

# The Messenger

May 2021

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

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## The Spirit is Blowing Anew!

We are excited to announce that **Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Pentecost Sunday, is the date when we will once again invite people back to indoor worship at Mount Olive. We know it has been a long time coming, but we feel that the time is right to begin again. We want to emphasize that this initial foray into in-person worship is not meant to be the permanent model going forward, but a model that we can live with in this interim time when we are still dealing with coronavirus cases, and many people – especially younger people – are still not yet vaccinated. It will be helpful to enter into this model in a spirit of wonder, trying this on for size, helping us discover what a more permanent model might look like going forward.

### The Plan

Worship will be offered in the sanctuary every Sunday at 9:00 am and every Sunday at 11:00 am outside in the parking lot in Tailgate style. If weather is inclement at 11:00, worshippers will remain in their cars, and worship leaders will lead from the Fellowship Hall windows as we have during the past months. We will continue to offer a full online service for at-home worshippers. The service will be posted on our YouTube channel on Sundays.

Indoor worshippers will not need to pre-register, but will self-screen for COVID symptoms and sign-in when they arrive. All worshippers will be masked at all times and will be seated at distance by household. If the sanctuary fills to its safe capacity, we will seat people in the Gathering Area. StaySafeMN guidelines indicate that we can safely have 175 people present in the sanctuary.

Services will be shorter than usual, following guidelines for gatherings of this size; we estimate 30-40 minutes in duration. No food and beverages will be served, but fellowship and informal gatherings outside will be encouraged for as long as you like. Holy Communion will be served in a safe manner, according to guidelines.

There are many details yet to be worked out regarding the procedures for this re-opening. A congregational letter will be coming your way which will include everything you will need to know prior to our first gathering.

We are so excited to see everyone again! We are excited to see how the Spirit is blowing anew amongst us. We look forward to the days ahead. Be well.

Blessings,  
Pastor Glenn



## 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)).

## Spring Clean-up at Mount Olive

Spring is finally here!! We'll have a Spring Clean Up of the church grounds on Saturday, **May 1** beginning at 8:00 am. (rain date May 8) Your help is needed! Primary tasks will be raking, roof cleaning, and weeding, cleaning, and mulching the flower gardens and plantings around the building. Bring your gloves, rakes, wheelbarrows, sprayers, etc. Bags and mulch will be provided. Of course anyone is welcome to work on these tasks any other days, but this will be our target day. Contact Bill Hollander with any questions—[bill.h@molive.org](mailto:bill.h@molive.org) or call the office 507-288-1580.

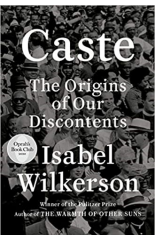


## Thank You Musicians!

As the program year draws to a close, I want to say THANK YOU to all of our choir members, handbell players, brass players, soloists, and everyone who helped make virtual worship a vibrant and meaningful experience for our worshipers. You endured virtual rehearsals, suffered through technical difficulties, and put in some hard work learning, recording, and uploading music. Worship wouldn't have been the same without your gifts. Please consider continuing to share your gifts through special music offerings in the coming weeks and months. Thank you! ~ Travis Beck

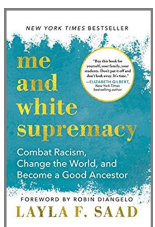
## Suggested Reading List:

As part of Mount Olive's commitment to racial justice, we will continue 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](mailto:nancy@molive.org). Following are suggestions from people in the Mount Olive Community for May:



*Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson

Like me, have you thought India was the only country with a Caste system? Isabel Wilkerson in her book *Caste* makes a strong case that the United States has a caste system, which is why it is so hard to overcome our country's racism. If you don't mind a challenge, read her book and grapple with her idea and her thoughts about what should be done. ~ Tom Rigby.



Author Layla F. Saad never predicted that her Instagram challenge called #MeAndWhiteSupremacy would turn into a best seller, but it did. Published in 2020, *Me And White Supremacy*, takes readers through a step-by-step process to uncover in themselves their own participation in a system that has, for many generations, insisted that our country would be better off if Black, Indigenous, and People of Color were denied their fundamental human rights and White people were in charge of everything. For anyone who wants a challenging look in the mirror, this book is all of that. ~ Pastor Glenn Monson

## Tailgate Worship Continues

Tailgate Worship will continue May 2 and 16 and will go to a weekly schedule beginning May 23. We meet at 11 am Sunday mornings. As the weather improves, bring your lawn chair and sit outside, and on rainy days, you may 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. Copies of the song sheets are available or can be accessed online.



## Worship Volunteers Needed

With a return to in-person worship on May 23, worship volunteers will be more important than ever to keep the 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. Past volunteers, 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!

# Education

## Confirmation

We have had eight middle school students participate in confirmation this year. They have engaged with their faith in meaningful and even fun ways. Confirmation programming will conclude in May with a Litter-Bit-Better project on Sunday, May 2 and two Wednesday classes on May 5 & 19, 7:00 -8:00 pm.

## High School Fellowship

Mount Olive has been a safe place for high school youth to spend time together in fellowship throughout the year. We have had as many as 15 youth show up to our Wednesday night gatherings. Our last two fellowship events of the school year will be May 12 & 26, 7-8:30 pm at the church. Our first "summer" event will be hiking at Chester Woods on Saturday, May 22, 9-11:00 am. We will meet at the parking lot by the Chester Woods boat ramp.

## Sunday School

We certainly had a different year with online Sunday school trying songs, Bible stories and activities in different ways. Pastor Luke will close out our school year with a few more online Sunday School videos over the next few weeks with the last one on May 23, so look for those on YouTube. Thank you all for your engagement and participation throughout the year and we will look forward to getting together again, hopefully in-person, this fall!

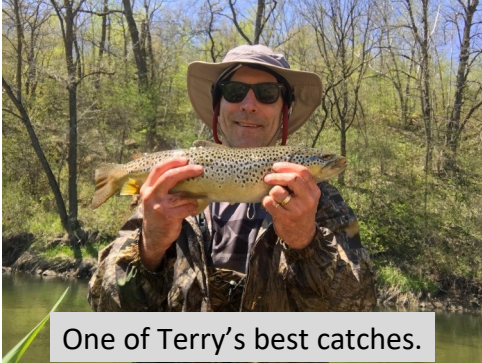
## Prayer-a-thon Thank You!

Mount Olive, you continue to amaze with your generosity. Thank you for your contributions to the Prayer-a-thon youth fundraiser. We have raised over \$2,000 and are getting closer to our goal of \$4,000. It is not too late to donate, and we invite you to consider giving a gift of \$1, \$2, \$5, or even \$10/hour for the youth that prayed on Saturday, April 24. Your gifts will help get 18 youth to Colorado where they will encounter God in all of God's majesty. You can send a check to Mount Olive indicating Youth Trip in the memo or give online at [molive.org](http://molive.org), click the "Donate Now" button at the bottom of the page and select youth program.



## Men's Fishing Retreat Reflection

April 17 marked the first Mount Olive Fishin' Mission, a gathering consisting of a small but elite group of hardcore outdoorsmen...just kidding. There was one serious trout fisherman (Terry Krieger), and a bunch of men thirsting for fellowship and an excuse to meander through the woods enjoying the birds, the sound of Spring Valley Creek, and a chance to enjoy some relatively bug-free time in the bluff country.



One of Terry's best catches.

The crew varied in intensity, from Terry - clad head to toe in waterproof camouflage and confident in his super-secret bait (which turned out to be a giant grub, like the kind Crocodile Dundee would eat to survive in the outback) - to Brad Natzke, who was there for some fellowship, but with no intention of trying to catch anything. The rest of us fell somewhere in the middle - the fishing equivalent of day traders, or a church league softball team.

We all had a quick word around the campfire, with a prayer and meditation from Pastor Luke

before heading down the hill to see what the creek held. Pastor Glenn and Eric Anderson out-foxed us all, for they had looked at a map, and cunningly spotted a path called **Fish Trail**, which was to be their route for the morning. The rest of us, unaware that **Fish Trail** was an option, went via Bluff trail, or Moon trail, or - more specifically - Not Fish Trail. And that was how the fishing went. Once we found the water, Keith Hanson and Stuart Vrieze went downstream, casting and plunking and spinning their way through the limestone valley, looking in vain for signs of any aquatic life.

Brad and I admired the view, the scenery, and I was forced to admit that I couldn't see any trout either, but I was soon off to follow Luke upstream. I confidently started casting spinner after spinner into promising pools, only to come up snake-eyes. I could only assume that Luke had either caught all of the trout, or scared them all into hiding.



Pastor Glenn ponders if this one's a "keeper".



Pastor Luke shows off a good catch.

The morning flew by. I tried all three of my rods and doggedly maintained my perfect record, narrowly snatching my lure out of the mouth of a hungry trout before he could damage it with his teeth. Soon I saw Luke heading back to camp, and he shared that a significant amount of his morning was spent bird watching, which explains why he scared away all the fish. He spotted plenty of feathered wildlife, though, including (and I'm just going by memory here), goldfinches, kingfishers, hawks both Stimpsons and Red shouldered, a black-eyelashed gnat catcher, three ivory-billed woodpeckers, a pterodactyl, and a female wandering albatross.

The time to meet back at base rolled around, and we all gathered around to enjoy Bill's barbecue prowess and compare notes from the morning. It soon became clear - Terry must be cheating. Pastor Glenn had 4 nice trout for the supper table, and Eric had caught one - tied for second with Luke. All the rest of us had beautiful memories

of a perfect spring day - except for Terry, who had landed 16 trout. Embarrassed, we all kind of shuffled our feet and changed the subject. It was like birdwatching with Luke, or golfing with Tiger Woods - I have a sincere interest and enthusiasm, but I will probably never have success like that on the trout streams. I admit to being enjoyably and companionably out of my depth. But at least I have my waders.

All the best,

Nathan Mannix



## Women's Spring Meeting

The Spring Meeting for all women of the congregation will be Monday, **May 3rd** at 6:30 pm on Zoom. The meeting will include an energizing and fun speaker, Rev. Heidi Heimgartner. Pastor Heidi, who also spoke at the fall meeting, will continue her engaging conversation about the ELCA social statement- Faith, Sexism, and Justice. We will have an opportunity to learn together and enjoy some fellowship time; please join us!

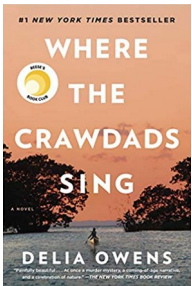
Zoom ID: 980 252 5207 or click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9802525207> Please contact Regina Seabrook, Mount Olive Women of the ELCA President, with any questions you may have- [rseabroo@gmail.com](mailto:rseabroo@gmail.com).

**The Women of the ELCA Study Leader's Meeting with Pastor Glenn is Tuesday, May 4 at 5:30 pm on Zoom. You'll need your May copy of Gather Magazine. Zoom ID: 853 9855 7199 Passcode: 399944**



## 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).



## Monday Book Group

The **Monday Book Group** will wrap up their season of discussing literature when the via Zoom **May 10** at 6:30 pm. This month's selection is ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Delia Owens. This novel is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps. If you would like to be added to the email list or receive the Zoom invitation, contact Jodi Schoer at [mjschoer@charter.net](mailto:mjschoer@charter.net).

## Ripe Olives Meets May 14

After more than a year apart, the Ripe Olives, Mount Olive's group for retired folks, will gather **IN-PERSON** on Friday, **May 14** at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will wear masks and observe social distance, and for this meeting, no food or drink will be served. We will, however, have the opportunity to enjoy one another's company and catch up on the past year. Contact Nancy Britson with questions 288-1580 ext. 202 or [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org).

## 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.



**SUMMER CAMP**

**REGISTER TODAY**







## Artist Studio

Olive Branch Artist's Studio wrapped up a fun and successful season at the end of April with two movie nights! Over the past 7 months, we provided a safe place for people to gather and express themselves through art. We plan to resume a regular schedule when the weather turns cold again, but until then - keep finding ways to be creative!



## Summer of Sabbath

Summer with Olive Branch is going to be all about taking Sabbath seriously. This means we will be offering events that are focused on fellowship, connection and most importantly: rest. Watch for more details coming soon.

*"In our own contemporary context of the rat race of anxiety, the celebration of Sabbath is an act of both resistance and alternative. It is resistance because it is a visible insistence that our lives are not defined by the production and consumption of commodity goods."*

~Walter Brueggemann, from his book *Sabbath as Resistance*.

## Mount Olive Team Exploring Anti-Racism

This group of nine Mount Olive members has been meeting monthly since January 2021 and have come up with this working mission statement to share at an upcoming council meeting for approval: "The Mount Olive Team Exploring Anti-Racism is on a journey to educate ourselves about racism so that we can take steps toward meaningful change. We are committed to holding each other accountable as we learn and grow together, and will seek out congregational learning opportunities to help Mount Olive live into our mission to be *Ambassadors for Christ, rooted to grow and serve.*" We look forward to sharing more about what we're learning and planning in the coming months.



## Sunday Psalm Prayer Breaks for the Summer

Thanks to all who have participated in Richard's 30-minute Psalm services. Having covered Psalms 1 to 15, we're taking a break for the summer. Miss any? All fifteen "episodes" are available to watch anytime on our Olive Branch YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPRunOmryq5TCrOsrXM50tw>



## Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters have been very busy these past 6 months!! Many thanks to Donna Grever and Karen Trageser for leading and working with all the other quilters to assemble 80 large quilts and 50 baby quilts. The large quilts were delivered to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in April and from there, go to those in need in third world countries. The baby quilts were delivered to Families First here in Rochester. We are always in need of fabric to make the quilts. Contact Elaine Monson, 507-272-6404 if there are questions.

## Next Chapter Gala is Friday, May 7

Each year, our ministry partner, Next Chapter Ministries hosts the annual *Restoration Celebration* where the work and people of Next Chapter are celebrated. This year will be a bit different, but still a celebration. You may either attend the event in-person at 6:00 pm at the International Event Center, 7333 Airport View Dr. SW, or you may attend online by going to [nextchapterrochester.org](http://nextchapterrochester.org) during the event. The website will also provide access to a silent auction. Mount Olive is a sponsoring organization, and tables have been reserved for Mount Olive members. If you would like to attend in-person, please contact Pastor Glenn at [glenn@molive.org](mailto:glenn@molive.org). Thank you.

## Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will meet on **May 11** 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 provides the evening meal on the first Friday of each month. The next open dates are May 7 and June 4. If you would be willing to drop off a meal or order pizza to serve approximately 14 people at 6:00 pm, please contact Jene Bodensteiner, Dorothy Day House volunteer coordinator for Mount Olive- [jbode6@icloud.com](mailto:jbode6@icloud.com).



## Meal Donation Opportunities for Homeless Families

Family Promise introduces Kitchen Connections, a new way to CREATE, ENGAGE, and GIVE BACK to families experiencing homelessness in the Rochester area. A few days a week they are asking for volunteers to provide ingredients and a recipe to be dropped off for the families to prepare. Other days, completed meals may be left. Please see the Signup Genius link for more detailed information and to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4fa4aa22a3f94-kitchen> 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.

## Forum on Homelessness in Rochester - How Can Faith Communities Help?

St. Luke's and Calvary Episcopal Churches are hosting a panel discussion via Zoom on homelessness in Rochester on **Thursday, May 20, 7-8:30 p.m.** A panel of experts will discuss all aspects of homelessness, but most importantly, they will share information on simple and practical ways every one of us can help.

Viewers will be able to submit questions through the chat and there will be time for Q & A at the end. Individuals may register using the following link and then click on the "Homeless Forum" button. <https://stlukesepiscopal.org/serve/>

The Zoom link will be sent the day before the event. If you have any questions, please contact, Diane O'Mara at 507-261-3773 [dianeomara@charter.net](mailto:dianeomara@charter.net) or Rev. Justin Chapman at 612-618-3826 [revjustinc@gmail.com](mailto:revjustinc@gmail.com).

## Weekly Communication Update

You have probably noticed that Mount Olive has a new way of sending our weekly email update containing the week's worship service link, bulletin, and more about upcoming events. Soon, we will transition to sending this message from the [office@molive.org](mailto:office@molive.org) email address. **Please mark this address safe so that our messages don't go to your junk folder.**

## 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). You may also contact any of the pastors with requests via phone or email.

If you have a prayer request that you would like printed in the bulletin and prayed for by the congregation at worship services, please contact Pastor Glenn, Pastor Lisa, Pastor Luke, or Nancy Britson in the church office. We appreciate your call to the church office in the case of illness, hospitalization, the birth of a baby, or any time you have joys and sorrows to share.

## Wear Red on Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday will be extra special this year with our first in-person sanctuary worship in many months. It is the time each year when we celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church, and we begin the long "green season" when the texts we read in worship move away from the life of Christ to the teachings of Christ. Everyone is encouraged



to wear red for worship that day, whether at the 9:00 am service in the sanctuary, the 11:00 am Tailgate Worship service, or while you watch online worship at home. We celebrate the presence of God's Spirit at Mount Olive and throughout the Church of Christ.

## 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

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<b>The Rev. Luke Hollander</b> Associate Pastor of Children, Youth, and Family <a href="mailto:luke@molive.org">luke@molive.org</a> Ext. 207	<b>Richard Bruxvoort Colligan</b> Cantor of Olive Branch <a href="mailto:richard@molive.org">richard@molive.org</a> Ext. 210	<b>Bill Hollander</b> Congregational Administrator <a href="mailto:bill.h@molive.org">bill.h@molive.org</a> Ext. 204
<b>Carrie Fletcher—Administrative Assistant and Nursery Coordinator</b> <a href="mailto:carrie@molive.org">carrie@molive.org</a> Ext. 209	<b>Nancy Britson</b> Director of Congregational Life <a href="mailto:nancy@molive.org">nancy@molive.org</a> Ext. 202	