



ADVENT 2/MVL SUNDAY

Sunday, December 8, 2019, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

1123 Marsh Street, Mankato, MN 56001 | (507) 345-4966 | mtolive@mtolivelutheran.org
Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Vicar Jacob Kempfert | Principal Adam Pavelchik

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.

Explanation of the Week: *We are honored today to have the Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School A Capella Choir with us for our service. We welcome and thank the Director, Mr. Jon Hermanson, along with 63 students and their families for coming and beautifying our service this morning. Mt. Olive is one of the "Association Member Churches" of MVL. We jointly support and oversee the work of this high school with other local ELS and WELS congregations. Currently, there are 21 students of MVL who are Mt. Olive Members.*

Our service for today works the MVL Choir selections into our observation of Advent 2. The theme of this Sunday is "Prepare! Your King is coming again, visibly and in power and glory, to deliver His own from all evil!" Our lessons focus on how this should encourage us and give us hope in spite of the trouble and strife we face in life. We are told, "Look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Lk 21:25-36) Christ our Redeemer is coming! Let us, then, give attention to the words of the Lord, which give us reason to hope and the ability to endure patiently (Rom 15:4-13). What great peace and joy we have in this season, knowing our Lord is coming again!

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.)

~Preservice Piano Music

~Opening Prayer

(ELH 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.

~Entrance Hymn 96 *Hark, A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

~MVL Choir — *Arise, Shine; For Your Light Has Come* (arr. Carl Schalk)

*Arise, shine; for your light has come;
And the Glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

~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.

~MVL Choir — *Lord For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*

*Lord for thy tender mercy's sake
Lay not our sins to our charge
But forgive that is past
And give us grace to amend our sinful lives
To decline from sin and incline to virtue
That we may walk in a perfect heart
Before thee now and evermore. Amen.*

~Absolution — *God's declaration of forgiveness*

(ELH p. 43, l; Mk 16:16, Jn 1:12)

P: Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

~MVL Choir — *"Cantate Domino"* (Psalm 96:1-3)

*Cantate domino canticum novum
Cantate domino omnis terra
Et benedicite nomini eius
Annuntiate, de die in diem salutare eius
Annuntiate intergentes gloriam eius
In omnibus populis mirabilia eius*

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord; praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

~Hymn 99 *The Advent of Our King*

~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 #3)

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, so that by His coming we may worship You with pure minds; through the same, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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

Malachi 4:1-6 Look! The day is coming, burning like a blast furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The day that is coming will set them on fire, says the Lord of Armies, a day that will not leave behind a root or branch for them. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in its wings. You will go out and jump around like calves from the stall. You will trample the wicked. They will surely be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I take action, says the Lord of Armies. Remember the law of my servant Moses, which I commanded to him at Horeb to serve as statutes and judgments over all Israel. Look! I am going to send Elijah the prophet to you before the great and fearful day of the Lord comes! He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with complete destruction.

~MVL Choir — *Peace* (arr. Siegfried)

Peace unto Zion.

Peace, peace to the faithful,

and a crown of rejoicing from your Heavenly Father.

When Zion shall be cleansed she shall flourish as a rose

I will walk in her midst and will bless all those with a tenfold blessing

And their sorrows shall cease, for I'll cry upon her walls.

Peace, peace, sweet peace.

~Epistle Lesson

Romans 15:4-13 Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. He also did

this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to your name. And again it says: Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people. And again: Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples give him praise. And again Isaiah says: There will be a Root of Jesse, and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles; on him the Gentiles will place their hope. Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

~Holy Gospel Lesson

(ELH p. 46)

Luke 21:25-36 “There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.” He told them a parable. “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “Watch yourselves or else your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day may come on you suddenly. For it will come like a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert all the time, praying that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

C: ♪ God be praised for His glad tidings.

~Apostles' Creed — *Confession of faith*

(ELH 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.

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 101 *The King Shall Come*

~Sermon Text

Romans 15:4-5 Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus.

~Sermon Theme

"Enduring with Hope"

~Offering and Hymn 98 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

(MVL Choir, v. 1; Congregation, v. 4)

(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.)

~Prayers & Special Petitions

~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.

~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.

~MVL Choir — *The Benediction* (arr. Nystedt)

The Lord bless thee and keep thee,

The Lord make his face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee,

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace. Amen.

~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: John Baumann

Pianist: Mathias Barents

MVL Choir Director: Jon Hermanson

Year End Synodical Offering:

Delegates and pastors at convention set a base goal of \$740,000 for gifts from congregations to our ELS missions and ministries. In addition, the convention earmarked all gifts over this amount to help provide funding for religion staffing at Bethany Lutheran College. \$780,000 is our total goal for congregational offerings.

Please note the envelope provided in the bulletin for this special offering to the ELS and its missions. Write the check to our church (and please include your envelope number) and place it in the collection plate today or over the next couple of weeks. As you do so, please consider that our Lord's grace extends to us so we are able to "overflow in every good work" 2 Cor. 9:8. May our gift be in accord with our Lord's abundant blessings to us.

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

Sunday: 8:30am, 304/280; 10:45am, 163/114.

Monday: 11/8; Wednesday: 212

Monthly Giving Update:



Given to the General Fund (Oct. 1-31)	\$72,668.30
Given to the Building Fund (Oct. 1-31)	\$5,821.93
<u>Total Given (Oct. 1-31)</u>	<u>\$78,490.23</u>
General Fund Budgeted (July 1-Oct. 31) (\$80,847.34/month x 4 months)	\$323,389.36
General Fund YTD	<u>\$243,599.81</u>
<u>Difference (Shortfall)</u>	<u>(\$79,789.55)</u>

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.

*To give your offering online, go to www.mtolivelutheran.org and click on the link "donate on line."
Or 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: Eldon & LuAnn Sting, Mark & Vivian Smith

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

Ushers: 1st Service: Bruce Gratz (captain), Alec Gratz,
Seth Tweit, John Sehloff, Keith Anderson

2nd Service: David Munsen (captain), Matthew Munsen,
Dan Maas, Justin Maas, Craig Christensen

Offering Counters: John Foede, John Baumann

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 8, 2019—December 15, 2019*

<p>Sunday, December 8</p>	<p>8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 2:45PM 3PM 6PM 6:30PM 7:30PM</p>	<p>MVL Sunday Divine Service Sunday School/BIC/Bible Study Divine Service Jr./Sr. Youth Group at Bethany Lutheran Pioneers Artemis Video Gaming Handbell Choir Co-ed Rec Volleyball</p>
<p>Monday, December 9</p>	<p>9:30AM 10AM 6:30PM 6:30PM</p>	<p>Area Pastors' Conference Veterans' Bible Study Divine Service Church Council</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 10</p>	<p>8AM 10AM-8PM 2:30PM 6:30PM 7PM 7PM</p>	<p>Women's Bible Study (Matthew) Mt. Olive Crafters Open House Ottesen Museum Open House PTF Executive Committee M.O.M.'s Bible Study Men's Choir</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 11</p>	<p>8:05AM 9AM 3PM 4PM 5-6:15PM 6:30PM 7:30PM</p>	<p>CDS Chapel Bible Study (Baptism) Youth Choir 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Classes Advent Supper Advent Service Senior Choir</p>
<p>Thursday, December 12</p>	<p>4-9PM 5PM</p>	<p>Youth Group Ski Event at Mt. Kato Barnes & Noble Book Fair</p>
<p>Fri., Dec. 13</p>		<p>Church Newsletter Deadline</p>
<p>Sat., Dec. 14</p>		
<p>Sunday, December 15</p>	<p>8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 3PM 4:30PM 6:30PM 7:30PM</p>	<p>Divine Service w/Holy Communion Christmas Service Practice/BIC/Bible Study Divine Service w/Holy Communion Children's Christmas Service Senior Youth Caroling Handbell Choir Co-ed Rec Volleyball</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers today: The flowers on the altar are given in thanks to God by Gerald & Sandra Hansen.

All Mt. Olive members are invited to view the Christian Day School Science Fair projects **this morning** in the gym.

Today is the last day to order a poinsettia to help beautify our sanctuary during the upcoming Christmas season. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex; cost per plant is \$9.50.

Junior & Senior Youth: **This afternoon**, meet at Bethany's Trinity Chapel at 2:45 PM to attend the "Christmas at Bethany" concert and a party after the concert. Contact Pr. Ulrich if you have questions (LukeUlrich@gmail.com).

The ELS Ottesen Museum's annual Christmas Open House is Tuesday, **December 10**, from 2:30 - 5:30 PM. This year's theme is "Symbols of Faith: Chrismons and Their Meanings." The Museum's tree will be decorated exclusively with chrismons, and their meanings and history will be explained. We will be singing Christmas hymns that have references to these symbols. The Museum is located at 4 Browns Court in Mankato.

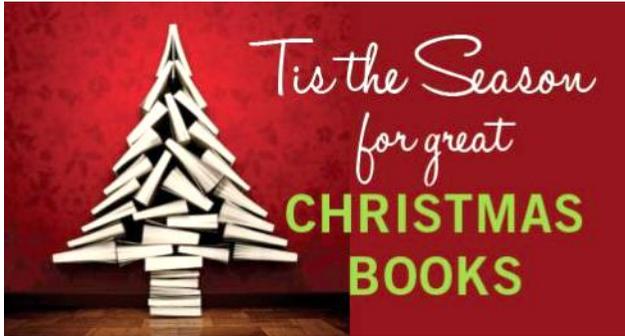
Join us for our next Advent meal and worship service on Wednesday, **December 11**. The Evangelism Committee will be serving sloppy joes.

Youth Ski Trip: All youth from 7th to 12th grade are invited out to Mt. Kato on Thursday, **December 12**, from 4 PM to 9 PM, for downhill skiing or snowboarding. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the old narthex—sign-up deadline is today. Contact Pastor Matt Moldstad if you have any questions: pastormoldstad@gmail.com.

Come on in to the Bethany Bookstore for a wonderful Christmas shopping experience. Mention that you saw this in the bulletin and receive 15% off your entire order now through Friday, **December 13**. We are open Monday-Friday from 9-10 AM and 10:30 AM-4 PM. Try out our new coffee corner and take a seat in our comfy new chairs, while listening to some festive Christmas music. We have many new children's books, an expanded marriage and family section and tons of new BLC apparel, winter wear, mugs and tumblers. Have a blessed Christmas season!

Winter Clothing Drive: Mount Olive students are collecting winter clothing donations for "The Reach" until **December 15**. See the December issue of the *Olive Press* for more details.

Senior Youth Group: Following the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, **December 15**, we will go caroling beginning at ~4:30 PM. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the old narthex. We will return for pizza at the church.



Come Enjoy -
the Mt. Olive Barnes and Noble
Book Fair
(located in the River Hills Mall)
on **December 12**,
starting at 5 PM.
Entertainment is provided by the
children of Mt. Olive.

Please do your online Barnes and Noble shopping between December 12 and 17. Include our book fair ID # **12544730** for us to get a percentage of the sales. Thank you!



You're Invited
To
Our Jesus Cares Ministry
Christmas Service
Tuesday, **December 17**, 2019
6:30 PM
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
1123 Marsh St.
Mankato, MN 56001

Attention Musicians! We are looking to play Christmas Carols prior to both services on Sunday, **December 22**. If interested, please plan on rehearsing Sunday, December 15 from 2-3 PM in the church sanctuary. All woodwind, brass, string, and percussion players are welcome! Questions can be directed to Benjamin.Faugstad@blc.edu.

Moms: We are looking for mothers to join an informal committee with ideas for redecorating/refurnishing Mt. Olive's Parents' Room. A meeting will be organized between church services on a Sunday morning in January, with additional email conversations before and after. Please let Marie MacPherson (mmacpher@blc.edu) know if you'd like to be included! Thank you!

Interested in volunteering to judge at a speech and debate tournament? The National Christian Forensics & Communications Association (NCFCA) is hosting a tournament for students ages 12-18 at Bethany Lutheran on **January 2-3**. For more information, contact Marie MacPherson at mmacpher@blc.edu or by phone at 625-3978, or call the church office.

Kwik Trip Gas Cards: Due to a special promotion, current Kwik Trip Cards donate **15%**; for every \$100 you buy in gas cards, \$15 is donated towards the cost of the activity of your choice, such as Mt. Olive youth activities like Camp Indianhead, LYA, and Honor Choir. Contact Rebecca Strom at 507-386-0372 with questions.

Scrip Cards: It's that time of year again--if you are thinking of purchasing gift cards or presents for Christmas, be sure to order them through the Scrip program so you can earn credit towards tuition or the tuition assistance/tuition reduction programs. Upcoming order dates are **today and December 22**. You can now pay your Kohl's credit card with your gift cards. If you have questions, please contact Sara (507-279-2909) or Tiffany (507-317-2958).

From Minnesota Valley Lutheran:

MVL Christmas Concert, Friday, December 20: The Freshmen Choir, A Capella Choir, Chargaliers, and Symphonic Band are eagerly preparing pieces that celebrate our Savior's birth. Preconcert music will be provided by the band beginning at 6:45 PM with the concert beginning at 7:00 PM in the MVL gymnasium.

MVL Bus Drivers Needed: Full-time and part-time positions are available, with paid training. Contact Site Manager Casey Stearns at 507-995-5387 for more details.

Happening at Bethany Lutheran College:

Today, at 3 PM: the last performance of the 2019 "Christmas at Bethany" concert. Admission is free; reservations are required. For tickets, call the BLC Fine Arts office at 507-344-7365 or visit blc.edu/christmas-at-bethany.