

THE

Messenger

November 2019

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

New Life Band from Tanzania at Mount Olive

Joyful music of faith will be resounding in the sanctuary of Mount Olive at worship on November 23-24, but not the usual joyful sounds. Instead, the music of Tanzania will fill our ears as the New Life Band, from Arusha, Tanzania, leads us in worship. We will take a special love offering that day to support the educational ministry that the New Life Band supports. The following is from their website:

Over the last 40 years, the New Life Band has developed an active and vibrant ministry to youth and students, primarily teenagers in Tanzania in many ways such as building and operating the New Life Secondary School to educate and build future leaders for Tanzania, school visitations, national youth camps and conferences, outdoor Christian rallies, gospel concerts and performances, and one-on-one counseling and guidance. Its ministry is committed to reaching out to help today's youth of Tanzania caught up in an atmosphere of poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, and lack of direction for their lives. The New Life Band's mission to youth and students serves young people intellectually, spiritually and emotionally.

Plan to come and bring a friend to this joyful worship time.



Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 27, 6:30 pm

Gratitude is pretty trendy these days, and there's a really good reason for it. What might happen if we could see and believe that the very nature of the universe is generosity? How might our lives change if we were driven by gratitude rather than guilt or obligation? Join us on Thanksgiving Eve as we use ancient and contemporary texts, music and ritual to awaken our

hearts and minds to the generosity of creation and Creator. Make sure to stay for the pie fellowship time following the service. Donations of non-perishable food items are also most welcome. Bring your bags with you to the service to share at offering time.



Inside This Edition:

Congregational Life
page 2

Worship
page 3

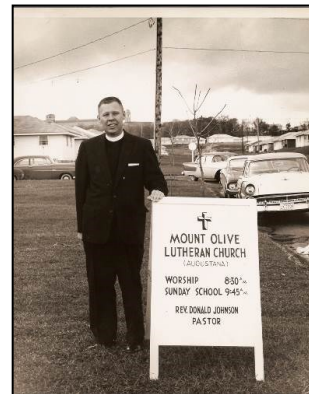
Service
pages 4-5

Education
pages 8-9

Fellowship
pages 10-11

This Day in Mount Olive History

November 5, 1960 was an historic day in the life of Mount Olive. It was the day when the congregation was officially organized. In that year the Augustana Synod (which in 1962 joined with other Swedish-American Lutherans to become the Lutheran Church in America) planted two new churches in Rochester: Mount Olive on the north side, and Good Shepherd on the south side of Rochester. Pastor Don Johnson was called by the synod as the mission developer and the congregation began by people worshipping together in homes. In the fall of that year, the fledgling congregation began worshipping at the local Covenant Church on Elton Hills Drive (now River of Glory).



Thank you for Dining for the Dining Hall

The 60th anniversary leadership team wishes to thank everyone who worked, donated food, attended, and/or helped out in any way to make the Dining for the Dining Hall event on November 1 a success. It was our first attempt at providing a community meal of this type. It was quite a challenge, and we learned a lot in doing it. Stay tuned for the report on how we did in raising funds for the needed dining hall at Hull High School in Kijota, Tanzania. Our goal is to raise the needed \$30,000 by year's end.



Stewardship Weekend Follow-up

If you were in worship on October 19-20, you know that on that day we brought forward our pledge cards in an act of faith and worship, committing ourselves to the support of Mount Olive's ministry in the year ahead. If you were not able to be in worship that weekend and have yet to return your financial commitment card for 2020, be assured that your pledge is still needed. The finance team is busy drawing up the budget for 2020 and they need to know what they can expect in financial support from every member in order to produce a working budget. If you have misplaced your pledge card, please pick one up in the church office or at the usher's table, drop it in the offering plate any weekend, mail it in, or drop it off during office hours. If you have already made a pledge, thank you! Your Giving Matters!



Mission Colombia 2020

A group of Mount Olive members will be taking a mission trip to Colombia, South America March 26-April 4, 2020. Our goals are to connect more deeply with the Colombian Church, IELCO, which is located in Bogota, and with our

partner congregation, Emanuel in Paz de Ariporo. There is room for a maximum of 14 individuals, and teenagers are encouraged to come with a parent. The cost of the trip is estimated at \$1500-\$2000. We currently have 9 on the mission team, three of them youth. If you are interested in going, please talk to Sherry Will or contact her at sherry@molive.org as soon as possible. In November, we will plan fundraising and have more specific information about the trip. All mission participants will need a valid passport.

New Member Orientation

If you are interested in membership at Mount Olive, there will be a new member orientation on **November 10**. We will meet at 9:15 am in the Library. This is a chance to meet the staff and ministry leaders and learn more about everything going on at Mount Olive. Those who decide to join will be received as a part of the worship service on November 24. If you have decided that you'd like to join, contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life in the church office. Call 288-1580 ext. 202 or email nancy@molive.org.

All Saints Worship is November 2-3

One of the most important festivals in the church year is the Festival of All Saints. This is an ancient festival which began as early Christians observed the anniversary of the death of early martyrs during the Roman persecutions of Christians in the 2nd century. By the 4th century it was celebrated throughout the church during the Easter season, but it was Pope Gregory III (731-741) who established November 1 as the official feast day when he consecrated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica to all the martyrs. Today, both Protestant and Roman Catholic churches celebrate this festival on the first Sunday in November, reciting the names of those in their number who have died, and lighting candles in their memory. This year, those whose names will be read at Mount Olive include: Roger Carlson, Lou Everett, DuWayne Forbord, Marion Heram, and Linda Sheffield. Blessed be their memory amongst us.



Affirmation of Baptism - Sunday, October 27

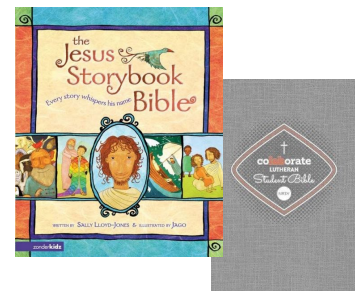
We celebrated with 8 youth as they affirmed their baptism at the 10:30 am service on Reformation Day, October 27. A reception for all confirmands was held following the 10:30 service in the Fellowship Hall. Posters with the students' faith statements and pictures are posted in the windows in the church entry. The following students affirmed their baptism: Kendall Anderson, Alaina Bickel, Jeremiah Fletcher, Olivia Hafeman, Daniel Krieger, James Prunty, Caitlyn Swartwood and Alex Wanek.

Youth-Led Worship Service - November 17 at 10:30 am

The presence of youth in worship is important and they are an essential part of our church community. Youth help represent hope and energy in the church. When congregations empower youth to use their gifts in meaningful ways, they are more likely to imagine themselves as leaders in the church. On Sunday, November 17 at the 10:30 am service, youth are going to help Intern Luke lead worship as assisting minister, acolyte, lectors, special musicians, and more. Come support our youth as they help lead worship.

3 Year Olds and 4th Graders receive Bibles

On November 17, 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 17 to receive your Bible!



Christmas is Coming!

Each Advent, the Altar Guild prepares for the coming season, decorating the Christmas tree and placing poinsettias in the sanctuary. Again this year, **a donor is being sought for the Christmas Tree**. If you are interested in providing the tree, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please contact Sharon Parker— sharonk2001@msn.com or 507-269-0285.



You will have 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. In addition, the 2020 schedule is now available to provide the flowers that brighten the sanctuary each week. Sign up in the Gathering Area, fill out an envelope and include payment at least one week in advance. Bouquets are \$40 and bud vases range from \$7.50-\$13.50.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you to everyone from the Prayer Shawl Ministry who made the 25+ winter hats for the Family Circle Learning Center that will soon open at Mount Olive. They are simply adorable and will be greatly appreciated by the parents and daycare providers of the children who will receive them. In addition, prayer shawls were blessed at the healing worship services in October and more than 20 were shared with people in need. If you would like to join the group of knitters or are in need of a prayer shawl, please contact Peg Whitley at peg.whitley@gmail.com. Their next meeting is Tuesday, **November 12** at 9:00 am in the front conference room.



Sleeping Bags for the Salvation Army

Thank you to everyone who donated sleeping bags and blankets to the Salvation Army during September and October. The tent that was used to collect them was overflowing. We collected a total of 78. These were taken to the Rochester Salvation Army, where they were received with great appreciation. Because of your generosity, many who are homeless in our community will have a little extra warmth and comfort this winter.

Neighborhood Schools Have New Coordinators

With appreciation, we recognize Pam Hansen, for her years of service to our neighborhood schools. So many young people have been helped and encouraged through her many hours of volunteering! Jene Bodensteiner and Erin Sinnwell will be replacing Pam, working along with Ann Willis, who has been with the schools for many years. A long time partnership has developed between Mount Olive and Elton Hills Elementary School. Two ways Mount Olive helps: Donation of warm outdoor clothing and volunteering as reading buddies. To volunteer or for more information contact [Sherry Will](#).

Food For Friends

The Food For Friends program continues to provide food for students of John Adams Middle School. The food is picked up from Channel One and delivered to the church each Wednesday. It is then packed into bags to be delivered to John Adams on Thursday. There are several volunteer opportunities available for this ministry. There are sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions about this important ministry, please contact Carrie Fletcher at cxnfletcher@gmail.com or (507) 272-1906. You may also contact Warren Kemplin at warren.kemplin@gmail.com or (507) 254-4932.



Family Promise Choir Concert November 16, 1:00 pm

Each year, Family Promise hosts a benefit choir concert to fight homelessness in Rochester. A silent auction will begin at 11:30 am and the concert will begin at 1:00 pm (note earlier times) at Bethel Lutheran Church, 810 3rd Ave SE. Groups performing include the Mount Olive Choir, the Rochester Pops Orchestra, Polished Brass, the Rochester

Area Handbells and more. Admission is free and an offering supporting Family Promise will be collected.

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 our neighborhood schools stay warm over the winter by providing them with appropriate gear. Contact Ann Willis with any questions—

eawillis@charter.net.



Call List for Neighborhood Schools Specified Donations

Mount Olive has partnered with neighborhood schools to help students in need with school supplies and specific clothing items. If you are willing to provide a \$10-\$20 item for a student in need when phoned by Ann Willis or Sherry Will, please add your name to the list in the Gathering Area. After you have donated, we will cross off your name and call the next name when the school staff tells us another needed item. Questions: Ann Willis - 507-993-1094

Reading Buddies Needed at Elton Hills Elementary School

Donate **one hour of your week** to be a Reading Buddy with early elementary readers at Elton Hills Elementary School. You will be paired with four children who need extra reading assistance. Each student will read with you for approximately fifteen minutes. Teachers assign the appropriate reading level for each child. Book totes with the designated reading levels are provided. A basic background check for each Rochester Public School volunteer is required and available via <https://tsscapps.rochester.k12.mn.us/VIE/> to complete your Volunteer In Education (VIE) application. Questions? Contact Ann Willis - 507-993-1094.

Mount Olive Victory Garden Harvested

Over 100 pounds of produce was recently donated to Community Food Response and shared with Family Promise this season from the Mount Olive gardens. The gardens are now being prepared for their winter rest. A big thank you to Bob and Pam Liedtke, Lori Kuhlmann-Liebfried and the Fletcher family for their help this year.



Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters meet each Thursday morning at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to prepare and tie quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief and local service organizations. Everyone is welcome to join them. Currently, there are small and large quilt top kits to be picked up to sew at home. They are available in the cabinet in the Gathering Area. The quilters can always use more cotton fabrics for making the colorful quilt tops. Donations may be left in the Gathering Area cabinet. If you have any questions, call Sandy Schlenker at 507-529-8215.

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, a temporary homeless shelter in downtown Rochester. 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 **December 6**. Sign up in the Gathering Area where you will find more information. Contact Jene Bodensteiner at jbode6@me.com with questions or to volunteer.

Sunday Forums Bring Variety in November

If you love to learn, to be presented with challenging ideas, or just to be better informed, the Sunday Forum is the place for you. We meet most Sundays at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall for presentations on a wide variety of subjects. The lineup for November is:

November 3: Families First will report on progress at the new daycare at Mount Olive

November 10: Service Sunday – Everyone is invited to join in making Christmas decorations to send to families at the border through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

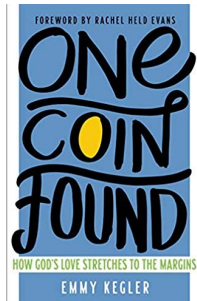
November 17: Me? A Leader? A discussion of congregational leadership

November 24: The Iona Community and Celtic Christianity – Pastor Glenn

Pastor Glenn's Class on The Book of Acts Continues

The Book of Acts has been the subject of the fall Bible Study this year, taught by Pastor Glenn. The writer of the study says this: "The book of Acts is about transformation. It tells the story of how a small group of Galilean Jews who followed Jesus and witnessed his resurrection became a countercultural movement that spread throughout the Roman Empire." The class will continue to meet each Wednesday evening 6:30-7:30 pm, through November 20. You are welcome to join the class at any time.

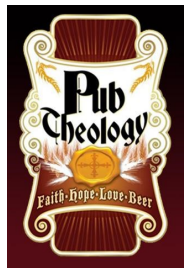
Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)



Mount Olive's Faith Seeking Understanding book group 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 Tuesday, **November 5** at 6:30 pm in the church library. The book selection for November is ***One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins*** by Emmy Kegler. Emmy Kegler is a Lutheran pastor who has been recognized for her ability to theologically interpret God's word in ways that uplift the LGBTQ community and open pathways for reconciliation. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Lisa Janke at lisa@molive.org or 507-288-1580 ext. 205.

Pub Theology Finds a New Home

Over the past 6 weeks, we have been blessed by the amazing hospitality at Fiddlehead Coffee Co. every Monday night. This is a beautiful place to gather, with ample free parking, where we can actually hear each other. It is also a place where we have been enjoying delicious family style meals offered by hosts who are excited to open the doors just for us and are beginning to know us by name. We will continue to meet at Fiddlehead Coffee Co.



throughout the winter. (**Note that the group will not meet Monday, November 4.**) New people pop in often, so feel free to drop in whenever you can make it work. There is no cost to participate and purchasing food and drink is completely optional. A generous portion of the family style meal costs \$10/person and drinks (beer, wine, specialty coffee, hot chocolate, seltzer) vary in price around \$5 each. We gather at 5:30 pm for casual conversation, along with food and drink as desired, and our discussion takes place from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. You can find out weekly topics on our blog: rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.org. Sign up directly on the blog to get updates by email, or ask [Pastor Lisa](#) or [Travis Beck](#) for help doing so.

Men's Discipleship

Men's Discipleship is a Bible study group for men meant to move them closer to God and to help them understand God's will in their lives. They meet weekly on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in the front conference room at church. This fall, they will begin to study the book of Acts. This group is open to all men of the congregation. Contact Mark Masbruch for more info - masbruch@hotmail.com.

2nd Sunday of Service

Thank you to all who donated and helped assemble the Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief 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 70 kits to send to those who are in need. In addition to the care kits, older youth made cheerful cards to be sent to the students receiving food bags from Food for Friends. On November 10, our 2nd Sunday service project will be making Christmas decorations for children helped by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.



Youth Board

We are getting the youth board going again. All middle school and high school youth are invited to join. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **November 20** at 6:00 pm. This is an opportunity for teens to explore leadership in the church. We will plan fellowship events, find ways to engage and involve youth in worship, and plan fundraisers for youth trips. Contact Intern Luke if you know a teen that might be interested – luke@molive.org.



Middle & High School Family Bowling Night

Wednesday, November 13 at 6:00 pm

If you have a middle or high schooler and are interested in bowling, join other Mount Olive families for a night of fellowship at Bowlocity. We will reserve two lanes for youth and families to bowl starting at 6 pm on Wednesday, November 13. Let Intern Luke know if you are interested so he can reserve more or less lanes as needed –

luke@molive.org. We will meet at Bowlocity. Youth may be dropped

off if the whole family doesn't want to participate. Bowlocity serves food and drink and has other fun activities if you would like to make a night of it.

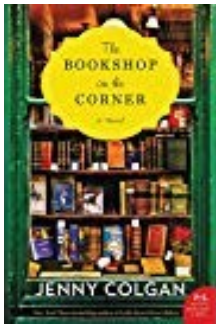
God's Global Barnyard/Good Gifts

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 10 and Sunday, November 17. 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 and there are other items to choose from as well. 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. In 2018, we were able to order over \$2500 worth of animals for this ministry! Contact Sherry Will at sherry@molive.org or Carrie Fletcher at carrie@molive.org with any questions.



Give something **unexpected** this Christmas.





Monday Book Group

The **Monday Book Group** gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature. They meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. On **November 11**, they meet to discuss *The Bookshop on the Corner*. Determined to make a new life for herself, Nina moves to a village miles away, buys a van and transforms it into a bookmobile changing one life after another with her storytelling. Contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net with questions. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Ripe Olives

Ripe Olives is a group for Mount Olive's most experienced members, mostly retired folks. They meet the second Friday of the month at 9:30 am for fun and fellowship! Their next meeting is Friday, **November 8**. Nancy Britson, Mount Olive Director of Congregational Life and Ripe Olives coordinator, will be sharing a travelogue about her recent trip to Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Come to learn a little about each country and see photos of the castles, fjords, cities, and beautiful scenery that make up Scandinavia. Breakfast will be provided with a freewill donation. Everyone is welcome to attend, sign up at the Gathering Area table. Contact Nancy Britson with questions 288-1580 ext. 202 or nancy@molive.org.



Worship and Fellowship Volunteers Needed

We are always in need of many volunteers for all of our worship services and fellowship times! Mount Olive uses an online program, Sign Up Genius, to schedule volunteers. Sign up to serve at a day and time that works for you. You will receive an automatic reminder as well as additional details and directions from Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life. The Sign Up Genius links are available via invitation and are also accessible from the Mount Olive website, molive.org on the Service tab. You may also call Nancy with your availability or to schedule a training as needed, 288-1580 ext. 202. Your help is sincerely appreciated!

Women's Christmas Party December 2

The Women's Christmas party will be on Monday, **December 2** 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. This year the speaker will be Habibo Haji, who will tell her inspiring story of overcoming adversity as a young girl in Somalia, coming to America, getting her education, and fulfilling the American Dream for her family. As usual, delicious food and Christmas music will be included. Watch for more details to come in bulletins and your personal invitation. Sign up in the Gathering Area. This event is hosted by Mary Circle.

Women of the ELCA National Gathering Planned for July 2020

On July 16-19, 2020, the Women of the ELCA nationwide gathering will be in Phoenix, Arizona. Early bird registration is now open. Mount Olive Women of the ELCA offers scholarship funds to divide among the members who wish to attend. Worship services, informational sessions, Bible study, and active events are planned as a way for women across the country to learn their place in the body of Christ. For more information about the gathering, Women of the ELCA, or to join one of the small groups, please contact Regina Seabrook at rseabroo@gmail.com or 651-285-3912.



[www.womenoftheelca.org/
new-triennial-event-page](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page)

Circle study leaders, please come to the leader's meeting with Pastor Glenn on Tues, November 5 at 5:30 pm.

Little Leapers

Little Leapers is a fellowship group for parents and their children who have not yet started Sunday School. Their next meeting is Sunday, **November 17**. The group will meet in classroom 13 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. Contact Kaitlin Maus for more information: kaitlinridl@gmail.com



11

Olive Branch at Pride Festival

We didn't just attend Pride this year, we lived it! On September 28th, 30 Mount Olive members and friends gathered in Mayo Park for the Rochester Pride Festival, proud to share our excitement for Olive Branch and eager to welcome people to a worship experience intentionally created for people who have been hurt by the church. Together we interacted with over 150 people and shared stories of joy and pain, hurting and healing, shame and pride. We received even more than we offered



and it was abundantly clear that our presence made a difference for many, including ourselves. We're already looking forward to next year, and welcome even more people to join us.



Fellowship

Olive Branch T-shirts Available

T-shirts are available to order with the new Olive Branch logo. One of the things people love about our logo is that the rainbow speaks to how we value and celebrate diversity while simultaneously being a symbol of covenant – a promise to be in continued relationship. T-shirts are \$10 and orders are due by November 10. Stop by the table in the entry at church to pick up an order envelope and see examples of the sizes available.



Lyra Baroque Orchestra

Lyra Baroque returns to Mount Olive on **November 22** at 7:30 pm for *Les Caractères de la Danse*. They welcome back Paige Whitley-Bauguess and her dance partner Thomas Baird for a baroque music and dance extravaganza! Presenting *Les Caractères de la Danse* by Jean-Féry Rebel and Leclair violin concerti led by baroque violin virtuoso Luís Otávio Santos. Visit lyrabaroque.org for ticket purchase and more information.



Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony Concert

On Sunday, **November 3**, at 3:00 pm, the Mayo Clinic Chamber Symphony (MCCS) presents its Fall concert, "Perspectives", at Mount Olive. Composers have often been fascinated by the musical style of foreign lands. They will present familiar, significant compositions of Tchaikovsky (*Capriccio Italien*), Chabrier (*Habanera*), Dvořák (*American Suite*), and Bizet (*Carmen Suite No. 2*). Listen to unique perspectives as these composers work in styles that are not native to their culture. MCCS is under the direction of John Vettel. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children, and are available at the door.



Reformation and Confirmation Celebration

On Sunday, October 27th, 8 Mount Olive youth affirmed their baptism: Kendall Anderson, Alaina Bickel, Jeremiah Fletcher, Olivia Hafeman, Daniel Krieger, James Prunty, Caitlyn Swartwood, and Alex Wanek. A reception in their honor followed the service.



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."



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