

THE *Messenger*

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

Greetings from Travis and Samantha Beck

As I write this, it's August 21—three weeks until my first day in the office as your Director of Music, Worship, and Arts. It is a busy, exciting, and bittersweet time for my wife, Samantha, and I as we say goodbye to the place we have called home for nearly ten years and prepare for our new adventure as partners with you in ministry. With that in mind, this newsletter article is a way to help you get to know us a bit before we get settled in.

I grew up as an only child in Nashua, Iowa, home to “the Little Brown Church in the Vale.” Music was an interest of mine from an early age and as my skills developed I began playing regularly for worship services in my home church. Inspired by a spiritual gifts inventory my congregation did when I was in high school, I felt the initial call to being a church musician and pursued a B.A. in Church Music at Wartburg College, twenty minutes down the road from my hometown.

While at Wartburg, I did an internship in Denver, CO. My experiences there made me hungry for more study of worship, music, theology, and church history, so after graduating from Wartburg I found myself at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Seminary was an incredibly formative experience for me. It was there that I began to form my sense of what it means to be a worship leader, lifelong learner, mentor, critical thinker, theologian, and more. Upon graduating from Seminary, I began serving Immanuel Lutheran Church in Forest City, IA. Immanuel taught me much about parish ministry and crystalized my sense of call, and in 2016 I was commissioned as an Associate in Ministry.

During my tenure at Immanuel, I met my wife, Samantha. A native Minnesotan, Sam grew up in Winona, the youngest of three sisters. She studied Business, Banking, and Finance at Waldorf University in Forest City and currently works in Waldorf's Business Office. In her spare time, she enjoys movies, art, theater, and hanging out with friends. Born with a bowling ball in her hand, she has been an active league bowler in Forest City, rolling two 700 series games in the last several years. I'd like to say that her bowling talent is contagious and has improved my own bowling scores. But it's not...and it hasn't... :)

Together, we enjoy watching movies, checking out new restaurants, playing board games, and traveling. As we prepare for this next chapter in our lives, we look forward to making new friends at Mount Olive and exploring the amazing cultural experiences Rochester has to offer.

Blessings,

Travis & Samantha Beck

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New Member Orientation

An orientation session for anyone interested in membership at Mount Olive will be held on October 8 at 9:00 am in the library. Please come to learn more about our congregation and meet the staff and ministry leaders! RSVP to Nancy Britson in the church office.

Seminary Scholarship Fund

On Sunday, August 13 we wished Godspeed and every blessing to Miriam Hanson as she prepared to leave for Trinity Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. As a tangible way to support Miriam, a Seminary Fund has been established for Miriam to defray some of her costs at school. All gifts up to \$5,000 will be matched by monies from the Keith and Mary Beaver Fund. We hope to give Miriam \$10,000 each year, which will ensure she can graduate without burdensome debt. You may contribute online through the church website, or by check or cash using one of the envelopes at church.



Spiritual Companions to Meet

A gathering of Mount Olive Spiritual Companions will take place Thursday, Sept. 7 at 11:00 am in the library. Spiritual Companions are a group of Mount Olive members who visit with our most vulnerable folks – those homebound or in need of extra support. If you'd like to know more about this important ministry, feel free to come to this gathering.

Grief Support Groups

If you are grieving the loss of a significant person in your life, please consider attending one of the upcoming grief groups, hosted by Mayo Clinic Hospice. Eight consecutive Monday meetings will be held, September 11-October 30, 2017. Morning and afternoon sessions are available. Please call 284-4002 to register for one of the groups and receive location information.

Tanzania Connection Revived!

The Southeast MN synod has enjoyed a long and valued relationship with the Lutherans of the Central Diocese in Tanzania, and Mount Olive has been a part of that relationship with our sister congregation and the Vivian Gulleen school in Kijota. Mount Olive and our members helped to provide a new roof for our sister church and helped with operational costs and classrooms for the girls school in Kijota. In the fall of 2007, a small group from Mount Olive travelled to central Tanzania in order to understand and document the technology sustainability of the Lutheran schools and hospitals there. We also spent time in Kijota and renewed our Mount Olive relationship with the amazing people of that area. In 2011, another small group from Mount Olive travelled to central Tanzania to provide gifts of 20 laptop computers to four locations. We recently heard that these computers are still being used and are cherished.

Where are we now? The current priority for the churches in Tanzania is education and health in their area. In this light, our Mount Olive church council recently voted that our annual gift to Tanzania will provide the Kiomboi Bible Institute with a satellite dish and a one year subscription to high speed internet. This is a much celebrated gift at the school since a major need for them is access to the latest educational materials and teachers. Mark Masbruch, a Mount Olive member who travelled to Tanzania in 2007 and 2011, recently joined the Tanzania Operations Team (TOT) of the SEMN synod. He will help us better understand the educational needs in the central diocese of Tanzania and ensure the best use of Mount Olive's gift.

Where are we going? Mount Olive plans for a trip to visit to central Tanzania in late 2018 to renew our relationship with the people, and to further understand how we can help them meet their educational needs. If you are interested in planning for the 2018 trip, or are interested in travelling to Tanzania, please contact Pastor Glenn, Sherry Will, Director of Missions and Service, or Mark Masbruch.

Asante Sana! - Thank you very much!

Jazzy Liturgies Ahead

When Pastors Glenn and Paul met with Travis Beck, our new Director of Music, Worship, and the Arts, in preparation for Travis' beginning with us in mid-September, we learned that Travis has a special love for jazz. To put that talent to work immediately, we are looking forward to a jazz setting of the liturgy to begin on Sept. 16-17. Be ready to move!



Music Group Pot-luck with new director Travis Beck

Current members of any of the Mount Olive music groups - choir, bells, and brass - instrumental musicians, or **anyone who has considered joining one of the groups**, is invited to a **Music Pot-luck on Sunday September 10 at 5:00 pm** in the fellowship hall. (Spouses and kids are welcome!) This will be an opportunity for our new Director of Worship, Music and Arts, Travis Beck, and his wife Samantha to introduce themselves and get to know you a little before rehearsals begin this fall. We'll enjoy food and fellowship, and spend some time in conversation about your hopes and dreams for music and worship. Plates, cups, silverware, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. If you have any additional questions regarding details, or if you'd like to help with setting up, contact Nancy Britson in the church office—288-1580 ext. 202.

Choir Practice Begins September 13

The Mount Olive Choir, under the direction of Travis Beck, will meet for its first practice on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:30 pm. Meet in the music room, which is down the hallway on the left beyond the sanctuary. This is a perfect time for new members to join the choir. Dust off your vocal chords and raise your voice in song!

Note: Practice times for the Bell Choir and the Mount Olive Brass will be set following Travis' meetings with those groups on September 10 at the Pot-luck.

Installation and Welcome Weekend

Travis Beck's installation will be at worship services on Sunday, October 1.

Travis and his wife Samantha will be welcomed with receptions following all services that weekend. Please come to give the Becks a warm welcome to Rochester and Mount Olive!

SERVICE TIME
CHANGE

Fall Worship Times Begin September 10

Mark your calendars. The weekend following Labor Day, Sept. 9 and 10, worship times will return to the program year schedule. Worship times are Saturday evening at 5:00 pm and Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:30 am. The Education Hour for all ages begins on September 17 at 9:15.

Volunteer Update

Schedules for September 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.



God's work. Our hands.

Mount Olive will participate in the ELCA's day of service, **God's Work Our Hands**, again this year on **Sunday, September 10**.

Fifteen different service projects will benefit others in our community and beyond. See the complete list in the chart below. **All** Mount Olive Members, friends, & visitors ages 0 – 110 are asked to participate in at least one of the projects. Two sessions are available- 9 - 11am and Noon to 2 pm. Lunch is served in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 11:00. **Please come to put your faith into action. We are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors!**

**Remember to wear your God's Work
Our Hands t-shirt on Sept. 10!**

Project	Where located	Time
1. Creation Baby Quilts	Mount Olive Gathering Area	9-11 am
2. First Responder Thank-you Cards	Mount Olive Gathering Area	9-11 am
3. Harvest Mount Olive Garden	Outdoors on the Mount Olive Patio	9-11 am
4. Sandwich Making for "Love One Another"	Mount Olive Old Kitchen	9-11 am
5. Bandage Rolling for Global Health Ministries	Middle School Youth Room 13	9-11 am
6. Quilting for NAMI SE MN	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9-11 am
7. Knitted hats for local schools and Colombia	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9-11 am
8. Next Chapter Ministries Care Kits	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9-11 am
9. Baggies for the Homeless– Salvation Army	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9-11 am
10. Darrell's Fleece Blankets for the Homeless	Mount Olive Library Room 1	9-11 am 12-2 pm
11. Youth House construction at Next Chapter Ministries	Meet at 400 13th Ave SE (Parsonage of Methodist Church)	9-11 am 12-2pm Lunch delivered
12. Yard Work at the Family Promise Day Center	Meet at Mount Olive entrance	9-11 am
13. Singing for residents at The Homestead Senior Living	Leave Mount Olive for The Homestead at 12:30pm	12:30-2pm
14. Deliver Cupcakes to Gold Cross and 15. Fire Stations	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	12-2pm

**Lunch Served in the Mount Olive Fellowship Hall
from 11:00 am to Noon. The Nursery will be staffed from 9:00-11:30 am.**

Make Connections – The Mount Olive Ministry Fair

Please come to the Ministry Fair in the Mount Olive Fellowship Hall and Gathering Area on September 23 and 24. Following services, you will be able to visit tables featuring all of the ministries at Mount Olive including Worship, Service, Education, and Fellowship – Mount Olive's Four Pillars. Find out how you can make connections– with God, with our neighbors, and with fellow members and friends.

Service and Social Outreach at Mount Olive

The Service and Social Outreach Team coordinates services and social outreach ministries to help members reach into the community with supplies, time, energy, and resources to support people in need in Rochester and around the world. Come to the Ministry Fair on September 23-24 to pick up a Service Brochure where you can learn more about each of the organizations Mount Olive Supports. For current needs in the community, see the chart below:

Organization	Service	How to get involved
Alternative Learning Center (ALC)	Assistance for students at the ALC who are either working, parenting, or dealing with personal issues such as recovery or special needs.	We will be gathering supplies during the month of September. Watch for the table in the entry where a list of needed items will be available. Bring donations to the collection box in the gathering area. Contact: Pam Hansen- praehansen@gmail.com
Community Food Response (CFR)	Provides free meals to residents of Gage East Apartments with food donated by local restaurants and businesses.	Sign up in the Gathering Area to help pick up, sort, and distribute food on the 3rd Monday of each month-Sept. 18. Two time slots are available, 2:30 pm or 4:30 pm. Sign up in the gathering area. Contact: Carrie Fletcher at cxnfletcher@gmail.com .
Habitat for Humanity	Affordable housing for those with low income.	Work on the construction site the 2nd Saturday of each month. Sign up in the gathering area for the next date, Sept. 9 from 9 am –4pm. Lunch is provided. Contact: Jim Berg at berg.james2@mayo.edu .

Thank you to all the **Family Promise Volunteers** who made our extra week in August work! We appreciate all of your help serving the three homeless families with seven children who were our guests. Our next host weeks are November 19 to December 3.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, September 12 at 9:00 am

All knitters and crocheters are invited to attend our regular meeting on September 12 or to join us for God's Work Our Hands on Sept. 10 to knit hats. Yarn, needles, treats, and guidance are provided. This group knits many beautiful prayer shawls throughout the year. If you know of someone who is in a difficult time of transition, has experienced loss, illness, etc. 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

Thursday mornings at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

You are invited each week to enjoy quilting and fellowship!

Thank you to those who donated fabric this past month. We have been busy sorting those fabrics. We still could use more fabric, please leave it in the gathering area cupboards where you can also pick up quilt tops to sew.

In August, Miriam Hanson was presented a quilt, as she starts Trinity Seminary in Columbus, OH. We have donated a quilt for auction to the ABC inaugural event, "Celebrating Abilities" on Saturday, Sept. 16 at Century High School. Lastly, we have been getting ready items for the Good Earth Village Gala and Quilt Auction on October 12 at the Rochester Country Club. Join us in the Fellowship Hall on September 10 from 9:00-11:00 am. Any questions call Elaine Monson, 272-6404 or dlmonson@charter.net.

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 at Life's Too Short Brewing Co. for Pub Theology, led by Pastor Paul. 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. The first meeting of the fall on **September 5 will feature a documentary video, *Bonhoeffer***. No preparation is needed, come and view with the group and share in the conversation. 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

The Sunday Morning Forum takes place during the Education Hour, 9:15-10:15, usually in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to grab a cup of coffee and join the group. Following is the schedule for September and October 1. Watch the weekly bulletins for more information about upcoming forum topics.

September 10-No Forum – Everyone is invited to be part of God's Work, Our Hands

September 17-Affordable Housing – Steve Borchardt

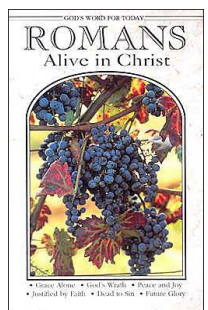
September 24-No Forum – Ministry Fair

October 1– Inclusive Church Taskforce

Bible Study Opportunities

Come, Study the Letter to the Romans

Beginning, Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30 pm, we will gather in the library for an adult study on the Apostle Paul's most important theological book, his letter to the Romans. This letter has guided our Lutheran forbearers for centuries as we have heard Paul's grace-centered message. Study guides are only \$7, available at church now. For further information, talk to Pastor Glenn. Guests are always welcome!



Couples Bible Study

A new Bible study opportunity for couples will be offered beginning October 17 at 5:30 pm. The group will meet monthly on the third Tuesday of the month for Bible Study and fellowship. If a Bible study opportunity with your spouse or significant other interests you, please contact Tracy Schramm, tsgigglebox@gmail.com or Nancy Britson in the church office or sign up at the Ministry Fair on Sept. 23/24.

Men's Discipleship

The Men's Discipleship group will resume their weekly meetings on Saturday, October 14 at 8:30 am with a study of Galatians. Watch for more information about this group, welcome to all men of the congregation, at the Ministry Fair September 23/24. Contact Mark Masbruch for more info. - masbruch@hotmail.com

Rally Sunday -

When: September 17, 2017 9:15-1:30

Where: Mount Olive Lutheran Church

What: A time for the youth and families to gather and kickoff the start of the Sunday School year! There will be games, activities, and food. **All families with children are invited to the Sanctuary at 9:15** where you will meet Kailea Mattheis, Director of Children, Youth, and Family, and your child's/children's teachers for the year. After seeing your classroom and getting to know the teachers, head outside for all sorts of fun with a Bible Scavenger Hunt, Minute-to-win-it games, inflatables, and much more. After the second service we will have a cook out on the lawn!



Youth Silent Auction

A Silent Auction to raise funds for 2018 Youth Trips will begin on Rally Sunday, Sept. 17th, and continue through the Ministry fair, on Sept. 24th. This silent auction will have service items donated by the Middle and High School youth attending one of the trips in the summer of 2018 as well as a number of items donated by Mount Olive members. All proceeds will benefit the youth and their summer trips! Please contact Kailea Mattheis to donate an item for the silent auction.

Summer Trips 2018

Even though we are soon beginning the new school year, its never too early to think about the trips for next summer. These are the ELCA National Youth Gathering for youth grades 8-12 in Houston on June 27-July 1, 2018 and the U.P. Adventure trip for youth grades 6-12 on August 6-13th. If you want more information about either trip please contact Kailea ASAP! The registration and \$150 deposit for the Youth Gathering is due by September 3. Please contact Kailea by phone (507-288-1530 ext. 207) or by e-mail (kailea@molive.org).



Sunday School Teachers Meeting

All Sunday School teachers are invited to meet with Kailea on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**Backpack Blessing at
both services Sept. 10
for students of all ages!**



Metamorphosis Intergenerational Wednesdays

Come and gather on Wednesdays this fall for Metamorphosis as we explore how God's story meets and changes our story as God's people. Each week, dinner will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m., with table discussions and worship beginning at 6:00 p.m. Program materials will be provided as needed.

All are welcome — no prior experience needed! We look forward to seeing you beginning September 27th !

Find us by searching "mometamorphosis"

(on Facebook and Instagram) and

and @meta_molive (on Twitter)



**Metamorphosis Family Meeting
September 13-6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

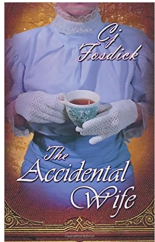
Ripe Olives

Ripe Olives, the group for Mount Olive's seniors resumes their meetings on September 8 at 9:30 am gathering for breakfast and fellowship. They will continue to meet the first Friday of the month through May. Many fun and educational programs are planned. At each meeting, a continental breakfast is provided with a freewill donation. 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.

September 8	Social Gathering in the Fellowship Hall - Everyone Welcome!
October 13	Rick Steves Travel Video – Luther and the Reformation
November 10	Darrel Hildebrant-Rochester Police Dept. - Senior Frauds and Scams
December 8	Craft and Hobby Show with a Special Musical Guest

Monday Book Group

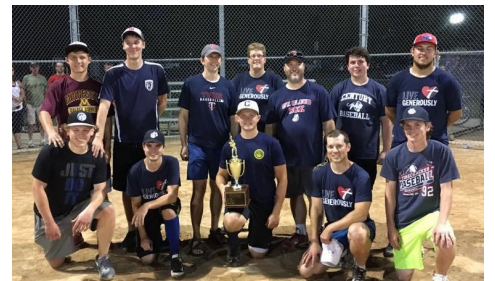
The Monday Book Group gathers again on September 11 at 6:30 pm in the library to begin their year long journey through a wide variety of literature including classics, fiction, poetry, humor, memoirs, history, mystery, Minnesota authors, and youth inspired works.



The September selection is ***The Accidental Wife*** by CJ Fosdick. This book is about a woman named Jessica who inherits a mysterious teacup which when rubbed transports her back to 1886 in Old Fort Laramie. This is the first in a three part series. The author, Carol Fosdick is a member of our congregation will be leading the discussion! This is a Book Bag selection, therefore, if you would like a copy of the book contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

Softball team Wins Championship!

Congratulations to the Mount Olive softball team for their exciting win in the Church League Playoffs! They came from third place at the end of the season to win the summer championship. Thanks to everyone who played and the managers, Jason Sinnwell and Ryan Buus.



Adventure Club

Plans are coming together for lots of fun Adventure Club activities this fall and winter. The Mount Olive Adventure Club is a diverse and dynamic group that explores a wide array of activities, everything from concerts to campouts, bike rides to hockey games. Events are intergenerational and family friendly. Members, visitors, and friends are all welcome! Pick up a Fellowship brochure at the Ministry Fair for more info.



Orchard Trip

Coming up next is a trip to **Northwoods Apple Orchard on Sunday, October 8.** We will meet at church at 2:30 pm and arrive at the orchard by 3. You may also meet us at the orchard located at 8018 75th Ave. NW in Oronoco, MN. Activities include: wagon rides, animals to pet, apples, donuts and pumpkins for sale, a corn maze and more! **Sign up in the Gathering Area.**

Several families participated in the family camp out at The Old Barn Resort in August. They enjoyed beautiful weather while camping, biking, swimming, and cooking over the fire. See the photos below.



Inclusive Church Taskforce Update

The final Inclusive Church brunch of the summer was held on August 13. Conversations centered on the questions: *If we achieve the welcoming community we desire, what would it look like?* and *What would it be like if we don't achieve the welcoming community we desire?*

Conversations in June helped us first think about our own stories of welcome and exclusion and those in July centered on the things Mount Olive does well as a welcoming church and suggestions for doing even better.

Two resources, introduced at the July brunch, are available on the display tables on either side of the Inclusive Church Taskforce window display in the front entry at church. They include:

1. A take home pamphlet (a primer on terminology) – *Lutheran introduction to our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer neighbors.*
2. A book (that can be borrowed and returned for others) – *How to talk about The Bible and LGBTQ Inclusion.*

The taskforce will be hosting the Adult Forum on October 1 at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking forward to deeper discussions as the church year begins. We will be exploring ideas of what our Welcoming Statement would look like and ways that our being “welcoming” would be obvious to those visiting. Watch future *Messengers* and the Sunday bulletin for opportunities to be a part of this process. We welcome all to participate and are excited to continue this discussion together.



Mount Olive Women's Small Group Opportunities!

All Mount Olive women are invited to consider joining a small group (known as “Circles”) for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. There are six different groups, each named for a woman in the Bible, that meet at different times and places beginning in September. Stop by the table in the front entry through September 3 to learn more and sign up. One is sure to be the right fit for you!

This fall the groups will be participating in a study titled *The Life of Martin Luther*. This study will give each of us insight into how our own lives of faith are shaped. Each circle leader will distribute copies of the study to their members prior to the first meeting of the fall. Besides the small group meetings, the Mount Olive Women of the ELCA group supports multiple service and fellowship opportunities for the entire congregation.

For more information about Women of the ELCA, contact Denise Foy, Mount Olive Women of the ELCA president-denise_foy@hotmail.com or 358-2938 or the leaders in the chart below:

Circle	Meeting Date and Time	Leader
Anna Circle	2 nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, at church	Erin Sinnwell- 990-6079
Lydia Circle	2 nd Monday of each month, 6:30 pm, at church	Jolene Baker-289-4851
Mary Circle	4 th Friday of each month, 9:30 am, in members' homes	Nancy Britson-358-2986
Naomi Circle	4 th Tuesday of each month, 1:00 pm, at church	Sharon Parker-367-2255
Rachel Circle	4 th Thursday of each month, 6:30 pm, at church	Jodi Schoer-288-1951
Ruth Circle	4 th Tuesday of each month, 9:00 am, at church	Peg Whitley-271-7384

***Attention all circle study leaders, please attend the monthly Leader Preparation Meeting led by Pastor Glenn the first Tuesday of the month 5:30-6:30 pm, starting 9/5/16. Bring your study book.**



Mount Olive Lutheran Church
2830 18th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Fall Worship Schedule:

(Beginning September 10)

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30 am

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



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