



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24, 2022, 7PM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

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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.

Order of Service, Vespers

(ELH, p. 120)

~Hymn 128, vv. 1-3, 8 *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

~Exhortation

P: Dear friends in Christ! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to give Him thanks and praise for the gift of His Son, our meek and righteous King, who, by His death became our Savior from sin and eternal death. By His Holy Spirit may He enlighten, govern and direct us that we may ever remain faithful to this righteous King and Savior, and not be offended by His humble form and despised Word, but, firmly believing in Him, obtain eternal salvation and the fullness of joy in heaven. To this end may God the Father grant us His grace, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

~Collect — *The Congregation's Prayer of the Day*

(ELH p. 125; p. 148, #9)

P: Let us pray: O God, as You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech You, that we who have known the mysteries of that Light here on earth may come to the fullness of Its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

~Psalmody Hymn 138 *Joy to the World*

(based on Ps. 98)

~Old Testament Lesson

(NKJV)

Isaiah 7:10-14 Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!” Then he said, “Hear now, O house

of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

~**Responsory Hymn 153 vv. 4, 5** *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

~**Epistle Lesson**

(NKJV)

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

~**Responsory Hymn 144, vv. 3-5** *Now Welcome! From Thy Heav'nly Home*

~**Holy Gospel Lesson**

(NKJV)

Luke 2:1-14 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

~**Hymn 137 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

~**Sermon Text**

(NKJV)

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

~Sermon Theme

He Is With Us

1. *The name of Immanuel gives us comfort.*
2. *The name of Immanuel gives us hope.*

~Offering Hymn 116, vv. 1, 4 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

~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.)

~Kyrie — “Lord, Have Mercy”

(ELH p. 124)

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

~Lord’s Prayer

(ELH p. 125; 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.

~Lighting of the Candles & Organ Voluntary

Candlelight will be taken from the altar. Ushers will then light the candles of those sitting closest to the center aisle. Please pass the candlelight from your candle to the person next to you, symbolizing how one’s own faith in Christ is passed on to one’s neighbor, providing light for them and for the others around them. Once all the candles are lit, the Sanctuary lights will be dimmed for the remainder of the service. (Please be careful to not drip hot wax! Do not tip a lit candle!)

~Collect — The Congregation’s Prayer

(ELH p. 126-7)

P: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us in the end of the day, in the end of our life, and in the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your

holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair when death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity.

C: Amen.

~Hymn 140, vv. 1-3 *Silent Night*

1. Silent night! Holy night!
*All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

2. Silent night! Holy night!
*Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!*

3. Silent night! Holy night!
*Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

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

(ELH p. 127; 2 Cor. 13:14)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

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

(ELH p. 127; Num. 6:24-26)

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.

~Closing Hymn 145, vv. 1, 2 **What Child Is This**

~Postlude

*Officiant: Pastor John Petersen
Organist: Cassie Johnson
Cover Artwork: Don Moldstad*



The Poinsettias displayed on and around the altar have been donated by our members in memory/honor of the following:

Members

*Jeanette Koberg
Art & Terri Westphal
Doug & Ronna Tecken
Elli & Joe Fisher
Andy & Laurie Overn
Rev. Ted & Diane Gullixson
Pam Davis
Chris & Pam Kind
Bob & Ruth Heidenreich
Bill & Suzanne Bohning
Phil & Jean Jurgenson
Hal & Marsha Natvig
Greg & Janet Costello
Derek & Megan Wehrwein
Dan & Jane Birkholz
Allan & Ellen Mueller
Craig & Lisa Brown

Mark & Sharon Madson*

In Memory/Honor of

*Jerry
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Ruth Gullixson Webber
Dennis Davis
Alvin Stankey
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Luella & Don Jurgenson
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Departed Grandparents
Parents & Brother Paul
Loved Ones
Richard & Bea Brown and
Roy & Dorothy Rohlik
Loved Ones and
In honor of Jesus' Birth*

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.