



Welcome to Rally Day, 2015! I hope you will plan to join us as we kick-off a new program year of learning, service, fellowship and worship. Representatives of our ministry teams and mission opportunities will be hosting information booths so that you can learn more about each one. This is the time to sign up and get involved! There are many ways to draw closer to God in worship and service, and many ways to engage with neighbors and friends to make a difference in our church, community and world.

The theme for this Fall is from Romans 12:2, "Be transformed by the renewing of your minds." The life of faith calls us to be open to God's working to bring about God's promised new creation. In our education programs, worship and outreach, we expect the Spirit to be actively renewing our hearts and minds.

Beginning on October 7, Wednesday evenings will include a meal together, followed by a time of worship for all ages. After worship, there will be learning opportunities for young children in our FISH program, as well as intergenerational studies and activities for growing in faith and discipleship for all ages. I hope you will plan to take part in this mid-week renewal that will offer food for the body, mind and soul.

The following pages offer a glimpse of some of the good things that are in store this Fall, with more to follow. Trusting that God will bring new pastoral leadership in the weeks ahead, we look forward with great anticipation. Come and see!

In Christ,
Pastor Susan

Call Committee Update

We are happy to report that the past month has seen a lot of activity on the part of the Call Committee. We've been conducting interviews, talking with references, and visiting congregations to watch our candidates in action. And meetings, meetings, meetings! The Holy Spirit willing, we are getting ever closer to identifying a candidate for Senior Pastor.

In the meantime, we are grateful for the encouragement that many of you have shared with us. Please continue to approach us with your questions and comments. It has definitely been a strenuous yet fulfilling process.

A quick reminder, the Call Committee's role is to conduct interviews, check references, and recommend a candidate to the Council. Once identified, the candidate is announced at a congregational meeting, and the congregation votes on the Call Committee's recommendation. Assuming a positive result, after the vote the Letter of Call is sent to the candidate via the Synod, and they then respond. And with God's grace, we welcome our new Senior Pastor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Mickelson
Call Committee Secretary

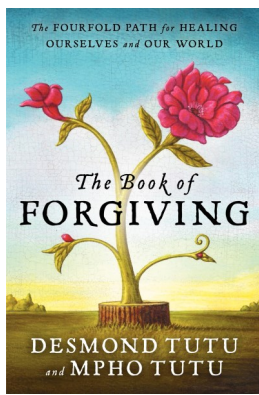
*The Mount Olive Call Committee for Senior Pastor:
Dick DeRemee, Mark Masbruch (chair), Jill Mickelson (secretary), Brad Natzke,
Mike Olson, Barb Sorensen, Jim Berg (alternate), Barb Seide (alternate)*

Rally Day ■ Ministry Fair September 12 and 13

After each worship service there will be displays featuring the many opportunities for education, service, and worship, as well as fellowship and fun for the whole family.

- Get a family picture taken at the photo booth
- Visit the various tables where group representatives will be available to talk to you about getting connected and involved in the ministry and mission at Mount Olive.
- Enjoy activities and food on the church lawn.
- Fill out your **Volunteer Interest Forms!** There are many ways to participate and volunteer. Contact any staff member if you have any questions.





Book Discussion
Wednesday, September 9
6:00 pm

Join us for a light meal of chicken salad, fruit and rolls followed by a discussion on this book. The pastors will lead our conversation as we reflect on how we have been challenged and inspired by the call to live as God's forgiving and forgiven

people. To help with planning, please sign up in the gathering area if you plan to take part.

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request and would like the prayer chain to be in prayer for you or someone you love, please email or call Kim Ignatius, our volunteer Prayer Chain Coordinator at 507-271-6087 or ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net. Please also inform the pastors so they may be aware. There are times when Kim is unavailable to receive communication and the Prayer Chain may be notified via Mount Olive staff.

Mutual Ministry News

Congratulations Sara Swartwood!

Many thanks to Sara as she has faithfully staffed the Mount Olive nursery for 5 years. Happy anniversary on September 1.

Stewardship Breakfast

October 4
9:00 am

Mount Olive's Stewardship Team is busy making plans. Please sign up in the gathering area if you are able to help with the breakfast.

Pub Theology

See what's trending.

Come to the Tap House on Monday nights for food and catching up at 5:30. The discussion begins at 6:00.

Pastor Paul Moody leads conversation surrounding a weekly topic which is distributed by email and published online at Rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com.

If you would like to be included on the email distribution list, please email Pastor Paul at paul@molive.org.



FRIENDS, FAMILY AND FAITH MINISTRY

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

September 13 is Rally Day

9:00 - 12:00

Time to explore, transform and play!

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 am



Adventure Club

Sunday
September 27

Squash
Blossom
Farm



Sunday School

September 20

- **Sunday School & Youth Forum BEGINS!**

9:15 –10:15 am: Youth gather and explore where God is within their daily life.

- **Three Year Olds Milestone**

Our 3 year olds starting Sunday School will receive their Story Book Bibles at the 10:30 am worship service.

Youth Gathering in Detroit

There were many things that took me by surprise in Detroit. I think I can speak for all who went on the trip; we weren't quite sure what to expect from the people of Detroit. We didn't know if we would be welcomed or not. We were pleasantly surprised when we got there, and people were excited that we were there. The people of Detroit were so nice! When we were out on our service day, we worked in a neighborhood. There were a lot of people that came out and waved when we walked by. They were so thankful that we were there. It just made me feel so good that I could have an impact so big, these people were genuinely happy. After we got back from the trip, I read a number of articles about the Gathering. It turns out that many of the people knew that lights would be on at night, and police officers would be out. People got to come out of their homes, and feel safe in the downtown. I am just happy that I was a part of that. I couldn't imagine not feeling safe in your own city. So bringing that feeling of safety to other people makes me happy. I am thankful for the experiences I had in Detroit. I am excited to know that we could have an impact on the city of Detroit. **Mickaela Pasch (15)**

Summer Camp Experiences *For I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.* This verse, Jeremiah 31:3b, was the theme verse and soundtrack of my life for Summer 2015 at my favorite summer home, Luther Crest Bible Camp. After spending two weeks of staff training having this verse drilled into my brain and being forced to come up with handy, teachable actions to go with it, it's not a verse that will soon leave my memory or my heart. Although I have just finished my third summer at camp, I think this verse most fully encompasses what church camp strives to teach and pour out: God's love for us, with us, and in us. I have spent the past three summers working 24 hour days, 6 days a week, in the heat and rain, and amidst perpetually homesick children because every day I get to bear witness to this love in action. Camp is a place unlike anywhere else I have been: No other place has shown me such freely given acceptance, unwarranted grace, and endless love. More importantly, no other place has taught me how to accept, forgive, and love like God: giving of myself even when I don't want to, or even when I feel empty. This, I think, is the ultimate beauty of camp: It is a place where love and grace are continually given, both *by us* and *for us* - a simultaneous pouring out and being filled up. What a gift it has been to be just one of the many drops of water in God's everlasting ocean of love. **Miriam Hanson (22)**

This was my third year at Good Earth Village. I stayed in the old schoolhouse in Old Town. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday we got up at 7:00 am and cooked breakfast over a fire. After breakfast we had worship and sang camp songs, then we either had free time or we played a group game. After lunch we did Bible study and since the theme at Good Earth Village was light, we studied how Jesus brought light into the world. After Bible study we went on hikes and sometimes made crafts. On Tuesday we went creek splashing and on Thursday we went to the Spring Valley pool. At night we played night games and then had worship. One of my favorite activities was on Wednesday. Instead of playing night games, the counselors set up a candle ceremony, where there were six stations (I only made it to five.) At the first station we could write something on a rock that reminded us of God. At the second station we could finger paint something that reminded us of God. At the third and fourth stations, a counselor shared about their faith. At the fifth station we could write something that worried us or we were afraid of and then we nailed it to a cross. Then, we went to the labyrinth and stood around it. In the center was a wooden block with candles. Whenever you wanted you could walk, light a candle, and say a prayer. The counselors were privately praying for their campers. I think Good Earth Village is a great place for kids to go and have fun while growing closer to God. **Joey Krieger (11)**

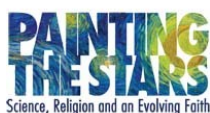
The (Boundary Waters Youth Trip) experience was simply amazing. I have so many stories I don't know where to start. One of my favorites would be: when we learned that there was a chance that we would see a moose we came up with our imaginary fat baby moose named Stan. Stan was a fat baby moose. Whenever we needed to be cheered up somebody would talk in Stan's voice and just make everyone laugh. We just had a great time all around. We also learned a lot about each other. **Sonja Pierson (12)**

ADULTS

LEARNING, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

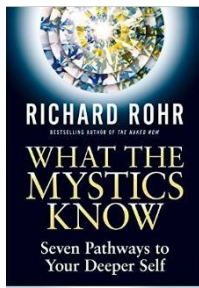
September 1



Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith

Video Discussion: *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith*. Join **Jim and Peg Mikkelson** as they present an engaging video and discussion called *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith*. Celebrating the communion of science and faith, *Painting the Stars* explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. The study features over a dozen leading theologians and progressive thinkers.

October 6



"Richard Rohr opened a new spiritual path for a lot of Americans." - Dr. Robert C.

What the Mystics Know: Seven Pathways to Your Deeper Self by Richard Rohr

Drawing from the best and most poetic of Richard Rohr's essays from nearly a quarter of a century, each chapter in this new collection examines one of the seven core mystical truths. Organized according to the mystical paths that every worshiper must follow, Rohr identifies the despair of everyday life, promotes opportunities for change even in the face of pain, thereby transforming one's deeper self into a beacon of light that aids in the perpetual metamorphosis of others.

Faith Seeking Understanding reads and shares conversations about a variety of books on theology, religion, spirituality and Christianity and our changing church. The video discussion requires no preparation. Come and view with the group and share in the discussions! FSU meets on the first Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jody Myers at jodyjpmyers@gmail.com.



Monday Book Group **September 14**

The Moon Is Down by John Steinbeck

All are welcome. Meet in the Mount Olive library the second Monday at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net or Darlene Vowels at vowelsjd@charter.net.

Mount Olive Quilters
Thursdays, 9 am

You are invited each
week to enjoy
quilting and fellowship.

Empowered Women Empowering Women

*Do you ever wonder about the women of scripture? What thoughts they had of God?
What constraints their world set before them?*

Do you ever wonder how they claimed empowerment as beloved children of God?

As we come together on October 9-10th to explore Empowered Women = Empowering Women we will see how the scriptural witness can continue to empower us as it has Christian women of all ages, while being honest about the "rough edges" of both our sacred book and our own lives.

Let us gather under the blessing of Christian author and artist Jan Richardson, who writes:

***"May you know the hidden stories
of your life, your lineage, your tradition.***

***May you look into the layers
with courage and imagination.***

***Amongst the gaps, the absences, the traces and fragments,
may you find stories to create anew."***

Mount Olive Women's Retreat October 9-10

Where: Mount Olive Lutheran Church

When: Friday, October 9, 6:30 pm - 8:30+ pm

Saturday, October 10, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

All women are invited! Registration begins at the Ministry Fair.

*\$30 includes
registration
and meals.*

Retreat Speaker, Rev. Sarah Nietz, is the lead pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran in Faribault.

Women of the **ELCA** 

Prayer Shawl Ministry Tuesday, September 8 9:00 am

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

Men's Discipleship Bible Study

8:30 am each Saturday beginning September 12

On September 12, we will meet at Baker Square North for breakfast and fellowship. Starting September 19 we will meet in the conference room near the church entrance. Our study focuses on scripture or a book that helps us to walk closer to the Lord and to our families, and encourages us in being disciples of Jesus. Come as your schedule allows. If you have questions, you can talk with Mark Masbruch, Paul Johnson or Mark Schoer.

SERVICE AND SOCIAL OUTREACH MINISTRY (SSOM)

Facilities and Gardens Indoor Work Day September 3 at 4:00 pm

The Facilities and Gardens Ministry Team will be hosting an "indoor work day" on Thursday, September 3 beginning at 4:00 pm. At 5:30 there will be a break for fellowship and a meal. The evening will wrap up by 9:00 pm. Tasks include:

1. Paint touch-up in the classrooms
2. Labeling Breaker boxes
3. Ceiling Tile replacement
4. Checking and replacing rubber feet on folding chairs and tables.



All are welcome. You can receive instruction if you are uncertain about the tasks. Materials and tools will be out and ready for the activity.



Important Interfaith Hospitality Dates:
Mark Your Calendar

Ice Cream Social Wednesday, September 2 at 6:30 pm at Mount Olive for **ALL** Family Promise volunteers in the Rochester area.

IHN Training: Sunday November 8, noon at Mount Olive

IHN Choir Concert: Friday November 20, 7:30 pm at Bethel Lutheran

IHN Hosting Week at Mount Olive: Sunday November 22-29

All are invited to attend the
Second Annual

Bishop's 5K

September 26, 9:00AM
Soldier's Field, Rochester

Online registration & information at:
<http://www.semnsynod.org/bishops5k>



Meal Ministry

Mount Olive has recently starting using on online service called *Meal Train* to organize meals for Mount Olive members in need. Volunteers simply sign on the service and choose a date to provide a meal using an individualized link for each recipient. Dietary requirements, maps, email reminders, and special instructions can be viewed. If you are willing to help provide meals, please email Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org, and she can send the Meal Train links to you. *An ongoing coordinator is needed for this ministry;* please contact Nancy or one of the pastors if you would be willing to help coordinate this ministry to our members.

Musical Opportunities Coming This Fall!

Have you ever thought about joining a vocal or instrumental group at the church, but didn't know what was available, or required to participate? Check out the list of opportunities below. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Brock Besse (Minister of Music) at (507) 288-1580, ext. 203 or email: bbesse@charter.net.

Mount Olive Adult Choir



Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening, beginning at 7:30 pm in the music room. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 2. The choir sings primarily at the 10:30 am service throughout the year, but will occasionally sing during the 8:00 am service as well. Anyone wishing to sing with the choir is encouraged and invited to participate. You do not need to be able to read music to participate.

Mount Olive Glory Bells

Rehearsals are every Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the bell classroom. Our first rehearsal is Tuesday, September 15. The bell-choir primarily plays for both the 8 am and 10:30 am services the second Sunday of each month, and also provides special music during festival celebrations. Anyone wishing to ring bells is invited to participate!



Mount Olive Brass Ensemble



Mount Olive is blessed to have their very own Brass Group that plays throughout the year, enhancing the worship services by majestically leading the congregation in song. Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening from 8:45 pm to 9:30 pm in the sanctuary.

This group consists of two trumpets, one French horn, one trombone, one tuba, and occasionally timpani.

If you are interested in participating in this ensemble, or wish to be added to the list as a substitute as positions become available, please contact Brock Besse.



Cantus Ensemble

This ensemble continues to enrich the Saturday evening worship services through song. Rehearsals are every Saturday from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the sanctuary. Anyone wishing to participate is invited to attend! Our first rehearsal is Saturday, September 12 at 3:30 pm in the sanctuary choir loft.



Wednesday Nights
Starting October 7

5:30 Dinner

6:00 Table Discussions

6:15 Mini Worship Service

6:35 Guided Community Learning

7:10 Re-gather and Sending

7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:45 Adult Brass Rehearsal

Renewing

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1 style="margin: 0;">S e p t e m b e r</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">2 0 1 5</h2>		1 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Social Service and Outreach Ministry Team 6:30p Faith Seeking Understanding Book Group	2 6:30p Sunday School Volunteer Training (Pre-K - Grade 5) 6:30p Interfaith Hospitality Volunteer Social Event 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	3 8:00a Senior Pastors Gathering 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 4:00p Facilities Team Indoor Work Day 6:00p Sunday School Volunteer Training 7:00p 'In the Process' AI- Anon	4 6:00p Serve at Dorothy Day House	5 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 5:00p Worship
6 8:00a Worship and Coffee Fellowship 9:30a Worship and Coffee Fellowship	7 Labor Day, Office Closed	8 Interfaith Build - Habitat for Humanity 9:00a Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:30p Adult Faith Ministry Team	9 6:00p Congregational Book Discussion and Meal 6:30p 10th Grade Meeting 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	10 Interfaith Build - Habitat for Humanity 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 9:00a Rochester Keyboard Club 5:30p Facility & Grounds Ministry 7:00p 'In the Process' AI- Anon	11	12 8:30a Men's Discipleship 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 9:00a Interfaith Build - Habitat for Humanity 3:30p Cantus Rehearsal 5:00p Worship 5:45p Ministry Fair
13 Rally Day - Ministry Fair 8:00a Worship 9:00a Rally Day Activities and Ministry Fair 10:30a Worship 11:30a Rally Day Activities and Ministry Fair 3:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Rehearsal	14 5:30p Public Theology 6:00p Widowed Persons 6:30p Monday Book Group 6:30p Lydia Circle 6:30p IHN Training Event at Christ United Methodist 6:30p Scout Planning Meeting	15 9:15a Staff Meeting 6:00p Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team 6:30p WomenHeart of SE MN Support Group 7:30p Glory Bells	16 6:30p Grade 6 - 9 Student and Parent Meeting 6:30a Anna Circle 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	17 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 7:00p 'In the Process' AI- Anon	18	19 8:30a Men's Discipleship 9:00a Altar Guild Meeting & Setup 10:00a District 41 AI-Anon 3:30p Cantus Rehearsal 5:00p Worship
20 8:00a Worship 9:15a Education Hour 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 11:45a Full Council Meeting & Meal, Confirmands Read Faith Statements 7:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Rehearsal	21 5:30p Public Theology 6:30p Boy Scout Troop Mtg.	22 9:15a Staff Meeting 1:00p Naomi Circle 7:30p Glory Bells	23 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	24 9:00a Mount Olive Quilters 7:00p Rachel Circle 7:00p 'In the Process' AI- Anon	25 9:30a Mary Circle	26 8:30a Men's Discipleship 9:00a Altar Guild Setup 3:30p Cantus Rehearsal 5:00p Worship
27 8:00a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 9:15a Education Hour 10:30a Worship & Coffee Fellowship 1:00p Adventure Club - Squash Blossom 3:00p Rochester Pops Orchestra Rehearsal	28 5:30p Public Theology 6:30p Boy Scout Troop Mtg.	29 9:00a Ruth Circle 9:15a Staff Meeting 7:00p Softball	30 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:45p Adult Brass Rehearsal	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Fall Wednesday Nights Begin October 7</h2>		