

THE

Messenger

May 2019

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A Note from Your Seminararian:

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I am into my last months of full-time course work at Trinity Seminary in Ohio! It has been a good semester and a wonderful second year overall. This January I was fortunate to spend my 3-week J-term in the Holy Land with classmates and my New Testament professor. We spent time in Tel Aviv, Galilee, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem. While I loved the Old City of Jerusalem (especially their delicious falafel sandwiches!), my favorite moment from the trip took place on the Sea of Galilee. We were able to take a boat ride out onto the sea, and while we were on the water we celebrated the Eucharist. It was a beautiful and memorable way to give thanks for the grace that Christ gives freely to us each day.



Currently, my classmates and I are preparing for what is next to come in our 4-year program: Internship. This next part of our program will have us serving in congregational settings for the next 2 years, where we will take a few online and intensive classes to finish our course loads while simultaneously working roughly 30 hours per week as



intern pastors. It has been an anxious but exciting time as we have interviewed and awaited the finalization of our placement sites, but I am thrilled to finally announce that I will be interning at Faith Lutheran Church in Arlington, VA! I am so excited for this next part of the journey, and I continue to be ever grateful for the support and prayers that come from all of you back home. Blessings to you during this Easter season.

God's peace,
Miriam Hanson

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Volunteer Appreciation Celebrations

To honor all of our wonderful volunteers, come to celebration receptions following services May 4-5. All of our volunteers - those who work in worship, fellowship, service and social outreach, leading children and youth education, facility and grounds, visiting shut-ins, providing music, serving meals, preparing the altar and sanctuary for worship, answering phones, helping in the office, and more – are valued and appreciated more than we can say!

Bishop's Election Nears

Every six years the synod elects a new bishop to lead the 171 congregations of the Southeast 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. He will now be on the panel of nominees who will be part of three discernment conversations to be held in Waseca, Zumbrota, and Stewartville on May 13, 14, and 16. If you are interested in attending any one of these conversations, please go to the synod website, semnsynod.org/callingourbishop2019/, for more information. The final conversation is May 16, 6:30 pm at Zion Lutheran in Stewartville. The actual election is at the Synod Assembly May 31-June 1 at the Mayo Civic Center. Please continue to lift up in prayer Pastor Glenn and all the nominees as this process unfolds.

60th Anniversary Kickoff is June 23

The 60th Anniversary celebration of Mount Olive has begun! Our Kickoff Event will be held Sunday, June 23, following the outdoor 9:30 service that day. Plans are to have a potluck lunch, games and prizes for kids, both a live auction and silent auction, 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.

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 partner of ours, has grown to over 170 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



A crowded classroom at Hull High School.

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.



Mount Olive's Tanzania Mission team visiting Hull High School in Fall 2018.

Mount Olive is a Sexually Safer Best Practices Congregation

If you look on the bottom of the home page of the Mount Olive website you will see a logo with the words Sexually Safer Best Practices Congregation. This distinction has been awarded us because we have committed ourselves to 18 best practices which establish policies and procedures to prevent sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and professional sexual misconduct in our congregation. We believe this is very important, and we are committed to ensuring that all people, young and old, are kept safe at Mount Olive. Thank you, for your part in making Mount Olive a sexually safer best practices congregation! Click on the image to right on your electronic newsletter or on the Mount Olive website for more information.



Spring Outdoor Clean-up Day

Spring is FINALLY here! With that comes the need to spruce up our yard and gardens. The Facilities and Grounds Team invites you to join them on Saturday, **May 18**, at 8:00 am, to help prepare Mount Olive's property for the summer. Please bring your rakes, shovels, gardening tools, friends and family! Help keep Mount Olive beautiful!



Members of the Altar Guild (above) worked together to fold palm frond crosses for Palm Sunday, showed Sunday School students how to make crosses, and prepared the candles for the Easter Vigil service.



Summer Schedule Starts May 26

It's hard to believe, but Memorial Day Weekend is just around the corner, and that means that our Summer Schedule will soon begin. Beginning that weekend, Sunday worship times will change to 8:00 and 9:30 am with no education hour. The Saturday evening service remains at 5:00 pm. Happy Summer!

Travis Beck on Parental Leave

Travis Beck, Director of Worship, Music, and Arts, will be on parental leave for the month of May. We wish Travis, Samantha, and little Nora (pictured at left) all the best as they enjoy family life together at home!



Volunteer Information

At each worship service, volunteers serve in many ways to keep the services running smoothly. Others help out during fellowship time following the services. More volunteers are always needed. Families are encouraged to serve together. Training is available for new volunteers, so don't be afraid to try something new. If you are willing to serve, please contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, and she will help you: nancy@molive.org, 288-1580 ext. 202.

Channel One Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Channel One March Food Drive. Our final donation total came to 1263# pounds of food and \$2,322 in monetary donations. Thanks to you, we are coming closer to stamping out hunger in our community.



Family Promise Volunteer News

Thank you to everyone who helped with our host week in April! Mount Olive hosts homeless families enrolled in Family Promise (IHN) again **June 2-9**. Many volunteers are needed for hosting, cooking, driving, and overnight stays. 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. Most tasks require that adults, 18 and over, be certified by attending training. Recertification is required every 3 years, but is as simple as going to familypromiserochester.org to watch a 10 minute video. Children under 18 don't require training and are encouraged to participate with their parents.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped each week with the Lenten soup suppers! Your efforts and delicious soups were much appreciated during our cold weather. The freewill offering for the meals (after expenses) went to ELCA World Hunger.



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. 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 **June and July**. A sign up sheet is on the cabinet in the Gathering Area. Contact Jene Bodensteiner at jbode6@me.com with questions or to volunteer.



Youth Serve at Dorothy Day House

On April 5, several of the middle school youth helped to serve dinner at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House. They did a wonderful job and many of the guests of the house expressed their gratitude and some even shared stories about their years in confirmation.



Next Chapter Ministries Gala is May 3

Once again this year, Mount Olive is sponsoring two tables at the Next Chapter Ministries annual Restoration Celebration. The Gala will be held again this year at the Rochester International Event Center on May 3. Doors open at 5:30 with a silent auction, and dinner and program begin at 6:00 pm. This year's featured speaker is Mike Lindell, the MyPillow CEO telling about his journey out of addiction. Next Chapter Ministries is an important ministry partner for Mount Olive as they continue to work to restore incarcerated individuals to God, community and family. If you would like to attend the gala, please contact our Director of Missions and Service, Sherry Will, at sherry@molive.org.



NEXT CHAPTER
MINISTRIES

Annual Women's Day of Service

The Women's Day of Service on Saturday, April 6, 2019 was a success. Thank you to all who came together for fellowship and service. We had 40 volunteers working on nine different projects including quilting for Family Promise guests; knitting mittens for Neighborhood Schools; tying fleece blankets for the Salvation Army; creating cat hammocks for Camp Companion; knitting prayer shawls, hats, and baby afghans for various groups; rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries, preparing meals for Project Legacy, creating crafts for the Mount Olive Handmade Market, and making cards and centerpieces that are sure to bring joy to many. We want to thank Thrivent for the \$500.00 grant and the many volunteers who helped to make this day possible. The Women's Day of service is an opportunity for the women of Mount Olive to support ministries in the church and within the community. Please join us next year as we continue to uplift our brothers and sisters in our local, regional, and global com-



Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters meet at 9 am each Thursday in the Fellowship Hall. The quilters have recently finished quilts which will be

used for Family Promise guests as well as a number of baby quilts for local children and full sized quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Anyone is welcome to join the group on Thursday mornings, no sewing experience is required. If you have any questions, call Elaine Monson at 272-6404

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, May 14 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 at 288-9033 or the office staff.

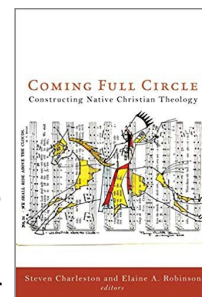
Thank you Sunday School Volunteers!

Special thanks to all of this year's Sunday School teachers, music leaders, and superintendents! Your time and dedication in passing on the faith to our children is very much appreciated! Volunteers this year were: Linda Schueler, Serena Oudekirk, Mike Vance, Renee Kuehl, Donna Miller, Dorothy Ostrom, Sara Swartwood, Jason Sinnwell, Nathan Fletcher, Carrie Fletcher, Julie McLaren, Jessica Bachman, Kim Wanek, Jessi Hafeman, Kathleen Haase and Jim Haase.

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.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, **May 7** at 6:30 pm. In May we turn our attention to Native American Christian Theology explored in the book *Coming Full Circle: Constructing Native Christian Theology* by Steven Charleston and Elaine Robinson. Carol Joyce will facilitate our discussion and she suggests that we each look for one idea, concept, or image that stands out for us in the book. Since this will be our final meeting until starting a new reading season in the fall, we will take some time to share suggestions for books for our next season. Meet in the Mount Olive Library. Everyone is welcome to join the discussions. For more information, contact Peg Mickelson, jimpegmikk@gmail.com.



Women of the ELCA News

Mount Olive Women finish the program year with their last circle meetings until fall and several upcoming events. If you would like more information about Women of the ELCA, please contact Renee Schaefer, president-vettelady54601@yahoo.com or Nancy Britson-nancy@molive.org.



Homemade Market - On **Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5**, the Mount Olive Women of the ELCA will be having a Homemade Market, located in the Gathering Area. A variety of home made and home baked items will be available to purchase following services. Proceeds will benefit Mount Olive quilters and youth, Lutheran World Relief, and others. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you intend to bring something for the market. **The market also needs 3 or 4 sales associate volunteers.** Call your president at 507-398-3723 to volunteer or sign up in the Gathering Area.



Spring Meeting - All women of the congregation are invited to the Spring Meeting on **Monday, May 6** beginning at 7:00 pm. Enjoy dessert, fellowship, and a short program featuring *Project Legacy*. We will hear about ways that Mount Olive Women of the ELCA can accompany their outstanding work with disadvantaged youth of color. At the recent Women's Day of Service about 10 women made 8 meals, each serving 12 people. This was done to make it easy for congregation members to take a hot meal to Project Legacy's youth circles.

An offering will be collected on their behalf. Officers for 2019/2020 Women of the ELCA will be elected at a short business meeting. **A co-president is still needed; please feel free to nominate yourself or someone else.** Send nominations to Renee Schaefer vettelady54601@yahoo.com.

Thankoffering Sunday- On **May 11 and 12** we will again be gathering Thankofferings for the church-wide Women of the ELCA. For many years, women have committed to this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Envelopes will be provided in bulletins on May 11 and 12. Checks may be made out to Mount Olive with "Thankoffering" in the memo.

Sunday Forums in May

We are almost finished with another successful year of informative and inspiring Sunday Forums at Mount Olive. We have only two Sundays left, and during one of them you will have an opportunity to evaluate this past year's offerings and also make suggestions for future forums. Our final forum will be led by Courtney Dugstad, Youth Director with Next Chapter Ministries, who will share some of her insights into the effects of trauma on youth and families. Be sure to attend these final two sessions:

May 5 – Evaluation for 2018-19, and Input for 2019-2020

May 12 – The Effects of Trauma on Youth and Families, Courtney Dugstad

Last Day of Sunday School May 19

May 19 is the last day of Sunday School. Everyone is invited to join us in the Sanctuary at 9:15 am to hear the classes present some musical selections that they have learned this year. Watch the bulletin and your family's email for more information about these end-of-year festivities.



High School Graduate Recognition

Mount Olive's graduating high school seniors will be recognized in worship on **May 19th** at the 10:30 am service. A reception in their honor will follow the service. Please come to share in their accomplishments. Senior's information is due to Luke Hollander by **May 5th**. You may email the photo and information sheet to luke@molive.org or drop it to him at church. If you'd like to share news of graduates of higher education, send the information to Nancy Britson and their names will be included in the bulletin on recognition Sunday—nancy@molive.org 288-1580 ext. 202.



Good Earth Village Camp

Programs at Good Earth Village near Spring Valley are available for children ages 3 and up and families. Registration for summer 2019 programs is now available! For more information, please visit goodearthvillage.org. Call 507-346-2494 with any questions or concerns. Through May 5th, save 10% with the code EARLY19. Register siblings for camp and save 15% with code SIBLING19. Write code on registration form or enter it on the promotional code area on "My Cart" as you check out.

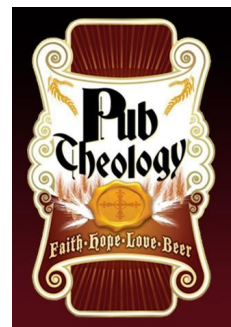


Spring Metamorphosis

Wednesdays after Easter (through May 15) we will gather to Proclaim Community! Come and join us as we take what we've learned all year and begin to figure out what it means to live it out in community. Class will begin at 6:00 pm. There will not be a meal offered for the Spring session.

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 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. Order food or a beer at 5:30 pm, conversation begins at 6:30 pm. See you at the pub!





Ripe Olives Meet May 10

Ripe Olives is a group for Mount Olive's most experienced members, mostly retired folks. They meet the second Friday of the month September through May for fun and fellowship! On **May 10**, our speaker will be our newest Mount Olive staff member, Luke Hollander. Luke is an avid bird watcher and will share some information about his hobby. Please join us to get to know Luke better! Breakfast will be provided with a freewill donation at 9:30 am and the program will begin about 10:00 am. Sign up at the Gathering Area cabinet. Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with questions 288-1580 ext. 202 or nancy@molive.org.

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.

May - Mount Olive Adventure Club Night at the Minnesota Twins



The May 3 deadline is quickly approaching for the trip to see the Minnesota Twins.

The Mount Olive Adventure Club is showing its wins' pride by rooting the Twins on to victory (we hope!) over the Chicago White Sox on **Friday, May 24 at 7:10 pm**. We have reserved 55 seats in the lower deck on the first base line in the Supercuts Super Seats. Note: because these seats are on the field level there are *no stairs* to access these seats. Tickets are \$38/person and a ride to the game in a coach bus is \$15/person for a total of \$53/person. We will leave the Mount Olive parking lot at 4:15 pm, returning at the end of the game. Go to the Gathering Area for sign-up and payment. Guests are always welcome. As an extra bonus, the promotion that night for the first 10,000 fans is Joe Mauer Bobblehead #1 featuring Mauer swinging in his Cretin-Derham Hall High School "Raiders" jersey!

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. Park website: <https://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/pw/parks/chesterwoods/Pages/default.aspx>



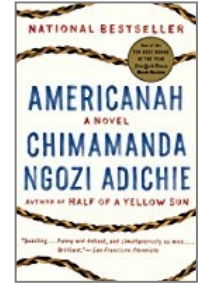
Mount Olive Softball Team Begins Play

Games for the church softball team will be beginning soon. The team is looking for some more players, high school aged and up, to fill out the roster. The co-ed games begin on **May 14** with a 9:00 pm game and continue through mid-August. One hour games are played Tuesday evenings at McQuillan field. Start times range throughout the season from 6-9 pm. It is a fun, family friendly atmosphere and spectators are encouraged to attend! Sign up in the Gathering Area. There is a participant fee of \$30 to help defray the cost of team registration. Contact Jason Sinnwell for more information, sinnweja@gmail.com.



Monday Book Group

The Monday Book Group meets for the last time until fall on **May 13** at 6:30 pm in the Library, for their monthly book discussion. The May selection is *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. A young couple departs military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze with a post-9/11 America closed to him, plunges into a dangerous life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland. New readers are always welcome to join the group. Contact Jodi Schoer for more information, mjschoer@charter.net or



Little Leapers

Little Leapers, the fellowship group for parents and their children who have not yet started Sunday School, will gather in "The Pond" on **May 19**. The Pond is located in classrooms 3 & 4 of the Education Wing. The group will meet, 9:15 to 10:15 am, to share in caring conversation and fellowship as our little ones play. All are welcome! Contact Serena Oudekirk for more information: serena.oudekirk@grarate.com.

Rochester Pops Concert

The Rochester Pops Orchestra and Chorale presents "Bringin' Back The 80's" Sunday, **May 12, 2019**, 6:30 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church. Take a trip back in time with new arrangements of memorable tunes by Billy Joel, Journey, Madonna, Whitney Houston, Olivia Newton John, Chicago and many more. Tickets available online now at www.rochesterpops.com or by calling the box office at 507-318-0801. Tickets are available now through May 5 in the Gathering Area and at the door beginning at 6:00 pm. PLEASE NOTE THE CONCERT TIME CHANGE.

Rochester Area Handbells Spring Concert:

Come and Celebrate

Monday, May 20th at 7pm

Christ United Methodist Church

400 5th Ave SW

Free Will Offering

Reception following the concert.

Cultural Programming Offered for those with Memory Loss

SPARK! at the History Center of Olmsted County 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, **May 6**, 10:30-noon at the History Center and the topic is Hot Air Balloons. SPARK! programs serve as a jumping-off point for sharing stories, conversation and friendship. SPARK! is for adults with memory loss and related dementia in the early to middle stages and their care partners. Confidentiality and dignity are always respected. Space is limited. Register by calling Aaron Saterdalen at 507-282-9447 or email: programs@olmstedhistory.com This program is free thanks to the generous support from <https://www.madonnalivingcommunity.org> and Jim & Judy Sloan

Offering Counters Needed

Every Monday, Mount Olive has volunteers count the offering from the worship services over the weekend. It usually entails about an hour to an hour and a half of work and is always done with two people. We are in need of more people to step forward and be willing to do this important work. It doesn't take an accounting degree – just an attention to detail and accuracy. You do not need to commit to every week; come as often as you are available. If you are interested in learning how to do this, please contact Bill Hollander, Church Administrator at bill@molive.org, or call him at 288-1580 ext. 204.



Spiritual Care

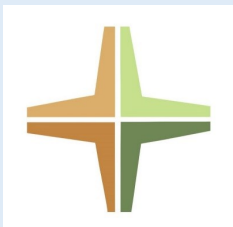
Mount Olive has a Prayer Chain, coordinated by Kim Ignatius. If you have a prayer request and would like the prayer chain to be in prayer for you or someone you love, please contact Kim at: 507-271-6087 or ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net. Please contact the church staff if you have any prayer concerns, including any names you would like included in the Sunday prayers in the bulletin:

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

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



A special thank you to all of the musicians, altar guild members, worship and fellowship volunteers for helping to make Holy Week services meaningful!



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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9:00 am-noon Friday
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