

THE

Messenger

May 2025

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

Special event: Namoli Brennet in concert! Saturday, May 24, 7:30pm at Pop's Art Theater



Announcing our 2nd pillar event of the year with our Calvin Vital Worship Grant!

Singer/songwriter Namoli Brennet is an award-winning trans artist who's been touring the U.S.A. and Europe for over a decade, and has published 13 albums of brilliant original music.

Namoli (NAHM-ah-lee) sings about personal transformation, politics, and everything in between. We are delighted to host her show which will be open to the public at Pop's Art Theater, 619 6th Ave NW, Rochester. Her style is neo-folk, centered in acoustic guitar, her lyrical voice, and a few

bells and whistles that build a unique concert soundscape.

Make your reservations now. Tickets are FREE for Mount Olive folks, whether you're an official member or not. All you need to do is register and get your free ticket in the Gathering Area the next three Sundays, or by emailing Richard BC at richard@molive.org. Tickets for the general public cost \$20 and are available on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/namoli-brennet-in-concert-tickets-1336968742499?aff=oddtcreator>. Namoli's music is streaming everywhere. Richard recommends listening to her song, "Bloom" as an introduction.



Youth Sunday & Final Sunday School Breakfast on Lawn!

Sunday May 18th is Youth Sunday! Both 8:00 & 10:30am services will be led by our youth in various roles, including a youth-led children's message, song leading, prayers and liturgy, and a message expressed through a skit. Our theme this year is simply "LOVE" – "To love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34). As our youth plan this special Sunday, we will be focused on this theme asking ourselves: How does God love us? How are we called to express this same love? What does *this kind of love* do for us?" All are welcome to attend for this special Sunday!



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Colombia Trip Cancelled For Now

We had planned to take a trip to visit our companions in ministry in Bogota, Colombia this summer, visiting the Lutheran schools we support, our companion congregation, and our many friends there. Unfortunately, because of the uncertainty in the world due in large part to the current U.S. administration's unstable foreign policy, the families that hoped to go have decided they are not comfortable traveling abroad at this time. We hope to go at a future date.



Ministry Spotlight – Mission Partners

You may not realize it, but every month Mount Olive takes a significant portion of its income and uses it to support other ministries that do the work of Christ outside of Mount Olive. We call it our 'concentric circles of giving.' With your offerings we support:

Our **in-house ministry** at Mount Olive, our **community partners** like Family Promise and Next Chapter Reentry Project, our **regional partners** like the Good Earth Village and Lutheran Campus Ministry at Winona State, our **national partners** like Habitat for Humanity and Reconciling Works, and finally, our **global partners** like the Lutheran Church of Colombia and the Hull High School in Kijota, Tanzania.

We also are one of the most generous congregations in support of the SE MN Synod of the ELCA, our benevolence dollars to the synod supporting many, many ministries. The table below lists the budgeted amounts for our 2025 ministry partners.

SE Minnesota Synod - \$46,350	Tanzania Hull School - \$2000	LSS/Link - \$500
Lutheran Campus Ministry - \$3000	Family Promise - \$3000	Channel One - \$500
Colombia Education Ministry - \$4000	Habitat for Humanity - \$500	ISAIAH - \$500
Next Chapter Ministries - \$2000	Reconciling Works - \$500	
Colombia Emmaus Road Found. - \$1000	Good Earth Village - \$750	

In addition to our budgeted partners, your generous donations support other ministries that are not part of our annual budget. These include Global Refuge, World Hunger, ELCA Good Gifts / Global Barnyard, Mitton Tree, ELCA Disaster Relief, and others.

If you see a ministry partner you would specifically like to support, gifts through Mount Olive are always welcome. Simply designate the ministry partner you would like us to forward your gift to. Thank you so much for your support. A final note: The **Discretionary Fund** for the needy is always in need of gifts, since we receive multiple requests each week for gas and grocery cards from our neighbors in need.

New Member Sunday is May 11

Have you been considering membership at Mount Olive? Have you been attending but aren't sure if membership is right for you? Now is the time to talk with one of the pastors and/or Nancy Britson our Director of Congregational Life. We will be welcoming new members on Sunday, May 11 at the 10:30 am service and we would love to have you as part of the group.

Spring Clean-up at Mount Olive

Spring is finally here!! We'll have a Spring Clean-Up of the church grounds on Saturday, **May 3** beginning at 8:30 am. (rain date May 10) Your help is needed! Primary tasks will be raking, weeding, cleaning, and mulching the flower gardens and plantings around the building. Bring your gloves, rakes, wheelbarrows, sprayers, etc. Bags and mulch will be provided. Of course anyone is welcome to work on these tasks any other days, but this will be our target day. Contact Paul Schaefer with any questions—paul1953schaefer@gmail.com or call the office [507-288-1580](tel:507-288-1580).





Summer Schedule Starts May 25

It's hard to believe, but Memorial Day Weekend is just around the corner, and that means that our Summer Schedule will soon begin. Beginning that weekend, May 25, Sunday worship time will change to one service at **9:30 am** with no education hour. The first Sunday of each month, June through August, there will also be an outdoor worship

service at 4:00 pm on the front lawn. Watch for more to come on the special outdoor services.

A reminder that the early 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. Happy Summer!

Nursery Help Needed

The church nursery is need of volunteers to help keep our littles safe while their caregivers are attending worship. Training is provided, snuggles and hugs as well. Please contact Carrie Fletcher, Nursery Coordinator at carrie@molive.org if you have any questions or are interested in learning more.

Prayer and Spiritual Care

Are you in need of prayer for yourself or a loved one or have other joys or sorrows to share? Mount Olive has a Prayer Chain with members who will pray for you. If you have a prayer request to share or if you would like to join the prayer chain as one who prays, please contact Kim Ignatius, coordinator at: 507-271-6087 or ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net. If you have a prayer request that you would like printed in the bulletin or have news such as hospitalization, birth of a baby, etc., or would like to request a pastoral visit, please contact one of the pastors or Nancy Britson in the church office using the contact information on the back of the newsletter. Voicemail messages are forwarded automatically to our email addresses.

Worship Volunteers Needed

Looking for a fun way to meet new people and engage in worship in a new way? How about serving as a worship volunteer? We're always in need of ushers, greeters, communion assistants, assisting ministers and welcome desk attendants. Sign up at this link for a day and time that works for you: tinyurl.com/jtzbwjk. Details and directions are sent each week from Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life and training is available for new helpers. You may also call Nancy with your availability (nancy@molive.org) or see the Sign Up Sheet at the Welcome Desk following worship services.



A special thank you to all of the musicians, altar guild members, drama and Easter Vigil participants, artists, and worship and fellowship volunteers for helping to make Holy Week services meaningful and welcoming!

You are appreciated!



Service Sunday

In April, the 6th-12th grade Sunday School class helped to fill Easter eggs for our annual egg hunt and they helped to hide the eggs for the hunt. These kids are AWESOME! Thank you for helping to make the egg hunt a great success!



Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will be meeting on Tuesday, **May 13**, 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.



Dorothy Day Hospitality House Meals

The Dorothy Day Hospitality House is a temporary shelter for the homeless in Rochester. It is located at 703 First Street SW. Volunteers are needed to prepare a home-cooked meal on site or provide a frozen or commercially prepared meal on the 1st Friday of each month. You are asked to arrive at the house any time after 4:00 pm on the day you serve. Dinner is served each evening at 6:00 pm. You are encouraged to sit and share the meal with the guests. Following the meal, it is your responsibility to wash the dishes, run the sanitizer, and clean up the kitchen. The house volunteers are available to answer your questions and assist you if needed. 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. We need volunteers for Spring and Summer. Please consider signing up for this vital ministry. Training will be provided if needed. If you have further questions regarding please contact Jene Bodensteiner, Volunteer Coordinator for Mount Olive: jbode6@me.com or phone: **(507)287-0257**.

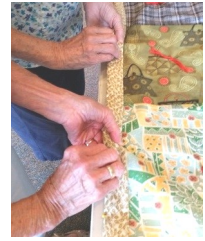
Garden Update

The time has come to get our plans made for the gardens. If you have a green thumb, or not, please consider helping to plant the Mount Olive gardens. We will be looking at getting the gardens prepped and planted by mid-May. Please contact Carrie Fletcher carrie@molive.org if you are interested. All produce harvested is donated to those in need.



Quilt Blessing May 4

The Mount Olive Quilters have been busy over the winter and their closet is bursting with quilts. On May 4, the quilts will be on display in the sanctuary and will be blessed by the children and the congregation as a part of the service. The quilters will also receive a blessing for the wonderful work they do.



The quilters meet each Thursday morning 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 and polyester batting, measuring 72" x 90". Donations may be left in the Gathering Area cabinet, where there are also quilt kits to be sewn.

Lenten and Easter Offerings Update

Our Soup Supper offerings (after expenses) were designated to ELCA World Hunger. Even though we missed a Wednesday evening due to the weather, \$1147.94 was collected for this important ministry partner.

Thanks to your generous giving at midweek Lenten services, \$2,642.25 was collected to help the efforts of our ministry partner, Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration Reform and Refugee Services).

The Easter Sunday offerings supported Next Chapter Reentry Project, and our regional ministry partner, Lutheran Campus Ministries at Winona State University (WSU). \$2708 was collected for these partners.

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 for more information.

Advocacy for Head Start Funding

Head Start, the program providing childcare for 60+ students at Mount Olive, is more than a preschool. It provides whole-child essential support—from early learning and health screenings to nutritious meals and family services—helping to level the playing field for children who might otherwise fall behind before they enter a kindergarten classroom. The program is facing being cut from the budget by the current U.S. administration. To send the message to protect Head Start to your member of Congress, visit <https://nhsa.org/take-action/>. Take two minutes to fill out the short pre-filled form to send an email and learn other ways to advocate for Head Start.

Exercise Classes at Mount Olive

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

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.



Sunday Forums in May Wrap-up with YOU

What a rich time we have had this year with our Sunday Forums. Speakers from a wide range of disciplines and concerns have enriched our understanding of the intersection of faith and life. In May we will conclude our year with the following:

- **May 4** Lutheran Social Services/LINK program for youth experiencing homelessness.
- **May 11** SMILD, Southern MN Immigrant Legal Defense will tell us about their important work.
- **May 18** WRAP-UP. Come and tell us what you appreciated this year, what we should do again, what we should NEVER do again, what new voices we should hear from next year.

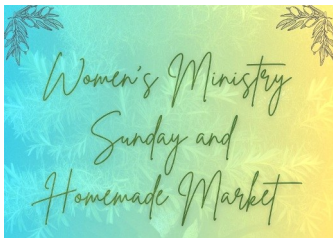
Graduate Recognition Sunday

Mount Olive's Graduating Seniors will be recognized at the **9:30 am** service on Sunday, June 1. Following the service, come to the Fellowship Hall for a reception in their honor. If you have a student graduating from a secondary school or other post-graduate program and would like to share their information, send it to Nancy in the church office.

Men's Retreat at Good Earth Village

Lutheran Men in Mission is sponsoring a men's retreat at Good Earth Village, entitled *One Year to Live*. Promised offerings include life examination and decision making, a spiritual look forward, as well as adventures galore. The retreat goes from 5:30 pm Friday, May 16 to 3:00 pm Sunday, May 18. Registration, including lodging and meals is \$175. Register by May 12 at www.goodearthvillage.org.

Women's Ministry Sunday and Homemade Market



May 4th is Women's Ministry Sunday! Mount Olive's Women's Ministry supports a variety of opportunities for fellowship, service, and education. An offering will be taken to support life-changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA both locally and beyond. Please consider supporting these ministries in honor or memory of strong faithful women in your life by using the envelope provided on this Sunday. The women of Mount Olive will be assisting with worship, coffee fellowship and providing a Homemade Market on this Sunday.

The Homemade Market always has a variety of beautiful items made by Mount Olive women and others. See photo of a past year's sale of the right. If you are interested in providing items to sell such as jewelry, art, plants, baked goods, quilted items, wood working, and more, sign up in the Gathering Area and drop off your items in the church office by 11:00 am on May 3. All proceeds from the sale will go to support programming for Mount Olive women and the many areas where they provide benevolence locally and globally. To help with set-up, (May 3 at 11:00 am) sales Sunday morning, or if you have any questions, please contact Jill Lundberg at lundberg_jill@yahoo.com or 507-254-3534.



Other Important Dates:

May 4 - Women's Ministry Sunday and Homemade Market

May 6 - Monthly study leader preparation with Pastor Glenn in the Conference Room at 5:30 pm.

May 6 - The Women's Ministry Team meets at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room.

Kid's Book Exchange! (Ending in May)

Kid's Book Exchange is active for a few more weeks, but please start returning books as you finish reading them! Our Cart continues to be wheeled out in the Gathering Area at the beginning & end of Sunday School. All books will be returned at the Last Sunday School, May 18.



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.

1st Sunday: **May 4** Classroom Sunday School (Last Classroom Sunday School of the Year!)

2nd Sunday: **May 11** Mother's Day (Large Group – Card Making in the Gathering Area)

3rd Sunday: **May 18 Youth Sunday! & Final Sunday School Breakfast on Lawn.**

Music practice will start at 9:15 in the Sanctuary, then we'll move out to the front lawn for breakfast and fun.

4th Sunday: **May 25 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** (Memorial Day Weekend)

Confirmation

Confirmation meets at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

May Schedule

Wed. May 7 – Confirmation (Planning for Youth Sunday)

Wed. May 14 – Confirmation (Dress Rehearsal for Youth Sunday)

Sun. May 18 – Youth Sunday! (Youth Lead BOTH Worship Services - 8:00 & 10:30 am)

Wed. May 21 – Confirmation Celebration! (Last one of Year)

VBS Day Camp – June 16—19

Registration is still OPEN for Mount Olive VBS Day Camp with Good Earth Village!

***We need all Registration forms filled and payments made during the month of May! Forms can be turned in to the Office Drop-Box OR handed directly to Evan Fitzsimmons!**

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 - 5th Grade* for the current academic year. Current 6th Grade - 12th Grade can participate as Youth Helpers to help lead Bible discovery time, games, crafts, and snack preparation.

Registration and Health Forms can be found in the Gathering Area. The rate is \$78 per student.

(Financial Support can be given if needed!)

Please email evan@molive.org if you need help or have any further questions.



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. They 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>

Olive Branch Worship

Sunday, May 4, 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

This service is for anyone interested in a contemplative service with music and generous communion for all ages. All are welcome!

Artist Studio PRIDE Prep Party

Monday, May 5 - 7:30pm. Mount Olive Library

At this special Artist Studio, we'll be giving you orientation to Rochester PRIDE, making posters, dreaming up button designs, and inventing games to engage people in conversation. No experience necessary. All ages welcome!

Rochester PRIDE 2025

Saturday, May 17, Noon - 5pm Soldiers Field Park

Olive Branch will again have a presence at PRIDE, and you are invited! As a *Reconciling In Christ* congregation, this is a Mount Olive thing, and one of our favorite events of the year.

If you haven't experienced PRIDE before, this might be your time to attend and show your support. Since its founding in 2019, the objective of Rochester PRIDE has been to be an inclusive, family-friendly event to celebrate Rochester's LGBTQIA+ community. Expect music in the air, lots of art vendors, food trucks, and a festival atmosphere of fun and freedom.

We'd love your help that day, with setting up, tearing down, and being present at our table for a shift. If you're interested, please sign up at the following Sign-Up Genius link and pick a time to be part of the team:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948A5A92DAAF4C43-56360509-rochester>

Rochester Pride community organizers are also in need of volunteers for a variety of tasks on Saturday, May 17. They have multiple shifts available, which means you could volunteer with them and spend time at the Olive Branch/Mount

Olive table! Here is the link to sign up to help with the event as a whole: <https://app.clearvent.com/register?form=1049736a-cecd-4548-82b5-dd9145452fc0> There will be a training event that volunteers are encouraged to attend, which will be Monday, **May 12th at 6:00pm at Townies Bar and Grill.**



Off The Page

Monday, May 19, 6 - 7:30pm, Olive Pit

This month OTP has a rich text in store you may know well. Come and experience a *midrash*-inspired Bible study with an emphasis on imagination, creative contemplation, and group learning. Newbies expected, guests welcome! If you wish, bring a snack to share.

Namoli Brennet Concert

Saturday, May 24 7:30 pm, Pop's Art Theater

Don't miss this amazing singer/songwriter in concert. Mount Olive folks get in free thanks to our Calvin Vital Worship Grant. Register for your FREE ticket in the next three Sundays at church or email Richard at richard@molive.org to reserve your ticket.



Rochester PRIDE

Come what MAY:

5/4 OB Worship - 4:00 pm

5/5 Artist Studio PRIDE Prep 6-7:30 pm

5/17 Rochester PRIDE –Noon-5 pm

5/19 Off the Page - 6-7:30 pm

5/24 Namoli Brennet concert - 7:30 pm

Women's Monthly Coffee Meet Up

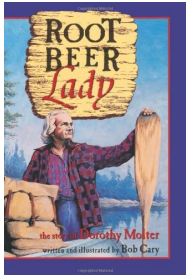
Mount Olive women are invited to meet at 9:00 am on Friday, **May 2** for coffee/tea at the Market Grille at Hy-Vee West Circle at 4221 West Circle Drive. Come each month for fellowship and good conversation. If you have questions, ask Cathy Hanson at 507-398-3917 or kchanson89@gmail.com.

Symphony Concert at Mount Olive

MC Chamber Symphony will present their Spring concert, *A Musical Odyssey*, at Mount Olive on Sunday, **May 4** at 3:00 pm. Some Mount Olive members are a part of the group. It will include works from Bartok, Bruckner, Enescu, and Farrenc and a special surprise piece at the end of the program. Tickets are available at the door - \$7 adults and \$3 children (cash or check only).

Brews Brothers Meets At LTS Brewing Company

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 LTS Brewing Company, 2001 32nd Ave NW, Rochester, on Thursday, **May 8**, 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 with questions.



Monday Book Group

The **Monday Book Group** wraps up it's schedule as they meet on **May 12** at 6:30 pm in the church Library. This month's selection is *The Root Beer Lady: The Story of Dorothy Molter* by Bob Cary. An ice-cold glass of root beer and a warm welcome greeted weary paddlers who stopped at the Isle of Pines to meet Dorothy Molter, the courageous, independent woman who became a North Woods Minnesota legend. If you have questions or would like to get on the email list to join the group, contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.

George Thompson Visits Ripe Olives

Ripe Olives is Mount Olive's group for retired and semi-retired folks to gather for a meal, fellowship, learning and fun. On **May 16** at 9:30 am, Rochester resident George Thompson will be our guest. George moved to Rochester in 1968, during the years of the Civil Rights Movement, to work at IBM. At the time, George was one of very few Black men in the region. George will share stories from decades of his life and leadership in southeastern Minnesota. Everyone is welcome! Breakfast is provided with a free will offering. Please sign up in the Gathering Area or RSVP to Nancy - nancy@molive.org or 507-288-1580.



Rochester Pops Orchestra Spring Concert

Join the Rochester Pops Orchestra as they feature the winners of the May, 2023, Rochester's Got Talent competition at their concert on Sunday, **May 18**, 7:00 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church, 810 3rd Ave. SE, Rochester. Help us celebrate with vocalists LaSonya Natrividad, Thomas McLaurin, and Semini McLaurin as they share some of their favorite selections. Advance tickets are available now through Sunday, May 11 in the Gathering Area before and after services - Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Youth (13-18) \$5, children ages 12 and under FREE. Tickets are also available online at www.rochesterpops.com, eventbrite.com, or by calling the Box Office at 507-318-0801.

Summer Fellowship Coming Soon

Fellowship time will follow both services through May 18. On Sunday, May 25, our summer schedule begins. We will have fellowship time after the 9:30 am service each Sunday this summer. To help with serving, providing treats, or making the coffee, please sign up in the Gathering Area at church or at tinyurl.com/fsd3f or contact Sunday Fellowship Volunteer Coordinator, Renee Schaefer at renee@molive.org.

Holy Week in Pictures



Mauddy Thursday Potluck



Good Friday Drama



Easter Vigil



Reception after the Vigil



Choir and Instruments at Easter



Mount Olive Brass



Alleluia, Christ is Risen!



Easter Fellowship Time



Carole Joyce Retirement Celebration

Deacon Carole Joyce, who served at Mount Olive from 1983-2005, is retiring after 42 years of faith formation, children, youth and family ministry. There will be a retirement celebration at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Plainview, MN on Sunday, May 11, from 9:45 - 11:00am. You are invited to come and thank Carole for her years of service and wish her well in her retirement adventure! We'll see more of Carole this summer as she returns to worship at Mount Olive with her husband, Dave.

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 ages and abilities*
- All faith journeys and personal histories*
- All races and ethnicities*
- All economic statuses and education levels*

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
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A Reconciling in
Christ Community

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