

THE *Messenger*

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

Dear Beloved People of God,

This month of November holds much for us, and in many senses, is a kind of *gateway*. For as the month opens with All Saints Day weekend, we are beckoned to remember the saints who have gone before us, opening the door toward the mystery of life beyond our present moments. And as the month closes, we are beckoned to give thanks, and celebrate Christ the King whose reign changes all things, which then makes room for the waiting and preparation of Advent (and a new liturgical year!) to begin. And in the midst of it all, as the ground hardens in colder weather and daylight wanes, our hearts are preparing for the complexities of the holiday season and its continual demands upon us.

And so, dear people, as this November gateway is presented to us, I invite you to *breathe*. Not just here and now as you are reading this reflection, but over the whole month. Each day, each week, remember to *breathe*: in and out, in and out. And as you do so, remember that God's life *is* among us, both in the mystery of the great communion of saints living around and through us, but also in the moments of peace amidst the ever-hurrying pace of life this time of year.

Christ's Peace be with you,
Pastor Paul

Inside This Edition:

Congregational Life
page 2

Worship
page 3

Service
pages 4-5

Calendar
pages 6-7

Education
pages 8-9

Fellowship
pages 10-11

Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie

Do you want to enrich your Thanksgiving Day celebration? Come to the Service of Music and Scripture at Mount Olive on Thanksgiving Eve at 7:00 pm. Join musicians and readers of all ages as we acknowledge God's goodness, give thanks for God's abundance, and are inspired to grateful service. All worshippers are asked to bring an offering of non-perishable food, or a money gift for our hunger ministries. Finally, so that we don't go away hungry!, pie will be served following worship. Guests are especially welcomed.



New Members Received



We are pleased to have received several new members in October. Joining the congregation on October 15 were: Travis and Samantha Beck, Suzann Carrillo, Vonnie Haugstad, Seth and Alison Knight, Kailea Mattheis, Mark, Tracy, and Landon Roraff, Dale, Laura, Henry, and Oliver Suesse, Caitlin Van Lith and Zachariah Tritz, and Jan Wiersma. Please give them a warm welcome to Mount Olive! New member brochures and directories are available at the Welcome Desk. Directories are also available as a PDF by contacting the church office.

Stewardship Update

Stewardship Sunday was October 15th. The three weeks following this has shown great progress in people committing their financial pledges for the coming year. As of October 22nd, 120 Pledge Cards have been received. Last year, by the Annual Meeting in January, we had received 133 Pledge Cards. This year's totals have Mount Olive members committed to 76% of last year's commitments for both the General and the Building Fund! This is a great start! Remember, even if you are a Simply Giver, we would love to see a Pledge Card returned.



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

Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony Presents "Symphonies Great and Small"

On Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 pm, the Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony presents its Fall Concert at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Entitled "Symphonies Great and Small", the program includes Franz Schubert's "Symphony in C Major", known as "The Great", and Charles Gounod's "Petite Symphonie" for winds.

The Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony is under the direction of Dr. John A. Schultz, who is celebrating his 32nd season with the group. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, and are available at the door. This is the first concert of the 2017-2018 season.

Altar Flowers

You may sign up to provide the flowers that brighten the sanctuary each week. Place orders for birthdays, anniversaries, baptismal birthdays, births, or in memory of loved ones. Sign up in the Gathering Area, fill out an envelope and include payment. Place orders at least one week in advance. Bouquets are \$30 and bud vases range from \$7.50-\$13.50. Watch for the opportunity to order Poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Advent and the Christmas season later in November. Orders will be due by December 1.

All Saints Observance



On the weekend of November 4-5 we will celebrate the Festival of All Saints. This festival is the single time each year when we name those of our members who have died since All Saints one year ago, and we light a candle and ring a chime in their memory. Along with those who are named aloud, we also invite all worshippers to light a candle in memory of other persons who have died and are now resting in our God's eternal embrace. This year those whom we will name include:

Bob Colligan

Bud Mattson

Karelyn Porter

Marvin Sandness

Betty Nelson

Volunteer Update

Schedules for November Worship Volunteers and Sunday coffee and cookie fellowship have been distributed to all volunteers. There are still several openings for volunteers on both schedules. Is there a time that you could serve? At Mount Olive, volunteers select their service opportunities, time and date, via the online scheduling program, Sign Up Genius. If you would like to receive an invitation to Sign Up Genius or have any questions about volunteering at Mount Olive, please contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life. The current schedules are updated regularly and posted on the Mount Olive website, www.molive.org, under the "Service" tab. Links to the Sign Up Genius schedules are also on the website.

Volunteer Training

Training opportunities for all worship volunteers are coming up in November. On November 12, training for **greeters, ushers, communion assistants, and welcome desk volunteers** will take place between worship services. We will gather in the sanctuary at 9:15. Following the 10:30 service that same day, Pastor Paul and Travis Beck will meet with **assisting ministers and lectors**. We would like to reach as many volunteers as possible; several procedures have been updated since the last trainings, so new and experienced volunteers are encouraged to attend.

Hymn Festival-The Church's Journey in Art and Song

If you love music and you love to sing, you will want to be at Zumbro Lutheran Church, 624 3rd Ave. SW, at 4:00 pm on **Sunday, November 12**. The Church's Journey in Art and Song, a Hymn Festival, the synod-wide Reformation celebration, will feature something for everyone, from classics to old favorites to contemporary hymns. A free-will offering will be taken to aid hurricane victims through Lutheran Disaster Response. Daniel Kallman, well-known Lutheran composer and conductor from Bethel Lutheran in Northfield, will lead the festival choir. Special guest musicians from a variety of churches in the synod will be featured, including Mount Olive's very own brass ensemble.

Midweek Services Coming in Advent

Save the Dates: On three Wednesdays in December, we will be holding mid-week services at Mount Olive. A simple 30-minute contemplative worship experience will be offered on December 6, 13, and 20 at 6:30 pm, as a respite from the holiday hubbub. Come to one, or come to all. Resources for Advent study and children's Advent Calendars will be available in the entry at church beginning November 25.





Building community, strengthening lives.

November is a busy month for Family Promise!
Please put the important dates below on your calendar:

- **Training** to be volunteer for Family Promise will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, November 12th. Lunch will be served at 11:45 and training will begin at noon. All volunteers must update their training every three years. Please sign up at the table in the Gathering Area or RSVP to Erin Sinnwell if you can attend at etracy515@hotmail.com or 507-990-6079
- The **Annual Choir Concert and Silent Auction** will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church on Friday, November 17th. The Silent Auction goes from 6-7:30pm and the concert begins at 7:30pm. A free will offering supports the work of Family Promise Rochester. Mount Olive's choir will be participating this year, so please come join us!
- Mount Olive next **hosting** dates for homeless families are two weeks back to back from November 19 to December 3rd. Many volunteers are needed for hosting, meals, and transportation. Please sign up online (the link is available on the Service tab at molive.org) or in the Gathering Area.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Make a difference in the lives of those in need this holiday. Ring bells for the Rochester Salvation Army Red Kettle Christmas Campaign. Mount Olive's volunteer date is Sunday, December 2, 1:00pm-3:00. Please sign up for a 30 minute time slot to ring the bell with family and friends at Hy-Vee North on 37th Street. Sign up in the Gathering Area.



DOING THE
MOST GOOD™

Coming Home Concert

A Community Concert Fighting Homelessness
www.familypromiserochester.org

Friday, November 17
6 p.m. Silent Auction
7:30 p.m. Concert

Bethel Lutheran Church
810 3rd Ave SE, Rochester, MN

Silent Auction, 6-7:30 p.m.
With exciting gifts for the holiday season and great takeaways for every day!

All Are Invited • Free Will Offering

Featuring Musicians From:
Bethel Lutheran • Good Shepherd Lutheran • Hosanna Lutheran • Lourdes High School, Center Street Singers • Lourdes Jazz Band • Mount Olive Lutheran • Our Savior's Lutheran • Pax Christi • Peace United Church of Christ • People of Hope • Rochester Male Chorus



Special thanks to our sponsors!



Habitat for Humanity

Mount Olive will be wrapping gifts at the Apache Mall as a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. Please bring your holiday spirit and join us on Saturday, December 16th to wrap for one of three hour shifts. 10-1pm, 1pm-4pm or 4pm-7pm. Each shift needs 3 wrappers and 1 person to take the money/credit cards. Sign up in the Gathering Area after Thanksgiving. Contact Erin Sinnwell with questions: 507-990-6079



Mitten Tree

With colder weather approaching, many children will be searching their closets for winter gear and coming up short. In November and through the Advent season, the Mitten Tree will be on display in the Gathering Area. Take one of the paper ornaments from the tree, purchase the item indicated on the ornament, and place it under or on the tree. Keep the ornament for your Christmas tree at home. The goal of this ministry is to help kids stay warm over the winter by providing them with appropriate gear. Contact Ann Willis with any questions— ewillis@charter.net

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

On Sunday, November 12, during the Education hour we will be assembling Personal Care Kits as part of our Service Sunday. Join us in the Fellowship Hall to help put these kits together for our neighbors around the world that have been affected by disasters.

Contact Cathy Hanson with any questions:
kchanson89@gmail.com or 398-3917.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Food for Friends – The John Adams Backpack Program

Once again this year, Mount Olive, Channel One, and John Adams Middle School have partnered to get nutritious food to students at John Adams. **Drivers and packers are needed to make this program work.** Each task only requires 15-30 minutes of your time. The schedule is always posted on the Volunteer Sign-up Table in the Gathering Area. Select the date/time you will perform one or more of these tasks. Contact Warren Kemplin at 254-4932 or Mark Schultz at 254-4164 with questions or to arrange substitutes as needed.

Monthly Service Opportunities

Regularly scheduled opportunities that Mount Olive members participate in include:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| • Serving Meals at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House | 1st Friday of the month |
| • Construction on the current Habitat for Humanity Project | 2nd Saturday of the month |
| • Distributing food for Community Food Response (CFR) | 3rd Monday afternoon of the month |

See the sign up schedules for the above ministries on the Gathering Area cabinet.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, November 14 at 9:00 am

All knitters and crocheters are invited to attend our meeting on November 14. Yarn, needles, treats, and guidance are provided. If you know of someone who is in a difficult time of transition or has experienced loss or illness, they might enjoy a prayer shawl. To request a shawl, contact Peg Whitley pmwhitley@charter.net, or call the church office at 288-1580.



Mount Olive Quilters Update

Quilters continue to meet each Thursday (except Thanksgiving) at 9:00 am to assemble and tie quilts and sew bindings. New members are always welcome!

After “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, 10 large quilts were taken to NAMI (National Alliance of Mentally Ill) SE MN. The Good Earth Village Gala and Quilt Auction was October 12. We donated 2 large quilts, 1 baby quilt and 4 table centerpieces for this auction. One of our sewing machines was tuned up March 2017 at Kelley’s Quality Sewing Center, but quit working recently. The owner, Darlene, gave us a used older sewing machine to “make it right” with us. What a wonderful gift for us! We received a thank you for the quilt that we donated to the ABC event held in September. Fabric continues to be donated and we thank all those anonymous donors!

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 table.

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 enjoy beer or craft sodas? 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. Our new location this fall is 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. See you at the pub!



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 meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. **November 7 will feature *Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from a Minneapolis High School***. All are welcome. 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.

Sunday Forum

Sundays at 9:15 am, we gather in the Fellowship Hall. November's Sunday forums feature a variety of presenters from our congregation, which should prove engaging to all. The line-up is as follows:

- 5th – Women of ELCA present their Triennial report, with an outstanding presentation on human trafficking and other subjects
- 12th – Service Sunday packing personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief
- 19th – Living the Questions – Pastor Paul, an ongoing exploration of progressive theology
- 26th – no forum (Thanksgiving Day weekend)

Men's Discipleship

The Men's Discipleship group has resumed their weekly meetings on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in the front Conference Room. This fall, they are studying Galatians. This group, welcome to all men of the congregation, meets every Saturday morning during the program year for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. Everyone is welcome. Contact Mark Masbruch for more info. - masbruch@hotmail.com
Note that the group does not meet the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 25th.



Women's Bible Study groups are off to a great start this fall with each group having new members! There are six groups that meet monthly for Bible Study and fellowship. If you are interested in joining a Bible study group, often known as a "circle", contact Denise Foy, Mount Olive Women of the ELCA President at denise_foy@hotmail.com.

Note: All Women of the ELCA circle study leaders, please attend the monthly leader preparation meeting led by Pastor Glenn on the first Tuesday of the month. This month's meeting is November 7 in the front Conference Room at 5:30 pm. Sessions 3 and 4 will be covered. Bring your study book.

Second Sunday of Service

On Oct. 8, the Sunday School children participated in their first Second Sunday of Service project for the school year. The task was to put together Blizzard Boxes for Lutheran Social Service in conjunction with the Meals on Wheels program in the Mankato area. These are lunch bags filled with 5 non-perishable food items. They will be given to elderly individuals at the beginning of winter to place in their pantry, and eat during inclement weather, when it is difficult or impossible to get a hot meal to them. Thank you to all 45 students and their teachers, who worked so hard to assemble 119 blizzard bags! Special thanks go to the 6th and 7th graders who led and helped all the younger students in this fun service project. It was a joy to see our young people compelled by God's love to serve. **Next month's project will be assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief on November 12.**



Little Leapers Luncheon - November 5

Parents and their children ages newborn to 3 years old are invited to a special luncheon on November 5th. Gather at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch and lots of fun. This will be a great opportunity to connect with other Little Leaper families, learn more

about the monthly gatherings the first Sunday of each month, and ask any questions you might have about parenting, faith, or the church. RSVP to Carrie Fletcher, carrie@molive.org or 288-1580 ext. 209.

Affirmation of Baptism

We celebrated with 19 of our youth as they affirmed their baptism on October 29. Posters with the students faith statements and pictures are posted in the windows in the church entry. Please continue to support these students and pray for their growth in faith:

Megan Anderson, Lydia Bergerson, Katie Coenen, Maiah Coil, Joey Determan, Greta Freed, Caleb Harris, Eli Klavetter, Parker Klavetter, Joey Krieger, Andrew Langemo, Grace Larson, Annika Natzke, Josie Nichols, Matthew Olson, Sonja Pierson, Thomas Schad, Allison Smith, and Christian Swenson.



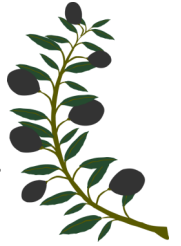
Metamorphosis Intergenerational Wednesdays

Metamorphosis continues on Wednesdays through November 15. Come to explore how God's story meets and changes our story as God's people. Each week, dinner will be available beginning at 5:30 pm, with table discussions and worship beginning at 6:00 pm. Program materials will be provided as needed. All are welcome-no prior experience needed! Find us by searching "mometamorphosis" (on Facebook and Instagram) and @meta_molive (on Twitter).



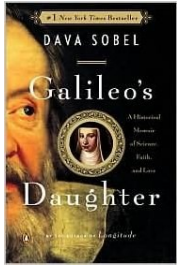
Ripe Olives

Ripe Olives, the group for Mount Olive's seniors meets again on Friday, November 10 at 9:30 am. Breakfast is provided with a freewill donation. The program for November is a presentation by Darrel Hildebrant from the Rochester Police Department about **Senior Frauds and Scams**. Everyone is welcome to attend, sign up at the Gathering Area table. Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with questions 288-1580 ext. 202 or nancy@molive.org.



Monday Book Group

The Monday Book Group gathers again on November 13 at 6:30 pm in the library to continue their year long journey through a wide variety of literature. The November selection is *Galileo's Daughter*.



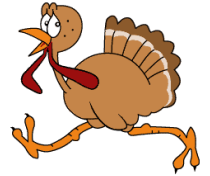
Inspired by a long fascination with Galileo, and by the remarkable surviving letters of his daughter Maria Celeste, a cloistered nun. Dava Sobel has crafted a biography that dramatically recolors the personality and accomplishments of a mythic figure whose early 17th century clash with Catholic doctrine continues to define the schism between science and religion. New readers are always welcome! 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 that explores a wide array of activities including concerts, campouts, bike rides, hockey games and more.

The next Adventure Club activity is Thursday, November 23 – **The Thanksgiving**

Day Wobble Gobble Family 5k and Fun Run. Join us in the Thanksgiving morning tradition of "earning" your turkey dinner! There is a family walk/run, kids run, and 5k trail race. The race begins at 8:30 am at Autumn Ridge Church, 3611 Salem Rd SW in Rochester. Sign up online: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MN/Rochester/GW> ALL proceeds benefit The Salvation Army.



Fellowship Tables

Once again this year there will be three options for Fellowship Tables. These groups meet in homes, restaurants, or in the Fellowship Hall at church for a meal. These groups are all a great way to branch out, meet new people, and bond with long-time friends without a huge time commitment.

Restaurant and Home Fellowship Tables are formed for one program year and are open to adult couples and singles. There is still time to join a group, contact Nancy Britson to add your name to the list.

Family Fellowship Meal

On **Saturday, November 4 at 6:00 pm** meet in the Fellowship Hall at Mount Olive for a pot-luck meal with other families. The theme of the meal is "Breakfast for Dinner". Each family brings a dish to share; paper products, tableware, and beverages will be provided. Kids are welcome! Sign up in the Gathering Area and indicate what you will bring. Direct any questions to Nancy Britson (nancy@molive.org) or Erin Sinnwell (etracy515@hotmail.com).



Inclusive Church Taskforce Update

The Inclusive Church Taskforce has been facilitating congregational conversations about how we communicate, strengthening our relationships with one another, and working to celebrate one another as whole people. Our hope is that this process will be helpful for this conversation, our lives together as a community of Christ, and our ongoing work for justice. Specifically, we hope to work together through the *Reconciling in Christ* process to extend an authentic welcome to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ). The framework for this process comes from the ELCA Reconciling Works website: <http://www.reconcilingworks.org> and is called Building an Inclusive Church: <http://www.welcomingresources.org/welcomingtoolkit-preview.pdf>

On October 1. Ryan from *Reconciling Works* led a discussion at the Adult Forum that introduced what *Reconciling in Christ* means and what our next steps are. **On Saturday, November 18 at 6:15 pm, we will have pizza available and show the movie *For the Bible Tells Me So* with discussion afterwards.**

Early in 2018 we hope to have three more Adult Forums with the topics including: LGBTQ 101, a theological discussion, and an open questions and answer forum. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events. You are invited to review the resources listed above and to ask any questions you may have. Please come and listen and share your perspectives on this important work. At this time, the core team members, who are all available for your questions, are:

Elmer Odland

David Johnston

Paula Freitag

Jake Johnson

Tom Rigby

Mickaela Pasch

Becky Lashinski

Randi Beyerli

Pastor Paul Moody



Members of the Inclusive Church Taskforce with Ryan following the forum on October 1.

Wednesday Night Meals

On Wednesdays, November 1, 8, and 15 come to the Fellowship Hall for a hot meal at 5:30 pm. Meals are open for everyone! In addition to the main entrées, a lettuce salad with toppings, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cookies, and applesauce/fruit cups are available. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you are able to help with preparing or serving the meals. There is a suggested donation of \$3 per person. **If you know of someone who is in need of a meal, and you are willing to deliver, take-out is available.** Contact Nancy Britson with any questions - nancy@molive.org.



Reformation and Affirmation of Baptism—October 29, 2017

19 Confirmation students affirmed their baptism at both services on Sunday, October 29. Their names are listed on page 9.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

2830 18th Ave. NW

Rochester, MN 55901

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

9:00AM-noon Fri.

507-288-1580

Website: molive.org



Mount Olive Staff

The Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson

Senior Pastor

glenn@molive.org

Ext. 206

The Rev. Paul Moody

Associate Pastor

paul@molive.org

Ext. 205

Travis Beck

Director of Worship, Music, and Arts

travis@molive.org

Ext. 203

Kailea Mattheis

Director of Children, Youth, and Family

kailea@molive.org

Ext. 207

Bill Hollander

Congregational Administrator

bill@molive.org

Ext. 204

Nancy Britson

Director of Congregational Life

nancy@molive.org

Ext. 202

**Carrie Fletcher—Administrative Assistant
and Nursery Coordinator**

carrie@molive.org

Ext. 209

Sherry Will

Director of Missions and Service

sherry@molive.org

Ext. 210

Tina Coil—Nursery Assistant