

THE

# Messenger

March 2025

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

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## The Season of Lent

Sometimes we think of Lent as a sad and somber season. Just as we remove the 'Alleluia's' from our liturgy, there's a sense that we remove some of the joy from our lives. This understanding comes in part from the Christian tradition of "giving something up" for Lent, like chocolate, television, or shopping. However, there are many other spiritual practices that can help us reflect on our relationship with God.

This Lent at Mount Olive, you are invited to a practice of paying attention to how the act of weekly worship grounds and empowers us to live into our identity as children of God and followers of Christ. Our Sunday services will center around this theme of identity: noticing aspects of God's identity and being curious about how they inform our own sense of self. This theme will be reflected in various worship elements and an evolving art installation in our sanctuary.

Our related theme for midweek worship on Wednesday evenings will be "Discovery" as we listen to stories from the lives of others in our own community.

Further space for reflection is available through Centering Prayer, offered Wednesdays at noon in-person and online. Here's what we know for sure: Lent is a wonderful opportunity for preparation, be it quiet or loud, personal or communal, somber or cheerful. Whatever you do, may this season help prepare you, in heart and mind, for your continued calling in the world.

### **Lenten Offerings Support People in Need**

This Lenten season we will stand in solidarity with people most at risk these days – the hungry, the poor, refugees and asylum seekers. Each mid-week worship offering will be designated for Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service), an agency founded by Lutherans during the dark days of WW II, when people fleeing Nazi oppression in Europe were seeking a safe haven. The mid-week soup suppers will include a free-will offering which will support our ministry partner, ELCA World Hunger, one of the most effective agencies in the world at getting food to hungry people. Thank you for your generosity.

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## March 12<sup>th</sup> is the 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mount Olive

The Augustana Synod began two mission starts in Rochester in 1960, one on the south side, called Good Shepherd, and one on the northwest side, called Mount Olive. The Synod decided to do this after IBM built its new production facility in Rochester and Mayo began to show more growth. Many of the first members of Mount Olive were employees at IBM. Rev. Don Johnson was called to be the mission developer. The congregation first met at the Covenant Church on Elton Hills Drive (now River of Glory). On March 12, 1961, 40 families officially signed the charter and began work to secure land and build the first worship space. Worship at the current site was first held on Christmas Eve 1961. Watch for the Anniversary banner, created by Stephanie Pasch, hanging in the sanctuary during worship on March 16 as we celebrate our heritage and history.



### Plans Are in the Works for Trip to Colombia in July

A number of Mount Olive members, including youth and parents, are now actively planning to visit our companions in ministry in Colombia in late July. We will visit the Lutheran schools we support, our companion congregation in Paz de Ariporo, as well as renew our relationships with the many people of the Lutheran Church Colombia whom we have gotten to know over the last 10 years. Bishop Ataheulpa and the synod staff will be our hosts and guides. If you are interested in going on this trip, there may be a slot or two yet open. See Pastor Glenn soon.

### Sunday Fellowship Update

We are pleased to announce that long-time Mount Olive member, Renee Schaefer has accepted the role of Sunday Fellowship coordinator. Renee will be coordinating the volunteers for coffee fellowship times on Sunday morning and various other events throughout the year. Renee brings a lot of experience coordinating events and volunteers and looks forward to connecting with members in this new way. Please watch for a call or email from her to help with this important aspect of Sunday hospitality at Mount Olive.



### Upcoming Concerts of Interest

The Southeast Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs will be holding a competition for local students on Saturday, **March 1**. That evening at 7:00 pm, the winning students will be performing in a *showcase recital* in the Mount Olive sanctuary. This special event is a wonderful opportunity to support young artists and experience an evening of inspiring music. **Free and open to the public**—don't miss it!

The Rochester Pops Orchestra presents "**A Musical Journey To Ireland**" Sunday, **March 2**, 7:00 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church, 810 3rd Ave SE. With special guests Kimberly Collins, Leslie Meyer, and Stefanie Tranchida, they will be celebrating a selection of both traditional and recent Celtic and Irish music including Irish Rhapsody, How To Train Your Dragon, You Raise Me Up, and The Secret Garden to name a few. Tickets are available online at [www.rochesterpops.com](http://www.rochesterpops.com), by calling the box office at 507-318-0801, and at the door prior to the concert.

Lyra Baroque Orchestra returns to Mount Olive as Artistic Director candidate, Pedro Gandía Martín leads "**200 Years of (Early Music) Pleasure**" on Friday, **March 14** at 7:30 pm in the Mount Olive Sanctuary. This concert featuring masterworks by Corelli, Biber, Handel, Haydn, and Leclair. Tickets are available at the door or at [www.lyrabaroque.org](http://www.lyrabaroque.org).



## Two Ash Wednesday Worship Options

Two worship times will be offered on Ash Wednesday, March 5, noon and 6:30 pm. The noon service is offered as a helpful option 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.

## Wednesday Noon Prayer + Brown Bag Lunch

Starting Wednesday, March 12th, 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.

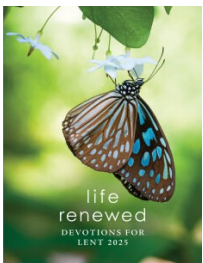


## Midweek Lenten Worship Storytelling

Our Wednesday evening worship services, March 12, 19, and April 2 and 9 at 6:30 pm, will be centered in storytelling around the theme of **Discovery**. 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>.

## Join the Easter Vigil Creative Team

It's become a tradition! On Holy Saturday, we put an artistic, creative spin on the ancient tradition of telling Biblical stories. Want to be part of it this year? Then we want you! We'll need people of all ages with all kinds of ideas about art, music, drama, storytelling and more. If you're interested, join Pastor Lisa and Richard for pizza and planning on Sunday, **March 16** at 11:45 am in the Gathering Area.



## Life Renewed – Devotions for Lent

During the Lenten season, you are encouraged to supplement your devotional practice with a collection of reflections on God's ability to bring new life to us in the most unlikely situations. The collection is entitled *Life Renewed*. Pick up your copy (either regular size or large print) at the Welcome Desk at church.

## Healing Station March 30

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of March we will once again offer a healing station at the rail for anyone wishing a prayer for healing. Following receiving Holy Communion at either service, form a queue at the west wall of the sanctuary and come forward as space is available. One of the pastors will be present for the prayers.

## Provide Easter Flowers

Although we do not have flowers in the sanctuary during Lent, there will be an explosion of blooms to celebrate Easter! Watch for the order envelopes coming soon in the entry at church. Plants or flowers can be taken home following the 10:30 am Easter Sunday service.



## Weekend Volunteers Needed

We're in need of worship and fellowship volunteers more than ever during the busy season of Lent. To help out as ushers, greeters, communion assistants, assisting ministers, and welcome desk attendants, sign up at the following link for a day and time that works for you: <https://tinyurl.com/48pw6a3j>  
Contact Nancy Britson - [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org).

Please sign up to make coffee, serve, provide cookies, or wash coffee cups on the sign-up sheet on the Gathering Area cabinet at church or at <https://tinyurl.com/fsd3f>.  
Contact Renee Schaefer - [renee@molive.org](mailto:renee@molive.org).



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Service

On February 9, Baby Care Kits were bundled together with the help of volunteers including adults and Sunday School students. In all, 101 kits were bundled! They will be distributed by LWR to places around the world where people are struggling due to famine, drought, natural disasters and war. This year marks the 30th year Mount Olive has participated in this project and we are so grateful for the generosity of Mount Olive members and friends. Each kit contains 18 different items including jackets, sleepers, diapers and receiving blankets, many of which were sewn by Mount Olive members. That's a lot of volunteer hours! Thank you to everyone who donated, cut, stitched, organized, bundled and had any part to do with this important work. You are a blessing.



## Channel One Promotes Minnesota FoodShare Campaign

**1 in 9 people in Minnesota have limited or uncertain access to adequate food.**

**You can make a difference during the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign!**

Our community is facing a hunger crisis. Rising food costs and inflation are drastically affecting families, friends, co-workers, and neighbors who have never needed to access charity food before. These are people who may have gotten by paycheck to paycheck and are now struggling to get the food they need to feed their families. More people than ever are turning to food shelves for support, and the truth is, food banks are strained to keep up with the increased need. As the largest grassroots fundraiser in the state, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together people, community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help nearly 300 food shelves statewide, including the [Channel One Food Shelf](#).



### Here are the facts:

- Channel One saw a nearly 41% increase in Food Shelf visits in 2024 compared to 2023.
- In 2023, a total of 7.5 million visits were recorded at Minnesota food shelves, compared to 5.5 million in 2022 and 3.5 million in 2021, according to [Hunger Solutions](#).
- One in seven people, including one in five children, in the U.S. live in food insecure households, according to a [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)'s Economic Research Service 2023 report](#). This is an increase of 36% and 47% respectively from just two years ago, making it the highest rate of food insecurity since 2014.

As everyone tries to adapt to these challenging economic times, it is harder for some of our neighbors to put dinner on the table. Your caring partnership and compassion means they won't go without the food they need. Right now, your help will be magnified as Minnesotans come together for the **annual Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign**. Let's make a difference for our food-insecure neighbors this spring!

*(Article taken from the Channel One website)*

You can donate through Mount Olive at this link: [Ministry Partners | Mount Olive Lutheran Church](#)

## National Quilting Day

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, is National Quilting Day and it is a great day to celebrate all Mount Olive quilters and the gifts they share with others around the world. Members of Mount Olive have been making quilts since Elaine Monson and Sue Overland started the group in the 1980's. Last year the Quilters donated 153 large quilts and 149 small quilts. They have already started this year with 12 large quilts given to Family Promise. If you are a part of the Mount Olive quilters, thank you for putting your faith into action by blanketing others with your love!

### Quilter's Weekly Gatherings

- 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. 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.



## Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will be meeting on Tuesday, **March 11**, at 10:00 am in the Library meeting room. 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.

## Family Promise

Family Promise is a ministry partner serving homeless families in Rochester. If you are interested in supporting the new shelter, Promise House, you can visit the Amazon Wish Lists below or contribute funds using the Mount Olive website [ministry partners link](#).

- [Make Promise House Home](#)
- [Office Needs](#)
- [Household Needs](#) Visit [www.fprochestermn.org](http://www.fprochestermn.org) for more information.



## Dorothy Day Hospitality House Meals

On the 1st Friday of each month, Mount Olive members provide a meal at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House, a temporary shelter for the homeless in Rochester. Meals are prepared on-site or frozen or commercially prepared meals may be used. Volunteers share the meal with the guests and afterwards, wash the dishes, run the sanitizer, and clean up the kitchen. The guests at Dorothy Day are always so appreciative of all the meals and the sense of community that you provide! The sign-up sheet for volunteering to serve at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House is in the Gathering Area. If you have questions regarding this volunteer opportunity please contact Jene Bodensteiner, Volunteer Coordinator for Mount Olive: [jbode6@me.com](mailto:jbode6@me.com) or phone: (507)287-0257.



## Ongoing Collections

Did you know that the SSOM team at Mount Olive has ongoing collections of many items that can be put to use by others? Items include travel-sized care products, eye glasses, pop can tabs, white bed sheets, and fabric. Collection bins are in the Gathering Area cabinet.

## March Forums and Lenten Bible Study

Join us in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday at 9:15 am for Sunday Forum.

**March 2 - ISIAAH Experience led by Rob Nelson and Tim Sersen** - ISIAAH is a group of people of faith and shared values that organizes for racial, economic, and climate justice in Minnesota. Local leaders in congregations want to build a beloved community where everyone can afford to live and have a voice. ISIAAH is a vehicle of agency and power across faith, race, identity, geography and income. The hope for this forum is to learn through deep listening about ideas you may have and to share them in a safe environment, to see where we could work together to make Rochester a better place to live. If you have questions contact Rob Nelson -218-371-6853 or [pastorrob.n@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrob.n@gmail.com) or Tim Sersen - 605-290-6297 or [tim.sersen1@gmail.com](mailto:tim.sersen1@gmail.com).

**March 9 and 16 - The Letter to the Galatians** - We will dive into one the great epistles of St. Paul this Lent. In 4 short weeks we will discover the riches of some of the fundamental teachings of Lutheranism, embedded in this short letter. The **Lenten Bible Study\*** begins with session 1 on March 5th and 9th.  
\*See the full schedule for the study on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Books are available for \$6.

**March 23** - Deacon Travis Beck leads a forum on "**The Missionary Journeys of St. Paul**"

**March 30** - Pastor Lisa Janke leads a forum "**The Apostle Paul's First Churches**", where she will tell more about her recent travels to Greece and Turkey and witnessing the very sites of St. Paul's ministry.

## Mount Olive Women's News

Please join the women of Mount Olive, along with other Women of the ELCA from our area, for the **Zumbro River Conference Spring Event** at Zion Lutheran Church in Stewartville on Saturday, **April 5**, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm. Pastor Emily Carson will be the featured speaker.

To register, please sign up on the following link or contact Erin Sinnwell - 507-990-6079.

<https://tinyurl.com/yvstyxp9> The deadline to register is 12 pm on March 15th. The fee for this event is \$15, which includes lunch, and can be paid at the event during registration the morning of April 5th--cash or check ONLY. Checks written should be made payable to SE MN Synod Women of the ELCA.



## Crafters - Save the Date!

If you are a crafter or an artist, save the date of **May 4th** for Women's Ministry Sunday when there will be a *Homemade Market* following both services! Start your crafting now! In past years we've had jewelry, art, plants, baked goods, quilted items, wood working, greeting cards and more. New items someone else made can also be donated. All proceeds from the sales of these items will support Mount Olive's women's ministry and the many areas of benevolence they in turn support. Watch for more information and sign up sheets to donate items or volunteer to help to come. If you have questions, contact Jill Lundberg at [lundberg\\_jill@yahoo.com](mailto:lundberg_jill@yahoo.com).

## Other Important Dates:

**March 2** - "Blind Date with a Book" gathering in the Library meeting room, 1:30 pm

**March 3** -The Women's Ministry Team meets at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room. Contact Women's Ministry Team Facilitator, Erin Sinnwell, for more information - 507-990-6079

**March 4** - Monthly study leader preparation with Pastor Glenn in the Conference Room at 5:30 pm.

**March 5** - Women help with the first Lenten Soup Supper - Sign up in the Gathering Area or online.

**April 5** - Zumbro River Conference event at Zion in Stewartville - see info. above.

**May 4** - Women's Ministry Sunday and Homemade Market



## Kid's Book Exchange! (March through May)

Starting in March, we will have a Kid's Book Exchange Table set-up every Sunday morning in the Gathering Area in-between worship services.

This is an idea that came from a few of our Sunday School kids! We will have clear directions to follow at the Book Exchange Station. To participate, simply bring in 1-2 books you would like to contribute to the exchange, we will document who the books belong to and who has checked them out week-by-week.

This is NOT a Book Donation! All books will be returned to their owners before the last Sunday School in May. By having books that owners want returned back to them, we should get some really cool books cycling through and more kids participating! We will look for you at the "Exchange Table" this Spring!

## Sunday School

*Reminder that Sunday School occurs in between services from 9:15 to 10:15 am starting in the Sanctuary.*

*Kids will begin in the Sanctuary w/ Music before going into their other activities.*

### March Dates

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: **March 2** (Classroom Sunday School)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: **March 9** Large Group Sunday School (**Service Sunday**) and Kid's Choirs Sing! (10:30am)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: **March 16** Classroom Sunday School

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: **March 23** Classroom Sunday School & **Breakfast Club! (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: **March 30** NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK

## Confirmation (Lent Schedule)

Confirmation will participate in our weekly Soup Suppers (5:15pm) and Lenten Worship (6:30pm)

Kids & parents BOTH, plan on gathering after worship to do our closing prayer circle & announcements before going home. (Should take about 10 minutes)

Wed. **March 5** – **Ash Wednesday** – Supper & Worship w/ Parent Meeting at 7:30 pm (Fellowship Hall)

Wed. **March 12** – Lent Supper & Worship w/ Closing Circle (Parents Included)

Wed. **March 19** – **Confirmation Families SERVE SOUP & CLEAN UP!** (Parents Included)

**Sunday, March 23** – **Fun Fellowship Event!** – *Board Game Night!* 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Wed. **March 26** – Lent Supper & Worship w/ Closing Circle (Parents Included)

Wed. **April 2** – Lent Supper & Worship - SPRING BREAK – (Come if you want!)

Wed. **April 9** – Lent Supper & Worship w/ Closing Circle (Parents Included)

## VBS Day Camp – June 16-19

Registration is now OPEN for VBS Day Camp at Mount Olive with Good Earth

Village! (Watch for info. to come about camp at Good Earth Village or visit [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org).)

Good Earth Village Day Camp lasts from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. \*We will offer "Early Check-In" again with Evan & Youth Helpers starting at 8:00 am.

VBS Day Camp is for kids in *Kindergarten* - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade for the current academic year. Current 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade can participate as Youth Helpers. (Which we need!) Registration forms can be found in the Gathering Area. The rate is \$78 per child. **Forms can be turned-in the Office Drop-Box OR handed directly to Evan Fitzsimmons!** Payments can be made at any time. (We hope to have all payments in before the Final Sunday School on May 18). Contact Evan with questions - [evan@molive.org](mailto:evan@molive.org).



VBS 2024 Crew



## Lent can be a rich time of reflection—

a quieter season compared to, say, Christmas and Easter. This month, Olive Branch invites you to the gift of quietness. Artist Studio has us into a special worship project, Off The Page brings us into conversation with a famous parable you've never been comfortable with, and FSU says you pray more than you think. Plus, a St. Patrick's dinner meet-up for anyone interested. Together, let's learn and grow from the Headwaters from whom all blessings flow.



### Olive Branch Worship

**Sunday, March 2, 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

It's a new episode of what we call "Worship Lab." Lisa and Richard will invite us to workshop a text for Easter Vigil. Expect a lot of laughter, silliness, Holy Spirit imagination, as well as music and generous communion. All are welcome!



### Artist Studio

**Monday, March 3,  
6:00-7:30 pm, Library  
Meeting Room**

It's a secret, special project! Come and make stuff that will be part of our worship life.

### Summer Family Camp

Pastor Lisa and her family will be helping to host and lead a Intergen Family Camp at Good Earth Village (GEV) and they would love for you to join them. The camping weekend will be **July 25-27**. Intergen Family Camp is designed to give your family time to play, worship, and simply be together. GEV staff will have a weekend of fun scheduled for you including intergenerational activities, crafts, games, songs, Bible studies and plenty of hiking and outdoor activities. We hope that you will leave your time at Good Earth Village relaxed, refreshed, and renewed, both individually and as a family! Learn more and register at:

<https://goodearthvillage.org/intergenfamilycamp>

### Off The Page

**Monday, March 10, 6:00-7:30 pm, Olive Pit**

Drama! Tension! Resolution! This month, in the great tradition of *midrash*, we'll take in the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Parent and Child. Come join us for open-hearted discussion about what they might mean for us. All adults welcome. No experience necessary.



### Dinner Meet-Up

**Monday March 17, 5:00-6:30 pm at The Purple Goat**

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Want some company for dinner? All are welcome to this family-friendly gathering. Order what you want for yourself or just come and hang out. Arrive at 5pm or anytime after.

### Faith Seeking Understanding

**Monday, March 24, 6:00-7:30 pm, Olive Pit**

You pray more than you think. This ancient tradition is important in both Testaments, and there's a version of it in every great world religion: What is prayer? How have your ideas about it changed over your lifetime? Come explore with us.



### Olive Branch March Goodness:

- 3/2 OB worship at 4 pm
- 3/3 Artist Studio at 6 pm
- 3/10 Off The Page at 6 pm
- 3/17 Purple Goat Meet-up at 5 pm
- 3/24 FSU.2 at 6 pm



## Women's Monthly Coffee Meet Up

Mount Olive women are invited to meet at 9:00 am on Friday, **March 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](mailto:kchanson89@gmail.com).

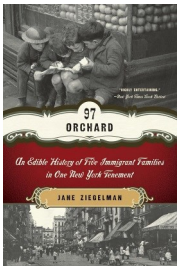
## Brews Brothers Meets At Forager

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 Forager Brewery and Café, 1005 6th St NW, Rochester, on Thursday, **March 13**, 4:30 to 6:00 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](mailto:kjhanson17@gmail.com) with questions.



## Ripe Olives Presentation on Travel to Africa

Ripe Olives is Mount Olive's group for retired and semi-retired folks to gather for a meal, fellowship, learning and fun. The group meets on Friday, **March 14** at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Mount Olive members, Terry and Carrie Krieger, will have just returned from a trip to Eswatini (Swaziland), Africa, where Terry served as a Peace Corps Volunteer over 35 years ago. Terry will share stories, photos, and his insights about the changes that have taken place since his time there from 1988 to 1990. Please join us! Breakfast is provided with a free-will offering. Please sign up in the Gathering Area or RSVP to Nancy - [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org) or 507-288-1580.



## Monday Book Group

The **Monday Book Group** meets again on **March 10** at 6:30 pm in the church Library. This month's selection is *97 Orchard* by Jane Ziegelman. The book is a richly detailed investigation of the lives and culinary habits of five families of various ethnicities living at the turn of the twentieth century in one tenement on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. If you have questions or would like to get on the email list, contact Jodi Schoer at [mjschoer@charter.net](mailto:mjschoer@charter.net)

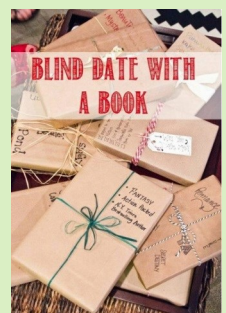
## Soup Suppers in Lent

Plans are well underway for the Lenten Soup Suppers that will be served each Wednesday during Lent in the Fellowship Hall, 5:15 - 6:15 pm. This year, all of the soup will be prepared **on-site** in the Mount Olive kitchen. David Steenhoek will serve as the kitchen manager and main cook. Each week, we will need assistant cooks and the usual volunteers to set up, serve and clean up. Mount Olive Women, Youth, Men, Scouts, and the Church Council have each taken a week to volunteer together. It is a fun way to get to know your fellow Mount Olive members! To sign up, please use this Sign Up Genius link, <https://tinyurl.com/44wuzbzt> or see the paper sign up sheet on the Gathering Area Cabinet at church. Contact Nancy Britson with any sign up related questions – [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org) or David with any other questions – [dgsteenhoek@gmail.com](mailto:dgsteenhoek@gmail.com).



## Blind Date Book Fellowship

Hopefully you are enjoying your blind date book. On Sunday, **March 2nd** we will gather at church at 1:30pm to talk about how the blind date went. Was it mysterious, romantic, boring, funny, awkward, and entertaining or were you disappointed? Participants should bring their Blind Date books with them to this event or if you are unable to attend return your book to the church office before March 2nd so we can get them back to the owners. Contact Jene Bodensteiner at 507-398-2009 or [jbode6@me.com](mailto:jbode6@me.com), with questions



# Ken Medema Weekend Recap

Last weekend was the first of our four pillar events this year, and it was spectacular! On Saturday, sixty of us gathered for the storytelling day-retreat with Ken Medema. Besides a whole lot of laughter and songs about Bible characters, Ken invited us to witness whatever stories we wanted to share about change and mentors. As we listened to one another's experiences, Ken sang back an original impromptu song for each one to help us see it in a new light. We heard stories about a motorcycle trip through Europe, a ride in a Corvette, a baby crib for beloved children, a mentoring colleague, and many more. We learned about each other around tables. For those who shared, and for those who recalled important stories unshared, all our stories are held lovingly in God's Big Covenant Story.

Special thanks to Mount Olive lay leaders who stepped up to make it a success. Nancy Walker and Sarah Jerde led the way with excellent food for breakfast and lunch. All the kitchen assistants, clean-up crew, greeters, and transportation helpers all made it a wonderful day.



Ken's evening concert saw our sanctuary full of our church family as well as guests-- some of whom drove two and a half hours! Ken's lyrical voice and his talents on the grand piano and synthesizer gave us a powerful night of music and connection.

On Sunday, Ken contributed unforgettable music to the services and also led our forum to speak to ways the church has been important to us. You can watch the [worship video](#) from Sunday, February 23rd to experience Ken's music.

Our next pillar event will be with singer/songwriter Namoli Brennet on May 24th.

## *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 and sexual orientations*

*All races and ethnicities*

*All ages and abilities*

*All economic statuses and education levels*

*All faith journeys and personal histories*

*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](http://molive.org)



A Reconciling in  
Christ Community

### Mount Olive Staff

**The Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson**  
Teaching Pastor

[glenn@molive.org](mailto:glenn@molive.org) Ext. 206

**The Rev. Lisa Janke**  
Directing Pastor

[lisa@molive.org](mailto:lisa@molive.org) Ext. 205

**Deacon Travis Beck**  
Director of Worship, Music, and Arts

[travis@molive.org](mailto:travis@molive.org) Ext. 203

**Evan Fitzsimmons**  
Director of Children, Youth, & Family

[evan@molive.org](mailto:evan@molive.org) Ext. 207

**Dr. Richard Bruxvoort Colligan**  
Director of Spiritual Formation

[richard@molive.org](mailto:richard@molive.org) Ext. 210

**Nancy Britson**  
Director of Congregational Life

[nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org) Ext. 202

**Terry Krieger**  
Office Administrator

[terry@molive.org](mailto:terry@molive.org) Ext. 204

**Carrie Fletcher**—Director of Service and  
Social Outreach and Nursery Coord.

[carrie@molive.org](mailto:carrie@molive.org) Ext. 209

**Renee Schaefer**  
Sunday Fellowship Coordinator

[renee@molive.org](mailto:renee@molive.org)