

# Scapegoats Galore

In this season of Lent, our reflections often center on the sacrifice of Our Lord. We are reminded that God “made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.” (II Cor. 5:21) This exchange, whereby an innocent party takes on the sins of a guilty party, is a practice which comes from the Hebrew tradition of the scapegoat. On Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the high priest was presented with two goats. The priest then cast lots, and as a result, one goat was sacrificed as a sin offering, and one was presented alive, the sins of the people were symbolically put upon it, and it was sent into the wilderness. (Leviticus 16) As Christians, we understand that our sins were put on Christ when he went to the Cross; Christ acted as ‘scapegoat’, a dramatic example of God’s love for the world. As St. John famously said, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...”

In this Lenten season our identity as those for whom Christ died also leads us to consider another connection we have with the term scapegoat. In the world today, scapegoats are common, but not in the religious sense. Today, a scapegoat is defined as one who bears the blame for things they did not do. Typically, when people are scared or discouraged, scapegoats are identified and blamed for the troubles of that people. Because scapegoats must be easily identified, they are often people with distinctive features, such as people of color, or people who speak a distinctive tongue, or have distinctive practices. In Nazi Germany in the 1930’s, for example, the Jews were the scapegoats for all the troubles of the German people following WW I.

Today, in America, many people are scared and discouraged by what is going on in the world, and so the practice of scapegoating has reared its ugly head again. Muslims are the latest example of distinctive people who are being targeted as blameworthy for our troubles as a nation. African-Americans or Mexican-Americans, or other people of color, are also often targeted and blamed for what ails us. As people of faith, as people whose very salvation depends upon Jesus Christ, the Scapegoat for the World, we are called to stand with these people who are so unjustly blamed for the troubles of America. We are called to be a voice of hospitality and good will for all of God’s children. In this season of reflection and repentance, you are invited into this call.

Blessings, *Pastor Glenn*

## MOUNT OLIVE LIFE

### Lenten Midweek Worship with Drama Continues

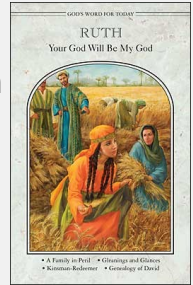
During the Holden Evening Prayer service, the courtroom drama, "The People vs. Judas Iscariot" continues each Wednesday evening in Lent at 7:00 pm as we hear from various witnesses. The congregation acts as jury, listening to arguments by Attorney Grace and Attorney Justice. Does Judas' betrayal of Jesus merit God's condemnation? That is the question. Come each Wednesday and decide for yourself.

### New Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Pastor Glenn will be leading a new 7-week Bible Study on the Old Testament book of Ruth starting on Wednesday, April 6 at 6:30 pm.

The book of Ruth is unique in that it centers on the life of a non-Jewish woman, who is a refugee, who eventually becomes part of the ancestral line of King David. Many contemporary themes emerge in this short book, challenging our assumptions about outsiders vs. insiders, believers and non-believers.

Study guides will be available for \$7 each. Sign up and purchase your book in the gathering area.



## Not Your Grandma's Easter Vigil

**Come and gather** as we enter into the darkness of night to boldly proclaim the first Resurrection Alleluias, as Christ's victory over sin and death is revealed!

This year's Easter Vigil, as many before it, will begin around the new fire of life, in the Mount Olive garden by the front doors. The Paschal Candle will be lit and will lead us, with our own candles, into the sanctuary, where we will be drawn into sharing the ancient stories of the saving work of God. The ancient stories culminate in the first proclamation of Resurrection from the lips of the women who followed Jesus, at which time the black shroud of death around the

sanctuary chancel will be removed, revealing the life of Christ that, once hidden in death, is now revealed broadly. And is there any better way to celebrate Resurrection than with the pop of Champagne and the spray of Baptismal Water upon us?! Holy Communion will indeed be a joyous thanksgiving feast of victory for our God, as we are sent into the night, with water on our brows, alleluias on our lips, and grace upon our hearts.

Our particular embodiment of this ancient tradition begins at 7:00 pm on Saturday, March 26. All are welcome, including families and children.

## Welcome New Members!

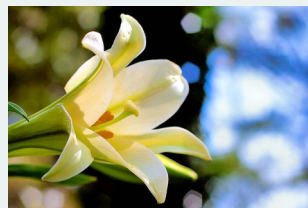
The following people were welcomed into membership at Mount Olive on February 28. Please introduce yourself and give these new members a warm welcome to Mount Olive:

† Jesse & Kelly Christensen,  
Jakob and Cole  
† Bob and Eva Colligan  
† Andy & Abby LeVasseur  
and Lucas  
† Craig Peterson  
† Karelyn Porter  
† Jeanette Ramseth  
† Maxine Simmons  
† Lindsey Smith

## Lenten Soup Suppers



Soup suppers continue to be served Wednesdays until March 16 from 5:45-6:45. The freewill offering will support ELCA World Hunger. If you would like to help with serving or clean up, please contact Nancy Britson at [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org) or 288-1580 ext. 210.



## Sanctuary Flowers for Easter

The sight and smell of the flowers brightening our sanctuary on Easter Sunday is a wonderful reminder of Jesus' resurrection! You may order flowers through March 10. Follow the directions on the order envelopes in the front entry. The flowers are yours to take after the 10:30 Easter Sunday service or you may leave your flowers to brighten the sanctuary if you wish.

*I would like to say a big **Thank You** to everyone for the support, hugs sent to me through my family, and the concern shown to me during and after my surgery. The prayers, cards, meals, cookies and the beautiful prayer shawl were all very much appreciated. The people at Mount Olive are a true blessing. **DeeDee Else***

## Mount Olive's Caring Ministries

**Meal Train** is a program used to provide meals to members with health concerns. SherrieBelle Brinkworth is now coordinating this program. If you could use help with meals, know of someone who could, or would like to volunteer to provide meals, please contact SherrieBelle.



**Volunteer Drivers:** As a part of Mount Olive's caring ministries, a list of volunteer drivers is being formed. If you are willing to provide rides to church, appointments, or work on an "as-needed" basis, please contact SherrieBelle, or sign up in the gathering area.



volunteer  
drivers  
needed

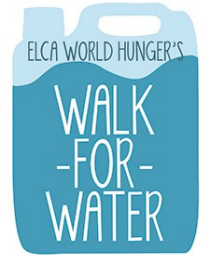
To contact SherrieBelle, call 289-7778 or email at [nanabelle.mn@gmail.com](mailto:nanabelle.mn@gmail.com).

# FRIENDS, FAMILY AND FAITH MINISTRY

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

## Walk For Water Experience: March 13 During Sunday School

The average woman in Sub-Saharan, Africa walks a little more than three miles each day to fetch water for her family - the same distance as a 5K. Our youth will be invited to walk this journey, carrying a 5 gallon jug of water and encountering natural obstacles such as a flood, heat, a bump in the road and illness.



### During Lent we are encouraged to:

- ◆ Become more aware of our water usage (check the question of the week by the rain barrel)
- ◆ Pray for those individuals who suffer from a lack of clean water.
- ◆ Make a donation to the ELCA Water Project. Make checks out to Mount Olive / note in the memo line: Water Project. Drop your donation in the rain barrel outside the sanctuary.
- ◆ Add your name to the large raindrop!

Thank you, ***The 6th—8th grade Sunday School Class***



**March 6,  
9:15 am**

Parents of  
infants and

toddlers not yet in Sunday School  
join together in conversation and  
fellowship on the first Sunday of  
each month. Gather in room 13.

## CREATIVE PRAYER STATIONS

6:00 pm Wednesdays During Lent



- Kids of ALL ages welcome
- Join Sara in the Gathering Area

March 2 Prayer through Music

March 9 Prayer through Building

March 16 Prayer through Cooking

## Palm Sunday: March 20

Wee Ones & Junior Choir are  
singing at the 10:30 service.

Guess who else will  
be here on Palm  
Sunday?

... **Oliver**



## Grade 9-12: Step Up Leadership Development at Gustavus Adolphus College

Four high school youth are attending a Leadership  
Training at Gustavus Adolphus on March 10:

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| ○ Sophia Natzke  | ○ Samantha Fletcher |
| ○ Mickaela Pasch | ○ Grant Natzke      |

This experience will introduce youth to college level  
concepts of leadership and will help them develop a  
stronger personal plan for continuing to grow as a leader.

## Adventure Club Outings

- **March 4-5: RAWtools**, a faith-based organization supporting nonviolent solutions to human conflict, is holding this event as part of their "PeaceMaker Tour" (more at [rawtools.org/peacemaker-tour/](http://rawtools.org/peacemaker-tour/)). There will be a ceremonial forging of a gun into a garden tool, inspired by ancient Jewish Prophets who called for "beating swords into plowshares". Reba Place Church in Evanston, IL is hosting the event, 6:45-9:00 pm, Friday March 4.
- **Saturday, March 12: 10:30 am – Noon**  
**Maple Syrup Making for the Whole Family**  
Celebrate spring in Whitewater State Park's sugar bush!  
This activity will introduce the long history of maple syrup and sugar making, as well as the equipment and procedures used. Participants will tap trees, gather and boil sap and best of all taste pure maple syrup! Meet at the park.
- **April 17 2:00 pm: MARY POPPINS at the Rochester Civic Center**  
**Tickets: \$29 Adult ▪ \$24 Senior ▪ \$19 Youth (21 years or younger)**  
**Check with Sara if interested.**



Please contact Sara Hollander at [sara@molive.org](mailto:sara@molive.org) with any questions.



2016

# SUMMER REGISTRATION

NOW OPEN!

[GOODEARTHVILLAGE.ORG](http://GOODEARTHVILLAGE.ORG)

**THANK YOU to all for your  
PROCLAIM JUSTICE work  
in February!**

- 25 "Acts of Kindness" bags were prepared for Rochester LINK Program (Lutheran Social Services)
- A crew from Run For God ran the Frozen Goose Run/Walk 5K to Benefit Childhood Cancer
- Youth of all ages tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief
- High School Youth delivered 193 boxes of macaroni and cheese to the Channel One Regional Food Bank

# ADULTS

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

## Sunday Forum 9:15 am

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



<b>March 6</b>	Lenten Bible study:
<b>March 13</b>	<i>Philippians, Joy in Christ</i>
<b>March 20</b>	with Pastor Glenn

<b>March 27</b>	Easter Sunday Fellowship
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## Pub Theology See what's trending.



Come to Life's Too Short Brewing Company (2001 32nd Ave NW) on Monday nights, catching up at 5:30. The discussion begins at 6:00.

Pastor Paul Moody leads conversation surrounding a topic which is published at [Rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com](http://Rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com) and distributed by email. If you would like to be included on the email distribution list, please email Pastor Paul at [paul@molive.org](mailto:paul@molive.org).

## Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

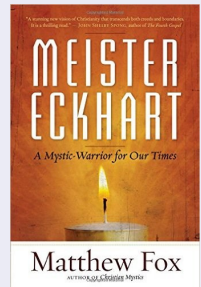
Faith Seeking Understanding reads and shares conversations about books on theology, religion, spirituality and Christianity and our changing church. All are welcome. Please contact Jody Myers if you have questions at [jodyjpmysers@gmail.com](mailto:jodyjpmysers@gmail.com).

**March 1**  
**6:30 pm**

Video Clip  
Discussion:  
*How Jesus Became God: Origin of the Trinity*

**April 5**  
**6:30 pm**

*Meister Eckhart: A Mystic Warrior for our Time*  
By Matthew Fox

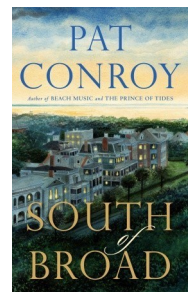


## Monday Book Group

All are welcome. Meet in the Mount Olive library the second Monday at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Jodi Schoer at [mjschoer@charter.net](mailto:mjschoer@charter.net) or Darlene Vowels at [vowelsjd@charter.net](mailto:vowelsjd@charter.net).

**March 14**

*South of Broad* By Pat Conroy  
Set in Charleston, *South of Broad* gathers a unique cast of sinners and saints. Leopold, our narrator, teaches science at the local high school. His mother is the high school principal. After Leo's older brother commits suicide, the family struggles with the shattering effects of his death, and Leo, lonely and isolated, searches for something to sustain him.



## Mount Olive Women's Day of Service Saturday, April 16, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

All Mount Olive women as well as teenage girls in grades 6-12 are invited to participate.

Projects include:

- Habitat for Humanity work site (8:30 am start)
- Knitting and crocheting prayer shawls
- Sewing baby layette items for LWR
- Sewing quilt tops, tying and binding quilts for LWR and Rochester Women's Shelter.

No experience necessary.

As faithful women empowered by the Holy Spirit and blessed with so much, our goal is to have at least 50 volunteers participate in this special service day. The morning of service and fellowship will conclude with a potluck lunch. Sign up will begin in late March. Contact Sherry Sanden Will at [sher05@charter.net](mailto:sher05@charter.net) with any questions or to sign up.

## Zumbro River Conference Spring Event

Thursday, April 21 at 4:45 pm until 8:30 pm  
Theme: WELCA; Not Your Grandma's Circle  
Faith Lutheran Church (308 2nd St. NW,  
Dodge Center)

Guest Speaker: Mr. Garwin McNeilus

Cost: \$12, includes dinner, sign up on bulletin board or contact Sherry Sanden Will.

## Annual Meeting Meal

At the January Annual Meeting Meal your donations totaled \$665. Thank-you from all the Women of the ELCA. Your continued generous support of our many events and projects over the last year is greatly appreciated and has been a blessing to so many within our congregation, our community and across the globe.



## Mount Olive Quilters Each Thursday, 9 am

You are invited each week to enjoy  
quilting and fellowship.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry Tuesday, March 8 at 9:00 am

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

## Ripe Olives



## Potluck Breakfast:

Friday, March 11 at 9:00 am

Bring a sample of your special craft to show  
(quilting, art projects, stained glass, etc.)

Please sign up and indicate what you plan to bring.

Contact LouAnn Wiebke with questions, 282-0355.

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.

## SERVICE AND SOCIAL OUTREACH MINISTRY (SSOM)

### Lenten Collection Has Begun

Our annual collection for The Channel One Food Shelf begins Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. This drive provides much needed food and supplies for families in our area. Mount Olive has strongly supported the effort with one grocery bag or a \$10 donation from each of our church families. There will be tables in the church entry for you to place your grocery bag and envelopes available for monetary donations. Please make sure that all items are non-perishable and that they are not close to expiring. The following is a list of suggestions from Channel One on their most needed items:



Canned Meats and Peanut Butter	<b>Special dietary need items such as:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gluten free</li><li>• Low sodium</li><li>• Low sugar</li></ul>	<b>Personal Care Items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shampoo</li><li>• Deodorant</li><li>• Soap</li><li>• Toothpaste</li><li>• Diapers</li><li>• Toilet paper</li><li>• Feminine hygiene products</li></ul>
Canned Fruits and Vegetables		
Soups and Boxed Meals		
Rice and Pasta		
Flour, sugar, oil		

If you have any questions, please contact:

- Kathleen Haase at [haasekat84@gmail.com](mailto:haasekat84@gmail.com)
- Sara Smith at [smit0959@hotmail.com](mailto:smit0959@hotmail.com)

**Thank you for supporting this important ministry.**

### Worship Volunteer Update

The March 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 and with coffee fellowship in April via the online sign up site: **Sign Up Genius**. If you do 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: [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org) 288-1580 ext. 210.

## A Chance to be Stretched

Next Chapter Ministries of Rochester is a long-established (since 1991) Christian ministry to individuals who have been in the prison system in our area. Through this ministry persons gain relationships, counseling, and support that can free them from the revolving door – in and out of prison - that is sadly common. On March 4 at 6:30 pm at Autumn Ridge Church, 3611 Salem Road SW, the annual fundraising dinner for this ministry will be held. If you are interested in attending, please see Pastor Glenn and also RSVP at [www.NextChapterRochester.org](http://www.NextChapterRochester.org). Thank you very much!

## ROOTED IN LOVE

FUNDRAISING DINNER - AUTUMN RIDGE CHURCH  
MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 - 6:30PM

## Support Groups Welcome You

The **Alzheimer's Association of Southern Minnesota** offers Caregiver Support Meetings for any persons who are caring for people with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. Meetings are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month 1:30-3:00 pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 5:00-6:00 pm

Location: Alzheimer's Association office, 3224 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Unit A. For more info call Debbie Eddy at 289-3950 or [deddy@alz.org](mailto:deddy@alz.org)

alzheimer's  association®

**Mayo Clinic Hospice** is offering two 8-week specialized Grief Support Groups, April 4-May 26. Meetings are:

- Mondays 1:00-2:30 pm for those grieving a spouse or significant other
- Mondays 6:30-8:00 pm for those grieving a spouse, child, grandchild, parent or grandparent

You must register for these groups by March 25 by contacting Dianne Axen at [axen.dianne@mayo.edu](mailto:axen.dianne@mayo.edu) or 284-4002 or Debbie Ball at [ball.debra@mayo.edu](mailto:ball.debra@mayo.edu).



THE **GROUND UP**  
**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**  
COFFEE & COCOA INITIATIVE

## Fair Trade Coffee

Stop by the **Fair Trade Coffee** display 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.



**Palm Sunday, March 20**

8:00 am Worship

10:30 am Worship

**Maundy Thursday, March 24**

7:00 pm Worship

**Good Friday, March 25**

7:00 pm Worship

**Holy Saturday, March 26**

7:00 pm Easter Vigil

Worship

**Easter Sunday, March 27**

8:00 am Festival Worship

10:30 am Festival Worship

**Holy Week and Easter**

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
M a r c h 2 0 1 6			1 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Faith Seeking Understanding Book Group 6:30p Service and Social Outreach Ministry Team 7:30p Glory Bells Rehearsal 8:00p Volleyball	2 5:45p Soup Supper 6:00p Lenten Bible Study 6:00p Creative Prayer Stations 7:00p Lenten Service 7:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	3 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 6:30p Scouts: Dens 3,4,5,6,7 5:30p Facility and Grounds Ministry Team 7:00p 'In the Process' Al-Anon	4 6:00p Serve at Dorothy Day House 6:30p Next Chapter Ministries Fundraising Dinner at Autumn Ridge Church	5 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 10:00a World Day of Prayer at Good Shepherd 5:00p Worship
		RAWtools in Evanston, IL					
6 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Education Hour 9:15a Little Leapers 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 2:00p Den 1 Cub Scout Meeting 3:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Rehearsal		7 5:30p Public Theology 6:30p Boy Scout Troup Meeting	8 9:00a Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Executive Council Meeting 7:15p Volleyball 7:30p Glory Bells Rehearsal	9 5:45p Soup Supper 6:00p Lenten Bible Study 6:00p Creative Prayer Stations 7:00p Lenten Service 7:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	10 Step-Up Leadership Training at Gustavus 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 9:00a Rochester Keyboard Club 6:30p Scouts: Dens 3,4,5,6,7 6:30p Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Team 7:00p 'In the Process' Al-Anon	11 9:00a Ripe Olives Potluck Breakfast	12 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 9:00a Habitat for Humanity Work Day 10:30a Adventure Club - Maple Syrup at Whitewater 5:00p Worship
13 Fifth Sunday in Lent 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		14 5:30p Public Theology 6:00p Widowed Persons Event 6:30p Lydia Circle 6:30p Monday Book Group 6:30p Scout Venture Crew	15 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:00p Youth Channel 1 Food Shelf 6:30p WomenHeart Support Group 7:30p Glory Bells Rehearsal	16 4:00p Youth Serve Dinner at Ronald McDonald House 5:45p Soup Supper 6:00p Lenten Bible Study 6:00p Creative Prayer Stations 7:00p Lenten Service 7:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	17 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 6:30p Scout Pack Meeting 7:00p 'In the Process' Al-Anon	18 9:30a Mary Circle 6:30p Scout Pack Committee Meeting	19 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Meeting & Setup 10:00a District 41 Al-Anon Meeting 5:00p Worship
20 Palm Sunday 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		21 5:30p Public Theology 6:30p Cub Scout Troop Meeting	22 9:00a Ruth Circle 1:00p Naomi Circle 7:30p Glory Bells Rehearsal	23 9:15a Staff Meeting 7:00p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	24 Maundy Thursday 6:00p Three Great Days: 5th Grade Milestone 7:00p Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00p 'In the Process' Al-Anon	25 Good Friday 7:00p Good Friday Worship	26 Holy Saturday 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 7:00p Easter Vigil Worship
27 Easter Sunday 8:00a Worship 9:00a Easter Fellowship with Hot Cross Buns 10:30a Worship		28 Easter Monday Office Closed 5:30p No Public Theology 6:30p Boy Scout Troop Meeting	29 9:15a Staff Meeting	30	31 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 6:30p Rachel Circle 7:00p 'In the Process' Al-Anon		
I n t e r f a i t h   H o s p i t a l i t y   N e t w o r k   H o s t   W e e k							
