MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

November 2026

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***November 1st** – All Saints' Day
***November 1st** – Daylight-Saving Time Ends
***November 2nd** – Spruce Tip Planter Assembly 10AM-Noon
***November 6th** – WOMO Bazaar Set Up 4-6PM
***November 7th** – WOMO Bazaar & Bake Sale 9AM-1PM
***November 11th** – Veterans Day
***November 15th** – Mite Sunday
***November 16th** – WOMO Meeting @ 10AM
***November 24th** – Thanksgiving Service @ Pie Social @ 6PM
***November 26th** – Happy Thanksgiving!
***November 29th** – First Sunday of Advent

Stewardship Fall Campaign

"Empowered by God — Responding by Grace"

" . . . as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you — see that you excel in this act of grace also" (2 Cor. 8:7).

We are entering into our annual stewardship emphasis entitled, "Empowered by God — Responding by Grace." During this time, we will consider how God has empowered us and how our response, by grace through faith, can be used by God, especially in the ministry here at Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

Just what does it mean to be empowered by God? The Lord Jesus said that His disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8). That not only happened as He said it would, but we, too, receive God's power by His grace through our faith in Christ as the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. The words of an anthem by David Clydesdale and Claire Cloninger express this truth clearly: "Empower me! Like a rushing river flowing to the sea, Lord, send Your Holy Spirit flowing now thru me. 'Til I'm living as Your child, victorious and free. Send the power of Your love; empower me!" (Copyright © 1984 John T. Benson Publishing Co./ASCAP. All rights reserved.)

As we experience God's power through faith in Christ, our hearts respond. Our response begins with the realization that God owns everything. As Edwin Frizen stated, " . . . Scripture is full of evidence that all that we have comes from God." God is our Source. God is the Creator and Sustainer of life. God is the Provider of all that we have, whether it be life itself, the air we breathe, water which sustains us, or financial resources through which we obtain the necessities of life. On a daily basis, God demonstrates again and again His abundant power as He "richly provides us with everything to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17).

And what should be our response to God's provision for us? According to 2 Corinthians 8:7, we respond by "faith," implicitly trusting God to provide all that we need. We respond by "speech," sharing the good news of the Gospel with others. We respond by "knowledge" through the study of God's Word. We respond in "all earnestness," that is, through a demonstration of the sincerity of our love for the Lord. And we respond by excelling in the grace of giving.

As an example of what it means to give by grace, the Apostle Paul points to the Christians at Macedonia. These were poor people — dirt poor, poor as the proverbial church mice — who were commended by Paul for giving beyond their ability to give. How could they do that? The answer is found in 2 Corinthians 8:5 — " . . . they gave themselves first to the Lord." Giving does not begin with the movement of the hand to the wallet, purse or pocketbook. Giving begins in the heart.

In fact, this principle goes back to God's instruction to Moses in Exodus 25:2, "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me." This principle is still in operation today. As we give our time, talents and treasure to the Lord, we do so by God's grace because we have already given our hearts to Him.

"Empowered by God — Responding by Grace." That was true of the Macedonian Christians. May it also be true of us here at Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

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A Message from Pastor Mike

The Word of God is working

"*And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.*" (1 Thessalonians 2:13, ESV)

Humanity is always seeking new sources of energy. We need power to heat and cool our homes, move us from one place to another, and build things. Anything you do requires energy in one form or another.

We need another kind of energy in order to truly live as human beings in this world. We need something that will give meaning to our lives. We need motivation for our daily relationships and our daily work. That power or energy is what Paul is talking about here in First Thessalonians 2:13 when he says that **the word of God is at work in you believers.**

How do we receive this power from God? We need to **hear** it. We need to hear the word of God proclaimed to us by the pastor and our fellow believers in the worship service. We then **sing** and **speak** His powerful word to each other in formal and informal ways. In Bible Study we learn to **study** and **share** the word with others. Thank you to those of you who faithfully attend worship and Bible Studies! Just by showing up you are empowering the faith of others! We thank God that the word of God is at work in you!

The word of God is the power we all need, every day. Take time each day to read the Bible and Portals of Prayer, with someone else if possible. Hear God speak forgiveness and grace and motivation to you every day. Ask Him to guide your mind and actions with His Holy Spirit. And as often as possible, get together with other believers in worship and Bible Study and other activities. Plug in to the power of God's word working in us.

Help us, God, to receive all we need from You every day, and let Your Word work powerfully in us, for Your glory, Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike

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George Betts	11/6
Emmeline Reinitz	11/13
Lena Michalk	11/15
John Skaret	11/15
Marilyn Mulvanny	11/16
Arlee Mueller	11/20
Fawn Gage	11/21
Marilyn Lemke	11/25
Jerry Kohls	11/26
Dave Sandquist	11/26
Dave & Mary Sandquist	11/22

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

ARCHIVES

We are looking for someone to take over the archives. Please reach out to Pastor if you are interested and willing to do this for our church!

MITES/MITE BOXES

You probably see "Mite Sunday" on the church calendar each month but may not know what to do with your Mite box full of coins. You may give your Mite box to WOMO President, Jan Preble at any time. All Mite funds collected go to LWML to support a wide array of missions and nonprofit organizations across the country and throughout the world. If you need a Mite box, they are available in the narthex on the shelves where the cards are.

Treasuring God's Truth, Living Out His Love

- Thank you to Don & Betsy Kohls for hiring/donating Blackstone Greenworks to do a spray for weeds!
- Thank you to Brian Podratz and Dave Sandquist for putting up the banners promoting the Bazaar
- Thank you to Brian Podratz for setting up the fellowship hall for the painting class
- Thank you to Lindsey Eccles for making sure information about the Bazaar was in The Laker
- Thank you to Jim Merchant for setting up the spruce tip planters and filling them with soil for WOMO

A message from WOMO

We are encouraging ALL members of Mt. Olive to please come and support the **Annual Bake Sale & Bazaar on Saturday, November 7th from 9 am – 1 pm.** Bring your friends and family members and come and purchase baked goods, craft items, and other treasures. The support we provide to community organizations such as WeCan, Gillespie Center and the Westonka Area Food Shelf comes in large part from the funds raised at the Bazaar. Please help us to help our community!

1 Thessalonians 5:18

…**in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

During this month where we celebrate Thanksgiving Day and reflect upon the abundance of blessings God has provided us, we ask that you consider expressing your thanks for God's blessings with a renewed commitment to sharing your gifts with Mt. Olive.

Think about how you might bless Mt. Olive and serve God in the coming year with your time, talents and funds. This may require stepping out in faith as everyone struggles to balance work and other commitments with serving the church or paying bills and financially supporting the church. Pray about these things and trust God.

Invite others to join our church family and give thanks for all the tremendous blessings the Lord has provided you, especially the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. Please share your gifts! Thank you.

Advent Devotional

The first Sunday in Advent is **November 29.** Advent devotionals can help you celebrate the season and strengthen your time in God's word. You can print a 2026 Advent devotional in English or Spanish by going here: https://www.lhm.org/advent/ You can also get an audio version if you prefer. This year's Advent theme from Lutheran Hour Ministries is *Love's Pure Light*.

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Applying Bible Principles

Here's a little true or false test. Be forewarned that the question is somewhat tricky. True or false: A Christian can expect to have all of his or her needs supplied by God.

On the surface, that would seem to be true. After all, Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." But what many people fail to realize is that this promise is a conditional promise. The reason God will supply all of our needs is based on Philippians 4:18 where the Apostle Paul describes how his needs were met by the Christians at Philippi through the sacrificial offering which they had sent to him.

In other words, although those first-century Christians gave to Paul with the desire of assisting him in his ministry to the early church, because of their giving, they earned the "right" to expect that God would fully meet all of their needs. Because of their willingness to share their resources with Paul, as he indicated in Philippians 4:17, fruit would abound to their account. They could then look to God to supply all of their needs. Although they did not "give to get," they would "get" because they gave.

That same principle holds true today. As one person expressed it so well, "We do not give to get, but when we give, we get." That's what the Lord Jesus said in Luke 6:38. He indicated that by whatever measure we give, we will in turn receive.

Jack Hartman, a Christian businessman, said it this way: " . . . the more we give to God, the more this opens the channel for Him to see that we receive abundantly in return. If we withhold our giving, we are actually withholding the blessing that God wants to give us."

Someone described non-essentials in life as " . . . playing Scrabble on the *Hindenburg* or rearranging deck chairs on the *Titanic*." Maybe that's a picture of how you view giving — as a non-essential, something not very important in the totality of life. Could it be that is why your needs are not being met in full?

Think about this: What would happen if you began to place a rightful priority on your giving, even to the point of giving sacrificially? You see, you would then have the "right" to claim Philippians 4:19 with the expectation that in response to your giving, God would meet all of your needs. Your obedience to God's direction in your life to give would then result in having Him meet your needs, even with the same "measure" that you give to Him.



- **Tuesday's 7:00 AM -** Men's Bible Study
- **Wednesday's 10:00 AM -** Women's Bible Study (Sep-Apr)
- **Friday's 10:00 AM -** Adult Bible Class – @ Lake Minnetonka Shores or by Phone
- **Sunday School 10:00 AM (Sept – May)** Ages 3yr-6th Grade
- **Confirmation – Thursday's - 6:00 PM** 7th Grade and Older



Women of Mount Olive

Everyone is busy preparing for the Annual Bake Sale and Bazaar. The help of all WOMO members is much appreciated. **ALL DONATED ITEMS MUST BE PRICED! WOMO will not price your items for you.**

SAVE THE DATE for the WOMO Annual Christmas Party: Saturday, December 5th

All women affiliated with Mt. Olive are welcome to join WOMO members in the fellowship hall for our Christmas luncheon, gift exchange and cookie exchange. We will meet at 11:30 AM. Bring a dish to share. Our potluck lunch will be followed by our gift exchange and cookie exchange.

If you want to participate in our gift exchange, bring **ONE wrapped gift with a value of $10-$20.**

The WOMO cookie exchange does **not** operate in the way typical cookie exchanges work where all who participate bring a dozen cookies for every person participating. If you wish to participate in the WOMO cookie exchange, **bring just 2-4 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies/bars/candies.** At the end of our Christmas party, those that brought cookies may take home a "variety plate" of cookies. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming dates for your calendar:

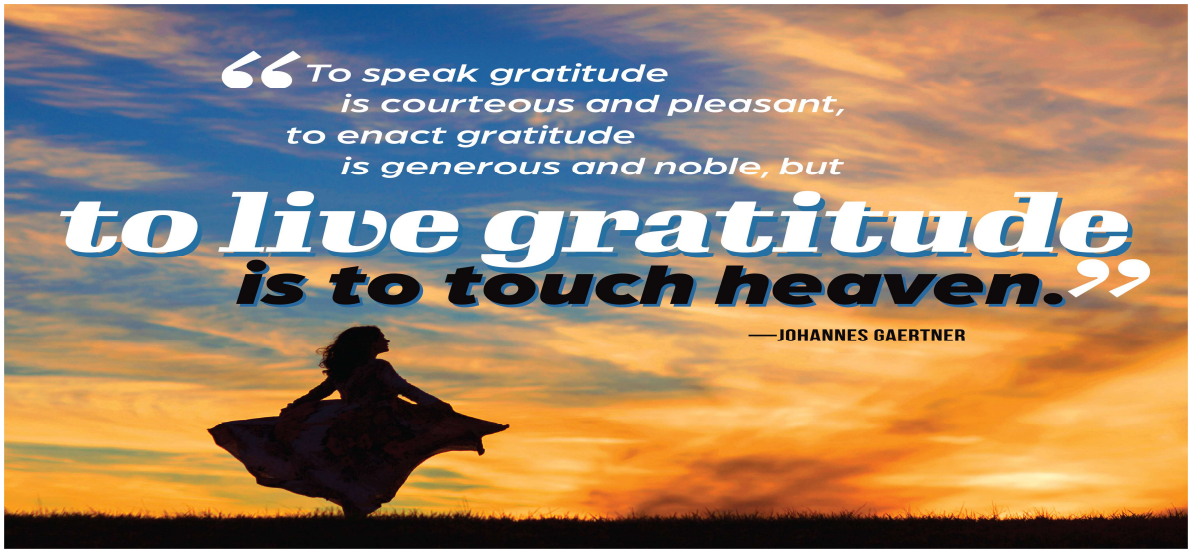
November 2 at 10 am: Prepare spruce tip planters

November 6 from 4-6 pm: Bazaar set up & drop off. **Items must be priced!**

November 7 from 9 am – 1 pm: Bake Sale and Bazaar

November 16 at 10 am: WOMO meeting and Bake Sale and Bazaar De-Brief

December 5 at 11:30 am: WOMO Christmas Party: potluck luncheon, gift exchange (bring a $10-$20 wrapped gift if you want to participate) and cookie exchange (bring 2-3 dozen cookies if you wish to participate)



NOVEMBER

2026

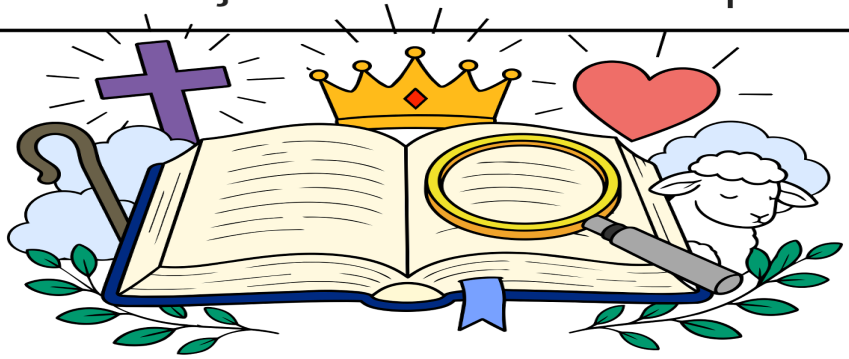
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints' Day Daylight-Saving Time Ends	2 -WOMO Spruce Tip Planter Assembly @ 10AM	3	4	5	6 -WOMO Bazaar Set Up 4-6PM *Happy Birthday George Betts!	7 -WOMO Bazaar 9AM-1PM
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 *Happy Birthday Emmeline Reinitz!	14
15 -Mite Sunday *Happy Birthday Lena Michalk! *Happy Birthday John Skaret!	16 -WOMO Post Bazaar Meeting @ 10AM *Happy Birthday Marilyn Mulvanny!	17	18	19	20 *Happy Birthday Arlee Mueller!	21 *Happy Birthday Fawn Gage!
22 *Happy Anniversary Dave & Mary Sandquist! Christ the King Sunday	23	24 Thanksgiving Service & Pie Social @ 6PM	25 *Happy Birthday Marilyn Lemke!	26 *Happy Birthday Jerry Kohls! *Happy Birthday Dave Sandquist! Thanksgiving	27	28
29 First Sunday of Advent	30					

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Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A __ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High
God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One

MOUNT OLIVE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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When we give to God, we are the primary beneficiaries.

**"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure,
pressed down, shaken together and running over,
will be poured into your lap.
For with the measure you use,
it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38).**

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Contact Us

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Office Hours

Monday -Thursday 8:00 – 11:00AM
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: Linda Verkenne and Phil Holmen

Committees

Education: Arlee Mueller, Andrew Reinitz
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
Women of Mount Olive - President: Jan Preble, **Secretary & Treasurer:** Lindsey Eccles
Worship: Sandi Woytcke and Jan Preble