



MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

February 2026

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*February 2nd – Groundhog Day

*February 4th – Elders Meeting @6:30PM

*February 8th – Congregational Meeting @10:15AM

*February 11th – Leadership Meeting @6:30PM

*February 14th – Happy Valentine's Day!

*February 15th – Mite Sunday

*February 15th – Transfiguration Sunday

*February 16th – Presidents Day

*February 18th – Ash Wednesday – Services @ 10AM & 6:30PM

*February 25th – Lenten Service @ 10AM

Education Wing Updates

High level overview of things we were able to accomplish thus far:

- Touch up the rainbow in the skyway with fresh paint
- Clean and de-clutter the education wing (this was a huge effort and easily took the most amount of time)
- Remove room fixtures (chalkboards, room dividers, overhead projectors, large furniture, etc.)
- Build a storage room full of new shelving that was generously donated by Linda
- We started painting the main Sunday school classroom and nursery
- Build out a formal nursery with procuring cribs, mattresses, baby rocker, etc
- Donate our old Sunday school curriculum to Lutheran ministries out of the twin cities
- Currently looking into a daycare running out of our church
- Partnering with WOMO for space, programming and grant for the education wing
- Partnering in streamlining announcements with new TVs in the narthex and by admin offices

Things on the horizon:

- New flooring in youth room, Sunday school room and nursery - also generously funded by Linda
- Dedicated craft room for the children
- Furnish the rooms
- Tackle social media to bring new families in
- Take over the bulletin leading into the education wing for Sunday school curriculum

Where we need help:

- Need some people with trucks to help pick up new tables for the children in maple grove (4 tables 6'x3')
- Need help with flooring install
- Need help removing large puppet show stand to the shed outside
- Donations of newer flat screen TVs and mounts
- Continued prayers over the space, volunteers and prospective families
- Volunteers to help station the Sunday school nursery and get certified before we go live

In all, we are getting close and welcome all to stop by after church to see the efforts that have been being made.

We are grateful for the team executing and putting passion and faith into this project.

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

A Message from Pastor Mike

The Joy of Spring Cleaning

Some of you might read that title with excitement while others wonder what kind of bad joke this is. I imagine most of us don't approach the tasks of spring cleaning with joy, though we try to motivate ourselves with the anticipated joy of the result. Lent, which begins Ash Wednesday February 18, has traditionally been understood as a time for spring cleaning of the heart. Repentance opens the door to Jesus (Revelation 3:20) and with humble hymns and penitent prayers we ask Him to do what only He can do – cleanse our hearts and lives by the power of His Word and Spirit.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. – Psalm 32:5. When we don't try to hide our sin from the Lord, He comes and removes all that garbage. He has washed us clean by His own blood.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16. The Lord not only removes our sin but also fills us with an ever-growing knowledge and experience of His love. It's not just spring cleaning, it's an entire remodeling of our inner selves, leading to new actions of love.

Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” – John 4:13-14 Lent has to do with our watery connection to Jesus' death and resurrection by way of Baptism. Without Jesus, nothing will satisfy our thirst, we will shrivel up and die. But when He washed, sanctified, and justified us (1st Corinthians 6:11), His Spirit was given to us to be a life-giving spring, refreshing us in this life, leading us into the life to come.

These are just some of the ways that Jesus will cleanse us by the Word which we will hear during the first weeks of Lent. Join us Ash Wednesday 2/18/2026 for a morning service at 10 AM, followed by a potluck lunch, or evening worship at 6:30 PM. The other Wednesdays of Lent we will have a 30-minute morning service at 10 AM, meeting in the Library.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike Michalk



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

*No Anniversaries for February!

*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 Brian & Terry Podratz for donating a TV!
- Thank you to Becca, Aaron, Sawyer Kay, Jim, Brian, Dave, Jan, Linda, Pam, Joel, Lindsey, Kathy and Pastor for all the volunteer work so far with the education wing and youth room!
- Thank you to Jan, Leona and Lindsey for cleaning up the quilt room!
- Thank you to Sandi for serving as the Interim Secretary for WOMO for 2025!
- Thank you to Danette and Ed Isaacs for serving on the Altar Duty!
- Thank you to Arlee for putting up and taking down the Nativity scene for Christmas!
- Thank you to Linda for donating shelving and flooring for the education wing renovations!

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

" . . . just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Cor. 8:7).

In this verse, the Apostle Paul framed the beginning of a convincing argument for Christian giving, an argument based on the power of the Gospel.

It would have been quite easy for the Apostle Paul, as God's messenger, to command that people give. He did not do so. Rather, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he carefully and tactfully built a logical argument based on Christ as the example for not neglecting Christian giving.

He advised this church at Corinth to take a good hard look at itself. That self-study would cause those in this congregation to discover that they excelled in many things. They presented and applied the Gospel message in its truth. They were growing in knowledge and wisdom in the Word. They were diligent and enthusiastic in carrying out the will of God. They showed a special love and concern for those who preached and taught the Gospel message. In Christian liberty, they excelled in many ways.

With this background, the Apostle Paul asked, If you excel in all these things, how is it that there is some neglect in the area of Christian giving? He answers this question and concludes his argument by reminding them of Christ as the model and as the selfless giver: "I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means."

How often is the grace of giving neglected in churches today. Many congregations excel in so many ways, and yet their treasuries are often on the verge of depletion. When that happens and the bills cannot be paid, there is the temptation to give speeches which command donations or to send emotional letters appealing for funds. Sometimes, when large sums of money are needed and the consensus is that the funds will not be given, congregations turn to gimmicks, marketing techniques and high-pressured fund raisers.

In his argument for giving, the Apostle Paul spells out clearly what should motivate our giving. Christ first loved us and gave Himself for us. ". . . for your sakes, he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

Because of His love for us which now resides and works in our hearts, we are to "finish the work" that God intends for us to do. And we will do so as we excel in everything — including the grace of giving — by the power of the Gospel.



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
- ❖ **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

At our January meeting we voted to provide funds to WeCab, WeCan, Gillespie Center, and the MOLC Sunday School renovation project. The funds we contribute were made possible as a result of our annual bake sale and bazaar. Late in 2025, after the bazaar, WOMO made a financial contribution to the Westonka Food Shelf earlier than normal due to the government shutdown and increased needs during that time.

Jan Preble was re-elected as WOMO President for 2026. Lindsey Eccles was elected Secretary-Treasurer due to no one stepping forward to serve in the Secretary role. We were all very grateful to Sandi Woytcke for serving as Interim Secretary for 2025 and are thankful to Lindsey for serving in a dual role.

GREETING CARDS

In the narthex on the shelving next to the door that leads to the choir loft and pipe organ, you will find LWML information, Mite Boxes and an array of greeting cards.

Greeting card sales help support the work WOMO does and we hope you will stop and take a look. New inventory has just arrived. We have a good collection of *birthday* cards suitable for men, women and children. There are new *wedding* cards, *sympathy* cards, *all occasion* cards, *get well* cards and new *praying for you/encouragement* cards.

Each box contains 12 cards for just \$5 per box! This is a tremendous bargain! Please stop and take a look. There are WOMO labeled envelopes on the shelf for paying cash or with a check. You can give your payment to Jan Preble, Lindsey Eccles or Sandi Woytcke.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the WOMO members that helped sort, organize and clean up our WOMO supplies and the quilt room. It was a tremendous help, and we were able to condense a lot of things. A special thanks to Dave Sandquist and Brian Podratz for helping us move large and cumbersome items that we no longer used or needed!

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.)



FEbruary

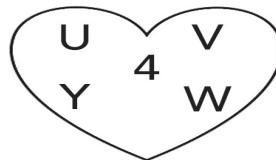
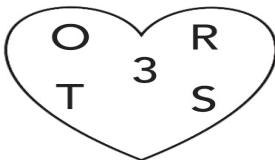
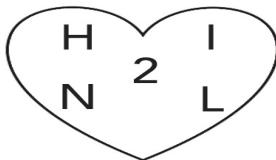
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 *Happy Birthday Darlene Fasching	2	3 -Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM	4 *Happy Birthday Jack Skaret	5	6	7
	Groundhog Day					
8 -Congregational Meeting @ 10:15AM	9	10 Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM	11	12	13	14
15 -Mite Sunday *Happy Birthday Wally Brehm	16 *Happy Birthday Sandy Wilsey	17 *Services @ 10AM & 6:30PM	18	19	20 *Happy Birthday David Smith	21
	Presidents Day		Ash Wednesday			
22	23	24 Transfiguration Sunday	25 *Lenten Service @ 10AM	26	27	28

Puzzlē!

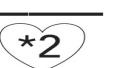
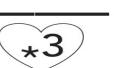
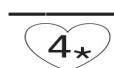
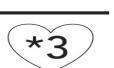
We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

CODE:



"



"



Jeremiah 31:3





5218 Bartlett Blvd
Mound, MN 55364
www.mountolivelcms.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!

Proof of our love for Christ is exhibited as fruit of the Holy Spirit, which includes Christian giving.
“ . . . just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Cor. 8:7).

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Contact Us

Pastor Mike Michalk –
952.388.3858
Pastor@mountolivelcms.org

Church Office (Lindsey) –
952.472.2756
Church Cell 952-245-5218
Admin@mountolivelcms.org

Website - www.mountolivelcms.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