



"Pieces to the Puzzle"

Do you like putting puzzles together? I have someone at home who loves puzzles and I know there are several of you who enjoy puzzle making too. By the way, don't forget to check out our puzzle exchange and puzzle tables located on the 1st level near the Coffee Shop in the new library.

The reason I bring this subject up is because the last couple of years have felt like we have been trying to put a puzzle together around here, too. We have been looking and looking at all the pieces, looking for the right ones to fit our staffing puzzle.

"The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6 ESV

We thank God for the pieces that have been revealed to us and filled in, beginning to complete the picture of God has planned for Mount Olive and Anoka for this next year and the years to come.

We welcome:

Pastor James Bender—We welcome Pastor Jim Bender who was Installed on March 3 as our new Senior Pastor. We welcome Pastor Jim and his wife Sally into our church family and community as we look forward to years of partnership in the Gospel. Check out some pictures from his installation service on **page 3** in this issue.

DCE Joshua Orugboh was called in a special voter's meeting on February 18 to serve as our Director of Confirmation, Jr. & Sr. High ministries.

He has since accepted the Call. He will begin on Sunday, June 2 after he completes his certification as DCE from Concordia University in St. Paul, MN.

DCE Martha Harkins was called at the same voter's meeting to serve as the Director of Children's & Family ministry. Martha is coming to us from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Loveland, CO. Martha will be starting sometime in July.

Amber Donnell has started and will serve as our part-time bookkeeper who will work with our new Director of Church Administration **Allyson Goettsch** who began her duties in October 2023.

We thank:

Monica Jasper-Neuville who has moved and will be leaving her duties after holding many positions over the years in both our Pre-school and Church. Most recently, she has been serving as our part-time bookkeeper.

The puzzle is coming together, and many of the pieces will be in place, soon. We look forward to the ministry and mission possibilities in the years to come! Welcome and thank you! Peace in Jesus!



Connecting People to Jesus,
Pastor Jon

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Sermon Series

"WHAT IS YOUR CONFIDENCE?"

April 6/7

Thomas: Your Twin?
"Second Sunday of Easter"
Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31

April 13/14

"Third Sunday of Easter"
Acts 3:11-21; Luke 24:36-49

April 20/21

"Fourth Sunday of Easter"
Acts 4:1-12; John 10:11-18

April 27/28

"Fifth Sunday of Easter"
Acts 8:26-40; John 15:1-8

May 4/5

"Sixth Sunday of Easter"
Acts 1:12-26; John 17:11b-19

May 11/12

"Seventh Sunday of Easter"
Acts 10:34-28; John 15:9-17

APRIL is Volunteer Appreciation Month



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

• WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES •

Hope Full Women's Bible Study: All ages welcome. Meets every other Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 PM in the Family Center. We will begin our Bible study with "Jesus & Women, in the First Century and Now," by Kristi McLelland. Contact Carol Hoopman (763.486.9177) if interested.

Early Morning Wednesday Women's Bible Study Meeting Online: During April, we will continue to learn about the rhythms of reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation as they apply to the Bible through the Lectio Divina course on Right Now Media. Email Paulette Lenz at mp.lenz@gmail.com to join the group or to learn more about how we do this online.

Exploration & Discovery Bible Study - Wednesday Edition: The group will meet on Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 AM. This study is located in the former second floor library. The group is in progress studying Paul's letter to the Romans. We are completing Chapter 5 and will be moving on to Chapter 6. There has been active discussion about what Paul is telling the Roman congregation and how it applies to us today. ***This group also meets through the summer months.*** Jim Rootes is the facilitator for this study.

Senior Fellowship & Bible Study: We will meet on April 5 and April 19 from 9:30-11:00 AM in the Conference Room. Treats and refreshments are provided. Questions? Contact Lynn Antoine 763.777.0412.

First Place 4 Health Group & Bible Study: This group meets in the Conference Room each Thursday from 6:30-8:30 PM through end of April. Please contact Janet Orrick (763.323.0939) if interested.

• SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY •

Exploration & Discovery Bible Study – Sunday Edition: This study group has been meeting each Sunday at 9:15 AM in the former second floor library. The topic is "Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School." The study is based on 184 episodes from Lutheran Hour Ministries. We have completed the episodes on the Old Testament and are now moving into the New Testament. Currently we are learning about Mark and Matthew. Episodes 129-145 will be Luke and John, episodes 149-159 will discuss "this new thing called church," and finally episodes 160-184 will discuss "letters to this new church." Jim Rootes is the facilitator for this study.

Cana Hall Adult Bible Study: Meets in Cana Hall for a Bible study with Pastor Jon at 9:15 AM each Sunday.

High School Bible Study: NEW! A Bible study for our 8th-12th grade, they will meet in the Senior Youth Room at 9:15 AM each Sunday beginning April 7-June 16. If you have questions, please contact Paul Peterson: paulpeterson726@gmail.com.

MIDWEEK MEALS WEDNESDAYS: 5:30-6:15 PM

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! All praise, thanks and glory to our awesome God for the best gift ever!

All are welcome to enjoy a meal from 5:30 - 6:15 PM each Wednesday night unless there are dangerous weather conditions. Please call the church during business hours or check Facebook before coming to the meal if weather conditions are questionable. Please enter through Door F. You may park in either church lot or at the park across the street.

A big thank you to the many generous people who help make our meal possible.

Your prayers and donations are greatly appreciated! Please contact Jerusha 763.280.3047 or by email rua_76@hotmail.com with questions, or if you would like to volunteer or donate.



Welcome!



Pastor Jim Bender at his Installation on Sunday, March 3, 2024





HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 9:15 AM
Senior Youth Room

8th through 12th grade • April 7 through June 16
Questions? Contact Paul Peterson: paulpeterson726@gmail.com

BIBLE BASICS

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 • 11:30 AM
FAMILY CENTER

**Third grade and older who want to learn
how to use the Bible**

Pizza will be provided.

For more info contact Jerusha at rua_76@hotmail.com

APRIL EVENTS

PARENTS OF A PRODIGAL

Support Group

April 7, 21

6:30 - 8:30 PM

BREWS AND GOOD NEWS

Men's Ministry Group

March 11, 25

6:30 - 8:00 PM

HOPE FULL

Women's Bible Study

March 2, 16, 30

6:30 - 8:30 PM

WOMEN OF MOUNT OLIVE

The Women of Mount Olive will meet Monday, April 15, 2024 at 1:00 PM. We'll have an opening devotion, decide how to distribute our Missions Money and work on preparing for the Salad Supper.



NE Suburban Zone

SPRING RALLY

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
7700 Monroe Street • Spring Lake Park

Donation: \$7.00
Registration: 8:30 AM
Breakfast: 9:00 AM
Program: 9:30 AM

Speaker: Alfrieda Baldwin--Founder
Laurel Community School-Micro School

Gifts From the Heart: Monetary Gifts for shelving for coats and shoes, scientific calculators, or recess equipment, i.e., badminton set, playground balls, cornhole game, hula hoops, kickball set.



30th Biennial

LWML MN South District Convention

June 20-24, 2024
Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center
Mankato, MN



If you're interested in what Lutheran Women in Mission do, COME JOIN US!



Scan the QR code for additional details
or visit: mnslwml.org/2024_district_convnetion



May

SALAD SUPPER

Tuesday, May 7 • 6:30 PM

Storyteller Pati Kachel will unveil her Patchwork Quilt of Heartwarming Stories. Pati will craft a creative quilt of story and song, weaving threads of encouragement, delight and inspiration throughout the patchwork.

Gifts from the Heart: Please bring new or gently-used shoes & socks (children and adult). They will be donated to Orphan Grain Train.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center for those who would like to bring a salad.

MOUNT OLIVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Easter is a special time at the preschool! The classrooms have their Easter parties which includes fun games, crafts, and snacks! At Chapel, Mrs. Tasha taught the children about the week leading up to Easter.



A special snack:

The pretzels represent the cross; Craisins - Jesus's blood; round cracker - the stone was rolled away; Goldfish - be fishers of men; white marshmallows - our sins are washed away; M&M's/sweet treat - taste and see that the Lord is good!

YOUNG ADULT

L.I.F.E.



Please keep the following young adults in prayer this month and stop to sign a card for each of them on **Saturday or Sunday, April 6 and 7.**

Gracious Lord,

Shine Your truth into the heart of _____. Let them hear You in music, see you in art and experience you through the love and care of family, friends, teachers and employers. Build Your hope into their lives and may they sense it rise in their hearts as they encounter Your power, majesty and beauty in creation. Sow Your wisdom in their minds. May they discover You as they read their Bibles, discuss deeper issues of life and work through hardships. Weave Your love into their dreams as they pursue their interests, develop their talents and aspire for Your will for their life. I pray that they know You more with each new day. AMEN

**During the months of May and June we will pray for our confirmands and graduating high school seniors respectively.*



- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Jacob Walsh | Paige Towley | Libby Kietzman |
| Gregory Rucks | Brody Wade | Clara Johnson |



FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 AM

Happy April! We hope your month is off to a great start. We have some great weeks coming up in our Kids Ministry. We're (still) so glad you're part of our church!

Bible Basics is on Sunday, April 14, starting at 11:30 AM. It is geared towards 3rd Graders and a parent or church mentor to learn how to explore their Bible in a fun, interactive and engaging way. Pizza will be provided. Please email or text me with questions. Jerusha rua_76@hotmail.com 763.280.3047. On April 28, we will dedicate the new Bibles the students received on April 14 at the 10:30 AM service.

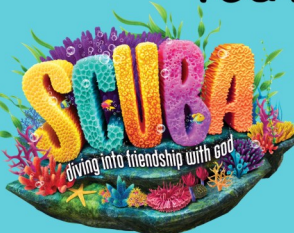
THROWBACK: A 4-Week Series from the Gospels on Jesus' Teachings.

SERIES OVERVIEW:


From retro toys to fashion trends, we all love a good throwback. (Especially for grown-ups because it reminds us of being young again.) There are things that remind us of a moment in time, but other things feel timeless and like they're always in style. In this four-week series, kids will travel through the decades and see that the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels are always trending. As we hear from Jesus, we'll see it's always good to be humble, we can always forgive, Jesus is always fair, and love always needs action.




YOU'RE INVITED!




SCUBA VBS 2024
June 24-27
9AM-Noon



Come SWIM in God's Word!
SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER



Call if you have any questions:
763.421.3223



HELP NEEDED



In order to serve the children of Mount Olive and our community, we "shore" need a team of adult and student volunteers to make a big splash!

SCUBA VBS
June 24-27
9AM-Noon

Jerusha: 763.280.3047 / rua_76@hotmail.com



