

Volume LVI  
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# Messenger

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

7301 N 28 Ave Omaha, NE 68112 402.455.8700 [MountOliveOmaha.com](http://MountOliveOmaha.com)

JOIN US FOR THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

*give  
thanks!*  
*with a grateful heart*

Thursday  
November 22  
10:00am

*bring someone for whom  
you are thankful and bring a  
canned good for Project Hope*

The aroma of roasted turkey, baked yams topped with toasted marshmallows, home-made, cranberry-orange relish, and pumpkin pie filled Grandma's house. The Jones family gathered around one large kitchen table and an assortment of card tables for the Thanksgiving blessing. The Jones family tradition on Thanksgiving Day was to allow each family member the opportunity to share a blessing for which they were thankful. (This sounds like the slip sheet you fill out every year in our Mount Olive Thanksgiving Day worship service.)

Grandma started by clearing her throat and saying, "**This year we will thank God for what we do not have.**" Have you ever considered thanking God for what you do not have? We often thank God for what we have and that list should be long. We ask Him for what we want to have and we eagerly do that. How about thanking God for what we do not have?

Have you ever thought of thanking God for **what you don't have** (bad hair day, dictatorial government, starving children, threat of persecution, no outstanding student loans)? We can also thank God for something else we do not have, namely our past sins. God has promised to remove our sins from us as far as the east is from the west (*Psalm 103:12*). What peace with God that offers. Every time we gather in worship, we hear God once again forgiving our sins. He does so using my voice as your called pastor. That happens when I speak the Absolution near the beginning of the liturgy. That happens as we receive the Body and Blood of Christ at the Lord's Table with those precious words



of promise "**for you.**" No matter how badly we have messed up, Jesus died on the cross so that God can assure you your sins have been paid for by His Son's bloody sacrifice.

Every day we can thank God for something we do not have, our past sins. Because God sent Jesus to die on the cross for us, He is not holding our sins against us. God makes our sins go away—they're completely gone. That is not because God takes our sins lightly. On the contrary, God takes our sins very seriously because they keep us away from Him. He takes them so seriously that He sacrificed His own Son to die for us.

So, on this year's Thanksgiving Day, and every day let us say, "Thank you, God, for what we don't have! Thank you for making the debt of my sin into nothing, notta, zero, zilch!" Of all God's blessings, that is the best one of all.

—Rev. Roland A Jank, Jr.

God has once more blessed us abundantly during this year as He has demonstrated again and again His faithfulness. It is truly a blessing to be a part of God's family here at Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

**Hebrews 11:6** records these words: "... without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

Faith is taking God at His word. Faith is not just believing that God can, but that God will. As one author wrote, "Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible."

When we take God at His word as an individual, as a family, or in our church, we move forward by faith. We step out in obedience as God directs. Nowhere is that more evident than in our giving. Even when from a human perspective, it doesn't make sense. Even when from an accounting perspective, the numbers do not add up.

As one person said it so well, "God does not ask for our endorsement of His plan, just our obedience to it."

And that takes faith. It takes being willing to take the first step when we cannot see the second step clearly or at all. It takes "moving forward by faith" one step at a time.

It takes trusting God to keep His promises to provide all that is needed as we put Him to the test through our giving.



As **Hebrews 11:9** asks, do **you** believe God exists? Do **you** believe that God has a heavenly reward for those who earnestly seek Him by His grace in faith? Do you believe that God will keep His promises to **you**?

If so, will you be a part of those who are "moving forward by faith"? Will you covenant with God, by faith, to give in 2019 as He provides, even if you do not know where the funds will come from?

Please take a few moments to read the remainder of this article. Then ask God to give you specific direction concerning what you should give in 2019. Finally, please complete the Stewardship Commitment Card which is included with this newsletter and mail it back to the church or bring it with you to the worship service on "Commitment Sunday," November 18, 2018.

Remember that your Stewardship Commitment is a promise you make **not** to the church or the staff or any committee. It is to God. As you complete the Stewardship Commitment Card, what you are saying, in effect, is this: "Lord, as you provide, by faith, this is how I intend to give in the future."

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Service of Advent

### Carols and Readings

Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.

### Soup and Sandwich Supper

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

*(Continued from page 3)*

As you covenant with God concerning your giving in the coming year, please keep in mind our key verse from this year's stewardship emphasis:

“... without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (**Hebrews 11:6**).

Thank you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, for your faithful financial support in the past. Thank you as well for “moving forward by faith” here at Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

And thank you for following the Lord's leading concerning what you should give in the coming year and for mailing your Stewardship Commitment Card back to Mount Olive or bringing it with you on “Commitment Sunday,” November 18, 2018.



Our Women's Bible Study group is discovering that soap opera story writers must use the Book of Genesis as source material. These *Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible* are an impatient, faithless, untruthful and headstrong bunch of ladies...BUT...God still loves them...God still cares for them...God still hears them...just as he does for us. We will be looking at the story of Rebekah, Isaac's wife and Jacob's mom. Rebekah, the beautiful, blushing bride from the old country. For twenty years she and Isaac are happy, though childless... then the twins come along...and things kinda go south.

If you want to hear “the rest of the story...” check out the next Women's Bible Study meeting on Tuesday, November 6th, at 6 p.m...no worries if you cannot slide in right at 6...we usually start off with a connect question. We will also meet at the same time on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Each lesson stands on its own, so if you miss a night...you're still okay. If you want more information regarding the study, please do not hesitate to contact me...**Dixie Gerhart** 402-602-3252 and 402-453-6707 (night number).



The Mount Olive Book Club will meet at 7:00 on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at the home of **Gloria Sorensen** with **Jill Clausen** providing dessert. We will discuss *The Sweet By and By*, the 2010 novel written by Todd Johnson about five North Carolina women who are about to change the way you think about friendship. For Rhonda, a gritty, fun-loving hairdresser in tight jeans, the sights and smells of Ridgecrest Nursing Center are depressing. But before she can change her mind about working there, two residents glue themselves to her: Margaret, droll and whip-smart, with a will of iron that never fails her even when her body does, and Bernice, an avid country music fan who is rarely lucid. Together with Lorraine, their church-going, God-questioning nurse, and her daughter, April, bright and ambitious, they lock arms in courage and humor for a journey that speaks to us all—of how we live and die, of how we love and forgive.



Our December meeting will be at 6:30, (a half hour earlier than normal) on Tuesday, December 11, at the home of **Jill Clausen**. We will have our annual cookie exchange and will discuss *The Ornament Keeper* by Eva Marie Everson.

Mount Olive has made a financial commitment of \$30,000 to support the District's *Building Together. In Christ. For Mission. Capital Campaign*. This gift will help renovate the University Lutheran Chapel in Lincoln, helping to strengthen its ability to attract and better serve students and better engage the neighborhoods that surround the Chapel. A thank you letter from LCMS District President Richard Snow is on the north hallway bulletin board.

## In Ministry With God's People

We remember in prayer

...**Myrene Abels, Marge Eastman, Mary Hogue, Nancy Jacobson, Rod & Karen Lorang, Frank Sibatka, Emily Standley and Max Williams.**

...**Keh'Lani Lashaun Hatten**, infant daughter of **Alexia Moffett** who was baptized on October 14.

...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.



Thank You

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

Voters' Assembly

On Sunday, November 11, 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 2019 congregational budget will be presented.

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](mailto:townsend.kristi@gmail.com)

Luncheon

The next monthly *Very Merry Unbirthday* luncheon will be Wednesday, November 14. We are eating at Applebee's (7450 Dodge St.). 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.

Many Thanks

The Board of Church Property would like to thank **Roger Perrigo** for fixing the shelf in Luther Hall that needed reinforcement after it started to buckle. Thanks, **Roger**.

Many thanks to **Ron Hurt** for all of the work he is doing outside to get our landscaping ready for the winter. If you would like any elephant ear or canon ball bulbs that he dug up, he will have them by the restrooms November 4 and 11.



Help Needed

Lord’s Lambs Child Care seeks additional Child Care Providers in its new facility in Elkhorn. Full and part time teaching positions, food server/kitchen staff, floaters, and substitute positions are available; no evening or weekend hours. They are a loving, Christian environment providing care to children 6 weeks old to 6 years of age. The center is located in scenic Skyline Ranches, at South 208th Street and Bonanza Blvd.

Check out the website at [LordsLambsElkhorn.org](http://LordsLambsElkhorn.org), or contact Denise at [Director@LordsLambsElkhorn.org](mailto:Director@LordsLambsElkhorn.org) or by calling 402.289.9291.

Please join your fellow Mount Olive movie buffs on Friday night, November 9. at 7:00 p.m. (NEW TIME!!) We will be showing the movie “Operation Petticoat.”

This 1959 “service comedy” stars Carey Grant, Tony Curtis, Dina Merrill and Gavin MacLeod. Grant plays Admiral Matt Sherman, Commander of the submarine U.S.S. Sea Tiger, which is stationed in the Philippines at the beginning of World War II. Joining him is Nick Holden (Tony Curtis), as his conniving junior officer. Things get interesting when the sub has to stop and pick up a small group of nurses being evacuated from a local island. The movie runs for 121 minutes. Popcorn and movie candy provided.

—Dixie Gerhart (402-602-3252)

NE District Youth Gathering Omaha is coming up November 17-18 at Embassy Suites Omaha-LaVista Hotel and Conference Center. The theme is ShOw. SO, you are redeemed and sanctified for a life that will SHOW whose you are and will witness to others by HOW we show love in our lives! JUNIOR HIGH youth interested should see **Kristi Townsend**. (**Jill Clausen** has agreed to be our female adult leader. We are still looking for an adult male leader to attend with the group.)

Daylight Savings



Saturday night, November 3, turn your clocks back one hour for Daylight Savings Time.

Project Hope

We will be collecting donations of canned and nonperishable food items for Project Hope at Thanksgiving Day worship.

## 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

## 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:

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**Julie Lutz**  
 12 Wiltshire Rd  
 Kowloon Tong, Kowloon  
 Hong Kong  
[julie.lutz@lcmsintl.org](mailto:julie.lutz@lcmsintl.org)

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



Bethany Lutheran Church (5151 NW Radial Hwy.) invites you to a **Souper Supper** on Sunday, November 4th, from 2:30—4:30 p.m. There will be many homemade soups for you to sample and try along with your favorite extras on the side. Come, eat and vote for your favorite recipe, then stay for an evening with *Recovery Revival Fellowship*.

## Sunday School Christmas Service Rehearsals To Begin

*Mark your calendars for this year's Sunday School Christmas Service on Sunday, December 16, at 4:00 P.M.*

Rehearsals begin Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:30 A.M. and continue every Sunday through December 16th. 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!