



## ADVENT 2

Sunday, December 4, 2016, 8:30 & 10:45am

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, ELS

1123 Marsh Street Mankato, MN 56001 / (507)345-4966 church@mtolivelutheran.org

Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich / Principal Larry Rude

**Welcome!** In the name of our risen Savior we welcome you to Mt. Olive and thank you for worshipping with us this morning. If you are a guest please fill out a **Guest Card** (found in front of you in the hymnbook rack) or sign our guest book in the entry. We invite you to come and worship with us again soon. **Large Print** copies of the order of service from the ELS Hymnary are available from the usher stand in the back of the sanctuary. **For the Hearing Impaired:** Our facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask an usher for a receiver.

### **Explanation of the Week:**

*The Day on which our Lord will return is a "great and dreadful Day" (Mal 4:1-6). For He will come in a cloud with great power and glory. To the wicked and the proud, it will be a Day of judgment that will "burn them up." The signs preceding this Day will bring them fear and fainting. But to those who believe, who fear the name of the Lord, this Day is one to look forward to and rejoice in. "Look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Lk 21:25-36) Christ our Redeemer is coming; the Sun of Righteousness is bringing healing in His wings. Let us, then, give attention to the words of the Lord, which do not pass away. Let us through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures (Rom 15:4-13) be strengthened in our hope by the Holy Spirit and watch diligently for Jesus' coming. Then, by God's grace, we shall escape all these things that will come to pass and stand before the Son of Man.*

**~Hymn 87 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

**~Invocation (p. 60)**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

**~Confession of Sin (pp. 60-61, form I)**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C: ♪ Who made heav'n and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

**C: ♪ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

**C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: I ask each of you, in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

**C: I do.**

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in His name?

**C: I do.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May He comfort your heart by His holy Absolution, and strengthen you by His Sacraments, that your joy may be full. Peace be with You! **C: Amen**



as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name." And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope." Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

~**Sr. Choir, "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"** – arr David M. Cherwien

*O Savior, rend the heavens wide;  
Come down, come down with mighty stride;  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;  
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.*

*O Father, light from heaven lend;  
As morning dew, O Son, descend.  
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:  
To Jacob's line rain down the King.*

*O Morning Star, O radiant Dawn,  
When will we sing Your morning song?  
Come, Son of God! Without Your light  
We grope in dread and gloom of night.*

*Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
Oh, come, lead us with mighty hand  
From exile to our promised land.*

*There shall we all our praises bring  
And sing to You, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud You and adore  
Forever and forever more.  
Amen.*

~Holy Gospel (p. 68)

**C: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord!**

**Luke 21:25-36** “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**C: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ!**

~Nicene Creed (p. 69)

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life of the world to come. Amen.**

**~Hymn 101 *The King Shall Come***

**~Sermon Text**

***Micah 4:1-7*** Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. "In that day," says the LORD, "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever."

**~Sermon Theme**

***"The Kingdom Jesus Came to Make"***

1. A kingdom over all others.
2. A kingdom of peace.
3. An everlasting kingdom.

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus unto everlasting life. Amen.

~**Offertory** (pp. 70-71)

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.**

~**Offering & Voluntary**

*(Visitors: Please place guest cards in offering plate)*

~**Prayer of the Church** (pp. 71-72)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*(Special petitions are included)*

P: For..., let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

P: O Lord, heavenly Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit we faithfully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. We praise You for His victorious resurrection from the dead. We thank You for the strength of grace and majesty of faith which He bestows on the Church by virtue of His ascension to Your right hand, where He intercedes for us as our Advocate and High Priest. Grant that the Holy Spirit will gather us into the company of all the faithful from the ends of the earth, so that we may celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

In Your mercy receive our prayers. Deliver us and preserve us. To You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. Amen.

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\* **Holy Communion:** *This morning the confirmed, communicant members of our fellowship come to receive the true body and blood of Christ in the Holy Supper. Here Christ gives us this treasure for the remission of our sins. As we commune together we also outwardly demonstrate the unity of faith which we confess. If you are a guest and wish to commune with us, please speak to our pastor prior to the service. Thank you.*

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~**Preface** (pp. 72-73)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: ♪ And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.**

~**Proper Preface** (pp. 73-75)

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

~**Sanctus** (p. 76)

**C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

~**Lord's Prayer** (pp. 77-78)

P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**C: ♪ For Thine is the kingdom and the pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

~**Words of Institution** (pp. 78-79)

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for



many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

~**Pax Domini** (p. 79)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

~**Agnus Dei** (pp. 79-80)

C: ♪ **O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.**

~**Distribution**

Hymn 92 vv. 4, 5 *Fling Wide the Portals of Your Heart*

Hymn 99 *The Advent of Our King*

Hymn 94 vv. 6-10 *Rejoice, Then, Ye Sad-Hearted*

Hymn 278 *O Jesus, King Most Wonderful*

~**Dismissal of Communicants** (p. 81)

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His precious blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith to everlasting life. Depart in peace. Amen.

~**Nunc Dimittis** (pp. 81-82)

C: ♪ **Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.**

~**Collect of Thanksgiving** (p. 83, form II)

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup;

C: ♪ **We proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.**

P: Let us pray: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in lovingkindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that

we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

~**Salutation** (p. 84)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: ♪ And with your spirit.**

~**Benedicamus** (p. 84)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: ♪ Thanks be to God.**

~**Benediction** (pp. 84-85)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.**

~**Hymn 110 v. 4 *O Come, Thou Rod of Jesse's Stem***

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*Preacher: Pr. John J. Petersen/Liturgist: Pr. Luke Ulrich*

*Organists: 1<sup>st</sup>: Cassie Johnson/2<sup>nd</sup>: Mark DeGarmeaux*

*Sr. Choir director: Sarah Leyrer/Accompanist: Elisabeth Urtel*  
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**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE**

**Sunday: 8:30am; 189 10:45am; 181 Thanksgiving: 290**

**GIVEN LAST WEEK FOR THE LORD'S WORK: \$20,005.91**

***NEEDED EACH WEEK TO MEET ANNUAL BUDGET: \$15,760***

*Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

***Mt. Olive Worship Services on TV:***

*Mt. Olive services are being shown on local cable channel 181 (Charter) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10AM and Thursdays at 11:30AM.*

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**SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK**

**Ushers: 1<sup>st</sup> Service:** Steve Beilke (captain), Nate Beilke, Don Westphal,  
Eric Westphal, Elias Bonnett

**2<sup>nd</sup> Service:** Mike Pleiss (captain), Keith Eisberg, Loren Halvorson,  
David Liverseed, Andrew Zondervan

**Greeters: 1<sup>st</sup> Service:** Mark & Michelle Graham, Elson Sting, Keith Anderson

**2<sup>nd</sup> Service:** Steve & Lois Jaeger, James & Carolyn Gates

**Offering Counters: John Foede, John Baumann**

**Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson**

**WEEK AT A GLANCE: December 4, 2016 - December 11, 2016**

<b>Sunday</b> December 4 <b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 1PM 7:30PM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion Sunday School/Bible Class/BIC Divine Service w/Holy Communion Encourage One Another Co-ed Recreational Volleyball
<b>Monday</b> December 5	6:30PM 6:45PM	<i>(No Monday evening service during Advent)</i> Board of Education Board of Deacons
<b>Tuesday</b> December 6	8AM 6PM 6:30PM	Women's Bible Study – <i>Book of Genesis</i> Building Committee Meeting Jesus Cares Ministry
<b>Wednesday</b> December 7	8-10AM 8:05AM 3:45 & 4PM 5PM 6:30PM 7:30PM	MOM's Bible Study CDS Chapel 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Advent Meal – Evangelism Committee Advent Service Choir
<b>Thursday</b> December 8		Barnes & Noble Book Fair
<b>Friday</b> December 9	6:30PM 7:30PM	Jr. Youth Christmas Party at BLC Divers Christmas Concert – BLC Sigurd Lee Theatre
<b>Saturday</b> December 10		
<b>Sunday</b> December 11 <b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 4PM 7:30PM	<b>Boys' &amp; Girls' Choirs Sing</b> Divine Service Sunday School/Bible Class/BIC Divine Service Sr. Youth Caroling & Party Co-ed Recreational Volleyball

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Flowers on the Altar:** The flowers on the altar today are given to God's glory by Jerry & Sandy Hansen.

**Monday Evening Worship Services:** There will be NO Monday evening worship services November 28-December 26. Please join us for our Wednesday evening Advent services at 6:30PM.

**Boys' & Girls' Choirs:** The Boys' & Girls' Choirs (grades 5-8) will be singing at the beginning of **both services next Sunday, December 11.** Children should meet the directors at 8:15 in the social hall. . All students will be dismissed after singing in the second service.

**The December ELS Presidents' Newsletter** is located on the narthex table. Please pick up a copy.

**Thank You** from the After School Care kids and staff for all the recent donations of ribbon, bows, wrapping paper, craft supplies and dominoes! We appreciate your thoughtfulness!

**On Behalf of Kim Holtz,** the MacPherson family would like you thank you for all of your prayers and physical and financial support over the past few months. Kim has since transitioned to Pathstone's memory care unit. Feel free to visit her there or to send a card: 718 Mound Ave, Apt. 207, Mankato, MN 56001

**Attention Jr. Youth:** The next Jr. Youth event will be taking place on **Friday, December 9 at 6:30PM,** at Bethany Lutheran College in the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center (YFAC) Room 103. We will have a Christmas Party with cookies and treats and will then watch the Divers perform their annual Christmas show in the theater (which starts at 7:30PM). Parents can pick up their kids after the show at Bethany.

**Thai Village Mission Project:** Our school chapel offerings are going to a mission in Thailand called Thai Village. (See bulletin board in the social hall) Thailand is 99% Buddhist and needs to hear about Jesus. This mission of our fellowship trains poor villagers in handicrafts. The handicrafts are sold and part of the money goes to the villagers to support their families. The rest of the profits are used to fund the church and seminary in Thailand. The villagers making the handicrafts also hear God's Word every day, and they share it with their children and neighbors in their village.

**TODAY and Wednesday, December 7,** there will be a display of handicrafts for sale in the narthex. Any purchases you make will support bringing the Gospel to

Thailand. If you decide to make a purchase, we only have the ability to accept **cash or checks**. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Beilke.

**Sr. Youth Caroling & Party:** Join us Sunday, **December 11** for some Christmas Caroling! We will meet at Mt. Olive at 4PM, go caroling to our shut-ins, and then return to the Bloedels for some pizza and a party. Bring a funny “white elephant” gift along to exchange and a snack or dessert to share. Please have your parents pick you up by 8PM.

**Do you participate in the OfficeDEPOT OfficeMax rewards+ program?** The “Trash for Cash” representative for the PTF Committee would like to hear from you. Please email Annette Feistner at: [isjesusyourlord@gmail.com](mailto:isjesusyourlord@gmail.com) or text her at 712-574-5848.

**Poinsettias:** It’s that time of year again! If you would like to order a poinsettia to be displayed at church this Christmas, please sign up on the sheet on the narthex table by **tomorrow, December 5**. Poinsettias are \$9.50 each. Don’t forget to drop off your payment in the church office. Thank you.

**Save The Date!** Our Barnes and Noble Book Fair will take place on Thurs., Dec. 8. You can shop all day and we will have special entertainment provided by Mt. Olive students from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Can’t make it on the 8<sup>th</sup>? SHOP ONLINE just use the Book Fair I.D number that is found on the vouchers. SPREAD THE WORD ON FACEBOOK! Let family and friends know about our book fair through Facebook. Just post the I.D. number and encourage out of town family and friends to support our book fair online too. Remember, all profits will buy more books for our school library!

**Thank You from M.O.M.s!** The Moms On a Mission (M.O.M.s) bible study group would like to say THANK YOU to all who bought pies and other goodies at our Holiday Bake Sale just before Thanksgiving. We took homemade pies and other baked items to both Peace and Mt. Olive churches and collected a combined amount of \$1,057.00 in free will donations! This will completely fund childcare costs for our Spring 2017 session, and it will almost cover childcare costs for Fall 2017!

M.O.M.s bible study is a growing ministry of Peace and Mt. Olive churches. We average 25 mothers and 30 children at a given meeting. Most of the mothers are from either Peace or Mt. Olive, but we have a handful of moms from other churches that come on a regular basis, too. We are blessed to be able to meet each week and discuss

God's plan for marriage and family by studying Scripture. Thank you for your support and generosity of our group! To God be the Glory!

**Holiday Lights Display in Sibley Park:** Mt. Olive is once again participating in Sibley Park's Holiday Lights display for this Christmas season. Our church will have a decorated tree on display at the park, and we need volunteers to work during the open hours of the light display on Thursday, **December 15** from 4:40-9PM. Please sign up on the narthex table if you can help out in this way.

**ELS Missions Sunday:** As we thank our God for His continued grace and mercy we seek to honor Him through our gifts in support of missions and ministry. Our goal for our ELS Congregational gifts comes to \$760,000. As of November 1<sup>st</sup> we need \$149,000 to reach this worthy goal. **All gifts over \$725,000 go directly to missions.**

Please use the envelopes provided for this special mission offering. Help us by filling in your envelope number or name. As we give, may we with renewed strength honor the words of our Lord given through the prophet Isaiah, *"O Jerusalem (you, our Lord's Church), you who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with Strength!" (Isaiah 40:9)*. May our response be a generous gift in accord with our Lord's abundant blessings to us.

**Kwik Trip Cards:** Mt. Olive youth (grades 5-12) are selling Kwik Trip Cards as a fundraiser for our church Youth Groups. The groups currently receive 5% of the profits. Cards are sold between services on **Communion** Sundays year round. Contact Angie Younge: 389-9137 or Rebecca Strom: 386-0372 with questions.

**New 2 You:** Please continue to support New 2 You by volunteering, making donations, shopping our store, or praying for continued blessings on their efforts. If you would like to become a volunteer please call New2You at 507-385-1455. *~Mt. Olive provides volunteers on the first Saturday of every month. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.*

**Mt. Olive School Scrip program** offers gift cards for purchase for a wide variety of retailers. A percentage of gift card purchases go towards Mt. Olive Tuition. Visit [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) to view the 400+ participating retailers. If you have questions or need help getting started email Tanya Norris [scrip@mtolivelutheran.org](mailto:scrip@mtolivelutheran.org) or Tiffany Riesgraf [triesgraf@yahoo.com](mailto:triesgraf@yahoo.com).

## **Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School**

**Christmas Concert:** The MVL Music Department will present its annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday, **December 21** at 7PM. Pre-concert music will be provided by the band beginning at approximately 6:45PM. Groups participating in the concert will be the Freshmen and A Cappella Choirs, MVL Chargaliers, and the MVL Symphonic Band.

## **Bethany Lutheran College**

**Christmas at Bethany** concert tickets are available at [blc.edu](http://blc.edu) or reserve through the Fine Arts office at 344-7365. The final concert is today, December 4 at 4PM. The Concert Band will begin to play at approximately 3:45PM. Tickets are free, with a free will offering received.

**The Divers 4th annual Christmas Concert** is scheduled for Friday, December 9, 7:30 pm at the YFAC Theater. Join The Divers (Peter Bloedel, Eric Halvorson, Loren Halvorson and Andy Overn) for a concert of old favorites and newer tunes with a Christmas carol singalong as part of the evening. Free Yuletide fun for everyone. Doors open at 7PM with first come, first served for seating.

**The ELS Ottesen Museum** invites you to its 6th annual Christmas Open House on Tuesday, **December 6, 2016**, from 2:30 to 5:30. This year's theme is "A Norwegian-American Pioneer Christmas". Learn about how the first Norwegian settlers celebrated Christmas. Music, decorations, and food will take you back to the middle years of the 19th century. Hear from the settlers in their own words about their experiences. You can also make an authentic Norwegian Christmas ornament to take home with you. The Ottesen Museum is located at 4 Browns Ct. in Mankato, just next to the Synod offices.

## **Community Events/Happenings**

**Minnesota Valley Chorale Concert:** Please join the Minnesota Valley Chorale for their Christmas concert titled "The Word Became Flesh" featuring "O Magnum Mysterium" by Morten Lauridsen and holiday favorites on Friday, December 9 at 7:30 pm at First Lutheran Church, St. Peter, and on Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 pm at Bethany College, Trinity Chapel. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased thru any MVC member, at the door, or The Lighthouse Christian bookstore in Mankato.



**Mankato Children's Chorus** presents their Winter Concert, "Peace" on Sunday, December 11 at 3:00PM, Christ Chapel at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. Tickets are available at the door for \$12 adult / \$10 child and senior.

**Africa Calling:** The Central Africa Medical Mission is accepting applications for Nurse-in-Charge for the Lutheran Mobile Clinic (Malawi) for a 3 year term of service. The nurse-in-charge must be an RN with clinic or hospital experience. The nurse-in-charge supervises clinic staff and maintains all clinic functions. Preferred applicants are single females due to living arrangements. The term of service will begin in November 2017. Because employment permits for Malawi take almost a year to process, candidates will be selected in early 2017. All applicants must be in good standing within WELS or ELS membership. An application may be obtained by contacting Beth Evans ([evans.bc57@yahoo.com](mailto:evans.bc57@yahoo.com)) or Linda Liesener ([cammcontact@charter.net](mailto:cammcontact@charter.net))

**We All Need A Plan For Our Money.** *Financial Peace University* (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! Cost: \$103 (Normally \$210) per family includes lifetime membership in FPU. Sign up here: <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1029454>

FPU is a nine week course. Meetings Thursdays at 6:30pm at Peace beginning February 16th. If you have any questions about this course, please feel free to contact Matt Wiechmann at [507.382.7283](tel:507.382.7283)

**Join us for our Advent Worship Services at 6:30pm!**

***“A Beautiful Sight, Seen From A Distance”***

**~December 7<sup>th</sup> – Daniel 7:13, 14 - "What Daniel Saw..."**

*He saw the coming God/man, fully capable of saving us.*

**~December 14<sup>th</sup> – Isaiah 49:6 - "What Isaiah Saw..."**

*He saw the coming Light of the world, who would win salvation for Gentiles too.*

***Advent Meals are served from 5-6:15pm  
in our Social Hall***

