

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

Ambassadors for Christ, rooted to grow and serve



January 2017 | Messenger



A Blessed New Year to All!

New Year's resolutions don't pack much of a punch for me. Maybe it's because they are usually little more than wish lists that have little staying power. What do have staying power for me are things my mentors have taught me. I think back at these things over and over and thank God for those persons who have taught me such things. One of those wonderful mentors for me was my former colleague, Pastor Don Deines, who I was privileged to work with for over 7 years during my nearly 20 years at Our Savior's in Austin. Some of the lessons I learned from Don which I shared at his passing in 2010, I share with you now as wisdom for the New Year:

Don't worry about not being able to do everything well; no one can.

Don't stew about your mistakes too long; everybody makes them.

Always find ways to welcome people into the church as they are; most people have lots of experience in being told they aren't welcome.

Laughing at yourself is sometimes great entertainment.

Never be threatened by people who are better at something than you are; make them your teammates and everybody wins.

Some things are worth doing over and over again; they're that good.

If you need help, ask for it.

Don't be afraid to be honest with people.

People easily fall through the cracks; the church's job is to notice and make an effort to catch them.

Blessings,
Pastor Glenn

Congregational Life

Staff Restructuring is Full Steam Ahead

At their December meeting the Executive Council of Mount Olive endorsed 5 new job descriptions as drafted by Pastor Glenn, staff, and ministry teams. Some of these new job descriptions are merely rewrites of previous positions, while others are entirely new positions. One of the existing positions that was rewritten is Nancy Britson's position, which is now titled Director of Congregational Life. The result of this restructuring is that we will now have dedicated staff members for each of our four key ministry areas – Education, Worship, Service, and Fellowship, as well as administrative staff that is focused on our particular needs as a congregation. These new positions have been posted online and applications are being taken. Congregational members are welcome to apply. The positions being advertised are:

Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries – full-time

Director of Missions, Service and Social Outreach – part-time

Media & Publications Designer – part-time

Webmaster & Administrative Assistant – part-time

For a complete update on staff restructuring, please attend the annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 29th.

Annual Budget Meeting

The annual budget meeting for Mount Olive will be held Sunday, January 22nd, 2017 at 9:15 in the Mount Olive Library. All are welcome. Come and learn about the financial status of the church and the proposed budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting which is scheduled for the following Sunday (January 29th) after the 10:30 Worship Service.

Annual Meeting Meal

11:30 am January 29th

Mount Olive's Women of the ELCA will serve a meal prior to the January 29 meeting. This event is the main fundraiser for the Women of the ELCA group. Back on the menu this year are roast beef sandwiches along with salads and dessert. The free-will offering will support the many benevolence programs the women's group is involved with including quilters, Lutheran World Relief, Mount Olive Youth, and more. If you are unable to attend, contributions may be put in the offering plate with "Welca Meal" on the memo of the check.

Help is needed for providing food, serving, and cleanup. Please sign up in the gathering area. If you have questions, contact Renee Schaefer at vettelady54601@yahoo.com or Sherry Will at sher05@charter.net.

Annual Meeting January 29

The annual meeting of the congregation is an important event for all members since it gives us a chance to reflect on the past year's accomplishments and challenges, as well as look ahead to the opportunities before us. As we prepare to meet this year we have much for which to be thankful in 2016, and even more reason to be hopeful in the year ahead. You will hear about all of our reasons for thanksgiving and hope when you attend the annual meeting on Sunday, January 29th at 11:30 am. Prior to the meeting a lunch, to which all are invited, will be served by the women of the church. Plan now to attend and learn about God's call for Mount Olive in the year ahead.

Meet Your Inclusive Church Taskforce:

We are the team leading the Reconciling in Christ movement coming in 2017

Top picture: Pastor Glenn Monson - Mickaela Pasch - Randi Beyerl – Elmer Odland – David Johnston – Becky Lashinski – Jake Johnson – Pastor Paul Moody Bottom left: Tom Rigby Bottom right: Paula Freitag



The team is happy to answer questions and chat about the Reconciling in Christ process.

Check it out: <http://www.reconcilingworks.org>

Please contact the church staff if you have any prayer concerns:

- Pastor Glenn: glenn@molive.org
- Pastor Paul: paul@molive.org

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.

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.



Altar Flowers

You may sign up to provide the flowers that brighten the sanctuary each week. 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.



Education

Welcome to Communion!

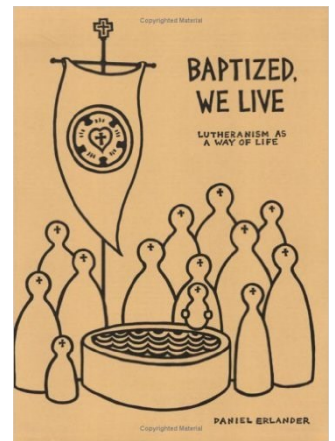
On Sunday, January 22nd, Pastor Paul will lead the *Welcome to Communion* class in the sanctuary after the late service. Families with children who would like to begin communing (or who have already been communing!) are welcome to come and learn more about this sacrament of love and grace.

If you intend to join, please let Pastor Paul know: paul@molive.org or 288-1580.



Intro to Lutheranism Class to begin

Once again this January and February we will be offering an Intro to Lutheranism class, taught by Pastor Glenn. This class gives an overview of key Lutheran theological themes and practices. The book for the class, *Baptized We Live; Lutheranism as a Way of Life*, by Daniel Erlander, offers a very accessible way to understand our fundamental teachings. The class is open to all, but especially recommended for those for whom Lutheranism is a new way. Classes will be held in the church library on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm for 5 weeks, January 18 – February 15. Books are \$5 each. Sign up in the Gathering area.



Sunday Adult Forum

9:15 am Grab some coffee and gather in the fellowship hall. The schedule for January is as follows:



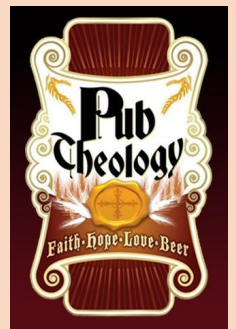
- January 1 No Forum – New Year's Day
- January 8 Living the Questions– Session #1
- January 15 Service Sunday-no forum
- January 22 Living the Questions– Session #2
- January 29 Lutheran Campus Ministries

Pub Theology

Forum with Pastor Paul. Conversation focuses on topics that connect faith, spirituality, and our world. Each week's discussion is posted ahead of time at rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com and via email. If you would like to be included on the email distribution list, please email Pastor Paul at paul@molive.org.

Who? All are welcome.

When? Monday evenings, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
at Life's Too Short Brewery



Metamorphosis Returns Wednesday, January 18th

In this communal movement we are calling Metamorphosis, we are seeking to embody together the very theology of our Lutheran heritage, as, each Wednesday, we gather around the Word, engaging in dialogue around tables, and figure out what it means to be God's people. This practice emerges out of a deeply Lutheran understanding of what it means to reason out our faith with others. Luther did this with his table talks, as the Reformation took shape with a similar pattern of community gatherings through which God's people made sense out of a rapidly changing reality in their world.

The catechesis model we employ in Metamorphosis is an interactive, communal movement that makes room both for learning about and embodying the way of Jesus. It is an interpretive space that allows us not only to learn *about* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the 10 Commandments, but it allows us to experience the implications of these teachings as we live them in our daily lives. It's a risky proposition to form relationships in this way across the usual boundaries of congregational life, but we think it is a risk worth taking. Through this Metamorphosis process, we hope that there will be room made for all of us to more fully live out our particularly Lutheran faith by rooting ourselves in Scripture as interpreted through a Gospel-centered Theology of the Cross (communal accompaniment and the work of justice). We won't always do this perfectly, but we hope that we will learn from our mistakes as we go.

All in all, we hope that together, this process will allow us to be both intellectually informed and holistically transformed as God's own beloved people.

Will you join us?

We begin again on Wednesday, January 18th, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Mount Olive.

No prior experience necessary. All are welcome.

Wednesday Meals

Meals are served at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall each Wednesday beginning January 18th. 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 weekly for serving and clean up. please sign up in the gathering area or email nancy@molive.org. Each meal includes a main and side dishes, salad, peanut butter & jelly, bread, fruit, cookies, and drinks.

FSU Resumes February 7, 6:30 pm, in the library

The Faith Seeking Understanding group will meet to discuss ***Laudato Si' : On Care of Our Common Home***. In his second encyclical, Pope Francis



draws all Christians into a dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home. We as human beings are united by the concern for our planet, and every living thing that dwells on it, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Pope Francis' letter joins the body of the Church's social and moral teaching, draws on the best scientific research, providing the foundation for the ethical and spiritual itinerary that follows.

All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Jody Myers at jodyjpmymers@gmail.com.

"Ending Well" Workshop – Save the Date

On Saturday, February 11, 9:00 – 11:30 am, we will be offering a workshop entitled "Ending Well". Pastor Glenn and Pastor Chris Miller, retired ELCA pastor and member of Mount Olive, will be leading this workshop. Topics to be covered are funeral service planning, testimony or tribute writing (i.e. obituaries and eulogies), Mount Olive columbarium information, and memorials (gifts to the Mount Olive endowment fund). Participants will be working through each of these areas so that they will be better equipped to make decisions with family members as time goes on. All are welcome, both those who are interested in doing planning for their own use, and family members who are interested in doing planning for another family member. This workshop is offered free of charge. Watch for the sign-up at church. For more information, talk to Pastor Glenn.

Service



Fun In Serving Him Resumes January 18 at 6:30

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

We had a great fall session of FISH. The kids spent their time making decorations for the Hiawatha Festival of Trees that benefits the Hiawatha Foundation. They also helped with the Backpack program for John Adams Middle School students. We will begin our winter session on January 18th at 6:30. We will be making cat hammocks for Camp Companion, baking treats for the firefighters, and making cards for hospitalized members and the homebound. We will have some other service projects as well. If you have any questions about FISH, please feel free to contact Carrie Fletcher at cxnfletcher@aol.com



Bolder Options Open House

Bolder Options, one of our mission partners, whose Rochester offices are housed at Mount Olive, is holding an Open House on Thursday, January 26. Food and drinks will be served along with multiple opportunities to hear how anyone can be part of this important work; impacting youth-at-risk in our community through sports mentoring. Stop by anytime between 3:00 and 7:00 pm at the Cambria Gallery, 400 South Broadway in Rochester, and learn how you can be a part of this work.



Backpacks for John Adams- Drivers and Packers are needed for this food program for students at John Adams Middle School. The schedule is always posted on the Volunteer Sign-up Table in the Gathering Area. Select the date/time you will perform one or more of these tasks. Contact Warren Kemplin at 254-4932 with questions or for a replacement driver or packer should you have a conflict.



In December, students made Christmas ornaments that were delivered to shut ins by the pastors and Mount Olive Christmas Carolers.



Second Sunday Service

On the Second Sunday of each month, we are focusing our education hour on service. This month, on January 15th beginning at 9:15, we will assemble Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits. All ages are encouraged to participate.

Through out the year, members of Mount Olive have sewn and collected infant clothing for these Baby Care Kits that are shipped all over the world to mothers and their newborns. Thank you to everyone who has donated items for these kits. Please contact Cathy Hanson with any questions or to volunteer to help with sewing or assembling kits.

Project Promise Baby Care Kits are distributed as part of emergency relief efforts but they are also given to encourage expectant women to seek pre-natal care. Help welcome the littlest ones into a caring international community and swaddle them with love! To learn more about LWR Project Promise, including where kits are helping, visit build-kitsofcare.org.



Mitten Tree Update

The goal of the Mitten Tree ministry this year was to keep our neighborhood school students warm during winter. Generous donations included boots, snow pants, jackets, snowsuits, gloves, mittens, hats, socks, underwear, and more. All have been distributed to schools for the students.

School staff expressed heartfelt thanks to Mount Olive on behalf of the students. We heard many stories of student winter challenges, including two boys kept home from walking to school by their mother because they do not have boots. In another circumstance a little girl crying from cold hands could only be offered thin cotton gloves from the school 'borrow closet' because all the winter weight mittens had been given away to other students. Your generosity has helped make Minnesota winter weather less daunting for the students.



A special "thank you" goes to Mount Olive's prayer shawl group. (pictured below)



They switched to knitting hats for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on September 11 and continued knitting throughout the fall donating 115 beautiful hats!! Thanks also to Ann Willis, Lori Kuhlmann-Leibfried, Pam Hansen, and Renee Schaefer for distributing the donated items!



The Alternative Learning Center

The Service and Social Outreach Team is sponsoring a collection for students at the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) of Rochester Public Schools. Students at the ALC benefit from a smaller learning environment with a student/teacher ratio of 15/1. Some are working for their high school diploma while caring for their children and/or working up to 20 hours a week. Personal care items, clothing and other necessities that help these students achieve success are needed. Visit the display and sign up in the gathering area for information on how to help these students.



Mount Olive will be hosting homeless families participating in **Family Promise** for 4 weeks in 2017, please mark your calendars with these dates:

Jan 8-15

March 5-12

**Nov 19-Dec 2nd
(2 weeks back to back)**

Sign up in the gathering area or online using the link from the Mount Olive website to help during host weeks.

Mount Olive Quilters

Thursdays at 9:00 am

**You are invited each week to
enjoy quilting and fellowship**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

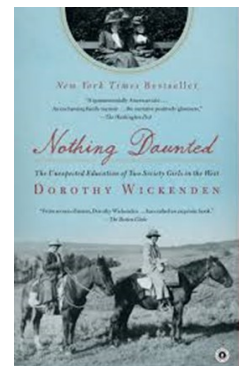
Tuesday, January 10th at 9:00 am

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

Fellowship

Monday Book Group

Join the group on Monday, January 9 at 6:30 pm in the library. We will be discussing *Nothing Daunted: Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West* by Dorothy Wickenden. The acclaimed and captivating true story of two restless society girls who left their affluent lives to “rough it” as teachers in the wilds of Colorado in 1916. New readers are welcome to join us anytime!! If you have any questions please notify Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net



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 and Katie Moody are leading a trip to Germany from September 27-October 6, 2017. This 10 day trip will include travel to many of the important locations in Martin Luther's life, including Wittenberg, Torgau, Leipzig, Eisleben, Erfurt, and Berlin, among others. The trip is coordinated through *Faith Journeys*. If you would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Paul

Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed



Following Sunday services at Mount Olive, coffee and cookies are served in the fellowship hall. This is a great time to catch up with friends over a cup of coffee, for kids to pick a favorite cookie, and to connect with a visitor. More serving volunteers are needed. If you are willing to spend a few minutes serving coffee, cookies, and lemonade it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Nancy Britson if you are available to help.

Ripe Olives meet Friday, January 13th

9:30 am at Charlie's Eatery

Ripe Olives is a group of Mount Olive's more experienced adults who meet monthly for fellowship. On the 2nd Friday of each month (Sept. – May) at 9:30 am, seniors from Mount Olive will meet at Charley's Eatery (1654 US Hwy 52, Hillcrest Shopping Center), for coffee and a roll. Attend as often as you can. No need to call or sign-up, just come. The more the merrier!

Volleyball

The church volleyball league continues through March. If you would like to join the team, it isn't too late.

Please sign up in the gathering area. The schedule is available on the church calendar. Games are played on Tuesday evenings at Zumbro Lutheran Church or the National Volleyball Center and last 45 minutes. Gina Rislow is the team captain this year. You may contact Gina at rislow29@gmail.com



Worship

Santa Lucia Celebration

On December 11, Mount Olive celebrated the Swedish legend of Santa Lucia. Thank you to all of the service participants, to Naomi and Rachel Circles for hosting the receptions, and to all of the Lussekatter roll bakers.



February New Member Coffee

Interested in membership at Mount Olive? There will be an informational coffee for interested visitors on February 5th following the 8:00 service at 9:00 in the library. Please come to meet the staff, other new members, and learn about the ministries at Mount Olive. New Members will be received into membership on February 19th at the 10:30 service. A reception will follow the service to give everyone a chance to extend a warm welcome to the new members. For more information, please contact Nancy Britson, nancy@molive.org.



Worship Volunteer Update

At each worship service at Mount Olive, volunteers serve in many roles: greeters, ushers, communion assistants, assisting ministers, acolytes, nursery volunteers and more. More volunteers are always needed. Training is available for new volunteers. You may turn in a Volunteer Interest Form, available at the Welcome Desk, or contact Nancy Britson, Volunteer Coordinator.

January Worship Volunteer Schedules have been sent to all participants. The schedule is also available on the church website under "Service".

Volunteers receive regular notices 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, Director of Congregational Life, and she will help you: nancy@molive.org 288-1580 ext. 210.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailing Name

Address

City, State & Postal Code

Mount Olive's Inclement Weather Policy

When the snow flies and the wind chill is -20 degrees, is there still quilting group? Metamorphosis? Bible study? Here are the quick rule-of-thumb guides for winter weather.

- If school is cancelled because of inclement weather, all church activities, including evening activities, are cancelled
- If school dismisses early and community evening events are cancelled due to poor weather, all evening church activities are also cancelled
- Worship on Saturday night and Sunday is rarely cancelled. In the rare event that this occurs, we will have notification on our website, www.molive.org, and on the KTTC television channel.
- Always use your judgment before driving in bad weather. If MNDot advises no travel except in emergency cases, please assume that means church activities as well.