

Volume LV
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Messenger

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.mountoliveomaha.com

402-455-8700

7301 North 28 Avenue Omaha, Nebraska, 68112



Thanksgiving Day Worship November 23rd, 10:00 A.M.

Bring along those for whom you are thankful.

Now Thank We

Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran minister, wrote the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God” in 1636. At the time, the Thirty Years’ War was ravaging central Europe, claiming millions of lives. Rinkart served as pastor in Eilenburg, a walled town that became a crowded refuge for starving fugitives. Although Rinkart was struggling to provide for his own family, he opened his own home to people in need.

After the plague entered Eilenburg, Rinkart conducted up to 50 funerals a day — including services for his wife and the only other two pastors in town. Amid the despair, he wrote many hymns, including “Now Thank We All Our God.” Originally intended as a table prayer, it’s now sung at Thanksgiving to remember God’s “countless gifts of love” — even during hardships.

I read a story about a group of school children being quizzed by their teacher on the Seven Wonders of the World. Most of the class busily scribbled down predictable answers like, “The Great Pyramids,” “the Great Wall of China,” “The Taj Mahal,” etc.

While gathering the papers, the teacher noticed one girl seemed to be struggling. She asked what was the matter. The girl replied, “I couldn’t make up my mind because there are so many wonders.” The teacher said, “Tell us what you wrote and maybe we can help.” The girl hesitated and then read: “Seven of the greatest wonders of the world are . . . to see, to hear, to touch, to taste, to feel, to laugh, and to love.”

It’s true—the most precious things of all are not for sale. Nor are they fashioned by human hands. Our gracious Creator God has been exceedingly generous with us!

Now this brings us to an important point: Yes, God loves us, and yes, God provides for us abundantly—but we can never actually *own* any of what God has made. We can enjoy it, give thanks for it, share it, and strive to be responsible managers of God’s property. Why, even “our” very lives and bodies are on loan from God—and only for a fleeting time.

So what does this mean for us? First, it means we cannot *give* anybody, even God, gifts. We can only redistribute what God has provided to us to manage. Second, we share in God’s joy when we reflect His spirit of generosity and selflessness.

In this month in which we celebrate our na-



tional Day of Thanksgiving and talk about Christian stewardship, we remind ourselves God is the Owner of all things. We give Him our worshipful thanks and strive to manage wisely what is really not our own. We also are asked to examine how we are apportioning God’s provision in our life.

I teach my youth confirmands the 70-20-10 rule when it comes to money. 70% for our daily needs, 20% for savings, and 10% for the church to support God’s work through it. That is not the only way to manage wisely as God’s people, but it makes a lot of sense.

As we soon wind down another calendar year, it good to consider how we demonstrate our relationship to a generous and forgiving God, who loves us beyond our comprehension and deserving. Would He have us make changes that better indicate our eternal gratitude and understanding that we are His blood-bought people? Join me in prayerful reflection on these matters. Course corrections may be in order.

—Rev. Roland A Jank, Jr.



NOVEMBER

DATES TO REMEMBER

Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, November 7 and November 21, 6:15 —7:30 p.m. (*details on page 4*)

Unbirthday Birthday Luncheon

Wednesday, November 8, 11:30 a.m.

You are invited to our monthly *Very Merry Unbirthday* luncheon on Wednesday, November 8, at 11:30. We had Italian last time so let's have Mexican next. Let's meet in the church parking lot and carpool to Fernando's, 7555 Pacific Street. Please RSVP to **Barb Stacy** at 402-453-7049 or **Bonnie White** at 402-676-7334.

Friday Night Flix

Friday, November 10, 7:00 p.m. (*details on page 7*)

There are currently 2.8 billion social media users worldwide. This means that over a third of the world's population is communicating online with almost 80 percent of social media happening on a mobile device. Social media provides a way for people to share ideas, content, thoughts, and relationships. This is done through websites, Facebook, twitter, blogs, and Instagram, to name a few. If we are to be effective in sharing Christ's love, we need to have a presence in this virtual world. Mount Olive does this by having a website,

www.mountoliveomaha.com, as well as a Facebook page. The website and the Facebook page can be platforms for you to share Mount Olive with the people in your circle, coworkers, neighbors, etc. The website is a great place for those that are curious to visit. There is a virtual map of the church so



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The young people of Mount Olive have come through for me yet again. The G-Team included **Albert**



Hogue, Aryanna

Hogue, Ben Lorang, Sam Lorang, Kamree Townsend, Alea Wegner, Alex Wegner, Isabella Wegner and Grant Wegner. These kids helped set up the games, sorted out and ran the “PRIZES” table, manned the “Midway Games” and helped with tear down and clean up during the Fall Family Festival held October 21. They were gracious hosts to all the neighborhood kids and their Moms and Dads should be extra proud of them. Many thanks to **Mike Townsend, Sr.** and **Jim Zulfer** for the countless trips up and down the stairs, hauling all my “stuff” to the second floor. Our Young-at-Heart Game-Meisters included **Mary Hogue, Connie Townsend** and **Gloria Sorensen.** Thank you ladies! Thank you to **Bob Wegner** for helping me get the “fish-pond” un-jammed from where it was stored and helping me set it up. Many, many thanks to **Anne Wegner,** who worked tirelessly setting up, working the games and tearing down and putting away. She had tons of great ideas and I hope she will work with me again. I cannot forget my hubbie, **Chuck,** who built most of the games. I am very grateful to all.

—**Dixie Gerhart**

In Ministry With God’s People

We remember in prayer

...**Arnie Jacobson, Rev. Jank, Sr., Rod & Karen Lorang, Emily Standley, Michael Wegner** and **Dalton Willmore.**

...the **Behr** and **Hagen** families and all who mourn our sister in Christ, **Abigail (Behr) Hagen.**

...all the parents in our congregation who are struggling to do a good job.

...our college students who are surrounded by spiritual challenges.

...our need to develop relationships with those who don’t know Christ.

...our desire to grow as stewards of all that belongs to God.

You Might Be a Lutheran if

- it takes ten minutes to say goodbye.
- the church is on fire, and you rush in to save the coffee pot.
- the church library has three jell-o cookbooks.
- you have an uncontrollable urge to sit in the back of any room.
- your house is a mess because you are saved by grace, not by works.

Mount Olive’s Book Club is meeting Tuesday, November 14th, at 7:00 p.m. at **Gloria Sorensen’s** house. **Bonnie White** is providing dessert. We are reading *The Supreme Macaroni Company* by Adriana Trigiani. “Food, family, and a sweeping love story, set against the backdrop of Italy and New York, this is Adriana Trigiani at her very best.

Taking stories handed down through her family for generations, Adriana writes from the heart.” *Googlebooks review*



Questions? Contact **Jill Clausen** 402-650-5962 or **Bonnie White** 402-496-7682.

The Women’s Bible Study continues to meet. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7. If you have not had the chance to attend in the past, please check it out! Each lesson stands on its own, so if you cannot attend regularly...no worries! You won’t have to read aloud and homework is not required. We finished our “Bad Girls of the Bible” book and will be doing a Bible study out of the *Lutheran Women’s Quarterly*. Our meeting runs from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. and we meet in the Fellowship Hall. We are having a

lot of fun getting to know each other. We have some truly awesome ladies here at Mount Olive! If you have any questions or concerns, please call **Dixie Gerhart** at 402-602-3252 (day) or 402-453-6707 (evening).



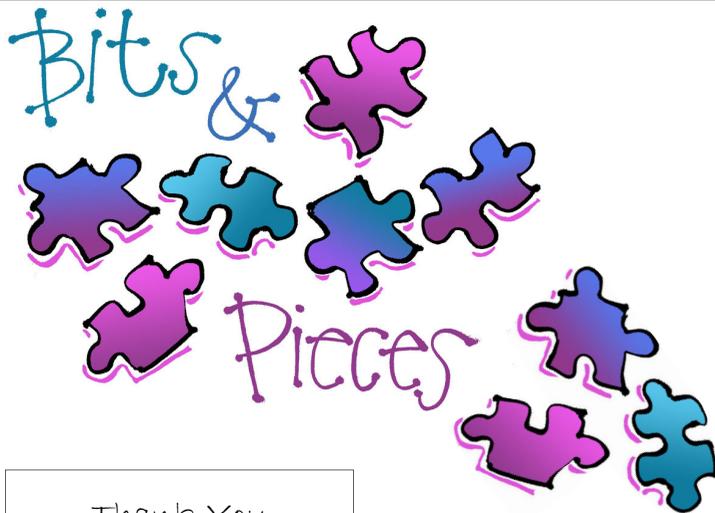
VETERANS DAY

On Veterans Day, we honor men and women who’ve served and sacrificed in one of America’s armed services.

On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or “truce” day.

In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country’s quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when “nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore” (*Isaiah 2:4, NIV*).



Mt. Olive Prayer
Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call **Kristi Townsend** at 402-457-9611 or by email at townsend.kristi@gmail.com

Youth Group

Thank You

Christmas Decorating

Thank you to **Kathy Mansfield, Sharon McDonald, Barb Stacy and Bonnie White** for helping with the October Messenger.

Join the Mount Olive Youth Group on Sunday, November 26, at 11:30 A.M., after the Christian Education Hour, to help decorate our church for the Christmas season.

Thank you to **Barb Stacy and Bonnie White** for taking the finished newsletter to the downtown post office.

The High School Youth of Mount Olive will be attending the 2017 LCMS District Youth Gathering on Friday, November 17 through Sunday, November 19, 2017. The theme this year is *Hero! Greater. Better. True.* Contact **Kristi Townsend** at 402-457-9611 for more information.

A special thank you to **Rich Wismont** who takes care of all of the church's recyclables.

Voters' Assembly

Thank you to **Rosalie Soodsma** for weekly lending a hand in the church office.

On Sunday, November 12, at 11:30 a.m. will be our quarterly Voters' Assembly. Reports will be shared about what God is doing through our congregation and our 2018 congregational budget will be presented.

- **Teresa Kuti**



Please join your fellow Mount Olive movie buffs on Friday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m. (NEW TIME!) We will be showing the movie *The Monuments Men*.



This 2014 motion picture stars George Clooney, Matt Damon, John Goodman, Bill Murray, Hugh Bonneville and Cate Blanchett. An unlikely World War II platoon has been tasked by FDR with going into Germany to rescue artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves and returning them to their rightful owners. With the art trapped behind enemy lines, and with the German army under orders to destroy everything as the Reich fell, how could they possibly succeed? But as the Monuments Men, as they were called, find themselves in a race against time, they risk their lives to protect mankind's greatest achievements. The film runs 118 minutes.

Popcorn and movie candy will be provided. Circle the date!
 - **Dixie Gerhart**
 402-602-3252

Little Free Pantry of Mount Olive

We have an ongoing collection for our "Little Free Pantry." This small cabinet with non-perishable food items, paper goods, and other items sits outside of Mount Olive. It is accessible 24 hours per day to anyone. There aren't any applications to fill out or set hours of operation. The pantry will be stocked by donations from all of us but can also be stocked by a concerned neighbor. Please, no glass jars or expired food. Below are needed items. *You can place your items inside the marked cabinet that is in the old nursery room right behind the doorway.*



- applesauce
- baby food
- baked beans
- bean soup
- beef stew
- bran cereals
- bread
- bread and muffin mixes
- canned and dried beans
- canned chili
- canned chicken
- canned tomato products
- canned tuna or salmon
- canned fruit/vegetables
- cold & hot cereal/oatmeal
- dried fruit
- dry noodles and pasta
- evaporated milk
- flour
- fruit juice
- graham crackers
- granola bars
- honey
- infant cereal and formula
- instant breakfast drinks
- jelly and jam
- macaroni and cheese
- mayonnaise
- noodle mixes
- pancake mix
- peanut butter
- popcorn
- powdered milk
- rice and rice mixes
- salad dressings
- shelf-stable milk
- sugar
- syrup
- whole grain crackers
- vegetable oil
- vegetable soup
- vegetable juice

During this year of Reformation 500, we are taking a closer look at the Ten Commandments. In February, we started with the First Commandment. Each commandment encourages serious, thoughtful, and truthful self-examination so that you may heartily and sincerely confess, “God, be merciful to me as a sinner.”



The Ninth Commandment

You Shall Not Covet Your Neighbor’s House.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

My God has given me everything that I need and that is good for me.

- Have I longed for the honor, wealth, happy life, or what seems like the ease of others?
- Has my life been full of craving for things that are not mine?
- Have I been stingy or self-indulgent with my money, trying to keep up with what others have?
- Have I tried by claims of various rights to make the property of others my own?
- Do I have to keep wishing for and dreaming about things I don’t have before I can work with a joyful heart?
- Have I resented the blessings God has given to my neighbor?
- Have I thought that happiness comes from owning things?
- Have I been generous?

OUR MISSIONARIES ABROAD

Mt. Olive is helping to support two missionaries and their families who live abroad. We remember them periodically in our public prayer. We ask that you continue to support them financially with your regular gifts. Information about their work is shared on the north hall bulletin board and in our Sunday worship. May it serve as an encouragement for your continued interest and support. For the year 2017 our missionaries abroad are:

Julie Lutz
 Box 803
 Mt. Hagen,
 Western Highlands
 Province
 Papua New Guinea
 lutz.travel@gmail.com

Rev. David & Mrs. Barbara Bush
 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
 Attn: Amy Schaefer
 St. Louis, MO 63122
 david.bush@lcmsintl.org



Special Advent Service

To help everyone attend the *Advent Carols and Readings* service on Thursday, December 7th, we are serving supper at Mount Olive from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. that evening. What a great way to begin the Advent season

Service of Advent Carols and Readings

Thursday, December 7th, 7:00 P.M.

Soup and Sandwich Supper

Before the Service, beginning at 5:30 P.M.

- sharing a meal with your Mount Olive family and friends! We plan to have a smorgasbord of hearty soups and sandwiches as well as desserts to polish off the meal.



Sunday School Christmas Service Rehearsals Begin

Mark your calendars for this year's Sunday School Christmas Service on Sunday, December 17, at 4:00 P.M. Our theme this year is "The Greatest Gift of All."

Rehearsals begin Sunday, November 26th, at 10:30 A.M. and continue every Sunday through December 17th. Parents, please make every effort to have your children at every practice to learn songs, practice speaking parts, and prepare for the program. All Mount Olive Sunday School children are encouraged to participate in this Christmas tradition!



Trunk or Treat Pics

(Continued from page 3)

people can get an inside look at our place before they ever step foot in the door. We also have resources available for people that can aid them in their spiritual journey or just navigating life.

Twenty-two percent of the world’s total population uses Facebook. If you are a Facebook user, search for “Mount Olive Lutheran Church Omaha” and like our page. We post frequently about upcoming events as well as share things going on in our neighborhood. Facebook helps Mount Olive to reach people and share what we are doing. Remember, social media is more than just a way to socialize. It can be used to let others know that we care and we are here in their time of need. Sharing Christ’s love with others is our mission and utilizing social media is one way in which we can do that.



Trunk or Treat 2017