

Volume LVII
Number 10

October 2019



Messenger

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
7301 N 28 Ave Omaha, NE 68112 402-455-8700 MountOliveOmaha.com



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 9th 11:30 A.M. The next Very Merry Unbirthday Luncheon will be held at La Mesa 11002 Emmet St. Meet in the church parking lot to carpool. RSVP to Barb Stacy 402-453-7049 or Bonnie White 402-676-7334

Friday, October 11th 7:00 P.M. Friday Night Flix at Mount Olive Lutheran Church (28th Ave. & Weber) *The Ghost and Mr. Chicken* –a great movie for the family! Candy and popcorn provided.

Saturday, October 12th 7:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Project Hope Fundraiser at any Le Peep Restaurant. Make sure to tell cashier that you are part of the Project Hope Fundraiser and 25% of your purchase will be donated to Project Hope!

Saturday, October 26th Noon-2:00 P.M. Trunk or Treat at Bethany Lutheran Church (52nd & NW Radial Hwy). Trunk or treating in the parking lot, Games, Book and Bible Giveaway, Glow in the Dark dance party, Laser Tag and Free Lunch.

Sunday, October 27th 4:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M. Trunk or Treat at Mount Olive Lutheran Church (28th Ave. & Weber) Come dressed in your favorite costume. Lots of candy and other goodies will be handed out!

Sunday, October 27th 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. Lamb of God Preschool at Pacific Hills Lutheran Church (90th & Pacific) will host a Trunk or Treat and the Pancake Man. They will have trunks of treats, pumpkin decorating and a free pancake dinner. Costumes are encouraged. All are welcome!

Saturday, November 2nd 9:00-2:30 The Lutheran Church (aka Bethany-52nd & NW Radial Hwy). Identity Theft & More: What you need to know-Hosted by Thrivent-See flyer on Bulletin Board in North Entry Call 402-558-6212 to RSVP.

From Pastor Meyer's Desk:

October, 2019

The Gift of Righteousness and Eternal Life In Christ

A gift we have the privilege to live and share!

"I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. ...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ...our citizenship is in heaven..." Philippians 3



We have much to celebrate as Lutherans who have recently celebrated the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. As we look at our present world and all its division, trouble and heartache, we must not hide in the corner (though it may be a tempting thought). Let us instead remember that we have much to add, as confessional Lutherans, to the conversation with all Christians of the life, hope and promise that is securely ours in Jesus. We can help others see that our security and our certain hope in Jesus is not because of what we have done or might yet do, but because of what God has done and continues to do for us. God continues to work powerfully in our lives through His Word, Sacraments and the fellowship of His people. Let us never forget this!

Yes, we are saved by God's grace through faith alone. But we also remember that faith is never alone. As we read in James, our faith will be made evident through our words and actions. We need to daily be the visible Church where God's love and forgiveness is seen and experienced by those around us. Nothing is more important than knowing Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior. There is no greater gift than the gift of heaven and eternal life that is part of God's call to us through His gifts of baptism and saving faith.

We all know that there are many temptations and situations that lead us to focus and build each day on something apart from God. It could be greed, lusts, hurts, pleasures, disappointments, self-centeredness or just plain laziness. But God has made us His own in baptism, into Jesus. In Jesus we have life and God wants all to be saved and to always know the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The gift of forgiveness and salvation in Jesus (citizenship in heaven) is something that I pray all would receive and always cherish, starting with my dear family and friends. Yes, it is a gift we

often take for granted and it is a gift we are in danger of losing when we take up with the ways of a sinful and fallen world. [Take to heart the example of one of our own whom we recently buried, Bill Pugh, who had his daily morning devotions, reading God's Word out loud!] We must continue in our daily walk with Jesus and the hearing of God's Word, the receiving of His Holy Supper, and the fellowship of His people as we gather together in His name. To separate ourselves from God's people, for whatever reason, is usually just a precursor to separating ourselves from God – and eternal separation from God is the definition of hell!

We all continue to face times of transition at work, at home, in our communities and in our church. At such times, in these periods of transition and change, there is something – someone who does not change: our Lord God and His Word of Promise, Life and Hope in Jesus. He assures His people that He will not leave us or forsake us, His grace and strength will be sufficient.

Yes, we sometimes fail and disappoint one another. Yes, we all continue to need God's grace, mercy and forgiveness. Part of our task and purpose as God's people is that we extend His forgiveness to one another and remember to claim it for ourselves in Christ, putting into practice the word we proclaim. We are all called to be messengers of God's love and compassion to one another. We do this as we strive to always put the best construction on things, speak well of one another, and when there is an issue, speak directly to one another and never about one another. All so that God's peace and love may abound and be evident among us, His people in Christ.

Our ultimate aspirations are not found in this life, but in heaven. Our highest goal and purpose as members of God's family of faith here at Mount Olive is that everyone we know and meet may one day, by God's grace, be people that we will see in heaven. The way I like to say it is this, ***“By the grace of God I'm going to heaven. And by the power of God, I want to bring as many people with me as I possibly can.”***

God invites and welcomes our daily prayers. God is good and is at work among us. Let us all daily put on the armor of God and stand strong in His grace and righteousness as citizens of heaven. Let us all be daily committed to seeing the kingdom of God's grace grow at Mount Olive, in our community and throughout the world. God is powerfully at work!! What a privilege is ours to be part of work that is touching so many lives and adding eternal value, here and throughout the world. All to the glory of God!

Your friend and fellow servant in Christ,
Pastor Meyer

OTHER NOTES FROM PASTOR MEYER:**[I share with you some excerpts from my report to Voters on Sept. 29.]**

- 1) I have been with you six weeks. We have talked about a lot of things. Yet, in many ways we are just starting the intentional interim ministry process. We have experienced some aspects of how difficult a transition period can be between resident pastors but I pray that we have also experienced some elements of how this can be an exciting time when we sit back and ponder new opportunities and possibilities and listen to how God desires to move us forward in His grace and ministry.
- 2) I would remind you of something I shared in the last church newsletter. I urge you to daily pray for your next resident pastor (and his family) whom God is already preparing for Mount Olive.
- 3) We hope to soon set up some opportunities for all members and friends of Mount Olive to attend and participate in what we will probably call ‘Cottage Group Meetings’.

Watch for information coming soon concerning Cottage Group Meetings.

It will not always be easy going forward. Transitions rarely are. Some things may take longer than we like, and we may not always get our wish. We must and will work together in seeking to step forward according to God’s plan and will for His Church. Through it all, let us be determined to care for one another, listen to one another, and above all listen to our Lord as He speaks to us through His Word!

As we go forward, some of the ‘interim process’ (Cottage Group) questions will be centered around:

- 1) As we study God’s Word: What are the various tasks of the ministry that God has given to all His Church?
- 2) As we observe and listen to the needs of our community and one another: What are the opportunities and urgent needs for ministry in our congregation, community and surrounding area?
- 3) What are our gifts, resources and strengths? What are we doing well?
- 4) What are our weaknesses in terms of the work that God has given to His Church? What are we doing poorly or not at all?
- 5) What does God want us, here at Mt. Olive and the places where we live, work, play and go to school, to do at this time and place?
- 6) What should be our three or four key ministry focuses for Mt. Olive going forward?

Please watch your mail for a letter listing the dates and times of upcoming meetings and make a sincere effort to attend. There will be multiple opportunities to attend between October 15-November 11. Questions regarding the meetings may be directed to Dixie Gerhart or Pastor Meyer. Where our Lord leads us, we will and must follow!

Trunk ~or~ Treat

Fun for ALL ages and families



Trunk or Treat is a safe and fun family environment where Trunk or Treaters collect candy and other goodies from trunks of vehicles that are decorated in cool themes. Join us in our church parking lot for this spooktacular event!

**Sunday
October 27
4—5pm**

- Come dressed in your favorite costume!
- Lots of candy and other treats!

Don't miss it!

Free. Family. Fall. Fun.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Dear Victor,
 Thank you to you and to the entire Mount Olive congregation for my June 30th Retirement Celebration. Everything that was done that day exhibited thoughtful planning, attention to detail and great generosity. Thank you for honoring my wife in such a kind and thoughtful manner as well.

God certainly blessed our relationship as pastor and people for 45 years. We grew together and God’s work was accomplished As a congregation you have certainly treated Suzan and me, along with our family exceedingly well. We love Mount Olive and its people and you have loved us in return.

As we shift to another chapter in our lives (which is as challenging as any before) I look forward to the day of sitting in the pew on Sunday mornings next to Suzan surrounded by children and grandchildren joining you in thanksgiving and praise to our Gracious Lord and Savior Jesus.

Words are inadequate to express the depth of my gratitude for honoring me and thanking me as you did. I pray that succeeding pastors will build on the good things God enabled us to accomplish together.

Peace and Joy in Christ,
Pastor Roland A. Jank, Jr.

**PROJECT HOPE
 FUNDRAISER**



**SATURDAY,
 OCTOBER 12TH 2019**

Bring your friends and family to breakfast or lunch any Le Peep location in Omaha on Saturday, October 12th, and 25% of the sales will be donated to Project Hope. Make sure to tell the cashier to mark your check for the Project Hope Fundraiser.

Other “To-Do” Items on Pastor Meyer’s List

- Junior Confirmation classes are meeting on Sunday after Bible Class. We meet 11:20-1:00.
- Adult Confirmation or Information Class - Any adult interested in becoming a member of Mount Olive or just wanting to learn more about what we believe and teach concerning our Lord Jesus and His Word is invited to contact me or the church office. Pastor is willing to start a class at any time.
- Worship is something that Rachel & Pastor Meyer, along with members of the Lay Ministers will continue to review. We may start a ‘worship committee’ to meet about once a month, but that is still in early planning stages. Recent services have been too long (in Pastor’s opinion) and Rachel & Pastor are taking steps to address this.

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 2019 our missionaries abroad are:

Julie Lutz
 PO Box 803
 Mt. Hagen,
 Western Highlands
 Province
 Papua New Guinea
 Julie.lutz@lcms.org

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

Lunch Club

The next *Very Merry Unbirthday* luncheon will be Wednesday, October 9. We are eating at Le Mesa, 11002 Emmet St (108 & Maple). Let's meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m. and car pool. Please rsvp to **Barb Stacy** at 402-453-7049 or **Bonnie White** at 402-676-7334.



Update-Marge Eastman is now at Brookstone Meadows Room 2105 and can be reached at 402-658-8230.



Our middle school youth have an interest in attending the Middle School Gathering at Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Kearney on November 9-10, 2019 we are looking for **male and a female leader** to attend with our 3 boys and 2 girls. The Gathering, sponsored by the Nebraska District LCMS, is a wonderful opportunity for youth to come together to hear and study God's Word and celebrate His love for us. Talk to Kristi Townsend for details.

We remember in Prayer-

...**Neve Anson, Ruth Benish, Becky Day, Marge Eastman, Rod & Karen Lorang, Jeri Ziegler** and **Emily Standley**.

...the family and friends who mourn the death of **Bill Pugh**.

...**Gloria, Steve and Mark Sorensen** who mourn the death of Gloria's father, Vernis Phillips

Thank you to **Becky Hurt, Kathy Mansfield, Sharon McDonald, Barb Stacy, and Linda Williams** for helping with the September Messenger.

Thank you to **Becky Hurt** for taking the finished newsletter to the downtown post office.

And, as always, thanks to **Rosalie Soodsma** for all her help in the church office.

Thank you also to **Brian Rikke** who collects the recyclable items at church and hauls them away.

Book Club on Tuesday, October 8th at 7 PM. Please join us for our discussion of "Lilac Girls" by Martha Hall Kelly. We are meeting at the home of **Bonnie White**. **Jill Clausen** is providing dessert. Omaha Public Library describes the book, which is based on a true story as follows: "New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939--and then sets its sights on France. An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences. For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power. The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbruck, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents--from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland, as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten." Our next meeting will be Tuesday Nov 12th at 7:00. We will discuss "A Lantern in Her Hand" by Nebraska writer Bess Streeter Aldrich.



Coming Soon to a Fellowship Hall Near You!

Please join your fellow Mount Olive movie buffs on Friday night, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. (**NEW TIME!!**) We will be showing the Movie "The Ghost and Mr. Chicken."

"*The Ghost and Mr. Chicken*" is a 1966 comedy starring Don Knotts. Luther Hegg, (Knotts) is a typesetter for a small town newspaper and pursues his dream of becoming a big-time reporter by spending a night in an alleged haunted house. The movie also stars Joan Staley, Dick Sargent and Ellen Corby. This a great movie for the kids and grand-kids!

Popcorn and Movie Candy will be provided. The movie runs 1 hour and 30 minutes. Circle the Date! Dixie Gerhart...402-602-3252



Hi, I'm Amie Rikke, a new member of Mount Olive, and I have stepped into the role of Health Ministry Coordinator for our congregation.

I grew up in Raven Oaks, attending Springville, Nathan Hale and Northwest High School. With two older brothers, I was the only girl and the baby of the family. My dad was Lutheran, and my mom Presbyterian but neither attended church. I always felt close to God and very interested in spiritual things. I would pray and read the Bible on my own, and attend different churches with my friends' families here and there.



I wanted to be a nurse from an early age. My dad had Multiple Sclerosis and was disabled by the time I was born. My mom passed away from a brain tumor when I was twelve. These two life circumstances impacted me greatly and taught me at an early age what it's like to be disabled and needing compassion from others.

While attending Methodist School of Nursing, I was baptized and joined Pacific Hills Lutheran Church. After graduation, I moved to San Antonio Texas in 1983 for my first nursing job. I met my husband, Brian, in San Antonio at Concordia Lutheran Church at their young singles Bible study. Brian is originally from the Granite Falls Minnesota area. We married, had our sons, and moved to Omaha in 1997. Son, Luke is 32 and dad to our grandson, Austin. Son, David is 30, married to Sarah, and father of grandson, Joshua.

I enjoy reading, sewing, walking, gardening, cooking, DIY projects and surfing the web. I have been an RN for 36 years, working in General Medical Surgical Nursing, Home Health, Oncology, the Emergency Room, Geriatric Behavioral Health and Quality Management (which means I made sure the health care system I worked for was following all the governmental regulations and rules). I currently work for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as a surveyor, inspecting home health, hospice and kidney dialysis agencies.

I am excited to serve Mount Olive as our Health Ministry Coordinator. My goal is to focus on prevention and minimizing illness in our congregation while supporting you spiritually. With help from volunteers, some things we can provide are visits to those hospitalized, home bound or in care centers, health education and advocacy, support to families during all phases of parenting, support during end of life. Sometimes we just need to feel encouragement as we face health struggles big and small.

We will continue to provide the Blood Pressure checks the first Sunday of the month in the church office between the worship service and Sunday school. I will be sending out a questionnaire to Mount Olive members soon to help assess what health needs our congregation has and forming a plan to meet those needs.

Your sister in Christ,

Amie Rikke

Aryanna Hogue—High School

Congratulations to **Evelyn Misiolek !**
 She turned in 24 Perfect Attendance certificates and received a Perfect Attendance pin and second year wreath! This has long been a tradition at Mount Olive—remember, the certificates do not need to be chronological, just turned in 12 at a time.



Perfect Attendance!



These Sunday School students had perfect attendance in **September**.
 Congratulations!!

Directory Changes

Add:

Andrew Doyle Smith (baptism)

Remove:

Neena Kraemer-Solberg (transfer)

Lois Lenz (transfer)

Bill Pugh (death)

It's time for a new church directory. Please help us out by doing the following: Review your information in the 2018 Member Directory and email the church office at mountolv@msn.com stating that the information is correct or any changes that need to be made. You may also call the church office at **402-455-8700**



**CHURCH
 WORKDAY**

Please help us celebrate Mount Olive's 92nd Anniversary by joining us Saturday, October 19 for a PARTY (of cleaning and maintenance). The revelry starts at 9:00. We'll have cake (donuts), drinks, (juice and coffee) and lots of presents (okay, they're actually boxes full of unknown stuff, but I'm trying to persuade you). There will be jobs indoors and outdoors, upstairs and downstairs for all ages and abilities. We could use an extra two wheeler that day as well if anyone has one to loan. If you have any questions or have noticed items that need attention, please call me (402) 650-5960, email me (paulandjill@cox.net) or leave a note in my mailbox at church.

-Jill Clausen

Director of Church Properties



October Baptisms

Tracy Viles	-	1	Adela Jank	-	12	Michael Steckelberg	24
Loureine Whitwer	-	1	Justin Corcoran	-	14	Klara Jank	25
Bonnie White	-	2	Keh'Lani Hatten	-	14	Eleanor Misiolek	25
Addison Wheeler	-	6	Sarah Webb	-	14	Tom Trusty	27
Hailey Standley	-	9	Jaymee Corcoran	-	15	Colton Seefus	28
Ray Hogan, Jr.	-	10	Jaxton Corcoran	-	16	Kenzee Wheeler	30
Alea Wegner	-	10	Sharon McDonald	-	19	Madalynn Wheeler-	30
Alex Wegner	-	10	Diana Kinney	-	22		



October Birthdays

Robert Frazer	-	1	Kara Kowalski	-	11	Ray Hogan, Jr.	-	25
Colton Seefus	-	1	Randy Johnson	-	13	Jerry Zulfer	-	25
Bonnie White	-	2	Karen Lorang	-	13	Mckoy Kosch	-	27
Austin Wegner	-	4	Sharon McDonald	-	14	Mike Townsend, Sr.	-	28
Isabelle Nordaker	-	7	Tim Wegner	-	15	Betsy Kosch	-	29
Dean Hinsley	-	9	Lois Lenz	-	18	Jeff Misiolek	-	29
Hailey Standley	-	9	Jacob Markham	-	18			
Bob Wegner	-	9	Timothy Worrall	-	23			



October Anniversaries

Mikale & Kristi Townsend, Jr.	4	William & Cindy Wilbanks	10
Jerry & Stephanie Markham	9	Tom & Pat Trusty	12
Robbie & Tamra Moffett, Sr.	10	Keith & Debbie Fly	27



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Worship	Communion	Adult Bible Class
September 1	80	63	27
September 8	100	69	23
September 15	80	63	25
September 22	75	54	15
September 29	86	65	30
<i>Total</i>	421	314	120
<i>Average</i>	84	63	24

Private Communion

SERVING SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>
6 Robbie and Tamra Moffett, Sr., Mary Hogue, Becky Hurt 13 Sharon McDonald 20 Dawn Payne, Judy Rath 27 Connie Townsend, Kristi Townsend	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>October 6</u></p> Josh Callahan Dustin Hogue Rome Motiejaitis
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>October 13</u></p> Paul Whitmore - C Doug Worrall
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>October 20</u></p> Ray Hogan - C Victor Padron Douglas Pollock Rich Wismont
<p><i>Acolyte</i> - Alexis Brown</p> <p><i>Bulletins</i> - Rosalie Soodsma</p> <p><i>Lector</i> Gloria Sorensen</p> <p><i>Lay Minister</i> - Mark Sorensen</p> <p><i>Altar Guild</i> - Ruth Benish, Barb Stacy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>October 27</u></p> Mike Townsend, Sr. - C Alex Johnson Jim Zulfer