



ADVENT 3

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

1123 Marsh Street, Mankato, MN 56001 | (507-345-4966) | church@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: *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. God's Gospel is shared with us through Jesus so that through Him we "are not consumed" by His anger (Malachi 3:1-6). Instead, we have reason to rejoice and be glad!*

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 instrumental music & opportunity for prayer* (See “Prayers for Worship” —ELH p. 40)

~**Opening Hymn 106, vv. 1-4** *On Jordan’s Bank the Herald’s Cry*

~**Invocation** — *Calling upon the Triune God* (ELH p. 60; Matt 28:19)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

~**Confession & Absolution** — *Admitting our guilt & receiving God’s forgiveness*
(ELH p. 60-61, II; Ps 124:8, Ps 32:5)

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: ♪ **Who made heav’n and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

C: ♪ **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: 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 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.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten 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 shall be saved.

C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

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

(ELH p. 66; 2 Tim 4:22)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

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

(ELH p. 66; p. 147 #5)

P: 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.**

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 3:1-6 Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the Lord of Armies. But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers bleach! He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the Lord and bring him an offering in righteousness. Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the Lord as they were in the days of old, in years long ago. I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the Lord of Armies. Certainly I, the Lord, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end.

~Youth & Senior Choirs "*Hark, A Thrilling Voice* (arr. Ian Higginson)

*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."*

*Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, our Sun, all fear dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.*

*Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav'n;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;*

*Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit, while unending ages run. Amen.*

~Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 This is the way a person should think of us: as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. In this connection, moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But it is a trivial matter to me if I am evaluated by you or by a day in a human court. Why, I do not even evaluate myself. I do not in fact know of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this; rather, the one who evaluates me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing ahead of time, until the Lord comes. He will bring to light whatever is hidden in darkness and also reveal the intentions of hearts. Then there will be praise for each person from God.

~Alleluia — *"God Be Praised"*

(ELH p. 67)

C: ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

~Nicene Creed — *Confession of faith*

(ELH p. 69)

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.

~Chief Hymn 105, vv. 1, 3 *Rise, Children of the Kingdom*

~Holy Gospel & 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 Message

“Christmas Expectations”

~Offertory — *Prayer of renewal before offering*

(ELH p. 70-71; Ps 51:10-12)

C: ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

~Offering & Hymn 102, vv. 1, 2 *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: We ask you to fill out a “Get Connected!” card and place that in the offering plate.)

~Prayers & Special Petitions

(ELH p. 71-72)

III. The Service of Holy Communion



(Following Christ’s command, we receive His grace to us in the special meal He instituted for the forgiveness of our sins. Here, He feeds with His true body and His true blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is the same body which was born of the Virgin Mary, and the same blood which dripped down the wooden cross. This part of the liturgy is one of the oldest parts, dating back to at least the third century AD.)

Questions and prayers to assist in preparing for the Lord's Supper are found in the black hymnal, pp. 38–40.

Guests & Visitors: *We practice “Close” or “Closed Communion”. We do this out of love and concern for you. We want to make sure that those who take this holy meal receive it as a blessing and not to their harm as Scripture warns. We also understand that those who come forward to take communion are professing a unity of faith with our congregation and are in full agreement with the teachings and doctrines of Mount Olive Lutheran Church and of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Therefore, we ask those who have not taken Holy Communion with us before to speak with a pastor before communing. Thank you.*

~Preface

(ELH p. 72 ff.; 2 Tim 4:22, Col 3:1, Ps 136)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.

~Advent Preface

(ELH p. 73, 74)

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; through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

~Sanctus — “Holy”

(ELH p. 76)

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

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 77-78; 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 pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~Words of Institution *(ELH p. 78; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)*

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."

~The Pax Domini — *"The Peace of the Lord"* *(ELH p. 79; Jn 20:19)*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ♪ Amen.

~Agnus Dei — *"Lamb of God"* *(ELH p. 79ff; Jn 1:29)*

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 *(Communicants come forward at the direction of the ushers. During the Distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:)*

Hymn 100, vv. 1-3 *The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us*

Hymn 105, vv. 2, 4, 5 *Arise, Ye Drooping Mourners*

Hymn 102, vv. 3, 4 *Hark, the Herald's Voice Is Crying*

Hymn 100, vv. 4-7 *Our Father, Rich in Blessing*

~Dismissal — *Assurance of blessing for those who have communed* *(ELH p. 81)*

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His precious blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith to everlasting life. Depart in peace. Amen.

~Nunc Dimittis — *"Now I Depart"* *(ELH p. 81-82; Lk 2:29-32)*

C: ♪ Lord, now You let 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 people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. 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.

~Collect of Thanksgiving

(ELH p. 82, 1)

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: ♪ And His mercy endures forever.

P: Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through them in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

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

(ELH p. 84)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

~Benedicamus — *Call for blessing*

(ELH p. 84; 2 Cor. 13:14)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

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

(ELH p. 84; 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 106, v. 5 All Praise, Eternal Son, to Thee

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

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

*Preacher: Pastor John Petersen / Liturgist: Vicar Jacob Kempfert
Organists: 1st: Dennis Marzolf / 2nd: Mark DeGarmeaux
Youth Choir/Senior Choir Director: Katie Sulzle
Accompanist: Elisabeth Urtel*

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

Sunday: 8:30am, 410; 10:45am, 228.

Monday: 11. Wednesday: 229

Monthly Giving Update:



Given to the General Fund (Nov. 1-30)	\$54,719.97
Given to the Building Fund (Nov. 1-30)	\$5,534.93
<u>Total Given</u> (Nov. 1-30)	<u>\$60,254.90</u>
General Fund Budgeted (July 1-Nov. 30) (\$80,847.34/month x 5 months)	\$404,236.69
General Fund YTD	<u>\$298,319.78</u>
<u>Difference (Shortfall)</u>	<u>(\$105,916.91)</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,
Elli Fisher

2nd Service: Steve & Lois Jaeger,
Mark & Vivian Smith

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 15, 2019—December 22, 2019*

Sunday, December 15	8:30AM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	9:40AM	Christmas Service Practice/BIC/Bible Study
	10:45AM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	3PM	Children’s Christmas Service
	4:30PM	Senior Youth Caroling
	6:30PM	Handbell Choir
	7:30PM	Co-ed Rec Volleyball
Monday, December 16	6:30PM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	7:15PM	Board of Stewardship
Tuesday, December 17	8AM	Women’s Bible Study (Matthew)
	1PM	Mt. Olive Crafters
	6:30PM	Jesus Cares Christmas Program
	7PM	Men’s Choir
Wednesday, December 18	8:05AM	CDS Chapel
	9AM	Bible Study (Baptism)
	3PM	Youth Choir
	4PM	7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation Classes
	5-6:15PM	Advent Supper
	6:30PM	Advent Service
7:30PM	Senior Choir	
Thurs., Dec. 19		
Fri., Dec. 20	11:15AM	CDS Early Dismissal
Sat., Dec. 21		
Sunday, December 22	8:30AM	Divine Service No Sunday School or Bible Study
	10:45AM	Divine Service
	6PM	Artemis Video Gaming
	6:30PM	Handbell Choir
	7:30PM	Co-ed Rec Volleyball

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Today, between services, the Senior Youth Group is serving coffee, hot apple cider, and Christmas cookies to thank you for your support of the new youth room. Stop by the hallway outside the youth room to get a treat for Bible Study.

Today is the last day for the Winter Clothing Drive. Mount Olive students are collecting winter clothing donations for "The Reach". See the December issue of the *Olive Press* for more details.



**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

Join us for our next Advent meal and worship service on Wednesday, **December 18**. A pasta and a salad bar will be served by the Handbell Choir, beginning at 5 PM, followed by worship at 6:30 PM.

Attention Musicians! We are looking to play Christmas carols prior to both services on Sunday, **December 22**. We are rehearsing today from 1:30-2:30 PM (note time change) in the church sanctuary. All woodwind, brass, string, and percussion players are welcome. Questions can be directed to Benjamin.Faugstad@blc.edu.

Come on in to the Bethany Bookstore for a wonderful Christmas shopping experience. 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!

Greeters Needed: We are in need of greeters for second service for the remaining Sundays in December as well as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Contact Vivian Smith to volunteer. She is in the process of coordinating greeters for next year and would welcome both new and familiar faces for this job. Contact her at 507-327-3884 or by email (mvsmith@charter.net). No experience or training is required. Thanks.

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.

ELS Winter Youth Retreat and Trip to Nickelodeon Universe: 7th grade to high school youth are invited to a Winter Youth Retreat at Heritage Lutheran in Apple Valley from **January 3-4**. The retreat will include an evening of fun, games, and Bible Study on Friday night with a trip to Nickelodeon Universe (NU) on Saturday. The cost is \$25 per student and covers a five-hour unlimited ride pass to NU as well as food and drinks while at Heritage. Please bring cash or check (written to Peace Lutheran Church). It is recommended that students also bring \$10 for lunch at MOA. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex for more information. Registration deadline is December 27.

The 2020 Flower Calendar is now available in the hallway next to the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to provide flowers to beautify our altar this coming year.

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. 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.

Join Us for These Special Worship Services:

Wednesday, December 18 (Midweek Advent)

5:00 - 6:15 PM– Pasta & salad bar served by the Handbell Choir

6:30 PM – *Jesus Foretold as Prophet* (Deuteronomy 18:18-19);

Vicar Jacob Kempfert

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Office Closed

4:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service

7:00 PM – Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day

Office Closed

10:00 AM – Divine Service, w/Holy Communion

Tuesday, December 31, New Year's Eve

Office Closed

6:30 PM – New Year's Eve Service, w/Holy Communion

Wednesday, January 1, New Year's Day

Office Closed

JESUS FORETOLD



**AS PROPHET,
PRIEST, & KING**

Please note that our Monday evening worship services will continue through the Advent and Lenten seasons; the only exception is that there will be **no** service on **December 23.**

News from the Narthex Committee:

A Narthex Committee was established to address the use, furnishing, and decorating of the wonderful new space we have been blessed with. This Committee consists of a cross section of members with different talents and interests.

Some action taken at our most recent meeting:

1. Furniture was selected and will be purchased when it is funded through the Special Giving Opportunities list. Two seating areas are planned which can easily be moved for overflow seating.
2. Wall decorations will be decided after the furniture is in place.
3. Coat racks were moved to the old narthex area where they will be kept when the temperature warrants their use. Signage will eventually be added in the new narthex to indicate their location.
4. Funds were approved for purchasing chairs for overflow seating. Chairs and storage rack will be purchased soon.
5. We also ask for the congregation's help in making sure that the new narthex area is a warm, inviting place that remains free of clutter. To help ensure this, we ask the following:
 - Groups: please check with the church office before placing items on the information table located near the old offices/entry area.
 - The Welcome Table is to remain in its place and will be maintained by the church office.
 - Please refrain from taping any signs to the walls.
 - Tables for special events (e.g. bake sales) should be set up in the hallway by the old offices.

Many more items are being discussed, and more changes are yet to come. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

--The Narthex Committee