

*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?*

Isaiah 43:19

Reflections by Pastor Susan:

Happy New Year to you all! I love new beginnings! A new year brings new beginnings and new possibilities. (Maybe that is why I am drawn to intentional interim ministry.) As I look at my 2015 calendar, I give thanks for the blank pages yet to be filled. I wonder what the new year will bring.

What lies ahead? Each day is a process of discovery, in our lives and in our church. As I look over my calendar from 2014, I am thankful for each day, and for the opportunity I have been given to serve as your interim senior pastor. I am reminded that every day, and every year, brings both challenge and blessing. God is with us in all of it, offering us a new way and a new hope.

Over the past year, we have enjoyed meaningful worship each week, fellowship that brings comfort and joy, new relationships through outreach and service, new insight through studies and speakers. The interim time is a time for examining the details of our life together, as well as considering the bigger picture of what God is calling us to do and be as his church in the world. Each day is an opportunity to ask, "What is God up to today? What role do I have in God's activity?" The life of faith is about tending to the details as well as the "big picture."

One thing we do know is that 2015 will be a time for calling a new senior pastor. The call committee is in place and ready to begin their work. Staying true to our core commitments and values, and open to God's calling us to be the church in new ways, we look forward to the new beginning that a new pastor will bring.

May 2015 bring you God's peace and joy! May we be renewed in our calling to be servants of God's peace in our community and world. We trust that no matter what our God, who has been faithful in the year past, will continue to be faithful in the year ahead.

Come to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25 at 11:30 am

Each year in January, our Mount Olive community gathers for a meal followed by our annual meeting. This is a time to reflect on the accomplishments and blessings of the previous year, and an opportunity to look forward to where God is calling us in the year ahead. In addition to the annual reports of ministry teams and staff, we will elect new officers to lead us in our mission and ministry. Mark your calendars for this important gathering!

One Spirit One Hope One Calling

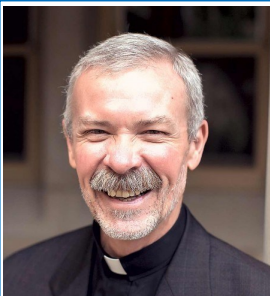
Mission Forward: Call Committee Formed

After prayerful consideration, the Mount Olive Church Council has invited the following members to serve on the Call Committee for the next senior pastor:

Richard DeRemee	Mike Olson
Mark Masbruch	Barb Sorenson
Jill Mickelson	Barb Seide, alternate
Brad Natzke	Jim Berg, alternate

In the Lutheran tradition, we trust that God works through the call process to bring together congregations and pastors for the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ. We look forward to discovering who God will send to lead us and serve with us in the future. Please keep the call process and the call committee in your prayers in the coming weeks. The committee will begin their work on January 13 when they meet with Rev. Linda Gunderson of the synod staff. She will orient them to the process and provide direction. The synod will be a partner with us in the process. The committee will keep the congregation updated on their progress.

Thank you to the Mission Forward Team (Jim Berg, Randi Beyerl, Loren Else, Jacob Fletcher, Bethany Lowndes, Jill Mickelson, Brad Natzke, Gloria Schad, Jacob Strand) for their time, energy and insight in leading us through the mission study process. We appreciate your work in bringing us together and offering opportunities for reflection and the sharing of hopes and dreams.



Bishop Stephen Delzer Visits Mount Olive January 18

We welcome Rev. Stephen Delzer, Bishop of the SEMN Synod of the ELCA, on Sunday, January 18. Bishop Delzer will preach at both services. He is also our forum speaker between services from 9:15 until 10:15. Come meet Bishop Delzer.

Dinner is served on Wednesday nights - January 7 - February 11

Everyone is welcome for dinner served at 5:45 pm with a suggested donation of \$3.00. Adults, families, or confirmation youth may sign up in the gathering area help cook, serve, or clean up. The menu for winter quarter is below:

Jan 7 - Spaghetti and meatballs
Jan 14 - Chicken tenders and fries
Jan 21 - Sloppy Joes
Jan 28 - Calico bean casserole
Feb 4 - Pulled pork sandwiches
Feb 11 - Pizza

Each meal includes fresh greens salad with toppings, peanut butter and jelly, bread, applesauce cups, cookies, milk and lemonade. Water and decaf coffee is also available.

Open Budget Meeting January 18 Annual Meeting January 25

If you would like to take a more detailed look at the 2015 proposed budget come to the Open Budget meeting at 11:45 am on January 18. This is an opportunity to go over the budget and ask any detailed questions.

You are invited to the congregational lunch and annual meeting on Sunday, January 26. Lunch is served at 11:30 am. After lunch, we gather to celebrate the ministry and mission God calls for us to share at Mount Olive. The meeting begins at noon. Reports and highlights are shared, financial reports are given, the budget is adopted and council members are elected. Plan to attend.

Annual Meeting Meal

Mount Olive's Women of the ELCA will serve a hot meal prior to the January 25 meeting. The free-will offering will support the many benevolence programs the women's group is involved with. Help is needed for providing food, serving and cleanup. Please sign up in the gathering area to help. Contact Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org with questions.

Welcome New Members!

**New Member Coffee
Sunday, January 11 at 9:15 in
the church library.**

There is a special coffee time for visitors and those interested in membership. This is a great chance to meet staff and ministry leaders and learn more about the many programs going on at Mount Olive, as well as the upcoming call process for a senior pastor. Please RSVP by email to Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org or call her at 288-1580 ext. 210.

**New Member Weekend
January 31 and February 1**

New members will be received at worship services on Saturday and Sunday. A reception will follow each service. Please introduce yourself to our newest members!

FRIENDS, FAMILY AND FAITH MINISTRY

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP



Jan 4
9:15 am

Parents of newborns through tots not yet in PreK Sunday School come and join in conversation and fellowship. Meet each first Sunday of the month in the high school youth room.

Bibles Presented to 2nd Graders:

January 11

Reader's Bible are presented to Leah Hovde, Katherine Klavetter, Addali Olson and Olivia Carradine during worship.

This is a time to pause and recognize our youth who are marking a milestone in their faith journey.

Elementary School Age Youth

Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm



ELCA Malaria Campaign

Did you know that 3.4 billion people, half the world's population, is at risk of malaria? People living in the poorest countries are the most vulnerable. Almost 90% of the people who die of malaria each year live in Africa.

The good news is that malaria is preventable and treatable. We know what it takes to stop malaria. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is part of the global movement to make malaria history, by joining hands with partners in 13 African countries, through the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

The 7th and 8th grade Sunday School class is leading Mount Olive in the ELCA Malaria Campaign. They will educate Sunday School classes and the congregation about malaria and the campaign to eliminate it.

Our goal is for Mount Olive to raise at least \$1500 toward the ELCA goal of \$15 million by the end of 2015. Over \$13 million has already been raised. Look in the main hallway for donation envelopes and a display to educate and track our progress.

Thank you for your generosity. Together, we can eliminate this deadly disease.





**A Youth Trip Fundraising Event
Coming Soon**
Watch for details!

Adventure Club

Friends and Family Friendly Adventure

Second Thursday of each month

This intergenerational group is made up of people drawn to join in an adventure. If interested in being on the email list contact Sara at sara@molive.org.

- **Jan 8 Movie Night!** Watch for details.
- **Jan 29 - Feb 15 Rochester WinterFest XII**, watch for more details.

RUN/WALK for God

A time for stretching, power walking, encouraging community with others and more importantly a devotional time with God.

Contact Sara at sara@molive.org if you are interested in participating.



Reflections of Advent



THANK YOU to all who helped with the Children's Christmas Program, Santa Lucia Procession and the accompanying receptions!

PICTURES: Erin Sinwell and Connie McCullough have taken a beautiful collection of photos that are up on the Children, Youth, and Family Bulletin Board.

ADULTS

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP



Sunday Morning Forum @ 9:30 am

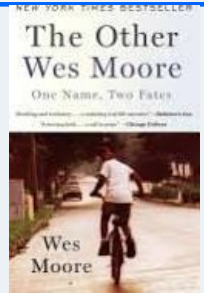
The Sunday Forum takes place from 9:30-10:15, usually in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to grab a cup of coffee and join the group.

- January 4 Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention
- January 11 Safe Church
- January 18 Bishop Steven Delzer Presenting
- January 25 Annual Meeting

Monday Book Group

January 12 at 6:30 pm

You are invited to a discussion about *The Other* by Wes Moore. All are welcome. Meet in the Mount Olive library.



Questions? Contact nancy@molive.org or 288-1580 x 210



Ripe Olives

Friday, January 9 at 9:00 am

Steve and Sherry Will are presenting on their careers as a motivational speaker for IBM and a fashion designer. Please bring a potluck breakfast item to share. See the sign up sheet in the gathering area for additional information.

Mount Olive Quilters Thursdays at 9 am

You are invited each week to enjoy quilting and fellowship.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Tuesday, January 13 at 9 am



All knitters and crocheters are invited. Yarn, treats, guidance, wisdom, support, and humor are shared! Gather in the front conference room.

Pub(lic) Theology

On Monday evenings at the Tap House in Downtown Rochester, all are invited to Pub(lic) Theology, led by Pastor Paul Moody.

Pastor Paul emails the group weekly about the upcoming topic. Please contact him (paul@molive.org) to be on his distribution list.

Come for food and catching up at 5:30. Discussion begins at 6:00.



It has been a joyous time of service and fellowship for the Mount Olive Women.

Thank you to Mary Circle for feeding us delicious food and entertaining us with a wonderful speaker and program at the Christmas party on Dec. 1. We donated \$500 to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service through generous donations.

The joy continued with the St. Lucia Sunday event. Thanks to Naomi circle for serving us 16 dozen Lussekatter buns, cookies, coffee and punch! Also, many thanks to the bakers of the buns! Thank you to all who participated in this tradition!

If you are interested in joining a circle or participating in any of our events, please contact the office for more information.

Altar Flowers



You may sign up to brighten the sanctuary with flowers. Place orders for birthdays, anniversaries, baptismal birthdays, births, or in memory of a loved one. Sign up in the gathering area, fill out an envelope and include payment. Place orders at least one week in advance.

Spiritual Care

There are times when we all need to be lifted up and supported by prayer, either for ourselves or for those we love. Mount Olive supports, we support our members through prayer in a variety of ways. For many years we have had a prayer chain faithfully maintained by Kathie Branes. At any given time the prayer chain has approximately 75 members who are connected by email. If you are experiencing a particular need in your life or the life of a friend or loved one, the prayer chain is a way to express that need and know that many people in our community will pray for you or your loved one. Kathie posts updates to the prayer chain regularly through email and she removes people from the prayer chain at their request. To be on the prayer chain contact Kathie at [ksmb58@gmail.com](mailto:k smb58@gmail.com) or a pastor.

We also lift people up in prayer during worship as part of the prayers of the people. Most often these prayers are for members of the congregation who are experiencing long term illness, surgery, or the loss of a loved one. If you would like to be identified in the prayers of the people or to have a loved one mentioned please speak directly to a pastor. Thank you.

Finally, there are prayer request cards located in the pew racks. These cards may be placed in the offering plate and are given directly to a pastor. Pastors have historically considered these prayer request cards to be private requests for prayer; they range greatly from children requesting prayers for the loss of a beloved pet to ongoing difficult matters that the pastors are aware of to a one time prayer request. There is a box that can be checked if you desire a pastoral call. Please check that if you do. Filling out a prayer request card does not mean that request will be on the Sunday morning prayers nor does it mean that it will be on the prayer chain; those are more public means of prayer. Some people prefer for the requests to be kept private, some public and our desire is to respect both wishes.

SERVICE AND SOCIAL OUTREACH MINISTRY (SSOM)

Updates on IHN/Family Promise



**Interfaith
Hospitality
Network**[®]

an affiliate of Family Promise[®]

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Rochester has changed its name to Family Promise Rochester, a more recognizable name, shared with the national office and many of their Affiliates across the country. The mission remains the same: mobilizing communities to help families without homes become self-sufficient.

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), the program uniting diverse faith organizations, volunteers and social services to provide shelter and food remains Family Promise Rochester's core program.

Family Promise Rochester's program expansion includes new Community Housing options, a Wheels to Work program which provides transportation to working adults, a revamped Family Stabilization Program, and longer-term case management. The Mentors of Promise, a pilot mentoring initiative, is also being developed.

Trent Fluegel, Executive Director of Family Promise of Rochester, made the name change announcement at the 2014 IHN Choral Concert at Bethel Lutheran Church. The concert was a success with over \$11,000 raised!

There are many ways you can volunteer and keep IHN a smoothly running ministry at Mount Olive:

- Drive the IHN van to transport guests
- Evening Host, 5-8 pm
- Cook and serve evening meal, 5-7 pm
- Overnight Host, 8 pm-8 am
- Cook assistant, 5-7 pm
- Set-up and Tear down

Training every three years is required to volunteering for the various tasks with the exception of Set-up and Tear down.

Mount Olive hosts a training session in November. You can attend training at other congregations as well. Please contact Erin and Jason Sinnwell to get the complete schedule of training sessions available.

Erin and Jason Sinnwell have volunteered to be the 2015 leaders of the IHN group at Mount Olive. If you have any questions, email Erin at etracy515@hotmail.com or call 507-990-6079.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates:

IHN Training at Mount Olive:
November 8 at 11:30 am with lunch included. Plan on spending 90 minutes.

Hosting dates for 2015:

February 1-8
April 12-19
August 23-30
November 22-29



Rainbow Preschool is a Christian based preschool for children ages 3-5 that is located inside of Zumbro Lutheran Church. The goal of Rainbow School is to make your child's first school experience as positive and stress free as possible. Class time is highly structured with time for play, learning, social interaction, physical activity, spiritual growth and music. The teaching staff is top-notch and 4 of the 5 teachers have a masters degree.

A variety of classes and options are available:

Mon/Wed/Fri mornings 9-12	Mon 1-3 Literacy
Tues/Thurs mornings 9-12	Wed 1-3 Math
Tues/Thurs afternoons 1-4	Fri 1-3 Spanish

If you would like your child to stay all day, lunch is offered on Mon/Wed/Fri.

"Rainbow School Christian Preschool has been an outstanding experience for our three-year-old daughter. The curriculum brings together the social, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual pillars in a fun, meaningful and age-focused way. It's been amazing to see the strides our daughter has made in just a few short months as a student at Rainbow School. Her confidence has grown, she's much more emotionally and socially aware of herself and peers, and we've even gotten to hear her sing some songs in Spanish! We strongly believe in the Rainbow School, and would recommend it to parents looking for a place to compliment their preschool-age child's growth." Lis & Bruce Blazing

"One of my favorite parts about Rainbow School is that while they have a class size limit of 20, they never go above 17. They want to give as much individualized attention to students as possible, and to me that says they really do care about children learning and not just making money. I also love that they do field trips and there are opportunities for parents to volunteer in the classroom and see how things work." Erin Sinnwell

If you have questions or would like a tour please see the website or call Cat Thisius, director and teacher, today!

www.rainbowschool.us

(507)261-3730



Stop by the **Fair Trade Coffee** display in the gathering area to check out the varieties of ground and whole bean coffee and tea available for purchase. You can also sign up to sponsor the coffee served during fellowship time on an upcoming Sunday. For \$15 you can help offset the cost and mark an occasion (birthday, anniversary, or the memory of a loved one).



Mount Olive Lutheran Church
2830 18th Avenue NW
Rochester, MN 55901

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 507-288-1580
office@molive.org
www.molive.org

«Mailing Name»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip Code»

Winter Wednesdays January 7 - February 18 **6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Adult Bible Study: Discovering Joy

Weeks 1-2: How Lutherans Read the Bible

Weeks 3-6: Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Confirmation Class

- ⇒ **Grade 6** continues to learn about the seasons of the church year
- ⇒ **Grades 7 & 8** continue their journey through the Ten Commandments.
- ⇒ **Laser Tag** night and **service opportunities** are being planned.

Intergenerational Class

All High School youth and any interested adults are encouraged to attend **Strength Finder**, a six-week session taught by Karen Gieseke, Director for Family Ministry in the SE Synod and Sara Hollander. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore how God created each of us and reflect on our individual gifts.

**STRENGTHS
FINDER 2.0**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
J a n u a r y 2 0 1 5				1 New Year's Day Office Closed 7:00p 'In the Process' Al-Anon	2 5:00p Pinewood Derby Set-up 6:00p Serve at Dorothy Day House 6:30p Cub Scout Den 1	3 8:00a Pinewood Derby 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Set-up 5:00p Worship
4 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Little Leapers 9:15a Youth Education Hour 9:30a Adult Forum 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 11:45a Full Council Meeting and Lunch	5 5:30p Public Theology, Tap House 6:30p Cub Scout Troop Meeting	6 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Cub Scout Den 8 6:30p Service & Social Outreach 7:15p Volleyball	7 5:30p Fill backpacks for JA Students 5:45p Dinner 6:30p Intergenerational Strength Finder Class 6:30p Adult Bible Study 6:30p Confirmation Classes	8 9:00a Rochester Area Keyboard Club 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 5:30p Facility & Grounds Ministry 6:00p Cub Scout Dens 4, 5, 6 6:30p Cub Scout Den 3 6:30p Adventure Club Movie Night 7:00p 'In the Process' Al-Anon	9 9:00a Ripe Olives	10 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 9:00a Habitat for Humanity Work Day 5:00p Worship
11 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a New Member Coffee 9:15a Youth Education Hour 9:30a Adult Forum 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship	12 4:00p Widowed Person Set-up 5:30p Public Theology, Tap House 6:00p Widowed Persons 6:30p Monday Book Club 6:30p Lydia Circle 6:30p Boy Scout Den 9 6:30p Boy Scout Troup Meeting	13 9:00a Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Call Committee 6:30p Cub Scout Den 8 7:15p Volleyball 7:30p Glory Bells	14 5:30p Fill backpacks for JA Students 5:45p Dinner 6:30p Intergenerational Strength Finder Class 6:30p Adult Bible Study 6:30p Confirmation Classes 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	15 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 6:30p Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7:00p 'In the Process' Al-Anon	16 6:30p Cub Scout Movie Night	17 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Meeting & Setup 10:00a District 41 Al-Anon Meeting 3:30p Cantus Rehearsal 5:00p Worship
18 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Youth Education Hour 9:30a Adult Forum - Bishop Delzer 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Women of the ELCA Board 11:30a Open Budget Forum	19 5:30p Public Theology, Tap House 6:30p Boy Scout Troup Meeting	20 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:00p Youth Ministry Team 6:00p Children's Ministry Team 6:30p WomenHeart support group 7:15p Volleyball 7:30p Glory Bells	21 5:30p Fill backpacks for JA Students 5:45p Dinner 6:30p Anna Circle 6:30p Intergenerational Strength Finder Class 6:30p Adult Bible Study 6:30p Confirmation Classes 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	22 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 6:30p Rachel Circle 7:00p 'In the Process' Al-Anon	23	24 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 3:30p Cantus Rehearsal 5:00p Worship
25 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Youth Education Hour 9:30a Adult Forum - 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Congregational Meal 12:00p Annual Meeting	26 5:30p Public Theology, Tap House 6:30p Boy Scout Troop Meeting	27 9:00a Ruth Circle 9:00a Zumbro River Conference at Our Savior's 1:00p Naomi Circle 7:30p Glory Bells	28 9:15a Staff Meeting 5:30p Fill backpacks for JA Students 5:45p Dinner 6:30p Intergenerational Strength Finder Class 6:30p Adult Bible Study 6:30p Confirmation Classes 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	29 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 7:00p 'In the Process' Al-Anon	30 9:30p Mary Circle	31 8:30a Men's Discipleship Group 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 3:30p Cantus Rehearsal 5:00p Worship