

SEPTUAGESIMA

Sunday, January 31, 2021, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, ELS

1123 Marsh Street Mankato, MN 56001 | (507) 345-4966 | mtolive@mtolivelutheran.org

Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Adam Pavelchik

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 (found in front of you in the hymnbook rack and the Welcome table). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon. **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 people of Israel contended with the Lord in the wilderness. (Ex 17:1-7) They were dissatisfied with His provision. In the same way, the first laborers in the vineyard complained against the landowner for the wage he provided them. (Mt 20:1-16) They charged him with being unfair. But in fact he was not being unfair but generous. The Lord does not wish to deal with us on the basis of what we deserve but on the basis of His abounding grace in Christ. The first, those who rely on their own merits, will be last. "Their bodies were scattered in the wilderness." But the last, those who rely on Christ, will be first. For Christ is the Rock. (1 Cor 9:24-10:5) He is the One who was struck and from whose side blood and water flowed that we may be cleansed of our sin. Therefore, "Let him who glories, glory in the Lord." (Jer 9:23-24)*



(Today we follow the order of worship known as “Matins.” “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.)

~Opening Hymn 227, vv. 1, 6 *Salvation Unto Us Is Come*

*1. Salvation unto us is come
By God’s free grace and favor.
Good works cannot avert our doom;
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.*

*6. As Christ hath full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
So may each Christian now be glad
And build on this foundation:
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Thy death is now my life indeed,
For Thou hast paid my ransom.*

~**Confession of Sin** — *Admitting our guilt & receiving God’s forgiveness* (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. 109ff; 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.

~**Psalmody**

(Psalm 18:4,6)

P: The pangs of death encompassed me, the sorrows of hell surrounded me.

C: The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

P: In my distress I called upon the Lord,

C: and He heard my voice from His temple.

All: 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**

Jeremiah 1:4-10 The word of the Lord came to me.

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,
and before you were born, I set you apart.

I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations.

But I said, "Ah, Lord God! I really do not know how to speak! I am only a child!"

The Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, because I am with you, and I will rescue you, declares the Lord."

Then the Lord stretched out his hand and touched my mouth. The Lord said to me: There! I have now placed my words in your mouth.

Look, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms
to uproot and to tear down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.

~**Epistle Lesson**

I Corinthians 9:24-10:5 Do you not know that when runners compete in the stadium, they all run, but only one receives the prize? Run like that—to win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable victor's wreath, but we do it for an imperishable one. That is why there is nothing aimless about the way I run. There is no pummeling of the air in the way I box. Instead I hit my body hard and make it my slave so that, after preaching to others, I myself will not be rejected.

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness.

~Hymn 226, vv. 1, 2, 4 *By Grace I'm Saved*

*1. By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.*

*Why stagger at this word of promise?
Hath Scripture ever falsehood taught?
Nay; then this word must true remain;
By grace thou, too, shalt heav'n obtain.*

*2. By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.*

*4. By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of thine own merit
That Jesus died thy soul to win?
Nay, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.*

~Holy Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text

Matthew 20:1-16 “Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. To these he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.’ So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, ‘Why have you stood here all day unemployed?’

“They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.’

“When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: “Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!”

“But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”

~Sermon Theme

“Would you serve such a master?”

1. What happened in the vineyard doesn't seem very fair.

2. But what happened shows that He is truly worthy of our love and devotion!

~Hymn 433 Not What These Hands Have Done

*1. Not what these hands have done
Can save this guilty soul;
Not what this toiling flesh has borne
Can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do
Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears
Can bear my awful load.*

*2. Thy work alone, O Christ,
Can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
Can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God,
Not mine, O Lord to Thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest
And set my spirit free.*

*3. Thy grace alone, O God,
To me can pardon speak;
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God,
Can this sore bondage break.
I bless the Christ of God,
I rest on love divine,
By God's free gift of saving faith
I call this Savior mine.*

~Apostles' Creed — *Confession of faith*

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.

~Kyrie — *"Lord, Have Mercy"*

(ELH p. 116)

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.

~Prayers & Special Petitions

~Collect — *The congregation's prayer of the day*

(ELH p. 118; p. 151, #33)

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, through Your holy Word You have called us into Your vineyard: Send, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may labor faithfully in Your vineyard, shun sin and all offense, obediently keep Your Word and do Your will, and put our whole and only trust in Your grace, which You have bestowed upon us so abundantly; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we may obtain eternal salvation through Him; 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)

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 226, vv. 8, 9, 10** *By Grace to Timid Hearts*

8. *By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried—
By grace, despite all fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?*

9. *By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.*

10. *By grace! Sin, death, and Satan hearken!
I bear my flag of faith in hand
And pass—for doubts my joy can't darken—
The Red Sea to the Promised Land.
I cling to what my Savior taught
And trust it, whether felt or not.*

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

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

*Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor John Petersen
Organist: 1st Service: Cassie Johnson
Organist: 2nd Service: John Baumann
Monday Pianist: Lexi Fosburgh
Preservice Music 1st service: Mathias Barents (piano)*

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 8:30am, 104; 10:45am, 121

Live Online Viewing: 69

Monday: 27

SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK:

Greeters: 1st Service: Keith Anderson and Mark & Vivian Smith

2nd Service: Connie Meyer

Offering Counters: Steve Lussky; Jon Pfeffer

Altar Guild: Connie Gullixson; Connie Meyer

Weekly Financial Update:

Given Last Week: \$11,222.51 (includes text & on-line giving)

Fiscal Year To Date Surplus (as of 12/31/20): \$21,120

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Catch Mt. Olive Worship Services Online at www.mtolivelutheran.org

OR

TV on local cable channels 181 (Spectrum) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 11:30 AM.

To give your offering online, go to www.mtolivelutheran.org and click on the link "DONATE ONLINE".

Or TEXT 833-726-3742 along with the amount you wish to donate. Or Mail your offering to the church office.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *January 31, 2021 - February 7, 2021*

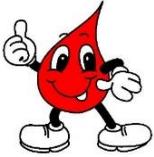
Sunday, January 31	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 12PM	Divine Service SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service Semi-Annual Voter's Meeting
Mon., Feb. 1	6:30PM 7PM 7PM	Divine Service Board of Education Board of Deacons
Tues, Feb. 2	6:30PM	Jesus Cares Ministry
Wed, Feb. 3	8:05AM 9AM 4PM	CDS Chapel Bible Study Confirmation Classes
Thurs., Feb. 4		
Fri., Feb. 5		
Sat, Feb. 6	9AM-4PM	Volunteers at New2You Thrift Store
Sunday, February 7	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM	Divine Service with Holy Communion SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service with Holy Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

USHERS NEEDED: The COVID-19 Pandemic has upended regular usher rotation for various reasons. We're looking for three volunteers to take on ushering on a monthly basis. If you are willing, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the Narthex or get in contact with Matthias Leyrer at 414-241-1097 or mjleyrer@gmail.com.

Singing for Ash Wednesday - The choir will be rehearsing to sing on Ash Wednesday (February 17), and there is still room for a few more singers! Rehearsals will be February 3 and 10 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. For more details, please contact Elisabeth at elisabeth.urtel@blc.edu or 612-272-2420.

Join Us for Mt. Olive's Family Ski Night on Thursday, February 18th from 4-9pm. All ages welcome. You must sign up and pay in advance. Sign-up sheet and waiver forms are in the Church Office.



Blood Drive Mount Olive hosts a blood drive on **Friday, February 19** from **12:00-5:00 PM**. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit their website at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code MTOLIVEKATO. 1 pint can save 3 lives!



A very special thank you to the volunteers who helped ready New 2 You for painting and put it back together again. It is brighter and newly reorganized! Be sure to check it out and see if you can find any treasures!

Also, Mount Olive needs to staff the Saturday volunteers on the first Saturday of every month. This is a great opportunity to check out the new layout of the store and help Mount Olive make some money for our school! Hours are 9:30 - 3:00. We need either 2 volunteers to work the entire shift, or we can break it up into smaller chunks of hours. Please contact Beth Westphal (507) 382-4315 or Emily Goetzke (507) 420-7761. Thank you!

The Mt. Olive Member Veterans' bulletin board is being redone. If anyone has a veteran that they would like included, **PLEASE** send the following information to church@mtolivelutheran.org by **Feb. 14th**. Thank you.

- Full name
- Service branch
- Dates of service

Christian Family Solutions (CFS) provides quality, compassionate counseling care and services to individuals in need. We're hiring to meet the needs of our growing programs and client numbers, and we're actively recruiting an additional **Minnesota Licensed Psychologist**. This is a full-time position with benefits, serving in a growing organization with a meaningful mission. If you know of someone qualified for this position, who would like a Christian work environment with an excellent support staff, please encourage them to apply online at www.Christianfamilysolutions.org/careers or contact the HR team for more details at HRinfo@wlcfs.org.

Jesus Loves Me Learning Center in North Mankato is looking for classroom assistant teachers and aides who have enthusiasm and passion for children, patience and a sense of humor, good communication skills, and are flexible. Please pick up an application from the church office or the Jesus Loves Me office. You may email for an application to directorjlm@stpaulsnorthmankato.com or call 507-345-7707 or 507-508-2041.

Bethany Lutheran College

Open Positions: BLC is currently taking applications for four different positions:

Assistant/Associate Professor- Business Administration

Computer Systems Specialist- IT

Dean of Students

Office and Enrollment Coordinator- Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

More information on these jobs can be found at www.blc.edu/jobs.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

MVLHS Director of Mission Advancement Position Open MVLHS seeks a WELS or ELS male to serve as Director of Mission Advancement. Interested individuals should contact MVL Principal, Dr. Tim Plath, for more information at 507-354-6851 or tplath@mvlhs.org.