



In Grateful Appreciation

November is the month we generally put aside to give thanks. Later this month we will be celebrating a national day of Thanksgiving. Living in a nation like ours, even with its challenges and struggles, it is important to recognize how blessed we are!

It certainly should be a hallmark of Christianity: gratitude, giving thanks, showing appreciation for all that we have and the wonderful world God gave us. Gratitude journals and lists are all the rage in popular culture, but how often do we plan expressing gratitude or thankfulness as an activity of the church?

We just came out of a month here at Mount Olive where many expressed their appreciation for the ministry of Pastor Bill and myself. We so much appreciate your generosity and gratitude through conversation, cards and gifts. We thank you!

But, I would also like to thank the rest of our staff here at Mount Olive. We may be smaller than desired on the church side, but I challenge you to find a group that works harder. They work with Jesus in their hearts: Todd et al work hard at keeping our building clean and in working order; Gwen plays so beautifully on her instruments, and diligently keeps our worship team supplied and on task; Brenda does a much needed job of reminding me of details, and taking as much as she can off my plate; Monica works to count and justify all our numbers and keep our bills up to date; Jerusha puts in many hours to prepare her lessons and activities for our Sunday School families, VBS and visioning for the future of children's and family ministry, and now Allyson is on board to help administrate day-to-day operations; Tana & Cari administrate our preschool and all of our teachers and staff go above and beyond to prepare their activities, and bring love and care to our preschool children each and every day;

and Amy works hard at updating our forms and processes, website and social media. I love you all and I certainly COULD NOT do this without you. My heartfelt thanks to all of you.

And to our volunteers: we certainly could not do so many things without your faithful service and loving dedication. Our Welcome Desk volunteers during the week and on Sundays; our Bible class teachers and ministry leaders; our leaders and helpers in children's ministry (Sunday School and Vacation Bible School), confirmation and Sr. Youth; our greeters, ushers, worship techs, coffee shop team, Praise Team musicians and vocalists and our acolyte Marna; our church leaders on the Commission of Elders and Mission and Ministry Council; the Board of Trustees and their many volunteers who fix and beautify our building and grounds; our tellers, Midweek Meal cooks and volunteers, and our Quilters, Funeral Ministry team and Women of Mount Olive. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Gratitude is an amazing lens through which to view the world. When we focus on our blessings, we tend to be happier. When we realize how much we possess, we tend to be more thoughtful of those who have less. When we talk about the good together, we tend to appreciate each other more.

Being grateful is really about being more mindful of the abundance in our lives and how we can share it with others. This November, engage in gratitude.

And please join us for Thanksgiving Eve worship on Wednesday, November 22 at 6:30 PM as we remember the goodness of God in all circumstances.

Connecting People to Jesus,

Pastor Jon



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Sermon Series

SERIES: "The Always God"

October 28/29

"Always Speaking"

Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 22:34-46

November 4/5

"Always Hearing"

2 Kings 19:14-20; Matthew 23:1-12

November 11/12

"Always Seeing"

1 Peter 5:6-11; Matthew 25:31-40

November 18/19

"Always Pursuing"

Romans 5:6-11; Luke 15:1-24

November 25/26

"Always Restoring"

Jeremiah 18:1-6; John 8:2-11



11 NOVEMBER 2023

VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Veterans are encouraged to wear their uniform to worship on November 11/12.

Pastor will pray for all of the Veterans.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

• WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES •

Hope Full Women's Bible Study: All ages welcome. Meets every other week, 6:30-8:30 PM in the Family Center (October 31, November 14, 28). 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 will 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 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 (November 2 and 16). 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 jip1105@hotmail.com or 612.251.6864.

• SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY •

Exploration & Discovery Bible Study – Sunday Edition: This study group meets each Sunday 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. Finishing up the study, "Journey through God's Word—the Revelation to John".



Are you interested in Handbells?



BELL CHOIR

Handbell Ringers and Director Wanted!.

REHEARSALS ARE WEDNESDAY'S @ 6:30 PM

Are you interested in playing Handbells, particularly for Christmas Carols? We'd love to have you!

Sign up at the Welcome Center with your contact information if you are interested. Questions? Contact Jan Block at 763.421.7987.

LWML

Thank you to all those who continue to support WOMO-LWML through their mites and special envelope offerings.

At our October meeting, we did extensive planning of our Christmas event. This year's event will be themed *Joyful Songs of Christmas*. Please save the date of Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 PM. Please invite friends and family to attend. There will also be opportunities to sign up and help make this event a success.

Next month's meeting on November 20 at 1:00 PM will include a craft making experience. All supplies will be provided for creating one-of-a-kind Scrap Paper Christmas Trees. We look forward to seeing you there and encourage you to invite a friend.



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! Your prayers and donations are greatly appreciated! Please contact Jerusha at 763.280.3047 or by email rua_76@hotmail.com with questions, or if you would like to volunteer or donate.

Please pray for fun, fellowship and joy as we gather with family, friends and begin the Christmas season.





JOIN US FOR THE LEAF BAGGING CHALLENGE

As the leaves begin to fall we are trying something new to gather them before the first snow fall.

- You pick the day and time you rake
- Bring your family and/or a few friends
- Bags are provided (blue bin next to the garage)
- Leave full bags by the garage door in the lower lot
- Whether 2 bags or 10 ~ take a photo and upload it to our church FaceBook page with the hashtag **#jesusneverleaves** or send your photo to Brenda@mtolive-anoka.org



JOIN MIXED CHOIR!



**We rehearse on
Wednesdays at 5:30 PM**

**Our goal is to perform once a month
during the 8:00 AM service**

If interested, contact Rachelle: biopurduette7171@gmail.com



CELEBRATE ADVENT WITH A FAMILY ADVENT ADVENTURE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Sign up in the Welcome Center
to volunteer your time and
talent for this amazing day!



Decorating for Christmas

Join us in preparing our church
for the celebration of Jesus' Birth

**Monday, November 27
10 AM to 2 PM**

Lunch will be provided

Sign up in the Welcome Area

THE WOMEN OF MOUNT OLIVE INVITE YOU TO

Joyful Songs of Christmas

TUESDAY • DECEMBER 5 • 6:30 PM

*Enjoy Scripture readings, Christmas carols and light refreshments.
Join us as we celebrate the start of Advent season.*

Sign up in the Welcome Area.

Compassionate FRIENDS



Meets the 2nd Monday of each month to offer Christian love, hope, strength and compassion to:

- cope with a recent diagnosis of cancer
- meet the daily challenges of a chronic disease or terminal illness
- encourage a neighbor, family member or friend suffering from a diagnosis of an acute disease
- offer hope to you as a survivor

This is the last Compassionate Friends before Winter sets in

Monday, November 13, 2023
1:00 PM
Mount Olive Library

For more information contact Jeannie Conant: 651-210-6824




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



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
October 29 • November 12
December 3 • December 17
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



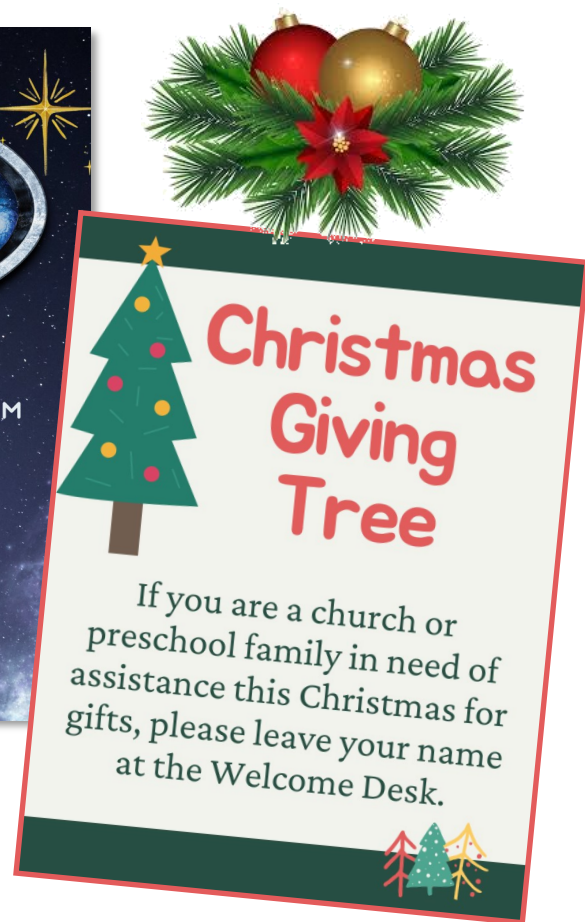
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023
10:30 AM SERVICE

PRACTICES:

Wednesday, December 6, 6:00-7:00 PM (sanctuary)
 Sunday, December 10, 9:15 AM (family center)

Youth and adult volunteers are needed for this program.

Questions? Contact Jerusha:
 763.280.3047 • rua_76@hotmail.com



We know the holidays are upon us and this can be a busy season for you and your family. Here's everything you need to know for the next two months:

NOVEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26, 9:15AM: FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Family Sunday School will be "On the Right Track" focusing on Joshua for 4 weeks in November in the Family Center.

DECEMBER 3, 10, 17, 31, 9:15AM: FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Family Sunday School will go on a "Christmas Vacation" a 4 week series studying the Gospels on Christmas. Note December 31 will be a shorter time because worship starts at 10:00AM.



DECEMBER 10, 2023, 10:30 AM: STELLAR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please save the date for the Stellar Christmas Program. We would like to invite you and your extended family to enjoy this service. We will practice the songs during Sunday School and we will rehearse the program on Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00 to 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary and Sunday, December 10 at 9:15 AM in the Family Center.

DECEMBER 24: NO FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please worship with your families at one of our services: 8:00 AM traditional, 10:00 AM contemporary, 3:00 PM or 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Services.

MOUNT OLIVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Our preschool classes make monthly trips to local senior communities. Recently, Mrs. Karen's 4-5 year old class walked over to Personal Care Senior Living. They played balloon volleyball, sang songs, and decorated gourds! The residents sure enjoyed their time with the lively children!



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, November 4, 5.**

Prayer of gratitude for our young adults:

Lord God, let _____ never forget all that you do for them on a daily basis. Sustain them with the hope of their salvation and the other countless blessings you provide with your continuous presence in their life. Lead them to live their life in testimony to your incredible blessings, that your love may be known and experienced by all those they serve, in Jesus' name, Amen.



Odin Western

Ava Kehr

Grace Kehr

Nicole Post

Jeffrey Wachholz

Joie Naber

Natalie Schultz

