



**Mt. Olive
Lutheran
Church**

1123 Marsh Street
Mankato, MN 56001

(507) 345-4966

mtolivelutheran.org
mtolive@mtolivelutheran.org

Pastors:

John J. Petersen

Luke Ulrich

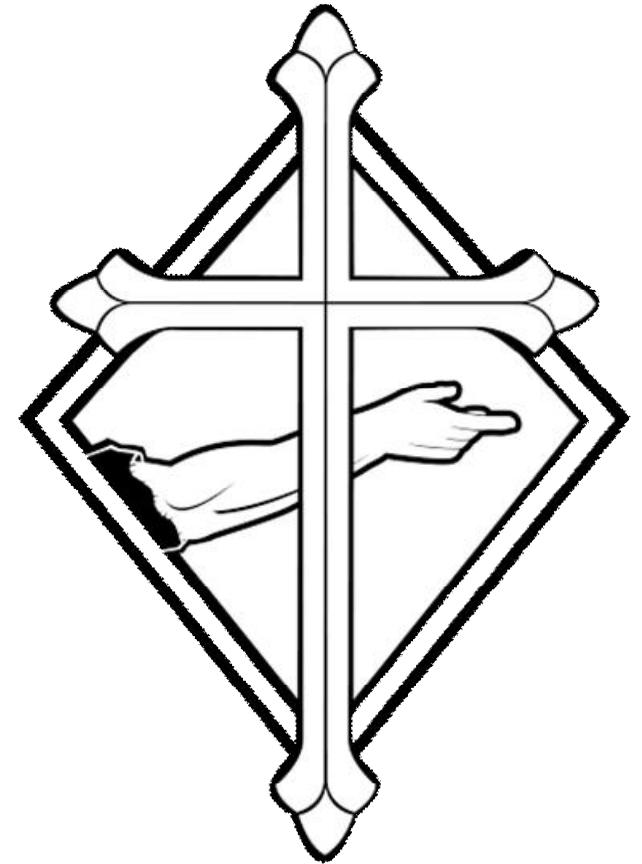
Principal:

Larry Rude

Advent 3

Sunday,
December 13, 2015
8:30 & 10:45am

 Evangelical
Lutheran
Synod



Advent 3

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" (Introit).

Order of Service, Rite One (p. 41)

~Opening Prayer (p. 41)

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 96 *Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!*** (all stand for final verse)

~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.

Thank you to the 2015 New2You Volunteers

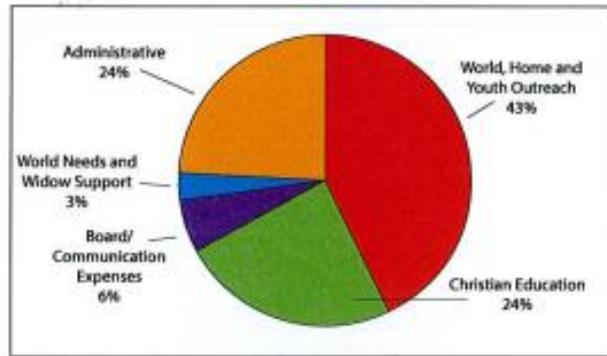
January 3	Elli Fisher Gerry Hansen	Mary Born Silas Born
February 7	Elli Fisher Kira Fosburgh	Jana Finken & Joe Diane Gullixson & Paul
March 7	Elli Fisher Kira Fosburgh	Mary Born Nicole & Zac Hensel
April 4	Elli Fisher Laurie Kuster-Overn	Mary Born Silas Born
May 2	Elli Fisher Silas Born	Mary Born Ashley Rand
June 6	Elli Fisher Genie Selvey	Ashley Rand Jacie Lieske
August 1	Elli Fisher Jacie Lieske	Mary Born Silas Born
September 5	Jacie Lieske Beth & Megan Westphal	Sandy Hansen Jerry Hansen
October 3	Elli Fisher Jacie Lieske	Mary Born Diane Gullixson
November 7	Mary Born Ashley Rand	Elli Fisher Joleen Schirmers
December 5	Mary Born Silas Born	Elli Fisher Lisa Basel

Congregational Offerings

For our Missions and Christian Education

How your gifts to the ELS are used for ministry!

Source: 2014 ELS Annual Report



Our Prayerful Request

Our work as a synod is being blessed. Missions in the foreign field are growing and becoming more independent. Several home missions are ready to buy land or build new churches. Christian education is on the rise as multiple schools are reporting steady or increased enrollment. The bottom line is your mission and Christian education dollars are hard at work.

So far in 2015, our congregations have given \$584,804.77 (as of Oct. 31, 2015). The good news: We are ahead of last year by \$16,627. At convention we set a goal of \$760,000 for 2015 offerings to synod. May we prayerfully ask that our Lord open our hearts that we may give generously to reach our goal.

Please note that gifts in excess of \$725,000 will go to expand our home missions outreach to the lost in the USA.

Please generously participate in the Annual Synod Offering (Dec. 6th and 13th). Use your Synodical Offering envelopes provided or give online at els.org/donate (now mobile friendly).

May the Lord truly bless the work we do together!



6 Browns Court
Mankato, Minnesota 56001
www.els.org/donate

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 as the Sands*

~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: Benedictus, Hymn 46 *Sing Praise to the God of Israel*

~Salutation (p. 45)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

~Collect (p. 45)

P: Let us pray: 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.

C: ♪ 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.”

~Choir: *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”* ~ J. S. Bach/Simon Andrews

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail You as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Your grace, we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee, whose advent sets Thy people free;
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore!

~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. 46)

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.

prepare our hearts for Advent. Reserve your seat by Dec. 4 by calling the church office at 232-3938 ext. 0 or emailing office@trinitynicollet.org. Seating is limited.

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

December 16

A Service of Lessons and Carols

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

Please come join us
for our

**Jesus Cares Ministry
Christmas Service**

“God’s Promises in Color”

Tuesday, December 15

6:30 P.M.

at

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

1123 Marsh St.

Mankato, MN

Mt. Olive School Scrip program: The 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 any questions or need help getting started email Tanya Norris scrip@mtolivelutheran.org or Krista Petzel krista.petzel@gmail.com.

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.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

MVL Food Service Assistant Opening We have a part-time position open in the food service at MVL. This position is for about 6 to 6 1/2 hours per day during the school year. Tasks include: food preparation and service, washing dishes and clean up. Individuals interested in this position should contact Principal Tim Plath at MVL at [507-354-6851](tel:507-354-6851) or tplath@mvlhs.org.

Housing for an international student: Would your home be a good fit for an international student? Make a lasting connection with a young world traveler. Consider hosting a new MVL student from China for the Spring Semester. Contact Jason Jaspersen at jjaspersen@mvlhs.org for more information. Please respond by December 22.

Christmas Concert: The MVL Music Department will present its annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday, **December 22** 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 Choraliers, and the MVL Symphonic Band.

Community Events

Advent by Candlelight Ladies Event will be held TODAY, **December 13**. Social hour & registration begin at 5PM with the Program beginning at 6PM. This takes place at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall in Nicollet, MN. Come and invite your family, friends and neighbors to an evening of fellowship, beautiful music and delicious dessert. Join the women of Trinity Lutheran Church and their friends as we

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 102 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

~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

"What are Your Christmas Expectations?"

1. Are you surprised and startled by God's Law?
2. Are you comforted by His Gospel?

~Prayer of the Church (pp. 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!

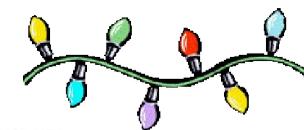
~Lord's Prayer (p. 49)

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.

Ed. and Youth, Evangelism Committee, Membership Committee, PTF, Booster Club and Lutheran Girl Pioneers. Thank you.

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.

Holiday Lights Display in Sibley Park Mt. Olive is once again participating in Sibley Park's Holiday Lights display for this Christmas season. Look for Mt. Olive's decorated tree on display at the park. We need volunteers to work during the open hours of the light display on Thursday, **December 17** from 4:30-7PM. Supper is provided for the first shift only. Snacks will be provided for the second shift. Please sign up on the narthex table.



THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! Thank you for your donated milk jugs! The kindergarten class has reached their goal of 600 milk jugs! We no longer need your donated milk jugs. But many thanks for helping provide the "blocks" (jugs) for our upcoming igloo project. (Construction will take place over Christmas break; we are now collecting glue sticks for a hot glue gun! ;-)

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 New 2 You at 507-385-1455.

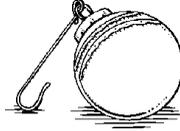
~Please consider volunteering at New2You. Mt. Olive provides volunteers on the first Saturday of every month. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

Thrivent Members, you can designate Thrivent Choice Dollars by going to www.Thrivent.com, or by calling 1-800-847-4836. The options for designating funds include Mount Olive, Bethany College, Bethany Seminary, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and Thoughts of Faith, among others.

Gym Use: Church members desiring to use our gym should first call the church office to reserve it.

Children's Christmas Service practices will be on Friday, **December 18 at 8:15AM**. There will also be a practice on Sunday, **December 20** during regular Sunday School time. The Children's Christmas service is at **3PM on Sunday, December 20**. Children should meet in their (day school) classrooms prior to the service by 2:45PM. Band members should meet in the band room at 2:30PM to tune and line up before their pre-service performance.

Sr. Youth Group: Join us TODAY, **December 13** for some Christmas Caroling! We will meet at Mt. Olive at 4PM, go caroling to our shut-ins, and then return to the Marzolf's house for some pizza and a party. Bring a "white elephant" gift along to exchange and a snack or dessert to share. Please have your parents pick you up by 8PM.



Encourage One Another will **NOT** meet on December 20. Our next meeting will be **January 3, 2016**.

Lego League Sponsored Advent Meal: The Mt Olive FIRST Lego teams will host the Advent Meal 5:00-6:15PM on Wednesday, **December 16**. Enjoy fellowship, a delicious meal and learn about their Trash Trek projects where they propose a solution to a problem related to the handling of trash. The menu will include pasta, garlic bread, salad and dessert. Please come and support our teams as they prepare for the Minnesota FLL Sectional Tournament!

Home Purchase Project: Mt. Olive Lutheran Church has received \$7,940 towards the \$10,000 challenge match for the Housing Purchases Fund through the end of November. Please consider a gift to help us raise the remaining \$2,060 before the end of the year in order to take advantage of this challenge!



2016 Flower Calendar: The 2016 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!

Annual Report Deadline: All church Boards, Committees and Groups, please have your annual report typed or neatly written and given (or emailed) to the church secretary **no later than Friday, January 15, 2016**. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated! Reports are needed from the Board of Deacons, Board of Education, Board for Stewardship, Board of Budget & Finance, Board of Trustees, Board for Parish

~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 & Hymn 107 *When All the World Was Cursed*
(Guests: Please place guests cards in offering plate)

~Collect (pp. 57-58, form I)

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 (p. 59)

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

~Closing Prayer (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.

Preacher: Pastor John J. Petersen/ Liturgist: Pastor Luke Ulrich

Organists: 1st: Dennis Marzolf/ 2nd: John Baumann

Senior Choir director: Sarah Leyrer/ Accompanist: Elisabeth Urtel
