

LIVESTREAM

WORSHIP

Sundays 9:00am
Divine Worship on
Facebook

VIRTUAL BIBLE

STUDY

Sundays 10:15am
on Zoom

CHURCH STAFF

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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BEING FAITHFUL

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life”.
Revelation 2:10b

Our small group bible study decided a couple months ago that the book of Revelation would be our next topic of discussion. Little did we know then how a virus would interrupt our lives and our study together. One thing we have learned is that we can “see” each other by means of technology. We have also found that the words we are studying have an even deeper meaning as we contemplate the current church amid these times and our future lives in context of the world around us. The text above was introduced during our last study. It is a text that I have loved for a long time. I even had it penned in calligraphy on my office wall while I served as pastor in Braidwood because it was, and still is, one of my “driving” verses for my faith and life. Be faithful unto death. Powerful words, indeed. Yet how can we faithful? To whom are we faithful? These are questions that been asked over the ages.

Well, we start with the One who has been faithful to us. Our God is faithful. He is faithful in loving us. He is faithful to His word in saving us through the blood of Jesus Christ. In this faithfulness, He calls us to be faithful. Faithful to His word. Faithful to His commands. Faithful in following Him every day, in any season of life. This can be quite difficult as we are not perfect people who can automatically follow as we are instructed. We get distracted by, as Scripture states, “other gospels” that do not lead us to Christ, but away from Him. These “other gospels” are open to or following the ways and directions of the culture which do not believe in the true God or believe that the scriptures are from God. These “other gospels” sometimes slip into the Christian church. When that happens, the Bible becomes more like a buffet line with people picking what parts of scripture they like to fit their lifestyle or system of beliefs. Part of being faithful means recognizing that our minds are going to stray from His truth, being willing to repent of our tendency to follow our own way or the way of others who misrepresent His truth, and ready to follow His way even if it costs us our lives.

This is a tall task, but remember, this is not something that we bear by ourselves. Our God is faithful. Our God is actively moving to remind us of His love. He is with us every step of the way. He has been faithful so that we can be faithful. He has loved us so that we can love one another. He has shown us grace so that we can be gracious to others. And during this time of anxiety and uncertainty, God continues to grant all of these things to us. What comfort it is to know that God has us safe and secure in His saving arms during this life. He has overcome the world so that we could have peace.

These are difficult times, times I pray will never be experienced again, but they are not the end. It is well with our soul because God continues to be faithful. May we be faithful in response so that God can live through us as we lift up, build up, serve, and love one another.

In His love and service,
Pastor Jason

OFFICE

Hours

Office temporarily CLOSED

Contact Us

(608) 238-5656

office@molc.us www.molc.us

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

JUNE/JULY VIEW DEADLINE

Thursday, May 21st

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

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.

MAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 UPDATE

Governor Evers' #SaferAtHome has been extended to **May 26th**. The Mount Olive Office remains CLOSED, and public worship and events are suspended. Even though you all are following the news carefully, we will update you as to what any news updates mean for Mount Olive. We hope to be worshipping with you all in person very soon! Stay tuned. For now, we are here for you. So please reach out via email and/or call the church office! Pastor Jason is willing to meet with you to serve communion as well. Feel free to contact him to set up a time to do so.



WEEKLY MINISTRY

MON



Midday Meditations

LIKE & SUBSCRIBE to 'Music At Mount Olive' on Facebook and YouTube!

TUE/THUR



Walking In The Light

Bi-weekly devotional podcast available at molc.us/devotions, lead by Pastor Mark

WED



Wednesday Reflections

Video reflections from Pastor Jason on Mount Olive Facebook page

SUN



Worship & Bible Study

9am livestream worship on Facebook, 10:15am Zoom Bible Study

FREE RESOURCES AVAILABLE!

Concordia Publishing House has made a bunch of online resources available for FREE during COVID-19, including Portals of Prayer and Today's Light Bible Study. Visit cph.org to take a look!

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.

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP!

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



CARD SHOP

While we are staying at home during this virus time, if you do come into the church and need some cards, please just "self-serve". We are putting the Easter cards away and putting out Confirmation, Graduation, Mother's Day and Father's Day cards to be prepared for the other special occasions for May and June. All cards are 75 cents each, have a Bible verse, and all profits go to Lutheran Women's Missionary League. We are in the Library, next to the Nursery.

LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL!

Just a friendly reminder to let us know if you are hospitalized. The hospitals used to let us know if any of our members are hospitalized, but unfortunately they do not do so any longer.

THANK YOU FROM RED CROSS!

We are so very grateful to all those who donated (including 12 Mount Olive members) and for those volunteers that helped to make this drive possible given the challenges the Coronavirus has brought with it. The drive had 49 donors and 50 total units were collected. What an absolutely phenomenal presentation of donors—**217% to goal!** That is simply amazing. Thank you to everyone for their generosity and patience during uncertain times to help patients in need!! As many as **150** lives will have been helped by the Mount Olive Blood Drive!

MOLC FOUNDATION DONATES TO YOUTH!

The MOLC Foundation is pleased to announce that a grant for \$1000 has been awarded to the Youth Ministry Board for the 2020 mission trip. Due to the COVID-19 shut down, the youth were unable to host the annual Easter morning breakfast, which is a significant fundraiser for their mission work. We are hopeful that conditions improve so that this important mission work goes forward in July.

VIRTUAL SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Mount Olive has resumed its Sunday Bible Studies virtually via Zoom **every Sunday at 10:15am** (following 9am livestream worship). Every Friday, we will email you with the “meeting” link, ID, and password that you will need to attend the Bible study. You can subscribe to this list at the bottom of our home page at molc.us. A PDF of the Bible Study will be in the Friday email and on our home page as well.

LEADERSHIP SPOTS STILL OPEN!

The Nominating Committee is still in search of willing Mount Olive members who would be interested in serving as a director/member on a Mount Olive board for the 2020-22 term. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, contact Bill Skiera at bskierawis@gmail.com.

ASSISTANCE DURING COVID-19

If anyone or anyone you know at Mount Olive is in a situation where they would prefer or need to have someone run errands, shop, etc.. (so as not to risk their own health), please contact the church office at (608) 238-5656 or office@molc.us and let us know how we can help. According to the CDC, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

TODAY'S LIGHT BIBLE STUDY

God's Word reveals God's trustworthy promises and eternal mercy.

May	Joshua	Psalms	Proverbs
1	1	15	14:15-16
2	2-3	60	14:17-19
4	4:1-5:12	44	14:20-21
5	5:13-7:26	69	14:22-23
6	8-9	56	14:24-25
7	10	2	14:26-27
8	11-12	59	14:28-29
9	13-15	86	14:30-31
11	16-17	18	14:32-33
12	18-19	64	14:34-35
13	20-21	71	15:1-3
14	22	76	15:4-7
15	23	73	15:8-11
16	24	58	15:12-14
18 Judge	1	74	15:15-17
19	2	117	15:18-19
20	3	75	15:20-21
21	4-5	35	15:22-26
22	6-8	81	15:27-28
23	9-10	80	15:29-30
25	11-12	83	15:31-33
26	13-16	79	16:1-3
27	17-18	82	16:4-5
28	19-20	85	16:6-7
29	21	88	16:8-9
30 Ruth	1-2	62	16:10-11
31	3-4	41	16:12-13

Follow along at home during the month of May as we are quarantined in.

I'm being honest with you. As I write this, there are many thoughts encircling my mind as I contemplate what life would be like right now if this dark cloud, known as COVID 19, wouldn't be above our heads spilling a deluge of destruction, fear, anxiety, and sickness. Instead I would be busily preparing for a Dad's night at preschool, having the preschoolers make home-made art projects for Mother's Day and figuring out a way to move our youngest home from college the same weekend that her sister would be graduating from nursing school. Throw in trips to the store to purchase year-end prizes for my students and plans to meet up with family and friends for bible studies, birthday parties, and celebrations such as Mother's Day. Finally, my to-do list would include addressing wedding invitations for our daughter's wedding in July. Yet, those aren't the activities that are a part of my routine. In fact, I really don't seem to have a routine at all these days.

Instead, I am missing my preschoolers and the opportunity to share Jesus with them. Rather than addressing those invites, I am bombarded daily with the thought of what if we can't have the ceremony and reception that we have been planning. Frequent trips to the grocery store have been replaced with what can I make with the items that are currently in my cupboard. Life is different and the fear of the unknown is looming.

I'm fairly positive that in this time of our world's history, there is intermingled sadness and anxiety. It's not just in my camp... it's a thought in probably every household from day to day. The effects of this virus has crippled our economy, mental health and has not allowed us to grieve in person for those whom we have lost to this terrible disease. In a nation where we are accustomed to going about and assembling with others, we have been limited in our physical contact and have even been told that it's not safe to visit family, eat out in restaurants, and gather for worship on Sundays. Perhaps you have thought to yourself...."Where is God in all of this?"

In the book of Joshua, God reminds His people exactly where He is...in their very presence. He commands them to be strong and courageous. There is no need to fear. The Israelites were experiencing the unknown. No, they weren't dealing with a virus, but they were being led into a new land. The God of the Universe, the Creator of our world, tells us the very same thing He told the His people thousands of years ago....**DO NOT BE AFRAID.** In fact, He includes a promise to them. He would be with them wherever they go. A little food for thought in the midst of these trying days and weeks is there for us as well. He

promises that He will walk with us. The faithfulness of our God doesn't depend on what we are feeling that day. Even in the very midst of our struggles, He is present. Thanks be to God that even a pandemic can't keep our Heavenly Father from us. That bible verse was something the Lord had ordained for me to read today. I hope you too, can take those words and keep it in your "belt of truth."

I am praying that our Lord will bless you and give you opportunities to see how He indeed is working His plan for His greater good in all of this. I leave you with a few lyrics to the song Pastor Jason sang to me on our wedding day.

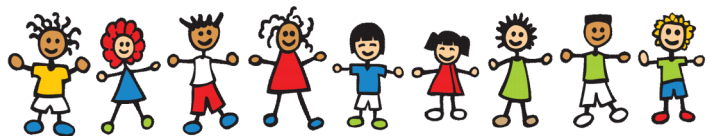
We don't know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds tomorrow

Knowing this we'll live above the world and all its sorrows.

May you find peace and comfort in His word, knowing that we can be strong and confident, even in times like these. Remember He is right with us...and that's something we can hold onto each and every day.

In His love,
Laurel

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- There are still openings for the fall. If you know of anyone interested in registration for preschool, please have them email Laurel at lzobel@molc.us or call 608-228-4135.
 - Though our year was cut short due to COVID 19, we rejoice in the time God allowed us to be together. Please pray for our preschool families as they navigate activities at home and spend time learning and growing.
 - Our St. Jude's trike-a-thon is cancelled. We look forward to holding it next year to help children and families affected by childhood cancer.



A VIEW FROM MUSIC AT MOUNT OLIVE Ray Calderon, Director

Easter Greetings In Christ! HE IS RISEN, and continues to bless us in ways unimaginable!

Despite our inability to congregate, our Ministry of Music continues to thrive in most blessed ways! Our **Midday Meditations from Mount Olive** has been received to great accolades and, through the offerings of our musical family of faith, we look forward to sharing more in the weeks to come! You are welcomed to enjoy these wonderful pieces, presented **every Monday at NOON** and can be accessed via our Music at Mount Olive Facebook site: www.facebook.com/musicatmountolivemadison/ or our YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCwSdJBgCszYLU_qVNZenTig.

Please do feel free to share these web addresses with your loved ones and all whom you feel may benefit, that we may all enjoy the musical blessings from Mount Olive. Wishing you all health, safety, and God's perfect love.

A VIEW FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Peggy Rainbow, Director

Little did we know as we began the month of March that all church activities would be closed mid-month until summer. That brought about an abrupt end to our Sunday School classes and our LOGOS program for this year. Fortunately, our two confirmands (Robin Schleusner and Leo Evert) have been able to continue their learning virtually with Pastor Zobel and will be ready to confirm their faith when activities are allowed to resume.



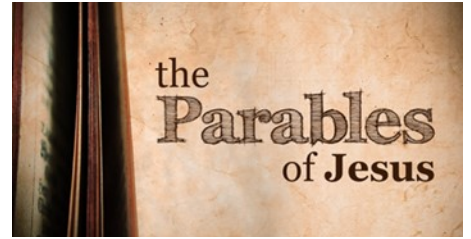
VBS

At this point in time **we will NOT** be holding Vacation Bible School the week we had planned for in June. It may be moved to July or August, or there is the possibility we will have to cancel it for this year. We will reevaluate as May moves along. We pray that you are well and able to use this "stay at home" time to draw closer to family and closer to God, study his word, and be of help to those around us.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." -Isaiah 41:10 ESV

A VIEW FROM THE FAMILY LIFE DIRECTOR Rev. Mark Baldwin

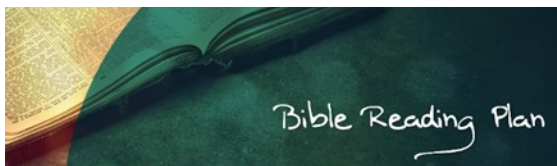
Our men's group – Men @ Work – meets the first Monday of each month. **On May 4**, we will continue our study of the Parables of Jesus via ZOOM. We will begin **at 6:30pm** for study, discussion, prayer, and virtual fellowship. If you haven't been able to be involved in this group, you are encouraged to join us on May 4th.



SAVE THE DATE OF SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST, for the 1st annual Mount Olive Lutheran School Benefit Golf Outing! It will be held at The Meadows of Six Mile Creek in Waunakee! There will be a shotgun start at 1pm followed by dinner at the club house. Start organizing your 4-somes now. This is will be a great family event.

More information to come in the next few months!

“Walking in the Light” is our new bi-weekly devotional podcast. It is posted on Tuesday and Thursday each week around noon on Mt. Olive's Facebook page. You can also find them on the MOLC website – www.molc.us (under Devotions).



Watch for a new 52-week Bible Reading Plan for the whole family that takes us through God's Word in chronological order. It should be up and running by mid-May 2020.

A VIEW FROM THE TREASURER Greg Rademacher

A few financial highlights from the first quarter of fiscal 2020:

1. Through March 31st, envelope and plate offerings of \$108,762 were at 89.4% of budget and were up 2.8% year over year. These figures are off from the February report, as March offerings were down 6.8% (about \$2,900) from 2019. Still, a rather encouraging figure all things considered.
2. Expenses continue to run below budget; however, a couple of timing differences are expected to bring total expenses much closer to 100% of budget by the April 30th report.
3. The current net loss of \$19,353 is ahead of the forecasted budget deficit of \$24,976 through the first quarter, but will likely shift to running behind projections once the added expenses mentioned above hit.
4. While early April indications are that we will almost certainly be running behind last year, estimates are that we are still running at 90%+ of last year's offerings through April 30th in spite of no in-person gatherings for 6 weeks. We are noticing a decline but not of a magnitude that would create short-term financial stress.
5. Thankfully, we continue to have sufficient cash reserves to manage monthly cash flow. As of March 31st, total cash in the bank was just over \$166,000. Given an average monthly outflow of roughly \$50,000, we have a little over 3 months of expenses covered without any offerings coming in. That would bring us until the middle of June. If our March/April experience is indicative, we could expect to see monthly offerings of \$20,000-\$30,000, extending that timeframe to six months (end of September) and hopefully well beyond the end date for any coronavirus precautions.
6. We are expecting to receive the first two installments from the District's school grant prior to the end of May, which should total \$15,000 and help with cash flow. (The first installment was in fact received and deposited in mid-April.)
7. The Finance Committee will discuss whether it is appropriate to pursue an equity line of credit or consider a cash-out mortgage refinancing given the decline in mortgage rates and the potential impact to cash flow. We have also applied for a loan through the Payroll Protection Program, which could bring in as much as \$65,000 if fully approved. The loan would be forgiven as long as we continued at full staff through June 30th, so this is more of a grant application than a loan.

8. The 2020 Annual Report was published in February, which included a categorical breakdown of membership giving. Figures remained relatively stable when compared to prior years; copies are available upon request if members didn't catch the report initially.

We are happy to answer any and all questions! treasurer@molconline.org or 608-279-1870 (Greg's cell).

God Bless!

ELDERS REPORT - APRIL

BAPTISMS	none
WEDDINGS	none
FUNERALS	none
TRANSFERS IN	none
TRANSFERS OUT	none



THE VIEW from the Mount

Newsletter of:

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, LCMS

110 N Whitney Way

Madison, WI 53705

MAY 2020

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.*