

Sunday, January 6, 2019, 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: *On the Festival of Epiphany, we celebrate the visit of the Gentile strangers from the East—the Magi—who came to worship the child, Jesus (Matt 2:1-12). The darkness of sin that had covered the entire earth is now lifted because of the great Light of the World—Christ—who has come (Isaiah 60:1-6)! St. Paul points us to the work that Jesus has carried out so that sinners who have faith in Jesus might be found “justified” (“declared righteous”) before God. He emphasizes that this applies to Jews and Gentiles alike (Rom 3:23-31). Jesus, the Son of God, has been revealed to be the Savior of the World!—a prominent theme on Epiphany Sunday and throughout the Epiphany season. This Savior comes to us still today as we receive His Word and Sacrament in the Divine Service.*

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. 149, #19)

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us the light of Your Holy Word, the guiding star that leads us to the Christ-child: Send, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive this light and make use of it for our salvation, and that we, like the wise men, when they were seeking the star, may not be afraid because of any hardship or peril, but put all our trust in Your only-begotten Son as our only Savior, devote our earthly possessions to the advancement of Your kingdom, and in all things serve Him, Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

~**Opening Hymn 114, vv. 1-3 *Angels From the Realms of Glory***

~**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; Mt 11:28, Jn 3:16)

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.

~Hymn 116, v. 3 *Come to Bethlehem and See*

~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. 149, #18)

P: 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



(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

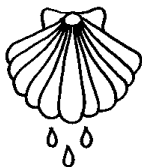
Isaiah 60:1-6 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the

people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. “Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.

~Epistle Lesson

Romans 3:23-31 ...because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus. What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law. Or is he only the God of the Jews? Is he not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, also of the Gentiles, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised person by faith and the uncircumcised person through the very same faith. So are we doing away with the law by this faith? Absolutely not! Instead, we are upholding the law.

Affirmation of Holy Baptism (2nd Service)



(Holy Baptism has the power to work the new life of faith in the hearts of sinners. This regenerative washing “with water through the Word” is intended for all people, since all — including infants and children — are members of a sinful human race and are in need of God’s grace and forgiveness. Jesus has also commanded that “all nations” be baptized. Confession of sins and Absolution are a return to, and a renewal of, one’s Baptism. Matt. 28:19, John 3:5, Eph. 5:26, Titus 3:5, Acts 2:38-39)

~Affirmation of Baptism for Brynlee Noelle Boxrud

(Special Order from Lutheran Worship Agenda—pp.105-109)

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.

~**Chief Hymn 167, vv. 1, 4, 5** *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

~**Holy Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text**

Matthew 2:1-12 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet: You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel." Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the

place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

~Sermon Theme

What Do the Wise Men Teach Us?

1. *That God reveals Himself as Savior to the nations*
2. *That we should praise & worship God where He reveals Himself*

~Prayers & Special Petitions

~Offering & Hymn 120, vv. 2-4 *On That Holy Christmas Night*

*(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.)*

III. The Service of Holy Communion



(Following Christ's command, we receive His grace to us in the special meal He instituted for the forgiveness of our sins. Here, He feeds with His true body and His true blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is the same body which was born of the Virgin Mary, and the same blood which dripped down the wooden cross. This part of the liturgy is one of the oldest parts, dating back to at least the third century AD.)

Questions and prayers to assist in preparing for the Lord's Supper are found in the black hymnal, pp. 38-40.

Guests & Visitors: *We practice "Close" or "Closed Communion". We do this out of love and concern for you. We want to make sure that those who take this holy meal receive it as a blessing and not to their harm as Scripture warns. We also understand that those who come forward to take communion are professing a unity of faith with our congregation and are in full agreement with the teachings and doctrines of Mount Olive Lutheran Church and of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Therefore, we ask those who have not taken Holy Communion with us before to speak with a pastor before communing. Thank you.*

~**Preface** — *Preparing our hearts for Communion*

(ELH p. 50; 2 Tim 4:22, Col 3:1, Ps 136)

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.

~**Epiphany Preface**

(ELH p. 51; p. 74)

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** — *“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

(ELH p. 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**

(ELH p. 53; 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 pow’r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~**Words of Institution**

(ELH p. 54; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

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** — *“Lamb of God”*

(ELH p. 55; Jn 1:29)

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**

(Communicants come forward at the direction of the ushers. During the Distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:)

Hymn 120, vv. 5, 6 *Guided By the Star*

Hymn 161, vv. 1-3 *O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is*

Hymn 168, vv. 1-3 *As With Gladness Men of Old*

Hymn 145 *What Child Is This?*

Hymn 327 *O Lord, We Praise Thee*

~**Dismissal** — *Assurance of blessing for those who have communed*

(ELH 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** — *In appreciation of God's gifts*

(ELH 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** — *Final blessing for God's people*

(ELH p. 56-57; 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 168, vv. 4, 5 *Holy Jesus, Every Day***

~**Closing Prayer**

(ELH 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.

~**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, 215; 10:45am, 160;

New Year's Eve: 131/83

Monthly Giving Update:



Given to the **General Fund** (Nov. 1-30) \$59,062.15

Given to the **Building Fund** (Nov. 1-30) \$8,029.00

Total Given (Nov. 1-30) \$67,091.15

General Fund Budgeted (July 1-Nov. 30) \$377,125.00
(\$75,425/month x 5 months)

General Fund YTD (July 1-Nov. 30) **\$303,174.27**

Difference (Shortfall) **(\$73,950.73)**

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.

*Did you know you can give your offering online? Just go to www.mtolivelutheran.org and click on the link, "donate on line." If you would like to continue using your assigned envelope, just **write the word "online" on the envelope and drop it in the plate** during the offering.*

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: Eldon & Luann Sting,
Dan & Kathy Bruss

2nd Service: Dan & Joanne Maas,
Dean & Cathy Kluge

Ushers: 1st Service: Bruce Gratz (captain), Alec Gratz,
Seth Tweit, John Sehloff, Keith Anderson

2nd Service: David Munsen (captain), Matthew Munsen,
Dan Maas, Justin Maas, Craig Christiansen

Offering Counters: Steve Lussky, Jon Pfeffer

Altar Guild: Connie Gullixson, Connie Meyer

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *January 6, 2019—January 13, 2019*

Sunday, January 6	8:30AM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	9:40AM	Sunday School/BIC/Bible Class
	10:45AM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	1PM	Encourage One Another
	7:30PM	Co-ed Recreational Volleyball
Monday, January 7	6:30PM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	6:30PM	Board of Education
	6:45PM	Board of Deacons
Tuesday, January 8	8AM	Women's Bible Study
	6:30PM	PTF Executive Committee
Wednesday, January 9	8:05AM	Chapel
	9AM	Bible Class
	3PM	Youth Choir
	4PM	Confirmation Classes
	7PM	Senior Choir
Thurs., Jan. 10		
Fri., Jan. 11		
Sat., Jan. 12	9AM	Christian Service Committee
Sunday, January 13	8:30AM	Divine Service
	9:40AM	Sunday School/BIC/Bible Class
	10:45AM	Divine Service
	6PM	Artemis
	7:30PM	Co-ed Recreational Volleyball

Note that our regular Monday evening services resume on **January 7, at 6:30PM.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Affirmation of baptism today during 2nd service: Brynlee Noelle Boxrud, infant daughter of Jason & Cori Boxrud, was born December 12, 2018 and baptized on December 22, 2018. Her sponsors are Mindy & Darin Woitas and Heidi & Nathan Graham. May she ever grow in Christ and be blessed therein.

Sign up for flowers: The 2019 sign-up sheet for flowers for the sanctuary is on the wall in the entry way next to the bulletin board. Please consider providing flowers or a plant to beautify our sanctuary.

Photography for the Mt. Olive Picture Directory begins **today**. **Schedule your photo shoot** if you have not already done so. Photo directory slots are filling up quickly; appointments are still available on January 12 and 26. Go to our website and click on the banner to schedule your appointment, or go to this link: <http://signup.com/go/NBMjaTw>.

Pick up your poinsettia: If you would like the poinsettia that you gave to church, please pick it up **before January 18**. Thank you.

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!

Pick up your 2019 offering envelopes and the January *Olive Press* from the narthex tables.

Our Winter Connect Group season begins **this week**. Keep an eye out for sign-up sheets and ask to join a group! There are a variety of Connect Groups who meet throughout the week to talk and delve deeper into God's Word and the sermons on Sunday. See details about each group at www.mtolivelutheran.org/connect-groups/ or in January's edition of the *Olive Press*.

MOMs Group Diaper Drive: January is national Right to Life month. Please join the MOMs group in supporting Mankato's local pregnancy resource center, Options for Women, by donating diapers and new baby items. Options for Women is a life-affirming center, and its clients earn diapers and baby supplies through the Earn While You Learn program. Contact Karla Reagles (board member at Options) for more information. A collection box will be available in the Narthex for your donations.

After School Care has a list of items they would like to have for the kids, posted on the youth room door. Also needed: four men's small white short-sleeve dress shirts. If you have any questions, contact Michelle Graham: 507-720-7258. Thank you!

The MacPherson family asks members of Mt. Olive for your prayers regarding Marie's father who will be receiving a liver transplant in the coming weeks. A letter containing additional information is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. As you are able, please consider donating funds to cover the medical costs of the transplant.

Join us for a potluck/family game night on **January 19**, beginning at 5PM at Mt. Olive. See the January issue of the *Olive Press* for more details.

At Minnesota Valley Lutheran

Scrip Coordinator Needed: MVL is looking for a volunteer who would be willing to help order Scrip and fill orders for families. The time commitment for this position is about two hours on Monday and Friday mornings. If you're interested, contact the MVL office at 507-354-6851.

MVL has anniversary t-shirts available for purchase: \$10 for adults (S-3XL) and \$7 for youth (S-XL). Quantities of certain colors and sizes are limited, so order yours soon! Contact Kristin Matzke at kmatzke@mvlhs.org or 507-233-8662.

On the narthex table are copies of the *Building On Our Mission* packets and the Time & Talents Survey; **sign-up sheets for** New2You; the **November edition of** the *Mission News & Helping Hands*; **December editions of** MVL's *Memo* and *Thoughts of Faith*; the **December to March edition of** *Meditations Daily Devotions*; **January editions of** the *Olive Press* and the *ELS President's Newsletter*; and **giving envelopes for** MVL memorials.