



The Season of Lent Begins March 2

Ash Wednesday, March 2, is the day that begins our annual journey to the Cross of Good Friday and the Empty Tomb of Easter Sunday. We will observe Ash Wednesday with in-person, live-streamed worship at 6:30 pm and Ashes-To-Go from noon to 1:00 pm. For those who choose the drive-by option, you will receive a cross of ashes on your forehead and a prayer from one of the pastors.

Our midweek Lenten Theme this year is “Turning Toward God’s Abundance.” We will look at God’s abundance through reflection on five of God’s attributes: Faithfulness, Mercy, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Love. We will be using the Service of Word and Prayer from *All Creation Sings*. Each service will begin at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Pastor Glenn’s Devotions to Continue

In year’s past we have offered a published devotion series during the season of Lent. Since Pastor Glenn began writing weekly devotions again during the Advent season, we have received numerous reports from people who appreciate this weekly series. In view of that, this year Pastor Glenn will continue to write devotions during the Lenten season. As usual, they may be accessed electronically on the Mount Olive homepage, in print each week at church, or by mail, upon request.

Call for Worship & Party Planners to Lead Easter Vigil

Easter Vigil takes place in the time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter morning. Imagine a fire pit at the church entrance from which the Paschal candle is lit, and that light being carried back into the church as a representation of the light of Christ, shining in the darkness of the tomb. Christ is risen. Alleluia!

The service of Easter Vigil is a wonderful place for creativity, drama, and experimentation as we joyfully celebrate the news that death does not have the final say - not for Christ, and not for us.

Pastor Lisa & Richard want YOU to help plan and lead Mount Olive’s Easter Vigil service in a fun and imaginative way. All ages welcome. No experience in worship planning or leadership is necessary. Great conversation and laughter guaranteed. Here’s what the commitment looks like:

Workshop: Sunday, March 13, noon – 2:00 pm (pizza provided)

Rehearsal: Sunday, April 3, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Easter Vigil: arrive early and attend/help lead the vigil on the evening of Saturday, April 16.

All of the above will take place at Mount Olive. Don’t miss out on this unique opportunity to plan a service that is also a celebration with two people who love both of these things.

Sign up/questions: lisa@molive.org

Updated Worship Schedule

Sunday, 8:00 am & 10:30 am—Traditional Worship— full services with Holy Communion in the sanctuary.

Wednesday, 6:30 pm—Ash Wednesday and Mid-week Lenten services will move to the Sanctuary and will not be recorded.

Online Worship—The 8:00 am worship service is live-streamed from the Sanctuary each Sunday, and is also available on the Mount Olive [YouTube channel](#) following the service. The link is shared on www.molive.org along with past [worship](#) services.

Volunteers—Many volunteers are needed for Sunday and mid-week services. Sign up at this [link](#).

Lenten Giving for Channel One

As part of our Lenten giving this year, we will be donating to Channel One. As a Food Bank, Channel One has tremendous buying power. So, in lieu of holding an in-person food drive, Mount Olive is having a Virtual Food Drive.

Beginning March 2 and running through Easter, you can visit this link: <https://www.helpingfeedpeople.org/donate/virtual-food-drive/support/>. Once you have determined which food items or what dollar amount you would like to donate to the virtual food drive, complete the digital donation form at the bottom of the page. In this form, you will be able to select Mount Olive from the dropdown menu. Upon submission of the form, your donation will go towards the virtual food drive and Channel One will take care of the rest! We have set a goal of \$750.00. Please email Carrie Fletcher at carrie@molive.org if you have any questions about the Virtual Food Drive or are interested in volunteering.



Dorothy Day House



Mount Olive's commitment to the Dorothy Day Hospitality House is to provide a meal to the guests staying there on the first Friday evening of each month. We need volunteers for the month of April and beyond. When you sign up to serve at Dorothy Day House, you only need to order a meal or deliver a home cooked meal to the house before 6 pm the Friday you signed up to serve. The house volunteers will serve and clean up after the meal. The guests and the volunteers are required to wear masks and practice social distancing as recommended by the CDC but are not mandated to be vaccinated. When you wish to

volunteer to serve Dorothy Day Hospitality House you may either sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area at church or contact me. Thank you for your service! Jene Bodensteiner, Volunteer Coordinator for Dorothy Day House at Mount Olive. E-mail: jbode6@me.com. Phone: (507)287-0257 or (507)398-2009.

ELCA World Hunger Collection

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, ELCA World Hunger meets basic needs and recognizes the universal human right to food. They work to connect people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income so that long-term, sustainable change can be accomplished. In years' past, we have used our Soup Supper collections to give to this ministry, however, we will not be doing those this year. We still want to support this important ministry, so during our Lenten journey, we will be collecting donations. You can pick up an ELCA World Hunger envelope from the ushers at church and drop it in the offering plate or use the [Donate Now](#) button on the church website. Please designate your donation to ELCA World Hunger. We have set a goal to raise \$750.00.



Family Promise

Just a reminder that Family Promise is still up and running and in need of meals for the homeless families that are their guests. There are many options--cook a meal and deliver, prepare a recipe card and ingredients so that family can cook it themselves, order take out for delivery or drop it off at the house, or donate cash or a gift card for meals. Sign up for a meal using this link: www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4fa4aa22a3f94-prepare.

If you have any questions about Family Promise, please contact Erin Sinnwell at: etracy515@hotmail.com.

February Service Sunday

In February, Mount Olive assembled 52 Baby Care Kits for those in need around the world. Special thanks to Keith and Cathy Hanson and all who helped with sewing, knitting, gathering, bundling and for the many donations that were collected.



Thank You to the Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The wonderful members of the prayer shawl group donated many of their shawls to be included in the Blessing Bags for weary workers. Thank you so much for this contribution! The group will meet March 8, at 10:00 am in the Library. 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.



Prayer shawls blessed on Feb. 13.



Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters meet each week 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.

Neighborhood Schools Please continue to keep the teachers and students of all the Rochester schools as well as the School Board members and administrators in your prayers. They are all going through some difficult times. We will keep you updated with any supply needs as they become available.

Choral Arts Ensemble Concert Highlights Non-Profits



Where We Love

Saturday, March 12, 2022, 7:30 pm

Christ United Methodist Church

Tickets: Click [here](#) or visit choralartsensemble.org.

Adults \$25, Students \$10

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. said that “where we love is home—home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts.” Working to support local non-profits who are focused on homelessness and insufficient low-income housing, CAE will sing of the joys of home and point to every human’s need for it. This concert will highlight Family Promise and The Landing and the need for volunteers and donations for homeless organizations in our community.

Pastor Glenn's Lenten Bible Study on Wednesdays and Sundays

During the season of Lent this year, Pastor Glenn will lead a Bible study entitled "God's Extraordinary Church", from the Book of Ephesians. During each week of this 6-week study we will ask the question, "How are we building the Church?" through the lens of the 6 chapters of Ephesians. The book of Ephesians is thought to have been a "general epistle" written not only to believers in Ephesus, but meant to be distributed to other fledging churches as well. Some of the most beloved passages for Lutherans come from this book: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast." (2:8-9) Studies will be held each Wednesday at 7:30 pm via Zoom and Sundays during the Sunday Forum hour at 9:15 am, March 2 – April 10. Study guides are \$8.00. Sign-up and order a book at the cabinet in the Gathering Area at church.

Women's Small Groups

Mount Olive women's circles have resumed meeting for fellowship and a study from *Gather Magazine*. The March study is entitled *The kingdom of God: Here and now* by New Testament scholar Mark Allan Powell. Learn more at www.gathermagazine.org or this [link](#). **Study Leaders for the March meeting dates will meet with Pastor Glenn on Tuesday, March 1 at 5:30 pm in the conference room near the office.** Contact Nancy Britson in the office if you are interested in joining one of the small groups. The groups meet at a variety of times with both in-person and virtual options — nancy@molive.org.



Men's Discipleship

Men's Discipleship is a Bible study group for men designed to move them closer to God and to help them understand God's will in their lives. They meet weekly, on Zoom, on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am. They are studying 1st Corinthians in their continuing study of Paul's letters. This group is open to anyone in the congregation. Contact Mark Masbruch for more information and the Zoom link-mbrasbruch@hotmail.com.

Save the Date! - Men's Fishing Trip

After last Spring's successful outing to Good Earth Village, another men's fishing trip is planned for April 23, 2022. Please contact Pastor Glenn or Pastor Luke to get your name on the list or to volunteer to help with planning.



Remember to set your clocks ahead on the weekend of March 12/13!

Summer Youth Gathering Cancelled

We were saddened to hear that the National Youth Gathering, which was scheduled for July, has been cancelled. We're aware of how difficult it is to plan these large scale events in today's climate and understand the decision that was made. Stay tuned for new plans for the youth that planned to attend.

First Communion Invitation

Mount Olive has an open communion table. All are welcome! We believe that the best way to learn about the Sacraments is to participate in them. We call this mystagogy: teaching through participation in the mystery of God's presence, in, with, and under the Word, the water, the Bread and the Wine. That being said, we understand there is a tradition of first communion and many are more comfortable having their children receive communion after attending a class. Pastor Luke is currently meeting with families individually who are interested in this. Please reach out to Pastor Luke to schedule a conversation on communion. On Maundy Thursday, April 14, when we celebrate the Last Supper, we will have a special communion for those that are interested in celebrating this as a milestone.

Sunday School is Back!

Last month Sunday School started in-person again. It was great getting together and learning about God. On the first and third Sundays of the month, we will gather in the Sanctuary at 9:15 am (in between the first and second service). We will begin with music and a skit about the Bible story for the day. Then we will transition to the Gathering Area for smaller group crafts and discussion. Please reach out to Pastor Luke if you are available to help lead Sunday School in any way - luke@molive.org.

March 6 – Mary and Martha SS

March 13 – Movie Time

March 20 – Zacchaeus SS

March 27 – NO SS (Spring Break)



Summer Camping Opportunities

Mount Olive has summer camp opportunities coming up this summer. The week of **July 10-15**, we hope to send as many kids to Good Earth Village as we can. Confirmation camp will be an overnight experience for students currently in grades 6-8. Village Kids is a day camp from 9am to 4pm during that week and is available for current kindergarteners – students in grade 5. You may register online at goodearthvillage.org or contact Pastor Luke with questions. There is financial assistance available for those that experience that as a barrier. Additionally, we have set a date for our annual Family Camping Weekend at Chester Woods. The weekend of **August 19-21**, all are welcome to come out to the park, enjoy outdoor activities and fellowship, worship around a campfire, and even camp if you are interested! More details to come in the coming months.



High School Fellowship

High school students are invited to gather for fellowship on Wednesdays, March 9 & 23, 7-8:00 pm following midweek Lenten worship. We will check-in, participate in a devotional, and the remaining time will be set aside for games, crafts and activities. This will be loosely structured depending on how many show up. In order to offer additional high school fellowship activities, we need volunteers! Please contact Pastor Luke if you are interested in leading a breakfast after Sunday worship, an outdoor activity on a weekend, a movie or game night, or anything else you can think of for our high school youth.

Confirmation

Confirmation continues as scheduled in March. Following the Ash Wednesday service on March 2 and the midweek Lenten service on March 16, we will gather until 8:00 pm. Our retreat will be Sunday, March 20, 1-4:00 pm, at Mount Olive. There is no confirmation the week of spring break (March 30).



NEW! Early Bird Check-In

Imagine a cheering support team for anything you decide to do. That’s the Early Bird Check-In. We’ll gather online for 32 minutes at 7:00 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The first five minutes are for a deep breath and a quick pep talk. The next 25, you’re off to do whatever is important to you. (Practice banjo, learn to knit, meditate, make a good breakfast, write poetry, or read. You do you!) After that, we’ll gather again for the 2-minute reward of one of Richard’s jokes (reward?) and to bless one another for the

day ahead. We’re doing a 2-week pilot run March 7-18, M/W/F. Interested? At the end of 2 weeks, you’ll have put in 2 hours 30 minutes toward something you’ve desired to do but never had the gumption or cheering squad for until now. Sign up by emailing lisa@molive.org.

Want the full OB scoop?

Join our dedicated Olive Branch e-mail list for news about online and local events, including our worship schedule and themes, Off The Page Bible immersions, Artist Studio events, links to timely videos, encouraging notes from Pastor Lisa and Richard, invitations for support, and more. You'll always get a good taste of Olive Branch events here in the *Messenger*, but this is a chance to opt in for the whole enchilada.

Our new MailChimp e-newsletter launches next month, so send your email address to Lisa at lisa@molive.org and you'll be all set.



A Good Enough Lent

This Lent, join Olive Branch in the practice of “Good Enough.” Each Monday evening at Olive Branch church, we will share excerpts from Kate Bowler’s book, *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*. You are welcome to [purchase the book](#), but it is not necessary to fully engage in worship. From the preface of *Good Enough*: “In this book, we hope to carve out the space between despair and hope, between believing everything is possible and nothing is possible. We are on the lookout for beauty and meaning and truth in the midst of lives than didn’t turn out like we thought

they should. We can live lives where God breaks in and surprises us. We can learn to believe that we are blessed regardless of how our lives appear on social media or at high school reunions. We can begin to feel less alone, more loved, and less judged when good is . . . enough.”

Psalm Retreat: Processing the Pandemic

Good Earth Village

Friday, April 29, 2022, 7:00pm - Sunday, May 1 noon

\$195/person (private room) or \$180/person (shared room) includes lodging, meals, and a psalm swag bag.

Are you ready to talk about the pandemic? The psalms are ancient songs of joy and grief. Today, they’re a blessing to explore our full human experience, including deep losses and honest gifts. Join Richard BC and Pastor Lisa for an adult retreat to spend time together with the psalms -- singing, listening, games, hiking, a fun movie, and free time in the beautiful hills of Good Earth Village. The design of this event features sharing time to speak whatever you wish and listen carefully to one another. This event is part of Richard’s Doctor of Ministry degree, so he’s extra excited! Space is limited, so if this is for you, contact Richard with any questions and to register at richard@molive.org.



Mount Olive Quilters and Crafters Retreat



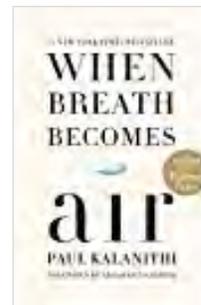
Saturday, March 12, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Mount Olive Fellowship Hall

Join your friends at Mount Olive for a fun and relaxing day of sewing, knitting, scrap booking, or crafts on Saturday, March 12. If you do not have projects of your own, there will be Lutheran World Relief and Mount Olive quilters items to work on. Bring a snack to share; we'll order in lunch at noon or you may bring your own. Ironing boards, irons, cutting tables, and plenty of socially distant work space will be provided. Feel free to invite friends! Contact Nancy Britson in the Mount Olive office with any questions— 507-288-1580 or nancy@molive.org.

Monday Book Group

The **Monday Book Group** gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature. We will meet via Zoom on **March 14** at 6:30 pm. This month's selection is *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. This memoir of a young neurosurgeon is an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing death and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from this brilliant writer who became both. If you would like to be added to the email list and receive the Zoom invitation for March, contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.



Ripe Olives Learn About Alaska's Statehood

The Ripe Olives, Mount Olive's group for retired folks, will gather in-person on **March 11** at 9:30 am. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy a simple continental breakfast. Congregation member Loren Else's father started work at a territorial jail in Anchorage, Alaska, in 1957. During the family's four years living there, Alaska was indeed the last frontier. Loren will talk about the move to statehood that was attained in 1959, including the visit of President Eisenhower, and show some remarkable photos his family took over 60 years ago. RSVP for March to 507-288-1580 or nancy@molive.org or sign up in the Gathering Area.

Lyra Baroque Chamber Concert

The Lyra Baroque Chamber Group returns to Mount Olive for a concert on Thursday **March 17** at 7:00 pm. Entitled *Iberia*, this program will illustrate the rich keyboard music of eighteenth-century Portugal and Spain. Jacques Ogg will be the featured performer at the harpsichord. Visit www.lyrabaroque.org for ticket purchase and more information.



Olive Branch Free Movie Night!

Monday, March 28 at 6:00 pm It's Disney's *Cruella* with Emma Stone and Emma Thompson! (So many Emmas! Emmi?) Rated PG-13, 2021. This is not a "churchy" event-- just fun. All are welcome. Visitors expected! Masks, please. Doors open at 5:30 to get treats from the coffeehouse. Gray Duck Theater & Coffeehouse 619 6th Ave NW, Rochester.

2022 Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday March 2	6:30 pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion 7:30 pm Bible Study: <i>God's Extraordinary Church; Studies in Ephesians</i>
Wednesdays beginning March 9	6:30 pm Mid-week Lenten Service "Turning Toward God's Abundance." 7:30 pm Bible Study: <i>God's Extraordinary Church; Studies in Ephesians</i>
Sunday Mornings Beginning March 6	8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study: <i>God's Extraordinary Church; Studies in Ephesians</i> 10:30 am Worship



New and returning Church Council members were installed at the February 13 worship service. Thanks to all of these capable leaders!

Prayers and Prayer Chain Updates

If you have a prayer request and would like the prayer chain to be in prayer for you or someone you love, or if you would like to join the prayer chain as one who prays, please contact Kim Ignatius at: 507-271-6087 or ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net.

Prayer chain requests are sent along via email to the group as they are received by Kim and are also sent out before weekend services. You may also contact any of the pastors with requests via phone or email—see contact information below.

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:

<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

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



A Reconciling in Christ Community

Mount Olive Staff

The Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson Senior Pastor glenn@molive.org Ext. 206	The Rev. Lisa Janke Associate Pastor of Outreach lisa@molive.org Ext. 205	Deacon Travis Beck Director of Worship, Music, and Arts travis@molive.org Ext. 203
The Rev. Luke Hollander Associate Pastor of Children, Youth, and Family luke@molive.org Ext. 207	Bill Hollander Congregational Administrator bill.h@molive.org Ext. 204	Richard Bruxvoort Colligan Olive Branch Cantor richard@molive.org Ext. 210
Carrie Fletcher—Director of Service and Social Outreach and Nursery Coord. carrie@molive.org Ext. 209	Nancy Britson Director of Congregational Life nancy@molive.org Ext. 202	