



"Love Makes Us Do It"

We have just passed through what many call the "season of love." At Christmas we celebrate how love came down from heaven in the person of Jesus, who became the Savior of the world. So now as we begin a New Year, how can we show His amazing and sacrificial love in all that we say and do?

A young girl was dying. Her only hope lay in a complete blood transfusion, but she had a very rare blood type. Only her brother, even younger than she, had the same type blood. His parents and doctors explained the situation to him, giving him time to ask questions. He agreed and, without delay, he was laid on a bed, the needle was pushed into his tiny vein, and slowly blood seeped from his small body into the bag hanging from his bed. He lay quietly as the nurse stood next to him, ready to attend to any need he might have. "How do you feel?" she asked. "Ok," he answered, "but, nurse, when do I die?"

What love this little boy had for his sister. What must he have thought when his own parents seemingly agreed, even asked him to sacrifice his life to save his sister?

The boy's love for his sister can help us see how much Jesus loves us. Jesus suffered abuse, torture, persecution, and death for all of us. *"Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down His life for His friends"*. (John 15:13) He demonstrated His tremendous love not because of our worthiness, but because He is a God of tremendous love. Jesus' love for His heavenly Father and for us changed the world. Through His death and resurrection from that death, we

through faith have received the forgiveness of our sins and life eternal. God's love to us in Christ is that power that enables us to love Him.

"We love because He first loved us".
(1 John 4:19)

The love of Jesus also empowers us to be His stewards. Because of Jesus' love, we change from people giving to a need to people responding out of love. Certainly, we give to needs such as our church budget, building fund, other people needs and Christian causes, but our primary reason for giving is out of love and commitment to Jesus. When needs arise, Jesus opens our eyes and hearts so we can respond to those needs. However, our primary reason for giving is a desire to express our gratitude and thanksgiving for our Lord and the love that He shows us every day. Because our love for Jesus is our motivation for giving, our giving becomes joyful. Love changes our giving from an obligation to a privilege.

We live in difficult and changing times. How wonderful it is that, as Christians, we know that there is the certainty that Jesus always reaches out to us and loves us. May our lives and giving genuinely reflect His love for us.

May our loving God truly bless this New Year for you and your family. May God truly bless your loving, living, giving and serving in His name.

Connecting People
to Jesus,

Pastor Jon



"Freely you have received, freely give." Matthew 10:8b

New Sermon Series Beginning January 21:

"White As Snow"

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Sermon Series

December 31

"Can't Keep Silent!"

Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

January 6/7

"Marked for Life"

Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 3:1-17

January 13/14

"Come and See"

1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:43-51

SERIES: "White As Snow"

January 20/21

"Sins Like Scarlet"

Isaiah 1:16-20; Mark 13:24-27

January 27/28

"God With Us"

Hebrews 4:14-16; Matthew 1:18-23



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.

SNOWBIRDSST

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

• WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES •

Hope Full Women's Bible Study: All ages welcome. Meets every other week (January 9, 23), 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: Our Women's Bible study is supporting each other in our quest for a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior. We are currently reading and discussing Elijah, Faith and Fire by Priscilla Shirer. 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: This study group meets 9:00-11:00 AM on Wednesdays in the Junior Youth room. The group has completed the study about death, heaven, resurrection and the new creation. There will be a concluding session in the future where each individual writes their obituary and funeral service. We spent a short time watching a video presenting a case for God's existence and the counterview. The associated discussion should be concluding shortly. The new study will be the book of Romans. Jim Rootes is the facilitator for this study.

Senior Fellowship & Bible Study: We meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 9:30-11:00 AM in Cana Hall. 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 (starting January 11) from 6:30-8:30 PM. Please contact Janet Orrick (763.323.0939) if interested.

Paschke L.I.F.E. Small Group: This group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. Join the group for fellowship at 6:30 PM and continue on for video and Bible study from 7:00—8:30 PM called, "Forward, Discovering God's Presence and Purpose in your Tomorrow," by Dr. David Jeremiah. Contact Janelle Paschke to sign up or for any questions jjp1105@hotmail.com or 612.251.6864.

• SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY •

Exploration & Discovery Bible Study – Sunday Edition: This study group meets each Sunday (starting January 7) at 9:15 AM in the Junior Youth Room. The topic is "Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School." The study is based on 140+ episodes from Lutheran Hour Ministries. Jim Rootes is the facilitator for this study.

Cana Hall Adult Bible Study: Meet in Cana Hall for a Bible study with Pastor Jon at 9:15 AM each Sunday starting January 14. Topic TBD.

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

Enjoy a meal from 5:30 to 6:15 PM each Wednesday night! 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! We especially want to thank our core team of kitchen volunteers that gather every week to prepare a delicious meal and return the kitchen to good order. We also want to thank the youth volunteers that served.

As we begin this new year, remember to thank God for our past blessings but also our fresh start!

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.



Thank you to those who were able to attend the "Joyful Songs of Christmas" event. We collected 152.5 pounds of goods and \$92.25 for The Dwelling Place!

Next LWML Meeting:
MONDAY, JANUARY 15
1:00 PM



FOOD SHELF

Here is a list of items we are in need of for our food shelf:

- deodorant
- men's shampoo
- conditioner
- body wash
- razors
- children's toothpaste
- adult toothpaste
- feminine pads/tampons
- women's medium pull-up depends
- laundry detergent
- dryer sheets
- snacks
- soup (not tomato)
- canned vegetables
- cereal





Join
-US-

BELL CHOIR

We have many bells
without a player!

MEN, WOMEN, YOUTH
Even if you have never
played bells but enjoy music,
JOIN US!

WEDNESDAYS • 6:30 PM




QUILTING STARTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024
12:30-2:30



MEN: JOIN US FOR

BREWS *and good news*

**2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
6:30-8:00 PM**

Each meeting at rotating homes

Look for the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center

ADULT CHOIR

JANUARY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

January 3: 5:30 PM
January 10: 5:30 PM
January 17: NO REHEARSAL
January 24: 5:30 PM



SING:
January 28
"O Hearken Ye"
8:00 AM service
(warm-up at 7:30 AM)



PARENTS OF A PRODIGAL

Emotions well up. Questions come. Can it be fixed? How can I cope?
Come join others who are experiencing separation from their child.
Join in discussions on how emotional health can come with God's help.

SUNDAYS

January 7
January 21
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Embrace changing the pain of estrangement
to engagement with others who understand.
We will be using the book, "Help! I Have a Prodigal, How to Gain Hope
and Healing When Your Loved One Has Gone Astray" by Judy R. Slegh

Contact Anni with questions: 612.861.2934

VISION ASSEMBLY MEETING



SUNDAY, JANUARY 14
11:35 AM
Sanctuary

Election of Officers
Reports from Sr. Pastor and DCE Call Committees



INTRODUCING CobWeb Corner

The Trustees have been approached about opportunities to serve
around our church building as simple cleaning needs arise.

This is a great opportunity for youth in
need of service hours, families and
anyone who wants to keep our church
building tidy throughout the year.

Please watch for CobWeb Corner
announcements in the weekly bulletin

MOUNT OLIVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

The preschool will be registering for the 2024-2025 school year in January. They will be offering an Open House on Tuesday, January 9 from 4:00-6:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to come tour the classrooms and ask the teachers questions.

Registration for current preschool families is Tuesday, January 16, 9:00 AM.

Registration for the public will be Monday, January 22, 8:00 AM.

MOUNT OLIVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE!

**TUESDAY
JAN 9, 2024
4-6PM**

- Tour our classrooms
- Visit with teachers
- View sample schedules
- View sample portfolios
- Ask lots of questions
- Get registration materials

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

700 Western Street, Anoka • 763-421-9048 • mtolive-anoka.org



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, January 6, 7.**

Prayer for Healthy Relationships

Lord, I lift _____ up to you today and ask that you would bless them. As they go about their day help them to be a light in this dark world. Help them to draw strength from you to fight back against the schemes of the evil one. Surround them with people who will encourage them and build them up. Grow the relationships in their life that will support them, encourage them, and keep them accountable. Give them wisdom and discernment to move on from the relationships that keep them from becoming who you called them to be. Help them also to be a positive influence in the lives of their peers as well. Help them to set a good example and to reflect you in every way. Amen



Gabe Engebretson

Julia Schultz

Briana Araya

Nevaeh Madison

William Larrabee

Chloe Schneider



Happy New Year Family Sunday School Families! Below is a quick synopsis of the theme for January! Looking forward to seeing you Sunday!

WHAT CAN I DO?

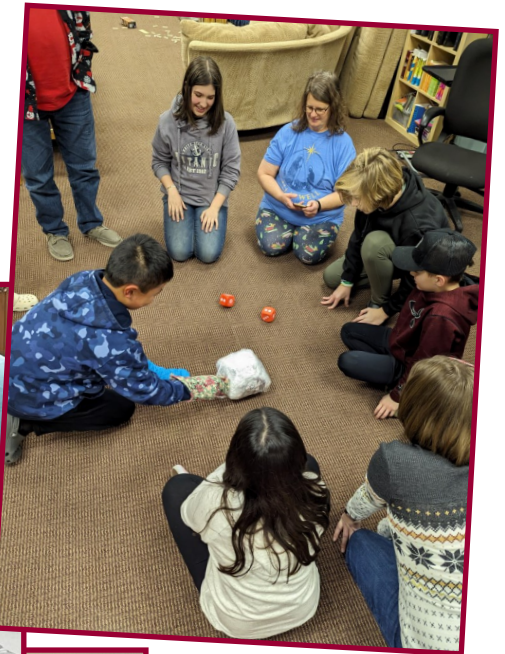
A Four-Week Series from the Gospels on **Jesus' Early Life & Ministry**.

SERIES OVERVIEW

What's your dream job? Do you want to be a pilot or astronaut? A teacher or musician? There are so many incredible jobs for us to pick from! God has given each of us special talents and skills that can help us discover what we want to do. But God gives us another job, too. It's the chance for us to follow God right now! In this four-week series from the Gospels, we'll read about Jesus starting out his ministry and how he invited his followers—and us—to listen to God's voice, trust Jesus knows us, trust God's plans for us, and include people who aren't like us.



Mount Olive youth have been celebrating Advent. Whether it was at the Family Advent Adventure, the Senior Youth Christmas party or the Junior Youth Christmas party, fun was had by all!





January 2024

WORSHIP

Onsite Worship Hours:

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM (Traditional)
9:15 AM (Education hour: Sunday School and Bible studies)
10:30 AM (Contemporary)

Online Worship:

Tune-in to our Live Services
Sunday Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

FOLLOW US



www.mtolive-anoka.org



YouTube

Youtube: (search Mount Olive Lutheran Anoka)
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42ADWJfIU4Lqh5OIVf_Qeg



Facebook: (search for Mount Olive Anoka)
<https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Olive-117305858314602/>



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1 & 2:	Church office closed
January 5 & 19:	Senior Fellowship & Bible Study
January 9:	Quilting begins / Preschool Open House
January 10:	Trustees
January 14:	Vision Assembly 11:35 AM
January 15:	Women of Mount Olive Meeting

