

THE

Messenger

October 2020

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Parking Lot Worship and More Coming Your Way

The parking lot will be the place to be on Sundays this fall. Yes, we will be outside, but if you choose, you can participate while staying warm and snug in your car. We will be using both outdoor amplification and an FM transmitter for each gathering, so inside or outside of your car, you will be able to hear. Masks will be required, and physical distancing between households will be expected at all times. The lineup includes both worship offerings and other commemorations. Here's what to expect:

September 27: Tailgate "Tupperware" Holy Communion, 11:00 am

Worshippers are encouraged to come early and be directed to a parking spot with your whole household. If you wish to worship near friends or other family households, please arrive together. For worship, bring your own bread/cracker, wine/juice for Holy Communion. The service will include a brief liturgy, scripture and reflection, and Holy Communion. Music will be led by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan and Pastor Luke. It will also be broadcast on an FM radio channel, so you may listen from inside your car if you prefer. If you desire, you may bring chairs and other tailgate items for lunch following within your household.

October 4: The Blessing of the Animals, 11:00 am

Since October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will observe the day with a traditional Blessing of the Animals. Bring your dog, cat, hamster, or whatever (wombat?) to the parking lot between 11 and noon, and Pastor Luke will be present for a blessing. Note, pets will not need to be masked!

October 11: New Testament "Feast of Love" Holy Communion, 11:00 am

In St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians we hear of early Christians coming together for a feast, in the midst of which was Holy Communion. That is what you will experience on this day. All worshippers are asked to bring a lunch to eat, as well as bread/cracker and wine/juice for Holy Communion. The service will center on the meal.

October 18: Music and Money, 11:00 am

We have many music lovers at Mount Olive, as well as a variety of gifted performers. This Sunday is also traditionally Stewardship Sunday. So, we thought, why not combine the two! Plan to come and enjoy wonderful music, and bring your filled-out pledge card too.

October 25: Reformation Sunday with Holy Communion, 11:00 am

Pastor Luke, with help from our confirmation students, will lead us in a brief service of Holy Communion, in which we will have a chance to connect with our Lutheran roots. As per usual, please bring your own bread/cracker and wine/juice for Holy Communion.

November 1: All Saints Sunday, 5:30 pm. NOTE TIME CHANGE!

On this day when we remember those in our number who have died, those saints triumphant, we will be hosting a Memorial Walk at dusk with luminaries. All worshippers will be invited to walk the path provided, pausing to remember loved ones, grieving with those who grieve, as well as rejoicing in the promised Day of Resurrection.



Stewardship Season is a time for Testimonials

The fall Stewardship program at Mount Olive this year will feature testimonials by 3 households in our congregation, describing how Mount Olive has connected with them and supported them during this COVID time. At the end of online worship on October 4, 11, and 18, you will see a brief video from one of these households telling their story. Through their testimony we hope you will be inspired to be a strong financial supporter of Mount Olive. Watch your mail for a stewardship packet containing your pledge card, which we encourage you to fill out and return to the church on or before October 18. Thank you to all for your support!

Thank You, Thank You! The Dining Hall in Kijota is Up!

It seems every week we receive a thank you note or letter in the mail from our mission partners. In early September we received the best thank you yet! The Dining Hall at Hull School in Kijota, Tanzania is up! Yes, the \$30,000 goal was met, even in this COVID time, due to some special gifts this summer and now the structure is fully erected and ready to be finished. How we thank you all for supporting this wonderful project!



Pastor Luke Ordained and Installed on September 4

Pastor Luke Hollander was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and installed as Associate Pastor of Children, Youth and Family at Mount Olive on Friday, September 4. Participants included Bishop Hassanally, Pastor Glenn, Terry Krieger, representing the congregation and call committee, and members of Luke's family. The YouTube video of this service is available on the Mount Olive YouTube Channel. Go to www.molive.org for the link and to the Mount Olive Facebook page for more photos of the day.

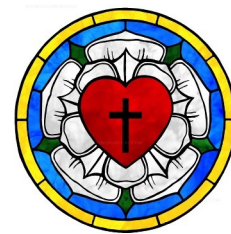


Thankyous Abound!

Due to your amazing generosity, we have been able to continue to be a strong partner with all of our mission partners this year. Here are just a few samples of the thankys we have received:

- * July 28, Lutheran Campus Ministries of Winona - \$1,000
- * July 29, ELCA World Hunger - \$1,002.78
- * August 3, Family Promise - \$1,445
- * August 14, SE MN Synod of the ELCA – YTD total: \$41,046.78
- * August 17, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis - \$8,915
- * August 27, Salvation Army - \$500
- September 8, Luther Seminary - \$1,810

Reformation Sunday is Confirmation Sunday



Back at the beginning of 2020, Pastor Glenn began meeting with a group of Mount Olive adults who expressed a desire to be confirmed in the Lutheran faith. Their background was varied, from Jewish to Baptist to Roman Catholic, to name a few. The plan was to study together for 6 weeks, observe Lenten disciplines for 6 weeks, meet following Easter for a look at what confirmation means, and then celebrate confirmation in the spring. Needless to say, plans changed. The desire on the part of these 6 adults to be confirmed has not changed however, and so, on October 25 in online Reformation Day worship, you will be able to observe their confirmation and affirm your support for them.

Fellowship

Young Adult Fellowship

It is time for Mount Olive young adults to get together safely for fellowship again! So, if you are in your 20s or 30s, grab a drink and/or snack and meet at the Mount Olive parking lot on Wednesday, **September 30**, at 5:30PM. We will get a fire going and brainstorm ways we might be together this fall. Maybe we could try out some of the local breweries, start a Bible study, or even go on some adventures. If there is something you have wanted to do with others, Pastor Luke would be happy to help you make it happen. Hope to see you there!

Monday Book Group



The **Monday Book Group** gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature. They will meet again via Zoom on **October 12** at 6:30 pm. This month's selection is ***Tailings: A Memoir*** by Kaethe Schwehn. With Holden Village as the setting, the author writes about trying to come to terms with a failed romance, the dissolution of her parents' marriage, and her own floundering faith. If you would like to be added to the email list or receive the Zoom invitation for October, contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

Ripe Olives

The "Ripe Olives", Mount Olives senior citizen's group, will gather via Zoom on Friday, **October 9**, at 9:30 am. We'll use this time to catch up with friends, gather ideas for future topics, and discuss future meeting formats and ways to safely stay connected in these difficult times. If you are not able to attend, and have ideas to share, please contact Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org or call 507-288-1580. Zoom meeting ID 826 2188 5743 Passcode: 213773

Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering

Pastor Heidi Heimgartner, senior pastor of First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie MN, is the guest for Mount Olive women's Virtual Fall Gathering. She

played an active role in the adoption of the social statement, *Faith, Sexism, & Justice: A Call to Action by the ELCA*. She will be with us **October 19** on Zoom, 6:30 to 7:30 pm, to share her experiences and to help us better understand the statement and what it means for women and girls. Meeting ID: 844 3311 6076 Passcode: 704488

Six Mount Olive women's small groups, also known as circles, 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.



**Women of the ELCA Study
Leader's Meeting Tuesday,
Oct. 6 at 5:30 pm on Zoom.**

BRANCHING OUT AND ROOTING DOWN

Olive Branch is gearing up for a full line-up of online and in-person activities, to help you get through the winter happy, healthy, and connected.

Rather than offering weekly online worship, we asked ourselves: how are we uniquely situated to do ministry in this time? We know that we have gifts and energy for creative endeavors, and support for pushing boundaries and trying new things. We also recognize that people are very isolated and experiencing division and polarization, with undercurrents of fear, anxiety, exhaustion, loneliness and depression.

We are craving connection, community, sacrament, prayer, music, thanksgiving, lament, and God's Word interpreted for our lives. That's worship: deconstructed.

We sense this is a season for rooting. A time to go deep into listening, learning, knowing and being. We wonder if rooting ourselves in these essential aspects of worship might be the best way we, individually and collectively, can make a difference in our own lives and the world around us.

See what we are cooking up and consider how you, or someone you know, might enjoy getting involved.

ART WORKSHOPS AND STUDIO TIME

We have consecrated a space for you to be this winter. It's a real-life place in what we call our "Fellowship Hall" to learn new creative things and practice them, to experiment, to fall flat on your face, to laugh, to lament and to discover new joy. Creative expression is one of the ways we can let all the pandemic and other life emotions to be felt - and set free.

Artists will lead workshops on different mediums and techniques from October through December. All other weeks will be time to continue working on projects from workshops or your own personal artistic endeavors.



We are currently working on a new Olive Branch website where you will be able to register for all Olive Branch events, including workshops and studio time.



Olive Branch

OFF THE PAGE

Printed Text
on the Page
+
Your Artsy
Instincts
=
An experience
that rouses
the Bible
Off The Page
and into our
lives!

Off The Page is a really fun way to engage with the Bible, inviting artistic expression on, amidst and around the biblical text.

Our first session was a huge success with 22 participants!

Nope, you don't have to be an artist to participate. In fact, no past experience with either the Bible or art is required. But if you're still not sure this is for you, try one of our stand-alone sessions.

Off The Page - Thursdays from 10:00 - 11:30 am

November 12: Single session on Sheep & Goats from Matthew 25

December 3: Single session on Psalm 100

January 21 - February 11, 2021: 4-week series - text TBD

CONVERSATION CIRCLES

If you have ever wondered how we might go about the practice of truly listening to one another, here's a great place to start. In conversation circles, we practice generous listening and sharing. There is no agenda, yet we recognize this just might change the world.

We start with a prompt - a question that invites you to dig back in your memory and recall a story. Then one-by-one we share our stories. The process is both simple and revolutionary.

Our first conversation circle series will take place over three weeks:

Sundays November 15, 22 and 29, 2020 at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Mount Olive.

We will practice careful social distancing with masks.

Registration is limited to 10 people. Contact Pastor Lisa for more details and to register.

SELAH - PRACTICING DEEP PAUSE

Selah is an obscure term in the psalms which means Deep Pause. The singers stop singing as the musical interlude flows, and we meditate on what's been sung. In this pandemic time, we want to encourage you to make space for some kind of regular Selah. When it comes to your contemplative life-- the quiet, still, deep listening part of you- how can we support you?

Would you like to learn more about meditation? Experience different contemplative prayer practices? Need a group to hold you accountable? Any other ideas?

Email Pastor Lisa and Richard at lisa@molive.org to share your questions and knowings.

Sunday School

Pastor Luke and some of your favorite Sunday school teachers are leading online Sunday school each week! Kindergarten – 6th 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 a story and craft for our 3- and 4-year-olds. If you wish to receive these materials, contact Pastor Luke— luke@molive.org.



Confirmation

Confirmation is starting again for Mount Olive 7th & 8th graders! This year will look a little different (which is the new norm). 7th & 8th grade students will meet once a month in-person with Pastor Luke for a half day “retreat” where we will dive a little deeper into our curriculum. The first retreat will be on **Sunday, October 4, 1:00-4:00 pm**. We will wear masks and physically distance to stay as safe as possible. These retreats will be supplemented with a confirmation Zoom meeting every other Wednesday night at 7pm and additional service and worship opportunities. If you know of another 7th or 8th grade student who would like to participate in confirmation this year, it is not too late to invite them. This will be a two-year program that will conclude with the student’s Affirmation of Baptism in the fall of their 9th grade year. Please contact Pastor Luke for more information.

High School Bonfire

Are you in 9th-12th grade and looking for something to do with other high schoolers this fall? Pastor Luke, along with Kristin and Logan Block, are hosting Mount Olive’s high school kick off bonfire on **Wednesday, September 30 at 7 pm!** Join us for this safe fellowship event as we enjoy time together in-person and decide what events we might do this fall. Maybe we will host a TikTok competition, go for a hike, watch Hamilton outside, work on a service project together and more. We want to hear from you, what you want this unusual year to look like. All high school events will keep safety first, with the expectation that we wear masks and stay a safe physical distance from one another.

God's Echo

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

Mount Olive’s Faith Seeking Understanding book group will gather via Zoom on Tuesday, **October 6, 6:30 – 8:00 pm**. This month’s selection is: ***God’s Echo: Exploring Scripture with Midrash*** by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. In this engaging book, Rabbi Sasso explores how midrash originated, how it is still used today, and offers new translations and interpretations of more than twenty essential midrash texts. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive updates and reminders, let Pastor Lisa know- 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.

Book Study on Racism with Pastor Glenn

A study with Pastor Glenn on racism in America began September 16 and will continue via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm through November 11. Pastor Glenn is using a new resource called ***Dialogues on Race***. This is a resource especially well-suited for those for whom these questions are rather new. It’s not too late to join the class! Please email Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org or call the church office, 507-288-1580 to reserve a copy of the study book (\$10) and be added to the class list.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Update

In August, you may have heard about the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. Because of this explosion, LWR lost 22,000 quilts and many kits that were in shipping containers at the dock. These were items to help in an area where 1 out of 4 people are refugees struggling amid poverty and coronavirus. Families cannot exercise good hygiene to fight coronavirus if they do not have the resources needed. The following are ways you can help as an individual or a family:

- **Complete a Personal Care Kit.** (see more info. below)
- **Sew quilt squares to help complete quilts to send.** (Pick up in the Gathering Area in the cupboard labeled for LWR)
- **Make a monetary donation** to help provide our global neighbors access to clean water, masks and medical supplies.
- **Pray for struggling families** in developing countries that now also will need to deal with COVID-19 challenges.

Your donations can provide clean water, pharmaceuticals, Personal Care Kits and Quilts for families to stay healthy.

If your family would like to put together a Personal Care Kit, below are the items needed/instructions. Visit this link for some helpful tips on making and assembling Personal Care Kits: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbrsNn0j5D0>.

Personal Care Kits-Include the following in each kit or you may donate individual items (All items should be new.)

- **ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- **TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- **ONE** adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging (multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope)
- **ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- **ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS: Fold the towel in half width-wise. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands. **Note: Kits or items may be brought to church through the end of October.**

Family Promise Relocates

Family Promise Rochester has launched a campaign to raise \$50,000 for their relocation to 913 1st. St. NW in downtown Rochester. Their former Day Center on 7th St. NW was recently sold and this new location was purchased as a better and safer alternative where their Day Center, staff offices, and shelter will all be under one roof and closer to other local services for their guests experiencing homelessness. Watch for more information this fall about how you support Family Promise as they prepare to resume their regular operations in this new location.

God's Work Our Hands

The nine days of "God's work. Our hands." acts of service have concluded. Containers were full of dozens of rolled bandages and many Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits and Quilt tops were returned. Over 440 masks were donated to Elton Hills Elementary school. Others donated funds and performed acts of service in the community such as picking up trash and donating blood. Thank you to all of the participants and everyone who serves in so many ways throughout the year.



Daily Devotions

Pastor Glenn has written devotions for each day of the week. These, along with the bulletin for the week are sent by mail to homebound members, emailed to the congregation, and are also available on the front page of the Mount Olive website, www.molive.org. If you prefer to receive the devotion by mail, please call the office.



Quilt Kits Available

Kits of fabric squares and instructions for making Lutheran World Relief quilt tops are now available for pick up at church. The kit bin is in the marked cabinet in the Gathering Area cupboard. Return completed quilt tops to the same cabinet. Contact Elaine Monson at 507-272-6404 with any questions.

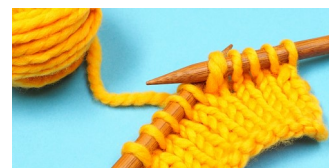
Channel One Volunteering

Channel One needs all kinds of volunteers, for packing food, distribution, delivery, and organization. If you are healthy and available, to sign up go to their website, helpingfeedpeople.org, or give them a call at 507-287-2350.



Prayer Shawls Group Resumes

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group has resumed meeting, socially distanced in the Fellowship Hall. Their next meeting is Tuesday, **October 13** at 10:00 am. If you like to knit or crochet, or would like to learn, you would be welcome to join the group. Contact Vickie Kubly with any questions - 507-282-7696.



If You Are In Need of Pastoral Care, Help with Errands, etc.

If you are having difficulty at this time, are in need of pastoral care, help with errands such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, meals, etc., or if you would simply enjoy a friendly phone call on a regular basis, please let us know, as there are a number of Mount Olive volunteers who are willing to help. You may contact the church office at 507-288-1580 or email Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org. If you leave a message, we will return your call.

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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A Reconciling in
Christ Community

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