



A Christmas Letter to our Mount Olive Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter this beautiful season of Advent and Christmas, we rejoice together in the good news proclaimed by the angels: *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* - Luke 2:11

May the wonder of Christ's birth fill your homes and hearts with comfort, peace, and joy.

December is a blessed and meaningful month at Mount Olive, and we invite you to take part in the many opportunities to worship, celebrate, and prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior:

Upcoming December Events and Worship Opportunities

Women of Mount Olive Christmas Event "O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Tuesday, Dec. 9 • 6:30 PM

A special evening for women to gather in fellowship, devotion, and celebration of Christ's birth.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 14 • 10:30 AM service This year's program includes both adults and children. No rehearsals are needed—everyone will participate right from their seats as we retell the Christmas story together.

Worship Night

Wednesday, Dec. 17 • 6:00 PM

Come for a powerful evening of praise, reflection, and Christmas worship.

Christmas Eve Services:

Wednesday, Dec. 24 • 3:00 PM & 5:00 PM

Celebrate the birth of our Savior in candlelit worship as we proclaim the miracle and hope of Christmas.

Office Closures

Please note that the church offices will be closed on the following dates: **December 24 & 25, December 31 & January 1.**

As we look ahead to a New Year, we hold tightly to God's promise:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." — 2 Corinthians 5:17

May God grant you renewal, hope, and strength in the year ahead.

From our Mount Olive staff and ministry teams, **Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!**

May Christ's love dwell richly in your hearts today and always.

In His peace,

Your Mount Olive Staff & Ministry Teams

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Worship Info

December 7

Second Sunday in Advent
Matthew 3:1-12

December 14

Third Sunday in Advent
Matthew 11:2-15

December 21

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24

Christmas Eve
Matthew 1:18-25

December 28

First Sunday after Christmas
Matthew 2:13-23

ARE YOU A SNOWBIRD?



Please contact
Brenda Schwarz

(Brenda@mtolive-anoka.org) or

952.600.1274) with your
winter address along
with the dates you will
be out of state.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Worship: 3:00 & 5:00 PM
(Holy Communion celebrated at both services)

NO worship on Christmas Day



CHURCH OFFICES ARE CLOSED:

Wednesday, December 24
Thursday, December 25
Wednesday, December 31
Thursday, January 1, 2026

BETTER TOGETHER

Sundays at Mount Olive

Communion at both worship services 2nd & 4th Sundays

8:00 AM | TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 AM | BREAKFAST BUDDIES

We will NOT meet Sunday, December 28.

All children & youth (PreK - grade 12) invited for breakfast, songs and games in Family Center | (martha@mtolive-anoka.org)

9:15 AM | STUDIES FOR ADULTS

We will NOT meet Sunday, December 28.

Adult Bible Study in Cana Hall | Contact: Russ Benson (russellbenson@msn.com)

"The Biblical Parenting Experience" in Galilee | Contact: Sandy Peterson (twin1peterson@gmail.com)

9:30 AM | STUDIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

We will NOT meet Sunday, December 28.

Sunday School | Preschool-4th Graders in Family Center | (martha@mtolive-anoka.org)

Jr. High Bible Study | 5th-8th Graders in Jr. Youth Room | (martha@mtolive-anoka.org)

Sr. High Bible Study | 9th-12th Graders in Sr. Youth Room | (martha@mtolive-anoka.org)

10:30 AM | CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesdays at Mount Olive

No Confirmation/Youth Group/Choir/ Midweek Meals on Dec. 24 or Dec. 31

6:00 AM | EARLY AM BIBLE STUDY (online) | "The Marvel and the Miracle of Advent" by Christine Caine and Lisa Harper | **Will NOT meet December 24** | Contact: Paulette Lenz (mp.lenz@gmail.com)

9:00 AM | EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY | Jerusalem Room | Contact: Jim Rootes (farmalldork@gmail.com)
Will NOT meet December 24 or 31.

5:15—6:00 PM | MIDWEEK MEALS | Cana Hall | Contact: Ann Maik (763.370.2248)

5:15-6:00 PM | ADULT VOCAL CHOIR | Rachelle Lapham (rachelle.buuck@gmail.com)

6:00 PM | WORSHIP NIGHT | Dec. 17 | Randy (randyp@mtolive-anoka.org)

6:45-8:00 PM | CONFIRMATION (6th-8th grades) in Jr. Youth Room | (martha@mtolive-anoka.org)

6:45-8:00 PM | 9TH—12TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP in Sr. Youth Room | (martha@mtolive-anoka.org)

6:50-7:45 PM | ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR | Contact: Karen Keast (karen_keast@hotmail.com)

Other Bible Studies

THURSDAYS

6:30 PM | FIRST PLACE FOR HEALTH | Bethlehem Room | Contact: Janet Orrick (763.421.3223—leave message at the Welcome Desk)

FRIDAYS

9:30 AM | SENIOR FELLOWSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY | Meets December 5 and 19 | Bethlehem Room
Contact: Lynn Antoine (763.777.0412)

WOMEN OF MOUNT OLIVE

Members of Mount Olive have donated \$199.30 in mites since Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday. Thank you, and please keep them coming in! You can put filled mite boxes in the big mite box on the shelves by the elevator, or leave them at the Welcome Desk. Our mites are funding mission grants such as Regional Disaster Response Lutheran Emergency Response Team (LERT) shower and laundry trailers.



Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training is a program designed to help train congregations to respond when tragedy strikes and includes bible studies on mercy, charity and human care. To date, LERT has trained more than 18,000 Lutheran volunteers in disaster relief and response with more than 50 LERT Disaster Response equipment trailers utilized by all 35 LCMS districts. One challenge for team members has been the lack of showers and laundry facilities at a host church. LERT members have showered at national gym chains, in members' homes, in personal campers, or even under cold garden hoses!



UPDATE

Our Financial Peace University class was held over 9 weeks from September 8 to November 3. We had 3 couples and 3 individuals join us, ranging from college-age to retirement-age and everywhere in between. **In 9 weeks, the class paid off \$14,500 of debt!** Thank you, Aaron Ledebuhr, for leading the class!



If anyone is interested in taking FPU in the future, scan the QR code or click the link: <https://forms.gle/DYTHg2ynPyU2YpV8A>

What's new?

MIDWEEK MEALS

Wednesdays: 5:15—6:00 PM

Your prayers and donations are greatly appreciated! Please leave a message for Ann Maik by calling the Welcome Desk (763.421.3223) with questions or if you would like to volunteer or donate.

NOTE:

There will be no Midweek Meals on December 24 or December 31.

GIVING TREE: Mount Olive will not be hosting a Giving Tree this year but we do encourage you to find other ways to donate during this holiday season. Some options could include, but are not limited to: Mount Olive Ministries such as Youth & Family, Preschool, Midweek Meals, Amazon Staff Wish List; Family Promise, CarePortal, Hope4Youth.

SENIORS VISITS: Lynn Antoine and Anni DeMarais have begun their seniors/shut-in visits. If you or someone you know is interested in a visit, please reach out to Lynn:

763.777.0412

Don't Miss Out



• **No quilting in December •**
We will return January 6, 2026

ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE INVITED TO THIS SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENT

O Come Let Us **ADORE HIM**

Tuesday, December 9, 2025
6:30 PM

SHARE SCRIPTURE • SING CAROLS • PRAISE AND WORSHIP THE NEWBORN KING

At elegant tables the celebration continues:
Mingle • Cheese & Crackers • Handcrafted Christmas Cookies
Share the merry memories, laughter & lore of the season

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

INGATHERING OF DONATION ITEMS FOR "THE DWELLING PLACE"
(Christ-centered help for domestic abuse)

Look Around the Stable

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday,
December 14
during our 10:30 AM
Worship Service



This is an instant and interactive Children's Christmas Program, meaning there are no rehearsals or parts given ahead of time. Show up on Sunday, December 14 and everyone (both kids and adults) will be given a role to play, from their seats and not alone! Our Sunday School kiddos will be singing 2 songs before the program. It's guaranteed to be a fun time for the whole family to help tell the Christmas story together!



VISION ASSEMBLY MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 • 11:45 AM

MMC ELECTIONS are approaching at the end of this year!

Three positions are up for election:

Vice President & TWO Members-At-Large

If you have interest in one of these positions, or have a recommendation of anyone you think would be a good candidate, please contact Jason Hoopman (jasonhoopman@gmail.com) or Brenda (brenda@mtolive-anoka.org).

Nominations are needed by mid-December for elections coming up in January.

Holiday Singers

Adult Choir would love to have additional holiday singers join them for their **DECEMBER 21** performance.

Also, any interest in a small group or solo performance on Christmas Eve?

Contact Rachelle for more info:
rachelle.buuck@gmail.com

WORSHIP

Night

December 17
@ 6:00 PM

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN!

A Christmas Music Fundraiser for Mount Olive's Ministries

Event ideas with suggested donations

SOLO SONG	- Up to 15 minutes - Individual visits - Shut-ins or hospitals	from \$20
GROUP HYMN SING	- Up to 30 minutes - Lutheran Service Book Hymns and Carols - Contemporary Song	from \$50
PERFORMANCE W/HYMN SING	- Up to 60 minutes - Piano performance - Group hymn sing	from \$100
SOLO PERFORMANCE	- Up to 60 minutes - Piano Performance with occasional vocals	from \$100
CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM	- Up to 90 minutes - Performance, hymns - Presentation	from \$250

To Register

<https://mountoliveanoka.churchcenter.com/giving>

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Wednesday, December 24
3:00 PM • 5:00 PM
No service on Christmas Day

PRESCHOOL

The preschool celebrated Grandparents the month of November. The children invited grandparents or other special adults in their lives to the preschool for a fun-filled morning. They attended Chapel together, made a special craft, and enjoyed a snack. Grandparents are a blessing to the family, community, and their grandchildren!



All of the 3-year-olds at the preschool received their Beginner's Bible during this special Chapel.

Preschool Openings Available!

The preschool currently has a few openings in the **3–4-year-old classes** and a couple of spots remaining in the **High 5s class**. If you know a family looking for a warm, nurturing, and engaging early-learning environment, please pass this information along!



For details about our programs, simply scan the QR code or call the school office (763.421.9048). We'd love to welcome new friends to our preschool community!

YOUNG ADULT

Keep these young adults in prayer this month and stop to sign a card for each of them on Sunday, December 7.



Prayer for God's calling on the lives of our young adults:

Lord, I lift _____ up to you and ask that you would move in their life. Reveal your calling for their life and give them the courage to obey it. Help them pursue the desires of your heart and your will for their life with fervor and tenacity. Help them to press on with endurance regardless of the obstacles. Help them to pursue a close relationship with you so that they don't wander off your path. Help them to grow and be stretched in new ways so that they are better equipped for the next challenge to come their way. Raise up young people all over the world that are willing to step out in faith and pursue your calling for their life. Help them to become close together as the body of Christ, to support and love each other, and encourage each other through every circumstance. Amen



Julia Schultz

Nevaeh Madison

Rachel Jerzak

Nyanuer Biel

Briana Araya

Chloe Schneider

Olivia DeMarais

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

December 2025

Look Around the Stable
An instant & interactive Children's Christmas Program

Sunday School kiddos will be singing songs

ALL will get to participate in telling the Christmas story

Sunday, December 14
during 10:30 AM Worship Service



CROSSOVER
YOUTH NIGHT

CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17
6:45-8:00 PM

Wear your favorite Christmas sweater & join us for games, snacks, a devotion, and a white elephant gift exchange (bring your silliest, under \$15 gift)

SENIOR YOUTH ROOM

6TH-12TH GRADERS TOGETHER



SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
9:30-10:15 AM
FAMILY CENTER



Christmas & New Years
Youth Schedule

Wednesdays,
December 24 and 31

No Confirmation or Sr. High Youth Group

Sunday, December 28

No Breakfast Buddies, Sunday School, or Jr. & Sr. High Bible Classes

Questions?

Contact DCE Martha Harkins
at martha@mtolive-anoka.org





CHRISTMAS
BEGINS WITH
CHRIST