



ADVENT 4

Sunday, December 24, 2017, 10:00 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, ELS

1123 Marsh Street Mankato, MN 56001 / (507)345-4966 church@mtolivelutheran.org

Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich / Principal Larry Rude

Welcome! In the name of our risen Savior we welcome you to Mt. Olive and thank you for worshipping with us. If you are a guest, please fill out a **Guest Card** (found in front of you in the hymnbook rack) or sign our guest book in the entry. We invite you to come and worship with us again soon. **Large Print** copies of the order of service from the ELS Hymnary are available from the usher stand in the back of the sanctuary. **For the Hearing Impaired:** Our facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask an usher for a receiver.

Explanation of the Week

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mt. Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut 18:15-19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses, the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Lk 1:39-56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (Jn 1:19-28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:4-7).

~Hymn 109 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

~Versicles and Gloria Patri (p. 108)

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

~Confession of Sin (p. 108)

C: Almighty God, heavenly Father: I have sinned against You through my own fault, in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, forgive me all my sin, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

~Absolution (p. 109)

P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~The Psalmody

P: Rain down, you heavens from above,

C: and let the skies pour down righteousness.

P: Let the earth open,

C: and bring forth salvation.

P: The heavens declare the glory of God;

C: And the firmament shows His handiwork.

P: Day unto day utters speech,

C: And night unto night reveals knowledge.

P: There is no speech nor language

Where their voice is not heard.

**C: Their sound has gone out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.**

P: In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,

**C: Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.**

P: Rain down, you heavens from above,

C: and let the skies pour down righteousness.

P: Let the earth open,

C: and bring forth salvation.

~Gospel Lesson

John 5:31-39 "If I testify about Myself, My testimony is not valid. There is another who testifies in My favor, and I know that his testimony about Me is valid. You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light. I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given Me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent Me. And the Father who sent Me has Himself testified concerning Me. You have never heard His voice nor seen His form, nor does His word dwell in you, for you do not believe the One He sent. You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me."

~Hymn 111 vv. 1-4, 9 *When Sinners See Their Lost Condition*

~Epistle Lesson & Sermon Text

1 Peter 1:10-12 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

~Sermon Theme

Christmas Is All About You

1. *For you the prophets foretold Jesus' coming.*
2. *For you Jesus suffered.*
3. *For you He rose again.*

~Offering & Hymn 111 vv. 5-8 *Then Stilled Are Cries and Lamentation*

*(The members of Mt. Olive give offerings as a joyful response to what God has given them. These offerings support the work of Gospel ministry in our community and around the world. **Visitors:** Please do not feel obligated to participate in this offering. Instead, we ask you to fill out a Welcome Card and place that in the offering plate.)*

~Baptism of Micah Benjamin Proksch (p. 133)

~Hymn 246 *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It*

~**Responsory** (p.108)

P: O Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy upon us

C: O Lord Jesus, seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

C: O Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy upon us.

P: Arise, O Christ, and help us.

C: And deliver us for Your name's sake.

~**Prayers**

~**Collect**

P: Let us pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, and help us with Your great might, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

~**Lord's Prayer**

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

~**Collect** (p. 108)

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, bright Sun of the world: shine upon my spirit and drive away the night of sin, that I may walk in Your holy light all my life and even forevermore.

C: Amen.

~**Canticle** (p. 108)

P: Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

C: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad,

for great is your reward in heaven. Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord:

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: Let us bless the Lord:

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord Almighty order this day and all our doings in His peace.

C: Amen.

~Hymn 110 v. 4 O Come, Thou Rod of Jesse's Stem

Preacher: Pastor John Petersen / Liturgist: Pastor Luke Ulrich

Organists: 1st: Cassie Johnson

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 8:30am; 254/189 10:45am; 158/142 Children's; 720 Wednesday: 197

GIVEN LAST WEEK FOR THE LORD'S WORK: \$23,183.99; Online: \$908.35



NEEDED EACH WEEK TO MEET ANNUAL BUDGET: \$16,790

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Did you know you can give your offering online? Just go to www.mtolivelutheran.org and click on the link, "donate on line."

Mt. Olive Worship Services on TV:

Mt. Olive services are being shown on local cable channel 181 (Charter) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 11:30 AM.

SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK

Ushers: 1st Service – Jeff Younge (captain), Aaron Younge, Joseph Roemhildt, Tim Roemhildt, Dustin Basel

2nd Service – Mark Madson (captain), Kirk Hankins, Joel Peterson, Andy Overn, Ian Overn, Chad Feistner

Greeters: 1st Service – Mark & Michelle Graham, Steve & Lois Jaeger

2nd Service – Dan & Joanne Maas, Robert & Ruth Heidenreich

Offering Counters: John Foede, John Baumann

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 24, 2017—January 1, 2018*

Sunday December 24 Christmas Eve	10AM 4:30PM 7PM	Divine Service Christmas Eve Service, Senior Choir Sings Candlelight Service
Monday December 25 Christmas Day	10AM	Christmas Day Service, Senior Choir Sings, w/Holy Communion No Evening Service
Tue., Dec. 26		
Wed., Dec. 27		
Thur., Dec. 28		
Fri., Dec. 29		
Sat., Dec. 30		
Sunday December 31 New Year's Eve	8:30AM 10:45AM 6:30PM	Divine Service No Bible Class/Sunday School/Bible Information Class Divine Service New Year's Eve Service
Mon., Jan. 1 New Year's Day		No Divine Service / Office Closed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Voters & congregant members: SAVE THE DATE! for the open forum January 7, 2017, between services. Voters' meeting is January 14, at noon in the sanctuary.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The revised building plans are now available for the congregation. New renderings are on display in the narthex and written explanations were handed out after services on Dec 17 and are also available from the church office. All this information is also available on the Mt. Olive website. An informational meeting regarding the revised plans will take place **BETWEEN SERVICES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**. Please plan to attend! The revised building plan is also on the agenda for the annual voters' meeting on Sunday, January 14.

Applications are now being accepted through January 7 for a part-time office assistant at Mount Olive. A job description and application are available in the church office.

Monday Evening Services are postponed during the Advent season. Monday evening services resume Monday, January 8. Those accustomed to attending Monday evenings are encouraged to join us Wednesday evenings for the Advent services.

Please see the membership roster sheets on the tables in the entrance. Check that we have your correct information. In the interest of saving money on paper and copier costs, we are hoping to communicate more by email in the coming year. So we ask that everyone please indicate your current and correct ***email address***.

On the narthex table are extra copies of *Perpetuating Our Giving!*, Building On Our Mission packets, *The Cross-stitch Corner* (issue 4.5), *Thoughts of Faith* (Oct. 2017), and the *Mt. Olive Herald*; **forms** for *7th Grade Confirmation Sermon Notes*; **signup sheets** for volunteering at New 2 You; **December editions** of MVL's *Memo*, the *ELS President's Newsletter*, and *The Olive Press*; a stack of giving envelopes for **MVL memorials** and the **ELS mission & ministry**, and a lone copy of *Meditations* (Dec 3 – March 3).

Don't let Choice Dollars expire. Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Help support Mount Olive. Thrivent members may go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Missing Coat: An extra large, black, Eddie Bauer, men's 3/4 length coat (no hood) was mistakenly taken from church. Kindly return the coat or notify our church office for assistance.

Pop Tabs: After School Care is saving pop tabs as our service project this school year. These pop tabs benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities. If you have cans at home with the tabs still on them, please save them for us! Help us exceed what we collected last year! Thank you!

Coffee & Donut Volunteers: We are looking for more volunteers willing to make coffee in the new year before our services and pick up donuts/treats and bring them for our Bible Study time. If you would like to volunteer in this way, please go to the Mount Olive website and click on the *Coffee Servers Sign Up* link at the bottom. If you have questions, contact Sam Barbosa (sambarbosa3@gmail.com or 507-382-4928). We also extend our thanks to the Barbosas & those who have provided coffee and treats in the past year!

2018 Flower Calendar for the church year is now up in the entry way next to the bulletin board. Thank you for signing up to bring flowers to beautify our altar this coming year!

Mount Olive Strings Group plays *before* our 4:30 Christmas Eve Service--Pre-Service Christmas Music starts at 4:00 PM.

Charger Classic is scheduled for Saturday, January 13 at Bethany College. The Boys A round begins at 8:30. The Girls A round begins at 1:00. The Booster Club is looking for volunteers to help. Please visit the Athletic page on the Mt Olive School's website. You can find a button that will take you to our sign up page, or you can type in the following address in your browser: <http://signup.com/go/guwJSFs> If you have any questions you can contact Mr. Zibrowski at school or email, mrz@mtolivelutheran.org Thank you.

Today! Sign up for a Connect Group. What are Connect Groups? We are small groups of members of Mt. Olive who are gathering for food, drink, prayer and to talk about the sermon. Usually in a casual setting where we can connect and grow in faith. There are multiple groups to choose from that meet at various times throughout the week. Join now by signing up in the Narthex between services. The next Connect Group sessions start the week of January 7.

Synod

Our synod treasurer reports, as of December 14, that we are shy of our budgetary needs by \$103,500 for this last month of the year. Our \$760,000 goal for congregational support is achievable. May the Lord grant us generous hearts in seeking to achieve this goal. Remember, all budgetary gifts above the \$735,000 level go directly to home missions. In other words, after \$78,500 in gifts every dollar goes directly to home missions. May our response be generous and may we use our gift to the glory of our Savior's name.

Peace Lutheran, North Mankato

In Financial Peace University (FPU), learn to eliminate debt & start saving—start experiencing peace in your home, your relationships, and your life! Learn to truly manage all of the resources God has given you His way. Classes meet for 9 weeks on Thursdays at 6:30 PM at Peace from Jan 11 – March 8. Lifetime FPU class membership is \$109. The average family during the 90 day class pays off more than \$5000 dollars of debt & saves almost \$3000. It's practical, it's easy to understand, and it's a lot of fun! The class is open to the community—invite friends and family. If you're in debt, in college, saving for retirement, or wanting to learn God's ways of managing money, this class is for you. It's not just a money class. You'll have hope & peace with this simple, practical, and proven class. Imagine what your life were to feel like if you were able to give freely and generously toward needs you feel passionately about, whenever God leads you to do so. Call Matt Wiechmann with questions at 507-382-7283. Sign up at <https://fpu.com/1055154>

WELS

Young Professionals Small Group: St. Paul's (WELS) in North Mankato is starting a Young Adults (ages 21-30) group to meet for Christian fellowship, networking, and Bible Study. The group meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM in the conference room at the North Mankato Taylor Library beginning **January 3**. Bring a Bible. Attendees discuss the application of the book of Romans to their lives. Contact Max and Danica Kerr at max.danica.kerr@gmail.com or (507) 227-0286. Childcare is *not* provided.

Kingdom Workers Summer Jobs: From **June 17-July 15**, forge relationships as you assist with a children's gardening class, help with the annual music camp, and participate in Sunday School and other community events. Join us **July 7-15** to teach group instrument lessons, basic music theory, singing, and more. Skills learned at the camp can be used to proclaim the gospel throughout the community! Find details online at <http://www.kingdomworkers.com/opportunities.php>

Community

Share your voice in the new year! Explore Opera-tunities with us! Auditions are January 8, 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Bethany Lutheran College. To audition, go to www.minnesotavalleychorale.com **or** call our Executive Director, Carolyn Borgen, at 612-251-8492.

Thank You to Our 2017 New2You Workers

Please consider working just ONCE in 2018.

January 7	Elli Fisher, Joleen Schirmers, Silas & Mary Born
February 4	Elli Fisher, Peggy Harstad, Jacob Kempfert, Mary Born
March 4	Elli Fisher, Diane Gullixson, Jacob Kempfert, Mary Born
April 1	Elli Fisher, Mary Born, Triah Meyer, Aneka & Lexi Tweeten
May 6	Elli Fisher, Jacie Lieske, Silas & Mary Born
June 3	Elli Fisher, Jacie Lieske, Silas & Mary Born
July 1	Elli Fisher, Jacie Lieske, Silas & Mary Born
August 5	Elli Fisher, Jacie Lieske, Ashley Covell, Jon Basel
September 2	Jacie Lieske, Silas Petersen, Silas & Mary Born
October 7	Elli Fisher, Jacie Lieske, Silas & Mary Born
November 4	Elli Fisher, Jacie Lieske, Silas & Mary Born
December 2	Elli Fisher, Joleen Schirmers, Mary Born, Gail Mumm

The first shift is from 9:45 to 12:15 and the second shift is from 12:15 until 3:00. There will always be an experienced worker there to help. You will find the sign-up sheet on the narthex table. Thank you for helping – JUST ONCE.

**The Poinsettias displayed on and around the altar have been donated
by our members in memory/honor of the following:**

Members

*Phil & Jean Jurgenson
Paul & Mary Jane Tweit
Janet & Greg Costello
Robert & Ruth Heidenreich
Barbosa Family
Phyllis Kenning
Sandra & Mark Johnson
Art & Terri Westphal
Tom & Joni Bode
Audrey Spear
Lois Stankey
Rev. Ted, Diane, Mark & Paul Gullixson
Dennis & Pam Davis
Ron, Elli & Joe Fisher
Dottie Kunkel
Gullixson Family
Reichwald Family
Mark & Sharon Madson
Sorenson Family
Dan & Jane Birkholz
Becky Anton
Bill & Suzanne Bohning
Hankins Family
Bob & Diann Brooks
John & Kari Sehloff
Sigurd Lee & Caroline Lee
Mark & Michelle Graham
Ellen & Allen Mueller
Peggy Harstad
Janet Wassman
Jerome & Jeanette Koberg*

In Memory/Honor of

*Luella Jurgenson
Our Loved Ones
Our Parents
Our Loved Ones
Norman & Violet Holte
Bud Kenning
Orville & Mary Sampson
Our Loved Ones
Our Loved Ones
Stella & Raymond Richter
Al Stankey
Ruth Gullixson Webber
Our Parents
Richard Fisher and Karl Jaster

Walther & Mildred Gullixson
Glenn Reichwald & Mary Reichwald Sargent
Parents and Grandparents

Martin & Lila Birkholz; Herb & Norma Baumann
Our Parents, Robert & Ruth Kimble
Our Loved Ones

Don & Sherry Paap
Bruce & Diane Clark
Our Loved Ones
Our Parents
Our Loved Ones
Father Larry Staats
Our Parents & Granddaughter*

Join us for these Worship Services
2017 Schedule

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve
4:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service
7:00 PM – Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day
Office Closed
10:00 AM – Divine Service

Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve
8:30 AM – Divine Service
NO Bible studies or Sunday School classes
10:45 AM – Divine Service
6:30 PM – New Year's Eve Service

Monday, January 1, New Year's Day
Office Closed

Monday, January 8
Evening services resume

