



A Year of Learning, Growing, Connecting

As we wrap up the school year this month, I want to pause and thank God for all the education opportunities both young and old had here at Mount Olive this past year.

It's probably no surprise by my position or degree that I'm extremely passionate about Christian Education! While we planted seeds of faith in the littlest of members, our members who have been studying God's Word for decades still were taught new things they had never learned before. God calls us to be lifelong learners and one of the very best things about a church family is that we can learn from each other.

I'm extremely grateful that in this year of vacancy, we were able to consistently have a vibrant and engaging Cana Hall Adult Bible Study thanks to Russ and Connie Benson, Harold and Linda Matson, Phil and Sandy Pippo, and Denny Lutter. This group faithfully met together to plan and lead our Adult Bible Studies! Thank you to Sandy Peterson for leading our parenting study, Paulette Lenz for leading a virtual morning class, Jim Rootes for his Exploration and Discovery Study, Janet Orrick's First Place for Health Class, and many other adult studies that happened.

For our younger learners, we had a year of fun and engaging learning! I'd especially like to thank Randy Palmer for leading our Wednesday Sr. High Youth Bible Study, Travis and Jen Busch and Tony and Jerusha Davis for leading our Sunday Sr. High Bible Study, Dawn Anderson for leading our Jr. High Bible Study, and Allyson Linden, Lanea Elgersma, and Sheena Valley for helping me with Sunday School. Ministry is never meant to be done alone and I am so grateful that many of our members have stepped up to help in Children, Youth, and Adult Ministry!

I had the great privilege of teaching Confirmation this year and was inspired by our junior youth diving deep into Luther's Small Catechism and coming with great questions every week. My great joy was getting to teach Sunday School to our kids and continue to create relationships with our incredible families.

Even in a year of so much change and uncertainty, I'm extremely humbled by the commitment of our members to regularly attend worship and Education Hour. As a church family, we celebrated five youth receive their First Communion, three children receive their own Bibles, and four youth will be confirming their faith on May 3.

As we prepare for Summer and sunny days to arrive, we look ahead to VBS! I want to express my thankfulness for all the donations, prayers, volunteers, and support VBS has already received. We already have over 100 kids signed up! VBS is an incredible opportunity to get families into our doors and potentially introduce them to Jesus' love for the very first time. Pray that hearts will be opened and that we may provide a safe place for these children to ask questions and learn more about our loving Savior! There are more opportunities to support VBS, keep checking out the table in the Welcome Center.

May you all be reminded of how grateful I am to serve here at Mount Olive! To get to do what I love in a place I love with people I love is truly a gift! Together, let's continue living to love people to Christ!

Martha Harkins, DCE



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Worship Info

May 3: Pastor Tatkenhorst
Fifth Sunday of Easter
John 14:1-14

May 10: Pastor Frerichs
Sixth Sunday of Easter
John 14:15-21

May 17: Pastor Tatkenhorst
Seventh Sunday of Easter
John 17:1-11

May 24: Pastor Quiring
The Day of Pentecost
John 7:37-39

May 31: Pastor Stroming
The Holy Trinity
Matthew 28:16-20



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 | “Understanding Angels” | 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 Contact Martha with questions: martha@mtolive-anoka.org

Sunday School | Preschool-4th Graders in Family Center

Jr. High Bible Study | 5th-8th Graders in Jr. Youth Room

Sr. High Bible Study | 9th-12th Graders in Sr. Youth Room

10:30 AM | CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

**NOTE: Sunday Education
Hour's LAST DAY is
Sunday, May 17**

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 | Jerusalem Room | 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 | May 6 & 13 | Contact: Rachele Lapham (rachele.buuck@gmail.com)

6:00 PM | WORSHIP NIGHT | May 13 & 27 | Contact: Randy (randyp@mtolive-anoka.org)

6:45-8:00 PM | 6TH—12TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP | May 6 Grounds Clean-up, May 13 Last Crossover | Contact: Martha (martha@mtolive-anoka.org)

6:50-7:45 PM | ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR | Done except to rehearse on June 17 for Pastor Frerichs' Installation | 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 | May 1 & 15 | Bethlehem Room | Contact: Lynn Antoine (763.777.0412)

WOMEN OF MOUNT OLIVE

The WOMO held their last business meeting of the year in April. We planned some fun events for 2026-27. On Saturday, September, 19, we will be assembling feminine hygiene kits for “Days for Girls”(www.daysforgirls.org).

If you’d like to participate in a crafty project, WOMO are making cross necklaces for **Forged by Fire** to give to disaster victims. Please see a WOMO member for supplies. You may assemble the necklaces at home.

WOMO will have our Spring Salad Supper on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 PM in Cana Hall. All ladies and girls are invited. Bring your family and friends! This is our last event for this year, so please drop off your Mite Box offerings at the event. Please sign up at the Front Desk if you are bringing a salad. There is also a sign-up sheet for men to host this event, whose services are much appreciated!

WOMO members will convene in the Fall. We’d love it if you could attend our next business meeting on **September 13, 2026!** In the meantime, check out the WOMO bookshelf on the way to Cana Hall. It has several items for your use, such as greeting cards for sale, Mite Boxes, and publication resources.



WOMEN OF MOUNT OLIVE
SALAD SUPPER
TUESDAY, MAY 5 • 6:30 PM
All women and girls are welcome to join us!
Invite your mothers, daughters & neighbors!

Jenna Perez, Executive Director of The Dwelling Place, will be our speaker

Ingathering: monetary donations will be collected to help with furnishing “Lydia’s Place”, a new residence

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

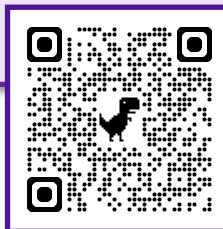


Several members of the Wednesday morning Bible Study, along with family members, demonstrated Christ-like love by filling Manna Packs at Feed my Starving Children in March. They filled 170 boxes, which is 36,720 meals: this feeds 101 children a daily meal for a year!

LWML 31st Biennial MN South District Convention JUNE 18-20, 2026

Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center
Mankato, MN

Please join us if you're interested
in what Lutheran Women in Mission do!



Scan QR code for more
info or to register

Don't Miss Out

SUMMER SERVICES

Beginning May 24, 2026

SUNDAYS
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

JOIN US FOR THE
INSTALLATION
OF
Pastor Paul Frerichs

JUNE 21, 2026 | 2:00 PM
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

RECEPTION
TO FOLLOW

We're delighted to welcome
PASTOR FRERICHS
as he joins us to preach on:

Sunday, May 10
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Mother's Day Service

VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 17
11:45 AM IN FAMILY CENTER
RSVP TO MARTHA

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

for both participants & volunteers

RAINFORREST FALLS
Exploring the Nature of God

Check out the VBS Table in the Welcome Center for ways to support!

Mount Olive VBS
June 15-19, 2026 9AM-Noon

Questions? Contact DCE Martha

QUILT

silent auction

The Quilters Ministry is auctioning their quilts. Proceeds go to the Quilters and the Mount Olive Ministries.

Bidding runs May 3-10

VBS DECORATING DAY

Sunday, June 7 • 11 AM - 4 PM

ALL are invited to help create some major decorating projects. Come and go as your schedule works!

Questions?
Contact DCE Martha

Food and drinks provided

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH



VISION ASSEMBLY MEETING

Wednesday
June 10, 2026
6:00 PM
Sanctuary

Agenda:
Presentation
and Approval of
2026-2027 Workplan

SCRIP Gift Cards

THE SCRIP PROGRAM
WILL BE DISCONTINUED
We will continue to sell
current inventory after
worship services

(Cash or check only)



PRESCHOOL

Bridging Generations with Joy and Grace

There is something truly beautiful unfolding in our community each month. Our preschool children have been taking joyful walks to nearby senior living centers, where laughter, music and love fill the rooms in the most heartwarming ways.



With bright smiles and eager hearts, the children share songs, play simple games, and create crafts alongside the residents. These small moments—tiny hands passing crayons, gentle voices singing familiar tunes—become powerful expressions of connection and care. In these interactions, we are reminded of God’s love: that we are meant to uplift one another across every stage of life.



One especially tender moment came when Mrs. Karen’s class brought along their show-and-tell treasures. One resident had a stuffed dog with him, so Mrs. Karen asked him to start the show-and-tell. He snuggled his cherished stuffed dog, named “Dog”. The children watched with curiosity and joy, and for a moment, the roles faded away—young and old simply sharing in the delight of being seen and heard.



As Scripture reminds us, “Let us love one another, for love comes from God.” Through these visits, we see that love in action—pure, generous, and full of grace. It is a blessing to witness these generations come together, each giving and receiving in ways that enrich the soul. May we continue to nurture these connections and celebrate the beauty of God’s family, woven together in faith, joy, and fellowship!

Celebrating the
Rite of Confirmation



Join us Sunday, May 3 at 10:30 AM Worship

Hear four youth share their Faith Statements and confirm their Christian beliefs! *Cake will be available between services to help celebrate our Confirmands.*

Congratulations to our Confirmands:

Cataleya Ledebuhr
Jace Lund
Whitney Madison
Judah Peterson


GRADUATION RECOGNITION

CLASS OF 2026

SUNDAY, MAY 17
during both services

Do you have someone in your family graduating this spring (high school, college, masters, doctorate, etc.)?

Please contact DCE Martha ASAP at martha@mtolive-anoka.org so she can get the information needed to recognize them on May 17!



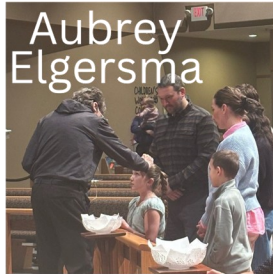
Children, Youth and Family Ministry

May 2026

Celebrating Faith Milestones



First Communion



Aubrey Elgersma



Wilho Hunter



Mason Stringfellow



Lillian Pierce



Chris Ly



Bible Presentation



Meadow Ly

Important May Dates

May 3 Confirmation Sunday at 10:30 AM Worship

May 6 Jr. & Sr. Youth Helping with Grounds Clean Up

May 13 Last Wednesday Youth Night (6th-12th graders)

May 17 Last Sunday of Education Hour for ALL ages

Graduation Recognition at both services

VBS Volunteer Meeting at 11:45 AM in Family Center



Jr. and Sr. Youth Families- be on the lookout for a Summer Youth Survey coming soon!

Questions?

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



