



# MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

March 2025

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- \*March 5<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday Services @ 10AM (potluck to follow) & 6PM
- \*March 9<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Begins
- \*March 12<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Service @ 10AM
- \*March 12<sup>th</sup> – Women's Bible Class begins @ 11AM
- \*March 12<sup>th</sup> – Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM
- \*March 16<sup>th</sup> – Mite Sunday
- \*March 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day
- \*March 19<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Service @ 10AM
- \*March 19<sup>th</sup> – Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM
- \*March 26<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Service @ 10AM

# CSP

## Confessio 2025:

A Retreat on the Lutheran Confessions

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL

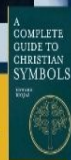
### Christian Symbols: Liturgical Art and the Lutheran Confessions

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 | 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM | FREE

GRAEBNER MEMORIAL CHAPEL | CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL



Edward Riojas  
Visual Artist and Author  
edrijosartist.com



Visual artist Edward Riojas, author of *A Complete Guide to Christian Symbols* (CPH 2024), leads a morning session on the significance of Christian Symbolism. In the afternoon, Rev. Dr. Jacob Corzine, Vice President of Publishing at Concordia Publishing House, further explores its significance to catechesis in the life of the Church.

FREE | Reservations Requested at:  
[one.csp.edu/confessio](https://one.csp.edu/confessio).

Lunch provided.  
Dr. Riojas's book available for purchase.



Rev. Dr. Jacob Corzine  
Vice President of Publishing,  
Concordia Publishing House

# MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## A Message from Pastor Mike

### How big should our church be?

Do you ever feel uncomfortable or embarrassed because our church is not as big as it once was or because it seems like other churches in the community are thriving while we are struggling? I confess that I feel that way sometimes, and I don't think those feelings come from God!

What if I told you that almost half of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations across the country have an average Sunday attendance of 50 or less? If you add in those who have an average attendance of 100 or less, that's almost 75% of our churches! (This is true across American Christian denominations.) At least we're not alone!

Do you have friends or family members in small churches like Mt. Olive? What are their concerns now and for the future? One thing that would help would be more conversations, more prayer, and more sharing of ideas among those who belong to so-called small churches.

Those kinds of conversations are happening in our Synod, thanks be to God! The February issue of The Lutheran Witness is dedicated to "The Small Congregation." There's lots of eye-opening information and encouragement in this magazine. In one article Pastor Mark Wood shares three guiding questions for smaller congregations:

1. What does God's mission look like in our context?
2. What has the Lord enabled us to do through the resources He has entrusted to us?
3. Who are the people God has placed near us to serve in His love?

These are not questions that can be answered once and then forgotten. These are questions we should continually ask and discuss and pray about. God continues to bless us and show His favor wherever the Word of God is declared in its truth and purity and the Sacraments are administered according to God's institution. Is that true of us? I believe it is, not because of our hard work and skill but because of God's grace! Sadly, many churches are rejecting God's Word and Sacraments and so we need to be diligent to hold on to the invaluable treasures God gives to us, for us, and to share with others.

As we enter another Lenten and Easter season, we pray that the Holy Spirit will do His work of "spring cleaning" in our hearts and minds and lives, helping us get rid of the garbage and distractions that Satan uses to cloud our view of God working through us to extend His rule of grace, truth, and love. We will be refreshed through worship, Bible Study, and other Lenten disciplines so that we can be channels of God's peace in our daily relationships. Let's pray that the Spirit will open blind eyes and deaf ears so that more people may receive the riches of His grace in Jesus Christ. That will lead to genuine "church growth." Thank You Lord for Your faithfulness – we look to You with hope for the future.

Yours in Christ,

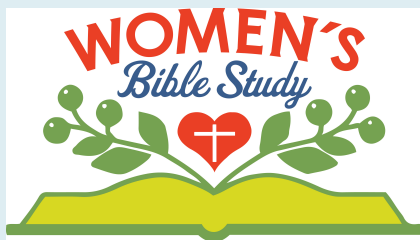
Pastor Mike Michalk

# 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

**\*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.

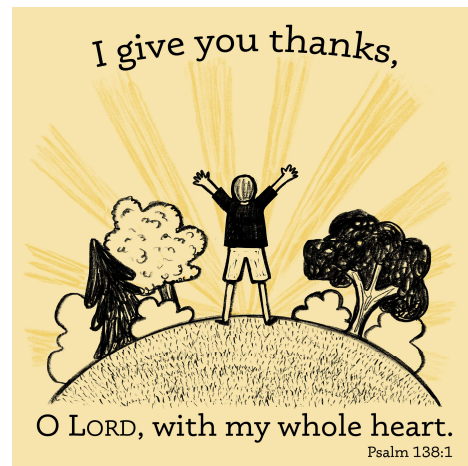
## thrivent<sup>®</sup>

### Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you earn Choice Dollars on your Thrivent investments, please call to designate your dollars starting in January 2025 for your earnings from 2024. 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 2024 dollars by March 31st, 2025.

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

- Thank you to Dave S and Paul for painting the Youth Room!
- Special thanks to Don and Betsy Kohls who provided Pastor Mike with transportation to and from the airport and his mom's place in Tucson and other ways they helped her to transition from a care facility back to her apartment. Pray that Barbara's move to a senior living facility here in Minnesota will happen soon and smoothly.
- Thank you to those who have participated in our Adopt-A-Bill program!
- Thank you to Brian and Dave S for fixing a broken phone line!
- Thank you to Claudia for serving as the WOMO treasurer for MANY years!
- Thank you to all who join us for our quarterly congregational meetings. Your input and attendance is very much appreciated!



## Joining Jesus on His Mission

- Thank you to all who have given to the many organizations that we have helped this past year. Just to name a few - Missionaries, WeCan, The Food Shelf, LWML, etc. We understand that times are tough for all but are extremely thankful that we can give back to our community organizations!
- Pastor Greg Finke who literally wrote the book on "Joining Jesus" was with us on Feb. 16, reminding us of the joy and love that are ours in Jesus Christ and the opportunities God provides every day for us to share Him with others. Praise God for those who share Jesus' love by their prayers, phone calls, words of encouragement and smiles! The "little" things you do in reflecting the warmth of God's love have a big impact!



## Applying Biblical Teachings

“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you” (1 Thess. 4:11).

Peace and harmony are the last things Satan wants in a Christian’s life. He constantly tries to stir up our sinful hearts to cause adversity and dissension. He appeals to our sinful human reason to entangle and unsettle us. Satan wants us to follow our own sinful human reason and hearts and not devote ourselves to our duty and calling. He wants us to become involved in much foolishness and to have disturbances surround us.

When we allow strife, contention and division of our own making to surround us, we endanger our faith and are a hindrance to the work of the church. We become meddlers, busy-bodies and roadblocks to the work of the Gospel. We may even show our dissatisfaction with our Lord and our church by withholding our first-fruits offerings.

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul told us to strive to live Christian lives of godliness and honesty. We mind our own affairs and work diligently at our calling and in fulfilling our duties. By the working of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel message, we study to be quiet toward others, to be of a calm and quiet temper, and to be of a peaceable disposition. We do not withhold from our Lord what rightfully belongs to Him and His work here at Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

We must always remember that Christ’s suffering and death did not discharge us from our duties and calling in life. Rather, the Holy Spirit guides us to carry out God’s will with great diligence. And through His power, in Christ, our hearts and minds are quieted.

In Christ, we also live this Christian life of quiet diligence as God’s Word tell us to do: So that our daily life may win the respect of outsiders (1 Thess. 4:12) and that they may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven (Matt. 5:15).



- ❖ **Tuesday’s 7:00 AM -**  
Men’s Bible Study
- ❖ **Wednesday’s 11:00 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

At the WOMO meeting on February 16, we voted to give the church \$5,000 to support some needed mechanical upgrades. We also approved funds to support The Gillespie Center, WeCAN/WeCab, The Westonka Food Shelf, Lake Minnetonka Shores, and LWML.

We also elected officers for 2025 as follows: Jan Preble, President; Sandi Woytcke, INTERIM Secretary (we are still searching for someone to fill this role); and Lindsey Eccles, Treasurer. Both Lindsey Eccles and Linda Verkennes will serve as signatories on the WOMO bank account.

### Looking ahead.....

All WOMO members and any women interested should put the following 2025 dates on your calendar:

- May 3rd Spring Salad Luncheon 11 AM
- May 18th 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter WOMO Meeting
- August 24th 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter WOMO Meeting/Initial Bazaar Planning
- October 12 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter WOMO Meeting
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> Spruce Tip Planter Assembly (tentative)
- November 7<sup>th</sup> Bazaar Set Up/Drop Off Day
- November 8<sup>th</sup> Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale
- November 26<sup>th</sup> Post Bazaar WOMO Meeting
- December 6<sup>th</sup> WOMO Christmas Party 11:30 AM

Ad hoc meetings for WOMO will be called and held as needed.

Thank you to all that support WOMO and the work we do to support the church, local nonprofits and to provide needed kitchen supplies and coffee and treats on Sundays.

We would welcome other volunteers to bring Sunday treats! The minimal funds we collect on Sundays during fellowship are used to help cover coffee, creamer, juice, napkin, plate, and utensil costs but do not come close to actually covering the costs of providing supplies every Sunday. If you're willing to make or buy treats, juice, cream or coffee to contribute for Sunday fellowship, your contributions would be appreciated.

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

As always, we would welcome special music at Sunday worship! Please see Jan, Sandi, or Pastor if you're willing to serve in this way.

Lent begins this month, and Lenten devotionals are available from Lutheran Hour Ministries <https://www.lhm.org/lent/>

### **WOMO SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON**

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

The Women of Mount Olive (WOMO) invite all women affiliated with Mount Olive to join us for our spring salad luncheon on **Saturday, May 3, 2025** beginning at 11 AM in the fellowship hall.

WOMO will provide beverages, desserts, rolls and butter. We would ask that every woman attending bring a salad to share and a wrapped gift valued at \$5-\$10. Last year we had a great variety of salads and all were delicious and there was something for everyone's taste.

So, be it pasta, greens, fruit, gelatin or some other salad creation, bring something to share and join us for some fun and a nice salad feast!

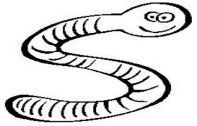
We'll begin with lunch, then play a NEW game (NOT the dice game, though we all enjoyed watching Jan and Trudy battle for Leona's African Violet last year!) with the wrapped gifts we each bring, followed by dessert.

There will be time for visiting and fellowship with one another and we hope you will join us for a delicious meal and some fun! Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex and feel free to invite a friend to join you. Anyone wanting to participate in the game needs to bring a wrapped gift item. Please plan on joining us!

# MARCH

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

# Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6

— — —

Psalms 78:45

— — — — —

Matthew 23:24

— — — — —

Judges 14:8b

— — — — —

Acts 12:23

— — — — —

Leviticus 11:22

— — — — —

Leviticus 11:22

— — — — —

Deuteronomy 7:20

— — — — —

Exodus 16:20

— — — — —

1 Samuel 24:14

— — — — —

Isaiah 50:9

— — — — —

Isaiah 59:5

— — — — —

Leviticus 11:22

— — — — —

Leviticus 11:22

— — — — —



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket



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**As Christians, we quietly and diligently go about  
the work to which the Lord has called us.**

**“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life,  
to mind your own business and  
to work with your hands” (1 Thes. 4:11).**

## 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:** Sandi  
Woytcke (Interim) **Treasurer:** Lindsey Eccles

**Worship:** Sandi Woytcke and Jan Preble

**Archives:** Marilyn Mulvanny