



1123 Marsh St., Mankato, MN 56001 / (507) 345-4966

MtOliveLutheran.org

Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich

Mr. Larry Rude, Principal/~~R~~ELS

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25, 2016 10:00 am

***Welcome!** In the name of our incarnate Savior we welcome you to Mt. Olive and thank you for worshiping with us this morning. If you are a guest please fill out a guest card (found 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.*

~Opening Prayer

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

~Hymn 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful

~Confession of Sin (p.41, form I)

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us: have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us a true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

~Kyrie Hymn 268 v. 6 *My Sins are Countless*

**C: My sins are countless as the sands,
My crimes, O God, are crying,
Deliver me from sin's dread bands
And save me, Lord, when dying;
O let me not, for evil past, Be lost at last,
Grant me Thy grace, I pray Thee!**

~Absolution (p. 43, form II)

P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord: Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~Canticle: Hymn 116 vv. 3, 4 *Come to Bethlehem and See*

~Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

~Collect

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that of Your mercy and compassion You caused Your Son to become incarnate, and through Him redeemed us from sin and everlasting death: We beseech You, enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever be thankful for such grace, and comfort ourselves

thereby in all tribulation and temptation, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **C: ♪ Amen.**

~Choir: “O Magnum Mysterium” – arr Shawn E. Charton

O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum jacentem in praesepeio.

*O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the
new-born Lord, lying in a manger!*

(Historic Matins Reponsory for Christmas Day)

~Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every warrior’s sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

~Choir: “Praise God, the Lord, Ye Sons of Men”

- arr Michael Praetorius

Praise God, the Lord, ye sons of Men
Before His highest throne.

Today He opens heav'n again,
And gives us His own Son.

He leaves His Heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall.

He lays aside His pow'r divine,
A servant's form doth take,
In want and lowness He doth pine
Who heav'n and earth did make.

He opens us again the door
Of Paradise today;
The cherub guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay.

~Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-12 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire." But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions." And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."

~Nicene Creed (p. 47)

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 115 vv. 1-6 *All My Heart Sings and Rejoices*

~Exordium

~Hymn 142 *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn*

~Sermon Text

John 1:1-5, 14-18 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is

preferred before me, for He was before me.” And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

~Sermon Theme

“The Word has Become Flesh and Dwells Among Us”

~Prayer

~Apostolic Benediction (p. 49)

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

~Offering and Voluntary

* **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.*

~Preface (p. 50)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts unto the Lord.

C: ♪ We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.

~Christmas Preface (p. 51)

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, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory, that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those

things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

~**Sanctus** (pp. 51-52)

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

~**Lord's Prayer** (p. 53)

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 pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~**Words of Institution** (p. 54)

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."

~**Agnus Dei** (p. 55)

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 115 vv. 7-10 *Hark, A Voice from Yonder Manger*

Hymn 113 vv. 1, 2, 4 *A Great and Mighty Wonder*

Hymn 125 vv. 3, 4 *Hail, the Heavenly Prince of Peace*

~Dismissal

P: Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, who has now bestowed upon you His holy body and blood, whereby He has made full satisfaction for all your sins, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace be with you. Amen.

~Hymn of Thanksgiving 327 v.1 *O Lord, We Praise Thee*

~Collect of Thanksgiving (p. 56)

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. C: ♪
Amen.

~Benediction (pp. 56-57)

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 126 *God Rest You Merry*

~Closing Prayer (p. 57)

P: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

*Officiant: Pastor Luke Ulrich Liturgist: Pastor John J. Petersen
Organist: Mark DeGarmeaux/ Choir Director: Sarah Leyrer
Accompanist: Elisabeth Urtel*

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 8:30am; 197/144 10:45am; 105/95

GIVEN LAST WEEK FOR THE LORD'S WORK: \$28,252.57

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

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

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.

SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK

Ushers: 1st Service: Steve Beilke (captain), Nate Beilke, Don Westphal, Eric Westphal, Elias Bonnett

2nd Service: Mike Pleiss (captain), Keith Eisberg, Loren Halvorson, David Liverseed, Sam Hendricks

Greeters: 1st Service: Mark & Michelle Graham, Elson Sting, Keith Anderson

2nd Service: Steve & Lois Jaeger, James & Carolyn Gates

Offering Counters: John Foede, John Baumann

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson

The Poinsettias displayed on and around the altar have been donated by our members in memory/honor of the following:

Members

*Phil Jurgenson
Paul & Mary Jane Tweit
Janet & Greg Costello
Robert & Ruth Heidenreich
Loren & Sue Halvorson
Phyllis Kenning
Sandra Johnson
Don & Gina Moldstad

Harlan Mehlhop
Audrey Spear
Stankey Family
Rev. Ted, Diane,
Mark & Paul Gullixson
Hal & Marsha Natvig
Ron, Elli & Joe Fisher
Dottie Kunkel
Myrna & Jennifer Hopp
Reichwald Family

Mark & Sharon Madson
Chad & Sally Sorenson
Jeremy & Angela Merseth
Becky Anton
Bill & Suzanne Bohning
Dennis & Pamela Davis
Dave, Cindy & Ashley Reimers

Craig & Jane Zibrowski

Janet & Rhea Wassman
Delores Staats
Jerome & Jeanette Koberg
Peggy Harstad*

In Memory/Honor of

*Luella Jurgenson
Our Parents
Our Fathers
Our Parents
Lois Halvorson
Bud Kenning
Orville & Mary Sampson
Gudrun Moldstad and
Fred & Ruth Hassler
Our Parents and Family
Stella & Raymond Richter
Al Stankey
Ruth Webber

Our Family
Richard Fisher and Karl Jaster
Our Loved Ones
Elroy Hopp and Rosita Diaz
Glenn Reichwald &
Mary Reichwald Sargent
Our Grandchildren

Our Parents, Robert & Ruth Kimble
Our Loved Ones
Our Parents
Reuben Reimers and
Derald Edwards
Robert & Andrew Duehlmeyer and
Nicole & Shane DeWitt

Our Parents & Granddaughters
Mark Harstad & other loved ones*

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 25, 2016 - January 1, 2016*

Sunday December 25 Christmas Day	10AM	Christmas Day Worship Service w/Holy Communion
Monday December 26		<i>(Monday evening service will resume on Jan. 2nd)</i>
Tuesday December 27		
Wednesday December 28		
Thursday December 29		
Friday December 30		
Saturday December 31		
Sunday January 1 New Year's Day	8:30AM 10:45AM	Worship Service w/Holy Communion Worship Service w/Holy Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday Evening Worship Services: Our Monday evening worship services will resume on January 2.

Holiday Office Hours: Please note that office hours will be abbreviated during the holidays, thru Jan. 1. Please call ahead if you have a specific need.

Co-ed Volleyball Reminder: There will be no Co-ed Recreational Volleyball on Christmas Day, or New Year's Day.

Wednesday Bible Class: We will **not** have class on December 28.

Poinsettias: If you haven't yet paid for your poinsettia plant, please do so ASAP in the church office. The cost is \$9.50.

2017 Flower Calendar: The 2017 Flower Calendar for the church year is now up in the entry way next to the bulletin board. Thank you for signing up to bring flowers to beautify our altar this coming year!

Church Directory: Please check the Church Membership Directory in the entry way for correct address, phone number, and email information. Mark any changes and double check with any extended family members or older children who now live away from home.

2017 Offering Envelopes: Your 2017 offering envelopes are available for pickup on the tables in the entry way. Let the office know if you can't find yours.

Sunday School Offerings: The total thus far for our Sunday School donations (Helping Orphan's thru the Lutheran Mission of Salvation - India) are: \$62.74.

Kwik Trip Cards: Mt. Olive youth (grades 5-12) are selling Kwik Trip Cards as a fund-raiser 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 to view the 400+ participating retailers. If you have questions or need help getting started email Tanya Norris

scrip@mtlivelutheran.org or Tiffany Riesgraf
triesgraf@yahoo.com.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

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

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) or Linda Liesener (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

Entertainment Center: A Mount Olive member is offering, free of charge, an Entertainment Center with shelves. Approximately 42"L x 18" deep and 4 feet tall. Please call 507-995-9902 if you are interested. Thank you!