

THE Messenger

February 2026

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

Lent at Mount Olive

Lent begins on February 18th with Ash Wednesday. The season of Lent is a forty-day reminder that God is always near, always reaching out to us. Where some church seasons are upbeat and exciting — like Christmas or Easter— the purple season is a quieter one.

At Mount Olive, we'll journey these forty days not only with Sunday morning worship, but contemplative prayer at noon on Wednesdays and worship in the evening. All are welcome to a simple soup supper at 5:15 pm. On Ash Wednesday, we'll have services with Holy Communion and imposition of ashes at noon and 6:30 pm. Beginning

February 25, Wednesdays will include Pastor Byron's Bible study starting at 5:30 pm. At 6:30 pm, there will be a short worship time featuring stories from members of our congregation.

This year, the theme for Lenten Bible Study and our storytelling on Wednesday nights is passion. While this season of study and storytelling will lead us into the hearing the Passion of Christ on Good Friday, we are using this term more as an invitation to talk about what we have excitement for in our lives: What do you love? Why? Where did this enthusiasm come from? When is a time you've noticed your unique passion for something? Each Wednesday night, we'll hear from two storytellers. Maybe you could be one of them! If you're interested in sharing a 5-minute story from your life sometime this season, contact Richard at richard@molive.org for details and coaching. However you'd like to connect with your faith family during Lent, we love you and look forward to seeing you.



2026 Lenten Schedule*

Ash Wednesday February 18	12:00 pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion 5:15 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion
Wednesdays beginning February 25	12:00 pm Centering Prayer Service and brown bag lunch 5:15 pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm Lenten Bible Study on Living with Passion. 6:30 pm Mid-week Lenten Service
Sunday Mornings Beginning March 1	8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Lenten Bible Study on Living with Passion. 10:30 am Worship

* See the Worship and Education pages inside for more information about Lent 2026.

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Call Committee Meets

The Mount Olive Call Committee had their first meeting on Monday, January 26. Rev. Barb Streed from the SEMN Synod office oriented them to the Call Process and they reviewed our Ministry Site Profile, which will soon be available to potential pastoral candidates online. If you would like to see the profile, pick up a copy in the church office. The profile was put together by a team that included representatives from staff and various council positions, using information gathered at State of the Olive and other congregational forums. The full council and staff offered input, and the profile was approved by Church Council in January 2026. Next, they begin preparing questions for future interviews. Please watch the Messenger for monthly Call Process updates. Submitted by: The Mount Olive Call Committee: Amy Determan (Chair), Keith Hanson, Sarah Jerde, Hannah Johns, Phil Lashinski, Laura Maschmann, Noah Mannix, Donna Miller, Linda Persson.

Annual Meeting & Front Door Security Report

Thanks to all who attended our annual meeting on a cold Sunday in January! After sharing a meal, over 90 members took part in the formal business of the church: approving reports and budgets, thanking council members for their service, and electing council members and delegates to synod assembly. A couple highlights from the meeting:

- Kris Liedtke is our new President-Elect for council, meaning that she will work alongside current President Mark Pasch for the year, and will move into the President position in 2027. Thank you, Kris!
- The practice of keeping the church entry doors locked during the day was implemented recently. We are in the process of installing a new entry system at our front doors to provide greater security for all building users, especially Head Start staff and students. The video-doorbell system will ring to staff devices. All current electronic fobs and cards will need to be replaced; holders will be contacted. We will work to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible, but there will be a learning curve for all of us.

Thank you Mount Olive, for another successful Annual Meeting!

Capital Campaign Update

We continue to work with architects to refine plans and determine costs for the renovations we are considering. Hear more at the forum on February 22. (see pg. 8 for details) We will also be developing committees in the next few months, looking for people with skills or interests in: project development, communications, fundraising, event planning, and more. If you would like to hear more or put your name forward, please contact Pastor Lisa. These committees will likely meet from April through September to prepare for a 6-week campaign launching in the fall. (The specifics of the campaign are yet to be finalized).

Rainbow Choir Concert

Mount Olive will host the Rochester Rainbow Choir on Sunday, **Feb. 22**, 2:00 pm as part of their "Flying Colors" tour. This volunteer chorus of LGBTQ+ individuals will offer something for everyone, with songs spanning decades and genres, focusing on inclusion and positivity. Admission is free. There will be a freewill offering or you may give to the choir online at rochesterrainbowchoir.com/donate. We hope you'll join us for this uplifting afternoon of music and community connection.



Connie Mudore Joins Synod Trip to Africa

Mount Olive member, Connie Mudore, accompanied Bishop Hassanally and a group of SEMN Synod members to Tanzania for the dedication of a girl's high school in Bishop Hassanally's name. Connie reports that our siblings in Christ in the Central Diocese have been welcoming, warm, and gracious. Blog posts with details of the group's travel are available on the SEMN Synod website - <https://semnsynod.org/news>

Two Ash Wednesday Worship Options

Two worship times will be offered on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, noon and 6:30 pm. We hope the noon service will be helpful for people who prefer not to drive after dark. At both services, we will offer optional imposition of ashes to all worshippers, and Holy Communion. This day marks the beginning of the penitential season of Lent, and is the first of our mid-week Lenten services, which will be held each Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prior to each mid-week evening service, a simple supper of soup and bread will be offered at 5:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Byron's Bible study will meet, 5:30 to 6:15 pm, in the Library beginning February 25. See more about the study on page 8.

Wednesday Noon Prayer + Brown Bag Lunch

Starting Wednesday, February 25th, Richard will offer a 20-minute prayer service each Wednesday at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Drop in for a quiet sit in the midst of the day; afterward, bring a lunch if you want some company. The service will be streamed via Facebook Live on the Mount Olive [Facebook](#) page. All are welcome.



Midweek Lenten Worship Storytelling

Our Wednesday evening worship services, February 25, March 4, 11, and 18 at 6:30 pm, will be centered in storytelling around the theme of *Passion*. Along with scripture and music, Mount Olive members will share their personal stories, engaging the connection between our story and God's story. The services will also be live streamed on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@MountOliveELCA/streams>.

Lenten and Easter Offering Designations

Mount Olive's new church council will decide on the designations for the Lenten and Easter offerings at their meeting on February 10. The group will prayerfully consider several suggested recipients. Watch your bulletin or the March newsletter for their decisions. Thank you.

Joyfully Wanted: Easter Vigil Team

Our tradition on Holy Saturday— the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday— is a worship service that is a bit of a party. Gathering the natural talents of our congregation, we will again tell the covenant stories of scripture using music, drama, visual arts and whatever else our team come up with.

Join the team by attending the initial brainstorm meeting on Sunday, March 1, 11:45 am- 1:30 pm in the Olive Pit. We'll have pizza and salad for lunch, followed by orientation and brainstorming facilitated by Pastor Lisa, Richard, and Travis. All ages welcome! Zero experience necessary. Sound fun? RSVP with attendance and pizza preferences to Richard at richard@molive.org.

Pray Without Ceasing

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. 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. Drop in any Monday night.



Weekend Volunteer Opportunities

More volunteers for both worship and fellowship are always needed, especially during the busy season of Lent. Stop by the Welcome Desk after worship to sign up as a worship volunteer. Our Worship and Fellowship volunteer schedules are also available on Sign Up Genius and the Mount Olive [website](#):

Worship Volunteers: tinyurl.com/jtzbwjkm. Contact Nancy Britson - nancy@molive.org

Fellowship Volunteers: tinyurl.com/fsd3f. Contact Renee Schaefer - renee@molive.org.

2nd Sunday of Service

In January, the Sunday School youth helped to roll bandages for Global Health Ministries. The younger Sunday School children made Valentine's Day crafts for our homebound members and others. Thank you, Sunday School youth, for helping to make a difference in the lives of others.



Channel One

There are over 45,000 people facing food insecurity in our region. If you are able, please consider making an online donation to assist Channel One in addressing food insecurity. The food shelf is getting significant use this winter. You may donate funds to Channel One by going to the Mount Olive website by clicking [here](#), or by check. Be sure to designate Channel One in the memo.

Dorothy Day House Volunteers Needed

We are grateful for all the people who volunteered their Friday evenings in 2025 to serve a meal at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House. In 2026, Mount Olive will continue to have the opportunity to provide a meal and dine with the House's guests on the first Friday of each month. The Jerde family is excited to welcome new volunteers to the team. We'll serve along with you, to orient you to the space and culture. Please sign up in the Gathering Space or contact sarahjerdepa@gmail.com.



Family Promise

Greatest Needs: Bus passes (10-20-31 day passes), paper towels, all-purpose cleaner, and cough drops.

Volunteer Opportunities: They are looking to set up a time every week or every other week where a volunteer is available to drive guests around for a few hours.

This could be bringing them to Channel One, Threads Boutique, other potential meetings or appointments, or other needs. If you or a group of friends are interested and willing to do this once or a few times a month please reach out so they can start putting together a plan for this. If you are not already a part of the Transportation Club you will have to get signed up for that and work through the proper paperwork and training required for you to use your own vehicle or the 15-passenger van.

The Board of Directors is in the process of starting to put together some committees: Finance, Development, Governance, Family Services, and other task oriented and/or ad hoc committees. If you are interested in learning more or potentially serving on one of the aforementioned committees please reach out to Carrie Mosco, the Executive Director, at amoscho@fprochestermn.org. You would become a part of Family Promise's Engagement Club if you join one of these committees.



Food Pantry Expansion Update

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Mount Olive Food Pantry with donations of food and funds. Due to the growing needs in our community and requests from our neighbors, we will add a selection of household and personal hygiene items to the collection. We will continue to accept shelf-stable, non-expired food items. Bring your items to the church office. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please indicate “food pantry” on your check memo or [online](#) comment. In addition, the Sunday School children/youth will be doing a diaper drive during the month of February. Below is a list of the most needed hygiene items: Contact the church office with any questions.

Toilet paper	Paper Towels	Tissues	Laundry items	Household cleaning supplies
Feminine Hygiene Products		Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dental floss, shaving supplies, etc.)		
Baby supplies (soap, pacifiers, burp cloths, etc.)			Seasonal items	

Lutheran World Relief

Offering comfort and care to those who need it most. The Sunday School children will be assembling Baby Care Kits on February 8th. If you purchased any items for the kits, please drop them at church by February 1st. Thank you!



Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will meet on February 10 at 10:00 am. 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 local service organizations. In January, they donated several quilts to The Landing MN. Everyone is welcome to join them on Thursday mornings. They can always use more cotton fabrics for making the colorful quilt tops. Donations may be left in the Gathering Area cabinet.

Ongoing Collections

Mount Olive is always collecting your pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house. There is a collection tub located in the Gathering Area on the sign-up table. We also collect travel-size shampoo, conditioners, soaps, etc. that you may get while you are staying at a hotel. Additionally, used glasses and hearing aids are collected for the Lions Club. Cotton fabric can be donated for the quilters. There are collection containers in the cupboard under the cabinet in the Gathering Area. Thank you!

Happy Anniversary Carrie!

Thank you Carrie Fletcher for 20 years of service to Mount Olive! Carrie joined the staff on Feb. 5, 2006. Over the years she has served in many roles including Nursery Coordinator, Sunday School teacher, F.I.S.H. Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, Custodial support, and most recently Director of Service and Social Outreach Ministry. Please take a moment to thank her for her dedication to Mount Olive. She will be recognized with flowers at the February 8 service and a basket for cards will be available.



Sunday Forums in February

Each Sunday at 9:15 we gather in the Fellowship Hall with friends and a cup of coffee or tea to hear from mission partners or other guests who continue to challenge us to think again how faith and life intersect in our world. This January will be no different. Note the lineup:



- February 1** – Anthony Wittmer, Communications Specialist with Olmsted County will talk about the new “Fix-it Clinics” and give an overview of waste and recycling options in Olmsted County.
- February 8** – Pernell Meier, Site Coordinator for Community Food Response, will give an overview of this program that distributes food contributed by local restaurants, caterers, and grocery stores to community members in need.
- February 15** – Travis Beck will facilitate a forum on "Faith & Freedom," inspired by themes of Ken Burns' film *The American Revolution*. Together, we will be reflecting on religious diversity and freedom; our shared values with other faiths; and how those values intersect with the founding ideals of this country. We hope to have guests from a variety of faith backgrounds to share this discussion.
- February 22** – Pastor Lisa will be sharing information and plans for potential building renovations and inviting your feedback and questions. The schematics that represent our most recent conversations will be available; you are also welcome to stop by the office to take a look.

“Living with Passion: Exploring Five Difference-Makers in the Bible”

What is your passion? What does it mean to live with passion? Where do we find examples in the Bible of people who lived with passion? During this upcoming Lenten season, a five-session Bible study series will be offered that explores five lesser-known biblical characters who lived with passion. There are several nuances of the word “passion”; for the purposes of this study, we will use something like this (from the Merriam Webster dictionary: “a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for or devotion to some activity, object, or concept”). Pastor Byron will be leading this study on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., beginning on February 25, and on Sunday mornings at 10:15, beginning March 1. The series continues through Wednesday, March 25 and Sunday, March 29 with the Sunday sessions repeating the content covered the previous Wednesday. Sign up at the table in the entry at church. All materials will be provided.

Men’s Discipleship

The Men’s Discipleship group meets for weekly Bible studies on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in the front Conference Room. This winter, the group is studying the book of Hebrews. This group meets most Saturday mornings during the program year for study, discussion, and fellowship. Contact Mark Masbruch for more information - mmasbruch@hotmail.com.

Mount Olive Women’s Ministry News

Women’s Retreat - The Women’s Ministry Team is planning a one day women’s retreat for **April 18, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**. Lunch will be provided. Watch for more info to come! Please contact Paula Roberts with questions- roberts64paula@gmail.com.

Important Dates:

February 3 - Study leaders meeting led by Donna Miller in the front conference room at 5:30 pm.

February 3 - The Women’s Ministry Team meets at 6:30 pm in the front conference room.

April 18 - Women’s Retreat at Mount Olive.

April 25 - Zumbro River Conference Spring Event at Zumbro Lutheran Church

July 16-19, 2026 - The Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will be held in Des Moines, Iowa.

February Sunday School Schedule

Sunday School is **9:15 - 10:15 am** on Sunday mornings, beginning with music in the sanctuary!

- 1st Sunday: **Feb. 1** Classroom Sunday School
 2nd Sunday: **Feb. 8** Large Group Sunday School (**Service Sunday-Baby Care Kits**) *Kids Sing at 10:30am
 3rd Sunday: **Feb. 15** Classroom Sunday School
 4th Sunday: **Feb. 22** Classroom Sunday School & **Break-fast Club! (6th-12th) OFF-SITE At HyVee West Circle**

Diaper Drive

During the month of February, the Sunday School youth will be collecting diapers for the families of Head Start. Donations can include any brand, any size. Bring them Sunday morning during Education Hour. If you have any questions, please contact Evan Fitzsimmons – evan@molive.org or Carrie Fletcher – carrie@molive.org.

Official Sign-Up for Acolytes & Cup Collectors!

We have created an official sign-up for acolytes and cup collectors! Hopefully this will help us to be more organized and it allows our youth the opportunity to keep helping in worship. Evan will be sharing the sign up with the Sunday School email reminders each week, but feel free to go ahead and sign-up ahead of time. This schedule covers our Sundays, February - the end of May. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B44AFA62DABFE3-61899269-acolytes>

Confirmation/Wednesday Nights

6th - 12th Grade youth 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 and Breakfast Club on the 4th Sunday of the month

February Confirmation Dates

Wed. Feb. 4 – SERVICE PROJECT: *Make Baked Goods* (w/ Carrie Fletcher)

Wed. Feb. 11 – Bowling & Arcade Night! at *Bowlocity*

Beginning Wednesdays in LENT:

Soup at 5:15pm, Worship at 6:30 pm, End with "Closing Circle" in Fellowship Hall at 7:15pm

Wed. Feb. 18 – *Ash Wednesday!* (Soup, & Brief Parent's Meeting After Service)

Wed. Feb. 25 – Soup, Lent Worship, & Closing Circle

Bowling & Arcade Night

For Confirmation Night on February 11, **WE WILL MEET AT *Bowlocity!*** at 6:30pm (2810 N Broadway Ave, Rochester) for bowling time & arcade time! Cost is \$17 per person for 1 round of bowling & an arcade card.

Save the Date: July 20-23 VBS Day Camp Week!

We're excited to confirm another year of **VBS Day Camp with Good Earth Village** here at Mount Olive! This summer, it will be **July 20-23, 2026, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Mon-Thurs. We will have 3 camp counselors from Good Earth**



Village and Evan Fitzsimmons as our coordinator. Day Camp ages are Kindergarten - 5th Grade of the current school year! If younger ages want to participate, we just ask a supervising parent/guardian be on site. We would love to have any 6th-12th grade helpers to help with various Day Camp tasks such as preparing snacks, helping in Bible study, crafts, games, and ultimately deepening in relationship with our youngest ones. Be sure to mark your calendars for this special and fun week of the summer. Be on the lookout for Registration Forms in the Gathering Area with more information

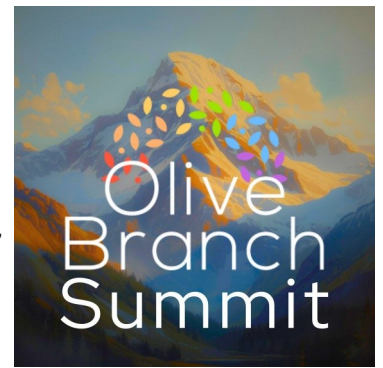


Olive Branch Summit!

Sunday, February 1, 4-5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Now and then we realize it's time for change. A sense that things are ready for something new.

That means it's time for an Olive Branch Summit! Please come with your dreams, wonderings, and new ways we can change the world. We'll begin with generous holy communion in the Fellowship Hall, and proceed to imagine how Olive Branch wants to evolve next. Together we'll discern. All are welcome—especially those who have a stake in enjoying Olive Branch programming like Artist Studio, Faith Seeking Understanding, Off the Page, and Olive Branch Church.



Off The Page Monday, Feb. 9th, 6-7:30 pm, Olive Pit

Lent is a unique season in the church year. It starts on Ash Wednesday with the reminder that we are made from the earth and will return to earth. We typically hear Psalm 51 on this night—a well-known song from our liturgical tradition, but what is the story behind “Create in me a clean heart, O God?” Join us as Richard leads a careful reading (and singing!) of this very complicated text about life, death, and God’s amazing grace.

Faith Seeking Understanding

Monday, Feb. 23rd, 6-7:30, Olive Pit

Our topic is **Resistance: rest, freedom, and seeking wholeness every day**. When we're anxious, and the scent and sound of violence are in the air, how do we respond? Tonight, we'll chat with authors Tricia Hersey, John Cobb Jr., and Kaitlin Curtice about taking care of ourselves and the world.

This is especially for those of us wondering what is ours to do when it feels like the world is falling apart.



February at a glance:

- 1/2 OB Summit 4 pm
- 2/9 Off The Page 6-7:30 pm
- 2/23 FSU 6-7:30 pm

Care for Creation

Food scrap composting

Olmsted County thanks all who participated in the initial food scrap composting pilot project. They recently shared that they intend to transition the pilot into a permanent program. The goal is to make food scrap composting more accessible while continuing to provide a reliable and effective service.

Goals for 2026:

- Upgrade the existing compost bins to better track drop-off participation.
- Add additional drop-off locations in the community.
- Remove the fee for designated BPI certified compostable bags.

To learn more visit: <https://www.olmstedcounty.gov/residents/garbage-recycling/food-waste-reduction>



Fix-It Clinic

- February 7, 2026 | 2:30pm - 5:30pm
- Christ United Methodist Church
400 5th Ave SW, Rochester

Have items in need of repair? Bring them to a Fix-It Clinic.

Acceptable Items

(limit of 2 items per household)

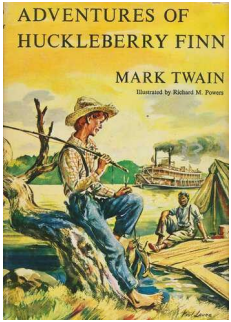
- Clothing
- Small appliances
- Jewelry
- Electronics (without a screen)
- Toys
- And more!

Women's Monthly Coffee Meet Up

Mount Olive women are invited to meet at 9:00 am on Friday, **February 6** 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.

Monday Book Group

The Monday Book Group gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature. They meet on the second Monday of the month, **February 9**, at 6:30 pm. This month's selection is *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, his wonderfully imaginative re-creation of boyhood adventures along the Mississippi River. Praised by Hemingway and T.S. Eliot, this classic piece of fiction is filled with high adventure and unforgettable characters. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion. Contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net with questions or to get on the email list.



Brews Brothers Meets At LTS

Brews Brothers, a fellowship opportunity for Mount Olive men, continues to meet the second Thursday of each month at a local brewery. This month, on Thursday, **February 12**, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, they will be meeting at Life's Too Short (LTS) Brewery at 2001 32nd Ave. NW in Rochester. Come to chat and enjoy a good beer. All are welcome! Contact Keith Hanson at kjhanson17@gmail.com with questions.



Ripe Olives

Ripe Olives is Mount Olive's group for retired and semi-retired folks to gather for a meal, fellowship, learning and fun. They meet on the 2nd Friday of each month at 9:30 am. On **February 13**, our guest will be Rabbi Michelle Werner of the B'nai Israel Synagogue. She will be telling the story of two towns in France during the Holocaust, one from which Jewish children were deported and one which saved 5000 Jews. Breakfast is provided with a free will offering. Sign up in the Gathering Area or RSVP - nancy@molive.org.

Lenten Soup Suppers Coming Soon

Lent begins early this year with Ash Wednesday on February 18. As has been our tradition for many years, a soup supper will be served prior to the evening worship services and Bible study. (The study begins Feb. 25) Free-will donations will go towards ELCA World Hunger. Each week, under the leadership of David Steenhoek and Renee Schaefer, a different group volunteers will help make the soup, serve, and clean up.

This year we are also asking for monetary contributions to help to offset the cost of the ingredients and for donations of bread each week. Visit the table in the entry at church to pick an envelope to contribute funds or sign up to bring bread or serve. You may also go to the following link - https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CACA728ABFBC52-lenten#/ Here's this year's menu* and leaders:

- 2/18:** Chicken Wild Rice Soup (Mount Olive Women)
- 2/25:** Chicken Enchilada Soup (Youth and Parents)
- 3/4:** Chicken Noodle Soup (Church Council)
- 3/11:** Chili (Mount Olive Men)
- 3/18:** Sausage Tortellini Soup (Scouts)
- 3/25:** Soup and Leader TBD



ELCA
World Hunger

*All soups will have a Vegetarian option. Food allergens will be listed, and options will be provided. Bread, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, and beverages will also be provided. Contact Nancy Britson in the church office with any questions – nancy@molive.org.

Zumbro River Conference Assembly

Mount Olive is part of the Zumbro River Conference of the SEMN Synod of the ELCA. Our Zumbro River Conference Assembly is Sunday, **February 15**, 1:00 pm at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Rochester. (2815 57th St NW). Some of our staff will be attending, and you are welcome to join. We can bring up to 6 members from Mount Olive who will have vote at the meeting in addition to our rostered leaders. If you are interested in attending the meeting, please talk to Pastor Lisa.



A candle lighting station was set up in the chancel on Sunday, January 25. Many lit candles as a form of prayer for ourselves and our neighbors, and as expressions of grief, hope, solidarity and love.



Reminder about Email Scams

We have been aware of people receiving emails that appear to be from Mount Olive pastors or staff, but are not. Please be aware of a few reminders:

- Staff members will never ask you to buy them gift cards or other items in secret.
- We will not send unexpected links or documents to open without explanation.
- We will not ask for passwords, account numbers or user names for any accounts.
- Be cautious of anyone asking for a church directory or other contact information.
- Emails from Mount Olive staff come from @molive.org. Clicking on the name in the email will show the sender's address.

If you have any questions or concerns about an email you've received, please don't hesitate to contact a staff member. 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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507-288-1580 Website: molive.org



A Reconciling in
Christ Community

Mount Olive Staff

<p>The Rev. Lisa Janke Directing Pastor lisa@molive.org Ext. 205</p>	<p>The Rev. Byron Milene Interim Pastor byron@molive.org Ext. 206</p>	<p>Deacon Travis Beck Director of Worship, Music, and Arts travis@molive.org Ext. 203</p>
<p>Evan Fitzsimmons Director of Children, Youth, & Family evan@molive.org Ext. 207</p>	<p>Dr. Richard Bruxvoort Colligan Director of Spiritual Formation richard@molive.org Ext. 210</p>	<p>Nancy Britson Director of Congregational Life nancy@molive.org Ext. 202</p>
<p>Terry Krieger Office Administrator terry@molive.org Ext. 204</p>	<p>Carrie Fletcher—Director of Service and Social Outreach and Nursery Coord. carrie@molive.org Ext. 209</p>	<p>Renee Schaefer Sunday Fellowship Volunteer Coordinator renee@molive.org</p>