



MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

December 2025 – January 2026

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- *December 3rd – Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM
- *December 6th – WOMO Christmas Party @ 11:30AM (All women welcome)
- *December 7th – Congregational Meeting @ 10:15AM
- *December 10th – Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM
- *December 21st – Mite Sunday
- *December 24th – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 4PM
- *December 25th – Merry Christmas!
- *January 1st – Happy New Year
- *January 7th – Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM
- *January 12th – WOMO Meeting @ 10AM
- *January 14th – Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM
- *January 18th – Mite Sunday
- *January 19th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

District Missions

Mission Update from Jerry Rosamond - WINTER OUTREACH UPDATE

As the weather cools, we're moving our outreach efforts indoors—engaging with people at coffee shops, malls, and stores. Here's a snapshot of the weekly activities:

- Tuesdays: Outreach in downtown at Central Library/Nicolette Mall area where we partner with Mocha Momma coffee shop whose owner invites Christians to gather to pray for people and share the Gospel.
- Wednesdays: Morning outreach at various malls and evening outreach at Muslim food and coffee shops where we connect with Muslims. In September we encountered Alex at French Park; he shared that he'd been struggling with depression and thoughts of suicide, but he turned to reading his Bible which brought him hope and faith in Jesus.
- Fridays: We distribute Gospel tracts at schools, colleges, and universities, and engage in conversations with students. Friday evenings also find us on the streets in Minneapolis at the U of M, McDonald's, and Muslim neighborhoods.
- Saturdays: Outreach in Minneapolis and surrounding areas as the Spirit leads.



There's a mission field all around us. Muslims are open to discussing faith and reading the Bible. Muslims have no assurance of their salvation and we get to share the hope we have in Jesus the Messiah. If you're interested in learning more or need resources to reach out to Muslims, feel free to contact me for Bible verses and guidance. MinistrytoMuslims.org

3000 ACTS OF KINDNESS - DEC. 8



Bibles. Volunteers are needed on Saturday and Sunday for set up. Sign up TODAY at coatedinlove.org.

The 3000 Acts of Kindness event is Monday, Dec. 8 from 8 - 4pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Last year about 5000 people came for help! We need many volunteers! You may serve in the morning, afternoon or all day. People who are struggling in various ways (homelessness, with basic needs, healthcare, recovery from addictions, spiritually, mentally, etc. come to receive practical help such as new boots, coats, winter gear, food, resources, prayer, the Good News of Jesus. There are many roles such as being a buddy for those shopping, guiding to or serving at various stations, praying, sharing the Gospel and providing free

Prayer Requests - Please pray for....

- all of the people who have been mentioned in my newsletter
- the 3000 Acts of Kindness on Dec. 8; bring many volunteers
- 34 Unreached people groups in the US
- guidance for the weekly outreaches and more volunteers
- more partners for my ministry (provision)

You can reach Jerry at jrosamond@timetorevive.com or 952-474-5181 ext. 223

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

A Message from Pastor Mike

How we participate in the work of the Synod

Mt. Olive is a member congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe that belonging to the Synod helps us to proclaim and practice God’s Word according to the Lutheran Confessions as found in the Book of Concord. Why is that important? Isn’t God’s Word, the Bible, enough? Yes, it is enough, and we believe that everything taught in the Book of Concord is drawn from the Holy Scriptures and agrees with them. The Book of Concord shows how God’s Word has been misused and misinterpreted and what the true teaching of God’s Word is. It helps us to address questions of **how we should apply God’s Word to current issues in the world and in the church** by showing how the church has responded to false and misleading doctrines and practices in the past.

That is why the Missouri Synod is known as a “Confessional” church, because **we stand on the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions as a true exposition of God’s Word**. That is why the Missouri Synod requires all of her pastors and teachers and other church workers to adhere to God’s Word and the Lutheran Confessions unconditionally.

We benefit in many ways by belonging to the LCMS. The Synod has **schools** from the elementary to the seminary level to prepare teachers, pastors, deaconesses, directors of Christian Education, and other church workers for our congregations. **Synod organizations** such as the LWML and Lutheran Hour Ministries offer many resources. We are part of **mission work** close to home and around the world through our membership in the LCMS.

We are also involved in the Synod by **electing leaders** at the circuit, district, and synod levels and by **submitting overtures** for consideration at our district and synod conventions. The next Synod convention will be held in July 2026 in Phoenix. We already nominated Joel Reinitz to represent our circuit, and he was elected as the alternate delegate, which means he will attend if the man from Redeemer, Wayzata who was elected as lay delegate is unable to attend. We can as a congregation nominate men and women to Synod-wide offices such as the office of President, Vice-Presidents, and the Board of Directors. To learn more, please see lcms.org/convention/governance/guide. There you will find information about **how we can be involved** in the elections of leaders as well as the process for submitting overtures, which is a way of asking our district or Synod to take action in some specific way.

I also highly recommend that you take a look at the “Life Together as Synod” videos which can be found at resources.lcms.org/life-together-as-synod-video-series. We will discuss the upcoming Synod convention at our **Congregational Meeting on December 7**. Hope to see you there!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Mike Michalk

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Don Kohls	12/10
Michael Michalk	12/10
Debbie Connolly	12/11
Josie Hill	12/18
Michael Mulvanny	12/22
Becca Boser	12/22
Darryl Frederickson	12/26
Don Woytcke	12/26



Jan Preble	1/2
Melanie Kamps	1/17
Joel Reinitz	1/18
Richard Bromley	1/23
Trudy Brethorst	1/29
Andrew Reinitz	1/31

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



Pick up your 2026 offering envelopes in the narthex!

Treasuring God's Truth, Living Out His Love

- Thank you to Dave Sandquist for meeting with Egan for our Annual Fire Alarm Inspection!
- Thank you to Harriet for being a Director!
- Thank you to Arlee and Nathan for being Elders!
- Thank you to Terry for being the Treasurer!
- Thank you to ALL who are rerunning for a board position!
- Thank you to Brian for organizing the wiring under Lindsey's desk!
- Thank you to Dave Sandquist for getting the sand ready for when the snow flies and ice lands!
- Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas!
- Thank you to Rita for sending thank you cards throughout the year!
- Thank you to the Altar Society!
- Thank you to ALL who have donated treats throughout the year for Sunday fellowship!
- Thank you to our ushers David Sandquist, Dick Halvarson, Darwin Lemke and Jerry Kohls!
- Thank you to Linda V for making a new banner sign for our offering basket!
- Thank you to all who helped with the WOMO Bazaar & Bake Sale! Baking, Donating, Setting Up, Running, Taking Down, shopping, everything helps, and nothing goes unnoticed! We appreciate ALL the help!
- Thank you to the Trustees for the wide array of items they have fixed this past year!
- Thank you to Don Kohls for cleaning up the grounds for fall!
- Thank you to Dave Sandquist and Brian Podratz for fixing the leak in Lindsey's office!
- Thank you to Jan for playing music for Thanksgiving worship!

2025 Church Contributions

All 2025 Church Contributions need to be in the church office by December 31st or if mailed they must be postmarked December 31st, 2025. If received or postmarked after that date, they will be considered a contribution for 2026.

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.

Applying Biblical Teachings

“ . . . remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

To simply take this passage and comment that it is a good moral saying by which we should all try to live would be wrong. To take these words simply by themselves, as something Dr. Luke alone recorded for posterity would be to miss the point.

First, we must come to the realization that by nature, we are sinful and unclean. There is no goodness or worthiness in us. We must confess that we are poor miserable sinners who would by nature not give anything to anyone unless it benefitted us. This benefit may be self-adulation, public adoration, or the hope of receiving a better position or rewards in this life or the life hereafter. But whatever the case, these reasons are born of selfishness and sin. They are what Isaiah described as “filthy rags” in God’s sight.

It should not surprise us, then, that the Holy Spirit inspired these words to be recorded by Dr. Luke at the end of a persuasive dissertation by St. Paul of the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And it should not surprise us that the words which immediately follow this text are, “When he [Paul] had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed” (Acts 20:36). Dr. Martin Franzmann best captures what is underlying these recorded words of Jesus when he refers to this passage of Scripture as “the power of the Word of the Lord made perfect in weakness.”

True Christian love, the love that emulates Christ, the all-giving Servant, does not come by our own reason or strength, for we as sinners are weak and cannot do any good work. True Christian love was born of the cross of Jesus Christ and is worked in us by the power of the Word and Sacrament. The perfect power of God’s Word works in our weakness. By the power of the Gospel we show true Christian love, a love that does not chase selfishly after that which is good to enjoy. Rather, it seeks to provide for those in need with no expectation of anything in return in this life or of special considerations in the next.

Jesus is the model. He continues to give His unselfish devotion and service to all, even though many reject Him. St. Paul, by the power of the Gospel, lived and preached the model of the suffering servant which is ours to live and preach as well. It is only in the role of the servant, a role of unquestioned devotion and service to the glory of God and for the benefit of man, that our faith will find its proper expression and application.

Yes, “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” for in Christ, to give is to be like Christ.



- ❖ **Tuesday’s 7:00 AM -**
Men’s Bible Study
- ❖ **Wednesday’s 10:00 AM (Sept – Dec & March – June) –**
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



God is good!

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Women of Mount Olive

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Using an Advent devotional book can greatly enrich the Christmas season, especially if you use it with your entire family. Many places offer them and perhaps you've received one in the mail from Mayer Lutheran High School where students write the devotions each year. This season you may have gotten *The Greatest Gift* Advent devotional from them, or perhaps you have one from another source. Lutheran Hour Ministries also provide a wonderful Advent devotional, *Born to You a Savior*. You may download and print a Word version or a PDF version, or simply download to your tablet or computer by using one of the links below:

<https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/2025-advent-devotions-pdf>

<https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/2025-advent-devotions-word>

WOMO NEWS

Thank you to everyone that supported the bazaar as a vendor, through donations, helping to set up/tear down or work the day of the sale, setting out and gathering up directional signs, or shopping! Your contributions in ALL ways help us to support a variety of organizations/projects.

A donation has already been issued to the Westonka Community Food Shelf and ten percent of our profits will go to LWML to support various missions. Other Mound non-profit organizations will receive donations in January after our first quarter meeting. Christmas Party

The WOMO Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 6 at 11:30 AM in the fellowship hall. PLEASE sign up on the clipboard.

In addition to our luncheon and gift and cookie exchange, there will be a few door prizes too, so please join us for a little Christmas cheer!

At the November WOMO meeting reviewing the bazaar, members had a discussion about the gift exchange and how given the make up of our members, most members desire consumable goods as they may not have space to place an object, or they have no need for a Christmas decoration or an ornament. Just something to ponder and consider....

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

At this time of year, people tend to get caught up with gifts and wrapping, trees and lights, and all kinds of material things that seem to be a huge part of our Christmas celebrations. While these things and our celebrations can bring great joy temporarily, it is important to remember that THINGS do not bring us true happiness. In **1 Timothy 6:7** it says, *for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world*. As we celebrate the greatest gift EVER, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ please remember He is the best present of all.

SHARE YOUR GIFTS

During this Advent season, you may want to consider giving a Christmas gift to Mount Olive. You can do this in several ways. You can make a monetary contribution, volunteer to bring treats, coffee creamer or juice for Sunday fellowship, provide special music during worship, adopt a bill, or give your time in some other capacity.

A NEW YEAR! A FRESH START!

As a new year begins, people often have great zeal for setting new goals and/or starting over or beginning something new. Many people make resolutions to eat healthier, to exercise/lose weight, to track their spending/stick to a budget and few make it through the end of January. Consider serving the church in a way you have not done previously. In making a service commitment to Mount Olive, you often have others to help share the workload, share some camaraderie through your service, as well as helping you stay accountable and committed to the service. Give it some thought!

THANK YOU

...to everyone that made our Thanksgiving pie social a GREAT success! It was wonderful to have so many people socializing in fellowship hall while enjoying pie and strudel with ice cream/whipping cream, coffee and eggnog! All the many contributions were much appreciated and delicious!

UPCOMING DATES OF IMPORTANCE

2025

- December 6th - Holiday Party at 11:30AM (Potluck, Cookie exchange – bring 2-3 dozen if you want to participate. Gift exchange \$10-20 optional if you want to participate.)

2026

- January 12th – WOMO Meeting @ 10AM in Fellowship Lounge
- 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

DECEMBER

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 -Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM	4	5	6 -WOMO Christmas Party @ 11:30AM
7	8	9	10 -Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM *Happy Birthday Dan Kohls *Happy Birthday Pastor Mike Michalk	11 *Happy Birthday Debbie Connolly	12	13
-Congregational Meeting @ 10:15 AM	15	16	17	18 *Happy Birthday Josie Hill	19	20
21 -Mite Sunday Winter Begins	22 *Happy Birthday Michael Mulvanny *Happy Birthday Becca Boser	23	24 -Candlelight Worship @ 4PM Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 *Happy Birthday Darryl Frederickson *Happy Birthday Dan Woytke	27
28	29	30	31 *2025 Church contributions due New Year's Eve			

JANUARY

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2 *Happy Birthday Jan Preble	3 -Take down Christmas Decorations around the church @ 9AM
4	5	6 Epiphany	7 -Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM	8	9	10
11	12 -WOMO Meeting @ 10AM	13	14 -Leadership Meeting @ 6:30PM	15	16	17 *Happy Birthday Melanie Kamps
18 -Mite Sunday *Happy Birthday Joel Reinitz	19 MLK Jr. Day	20	21	22	23 *Happy Birthday Richard Bromley	24
25	26	27	28	29 *Happy Birthday Trudy Brethorst	30	31 *Happy Birthday Andrew Reinitz



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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!

Born of the cross, Christian love does not
seek something good to enjoy;
rather, it seeks to provide for those in need.

“ . . . remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said,
‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

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: Terry Podratz

Elders: Arlee Mueller, Nate Betts and Joel Reinitz

Trustees: Jim Merchant & Darryl Frederickson

Directors: Linda Verkennes, Harriet Gustafson and David Miller

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

Worship: Sandi Woytcke and Jan Preble