



Advent is nice and predictable. You pretty much know exactly when it's going to happen. Advent begins on either the last Sunday in November or the first Sunday in December (whichever one happens to be four Sundays before Christmas Day). Lent, on the other hand, is all over the place. Ash Wednesday can be as early as February 4<sup>th</sup> (though none of us will ever experience this). The last time Lent began this early was back in 1818. The next time will be in 2285. Ash Wednesday can also be as late as March 10<sup>th</sup> (and about a dozen of you have experienced this). The last time Lent began this late was 1943. Those of us who missed out on it might still have a chance. Lent will begin this late again in 2038. Whenever Lent begins, it has a way of sneaking up on us.

Our Midweek Lenten sermon series this year is called "For Us." It's written by Rev. Dr. Todd Peperkorn from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Here is his description of the series:

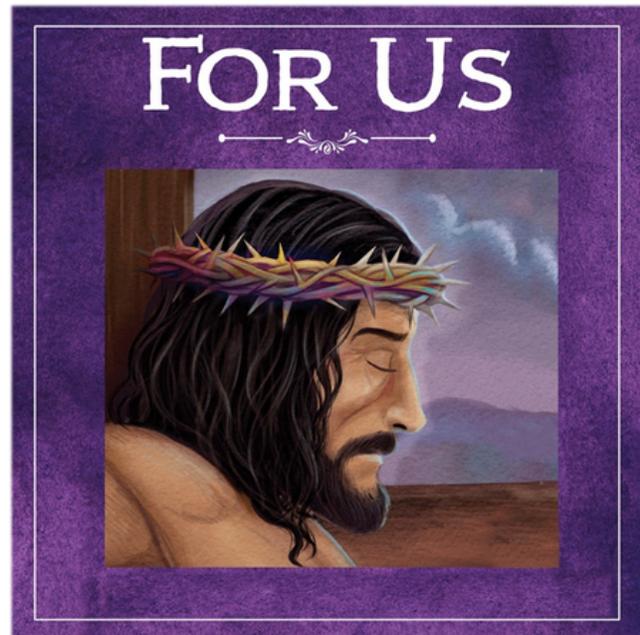
*"For us" is not simply a pithy line to use because it is easy to repeat. It is a confession of who God is and what He brings in giving us His Son. It helps us understand why God would send His Son to die for us.*

*The phrase "for us" also captures much of the Reformation's theological emphasis—and Luther's understanding of Scripture in particular. Luther went from searching for a righteous God and finding only stern rebuke to seeing God in the form of a little baby and as the one who became one of us for us so that we might become like Him.*

*Our Lenten preaching series hymn "O Love, How Deep" (LSB 544) was originally a twenty-three-stanza poem written in the fifteenth century by an unknown author. In the nineteenth century, an Anglican cleric named Benjamin Webb translated the hymn into English and then chose six stanzas for use in English hymnody. The doxological stanza was added later.*

*Some hymns tell a story, others teach, and still others create pictures in our minds of the great works of God. Some hymns do all three, weaving together a tapestry that is beautiful yet simple, wondrous yet easy to understand. "O Love, How Deep" is that kind of hymn.*

*Although it does not appear in the first stanza, the most pointed and beautiful language in the hymn is expressed in the phrase "for us." The phrase is reminiscent of the language of the Nicene Creed: "Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven."*



This year Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. I hope you'll join us for our Ash Wednesday service that night at 7:00 as well as the rest of our midweek Lenten services. Before each midweek service we will be having our usual Lenten Soup Supper at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a soup, side, or dessert to share. Or better yet, bring a friend or family member!

I hope you'll join us as we begin this very special season of the Church Year.

God's Blessings,

*-Pastor Koschmann*

# Lent, Holy Week & Easter at Mt. Olive



## Lenten Midweek Services

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on February 18, 2026**. We invite you to join us for midweek Lenten worship services each Wednesday evening throughout the season, concluding before Holy Week.

These services offer time **for reflection**, prayer, and preparation as we journey together toward Easter.

For those unable to attend in person, midweek services will be **livestreamed** on **Facebook** and **YouTube**.

## Lenten Soup Suppers



Join us for **Lenten Soup Suppers** each Wednesday evening **during Lent**, held before the midweek worship service in the **Fellowship Hall**.

Feel free to bring a **soup, side, or dessert** to share. A signup sheet will be available in the Information Center to help with planning. Please know this is a **welcoming, no-pressure meal**—there is always enough to go around, even if you're unable to bring anything.

Soup Suppers are a **wonderful time of fellowship**, and everyone is warmly invited.



## Worship From Home

If you are unable to attend services in person, Livestreams are available on **Facebook** and **YouTube**, allowing you to remain connected to worship and the Mt. Olive community

## Holy Week at Mt. Olive

Join us as we observe **Holy Week**, marking the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry and celebrating His resurrection.

- **Palm Sunday** – March 29, 2026
- **Maundy Thursday** – April 2, 2026 7 p.m.
- **Good Friday** – April 3, 2026 7 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday Worship**—April 5, 2026

Each service offers an opportunity for meaningful worship and reflection during this sacred week.

## Easter Breakfast

We are excited to host our **Easter Breakfast** on **Easter Sunday morning, April 5, 2026**, before worship.



Breakfast will be served **from 8:30–9:45 a.m.**, allowing you to stop in whenever it fits your morning schedule. Enjoy **pancakes, eggs, sausage, and bacon**, along with time for fellowship. *A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the **Preschool Scholarship Fund**.*

## Easter Egg Hunt

Children of all ages are invited to our **Easter Egg Hunt** immediately following the Easter Service on **April 5**.



Families will gather in the **Fellowship Hall** after worship, and once everyone is ready, the hunt will begin. Parents are encouraged to join in the fun as we celebrate Easter together.



YouTube



# Mt. Olive Lutheran Preschool



## Preschool Registration Fall 2026

Registration opens **March 1, 2026** for the 2026–2027 school year.

Mt. Olive Preschool provides **joyful and nurturing** early learning experiences for children ages 3–5, grounded in faith, play, and community.

Families interested in learning more about class schedules, tuition, or enrollment are encouraged to visit [mtolivepreschoolfg.org](http://mtolivepreschoolfg.org), or stop by the church office.



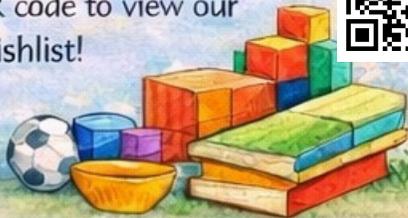
## Thank You, Prayer Pals

We are so grateful for our preschool **Prayer Pals** who have supported our families through prayer, kindness, and encouragement this year.

*The notes, cards, and messages you share mean more than you know and are a joy for our children to receive.*

## Preschool Wishlist

If you'd like to help our preschool, scan the QR code to view our Amazon wishlist!



## Preschool Tea Celebration

Preschool students are invited to bring , a **special adult** in their life to a *spring tea celebration*. **Prayer Pals** are also warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the special relationships that support and encourage our children.

Celebration times:

Thursday, May 7, 2026 — 11:00–11:30 a.m.

Friday, May 8, 2026 — 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Each class will attend on its scheduled day.



## Preschool Singing on Palm Sunday

Our preschool children will be singing during the worship service on **Sunday, March 29, 2026.**



# Fellowship & Life Together



## Men's Fellowship

### Men's Gathering at Waltz Brewing

Join us for our men's gathering the last Thursday of the month. We will be meeting at Waltz Brewing in Forest Grove at 7 p.m.

Snacks will be provided. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Koschmann. *We hope to see you all there.*

### Men's Koffee Klatch

The Men's Koffee Klatch takes place at 9:30 on the first Monday of every month. Join us for a delightful time of fellowship with Mt. Olive's distinguished gentlemen over coffee and pastries.

## Women's Fellowship

### Women's Bible Study

Ladies Brown Bag Bible Study is held every Wednesday. All ladies are welcome to join. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m. for lunch and Bible Study starts at 1:00.

## LWML

### LWML Coffee Hour

Attention; congregation! The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is hosting a monthly coffee hour on the 4th Sunday of each month. Join us after church in the Fellowship Hall, where you can enjoy a delightful selection of coffee; treats, and the warmth of community fellowship. Each gathering will feature a spotlight on one of our mission projects, providing an opportunity to help foster connection and community during our monthly fellowship time. ☕+

## Congregational Fellowship

### Monthly Coffee Hour

Join us for a delightful fellowship gathering right after the worship service on the second Sunday of every month! This is your chance to be part of something special. We invite you to sign up to bring your favorite pastries or snacks— just head over to the sign-up sheet in the Information Center. It's not only a great way to share your favorite treats but it's an exciting opportunity to help foster connection and community during our monthly fellowship time. Let's come together and make these gatherings memorable!

*On March 8<sup>th</sup>, during our Monthly Coffee Hour, we will hold a light planning conversation for the Celebrate America celebration. This will be an informal opportunity to gauge interest from those who may be willing to help with planning. Based on interest, an official planning meeting date will be scheduled at a later time.*

### Congregational Meeting & Potluck

Please plan to join us for a Congregational Meeting and Potluck on **Sunday, February 22**, immediately following the worship service.

We'll gather for a shared meal and take time to discuss important updates and matters in the life of our church. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate.

### ✦ Special Guest

#### Guest Speaker – Gideons Ministry

Steve Finnigan from the Gideons will be here on April 12th to speak with members after church.

# Looking Ahead & Get Involved



## Celebrate America

CHURCH BBQ • FELLOWSHIP • FUN

**Save the Date: June 13**

Mark your calendars for a fantastic BBQ event on June 13th! Bring your **family**, friends, and neighbors for a classic BBQ, with all the fixings, games for all ages, and a chance to **celebrate** our great nation together. *Stay tuned for more details as the event approaches!\**

*\* Interest meeting on March 8 during our Monthly Coffee Hour.*

### Spring Clean-Up Day

March 28 | 9:00–11:30 a.m.



Join us for our annual spring clean-up day on Saturday, March 28 from 9:00–11:30 a.m. Let's come together to spruce up our church grounds! Every helping hand makes a difference; we'll provide the tools and tasks. We hope to see you there!

### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Don't forget! If you are an eligible Thrivent client and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, we kindly ask you to keep Mt. Olive and our wonderful preschool in mind as potential beneficiaries. For more information on how you can make a difference, or to direct your Choice Dollars, please call 800-847-4836 and say, "Thrivent Choice." You can also visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more about the process and explore your options.

### Vacation Bible School

Save the Date

July 20–24



Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School** which is scheduled for July 20–24, 2026.

We will go on a Tropical Trek of Bible stories, songs, crafts, and games as we learn how Jesus comes to seek and save.

Student registration will open in the spring. Adult and youth volunteers *will be needed to lead stations and be unit leaders and helpers.* Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Robyn at [robynmscram@yaheo.com](mailto:robynmscram@yaheo.com), 971 281–1507.

# Holy Week at Mt. Olive

**Palm Sunday (March 29<sup>th</sup>)**

10:00am - Worship (*Preschool Singing*)

**Maundy Thursday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

7:00pm - Worship with Holy Communion

**Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

7:00pm - Tenebrae Service

**Easter Sunday (April 5<sup>th</sup>)**

8:30-9:45am - Easter Breakfast

10:00am - Easter Worship

*There will be an Easter egg hunt  
after the Easter Sunday service.*

**Mt. OLIVE**  
Lutheran Church & Preschool

17<sup>th</sup> & Douglas in Forest Grove  
(across from Rogers Park)

Place the name and address of a  
really awesome person here.