



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Tanzania Trip — "Rojo Mtakatifu"

One of the greatest surprises that I had on our recent mission trip to Tanzania was in visiting our sister church in Kijota led by Pastor Sarah. While I knew that Mount Olive had a long relationship with this church, nothing had quite prepared me for the vibrancy and joy that exists there at Kijota. The morning that we worshiped with them, the church was filled with five hundred people, babies and little kids, elderly grandmas and grandpas, women's choirs, kids' choirs and every other choir you can imagine. The place was alive with Spirit, or as they say in Swahili, "Rojo Mtakatifu."

During the service, our mission group was introduced to the congregation but it was unlike any other introduction I've ever received. We were presented with gifts brought to us by the ladies of the church; as they brought the gifts forward they were singing and dancing, yes dancing! After the church service we



On November 13 the Mount Olive travelers worshiped at Kijota. In the photo above Pastor Sarah of Kijota and Pastor Laura are standing together outside the church there.



We were given African wraps and very nice painted gourds. We gave their congregation a computer, paraments, a cross for Pastor Sarah, and a leather bound version of the ELW hymnal.

had a wonderful meal at Pastor Sarah's house with the Bishop and his wife Pastor Grace and many folks from the congregation. The ladies of the church were eager to talk about our ongoing relationship. Everywhere we went throughout our trip, our friends in Tanzania sent back with us their warmest greetings of love, peace and gratitude for our relationship with them.

Thank you to all of you who have made this mission trip a possibility and who have helped to sustain this friendship with our partners in Tanzania. Know that they are bringing God's love and joy to the people that they serve each and every week.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Laura

### December 24 — Christmas Eve - Saturday

3 pm Family Worship

4:30 pm Family Worship

7 pm Festive Worship with Holy Communion

10 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

**December 25 — Christmas Day - Sunday** 9:30 am Worship

**December 31 — New Years Eve - Saturday** 5 pm Worship

**January 1 — New Years Day - Sunday** 9:30 am Worship



# “Oops! I tripped on my Ego again!”

By

Pastor Siri Strommen Campbell

*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

-Verse 2 of ELW #798



It is Advent, the four week march to Christmas. Advent is meant to prepare us for meeting the baby Jesus again. It is a time to sweep out our hearts from the clutter of resentment, anger, and ego. We often hear from John the Baptist calling out across time to “stop going that way, turn around and go the way of life.” Okay, those are my words, but they are apt.

We do get tripped up on ourselves. We stop our journey of transformation and get stuck on trying to massage our wounded egos. You know: someone at work said something hurtful and it bothers you something fierce. Or maybe someone in your family pointed out a totally legitimate flaw, but you would rather pick a fight than admit you have work to do on yourself.

Getting over ourselves, stepping past our ego back onto the path of life, is hard. It sometimes involves painful acknowledgements of our failures. It means learning to take things less seriously - which is serious work! It means giving up control and allowing other people to be who they are, allowing yourself to be imperfect, and allowing God to be a surprise.

You are called to “leave yourself” behind. What you may discover (at least the great ones promise it) is that you find your true self on the journey. You find freedom and joy on the path with God.

When we go on the path of life, we re-discover true Joy to the World anew this season.

Blessings to you this Advent journey!

## St. Lucia Sunday — December 11



A Christian legend from the fourth century tells of a girl named Lucia. After her death, she was made a saint because of her strong Christian faith, charity, and love for people in need. Hundreds of years later, the legend grew following Lucia's appearance in famine stricken Sweden. St. Lucia arrived

on a ship, emblazoned with light, sailing across Lake Vannem. The ship carried food for the hungry, which saved many.

Mount Olive has its roots in the Swedish Lutheran Church, and celebrates St. Lucia on the second Sunday in December. This year the 8 am service features Miriam Hanson as St. Lucia and Austin Galbreath and Joshua Fletcher as the Starboys. At the 10:30 am service Ashley Parker portrays St. Lucia and the Starboys are Graham Freed and Evan Smoley. The senior Server for the 8 am service is Tashia Bogovich. The Lucia soloist is Caitlin Sellnow.



Naomi Circle is hosting this event with the help of Rachel Circle.

After the service, you are invited to the Fellowship Hall for the traditional Lussekatter rolls and coffee.

Mint Girls are Ellen Bergerson, Jilene Coil, Emma Erlenbusch, Sofia Haakenson, Elizabeth Langemo, Anya Liedtke-Quick, Eva Mickelson, Sarah Mullenbach, Stacie Mullenbach and Jillian Smith.

Naomi Circle thanks Kim Ignatius for taking photos for the Church website. Thanks to the following for baking the Lussekatter rolls: Pam Berg, Sandy Dalquist, Gail Forstie, Ruth Squillace, Lucy DeRemee, Ed Rosencrants, Elaine Monson, and Joan Odland.



## Saturday Night Celtic Eucharist

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 is on Saturday nights at 5 pm, November 26, December 3, 10 and 17. It is led by both youth and adult members of Mount Olive, featuring new musical settings of the service. Come and experience Celtic music as you prepare for your Christmas celebration.

# ADULTS

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

## 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.

- **December 4** - Tanzania Update with Pastor Laura, Mark Masbruch, and Al Trautman
- **December 11** - “Saints for Today: Santa Lucia”: We meet on the Sunday of Santa Lucia to talk about her legend, the Swedish tradition, as well as what she can represent for us today.
- **December 18**—The Seasons of the Church Year: Advent, Epiphany, Christmas? When and where did we get these seasons? Who celebrates them and what is the point? We will make sense of the Christian seasons from Advent to Christ the King Sunday.
- **December 25** - No Adult Forum Christmas Day

## Worship Training

Are you an usher, communion assistant, lector, or assisting minister? Are you interested in participating in worship? If you did not attend a training session this fall, there is a second chance. We want every single person involved in worship to attend a training session.

Please plan to come to one of these two dates:

### Tuesday, January 10

7 pm Ushers and Communion Assistants

8 pm Lectors and Assisting Ministers

### Saturday, January 14

10 am Ushers and Communion Assistants

11:00am Lectors and Assisting Ministers



## Contemplative Prayer Time December 5, 5:45—6:45 pm

You are invited to walk the Labyrinth in the Sanctuary. Come and enjoy a peaceful, prayerful time during advent. No previous experience is necessary. Questions? Please contact Jody Myers (282-1580 x 209 or [jody@molive.org](mailto:jody@molive.org)) or Joan Leimer (282-7037).



## Follow the Star December 5 at 7 pm

Women of the ELCA Christmas evening is hosted by Mary Circle in the fellowship hall. Appetizers and dessert will be served. A free will offering will be given to Lutheran Social Service. Please sign up in the gathering area bringing a white elephant gift.

## Faith Seeking Understanding Book Group December 6 at 6:30 pm

You are invited to read something that stretches your heart and thinking. The December discussion topic is: Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived by Rob Bell.



Bookmarks with Faith Seeking Understanding selections for 2011-2012 are available on the volunteer table in the gathering area.

All are welcome. This group meets the first Tuesday of the month. There is no gathering in January.

### Monday Book Group — December 12

The "Rochester Reads" book Worst Hard Times by Timothy Egan, will be discussed. Please bring a wrapped book for the annual book exchange and a treat to share. If a book is needed, contact Joan Leimer. You are invited to attend at 1 pm in the front conference room or 6:30 pm in the church library. Have a blessed Christmas and Peace.

*In case of a snow storm (i.e. the last two years) all will be shifted to the next meeting (December and January books would be discussed).*

**Please wear you nametags...** Have you met someone that is new to Mount Olive? If so, encourage them to visit the Visitors Welcome area so that I can meet them, and answer their questions. Please introduce yourself; meet someone new each week. Your interest and hospitality is vital in making Mount Olive a welcoming church. Thanks! ~ *Jody Myers*, Welcome and New Member Coordinator

## Cancer Support Conversation CSC Group No December Meeting

CSC will resume on January 24 at 6:30 pm. We will be working on Chapter 3 in Fear Not: Learning from your Cancer by Judy Gattis Smith. If you would like to connect with this group and 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.*

### New Member Weekend February 11 and 12

Are you interested in membership or have questions about Mount Olive, Please contact Jody Myers, Welcome and New Member Coordinator. There is a New Member Orientation on February 11 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 share information about their ministry areas and be available to answer your questions. Please contact Jody Myers **by January 25** or sooner if you are interested in being a part of the next new member group at Mount Olive. [Jody@molive.org](mailto:Jody@molive.org) or 288-1580 x 209

### Mount Olive Volleyball is Underway!

Rochester churches compete in a volleyball league. Games are at Zumbro Lutheran Church from October through February. Want to join in? Contact Duane Luinstra at 282-2543.

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP



**Joy to the World**  
**December 11 at 3:30 pm**

**The Sunday School Christmas Program** is presented by preschool and elementary children. The congregation is invited to attend this presentation. The kids will tell about Mount Olive's connections

with Sweden, Tanzania and Colombia, as well as share the Christmas story. Middle and High School musicians will play before and after the program.

Rehearsal is Saturday, December 10 with speakers at 10 am and all children at 10:30 am. Rehearsal ends by 11:45.

Sunday School program volunteer opportunities: all classes need parents to help put costumes on and prepare for the program. Please let Stephanie Pasch know that you can help as soon as possible. A free standing globe is also needed for the program.

## Rainbow Preschool Registration

Rainbow School starts taking registrations for the 2012-2013 school year on January 9, 2012. Children must be 3 years old by September 1, 2012. Classes are 3 hours long and are available mornings or afternoons.

On January 1, Information will be available on the website, [www.rainbowschool.us](http://www.rainbowschool.us). Please contact Cat with questions 261-0586 or email [director@rainbowschool.us](mailto:director@rainbowschool.us). Rainbow School is located in Zumbro Lutheran Church and is a ministry of Zumbro Lutheran, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Mount Olive Lutheran, and Our Savior's Lutheran congregations.

## Youth Instrumentalists

**Needed:** Are you interested in playing music at the Christmas Program on December 11?

Practice schedule:

- Wednesday 12/7 at 6:30 pm
- Saturday 12/10 at noon.

The program is December 11. Arrive at 2:45. The program begins at 3:30.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,  
**Jesus**

**Sunday School celebrates  
Jesus' birthday!**  
**December 18**

Bring a non-perishable food item for Channel One on this fun day. Additional parental help is needed in the craft room (a.k.a. the library).

## Advent Minnows Meal Saturday, December 3

There is a congregational potluck after the 5 pm Celtic Eucharist Worship service. Saturday worshippers will celebrate Advent together through food and fellowship. All minnows families and shepherds are invited to this event. Please bring a salad or a side dish to share. Contact Pastor Siri at [siri@molive.org](mailto:siri@molive.org) with questions.

### Youth Bake Sale

All middle and high school youth trip participants are needed to help.



**December 3:** Bring 5 – 6 dozen cookies between 9 am & 3 pm. Cookies are offered by the ounce for a suggested donation.

#### **December 3 & 4:**

Parent & youth helpers needed:

- December 3 from 4 - 6 pm and
- December 4 from 7:30 am - 12:30 pm.

**Lefse Making** - Two hour shifts:

- Friday evening December 2 and
- Saturday December 3.

Contact Audrey Lukasak, 282-0318 with questions.

**December 4:** High School Breakfast Club at 9 am, meet by the doors.

**December 7:** High School youth movie and pizza at 4 pm in the high school youth room.

**December 15:** High School Daybreak at Dunn's at 6:30 am.

**December 17:** Christmas Caroling with Middle and High School youth and families. Gather at church to go share carols of the season at area nursing homes and . Afterwards there are separate middle and high school Christmas parties. Sign up in the gathering area to join this service event.

**December 18 and 26:** Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) set up and tear-down. Sign up in the gathering area! Thank you!

### College students and young adults

are invited out to a Christmas Homecoming Lunch on Thursday, December 22. Parents please talk to your young adult and please RSVP to Stephanie Pasch so reservations can be made.

### Looking Ahead

**Middle and High School Winter Wednesday Classes:** Classes begin on January 4 and conclude February 8. This winter, students are invited to take a class revolving around a Worship and Arts theme.. Sign up for one of three offerings: a drama group, a music group, or a worship support group. Parents are needed for help in the drama and worship support classes. There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, February 25 and the groups will participate at all three worship services on February 25 and 26. It is important to sign up early so preparations can be made.

**The annual middle and high school Ski Trip** is planned for on Monday, January 16 (Martin Luther King day, no school). Put it on your calendar and watch for more information in the bulletin, on Facebook, and on the sign up tables in the gathering area.

**Silent Auction and Carnival – Sunday March 4:** Start making or gathering items!

**Vacation Bible School** is scheduled for June 11-15. Coordinators are needed! Get in on the ground level of the planning! Help choose the curriculum and set up! Call or email Stephanie with any questions!

# CALENDAR

## Thursday, December 1

09:00 am Mount Olive Quilters  
07:30 pm Glory Bells

## Friday, December 2

06:00 pm Dorothy Day Serving  
07:00 pm Youth Lefse Dough Making

## Saturday, December 3

08:30 am Men's Discipleship Group  
08:30 am Youth Lefse Bake  
05:00 pm Saturday Celtic Eucharist  
06:00 pm Potluck

## Sunday, December 4

08:00 am Worship & Coffee Fellowship  
08:00 am Bake Sale - Youth Fundraiser  
09:15 am Education Hour for All Ages  
09:30 am Adult Forum  
10:30 am Worship & Coffee Fellowship  
12:00 pm Full Council Meeting & Lunch  
01:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting  
05:00 pm Yoga

## Monday, December 5

05:45 pm Contemplative Prayer  
Labyrinth Time  
07:00 pm WELCA Christmas Party

## Tuesday, December 6

05:00 pm Altar Guild Tree Decorating  
and Pot Luck  
06:30 pm Faith Seeking Understanding  
Book Group  
08:00 pm "In the Process" - Al-anon

## Wednesday, December 7

09:15 am Staff Meeting  
11:00 am Clergy Text Study  
04:00 pm HS Movie and Pizza  
05:30 pm Mount Olive Youth Choir  
06:30 pm Youth Musicians Practice  
07:30 pm Mount Olive Choir

## Thursday, December 8

09:00 am Mount Olive Quilters  
07:30 pm Glory Bells

## Friday, December 9

07:30 pm Ripe Olives RCTC Concert

## Saturday, December 10

08:30 am Men's Discipleship Group  
10:00 am Christmas Program Practice  
12:00 pm Youth Musicians Practice  
12:00 pm Christmas Program Prep  
04:00 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing  
05:00 pm Saturday Celtic Eucharist

## Sunday, December 11

All Day: Saint Lucia Observance  
08:00 am Worship & Coffee Fellowship  
09:15 am Education Hour for All Ages  
09:30 am Adult Forum  
10:30 am Worship & Coffee Fellowship  
03:00 pm Christmas Program Check In  
03:30 pm Christmas Program  
04:30 pm Reception  
05:00 pm Yoga  
06:00 pm After Bible, More Life History  
Course

## Monday, December 12

10:00 am After Bible, More Life History  
Course  
01:00 pm Monday Book Group  
06:30 pm Monday Book Group

## Tuesday, December 13

09:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry  
05:00 pm Property Committee Meeting  
08:00 pm "In the Process" - Al-anon

## Wednesday, December 14

09:15 am Staff Meeting  
11:00 am Clergy Text Study  
06:00 pm MS Youth Board  
07:30 pm Youth Board Meeting  
07:30 pm Mount Olive Choir

## Thursday, December 15

06:30 am HS Daybreak at Dunns  
09:00 am Mount Olive Quilters  
07:30 pm Glory Bells

## Saturday, December 17

07:00 am Karma Yoga Project  
08:30 am Men's Discipleship Group  
05:00 pm Saturday Celtic Eucharist

## Sunday, December 18

08:00 am Worship & Coffee Fellowship  
09:15 am Education Hour for All Ages  
09:30 am Adult Forum  
10:30 am Worship & Coffee Fellowship  
05:00 pm Yoga  
05:00 pm IHN Hosting Week

## Tuesday, December 20

08:00 pm "In the Process" - Al-anon

## Wednesday, December 21

09:15 am Staff Christmas Party  
11:00 am Clergy Text Study  
01:00 pm Altar Guild  
07:30 pm Mount Olive Choir

## Thursday, December 22

09:00 am Mount Olive Quilters  
07:30 pm Glory Bells

## Saturday, December 24

08:30 am Men's Discipleship Group  
03:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Worship  
04:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Worship  
07:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Worship

## Sunday, December 25

09:30 am Worship

## Tuesday, December 27

08:00 pm "In the Process" - Al-anon

## Wednesday, December 28

09:15 am Staff Meeting  
11:00 am Clergy Text Study  
07:30 pm No Mount Olive Choir

## Thursday, December 29

09:00 am Mount Olive Quilters  
07:30 pm No Glory Bells

## Saturday, December 31

08:30 am Men's Discipleship Group  
05:00 pm Saturday Worship with Holy  
Communion

## January Rehearsal Schedule:

### Wednesday January 4:

Adult Choir, 7:30— sanctuary

### Thursday January 5:

Glory Bells, 7:30, music room

Brass, 8:30, music room



## Mount Olive 2011 Financial Update

We are in the last month of the year and here is an update on where the Mount Olive finances are as of November 30, 2011.

As you know, Mount Olive works with a balanced budget, the expensed budget items are based on the pledges for the year. Pledges have not kept up with the expenses for the year and the pledges are projected to be short by \$ 42,000.00 at year end.

The Mount Olive staff has done an excellent job of staying within the budget. In fact, expenses have been below budget and the expenses are currently \$ 26,807.00 less than budgeted. This helps close the pledge expense gap but we still are running in the red and at year end, we project

<b>November Income-Expense</b>	<b>YTD Totals</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Total Contributed Income</b>	\$ 429,391.28	\$ 476,776.67	(\$ -47,385.39)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 449,969.60	\$ 476,776.67	(\$ -26,807.07)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ (20,578.32)</b>		

Mount Olive's 2011 budget will be in the red by \$ 20,000.00.

Reminder: Mount Olive books close on December 31, 2011. Please make sure your contributions are in by that day so they will be included in your Mount Olive Giving Statement for 2011.

*Allan Trautman*, Mount Olive Treasurer

There is no Sunday School on  
December 25 and January 1.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# SERVICE



**Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Hosting Week December 18—25:** IHN is the combined work of 50 congregations in the greater Rochester area with the shared mission of helping homeless families with children break the cycle of homelessness. Mount Olive hosts four weeks each year.

Please keep all the IHN guests and volunteers in your prayers as we seek to provide hospitality as God has shown us hospitality. To help, sign up in the gathering area.



Lutheran World Relief

## Attention LWR layette sewers.

Please return finished jackets and hemmed blankets to the LWR wooden box in the gathering area by the end of the year. An inventory will then be taken of items to determine the needs for layette assembly February 5 by the Sunday School kids.

## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Mount Olive volunteers will ring bells on Saturday, December 10 from 4—8 pm at Hy-Vee North.

## Mount Olive Gives Thanks!

A new tradition began Thanksgiving Eve as Mount Olive members brought bags of groceries to the altar to be contributed to the Channel One food bank. In addition to the 30 bags of groceries, nearly \$800 was contributed to the food bank. Many thanks to everyone who brought groceries, pies for the fellowship following the service, and who provided music during the worship service.



Thank you Mount Olive

**Tri-Valley Migrant Head Start** or as we are now called, SE Area Learning Site (SEALS) would like to thank you for the use of your building for the 2011 season. In 2011 we were able to:

- ✧ Serve 88 families so they were able to work
- ✧ Serve 16 infants, 19 toddlers and 22 preschoolers for 93 days
- ✧ Served 13,663 meals from your kitchen
- ✧ Have 5 parent activities
- ✧ Two doctors performed 79 well child check ups
- ✧ One dentist performed 56 dental screenings
- ✧ I was able to hire 23 employees for either part time or full time employment

From all of us **THANK YOU** for letting us use your church to operate our Migrant Head Start Program. We look forward to the 2012 season.

*Robyn*

## **Mount Olive Youth Board** by Warren Kemplin

***Youth Board, there is a Youth Board?*** That's right; Mount Olive has a Youth Board.

***When was it created?*** Recently, in August Pastor Siri met with the middle school and high school parents, interested adults, and staff to plan the coming year. Mount Olive plans to eventually hire a Youth Director, but until there are funds available we need a plan to manage the Youth Program.

In that meeting several modes of self governing were discussed. As the discussion progressed we hit upon the topic of a Youth Board. Our youth have expressed a desire to have more control over their fellowship and service programs for some time. The concept isn't new, but it is enjoying resurgence within the ELCA.

***Do the youth like the idea?*** They love it. The first meeting had an overwhelming turn out of youth, parents, and involved adults.

***So, what does it look like now?*** Because of the number of youth joining the board we have had to split it into a middle school board and a high school board. The middle school board is made up of 5 youth and 5 parents and adults. The high school board is made up of 12 youth and 6 parents and adults.

***How does it operate and how is it organized?*** Both boards meet monthly to determine what social and service activities they would like to do. A youth member of the board assumes responsibility to plan and organize the event and recruit helpers from the congregation. Watch out adults, you may be recruited.

There is a planning calendar. During the planning and organization of the event it gets posted on the calendar for all to see. The calendars hang near the middle school and in the high school youth rooms.

As the event gets closer the youth begin communicating via the Messenger, bulletin, sign up tables in the Gathering Area, and placing cards in mail boxes.

***Do they ever get together on an event?*** You bet they do. For example, they are going caroling and have planned a parties after. The high school youth have planned and organized the event and invited the middle school. In January there is the annual ski trip. In February the middle school is planning the Polar Plunge. They will do the planning and organization and invite the high school. They will probably invite adults to so keep watch.

***Who's on the board?*** Glad you asked, watch for their pictures and names on the bulletin board next to the nursery. The youth have several artists and photographers amongst their ranks. They are planning a very nice display.

***It sounds great, it sounds fun!*** Oh it is, there is such enthusiasm and talent within our youth it is so much fun watching them working on their projects/

***Well, good luck and call on me if you have questions.***



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[siri@molive.org](mailto:siri@molive.org) – Pastor Siri

## Joy to the World — December 11 at 3:30 pm



Mount Olive's preschool and elementary children invite you to their **Sunday School Christmas Program**. The kids will tell about Mount Olive's connections with Sweden, Tanzania and Colombia, as well as share the Christmas story. Middle and High School musicians will play before and after the program.