



## CHRISTMAS 1

Sunday, December 31, 2017, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

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. 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**

*A Rod has come forth from the stem of Jesse (Is 11:1-5), the Seed of David whose kingdom shall be established forever (2 Sam 7:1-16). In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son Jesus to redeem us from the judgment of the Law (Gal 4:1-7). Now He is presented in the temple in fulfillment of the Law and revealed to be "a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of the people of Israel" (Lk 2:22-40). Christ has enlightened us in baptism, giving us to be adopted as sons of God and heirs of eternal life. Receiving the holy Sacrament of His body and blood, we are prepared to depart this world in peace, for our eyes have seen the salvation of God in Him.*

**~Hymn 162 *This Little Babe So Few Days Old***

**~Confession of Sin (p. 109)**

P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

**C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**~Versicles (pp. 109-110)**

P: O Lord, open my lips.

**C: ♪ And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.**

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

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

**~Hymn 114 vv. 1, 4 *Angels from the Realms of Glory***

**~Old Testament Lesson**

***Isaiah 11:1-5***

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,  
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel and might,  
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

His delight is in the fear of the Lord,  
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,  
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;  
But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,  
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,  
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,  
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

**~Solo: Peace Came to Earth**

text by J. J. Vajda / composed by R. Jeffrey

*Peace came to earth at last that chosen night  
When angels clove the sky with song and light  
And God embodied love and sheathed His might—  
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!  
Who could but sing: Immanuel!*

*And who could be the same for having held  
The Infant in their arms and later felt  
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled—  
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!  
Who could but shout: Immanuel!*

*You show the Father none has ever seen,  
In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain,  
In bread and wine You visit us again—  
Who could but see: Immanuel!  
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!*

*How else could I have known You, O my God!  
How else could I have loved You, O my God!  
How else could I embrace You, O my God!  
Who could but pray: Immanuel!  
Who could but praise: Immanuel!*

**~Epistle Lesson**

**Galatians 4:1-7** Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent

forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

**~Hymn 150 vv. 1-2, 4, 5 *In This Our Happy Christmastide***

**~Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text**

**Luke 2:22-35** Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting 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 peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

**~Sermon Theme: *What Do You See?***

**~Offering & Hymn 48 *In Peace and Joy I Now Depart***

*(The members of Mt. Olive give offerings as a joyful response to what God has given them. These offerings support the work of Gospel ministry in our community and around the world. **Visitors:** Please do not feel obligated to participate in this offering. Instead, we ask you to fill out a Welcome Card and place that in the offering plate.)*

**~Kyrie (pp. 116-117)**

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

~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.**

~Prayers

~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 151 vv. 3, 4, 6 *Thou Light of Gentile Nations*

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*Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich / Liturgist: Seminarian Sean Scheele  
Organists: 1<sup>st</sup>: Cassie Johnson / 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Baumann*

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**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE**

**Sunday: 10am; 194 Christmas Eve 4:30 pm; 349 7pm 192 Christmas Day: 247/169  
GIVEN LAST WEEK FOR THE LORD'S WORK: \$57,691.75**



***NEEDED EACH WEEK TO MEET ANNUAL BUDGET: \$16,790***

*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.*

*Did you know you can give your offering online? Just go to [www.mtolivelutheran.org](http://www.mtolivelutheran.org) and click on the link, "donate on line."*

***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 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 11:30 AM.*

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**SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK**

**Ushers: 1<sup>st</sup> Service** – Jeff Younge (captain), Aaron Younge, Joseph Roemhildt, Tim Roemhildt, Dustin Basel

**2<sup>nd</sup> Service** – Mark Madson (captain), Kirk Hankins, Joel Peterson, Andy Overn, Ian Overn, Chad Feistner

**Greeters: 1<sup>st</sup> Service** – Mark & Michelle Graham, Steve & Lois Jaeger

**2<sup>nd</sup> Service** – Dan & Joanne Maas, Robert & Ruth Heidenreich

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

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

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**WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 31, 2017—January 7***

<b>Sunday</b> December 31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>	8:30AM 10:45AM 6:30PM	Divine Service <b>No</b> Bible Class/Sunday School/Bible Info. Class Divine Service New Year's Eve Service
<b>Mon., Jan. 1</b>		<b>New Year's Day / No</b> Divine Service / Office Closed
<b>Tuesday</b> January 2	8AM 6:30PM 6:30PM	Women's Bible Study – Philippians School Board Meeting Jesus Cares Ministry
<b>Wednesday</b> January 3	8:05AM 9AM 2:45PM 4PM 7PM 8PM	CDS School Resumes CDS Chapel Bible Study Youth Choir Confirmation Senior Choir Men's Choral
<b>Thur. Jan. 4</b>		
<b>Fri. Jan. 5</b>		
<b>Sat. Jan. 6</b>	9:45AM	New 2 You Volunteers
<b>Sunday</b> January 7	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM Noon 1PM 7:30PM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion Open Forum (Building Committee) & Sunday School Divine Service w/Holy Communion Board of Deacons Encourage One Another Co-ed Recreational Volleyball

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Flowers on the Altar:** The white flowers behind the chancel today are given to God's glory by the family of Ellen Kjenslee.

**Monday Evening Services** resume Monday, January 8.

**Voters & congregant members: SAVE THE DATE!** for the open forum January 7, 2017, between services. Voters' meeting is January 14, at noon in the sanctuary.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** The revised building plans are now available for the congregation. New renderings are on display in the narthex and written explanations were handed out after services on Dec 17 and are also available from the church office. All this information is also available on the Mt. Olive website. An informational meeting regarding the revised plans will take place **BETWEEN SERVICES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**. Please plan to attend! The revised building plan is also on the agenda for the annual voters' meeting on Sunday, January 14.

**Today! Sign up for a Connect Group.** There are multiple groups to choose from that meet at various times throughout the week. Join now by signing up in the Narthex between services. The next Connect Group sessions start the week of January 7.

**In The Olive Press are** all other new announcements. Please pick up your copy from the ushers.

### **Synod**

**Our synod treasurer reports, as of** December 14, that we are shy of our budgetary needs by \$103,500 for this last month of the year. Our \$760,000 goal for congregational support is achievable. May the Lord grant us generous hearts in seeking to achieve this goal. Remember, all budgetary gifts above the \$735,000 level go directly to home missions. In other words, after \$78,500 in gifts every dollar goes directly to home missions. May our response be generous and may we use our gift to the glory of our Savior's name.