

THE *Messenger*

June 2026

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

Summertime Worship at Mount Olive

Summer is a time to refresh and that is exactly what we're doing at Mount Olive. Read below for some of the ways we're bringing worship to life this summer:

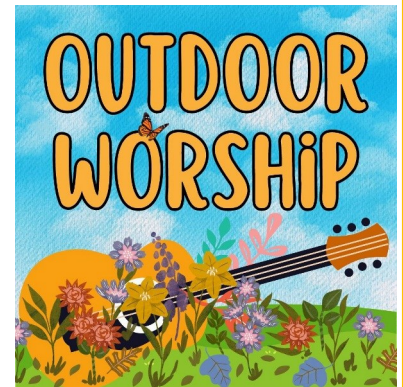
Outdoor Worship

One Sunday evening per month this summer, we'll gather on the lawn to celebrate summer under our grand tree. Besides generous Holy Communion, our guest artists will treat us to music! Join in the fun on these Sundays: **June 14, July 19, and August 23 at 4:00-5:00 pm** on the lawn. All ages welcome! Bring your blanket or lawn chair and invite your friends!

June 14: TBA

July 19: Carl-Eric Gentes with a VBS Kickoff Cookout

August 23: Dianna Parks



Pray Without Ceasing Anniversary

June marks the 1st anniversary of *Pray Without Ceasing* at Mount Olive. On Mondays, 5:30-6:00 pm, we have gathered, as part of an ELCA initiative, along with hundreds of other churches, to center our hearts on the needs of our community and our neighbors. Through the summer, we'll continue to tend to the needs and hopes of the world, as well as to our leaders and the people most vulnerable right now. In these three months, we'll stretch into a fresh, creative rhythm of prayer:

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

Week 2: Contemplative vigil readings with sung refrains

Week 3: Musical prayer with songs you know and love

Week 4: Scripture, singing, and petitioned prayers

We'll continue to gather Monday nights, 5:30-6:00 pm. You are welcome to drop in at any time and invite friends. Contact Richard at richard@molive.org if you'd enjoy helping with this summer's services.

Podcast-style Sermon Series Coming Soon

With our staff absolutely brimming with theologians— like Pastor Lisa, Deacon Travis, Dr. Richard, and Evan— why wouldn't we do a round-table chat? It's a chance to look at Bible texts in a new and inspiring way.

In June, Richard will lead us in a series on the Psalms. (June 14, 21, 28)
In August, it's a series about the creative writings of Matthew. (Aug 2, 9, 16) We hope you'll tune in - either in person or online!



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Council Update - Let Us Break Bread Together

Or could it be a homemade rhubarb treat – for that matter?

The Mount Olive Church Council met on Tuesday, May 12, on a beautiful evening with a full agenda. Along with the business at hand, Kris brought a baked rhubarb treat with whipped cream, which caused a brief and cheerful commotion.

- Rev. Steve Olson shared a draft report from our Feasibility Study regarding a Capital Campaign.
- Travis Beck led a workshop for the Council on communication entitled **Emotional Triangles 101**.
- The Call Committee will conduct two follow-up interviews for the Associate Pastor position in May.
- When Rev. Olson finalizes the Feasibility Study, a summary will be available to all interested congregation members.
- Routine business included approval of the budget, council minutes, approval of new members and committee reports.

As we continue the work of calling another pastor and look ahead to a Capital Campaign, “breaking bread together” reminds us to stay connected and support one another. During this exciting year, reach out to the Council or staff if you have questions.

Loren Else, Council Secretary

Call Committee Update

May was a busy month for the call committee. After completing the first round of interviews with five pastoral candidates, the call committee completed second interviews with two candidates. Please pray for our call committee members and the final pastoral candidates as they discern the next steps in the journey.

Capital Campaign Update

Thanks to the 33 households (48 people total) who participated in Feasibility Study interviews with our Campaign Consultant, Rev. Steve Olson. Those who were interviewed represent a sample of active members of the congregation and included people who were asked to participate and those who answered the open invitation to the congregation.

You can find a link to a summary report of the findings in the Mount Olive email sent out each Friday, and printed copies are available in the church office. The interviews showed overwhelming support for a capital campaign and provided helpful feedback on which projects currently have the most interest. There is much agreement when it comes to the strengths of our community: hospitality, benevolence and worship were listed among our highest gifts and priorities. There were also great questions and ideas for us to consider moving forward. Speaking of moving forward – the next step is a congregational vote to approve a Capital Campaign that will likely happen in June sometime. Watch for more information and please reach out to Church Council or Pastor Lisa with any questions.

Film Theo: O Brother, Where Art Thou?

Join Evan and Richard for another installment of Film Theo! Our next movie is *O Brother, Where Art Thou* (2000), a Coen Brothers film that consists of themes of baptism, sin, repentance, redemption, and transformation through a comedic, “Homeric journey” set in the 1930s American South. Also, be ready to dive into some “Delta blues”/folk theology.

We will watch in 3-segments followed by brief discussion from 6:30-7:30 pm. Part I on Sunday, **June 21**, Part II on Tuesday, **June 23**, and Part III on Sunday, **June 28**. “Come on in, the water is fine!”



Graduation Recognition Sunday

Mount Olive's Graduating Seniors, Lucas Smith, Ivy Smoley, and Emily Rislow, will be recognized at the **9:30 am** service on Sunday, June 7. Following the service, come to the Fellowship Hall for a reception in their honor.



Mount Olive students graduating from college include Jerry Fletcher who received an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences from RCTC. If you have a student graduating from a secondary school or post-graduate program and would like to share their information, send it to Nancy in the church office.

Peer Group Support Group this summer



Grief Support Group

There are two spots left, and maybe one of them is for you. Starting June 1st, Richard will facilitate a peer support grief group at Mount Olive. Over six weeks, our group will meet weekly, Monday evenings at 6:00 pm, telling our stories, listening carefully to one another, praying the psalms, and learning coping strategies for grieving— courage and good company for the journey.

This peer support group is for those who have experienced the death of a person dear to them. This is not counseling or therapy, but peer support where your careful listening and thoughtful sharing will be part of others' healing journey. If you are interested, contact Richard at richard@molive.org.

Olive Branch Summer Break

As our planet whooshes around the medium-sized star we call Sol, it's nice to wave at each other now and then. Hang out at a park and enjoy the change of seasons.

What is ripening in your heart these days? What seeds have been only recently planted? Are you changing your mind about something? Growth is what we yearn

for and it's also the thing that makes life complicated. Our Mount Olive community is continually holding one another through changes big and small. It's really one of the best things about being a church.

Olive Branch programming will pause for the three summer months, but please check in as you desire. Lean into your church family when you need us.



Women's Monthly Coffee Meet Up

Mount Olive women are invited to meet at 9:00 am on Friday, **June 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, on Thursday, **June 11**, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, they will be meeting at Little Thistle Brewing, 2031 14th St NW, in Rochester. Come to chat and enjoy a good beer. All are welcome! Contact Keith Hanson at kjhanson17@gmail.com with questions.



Lyra Baroque Orchestra June 12

Lyra presents *Dangerous Liaisons*, Friday, **June 12**, 2026 at Mount Olive, 7:30 pm. Step into the opulent world of Versailles with *Dangerous Liaisons*, a captivating program bringing Lully's timeless masterpiece together with the first ever Orchestral Suite published in Germany by one of his students, JS Kusser. Tickets available here: <https://www.lyrabaroque.org/event-details/dangerous-liaisons-rochester> or at the door.

2nd Sunday of Service

In May, the Sunday School youth made paper flowers for our home-bound 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.



The Landing MN

Free class at Assisi Heights! The Landing MN is excited to be organizing a free class at Assisi Heights Spirituality Center on **June 20th**. This class, *Beyond the Surface: Seeing Our Neighbors Through Christ's Eyes*, will explore the many facets of homelessness. You will hear from local nonprofits and church representatives about how we can live out Christ's call to love our neighbors. Local agencies attending will be The Landing MN, NAMI, Catholic Charities Overnight Shelter, MACV, Recovery is Happening, and Lutheran Social Services. Click here to learn more to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/4fzjthsx>

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

Sign Up Now!
SUPPORT THE LANDING MN

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

COOL SWAG!

ICE CREAM, ACTIVITIES, DRINKS & FUN!

REGISTER HERE:  **Altra** Federal Credit Union **SCHEELS** **PENZ** DENTAL CARE **Eagle Rock** BANK **SMILE JOY**

Lutheran World Relief

During the month of June, we will be collecting fabric pieces (1/2 yard or more) to make baby care items for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

Fabric needed:

- Flannel for receiving blankets
- Lightweight knit and jersey knit for baby sleepers
- Heavier double knit for baby jackets



Please place fabric donations in LWR collection bin in the church entryway, June 7-29. In the fall there will be a day for cutting and sewing these items. Contact Sherry Sanden Will at sher05@charter.net with questions or if you'd like to know more about baby care kits for LWR.

Dorothy Day House Volunteers Needed

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

Mount Olive Quilters

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



Special Thanks to Youth for Leading Worship!

We are so thankful for our Youth and their willingness to lead worship with their amazingly great and unique gifts! We are so proud of all the ways Youth continue to serve and we are grateful for all the support from the whole Mount Olive congregation.

Cook-Out & Play at Oxbow Park

Wednesday, **June 3rd** at 5:30 pm, join us at Oxbow Park for time together as we gather to cook out and be in nature. Evan will provide enough hotdogs and buns for the group! Evan will also provide S'mores! If you would like something besides hotdogs, feel free to bring your own meat. Please use the following link to sign up your family indicate in the comment if you'll bring other food for the cookout.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B44AFA62DABFE3-64211944-cook>



Putt-Putt at Blue Lagoon

Tuesday, **June 9** at 6:30 pm, meet up at Blue Lagoon (6255 34th Ave NW, Rochester) and be ready to read em', roll em', hole em' as we play some mini golf. The rates for 18-holes (including cornhole) are \$10 for adult, \$9 for seniors, \$8 for child (age 4-11), and FREE for kids 3 and under.

Kid's Quilting Day at Mount Olive

Wednesday, **June 24**, 9:00am -3:00 pm, we will have a Kid's Quilting Day for kids who have completed 2nd grade and older! The day will feature a quilting project led by our wonderful quilters for the kids to complete. Everyone will get an opportunity to work with our expert quilters and a turn to use the sewing machine. The day includes a pizza lunch, please sign-up at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B44AFA62DABFE3-64188158-kids#/> If you have any questions about this event, you can contact Edie Schultze or Evan Fitzsimmons.



Quilting Day in 2025



Honkers Baseball Game

Sunday, **July 12**, at 5:05 pm, Mount Olive will come out to watch the Rochester Honkers in their historic final season at Mayo Field. The rate for our group is a "Buy-One, Get-One" Deal, which means tickets cost just \$6.00 per person! The night is featured as a "church night" which means there may be other churches in attendance but the Mount Olive Choir has been invited to sing the National Anthem before the game! A sign-up clipboard will be in the Gathering Area with Honkers envelopes for payment.

Family Camp at Chester Woods

**Friday August 14 -
Sunday, August 16**

Reserve your site, preferably near sites #24 & #25 at:

<https://www.olmstedcounty.gov/residents/parks-recreation/recreation/camping>

VBS Day Camp with Good Earth Village

Mount Olive VBS Day Camp for youth completing grades K-5 with Good Earth Village will be Monday through Thursday, July 20 - July 23. Early check-in begins at 8:10 am and Good Earth Village staff will lead camp activities from 9:00 am -



3:00 pm. The rate is \$95 per student, with financial support given if needed! Register at <https://goodearthvillage.org/mount-olive/>. Contact Evan Fitzsimmons with questions - evan@molive.org.



News from our Ministry Partner: ISIAH MN

This winter, Minnesota families and communities withstood mass-scale human rights violations during Operation Metro Surge. ISIAH is organizing a community hearing of local stories - both of harm done, and of how Minnesotans showed up for one another. We are inviting local and state leaders to this hearing to listen to and honor these experiences. We will share stories told and gathered with the MN Truth Council, a citizen commission creating a historical record of the surge that will produce a report with recommendations for legislative and policy reform. The event is Tuesday, July 14, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Location to be announced in Rochester. Contact David Mickelson, 507-281-9414, dave.mickelson@gmail.com, or Rob Nelson, 218-371-6853, pastorrob.n@gmail.com, for more information.

Please use the following link to register, <https://bit.ly/TruthHearingRochester>.

New Hearing Accessibility Devices

Mount Olive has installed state-of-the-art **Auracast Broadcast Audio**. Some users of hearing aids have built-in ability to use Auracast with their hearing aid app. We also have new hand-held receivers using the superior Auracast technology. Pick up one to try at the Welcome Desk along with a set of ear phones or earbuds. These can be used with or without hearing aids. If you would like to learn more about Auracast, hearing devices, or activating the hearing accessibility features of your smart phone, please contact Gerard Goulet - [507-269-9036](tel:507-269-9036).

Sunday Volunteer Opportunities

We rely on our wonderful volunteers to keep the services running smoothly and to show hospitality to all of the guests at Fellowship time. To help in worship, use the Sign Up Genius link <https://tinyurl.com/jtzbwjkj>, or sign up at the Welcome Desk following worship. Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life with questions about worship roles. To help with making coffee, serving or providing treats for Fellowship time, use the online link: <https://tinyurl.com/2zhh9v5n> or contact Renee Schaefer, Sunday Fellowship Volunteer Coordinator at renee@molive.org.

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

2830 18th Ave. NW
Rochester, MN 55901
507-288-1580 Website: molive.org



A Reconciling in
Christ Community

Mount Olive Staff

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