



SENIOR PASTOR CALL UPDATE

About 10 months ago, per the approval of a Vision Assembly, I was asked to form a Call Committee as is the responsibility of the Vice President of the MMC (which I was at the time). A number of dedicated congregation members stepped forward to volunteer for this service, including an additional MMC member and an Elder as required by our MMC Policy Manual, as well as a staff member, and others of various ages, genders and worship service preferences. This most recent version of the Call Committee has proven to be representative of many aspects of our church population, each bringing distinct and valuable insights to the table. We also have worked very well together, which does not mean that we always agree, but that we find ways to discuss our various points and come to a consensus. That being said, the process has provided many learning opportunities for us, and I can speak for the group as a whole when I say that each iteration has shown us areas where we can improve, adjust, and do things better for our team, our candidates, and for our congregation. There isn't a member on this team that isn't passionate for the present and future of Mount Olive, and it has been a great honor to serve with each one of them.

Periodically, I try to give updates during the Announcements on Sunday on how the Call Process is going. Over the past few weeks, it has been hard to contain the excitement and prayerful optimism that we have been feeling regarding the current candidate pool. Out of 19 names that were given to us during this round of candidates, we reached out to every single Pastor to see who was willing to speak with us for an interview. As we worked to schedule interviews, we were fortunate enough to get time with 6 Pastors from around the Midwest. This was a strategic change from the first round of candidates early last summer when we tried to narrow down the list on paper and have interviews only

with the top couple of candidates. We found it far more effective this time to connect with a broader spectrum up front, allowing us to learn more about styles, beliefs, and skillsets in person. After meeting with all six Pastors, it would be laughable to think that we would have each come away with exactly the same rank order, and yet we found a method by which we could develop a consensus order comfortable enough to present to the MMC and then to the church body. Our congregation should know that any one of these six Pastors could capably lead Mount Olive, and we have been blessed to be presented with such a plethora of options. As we each considered how to prioritize each candidate there are so many aspects that came into play, including:

Years of service • Experience with preschools • Availability to relocate • Traditional vs. contemporary service preferences • Growth strategies • Relatability • Sermon delivery • Staff supervision approaches • Size of current or past churches

...and so many other inputs that are challenging to put into words. As with past efforts, Mount Olive can rest assured that this Call Committee has dedicated hours of time in meetings and in individual study trying to find that 'right fit', the Pastor that is lead by the Spirit to join with us in worship and praise, to lead us in spiritual and physical growth, and to shepherd this amazing flock. God has a plan for us, and we are all very excited to see how it all comes to fruition! Please continue to pray for Mount Olive, the Call Committee, and our candidates, that we might have our Senior Pastor soon.

In Christ,

*Jason Hoopman,
Call Committee Member*

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Worship Info

February 1
4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Matthew 5:1-12

February 8
5th Sunday after the Epiphany
Matthew 5:13-20

February 15
The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Matthew 17:1-9

February 18
Ash Wednesday
Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

February 22
First Sunday in Lent
Matthew 4:1-11



FUNERALS

Gregg Christopherson
Called to Glory on
December 23, 2025.
Service was January 17, 2026.

Dee Evangelist
Called to Glory on
January 7, 2026.
Service was January 31, 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

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

STUDIES FOR ADULTS

9:15 AM | Adult Bible Study in Cana Hall studying 1st Peter | Contact: Russ Benson (russellbenson@msn.com)

9:30 AM | "The Biblical Parenting Experience" in Jerusalem Room | Contact: Sandy Peterson (twin1peterson@gmail.com)

9:30 AM | STUDIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

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

6:00 AM | EARLY AM BIBLE STUDY (*online*) | "The Life and Ministry of John" by Beth Moore |
Contact: Paulette Lenz (mp.lenz@gmail.com)

9:00 AM | EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY | We will not be meeting during Lent (Feb. 18 through Apr. 8) |
Contact: Jim Rootes (farmalldork@gmail.com)

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

5:15-6:00 PM | ADULT VOCAL CHOIR | Anyone is welcome to join us for our Easter performance |
Rachelle Lapham (rachelle.buuck@gmail.com)

6:00 PM | WORSHIP NIGHT | February 11 | 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 | NO Ash Wednesday Practice | 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 | February 6 & 20 | Bethlehem Room | Contact: Lynn Antoine (763.777.0412)

TRIVIA: According to the historian Josephus (calculated to the modern calendar),
Jesus was crucified on April 3, making the resurrection on April 5,
making this year's dates actually corresponding with the original dates!

WOMEN OF MOUNT OLIVE

MITE UPDATE: In December, God blessed us with **\$12,754.76** in mite offerings, bringing our **2024–2026 biennium total to \$216,703.44**. To reach our **\$270,000 mission goal**, we will need to receive an average of **\$13,324.14 per month** through April 25, 2026. Please keep our mission grants in your prayers, asking the Lord to provide the resources needed so that these ministries may continue sharing the Gospel and bringing the love and hope of Jesus to people in need. **To God be the glory for all he has done!**

Your Mite offerings have made an impact!

Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) is incredibly grateful for the support they've received from the ladies of the LWML. Funding Mission Grant #23, "A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children" has enabled them to serve children who learn diversely in Lutheran schools across the country. This means that more children were able to attend, remain, and be successful in their Lutheran schools while experiencing God's love in a supportive Christian environment.



Jesus tells us in Matthew 19:14, **"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."**

LSEM'S VISION: EVERY CHILD, NO MATTER THEIR LEARNING NEED, HAS ACCESS TO A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

Our February meeting will be Monday, February 9, 2:00 PM. Please join us in making cross necklaces to be used by LWML mission grant recipient Forged by Fire. The crosses provide hope and comfort to those individuals recovering from disasters and those facing food insecurity issues.

WITNESS

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." — 1 John 3:18



CarePortal

Care Portal connects real needs from local children and families to caring people like us. When a school, caseworker, or agency identifies a need, it's shared through Care Portal. Our church then has the opportunity to respond—by providing items, giving support, or offering encouragement. It's a simple way to serve vulnerable families right here in our community and show Christ's love in practical ways.

Over the past few years, Mount Olive has served families in our community through the CarePortal Ministry. As we enter the new year, we want to continue this partnership. However, our staff capacity is limited, and we need a volunteer to lead the CarePortal Ministry. This role includes coordinating requests, communicating with families, and rallying support from our congregation.

If we cannot find a volunteer to take on this role, we will need to suspend our partnership with CarePortal.

If you are interested or want more information, please contact the church office. Even if you're unsure, we are happy to talk it through. Please pray for volunteer leadership so we can continue serving both our church and our community.



MIDWEEK MEALS

Wednesdays 5:15—6:00 PM • YOU'RE INVITED TO THE TABLE

Our Wednesday night dinner is a time of fellowship for church members, friends and neighbors! Please join us!

Free-will donations accepted, never required.

Call if you would like to volunteer or donate (host) a meal (763.421.3223).

Don't Miss Out

Easter Services

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 2
6:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 3
6:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

EASTER BREAKFAST
SERVING STARTS AT 8:30 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church



VISION ASSEMBLY MEETING

February 8, 2026
11:35 AM • Sanctuary

immediately following the 10:30 service

Agenda: Pastor Call Vote

Mount Olive Lutheran Church



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 18
6:00 - 7:00 PM

(one worship service)

LENTEN SERVICES

February 25
thru March 25
6:00 - 6:30 PM

(one worship service
each Wednesday)

Senior Fun Time POTLUCK

LOVE LOVE LOVE

February 11, 2026
11:30 AM
Cana Hall



*The main dish (chicken) will be
provided through a Thrivent grant!
Please sign up so we know how
many plan to attend
More Info: Jane (612.709.4318)*



The Book of Concord



BOOK OF CONCORD: AVAILABLE FREE ONLINE

The Book of Concord is the authoritative collection of Lutheran Church's statements of faith. Concordia Publishing House has launched the Book of Concord Online; a free, easy-to-use website that provides access to the Lutheran Confessions at bookofconcord.cph.org. This platform was thoughtfully designed to support pastors, educators, and laypeople who desire to study and confess the Lutheran Confessions with clarity and confidence.

We pray that these treasured confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church will be a blessing to all who read them.



Volunteer
Info Meeting
Sunday, March 1
at 11:45AM
in Family Center
RSVP to Martha

June 15-19, 2026 9AM-Noon

Registration opens March 1



Celebrate Easter ORDER SPRING FLOWERS

We will be ordering
spring flowers soon!
Watch for the order form
in the church bulletin.

Also, we are looking for someone to oversee the
ordering and organizing of the Easter Garden.

Support will be provided and
new ideas are always welcome!

Contact Brenda Schwarz
if you have questions:
brenda@mtolive-anoka.org



MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CRAFT SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 21, 2026
10 AM - 4 PM • Cana Hall

We have space, light, tables and chairs.
Just bring your creativity and supplies!

THIS EVENT IS FREE
Free will donations accepted
for cleaning costs

RSVP Jerusha
[763.280.3047](tel:763.280.3047) | rua_76@hotmail.com

PRESCHOOL

National Lutheran Schools Week: January 25-31, 2026

Mount Olive Christian Preschool is excited to celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week with a week full of fun and school spirit! Each day brings a special theme: Monday—Silly Sock Day, Tuesday—Sports Day, Wednesday—Western Day, Thursday—Hat/Wacky Hair Day, and Friday—Movie Day. The celebration continues Friday night with our annual Family Fun Night, featuring a Movie Night theme for the whole family. What a fun way to celebrate the blessing of Lutheran education and its role in sharing Jesus' love.



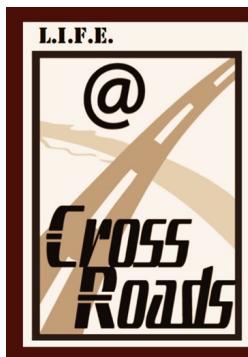
Preschool Registration

Registration has officially opened for the 2026-2027 school year! Mount Olive Christian Preschool is proud to offer a caring, faith-centered program where we support families and help children feel safe, loved, and confident as they grow and learn in God's word.

Visit our website for more information: <https://www.mtolive-anoka.org/preschool/preschool-main>.

YOUNG ADULT

Please keep the following young adults in prayer this month and stop to sign a card for each of them on Sunday, February 1.



Prayer for Mentorship

Lord, I lift _____ up to you today and pray that you would bring a strong mentor into their life. Help them to find someone that will challenge them to grow in their faith and who can help guide them to You. Provide someone to disciple them so that they can become stronger in their faith. Lord, soften their heart to receive all that their mentor pours into them as they teach and encourage them in how to become more like Christ. Help them to humbly accept their mentor's correction in areas that they need to grow and celebrate in areas of success. Help them to learn how to be a mentor to others and to guide and encourage the next generation of believers so that they will also become strong members of the body of Christ, grounded in their own faith. Amen.

Makeala Wylde

Brynn Owens

Megan Wachholz

Gabby Busch

Genevieve Rucks

Kyle Hurley

Noah Schlueter

Union Biel



**"If I send my prayer as a text message,
will I get a faster reply?"**

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

February 2026

 **PARENTS NIGHT OUT**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13
5-8 PM MOUNT OLIVE FAMILY CENTER

ALL CHILDREN (PRESCHOOL-5TH GRADE)
ARE INVITED FOR A FUN NIGHT!

JR. AND SR. YOUTH- MARTHA NEEDS YOUR HELP,
LET HER KNOW IF YOU CAN BE THERE!

A DONATION WILL BE TAKEN TO COVER COSTS AND
SUPPORT MOUNT OLIVE YOUTH MINISTRIES

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO RSVP YOUR KIDDO(S).
CONTACT DCE MARTHA

JOURENEY TO THE CROSS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15
9:00-10:15 AM
MOUNT OLIVE FAMILY CENTER

ALL CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER
& RECEIVE A FAMILY LENT DEVOTION STICKER BOOK!

BREAKFAST WILL BE PROVIDED!



First Communion Class

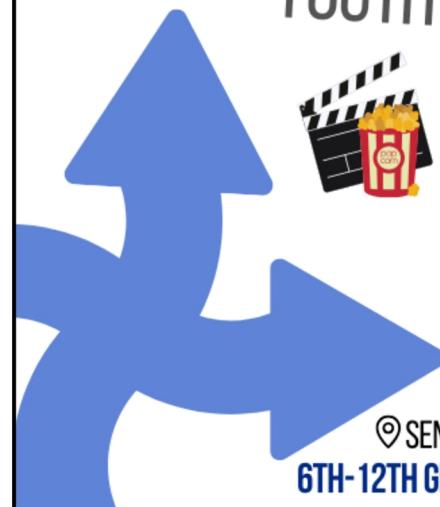
For all 5th graders, older youth who
have not yet taken the class, or any
adults who would like a refresh on
our Lord's Supper beliefs

Wednesday Evenings
February 25 – March 18
6:45 – 8:00 PM
Family Center

To RSVP for this class,
contact DCE Martha



CROSSOVER YOUTH NIGHT



 **MOVIE NIGHT**

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 25
6:45-8:00 PM

© SENIOR YOUTH ROOM
6TH-12TH GRADERS TOGETHER

Questions?

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





February 2026

WORSHIP

Onsite and Online Worship Hours:

Sunday: 8:00 AM (Traditional)
9:00 AM (Education hour: Sunday
School and Bible Studies)
10:30 AM (Contemporary)

Lenten Services:

Ash Wednesday, February 18 • 6:00 PM
Wednesday, February 25-March 25 6:00-6:30 PM
(one worship service each Wednesday)

Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday, April 2 • 6:00-7:00 PM
Good Friday, April 3 • 6:00-7:00 PM
Easter Sunday, April 5 • 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

A QR code with a small black silhouette of a person in the center, linking to the website for the 2019-2020 school year.



Website: www.mtolive-anoka.org

[Youtube](#): (search Mount Olive Lutheran Anoka)

[Facebook](#): (search for Mount Olive Anoka)

QCTV: *(Channel 19)*. View previous week's worship
Sundays: 6:30 AM, 12:00 PM
Wednesdays: 8:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 9 WOMO Meeting 2:00 PM
- Feb 11 Senior Fun Time Potluck • Worship Night 6:00 PM
- Feb 13 Parents' Night Out; 5-8:00 PM
- Feb 15 Journey to the Cross
- Feb 16 Presidents' Day: Church and Preschool offices closed
- Feb 18 Ash Wednesday Worship Service 6:00 PM
- Feb 21 Craft Saturday 10:00 AM (Notice Date Change)
- Feb 23, 24 ... Preschool 2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon

