



Olive Branch

Mount Olive
Lutheran Church

Volume 46, Issue 4

April 2011

Kindle the Fire

As we reread the Case Statement below, lets **“Rekindle The Fire”** and remember our spiritual pledges by planting petunias again this year in our church flower beds. (The petunias were so beautiful last year.) We ask that on Mother’s Day, May 8, each family bring petunias as a symbol of our spiritual pledge to our Lord, to Mount Olive and to spreading the gift of God’s love. We will present our offerings in the Narthex and then plant them outside the front doors to remind us of our new spiritual commitment.



We will plant the petunias on Monday, May 9, at 10 AM and we need volunteers to help plant the flowers. If you can come and help, please sign up on the “Plant the Petunias” sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Case Statement:

Mount Olive is nearly a half century old. Where other congregations might be content to maintain and look inward, the members of Mount Olive will not sit idly by. We will kindle the fire of the Gospel by taking up new ministry opportunities in the community and the congregation. However, our \$8,000 monthly debt payment is holding us back. It is suffocating the flame of the Gospel and restricting our ability to capitalize on new opportunities. Together, we can eliminate our debt so the Gospel fire will burn even more brightly among us. *Imagine the possibilities!*

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Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday	Regular schedule
Maundy Thursday	10 AM and 7 PM
Good Friday	10 AM and 7 PM
Easter Vigil (Saturday)	5 PM
Easter Sunday	7, 9 and 11 AM

Easter Breakfast will be served from
6:30 AM – 10:30 AM



"Thanks be unto You, Lord Jesus, for Your bitter sufferings, Your shameful death, and Your joyous resurrection. Enlighten our eyes to see in You the way unto life. Uphold us by Your truth, so we may not fall into idolatry and false worship, and preserve us in the true faith unto eternal life. Amen."

Reading the Psalms with Martin Luther, Copyright (c) 2007 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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Web: mtoliveluth.org



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Blog: mtoliveluth.blogspot.com



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Stinky Feet ~ Pastor Borgstede

During March there was a class for parents of first graders to help our children learn to serve others. The idea is based on Jesus' teachable moment the night He was celebrating the Passover with His disciples. Jesus washed His disciples feet, a job for servants, not someone special like Jesus. The disciples are shocked when Jesus does this but it also became a great teachable moment. Jesus says after washing the disciples feet, *Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you* (John 13:12-15).

There is a great children's Bible called *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones that tells this story and talks about how "stinky" everyone's feet would be because of the dirty and dust roads. (Remember animals roamed the streets and there was no

formal garbage collection, so roads were more than just dusty in Jesus day!) This was not a job most people wanted to do, but if you wanted to keep your house clean it must be done. Jesus, who was considered a master and rabbi (teacher) to the disciples, was never expected to do this job. (Even the disciples didn't think this was a job they should do, only a lowly servant should have to do this.) Yet He does to give them the example of a follower of Jesus' life - a life of serving.

In Acts we see that right away the disciples and followers of Jesus are making a name for themselves by helping those in need. In fact, early on in the ministry of the disciples in Jerusalem, they need to find others to help in the "daily distribution to the widows" - a service of helping those in need. As disciples, followers of Jesus, we are called to help and serve others. That is what we as parents were learning in the class for our first graders

- how can we help our children serve others.

There are many ideas and many things said about serving others. We can teach our children many stories from Scripture and tell them how important it is to serve. But the greatest way to help teach our children service is by serving ourselves and



doing service projects together as a family. We were encouraged in the class to pick a service project the whole family could do together. Serving together is important.

There are some ways already or coming at Mount Olive that will give you and your families opportunities to serve our community.

Ms. Robin and Children's Ministry sponsor a women's shelter and a few families can help out at the shelter. Middle school and high school youth will be going on servant event trips this summer (not exactly for the whole family but still a great "teachable" moment of serv-

ing). Our Helping Hands team is there to help members with small projects, you can always volunteer to help. We have assembled a new team focus on providing opportunities for Mount Olive to reach out into our community with the primary focus of serving others. We are looking at putting together two projects for 2011 with at least one being open for families to be involved.

Jesus knew and taught us that service to others has many benefits - 1) We all are in need and this is how God uses us to help people in need 2) We benefit as we serve, we grow in our faith and 3) In one of the most powerful ways we show God's love and salvation by our love and care for others - in other words this is one of the best forms of evangelism. Not to grow members for our congregation but to allow God's kingdom to grow as people come to see Jesus love in their lives through us. (John 13:34-35 and Matthew 25:31-40)

Check out our blog for thoughts and ideas on serving others and our community. Go to mtoliveluth.org and click on the "Check out our Bible Study Blog" button on the bottom left corner.

The Olive Branch

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mtoliveyouth.com

Worship services are

Saturday, 5 PM, Holy Communion
Sunday, 8 and 10:45 AM

Church Staff

Rev. Jeff Shearier, Executive Pastor
Rev. Michael Borgstede, Associate Pastor
Brent Howard, Director of Youth and Family Ministry
Robin Kurth, Director of Child and Family Ministry
Rebecca Elmshausen, Director of Music Ministries
Mike Kallas, Operations Manager
Kaye Cairns, Office Manager
JoAnn Stibrich, Director of Early Childhood Education Center
Larry Kraft, Custodian



Our Mission Statement

God has called us to **reach** out, **care** for and **build** people toward maturity in Christ.

The deadline for the May Olive Branch is Tuesday, April 10. Articles turned in after that time will appear in the June newsletter.



Happy Birthday to ...

4/1	Truett, Kristi	Rehwalt, Elizabeth	Wetherbie, Ryan	4/22	Pelepchan, Nicholas
	Klein, Pam	4/7 Buchner, Samuel	Huebschmann, Amy		Narveson, Andrea
	Skov, Fred	4/8 Scheffel, Rich	4/16 Bacon, Dan		Sonnichsen, Arlene
4/2	Andrie, Craig	Conley, Martin	4/17 Polton, Amelia		Crane, Hazel
	Lash, Thomas	4/9 Scheffel, Mary	Ernst, Benjamin		Fischer, Cynde
	Harjes, Sy	Sudan, Thomas	Butler, Reba		Gaines, Colton
	Ommen, Darlene	Johnston, Adam	Warkentin, Zachary		Nelson, Tom
	Wishmier, Jack	Mc Kelvey, Brian	4/18 Heiser, Arthur		Ray, Barbara
	Maul, Teri	Yamada, Chad	Mercado, Hector	4/23	Johnson, Christopher
	Miller, Barry	4/10 Bowers, Lori	Colkitt, Donna	4/24	Andrie, Kathy
4/4	Johnston, Heather	4/11 Gurrola, Theresa	4/19 Vermilya, Silas		Bellis, Colin
4/5	Elliott, Skyler	Pelepchan, Kathy	Johnston, Joshua		Amore, Pat
	Rose, Leslie	Dreiling, Jacob	Latimer, Ronda		Olson, Dakota
	Elmshouser, Laura	4/12 Liss, Kathy	Student, Ann		Muir, Janice
	Brome, Jill	Jones, Joreen	Krueger, Glenn		Smith, Natalie
	Twombly, Cody	Bame, Donna	4/20 Frevert, Lillian		Osborne, Deborah
	King, Maddox	Scheffel, Nicole	Minter, Jim	4/25	Kerr, George
4/6	Olson, Sonoma	4/14 Ward, Kody	4/21 Olsen, Sandra		Goggins, Herman
	Griebel, Dennis	Koch, Jasmine	Narveson, Marilyn	4/26	Thies, Karen
	Hehr, William	4/15 Zuber, Austin	Samuel,		Gerdjikian, Lindsay
	Keil, Joyce	Kelsey, Linda	Zereyohannes	4/27	Hanson, Richard

Anniversary Wishes to ...

4/1	Fischer, Cynde & Dan	4/12	Henninger, Donald & Jane		
4/5	Arnold, Arvey & Phyllis		Sande, Roy & Lenore		
4/6	Kalthoff, Glenn & Jo	4/15	Bair, Frank & Sandra		
4/9	Vaughn-Porquis, Dorinda & William		Schonack, Russell & Leone	4/28	Martin, Jessica
4/10	Flint, Jim & Zoe	4/16	Rehwalt, Harvey & Elizabeth		Wallingford, Brenda
	Osborne, Richard & Deborah	4/19	Gerdjikian, Gary & Joann	4/29	Frimet, Andrew
		4/23	Polton, Guy & Robin		Bowers, Andrew
		4/27	Bond, Gary & Angela		Raimondo, Gage
					Sliver, Gary
				4/30	Narveson, Richard
					Greenhouse, April
					Johnson, Pearl





Blood Pressure Check

Saturday, April 16
4:30-6:15 PM

Sunday, April 17
9-11 AM
(In the Church Office)



Before and after each worship service we provide an opportunity for you to have your blood pressure checked by a nurse. It is quick and simple and a great way to monitor your health.

Helping Hands Care Packages

Human Care Ministry continues the "Helping Hands Care Package" to help families in need of short term assistance with food. The items listed below are being stocked. This is in addition to our efforts and support of Aurora Interchurch. Please look for these items on sale or when shopping in bulk and donate items monthly as you are able to support this ministry for those in need. For questions, please contact Pastor Borgstede, 303.755.9123.

- Peanut butter
- Cereal – small boxes
- Easy prepare meals like Mac and Cheese or Ramen Noodles
- Can soup with pop-top lids
- Can vegetables and fruit with pop top lids
- Granola bars or similar packaged snacks
- Water bottles
- Small single can/box juices
- Crackers
- Also small toiletries like toothbrush, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, and/or deodorant

Benevolence Fund

One goal of the Human Care Team is to provide minimal assistance to those in need. We provide a small food pantry to assist those who come in to us for assistance. This has worked well and thank you for your donations for this pantry. If you know someone in need of a few groceries let us know.

We can also provide assistance to your members in need through our Benevolence Fund. It is a designated fund, meaning the money put in this fund remains there year after year until we use it. It doesn't come from our regular budget, but is "filled" by generous donations from members of Mount Olive. If you would like to donate to the designated fund, you can mail the Church Office your donation, or place your donation in the offering plate, indicating that it is for the Benevolence Fund.

Thank you for your support and if you are in need of assistance, please feel free to contact Pastor Borgstede, 303.755.9123.

Senior Transportation

We provide transportation for those who have no other means to get to church and are able to get onto our bus (not wheelchair accessible) within a 2-3 mile radius from Mount Olive. There is a simple form to fill out and no cost for this bus service. Please contact Pastor Borgstede (303.755.9123) for more information or to get a form.



Dates are:
April 10 and 24
May 8 and 22
June 12
July 10
August 14 and 28

Aurora Interchurch

April donations —
Rice, macaroni, spaghetti/sauce

Brown grocery bags are needed every month.



Reach Out
To Those in Need

You don't need to give every month. We ask that you give when you can, what you can. Thank you for all you do for others.



Early Childhood Education Center

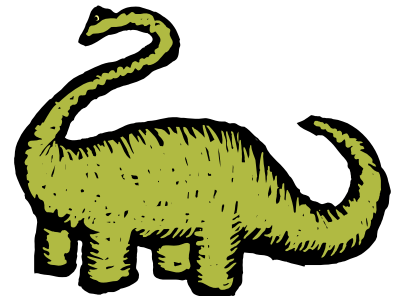
April showers will hopefully bring May flowers! We'll begin this month with our celebration of spring and the changes in our weather that God blesses us with in Colorado. Our school will be "blossoming" into spring through all of our art activities.

Last month our celebration of National Lutheran Schools was great! We hosted fellowship time which included singing and an art fair, family school which was a hit and singing in church. Another one of our activities was V.I.P. day where each child invited an adult friend to join us at school. There were many family members and special friends. It is so exciting to share all the fun and learning that goes on in the ECEC with these visitors. The ECEC staff thanks you also for your continued prayers for our children and staff.

We begin our Jesus time this month learning about Jesus' unconditional love for us when He gave His life for us. We also celebrate Easter with classroom parties. What a joyous time! Our Show and Tell will be a FUN one. Each child is given a plastic Easter egg and must find something that will fit inside. It is our job to "guess" what is inside.

ROAR! For our special day this month we will learning lots of "dino-facts" and have a great time with our prehistoric pals for Dinosaur day. It will be "dino-mite" FUN on Wednesday, April 14 and Thursday, April 15!!!

Registration for 2011-2012 continues. Come visit or call JoAnn at 303.750.9856 to learn more about the ECEC and registration.



2011-2012 ECEC Classes/Tuition

Registration for the 2011-2012 school year continues in the ECEC Office.

Listed below are the sessions that are available for the school year.

3 Year Old Classes

MWF 9 - 11:30 AM
TTH 9 - 11:30 AM

4 Year Old Classes

MWF 9 - 11:30 AM
TTH 9 - 11:30 AM

Junior Kindergarten

M-TH 12:30 - 3 PM

Combination 3/4 Year Old Classes

M-F 9 - 11:30 AM

PM Enrichment 3/4 Year Old Classes

M, T, W, TH and/or F 11:30 AM - 3 PM (with Lunch Bunch)

Registration Fees (Annual-non-refundable)

Preschool 40.00
Junior Kindergarten 45.00

Supply Fee

Preschool 35.00
Junior Kindergarten 40.00

Tuition for members of Mount Olive (Preschool)

MWF 161.00 per month
TTH 126.00 per month
M-F 239.00 per month
Junior Kindergarten 201.00 per month

PM Enrichment for members of Mount Olive

5 Days 230.00
4 Days 202.00
3 Days 167.00
2 Days 121.00
1 Day 61.00
Drop in 20.00 per day



Mount Olive Youth Ministry

Youth Website

Check out mtoliveyouth.com for more information about upcoming events, pictures from recent events and registration forms for retreats and trips. Have an idea for the website? Email or text Brent Howard with your idea.



Sign up for Weekly Email Youth Updates ...

Sign up at the youth website for weekly email updates. You 'll stay informed about important student ministry news.

... or Sign Up for Text Message Updates ... or Both!

Click on the " Text Message " link on the youth website for text message updates. And don' t worry, we 'll keep your number safe!



Upcoming Events

Jr High JOURNEY—Bible study for middle school students (Grades 6-8) meets every Sunday in Room 2, 9:30-10:30 AM.

Sr High REEL TIME—Bible study for high school students (Grades 9-12+) meets every Sunday in Room 10, 9:30-10:30 AM.

April 1-3—Youth Quake Retreat @ Marriott, Park Meadows

April 3—FUNdraiser: Serve the Hawaiian Dinner—4:30-8:30 PM

April 6—H2H Lent Worship/Learning Event—7-8:30 PM

April 10—8th Graders meet w/Brent—9:30-10:30 AM

April 10—High School IMPACT—6-8 PM

April 13—H2H Lent Worship/Learning Event—7-8:30 PM

April 17—High School Worship Practice—9:30-10:30 AM

April 20—No H2H Event—Holy Week

April 23—FUNdraiser: Set up for Easter Breakfast—10 AM-1 PM

April 24—Easter Sunday

April 24—FUNdraiser: Easter Breakfast—6:30-10:30 AM

April 27—H2H Learning Event—7-8:30 PM

May 1—8th Graders meet w/Brent—9:30-10:30 AM

May 1—High School Worship Practice—9:30-10:30 AM

May 1—Metro Youth Volleyball Tournament @ LHSP

May 4—H2H Service Event—7-8:30 PM

June 4—Student Ministry Golf Tournament

Middle School Mission Trip— Week of Hope Workcamp, St. Louis, Missouri, June 25-July 2, 2011

High School Mission Trip— Idaho Servant Adventure, July 15-24, 2011



Child and Family Ministry



Used Book Sale

Saturday, April 2

Sale 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

1/2 Price Sale 1:00-2:00 PM

Hardcover Books—\$2.00

Paperback Books—\$1.00

All Children's Books—\$1.00

Donate your gently used books!



Sunday School Staff Appreciation

April 3, 9:30 AM

On Sunday, April 3, we will give thanks for our dedicated Sunday School staff. At 9:30 AM there will be a special brunch for the teachers and staff. Our first grade class will prepare and serve a yummy meal. While the staff is having brunch, all other children will meet downstairs for activities and treats. Children will enjoy a VBS sneak peek! Volunteers are needed to help with the children while the teachers enjoy brunch. Please talk to Robin if you are able to help.

Easter Kid's Club

Age 3 - Grade 5

April 6, 5:30 PM



Kid's will celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection at our April Kid's Club. They will enjoy a short Bible time, make crafts, play games and participate in other activities. Children should bring along a jacket as they will play outside if the weather permits. Friends and visitors are always welcome at Kid's Club.



June 20-24

Morning, 8:45 AM—Noon

Afternoon, Noon—4:00 PM

Children age 3* through grade 5 are invited for a week of PandaMania! Registration opens April 10. This year, registration is available online. Simply visit our church website (mtoliveluth.org) and click on the Panda. Morning Vacation Bible School is free for all children. Registration will close June 15, 2011. **There will be no registrations accepted after June 15.**

The fun continues each afternoon. Afternoon Adventure takes place each day from Noon-4:00 PM. The cost is \$75.00 per child. The \$75.00 fee covers all supplies, programming and a snack. Children must bring their own lunch each day.

Youth and adult volunteers are needed in all areas. Talk to Robin Kurth or e-mail rkurth@mtoliveluth.org to sign up!

**All children must be 3 years old by January 1, 2011, easily separated from parents, and potty trained.*

VBS Kick-off Party

April 10, 4:00 PM

Everyone Welcome!

We are called by God to:

reach out to children,
care for children and
build children toward
maturity in Christ.



It is the goal of the Child and Family Ministry Team to accomplish this mission by equipping and encouraging parents to be active teachers and intentional examples of faith in their children's lives, as they share Jesus' love.



Egg Hunt and Alleluia Party

April 16, 9:00 AM

Children of all ages are invited for a morning of Easter fun and celebration! Children should bring along their Easter basket or a bag and meet at Eastridge Elementary School for the actual egg hunt. (Children will meet at Mount Olive if the weather is too poor for an outdoor hunt.) The egg hunt will begin at 9:00 AM. Following the egg hunt, all participants are invited for an Alleluia celebration at Mount Olive. Children will hear the Easter message, eat cookies, and make Easter crafts. All children must be accompanied by an adult at the egg hunt and party. All children present at the Alleluia celebration will receive an Easter book.

Candy/Small Prize Donations

Candy and small prize donations are being gathered for the Egg Hunt and Alleluia party. Leave donations in the box in the Narthex before April 10.

Palm Parade

April 17, 9:30 AM



All children are invited to participate in the Palm Parade on Palm Sunday. Children will gather in Skidmore Hall at 7:50 AM for the 8:00 AM worship service and at 10:35 AM for the 10:45 AM worship service. All children will receive palm branches to wave in the parade. Children will walk in the parade and then immediately sit down in the front for the children's message. Children will return to the pews to sit with their families following the children's message.

No Sunday School or Nursery Easter Sunday, April 24.



Cookie Can Ministry News

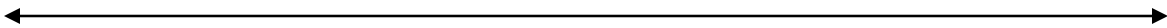
Saturday, April 2, at 9 AM is our last COOKIE CAN mailing for the college school year 2010-2011. The Board of Sharing and Caring would like to thank ALL of you who baked cookies, donated food items, helped pack cans and kept our college kids in their prayers! We appreciate all the time you have given to this ministry.

For our last mailing we want to send the large coffee cans FULL of cookies and we're asking anyone who likes to bake to bake and bring in at least 60 cookies (this is enough for 2 cookies per can ... please wrap them by twos). We also fill the nooks and crannies with small pre-wrapped candies. There are 29 Cookie Cans going out on April 2.

For the Healthy Cans we will need granola bars, Crystal light packets, popcorn, cocoa and cider packets, trail mix, snack mixes, 100 calorie snack packs, pretzels, cheese crackers, nuts, etc. We have four Healthy Cans to fill.



If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Pelepchan at 303.693.4161 or email her at kpelepchan@msn.com.



Financial Checkup

When was the last time you had a financial checkup?

When you hear the word *checkup*, what comes to mind?

Most likely it's your physical health. But checkups are just as critical to your financial health—which may be equally important.

Most financial professionals recommend you get a financial checkup at least once a year. The experienced and knowledgeable financial representatives at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help.

Thrivent Financial offers simple ways to deal with changes in your life that naturally lead to changes in your financial needs. For example, if you have a new grandchild, money you invested in a CD two years ago may now make more sense in a college savings

With regular financial checkups, you can ensure you're doing what's necessary today to help you achieve your long-term financial goals.

For a financial checkup or to discuss how Thrivent Financial can help you achieve your financial goals, contact Robert (Bob) Apmann, CPA, FIC with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans at 303.690.8924 or Robert.apmann@thrivent.com today or visit thrivent.com.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Young at Heart 55+

April 13 11:30 AM

In the Fellowship Hall

All seniors (55+) are invited to join the Young at Heart for a potluck lunch and program. There is always lots of good food and fellowship.

At 12 Noon Criss Potzer, a member of Mount Olive and Stroke Program Coordinator for St. Anthony Central Hospital will present a program on:

Stroke Education

- Learn the signs and symptoms of a Stroke/TIA
- What to do if you think someone is having a Stroke/TIA
- Risk factors for having a Stroke/TIA
- Types of Stroke
- Treatments available





2011 Mount Olive Youth Mission Trips

Mount Olive's High School and Middle School youth have travelled across the country for many years to reach out to people in various communities with the love of Jesus. Youth learn to care for the physical and spiritual needs of others all while growing in their faith. The summer of 2011 continues this ministry of helping youth grow in their relationship with Jesus as they serve those in need.



Our Middle School group will head to St. Louis for the Week of Hope Workcamp, June 25-July 2. At a Week of Hope Workcamp, youth and adults build meaningful relationships with those they serve, those they serve with, and most importantly, a deeper relationship with Jesus. Service projects on this trip might include running a VBS, preparing meals for the poor, or cleaning the home of an elderly person.

Our High School group will travel to Camp Lutherhaven in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to work with Idaho Servant Adventures, who partner with numerous Christian organizations and agencies throughout north Idaho in service to children, youth, adults and families. Many of those served live in some of the most disadvantaged counties in the nation. We leave on July 15 and return July 24.

Youth Ministry FUNdraisers

Date(s)	Event
April 3—4:30-8:30 PM	Hawaiian Luau Dinner (Served by YOUTH)
April 24—6:30-10:30 AM	Easter Breakfast

Eggs, ham, pancakes, fruit and pastries to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! Bring your family, friends and neighbors. Freewill donations accepted.

June 4—7:30 AM Golf Tournament at Murphy Creek

The cost is the same as last year: \$125 per person. Get your team together and compete for great prizes. Or, get a hole-in-one and win a new car. Sponsorships, individual and business, are available. Not a golfer? Donations in any amount are also accepted. Or donate a golf shirt, golf club or gift certificate for golfer prizes. **ONLINE registration is now open. Just click the Golf Tournament button on the church website (mtoliveluth.org) or go to mtoliveyouth.com.**

June 10-11—8 AM-3 PM Community Garage Sale

Bring your items to Mount Olive beginning Sunday, May 29. Items can include most anything: baby items, furniture, household items, appliances, books, clothing, toys, tools, sporting goods, antiques, collectibles and most anything else you think of. Thank you!



LWML



Charity Circle

WELCOME to Mount Olive LWML

We want to take this opportunity to welcome a new Circle at Mount Olive! Charity Circle is a group of 10-12 young women whose average age is 32 years old and have young children. They meet to do Bible study and volunteer to rotate babysitting so everyone has a chance to attend.

They chose Charity Circle as a name in part of their mission to give and share to others in need. These women have already shared new ideas and energized the LWML with their willingness to Serve with Gladness. Look for their bulletin board and meet our Sisters in Christ!

AND Mount Olive LWML is pleased to announce that Shelley Stewart, a member of Charity Circle, has been chosen as a Young Woman Representative from the Rocky Mountain District LWML to attend the National LWML Convention in June! We are excited for her as she will be with other young women, growing in His Word and learning more about LWML and the work done through mission grants. We look forward to her sharing her experience with all of us. Have fun Shelley!

Charity Circle meets every Wednesday morning at church. Interested in any Circle? There are Circles that meet in the morning and evenings—your choice. Every woman at Mount Olive is welcome. Join us as we Serve with Gladness

Mercy Circle - Tuesday, April 5, 9:30 AM at Mount Olive.

Glory Circle - Thursday, April 14, 7 PM at Devonne Domineck's.

Faith Circle - Thursday, April 21, 9:30 AM at Ruth Pelepchan's.

Grace Wanderers



July 20-24 the Grace Wanderers invites you to participate in the Historic Route 66/Theater Tour to Lindsborg, KS, Sand Springs, OK and Palo Duro Canyon State Park (south of Amarillo, TX) and Shuler Theater in Raton, NM. Other stops include the Kansas Underground Salt Museum, Route 66 Museum, Oral Roberts University, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, Capulin Volcano and the cross at Groom, TX. and the Trinidad Trolley Tour.

Detailed flyers are available in the Wanderers' notebook located on the Narthex table or by calling Phyllis Eifler at 303.333.6893. Tour price is \$600 per person double occupancy or \$750 single, and includes lodging, transportation, admission fees and 8 meals.

(Cape Cod and New York City, October 14-27, 2011 tour is filled!)

Wanderers

On **Monday, April 25**, take a wagon ride (bring a pillow) around the 1100 acres of the Plains Conservation Center at 21901 E. Hampden. Visit the 1887 farm, 2 sod homes and the old schoolhouse. Learn about the effect of the dust bowl on this region. If you have a severe back issue you may ride in the Suburban which pulls the wagon. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy prior to our 1:30-3:30 PM tour. Depart Mount Olive at 11:30 AM via church bus and cars; return approximately 4 PM. Cost is \$10 including transportation and tour.

On **Sunday, May 22**, the Wanderers journey to exit 2 off I-25 in Wyoming to the Terry Town Rail Express Sunday Lunch Train at Terry Bison Ranch. It is Wyoming's only privately owned and operated railroad and was built on the ranch. Depart Mount Olive at 10:30 AM and return approximately 5 PM. Cost is \$32.00 and includes luncheon train ride and transportation. Prepay please by May 17 and indicate your choice for lunch: Buffalo Burger platter, Beef Burger platter or Fried Chicken platter. Beverage is included. **LIMIT 32.**

Sign up on the Narthex table or contact Phyllis Eifler with questions.



Become a Wanderer by ...

... simply signing up for any of the tours on the sign-up sheets on the Narthex table. All ages are welcome. It's a fun way to get better acquainted with all that Colorado has to offer and it's a great way to get better acquainted with other Mount Olive members.



Grace Wanderers



Elders Corner

The Elders corner will take a few months break from the usual "Meet Your Elder" column, to sharing information about some of the duties, responsibilities, and activities the Elders will be involved with in 2011.

If you were to take the primary goal for the board of Elders at Mount Olive Lutheran Church directly from the latest church directory (2009 Guide Book and Directory), it would be "to oversee the spiritual life of the congregation and of its individual members." Then it goes on to list six items that would be a summary of those responsibilities. We'll start next month with the first item which is: oversee that scripturally sound doctrinal practice is used in the administration of Word and Sacrament, Public Worship, and in all stages of Christian Education.

Speaking of Public Worship, as we all can remind ourselves, what a tremendous blessing it is to live in the United States of America and to have freedom of religion. We can all worship God in Spirit and truth. Let's do that during the month of April, as we celebrate Easter, the GREATEST victory ever won for mankind. The physical, bodily, resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Because He lives, we too someday will live with Him forever. To God be the glory

... so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:5).

Lutheran Family Services

Lutheran Family Services says thank you to Mount Olive for several reasons ...

... for the incredible response to the "Colorado Gives Day" last December when \$147,533 was contributed to the agency which offers services for foster care, adoption, refugee resettlement, and aging.

... for the Angel Tree Gift Drive for LFS clients as over 1,800 gifts valued at more than \$50,000 were collected.

... for the response to the emergency call for blankets as this was met with a tremendous response which has allowed us to supply our refugee families with many extra blankets and stock pile some for future arrivals. **We are still taking blankets if you have some to share.**

Please remember we are always in need of gently used kitchen supplies like pots and pans, dishes, glassware, utensils and linens, lamps and furniture. For a pickup of furniture or for additional information contact Chad, chad.skupien@lfsco.org or 303.389.2348.

Music Ministry

Sing His Praise, His Love Declare: A Worship Conference for Pastors, Musicians, and Laity

Concordia University, Nebraska and St. John's Lutheran Church in Seward, NE have partnered to provide pastor, musicians, and laity with a conference this summer from July 27-29, which will educate, equip, and provide resources on worship-related topics within the Lutheran Church. Scheduled presenters include Carl Schalk, Carlos Messerli, Paul Bouman, LCMS President Matthew Harrison, Concordia University—Nebraska theology and music faculty members, and many more! Registration is \$95 if paid by April 30. The event schedule and full listings of topics and seminars is available online. For more information or to register for the conference visit seward2011.org, visit "Seward Worship Conference 2011" on Facebook, or see Rebecca Elmshouser.

Summer Music Opportunities

Watch upcoming bulletin announcements and the *Olive Branch* for details about opportunities in the music ministry at Mount Olive during the summer months.

Plans include a Men's Choir and Women's Choir that will provide special music approximately once per month. The groups will rehearse approximately two times before they sing in a worship service. Therefore, participation does not require a large time commitment, but rather a desire to sing! This is a great way to see if joining a choir is for you! Opportunities for additional special music (instrumental or vocal, solo or small group, etc.) are also available.

Please contact Rebecca Elmshouser if you are interested in leading and serving Mount Olive in this manner.



Audio Sermons

Audio sermons are available at mtoliveluth.org (click on the link under worship times). You can also access them in iTunes by typing in the search box "Mount Olive Lutheran Church Sermons." Then you can 'subscribe' and get the podcasts of our sermons automatically.



Lutheran High School Association

Colorado Lutheran High School Association's Board of Directors announced that in order to meet current financial challenges, it will be reorganizing the ministries of Denver Lutheran High School and Lutheran High School - Parker into one school at the Parker location next academic year. More information at GrowingInHIM.org.

Income/Expenses February 2011

Income	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Regular Offerings	142,825	162,947	(20,122)
Other Income	7,057	6,261	796
ECEC	36,400	39,164	(2,764)
Total Income	186,282	208,372	(22,090)
Expenses			
Personnel/Benefits	95,940	101,663	(5,723)
Programs	22,334	22,401	(67)
Administrative	3,553	4,186	(633)
Properties	37,347	38,114	(767)
ECEC	24,997	27,379	(2,382)
Total Expenses	184,171	193,743	(9,572)
Net Income	2,111	14,629	(12,518)

KINDLE THE FIRE

Fund Balance January 1, 2011: 16,041

YTD Income: 27,091

Additional Mortgage Principal: 32,559

Net: 10,573

Book Group

Read By	Book and Author	Leader
April 6	<i>Prayers for Sale</i> by Sandra Dallas	Janice Muir
May 4	<i>Secretariat's Meadow</i> by Kate Chenery-Tweedy	Jennifer Klekamp
June 1	<i>Founding Brothers</i> By Joseph P. Ellis	Anne Shearier



Expand your reading list. Stretch yourself ... read something you have never heard of ... then join in on our discussion in BOOK GROUP. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 5:45 PM.

