

ADVENT 4

Sunday, December 23, 2018, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

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Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Silas Born | Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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 **"Get Connected!"** card (found in front of you in the hymnbook rack). 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). This message that John was to proclaim was meant to be a message of comfort. It comforts those who are pointed away from themselves and to Christ for salvation! John pointed to Jesus as the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One "whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose" (Jn 1:19-28). Jesus is far greater than we are! He is able to do so much more than we could! We put our hope in Him alone for our salvation. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding which gives us reason to "Rejoice!" (Phil 4:4-7).*

Order of Service, Rite One (p. 41). This order of service, known as the “Bugenhagen Order,” grew out of the Lutheran Reformation. It was provided for use in the churches of Denmark and Norway in 1537 by Johannes Bugenhagen, Martin Luther’s pastor. Minor revisions were made to this service in 1685 and 1889 before it was translated into English for **The Lutheran Hymnary** (1913). The service printed here comes directly from the **Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary** (1996).

I. The Service of Preparation



(We prepare ourselves for worshiping God by acknowledging our unworthiness to stand before Him, and by receiving His forgiveness through absolution (forgiveness). We respond with thanks and joy.)

~**Prelude** — Preservice music & opportunity for prayer

*(See “Prayers for Worship”
—ELH p. 40)*

~**Opening Prayer**

(ELH p. 41; p. 148, #8)

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, it is good and right that we should give thanks to You, that You have given us a glorious baptism like that of John the Baptist, and that therein You have promised us the forgiveness of sins, the Holy Spirit, and everlasting life through Your Son, Jesus Christ: We beseech You, by Your grace and mercy preserve us in such faith, that we never doubt Your promise, but be comforted by our baptism, until, by Your grace, we obtain our 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. Amen

~**Opening Hymn 106 On Jordan’s Bank the Herald’s Cry**

~**Confession of Sin** — *Admitting our sinfulness to God*

(ELH p. 41, 1)

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.

~**Confessional Verse** — Hymn 268, v. 6 *My Sins Are Countless As the Sands*

*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** — *God's declaration of forgiveness*

(ELH p. 43, II; Mt 11:28, Jn 3:16)

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.

~**Salutation** — *The people's blessing for the pastor's work*

(ELH p. 45)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

~**Collect** — *The congregation's prayer of the day*

(ELH p. 45; p. 147, #1)

P: Stir up, we beseech You, Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins, and be saved by Your almighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

II. The Service of the Word



(After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thanked God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He now increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the Lessons and especially through the Sermon where God's Word is applied to our lives today.)

~**Old Testament Lesson**

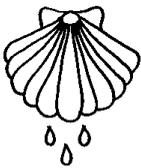
Isaiah 40:1-8 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord's hand Double for all her sins." The

voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

~Epistle Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Affirmation of Holy Baptism (1st Service)



(Holy Baptism has the power to work the new life of faith in the hearts of sinners. This regenerative washing "with water through the Word" is intended for all people, since all — including infants and children — are members of a sinful human race and are in need of God's grace and forgiveness. Jesus has also commanded that "all nations" be baptized. Confession of sins and Absolution are a return to, and a renewal of, one's Baptism. Matt. 28:19, John 3:5, Eph. 5:26, Titus 3:5, Acts 2:38-39)

~Affirmation of Baptism for: Adam Sulzle, Titus Merseth, & Jude Merseth

(Special Order from Lutheran Worship Agenda—pp.105-109)

~Apostles' Creed — Confession of faith

(ELH p. 47)

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.

~Chief Hymn 107, vv. 1-3 *When All the World Was Cursed*

~Holy Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text

John 1:19-28 This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" "No," he answered. Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' just as Isaiah the prophet said." They had been sent from the Pharisees. So they asked John, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John answered. "Among you stands one you do not know. He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

~Sermon Theme

"It's not me! It's Him!" Always Being Pointed to Christ

~The Prayer of the Church

(ELH p. 48-49)

P: Everlasting and merciful God, we beseech You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C: To have mercy upon us and to hear our prayer.

P: Look in mercy upon Your Church. Protect it and sanctify it by Your truth. May Your Word be taught in its purity and Your Sacraments be rightly administered. Grant unto Your Church faithful pastors who shall declare Your truth with power and shall live according to Your will. Send forth laborers into Your harvest and open the door of faith unto all unbelievers and unto the people of Israel. In mercy remember the enemies of Your Church and grant to them repentance unto life.

C: O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, hear us in the truth of Your salvation.

P: Let Your protecting hand be over our country and over all who travel. Prosper what is good among us and bring to naught every evil counsel and purpose. Protect and bless Your servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this state, our judges and magistrates and all in authority. Fit them for their high calling by the gift of Your

Spirit of wisdom and fear, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

C: Hear, O Lord, and have mercy! Lord be our helper.

P: According to Your promise, O God, be the defender of the widow and the father of the orphan. Relieve and comfort the sick and the sorrowful (especially our brother/sister ___ who is ill/grieving). Graciously help those who are assaulted by the devil and who are in peril of death. Be the strength of those who are suffering for the sake of Christ's holy name. Grant that we may live together in peace and prosperity. Bestow upon us good and seasonable weather; and bless us with upright Christian counsel in all that we undertake.

C: O Lord, be with all in trouble. Hear their prayers to the honor of Your Name.

P: We especially commend to Your care and keeping this Your congregation which You have bought with a great price. Keep from us all offenses and bind us together in the unity of Your holy love. Grant that the little ones who are baptized in Your name may be brought up in Your fear. At Your table give to those who there commune with You peace and life everlasting.

C: Let all rejoice who trust in You; let them shout for joy because You defend them.

(Special petitions are included)

P: In Your mercy look upon.....In Christ's name we pray.

C: Lord, in Your mercy hear our prayer.

P: Be merciful, O God, to all, according to Your great love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. When our final hour shall come, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection to Your glory.

C: Amen. Grant us Your peace, O Lord!

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 49; Mt 6:9-13)

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.

~Offering & Hymn 102 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

*(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. We ask you to fill out a "Get Connected!" card and place that in the offering plate.)

~Collect — *In appreciation of God's gifts*

(ELH p. 571)

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God the Father, that You have given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You have borne in Your sacred body all our sins, and by Your blood have blotted out all our transgressions. We thank You, Lord, the Holy Spirit, that You have created in our hearts true faith, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. O God, grant Your grace, that we may perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit, that, in the power of our Redeemer's death, we may day by day put off sin, and never forsake the Lord Jesus Christ, until we see Him face to face in life eternal. We ask it all in Christ's name.

C: ♪ Amen.

~Benediction — *Final blessing for God's people*

(ELH p. 59; Num 6:24-26)

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.

~Closing Hymn 110, vv. 5, 6 *O Come, Thou Key of David, Come*

~Closing Prayer

(ELH p. 59)

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.

~Postlude — *Opportunity for prayer & to greet one another!*

*(See "Prayers for Worship"
—ELH p. 40)*

*Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich / Liturgist: Pastor John Petersen
Organists: 1st: Cassie Johnson / 2nd: Mark DeGarmeaux*

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

Sunday: 8:30am, 320/230; 10:45am, 155/129;
Children's Christmas Service: ~700. Wednesday: 218

Monthly Giving Update:



Given to the General Fund (Nov. 1-30)	\$59,062.15
Given to the Building Fund (Nov. 1-30)	<u>\$8,029.00</u>
<u>Total Given (Nov. 1-30)</u>	<u>\$67,091.15</u>
General Fund Budgeted (July 1-Nov. 30) (\$75,425/month x 5 months)	\$377,125.00
General Fund YTD (July 1-Nov. 30)	<u>\$303,174.27</u>
<u>Difference (Shortfall)</u>	<u>(\$73,950.73)</u>

Romans 12: 1 Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship.

*Did you know you can give your offering online? Just go to www.mtolivelutheran.org and click on the link, "donate on line." If you would like to continue using your assigned envelope, just **write the word "online" on the envelope and drop it in the plate** during the offering.*

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.

SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK:

Greeters: **1st Service:** Scott & Theresa Dzwonkowski,
Steve & Lois Jaeger

2nd Service: Paul & Mary Jane Tweit,
Jon & Nikki Basel

Ushers: **1st Service:** David Norris (captain), Jacob Norris,
Dan Gerdts, Bill Bohning, Joe Finken, Peter Finken

2nd Service: Jim Gates (captain), Dan Neubauer,
Jeremy Espeland, Kurt Shrader

Offering Counters: John Foede, John Baumann

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 23, 2018—January 1, 2019*

Sunday, December 23	8:30AM 10:45AM	Divine Service No Sunday School/BIC/Bible Class Divine Service No Artemis No Co-ed Recreational Volleyball
Monday, December 24	4:30PM 7PM	Offices closed for Christmas Eve No Veteran's Bible Study Christmas Eve Service Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 25	10AM	Offices closed for Christmas Day Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion
Wed., Dec. 26		
Thurs., Dec. 27		
Friday, December 28	4:30PM 7PM	Volunteers, Kiwanis Holiday Lights, Sibley Park Volunteers, Kiwanis Holiday Lights, Sibley Park
Sat., Dec. 29		
Sunday, December 30	8:30AM 10:45AM	Divine Service No Sunday School/BIC/Bible Class Divine Service No Artemis No Co-ed Recreational Volleyball
Monday, December 31	6:30PM	Offices closed for New Year's Eve New Year's Eve Service
Tuesday, Jan. 1		Offices closed for New Year's Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Affirmation of baptism today during 1st service: Adam Llewellyn Sulzle, infant son of David & Kathryn Sulzle, was born August 28, 2018 and baptized on August 29, 2018. Titus Charles Merseith and Jude Alexander Merseith, infant sons of John and Stephanie Merseith, were born and baptized on November 25, 2018. Their sponsors are Sam & Sarah Barbosa. May these children ever grow in Christ and be blessed therein.

Coffee & treats will be served today between services by the Sulzle and Merseith families to celebrate and to thank the congregation for all of their prayers and support.

Baptized today after 2nd service: Carson Chandler Miller, infant son of Andrew & Krystal Miller, was born June 28, 2018. His sponsors are Matt & Ashley Robinson. May he be blessed through this Sacrament.

Building Committee Update

The steel deliveries have begun, and columns and beams are beginning to be set with bar joists and roof deck to follow. The plan is to have all of the steel up before New Year's. With the cooperation of deliveries and weather, framing the exterior walls will begin January 2 with a tentative goal to complete the framing and roof deck by the end of January.

During the school break period from December 19-31, WEB will coordinate subcontractors for electricity, plumbing and the sprinkler system to bring those utilities from the basement across our current facility to the new construction. This will involve removing ceiling grid and panels in the hallway and possibly the social hall. The grid and panels will be replaced when that project is completed.

Encourage One Another will not meet until Sunday, **January 6.**

A \$20,000 grant! We are excited and tremendously grateful to announce that Mt. Olive received a \$20,000 grant for our building project from the Antioch Foundation, a Lacrosse, WI,-based charitable organization providing financial support for sharing the Gospel and serving in the areas of faith, education, medicine, and humanitarian need.

Sign up for flowers: The 2019 sign-up sheet for flowers for the sanctuary is on the wall in the (under construction) entry way next to the bulletin board. Please consider providing flowers or a plant to beautify our sanctuary.

When you park on Marsh Street, please note: The neighbors on Marsh Street are asking that we not block the steps from the street to their houses. Thank you!

Pick up your 2019 offering envelopes from the narthex tables.

Schedule your photo shoot for the Mt. Olive Picture Directory! Photos are on **January 6, 9, 12, and 13.** Go to our website and click on the banner to schedule your appointment, or go to this link: <http://signup.com/go/NBMjaTw>.



Jesus Cares Ministries

Where the Care of the Soul is the Soul of Care®

Mt. Olive has a Jesus Cares Program

What is the “Jesus Cares Ministry”?

A ministry that brings the **Gospel message** to developmentally delayed people in our congregation and the community.

When and where does Jesus Cares meet?

The Jesus Cares group meets on the first and third Tuesday of **every** month in the Social Hall at Mt. Olive from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

Some of the things done at Jesus Cares:

Each evening:

- begins with a devotion
- is followed by a greeting and the lesson for the week
- has singing of appropriate songs
- reviews with a flannel graph retelling of the lesson
- ends with a craft project that may be taken home
- gives hugs when needed

What might you do to help with this ministry?

- Be a door greeter
- Drive participants to church for Sunday worship
- Help with our July “Freedom Party”
- Give a monetary gift
- Assist members in doing the art project
- Volunteer to play the piano
- Keep this ministry in your prayers

If you would be interested in helping in any way, please email or contact Mary Born at 388-9220 or mborn@mtolivelutheran.org

Knitters/crocheters:--did you know that Mt. Olive has a group of volunteers that make chemohats for cancer patients undergoing treatment? They meet every Tuesday at 1PM at 25 Crown Hill Lane in Mankato. Needles, yarn, sewing machines, and supplies are available. Contact Janet Wassman at 507-380-3281 if you have questions.

At Minnesota Valley Lutheran

The MVL school office will be closed December 24-25 and December 31-January 1. The MVL faculty, staff, Board, and students wish you all a blessed Christmas and happy New Year!

The MVL Chargers will be participating in the Kwik Trip Holiday Basketball Tournament at Bethany Lutheran College on **December 27-29**. Visit blc.edu for more information.

MVL has anniversary t-shirts available for purchase, \$10 for adults (S-3XL) and \$7 for youth (S-XL). Limited quantities in certain colors and sizes, so order yours soon! Contact Kristin Matzke at kmatzke@mvlhs.org or 507.354.6851.

On the narthex table are copies of the *Building On Our Mission* packets and the Time & Talents Survey; **sign-up sheets for** New2You and Sibley Park Holiday Lights; the **November edition of** the *Mission News & Helping Hands*; **December editions of** MVL's *Memo, Thoughts of Faith, Olive Press* and the *ELS President's Newsletter*; the **December to March edition of** *Meditations Daily Devotions*; and **giving envelopes for** MVL memorials.

Join us for these special Worship Services:

Monday, **December 24:** Christmas Eve (Office Closed)

4:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service

7:00 PM – Candlelight Service

Tuesday, **December 25:** Christmas Day (Office Closed)

10:00 AM – Divine Service w/Holy Communion

Monday, **December 31:** New Year's Eve (Office Closed)

6:30 PM – New Year's Eve Service w/Individual Absolution and Holy Communion

Tuesday, **January 1:** New Year's Day (Office Closed)

No Service

