

THE

Messenger

August 2026

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



SUMMER MEMORIES
AT MOUNT OLIVE...



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Capital Campaign Approved!

112 members were present for our congregational meeting on Sunday, July 12. Council President Mark Pasch led a presentation and discussion around Mount Olive's proposed capital campaign and hiring Rev. Steve Olson from Olson Advancement to lead the campaign. Voting was done by ballot and the motion to approve the campaign passed with 105 yes votes or 94% approval. The motion to hire Rev. Steve Olson passed with 108 yes votes or 96% approval. With the majority of our community eager to move ahead, we have set a date with Steve Olson to begin planning this month. Do you have skills in marketing, communications, design, or fundraising that you'd like to share? We'd love to hear from you. Keep watching for updates on how you can learn more and get involved in decision making and planning.

Make-A-Will Month

August is Make-A-Will Month. If you have not already given your loved ones the gift of documenting your legacy intentions, see the estate planning checklist at <https://molive.org/wp-content/uploads/Estate-Planning-Checklist.pdf>.

If you plan to leave a legacy gift to Mount Olive, please let us know how you would like us to use it by completing the form at <https://molive.org/wp-content/uploads/Legacy-Gift-Intent-Form.pdf>

Call Committee Update

The pastoral candidate recommended by the Call Committee withdrew from the call process for personal reasons. Since all candidates from the first call search have been released, a new call process will begin. The Call Committee has regrouped and is ready to receive new candidates. A huge thank you to Call Committee members Keith Hanson, Sarah Jerde, and Hannah Johns who served faithfully and discerned it was time to step down. They have been replaced by Call Committee alternates Donna Miller and Linda Persson who have been attending meetings since the committee first convened. Council has also approved two new alternates (with voice but not vote) who will join the committee: Mark Schultze and Carole Joyce. Your continued prayers are welcome for the committee in their thoughtful and faithful discernment. They are awaiting candidate names from the synod to continue the call process.

Interim Plans?

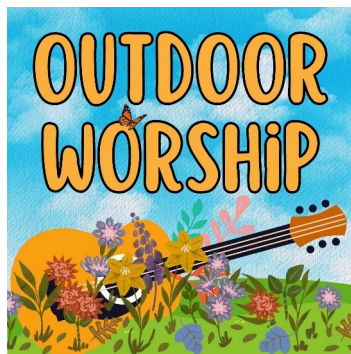
Knowing that we will not have a new pastor for at least a few months longer, the Executive Committee will meet in August and approve a plan for pastoral support in the areas of preaching and visitation. Our staff are doing an incredible job of sharing the extra load of the work required, and they appreciate your words of encouragement and care.

Tanzania Connection Update

Members of Mount Olive, along with an assistant to the bishop, have been meeting monthly with our Hull High School Tanzanian ministry partners in order to plan construction and materials for the new Vivian Gulleen Institute in Kijota. The institute will provide much needed vocational training for Hull HS students. Young people's unemployment is high in Tanzania. Vocational training will make students more employable as well as gain practical skills. Questions: see Mark Masbruch.

Candidate Roundtable

ARRM, in partnership with Hiawatha Homes, will be hosting a Candidate Round Table Discussion with our District 24 and District 25 Candidates on **August 26**, noon to 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in discussing disability service needs with our area candidates, please join us. ARRM is a nonprofit dedicated to leading the advancement of home and community-based services supporting people living with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful lives.



Last Outdoor Service of the Summer

Sunday, August 23rd, 4:00 pm

Our final outdoor service of the summer will be Sunday, August 23rd 4:00-5:00 pm on our lovely lawn. For music, we'll welcome the inimitable Dianna Parks! Come for fellowship, generous communion, and great music.



Weekly Prayer Service at Mount Olive

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

All are welcome to "Pray Without Ceasing," our short, contemplative service of music, meditation and readings on Monday evenings. As part of an ELCA initiative, we join with hundreds of other churches and center our hearts on the needs of our community and our neighbors. All are welcome. Richard Bruxvoort Colligan coordinates these services.

Fall Worship Times Begin September 13

Mark your calendars. The Sunday following Labor Day, **September 13**, worship times will return to the program year schedule. Worship times are Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:30 am. Sunday School will also begin on September 13 at 9:15 am. Sunday Adult Forum begins September 20.

Mount Olive Choir Kickoff September 9

Interested in singing in the choir this year? Mark your calendars for the choir kickoff on Wednesday, **September 9**. 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 9, we will adjourn to Little Thistle brewery for fellowship and beverages.



Handbell Choir and Brass Ensembles

Mount Olive's bell choir group will begin on Thursdays in September. Bell choir rehearsals will begin September 10th and are 7:00-8:00 pm. Brass rehearsals will begin at a later date, but will be at 8:15 pm on Thursdays. Both groups play about once-a-month in worship services and we 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.

Worship Volunteers Needed

Have you considered serving as a worship volunteer? We're always in need of ushers, greeters, communion assistants, assisting ministers and welcome desk attendants. Sign up at this link for a day and time that works for you: tinyurl.com/jtzbwjkm. 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.

NAMI Walk

The National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) has big walks in Rochester, and throughout the country, every year to fund community mental health programs. This year, NAMI is also offering programs in MN to help Minnesotans recover from the trauma of the events that happened last January. Again this year, Mount Olive will host a team to participate in NAMI WALKS SE MN. The walk is **September 26**, at Cascade Lake Park, 88 23rd Ave. SW, Rochester. The walk raises urgently needed funds to support community mental health. Last year, the Mount Olive team raised \$5,000! The goal is to surpass that amount. Please register to be on the team, to sponsor a walker, or both! Team members/sponsors aren't required to walk on 9/26 but all are welcome. Here's the registration link: <https://www.namiwalks.org/teams/85452> There will also be the opportunity to make a donation towards the team at a coffee hour in September. If you have questions, please reach out to Connie Mudore, mudore@duck.com.



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 fall. 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.



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, September 13, 2026

Each year, we look forward to this opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. There will be projects available for all ages. Please watch for the full list of projects and more details in the September *Messenger*. If you have project ideas or are willing to help, please contact Carrie Fletcher—carrie@molive.org



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

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/mtolivechurch>. You may also use the “Donate Now” button on the church website or leave a check, please note that the funds are for the Running Start for School Program. **All donations are due by September 4, 2026.** Please contact Carrie Fletcher – carrie@molive.org with any questions.

Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will be meeting on **September 8**, at 10:00 am and they would love 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.



Mount Olive Quilters

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 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. Pastor Lisa recently led a blessing of 46 large quilts that were donated to Lutheran World Relief. (See photo on the cover.)



Quilters celebrating a birthday.



In July, a group of women and girls (and one little boy) gathered to help replenish the supply of quilt kits. Thanks to Marie Anderson and Elaine Monson for organizing the event and providing lunch.



And thanks to all those who cut, ironed and assembled quilt top kits and prepared food for the lunch. 84 baby quilt kits and several large quilt kits were prepared and it was an enjoyable morning of fellowship.

Family Promise

Family homelessness is often called a hidden problem — and in Rochester, that's especially true. Families on the edge of homelessness rarely look the way most people imagine. They're doubling up with relatives, sleeping in cars, or stretching a final paycheck to avoid eviction. When families come through the doors at Family Promise Rochester, they bring resilience, determination, and a clear goal: a stable home for their children. The need is urgent and growing. In early 2026, Family Promise Rochester's waiting list stood at 54 families — the highest in their 25-year history. They are Rochester's only family shelter - and they are nearly always at capacity.



Greatest Needs for the shelter: Liquid Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Individual Bottles of Dish Soap, Individual Bottles of Glass Cleaner, Individual Bottles of All-Purpose Cleaner, Twin/XL Twin Blankets, New Pillows. Items may be left at Promise House, 1621 10th St SE



Family Promise is hosting *The Homecoming* on September 12, 2026, and they are looking for sponsors. The Homecoming is an intimate evening inside Promise House — Family Promise Rochester's family shelter — set for celebration and opened for one

night to welcome our community inside. Guests move through spaces that families already call home, experiencing the journey from crisis to stability through food, conversation, and connection. Find more information at www.fprochestermn.org/the-homecoming.

Women's Ministry News

The Women's Ministry Team will be having their next meeting on Tuesday, **August 4th** at 6:30 pm. They would love to have anyone join them that might be interested in being on the team, either starting immediately, or starting in January when a few folks roll off the team. In addition to more team members, they are looking for 2 co-leaders and 1 communicator. They typically meet the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:00 pm in the conference room at church. At the August meeting we will start with a potluck and discuss events/schedules for 2026/2027. If anyone has any events they would like to lead, please email Erin at erinsinnwellphotography9@gmail.com with ideas and potential dates so that we can add it to the calendar we will be creating.

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 weekday mornings, afternoon, and evening. **Watch for a sign up table in the front entry at the end of August** if you are interested in signing up for a group and learning more about the fall study, "Bold faith on an unexpected journey" by the Rev. Tiffany Cheney. The studies for 2026/2027 will once again be from *Gather Magazine*. Go to the *Gather Magazine* [website](#) or call (844)409-0576 to start your subscription. Two copies of the magazine will also be available for lending in the church office. Contact Erin Sinnwell with any questions -507-990-6079 or erinsinnwellphotography9@gmail.com.

Article on Tanzania School in September *Gather Magazine*

Mount Olive member Connie Mudore wrote an article for the September issue of *Gather* about the dedication of the Bishop Regina Girls Secondary School in Singida, Tanzania. Connie accompanied a group from the Southeastern MN Synod of the ELCA to Tanzania and attended this special event as a part of the trip. The school is named for our SEMN Synod Bishop, Regina Hassanally. Thanks Connie!

Important Dates:

August 4 - The Women's Ministry Team meets at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal. Contact Women's Ministry Team Leader, Erin Sinnwell, for more information - 507-990-6079.

September 8 - Monthly study leader preparation with Donna Miller in the front Conference Room at 5:30 pm. Bring your *Gather Magazine* and a Bible.



On July 12, the Mount Olive choir performed the Canadian national anthem, "O Canada" prior to the Rochester Honkers vs. Thunder Bay baseball game. Travis Beck wrote a special arrangement for the occasion. Many other Mount Olive folks came to enjoy watching the game as well. See additional photos on the Mount Olive [Facebook](#) page.

Family Camping Weekend! At Chester Woods (August 14-16)

Location: Chester Woods Park – 8378 14 Highway Southeast, Eyota, MN 55934

Check-IN After 3:00pm Friday and Check-OUT by 1:00 pm Sunday.

Camp Sites for our Group: Numbers 21, 22, 24, 25, 27

You will need to book your own campsite for your family! Book at

[Olmsted County Parks | Rochester, Minnesota | Check Availability or Make a Reservation - Map | ResNexus](#)

Camping Weekend, families arrive Friday evening and depart Sunday morning after breakfast. **Friday Night:** Families set up camp sites, cook dinners over fire, and hang out into the night.

Saturday Morning/Afternoon: Variety of Activities - Hiking, Fishing, Swimming.

Family Camping Cookout For All at Chester Woods!

Saturday Evening, August 15, we will have a cook-out open for anyone who wishes to attend! For this year we will be at Picnic Shelter #7 some time after 4:00 pm (Cook-Out beginning around 5:30pm). We'll fire up

the grills and get some burgers and hotdogs cooked for everyone. We will have games, fellowship, facepainting, and outdoor time together. Those who stick around that evening we can do some singing and s'mores to cap off the night! If you'd like to join us for the picnic, please sign up on the clipboard in the Gathering Area or at this [link](#). Mount Olive will provide the meat, others are invited to bring side items to share (chips, fruit, beans, etc.). We will update our food items and plan our grocery list from our sign-up in the Gathering Area.



Other August CYF Events - Watch your email for more details

August 5 (Wednesday) – Family Game Night at Church at 6:30 pm. Sign up and get more info at this [link](#).

August 14-16 (Friday – Sunday) – Family Camping Weekend at *Chester Woods* (See details above.)

August 26 (Wednesday) – Evening at the Park at *Soldier's Field* 6:30 pm

Calling 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 program year, please contact Evan Fitzsimmons evan@molive.org we put our team together!

More information regarding teacher training will be sent out by email in August. Join in the amazing opportunity for ministry and faith formation that Sunday School hour provides for our amazingly inspiring children and youth.

Thank You Good Earth Village for VBS Week!

We are so grateful for our week with the counselors from Good Earth Village, Lee, Maria, and Pablo. They led such a meaningful week of camp with our kids. Thank you also to all of the Mount Olive folks who made the counselors feel welcome! Special thanks to Dave and Carole Joyce for housing them and to the Pasch and Jerde families for providing evening meals.



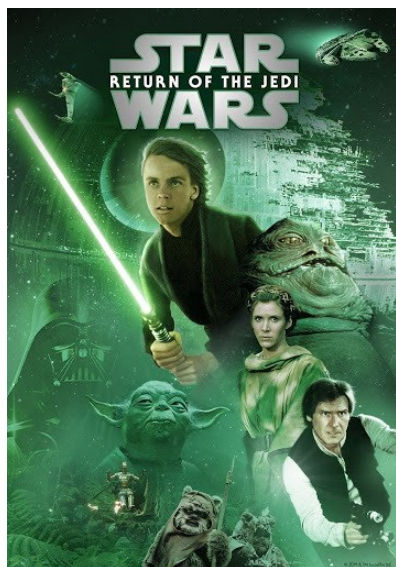
Summer Meet-Up

Thesis Beer Project

Wednesday, Aug 12, 5-7:00 pm

We chose Thesis for this meet-up for two reasons: One, with its small tables, it's a great space to chat; two, with the heavy construction on 2nd Street, we want to support their business. Join Pastor Lisa and Richard for a relaxed time.

Live acoustic music starts at 6:00 pm with discounted bevs 'til 6:00 pm. Non-alcoholic drinks are available. Thesis encourages people to bring in food, so consider fetching food from other 2nd Street businesses like Thai-riffic, Beetle's, or Nautical Bowls.



All ages are welcome, and it's a great occasion to invite friends. Thesis Beer Project, 1929 2nd St. SW.

Movie Night: Return of the Jedi

Wednesday, August 19th

6:00-8:00pm in the Olive Pit

Ewoks, rescuing Han, and Darth Vader unmasked! By popular demand, we're wrapping up the original Star Wars trilogy with *Return of the Jedi* (1983, rated PG). All ages welcome.

Coming This Fall!

Ripe Olives

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 **September 11** our own Travis Beck will lead a program, "The People's Work: A Brief History of Liturgical Music". On Sunday mornings for hundreds of years, millions of Christians around the world have prayed and sung the same handful of texts. They have funny names: the Kyrie, the Gloria, the Alleluia, the Sanctus, the Agnus Dei. How did they become part of our worship life? Together, we'll explore the background behind these beloved and ancient songs. 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. Everyone is welcome; feel free to invite a friend!

Save The Date: "State of the Olive"

Mark your calendars for the 3rd annual "State of the Olive". This time is set aside to share information and launch the upcoming Capital Campaign at Mount Olive. All Mount Olive members are encouraged to attend as we will be discussing exciting possibilities, 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 3, 9:00 am - noon** in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be provided. All ages welcome!



Women's Monthly Coffee Meet Up

Mount Olive women are invited to meet at 9:00 am on Friday, **August 7** 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.

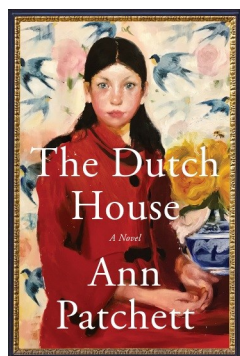
Summer Fellowship

We have enjoyed having fellowship time with coffee, and delicious treats each Sunday this summer, filling the Gathering Area and spilling onto the patio with lots of great conversation and laughs. **There are several openings on the August schedule to help** with serving, providing cookies, and making the coffee. Training is provided. Please sign up online at tinyurl.com/fsd3f, or contact Sunday Fellowship Volunteer Coordinator, Renee Schaefer - renee@molive.org.



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, **August 13**, 5:30 to 7:00 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 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. The September 14 selection is *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. Contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net to get on the group's email list.

Exercise Classes at Mount Olive

FREE exercise classes for people 55+ continue to meet twice weekly at Mount Olive. The "Stay Active and Independent for Life" (SAIL) classes are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 - 4:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. The classes are designed specifically for older adults and focus on strength, balance, flexibility and aerobics. All exercises and aerobics can be done sitting or standing and are very adaptive. Contact the church office for more information.

Welcome Visitors!

We have been pleased to see so many visitors to Mount Olive this summer. It is our hope that you have enjoyed the worship services and fellowship and felt warmly welcomed! If you would like to learn more about Mount Olive or explore membership, please stop by the Welcome Desk following worship or contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life - nancy@molive.org, or 507-288-1580. We'll plan a New Member Sunday for early fall, preceded by an orientation meeting.

Taste of Norway at E. St. Olaf Church

If you have ever wondered who exactly St. Olaf was, a skit entitled "Saint Olaf Himself" may interest you. It will be performed at the annual Taste of Norway celebration on Sunday, August 23rd at East St. Olaf Church, 6200 County Rd. 3 SW, Byron, MN. The event is 2:00 to 4:00 pm and the skit will begin at 2:15 pm in their Sanctuary. A traditional hymn-sing led by a Hayfield vocal quartet follows. Homemade Norwegian pastries including lefse, fattigman, rosettes, and kringla will be served along with Norwegian cheese and pickled herring. Tours of the historic Tverberg Log House will also be provided along with golf cart transportation.

New Group Meets at Mount Olive

Mount Olive is a meeting place for many community groups, providing hospitality and a low or no cost location for several non-profit groups. Recently a new Alcoholic Anonymous group started twice weekly meetings, Tuesdays and Fridays at noon. AA is a fellowship of people coming together with the primary purpose to help alcoholics achieve sobriety. Mount Olive also provides meeting space for three Al-Anon groups for the family members of those with addiction problems. Other groups that meet at Mount Olive include Cub and Boy Scouts, Childhood Cancer Community, Hiawatha Homes, Retired Educators, Music Teachers Assn., and more. Call the office for more information these groups.

Meal Train Needs Cooks

Mount Olive uses an online program called *Meal Train* to organize meals for Mount Olive members in need, for example recovering from surgery or parents of new babies. Volunteers simply follow an individualized email link to *Meal Train* and choose a date to provide a meal. Dietary requirements, maps, email reminders, and special instructions can be viewed for each recipient. We are currently in need of people who are willing to help provide meals, please contact Paula Roberts at roberts64paula@gmail.com to receive the Meal Train link. If you are in need of meals, please contact the church office at 507-288-1580.

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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