation in Kijota. This dinner is the only fundraiser planned to help fund this event. Bishop Alex Mkumbo of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) will be our special guest. Watch for more details to come and mark your calendars for April 27!



Women's Day of Service

Save the date for our third annual Women's Day of Service on Saturday, **April 21**. Women and girls, aged middle school and up, will gather to do acts of service both at Mount Olive and in the community. Planned activities include serving at the Habitat ReStore, making birthday bags for Channel One, bandage rolling, quilting, prayer shawl knitting, and more. Lunch will be provided. Watch for the sign up in Gathering Area. Contact Sherry Will for more information or to offer your help – sherry@molive.org



Note: Women of the ELCA circle study leaders, please attend the monthly leader preparation meeting led by Pastor Glenn. The meeting for March leaders is on Tuesday, **March 6** in the front Conference Room at 5:30 pm. Bring your study book and a Bible.

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.

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.

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

Ongoing Collections

Cleaning up at home? Did you know that the SSOM team at Mount Olive has an ongoing collections of many items that can be put to use by others? Items include: travel sized care products, eye glasses, pop can tabs, and fabric. In addition, the white collection bin in the parking lot can be used for many items. A list of accepted items is available on the gathering area counter.

Suggested Items for the Channel One Food Collection for Lent

Canned Meats and Peanut Butter	Special dietary need items such as:	Personal Care Items:
Canned Fruits and Vegetables		
Soups and Boxed Meals		
Rice and Pasta		
Flour, sugar, oil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gluten free • Low sodium • Low sugar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shampoo and soap • Deodorant • Toothpaste • Diapers • Toilet paper • Feminine hygiene products

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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Rochester, MN 55901

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

9:00AM-noon Fri.

507-288-1580

Website: molive.org



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