

Volume LVI
Number 8

August 2018



Messenger

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

7301 N 28 Ave Omaha, NE 68112 402.455.8700 MountOliveOmaha.com

**Mount Olive
Lutheran Church**
invites the neighborhood for

National Night Out
Tuesday, August 7 - 6:00 P.M.
in the church parking lot



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We will host a cook-out for the neighborhood from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Meet your neighbors, local police, and firemen. Hot dogs, chips, drinks, and even shade, will be provided. There will be a bouncy house for the kids to enjoy. Neighbors are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert.

All Mount Olivers are encouraged to attend.

Bring a canned good to donate to the Omaha Fire Department.
Come and meet the neighbors!

Please join us!

Years ago a grandpa was taking a walk with his grandson. They had no special destination; they just walked and talked. With a smile, grandpa asked, "How far are we from home?" The boy answered, "Grandpa, I don't know." Then Gramps asked, "Do you know where you are?" The boy answered, "No." To which grandpa observed, "Sounds to me like you're lost." The boy disagreed. He looked up and said, "Nope, grandpa, I can't be lost. I'm with you." And so it is. We can't be lost when we're with Jesus, our Savior. Jesus is not just a Savior who leads us, by-and-by, to the sweet by-and-by. He is God's Son who has promised to be with His people. In times of sadness, He brings hope. When friends have betrayed us, He has promised to faithfully stand by our side. When no one else will give us the time of day, Jesus has promised, without fail and without excuse, to hear our prayers, our pleadings, our petitions, and receive our praise.

What is the emptiness within you today? What is the loss you are experiencing? What is the worry that never seems to work itself out? There is only one person who can solve your problem; or bring you through your problem; or help you carry your problem. His name is Jesus. He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He can provide a power and a peace that this world can never provide. To see His suffering and death upon the cross for us; to peer into His empty tomb lifts us from our darkness and discouragement. He invites us to put our faith in Him. Death does not have the last word. We are not alone in this world to make do the best way we can.

We Christians are people filled with hope. That hope is not based on anything in ourselves. That hope is inspired by what God has done for us in the past and what God promises to



do for us in the future. In a world filled with people searching for something or someone who can give them meaning and purpose and a soft landing in the end, the Holy Spirit has opened our eyes and our hearts to what is certain. This world and the things of this world are passing away. We dare not cling to that which does not last.

Every Sunday we gather to be reminded of what so many others ignore or misunderstand or fight against. We are God's creatures who were headed for an eternal disaster. God intervened through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Through Jesus' saving work on our behalf, God restored our broken relationship with Him. We now are reclaimed, forgiven, and empowered for grateful service. We are not walking aimlessly through this world. We have a heavenly companion and Savior who has hold of our hand every day and will lead us to our eternal home. Of that we can be certain!

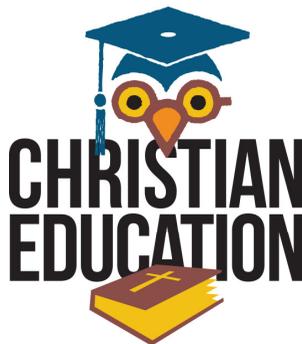
—Rev. Roland A Jank, Jr.

Adult Information Class

Join our semi-annual membership class beginning September 9, 2018, from 3:30 - 5:30 P.M. for fifteen weeks.

This class is not only for those who are new to Mount Olive but also for those members who are looking for a refresher course. Perhaps you stopped worshipping for a while and are looking to get back on track. This class is for you. We also welcome those who are inquiring about the Christian faith for the first time.

Come and invite a friend to join you.



The next monthly *Very Merry Unbirthday* luncheon will be Wednesday, August 8. We are eating at The Garden Cafe, 11040 Oak Street (Rockbrook Village). Let's meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 A.M. and car pool. Please rsvp to **Barb Stacy** 402-453-7049 or **Bonnie White** 402-676-7334.



Parents of youth confirmation students (grades 7-9) are reminded that a new school year is fast approaching. The Youth Confirmation Class will meet on Wednesday evenings. An orientation meeting is scheduled for students and parents on Wednesday, August, 29, at 7:00 P.M. First class session is Wednesday, September 5, at 6:00 P.M.

In Ministry With God's People

We remember in prayer

...**Mary Hogue, Rod & Karen Lorang, Helen Norris, Frank Sabatka, Chelsea Standley, Emily Standley, Marcia Steckelberg, Michael Wegner and Max Williams.**

...the recruitment of Sunday School teachers for this fall's staff.

...our Mount Olive youth who go to college this fall.

...the seed of God's Word planted in our VBS children, that it would sprout, grow, and bear fruit.

...that God would bring new people into our Mount Olive family that we can help grow into Christ.



VBS RECAP

I cannot imagine a more talented, dedicated and tireless group of people to be shipwrecked with, and with 44 children to lead

for five nights during this year's Vacation Bible School. Let's start with the outside crew: **Ray Hogan** procured extra signs, **Mike Townsend, Sr.** led the kids in

games and was helped by **Desirae Greenhagen**. In the mean time, **Dixie Gerhart** and crew including **Josh Callahan, Albert Hogue, Aryanna Hogue, Chesney Kosch, Easton Kosch, Mckoy Kosch, Paul Kosch, Colton Seefus, Mark Sorensen, Mike Townsend, Jr., Mike Townsend, Sr., Madison Webb, Sarah Webb, Paul Whitmore and Rich Wismont** set up an obstacle course outdoors for those who wanted the challenge. **Marilyn Beig** provided a piñata for the Friday night's activity. AND then there were the decorations inside. **Betsy Kosch** and cohorts, too numerous to be mentioned, did a fantastic job making us look like a "3 hour tour." **Pastor Jank** led us in the opening and closing assisted by a shipwrecked **Dixie Gerhart** doing a fantastic job with the skits. **Jill Clausen, Joan Johnson and Vic Padron** got the registrations in order. Bible stories were led by **Jeri Ziegler** and

Anne Wegner. Tropical treats were handled by **Cindy Webb** and **Stephanie Markham**. Crafts were led by **Barb Stacy** and helped by **Dixie Gerhart, Sharon McDonald** and **Nancy Stierle**. Music was led by **Melissa Lorang** and **Rachel Misiolek**. Pre-school teachers and helpers were **Amanda Johnson** with **Amanda Steckelberg, Marsha Behr** with **Suzan Jank**. Shepherding the children were: **Ruth Benish, Abie Brown, Becky Day, Aryanna Hogue, Dustin Hogue, Mary Hogue, Tamra Mof-fett, Connie Townsend, Kailyn Townsend and Kristi Townsend**. **Teresa Kuti**, who helps **Ruth** and me get the name badges done and all other paper work sent out. Thank you to all who donated food, supplies and made monetary donations. If I have forgotten anyone, my apologies. Thanks to all of you, especially the bakers who made Friday night's meet-and-greet such a success and all who prayed for our VBS.

-Jody Wells-Padron
Vacation Bible School—Director



Our VBS Mission this year benefitted *Heifer International*. Its mission is to end hunger and poverty by providing livestock and training to small-scale farmers around the world. We were able to purchase a heifer, a sheep and a goat for a farmer and his family with the monies that were collected along with their matching program. Thank you to everyone who donated.



Thank You

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

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

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

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

- **Teresa Kuti**

Great News!

Emily Standley has been moved to a work release program here in Omaha. Her new address is; **Emily Standley**, Inmate #99497, Community Corrections Center, 2320 Avenue J, Omaha, NE, 68110.

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

Gardeners

Project Hope encourages you to donate the overabundance of produce from your garden. Fresh produce provides many micronutrients and fiber, not to mention variety, that typical food donations do not. Many of their clients never receive fresh produce. They would love to receive your extra harvest this summer. You can drop off donations Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 11am—2:45pm and Thursday from 10am—3pm. Always call 402-453-7649 first to make sure someone is there.

Annual BBQ

Ponca Hills Volunteer Fire Department at 12919 Ponca Road is having its annual BBQ on Sunday, August 19th, from noon until 6:00 p.m. This is a family event featuring BBQ beef, sweet corn, kids' games, and fire department water fights.



Pacific Hills Lutheran Church (90th & Pacific) is having its final free summer jazz concert called *Courtyard Jazz* on Sunday, August 12. There will be a cookout of burgers, hotdogs, and sides from 5:30—7:00 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken in support of Pacific Hills' Children, Youth and Families Ministry. The concert featuring The Danny Mattran Quartet will start at 7:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets. There is no admission charge. Come for both events or just part of the evening.

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. The pantry has made a huge impact to the hungry in our neighborhood. It is emptied most days. Please consider putting a couple of extra items in your grocery cart for donation.



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

A NEW DIRECTION FOR LIVING H2O LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Last spring students from Living H2O Lutheran Campus Ministry went on a servant mission trip to Costa Rica. There they taught Vacation Bible School, performed basic health screenings, and shared the love of Jesus Christ with residents of an impoverished community. That trip, however, led to discussions of the direction and focus of campus ministry in Omaha. The result of those discussions brings new dimensions to the mission of campus ministry, “Building Relationships and Sharing Christ.”

Over the summer and in preparation for the fall activity, four new student development teams are forming to accomplish various ministry goals. Each team is responsible for a specific facet of campus ministry.

The “Recruitment and On-Campus Presence Team” plans and organizes on-campus events such as student organization fairs, coffee and cookies during finals week, on-campus movies, games, and congregational presentations. Its goal is a minimum of six on-campus events per school year, largely at UNO.

The “Discipleship and Leadership Team” assumes responsibility for the Wednesday evening Bible study, including developing a calendar of study topics. It will explore the possibility for volunteer internships for Living H2O student leaders to serve in local LCMS congregations.

The “Social/Fellowship Opportunities Team” organizes the Wednesday fellowship suppers and plans a monthly social event on the first Thursday of every month.

The “Outreach—Local Service and Foreign Mission Trips Team” plans and organizes monthly local service projects in the metro on the third Thursday of the month. It will serve as the nucleus for planning an annual mission trip outside the metro area as well.

College students attending any institution of higher learning in the metro area are invited to participate in any of the activities of Lutheran campus ministry in Omaha. The ministry operates out of a campus house, “The Gathering Place,” located at 1124 S. 90th St. in Omaha.

Additionally, a Tuesday night Bible Class called “Sola Scriptura” provides an opportunity for post-college young adults in the metro to meet, study God’s Word, and engage in service projects and other activities.

For more information on any of the activities of Living H2O Lutheran Campus Ministry, contact Mr. Don Bader, the ministry coordinator at (402) 578-4177 or check out the website at www.living-h2o.org or the Facebook page. Names and contact information of local college students can also be forwarded to Mr. Bader.

Living H2O Lutheran Campus Ministry is a Registered Service Organization of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and has received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. All contributions are tax deductible.

- **Adam Behr** — Houston Community College, Houston, TX
- **Alexia Moffett** — College of St. Mary, Omaha, NE
- **Jessica Olmstead** — Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs, IA
- **Charly Peterson** — Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE
- **Griffin Peterson** — University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE



OFF TO COLLEGE

The *Mount Olive Book Club* is kicking off its season Tuesday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. They will be joined by Nebraska author, Jonis Agee. Her book, *The Bones of Paradise*, was chosen as the Omaha Public Library’s 2017 *Omaha Reads* selection. The book is a family saga, a period epic and a mystery. The book takes place in the Nebraska Sand Hills several years after 1890’s massacre at Wounded Knee, when the 7th Cavalry killed more 200 Lakota men, women and children.

Book club will met at the home of **Lois Barr**. **Liz Matson** will be providing dessert. We welcome anyone to our group whether that be for one book or every meeting.



Women’s Bible Study resumes in September. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 11, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. **Dixie Gerhart**, 402-453-6707 (evening) or 402-602-3252 (daytime.)

OUR MISSIONARIES ABROAD

Mount 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 2018 our missionaries abroad are:

Julie Lutz
 12 Wiltshire Rd
 Kowloon Tong, Kowloon
 Hong Kong
julie.lutz@lcmsintl.org

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



**BENEFIT
DINNER**

A spaghetti dinner benefit will be held here at Mount Olive on Sunday, August 19, from 6:00—8:00 p.m. **Jim Waldmann**, a coworker of **Dustin Hogue** and neighbor of **Judith Weidner**, recently had a fire at his home. **Jim** lost all of the contents and his home is currently unlivable. Jim shares a home with his daughter.

If you would like to volunteer by helping at the benefit or by bringing a dessert, please contact **Dustin Hogue** at 402-547-7640.

