

Volume LIV
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September 2016



MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

7301 North 28 Avenue Omaha, Nebraska, 68112 402-455-8700 www.mountoliveomaha.com

Messenger



Grab a friend and spread the news. Sunday School Kick-off is **Sunday, September 11**, at 10:20 A.M. for the new school year. Classes are provided for all children from 3 years old through high school. This is another opportunity to assist you and your child(ren) in their spiritual growth. Sunday School makes a wonderful difference in a child's life. Also on September 11, Sunday School teachers will be commissioned during worship.

Life is filled with questions. Jesus himself asked 125 questions in the four Gospels. Good questions force us to go deep in our heart. God doesn't want us to be merely *interested* in Him. He wants us to be *intimate* with Him. He yearns to deepen our faith in Him.



For eight Monday nights this fall **Pastor Jank** will lead us on a journey using eight questions Jesus asked. The first is "What do you

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I came into the church as an adult. My parents just never took me when I was a kid. When I was in second grade, we lived across the street from St. Richard's Catholic Church and the nuns lived next door. They were always very kind and invited me to church often. Sometimes I would go with them but church never "stuck" with me. Although everyone was nice, there were things that didn't make sense to me. Not only all of the kneeling and praying, but even the language. Who are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit? It was foreign to me.

To be completely honest, as I grew up, my opinions about the church were primarily formed by the media, my parents, and the world around me. My parents had no opinion. The media had all sorts of ideas about the church, as did the world around me. As I would later learn, most of those turned out to be untrue. The more I grew in my faith, the more I realized how wrong I was. My views were shaped by everything but the truth that is Christianity and the people within the church.

1. **People who go to church think they are better than everyone else.** Of course that is completely laughable but I really believed it. They wear their fancy clothes to church. They seem so stuffy. What I didn't know about was reverence by God's people displayed by wearing their best clothes to church.
2. **Why are they always so nice?** From a Christian's point of view, they are sharing God's love by being kind to others. I saw it differently. No one is ever kind for

no reason. Nothing in this world is free. They must want something from me. When I think now of the Christians

with whom I have come into contact and the abundant love that exudes from them due to Christ, I am ashamed that I ever thought that way.

3. **You have to go to church every Sunday!** And Sunday School, too? Christians and their rules! Always trying to tell me what to do! What I didn't know is that if you really want to grow in your faith, participation is paramount. Not only does God want you in church and Sunday School every week, He wants you to pray daily. Why? He wants you to grow closer to Him. How does this happen? Being in His Word. Being around other Christians. Putting Christ first every day through prayer sets the day for you. It reminds you to be like Christ in every situation. Isn't that what every Christian is striving for? How can you do that? By talking with Him, trusting in Him and being immersed in Him.
4. **I'm constantly being asked to volunteer.** Haven't I done enough already? When you are a Christian, your heart changes from being just about you to having a servant's heart for others. When I became a Christian, I felt like the



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Grinch, that my heart grew three sizes. When I opened myself to God's love, I was so humbled by His generosity that I couldn't help but want other people to feel that same love. How could I do that? By volunteering at the church or at the local food pantry or wherever I was needed so that I could help fulfill God's mission which is to bring people to Christ so that everyone could know the love He has for them.

5. **All they want is your money!** They are constantly reaching into my pocket! The church uses some of the money I donate to pay the utilities, salaries of people who work there, upkeep on the building, etc. They also use some of it to support other ministries that are important. Why is any of this reason for me to give? Because God not only wants the people within the church walls to grow in their faith and know of His awesome love, He also wants other people to know about Him too. The whole point of being a Christian is to share God's love with other people. Well, you need a place to meet. Giving not only supports those functions, but when you get deep in your faith, you will learn that nothing even belongs to you. All your blessings flow from Christ. Being born, parents, spouses, children, homes, jobs, pay, everything that is entrusted to you is from Christ. All that you are and all that you will ever be is courtesy of Him. It doesn't make sense to me that I would be stingy with what isn't mine anyway.

I think back to those nuns and even though I didn't know it at the time, what a great example of God's love they were. And even though I can't prove it, I'll bet they were praying for me all that time. Why? Because they knew about God's love and forgiveness and they wanted that for me too. I am forever grateful to them, the people at my church, **Pastor Jank**, the people of Mount Olive and everyone along the way who called me when I didn't make it to church, encouraged me when I needed to be lifted up, and helped me understand what God wanted for me.

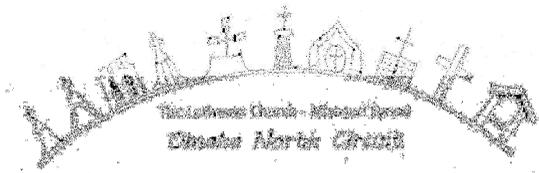
—**Teresa Kuti**
Mount Olive Lutheran Church Secretary

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 2016 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



1 Corinthians 12:12 "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."

On Saturday, April 16, representatives from each of the 10 congregations of the Omaha North Circuit gathered at Bethany Lutheran Church to help establish relationships between the churches, to identify challenges to growth and outreach facing many churches, to learn about what each other were doing to address these challenges, to discuss how we can collaborate our efforts, and to organize a plan to make future steps.

On Saturday, September 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, at 5020 Grand Avenue, this group is meeting again to further the discussions that started

Summit 2 - Save the Date

Saturday, September 24, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

at St. Paul Lutheran Church

5020 Grand Avenue

back in the spring. Based on the information that was collected from the participants at the last summit, this time there will be breakout sessions to target specific topics such as: Elders, Education, Outreach/Evangelism, Sunday School/VBS, Youth, Communication, Fellowship, Resources/Finances, Trustees/Facility, Christian Day School and Witness/Mercy/Life Together. There will also be more time to discuss and solve Omaha North Circuit issues.

At the last summit, there were 10 members of Mount Olive who attended and found the session to be informative and helpful. If you would like to attend or would like more information about Summit 2, please contact **Mike Townsend, Jr.** or **Betsy Kosch**.

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want?" which probes our desire. The last is "Do you truly love me?" which is pivotal in our life. We will use the book Dare to Answer by John Busacker as our guide for probing Bible passages and good discussion.

We invite you to participate by calling the church office (402-455-8700) or emailing your interest (mountolv@msn.com). The first meeting is Monday, September 12, at 7:30 P.M. We will limit the group to the first twelve sign-ups.

Nearly 500 years ago, an unknown monk from a backwater town in Germany, set in motion a movement that would literally transform Western civilization. *A Man Named Martin Part 1: The Man*, a video-based Bible class, will begin Sunday morning, September 11. Make plans to join us as we begin our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



Please come join us on Tuesday, September 13th, at 7:00 P.M., at the home of **Bonnie White**. Dessert will be provided by **Lois Barr**. We will be deciding the list of books that we will read in the upcoming months. Feel free to join us and to bring your suggestions for books to read. If you have questions, ask any of the Book Club members: **Carol Childers, Jill Clausen, Liz Matson, Gloria Sorensen, Marcia Steckelberg, and Bonnie White**.



So many thank yous to God for providing an amazing evening for National Night Out! He was truly so awesome! He gave this event wonderful people to make this community event come together and be successful. First of all, thanks to **Tim Lorang**, Director of Evangelism, for providing support and encouragement. Thank you to those who provided willing hands and backs to set up tents, tables and chairs: **Chuck Gerhart, Ray Hogan, Becky Hurt, Ron Hurt, Roger Perrigo, Colton Seefus, and Mike Townsend, Sr.** Many thanks to the most wonderful ladies that just took care of all the other jobs in no time flat: **Nancy Jacobson, Judy Rath, Gloria Sorensen and Linda Williams**. Thanks to **Dixie Gerhart** and her amazing assortment of games for the kids plus encouraging the youth of our church to help and help they did! **Annette Hurt** was amazing. She helped in so many places. She and **Becky Hurt** did a great job helping control the kids in the bounce house. What a great job! **Doug Pollock** was super for bringing his cool car for everyone to check out. Did you know we have face painting artists in our presence? **Connie Townsend, Kelsea Townsend and Mike Townsend, Jr.** could probably be for hire if you asked nicely. **Mary and Dustin Hogue, Pastor Jank, Gary Jacobson, and Betsy and Paul Kosch** added even more hands to help put away everything we had to take out. The team that came from the Target store on 72nd and Sorenson Parkway helped bring fun and great stuff

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Please join your fellow Mount Olive movie buffs on Friday night, September 9, at 7:30 p.m. We will be showing the Movie "42."



History was made in 1947, when Jackie Robinson broke the professional baseball race barrier to become the first African American MLB player of the modern era. "42" tells the life story of Robinson and his history-making signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers under the guidance of team executive Branch Rickey. This movie from 2013 stars Chadwick Boseman and Harrison Ford. The movie is rated PG-13 and runs 128 minutes.

Popcorn and movie candy will be provided. Circle the date!

- **Dixie Gerhart**
402-602-3252



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

Save the Date

Martin Luther Birthday Party, Sunday, November 13, 2016, 2:00 - 7:00 P.M., German American Society, 3717 S. 120 St. Put this on your calendar now.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who gave to this year's VBS Mission Project, *Tin Roofs for Africa*. This mission joins with Lutheran churches all over the world to build roofs for churches in Africa. \$100 is enough to provide the wooden structure for one roof. We collected \$244.86 towards these efforts. Also, many thanks for your prayers.

Thank You

Domestic Violence

Thank you to **Lorraine Irwin** and **Sharon McDonald** for helping with the August Messenger.

Thank you to **Lorraine Irwin** 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**

During the month of September, we will be collecting items for victims of domestic violence, specifically the Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center that serves the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. They are in need of baby products (i.e. diapers wiper, formula bottles, etc.), hygiene items (i.e. shampoo, razors, deodorant, personal hygiene items, etc.), socks, undergarments, hair products, and flip flops/shower shoes. A collection box will be in the narthex (back of church).

Thank You

To everyone who came out to help support, gave their time, showed awesome hospitality, and genuine care at the Family Festival, thank you a million times over. Most of all, my humblest gratitude to for not only a beautiful evening but that people who came to this event may be shown a way to come to know Him. Blessings on Peace International's efforts to bring people to Christ. Thank you to all of you for helping our outreach to the community.

-**Laura Hogan**,
Evangelism Outreach

Many Thanks

Everyone, please thank **Irene Yeck** for her many faithful years on the Altar Guild. She has retired and will be dearly missed.

- **Barb Stacy**

Thanks

Many thanks to the outstanding group of kids and teens that helped out with the games in the parking lot Tuesday, August 2, at our National Night Out event. These young people were hard-working, enthusiastic and most important of all...very gracious with our guests/visitors/neighbors. Thank you to **Albert Hogue, Aryanna Hogue, Mckoy Kosch, Austin Wegner, Grant Wegner** and **Isabella Wegner**. You did a great job! Thanks also to **Dustin Hogue, Mary Hogue** and **Mike Wegner** for stepping in when the kids needed a break. It turned out to be a lot of fun. Thanks again!

-**Dixie Gerhart**

The semi-annual Adult Information Class begins Sunday, September 11, from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. for fifteen weeks. Come and invite a friend to join you.

In Ministry With God's People

We remember in prayer

...**Carol Childers, Becky Day, Arnie Jacobson, Rod and Karen Lorang, Mike McGrath, Dawn Payne, Mary Seefus, Don Weihe, Pearl Wiley, and Janet Zulfer.**

...our fall Adult Information Class which begins Sunday, September 11.

...our Mount Olive youth who are at college this fall.

...our need for courage to listen and then talk with our unchurched workmates, friends, neighbors and relatives about following Jesus with us at Mount Olive.

...our upcoming choir season and all who are lending their voices to enhance our worship.

Mission U Equipping to Share Everyday
 Evangelism
 Lunch Provided (Free-will offering to cover
 lunch and other expenses)
 Saturday, October 15, 2016
 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Being mature in Christ means that we also are intentional in sharing Christ with others. Unfortunately, as Lutheran Christians we are not always so good at sharing our faith outside the four walls of the



church. For the sake of the Kingdom, we need to change that! Plan now to set aside **Saturday, October 15, 2016** to attend an outreach training workshop from MISSION U, a program of Lutheran Hour Ministries. You are invited to join your brothers and sisters at Pacific Hills Lutheran Church and become equipped through this one-day event to fulfill our mission with boldness. Learn to overcome fear and to effectively share your faith within three relationship models: brief encounters, close relationships, and in times of crisis. To register please call Pacific Hills Lutheran Church at 402-391-9625 or leave an e-mail message with Pastor Bryan Drebes at bryandrebes@pacifichillslutheran.org

Many thanks from the Board of Church Properties to the following people for their service:

- to **Gary Jacobson** for repairing a broken hymnal rack and reattaching it to the back of the pew
- to **Tom Trusty** for moving the electrical box in the pipes chest for the organ (at the recommendation of the technician from the organ repair company, to allow the bellows a fuller range of motion) and for replacing a burned out bulb in the fixture at the west doors to the church (a complicated fixture to get into!)
- to **Ray Hogan, Ron Hurt, Frank Stiner** and **Jerry Zulfer** for sharing history and insights regarding the heating/cooling unit located off the nursery upstairs in the church
- to everyone who moved or helped clean and dry the chairs and tables used at the National Neighborhood Night Out.



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 for the kids. We hope they will be back next year. Fire Station #23 came and stayed to visit with the neighbors, letting everyone get up close and see the fire truck. That alone made the entire event really special. It was great for the whole neighborhood to come out

in the heat, stay and visit, and let us be there for them. None of this would have happened this year or any other year without each and everyone of you. I continually give praise and thanks to our awesome God!

-Laura Hogan
 Community Outreach Coordinator

Live A Life Worthy of Legacy

“Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.” (*Psalms 112:1-2*)

In the book of Genesis, God made a covenant with Abraham that included the promise of many descendants. Because of Abraham’s faithfulness, God made him the source of a great nation, and he was well-known and respected throughout the land. Abraham was a recipient of divine blessings, and through this, became an avenue of blessing to others.

Just as God promised, Abraham’s legacy continued with his children. Both his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob benefited from Abraham’s covenant with God. These blessings are still continuing through the people of God, generations later.

God’s blessings are for today and for generations to come. How can we live to be a blessing today and into the future? Consider these three things:

Assess what you value. We learn from those who came before us and we instill values in

those who come after us. What values do you hold dear? What would you like carried into future generations?

Live a life of service. How can you share your talents and abilities with others? Consider taking a spiritual gifts inventory to discover more of your spiritual gifting so you can share it with others.

Bless future generations. What great needs of the world are nearest and dearest to your heart? Think of ways you can respond with action and compassion. And remember, what may be considered a small action might one day make a huge difference in the lives of others.

We all dream of and want the world to become a better place. We can make a difference in bringing more of God’s goodness into the world by leaving a legacy of a well-lived, generous and joy-filled life

This article provided compliments of Thrivent Financial and **Sarah Jank**, Financial Associate, 402.905.4229, sarah.jank@thrivent.com.

