

... celebrate the 'aha moments'

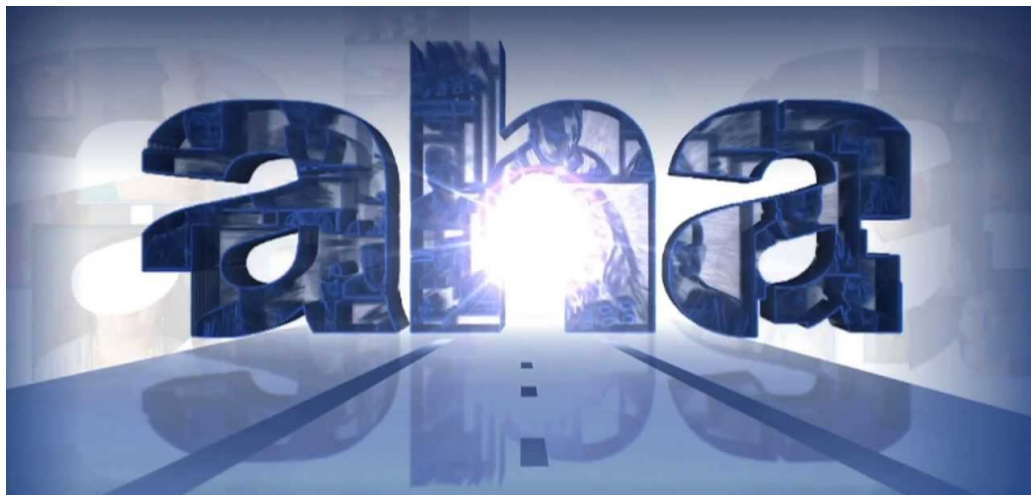
Epiphany is often known as “a season of light.” This is because epiphany comes from the Greek word for “appearing” or “giving light” or “being revealed.” I like to think of Epiphany as the season when we celebrate the “aha moments” that came to God’s people as they first encountered the Christ: the adoration of the magi, the voice from heaven at Jesus’ baptism, and Christ’s first sign when he turned water into wine at the wedding at Cana, among others.

At Mount Olive we will be observing the season of Epiphany in another way as well. As your new senior pastor I continue to seek ways for you to *enlighten* me as to what God has put on your heart as a member of Mount Olive. I am seeking to understand what God’s calling is for this congregation as we go forward together. With that in mind, on the weekend of January 9 and 10, you will be handed a questionnaire as you enter worship, having just two questions:

1. As a member of Mount Olive, **what do you receive?** (i.e. What ministries, activities, relationships, or opportunities are gifts to you as a member of this congregation?)
2. As a member of Mount Olive, **what do you give?** (i.e. In what ways are you enabled to give gifts to others by virtue of your membership in this community of faith?)

The Christian life is like breathing: we exhale and we inhale, we give and we receive. When we do both deeply we live well and we serve well. God bless you in your giving and in your receiving.

Pastor Glenn



MOUNT OLIVE LIFE

Mount Olive Financial Update

(note: 2015 Giving must be received by noon, Dec. 31)

We want to extend a huge thank you to each person in our community of faith for their dedication to share the love of God. Thank you for continuing to be generous in offering your time, talents and resources!

Our congregation supports a wide variety of ministries. In addition to prayer and volunteer hours, this important work requires a strong financial commitment. To date (2015) our expenses are greater than the amounts pledged and received. We have a **deficit of \$32,000** so far.

The Finance Team has found funds within the church's accounts to cover this year's deficit, but this is not sustainable.

Next year's anticipated expenses, again, will probably exceed income by \$31,000 – and this includes a 50% cut in benevolence, a substantial cut to our programming budgets and a reduction in staff benefits.

We have staffed for growth and for a greater impact in our community. Without additional giving, we will not be able to support this.

As we move forward with our mission, please consider increasing your giving to support our current goal of maintaining our vision of ministry and stewardship that is woven into the fabric of Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

Mount Olive Finance Team: Greg Heldt, Keith Hanson, Don Halley, Bill Hollander



Open Budget Meeting Jan. 17

If you would like to take a detailed look at the 2016 proposed budget come to the Open Budget meeting at 9:30 am on January 17. This is an opportunity to go over the budget and ask any detailed questions.

Annual Meeting January 31

Each year in January, our Mount Olive community gathers for a meal followed by our annual meeting. This is a time to reflect on the accomplishments and blessings of the previous year, and an opportunity to look forward to where God is calling us in the year ahead. In addition to the annual reports of ministry teams and staff, we will elect new officers to lead us in our mission and ministry. Mark your calendars for this important gathering!

Annual Meeting Meal

Mount Olive's Women of the ELCA will serve a hot meal prior to the January 31 meeting. The free-will offering will support the many benevolence programs the women's group is involved with. Help is needed for providing food, serving and cleanup. Please sign up in the gathering area to help. If you have questions, please contact Renee Schaefer at vettelady54601@yahoo.com.

2017 Germany Trip: Reserve Your Spot

In 2017, Protestants and Lutherans around the world will be celebrating the 500th year of the Reformation. Pastor Paul is beginning to plan a week-long trip that will include travel to many of the important locations in Martin Luther's life, possibly including Wittenberg, Torgau, Leipzig, Eisleben, Erfurt, and Berlin, among others. If you would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Paul or add your name to the list on the Gathering Area signup tables.

**Freed
& RENEWED
in Christ**
500 YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION



Santa Lucia Celebration

On December 13, Mount Olive celebrated the Swedish legend of Santa Lucia. Thank you to all of the pageant participants, to Naomi and Rachel Circles for hosting the receptions, and to all of the Lussekatter roll bakers.

Kelly Coenen and Sophia Natzke portrayed St. Lucia. The Starboys were portrayed by Ethan Mueller and Logan Swartwood. Mint Girls were kindergarten and first grade girls. The *Santa Lucia* song was presented by soloist Sarah Kowalski accompanied by Brock Besse on the organ.

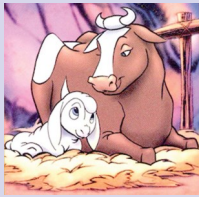


FRIENDS, FAMILY AND FAITH MINISTRY

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

Intergenerational Event! January 3

- 9:15 am Music in the sanctuary with Heather and Nikee!
- 9:45 am Movie & Snack in the Fellowship Hall: *The Crippled Lamb*



January Date Change



January 10, 9:30 - 10:15 am

Parents of infants and toddlers not yet in Sunday School join together in conversation and fellowship on the first Sunday. Gather in the children's book nook corner of the gathering area on January 10.

High School Youth



January 24 at 1:00 pm

Meet at church and we will head to the ice Allendale Park and then return for pizza and cocoa!

Make sure to bring your broom and good spirit!

Metamorphosis Intergenerational Winter Wednesdays

January 6 - February 3

You are invited to gather with us on Wednesdays at 6pm this winter as we explore what it means to proclaim God's Reconciling Justice in the world. The first week will include an Epiphany celebration! Program materials will be provided as needed.

Each week, dinner will be available in the fellowship hall beginning at 5:30 pm.



Winter Quarter Wednesday Meals

Meals are served at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall each Wednesday in January. Everyone is welcome to come and eat prior to the Metamorphosis class, choir practice, or just because you want a hot meal. There is a suggested \$3.00 donation. Helpers are needed to help prepare, serve, and clean up; please sign up in the gathering area or email nancy@molive.org.

Menu:

January 6 - Ham and Scalloped potatoes

January 13 - Sloppy Joes

January 20 - Spaghetti

January 27 - Meatballs with mashed potatoes and gravy

February 3 - Chicken casserole

Each meal includes fresh greens salad with toppings, peanut butter & jelly, bread, applesauce, cookies, milk and lemonade. Water and decaf coffee is also available.



A Celebration of Advent!

Mount Olive spent Advent sharing gifts throughout the community and world. Advent was truly celebrated with the love of Christ in the center of it all!



What did we do? Celebrated a day of "Gift Giving" by facilitating the purchase of items that help others (i.e. Global Barnyard animals, Fair Trade Coffee, food for the Backpack program in our community) ■ Decorated, boxed, and delivered cookies ■ Made ornaments, cards, and quilts for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation ■ Served as hosts for Interfaith Hospitality ■ Sent quilts to the Women's Shelter ■ Collected socks for the homeless ■ Rang bells for Salvation Army ■ Sang carols at residential facilities ■ Celebrated Santa Lucia ■ Heard the Christmas Story as told by our children



Fun In Serving Him Resumes January 6, 6:30 pm



(A service group of children in grades 1 - 5)

Projects coming up include; baking for firefighters, packing backpacks of food for kids at John Adams, and possibly an off-site visit. Please place completed registration forms in the education mailbox. Forms are located in the gathering area. If you have questions please contact Sara Hollander at sara@molive.org or Carrie Fletcher at cxnfletch@aol.com.



The F.I.S.H. group constructed ornaments for a Christmas tree displayed at the Hiawatha Festival of Trees. Proceeds benefit Hiawatha Homes Foundation.

ADULTS

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

Faith Seeking Understanding reads and shares conversations about books on theology, religion, spirituality and Christianity and our changing church. All are welcome. Please contact Jody Myers if you have questions at jodyjpmyers@gmail.com.



January 4
No meeting

February 2
The Mayo Clinic Guide to Stress Free Living by Amit Sood M.D., M. Sc.



Sunday Forum
9:15 am

Grab some coffee or tea and gather in the fellowship hall.

January 3
Intergenerational Event

January 10
Painting the Stars with Pastor Paul

January 17
Painting the Stars with Pastor Paul

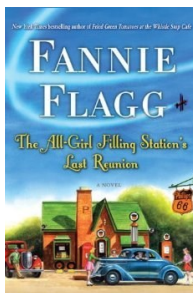
January 24
Painting the Stars with Pastor Paul

January 31
Science and Religion Dialogue

Monday Book Group

All are welcome. Meet in the Mount Olive library the second Monday at 6:30 pm. Please Contact Jodi Schoer with questions at mjschoer@charter.net or Darlene Vowels at vowelsjd@charter.net.

January 11



The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion
By Fannie Flagg



Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, January 12
9:00 am

All knitters and crocheters are invited. Yarn, treats, guidance, wisdom, support, and humor are shared! Gather in the front conference room.

Mount Olive Quilters
Each Thursday, 9 am

You are invited each week to enjoy quilting and fellowship.





Ripe Olives

**Friday, January 15
9:00 am at Mount Olive**

The Ripe Olives is a group of Mount Olive's more experienced adults who meet monthly for fellowship and educational programs. While anyone is welcome, most attendees are retired folks. Watch the bulletin for more details about the program this month. The sign up will be available in the gathering area. Contact LouAnn Wiebke with questions, 282-0355.

Pub Theology See what's trending.

Pub Theology resumes January 11 at Life's Too Short Brewing Company. Come on Monday nights for food and catching up at 5:30. The discussion begins at 6:00.

Pastor Paul Moody distributes discussion information weekly. If you would like to be included on the email distribution list, please email paul@molive.org.



Altar Flowers The 2016 schedule is now available



You may sign up to brighten the sanctuary with flowers. Place orders for birthdays, anniversaries, baptismal birthdays, births, or in memory of loved ones. Sign up in the gathering area, fill out an envelope and include payment. Place orders at least one week in advance.

Worship Volunteer Update

January Worship Volunteer Schedules have been sent to all participants. The schedule is also available on the church website. Here is a direct link:

<http://tinyurl.com/lmjbljr>

Volunteers will also be invited to help at worship services in February via the online sign up site: **Sign Up Genius**. If you did not receive the email invitation or "don't do computers" but are willing to serve, please contact Nancy Britson, Volunteer Coordinator, and she will help you: 288-1580 ext. 210 or nancy@molive.org

Spiritual Care

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

In addition, 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.

SERVICE AND SOCIAL OUTREACH MINISTRY (SSOM)



Meet the new directors, Peg Carlson-Hoffman and Chuck Hoffman. They will share images and information about the impact of the Wolverine Creek Fire on Holden Village. Join in the regular Holden rhythm of learning, eating, and worshiping. To help the planners, please register online or call Hosanna Lutheran at 507-285-0092. But, walk-ins are always welcome.

IHN at Mount Olive in 2016

Host dates:

January 4 - January 10

March 27 - April 3

August 21 - August 28

November 27 - December 4



Interfaith
Hospitality
Network®

an affiliate of Family Promise®

Upcoming Trainings:

Sunday, January 10 at 6:00 pm: UCC

Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30 pm: Gloria Dei

Thursday, January 14 at 6:00 pm: Holy Spirit

Sunday, January 17 at 9:00 am: Trinity Presbyterian

Link to sign up for January Date:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1O_glt7GcyLqQRXEcFzhwNoUJb9nfhsZQnIFKKlb8BU/edit#gid=1



Sign up now to help with Lenten Soup Suppers

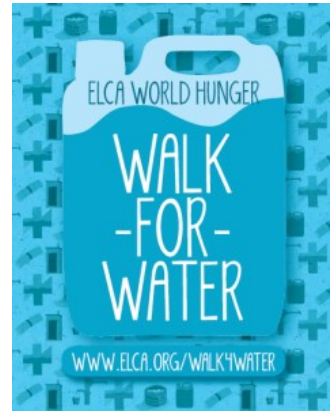
Soup suppers will be served each Wednesday night during Lent from 5:45-6:45. The first meal will be Ash Wednesday, February 10. Many volunteers are needed each week to bring soup, serve and clean up. Helping with a soup supper is a great opportunity for fellowship while working together. Small groups or ministry teams are encouraged to choose a week and sign up to serve together. The freewill offering for the meals will go to ELCA World Hunger. Please sign up in the gathering area. Contact Nancy Britson with questions at nancy@molive.org.

Walk For Water

Water is a major part of our life in church. In the waters of baptism, we are born again as children of God. Many of the decorations in a church have images of water –streams, rivers, rain. The Bible is filled with stories of water. Many of the people in the Bible lived in very dry parts of the world. Having water meant everything to them. Water – too much of it, too little of it, just enough of it – was one way they saw God acting in the world. God blessed the people by sending rain to water their fields. Jesus promised that people who followed him would never thirst. John the Baptist and followers of Jesus used water to mark people in baptism, and floods were seen as God's judgment.

Water is still very important to us. For many people in the world – more than 780 million – lacking water is a fact of life.

Sunday School students in grades 6 through 8 are leading Mount Olive's participation in the ELCA World Hunger's Walk For Water. They will educate other Sunday School classes and the Mount Olive congregation with a simulated "Walk For Water" in January, date TBA. Help contribute to our January offering for the "Walk For Water" campaign and even more importantly reflect on how we are conserving water in our homes!



Adult Spring Service Trip March 4 - 6

Please join us for an Urban Emersion program in the Twin Cities. We will carpool up Friday late afternoon and spend the weekend doing various service activities (working at a soup kitchen, stocking food bank shelves, cleaning homeless shelters, etc.), participate in evening programming and have wonderful fellowship. Cost is \$100 per person, which includes lodging in apartments (dorm style with shared bathrooms and bedrooms), snacks and meals. Please contact Erin Sinnwell ASAP if you are interested. We will start registering people the first two weeks in January. Contact Erin at etracy515@hotmail.com or 507-990-6079 with questions.

Fair Trade Coffee

Stop by the
**Fair Trade
Coffee** dis-

play in the gathering area to check out the varieties of ground and whole bean coffee and tea available for purchase. You can also sign up to sponsor the coffee on an upcoming Sunday. For \$15 you can help offset the cost of the coffee served during fellowship time and celebrate an occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, or the memory of a loved one.

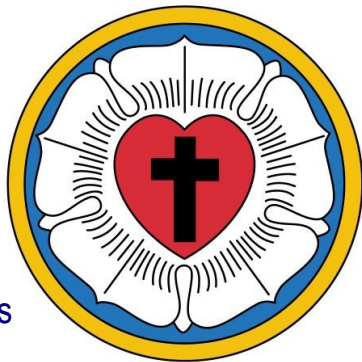


Intro to Lutheranism

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm,
January 6 – February 3

- Have you ever wondered what makes Lutherans unique amongst Christians?
- Have you ever wanted a little more insight into how our unique worship works, or what is the core of our theology?

If you have, this class is for you. Pastor Glenn is leading a class exploring Lutheranism. If you are new to Mount Olive, or new to Lutheranism, you are especially invited. For questions, call Pastor Glenn at the church office.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day 6:00p Serve at Dorothy Day House	2 8:00a Pinewood Derby 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 2:00a Brownie Scouts 5:00p Worship
3 8:00a Worship and Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Education Hour - Intergenerational 10:30a Worship and Coffee Fellowship 2:00p Den 1 Cub Scout Meeting	4 6:30p Boy Scout Troop Meeting	5 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Service and Social Outreach Ministry Team 7:15p Volleyball	6 Epiphany 5:30p Gather Meal 6:00p Metamorphosis 6:30p Fun In Serving Him 6:30p Lutheranism Class	7 8:00a Rochester Pastors Mtg. 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 6:30p Nursery Meeting 6:30p Scouts: Dens 3,4,5,6,7 7:00p 'In the Process' AI-Anon	8	9 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 9:00a Habitat for Humanity Work Day 5:00p Worship
10 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Education Hour, Little Leapers 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 11:45a Women of the ELCA Board Meeting 2:00p Den 1 Cub Scout Meeting 3:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Rehearsal	11 5:30p Public Theology 6:30p Lydia Circle 6:30p Monday Book Group	12 9:00a Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Full Council Meeting 7:30p Glory Bells 8:00p Volleyball	13 5:30p Gather Meal 6:00p Metamorphosis 6:30p Fun In Serving Him 6:30p Lutheranism Class 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	14 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 9:00a Rochester Keyboard Club 5:30p Facility and Grounds Ministry Team 6:30p Scouts: Dens 3,4,5,6,7	15	16 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Meeting & Setup 10:00a District 41 AI-Anon Meeting 5:00p Worship
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17 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Education Hour 9:30a Congregational Budget Meeting 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 2:00p Den 1 Cub Scout Meeting 3:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Rehearsal →	18 5:30p Public Theology 6:30p Scout Venture Crew	19 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:00p Worship Music & Arts Ministry 6:00p Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team 6:30p Volleyball 6:30p WomenHeart Support Group 7:30p Glory Bells	20 5:30p Gather Meal 6:00p Metamorphosis 6:30p Fun In Serving Him 6:30p Lutheranism Class 6:30p Anna Circle 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	21 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 6:30p Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7:00p 'In the Process' AI-Anon	22 9:30a Mary Circle 6:30p Scout Pack Committee Meeting	23 8:00a Minnesota Music Teacher's Association 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 5:00p Worship
24 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Education Hour 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 2:00p Den 1 Cub Scout Meeting 3:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Rehearsal	25 5:30p Public Theology 6:30p Cub Scout Troop Meeting	26 9:00a Ruth Circle 1:00p Naomi Circle 7:30p Glory Bells	27 9:15a Staff Meeting 5:30p Gather Meal 6:00p Metamorphosis 6:30p Fun In Serving Him 6:30p Lutheranism Class 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	28 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 6:30p Rachel Circle 7:00p 'In the Process' AI-Anon	29	30 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 5:00p Worship
31 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Education Hour 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 12:00p Annual Meeting and Meal 1:00p Broomball with High School Youth 2:00p Den 1 Cub Scout Meeting 3:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Rehearsal	J a n u a r y 2 0 1 6					