

THE

Messenger

September 2025

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Big News From Pastor Glenn

April 16, 2025 was a milestone day for me. It was, as they say, the 49th anniversary of my 21st birthday. Yes, I turned 70. I have been blessed with good health, a wonderful family, supportive friends, and nearly 10 years of wonderful ministry at Mount Olive, but with this milestone it is time for me to pass the torch to someone else. I will be retiring as pastor of Mount Olive at the end of this calendar year. Until then, I will continue to preach and teach, work and play, just as I always have, and I will savor every last moment of these months with you. What will I do once I retire? That's a good question, but I already have accepted an invitation to speak at a preacher's conference in St. Louis in January. I also hope to continue doing some preaching coaching that I have begun with young pastors. There is a book about our calling as God's people in the latest stages of our life that I began working on during my sabbatical a few years ago. And, of course there are the grandchildren – one more on the way in September! And Ruth and I have invitations to travel. And there's always golf. So, suffice it to say, I will not be sitting around. I'm quite sure God isn't done with me yet!

Thank you so much for the wonderful years we have spent together at Mount Olive. Mount Olive is an exceptional faith community, one which I am proud to have been a part of. The staff I have been privileged to work with is, as you know, exceptional as well. I have no doubt that God's Spirit will continue to lead Mount Olive in the years ahead, and you will continue to flourish as God leads you to an ever deeper life as God's people. ~ Pastor Glenn



Pastor Glenn & Ruth at his first call.

Rally Sunday September 14



The First Day of Sunday School is **September 14th** beginning at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary for ALL Kids (ages 3 and up) and Teachers! We will begin with music, then lead into some introductions and activities w/ ALL KIDS & TEACHERS! From there, students will meet their teacher and then walk to their classrooms together. We will recognize and bless the Sunday School teachers at both services on September 14 and all children, teachers, and school staff members are invited to come forward for a backpack or school bag blessing during the service. See more information on page 9.

Inside This Edition:
Congregational Life - page 2
Worship page 3
Service pages 4-5
Education pages 8-9
Olive Branch page 10
Fellowship page 11

Next Steps:

Pastor Glenn has assured us that the best way to honor his ministry with us is to waste no time looking for his replacement. He has informed the Synod Office of his retirement, and Rev. Barb Streed, Assistant to the Bishop, will be accompanying us in this transition. Our council will set up a meeting with her this fall to discuss the process and begin first steps.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Pastor Glenn's ministry – both with us and throughout his career! This will likely happen in December – watch for news in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

Capital Campaign Task Force Update

On August 4 the Capital Campaign Task Force met and heard the summary of the conversations different task force members had with the folks that use our facility, including the staff. We learned that our primary need for renovation and update is on the north end of the building, not including the daycare. Also, we are mindful of the host of deferred maintenance issues that need addressing (e.g. roof, parking lot, sound system, etc.). A meeting with an architectural consultant on August 20 went well as we handed off to her our hopes for new and renewed spaces. She and her staff will consider our hopes for the facility and get back to us with her recommendations in the coming weeks. All the results of the task force's work and the architect's preliminary plans will be presented to the congregation in full on October 4 at the *State of the Olive*. Save the date! There you will have a chance to make your voice heard as we dream together about the future of Mount Olive.

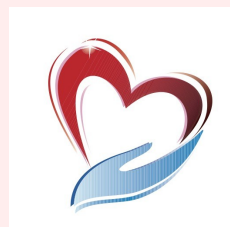
Love Overflowing – Stewardship 2025

In the greeting in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, Paul wrote this:

"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." This is our prayer for this 2025 Stewardship Emphasis this fall, that your love may overflow more and more. Mount Olive already is a loving community by...

- Supporting one another with friendship and support as we share joys and sorrows.
- Giving generously to those in need through our Lutheran partners like Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (now called Global Refuge).
- Our support of local ministries like Channel One, The Landing, Family Promise, Dorothy Day House, and Next Chapter Ministries.
- By sharing our facility with many groups like Al-Anon, Scouts, Bolder Options, Head Start and others.

Stories abound as to how the love of Christ overflows through the people that make up the faith community called Mount Olive. On October 12, Stewardship Sunday, you are going to be invited to continue making the love overflow from Mount Olive by bringing your financial commitment to worship that day. We will give thanks for how God has blessed us and we will celebrate with a extra special coffee hour. Watch your mail for your commitment form and continue to make your love overflow. Thank you.



Mini Ministry Fair Begins September 14

Visit the Mini Ministry Fair in the Mount Olive entry on September 14. Before and after services, you will be able to visit tables featuring Worship, Service, Education, and Fellowship – Mount Olive's Four Pillars. There will be sign-up sheets a plenty! Pick up the new yearly brochures for each pillar as well as other information to learn how you can make connections – with God, with our neighbors, and with fellow members and friends.



Weekly Prayer Service at Mount Olive

Mondays 5:30 - 6:00 pm in the sanctuary (except Sept. 1)

Mount Olive is pleased to have joined the movement to "Pray Without Ceasing," an initiative to grow a renewed, worldwide community of prayer. We pray for faith, hope, love, and our neighbors in need. These services will continue weekly, indefinitely. This short, simple service includes music, readings, spoken prayer, and a variety of modes of prayer from week to week. All are welcome. Richard Bruxvoort Colligan coordinates these services.



Fall Worship Times Begin September 7

Mark your calendars. The Sunday following Labor Day, **September 7**, worship times will return to the program year schedule. Worship times are Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:30 am. The Education Hour for all ages begins on September 14 at 9:15 am.

Mount Olive Choir Kickoff

Interested in singing in the choir this year? Mark your calendars for the choir kickoff on Wednesday, September 10. Singers who are high school age and older are invited to join us for a read-through of some of this year's choir selections beginning at 7:00 pm. Following the first rehearsal on September 10, we will adjourn to Little Thistle Brewery for fellowship and beverages.

Handbell Choir & Brass Ensemble

Mount Olive's brass and bell choir groups begin on Thursdays in September. Bell choir rehearsals begin September 11th and are 7:00-8:00pm. Brass rehearsals begin the 11th at 8:15-9:00 pm. Both groups play about once-a-month in worship services and are looking for new members and substitutes. If you or someone you know may be interested in providing vocal or instrumental music in worship, or if you are interested in joining one of our music ensembles, please contact Travis Beck for more information at travis@molive.org or by phone through the church office, 288-1580 x203.

Altar Guild Meets

Altar Guild is a group of people who support worship at Mount Olive by setting up and cleaning up from communion, seeing to the decorations in the sanctuary (banners, flowers, candles, etc), and other tasks as needed. If you are interested in helping out or learning more about it, the next Altar Guild meeting is Saturday, **September 13** at 9:30 am in the Gathering Area at church. All interested people, including men, women, and families, are welcome!

Volunteering In Worship

We rely on worship volunteers to keep the services running smoothly and to show hospitality to everyone attending worship. Everyone's help is appreciated, whether the role is small or large, and all ages are welcome. Please consider signing up to help in worship by using the Sign Up Genius link <https://tinyurl.com/jtzbwjk>, or sign up at the Welcome Desk following worship. Details and directions are sent each week from Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life. You may also email Nancy with your availability at nancy@molive.org

Save The Date: "State of the Olive"

Last year's "State of the Olive" event was such a great success we've decided to do it again! This is time set aside to talk about what's going on at Mount Olive and where we are headed together. All Mount Olive members are encouraged to attend as we will be discussing exciting possibilities for an upcoming capital campaign: sharing what we've learned about our building needs and dreams, considering ideas for mission support, and hearing your thoughts and questions. **Plan to join us on Saturday, October 4, 9:00 am - noon.** All ages welcome!



God's work. Our hands." Sunday

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday will be **September 7, 2025, 9:00 am-10:30 am**. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Remember to wear your gold "God's work. Our hands." t-shirts and bring the whole family to serve in one or more of the projects below. If you have any questions about this Sunday, please contact Carrie Fletcher at carrie@molive.org.

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

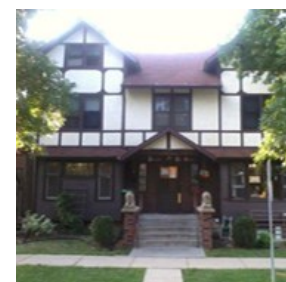
Project	Where located	Time
Bandage Rolling – Global Health Ministries	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9:00 - 10:30 am
Cooking Baking – Mount Olive	Mount Olive Main Kitchen	9:00 - 10:30 am
Ornament Making – Hiawatha Homes	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9:00 - 10:30 am
Fleece Tie Blankets – The Landing MN	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9:00 - 10:30 am
Youth Mentorship Kit Assembly – Global Refuge	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9:00 - 10:30 am
Kindness Rock Painting – Rochester Community	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9:00 - 10:30 am
Toiletry Kit Assembly – The Landing MN	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9:00 - 10:30 am
Snack Kit Assembly – Youth Resource Center LSS	Mount Olive Fellowship Hall	9:00 - 10:30 am

Discretionary Fund Donations for God's work. Our hands.

In addition to the "God's work. Our hands." service projects listed above, we are accepting financial contributions for Mount Olive's discretionary fund. This fund is used by the pastors to support those who come by the church asking for assistance with gas, groceries, hotel stays, and other expenses. To give a financial gift to help support this fund, you may click on the "[Donate Now](#)" button on the church website or send a check to Mount Olive. Please indicate "discretionary fund" in the "other" section online or your check memo.

Dorothy Day House

Mount Olive has been in partnership with the Dorothy Day Hospitality House for many years. Our responsibility is to provide a meal for the guests staying there on the first Friday evening of each month. When you sign up to serve at Dorothy Day House, volunteers prepare a home-cooked meal on site or provide a frozen or commercially prepared meal and share it family-style with the guests in the home's dining room. We need volunteers for the next several months.



If you have never served this ministry before, we can make sure to match you up with a seasoned volunteer. Rest assured, they will help with the process. Serving at Dorothy Day House is truly rewarding. You may either sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area at church or contact Jene Bodensteiner. If you have any questions or concerns with serving at Dorothy Day House, please contact Jene at: (507) 287-0257.

Family Promise

Family Promise is a ministry partner serving homeless families in Rochester. If you are interested in supporting the new shelter, Promise House, by donating items they need, you can visit the Amazon Wish Lists below or you can contribute funds using the Mount Olive website [ministry partners link](#).

- [Make Promise House Home](#)
- [Office Needs](#)
- [Household Needs](#)

Visit www.fprochestermn.org to learn more about the organization and how you can get involved.



Lutheran World Relief

Come join the fun and fellowship as we cut and construct diapers and sleepers for future Lutheran World Relief baby care kits. **Friday, September 19, 2025, 9:30 am-12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**



No experience in sewing is necessary, but if you are able, please bring your sewing machine, rotary cutter, cutting mat and sewing scissors. Please contact Sherry Sanden Will at sher05@charter.net if you plan to attend. Snacks will be provided.

Mount Olive Quilters

Please plan to attend one of the worship services on Sunday, **September 21**, so that we may thank the Mount Olive Quilters for putting their faith into action by blanketing others with 1000 quilts in the last decade! There will be coffee and cake fellowship time following both services.



The quilters meet 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.

Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will be meeting on **September 9**, at 10:00 am. The group is looking to welcome new members. Yarn, needles, patterns, and guidance are supplied; please contact Vickie Kubly if you would like to join the group—507-282-7696. If you would like to request a prayer shawl for someone who is experiencing illness, loss, or a difficult time, please contact Vickie, or you may call the church office at 507-288-1580.



The Landing MN

Please save the date for an evening of education from The Landing MN! Mount Olive is happy to host this event, which will tell the story of how The Landing MN started, where they are today, and what the future will bring. Come to the Mount Olive Sanctuary on **September 16th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm** to learn more and ask questions!

NAMI Walk September 27

One in six Americans are living with mental illness according to the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). Mount Olive will again host a team to participate in NAMI WALKS SE MN. The walk is **September 27** at Cascade Lake Park. Registration begins at 9:00 am and the walk begins at 11:00 am. There is a 2.4 mile loop and a 1 mile option, both with multiple water stations. The walk raises urgently needed funds to support community mental health. Last year, the Mount Olive team raised \$4000. The goal is to surpass that amount and the team is over halfway there! Please register to be on the team, to sponsor a walker, or both! Here's the registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/5ypw6ask> You'll also have the opportunity to contribute at special fellowship times following services on September 14. If you have questions, please reach out to Connie Mudore, mudore@duck.com.



Signup for Pastor Glenn's Lutheranism 101 is out!

If you are new to the Lutheran faith, or even if you have been a longtime Lutheran and just want to immerse yourself in the rich history and theology of the Lutheran faith, you are invited to join Pastor Glenn in a 4-week study of the Lutheran faith this September. Classes will be held Wednesdays at 6:30 in the church library, September 3 -24. The text for the class is Daniel Erlander's *Baptized, We Live; Lutheranism as a Way of Life*. Books will be provided for all participants. If you have any questions, see Pastor Glenn.

Sunday Forums Begin Again

The Sunday Forum planning team is excited to present the fall line-up of presenters coming your way. Starting September 14th, we meet each Sunday at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Here's the September line-up:

9/14 - NAMI – National Alliance for Mental Illness – Megan Tomey

9/21 - ELCA Churchwide Assembly Report – Mount Olive voting member, Connie Mudore

9/28 - Pray Without Ceasing History - Pastor Glenn will share about the beginning of this prayer movement with a mission of uplifting and uniting communities which we continue at Mount Olive.

Study the Gospel of Mark with Pastor Glenn

Starting on Wednesday, October 1, Pastor Glenn will begin leading an 8-week study of the Gospel of Mark. The classes will be held via Zoom, on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and Thursday mornings at 10:30 in the church library. The books are \$10 and may be purchased in the church office or via the envelopes provided on the Gathering Area sign up cabinet at church. For any questions, please see Pastor Glenn.

Women's Small Group Studies Begin in September

In September, Mount Olive's women's small groups will begin their program year. The groups, called "Circles", meet monthly for Bible study and fellowship at a variety of times, including morning, afternoon, and evening. It's a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and building life-long friendships. Look for the opportunity to sign up for a group in the church entry in the coming weeks. The Bible study that the groups will follow this fall is "Money, Stewardship, and Generosity" written by Rev. Christa von Zychlin. The study for 2025/2026 will once again be from Gather Magazine. Go to the Gather Magazine website, www.gathermagazine.org or call (844)409-0576 to start your subscription. Two copies of the magazine will also be available for loaning in the church office. Contact Erin Sinnwell with any questions - 507-990-6079 or erinsinnwellphotography9@gmail.com.



Important Dates:

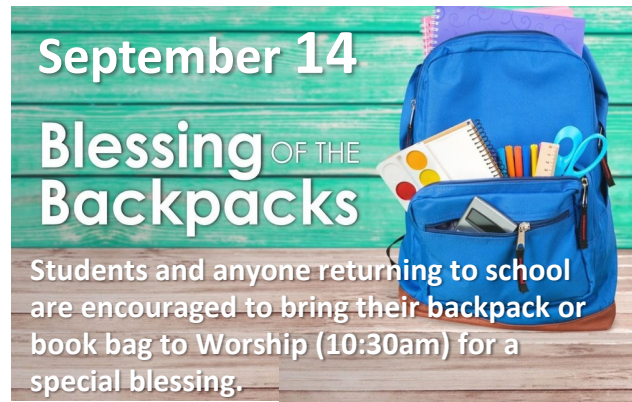
September 2 - Monthly study leader preparation with Pastor Glenn in the front Conference Room at 5:30 pm. Bring your *Gather Magazine* and a Bible.

September 2 - The Women's Ministry Team meets at 6:30 pm in the front conference room. Anyone interested in joining this team for planning events for women is welcome to attend. RSVP to Erin.

Women's Retreat - The Women's Ministry Team would like to once again host a women's retreat this fall or winter. Members are needed for a planning committee to make this happen. Please reach out to Erin Sinnwell - erinsinnwellphotography9@gmail.com or 507-990-6079 if you would be interested in helping or if you have any questions.

Sunday School Begins

Sunday School starts on September 14th beginning in the Sanctuary at 9:15 am where kids will meet their teachers and then locate their classrooms together. Feel free to join us the Sunday prior (**September 7th** 9:15-10:15) to take part in the “God’s work. Our hands.” service projects! You can also pick up Sunday School registration forms if you have not yet done so. There will be an envelope for each Mount Olive family and also blank forms and information for anyone not yet on our mailing list. Registration will also allow families to join our email chain for information about Sunday School and other CYF Events. If you have any questions, please contact Evan Fitzsimmons at evan@molive.org and he can help get you registered and involved!



Sunday School Schedule

Sunday School is **9:15 - 10:15 am** on Sunday mornings. Beginning with MUSIC in the sanctuary! Kids will sing an anthem on the 2nd Sundays during the 10:30 am worship service!

September Sunday School Dates

September 7 (Large Group) *God’s work. Our hands.* & Registration for Sunday School!

September 14 RALLY SUNDAY! *Meet Your Teachers in Sanctuary!

September 21 Classroom Sunday School

September 28 Classroom Sunday School and *Breakfast Club! (6th-12th) - OFF-SITE! At NOVIOS*

Confirmation/Wednesday Nights (6th-12th)

In September, Youth will begin to meet regularly on Wednesday nights, 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

**Youth also meet on Sundays 9:15-10:15 am during Sunday School hour with “Service Sundays” on the 2nd Sunday of the month & Breakfast Club on the 4th Sunday of the month*

September Confirmation Dates

Wed. Sept. 10 – Orientation Meeting w/ Students & Parents! (Info about Fall Retreat, FAITH Statements)

Wed. Sept. 17 – Name Games/ “Get-To-Know Activities” & FAITH Activity!

Wed. Sept. 24 – Wiffleball! (No School for most schools – but we’ll do something fun!!)

Monthly CYF Events (All Families & Ages!)

We would like to be more intentional about having monthly events for ALL Mount Olive Families! (We have already been doing several of these events annually for quite some time). Our September CYF Event for *All Families & Ages* to participate in is the **NAMI Walk** on **September 27** at Cascade Lake Park. Mount Olive will host a team again to walk and raise money for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) For more information and registration see page 5.

Breakfast Club! (6th-12th Grade)

Sunday School starting means Breakfast Club will also be starting up again! Breakfast Club is for middle school – high school age kids, and meets on 4th Sundays of the month during Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15am). We alternate between eating at church and eating out. This month we go to Novios Café on Elton Hills Dr.

Calling All Teachers for Sunday School

We are always in need of teachers and substitutes for Sunday School. If you feel called to serve in any way for this Academic Year, please contact Evan Fitzsimmons evan@molive.org as he puts the team together! More information regarding teacher training will be sent out by email. Join in the amazing opportunity for ministry and faith formation that Sunday School hour provides for our awesome kids!

What is Olive Branch?

It's regular Monday night events for anyone at Mount Olive. Olive Branch leans imagination and creativity. We crave discovery and growth. We put expansive theology front and center and Olive Branch, against all odds, likes change. New members, here's a brief history: Olive Branch began in 2019 as a time and place for faithful people to gather who have been so hurt by religion that they're smart enough to not set foot in a church building again. Specifically, Mount Olive desired to amplify our Reconciling in Christ commitments to the LGBTQIA+ community by offering a safe and creative space for faith. After a season of online-only presence in the pandemic lockdown, we met at Little Thistle Brewing Company for awhile, then at Pop's Art Theater before integrating Olive Branch into Mount Olive's Program and building. Olive Branch has evolved to be a kind of in-house "brand" committed to a theology of expansive language for God, inclusive language for humans and full celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community. Be welcome at olivebranchcommunity.org for details.

Request the weekly "Three Things" OB e-newsletter with a reminder of our weekly events and special happenings— just tell Richard BC or email him at richard@molive.org.

Artist Studio Field Trip

Though we typically meet in the church library, we're kicking off the fall with something special— a "field trip" to Gallery 24 on Monday, Sept 8, 6:00 -8:00 pm where their artists will lead us in a surprise art project. All ages are welcome! Fun for families. Cost is \$10 per person or \$20 per family. RSVP required by September 4. If you're interested, sign up with richard@molive.org.

F.S.U.2 (Faith Seeking Understanding)

Monday, September 15, 6:00-7:30pm in The Olive Pit

The name comes from St. Anselm of Canterbury, in Latin:



fides quaerens intellectum— Faith Seeking Understanding—which rhymes with Olive Branch's passion for imagination and growth. This month our topic is religious trauma. Drawing from his recent certification in the topic, Richard will present on reasons why

some of us have been terrified of God or been worried about hell. Maybe you know people who have experienced "church hurt," slammed with harmful theology that called them to question their place in this world. All adults welcome.



Off The Page

Monday, September 29, 6:00-7:30pm - Olive Pit

It's like a Bible Study, except more immersive than the usual. Inspired by the ancient practice of Jewish *midrash*, we study and discuss a Biblical passage with deep imagination.

We share stories, experiment with art, hold contemplative quietness for one another, and share from our hearts. Bring your curiosity and be ready for discovery! Led by Richard and Pastor Lisa, all are welcome. No experience necessary. Guests expected.



Olive Branch Worship

Sunday, September 7,

4:00 - 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall

It's a relaxed service with music, generous communion (baked bread and bubbly apple cider — as much as you want), midrash-inspired conversation, a blues psalm, and open-hearted fellowship for anyone and everyone. Led by Pastor Lisa and Richard BC.

Baggins Birthday Bash!

Monday, September 22, 6:00 - 7:00pm Fellowship Hall

If you're part of the *Lord of the Rings* fandom, you might know: This day is Bilbo and Frodo Baggins' birthday! Join us to watch Frodo's birthday party scene from the film and... enjoy a slice of cake to rule them all. Nerdy fans, curious film buffs, and casual cake-lovers welcome!

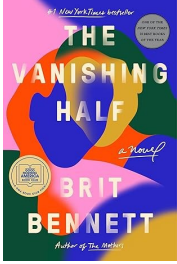


Women's Monthly Coffee Meet Up

Mount Olive women are invited to meet at 9:00 am on Friday, **September 5** 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 Little Thistle

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 be at Little Thistle Brewing, 2031 14th St NW, Rochester on Thursday, **September 11**, 4:30 to 6:00 pm. The only agenda is to chat, get to know new people, and enjoy a good beer. Drop in as you're able. All are welcome! Contact Keith Hanson at kjhanson17@gmail.com with questions.



Monday Book Group Begins New Season

The Monday Book Group gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature. They meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Their first meeting of the fall is **September 8** to discuss *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. An engrossing page-turner about family and relationships, the story follows twin sisters growing up in a small, southern black community. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

Ripe Olives Kicks Off September 12

Ripe Olives is Mount Olive's group for retired and semi-retired folks to gather for a meal, fellowship, learning and fun. We usually meet on the 2nd Friday of each month at 9:30 am. On the agenda for **September 12** is an extended conversation time over breakfast and the opportunity to share updates with our friends about what we did over the summer. Sharing photos, memorabilia, crafts, or other objects with the group is encouraged. Contact Nancy Britson for assistance with photos. Breakfast is provided with a free will offering. Watch for the sign up sheet in the Gathering Area or RSVP to Nancy - nancy@molive.org or 507-288-1580.

Fellowship Tables Registration Open

Fellowship Tables are a casual, "no agenda" way to gather to share a meal with friends, new and old. Now is the time to sign up for one of these fun groups! Here's how it works: Interested individuals, adult couples or singles, are divided into groups of 7 to 9 that meet during the program year to share a meal and fellowship in homes or restaurants. This is a great way to branch out, meet new people, or bond with long-time friends without a huge time commitment. Pick up a registration form available from the Gathering Area cabinet.

Please return your forms to the box on the cabinet by October 12. Each group will have a volunteer organize their first meeting. Direct your questions to Nancy Britson - nancy@molive.org.

Sunday Fellowship Volunteers Needed

We're in need of people to help with Sunday Fellowship Time - Coffee makers, servers, and people to provide treats. Sign up at this link: tinyurl.com/fsd3f. Contact Renee Schaefer, Sunday Fellowship Volunteer Coordinator with questions about serving for fellowship time—renee@molive.org.

Interested in Becoming a Member at Mount Olive?

If you are one of the many visitors at worship during the summer months, perhaps you are interested in knowing more about membership at Mount Olive. Each fall we gather folks who have expressed interest in membership and offer an orientation where you can learn more about what membership entails, meet staff and council leaders, and hear about our ministries. An orientation is planned for early November, so if you are interested, please talk to Nancy Britson or one of the pastors, or simply indicate your interest on one of the Connection Cards found in the pew racks during worship. Thank you.



Brian McLaren: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart

A special day-retreat here at Mount Olive

Saturday, October 18th

9:30am-3pm including lunch

We've had three wonderful pillar events in this year's "Our Stories, God's Story" grant year, and we're going out with a bang for the final one!

Brian McLaren is a world-renowned author, theologian, and faith leader. We're delighted to have him with us for a robust discussion about the state of the world and how people of faith can respond. Ask anyone who participated in studying his "Life After Doom" book, and they'll tell you it's not easy material. Brian tells the tough truth— that climate change, the global economy, social conflict, and strained democratic political systems are deep challenges for life on our little planet. So what is ours to do? How does faith encourage us and call us in these days?

Please be welcome for a day of conversation, food, and fellowship. Tickets are free for Mount Olivians, so please register in the Gathering Area in the coming weeks to get your free ticket, or contact Richard at richard@molive.org to make your reservation. Tickets will go on sale for the general public on September 14th for \$60.

Interested in helping with greeting, food, or clean-up? Contact Richard (richard@molive.org) about that, too, and he'll put you to work.

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

Mount Olive Staff

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