



## ADVENT 3

Sunday, December 11, 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 voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord . . ." (Is 40:1-8). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass." Now He asks from prison, "Are you the Coming One?" (Mt 11:2-10) Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Cor 4:1-5) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among those who believe. For in it, "the Lord is at hand".*



~Prelude

~Boys' & Girls' Choir, Hymn 106 *"On Jordan's Bank the Herald's Cry"*

- setting by Richard Shepherd

~Hymn 107 vv. 1, 2 *When All the World Was Cursed*

~Girls' Choir, *"Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"*

*Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.*

*He comes the captives to release, In Satan's prison held.  
The gates of brass before him burst; The iron fetters yield.*

*He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.*

*Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Your beloved name.*

~Invocation & Versicles

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

**C: A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

**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.**

~Hymn 105 vv. 1-3 *Rise, Children of the Kingdom*

~Psalmody (*read responsively*)

P: O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, and Your hand presses me down.

**C: There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.**

P: My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness. I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.

**C: I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart.**

P: Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You.

**C: For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God.**

P: For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me." For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin.

**C: Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me!**

P: Make haste to help me,

**C: O Lord, my salvation!**

### **~Collect**

P: Lord, we beseech You, give ear to our prayers, and enlighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

### **~Old Testament Lesson**

**Malachi 3:1-6** "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, as in former years. And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien— because they do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts. "For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."

### **~Hymn 107 vv. 3, 4 *Behold the Lamb of God***

## ~Epistle Lesson

**1 Corinthians 4:1-5** Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

## ~Apostles' Creed

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

**C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.**

## ~Hymn 107 v. 5 *O Grant, Thou Lord of Love*

## ~Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text

**Matthew 11:2-10** And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of

whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.'

**~Sermon Theme**

*"Directing Ourselves & Directing Others to Jesus Christ"*

**~Confession of Sin II (p. 130)**

P: And now I ask you, in the presence of God, who searches the heart:

Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

**C: I do so confess.**

P: Truly you should confess, for Holy Scripture declares: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

**C: I do repent.**

P: Truly you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others.

Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

**C: I do so believe.**

P: Truly you should believe, for Holy Scripture declares: "God so loved the world that He have His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Do you promise that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

**C: I do so promise.**

P: Truly you should so promise, for Christ the Lord says: "Let your light so shine before me that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

**C: I do so believe.**

P: Truly you should believe, for Christ the Lord says: "Whoever hears you, hears Me" and "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them."

**~Absolution I (p. 131)**

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 your 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!

**~Offering & Hymn 46 *Sing Praise to the God of Israel***

**~Prayer**

**~Lord's Prayer** (p. 117)

**C: ♪ 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. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**~Collect** (pp. 118-119, form II)

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You, that of Your boundless grace, for the sake of Your Son, You have given us the Holy Gospel, and have instituted the Holy Sacraments, that through them we may have comfort and forgiveness of sin; we beseech You, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may believe Your Word; and through the holy Sacraments day by day establish our faith, until we at last obtain salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

**~Benedicamus** (p. 119)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: ♪ Thanks be to God.**

**~Benediction** (p. 119)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

**~Hymn 110 v. 6 *O Come, Thou Dayspring, Come and Cheer***

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*Preacher: Pr. Luke Ulrich/Liturgist: Pr. John Petersen*  
*Organists: 1<sup>st</sup>: Cassie Johnson/2<sup>nd</sup>: Mark DeGarmeaux*  
*Boys' Choir director: Pr. Ulrich/Girls' Choir director: Donna Fosburgh*  
*Accompanist: Lois Johnson/Violinist: Matthew Strom*  
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**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE**

**Sunday: 8:30am; 277/199 10:45am; 145/133 Midweek Advent Service: 165**  
**GIVEN LAST WEEK FOR THE LORD'S WORK: \$18,755.15**

***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, Sam Hendricks

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

***"A Beautiful Sight, Seen From A Distance"***

***~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 Meal is served from 5-6:15pm***  
***in our Social Hall***

**WEEK AT A GLANCE: December 11, 2016 – December 18, 2016**

<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
<b>Monday</b> December 12	9:30AM 10AM 5:30PM 6:30PM	<i>(No Monday evening service during Advent)</i> Area Pastors' Conference Veterans' Bible Study Board of Stewardship Church Council
<b>Tuesday</b> December 13	8AM 6PM	Women's Bible Study – <i>Book of Genesis</i> Building Committee Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b> December 14	8:05AM 9AM 3:45 & 4PM 5PM 6:30PM 7:30PM 7:30PM	CDS Chapel Bible Study 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Advent Meal – Evangelism Committee Advent Service Choir Board for Parish Ed and Youth
<b>Thursday</b> December 15	4:40-9:00PM	Mt. Olive Volunteers at Kiwanis Holiday Lights at Sibley
<b>Friday</b> December 16	8:15AM	Children's Christmas Service practice <i>(homeschoolers that can make it are invited)</i>
<b>Saturday</b> December 17		
<b>Sunday</b> December 18 <b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 1PM 3PM 7:30PM	Divine Service Sunday School Christmas Service Practice/ Bible Class/BIC Divine Service Encourage One Another Children's Christmas Service Co-ed Recreational Volleyball

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Monday Evening Worship Services:** Our Monday evening worship services will resume on January 2. Please join us for our next Midweek Advent service this Wednesday at 6:30PM.

**Boys' & Girls' Choirs:** The Boys' & Girls' Choirs (grades 5-8) will sing at the beginning of **both services TODAY**. 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.

**Sr. Youth Caroling & Party:** Join us **TODAY** 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.

**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 has a decorated tree on display at the park, and we need volunteers to work during the open hours of

the light display this Thursday, **December 15** from 4:40-9PM (there are 2 shifts). 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. For 2016 **all gifts over \$725,000 will go directly to missions.**

Please use the envelopes on the narthex table 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 annual Christmas Concert will be held at MVL on December 21 at 7PM in the gymnasium. The Freshmen Choir, A Capella Choir, Chargaliers, and Symphonic Band are ready to “Proclaim!” the birth of our Savior. Pre-concert music will be provided by the band beginning at 6:45PM.

**Be Our Guest!** Come and watch our MVL Boys' Basketball teams take on the New Ulm Cathedral Greyhounds on Tuesday, **January 10** for the Mt. Olive Congregational night. The Junior Varsity game starts at 6PM followed immediately by the Varsity game at 7PM. Pick up the complimentary tickets in your church office. We are thankful for the support and prayers your congregation shows for MVL and the opportunity to work with your students.

### **Community Events/Happenings**

**Mankato Children's Chorus** presents their Winter Concert, "Peace" today, 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))

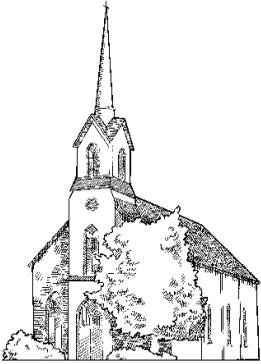
**We All Need A Plan For Our Money.** *Financial Peace University* (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you 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)

## From The Building Committee:



Architect Bryan Paulsen from ISG met with the Mt. Olive Building Committee on Tuesday, December 6. He presented four very preliminary schematic design proposals for our potential building project, utilizing as much information as possible from the original needs analysis and prioritization document, along with input from user groups that was collected in November. The committee asked many questions and received clarification on a host of details. Pros and cons of each proposal were discussed as well as possible modifications to the proposals. As a result of the input from the committee, the architect will now prepare a second iteration of the schematic designs and another committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 13 to review and discuss those revised designs. At this point all proposals are much too preliminary to present to the congregation. The committee will update the congregation on the designs, but not until they become much more refined, which could take many weeks to accomplish. It is clear that this is a very complex building proposal and it is the intention of the committee to carefully consider as many details as possible in refining a plan to present to the congregation. Please continue to keep the committee and our congregation in your prayers for guidance and wise counsel, all to the glory of God.

**You're Invited  
to**

**Our Jesus Cares Ministry  
Christmas Service**

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

6:45 PM

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

1123 Marsh St.

Mankato, MN 56001



**Bells Tell the Story**