



Sunday, January 8, 2023, 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:** *On the Festival of Epiphany, we celebrate the visit of the Gentile strangers from the East—the Magi—who came to worship the child, Jesus (Matt 2:1-12). The darkness of sin that had covered the entire earth is now lifted because of the great Light of the World—Christ—who has come (Isaiah 60:1-6)! St. Paul points us to the work that Jesus has carried out so that sinners who have faith in Jesus might be found “justified” (“declared righteous”) before God. He emphasizes that this applies to Jews and Gentiles alike (Rom 3:23-31). Jesus, the Son of God, has been revealed to be the Savior of the World!—a prominent theme on Epiphany Sunday and throughout the Epiphany season.*

**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).

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## 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. 148, #11)*

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that of Your mercy and compassion You caused Your Son to become incarnate, and through Him redeemed us from sin and everlasting death: We beseech You, enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever be thankful for such grace, and comfort ourselves thereby in all tribulation and temptation, and at last 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. Amen.

**~Hymn 145 *What Child Is This?***

**~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.**

~**Kyrie: Hymn 268, v. 6** *My Sins Are Countless As the Sands*

**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** — *God's declaration of forgiveness* (ELH p. 43, l; Mt 11:28, Jn 3:16)

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: Hymn 113, vv. 2, 4** *The Word Becomes Incarnate*

(ELH p. 44)

~**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. 149, #19)

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us the light of Your Holy Word, the guiding star that leads us to the Christ-child: Send, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive this light and make use of it for our salvation, and that we, like the wise men, when they were seeking the star, may not be afraid because of any hardship or peril, but put all our trust in Your only-begotten Son as our only Savior, devote our earthly possessions to the advancement of Your kingdom, and in all things serve Him, Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

~**Duet** *Christmas Song* (Peter Cornelius, arr. Walter Damrosch)

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## 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)*

**Romans 3:23-31** In fact, there is no difference, because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus. What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law. Or is he only the God of the Jews? Is he not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, also of the Gentiles, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised person by faith and the uncircumcised person through the very same faith. So are we doing away with the law by this faith? Absolutely not! Instead, we are upholding the law.

### ~Gradual: Hymn 120, vv. 3, 4, 6 *Sages From the East Afar*

### ~Holy Gospel Lesson

*(EHV)*

**Matthew 2:1-12** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet: You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel." Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find

him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

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

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**~Installation of Mr. Anthony Navarro (1<sup>st</sup> Service Only)**

*(We have a special ceremony to “install” new teachers who have been called to serve in our school. During this ceremony, those being “installed” come forward and give a solemn promise before God and the congregation to faithfully carry out the tasks and duties of the public ministry—serving as teachers in our Christian Day School. Both the congregation and also the students of the school are encouraged to support these called workers and to recognize them as carrying out their tasks on behalf of the Lord. We also offer prayers today, and throughout the year, that God might bless our school through the dedicated work of our school faculty.)*

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**~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 167, vv. 1, 5 *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star***

## ~Old Testament Lesson & Sermon Text

(EHV)

**Isaiah 60:1-6** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you. Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples, but the LORD will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you. Nations will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Look up. Look all around and see! All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you. Your sons will come from far away, and people will carry your daughters on their side. Then you will look and be radiant. Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy. For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you. The wealth of the nations will come to you. Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. All those from Sheba will come. They will carry gold and incense, and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

## ~Sermon Theme

*Rise and Shine in the Light of Christ*

## ~Offering Hymn 168, vv. 1-3 *As With Gladness Men of Old*

## ~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](http://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.**

**~Hymn 128, vv. 5-7 *Jacob's Star in All Its Splendor***

*(ELH p. 57)*

**~Collect** — *The congregation's prayer*

*(ELH p. 57, 1)*

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God the Father, that You have given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You have borne in Your sacred body all our sins, and by Your blood have blotted out all our transgressions. We thank You, Lord, the Holy Spirit, that You have created in our hearts true faith, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. O God, grant Your grace, that we may perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit, that, in the power of our Redeemer's death, we may day by day put off sin, and never forsake the Lord Jesus Christ, until we see Him face to face in life eternal. We ask it all in Christ's name.

**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 168, vv. 4, 5 *Holy Jesus, Every Day***

**~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)*

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*Officiant: Pastor Luke Ulrich*

*Organists: 1<sup>st</sup>: Cassie Johnson / 2<sup>nd</sup>: Elisabeth Urtel*

*Cover Artwork: Don Moldstad*

*Duet: Carl Bloedel and Dan Neubauer*

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**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**Sunday: 8:30am, 112/104; 10:45am, 165/109; Monday: 19/9**

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**WE THANK THOSE SERVING OUR LORD TODAY:**

**Greeters:** 1<sup>st</sup> Service—Nate & Heidi Graham, Steve & Lois Jaeger

2<sup>nd</sup> Service—Dan & Joanne Maas, Lois Johnson

**Offering Counters:** Steve Lussky, Jon Pfeffer

**Altar Guild:** Connie Gullixson, Connie Meyer

**Media Center:** John Baumann

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**Weekly Financial Update**

**Given Last Week:** \$31,417.67

**Fiscal Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit)** as of 11/30/22: (\$14,504)

*Colossians 3:17 (EHV) And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Did you know you can give your offering online? Just go to [www.mtolivelutheran.org](http://www.mtolivelutheran.org) and click on the link "donate online".

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**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.

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**WEEK AT A GLANCE: *January 8, 2023 — January 15, 2023***

<b>Sunday,</b> January 8	8:30AM	Divine Worship w/ installation of Mr. Anthony Navarro
	9:40AM	BIC/Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:45AM	Divine Worship
	12PM	<b>Call Meeting</b> <b>No Artemis</b>
	7:30PM	Coed Recreational Volleyball
<b>Monday,</b> January 9	9:30AM	Area Pastors' Conference at Peace
	6:30PM	Divine Worship
	6:30PM	Church Council
<b>Tuesday,</b> January 10	9AM	Ladies' Bible Study
	4:30PM	Girls A BB vs. St. Paul, Fairmont
	5:30PM	Girls B BB vs. Immanuel, Mankato
<b>Wednesday,</b> January 11	8:10AM	CDS Chapel
	9AM	Adult Bible Study
	7PM	Adult Choir
<b>Thursday,</b> January 12	6:30PM	Phased Growth
	8-9PM	Art After Dark
	4PM	Boys 6 <sup>th</sup> & A BB vs. Trinity, Janesville
<b>Fri., Jan. 13</b>	1-2PM	Intro to Hebrew Class
<b>Sat., Jan. 14</b>	10AM	Girls B, Boys B, & Girls A BB at PLS, Fairfax
<b>Sunday,</b> January 15	8:30AM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion
	9:40AM	BIC/Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:45AM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion
	7:30PM	Coed Recreational Volleyball

**ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School**

**Mr. Anthony Navarro** is being installed today to teach 4<sup>th</sup> grade at our school for the spring semester.

**Voters:** Please plan to attend the call meeting **today** at 12pm to extend a call for a third pastor.

**The MVL Christmas Concert** is today, **January 8**. The band will begin playing at 6:45pm, and the concert will begin at 7pm.

**Artemis participants:** please note that there is no Artemis **today**.



## **Building on the Rock Capital Campaign Update: January, 2023**

The Campaign Committee has wrapped up its first phase of the campaign, finalizing visits to Association Churches. Close to 1500 marketing packets and pledge cards were distributed during this part of the campaign. The Campaign Committee will once again be reaching out to Association members to distribute additional marketing information for those who have not already received the packets. The Committee intends to provide monthly bulletin inserts through April giving Association members updates on new announcements, funding, and goals.

### **Our Project**

- To add additional science/chemistry classrooms
- Transform the existing gymnasium into a multi-purpose event center
- Add a new field house with seating capacity of 1100
- Construct a new activities entrance

### **Our Goal**

To raise \$6,900,000 before April 15, 2023. This will allow MVL to move immediately into the construction phase of the project.

### **Where we stand**

As of December 31, 2022, we have secured \$3,106,553. We need to raise an additional \$3,793,447 before April 15, 2023. To date, an estimated 3.6 % of the Association giving units have pledged to the campaigns.

### **How you can help**

The Capital Campaign Committee is seeking 100% participation from its members through a monetary gift or supporting the campaign through prayer. Both options can be completed on a pledge form or MVL.org to donate a tax-deductible gift <https://mvl.org/capital-campaign>. Donate online now.

### **How do we get there?**

We need everyone to get involved! MVL needs your financial support and prayers. Help create a legacy for the next 50 years!

**Jim Buboltz, MVL Mission Advancement Director; Val Holzhueter, MVL Mission Advancement;  
Mark Smith, MVL Building on the Rock Campaign Chair**

**Altar Guild** will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, **January 14**, at 10am.

**Mt. Olive members** donated 43 pounds of food to the ECHO food shelf in December. Thank you for your generosity.

**One of the altar flower vases** is missing. If you have it, please return it to the church. Thank you!

**2022 Annual Giving Statements** will be emailed to donors who have a current, valid email address in our church database. If you want a paper copy of your giving statement, please let the church office know.

**Boxes of the 2023 offering envelopes** are available on the table in the narthex. Note that the boxes have been renumbered. If you see your name on a box of envelopes and you prefer to give online, let the office know so that we can update our records. Thank you!

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Art After Dark: Art Appreciation from a Christian Perspective.** Join Professor Bill Bukowski for a miniseries of lectures on art at Mt. Olive from 8-9pm on **January 12, January 19, February 2, and February 9.**

**Marriage Enrichment Brunch**, Saturday, **January 21**, 8:30-11am, with guest speakers Dr. Michael & Anita Smith. A sign-up sheet is available on the narthex table. See the January edition of the *Olive Press* for more details.

**2023 Lunar New Year Party**, Sunday, **January 22**, 3-4:30pm, at Mt. Olive. Enjoy snacks, crafts, and fellowship. Contact Pastor Ulrich if you have questions.

**Connect Groups** will be starting the week of **January 22**. See the display and sign-up sheets on the narthex table for more information.

#### **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.