



MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

December 2024 – January 2025

What's Inside

- 2 A Message from Pastor Mike
- 3 December & January Birthdays
- 3 Treasuring God's Truth, Living Out His Love
- 4 Applying Biblical Teachings
- 4 Bible Studies
- 5 Women of Mount Olive
- 5 Worship Committee
- 5 Stewardship Committee
- 6 December Calendar
- 7 January Calendar
- 8 Contact Us
- 8 Office Hours
- 8 Who is Serving the Lord Within Mount Olive



- *December 1 – WOMO Holiday Party @ 11:30AM
- *December 4 – Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM
- *December 10 – Circuit Pastor's Meeting @ Mt. Olive
- *December 11 – Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM
- *December 15 – Mite Sunday
- *December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 4PM
- *December 25 – Merry Christmas
- *January 1 – Happy New Year
- *January 8 – Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM
- *January 15 - Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM
- *January 19 – Mite Sunday

District Missions



Rev. Matthew
Cephus

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in northeast Minneapolis had to face the reality that they were no longer able to carry the responsibility of calling a full-time pastor, so they turned to others for assistance. At this same time, Christ Victorious Lutheran Church, Chaska, was seeking to plant a new multi-ethnic congregation, so they turned to the Minnesota South District's New Church Incubator for some of the funds their mission efforts required.

The new Royal Family Lutheran Church was established, and was soon looking for a location where they could worship together. Rev. Matthew Cephus and his congregation found a warm welcome at Gloria Dei.

Shortly after Gloria Dei had welcomed Royal Family into their building, their part-time pastor received a call to serve another congregation full-time. Now what would Gloria Dei do? This time, they found a willing pastor with a servant heart already in their building! Pastor Cephus agreed to serve both congregations, with the hope that one day the two congregations would be joined together in ministry as they are in their shared faith and mission focus.

In the Minnesota South District God has intentionally brought us together to be a blessing to each other. Because of the way you support the mission efforts of our district through your prayers and gifts, you've walked with four congregations on this joyful journey. Thank you for working with us in this partnership in the Gospel through your prayerful and financial support of collaborative efforts such as this. With God's direction and by His grace, joint efforts like these will continue to shine the Light of Christ brightly through the workers and ministries of the Minnesota South District.

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

A Message from Pastor Mike

The Lights of Christmas

Have you put up your Christmas lights and decorations yet? Even a single candle in the window is a witness to Jesus who illuminates our sin-darkened and war-ravaged world. Christmas lights and decorations remind us that Jesus Christ is THE Light of the world.

Search the Bible (biblegateway.com) for the word “light” and you will find hundreds of references. Take time during these long winter nights to read, memorize, and meditate on these Bible verses, and you will rejoice with the Psalmist, **“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”** (Ps. 119:105). Be encouraged by God’s promise, **“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it”** (John 1:5).

All of us experience times of emotional and spiritual darkness, and sometimes those feelings increase during the holidays. We remember loved ones no longer with us. We wonder how many more Christmases we will celebrate. We grieve over the hatred and warfare so prevalent in the world. We feel lost and alone. At times like these, we need the reminder of Psalm 18:28, **“You light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness.”**

Christmas lights give us the opportunity to reflect the light of Christ to our family and friends. Say to your neighbors, to your spouse, to your children and grandchildren, “Christmas lights remind me that Jesus is the Light.” Ask the Holy Spirit to give you words and actions to share your hope and faith. **“At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”** (Ephesians 5:8) God has called and continues to call you out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1st Peter 2:9) Be assured of His promise, **“They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever”** (Revelation 22:5).

“Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light” (from Hymn #361 O Little Town Of Bethlehem) May the light of Christ brighten your heart and life, and may His Spirit empower you to be a light for others.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Don Kohls	12/10
Michael Michalk	12/10
Debra Connolly	12/11
Josie Hill	12/18
Michael Mulvanny	12/22
Darryl Frederickson	12/26
Don Woytcke	12/26



Jan Preble	1/2
Shirley Krause	1/4
Melanie Kamps	1/17
Joel Reinitz	1/18
Richard Bromley	1/23
Trudy Brethorst	1/29
Andrew Reinitz	1/31

***Contact the office if you have a change in personal information or if your birthday is not listed.**

***A new Church Directory will be sent out in January 2025. Please let Lindsey know if there should be any updates for you by December 20, 2024.**



Pick up your 2025 offering envelopes in the narthex!

Treasuring God's Truth, Living Out His Love

- Thank you to David Miller for being our President for 4 years!
- Thank you to Michael Peterson for being on the Board of Directors for 3 years!
- Thank you to Terry Podratz for taking on the Treasurer position!
- Thank you to **ALL** who are rerunning for a board or committee!
- Thank you to Claudia Bullock for being the Treasurer for WOMO for many years!
- Thank you to Darlene Fasching for all the years and hard work she put into the Archives!
- Thank you to Marilyn Mulvanny for taking on the Archives!
- Thank you for **ALL** who helped with the Tricks & Treats Halloween Event.
- Thank you to Jim for filling the spruce tip planters with dirt and setting up tables for the Women to make spruce tip planters to sell at the Bazaar!
- Thank you to Lindsey Eccles for a WIDE ARRAY of tasks she completed to help with the success of the bazaar
- Thank you to Brian Podratz for making sure fellowship hall was warm the day of the bazaar
- Thank you to bazaar vendors Kathy & Lena, Terri, Joy, Traci, and Valerie for adding more interest to the bazaar
- Thank you to Pastor Mike and Dean Woytcke for helping load spruce tip planters into the cars of the buyers
- Thank you to all who helped with the WOMO Bazaar & Bake Sale! Baking, Donating, Setting Up, Running, Taking Down, everything helps, and nothing goes unnoticed! We appreciate **ALL** the help!
- Thank you to Trudy for sending Birthday and Anniversary Cards for MANY years!
- Thank you to Rita for sending Thank you Cards!
- Thank you to the Altar Society!
- Thank you to Diann Stanisich and Jim Mathiason for donating a grocery cart full of soda can tabs to Ronald McDonald House! Jim's brother JR, who passed away 12 years ago, had cerebral palsy. He learned to do many things with his feet, including pulling tabs off the cans with his feet! When Diann found out that Jim still had some bags of tabs in his garage, she convinced him to donate them to Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), which provides support and care for families of children who are receiving medical care away from home.
- Thank you to our ushers David Sandquist, Dick Halvarson, Darwin Lemke and Jerry Kohls.

Applying Biblical Teachings

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. . .” (1 Tim. 6:10). Friendships have been destroyed by it. Families have been torn apart by it. Marriages have been wrecked by it. Lives have been ruined by it. “ . . . Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith. . .” (1 Tim. 6:10).

Solomon wisely observed, “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless” (Eccl. 5:10). If one loves money, he devotes himself to it. He focuses, he plots, he schemes, he labors to acquire more. He lets nothing stand between him and the obtaining of his wealth. But the securing of this wealth is meaningless. It is as if one were chasing the wind.

Jesus said, “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36). And St. Paul went on to instruct Timothy, “For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it” (1 Tim. 6:7). The worldly pleasures and comfort that money can buy are only short-lived. Compared to eternity, our life is less than a blink of an eye. That which we have accumulated is gone. Naked again, we depart this life.

By the working of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we have been brought to faith in Christ and to the realization that He, the risen Lord and Savior, reigns in our lives. He will make use of the money and wealth He has given us to do His work. In Christ, we are content with that and go about our labor with the realization that “ . . . godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Tim. 6:6).

In Jesus’ name, we ask for forgiveness when our love turns from Him. We ask that He, through Word and Sacrament, continually strengthen us in our faith. We ask that He guide us to use our money and wealth in a God-pleasing manner.

“Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf” (Prov. 11:28).



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

- ❖ **Tuesday’s 7:00 AM -**
Men’s Bible Study
- ❖ **Wednesday’s 10:00 AM (September – May) -** Ladies’ Bible Study
- ❖ **1st Wednesday of the month 1:00 PM - @**
Lake Minnetonka Shores
- ❖ **Thursday’s 9:00 AM -**
Adult Bible Class
- ❖ **Friday’s 3:00 PM -**
Harrison Bay Bible Class

God is good!

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

WOMO NEWS

BAZAAR SUCCESS

Thanks to EVERYONE for contributing to the success of WOMO's Annual Bake Sale and Bazaar! Revenues and expenses had not yet been fully reconciled at the time of this publication, but the revenue was greater than it has been in the last several years. We will be making contributions to LWML, community organizations, and may offer some support to other MOLC projects. All decisions will be made at a future WOMO meeting, once we actually know how many dollars we have available to distribute.

We are grateful to those of you that made contributions toward the spruce tip planters. Thanks to those that helped to set up and take down tables, those of you that donated baked goods, crafts, and "timeless treasures" and to those of you that shopped and ALL that volunteered to work!! It was a successful event because of YOU, and community organizations and missions will benefit because of your contributions. THANK YOU!

WOMO Christmas Potluck Lunch/Gift Exchange/Cookie Exchange

WOMO will be hosting a Christmas potluck luncheon for all adult women from Mt. Olive following worship on Sunday, December 1 in the fellowship lounge. If you plan to participate, please bring a dish to pass. WOMO will provide beverages. We plan to begin at 11:30 AM. In addition to lunch, we will have a gift and cookie exchange for those that desire to participate. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a WRAPPED gift with a value of \$10-\$20. If you wish to participate in the cookie exchange, please bring 2-3 dozen of the same type of cookie. If you have any questions, talk to Jan, Sandi, or Lindsey. We invite Mt. Olive women to come and join us for a little Christmas cheer!

Looking ahead.....

- WOMO Meeting Sunday, February 16, 2025
- April 26, 2025: LWML Spring Rally at MOLC

Volunteer Needed

WOMO would like to thank **Trudy Brethorst** for the years she has spent sending out cards to members of the congregation for various occasions. Her work has been appreciated by ALL at Mt. Olive.

Trudy has resigned from doing this task and we are looking for someone to do this going forward. All cards and stamps are provided to the volunteer, so there is no cost. Your time is needed for addressing envelopes, jotting a note in the card, and getting cards in the mail. You are primarily sending birthday and anniversary cards to members of the congregation. See Lindsey for supplies and if you are willing to take on this volunteer job.

Worship Committee

Special Music Wanted

If you play piano or another instrument or would like to provide special music (vocal or instrumental) for a worship service, please talk to Jan Preble or Pastor Mike. Special music can really add to a worship service and your talent(s) would be much appreciated!

Advent Devotionals

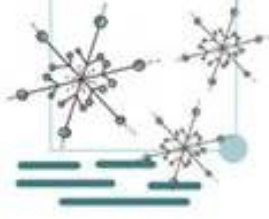
We encourage you to use an **Advent Devotional** during the season of Advent. You will likely find it adds a great deal studying God's word at this time of year. There are many options and resources available, and you can get a downloadable version for your e-Reader as well as printing your own copies. Here are some great resources:

- **Lutheran Hour Ministries** (LHM). LHM is a ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. They have many, many resources you can explore at www.lhm.org and search for Advent Devotional, or go here to get started: <https://www.lhm.org/advent/> Lutheran Hour Ministries also has great resources for the children in your life! Take some time and explore.
- **The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod** website also offer Advent devotions for the family table and you can explore their Advent resources by going here: <https://resources.lcms.org/worship-planning/advent-devotions-for-the-family-table-2024/>

As we enjoy this time of year that celebrates the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, we sincerely hope your time of celebration includes time spent studying God's word!

Stewardship

As the year draws to a close, and we celebrate our Savior's birth, please remember all we have is given to us by God. His provision has given us many resources to use while on this earth. Prayerfully consider how to use the resources He has given you. Use your talents, time and treasure to serve our Lord and Savior. Help spread the gospel so that others may know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Consider volunteering to serve MOLC and/or the community and consider gifts of financial support to MOLC to further the work of Christ as the gift of a Savior is truly the best present of all! It is a gift so great; it is difficult to comprehend. Year-end contributions are essential to the work of Mt. Olive.



HELLO december

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 -WOMO Holiday Party @ 11:30AM in the Fellowship Lounge Advent Begins	2	3 -Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM	4	5	6	7
8	9 -Circuit Pastor's Meeting @ Mt. Olive *Happy Birthday Don Kohls & Pastor Mike	10 -Leadership Meeting @6:30PM *Happy Birthday Debbie Connolly	11	12	13	14
15 -Mite Sunday	16	17 *Happy Birthday Josie Hill *Last Day of Women's Bible Study for the season	18	19	20	21 Winter Begins
22 *Happy Birthday Michael Mulvanny	23 -Candlelight Service @4PM Christmas Eve	24 *Happy Birthday Darryl Frederickson *Happy Birthday Don Woytcke	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30 New Year's Eve	31				

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2 -Happy Birthday Jan Preble	3	4 -Happy Birthday Shirley Krause -Put away Christmas Decor
5	6 Epiphany	7	8 -Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 -Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM	16	17 -Happy Birthday Melanie Kamps	18 -Happy Birthday Joel Reinitz
19 -Mite Sunday	20 MLK Jr. Day	21	22	23 -Happy Birthday Richard Bromley	24	25
26	27	28	29 -Happy Birthday Trudy Brethorst	30	31 -Happy Birthday Andrew Reinitz	



The craving of wealth is dangerous to one's faith.

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

**Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith
and pierced themselves with many griefs" (1 Tim. 6:10).**

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Contact Us

Pastor Mike Michalk –
952.388.3858

Pastor@mountlivelcms.org

Church office (Lindsey) –
952.472.2756

Admin@mountlivelcms.org

Website - www.mountlivelcms.org

Office Hours

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

Leadership Team

President: David Miller

Vice President: George Betts

Recording Secretary: Lindsey Eccles

Treasurer: Terry Podratz

Elders: Arlee Mueller & Nate Betts

Trustees: Jim Merchant & Darryl Frederickson

Directors: Linda Verkennes, Harriet Gustafson and Michael Peterson

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:** Claudia Bullock

Worship: Sandi Woytcke and Jan Preble

Archives: Marilyn Mulvanny