

THE Messenger

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Giving and Receiving

As our team headed to Tanzania in September we had five main goals in mind which we hoped to achieve through our visit there:

- 1) Renew our relationship with our companion congregation in Kijota.
- 2) Get an update and overview of the Kijota Hull High School.
- 3) Get an update and overview of the Lutheran Bible Institute at Kiomboi.
- 4) Form a stronger relationship with the Central Diocese in Singida and worship at the Immanuel Cathedral there.
- 5) Have a sewing day in Kijota on a project wherein Tanzanian and American women would work together.

All of these goals were met beyond expectations! God is so good!!

We spent many hours on Friday and Sunday with the people of our companion congregation in Kijota, both giving and receiving gifts, eating together, praying together, worshipping together.

We spent a good portion of one day meeting the students, faculty, and staff of Kijota Hull High School. We toured the campus, enjoyed a program and Q&A session led by the students, had much conversation with the staff about our partnership, and enjoyed a meal together. We were delighted to hear that the student body has grown to 170 students, and hopes to grow to 250 residential students soon.

We lived for part of 3 days at the Lutheran Bible Institute at Kiomboi (LBIK), where members of our team worked extensively on the computers and technology while Pastor Glenn taught two lectures on preaching to 72 students. We learned that the eager students and excellent faculty would greatly benefit from an expanded partnership with us.

We met with many members of Bishop Alex Mkumbo's staff, as well as having two meetings with the bishop. We enjoyed a wonderful children-led service at Immanuel Cathedral.

Our sewing day in Kijota was a big hit, as the ladies on our team worked with 50 Kijota women on sewing stoles for the new graduates of the Lutheran Bible Institute at Kiomboi. These stoles will be finished by our Mount Olive quilters and given to graduates by our bishop in December.

We gave gifts. We received abundantly, far beyond our expectations. As the Tanzanians say, "Mungu umwema wakate wa wote, wakate wa wote Mungu umwema." God is good all the time. All the time, God is good!



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Pictures and blog entries from the trip may be seen at the **Tanzania Team Travels blog**, which can be found at: <https://tanzaniateamtravels.blogspot.com/>.

Stewardship Reminder

If you missed Stewardship Weekend, October 13-14, have no fear, your pledge for 2019 is still most welcome. Our Finance Team will soon be drafting next year's budget and so we need to hear from each member household what you intend to give in the coming year. If you have misplaced the commitment card that was sent to your home, please pick up a new card from the church office anytime, or at the usher's table before any worship service. You may drop it off, put it in the offering plate, send it in the mail, or even email Bill Hollander in the church office with your pledge. Remember, even if you are a Simply Giver, we would love to see a Pledge Card returned. Thank you to all who have already made their pledge!

Call Committee Working Hard, but...

It isn't for lack of effort that the Call Committee is not yet ready to recommend a candidate to fill our vacant Associate Pastor position. They have received a good number of names from the synod office, have seriously considered six candidates, have interviewed two, only to end up with no one yet to emerge who fills the role. The synod office has assured us that they will continue to forward names of suitable candidates as soon as they receive their profiles. Meanwhile, the congregation is invited to put forth their own candidates via the nomination forms available in the gathering area and continue praying that God will lead us to a fine candidate who will be a joyful member of our team. Members of the committee are Terry Krieger (chair), Nicole Pierson, Grace Freed, Andy Hamann, Brandi Smith, Heather Klavetter, and Jake Johnson.

New Member Sunday November 11

Several new members will be joining the Mount Olive congregation on November 11 at the 10:30 service. Plan to attend to meet the new members and give them a warm welcome to our congregation. If you were not able to attend the new member orientation on October 28, but are interested in joining Mount Olive, contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life at 288-1580 ext. 202 or nancy@molive.org.

Congregational Meeting Report

Mount Olive voted on Sunday, October 14, 2018 in a nearly unanimous decision to approve a finalized Welcome Statement

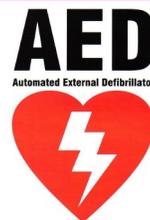
(see pg. 11), thereby becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We are overjoyed at having taken this step and we look forward to living this out in our life together in the years ahead. Thank you to all who participated in the process, especially to the members of the Inclusive Church Task Force - Randi Beyerl, Becky Lashinski, Jake Johnson, Mickaela Pasch, Paula Freitag, Elmer Odland, David Johnston, Tom Rigby, Ann Willis, Jan Wiersma, Seth Knight, Rev. Paul Moody, and Rev. Glenn Monson.

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony

On Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 pm, the Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony begins its season presenting its Fall concert at Mount Olive. Entitled "A Taste of the Romantics", the program includes selections from Stravinsky's Firebird Ballet, Respighi's Ancient Airs & Dances, Borodin's Symphony #3, and more. The Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony is under the direction of John Vettel. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, and are available at the door.



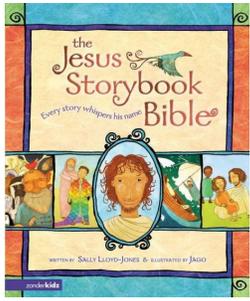
The Facilities Team is looking into the purchase of an AED (automated external defibrillator) for Mount Olive. This was not a budgeted item. The costs would be around \$1,700. If someone were to have a coronary event at Mount Olive, an AED could be the difference between life and death. If you are interested in contributing to this effort, it would be greatly appreciated. See Bill Hollander if you have questions.



All Saints Observance

On the weekend of November 3-4 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: **Dolores Cleveland, Ron Onnen, Dan Meyer, Zanti Squillace, Tami Beach, Joyce Johnston, Bob Kline and Elliot Beck.**



3 Year Olds and 4th Graders receive Bibles

On November 18, three year olds and 4th graders are invited to receive their Bibles at either the 8:00 or 10:30 am Sunday service. Three year olds and any four year olds who have yet to receive their Bible will be receiving the *Jesus Storybook Bible* and the 4th graders will receive the *Colaborate Bible*. Parents and children, please join us in worship on November 18th to receive your Bible!



Thanksgiving Eve

Do you love to sing, give thanks, and eat pie? If you do be sure to attend the Service of Music and Scripture at Mount Olive on Thanksgiving Eve, November 21st, 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 generous living. All worshippers are asked to bring an offering of non-perishable food, or a monetary gift for our hunger ministries. Following worship, so that we don't go away hungry, pie will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Guests are most welcome.



Worship and Fellowship Volunteer Update

Many volunteers are always needed for our worship services and fellowship times following the services. All of those that serve are so appreciated! If you are available to join the volunteer team, please sign up to serve via the Sign Up Genius website. The links are available via invitation and are also accessible from the Mount Olive website, molive.org on the Service tab. You may also contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with your availability, 288-1580 ext. 202.



Pastor Glenn leads the children in blessing the Personal Care Kits in worship on October 14.



Family Promise Fall Choir Concert

Friday, November 16, 2018

6:30 – Silent Auction, 7:30 – Concert

Family Promise Rochester is having their annual fall fundraiser, a community choir concert and silent auction, on Friday, November 16 at Bethel Lutheran Church, 810 3rd Ave SE, Rochester. All proceeds from this event will help Family Promise achieve its mission to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence. Please plan to attend to support our church choirs AND Family Promise. The Mount Olive choir will perform.



Personal Care Kits

Thank you to all who donated and helped assemble the Personal Care Kits in October. Your generous donations will help our neighbors around the world when disaster strikes and they are in need of basic care items. We were able to assemble a total of 84 kits to send to those who are in need.

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 Saturday, **December 1**, 1:00pm-3:00. Please sign up for a 30 minute time slot to ring the bell with family and friends. Please note a change, this year we will be at the Hy-Vee at 4221 West Circle Dr. Sign up in the Gathering Area. If this day/time does not work for you, you may choose your own time slot at www.registertoring.com.



- **Training** to be volunteer for Family Promise will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Nov. 18 during the Education Hour (9:15 am). All volunteers who interact with program guests must update their training every three years, which can be done in-person or online. All new volunteers need to train in-person. 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
- Mount Olive's next **hosting** dates for homeless families are December 9-16. Many volunteers are needed for hosting, meals, and transportation. Please sign up online. The link is available on the Service tab at molive.org, in the church Entry beginning November 11. The link is <https://tinyurl.com/yabq5rwc>.
- A **HUGE thank you** to all of the volunteers that helped make the mailing of over 1500 Family Promise newsletters possible. Your time and help was greatly appreciated and it saved time and money for those working at the day center.

The 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. You may place gently used or new (elementary through middle school sized) coats, snow pants, snow boots, hiking boots, wool socks, hats and/or mittens under or on the tree. The goal of this ministry is to help kids at Elton Hills, John Adams, and the Alternative Learning Center stay warm over the winter by providing them with appropriate gear. Contact Ann Willis with any questions—eawillis@charter.net.



2nd Sunday of Service - Christmas Cards and Good Gifts

On **November 11**, the Sunday school children will be making beautiful Christmas cards for immigrant and refugee children here in the US who have been detained and/or separated from their families, and sending them through the organization Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). Preschool teacher, Linda Schueler has opened up her amazing box of fun Christmas creations and supplies, so please make sure your child is here so they can join in the fun. We will also be making Christmas cards for members of our partner congregation, Lluvia de Gracia in Bogota, Colombia and Kijota Parish in Tanzania. We would like help from Spanish speaking members to write greetings for these children. Please contact Sherry Will at sherry@molive.org with any questions, or if you can assist with the card messages.

In addition, the Middle school youth will be taking donations for ELCA Good Gifts (God's Global Barnyard) which not only helps to fight hunger in 83 different countries, but transforms lives. Here's how it works: Choose the amount you'd like to donate and bring your donation to the Good Gifts table at church on Sunday, November 11. You will then receive an ornament with a picture of the animal that will be given to a family in need, \$10 for 10 chicks, \$20 for honeybees, \$30 for a pig, or \$50 for a goat.



Give something **unexpected** this Christmas.

This could be the perfect gift for someone you know. Make the donation in their name and present them with the ornament. You'll both be happy, knowing that these donations are supporting a family or community in need. Donations will be taken between services on Sunday, Nov. 11. Contact Sherry Will at sherry@molive.org or Carrie Fletcher at carrie@molive.org with any questions.

Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

All knitters and crocheters are invited to attend our next meeting on **November 13** at 9:00 am. Yarn, needles, treats, and guidance are provided. The group meets from September to May to knit or crochet prayer shawls and hats. To request a shawl for someone who is experiencing illness, loss, or a difficult time, contact Peg Whitley - peg.whitley@gmail.com, or call the church office at 288-1580.



Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters meet at 9 am each Thursday in the Fellowship Hall. They are grateful to have had several recent donations of fabrics. They have pressed and cut the fabric and put together packages of quilt squares that need to be sewn together. Pick up a package or two to sew from the bin in the Gathering Area cabinet; directions are included. If you have any questions, call Elaine Monson at 272-6404.

Food for Friends

The Food for Friends Program is underway again this school year. Each Thursday, bags of food are delivered to John Adams Middle School. Deliveries will continue weekly throughout the school year. Volunteers are needed to pick-up the food from Channel One during the day on Wednesday, package the food into grocery bags on Wednesday evening at Mount Olive, and deliver the packaged food to John Adams on Thursday morning. Sign up forms for these tasks are available in the Gathering Area. The students and staff at John Adams are very grateful for Mount Olive's participation. This is a simple and effective way to provide a weekend meal for a child that may be hungry. Thank you to everyone that supports this effort. Contacts are Mark Schultze at mark_schultze@yahoo.com and Warren Kemplin at warren.kemplin@gmail.com.

Sunday Forums

Each Sunday at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall, all older youth and adults are invited to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while listening to the presenter for the day which might be anything from an interfaith dialogue to a report on a mission trip. In November, the lineup is as follows:

Nov. 4 – My Neighbor is Muslim – an exploration of the Muslim faith

Nov. 11 – Service Sunday – making Christmas cards for refugees and children in our companion congregations

Nov. 18 – Family Promise Training for volunteers

Nov. 25 – No Forum – Thanksgiving Weekend



A large group gathered for the forum on October 21st for a presentation by the Tanzanian Team. They shared many pictures including ones of our sister congregation in Kijota (above) and Pastor Glenn baptizing an infant at their Sunday worship service. (right)

Men's Discipleship

The Men's Discipleship group continues their weekly meetings on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in the front Conference Room. This fall, they are studying Matthew. This group, open 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. - mmasbruch@hotmail.com.

Note that the group does not meet the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 24th.

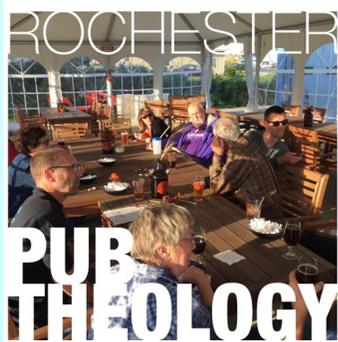
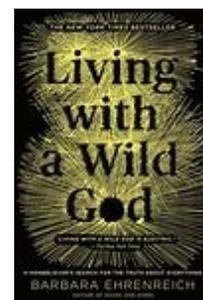
Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU) November 6

The Faith Seeking Understanding group 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 during the program year.

The selection for November 6th is *Living with a Wild God: A Nonbeliever's Search for the Truth about Everything* by Barbara Ehrenreich. All are welcome to attend to discuss this deeply personal and cosmically sweeping memoir and profound reflection on science,

religion, and the human condition. If you have any questions, please contact Kailea Mattheis at

kailea@molive.org or 507-288-1580. ext. 207.



Pub Theology (On a temporary hiatus until further notice)

Every Monday evening, the Pub Theology group gathers at LTS Brewing Co., 5:30-7 pm, to discuss topics related to faith, life, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our world today. Conversations are led by Mount Olive's Director of Music, Worship, and Arts, Travis Beck. Topics are available at rochester-publictheology.wordpress.com and are also sent out a day ahead of time via email. **Members of the email list will be notified when the group resumes their weekly meetings.**

Affirmation of Baptism – Sunday, October 28



We celebrated with 12 youth as they affirmed their baptism at the 10:30 am service on Reformation Day, October 28. A reception for all confirmands was held following the 10:30 service in the Fellowship Hall. Posters with the students' faith statements and pictures are posted in the windows in the church entry. The following students affirmed their baptism:

Amy Bachman, Henry Bair, Jilene Coil, Joshua Fletcher, Graham Freed, Grant Hafeman, Elizabeth Langemo, Anya Liedtke-Quick, Eva Mickelson, Evan Smoley, Mathew Swenson, and Noah Swenson

Wednesday Night Metamorphosis:

Metamorphosis classes will continue through November 14. Come and explore how Jesus worked in our world and how we are called to work in the world. Each week, dinner will be available at 5:30 pm, and class activities will begin at 6:00 pm. Find us by searching "mometamorphosis" (on Facebook and Instagram) and @metamolive (on Twitter) for all updates regarding what is happening in Metamorphosis.

Hosanna Youth Visit Mount Olive

The confirmation students from Hosanna Lutheran Church visited the Mount Olive confirmation students recently to talk about a ministry

in their congregation. The group came to share about their Greeting Card Ministry. Many of the cards were created as a God's Work. Our Hands project, but the ministry continues throughout the year. The kids donated a box of premade cards to be shared



with our congregation. You can find the box of cards in the Gathering Area on the sign-up table. They brought supplies for our students to make their own cards and then shared in a snack together. There is a possibility that the two groups may work together on future service projects.

Youth Boards Re-Forming

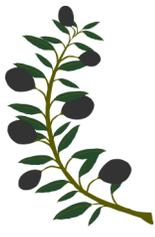
Mount Olive is reinstating the youth boards to help plan fellowship events for the Middle School and High School students. If your student would be interested in serving on their perspective board, please let Kailea know ASAP by email: Kailea@molive.org or phone: 288-1580 ext. 207. Kailea also needs at least one adult for each board willing to help lead and supervise meetings and activities. If you would be interested, please contact Kailea.

Confirmation Task Force

Kailea is looking at how to best serve the confirmation ministry at Mount Olive. She is setting up a task force to critically look at our program and how we carry out that ministry. If you have a past, present, or future confirmation student and would be interested in being a guiding force in our confirmation ministry, please consider joining this task force. Please contact Kailea for more information.

Women's Christmas Party December 3

The Women's Christmas party will be on Monday, **December 3** at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the congregation are invited to attend to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. The program, from Mount Olive women, Sherry Will and Karen Masbruch, will tell more about the projects they accomplished with the women of Tanzania. As usual, delicious food and Christmas music will be included. Sign up in the Gathering Area where you will find more details. Hosted by Mary Circle. **Note that since circles do not have their regular meeting in December, there is no Dec. study leader's meeting.**



Ripe Olives

Ripe Olives is a group for Mount Olive's most experienced members, mostly retired folks. They meet the first Friday of the month September through May for fun and fellowship! On **November 9**, Pastor Glenn will be our guest, speaking about funeral planning. Learn more about the parts of the service, receive guidance in making choices, and learn how you can leave those plans for your loved ones. If you already have funeral plans in place, come anyway for breakfast at 9:30 and conversation. The program will begin about 10:30. Sign up at the Gathering Area table. Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with questions 288-1580 ext. 202 or nancy@molive.org.

Adventure Club News

The Mount Olive Adventure Club is a diverse and dynamic group of people of all ages that enjoy exploring a wide variety of activities. Be sure to pick up a Fellowship brochure to read about everything that is planned for 2018-2019.

- **December 8-Adventure Club Outing to Annie**

Join the Mount Olive Adventure Club to see this delightful musical at the Rochester Civic Theater. Little Orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. The performance we are attending is on **Saturday, evening, December 8 at 7:00 pm**. Adult Tickets are \$29, children are \$21. Payment envelopes and a sign up sheet with more information are provided on the Gathering Area sign up counter. Return envelopes to the office drop box or place in the offering plate by **November 4th**. Tickets are limited!



- **Christmas Caroling**— Join us **December 16** for caroling to local senior living communities and cocoa and cookies back at Mount Olive afterwards. All ages and singing abilities are welcome!

Fellowship Tables

Are you looking for a way to branch out, meet new people, and have some great meals? Fellowship Tables is for you! Fellowship Tables are groups of seven to nine adults that meet three or more times during the program year to share a meal and fellowship. Choices include **Restaurant Tables**, groups that have their meals in restaurants or **Home Tables**, groups that meet in member's homes. These groups are a great way to get together without a huge time commitment. Each group sets their own schedule and meeting places.

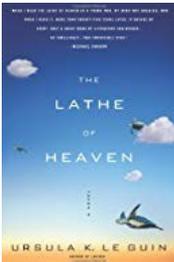


There are a number of groups still needing more people that would love to have you; the deadline to sign up has been extended! Look for the sign up sheets in the Gathering Area or contact Nancy Britson (nancy@molive.org) in the church office and get signed up today!

Meals for those in Need

Mount Olive uses an online program called *Meal Train* to organize meals for Mount Olive members in need. Past recipients have included people recovering from surgery or illness and parents of new babies. Volunteers simply follow an individualized email link to *Meal Train* and choose a date to provide a meal. More details can be viewed on-line for each recipient. If you are in need of meals or willing to help provide meals, please contact SherrieBelle Brinkworth at nanabelle.mn@gmail.com and she can send the Meal Train links to you. Alternately, you may also contribute **gift cards** to restaurants. Gift cards may be placed in an envelope labeled "Meal Train" and put in the offering plate or the office drop box. Thank You!





Monday Book Group

The **Monday Book Group** gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature including: classics, fiction, poetry, humor, memoirs, history, mystery, Minnesota authors, and youth inspired works. They meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Their next meeting is **November 12th** to discuss ***The Lathe of Heaven*** by Ursula LeGuin. This science fiction classic masterfully addresses the dangers of power and humanity's self-destructiveness, questioning the nature of reality itself. It is set in a future world where one man's dreams control the fate of humanity.

Little Leapers in the Pond

Little Leapers is a fellowship group for parents and their children who have not yet started Sunday School. Their next meeting in their new meeting place, "The Pond" is Sunday, **November 18**. 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. See the pictures below from their first meeting in The Pond. Contact Serena Oudekirk for more information: serena.oudekirk@grarate.com.



Altar Flowers

The 2019 schedule is now available to 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 2.

Mount Olive's newly adopted 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."

Festival of the Reformation

October 28, 2018



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

2830 18th Ave. NW
 Rochester, MN 55901
 Office Hours: 9:00 am-4:00 pm Monday-Friday
 9:00 am-noon Friday
 507-288-1580 Website: molive.org

Fall Worship Schedule
 Services at 5:00 pm Saturday and
 8:00 and 10:30 am Sundays
 Education Hour 9:15 am Sunday

Mount Olive Staff

<p>The Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson Senior Pastor glenn@molive.org Ext. 206</p>	<p>Deacon Travis Beck Director of Worship, Music, and Arts travis@molive.org Ext. 203</p>	<p>Kailea Mattheis Director of Children, Youth, and Family kailea@molive.org Ext.207</p>
<p>Bill Hollander Congregational Administrator bill@molive.org Ext. 204</p>	<p>Nancy Britson Director of Congregational Life nancy@molive.org Ext. 202</p>	<p>Sherry Will Director of Missions and Service sherry@molive.org Ext. 210</p>
<p>Carrie Fletcher—Administrative Assistant and Nursery Coordinator carrie@molive.org Ext. 209</p>	<p>10</p>	