

THE

Messenger

June/July 2025

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Come Together Summer Worship

Following last summer's success, we've again changed to one Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 am for the summer. It's an opportunity for fellowship among "first service folks" and "second service folks," as well as reconnecting with friends you might not see as much during the program year.

Once a month this summer we'll also gather on the lawn for worship. (Our 9:30am Sunday service will be indoors as usual those days). The service will have a casual, outdoor concert feel with delightful music and generous Holy Communion, Olive Branch style. See more about outdoor services on page 3.



Stepping Into the Bible:

A Day-Retreat with Valerie Tutson

Saturday, June 14 - 9:30 am - 3:00 pm including lunch

Mount Olive Fellowship Hall

The Bible is a creative library of ancient books. What does it mean for us as kids, middle aged folks, and elders to inhabit these stories?

This is our third all-congregation pillar event exploring "Our Stories, God's Story!" Thanks to our Calvin Worship Grant, we've invited another world-class presenter.

Valerie Tutson is a captivating artist of words and life from the East coast. She'll

be with us for this playful intergenerational day-retreat and will also be with us for Sunday worship at 9:30 am on June 15, bringing an animated story of Juneteenth. Valerie is an award-winning storyteller, and an expert on tales from African traditions and African-American history.

**9:30 am - Noon - Workshop especially for families
with kids and youth**

12:00 - 1:00 pm - Lunch

**1:00 - 3:00 pm - Workshop for Everyone (just not as
focused on kids and youth)**

This event is for everyone who enjoys stories, creativity and playfulness. Please come for a relaxing day of fun and fellowship.

Make your reservation now. Tickets are free. All you need to do is register. As with our other grant events, please sign up in the Gathering Area in the next few weeks and get your free ticket. Want to help out with the day's success? Questions? Contact Richard at richard@molive.org.



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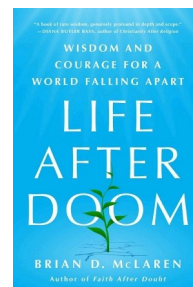
2 Council Approves Capital Campaign Task Force

At its May meeting the Church Council heard a proposal to form a task force to look at the scope of a potential Capital Campaign in Mount Olive's future. We already know that the deferred maintenance issues (roof, air conditioning/heating units, parking lot) are increasingly urgent. We also know that our sanctuary sound/video system is patched together and likely to fail anytime. In addition, there are parts of our building that need renovation and others need to be completely redone in order to be used for ministry effectively. All this means we need to do some serious research this summer to determine what our needs are and what these repairs and renovations might cost. In order to do this research, the Church Council approved this task force. At some point the congregation will be asked to weigh in on these concerns as well. If you have any ideas about things we should consider, please contact Mark Pasch, Congregational President, Pastor Lisa, or Pastor Glenn.

Life After Doom Summer Book Study

Mondays: July 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Olive Pit

In anticipation of Brian McLaren's visit to Mount Olive in October, you're invited to a 4-week study of his newest book, *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*. It's described as "exploring the complexity of hope, the necessity of grief, and the need for new ways of thinking, becoming, and belonging in turbulent times." All are welcome to this discussion led by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan and Carole Joyce. If it sounds like your cup of tea, please join us! Read the section of the book prior to each week's discussion, and come with your ideas, wonderings and a heart ready to listen and learn from one another.



July 7 — Part 1: Letting Go (A Path of Descent)

July 14 — Part 2: Letting Be (A Place of Insight)

July 21 — Part 3: Letting Come (A Path of Resilience)

July 28 — Part 4: Setting Free (A Path of Agile Engagement)

To join in the fun, simply sign up in the Gathering Area or email Richard at richard@molive.org. Get the book on your own or indicate if you'd like us to order it for you.

Welcome New Members

We were pleased to welcome several new members to Mount Olive on May 11th. New Member brochures with bios are available in the church office. Please seek them out and give them a warm welcome to our congregation!



Summer Family Camp

Pastor Lisa and her family will be helping to host and lead a Interger Family Camp at Good Earth Village (GEV) and they would love for you to join them. The camping weekend will be **July 25-27**.

Interger Family Camp is designed to give your family time to play, worship, and simply be together. GEV staff will have a weekend of fun scheduled for you including intergenerational activities, crafts, games, songs, Bible studies and plenty of hiking and outdoor activities. They hope that you will leave your time at Good Earth Village relaxed, refreshed, and renewed, both individually and as a family! Learn more and register at: <https://goodearthvillage.org/intergerfamilycamp>



Outdoor Worship Once a Month

4:00 pm on Sundays, 6/1, 7/6, and 8/3

Once a month this summer we'll gather on the lawn for worship. (Our 9:30am Sunday service will be indoors as usual those days). The service will have a casual, outdoor concert feel. We'll kick it off with an extended camp sing-along for the young at heart, and then be treated to a music set by our talented staff. Expect great music, generous Holy Communion Olive Branch style, and a relaxed time in the shade of our grand tree. In case of intense weather, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall. These will be fun afternoons, so bring your lawn chairs and blankets and invite friends.

June 1: Psalm songs by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan celebrating his new album

July 6: New liturgical songs by Deacon Travis Beck

August 3: A big ol' hymn sing featuring Travis, Richard, and stories of faith.

Graduation Recognition June 1

Mount Olive's graduating high school senior, Kate Klavetter will be recognized in worship on Sunday, June 1 and given a gift from the congregation. Please stay for a reception in her honor following the service to share congratulations with Kate. Look for the bulletin insert, available in worship or in the church office, with her photos and future plans.



New Weekly Prayer Service at Mount Olive

Mondays 5:30 - 6:00 pm in the sanctuary

Begins Monday, June 2nd

Across the ELCA, congregations have been invited to be part of "Pray Without Ceasing," an initiative to grow a renewed, worldwide community of prayer. Mount Olive is pleased to join the movement. This is not a political thing, but an alignment of hearts in a time when many people are vulnerable. Weekly, we will pray for faith, hope, love, and our neighbors in need.



We'll begin Monday, June 2nd, and intend to continue weekly, indefinitely. This short, simple service will include music, readings, spoken prayer, and a variety of modes of prayer from week to week. All are welcome. Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, our Director of Spiritual Formation, will coordinate these services.

Worship Volunteers Needed

When you and your family will be attending worship this summer, please consider helping out as a worship volunteer. Sign up at this link for a day and time that works for you: tinyurl.com/jtzbwjkkm. Details and directions are sent each week from Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life and training is available for new helpers. You may also call Nancy with your availability (nancy@molive.org) or see the Sign Up Sheet at the Welcome Desk following worship services. Thank you, your time is appreciated!

Summer Calendar - Visit [molive.org/index.php/ calendar](https://molive.org/index.php/calendar) for up to the minute calendar updates.

2nd Sunday of Service

In May, the Sunday School youth made paper flowers for our homebound members and



others! The kids have done a great job with their service projects this year. What a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus with others.



Dorothy Day House Volunteers Needed For Summer

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 need volunteers for this Summer. A sign-up sheet is on the cabinet in the Gathering Area. Training will be provided if needed. If you have any questions, please contact Jene Bodensteiner at: (507) 287-0257. Please consider signing up for this vital ministry.

Garden Update

The gardens have now been planted. If you are interested in helping to water or weed, please contact Carrie Fletcher carrie@molive.org. All harvested produce will be donated or used by Mount Olive.

Family Promise

Family Promise has hired a new Executive Director, Carrie Moscho. They have also welcomed several new Board members. The new *Promise House* facility has opened, and clients are now being housed there. Now able to house many more families in need, Family Promise looks forward to making a real difference in the lives of unhoused families.



If you are interested in supporting this new shelter, you can visit the Amazon Wish Lists below or contribute funds using the Mount Olive website [ministry partners link](#). [Make Promise House Home](#) [Office Needs](#) [Household Needs](#) Visit www.fprochestermn.org for more information.

Lutheran World Relief

We're already thinking ahead for next year's Baby Care Kit assembly. Diapers are one of the hardest items to collect for these kits, so we're trying something new - making diapers out of old T-shirts. During the month of June, we will be collecting used adult T-shirts for this purpose. (Please make sure there are no spots or stains.) We will also be collecting flannel fabric in one-yard pieces for making receiving blankets. Please place these items in the LWR bin in the church entry any Sunday in June. A sewing day is planned for Fri., Sept. 19, 9:30 am to noon in the Fellowship Hall to make diapers, blankets and other baby care items.

Mount Olive Quilters

On May 4, the sanctuary was adorned with 63 quilts recently completed by the Mount Olive Quilters. These were blessed in worship and then dropped off at the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) warehouse in St. Paul. It was noted that the warehouse was quite empty. We learned that the demand for quilts has increased. In addition to shipping quilts internationally, LWR is also distributing them throughout the United States. This ministry is so very important, and we are so lucky to have such a dedicated group leading the charge. The quilters continue to meet each **Thursday at 9:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall to prepare and tie quilts that are sent to LWR and local service organizations. Everyone is welcome to join them. They can always use more cotton fabrics for making the quilt tops. Leave donations in the Gathering Area cabinet.

Summer Children, Youth, and Family Event Schedule!

Our CYF Summer Events will operate more as “Family Events” with details sent out in our Sunday School email/group. Some events will also be promoted for all Mount Olive folks to attend, including those who might not get to attend CYF events as routinely. (For example: Honkers Game, Family Film Theo, & “Song Fest” – are especially promoted for ALL Mount Olive Folk!) Please feel free to contact Evan Fitzsimmons - evan@molive.org - if you have any questions, ideas, or would like to be added to the email list.

June

Sun. 6/1 Outdoor Worship! (4:00 pm)

Wed. 6/4 Cook-Out & Play! @ Oxbow Park (5:30 pm)

Wed. 6/11 Game Night! (6:30-8:00 pm)

Sat. 6/14 Story-Telling! w/ Valerie Tutson!

Mon. 6/16-6/19 VBS DAY CAMP w/ Good Earth Village (9:00 – 3:00 pm M, T, W, Th)

Wed. 6/25 TBD! (“Chopped”?)



July

Wed. 7/2 Allendale Park & Wiffleball (6:30-8:00 pm)

Sun. 7/6 Outdoor Worship! (4:00pm)

Wed. 7/9 Honkers Baseball Game! @ Mayo Field (Game at 6:35 pm)

Mon. 7/14 Olive Branch @ Purple Goat (5:00-6:30 pm)

Wed. 7/16 TBD! (Evening at the Park?)

Wed. 7/23 Putt-Putt @ Blue Lagoon (6:30-8:00 pm)

Wed. 7/30 “Family Film Theo!” (We will vote on a Pixar movie!) (6:30-8:00p m)



August

Sun. 8/3 Outdoor Worship! (4:00 pm)

Fri. 8/8-8/10 FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND @ Oxbow Park

Wed. 8/13 Concert @ Berne Wood-Fired Pizza - Orchid Jane & fABBAulous (5:00 pm)

Wed. 8/20 “Song Fest” @ Mount Olive (6:30 -8:00 pm)

Wed. 8/27 TBD! (Evening at the Park?)



VBS Day Camp w/ Good Earth Village (June 16-19)

We are getting excited for another summer of Good Earth Village camp counselors leading VBS week here at Mount Olive!

Day Camp begins with an “Early Check-In” provided by Evan Fitzsimmons and Church Helpers starting at 8:00 am – which consists of some “hangout time” with board games & coloring.

Good Earth Village leads the camp program, 9:00am-3:00pm, Monday through Thursday. We ask that each camper bring their own lunch and a water bottle each day! The church will provide 2 snacks each day around 10:00 am & 2:00 pm. The rate is \$78 per kid (K-5th) Registration is still open, but, please, if you want to participate, complete it as soon as possible. Financial Support can be given if needed. Contact Evan Fitzsimmons evan@molive.org if you need help or have further questions.



VBS 2024 Crew

Olive Branch Summer

Summer for Olive Branch goes like this: letting go. We make space for y'all as well as for ourselves as leaders to have a different groove. The OB summer vibe is freewheeling hanging out. Watch for opportunities.

Would you like to host a meet-up? Past events have included a Little Thistle gathering, Berne pizza outing, backyard party, special outdoor artist studio night, and movie night. You could also invent something new. Contact Richard at richard@molive.org with your ideas.



Orientation to Olive Branch

If you're a new Mount Olive member, or newly aware of Olive Branch, here's a quick orientation:

Though Mount Olive initiated Olive Branch six years ago as an off-site outreach, it's evolved into a brand of events we do here at Mount Olive. There's no membership, no special qualifications. Anyone can come to anything that's offered. There's special attention to inclusive language for humans and expansive language for the mystery of God. Olive Branch values questions, doubt, exploration and change, and ridiculous welcome of those of us who have been harmed by the institutional church or religion. Most Olive Branch gatherings are led by Pastor Lisa Janke, and our Director of Spiritual Formation, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. Our specialties in the program year (September-May) are:

Worship

We gather for music, generous communion with real bread with butter and honey with sparkling apple juice (seconds encouraged), a blues psalm, land acknowledgment, discussion, and fellowship. It tends to be casual and relaxed, meeting in the fellowship hall at the round tables.

Artist Studio

Come with an art project you're already working on, or paw through our stash of supplies to try something new. Sometimes, we'll offer a workshop for specific projects such as collage, Christmas cards or alcohol inks. Whether you consider yourself an artist or not, you're creative! Drop in anytime and make something among friendlies. No experience necessary. All ages welcome.

Off The Page

It's a Bible study that invites our imaginations and creativity to the table in the great Jewish tradition of *midrash*. We ask, "What's going on in the text beyond the words?" Through contemplative silence and small-group conversation, fresh things come through, bringing Bible stories "off the page" and into our lives.

Faith Seeking Understanding

At FSU, we tackle a curious topic for discussion related to theology and spirituality. Prayer, theology, politics, poetry— a full range of topics. An article, podcast or video provides the content, and discussion makes it all come alive. Our namesake comes from St. Anselm (Latin: *fides quarens intellectum*) who was all about integrating faith with the complexities of life.

Purple Goat Meet-Up

Tuesday, July 15th, 5:00 - 6:30 pm

3708 North Broadway Ave., Rochester

There's nothing like a summer evening with friends. Expecting good weather, we'll meet on the lovely patio of the Purple Goat restaurant. Order food or just come for the fellowship. All ages welcome!



Women's Monthly Coffee Meet Up

Mount Olive women are invited to meet at 9:00 am on **Friday, June 6 and Friday, July 11** 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 Summer Meetings

Brews Brothers, a fellowship opportunity for Mount Olive men, continues to meet the second Thursday of each month at a local brewery. On Thursday, **June 12**, 4:30 to 6:00 pm they will once again be at LTS Brewing Company, 2001 32nd Ave NW, Rochester. On **July 10**, the meeting place moves to Little Thistle Brewing, 2031 14th St. NW, Rochester. Stop by as you're able to chat, get to know new people, and enjoy a good beer. All are welcome!

Contact Keith Hanson at kjhanson17@gmail.com with questions.



Lyra Baroque Orchestra June Concert

Lyra completes its 2024-2025 season at Mount Olive as former Artistic Director, Jacques Ogg leads "Les Favorites" Friday, **June 13**, 7:30 pm in the Mount Olive Sanctuary. The concert features some of Jacques' favorite music performed by

some of his favorite people. Tickets are available at the door or at www.lyrabaroque.org. Ticket prices are Adults - \$35, Senior 65+ - \$30, Under 18 or with a Student ID - \$10, Under age 30 - \$25.

Women's Surprise Movie Night

The Women's Ministry Team is hosting a movie night! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, **June 20** for a surprise movie night. Come at 5:30 - 6:00 pm for food and fellowship and stay for the movie starting at 6:00 pm. Pizza, popcorn, treats and beverages will be provided. Please look for a sign-up in the Gathering Area to help us have the appropriate amount of food.

Summer Fellowship Help Needed

This summer, following the 9:30 am service each Sunday, we plan to meet in the Gathering Area, and the patio when the weather permits, for fellowship time. **Your help is needed** with serving, providing treats, and making the coffee, please sign up at the Gathering Area sign up cabinet at church, online at tinyurl.com/fsd3f or contact Sunday Fellowship Volunteer Coordinator, Renee Schaefer at renee@molive.org.



Film Theo: A League of Their Own

Enjoy movies and talking theology? Film Theo is back with a 3-session series led by Richard BC and Evan Fitzsimmons. *A League of Their Own* (1992) stars Geena Davis and Tom Hanks, rated PG. It's about the first women's professional baseball league formed during WWII. We'll explore themes of friendship, trust, and vocation. We'll meet 6:30-7:30

pm in the Olive Pit: **Sunday, 6/20; Tuesday, 6/22; and Sunday, 6/27**. We'll bring the popcorn and drinks!

Project Comfort Coffee

Following the service on Sunday, **July 13**, Ruth Circle members will serve treats and lemonade 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. Checks can be made out to Mount Olive with "Project Comfort" on the memo line and you may use the "[donate now](#)" button on the church website. This is the 27th year that Mount Olive has supported Project Comfort!

Retirement Celebration

She is retiring after serving in ministry for over 18 years. She has served in Pine Island since 2018. Upon her retirement, it is her plan to return to Mount Olive. Congratulations Pastor Marie! Cards may be sent to: 846 Windemere Ct. NW, Oronoco, MN 55960.



Healing Station June 29

On the 5th Sunday of June we will once again offer a healing station at the rail for anyone wishing a prayer for healing. The process will be the same as in the past: following receiving Holy Communion, form a queue at the west wall of the sanctuary and come forward as space is available. One of the pastors will be present for the prayers. New this month will be the option to light a candle and have silent prayer in the choir loft prior to the service.



Helping People in Need

As you may know, Mount Olive has a discretionary fund for helping people in need who drop by our doors asking for assistance. Typically they seek help with gas, groceries, or a night at a motel. Our fund for helping these folks becomes depleted due to the many requests we receive each month. If you would like to support those in need through this fund, please make a gift to the Discretionary Fund by check, cash, or online using the [“Donate Now”](#) button on our website or use the QR code at the right. Enter “Discretionary Fund” under other”. Thank you.



"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:

<i>All gender identities and sexual orientations</i>	<i>All races and ethnicities</i>
<i>All ages and abilities</i>	<i>All economic statuses and education levels</i>
<i>All faith journeys and personal histories</i>	

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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