

WORSHIP

8:00am

Traditional
Communion on 1st, 3rd
& 5th Sundays

10:30am

Contemporary
Communion on 2nd, 4th
& 5th Sundays

FELLOWSHIP

9:00am Coffee Hour

9:20am Sunday School

9:30am Bible Studies

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jason Zobel

Senior Pastor
jzobel@molc.us

Rev. Mark Baldwin

Director of Family Life
mbaldwin@molc.us

Derek Handley

Office Manager
office@molc.us

Laurel Zobel

Preschool Director
lzobel@molc.us

PRAYER REQUESTS

Laurel Zobel, Barb Koehler
lzobel@molc.us
koehlbs@gmail.com



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

The good news for many this time of year is that we are getting ever closer to Christmas! "Christmas is coming! Christmas is coming!" are the words that rang so clearly for many years when our kids were little. Why? The Christmas preparations would culminate with family and friends gathering in various homes around the Midwest to celebrate the season. Even though our "little ones" aren't so little anymore, the joy of Christmas still comes near because the joy revolves around a present that never tatters or grows old. And this good news is coming once again!

Over 2000 years ago the households weren't screaming that same phrase. Many had grown quite weary and thought that a promised Messiah would never come. But in a stable, in a little town called Bethlehem, the earth erupted as the Savior was born. Oh, that I could have been there to witness the scene as the angels proclaimed Jesus' birth! Oh, that I could have seen that tiny baby and worshiped Him like the shepherds did!

Though we may not see Him like Mary, Joseph, and the others, we rejoice with the angels in the good news of great joy that is coming to us this month. We see through the eyes of faith the revelation of the One who came to save us from our sin. Indeed, very good news!

As I write this article, it's hard for me not to think of all the good news we get to share this Advent and Christmas season. First, and most importantly, we have a Savior who is Christ the Lord! We also have approved a new Lutheran School ministry to begin in 2020 and, on top of that, Mr. Ray Calderon has agreed to be our new Director of Music at Mount Olive. What good news, indeed! I can't even begin to imagine how many hearts will be touched by God's love with the additions of the school and Ray! So let us give thanks to God for His many blessings to Mount Olive, and may we let our voices sing aloud again this Advent that Jesus is coming! Good news for one and all!

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

In His love and service,

Pastor Jason, Laurel, Andrew and Kristin, Lauren, and Rebecca

OFFICE

Hours

9:00am-3:00pm Mon-Fri

Contact Us

(608) 238-5656

office@molc.us www.molc.us

For emergencies, call 228-4134 (Pastor's cell).

JANUARY VIEW DEADLINE

Monday, December 16th

E-mail articles to Derek Handley at office@molc.us.

If you have some spare time, come help stuff inserts and stick on mailing labels!

Wed, December 18th at 12:00pm

SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE

The Sunday Bulletin deadline for Announcements is always **Wednesday at NOON** for the following Sunday.

Email announcements to Derek at office@molc.us.

DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

December 1: Executive Committee

December 8: Stansfields

December 15: (open)

December 22: Sue & George Krug

December 29: Doris Smith

Sign up at the Coffee Bar!

ALTAR FLOWERS

December 1: (open)

December 8: (open)

December 15: (open)

December 22: Sue & George Krug, in memory of parents

December 29: (Christmas Poinsettias) *Sign up in the office!*

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

Small Groups meet all around the Madison area! If you would like to be placed in a group, contact our Director of Family Life Rev. Mark Baldwin at mbaldwin@molc.us or (608) 238-5656.

CARD SHOP NEWS

Come visit the Card Shop for boxed Christmas cards @\$5 a box and lots of everyday greeting cards @75 cents each. Birthday and Sympathy are the most popular but we also have Get Well, Thinking of You, Wedding, Anniversary, Baby congrats, Baptism, plus Encouragement cards, all with a Bible verse to share. All profits go to Lutheran Women's Missionary League. We are located in the Library. Thanks for your patronage!

DENNY'S MEET-UP

You're invited to join Mount Olive members and friends at Denny's (433 S Gammon Rd) **Wednesday, December 4 at 1pm** for good food and fellowship!

LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE IN HOSPITAL!

Just a friendly reminder to let us know if you are hospitalized. The hospitals no longer let us know on their own accord like they used to.

SCRIP

As you begin to think about holiday gifts, keep in mind the benefit of buying gift cards through Mount Olive's **SCRIP** program. Orders will be taken yet on **Sundays, December 1 and 15**. It's a WIN-WIN - you get some of your gift-giving taken care of AND Mount Olive receives the rebates! During the holidays, some businesses up their rebate % (some offer 14, 15 or 16%!) - check out the list on www.shopwithscrip.com. See Connie LaRowe with any questions. Thank you!

HOLIDAY FLYERS

There are flyers available at the Welcome Center with all holiday events and services coming up. Take one for yourself to keep track of the many things going on here at Mount Olive and **take a few with you to invite friends!**

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

JOIN US on Wednesdays in December leading up to Christmas at **NOON & 7:00pm!** On the 18th, our Preschool kids will present their Christmas program at the NOON service, and our annual Live Nativity will take place at the 7pm service. The sermon series for this year will be "The Lord Opens the Womb". Here are the themes for each week:

Dec 4: Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord? (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7)

Dec 11: His Name Is Wonderful (Judges 13:1-24)

Dec 18: Heard by God (1 Samuel 1:1-2:11)

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP!

Connect, Give, Listen, and more! Search for "Mount Olive LC" in the Apple Store or Google Play store.



TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Take time to be holy, Speak oft with the Lord; Abide in Him always, And feed on His Word. -William Dunn Longstaff

December	1 John	Psalm	Proverbs
1	1	5	28: 25-26
2	2	49	28:27-28
3	3	130	29:1
4	4	32	29:2-4
5	5	91	29:5-8
6	2 John	124	29:9-11
7	3 John	52	29:12-14
9	Jude	119:129-144	29:15-17
10	Rev	1:1-8	29:18-20
11		1:9-20	29:21-23
12		2-3	29:24-25
13		4	29:26-27
14		5	30:1-4
16		6	30:5-6
17		7	30:7-10
18		8-9	30:11-14
19		10-11	30:15-16
20		12	30:17-20
21		13	30:21-23
23		14	30:24-28
24		15-16	30:29-31
25		17-18	30:32
26		19:1-10	30:33
27		19:11-21	31:1-7
28		20	31:8-9
30		21	31:10-24
31		22	31:25-31

Today's Light Bible Class meets on **Wednesdays at 10am** in the Fireplace Room. Come and join our conversation!

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Every year, the International Friendship Center (IFC) hosts their Christmas Party here at Mount Olive. This year, it is on **Saturday, December 7 at 6pm**. You are always welcome to attend, as a chance to show our International friends what Christmas is all about! **IFC would appreciate volunteers**. Paul Skidmore will be our lead volunteer, so if you are interested, you can see him or contact the office.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

This year's Advent By Candlelight will be held on **Friday, December 6th**. The doors will open at 6:00pm and appetizers will be served starting at 6:15pm, followed by our program at 7:00pm.

This event is for all of the women of the congregation and their guests. There is a table in the Narthex where you can sign up to either be a table hostess or an attendee. If you plan to be a hostess, you are welcome to come set up your table Thursday, December 5th anytime between 5-9pm or Friday, December 6th between 9am-3pm.

We hope to see you there to enjoy some fellowship and time to reflect on the true meaning of the Christmas season.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ABC SET-UP

Men, this includes you now! Would you consider helping set up tables **Thursday, December 5 starting at 4:15pm**? If interested, contact Gretchen at edcropp@charter.net.

A VIEW FROM THE SCHOOL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members of Mount Olive:

At the November 10, 2019 special voter's meeting, the congregation voted to start a Lutheran Day School beginning the Fall of 2020. We want to first thank our great God for His grace and mercy in blessing Mount Olive for over 75 years! It is only by His strength that we can move forward in faith with this new ministry at Mount Olive! We also want to thank the Exploratory and Planning Committee members for their time, energy, and effort in the planning process and the many congregational members who provided input along the way, whether by responding to the survey, attending any of the listening sessions, attending the voter's meeting, and/or reaching out to the committee with comments and questions. The two committees valued every response and used them to help form the direction of the school plan.

Moving forward, we would welcome volunteers in assisting with the next set of tasks in preparation of our new Lutheran Day School. If you have any interests in serving, questions about the next steps, or suggestions as we move forward, please contact the Planning Committee at schoolcommittee@molc.us, Pastor Jason at jzobel@molc.us, or the church office at office@molc.us.

May God continue to bless Mount Olive as we share His incredible love!

Marci Baldwin, Jeremy Bluhm, Molly Chin, Luke Frauenhoff, Dave Gaston, Justin Kirchen, Paul Skidmore, Gary Strohm, Laurel Zobel, Pastor Jason Zobel

While the month of December may include cookie baking, shopping for the perfect gift, decorating the house for company, and attending concerts and parties, it is important that we take time to stop and reflect on the real reason for the season. We can often get “caught up” in the hustle and bustle of the season that we miss the point of it all. Because without Christ, there is no CHRISTmas. Below is a meaningful way you and your family can take some time over the course of 15 days to read God’s Word and build a manger scene. Perhaps it will be a new tradition you can start as you remember all of the details God orchestrated to bring about His perfect plan of salvation in the gift of Baby Jesus. I pray that this will you deepen your worship time during Advent and Christmas.



- The preschoolers will be presenting some Christmas songs and fingerplays during the Advent service on **Wednesday, December 18th**. Please join us at noon as we celebrate the gift of our Savior, Jesus.
- Thanks to all of you who supported the preschool in our Butter braid fundraiser. With the sales of the butter braids and generous donations from preschool and church members, we raised over \$1,000.00. We will be purchasing some new trikes for the gym and also used the proceeds to pay for our new library cart and parking lot cones. We are truly blessed to have such a caring congregation.
- This month we will be collecting toiletries (nail polish, cologne, perfume, hand lotion, etc) and decorations for a local nursing home. If you would like to assist the preschoolers with this project, donations can be turned into the red basket in the preschool hallway.

May you be reminded of the love, hope, joy and peace of this Advent season as you take time to prepare your hearts and minds for Christmas. What a gift God gave to us on that first Christmas night. We can love because He first loved us!

*In His love,
 Laurel*



Our Sunday School students are excitedly preparing for the Christmas program “**How the Grinch Found the Christ in Christmas.**” This is a fun program, a little more contemporary than past Christmas programs, but the focus is on the Christmas message. The Grinch and narrator walk through the idea of how the Grinch doesn’t see what Christmas is REALLY about (no....not giving....the fact that Jesus came to this earth for us.) Our students are practicing each week leading up to the presentation on **Sunday, December 8 at the 10:30 service.** You don’t want to miss it!

Our LOGOS students are planning on caroling at Oakwood on December 18th. This is an event that brings smiles to the residents’ faces as our students carol throughout the various dining halls during dinner.

Board of Ed members will be packing goodies into large envelopes to be mailed to all of our college students and students in the military to remind them that we are thinking of them as Christmas approaches.

From all of us on the Board of Education, we wish you a merry and blessed Christmas!

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” – 2 Corinthians 9:15

HAITI CRISIS - LETTER FROM GEORGE & SUE KRUG

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Mount Olive,

You probably have not seen or heard much about the continuing turmoil in Haiti because there has been very little, if any coverage, through the standard news channels. Just this past Monday, the 11th, we saw an editorial in the Wisconsin State Journal talking about their situation but it's the first we've come upon. Sue and I, however, have been very aware of it because of a former Compassion child, Widnika, who we sponsored for many years. She graduated high school, and matriculated from the Compassion program a couple of years ago. God has enabled us to remain connected with her, and we're helping her financially to attend college and also learn English.

This "Haiti connection" has also expanded since this past winter, when in Florida we met a woman, Helen Rosenfeldt. As God sometimes leads you, we found that Helen started, and runs a very small 501c3 due to her affiliation with the Florida-Georgia LCMS church. It's called mission:Haiti. The organization is dedicated to glorifying God and transforming lives through their service to the people in Haiti by supporting opportunities focused on academic and spiritual education. Because she regularly travels to Haiti to work with the Haitian missionary leaders she made an effort to meet Widnika. Of course, we were ecstatic to have had her make this contact, but are more grateful that she now keeps us informed of what is happening in Widnika's life and home country.

Recently we received a letter from her that speaks to the extreme situation Haitians are now living in. Helen, and her small crew of Haitian cohorts, are responding to this turmoil by attempting to provide for the basic needs of so many. We told her we would be happy to share this letter with our congregation in the hopes you might consider helping Haitian people like Widnika and her family. We include an excerpt from Helen's letter to give you an idea of what they're dealing with...and what they're doing:

"The unrest, which has resulted in roadblocks, demonstrations, riots and burning, actually started more than a year ago because the president has been implicated in widespread corruption and refuses to step down. Gas, diesel and propane costs have nearly doubled, gangs wield unprecedented power, people are afraid to go to market to buy or sell, schools, banks, government offices, and hospitals are often closed or due to lack of electricity and supplies. Normal commerce is at a virtual standstill. It is no overstatement to say that people are dying because of the situation. Rampant inflation has doubled the cost of food....and most Haitians make less than \$2 a day, when they can find work!"

"Many charitable organizations have suspended or abandoned work in Haiti at a time the average person needs help the most. They can't open their feeding programs or move food in big trucks for fear of theft or violence. Several elderly ladies told our Field Director, Lophane Laurent, that they had not eaten anything for more than 2 days. Lophane used some of his own money to buy food for the ladies...Families who rely on school lunches to feed their children, can't send their kids to school and can't afford food because they can't go to work since roads are blocked or people are afraid they will get caught on the wrong side of a demonstration. Lophane has a friend who owns a food warehouse and he can supply food to Lophane in amounts that Lophane can carry discreetly in our small pickup truck. He can get food to the elderly, single parent families and those he knows are the most nutritionally vulnerable, if we can pay for it. Thirty dollars will buy enough rice, oil, canned fish, spaghetti, (and also soap) to feed 1 person 2 meals a day for 2 weeks."

As you can see, the need is great. If you can help supply food for our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ it would be most appreciated. You can send your financial gift through their website: missionhaiti99.org, or you can mail a check to:

Mission: Haiti, 3850 S University Dr. #290171, Davie FL 33329

Thank you so much for your prayerful consideration to help those, in this crises, who are unable to help themselves. If you have questions or other ideas as to how we might help please contact either of us. May God richly reward you for your help.

In Christ together with you,
George & Sue Krug

A VIEW FROM THE FAMILY LIFE DIRECTOR Rev. Mark Baldwin

Men @ Work – Mount Olive’s men’s ministry normally meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm in the Fireplace Room. HOWEVER, this month we will meet **Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall** for some fellowship and food. The ladies from Females In Faith will join us after their Bible study. All men (and spouses) are invited!

Females in Faith is a Bible Study for the ladies of our congregation and friends. They meet the **2nd & 4th Tuesdays** of each month studying God’s Word and praying together. They start at **6:30pm** and are currently involved in a study entitled: “Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks”. In December, Females In Faith will only meet on **Tuesday, December 10th**.



Our **Parent Discussion Group** meets during LOGOS (**Wednesdays**) from **6 -6:45pm**. As our children are studying and growing in God’s Word at LOGOS, we spend time in God’s Word, as well as, sharing, discussing, and supporting one another as parents. We meet in the Fireplace Room.

In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Mark

A VIEW FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS Curt Casanova, Director

Thank You, Marge!

This month is a landmark month for one of our congregation's most devout volunteers. December marks the last month that Marge Bils will be the lead for the Altar Guild as she will be "retiring" from the position at the start of the new year. The Board of Elders would like to take this opportunity to thank Marge Bils for her dedicated service. With what has largely been "behind the scenes" work, Marge has quietly led the Altar Guild for the last 18 years. That's right- 18 years! What a blessing Marge has been (and continues to be) for Mount Olive. We are so very thankful.

Join us for the Holidays!

Mount Olive
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Advent Midweek Services: Wed, Dec 4, 11, 18 at noon & 7pm

Advent by Candlelight: Fri, Dec 6 at 6pm

Youth Christmas Bake Sale: Sun, Dec 8 at 9:15am

Sunday School Christmas Program: Sun, Dec 8 at 10:30am

Advent Choral Festival: Sun, Dec 15 at 9am

Christmas Party: Sun, Dec 15 at 10:15am

Outdoor Live Nativity: Wed, Dec 18 at 7pm

Christmas Eve Services: Tue, Dec 24 at 4, 7 & 10pm

Christmas Day Service: Wed, Dec 25 at 9am

*"The true light, which gives light to everyone,
was coming into the world." John 1:9*

A VIEW FROM THE FOUNDATION

The MOLC Foundation was the host of the Nov 24th Fellowship Hour. This Fellowship Hour at Thanksgiving is a way to inform the congregation about the purpose of the Foundation and helps us count our blessings for those who have contributed, and for the investment outcomes that have been realized during 2019.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide a permanent and growing capital fund which by prudent investment and management will provide investment income to support purposes with which Mount Olive is associated including those with a religious, educational, or charitable focus.

Each year, the Foundation sponsors grants and scholarships programs. Applications for each of these programs are on the Fellowship website, and will be due on **March 31, 2020**.

The MOLC Foundation is your opportunity to make a permanent investment in Christian service. All contributions are fully tax deductible. Opportunities for giving include birthday and anniversary remembrances, graduations, memorials honoring loved ones, special church related events and estate bequests.

For your convenience, there is a Foundation envelope in the packet of church offering envelopes sent to you monthly. Contributions are also accepted electronically via Mount Olive's online giving app.

IN THE COMMUNITY

96TH ANNUAL CAPITOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Kiwanis Club of Madison West Foundation hosts the 96th Annual Capitol Christmas Pageant **Sunday, December 8**. Two performances at **4:15 and 5:15pm** at the Wisconsin State Capitol. Performing in the pageant are Madison area high schoolers and elementary schoolers from McFarland, Madison East, Madison Memorial, LaFollette, Edgewood, and Queen of Peace. If you have any questions about this pageant, see Chuck Stumpf.

THE VIEW from the Mount

Newsletter of:

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, LCMS

110 N Whitney Way

Madison, WI 53705

DECEMBER 2019

Address Service Requested

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*At Mount Olive, we come to know Jesus Christ in God's Word and Sacraments;
praising God, strengthening our individual lives, supporting fellow Christians,
and sharing God's love wherever we go.*