

The Messenger

March 2021

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

March 12, 1961 – the Birthday of Mount Olive Lutheran Church



After a year of work under Mission Developer, Rev. Don Johnson, the community being formed in the Elton Hills neighborhood of Rochester was ready to officially begin its life as a congregation of the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran Church. Its name was to be Mount Olive Lutheran Church. It's charter was signed on March 12, 1961, with 81 adults and 80 children signing. The first communion service was held the following week. Soon thereafter the newly formed congregation

authorized Pastor Johnson and the Board of Trustees to purchase a parsonage and borrow money to build the first unit. The 3 ½ - acre lot in Crescent Park



was purchased for \$10,000 and on Sunday,

July 30, they broke ground for a \$72,000 4,320 square-foot building. This would house the sanctuary, fellowship hall and a small kitchen. Today, in this our 60th year, some of this original structure still serves the congregation.

As to our celebration this year, have no doubt, we will have one at some point. Prior to the pandemic, the 60th

Anniversary Committee talked about events such as an organ recital, a golf tourney, and a congregational dinner, as well as a celebratory worship service which would include inviting former pastors and staff to return, premiering a commissioned anniversary

hymn, and generally having "no holds barred" in celebrating our anniversary. All of this is still a possibility, and before long the committee will reconvene to begin plans. Stay tuned!



Worship IN-PERSON??

When will we be starting to meet again for in-person worship in the sanctuary? You might ask. The answer we have given for months now is, “When it’s safe to meet, we will meet.” Now, with virus cases dropping and vaccinated individuals rising, the questions have begun to change. The church staff is now considering questions like, “What do we want worship to be like when we come back for the first time? Do we need an “interim” style of worship before we can actually have “full-blown” worship? (i.e. singing in full voice, speaking together, passing the peace, Holy Communion distribution, coffee hour and time for visiting afterwards). What does meaningful worship look like if we can’t worship fully? Should we provide a place in worship to process the joys and sorrows of this pandemic time?” All of these questions are swirling about as we monitor the ongoing virus/vaccine situation. If you have any questions you’d like to throw into the mix, please feel free, by emailing us at office@molive.org. Thank you.

Serving the Common Good

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, one of our ministry partners, is hosting their annual Day on the Hill virtually on Thursday, **March 11**, 6:30 – 8:45 pm. The keynote speaker for this year will be Paul Slack, Social Justice Advocate for Lutheran Social Services. There will also be a panel on COVID-19: Homeless, Housing, and Health Care. You are invited to attend by registering at www.jrlc.org. By attending you can become an important voice for people without a voice in our state’s capitol.



Lenten Offerings to Benefit Global Companions

During the Lenten season this year the Southeastern Minnesota Synod is encouraging all congregations to jump aboard an initiative called **40 Together: 1 Body, 1 Dollar, 40 Days**. Each week in worship, we will share a video from the Southeastern MN Synod of the ELCA explaining this initiative. The videos will show some of the challenges faced by our companions in ministry. Through this project, monies will be raised to support our companions in ministry in Colombia, Tanzania, and the southern border of the U.S. who are suffering greatly because of COVID-19. Food insecurity is common in these places as work has become scarce and the virus has placed enormous strains on already struggling families. During the season of Lent, every person from every congregation in our synod is asked to give one dollar for every day of the Lenten season. If every member of Mount Olive gave at least \$40, our gift would be nearly \$3000. We can do this! Make your gifts to Mount Olive, please put “Lenten offering” in your check memo or [online payment](#) comment. Thank you.

40 Together
1 Body, 1 Dollar, 40 Days

COVID-19 Guidance for In-Person Meetings

We have expanded the number of people allowed at in-person meetings at Mount Olive to 20. All of the usual safety guidelines are still in place. The guidelines are available on the church website, www.molive.org, or by contacting the office. Meetings must be scheduled ahead of time with church staff. Wearing masks, practicing social distance and using hand sanitizer/washing hands frequently are required. If anyone is showing any signs or symptoms of COVID, or has been in contact with anyone who has presumed or confirmed COVID – they should not attend in-person meetings until they have completed the recommended time of isolation. Your cooperation is appreciated!

The Weather is Improving! Come out to Tailgate Worship!

Tailgate Worship is continuing to meet twice a month during this pandemic, every other Sunday at 11:00 am. If you haven't yet attended, give it a try. It's fun. More than one family has even brought their dog! You stay in your car and listen on the FM radio, while musicians and pastors lead from the fellowship hall window area. Everyone brings their own communion supplies, and hard copies of the song sheets are available or can be accessed online. In March the dates are Sundays March 7 and 21. We'll also meet on Palm Sunday, March 28, and Easter Sunday, April 4. So, bring your thermos of hot coffee and/or cocoa, your Holy Communion supplies, and your sense of adventure and join us.

Lenten Midweek Services are Psalm-centered

The Book of Psalms is our focus for the Midweek Lenten services this year. Each Wednesday, a member of the pastoral/musical team provides a reflection on the Psalm that is appointed for the following Sunday. In addition, we have introduced a new Lenten liturgy written by Olive Branch Cantor, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. Tune in online each Wednesday. Service links will be shared on Facebook, the Mount Olive website, www.molive.org, and available each week on Mount Olive's YouTube Channel- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqQHPLrP-lcwjKDOLwIGwdA>. Be sure to click on the "Subscribe" button and set your notifications to let you know when the newest service is available.



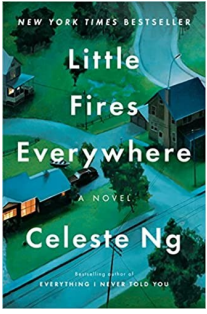
Palm Sunday Parking Lot Worship March 28

One of the things we have bemoaned in years past is that an actual Palm Sunday procession isn't all that workable in our sanctuary. This year, however, because parking lot worship is our safest option for large group gatherings, we have an opportunity to have *a real procession*. On Palm Sunday, March 28 at 11:00 am, we will gather for Tailgate Worship in the parking lot, and (weather permitting) invite everyone to get out of their cars and take a palm branch and

join in procession at the opening of worship. All ages can participate as we walk and sing "Glory, Laud, and Honor" to our Lord on this festive day. Plan now to attend and bring a friend.

Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

Wednesdays Through March 24	7:00 pm Bible Study: <i>The Psalms: Songs of the Faithful</i> on Zoom Online Worship on Mount Olive's YouTube Channel
Thursdays Through March 25	10:30 am Bible Study: <i>The Psalms: Songs of the Faithful</i> on Zoom
Sundays	Online Worship on Mount Olive's YouTube Channel 11:00 am Tailgate Worship March 7, 21, and 28 and April 4 4:30 pm Sunday Psalm Prayer on Olive Branch YouTube channel
Maundy Thursday, April 1	Online worship centered on the last supper while sharing a meal together
Good Friday, April 2	Online Tenebrae worship service alternating readings and music
Vigil of Easter, April 3	A brief online service leading into a night of vigil led by Olive Branch
Easter Sunday, April 4	Parking lot worship and an online service with all of the bells and whistles



Monday Book Group

The **Monday Book Group** gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature. They will meet again via Zoom **March 8** at 6:30 pm. This month's selection is ***Little Fires Everywhere*** by Celeste Ng. This riveting novel traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives. *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood—and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster. If you would like to be added to the email list or receive the Zoom invitation for March, contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

Ripe Olives Meet Via Zoom

The “Ripe Olives”, Mount Olives senior citizen's group, will gather again via Zoom on Friday, **March 12**, at 9:30 am. Bring your coffee and join us for discussion. We may even have a surprise guest! The Zoom meeting ID, which will stay the same each month, is: Meeting ID: 826 2188 5743 Passcode: 213773 Please contact Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org or call 507-288-1580 with any questions.

Pastor Glenn Hosts Lenten Bible Study on Psalms

This year during the season of Lent, Pastor Glenn is leading a Bible study based on selected Psalms. We are studying six different psalms, including laments, praise psalms, instructional psalms, and even an acrostic psalm. Classes are held via Zoom Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, and Thursdays at 10:30 am. We are using a study guide entitled “Songs of the Faithful”, which may be ordered through the office for \$8.00. Guests and friends of members are always welcome. Contact Nancy Britson to order a book and sign up, nancy@molive.org or 288-1580.

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU) Meets March 2

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. The next meeting is on Tuesday, **March 2** at 6:30 pm. This month's book selection is *Mindful Silence: The Heart of Christian Contemplation* by Phileena Heuertz. “In a world full of noise and a Western church that often replicates the distractions, Phileena Heuertz gives us a road map for finding our way back to spiritual roots and practices that reorient ourselves and our communities.” – Kathy Khang, from book cover. All are welcome to attend. The Zoom Meeting ID: 883 1860 1767 Please contact Pastor Lisa with any questions—lisa@molive.org.



Pub Theology

Pub Theology continues to meet weekly on Mondays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, on Zoom and has been enjoying this time of connection with each other. Weekly topics, announcements, and the link to our Zoom gathering continue to be posted at rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com. You'd be welcome to join us!

Women of the ELCA News

Mount Olive Women's circles continue to meet monthly, some via Zoom and some in person. Contact Regina Seabrook, Mount Olive Women of the ELCA President, with any questions or if you are interested in joining a women's small group for a monthly Bible study and fellowship - rseabroo@gmail.com.



The Women of the ELCA Study Leader's Meeting with Pastor Glenn is Tuesday, March 2 at 5:30 pm on Zoom. You'll need your March copy of Gather Magazine. Zoom ID: 853 9855 7199 Passcode: 399944

Children, Youth and Family Updates

Sunday School

Instead of traditional online Sunday school, Mount Olive families will share some of their favorite Bible stories during the season of Lent. Join us each Sunday to see familiar faces and hear various stories from the Bible.



Prayer-a-thon

18 Mount Olive high school youth and friends have signed up for our trip to Colorado where we will seek God and adventure in the Rocky Mountains. We are thrilled that the majority of the trip costs were covered last year in our fundraising, however, we have one more fundraiser planned to cover the costs of our vans. Total costs will be approximately \$4,000 for two 15 passenger vans and travel expenses. One Saturday in April, trip participants will pray and write letters for 1-hour periods over a continuous 24-hour day so that youth are praying all day for our church and community. We encourage you to donate \$1, \$2, \$5 or even \$10/hour of prayer to help cover our travel expenses. Contact Pastor Luke at luke@molive.org if you are interested in supporting us this way, and watch for future announcements that will provide more details in how you can support this Prayer-a-thon.

Palm Sunday Craft

In the first week of March, Pastor Luke will post a “How to make your own palms” video on YouTube. The hope is that many Mount Olive kids and youth will make their own palms and send in pictures which will be included in Palm Sunday worship. Watch your emails for a link to this video and please send pictures to luke@molive.org once you are done.



Suggested Reading List:

As part of Mount Olive's commitment to racial justice, we plan to offer book suggestions in each month's *Messenger*. If you would be willing to provide a 2-3 sentence book summary/recommendation of a book that impacted you surrounding the topic of race, please share it with Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org. Following are suggestions from people in the Mount Olive Community for March:

***How to Be an Antiracist* by Kendi, Ibram X.**

The decisions and actions we take often support racism without even knowing it. This book by Ibram Kendi introduces anti-racism. He defines terms and language to help us grow in understanding the systems and attitudes which continue to give racism power. I appreciated finding ways I can grow in anti-racist actions and attitudes. —Carole Joyce

***The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore**

This is the story of two men named Wes Moore who grew up a short distance from one another in Baltimore, and grew up to lead very different lives. The book drove home the vast challenges there are in inner city neighborhoods, the impact of racism and poverty, and how much difference one caring person can make in a life. —Nancy Britson

***Candle in the Darkness, Fire by Night, and A Light to my Path* by Lynn Austin**

I found this series enlightening and captivating with an in-depth look into civil war time, into slave life, and also into the lives of the plantation owners and their families. This is a historical fiction series written with a Christian perspective. —Eva Colligan

***White Rage* by author Carol Anderson** is an unvarnished look, not only at the horrors that have been inflicted on people of color because of the demonic doctrine of white supremacy, but also, the incalculable toll this heresy has taken on our country as a whole. Anderson makes clear that racism and white supremacy is not only wicked and unjust, it is stupid! —Pastor Glenn Monson

Artist's Studio Workshops Coming Your Way

The Olive Branch Artist's Studio has new workshops for you to participate in this month. We gather, socially distanced each Monday evening, 6:30-8:00 pm, in the Mount Olive Fellowship Hall. Sign up on Eventbrite to reserve a table for yourself or your family. It costs nothing to register; however, a donation of \$10/person or \$15/family is welcome at the event or through online giving at Mount Olive.

Back up a second. Did that say family? Yes! We are inviting you to bring your family (or someone else in your safe circle) to share your table for Ukrainian Easter Egg decorating on March 15th. We recommend this workshop for ages 9 and up based on the difficulty of the activity and the need to stay masked and distanced throughout the workshop. But you know the kids in your life best, so we'll leave it to you to decide. We have a maximum of 8 tables open for each workshop so sign up early!

March 1: WORKSHOP – Alcohol Inks Greeting Cards Part 1 -*Playing with inks to making fun, multi-colored creations.* Sign up at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/142735334227>

March 8: WORKSHOP – Alcohol Inks Greeting Cards Part 2

Designing & writing on top of the ink and constructing cards for any occasion.

Sign up at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/142737633103>



March 15: WORKSHOP (families welcome) –

Pysanky: Ukrainian Easter Egg Decorating. Sign up at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/142738509725>

March 22: OPEN STUDIO – Pysanky tools & supplies available

Note: If interest for the Egg decorating workshop exceeds our capacity, we will offer a second workshop on March 22.

Following this series of workshops the Artist's Studio will be closed on March 29 and April 5 for an Easter break. We will return for our final 3 weeks on April 12, 19, and 26 before closing up the Studio for the spring/summertime.

Olive Branch Website

Visit olivebranchcommunity.org to soak in all the incredible things that are now possible (and already happening) because of your support. Stop by to register for upcoming events such as Artist Studio, access many resources, and learn more about Olive Branch. There is an option to offer financial support to Olive Branch as well.



Psalm Prayer update

Every Sunday at 4:30 pm, join Richard Bruxvoort Colligan for 30 minutes of song, reflection and prayer orbiting a psalm. Where? The Olive Branch Community YouTube channel. If you like quiet meditation, this might be for you. We're up to Psalm 9, and we think we have all the technology kinks worked out! All the past sessions are archived, so enjoy them anytime. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPRunOmryq5TCrOsrXM5Otw>





Mount Olive Quilters

A limited number of the Mount Olive quilters have resumed meeting weekly in the Fellowship Hall, socially distanced while wearing masks. They meet Thursday mornings at 9:00 am. If you are interested in joining them, please contact Donna Grever at 507-206-4605. Kits of fabric for sewing quilts at home are also available for pick up in the Gathering Area cupboard. The cupboard also contains a bin for fabric donations. Drop off clean, cotton fabric measuring at least 12" x 12" in size.

Channel One

Channel One, our local food bank, is not accepting donated food from the general public.

To support Channel One, you are asked to give financial contributions to help them to provide food to families experiencing difficult times. You may click on the ["Donate Now"](#) button on the church website or send a check made out to Mount Olive. Please indicate Channel One in the "other" section online or your check memo. If you are interested in volunteering at Channel One, please go to helpingfeedpeople.org/volunteer to learn more.



Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will meet on **March 9** at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall, socially distanced and wearing masks. Yarn, needles, patterns, and guidance are supplied; please contact Vickie Kubly if you would like to join the group—507-282-7696. If you would like to request a prayer shawl for someone who is experiencing illness, loss, or a difficult time, please contact Vickie, or you may call the church office at 507-288-1580.



Dorothy Day Hospitality House Update

Dorothy Day Hospitality House has resumed serving meals to their guests. Mount Olive serves the evening meal on the first Friday of each month. The first open date is April 2. If you would be willing to drop off a meal or order pizza to serve 14 people, please contact Jene Bodensteiner, Dorothy Day House volunteer coordinator for Mount Olive- jbode6@icloud.com.

Family Promise Resumes Hosting Homeless Families

Family Promise is now hosting families at their new Day Center at 913 1st St. NW. They will be using a Signup Genius link (given below) to organize ALL volunteers. A few additional details:

- Details regarding the families currently hosted is given in the Signup Genius link. The number of family members, any food allergies, and other volunteer details are shared.
- Masks are required at all times--by both families and volunteers. This is a very strict rule; families not following the rules will not be allowed to continue in the program.
- Handwashing and social distancing are encouraged. If volunteers do want to eat with the family, know that there are eating areas in two separate rooms.
- It is not required for the family members to be tested for COVID-19 before entering the program. While mask wearing is effective, it isn't 100% effective, therefore it is advised any volunteers 65 or older or volunteers with pre-existing conditions do NOT participate in person at this time.
- **There are several options for no-contact volunteers:** order a meal to be delivered, make a meal for no-contact drop off, donate a gift card, or donate money or food to another volunteer who could bring/drop off the food.

Click on this link to see open volunteer slots and sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4fa4aa22a3f94-913master> Please contact Erin Sinnwell, Mount Olive member and Family Promise Board President with any questions: etracy515@hotmail.com or 507-990-6079.



Lutheran Disaster Response Aid to Texas

Recent subfreezing temperatures and record-setting snow and ice led to power, food and water shortages throughout the south. With bursting pipes and broken water systems, around 10 million Texans are facing water disruptions. Now that temperatures have risen, melting ice and snow will cause more water damage.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is collaborating with ELCA synods in Texas and Louisiana and Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response. Congregations are already conducting relief efforts such as supplying water, food and generators to those in need and opening their doors to serve as shelters. Long-term recovery may include repairing water-damaged homes, disaster case management and supporting vulnerable populations.

Other agencies, like the Red Cross, will be there for a time, but LDR will be there for the long haul. 100% of your gifts to LDR will go towards this long-term recovery. **You can make a gift to Mount Olive, memo "LDR" and we will make sure it gets where it's needed most.** Thank you.

For updates on this and other disasters, follow Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#).



Good Earth Village News

If you love our regional ELCA camping and retreat ministry, or would like to learn more about this excellent ministry partner, you have an outstanding opportunity coming on Tues., March 2 at 7:00 pm, when the Good Earth Village Annual Meeting commences. By attending via Zoom you can learn all about the opportunities that Good Earth Village offers. Please let Nancy Britson (507-288-1580) at the church office know if you are interested in attending.

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



A Reconciling in
Christ Community

Mount Olive Staff

The Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson

Senior Pastor

glenn@molive.org

Ext. 206

The Rev. Lisa Janke

Associate Pastor of Outreach

lisa@molive.org

Ext. 205

Deacon Travis Beck

Director of Worship, Music, and Arts

travis@molive.org

Ext. 203

The Rev. Luke Hollander

Associate Pastor of Children, Youth, and Family

luke@molive.org

Ext. 207

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Cantor of Olive Branch

richard@molive.org

Bill Hollander

Congregational Administrator

bill.h@molive.org

Ext. 204

Carrie Fletcher—Administrative Assistant
and Nursery Coordinator

carrie@molive.org

Ext. 209

Nancy Britson

Director of Congregational Life

nancy@molive.org

Ext. 202