

ADVENT 3/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, December 11, 2022, 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 Benjamin Springer

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. **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: *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, Matins (p. 109)

“Matins”—from the Latin word for “morning”—is one of the main services the monks would sing together each day during the middle ages. The Lutheran church kept the Matins liturgy because its focus is on the reading and hearing of God’s Word. In this early morning hour, we rejoice to hear God’s Word proclaim to us the Good News that “He Is Risen!”

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

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

~**Hymn 106** *On Jordan’s Banks the Herald’s Cry*

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

(ELH p. 109)

P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

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.

~**Versicles** — *Opening sentences*

(ELH p. 109-110; Ps 51:15, Ps 70:1)

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: ♪ And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

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. Alleluia!

~**Invitatory** — *Invitation to worship*

(ELH p. 110; Ps. 95:6)

P: O come, let us worship the Lord.

C: ♪ For He is our Maker.

~**Venite exultemus** — *“Come! Let us exalt”*

(ELH p. 111; Ps. 95:1-7)

C: ♪ O come, let us sing to the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise to Him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God: and a great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is His also.

The sea is His, for He made it: and His hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

For He is our God: and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

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.

~**Old Testament Lesson**

(EHV)

Malachi 3:1-6: Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies. But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire, like launderers bleach! He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness. Judah and Jerusalem’s offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago. I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies. Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end.

~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.

~Responsory — *Response to hearing God's Word*

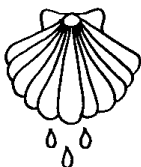
(ELH p. 112)

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: ♪ Thanks be to You, O Lord!



~The Order of Holy Baptism— *(2nd Service Only)*



(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)

~Baptism of Miles John Quist

(ELH p. 133ff)



~Hymn 107 *When All the World Was Cursed*

~Holy Gospel & Sermon Text

(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.'

~Sermon Theme

A Servant of the Lord Completes His Work

~Offering Hymn 94, v. 6 *Rejoice, Then, Ye Sad Hearted*

~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.)

~Prayers

~Canticle: Hymn 46 *Sing Praise to the God of Israel*

(ELH p. 112)

~Kyrie – “Lord”

(ELH p. 116-117)

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

~Lord’s Prayer

(ELH p. 117; 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. 118, 1)

P: Let us pray: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, having safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doing, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous

in Your sight; 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.

~**Benedicamus** — *Call for blessing*

(ELH p. 119)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

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

(ELH p. 119; 2 Cor 13:14)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: ♪ Amen.

~**Hymn 102** *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

~**Announcements**

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

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

*Preacher: Pastor Dan Basel
Liturgist: Pastor Luke Ulrich
Organists: 1st: Cassie Johnson / 2nd: John Baumann*

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/THE LORD'S SUPPER

Sunday: 8:30am, 254/162; 10:45am, 156/112; **Monday**: 26/19; **Wednesday**: 198
Online Viewing: Sunday, 35; **Wednesday**, 11

WE THANK THOSE SERVING OUR LORD TODAY:

Greeters: 1st Service—Mark & Vivian Smith, Ron & Mary Younge
2nd Service—Keith Anderson

Offering Counters: John Baumann, Jana Finken

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson, Peggy Harstad

Media Center: Benjamin Springer

Weekly Financial Update

Given Last Week: \$22,969.30

Fiscal Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit) as of 10/31/22: (\$36,757.05)

2 Corinthians 9:8 God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will overflow in every good work.

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

Line of Credit (LOC) Challenge Update

A few weeks ago, the Line of Credit Challenge was issued to the congregation to raise \$20,000 by December 15 (Phase 1) that would be matched by an anonymous donor. This donor also challenged the congregation to raise another \$20,000 between January 1 to June 15, 2023 (Phase 2) that would also be matched by this donor. By God's grace, as of December 1, we have received \$25,542.12! Because of your generosity, we paid off \$40,000 on our Line of Credit over the past few days! Thanks to all who gave offerings to Phase I—praise be to God for such a quick and wonderful outpouring of Christian love!! Please wait until January 1, 2023, to begin donating to Phase 2 so that your gifts will count towards the \$20,000 needed for the match. Please be aware that funds received above the \$20,000 for Phase 1 will not count towards Phase 2.

Mt. Olive Worship Services on TV

Mt. Olive services are available on local cable channel 181 (Charter) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10am and Thursdays at 11:30am.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 11, 2022 — December 18, 2022*

Sunday, December 11	8:30AM	Stewardship Sunday
	9:45AM	Divine Worship
	10:45AM	Sunday School/BIC/Adult Bible Class
	6-9PM	Divine Worship
	7:30PM	Artemis gaming
Monday, December 12		Volleyball (coed recreational)
	11AM	Funeral for the Rev. John Moldstad, Sr.
	4:30PM	Girls A & Boys A Basketball @ Mt. Olive
	5:30PM	Parish Ed & Youth
	6:30PM	Divine Worship
Tuesday, December 13	6:30PM	Church Council
	9AM	Ladies' Bible Study
Wednesday, December 14	4PM	Girls A & B Basketball @ Trinity, Janesville
	8:10AM	CDS Chapel
	9AM	Adult Bible Study
	5PM	Meal (Pizza)
	6:30PM	Advent Service (Lessons & Carols)
Thurs., Dec. 15	7:30PM	Adult Choir
Fri., Dec. 16		
Saturday, December 17	11:15AM	CDS Early Dismissal
	TBD	Girls A & Boys A Basketball: St. Paul's Tip-Off Tourney
Sunday, December 18	8:30AM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion
	9:45AM	Sunday School/BIC/Adult Bible Class
	10:45AM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion
	3PM	Children's Christmas Service
	6-9PM	Artemis Gaming
	7:30PM	Volleyball (coed recreational)

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School

Flowers on the altar today are given to God's glory by Dottie Kunkel in memory of Jim Kunkel.

Baptized today at 2nd service: Miles John Quist, son of John & Shelby Quist. May he ever grow in Christ and be blessed through this Sacrament.

We thank Pastor Dan Basel, the Synod's Giving Counselor for preaching today. Pastor Basel is also giving a presentation on Planned Giving between services during the Adult Sunday School hour today.

Today's Special Offering:

Delegates and pastors at the annual ELS convention set a budget of \$82,000 for gifts from congregations to our ELS missions and ministries for 2022. As of November 23, the Synod has received \$742,749, so only \$77,251 is needed to make the \$820,000 goal. Special envelopes are provided in your bulletin today for this offering to the ELS and its missions. Write your check to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and designate it for the Synod's budget (include your envelope number or name). Please remember our five-year strategic plan, "Tell of Jesus and His Love", that our churches, pastors, and boards are prayerfully implementing (2022 Synod Report, pp. 125-139).

Funeral services for the Rev. John Moldstad, Sr. will be held on Monday, **December 12**, at Mt. Olive at 11am; visitation begins at 9:30am.

Looking for a one-of-a-kind Christmas gift? We will have a display of handcrafts from Thai Village to purchase after and between services **today**. New craft items arrived this past week. Thai Village is a WELS mission that supports the Thai people with craft training to produce income, while also sharing God's Word with them. Our school children have designated Thai Village as their mission project for the first semester. To find out more about the Thai Village mission, click on the following link: <https://thaivillage.org>.

Christmas Poinsettia Baskets: If you would like to contribute towards Christmas poinsettia basket arrangements to help beautify our sanctuary this Christmas, a sign-up sheet and envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. Indicate if your donation is in honor or memory of someone. Suggested donation is \$15; however, any amount is acceptable. Make your check payable to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. Insert your check or cash in the provided envelope and place it in the Flower Box in the church office. The last day to order is Wednesday, **December 14**. These Christmas poinsettia and greens arrangements will be displayed in large baskets; therefore, individual poinsettias will not be available to take home after Christmas.

Who Is He? Find the answer to that question by attending the Children's Christmas Concert on Sunday, **December 18**, at 3pm, at Mt. Olive. Parents: please have your children at the school by 2:30pm.

Winter Clothing Drive, December 4-18: Do you have new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, snow pants, or boots that your family is no longer using? Mt. Olive is collecting donations of these items that will benefit clients of The Reach, a drop-in center for homeless youth in the Mankato area. Place your items in boxes located outside the classrooms and in the coat rack hallway.

You are invited to the Jesus Cares Ministry Christmas Program on Tuesday, **December 20**, at 6:30pm at Mt. Olive.

Kiwanis Light Volunteer Opportunities: Mt. Olive has two more opportunities to volunteer with the Kiwanis Holiday Lights located in Sibley Park this Christmas Season. We need **8 volunteers on Thursday, December 29**, from 4:30-9pm. Also, we need **3 volunteers on Sunday, January 2**, from 1-4pm, to help tear down the lights. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. Please reach out to Matthew Holt at 507-340-8014 with any questions.

After School Care is looking for:


1. **Fleece donations** to tie blankets for clients of The REACH, a center for homeless Mankato area children. Please bring your donations to the office. Thank you!
2. **Pop tabs** for the Ronald McDonald house charities. Save your pop tabs and drop them off in the office.

Parents: Basketball game dates will be listed in the “Week at a Glance” section of the bulletin. Schedules are also available in the tract rack in the narthex. Watch your Herald and school calendar for any changes.


Help the church office update our email address database. If you would like to receive Mt. Olive announcements (such as the monthly *Olive Press* newsletter or giving statements) electronically, please let the church office know, and we can add or update your email address in our files. Thank you!

Bethany Lutheran College is taking applications for a controller and a head volleyball coach. Please check the Bethany website for more information:
<https://blc.edu/campus-life/campus-services/human-resources/bethany-jobs/>

Could you help serve school lunches at Mt. Olive? If so, please contact the church office.



A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT SEEN FROM A DISTANCE



THE PROPHETS PROCLAIM CHRIST'S COMING



Midweek Advent

Meal & Service:

Meal: 5-6:15pm | Service: 6:30pm

- Wednesday, December 14th -
- *(Service of Lessons & Carols)*

Children's Christmas Service:

Sunday, December 18th, 3pm

Christmas Eve Services:

Saturday, December 24th, 4:30pm & 7pm (*Candlelight Service*)

(Preservice Christmas Music by the Mt. Olive Strings at 4pm)

Christmas Day Festival Service:

Sunday, December 25th, 10am



Missionary to Missionary

A monthly newsletter from the Evangelism & Missions Counselor



November/December 2022

In the season of Advent many Christians focus on being prepared. We want to be prepared for Christ's return. Christ could return at any moment, and we do not want to be caught off guard, asleep in our faith. We are spiritually awakened by God's Word and Sacraments. So being prepared involves being active in the means God provides for us - hearing His Word preached, receiving Holy Communion regularly, doing devotions, etc. These awaken our faith in the crucified and risen Savior.

The Apostle Peter also encouraged believers to be prepared in another way. Believers are to be prepared to give an answer about their faith.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15 (EHV)

Notice that the focus is positive. Peter assumes people will observe that Christians have hope and ask them for an explanation. We have the best news in the world! Our sins are forgiven. We deserved to go to hell, but Jesus has redeemed us. By God's grace, through faith, we can live each day of our lives knowing that heaven is our home. Knowing, not wishing, but knowing!

Next, notice that Peter encourages us to talk about ourselves, something that most people find easy to do.

Q. "What is your hope?" A. "I'm going to live eternally in heaven."

Q. "What is your reason for this hope?" A. "I deserved to go to hell, but Jesus redeemed me."

So this Advent, be prepared for Christ's return by being spiritually awake in God's Word and Sacraments. But also be prepared by knowing what you believe and be ready to give an answer. Maybe the Holy Spirit will use your answer to help prepare another heart for Jesus!

--Pastor Brad Kerkow, Evangelism and Missions Counselor

Mount Olive Lutheran Church Mission Statement

The mission of Mount Olive Lutheran Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ through God's Word, so that souls are called into and kept in the Christian faith unto eternal life.