

EASTER 4

Sunday, April 25, 2021, 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 Adam Pavelchik | 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.

Explanation of the Week: *The people of God are pilgrims and sojourners in this world, looking ahead to a destination yet to come. (1 Peter 2:11-20) Though we are now children of God, and we trust in Him to provide for our daily physical needs, we also understand that far greater things are in store for us, and for all those who wait on the Lord. When the challenges of life are hard to bear, we turn to God and trust Him to provide our daily bread and also the daily spiritual encouragement that keeps us directed to our future hope of Heaven. As the Lord provided for Elijah in discouraging times, so too does He continue to provide for us, regardless of the challenges we face (1 Kings 19:1-8). We are encouraged to persevere as Jesus reminds us that the wait is just a little while: "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." (Jn 16:16-22)*

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: 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.

~**Opening Hymn 69, vv. 1-4, 9 The God of Abraham Praise**

1. *The God of Abr’am praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days
And God of love.
Jehovah, great I Am!
By earth and heav’n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
Forever blest.*

2. *The God of Abr’am praise,
At whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys
At His right hand.
I all on earth forsake,
Its wisdom, fame, and pow’r,
And Him my only portion make,
My shield and tow’r.*

3. *The God of Abr’am praise,
Whose all-sufficient grace
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days
In all my ways.
He deigns to call me friend;
He calls Himself my God.
And He shall save me to the end
Through Jesus’ blood.*

4. *He by Himself has sworn;
I on His oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings up-borne,
To heav’n ascend.
I shall behold His face;
I shall His pow’r adore
And sing the wonders of His grace
Forevermore.*

9. *The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"
They ever cry.
Hail, Abr'am's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine
And endless praise!*

~**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.

~**Hymn 350, v. 4** *O Where Is Thy Sting, Death?*

*4. O where is thy sting, death? We fear thee no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.
Have mercy on us, Lord!*

~**Absolution** — *God's Declaration of Forgiveness* (ELH p. 43, 1; Mk 16:16)

P: Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

~**Gloria in Excelsis Deo** — *"Glory to God in the Highest"* (ELH p. 44-45; Luke 2:14; John 1:29)

P: Glory be to God in the highest

**C: ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men. All glory be to God on high
Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife
at last is ended; God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall dwell on
earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!**

~**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. 156, #68)

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, of Your fatherly goodness You allow Your children to come under Your chastening rod here on earth, that we might be like Your only begotten Son in suffering and hereafter in glory: We beseech You, comfort us by Your Holy Spirit in all temptations and afflictions, that we may not fall into despair, but that we may continually trust in Your Son's promise, that our trials will endure but a little while and will then be followed by eternal joy; that we thus, in patient hope, may overcome all evil, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your Son, Jesus Christ 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.)

~**Epistle Lesson**

1 Peter 2:11-20 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and temporary residents in the world, to abstain from the desires of the sinful flesh, which war against your soul. Live an honorable life among the Gentiles so that even though they slander you as evildoers, when they observe your noble deeds, they may glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the king as the supreme authority or to governors as those who have been sent by him to punish those who do what is wrong and to praise those who do what is right. For this is God's will: that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. Do this as free people, and do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but use it as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. Slaves, submit to your masters with total respect, not only to those who are good and kind but also to those who are harsh. For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. For what credit is it to you if you receive a beating for sinning and patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is favorable with God.

~**Gradual** — *A Psalm or Hymn of the people responding to God's Word*

Hymn 344 v. 2 He Who Bore All Pain and Loss

*2. He who bore all pain and loss
Comfortless upon the cross
Lives in glory now on high,
Pleads for us and hears our cry: Alleluia!
He whose path no records tell
Hath descended into hell;
He the strong man armed hath bound
And in highest heav'n is crowned.
Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, today Your people feed. Alleluia!*

~**Holy Gospel Lesson**

(ELH p. 46)

John 16:16-23 "In a little while you are not going to see me anymore, and again in a little while you will see me, because I am going away to the Father." Therefore some of his disciples asked one another, "What does he mean when he tells us, 'In a little while you are not going to see me, and again in a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going away to the Father'?" So they kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he's saying." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you trying to determine with one another what I meant by saying, 'In a little while you are not going to see me, and again in a little while you will see me'? Amen, Amen, I tell you: You will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. A woman giving birth has pain, because her time has come. But when she has delivered the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, because of her joy that a person has been born into the world. "So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. In that day you will not ask me anything. Amen, Amen, I tell you: Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

C: ✪ **God be praised for His glad tidings.**

~**Apostles' Creed** — *Confession of faith*

(ELH p. 47)

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 377, vv. 1-6 *Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?*

*1. Why should cross and trial grieve me?
Christ is near
With His cheer;
Never will He leave me.
Who can rob me of the heaven
That God's Son
For my own
To my faith hath given?*

*2. Though a heavy cross I'm bearing
And my heart
Feels the smart,
Shall I be despairing?
God, my Helper, who doth send it,
Well doth know
All my woe
And how best to end it.*

*3. God oft gives me days of gladness;
Shall I grieve
If He give
Seasons, too, of sadness?
God is good and tempers ever
All my ill,
And He will
Wholly leave me never.*

*4. Hopeful, cheerful, and undaunted
Ev'rywhere
They appear
Who in Christ are planted.
Death itself cannot appal them,
They rejoice
When the voice
Of their Lord doth call them.*

*5. Death cannot destroy forever;
From our fears,
Cares, and tears
It will us deliver.
It will close life's mournful story,
Make a way
That we may
Enter heav'nly glory.*

*6. What is all this life possesses?
But a hand
Full of sand
That the heart distresses.
Noble gifts that pall me never
Christ, our Lord,
Will accord
To His saints forever.*

~Old Testament Lesson & Sermon Text

Genesis 15:1-6 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

~Sermon Theme

Troubled but Triumphant

1. *Like Abram, we face trouble in this life.*
2. *Clinging to our Savior's word, we share in the victory of eternal life!*

~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.

~Hymn 361, vv. 1-4 Faith is a Living Power from Heaven

1. Faith is a living pow'r from heav'n
That grasps the promise God hath giv'n,
A trust that cannot be o'erthrown,
Fixed heartily on Christ alone.

3. Faith in the conscience worketh peace,
And bids the mourner's weeping cease;
By faith the children's place we claim
And give all honor to one Name.

2. Faith finds in Christ whate'er we need
To save or strengthen us indeed,
Receives the grace He sends us down,
And makes us share His cross and crown.

4. Faith feels the Spirit's kindling breath
In love and hope that conquer death;
Faith worketh hourly joy in God
And trusts and blesses e'en the rod.

~Collect — *Requesting God's help to live godly lives*

(ELH p. 58, 11)

P: We thank You, Almighty God, that You have built Your Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Head Cornerstone. Grant that we may be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable unto You, 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.

~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 361, vv. 5, 6 We thank Thee, then, O God of heav'n

5. We thank Thee, then, O God of heav'n,
That Thou to us this faith hast giv'n
In Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who is
Our only fount and source of bliss.

6. And from His fullness grant each soul
The rightful faith's true end and goal:
The blessedness no foes destroy,
Eternal love, and light, and joy.

~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)

Officiant: Pastor John Petersen
Organists: 1st: John Baumann /2nd: Lexi Fosburgh

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 8:00am, 221/177; 10:00am, 173/129; Monday: 42/37

Sun Live (8:00am) Online Viewing: 33

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *April 25, 2021—May 2, 2021*

Sunday, April 25	8:30AM	Divine Service
	9:40AM	Sunday School
	9:40AM	Informational Meeting (gym)
	10:45AM	Divine Service
	Noon	Call Meeting
	6PM	Youth (gr. 4-12) Group at BLC Jazz Concert
Monday, April 26	6:30PM	Divine Service
	7:30PM	Board of Stewardship
Tues., Apr. 27	7PM	M.O.M.s Bible Study
Wednesday, April 28	8:05AM	Chapel
	9AM	Bible Study
	4PM	Confirmation Classes
Thursday, April 29	8:30AM	M.O.M.s Bible Study at Peace
	1PM	M.O.M.s Bible Study (social hall)
	7PM	Public Examination of Confirmands
Fri., Apr. 30		
Sat., May 1	8AM	Confirmation pictures & rehearsal
	9AM	Volunteers at New 2 You
	10:30AM	Confirmation service
Sunday, May 2	8:30AM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	9:40AM	Sunday School/BIC/Bible Study
	10:45AM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion

SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK

Greeters: 1st **Service:** Paul & Mary Jane Tweit, 2nd **Service:** John Bungum

Offering Counters: Will Holt, Lance Schwartz

Altar Guild: Carol Leiferman, Lynette Merseth

Weekly Financial Update

Given Last Week: \$14,635.38 (includes text & on-line giving)

Fiscal Year-to-Date Surplus (as of 2/28/21): \$27,305

Romans 8:32 "Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?"

*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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY! Be sure to check for **your quarterly giving statement**. They're on the smaller western-most table in the narthex.

Youth Group Event! All youth grades 4-12, come and join us for pizza, fellowship, a devotion, and an awesome Jazz Concert at Bethany Lutheran College. We'll meet in the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center on the campus of Bethany Lutheran College **at 6:00 PM TODAY**. We'll have a devotion and pizza, and then at 7:00 PM, we'll watch the Bethany Jazz Band for their spring concert. The event should be finished by 8:00 PM. Come on out! We're looking forward to seeing you.

Join us for our Ascension Day meal and worship service **Thursday, May 13**. The Evangelism Committee will be serving sloppy joes. Worship begins at 6:30 PM. Hope to see many of you there!

Vacation Bible School interest survey: The Board for Parish Education and Youth is exploring the possibility of conducting VBS sometime this summer. We know that because of the COVID pandemic, we can't know for sure whether it will be possible, or just how and when it may be held. But we would like to get an idea of how many families with K-5th grade children would consider having them participate. So, without asking for a commitment at this time, please sign the sheet on the table in the Narthex to indicate your interest and willingness to enroll and to serve. Thank you!

Camp Indianhead Go-ers! Mount Olive members heading to Camp Indianhead who would like Mount Olive to pay the traditional \$50 per camper need to email Lance

Johnson **before June 11**, the same day as the camp registration deadline. Send an email to Lance Johnson (lgustavj77@gmail.com) with your child(ren)'s name(s) and that you would like to be on the reimbursement list.

Need a car? A Mount Olive member family has a 2002 Dodge Caravan to donate to any other member who could use it. Call the church office for details.

Please continue to save pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. All donations can be brought to the After-School Care room or to Mrs. Feistner in the front office. Thank you!

Volunteer Softball Coach(es) Needed. Mt. Olive Lutheran School needs volunteer coaches for our softball program for this spring softball season. We have a Co-ed Softball Team consisting of players in Grades 7-8. Practices could be from 3:30 to 5:30 at Mt Olive on Tuesdays and Fridays. Times would be determined by when coaches are available. Practices are held at the softball field behind Washington Grade School. Coaches are responsible for pitching to their team during the games. We have one tournament on Tuesday, May 18 at Caswell Park beginning at 9:00. We also try to get some games at MVL before the tournament if the two softball fields are available. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Mr. Zibrowski at mrz@mtolivelutheran.org. Thank you.

Softball Umpires needed. Mt. Olive Lutheran Grade School sponsors a grade school co-ed softball tournament on Tuesday, May 18 at Caswell Park. Games begin at 9:00, so umps will need to report by 8:45. The tournament usually gets done around 3:30. We are looking for volunteers (or paid individuals) for umping. Umps do not need to worry about balls and strikes, since they just call the bases. Each batter gets 4 pitches to attempt to get a hit. Batters may still strike out. Umps will need to know the basic softball rules. If you are able to help out on this day (all day or partial), contact Mr. Zibrowski by calling the school office at 345-7927 or emailing Mr. Zibrowski at mrz@mtolivelutheran.org.

Bibles and Hymnals and Gifts ... Oh My! Have you visited the Bethany Lutheran College Bookstore lately? The Bookstore carries a variety of Bibles, hymnals, prayer books, devotionals, and gifts perfect for Confirmation and Graduation. In addition, embossing is available and completed right in the store for a faster turnaround. Stop by the Bookstore to check out the variety of Christian books and gifts!

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

MVL Spring Play (April 30-May 2) Have you seen Harvey? Some say they have seen him now and then at MVL, and even out and about a bit! If you'd like to see Harvey, too, come on out to MVL's theater production of the play Harvey! This year's production will be held at State Street Theater Company in New Ulm. Performances are Friday, April 30 & Saturday, May 1 at 7:00 PM, and Sunday, May 2 at 2:00 PM. **Advanced tickets are required** and may be purchased online at www.eventbrite.com/o/mvl-drama-department-33087882139. If you have questions or issues with ordering, call Mrs. Jennifer Uher at 262-893-9457. We'd love to share the joy and wonder of Harvey with you!

MVL Classic (July 12) The 2021 MVL Classic is coming July 12 at the New Ulm Country Club. This annual outing supports our Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for a Christ-centered education at MVL. Each year - through sponsorships, golf fees, and outright donations - thousands of dollars are raised for MVL families in the coming school year. Sponsorship opportunities are currently open for both businesses and individuals; contact Kristin Matzke at kmatzke@mvlhs.org for more information. Let's tap-in for tuition assistance!

MVL Routes with Palmer Bus Service Palmer Bus Service provides safe and reliable transportation for students. We are now hiring school bus drivers for MVL routes. Full-time and part-time positions available with paid training! Contact Site Manager Ray Vulcan at rayv@palmerbusservice.com to learn more.

Bethany Lutheran College

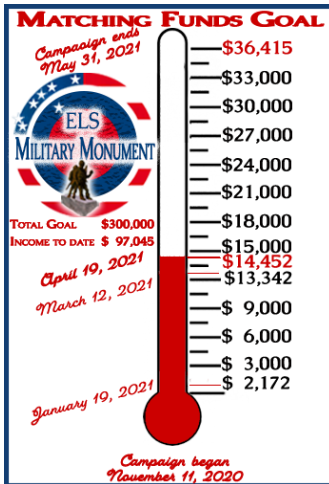
Open Positions: BLC is currently taking applications for these positions:

- Admissions Counselor
- Adjunct Faculty- Nursing Department (2)
- Assistant/Associate Professor - Business Administration

More information on these jobs can be found at <http://www.blc.edu/jobs>

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Military Monument: We live in a very troubled world. Most recently we have faced the COVID pandemic. We face acts of terrorism at home and abroad that threaten our freedom. Yet, we enjoy many freedoms in this country. Who do we depend on to



protect us from, and face these evil problems? The answer is obvious, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world and has won for us freedom from sin, the Devil, and eternal death. And God the Father who has blessed us with the divine vocation of “warrior”. He calls these warriors to protect and defend the earthly freedoms with which he has blessed us. Sadly, many times, these brave men and women who have sacrificed so much for our freedom are all but forgotten and the freedoms they defended taken for granted. As President Calvin Coolidge stated while he was in office, “The nation that forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten”. Our active military and veterans wrote a blank check when they take the oath of service and pledged to defend our country when danger

faces us. That blank check included their willingness to serve, sacrifice and give their life if necessary. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” John 15:13. This is a great opportunity for you and your family to remember and honor those who served. Consider making a contribution to the ELS military monument to remember and honor those who served. **Until May 31st**, your gifts to the project will be matched dollar for dollar. **See the graph** of donations made thus far and prayerfully consider contributing to this way of honoring those who have served or are serving be it a father, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, neighbor, friend, or any acquaintance you may have that served to protect your way of life. For more information, check out www.els.org/monument.

SPECIAL MEETINGS THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 25TH

- 9:40am - Congregational Informational Meeting @ Mt. Olive Gym (All are invited and welcome)
- 12pm - Call Meeting for Mt. Olive School Faculty @ Mt. Olive Social Hall (for Voting Members of Mt. Olive)

