



ADVENT 2

Sunday, December 9, 2018, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

1123 Marsh Street Mankato, MN 56001 | (507) 345-4966 | mtolive@mtolivelutheran.org
Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Silas Born | Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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 **“Get Connected!”** card (found in front of you in the hymnbook rack). 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: *Jesus wants us to prepare for the Day when He will return to earth with great power and glory. To the wicked and the proud, it will be a Day of Judgment that will "burn them up." The signs preceding this Day will bring fear and fainting. But to those who believe, who fear the name of the Lord, this Day is one to look forward to and rejoice in. "Look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Luke 21:25-36). Christ our Redeemer is coming; the Sun of Righteousness is bringing healing in His wings. Let us, then, give attention to the words of the Lord, which do not pass away. Let us through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures (Romans 15:4-13) be strengthened in our hope by the Holy Spirit and watch diligently for Jesus' coming. Then, by God's grace, we shall escape all these things that will come to pass and stand before the Son of Man. We will join people of many nations going up to the mountain of the Lord, enjoying the peace that our Lord provides (Micah 4:1-7).*

Order of Service, Rite One (p. 41). This order of service, known as the “Bugenhagen Order,” grew out of the Lutheran Reformation. It was provided for use in the churches of Denmark and Norway in 1537 by Johannes Bugenhagen, Martin Luther’s pastor. Minor revisions were made to this service in 1685 and 1889 before it was translated into English for **The Lutheran Hymnary** (1913). The service printed here comes directly from the **Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary** (1996).

I. The Service of Preparation



(We prepare ourselves for worshiping God by acknowledging our unworthiness to stand before Him, and by receiving His forgiveness through absolution (forgiveness). We respond with thanks and joy.)

~**Prelude** — Preservice music & opportunity for prayer

*(See “Prayers for Worship”
—ELH p. 40)*

~**Opening Prayer**

(ELH p. 41; p. 147, #2)

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You, we bless and praise You forever, that You sent Your Son to rule over us poor sinners, who for our transgressions justly deserved to remain in the bondage of sin and Satan, and that in Him You gave us a meek and righteous King, who by His death became our Savior from sin and eternal death. We beseech You so to enlighten, govern and direct us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever remain faithful to this righteous King and Savior, and not, after the manner of the world, be offended by His humble form and despised Word, but, firmly believing in Him, obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen

~**Opening Hymn 96 Hark, A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!**

~**Confession of Sin** — *Admitting our sinfulness to God*

(ELH p. 41, 1)

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.

~**Confessional Verse** — Hymn 268, v. 6 *My Sins Are Countless As the Sands*

*My sins are countless as the sands,
My crimes, O God, are crying,
Deliver me from sin's dread bands
And save me, Lord, when dying;
O let me not, for evil past,
Be lost at last,
Grant me Thy grace, I pray Thee!*

~**Absolution** — *God's declaration of forgiveness*

(ELH p. 43, II; Mk. 16:16)

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.

~**Salutation** — *The people's blessing for the pastor's work*

(ELH p. 45)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

~**Collect** — *The congregation's prayer of the day*

(ELH p. 45; p. 147, #3)

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, so that by His coming we may worship You with pure minds; through the same, 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



(After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thanked God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He now increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the Lessons and especially through the Sermon where God's Word is applied to our lives today.)

~**Old Testament Lesson**

Micah 4:1-7 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, "Come,

and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. “In that day,” says the Lord, “I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever.

~Epistle Lesson

Romans 15:4-13 Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to your name. And again it says: Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people. And again: Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples give him praise. And again Isaiah says: There will be a Root of Jesse, and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles; on him the Gentiles will place their hope. Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: ✠ God be praised for His glad tidings.

~Apostles’ Creed — *Confession of faith*

(ELH p. 46)

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

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again

from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. ♪ Amen.

~Chief Hymn 98 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

~Holy Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text

Luke 21:25-36 “There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.” He told them a parable. “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “Watch yourselves or else your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day may come on you suddenly. For it will come like a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert all the time, praying that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

~Sermon Theme

"Stand Up! Lift Up Your Heads—Because Our Redemption Is Drawing Near!"

~The Prayer of the Church

(ELH p. 48-49)

P: Everlasting and merciful God, we beseech You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C: To have mercy upon us and to hear our prayer.

P: Look in mercy upon Your Church. Protect it and sanctify it by Your truth. May Your Word be taught in its purity and Your Sacraments be rightly administered. Grant unto Your Church faithful pastors who shall declare Your truth with power and shall live according to Your will. Send forth laborers into Your harvest and open the door of faith

unto all unbelievers and unto the people of Israel. In mercy remember the enemies of Your Church and grant to them repentance unto life.

C: O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, hear us in the truth of Your salvation.

P: Let Your protecting hand be over our country and over all who travel. Prosper what is good among us and bring to naught every evil counsel and purpose. Protect and bless Your servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this state, our judges and magistrates and all in authority. Fit them for their high calling by the gift of Your Spirit of wisdom and fear, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

C: Hear, O Lord, and have mercy! Lord be our helper.

P: According to Your promise, O God, be the defender of the widow and the father of the orphan. Relieve and comfort the sick and the sorrowful (especially our brother/sister ____ who is ill/grieving). Graciously help those who are assaulted by the devil and who are in peril of death. Be the strength of those who are suffering for the sake of Christ's holy name. Grant that we may live together in peace and prosperity. Bestow upon us good and seasonable weather; and bless us with upright Christian counsel in all that we undertake.

C: O Lord, be with all in trouble. Hear their prayers to the honor of Your Name.

P: We especially commend to Your care and keeping this Your congregation which You have bought with a great price. Keep from us all offenses and bind us together in the unity of Your holy love. Grant that the little ones who are baptized in Your name may be brought up in Your fear. At Your table give to those who there commune with You peace and life everlasting.

C: Let all rejoice who trust in You; let them shout for joy because You defend them.

(Special petitions are included)

P: In Your mercy look upon.....In Christ's name we pray.

C: Lord, in Your mercy hear our prayer.

P: Be merciful, O God, to all, according to Your great love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. When our final hour shall come, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection to Your glory.

C: Amen. Grant us Your peace, O Lord!

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 49; Mt 6:9-13)

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.

~Offering & Hymn 101 *The King Shall Come*

*(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. We ask you to fill out a "Get Connected!" card and place that in the offering plate.)*

Collect — *In appreciation of God's gifts*

(ELH p. 57 I)

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God the Father, that You have given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You have borne in Your sacred body all our sins, and by Your blood have blotted out all our transgressions. We thank You, Lord, the Holy Spirit, that You have created in our hearts true faith, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. O God, grant Your grace, that we may perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit, that, in the power of our Redeemer's death, we may day by day put off sin, and never forsake the Lord Jesus Christ, until we see Him face to face in life eternal. We ask it all in Christ's name.

C: ♪ Amen.

~ **Benediction** — *Final blessing for God's people*

(ELH p. 59; Num 6:24-26)

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 110, v. 1 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

~ **Closing Prayer**

(ELH p. 59)

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.

~**Postlude** — *Opportunity for prayer & to greet one another!*

*(See "Prayers for Worship"
—ELH p. 40)*

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

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE:

Sunday: 8:30am, 177/91; 10:45am, 147/124. Wednesday: 241

Change in bulletin announcement regarding weekly giving: Previously, the amount listed was a combination of giving to the General Fund and the Building Fund for the previous week. The table listed below will be updated each month, approximately two weeks after the end of the previous month. Members will be able to see the amounts given to each fund within the previous month. Year-to-date (YTD) giving for the General Fund (the church's fiscal year is July 1-June 30) can be compared to the budgeted amount (where we expected to be for this time of the year). Contact Adam Saidler or Greg Costello if you have questions.

Monthly Giving Update:



Given to the General Fund (Oct. 1-31)	\$55,196.34
Given to the Building Fund (Oct. 1-31)	\$9,492.94
<u>Total Given (Oct. 1-31)</u>	<u>\$64,689.28</u>
General Fund Budgeted (July 1-Oct. 31) (\$75,425/month x 4 months)	\$301,700.00
General Fund YTD (July 1-Oct. 31)	\$244,112.12
<u>Difference (Shortfall)</u>	<u>(\$57,587.88)</u>

Romans 12: 1 Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship.

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:

Greeters: **1st Service:** Scott & Theresa Dzwonkowski,
Steve & Lois Jaeger

2nd Service: Paul & Mary Jane Tweit,
Jon & Nikki Basel

Ushers: **1st Service:** David Norris (captain), Jacob Norris,
Dan Gerdts, Bill Bohning, Joe Finken, Peter Finken

2nd Service: Jim Gates (captain), Dan Neubauer,
Jeremy Espeland, Kurt Shrader

Offering Counters: John Foede, John Baumann

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson

Building Committee Update

- The way the temporary wall at the rear of the sanctuary had to be constructed resulted in the loss of the aisle behind the last row of pews. As a result, the congregation is asked to consider the impact of this change during services, leaving the portions of the pews closest to the sanctuary entrances available for families with small children and others who may require ready access to the exits. **The good news** is that we will be able to use our sanctuary for nearly all of the construction time; and we are not losing any seating capacity because no pews have been removed and all of the chairs have simply been relocated throughout the sanctuary.
- The conduit is in place for new lights for the parking lot, and light poles should be installed in the next few weeks.
- Steel is expected to be delivered the week of December 16, and framing should begin at that time.
- Water lines, sprinkler lines, and electrical service for the new construction will be run over the top of the ceiling of the social hall. To minimize interruption of the use of the social hall, this work will be done from December 20 – 31 when there is no Sunday school or Sunday Bible study and the CDS is on break.

A sincere thanks to the congregation for the support, patience and good humor that have been displayed so far. Continue to keep Mt. Olive and the project in your prayers.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: December 9, 2018—December 16, 2018

Sunday, December 9	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 4PM 6PM 7:30PM	Divine Service Bible Class/Sunday School/BIC Divine Service Lutheran Pioneers, at. Mt. Olive Artemis Video Games Co-ed Recreational Volleyball
Monday, December 10	9:30AM 10AM 6:30PM	Area Pastors' Conference, at Peace Veterans Bible Study No Evening Service Church Council January Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, December 11	8AM 2:30PM 6:30PM	Women's Bible Study - <i>Job</i> Ottesen Museum Christmas Open House PTF Executive Committee, Social Hall
Wednesday, December 12	8:05AM 9AM 3PM 4PM 5-6:15PM 6:30PM 7:30PM	CDS Chapel Bible Class Youth Choir Confirmation Advent Meal; served by Evangelism Committee Advent Service Senior Choir
Thurs., Dec. 13		
Fri., Dec. 14		
Sat., Dec. 15	9AM	Ambassadors
Sunday, December 16	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 3PM 4:30PM 7:30PM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion SS Christmas Service Practice/BIC/Bible Class Divine Service w/Holy Communion No Encourage One Another Children's Christmas Service Senior Youth Group Caroling/Party Co-ed Recreational Volleyball

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the last day to order a poinsettia. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Make your check payable to Mt. Olive and leave your check in the church office. Thank you.

Encourage One Another will not meet until Sunday, **January 6**.

There are **no Monday evening services** on either December 10 or 17. Please plan to attend the Wednesday night Advent services on **December 12 and 19**. Monday evening services resume on January 7, 2019.

When you park on Marsh Street, please note: The neighbors on Marsh Street are asking that we not block the steps from the street to their houses. Thank you!

Baptized last Sunday, December 2: Isaac Cole Weinandt, infant son of Cole & Shannon Weinandt, was born August 28, 2018 at Mayo Clinic Health Systems-Mankato. His sponsors are Tyler Baka, Kelli Baka, and Brent Randall. May he ever grow in Christ and be blessed therein.

Attend the ELS Ottesen Museum's annual Christmas Open House, on Tuesday, **December 11**, from 2:30 to 5:30PM. See the poster on the bulletin board or the December issue of the *Olive Press* for more information.

Join Ambassador's discussion on "Friendship Evangelism" on Saturday, **December 15**, in the Fireside Room at 9AM. Coffee and breakfast snacks will be provided.

High School Students: you're invited to our Senior Youth Christmas caroling and party on Sunday, **December 16**. We plan to leave from church at 4:30PM for caroling, supper, a "white elephant" party, and games. A sign-up sheet is on the narthex table.

The **Junior Youth Group Christmas Party** is Friday, **December 21**. See the December edition of the *Olive Press* for more details.

The **MOMs Bible studies** have concluded their Fall session. Watch the January issue of the *Olive Press* for details regarding the Spring 2019 studies that begin in February.

Pick up your copy of the December issue of the Olive Press and your 2019 offering envelopes from the narthex tables.

A pre-school Sunday School teacher is needed. This position involves teaching about seven classes (every third Sunday) until the end of the Sunday School year. If you are interested, contact Kent Waletski (507-389-9846) or kwaletski@yahoo.com.

Volunteers are needed to assist with basketball practices for the Mt. Olive Lutheran's Boys B team. Contact Mr. Zibrowski at mrz@mtolivelutheran.org if you are interested.

Schedule your photo shoot for the Mt. Olive Picture Directory! Photos will be taken on **January 6, 9, 12, and 13**. Go to our website and click on the banner to schedule your appointment, or go to this link: <http://signup.com/go/NBMjaTw>.

Happening at Bethany Lutheran College

The Annual Christmas at Bethany Concert is **today**, at 3PM in Trinity Chapel. Tickets are available on-line at blc.edu/christmas-at-bethany.

At Minnesota Valley Lutheran

MVL Christmas Concert, Thursday, December 20. See the MVL *Memo* bulletin insert for more details.

Join us for these Advent & Christmas Worship Services:

Wednesday, **December 12** (Midweek Advent)

5:00 - 6:15 PM – Sloppy Joes served by the Evangelism Committee

6:30 PM – *John the Revelator's Message of the Coming Savior:*

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus (Rev. 22:20). Pastor Luke Ulrich

Wednesday, **December 19** (Midweek Advent)

5:00 - 6:15 PM – Pizza served by the Church Council

6:30 PM – Service of Lessons and Carols

Monday, **December 24** (Christmas Eve)

Office Closed

4:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service

7:00 PM – Candlelight Service

Tuesday, **December 25** (Christmas Day)

Office Closed

10:00 AM – Divine Service w/Holy Communion

Monday, **December 31** (New Year's Eve)

Office Closed

6:30 PM – New Year's Eve Service w/Individual

Absolution and Holy Communion

Tuesday, **January 1** (New Year's Day)

Office Closed – No Service

