



EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 7, 2018, 8:30 & 10:45 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.

Prayer for Epiphany

O gracious God and Lord, who by a star led the Magi to see the manifestation of Your love for all people in the Christ Child, I thank You for this revelation that the whole world should share in the salvation which You have prepared in Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son. Enable me by Your Spirit to find peace and joy in the faith that I, too, have been redeemed by Jesus Christ from sin, from death, and from the power of the devil. Let me never forget that I am now Christ's own and that it is my duty to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in righteousness all the days of my life. Graciously reveal Yourself to all people who even now do not know Jesus Christ and salvation in Him. Gather Your elect from all the nations of the world that Your house may be full, and Yours shall be the kingdom and the power and glory forever and ever. Amen.

I. *The Service of Preparation*

~**Opening Prayer** (p. 41)

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

~**Hymn 168 vv. 1-3 *As with Gladness Men of Old***

~**Confession of Sin** (p.41, form I)

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us a true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

~**Kyrie Hymn 268 v. 6 *My Sins are Countless as the Sands***

~**Absolution** (p. 43, form II)

P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord: Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~Collect (p. 45)

P: Let us pray: O God, by the leading of a star You manifested Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant that we, who know You now by faith, may after this life enjoy the fullness of Your glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

II. *The Service of the Word*

~Epistle Lesson

Romans 3:23-31 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

~Four or More: *See Earth in Darkness Lying* anonymous

*See earth in darkness lying,
The heathen nations dying
In hopeless gloom and night.
To the the Lord of heaven,
Thy life, Thy hope, hath given
Great glory, honor, and delight.*

*The world's remotest races,
Upon whose weary faces
The sun looks from the sky,
Shall run with zeal untiring,
With joy Thy light desiring
That breaks upon them from on high.*

*Lift up Thine eyes in wonder
See, nations gather yonder,
They all come unto Thee.
The world has heard Thy story,
Thy sons come to thy glory,
And daughters haste Thy Light to see.*

~Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.'" Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

C: ♪ God be praised for His glad tidings.

~Nicene Creed (p. 47)

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life of the world to come. ♪ Amen.

~Hymn 103 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

~Sermon Text

Psalm 72:10-15

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles
Will bring presents;
The kings of Sheba and Seba
Will offer gifts.
Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him;
All nations shall serve Him.

For He will deliver the needy when he cries,
The poor also, and him who has no helper.
He will spare the poor and needy,
And will save the souls of the needy.
He will redeem their life from oppression and violence;
And precious shall be their blood in His sight.

And He shall live;
And the gold of Sheba will be given to Him;
Prayer also will be made for Him continually,
And daily He shall be praised.

~Sermon Theme

The Epiphany of Our Singular Savior

1. *The worship of Him was singular.*
2. *The work He does for us is singular.*

~Prayers

~Offering & Hymn 145 *What Child Is This?*

*(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.)*

III. *The Service of Holy Communion*

*** Holy Communion:** *The Bible teaches that in this Sacrament we receive Christ's true body and blood with the bread and wine. Here, Jesus gives His people what they need most of all: forgiveness of sins. **Guests & Visitors:** We understand that by coming forward and taking communion, you are professing a unity of faith with this congregation and that you are in full agreement with the teachings and doctrines of our church. If you are unsure of the teachings of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, please talk with a pastor before communing. Thank You.*

~Preface (p. 50)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts unto the Lord.

C: ♪ We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.

~General Preface (p. 51)

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, and now we praise You that You sent us Your only-begotten Son and that in Him, being found in fashion as a Man, You manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

~Sanctus (pp. 51-52)

C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

~Lord's Prayer (p. 53)

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 pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~Words of Institution (p. 54)

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

~Agnus Dei (p. 55)

C: ♪ O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

~Distribution

Hymn 120 vv. 1-3 *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*

Hymn 167 vv. 1-2 *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

Hymn 120 vv. 4-6 *Him They Found in Bethlehem*

Hymn 167 vv. 4-5 *A Pledge of Peace from God I See*

Hymn 166 *Arise and Shine in Splendor*

~Dismissal (p. 56)

P: Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, who has now bestowed upon you His holy body and blood, whereby He has made full satisfaction for all your sins, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace be with you. Amen.

~Collect of Thanksgiving (p. 56)

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: ♪ Amen.

~Benediction (pp. 56-57)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.

~Closing Hymn 168 vv. 4-5 *Holy Jesus, Ev'ry Day*

~Closing Prayer (p. 57)

P: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Preacher: Pastor John Petersen / Liturgist: Pastor Luke Ulrich
Organists: 1st: Cassie Johnson / 2nd: John Baumann

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 10am; 181 10:45am; 138 New Year's Eve: 99/70

GIVEN LAST WEEK FOR THE LORD'S WORK: \$33,074.68



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 – Tom Bode (captain), Eli Bode, John Schauer, John Pfeffer, David Reagles

2nd Service – Chris Kind (captain), Larry Rude, Luke Buelow

Greeters: 1st Service – Dan & Kathy Bruss, Eldon & LuAnn Sting

2nd Service – David & Kathryn Sulzle, Dan & Joanne Maas

Offering Counters: Steve Lussky, Jon Pfeffer

Altar Guild: Connie Gullixson, Connie Meyer

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *January 7, 2018 — January 14, 2018*

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Sunday January 7 | 8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 7:30PM | Divine Service w/Holy Communion Open Forum (Building Committee) & Sunday School Divine Service w/Holy Communion Board of Deacons Encourage One Another Co-ed Recreational Volleyball |
| Monday January 8 | 9:30AM 6:30PM 6:30PM | Area Pastors' Conference Council Divine Service w/Holy Communion |
| Tuesday January 9 | 8AM | CDS-NO AM BUSING Women's Bible Study - Philippians |
| Wednesday January 10 | 8:05AM 9AM 2:45PM 4PM 7PM 8PM | CDS Chapel Bible Study Youth Choir Confirmation Senior Choir Men's Choral |
| Thur. Jan. 11 | | |
| Fri. Jan. 12 | 10:15AM | Pathstone Service |
| Sat. Jan. 13 | | CDS Charger Classic |
| Sunday January 14 | 8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 12:00PM 5:00PM 6:00PM 7:30PM | Grades K-3 Sing Divine Service Bible Class, Sunday School, Bible Information Class Divine Service Voters' Meeting Lutheran Pioneers Artemis Co-ed Recreational Volleyball |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettia Purchasers: Please take your poinsettia home today. Those left behind will be disposed. Thank you.

Monday Evening Services resume tomorrow night at 6:30 PM.

Voters & congregation members: Join us for the open forum TODAY between services. Please attend! 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 on the narthex table (titled *Rapid Review*). All this information is also available on the Mt. Olive website. The revised building plan is also on the agenda for the annual voters' meeting on Sunday, January 14.

On the narthex table are extra copies of *Perpetuating Our Giving!*, Building On Our Mission packets, *Thoughts of Faith* (Dec. 2017), and the *Mt. Olive Herald*; **forms** for 7th Grade Confirmation Sermon Notes; **signup sheets** for Sr. youth sledding, Men's greasy breakfast, and volunteering at New 2 You; **January editions** of MVL's *Memo*, and *The Olive Press* newsletter & calendar with the *ELS President's Newsletter* inserted; and **giving envelopes** for *MVL memorials*.

Coffee & Donut Volunteers: We are looking for more volunteers willing to make coffee before our services & pick up donuts/treats for our Bible Study time. If you would like to volunteer in this way, go to the Mount Olive website & click the *Coffee Servers Sign Up* link in the photo banner or at the bottom. If you have questions, contact Sam Barbosa (sambarbosa3@gmail.com or 507-382-4928).

Kwik Trip Cards: Mt. Olive youth (grades 5-12) are selling Kwik Trip Cards as a fundraiser for our church youth activities. The groups currently receive 5% of the profits. Cards are sold between services on **Communion** Sundays year round. Contact Angie Younge 389.9137 or Rebecca Strom 386.0372 with questions.

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!

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 THIS WEEK!

Attention all Senior Youth! Join us for a sledding party at Spring Lake Park Hill Sunday, January 21 at 2:00 PM. The hill is on the corner of Webster Ave. and Lake St. in lower North Mankato. We'll meet at the hill at 2:00 PM, and then we'll come back to church for pizza after sledding. If you are interested in going, sign up at the narthex table so that we can get a rough idea of numbers for ordering pizzas, etc. Bring a friend!

Blood drive Friday, January 26, from 1:00 – 6:00 PM. If you would like to schedule an appointment, **call** 1 800 733 2767 or **go online** to www.redcrossblood.org & use sponsor code MTOLIVEKATO. 1 pint of blood has the potential to save multiple lives.

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!

This year's Charger Classic is scheduled for Saturday, January 13 at Bethany College. The Boys A round of games play at 8:30. The Girls A round of games begin at 1:00. The Booster Club is looking for volunteers to help out at this year's Charger Classic. To volunteer, visit the Athletic page on the Mt Olive School's website. You can find a button that takes 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, contact Mr. Zibrowski at school or email, mrz@mtolivelutheran.org Thank you.

The results are in! We have received \$545.00 from the Barnes and Noble book fair in December! THANK YOU to everyone who shopped at the store and online. A special THANK YOU to all of the parents who brought your children to perform, the children who shared their talents and shared the real "Reason for the Season", and to the teachers who took time to get their classes ready to perform! We received so many wonderful comments on the program.

HELP WANTED!! We are in great need of librarians to help out in the library for the second half of the year. If you could spare one Thursday morning or afternoon a month to help the children of our school check out books or read a story to the younger children we would be very appreciative! We would pair you with one of our current librarians, so you wouldn't be working alone. Please contact Sue Beilke if you are able to help. Thank you!

Bethany Lutheran College

The new translation of the Bible—Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)—is the work of ELS & WELS translators. Rev. Brian Keller is on Bethany's campus Friday, January 19 at 3:30 PM in Meyer Hall, Room 101 to speak on this new project. Everyone is invited to attend.

Christian Athletes: Coach Carl Lemke (2011 MN State HS Coach of the Year) speaks to the Bethany Christian Athletes Tuesday, January 30, 7:00 PM in the SFC classroom. Carl started his teaching career at Mt. Olive Lutheran School. His St. Croix football team won the Class 3-A Championship in 2011 & 2013. Everyone is invited to attend.



Synod

The anniversaries continue. In 2018 the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) is observing the centennial anniversary of its reorganization. Throughout this year, a series of historical centennial readings will be printed every Sunday in the bulletin. We *Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done* as the ELS observes one hundred years of grace.



Men's Greasy Breakfast!

When: Saturday, January 27th, from 8am to 9:30am

Where: Mount Olive Fellowship Hall

What: Come and enjoy Breakfast as we have a Special Men's Bible Study & Discussion

Who: Dr. Michael Smith on: *"Spiritual Leaders Seeking to Protect Their Families By Being Aware of the Influences of Media."*

For Whom: All Men ages 16-106 are welcome!

Cost: Free! *Please Just Come & Enjoy—Invite Friends & Family!*

PLEASE SIGN UP! (Sheet on the Narthex Table...You may also call the Mt. Olive Office so we can prepare accordingly...)

