

THE *Messenger*

July 2026

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH • ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA • 507-288-1580 • MOLIVE.ORG
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Outdoor Worship + Congregational Picnic Sunday, July 19th at 4:00 pm on the Lawn

For this month's outdoor worship we'll kick off Vacation Bible School week right with outdoor worship and music by Carl-Eric Gentes followed by a picnic for everyone. We'll also welcome our VBS staff from Good Earth Village who will lead our kiddos that week.

There will be plenty of grilled hot dogs and brats, beans, chips, veggies and dip, and cookies, including gluten free options. Plus great live music and generous Holy Communion with Mount Olive friends. All ages welcome!

VBS Day Camp – July 19-23

Mount Olive will be hosting Good Earth Village camp counselors again to continue a wonderful ministry with our kids. This year's theme is "Wear Love" which refers to a practical message from the Apostle Paul on how we ought to treat our neighbor naming how love is an active, deliberate choice.



Day Camp week will be Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (early check in is available at 8:00 am) and will feature daily "Bible Discovery Time", music, games, crafts, and two snacks (morning/afternoon). **Kids will need to bring their own packed lunch.** (Meal support available too!)

Register at this link: <https://goodearthvillage.org/mount-olive/> The rate is listed at \$95 per kid – however! If you need financial support, we can help! Money shouldn't be a reason kids cannot come to camp. Contact Evan at evan@molive.org if you have any questions.

Congregational Meeting July 12

On Sunday, July 12, a congregational meeting will be held at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to make two important decisions for our community. The meeting will begin with the presentation of a pastoral candidate from the Call Committee. The congregation will have the opportunity to learn about the candidate and the gifts the committee feels are a good match for our congregation. The second major agenda item is to approve undertaking a Capital Campaign for Mount Olive that will help us continue to be a place of hospitality for years to come. Projects include building maintenance and upgrades, including HVAC, sound system, parking lot, roof, as well as a mission component. Congregation voting will be by ballot for both.

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Council Update - Things Are *Special* Around Here

In June, the council meeting was renamed from an Executive Committee meeting to a Special Full Congregational Council meeting. The word *special* may bring to mind the old Dana Carvey “Church Lady” line, “Isn’t that *special*?” In this case, it truly was.

The council continued its discussion of the Capital Campaign following last month’s report on Rev. Steve Olson’s feasibility study. A congregational vote to approve the campaign will be held after Sunday worship on July 12 during a *special* congregational meeting at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

If the campaign is approved, staff and council will need broad support to move the project forward. New committees will be formed, and participation from the congregation will be essential.

The council also discussed the condition of the parking lot. Dave Mickelson, council representative from the Facility and Grounds Team, helped explain the issues. Some limited repair work will take place this summer at a cost of \$6,650, while full replacement is estimated at \$180,000. Isn’t that *special*?

The council voted to approve the call committee’s selected candidate for the Associate Pastor position. On July 12, yep, the same *special* date as the Capital Campaign vote, following worship, the candidate’s qualifications will be presented to the congregation.

With a quorum present, the congregation will then vote by written ballot on whether to call the candidate in accordance with constitutional requirements. After the vote, Council President Mark Pasch will announce the result. Special thanks to the Call Committee for its devoted work.

There have certainly been many *special* developments around here lately. Thanks be to God.

Loren Else, Church Council Secretary



Feasibility Report Summary Available

33 households (48 people total) participated in Feasibility Study interviews with our Campaign Consultant, Rev. Steve Olson earlier this Spring. Those who were interviewed represented a sample of active members of the congregation and included people who were asked to participate and those who answered the open invitation to the congregation. The interviews showed overwhelming support for a capital campaign and provided helpful feedback on which projects currently have the most interest. See the summary of Rev. Olson's report in your Friday email or you may pick up a copy in the church office.

Community Led Hearing in Rochester

ISAIAH is organizing a community hearing to share the full story of harms, and our resistance, during the ICE surge in Minnesota. The event is Tuesday, **July 14**, 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Century High School in Rochester. The meeting will document the human rights violations that occurred and how Minnesotans showed up for one another as well. Local and state leaders are invited to this hearing to listen to and honor these experiences. Stories told and gathered with the MN Truth Council will be shared, a citizen commission creating a historical record of the surge that will produce a report with recommendations for legislative and policy reform. Contact David Mickelson, 507-281-9414, dave.mickelson@gmail.com, or Rob Nelson, 218-371-6853, pastorrob.n@gmail.com, for more information. Please use the following link to register, <https://bit.ly/TruthHearingRochester>.



**LSS
BBQ
Party**

Lutheran Social Services is putting on a BBQ party on July 22nd, 4-7:00 pm at Zumbro Lutheran Church. There will be food and games, including a dunk tank and a slushie machine! Bring a non-perishable food item or hygiene product. Register [HERE](#).

Pray Without Ceasing Continues through the Summer

Through the summer, we'll continue gather on Mondays, 5:30-6:00 pm, to tend to the needs and hopes of the world, as well as to our leaders and the people most vulnerable right now. In these months, we'll stretch into a fresh, creative rhythm of prayer:

Week 1: Healing of creation, using a large floor map of the world

Week 2: Contemplative vigil readings with sung refrains

Week 3: Musical prayer with songs you know and love

Week 4: Scripture, singing, and petitioned prayers

You are welcome to drop in at any time and invite friends. Contact Richard at richard@molive.org if you'd enjoy helping with this summer's services.



Sunday Volunteer Opportunities

Each Sunday, we rely on worship volunteers to keep the services running smoothly and fellowship volunteers to show hospitality to all of the guests at Fellowship time. Everyone's help is appreciated, whether the role is small or large, and all ages are welcome to be involved. Sign up to help in worship by using the Sign Up Genius link <https://tinyurl.com/jtzbwjkm>, or sign up at the Welcome Desk following worship. Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life with questions about worship roles. To help with making coffee, serving or providing treats for Fellowship time, use the online link: <https://tinyurl.com/2zhb9v5n> or contact Renee Schaefer, Sunday Fellowship Volunteer Coordinator at renee@molive.org.

Assisi Heights Spirituality Center Summer Programs

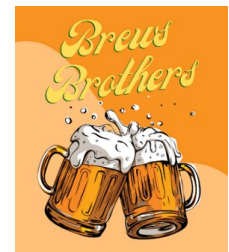
The Assisi Heights Spirituality Center provides a wide variety of spiritual and educational programs open to people of all faith backgrounds. The programs reflect the mission of the Sisters of Saint Francis "to be a compassionate presence for peace in our world, striving for justice and reverence for all creation" by providing a place of hope, prayer, reflection and enrichment. To view their full calendar of events, register, or learn more, go to <https://rochesterfranciscan.org/spirituality-center/>, pick up an informational card in the Gathering Area or call 507-280-2195

Women's Monthly Coffee Meet Up

Mount Olive women are invited to meet at 9:00 am on Friday, **July 3** for coffee/tea at the Market Grille at Hy-Vee West Circle at 4221 West Circle Drive. Come each month for fellowship and good conversation. If you have questions, ask Cathy Hanson at 507-398-3917 or kchanson89@gmail.com.

Brews Brothers Meets at a New Time

Brews Brothers, a fellowship opportunity for Mount Olive men, continues to meet the second Thursday of each month at a local brewery. This month they will meet at a later time, 6:30-8:00 pm, so that fellows who are working can join them. They will meet on Thursday, **July 9**, at Little Thistle Brewing, 2031 14th St NW, in Rochester. Come to chat and enjoy a good beer. All are welcome! Contact Keith Hanson at kjhanson17@gmail.com with questions.



Monday Book Group Plans for New Season

The Monday Book Group has selected its list of books for 2026/2027 and will begin meeting in September at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. A book list for the year, the opportunity to order the year's books (August 2 deadline), and a new member sign-up sheet are available on the Gathering Area cabinet. The group discusses a wide variety of literature including: classics, fiction, poetry, humor, memoirs, history, mystery, Minnesota authors, and youth-inspired works. Contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

Project Comfort July 12

Following the service on Sunday, **July 12**, Ruth Circle members will serve treats and drinks and will accept a free will offering to support the Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Shipping Fund which covers the cost of sending quilts and kits to places in the US and all over the world. If you will not be in church on July 12, donations may be given at any time; checks can be made out to Mount Olive with "Project Comfort" on the memo line or you may use the "[donate now](#)" button on the church website.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday, September 13, 2026

We are starting early this year! As one of our projects this year, Mount Olive is partnering with the United Way of SE Minnesota through their Running Start for School Program that helps provide school supplies to children that otherwise may not have what they need to help them learn. We will not be collecting physical items, but you can help by visiting this link to donate funds or purchase items directly. <https://roonga.com/collection-drive/details/mtolivelutheranchurch>.

Please contact Carrie Fletcher – carrie@molive.org with any questions.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Dorothy Day House Volunteers Needed

Mount Olive Volunteers provide a meal to the guests at Dorothy Day Hospitality House on the first Friday evening of each month. Volunteers provide and share a family-style meal with the guests in the home's dining room. We are in need of volunteers to fill out the schedule for the summer. Sign up on the cabinet in the Gathering Area. Training is provided if needed. If you have any questions, please contact Mark & Sarah Jerde, Mount Olive coordinators - sarahjerdepa@gmail.com.

Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters continue to meet throughout the summer, each **Thursday at 9:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall, to prepare and tie quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief and local service organizations. Everyone is welcome to join them. They can always use more cotton fabrics for making the colorful quilt tops. Donations may be left in the Gathering Area cabinet.

Lutheran World Relief

The Mount Olive quilters are getting low on quilt tops, so we need your help ironing fabric and cutting out squares to pack together into quilt top kits.

Join us in the Fellowship hall on Friday, **July 17**, 9:00 am-12:00 pm to:

- Iron fabric pieces that have been donated
- Cut fabric into squares using a rotary cutter
- Put together packets of fabric squares (quilt top kits)



Help with one or all 3 tasks. Please sign up in the Gathering Area. Lunch will be provided. Contact Elaine Monson with any questions - 507-272-6404.

The Landing MN 5K and 1 Mile

Lace up for Hope! The Landing MN is hosting their second annual *Lace up for Hope* 5k and 1 mile walk. Join for a morning of fun, food and movement all while supporting those experiencing homelessness in our community. The race starts at Little Thistle Brewing, 2031 14th St. NW. Click on the QR image above or go to the following link to register and learn more about the event: <https://tinyurl.com/3bt89mrr>

Sign Up Now!
SUPPORT THE LANDING MN

COOL SWAG!

ICE CREAM, ACTIVITIES, DRINKS & FUN!

THE LANDING MN

SAT 7.25 9AM
5K & 1 MILE
hosted at:
LITTLE THISTLE BREWING CO.

REGISTER HERE:

RACEROSTER.COM

Altra
Federal Credit Union

SCHEELS

PENZ
DENTAL CARE

Eagle Rock
BANK

SHADE JOY

July CYF Events

Youth and Family events will be posted weekly in the Sunday School Facebook Group Page and our Parent Email Chain. If you need to be added to either for event reminders, you can contact evan@molive.org.

Wed. 7/1 Game Night! at Church **6:30-8:00pm**

Wed. 7/8 Evening at the Park! @ Field of Fun playground near *Soldier's Field* **6:30-8:00 pm**

Sun. 7/12 Honkers Baseball Game at **5:05pm**

Sun. 7/19 Outdoor Worship & VBS Kick-Off! **4:00pm**

Mon. 7/20-7/23 VBS DAY CAMP w/ *Good Earth Village*
(See all the details on the newsletter cover)

Wed. 7/29 Berne Wood-Fired Pizza Concert (*Kid's Night!*)
5:00pm Capital Sons, 6:30pm Ladies of the 80s



Game Night at Church July 1

On Wednesday, **July 1**, 6:30-8:00 pm, come for fellowship through games! Everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite game (or multiple). Feel free to bring a snack to share also. RSVP at the following link and comment any games/snacks your family would be bringing! Or just show up and play!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B44AFA62DABFE3-64594296-family>

Family Evening at The Park July 8

Kids and families, join us Wednesday, **July 8**, 6:30-8:00 pm at the *Field of Fun* playground near Soldier's Field. (800-970 George Gibbs Dr SW, Rochester) Not only is it a great playground with swings, a sandbox, and play structure, but there is plenty of field space if people want to throw footballs or frisbees or kick a soccer ball.

Honkers Baseball Game

Sunday, **July 12**, at 5:05 pm, Mount Olive will come out to watch the Rochester Honkers at Mayo Field in downtown Rochester. The rate for our group is a "Buy-One, Get-One" Deal, which means tickets cost just \$6.00 per person! The night is featured as a "church night" which means there may be other churches in attendance but the Mount Olive has been invited to sing the National Anthem before the game! Please contact Travis Beck, travis@molive.org if you'd like to join the choir at the game. All ages are welcome! A sign-up clipboard and ticket payment envelopes are available in the Gathering Area.



Berne Fire-Wood Pizza & Concert Series

Wednesday July 29, 5:00-8:00 pm -

Kid's Night with Zollman Zoo

Come for pizza and great music at 23148 County Rd. 24, West Concord, MN 55985 (Across from Zwingli United Church)
The concert is free. Order your pizza ahead to avoid wait-time.
See all the details and the advanced pizza order link here:
<https://www.bernepizza.org/> All ages are welcome to join in!

Coming in August!
Family Camp at Chester Woods
Friday August 14 -
Sunday, August 16
Reserve your site, preferably near sites #24 & #25 at:
<https://www.olmstedcounty.gov/residents/parks-recreation/recreation/camping>



Mount Olive's graduating high school seniors, Lucas Smith, Ivy Smoley, and Emily Rislow were recognized in worship on June 7

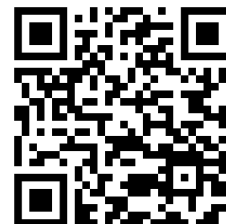
Youth Quilting Day

Mount Olive's 2nd Annual Youth Quilting Day was a success. Five kids, with the guidance of Edie Schultze and Cathy Hanson, made 2 quilts to be donated to Lutheran World Relief. The kids learned how to piece, sew, assemble, and tie the quilts., which were blessed in worship on Sunday, June 28. Thanks to everyone who participated.



Offerings

If you would like to make a financial gift to Mount Olive, you can place it in the offering plate, send it by mail to 2830 18th Ave. NW, Rochester, MN 55901, or donate using the QR code at the right. These methods may also be used to contribute to Mount Olive's ministry partners, pay facility charges, donate to a special fund or program, or reimburse the church for books, flowers, etc. All of your gifts help to keep Mount Olive's ministry going strong. Thank You!



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, gender expressions, and sexual orientations; All races and ethnicities; All ages and abilities; All economic statuses and education levels; All faith journeys and personal histories. We work for racial equity and commit to anti-racism as the way of right relationship with God and one another. 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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