



# MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

February 2025

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### \*African American History Month

- \*February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Groundhog Day
- \*February 5<sup>th</sup> – Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM
- \*February 12<sup>th</sup> – Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM
- \*February 14<sup>th</sup> – Happy Valentine's Day
- \*February 16<sup>th</sup> – Mite Sunday
- \*February 16<sup>th</sup> – WOMO Meeting @ 10AM
- \*February 17<sup>th</sup> – Presidents Day
- \*February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Congregational Meeting @ 10AM

## District Missions

### POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach)



One of the missions supported by our MN South District is POBLO, which focuses on proclaiming the Gospel to Muslims in our communities. Minnesota's foreign-born population has increased dramatically in recent years, with an influx of immigrants from Somalia, Laos, and India, among other countries. Nearly 100,000 refugees have come to Minnesota over the past three decades, and the state is home to the largest population of Somali Muslims in the U.S. As of 2011, more than 7% of the state's population was foreign born, and in 2006, Minnesota became the first U.S. state to elect a Muslim representative to Congress. 80% of the foreign born population is concentrated in the Twin Cities region, where POBLO's Minnesota missionaries are based. Rev. Issa & Dina Safadi are involved with proclaiming the Gospel in Burnsville, Bloomington, St. Paul, and Prior Lake.

In Rochester, Minnesota, POBLO missionaries and volunteers are involved in missions and community engagement through various efforts. Volunteers teach English, sewing, and computer skills to immigrants and refugees at two International Friendship Centers. Citizenship classes are also offered. Missionaries John & Mariam Gayed, together with a group of volunteers, are connecting people from many countries to Bible study and worship as they share the Gospel message. They also provide food, clothing, and furniture to refugees in need.

Recent changes to federal policy regarding immigration is certainly affecting these ministries. Pray that God will give wisdom to our leaders in the government and in the church so that we can continue to make the truth and love of Jesus Christ known to Muslims so they can share with us in the salvation that comes only through faith in Him.

# MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## A Message from Pastor Mike

### Are you experiencing what God is doing?

Sometimes we spend so much time focusing on what God has done in the past that we lose sight of what He is doing right now, day by day, in our lives. Jesus describes His mission in Luke 4 with these words: “The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me...to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19) Jesus is still proclaiming the Lord’s favor for us and through us for others. God brings us together for worship and Bible Study so that we might experience the Lord’s favor and respond with praise and thanksgiving. He makes us members of His body so that we can continue His mission to proclaim His favor to the poor, the captives, the blind, and the oppressed. Wherever people are hurting, God is there at work!

Are you experiencing God at work for you and through you? He leads us by His Holy Spirit to confess our poverty so that we might receive His riches. We come to Him empty to be filled with His treasures. We confess our slavery to sin so that He might break our bonds and empower us to live in the freedom of obedience. We acknowledge that without God we are blind, and He opens our eyes to see the height and depth of His love for us in Jesus Christ. We cry out to God when we are oppressed by our own sinful thoughts and feelings, or by Satan and the world which tell us to shut up about salvation, and He releases us to proclaim with our lips and our lives all that Christ Jesus has done for us and for His whole creation.

Are you experiencing what God is doing, right here and now, for you and through you for the good of others? Jesus’ mission is alive and well, and He is calling you and me to be part of it. Mt. Olive congregation has existed for almost 100 years not because of us but because of God and His faithfulness. He has called you and me to be a part of this church so that we can be part of His mission. Ask God today to help you see and experience what He is doing for you and through you. God allows the wicked world to continue in order to bring more people out of despair into hope, out of blindness into sight, out of slavery into freedom, out of poverty into the glorious wealth of His kingdom. Jesus is still accomplishing His mission, and He’s equipping you and me to be a part of it. Help us Lord to be and to do all that You want us to be and to do – no more, and no less.

Yours in Christ,

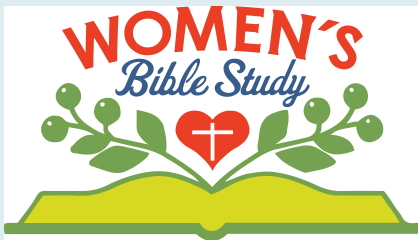
Pastor Mike Michalk

# MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Darlene Fasching	2/1
Jack Skaret	2/5
Wally Brehm	2/15
Sandy Wilsey	2/16
David Smith	2/21

**\*Contact the office if you have a change in personal information.**



Women's Bible study will begin on **Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00AM** due to Lenten services.



## **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

If you earn Choice Dollars on your Thrivent investments, please call to designate your dollars starting in January 2024 for your earnings from 2023. You are able to designate the Choice Dollars to Mt Olive or any other non-profit of your choice. Call 1-800-847-4836. If you do not designate your Choice Dollars, Thrivent may have other plans on how to best use them. Designate 2022 dollars by March 31st, 2024.

## Treasuring God's Truth, Living Out His Love

- Thank you to the trustee's for shoveling our sidewalks this winter!
- Thank you to Joel Reinitz & Allen Schmidt for the Kids Christmas treat bags!
- Thank you to all who decorated and undecorated for Christmas!
- Thank you to Arlee for setting up the manger outside!
- Thank you to Jim, Paul and Marianne for cleaning the quilt room!
- Thank you to Jim, Arlee, Dave S, and Paul for cleaning the Youth Room!
- Thank you to Linda for recycling old computer equipment!
- Thank you to Jim for removing an old and broken file cabinet!
- Thank you to Linda and Terry for the work on the 2024 contribution statements!
- Our new congregational president, Andrew, had a problem - he could not find a checkbook that he had used to purchase a vehicle in March 2024. But on January 22, 2025 he picked up a portfolio in order to take notes at a Leadership Meeting at church, which was focused on financial concerns - and guess what he found in that portfolio? Yes, the missing checkbook. It was another reminder that God provides everything we need for His mission!

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## Joining Jesus on His Mission

- Harriet and Phil hosted a Christmas caroling sing along at LMS and had 30 people singing and playing piano!
- The woman who plays the piano for the choir that Harriet and Phil lead at Lake Minnetonka Shores is experiencing cognitive decline. Would the choir lose their accompanist again? Harriet and Phil decided to record the woman playing, which was easier when the other members weren't there, and then use the recording for the choir's performance. Praise God for resiliency and providing solutions!

## Applying Biblical Teachings

“So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).

These words stand in sharp contrast to the ways of a self-centered sinful world. This world would tell us that the service of self is to be the primary motivation for all our actions. This world would tell us that self-serving kindness and charity will satisfy a guilty conscience. This world would tell us that striving to attain ideals that will change the world for our benefit is enough.

As believers, each of us is both saint and sinner at the same time. As sinners, we are often tempted to infuse the ways of this world into our lives. We are tempted to be self-serving. We say to ourselves, “My lifestyle keeps me extremely busy. I am always on the go doing what I need to do, but I do set aside an hour for the Lord each week.” “If asked, maybe once a year I volunteer to help a worthy cause and do my part.” “Let’s see, after everything is paid, what can I afford to give to the Lord’s work at Mount Olive Lutheran Church? What are the tax implications?” Thus, the temptation is great to put self-first and God a distant second. The letter to the Hebrews gives this admonition: “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2). Through the Holy Spirit, we are brought to the realization at the foot of the cross that self-centeredness must be forgotten. We see that only with our eyes firmly fixed on Christ, who is seated in glory, can the promotion of God’s glory be the object of all that we do.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God is glorified in us. Christ’s love flows from our hearts so all that we do benefits our neighbor, glorifying the name of God. We glorify God in our daily living and exhibit our faith by the proper use of all that God has given us, including our time, abilities, wealth and money. By the power of the Gospel, we do this as an example for the “good of many, so that they may be saved” (1 Cor. 10:33).

As Christians, we pray that Christ’s love may more and more abound in our hearts. We pray that we may more and more use the perfect gifts — including our financial resources — God has given us to serve others and glorify His name. God help us to this end.



## JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

- ❖ **Tuesday’s 7:00 AM -**  
Men’s Bible Study
- ❖ **Wednesday’s 10:00 AM (Sept – Dec & March - May) -** Ladies’ Bible Study
- ❖ **1st Wednesday of the month 1:00 PM - @**  
Lake Minnetonka Shores
- ❖ **Thursday’s 9:00 AM -**  
Adult Bible Class –  
Phone & Zoom
- ❖ **Friday’s 1:30PM - @**  
Tranquil Living
- ❖ **Friday’s 3:00 PM - @**  
Harrison Bay

*God is good!*



# MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## Women of Mount Olive

Our next WOMO meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** immediately following worship in fellowship hall. **Please note this is a very important meeting and will run longer than usual, so please plan accordingly.**

There are very important matters to discuss including officer positions, disbursement of funds to area charities, compliance/best practice policies, WOMO and church social events/activities, LWML funding and a myriad of other things.

PLEASE plan to attend as your input is valued and needed.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

As you all know, our new year of 2025 is well underway! The new year and the new budget is a great time to reset and remember all the ways our Lord has blessed us. We all have a responsibility to bless others including the ministry of Mount Olive, as God has so very generously blessed us! Wouldn't it be a truly wonderful blessing to meet our 2025 budget every month through offerings and tithes? It's a lofty goal to be sure, but please give prayerful consideration to helping make this happen.

### **THANK YOU....**

...to John Skaret and Dick Bromley for providing special music for the Christmas Eve service  
...to the Sunday school children, confirmands, and Cameron, Arlee, and the many other adults that played a role in presenting the Sunday School Christmas Pageant  
...Paul Meyer for taking care of the leftover spruce tip planters, and for his many other clean-up efforts!

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Is there a song or hymn you especially love that you'd like to hear/sing during a worship service? Let Jan Preble, Sandi Woytcke, or Pastor know if you would like a particular hymn incorporated into a worship service.

Special music during communion or some other part of the worship service would be welcomed. See one of the above-named worship committee members if you are willing to share your vocal or instrumental talent.

# FEBRUARY

2025

## \*African American History Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> -Happy Birthday Darlene Fasching
<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> -Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM -Happy Birthday Jack Skaret	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> -Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Valentine's Day</i>	<b>15</b> -Happy Birthday Wally Brehm
<b>16</b> -Mite Sunday -WOMO Meeting @ 10AM -Happy Birthday Sandy Wilsey	<b>17</b> <i>Presidents Day</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> -Happy Birthday David Smith	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> -Congregational Meeting @ 10AM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live

1	2	3	4	5

Opposite of dark

6	7	8	9	10

Companion

11	12	13	14	15	16

Hand greeting

17	18	19	20

Male adult

21	22	23



8 2 16 13 4 6 2 19 5

17 9 2 5 19 5 12 6 7 19 5 4

13 15 6 2 19 20 6 7 19 14 4

13 15 8 2 16 18 15 16

8 2 16 13 23 10 1 14 21

1 John 4:16, NIV

Answers: house, light, friend, wave, man; God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1 John 4:16, NIV



**One of the ways we glorify God and exhibit our faith is in the proper use of our money in our daily living.  
“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).**

## MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

### Contact Us

Pastor Mike Michalk –  
952.388.3858

[Pastor@mountolivecms.org](mailto:Pastor@mountolivecms.org)

Church office (Lindsey) –  
952.472.2756

[Admin@mountolivecms.org](mailto:Admin@mountolivecms.org)

Website - [www.mountolivecms.org](http://www.mountolivecms.org)

### Office Hours

Monday -Thursday 9:00 – Noon  
Pastor's Hours: Tuesday &  
Saturday 9:00 – 11:00 or by  
appointment

### Leadership Team

**President:** Andrew Reinitz

**Vice President:** George Betts

**Recording Secretary:** Lindsey Eccles

**Treasurer:** Terry Podratz

**Elders:** Arlee Mueller, Nate Betts and Joel Reinitz

**Trustees:** Jim Merchant & Darryl Frederickson

**Directors:** Linda Verkennes, Harriet Gustafson and David Miller

### Committees

**Education:** Arlee Mueller, Andrew Reinitz, Becca Boser, and Dawn Audette

**Finance Secretary:** Shelley Frederickson, **Thank You Cards:** Rita Kaiser

**Outreach:** Vacant

**WeCAN Fellowship Representative:** Becca Boser

**Women of Mount Olive - President:** Jan Preble, **Secretary:** Lindsey Eccles, **Treasurer:** Vacant

**Worship:** Sandi Woytcke and Jan Preble

**Archives:** Marilyn Mulvanny