



ADVENT 3

Sunday, December 12, 2021, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

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 (on the tables at the back of worship area). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon.

Explanation of the Week: *The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord " (Is 40:1-8). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass." Now He asks from prison, "Are you the Coming One?" (Mt 11:2-10). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Cor 4:1-5) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. God's Gospel is shared with us through Jesus so that through Him we "are not consumed" by His anger (Malachi 3:1-6). Instead, we have reason to rejoice and be glad!*

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.

~**Hymn 105 vv. 1-3, 5 Rise, Children of the Kingdom**

~**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 268 vv. 6 My Sins are Countless**

**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

(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.

~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. 147-166, #6)

P: Let us pray: Lord God, heavenly Father, You gave Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to become Man and to come into the world that He might destroy the works of the devil, deliver us poor offenders from sin and death, and give us everlasting life: We beseech You so to rule and govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that we may seek no other refuge than His Word, and thus avoid the sin to which we are by nature inclined, in order that we may always be found among the faithful followers of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and by faith 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.

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

(EHV)

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 This is the way a person should think of us: as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. In this connection, moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But it is a trivial matter to me if I am evaluated by you or by a day in a human court. Why, I do not even evaluate myself. I do not in fact know of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this; rather, the one who evaluates me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing ahead of time, until the Lord comes. He will bring to light whatever is hidden in darkness and also reveal the intentions of hearts. Then there will be praise for each person from God.

~ Holy Gospel Lesson

(EHV)

Matthew 11:2-10 While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples to ask him, "Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?" Jesus answered them, "Go, report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me." As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

C: ♪ God be *prais-èd* for His *glad ti-dings*.

~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 102 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

~Old Testament Lesson & Sermon Text

(NKJV)

Malachi 3:1-6 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is* like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against

adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien— Because they do not fear Me,” Says the LORD of hosts. “For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

~Sermon

You Are Not Consumed!

1. *Because God doesn't change.*
2. *Because God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for our Savior.*
3. *Because God sent His Son to be our Savior.*

~Offering Hymn 106 *On Jordan's Bank*

~Offering Prayer

(We take this time to acknowledge and thank God for moving the hearts of His people to continue to support the mission and work of our church. Our ushers will bring the offering plates forward to the altar and the pastor will offer a prayer of thanks. Please Note: You may place any offerings into the plates on the stands at the main aisle entrance to the Sanctuary either before or after the service. Online giving is also available through mtolivelutheran.org or by text message through your smartphone by texting the amount you would like to give to 833-726-3742 (a link will be provided for first-time users to register an account.)

~Prayer of the Church

(ELH p. 48)

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.

~Collect — *The congregation's prayer*

(ELH p. 58-59, III)

P: Lord God, our heavenly Father, we thank You, that of Your great mercy You have given us Your holy and blessed Word, by which You also among us gather Your Christian Church. We humbly entreat You, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we receive Your Word with thankful hearts, and live according to it, and ever increase in Christian faith, and hope, and love, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, 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 110 vv. 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.

~**Announcements**

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

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

Officiant: Pastor John Petersen

Organists: 1st: Cassie Johnson /2nd: Mark DeGarmeaux

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 8:30am, 214/167; 10:45am, 151/103; Monday: 32/28

Sunday Live (8:30am) Online Viewing: 31

WE THANK THOSE SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK:

Greeters: 1st service: Mark & Michelle Graham and Ron & Mary Younge

2nd Service: Mark & Vivian Smith

Media Center: John Baumann

Offering Counters: John Foede, John Baumann, Jana Finken

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson

Weekly Financial Update

Given Last Week: \$21,532.38 (includes text & on-line giving)

Fiscal Year-to-Date Deficit (as of 10/31/21): \$18,045

Philippians 4:19 And my God will fully supply your every need, according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

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

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 11:30AM.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 12, 2021 — December 19, 2021*

Sunday, December 12	8:30AM 9:45AM 10:45AM 6-8PM 7:30PM	Divine Worship Sunday School and Bible Study Divine Worship Artemis Gaming Volleyball
Monday, December 13	9:30AM 5:30PM 6:30PM 6:30PM	Pastor’s Area Conference at Peace Parish Education and Youth Divine Worship Church Council
Tuesday, December 14	9AM	Ladies Bible Study (Gospel of Matthew)
Wednesday, December 15	8:10AM 9AM 4PM 5PM 6:30PM	CDS Chapel Adult Bible Study (Book of Lamentations) Confirmation Class Supper Advent Service
Thursday, December 16		
Friday, December 17	11:15AM	CDS Early Dismissal
Saturday, December 18		
Sunday, December 19	8:30AM 9:45AM 10:45AM 3PM 6-8PM 7:30PM	Divine Worship w/ Holy Communion Sunday School and Bible Study Divine Worship w/ Holy Communion CDS Children’s Christmas Service Artemis Gaming Volleyball

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School

Flowers: Flowers on the altar today are given to God's glory in memory of loved ones, by Ruth & Bob Heidenreich, Art & Terri Westphal, Elli & Joe Fisher, Paul & Mary Jane Tweit, Mark & Sharon Madson, Mark & Michelle Graham, Phyllis Kenning (Bud and Joe) Bill & Suzanne Bohning Rev. Ted & Diane Gullixson (Ruth Gullixson Webber), Dottie Kunkle (Jim), Janet & Greg Costello, Andy & Laurie Overn, Antonio Guerrero Jr, Jeannette Koberg (Jerry), Brenda & Duane Garbers, Dan & Jane Birkholz (our parents), Keith & Claudia Eisberg, Audrey Spear (Stella & Raymond Richter), and Harlan Mehlop.

On the Narthex table Meditations, December's Olive Press, and Volunteer sign up sheets.



Sign Up for Coffee & Treats! If you would like to provide coffee and treats during our Sunday morning Bible Study, visit our website mtolivelutheran.org for further information and the Coffee Servers Sign Up link at the bottom of the page. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8:00 AM to prepare the coffee (regular and decaffeinated) and serve 4-5 dozen treats.

Feeling under the weather? For the time being, please stay at home and view the service on our Facebook page. Then, be sure to come back to worship "in person" just as soon as you can!

Mount Olive is in need of volunteers for setting up and serving catered lunches for funerals held here at the church. Please sign up on the table in the Narthex if you can assist us in this important work. Call the church office with any questions.

Thank you!

Cleaning out your closet? This week is the last week to donate! We are collecting new and gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves and snow pants for the clients of Wellcome Manor in Garden City, MN.



Join us! For the CDS Children's Christmas Service. Next Sunday, **December 19th** at 3pm. Students need to be in their classrooms no later than 2:45pm

TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERING Our delegates and pastors at convention set a budget of \$790,000 for gifts from congregations to our ELS missions and ministries for 2021. In addition, our synod Board of Trustees (in absence of a 2020 convention) earmarked all gifts over \$760,000 to help with our Bethany Lutheran College's operating budget.

Please note the envelope provided for this special offering to the ELS and its missions. Write your check to your church and designate it for the synod's budget from your

congregation and provide your financial secretary with your envelope number. As you do, please remember, as a synod, we agreed to follow our new strategic plan to *Tell of Jesus and His Love*. It is a five-year plan for our churches, pastors, and boards to prayerfully implement (2021 Synod Report pp. 171-174). At the same time, may all our gifts be in accord with our Lord's abundant blessings to us.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School



Christmas Wreaths are ready for pick up! If you ordered a wreath from our MVL students, pick up by door 6. Don't forget to grab a ribbon for your wreath.

The MVL Christmas concert, "Oh That We Were There," will be presented on Wednesday, **December 22nd** in the school gymnasium. The concert will feature the MVL Symphonic Band, our Freshman Choir, the A Capella Choir, and the Chargaliers. The band will begin playing at 6:45 P.M. with the processional of the choirs at 7:00. We sincerely hope that you can join us as we finish our semester with the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus! Merry Christmas to you all!

Bethany Lutheran College

Bethany Lutheran College is taking applications for the following positions, please see our website for additional information.

- Maintenance Technician
- Custodian - Academic Buildings
- Production Studio Specialist
- Adjunct Faculty (Public Relations)

Community Opportunities

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod invites applications for the position of Business Administrator. Request job description from Keith Wiederhoeft, 6 Browns Court, Mankato MN 56001. Keithw@blc.edu. 507-344-7395. Please submit resume and references to President Glenn R. Obenberger at the same address by January 10. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Minimum of Bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting or finance. Benefits include health, life insurance, and pension plan. Start date after March 1, 2022.

New 2 You expanded hours for the Holidays until **December 18th**. Monday closed, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30am - 4:00 p.m. Thursday & Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm. Hope to see you all soon!



Come, join us, and see what we do at Jesus Cares.
There might be a way that you would be
comfortable helping.

Jesus Cares Ministry Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 21

6:30 P.M.

at

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

1123 Marsh St.

Mankato, MN



Advent/Christmas Series

*Go Out to Meet
Your Coming King!*

All Services will be
Live-Streamed at
MtOliveLutheran.org
& on our Facebook
page.



- **MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES:**
 - Wednesday, Dec. 1st - 6:30p + "How Will I Know Him?"
Isaiah 62:10-12
 - Wednesday, Dec. 8th - 6:30p + "How shall I Greet Him?"
Psalm 118:25-29
 - Wednesday, Dec. 15th - 6:30p + Service of Lessons &
Carols
 - *(Meals are served before each service starting at 5pm-Freewill donations)*
- **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Friday, Dec. 24th**
 - 4p - Mt. Olive Strings - Sacred Christmas Music
 - 4:30p Service
 - 7p CANDLELIGHT Service
- **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - Saturday, Dec. 25th**
 - 10a Christmas Festival Service with Holy Communion
- **NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE - Friday, Dec. 31st**
 - 6:30p Service with Individual Absolution & Holy Communion

*(Please Note: Our Office will be closed on December 24th & 31st.
Please contact our Pastors directly if there is an emergency.)*