

make sure all your players are good sports and can honor and represent God well even in the heat of competition!

2) Become a Third Space

Often church buildings are not fully utilized during business hours or during the evenings. By opening your building up to other organizations for meetings, as a location for classes and after-school programs or as a “cool-zone” for Seniors, you are providing a new avenue for people to get more familiar with your facility and staff. Coming to church will seem less of a big deal when people in your community know the staff and the location of the restrooms.

3) Pray for and with Your Community

You probably already do this instinctively but what about intentionally and corporately? We all know that prayer is powerful and we are even commanded to pray for our leaders. But what if you planned and executed a more purposeful prayer plan with your congregation, or even with other churches throughout your area? Trypraying is an international movement and a seven-day prayer resource designed with non-religious people in mind. Churches are encouraged to give a booklet to each church member, have them follow it for a week and then “lose it” by giving it away to a friend, neighbor, coworkers, or store clerk. The simple to use book encourages the reader to just try praying for seven days, and then walks the reader through the basics of how to pray, what to pray about, how God responds to prayer, and how to be thankful for every answer to prayer. Day 7 includes a prayer of surrender and turning your life over to God.

*Other ways to pray for your community include sending out small teams to walk through a neighborhood and systematically praying for each household. While that may sound like a big assignment, “Prayer Walking” can be a great way to not only cover your community with God’s power but also to strengthen the faith of your members.

*So what is a Prayer Walk? It is physically walking “onsite” and praying at the places you are trying to reach and change. Take a walk in the neighborhood around your house or church and stop for a moment at each home; ask God to meet that family’s needs, to bring them into relationship with him, and to enable you and your church to be a conduit to show them the love and forgiveness of Jesus.

4) Serve Your Community

The saying “People don’t care what you know until they know you care” is really true; actions do speak louder than words. A good question to ask is what is your church doing to make a difference in the community? And the answer doesn’t have to be a huge, complicated strategy that requires a big budget; it can be as simple as recruiting a team of

volunteers to help serve meals for the Salvation Army or local food kitchen, collecting supplies for a women’s shelter, or organizing a backpack give away for a low income area.

One suburban church started delivering hot coffee and donuts to morning commuters at the train station one day a week, and then serving hot cup-of-soup meals in the evenings. They were able to share God’s love to commuters, vacationers and the homeless population. Paired with other service activities, their church became known in the community as a church that cared and was willing to help others. What a great reputation to cultivate!

5) Don’t be Afraid to Invite

This one may seem pretty obvious but being clear that your church wants new people to visit is a key step in evangelism. People who are not familiar with church or Christianity may view church services more like a club “for members only” and may not realize that they are welcome to come in on any Sunday for services. One way to break down barriers is by planning special events that are target at unchurch people. These events can range from movie nights to Easter egg hunts to National Back to Church Sunday services in September. Or consider inviting in a special guest speaker, hosting a financial planning seminar or a marriage weekend.

*Once you have an “inviteable” event, be sure to spread the word using multiple types of invitations. Studies show that it takes up to seven impressions before someone acts on an ‘ad’ – and really, an invitation to church is just that. So take advantage of all the options open to your church including: direct mail, personal invites, social media advertisements and events, doorhangers, and outdoor banners.

All it takes is one encounter with God! It isn’t complex and doesn’t need to be elaborate. A simple word, gentle action, honest story or humble prayer has the ability to lead people to an encounter with God that changes everything.

So make a commitment this ministry season to encourage your members and staff to get out and meet new people, listen to their stories, pray and serve – and ultimately invite people to meet Jesus. It’s time to hit the streets.

-Carri Gambill



MOUNT OLIVE



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Tues & Sat 9 - 11
Always available by appointment.

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday 8:00-11:30

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**All articles for the newsletter
are due on the 20th of each
month.**

MT. OLIVE TIMES

Treasuring God’s Truth, Living out His Love.

February 2023

Pay attention to what God is doing



From the Desk of Rev. Mike Michalk

Hey watch this!

Maybe your kids and grandkids say this to you when they learn a new skill. Maybe you’ve said it: “Hey watch this!”

Many times in the Bible Jesus tells us to **watch**. When we watch what God is doing with faith, we are blessed. In Matthew 13:16 Jesus says, “*But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.*” Again in Colossians 4:2 we are told, “*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*” God is saying to us, “Hey! Watch this! Pay attention to what I am doing!”

Think about it – every second, every day, God is creating and re-creating all things for your good and for His eternal purposes. Are you watching? Are you paying attention? It’s pretty spectacular, you know! And God is not only doing amazing things for you, but also inviting you to join Him in what He is doing. You and your life and, in fact, the life of the entire creation, the entire universe, doesn’t happen by random chance, by a mindless, meaningless process of evolution. What happens, happens because God makes it happen. Are you watching? Are you receiving all that He wants to do for you – and all He wants to do through you for others?

God grant us faithful eyes and ears to see and hear what He is doing. We spend too much time watching what people are doing to mess up God’s work. Let’s spend more time and focus on watching for what God is doing – creating good things, redeeming us when we ruin those good things, and sanctifying us through the Holy Spirit to join Him in repairing what is broken.

What do you see as you watch for what God is doing? How are you responding to His invitation, “Join me in my mission”? Let me know – I want to see it too! And I want to pray with you, encourage you, and support you. Together, let’s pay attention to what God is doing.



From your congregation President Looking at this past year, I can't help but notice all the volunteer work and effort by our members. Some are more visible than others like the Ushers, or the Elder, or the Acolytes. Others are less visible, but equally important. Lest I leave someone out, THANK YOU to you all. Mt Olive always comes through. Give yourself pats on the back and don't forget to thank others. You did make a difference!

Do you have favorite verses that you keep coming back to? It would be interesting to hear them.

How about sayings? I'll have to admit that I have more sayings than verses. I was watching TV a short while ago. I think it was some kind of music thing, and the subject had to do with relationships. And that has been in my thought process for a few years. A few things that I heard were: Spread some kindness. Spread some love. Pass on your blessing. Pass on your kindness.

God Bless - David Miller

Joining Jesus on his Mission (beyond Mt Olive)

We praise God for the ways He has been involving our members in His mission recently...

✝ Many of us pray every day for our neighbors. Isn't it wonderful to know that our Christian neighbors are also praying for us? How would God have us work together with other Christians and other churches and other organizations to bring His kingdom in our community?

Do you have a friend or neighbor who is going through a tough time? If it's appropriate, ask them "would it be ok if I gave your name and number to my pastor? He would be glad to visit you and pray with you." The visits can be just a few minutes, in person or phone, or up to 30 minutes if desired.

How did you see God at work in your life this week? Please share with me examples of how Jesus is using you or someone else in His mission. **Let's think particularly about how Jesus is using us BEYOND Mt. Olive, in our daily lives.** We will continue to recognize and thank those who make our worship services and Bible studies and other activities possible here at Mt. Olive, mentioning them by name or anonymously under the heading "Treasuring God's Truth, Living Out His Love." But "Joining Jesus on His Mission" will be more about the Holy Spirit working BEYOND Mt. Olive – and we're not going to mention names, because the focus is on Jesus' Mission, not ours. So – send me your stories of how you are seeing Jesus at work, and let's celebrate that!

If Jesus has involved you recently in His mission, or you have seen others involved, please share it with Pastor or Lindsey.

Treasuring God's Truth, Living Out His Love (within Mt. Olive)

We want to express our gratitude to those who have helped in various ways around church recently:

✝ Thanks to Brian Podratz and Fawn Gage for running the projector for all of our services. We couldn't have such amazing services without the two of you!

✝ Thank you to Dave Sandquist for shoveling the walkways especially for Christmas services and the recent funerals!

✝ Thank you to Jim Merchant for moving the snow for the funeral of Richard Wagman!

✝ Thank you to everyone who helped with the funeral for Richard Wagman. We couldn't do this without you all!

Have you recently donated your high-end household and clothing items to a place like Goodwill, Bethesda, DAV, or Salvation Army?



Did you know that there is a thrift store called "The Langdon" located in Mound across from Surfside Bar and Grill?

If you have questions, please call Langdon at (952) 836 6347

The Langdon is open the 1st through the 7th of each month. Shop hours are 10AM to 5 PM.

Please consider donating to The Langdon and choosing Mt Olive as your charitable organization.

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!

Email List

Did you know that Lindsey emails out the Sunday Bulletin prior to the upcoming Sunday? Would you like to be added to the email list to view the bulletin sooner? To be added, email Lindsey at admin@mountolivecms.org

Contact information

Please be sure to let Lindsey know of any contact information that may have changed for you. There will be an updated directory printed this spring. Please email changes to admin@mountolivecms.org or call Lindsey at 952-472-2756. Please leave a detailed message if no answer.

Funeral

- ✝ Bill Weeks
- ✝ Richard Wagman
- ✝ Gerry Smith

Coming Up

February - Black History Month

Feb 2 - Groundhog Day

Feb 14th - Valentine's Day

Feb 19 - Transfiguration Sunday

Feb 20 - President's Day

Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday



10:00am Sunday School Sept—May

10:38am Sunday Adult Bible Study

7am Tuesday Men's Bible Study

10am Wednesday Ladies' Bible Study

Sept—May

1:30pm 3rd Wednesday

@ Lake Minnetonka Shores

9:30am Thursday Adult Bible Class

1:30pm Friday Sojourn Bible Class

Support the church by saving!

1. Printer ink cartridges
2. Cell phones
3. "Box Tops for Education" that are on the food packaging and digital by downloading the app on your smart phone. (Choose the school you want to support and scan your receipts— no need to cut!)
4. Sheets, cotton fabric, old blankets etc for the quilt club. Dollar donations accepted to purchase fabric.
5. Art supplies for projects. (Yarn, Hot glue/gun, etc.)

STAMPS, ALUMINUM CANS & CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS PROGRAMS ARE DISCONTINUED.

In the Narthex

1. **"Boxed" cards:** for birthdays, anniversaries etc. by the WOMO. See Claudia Bullock.
2. **Collections boxes:** Mite, Box Top Education, and a Donation Jar for AV.
3. **Portals of Prayer:** October - December
4. **Church Directory**
5. **Annual: 2021**

6. **Mite Calendars**
7. **Newsletters**
8. **Puzzle Exchange**
9. **Lutheran Witness**

5 Ways to Reach Out in a Post-Christian Culture.

On the surface the numbers can look bleak - the culture we live in in America is slipping further and further away from God. A recent Gallup survey found that only 81% of Americans believe in God, the lowest percent ever! So how should the Church react and what steps are effective when fewer people in our community express a belief in God?

Here are a few ideas...

1) Meet people where they are

As a church leader you want people to come to your church, but in a society that may not believe in God, or was not raised on weekly church attendance, going to church is a foreign concept that may seem like more trouble than it's worth. So instead of spending resources to get people to come in, you may have more success when you go out – build relationships and demonstrate God's love before you invite people into your church.

Ideas to get started:

*Find a coffee shop, work space or outdoor area where you can host Q & A sessions about God, the Bible and faith. A recent Lifeway Research study showed that half of Americans say they are curious about why some people are so devoted to their faith, so start a conversation in a non-threatening location.

*Make yourself a regular at a local spot. Study, write and answer emails from a coffee shop or diner. As you build relationships with the staff and other regulars you may just be able to have deeper conversations. Plus you will hear the concerns, stresses and struggles that are key to your community.

*Get involved with local sports teams. This is an easy task if you have kids – and really something that you can encourage every parent in your church to mimic. Attend practices and games, talk to the other parents, make friends, learn about their lives and then invite them (or the kids) to church activities.

*Even if your members are past the "soccer mom" stage, supporting the local High School or college football and basketball teams are still great ways to meet people, support the youth in your church and connect with other fans.

*Another sports related option is to put together a team from your church to play in a local sports league – just