



MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

March 2026

What's Inside

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



- *March 4th – Lenten Service @ 10AM
- *March 4th – Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM
- *March 6th – World Day of Prayer
- *March 8th – Daylight-Saving Time Begins
- *March 11th - Lenten Service @ 10AM
- *March 11th – Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM
- *March 15th – Mite Sunday
- *March 17th – Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- *March 18th - Lenten Service @ 10AM
- *March 20th – Spring Begins!
- *March 25th - Lenten Service @ 10AM
- *March 29th – Palm Sunday

District Missions

International Association of Refugees and Jonathan House

The Jonathan House is a program of the International Association of Refugees (IAFR). IAFR is an ecumenical Christian organization on a mission, together with the church, to help people survive and recover from forced displacement.

Jonathan House operates three separate housing sites in Minnesota in partnership with local churches: a women's house, a men's house, and a family house. Jonathan House's primary challenge is capacity. We see much more demand for housing than we can provide. We are currently developing a strategic plan that will allow us to double our housing capacity.

Asylum seekers experience many challenges, including constant worry about their family back home, lack of resources to meet day-to-day needs, difficulty finding legal representation, difficulty obtaining a work permit and then finding work, and recovering from the trauma of forced displacement. While survival-level challenges are always top-of-mind, asylum seekers also tell us that in order to rebuild their lives in a new place they need to build community connections, heal emotionally, find resources for spiritual support, and find opportunities to contribute their gifts in their new home.

Our vision is to see the church journeying with asylum seekers so that all grow in God's hope and belonging. We believe these partnerships create mutual blessing between the Church and asylum seekers and it is the key to how we function.

We invite congregations to start their journey with these new neighbors through learning and prayer; our staff are available for educational sessions, preaching, and to help your congregation pray in solidarity with displaced people.

A speaker from IAFR/Jonathan House will be presenting at an LWML Rally in October, so watch for more information about that. You can learn more by going on the web to jonathanhouse.org.

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

A Message from Pastor Mike

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross.” (Hebrews 12:2) This verse is particularly relevant for the Lent and Easter Seasons when our attention is focused on Jesus enduring the cross and rising again in victory. The verse says that it was “for the joy set before him” that Jesus endured the cross. What could possibly have given Jesus joy in the midst of suffering and enduring the cross?

Jesus had joy (which is much deeper and persistent than a mere emotion) because He knew that by His suffering and endurance He was winning Heaven – for you and me. You are Jesus’ joy! He was thinking of you when He endured the cross – that is what gave Him the joy that empowered Him to endure the shame and suffering.

If you have ever loved someone, you have been willing to go out of your way to help them. You have endured some discomfort and inconvenience for their sake. How amazing is the love of Jesus who endured far worse things because He was looking forward to the joy of spending eternity with you!

Now Jesus calls us to carry our cross – to endure some discomfort and inconvenience so that others might know His love. He invites us to share His joy – what an awesome privilege! Jesus tells us in John 15, **John 15:9–11 (ESV) — 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**

The joy of Jesus motivates us. When we feel a lack of joy, we turn to Him and ask Him to renew our joy. The joy of Jesus gives us strength to endure our crosses – the strength to endure Satan’s constant attacks on the Word of God and our faith in His Word. The joy of Jesus empowers us to do what we do as His people in this place. The joy of Jesus is what we seek and what we proclaim in all of our worship services, Bible Studies, Sunday School lessons, Confirmation Classes – in all our efforts to invite others to come and learn of God’s great gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus, show us once again the great joy in Heaven over one sinner who repents, and remind us that we have been included in Your joy. Fill us with Your joy and help us to endure whatever sacrifices and challenges come our way as we strive to share this joy with others in our lives. In Your name, Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike Michalk

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Gloria Brehm	3/3
Rob Kamps	3/3
Linda Verkennes	3/15
Rylan Wyman	3/18
Dick Halvarson	3/19
Kathy Michalk	3/21
Carol Thomas	3/21
Paul Babb	3/30

*No Anniversaries for March!

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



Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you earn Choice Dollars on your Thrivent investments, please call to designate your dollars starting in January 2026 for your earnings from 2025. You're 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 2025 dollars by March 31st, 2026.

Thrivent Action Team

Gather a volunteer team of friends, family or neighbors to put on a fundraiser, educational event or service activity—like organizing a school supply drive or hosting a car wash fundraiser. We'll provide the resources you need to get started, including up to \$250 in seed money.

To apply for a Thrivent Action Team, you must be a Thrivent client with membership.

Treasuring God's Truth, Living Out His Love

- Thank you to all who continue to work on the education wing renovations!
- Thank you to Pastor for applying for a Thrivent Action Team Grant for our Education Wing Renovations!
- Thank you to Dave, Jim and Brian for shoveling our sidewalks!
- Thank you to those who helped with the Ash Wednesday Potluck!
- Thank you to those who provide goodies and beverages for our after-worship fellowship, for Bible Classes and for our Ash Wednesday Potluck!
- Thank you to those who have gone with Pastor to visit our home-bound members! Let Pastor know if you might be available to visit – it means a lot to those who are visited!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

Due to limited human resources, all funeral lunches and beverages for funeral lunches going forward will need to be catered, or food and beverages will need to be provided by the family and friends of the deceased.

In addition to food and beverages, caterers/family members will need to provide plates, cups, flatware, napkins and serving vessels and utensils. Families of the deceased will make their own determination about having catering staff serve luncheon attendees, having attendees serve themselves, or having family members/friends volunteer to serve.

Families may use the caterer of their choice and Mt. Olive also has a list of potential caterers from the area in the revised funeral handbook.

Families may also choose to have a funeral luncheon elsewhere, such as a restaurant, community center, an American Legion or VFW or a venue of their choice.

There remains a possibility (but no guarantee) that members of the church may provide dessert items, but the family of the deceased would need to make the request with the understanding that Mt. Olive may not be able to fulfill the request. Members of Mt. Olive would not serve the dessert items. Attendees would serve themselves.

We recognize change is difficult, but the reality is Mt. Olive does not have the capacity to provide this service anymore.

Should a time arise when Mt. Olive has more members/volunteers available to help coordinate and serve funeral meals this change will be revisited.

Applying Biblical Teachings

Jesus had commanded His disciples to go and preach among the Jews. As proof of their divine message, He gave them great authority and the power to heal, to raise the dead and to drive out the demons of darkness. However, they were not to use this power for personal gain, and Jesus followed His instruction with this word of warning: "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8).

With these words, Jesus sets the tone for all of Christendom. His followers are not to use the Gospel message they proclaim for personal gain. Rather, they are to have the nature of a servant, with Christ as their model, giving to those around them. In fact, great shame has fallen on those who have sought to use God's power for personal gain and position or to promote a church for status and profitability.

By His grace, and through the authority and power of the Word, God grants His power to those called by the Gospel. This power is great, for the Gospel moves and changes sinful hearts. Just as we have received God's power freely, we also freely share the Gospel message with those around us and expect nothing in return.

With the words of Jesus ringing in our ears, "Freely you have received, freely give," we are moved by the Holy Spirit to freely and gladly share the Gospel message. In Christian liberty, we have chosen various ways to do this. Those of like mind have gathered to form a fellowship or a congregation, and these congregations have been joined together to form a church body. Church buildings, schools and seminaries have been built as a testimony to the Gospel message. We have called pastors, employed teachers and commissioned missionaries to proclaim Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Radio and television programs have been produced, along with countless advertisements, to proclaim the good news of salvation. Organizations within the church body have been formed with one goal in mind — that of telling everyone of Jesus' love for them.

We rejoice in the proclamation of the Gospel and support Christian service for the benefit of all. Because God has freely given to us, and because of His work in our hearts, we freely give. In loving service and without any expectation of gain, we give money, use our abilities and volunteer our time to freely give the Gospel message as it has been given to us.



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

- ❖ **Tuesday's 7:00 AM -**
Men's Bible Study
- ❖ **Wednesday's 10:00 AM -**
Women's Bible Study
- ❖ **Friday's 10:00 AM -**
Adult Bible Class – @
Lake Minnetonka
Shores or by Phone
- ❖ **Confirmation –**
Thursday's - 6:00 PM
7th Grade and Older

FAITH OVER FEAR

Trusting God in Uncertain Times

Women of Mount Olive

Help Support WOMO and Get a Great Deal on Greeting Cards!

Please take a moment to stop and look at the boxed greeting card selections WOMO is selling. They are located on the shelves in the narthex. A box of 12 cards is just \$5! There are a variety of birthday cards suitable for all ages, sympathy cards, encouragement cards, all occasion cards, wedding cards, and anniversary cards. We have a lot of new inventory so please take a look!

Your purchase helps support missions, local nonprofit organizations and church projects. Most recently, WOMO sent funds to LWML, Gillespie Center, WeCAN, WeCAB, and the Westonka Community Food Shelf. WOMO also just made a sizeable contribution for the renovation of the Sunday School wing. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Dates of Importance

2026

- April 13th - WOMO Meeting @ 10AM in Fellowship Lounge
- May 2nd – Salad Luncheon @ 11AM (Bring a \$5-10 gift if you'd like to participate in the game)
- July 13th - WOMO Meeting @ 10AM in Fellowship Lounge
- October 12th - WOMO Meeting @ 10AM in Fellowship Lounge
- November 2nd – Potential Spruce Tip Planter Assembly @ 10AM
- November 6th – Bazaar set up – 4-6PM
- November 7th – Bazaar 9AM-1PM
- November 16th – Post Bazaar Meeting @ 10AM in the Fellowship Lounge
- December 5th – Holiday Party @ 11:30AM (Potluck, Cookie exchange – bring 2-3 dozen if you want to participate. Gift exchange \$10-20 optional if you want to participate.)





MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		*Happy Birthday Gloria Brehm! *Happy Birthday Rob Kamps!	*Lenten Service @ 10AM -Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM		World Day of Prayer	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight-Saving Time Begins			*Lenten Service @ 10AM -Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
-Mite Sunday *Happy Birthday Linda Verkennes		St. Patrick's Day	*Lenten Service @ 10AM *Happy Birthday Rylan Wyman!	*Happy Birthday Dick Halvarson!		*Happy Birthday Kathy Michalk! *Happy Birthday Carol Thomas!
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			*Lenten Service @ 10AM		Spring Begins	
29	30	31				
Palm Sunday	*Happy Birthday Paul Babb!					

Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A = ☺	D = ❄️	H = ❄️	M = ☆	P = ◆	T = ■	W = ☁️
B = 💧	E = ⚡	I = ⚡	N = ↑	R = ●	U = □	Y = 🌪️
C = ⚙️	G = ⚙️	L = ★	O = ↓	S = ○	V = ☒	Z = 🌪️

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☁️

Jericho ❄️ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ ★ ★ ❄️

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ ★ ⚙️ ☺️ ★ ❄️ ⚡ ☺️ ■

Sea of Galilee ⚙️ □ ○ ■ 🌪️ ☁️ ★ ↑ ❄️ ○

Mediterranean Coast 💧 ● ⚡ ⚡ 🌪️ 🌪️



MOUNT OLIVE



LUTHERAN CHURCH

5218 Bartlett Blvd
Mound, MN 55364
www.mountolivecms.org



OFFERING TEAM

Looking for a counter!

We are looking for a counter to help count the weekly offerings. This would be 1 Sunday a month commitment on a rotation. Please reach out to Lindsey if you would be willing to help!

Freely we share the message of God's grace in Jesus Christ,
and freely we support the method we have chosen to do so.

“Freely you have received, freely give” (Matt. 10:8)

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Contact Us

Pastor Mike Michalk –
952.388.3858

Pastor@mountolivecms.org

Church Office (Lindsey) –
952.472.2756

Church Cell 952-245-5218

Admin@mountolivecms.org

Website - 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: Kevin Larson

Elders: Arlee Mueller and Joel Reinitz

Trustees: Jim Merchant & Darryl Frederickson

Directors: David Miller, Linda Verkennes, and Phil Holmen

Committees

Archives: Marilyn Mulvanny

Education: Arlee Mueller, Andrew Reinitz, Becca Boser

Finance Secretary: Shelley Frederickson

Offering Counters: Shelley Frederickson, Leona Shore, Rita Kaiser, Brian Podratz, Terry Podratz, Jan Preble, Linda Verkennes, and Kevin Larson

Thank You Cards: Rita Kaiser

Outreach: Vacant

WeCAN Fellowship Representative: Becca Boser

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

Worship: Sandi Woytcke and Jan Preble