

CHRISTMAS 1

Sunday, December 26, 2021, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

1123 Marsh Street, Mankato, MN 56001 | (507) 345-4966 | church@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 Welcome table and in front of you in the pew). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon.

Explanation of the Week: *A Rod has come forth from the stem of Jesse (Is 11:1-5), the Seed of David whose kingdom shall be established forever (2 Sam 7:1-16). In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son Jesus to redeem us from the judgment of the Law (Gal 4:1-7). Now He is presented in the temple in fulfillment of the Law and revealed to be “a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of the people of Israel” (Lk 2:22-40). As we receive God’s Word and Sacraments, the “mystery of Godliness”—of what Christ has done to win our salvation (1 Tim 3:16)—is shared with us.*



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)*

~**Hymn 114 Angels From the Realms of Glory**

~**Versicles and Gloria Patri**

(ELH p. 108)

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

~**Confession of Sin**

(ELH p. 108)

C: Almighty God, heavenly Father: I have sinned against You through my own fault, in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, forgive me all my sin, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

~**Absolution**

(ELH p. 109)

P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~**Psalm 93**

C: The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The Lord is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.

Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O Lord, The floods have lifted up their voice; The floods lift up their waves.

The Lord on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters, Than the mighty waves of the sea.

Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

~Solo – “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

(Traditional Polish Carol)

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all,
Christ the child is Lord of all.*

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow
Christ the child was born for you
Christ the child was born for you*

~Old Testament Lesson

(EHV)

Isaiah 11:1-5 A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He will be delighted with the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears, but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death. Righteousness will be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

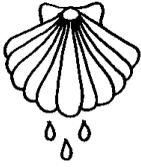
~Hymn 143 vv. 7, 8, 9 O Holy Child, Thy Manger Gleams

~Epistle Lesson

(EHV)

Galatians 4:1-7 What I am saying is this: As long as the heir is a young child, he is no different from a slave. Although he is owner of everything, he is still under guardians and managers until the day set by his father. So also, when we were younger children, we were enslaved under the basic principles of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “Abba, Father!” So, you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

The Order of Holy Baptism



(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)

~ Levi Yiyang Sang, Micah Yizan Sang, & Benjamin Yisong Sang

(ELH p. 133ff)

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.

~Hymn 150 vv. 1, 2, 6, 7 *In This Our Happy Christmastide*

~Holy Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text

(EHV)

Luke 2:33-40 Joseph and the child’s mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to

their own town, Nazareth. The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

~Sermon

Marvel Over the Things Spoken of Him

- 1. Surprising or Unexpected Things*
- 2. Divine Things – Of a Divine Plan*

~Offering Hymn 129 v. 1 *I Stand Beside Thy Manger Here*

~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.)

~Responsory

(ELH p.108)

P: O Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy upon us

C: O Lord Jesus, seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

C: O Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy upon us.

P: Arise, O Christ, and help us.

C: And deliver us for Your name's sake.

~Lord's Prayer

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.

~Prayers & Special Petitions

~Collect

(ELH p. 108)

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, bright Sun of the world: shine upon my spirit and drive away the night of sin, that I may walk in Your holy light all my life and even forevermore.

C: Amen.

~Canticle Hymn 151 Thou Light of Gentile Nations

~Versicles

(ELH p. 108)

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord:

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: Let us bless the Lord:

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord Almighty order this day and all our doings in His peace.

C: Amen.

~Hymn 163 vv. 1-3 O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly

~Announcements

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

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

Officiant: Pastor Luke Ulrich

Organists: 1st: John Baumann /2nd: Mark DeGarmeaux

Soloist: Carl Bloedel

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/THE LORD'S SUPPER

Sunday: 8:30am, 150/122; 10:45am, 145/124; Monday: 26/18

Sunday Live (8:30am) Online Viewing: 40

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: Adam Pavelchik

Offering Counters: John Foede, John Baumann, Jana Finken

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson

Weekly Financial Update

Given Last Week: \$26,424.60 (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 26, 2021 — January 2, 2021*

Sunday, December 26	8:30AM	Divine Worship
	10:45AM	No Sunday School and Bible Study Divine Worship
Monday, December 27	6:30PM	Divine Worship
Tues. Dec 28		
Wed. Dec 29		
Thur. Dec. 30		
Friday, December 31	6:30PM	New Year's Eve Service w/ Holy Communion
Sat. January 1		
Sunday, January 2	8:30AM	Divine Worship
	10:45AM	No Sunday School and Bible Study Divine Worship No Volleyball

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School

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!



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.

On the Narthex table Meditations, and Volunteer sign up sheets.

Mount Olive is in need of volunteers for setting up and serving catered lunches for funerals held at the church. 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!

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.

Thank you to everyone who donated fleece to help After School Care make tie blankets for The REACH (a center for homeless and at risk youth). With your help, we were able to make 8 blankets! 2 completed fleece blankets were also donated. A special thank you also to the ladies who helped cut all the fleece!

Thank you to everyone who donated winter wear to our Winter Clothing Drive, benefitting the clients of Wellcome Manor Family Services in Garden City, Mn. With your help, Mt. Olive was able to donate: 72 coats; 12 snow pants; 45 mittens/gloves; 126 hats; 41 scarves and 10 pairs of boots.

Bethany Lutheran College

Bethany Lutheran College is taking applications for the following positions, see our website for additional information. Maintenance Technician, Custodian - Academic Buildings, Production Studio Specialist, Adjunct Faculty (Public Relations)

Community Opportunities

ELS Winter Youth Retreat and Trip to Nickelodeon Universe. 7th – 12th grade youth are invited to a Winter Youth Retreat at Heritage Lutheran in Apple Valley. **January 28th to 29th.** The retreat will include an evening of fun, games, and Bible Study on Friday night with a trip to Nickelodeon Universe (NU) on Saturday. The cost is \$30 per student and covers a five-hour unlimited ride pass to NU as well as food and drinks while at Heritage. Bring cash or make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church the day of. Go to peacemankato.com/retreat to sign up and for more details. Students must sign-up by **January 23rd** to guarantee their spot.

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.