

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Pastor's Ponderings from Pastor Paul

Strangers. Pilgrims. Sojourners. Each of these words are descriptive of people who are wandering. Strangers. Pilgrims. Sojourners. Each of these words describe God's people. I'm not so certain that we like to consider ourselves wanderers. As I've gotten to know the people of Mount Olive a bit better over the last few months, I've learned that many in the congregation are native Minnesotans and several in the congregation have been part of Mount Olive their whole lives. That doesn't sound like being a stranger or a pilgrim.

I will freely admit that my life sounds much more like that of a pilgrim. Over my lifetime I've lived in nine different states, some twice (Oregon, Missouri, Wisconsin, and believe it or not, Minnesota). Moving has been a significant part of my adult life. My family says that once we get comfortable in any given location, that's when we move to a new place and a new parish. That's not the kind of life many people want to live, and it wasn't what I was, and certainly not what my wife was, expecting. But I do find it to be illustrative of what it means to be a believer in Jesus in this world.

God's Word reminds us that we are just passing through. We're on our way to a better land, a heavenly one. But while we're here, on this side of eternity, we need to make the best of it. God spoke this way to exiled Israel through the prophet Jeremiah. "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29:7) We're to make ourselves at home on this side of eternity, but not be at home.

God's words to Israel point to seeking that which is best for where we live. The welfare of our city is important to the welfare of Mount Olive. So what do we do in the meantime? We pray for our city. We pray that God's Word would take root in our city. We pray that God would bless our city. We pray that God will create openings for the Gospel to be proclaimed in our city. And there are plenty of ways for us to do just that.

There are many things happening at Mount Olive right now. A new school year begins on September 9 and preschool students and their families will be on campus. Confirmation instruction begins, also on September 9, for students and parents to learn more, or review, Christian doctrine. Our Discovering Mount Olive course is later on this month, and we will have the opportunity of welcoming new, and not so new, people into our fellowship of faith. And in the middle of September the much-awaited roof and HVAC replacement will be taking place. Each of these things impact the way Mount Olive brings the Gospel into the lives of the people of our city. And on top of all that, God continues to provide other ways for you to bring the Gospel into the parts of the city that you frequent.

God doesn't merely gather us together in this place we call Mount Olive, but He also sends us into the city with the Gospel, with Jesus in our lives, so that more people can get to know Jesus, too. We pray for the welfare of the city, because our God is a sending God and we are telling people.

So, as sojourners and pilgrims, we pray for God's blessings on the city so that God's Word can go into the city. This is where God has placed us and He desires His people to be faithful in living their faith and sharing their lives.



What's Inside

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Worship Info

Sermon Series: Turn and Live

September 6
"Turn from Danger"
Ezekiel 33:7-9

September 13
Rally Sunday
(Christian Education Sunday)
"Turn from Bitterness"
Genesis 50:15-21

September 20
Blessed to be a Blessing Launch
"Turn from Self"
Isaiah 55:6-9

September 27
"Turn to Christ"
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

BETTER TOGETHER

Sundays at Mount Olive

8:00 AM | Traditional Worship Service

9:00-10:00 AM | Fellowship
Coffee Shop

9:00-10:00 AM | Youth & Young Adult: Open Room
Senior Youth Room

10:00 AM | Contemporary Worship Service *

Rally Day - September 13 - one worship at 9:30 AM
(Potluck after worship)

Beginning September 20

- * **8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship Services**
- * **9:15-10:15 AM Education Hour**

Wednesdays at Mount Olive

6:00 AM | Early AM Bible Study (online)

We will be finishing up our Beth Moore study.
On Sept. 20, we will begin "Stronghold of the Chosen,"
based on season 5 of "The Chosen," the video series.
Contact Paulette Lenz (mp.lenz@gmail.com)

9:00 AM | Exploration and Discovery Bible Study
Contact Jim Rootes (farmalldork@gmail.com)

5:00-5:45 PM | Midweek Meals
Cana Hall • Contact Ann Maik (763.370.2248)

5:15 PM | Adult Vocal Choir
Our first rehearsal is Sept. 9; first performance is Sept. 13
Contact Rachele Lapham (rachele.buuck@gmail.com)

6:45 PM | Bell Choir
Our first rehearsal is Sept. 16
Contact Karen Keast (krnkeast@hotmail.com)

6:45 PM | Youth Group & Confirmation

Other Bible Studies

THURSDAY

First Place for Health

Our first study will be Sept. 10
Bethlehem Room • Contact: Janet Orrick (763.421.3223
- Leave message at the Welcome Desk)

FRIDAY (1st & 3rd Fridays)

Senior Fellowship & Bible Study

This Bible study will begin Friday, October 2.
Contact Lynn Antoine (blantie@hotmail.com)

WOMEN OF MOUNT OLIVE

DAYS FOR GIRLS Workshop

Saturday, September 19, 2026
9:00 –11:45 AM, Cana Hall
Potluck Luncheon to Follow

All women and girls are invited to join us for a workshop where we will be assembling menstrual kits for girls in third world countries. We'll cut, pin, sew, and iron the components of the kits, with materials and equipment provided by our guest leader, Judy Johnson, who will also share about her ministry.



A potluck lunch will follow. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Questions?
Contact Paulette Lenz
at 763.807.2338.

To learn more, please
visit the website:
www.daysforgirls.org

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION SUNDAY Sunday, October 4

An annual Lutheran tradition celebrating the service, faith, and mission work of Lutheran Women in Mission. This year's theme, "Supporting Missions," focuses on proclaiming Christ and serving others, based on Ecclesiastes 3:9-15, Galatians 2:1-10, and Mark 10:35-45.

To support our District missions, WOMO will be collecting Mite Boxes, Mite Envelopes and selling Christian Greeting Cards to celebrate this special occasion (\$7.50 per box). Cards will be available October 4 & 11 in the Welcome Center. Your financial support and prayers for the women's missions are greatly appreciated!

✧ ✧ ✧ **Our next meeting:**
✧ **Monday, September 14 • 2:00 PM**

MOUNT OLIVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

The halls of Mount Olive Christian Preschool are about to come alive again! We are excited to welcome our preschool families back for the 2026–2027 school year. **Orientation** will be held on **Tuesday, September 1**, followed by our first days of school on September 9, 10, and 11. We are so excited to see many familiar faces while also welcoming new students, families and staff to our preschool family. After a summer of preparation and anticipation, we can't wait to begin another year of learning, growing and sharing God's love together!



Our school year will begin with a special Blessing of the Backpacks during our first chapel days on September 15 and 17. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray over our students and their backpacks as they begin a new year. Our theme this year, "Let Your Light Shine," reminds us of Jesus' words in Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." We look forward to watching our preschoolers learn, grow and shine brightly as they discover God's love throughout the year!

It's not too late to join us! We still have a few openings in our High 5s class and our 3-day 4-year-old class for the 2026–2027 school year. If you know a family who is looking for a Christ-centered preschool experience, we would love to welcome them to the Mount Olive family! Reach out to the preschool office for more information or to schedule a visit:

cari@mtolive-anoka.org • 763.421.9048

www.mtolive-anoka.org/preschool

YOUNG ADULT



Please keep the following young adults in prayer this month and stop to sign a card for each of them on **September 6**.

Aidan Solie

Benjamin Peterson

Lily Nelson

Mason Briesse

Hunter Eggington

Samuel Peterson

Olivia Martini

Please pray for their financial well-being this month:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for being a Rock and Provider for _____. May they praise and thank you for all the ways that You have provided for them with shelter, food, clothing, transportation, a job, and more. Help them to remember that all they have comes from You. You are the one who empowers them to work and sustains them so they can earn money. Protect their heart so that it does not become a slave to money. In their finances, give them godly wisdom so they may save, spend, and invest money in a way that honors You. Give them discipline and guidance as they read Your Word so that they may steward Your blessings well and serve You with their finances. This we pray in Your Holy Name, AMEN

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY**SEPTEMBER 2026****2 CONFIRMATION ORIENTAITON**

6:45 PM in Jr. Youth Room

For all 6th-8th graders, please RSVP to DCE Martha

**9 CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS**

6:45-8:00 PM in Jr. Youth Room

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

6:45-8:00 PM in Sr. Youth Room

Join Martha for "Life with Jesus: A Discipleship Course for Teens"

**13 RALLY SUNDAY**

9:30 AM WorShip with Backpack Blessing

11:00 AM Potluck in Cana Hall

ALL students are invited to bring their backpack to worship!

**16 CONFIRMATION CLASS YOUTH GROUP**

6:45-8:00 PM in Jr. & Sr. Youth Rooms

**20 EDUCATION HOUR BEGINS**

9:15-10:15 AM

Sunday School: Preschool-7th Grade

(Opening together, then split PS-3rd & 4th-7th)

Youth Bible Study: 8th-12th Grade

(in Sr. Youth Room)

**23 CONFIRMATION CLASS YOUTH GROUP**

6:45-8:00 PM in Jr. & Sr. Youth Rooms

**27 SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH BIBLE STUDY**

9:15-10:15 AM

CHECK IT OUT!

RALLY SUNDAY
AT MOUNT OLIVE
(Christian Education Sunday)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Combined Worship Service at 9:30 AM
Potluck to follow at 11:00 AM

BACKPACK BLESSING DURING CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

NOTE:
Education Hour, Bible Studies and Sunday School starts Sept. 20



WORSHIP SERVICES
AT MOUNT OLIVE

starting
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:00 AM - traditional
9:15 AM - educational hour
10:30 AM - contemporary



WORSHIP
NIGHT

THURSDAY
Sep 10 • 6:00 PM

Mount Olive Welcome Center

All Adults, Families & Youth are Welcome!

Join us for contemporary worship & inspiring messages

 We take donations of new or clean, gently used sheets and fabric (1 yard or longer)

JOIN QUILTERS!
Fall Kickoff SEPTEMBER 15
12:30-3:00 PM • Cana Hall

All are welcome! No sewing skills required!
Questions? Contact Erna 612-910-9568

THANK YOU!
THE TRUSTEES AND PRESCHOOL STAFF ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE SERVANT HANDS THAT SHOWED UP TO MOVE AND SPREAD 40 YARDS OF NEW MULCH. THE PLAYGROUND AND NATURE CENTER ARE THOROUGHLY COVERED AND READY FOR THE CHILDREN! TRULY OUR GOD GIVES IN ABUNDANCE AS HE PROVIDED THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF HELP AND MULCH TO GET THE JOB DONE!



Join Us!

ADULT VOCAL CHOIR

Our first rehearsal of the season is
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 5:15 PM

BELL CHOIR

Rehearsals begin
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 @ 6:45 PM
Contact: Karen Keast krnkeast@outlook.com



DISCOVERING MOUNT OLIVE

NEW MEMBER CLASS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Lunch & Childcare Available



Questions? Contact Brenda Schwarz
(952.600.1274 or
brenda@mtolive-anoka.org)

Are you new to Mount Olive within the last 18 months? DISCOVERING MOUNT OLIVE is the entry level class to join the congregation. Over one day we will discuss the mission, vision, and values of Mount Olive and learn of the many options and opportunities available for service in the congregation.

Sunday Bible Study – Cana Hall

Lutheran Worship: Why
We Do What We Do

Have you ever wondered why Lutherans worship the way they do? What's with all the sitting and standing? Why do we kneel? Why all the different colors on the altar?



Join Pastor Frerichs for a study to learn a bit more of why Lutherans do what they do in worship.

Save the Date

**MOUNT OLIVE
TRUNK OR TREAT**

Sunday, October 25
2-4 PM

More info coming soon

BAPTISM

**Madden Mitchell
Harkins**

Born: July 11, 2026
Baptized August 16, 2026

Parents:
Martha & Codie Harkins
Sponsors:
Sophie & Bridger Scaper



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
YOUTH GROUP**
For all confirmed
+ high school youth

"LIFE WITH JESUS"
A discipleship course for teens

**Wednesday Nights
beginning Sept. 9**
6:45-8:00 PM in
Sr. Youth Room

Questions? Contact DCE Martha

**Sunday Morning
Education Hour**
for children & youth
9:15-10:15 AM
beginning Sept 20

Sunday School
Family Center
(Sept. location TBD)
Preschool-7th Grade
Start all together,
then split PS-3rd Grade
and 4th-7th Grade

Youth Bible Study
Sr. Youth Room
8th-12th Grade

Questions?
Contact DCE Martha

**RALLY DAY
POTLUCK**

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13**

Cana Hall

**Bring your favorite
dish to pass**
OR
Family Last Names
A-L: bring a dessert
Family Last Names
M-Z: bring a salad/side dish

American Red Cross
Give blood. Help save lives.

BLOOD DRIVE

Mount Olive Lutheran Church
Thursday, October 15, 2026
12:00 - 6:00 PM
Coffee Shop Area

to schedule an appointment:
 **1-800-RED CROSS**
RedCrossBlood.org

**MOUNT OLIVE
WORSHIP IN THE
FAMILY CENTER**

September 20
(& possibly September 27)
8:00 & 10:30 AM

**DUE TO THE ROOF & HVAC
REPLACEMENT**

**DURING
CONSTRUCTION**

**Scan to Register Your
Worship Attendance**



Online Worship:
Scan the QR code to
register your attendance or
click the link on the
Facebook post.

Worship in the Sanctuary:
Scan the QR code in the
bulletin or screen.



 **Please only mark your attendance in
one location - online OR pads in the pew**

Thank you!

A special thank you to Lucas Dahlberg
for all his hard work setting up the AV
equipment needed for worship in the
Family Center during our Roof/HVAC
replacement project. We appreciate
the time and effort he put into making
sure our worship services could
continue smoothly!



September 2026

WORSHIP

RALLY DAY (Christian Education Sunday)

Sunday, September 13: 9:30 AM service only

STARTING SEPTEMBER 20*

Onsite and Online Worship Hours:

Sunday: 8:00 AM (Traditional)

9:15 AM (Education hour)

10:30 AM (Contemporary)

**Worship in Old Sanctuary September 20, 27*

FOLLOW US!



[Website](http://www.mtolive-anoka.org): 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

Sept 2....Confirmation Orientation 6:45 PM
Exploration & Discovery Bible Study Resumes

Sept 6....Last Sunday of Worship at 8:00 & 10:00 AM

Sept 10....Worship Night 6:00 PM (Thursday)

Sept 13....Rally Day (Christian Education Sunday) 9:30 AM Worship with Potluck afterwards

Sept 19....Days for Girls Workshop 9:00 AM

Sept 20....Education Hour begins (Bible Studies, Sunday School, Youth Groups)

Oct 15....Red Cross Bloodmobile

Oct 25....Trunk or Treat

