

# THE Messenger

November 2020

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

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## Mount Olive Adults Affirm Their Baptism

On Reformation Sunday, October 25, in online worship, you were able to watch and express your support as 5 adults from Mount Olive participated in the service of Affirmation of Baptism, and were confirmed in their faith. These five individuals began their instruction with Pastor Glenn back in January, then committed themselves to a series of Lenten disciplines, and were planning on celebrating their confirmation in the spring. Due to the pandemic, the service was postponed until this fall. What a moving ceremony it was as each candidate affirmed their faith, spoke individually their commitment, and received the ancient practice of the laying on of hands. Please take any opportunity to congratulate the following individuals on this milestone:



### Jim Halling

Jim has lived in Rochester his entire life. He graduated from John Marshall High School, and shortly after, joined the US Navy. Jim grew up in the United Methodist Church. When Jim met Sharon in 2005, he started attending Mount Olive and became a member. Jim is retired and likes doing home remodeling projects. His hobby is model railroading.



### Sally Fritts

Sally retired from Mayo in January and after wandering quite a bit religiously finally found a home at Mount Olive and with Lutheranism. In a departure from the norm, Sally's first introduction to Mount Olive was the Saturday morning Men's Discipleship group, where she met her confirmation sponsor, Paul Johnsen.



### Caitlin Krenz

Caitlin and her husband Craig Nelson moved to Rochester in 2012. They have two children, Cameron (4) and Olive (4 months). Caitlin works as a mental health therapist, and in her free time loves to take walks in nature with her family and practice yoga.



### Dan and Susan Heitman

Dan and Susan moved to Rochester in 2017 so that Sue could finish her nursing career in Rochester. Dan is a retired public school educator, and currently works as a caregiver and on-call supervisor for Home Instead Senior Care. Sue and Dan raised 3 children in Viroqua, Wisconsin. All three were confirmed in the Lutheran faith, so Sue and Dan are thrilled to join them in this distinction.

## Stewardship Season Brings Pledges

October 18 was Stewardship Sunday, and since then many people have either mailed in or dropped off their 2021 Commitment Cards. If you are among that number, Thank You! Each pledge has been received with gratitude. If you have been putting off filling out your 2021 Commitment Card, now is the time to complete it. Even in this pandemic time, our ministry continues with many online offerings, and creative gatherings of smaller groups. Our commitment to your spiritual resilience is strong. Please send in your Commitment Card today. If you'd like to talk about online giving, call or email Bill Hollander at the church office. ([bill.h@molive.org](mailto:bill.h@molive.org), 288-1580, ext. 204).

## Covid Guidance for In-Person Meetings

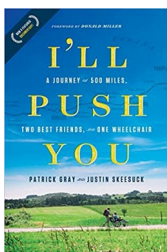
In the last few weeks, some in-person meetings have resumed at Mount Olive with safety guidelines in place. The entire list of guidelines is available on the church website, [www.molive.org](http://www.molive.org) or by contacting the office. Most important to keep in mind are wearing masks, practicing social distance and using hand sanitizer or washing hands frequently. If anyone is showing any signs or symptoms of COVID, or has been in contact with anyone who has presumed or confirmed COVID – they should not attend in-person meetings until they are feeling better and have completed the recommended time of isolation. Everyone's cooperation in following these guidelines is appreciated. Requests for meetings outside the given parameters must be approved by the Church Council.

## Fellowship

### Young Adult Fellowship

If you are in your 20s or 30s, you are invited to participate in fellowship at the church. They meet every other Wednesday, 5:30-7pm, including November 11 and 25. November 25 falls on Thanksgiving Eve, when there will be a special fellowship event that will involve pie – stay tuned for more details. We are practicing safe physical distancing and wearing masks. This group is still discovering how it wants to meet and what it wants to do! If you are interested in participating or have any suggestions, please reach out to Pastor Luke—[luke@molive.org](mailto:luke@molive.org).

### Monday Book Group



The **Monday Book Group** gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature. They will meet again via Zoom November 9 at 6:30 pm. This month's selection is *I'll Push You: A Journey of 500 Miles, Two Best Friends, and One Wheelchair* by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck. *I'll Push You* is the real-life story of this incredible journey. It is a travel adventure full of love, humor, and spiritual truth; it exemplifies what every friendship is meant to be and shows what it means to never find yourself alone. If you would like to be added to the email list or receive the Zoom invitation for November, contact Jodi Schoer at [mjschoer@charter.net](mailto:mjschoer@charter.net).

### Ripe Olives

The "Ripe Olives", Mount Olives senior citizen's group, will gather again via Zoom on Friday, **November 13**, at 9:30 am. We'll have a brief opening devotion or video and then use this time to catch up with friends. There may even be a surprise guest. While not the same as gathering in person, Ripe Olives is a way to safely stay connected in these difficult times. Please contact Nancy Britson at [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org) or call 507-288-1580 with any questions. The Zoom meeting ID, which will stay the same each month, is: Meeting ID: 826 2188 5743 Passcode: 213773



## All Saints Walk on November 1 at 5:30 pm

As darkness falls on Sunday, November 1, the luminaries will be shining brightly in the parking lot at Mount Olive. Worshippers will drive in and park on the perimeter of the lot facing the center. From their cars all will be able to see and hear (on FM radio) the opening readings and litany being done in the middle of the lot. Following the opening, all worshippers will be invited to leave their cars, light a candle, and participate in the All Saints Walk around the luminary circle. At various points we will pause and read aloud the names of the saints who have died and are now part of the Church Triumphant. All worshippers will have an opportunity to light candles and speak the names of loved ones who have died. Those who do not wish to do the luminary walk may stay in their cars, observe, and listen. Guests are always welcome.



## All Saints Worship Online

On All Saints Day, we also name in worship those in our number who have died since this time a year ago. Although we are unable to gather in our traditional way to remember our loved ones who have died, we will have the Rite of Remembrance as a part of online worship this week and read the names of these individuals: John Leimer, Marian Batt (mother of Susan Batt), Pat Dunn, Suzann Carrillo, Ray Harris, and LouAnn Wiebke. Blessed be their memory!



## Tailgate Worship Continues

For as long as weather permits, we will continue to offer in-person Tailgate Worship every other Sunday in November. Worshippers are asked to bring their own wine/juice and bread/cracker for Holy Communion, and if you wish to be seated outside, bring your own lawn chairs as well. Most worshippers will prefer to stay seated in their cars and listen via the FM radio broadcast. Watch the



website and bulletin for announcements about services, but for now, we hope to provide worship on November 8 and 22 at 11:00 am.



## Thanksgiving Eve Drive-by for Pie

We may not be able to host a worship service and pie social on Thanksgiving Eve, but that doesn't mean you aren't going to get your pie. On Wednesday, November 25, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, all members are invited to drive into the parking lot at church and receive a fresh-baked piece of pumpkin pie, a Thanksgiving Day devotion, and a greeting from one of the pastors. Monetary donations for Channel One Food Bank are also most welcome. This will happen rain or shine, so please come. We have ordered individually packaged pieces from Catering By Design. First come, first served until the supply is gone. Happy Thanksgiving!

## Advent Mid-Week Worship

The first Sunday in Advent is November 29. That means that Advent Mid-week services will begin Wednesday, December 2, and go through December 23. Each midweek service will include the beloved Holden Evening Prayer, a Bible reading and short reflection by one of the pastors. Worshippers are encouraged to light candles on an Advent Wreath at home and join in midweek worship during this contemplative season.

## Dialogues on Race Ongoing

In the weeks following the killing of George Floyd in south Minneapolis on Memorial Day weekend, we pondered our response as a community of faith. What should we say? What should we do? How was God leading us to respond in the wake of this horrible death, and in the face of all the injustice it brought to light? One of the ways we decided to respond was to compose and participate in a Prayer for Turning during one of our Sunday morning worship services. At the end of that prayer we promised these things:

**“C: We turn away from our country’s unjust system of power and turn toward God’s system of justice and compassion. We work to liberate ourselves from the institutional racism in which we are entangled, and we embed ourselves in God’s way of freedom. We commit to learning about racial inequality. We commit to overturning the tables of unfair systems we have lived with for so long. And, through study, conversation, and action, we commit to break down racial injustice in our own congregation and in the larger church.”**

As part of our commitment to learn about racial inequality, Pastor Glenn has been leading 32 individuals in a weekly Zoom study called *Dialogues on Race*. In this study we have heard the stories of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and have grieved over our part in the systems that have led to their suffering, exclusion, injury, and even death. One comment made recently, when it was noted how uncomfortable these conversations are, was, “Maybe it’s long past time for us who have not known the sting of racism to be uncomfortable. Maybe being uncomfortable is exactly where we need to be right now.” We believe that God is leading our country into long-needed changes which will hopefully someday make it possible for us to live out our national creed, that “all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” We believe that as followers of Jesus, the advocate of the marginalized, we are called to continue this conversation, continue to turn away from racism, and turn toward justice for all.

In regards to further steps, we will continue to look for ways to break down racism in our own congregation and community. It may be that this same class in Dialogues on Race will be offered again in the near future so that others can begin to learn how racism affects us all.

### Save the Date for the Women’s Christmas Party

The Women’s Virtual Christmas party will be on Monday, **December 7** at 6:30 pm via Zoom. All women of the congregation are invited so we can celebrate the Advent season and the coming of Christmas. Mary Circle will be our hosts, and, no doubt, will find ways to combine fun, learning, and support of a local organization. There will also be a short business meeting to discuss the budget and planning for 2021. Watch for more details to come in bulletins and email.



Six Mount Olive women’s small groups, also known as circles, continue to meet monthly for fellowship and a study from *Gather Magazine*. Some groups will meet via Zoom and some will meet in person, socially distanced. Meeting times vary and include: Tuesday or Friday mornings, Tuesday afternoon, and Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Contact Regina Seabrook, Mount Olive Women of the ELCA President, with any questions or if you are interested in joining a small group - [rseabroo@gmail.com](mailto:rseabroo@gmail.com).



**Women of the ELCA Study  
Leader’s Meeting Tuesday,  
November 1 at 5:30 pm on Zoom.**

## Sunday School

Pastor Luke and some of your favorite Sunday school teachers are leading online Sunday school each week! Kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> grade children are invited to sing/dance along with songs, listen to a Bible story and reflection, and participate in an activity or craft. Videos will be uploaded to YouTube each week and can be accessed on our Facebook Page and Mount Olive Website. Additionally, Linda Schueler is working with Pastor Luke to send out stories and crafts to our 3- and 4-year-olds. If you wish to receive these materials, contact Pastor Luke— [luke@molive.org](mailto:luke@molive.org).



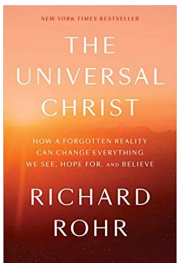
## Confirmation

Confirmation is in full swing! Mount Olive 7th & 8th graders have helped lead Prayers of the People for online worship, have sent letters to Mount Olive members who are isolated to their homes, and continue growing in their faith. They meet every other Wednesday, 7-8pm, at Mount Olive; upcoming classes are on Wednesdays, November 4 & 18. Additionally, they meet each month for a 3-hour retreat; this month's retreat is on Sunday, November 15 from 1-4pm. A friendly reminder to follow the Mount Olive COVID guidelines which are laid out under "Congregational Life" on page 2. We can always involve students through Zoom!

## High School Youth Group

Mount Olive high school students are invited to meet at the church every other Wednesday night from 7-8:30pm. This means we will meet on Wednesday, November 11 & 25. November 25 falls on Thanksgiving Eve, so there will be a special fellowship event that will involve pie – stay tuned for more details. Kristin and Logan Block along with Pastor Luke will be leading a variety of activities, from games to movies to arts and crafts! A friendly reminder to follow the Mount Olive COVID guidelines which are laid out in on page 2. Contact Pastor Luke for more details.

## 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. They will gather via Zoom on Tuesday, **November 24**, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. (Note date change.) This month's selection is: *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe* by Richard Rohr. Thought-provoking, practical, and full of deep hope and vision, The Universal Christ is a landmark book from one of our most beloved spiritual writers, and an invitation to contemplate how God liberates and loves all that is. If you would like to be added to the

email list to receive updates and reminders, let Pastor Lisa know- [lisa@molive.org](mailto:lisa@molive.org). The FSU Zoom Meeting ID for 2020/21 is: 883 1860 1767.

## Pub Theology

Pub Theology continues to meet weekly on Mondays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm on Zoom and has been enjoying this time of connection with each other. Weekly topics, announcements, and the link to our Zoom gathering continue to be posted at [rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com](http://rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com).

## Pastor Glenn's Lutheranism 101 Class

If you have never been confirmed in the Lutheran faith and would like to receive instruction towards this, now is the time to consider joining Pastor Glenn's Lutheranism 101 class. Beginning in January via Zoom, this class will explore the treasures of the Lutheran faith, and introduce spiritual practices that have sustained Christians for millennia. To sign up or to learn more, contact Pastor Glenn anytime, [glenn@molive.org](mailto:glenn@molive.org).





# Olive Branch

## ARTIST'S STUDIO

*Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm,*

We are off to a great start with sold-out workshops, creative projects and lots of laughter in a safe environment. Check it out for yourself by attending a workshop or bringing a project for Open Studio. Registration required each week.



## OFF THE PAGE

*Thursday, November 12,  
10:00 - 11:30 am*

Enjoy an online community that invites you to be creative, curious, and engaged with the Bible in a new way. We encourage questions, hesitations, push-back, silliness, and yelling "Off The Page" when you have an "Aha!" moment.



## CONVERSATION CIRCLES

*Sundays, November 15-29,  
1:00 - 3:00 pm*

This is a time of grounding and listening. Practice the sacred art of sharing and hearing personal stories that emerge from a new prompt each week. This might just be exactly what you need right now.



To register for the above programs, or for more information:  
visit [molive.org](http://molive.org) and click on the Olive Branch tab

## The Mitten Tree

Now that colder weather is here, many children will be searching their closets for winter gear and coming up short. Beginning November 2 and continuing through the Advent season, the Mitten Tree is on display in the entry to collect items for our neighborhood school, Elton Hills Elementary. You may select an ornament from the tree and purchase the item requested. Specially requested this year are: warm, waterproof gloves of all sizes, winter boots for K-3rd grade, and boys coats of all sizes. You may place items under or on the tree. Another alternative is to donate funds that coordinators will use to purchase items requested by the school for specific students. Envelopes will be available on the tree or you may make a gift by clicking the green "Donate Now" button at the bottom of the church website homepage- [www.molive.org](http://www.molive.org) and indicate "mitten tree" in the comment. Contact Ann Willis-[eawillis@charter.net](mailto:eawillis@charter.net) or Jene Bodensteiner-[jbode6@icloud.com](mailto:jbode6@icloud.com) or call the church office with any questions



## Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

Anyone who knits or crochets, or would like to learn, is invited to join the Mount Olive prayer shawl group on **November 10** at 10:00 am. They are gathering, socially distanced and wearing masks, in the Fellowship Hall. Yarn, needles, and guidance are provided. Please contact Vickie Kubly at 507-282-7696 to let her know you will attend or if you would like supplies to work on a shawl at home. If you would like to request a prayer shawl for someone who is experiencing illness, loss, or a difficult time, you may contact Vickie or call the church office at 507-288-1580.

## Mount Olive Quilters

A small group of quilters have resumed meeting 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. If you are interested in attending, please contact Donna Grever at 507-206-4605 for more information. For sewing at home, there are small and large quilt top kits to be picked up in the cabinet in the Gathering Area.

## Channel One Drive for Thanksgiving

Channel One is continuing to work hard to help people facing food insecurity. During November, when we are thinking of all that we are grateful for, please consider making a monetary donation to support their work. Donations will be accepted at the "Drive By Pie" event or any time during the month. You may click on the "[Donate Now](#)" button on the church website or send a check to Mount Olive. Please indicate Channel One in the "other" section online or your check memo.



Channel One is currently accepting donated food from the public by appointment only. If you are looking to donate food, please contact Mark Klampe at [mklampe@channel-one.org](mailto:mklampe@channel-one.org). Channel One is focusing all volunteer efforts on packing emergency boxes and sanitizing. Several new procedures for volunteering have been implemented; go to [helpingfeedpeople.org/volunteer](http://helpingfeedpeople.org/volunteer) to learn more.

## Dorothy Day Hospitality House Update

Dorothy Day Hospitality House is open again to shelter a limited number of guests. They offer coffee to-go in the morning to guests as they leave and recently started having "grab & go" breakfast bags containing granola bars, fruit, etc. Jene Bodensteiner, the volunteer coordinator for Mount Olive provided bags for the first week of November. If you would be interested in helping to provide bags in the future, please contact Jene- [jbode6@icloud.com](mailto:jbode6@icloud.com). If you would like to learn more about serving as an in-person volunteer at the house, email [ddhhouse@gmail.com](mailto:ddhhouse@gmail.com).

## Prayers and Prayer Chain Update

As you have watched our online worship services, you may have noticed that we are including prayers for Mount Olive members and friends in a more general way and not including the specific names. This is due to privacy concerns since the service is now broadcast widely on YouTube. Rest assured, however, that people in need of prayer are still being remembered by the prayer chain members and the Mount Olive staff. If you have not already, now may be the time you would want to join the Mount Olive prayer chain. Prayers requests are sent along to the group as they are received by the prayer chain coordinator, Kim Ignatius, and also sent out before weekend services.

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; their contact information is included below.



## Affirmation of Baptism

Congratulations to these Mount Olive adults who confirmed their faith as a part of the Reformation Day online worship service.

See more information on the cover article.

From left: Jim Halling, Caitlyn Krenz, Sally Fritts, Pastor Glenn Monson, Sue and Dan Heitman.

Many blessings as you take this step in your faith journey.

### *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

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507-288-1580

Website: [molive.org](http://molive.org)



A Reconciling in  
Christ Community

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