

# Mount Olive Messenger



November  
2011



## Stewardship

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As a congregation we turned in our 2012 financial pledges as an act of worship the weekend of October 22 and 23.

If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please mail your form to the church office or put in the offering plate when you worship so Mount Olive can thoughtfully prepare the 2012 budget.

### What Your Pledge Dollars Fund:

- Worship: Three weekly services, plus holidays
- Education for Children, Nursery, Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School and Confirmation
- Youth Ministry for grades six through twelve
- Adult Education: Book and Bible Studies
- Music Ministry: Mount Olive Choir, Youth Choir, Glory Bells, Brass and Ensembles
- Milestone Ministry, Fellowship and Small Group Opportunities
- Women's Ministry: Circles, Lutheran World Relief Quilts, Layettees and Health Kits
- Outreach and Care Ministry: Interfaith Hospitality Network, Channel One, Dorothy Day House, Habitat for Lutheran Social Service, Good Earth Village Camp, Campus Ministry, Bethany Samaritan Homes



*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ~ 1 Peter 4:10*

## Worship and Fellowship Highlights

### Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

#### All Saints

#### Saturday, November 5

5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship

#### Sunday, November 6

8:00 am Early Worship

9:00 am Coffee Fellowship

9:15 am Education Hour for all ages

9:30 am Adult Forum

10:30 am Late Worship

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship

11:45 am Grades 3 and 4 Milestone Events

### Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

#### Saturday, November 12

5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship

#### Sunday, November 13

8:00 am Early Worship

9:00 am Coffee Fellowship

9:15 am Education Hour for all ages

9:30 am Adult Forum

10:30 am Late Worship

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship

11:45 am Interfaith Hospitality Network Training

### Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

#### Christ the King

#### Saturday, November 19

5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship

#### Sunday, November 20

8:00 am Early Worship

9:00 am Coffee Fellowship

9:15 am Education Hour for all ages

9:30 am Adult Forum

10:30 am Late Worship

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship

### Thanksgiving Eve

#### Wednesday, November 23

7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship

8:00 pm Pie Fellowship

### First Sunday in Advent

#### Saturday, November 26

5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship

#### Sunday, November 27

8:00 am Early Worship

9:00 am Coffee Fellowship

9:15 am Education Hour for all ages

9:30 am Adult Forum

10:30 am Late Worship

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship

## Stewardship 2012

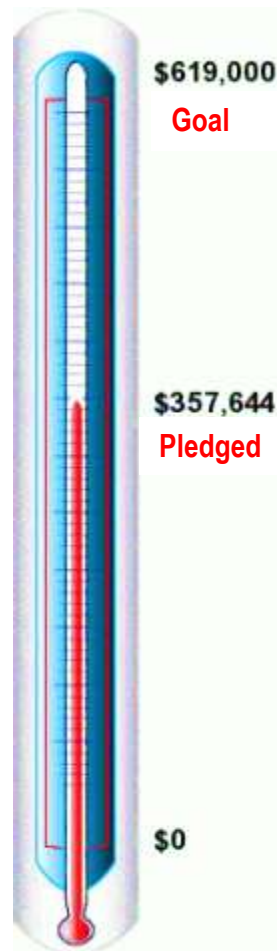
Soon we will be in the process of preparing Mount Olive's 2012 budget. We are excited about the ministry goals of modernizing the sound system, insuring that we have a vital youth ministry program, returning the pastoral staffing to two full-time pastors and expanding the music program. These needs have been identified at the home meetings attended by hundreds of Mount Olive members.

Our goal is to have every member participate in God's work through Mount Olive. Mount Olive's budget is based on pledges received. If you have not yet turned in a pledge form we encourage you to do so. Pledge forms and Simply Giving (automatic bank transfer) forms are available on the usher table outside the sanctuary and in the office. Or you can download them at <http://www.molive.org/docs/Simply%20Giving%20Form.pdf> and <http://www.molive.org/docs/2012%20pledge%20form.pdf>.

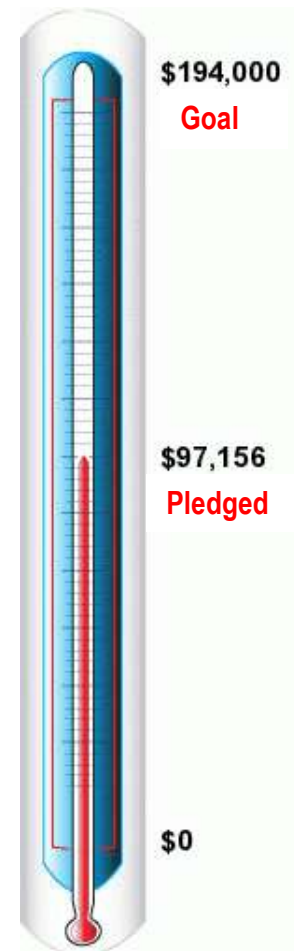
Thank you for your commitment to Mount Olive.

As the Messenger goes to print, this is what we have received in pledges.

### General Fund



### Building Fund



## Milestone News

**3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone Event Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 am:** Milestone Events are a chance for kids and their parents to have lunch together with their class and then sit down (or stand up or do activities or experience) with a pastor to talk about one part of parents' baptismal promises. This month, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will talk about the Ten Commandments and the 4<sup>th</sup> graders will talk about the Apostles' Creed. Talk to Stephanie Pasch if you need sibling care during this important event.

## Education News

**Sunday School Volunteer Meeting November 8:** Sunday School volunteers meet from 7-8 pm on Tuesday, November 8. Come and talk about the upcoming Sunday School Christmas program as well as other updates for Sunday School. Remember, the Christmas program will be December 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm (with rehearsals the day before).

**Sunday School Christmas Program December 11:** Save the Date! This year's Christmas program is Sunday, December 11 at 3:30 pm. Rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 am for those with speaking lines, 10:30 am for all preschool-elementary students. More information will be coming soon.

## Wednesday Night Church News

**Wednesday Nights this Fall:** Wednesday night church classes/activities continue through November 16. There is something for everyone in your family!

- 5:30-6:15 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir with Jon Strommen Campbell
- 6:00 pm Dinner is available
- 6:30 pm Class time for all!
  - 0-Kindergarten: Fishbowl with Carrie Fletcher
  - 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade: FISH (Fun In Serving Him) with Connie McCullough
  - 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: The Ten Commandments with Pastor Siri
  - 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: "Finding Your Fit" with Carole Joyce
  - Adults: "Making Sense of Scripture" with Jody Myers or "Faithful Parenting" with Stephanie Pasch

## Middle and High School News

**Luther Youth Fest November 12:** Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa, is hosting a day of workshops for youth and adult leaders. Cost is \$30 and includes a ticket to the Peter Mayer concert that night at 7 pm. Concert only tickets are \$12 (for a group of 8 or more). Contact Stephanie Pasch before November 6 if you'd like to attend.

**Middle School and High School Musicians:** Play your instrument for the Sunday School Christmas program, sign up in the gathering area. Rehearsals will be Wednesday, November 30, Wednesday, December 7, and Saturday, December 10. Watch for a sign up in the gathering area.

**Daybreak at Dunns November 17:** High School students and caring adults meet for breakfast at 6:30 am at Dunn Brothers on Elton Hills Drive. Rides are available to school afterwards.

**Middle School and High School Progressive Parties (and In-Home Bible Studies) on Sunday, November 20.** Students and caring adults will carpool from church and go to different homes to share in part of a meal and enjoy fellowship together. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins, on the Facebook youth page (Mount Olive Youth) and through Twitter. Sign up in the gathering area. Drivers and host homes are also needed.

**Middle School Service Opportunity:** The Festival of Trees is taking place over the Thanksgiving weekend. Middle school students are invited to volunteer to help with a craft or activity during Children's Day, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Sign up in the gathering area. Talk to Mickaela Pasch if you have questions.

**Youth Fundraiser Coming in November!** Many of you have asked how you can support Mount Olive youth for their summer trips to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans (high school) and the Boundary Waters (middle and high school). This year we'll be trying a new fundraising idea – 144 Envelopes! The youth will be working to decorate 144 envelopes numbered 1 through 144. Youth supporters will pick up an envelope or combination of envelopes and donate the amount listed on the front of the envelope(s). If all envelopes are picked up and fulfilled the youth will raise over \$10,000! Want to donate \$50? Pick up the #50 envelope, or the #2 and the #48, or the #10, #15 and #25, for example. You decide your level of help. Envelopes will be available in November – watch for them!

## Adult Education/Study/Prayer News

**Sunday Morning Adult Forum:** One of the ways we "Come and Follow" Jesus is to keep learning and growing in faith. So, on Sunday mornings, drop your kids off at Sunday school, grab some coffee and come into the Fellowship hall for conversation and study.

- November 6: The History of All Saints Sunday. Pastor Siri leads a look at how All Saints day evolved and how as Lutherans we can honor the Saints in our own way.
- November 13: Saints for Today: St. Francis of Assisi. As Lutherans we often do not take the time to learn about some of the great giants of faith; Francis of Assisi certainly falls into this category. We will look at his life and faith.
- November 20: "Who We Are: Mount Olive Youth Ministry" Our youth are the future of the church. The landscape of Youth ministry is shifting quickly. We will hear our own youth speak about last summer's youth trips and what they look forward to at Mount Olive.
- November 27: Advent Party/Mini-Forum about Advent. On the first Sunday of Advent, we gather for a short forum about the meaning of Advent and then stay for a sing-a-long of favorite carols.

**Monday Book Group November 14:** The book *Winter Solstice*, by Rosamunde Pilcher, will be discussed Monday, November 14 at 1:00 pm in the front conference room and 6:30 pm in the church library. Jody Schoer distributed three copies at the October meeting and it will be each member's responsibility to exchange these books with other members, or if you own a copy, please share. Communication will be via e-mail when necessary. Everyone is invited to join the group in the always interesting exchange of ideas.

**Contemplative Prayer Time Offering November 21:** All are welcome to a time of contemplative prayer on Monday, November 21st at 6:30 pm in the church sanctuary. Contemplative prayer is a type of prayer that emphasizes listening to scripture in a quiet space, with a good amount of silence. No previous experience necessary. Contact Joan Leimer 282-7037 or Jody Myers 282-1580 x 209 or [jody@molive.org](mailto:jody@molive.org).

## Worship News



**Saturday Night Celtic Mass:** This Advent season, as we prepare for our savior to come to us again in a manger, we will worship with a fresh, new Celtic style Eucharist service. This service will only be offered Saturday nights, November 26, December 3, 10 and 17. It will be led by both youth and adult members of Mount Olive,

featuring all new musical settings of the service. I encourage you to come and experience Celtic music as you prepare for your Christmas celebration.

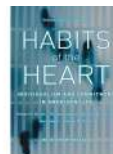
## Small Group News

**Wednesday Night Small Group Bible Study:** Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions about the Book of Faith, by David J. Lose is the book the group will be using on Wednesday nights. This resource is from the book of faith series of the ELCA and the author is the chair in Biblical preaching at Luther Seminary. This study invites your questions and doubts as we all learn together from this well organized and thought provoking resource. The remaining 3 session will be November 2, 9, 16. We meet from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at church. This study is great for parents that are bringing their children to confirmation. You are encouraged to participate in a Bible Study while your children are in their confirmation class. Let's get to know one another and talk about faith. Questions? Jody Myers [jody@molive.org](mailto:jody@molive.org) or 288-1580, ext. 209.

**Cancer Support Conversation CSC Group:** Meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month Next meeting is November 29<sup>th</sup>. CSC will not meet in December. Our group will gather to check in and discuss portions of Chapter 2 in Fear Not: Learning from your Cancer, by Judy Gattis Smith. New members are welcome to join at any time. If you would like to join the group and would like to follow along in the book we are working on, please contact Jody Myers - Small Group Ministries Coordinator, [jody@molive.org](mailto:jody@molive.org) or 288-1580 x 209. *If you are in the process of cancer treatment or in recovery from cancer we encourage you to be a part of the healing conversations. If you have a new cancer diagnosis or you are in need of support please contact Pastor Laura 288-1580 x 206 or Pastor Siri 288-1580 x 205.*

**Faith Seeking Understanding Book Group:** Faith Seeking Understanding Book Group invites you to read something that stretches your heart and thinking.

Upcoming Faith Seeking Understanding selections are:



November 1: Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life by Robert Bellah



December 6: Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived by Rob Bell

- January: **No Book Group**
- February: the Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle

Bookmarks with this list for the entire year are available on the volunteer table in the gathering area.

## Fellowship News

**Please Wear Your Name Tags:** Have you met someone in church that is new to Mount Olive? If so, encourage them to visit the Visitors Welcome area so that I can meet them, and answer questions for them about Mount Olive. Please introduce yourself to those attending worship if you do not know their names, try to meet someone new each week you are worshipping. Your interest and hospitality is vital in making Mount Olive a welcoming church. Thank you! ~ Jody Myers

**Mount Olive Volleyball:** Rochester churches compete against one another playing at Zumbro Lutheran Church from October through February. Please sign up in the gathering area or contact Duane Luinstra at 282-2543.

**Ripe Olives November 11:** Ripe Olives will meet November 11 at Cascade Meadows Wetlands Science Center for a tour of the facility. Details are on the sign-up sheet in the gathering area. It's also time to sign up for the December event -- attending the RCTC Christmas concert. Sign up for this event is due by November 20.

### Interfaith Hospitality Network Benefit Concert

**November 18:** All are invited to a benefit concert Friday, November 18, 7:30 pm in the Presentation Hall of the Mayo Civic Center. Choirs from area churches will be sharing special music, including the adult choir from Mount Olive. Plan to attend this annual event -- a freewill offering will be collected for Interfaith Hospitality Network, an organization that helps families with children who are homeless.

### Mount Olive F.I.S.H. and Festival

**of Trees:** F.I.S.H., Fun In Serving Him, our elementary service group, has been working on making decorations and then decorating a Christmas tree for The Festival of Trees. The tree will be donated, displayed through the event, and then a local business or individual will underwrite the tree and have it in their space through the holidays. Hiawatha Homes benefit from having the trees donated, then they receive the underwriter's money -- sometimes the tree is even sold again (if the underwriter doesn't have a space to display it for the holidays). Watch for the FISH tree to be displayed in our gathering area sometime during November and then down at the Mayo Civic Center during Thanksgiving weekend.



## Service News

### Fall Work Night

**November 8:** All are invited to help with a Mount Olive Work Night Tuesday, November 8. We will begin with a meal and 5:30 pm and then work from 6-8 pm in light work duties such as window washing, painting, cleaning, etc. Plan to come and lend a hand. Please sign up in the gathering area.



### Holiday Possibilities/

**Adopt-A-Family:** While we may think mostly of children at Christmas and gift giving, there are many kinds of families in our community in need. Families come in all sizes and combinations, each with a different history that brings them to this point in their lives. There are single adults, refugee families, persons in adult foster care or board and lodge, and families with children.

Many single adults need someone to remember them this year. There are more requests for those who need the warmth of a new winter coat, boots, gloves, and perhaps a blanket. Currently about 150 requests have been submitted.

Adopt-A-Family Christmas gift program is sponsored by Lutheran Social Services in Olmsted County and addresses the needs of Olmsted County residents as referred by a social worker. These are families not served by the other programs and families come in all sizes and combinations. If interested in being a donor for Adopt-A-Family/LSS, call 328-7290 or e-mail [jvetter@lssmn.org](mailto:jvetter@lssmn.org) or [vetter.jan@co.olmsted.mn.us](mailto:vetter.jan@co.olmsted.mn.us).

**Habitat for Humanity November 12:** Work continues



on the Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity house. Mount Olive volunteers work every second Saturday of the month from 9 am – 3 pm. The next work day is November

12. Sign up in the gathering area. Contact Jim Berg at 287-6649 with questions.

### Interfaith Hospitality Network Volunteer Training

**November 13:** Plan to attend the IHN orientation and recertification training on Sunday, November 13 at 11:45 am at Mount Olive. Recertification is required every three years. If you are unsure of your training date please contact Pam Berg at 288-1580 or [pam@molive.org](mailto:pam@molive.org).

## Mission Partner News

The countdown is on! This month, Pastor Laura, Mark Masbruch and Al Trautman will be traveling to Tanzania. As part of their mission trip, they will be visiting the Vivian Gulleen Center located in Kijota. Recently, Reverend Grace Sima, director of the school, gave us a review of its history and an update on its progress.

Vivian Gulleen Center was started in 1968 by the church and was named after a Diocesan Women's director from Augustana Lutheran Mission in the United States. Vivian Gulleen was a hard working woman who supported poor women by educating them. The center was initially a training center for women in leadership and the vision was revised to empower girls, mostly those who had missed other opportunities, to further their studies.

In 2001, the Board of Vivian Gulleen and its staff developed plans and strategies to make their institutional programs remain relevant for the coming decades. The plans were tried in 2003, but the institution found that it was lacking resources to provide modern housing, computer technology and skilled trainers. The budget to build the program and remodel the institution was \$60,000 and the Institution was being threatened with closure. However, the vision to keep the plan in place was renewed. In 2008, the church collected \$90,000 from various sources (including fiscal and computer donations from Mount Olive). The Institution completed renovation work on the old buildings, constructed one office and the program for the high school girls was started. In 2010, three classes were developed with aid from the government and the school grounds were fenced in.

Since its high school program began, two groups have graduated and out of 30 who graduated, 20 of the girls went on to the University. The school now has 51 girls enrolled and it costs about \$2000 in tuition and fees for these girls to attend. The Dean Riesen Foundation in the US pays 60% of this cost. The remainder is paid by the parents and/or the Church. Reverend Sima indicated that the Institution also operates a dispensary (which needs enhancements), has vocational training programs for underprivileged girls, and a kindergarten program which is doing well.

The representatives from Mount Olive will be providing additional computers to the Vivian Gulleen Center to help them continue with their technology progress. Thank you for your donations and prayers that have helped us continue our partnership with this great organization. It has been wonderful to see the progress made over the last decade. Please keep our travelling members in your prayers and join them during the adult education hour when they return to share their experiences and stories with us.



## Women of the ELCA (WELCA) News

**WELCA Leader Study November 14:** The next study leader meeting is Monday, November 14 at 5 pm in the front conference room. Circle leaders - please let Pastor Siri know if the circle study leader for November will NOT be able to attend.

**Christmas Party December 5:** Mark your calendar now for the annual Women of the ELCA Christmas Party, Monday, December 5, at 7 pm. Mary Circle will once again be your hosts for a fun evening of food and music as we gather to prepare ourselves for holiday season. Watch the bulletins and December newsletter for more information.

## From Pastor Laura

**Communion at Mount Olive:** Not long after starting at Mount Olive I noticed that a number of our members were not receiving any wine when they came forward for communion; they would simply pass by the chalice. Or, at the communion rail they would discreetly indicate that we should not pour them any wine. As a pastor, this saddened me. If we had someone to our home we would not dream of serving our guest a meal without offering them something to drink. It seemed to me that this is what was happening with our Lord's Supper although perhaps not consciously; not all of the members of our faith community were able to fully participate in communion. From many years of serving in the congregation I know that people have different reasons for not being able to take the wine; for some it is a health reason. For some, they are recovering from an addiction. I respect those reasons. As a community of faith, I know that we want to support all of our members in their efforts to be healthy and to receive the Lord's sacrament. That is why we now have an additional chalice for juice and why we have communion trays that include wine and juice. Over 10% of our members prefer to receive juice.

Recently one of our families has stepped forward to purchase Mount Olive all new communion trays so that we will have a sufficient number of trays to serve everyone. In telling me of their decision they wrote, "I feel that this is something that I can do for our Church but more importantly as a way to thank God for His ongoing love, protection, blessings, and forgiveness. It will be my small part in helping all of us to live out a life in Christ."

I want to personally thank our altar guild for their faithful service in ensuring that our congregation receives Holy Communion at all of our services and for their extra work as we have transitioned through this change. The altar guild is headed by Sandy Schlenker and includes Carol DuMond, Gail Forstie, Dorothy Hardke, Joan Liemer, Pat Otte, Gloria Rosencrants, Cheryl Smith, Joyce Johnston, Ruth Squillace, Judy Stevens, Kathy Tanabe, Darlene Vowels, LouAnn Wiebke, and Joan Wiebold.

~God's Peace, Pastor Laura

## New Member News

Please welcome these new members to the Mount Olive family:



David Brahn and Billi Ellingson



Karl Rist, Sela, Erick



Paul and Carol  
Davis, Justin,  
Andrea



Kevin and Kelsey Ruhland



Mark Kuehl



Sandy Thingelstad



Craig and Karen Muenkel, Mark



John and Lorna Podvin

**The Next New Member Weekend will be February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of 2012:** If you are interested in membership or have questions about Mount Olive, please contact Jody Myers, Welcome and New Member Coordinator. We ask that those interested in membership attend a New Member Orientation on February 11, 2012 from 9:30-11:30 am. We will share brunch together and child care will be provided. Your children are welcome to stay with you during the information time. Pastor Laura and Pastor Siri will share important information about Mount Olive, being Lutheran, church life and faith growth. Staff will be sharing information about their ministry areas and be available to answer any questions you have. Please contact Jody Myers by January 25, 2012 or sooner if you are interested in being a part of the next new members group at Mount Olive, [jody@molive.org](mailto:jody@molive.org), 288-1580 x 209



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

# Thanksgiving Eve Worship

## November 23, 7 pm

Mount Olive gathers to celebrate all we have to be thankful for during this busy season. All music ensembles will present offerings of thanks, including the Mount Olive Choir, Glory Bells, Brass and the Youth Choir. Please join us for a



a night of worship as we prepare for the holiday season. We are asking all households to bring a grocery bag of non-perishable food items to the service, which will be donated to Channel One food bank. And of course, worship will conclude with a variety of pies to share!