



Olive Branch

Mount Olive
Lutheran Church

Volume 46, Issue 12
December 2011

Holiday Worship Schedule

Wednesday Advent Services

(November 30) December 7 and 14
10 AM and 7 PM
with Holy Communion

Christmas Eve Services

December 24
4, 6, 8 and 10 PM
Candlelight Services
with Holy Communion

Christmas Day Service

December 25
10 AM
with Holy Communion

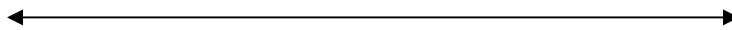
New Year's Eve Service

December 31
5 PM
with Holy Communion



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LWML Bake Sale

How 'sweet' ...
Thanks Mount Olive
members for baking
and buying at the
Bake Sale December
3/4.



Alone on New Year's Eve?

Join fellow Mount Olive friends from
6-10 PM (after church) in the Fellowship
Hall.

Bring a snack to serve eight.
(Beverages will be furnished.)

Enjoy games and fellowship!

Sign up on the Narthex table.



Find us on the Internet



Web: mtoliveluth.org



Facebook: **Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO**



Blog: mtoliveluth.blogspot.com



Twitter: [mtoliveluth](https://twitter.com/mtoliveluth)

What I Like About Christmas

A couple of things I like about Christmas at Mount Olive ...

I like the first service on Christmas Eve, the four o'clock in the afternoon one.

On the one hand, it is way too early in the day to really feel like Christmas Eve, but here it is anyway. Paul tells the Galatians and us, "When the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son...." He didn't ask if we were ready, He was ready. The hopes and fears of all the years were met in that Baby born in Bethlehem that day. Luke just tells us that Mary was ready, too: "And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth." Here is Jesus—and everything is different. Here is Christmas Eve at four o'clock in the afternoon—and everything is different.

Another reason I like the first service is that it is so noisy. The children's choirs are practicing, so there are families milling about—trying to decide where to sit or waiting for other family members to arrive. We have

a lot of visitors who aren't familiar with our building and they're asking questions or looking around. Sometimes, this service is our most-attended service, so it's noisy just because that many people can't be quiet. Why do I like this noise and crowd?

I read Luke's account of Jesus' birth and imagine that Bethlehem must have been a crazy place. New people in town, looking for a place to stay during the census must have given a sense of chaos to the little town. People crowding into every nook and cranny—the King James translation of "inn" is not really accurate, Bethlehem doesn't seem to have had "inns" back then. Mary and Joseph hunkered down in the only space available with the animals, since all of the rooms available for board were filled with other visitors.

I figure that Bethlehem and the four o'clock service had a lot in common. And into that noise and chaos and confusion comes Jesus—as He still comes today. He came to be Savior then and



He comes to be Savior now—even and especially in the four o'clock service... and the six o'clock service...and the eight o'clock service...and the ten o'clock service. Greet Him with me.

By the way, I also like sitting in the Nave after everyone's left after the ten o'clock service. I leave the lights on the tree but turn off all the others. I enjoy the quiet. All the voices have left and it's just me and the quiet. I wonder what the shepherd experienced after they'd told Mary and Joseph and everyone about the angels and came back to their quiet sheep and dark fields, still filled with joy and amazement at all they'd seen and heard.

Sitting in the darkened church after all the Christmas Eve services is my way of capturing that wonder. After the choirs and the brass and bells, after the singing and the Scriptures, after the fellowship and the friends ... after the wonder of the Word made flesh and coming into our midst, I like to sit and be like Mary, pondering it in my heart.

That's what I like about Christmas Eve at Mount Olive. What do you like?

Joy in the journey,
Pastor Jeff Shearier

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
Robin Kurth, Director of Child
and Family Ministry

Rebecca Elmshouser, 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 newsletter is the 10th of each month.



Happy Birthday to ...

- | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 12/1 | Mc Kelvey, Christine | 12/7 | Gordon, Joshua | | Belier, Rita | | Essig, Katherine |
| | Bellis, Dylan | | Gombos, Robert | | Sudan, William | | Coverly, Jeff |
| | Ahlman, Dale | | Dickinson, Joseph | | Hanson, Jordan | | Wallace, Marie |
| | Johnston, Lynda | | Dreiling, Lara | 12/17 | Keil, Calvin | 12/26 | Bessert, Virginia |
| 12/2 | Nizami, Shakil | 12/8 | Mercado, Julie | | Bair, Brian | | Ashby, Wilna |
| | Huss, Maranda | | Goeglein, Amber | | Brandt, Collin | | Schonack, Russell |
| | Torrie, Vanessa | 12/9 | Kerr, Isabelle | 12/18 | Hammitt, Ian | | Carpenter, Justin |
| | Andrie, Martin | | Marschner, Pamela | | Galloway, Kaye | 12/27 | Eckles, Kimberly |
| 12/3 | Goggins, Pam | | Sullivan, Colleen | | Feucht, Barbara | | Buchner, Adam |
| | Jones, Scott | | Clough, Martin | 12/19 | Alspach, Dorothy | | Bair, Kaitlin |
| | Lana, Edward | | Witt, Lanette | | Mc Coy, Sandi | | Lake, Nate |
| | Lana, Hermione | | Wilks, Kaiya | 12/20 | Forbord, Lubna | | Eickmann, Nathan |
| | Gordon, Aaron | 12/10 | Blesch, Keith | | Mc Guire, Kayla | 12/28 | Bentz, Terri |
| | Jaremba, Deb | | Krabbenhof, Tim | | Borgstede, Jeanne | | Buerck, Amy |
| | Gates, Mary | | Amore, Brian | 12/21 | Downs, Virginia | | Stewart, Shelley |
| | Yoder, Dylan | 12/11 | Opl, Joshua | | Swedberg, Robert | | Martino, Natalie |
| | Eisenach, Marilyn | | Chernet, Robert | | Stoltz, Cole | | Crane, Sarah |
| 12/4 | Humbargar, Cody | | Talamantes, Tamara | | Hicks, Noah | | Berlinski, Elaine |
| | Broom, Robert | | Ward, Cameron | | Koch, Josephine | | Auffert, David |
| | Schoenhals, Dean | | Archambeau, Al | | Buerck, Brad | | Kelsey, Brenden |
| 12/5 | Mc Clain, Mike | 12/12 | Bacon, Lorraine | | Hollman, Mary | 12/29 | Schilling, Joanna |
| | Zdinak, Taid | 12/13 | Mc Dermott, Rose | 12/22 | Potzer, Maria | | Stibrich, Tyler |
| | Stark, Barbara | | Schilling, Malakai | | Arnold, Arvey | | Broom, Ruth |
| 12/6 | Polson, Matt | | Fisher, Easton | 12/23 | Geisler, Orville | | Sharpley, Irv |
| | Huebschmann, Molly | 12/14 | Yoder, Emily | | Amore, Nancy | | Engelhaupt, Ruth |
| | Maly, Michelle | 12/15 | Eads, Serena | 12/24 | Stewart, Katie | | Kennedy, Michael |
| | Klekamp, Jesse | | West, Rod | | Mc Kinster, Stan | 12/30 | Fisher, Gracie |
| | Wishmier, Leona | 12/16 | Huyghebaert, Linda | 12/25 | Stephens, Ruth | | Mc Pherson, Tim |
| | | | | | Greenhouse, Joyce | | Chambless, Annie |
| | | | | | 12/24 | | Bame, Melanie |
| | | | | | Ciciulla, Irene | 12/31 | Sudan, Carolyn |
| | | | | | 12/25 | | Heiser, Edwina |
| | | | | | Kirkeide, Tracy | | Beyeler, Andrew |
| | | | | | | | Vaughn-Porquis, William |



Anniversary Wishes to ...

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| 12/4 | Elliott, Tim & Teresa | 12/21 | Williams, Robert & Judith |
| 12/6 | Einspahr, Keith & Rosalie | 12/27 | Buerck, Brad & Amy |
| 12/8 | Butler, Charles & Melanie | 12/27 | Ernst, Benjamin & Melissa |
| 12/9 | Crane, Thomas & Patti | 12/29 | Greunke, Leo & Anna |
| 12/11 | Eller, Steve & Winnie | 12/31 | Elmshouser, Matthew & Rebecca |
| 12/17 | Gates, David & Mary | 12/31 | Wallace, Darriel & Marie |
| 12/18 | Depuy, Matthew & Rebecca | | |



Young at Heart

Join us Wednesday, December 14, 11:30 AM, for a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. We will again be entertained by the delightful "Aurora 88s." Newcomers are welcome! (Please bring extra dessert for the singers.)



Blood Pressure Check

Saturday, December 17
4:30-6:15 PM

Sunday, December 18
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 our 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:
December 11
January 8 and 22
February 12 and 26

Aurora Interchurch

December donations —

Canned meat/tuna, chili, stew

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.



Handy Helpers

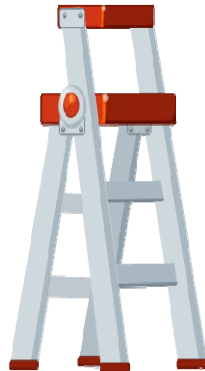
It's time to update our files and we need your help!



Starting Sunday, January 8, Human Care Ministry will have a table in the Narthex for you to re-submit your information for Handy Helpers.

Handy Helpers is a group of volunteers that could 'help' you with small jobs or errands that need to be done. Examples are: fixing a screen door, shoveling snow, raking leaves, picking up a few things at the store, light housecleaning, making and delivering meals, short-term pet sitting or child care, visitation, handyman services.

So, if you are willing/able to do any or all of the above OR if you are in need of any of the above services, stop by the table starting Sunday, January 8, and sign up or let us know of your need!



Poinsettias



ORDER YOUR *Poinsettias*

\$7 per plant

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to enhance our Christmas worship, sign up on the Narthex table.

Plants are taken home after the Christmas Day worship.

Plants are purchased through Pickens Technical College.

Thank You

A great big thank you to everyone for your prayers, helping Lucille, cards and your concerns.

Sincerely,
Royce Whitworth

Early Childhood Education Center

Happy Birthday Jesus!



December brings a very special time for us in the ECEC. It is so much FUN to celebrate Jesus' birthday and Christmas with 3 and 4 year olds. Their joy and energy is contagious! We'll begin on December 7 and 8 in chapel with Pastor Lappe from Cross of Christ. We will hear the Nativity story and again be amazed at God's wonderful love for us!! Afterwards we will have a birthday party for Jesus! The party would not be complete without cake, candles and presents. Our presents for Jesus will be boxes of cereal for hungry boys and girls. The cereal will be donated to Aurora Interchurch. Last year we donated 68 boxes of cereal.

Our family Christmas services will be on December 19 and 20 and will end the month. Through songs and recitation the children help tell the Christmas story. Pastor Shearier will lead our worship service. Afterwards we gather in the classrooms for a Christmas celebration! This is a great way to end the year before we begin our Christmas vacation.

The rest of the month will be filled with Christmas arts and crafts, singing, games, laughing and making a special surprise for our parents. The ECEC will be closed the last two weeks to give us special time with family and friends.

We'll be back to school on January 4, 2012.

God's Blessings and Merry Christmas from all of us in the ECEC!





Mount Olive Youth Ministry

Youth Website

Check out mtoliveluth.org for more information (click on “ Ministries ” and select either Middle School or High School) . Have an idea, questions, comments? Email youth@mtoliveluth.org with your idea.



Sign up for Weekly Email Youth Updates ...

Sign up at the church 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.

DECEMBER

- 7– H2H Advent Worship/Learning Event– 7-8:30 PM
- 11– IMPACT– 6-8 PM
- 14– H2H Advent Worship/Learning Event– 7-8:30 PM
- 14– Confirmation Verses Due (Year 3—8th Graders)
- 21– No H2H Event (Christmas Break)
- 28– No H2H Event (Christmas Break)

JANUARY

- 4– De-Decorate the Church—5:30-6:30 PM—All Church Event
- 4– H2H Learning Event– 7-8:30 PM
- 8– Youth/Family Retreat deposit due– \$50
- 8– IMPACT– 6-8 PM
- 8– Youth/Family Retreat deposit due—\$50
- 11– H2H Service Event– 7-8:30 PM—Retreat 2 \$75 due
- 11– 8th Graders meet w/Pastor Shearier– 7-8:30 PM
- 18– H2H Learning Event– 7-8:30 PM
- 22– IMPACT– 6-8 PM
- 25– H2H Learning Event– 7-8:30 PM
- 27-29– Retreat 2: Jr High Retreat @ LVR

Subject to change, please watch weekly bulletin for more information!



Child and Family Ministry

Children's Christmas Program and Family Soup Celebration

Sunday, December 4
4:00 PM

On December 4 our children will share the message of Christmas and lead carols for their families and friends. Following the program our children, families and friends are invited to make crafts and enjoy a soup supper. If you would like to bring a crockpot of soup to share, please contact Robin at rkurth@mtoliveluth.org. We would like all families to bring a dozen Christmas cookies to share. Families are encouraged to invite friends, neighbors and unchurched family members. We are hoping to reach out to others with God's truth this Christmas!



Kid's Club Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 7
5:30-6:50 PM

Kids, age 3-grade 5, will celebrate the joy of Christmas at our December Kid's Club. They will have a short Bible time, make crafts, play games and participate in other Christmas activities. Friends and visitors are always welcome at Kid's Club.



Birthday Party for Jesus!

Sunday, December 18
9:30-10:30 AM

Children will meet in the Sunday School Classrooms for Jesus' party. It is not necessary for a child to be registered for Sunday School to attend this special day. Children will participate in age appropriate birthday party fun! Children are invited to bring a baby gift in honor of our Lord's birthday. Baby gifts will be shared with the Alternative Pregnancy Center. Gift ideas are listed to the right of this column.

New Year's Day Pajama Party

Sunday, January 1
9:30-10:30 AM

All kids, age 2-grade 5, are invited for Pajama Party fun! We will eat New Year's treats, watch a movie, and celebrate all of the many blessings God has given us in 2011. Our celebration will conclude with a "countdown" to the new year. Children may wear modest pajamas. Children do not have to wear pajamas to participate.

Alternatives Pregnancy Center



Layette Needs

- Disposable Diapers/Wipes
- Sleepers/Outfits
- T-shirts/Onesies
- Socks/Booties
- Toys/Stuffed Animals
- Baby Toiletries
- Towels/Washcloths
- Quilts/Afghans
- Receiving Blankets
- Bibs, Bottles, Pacifiers
- Nipples and Nipple Covers
- Baby Hangers

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.



Aurora Interchurch Needs for 2012

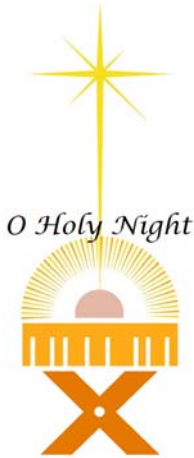
Your **generous sharing** with hungry and needful people in our community has been a loving and blessed **act of stewardship in name of our Lord**. All praise to Him who enables this! The Human Care Team once again solicits your support continuing in 2012 with donations of food and other goods, assistance with special projects, and certainly with your prayers. These make a difference in so many lives in our community. You don't need to give every month. Won't you please give **what you can** and **when you are able**? Monthly reminders will be placed in your bulletin and newsletters. Here is a list of 2012 items for Aurora Interchurch:



Reach Out To Those in Need

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| January | Peanut butter and jelly |
| February | Soup, stews and crackers |
| March | Soap (dish and laundry) |
| April | Rice, macaroni, spaghetti and sauce |
| May | Cereal and oatmeal |
| June | Ziplock bags - sandwich, quart and gallon |
| July | Diapers - Size 4, 5 and 6 only |
| August | Canned fruit and vegetables |
| September | Toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissue |
| October | Toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo and conditioner |
| November | Thanksgiving dinner items |
| December | Canned meat/tuna, chili, stew |

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.



O Holy Night

when Christ was born

Christmas Blessings from Mount Olive Staff

Mike G...

Robin R. Kuras

*Kaye Cairns
Nancy Emerson*

Tammy A Schwenke

*Pastor Mike Boggs
Leman Goggins*

Larry Kull

Rebecca Elmshausen

*Jo Ann Stibrich
Melissa Walker*

*Carol Sudar
Jeffrey*

Kathryn



Cookie Cans for College Students – 2011/12 School Year

Cookie Cans for College Students – 2011/12 School Year is going GREAT! We sent out 20 cans on Saturday, November 5! December 3 will be our CHRISTMAS mailing. There will not be a mailing in January because most kids are home for the holidays!

It's not too late to receive a can – just submit the name and address of your college age child to Kathy Pelepchan, 303.693.4161 OR email to kpelepchan@msn.com. We are sending cans to graduate and POST-four-year students, too!

We are asking that each family submitting a name help with the project for at least one of the months in which the cans are mailed. It takes about 25-30 cookies for each can. That's 20 cans times 25 cookies = 500 cookies per month or 42 dozen, so **your help is needed and greatly appreciated**. If you don't have college age kids but love to bake, we would also welcome and appreciate your contribution too! Cookies can be frozen for future use at home and brought in that Saturday morning. **Make sure you WRAP the cookies and goodies in packets of two if large or four if small!!!**

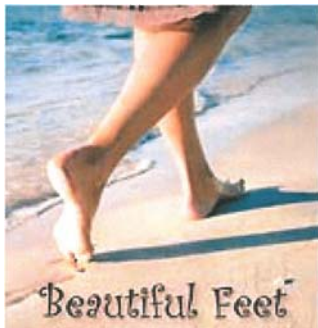
We also need donations of cider mix, hot cocoa packets, seasonal candy, granola bars, popcorn, pretzels, cheese/peanut butter-filled crackers, nuts, raisins and other dried fruits, trail mix, rice cakes, Crystal Lite, ice tea and/or other drink packets, etc.

Sign up sheets will be placed on the Narthex table each month.

Thank you so much for all your support and help!



Women's Retreat



Mount Olive's 2nd annual Women's Retreat is coming in March 2012.

To prepare our hearts for the retreat, Sara Borgstede will be leading a Bible study on Sunday mornings starting January 8.

All women of Mount Olive are invited to attend. Watch for details to come!

Lutherans in Business

Lutherans in Business is a group of Lutheran men and women whose purpose is to advocate and promote the businesses of group members throughout the community. Members strive to foster and stimulate economic success, based upon sound Christian principles and practices.

We meet for breakfast on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 AM at the Egg and I Restaurant, 6818 South Yosemite Street.

Please contact Art Rosenboom of Our Father Lutheran Church, 303.881.7787 for further information.

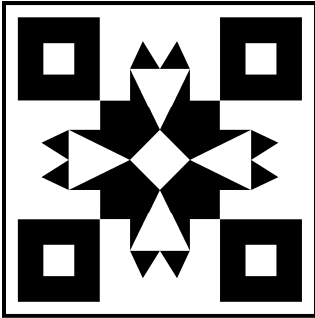
New Financial Peace Class Coming February 2

We have six couples and two singles in the current class and the debt is disappearing while the savings are growing!

Watch for more information in the January newsletter.

There will be a "preview" night on Thursday, January 19, at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall to see all the wonderful things that could happen with your financial life.

Go to mtoliveluth.org to sign up beginning December 15.

LWML**Bake Sale and Quilt Drawing**

The annual Bake Sale will be December 3 and 4. (See page 1 for details.) Also, we have two beautiful quilts donated by the Sewing Committee that will be given away with a drawing. So much God-given talent in this church! Purchase tickets today.

The winners will be selected at the very end of the bake sale on December 4 and announced on December 10/11.



→ Christmas Luncheon

Join us for the Christmas Luncheon
December 10, 11:30 AM
at the DoubleTree Hotel.

\$16 includes luncheon, drink, dessert
and fellowship with
your Sisters in Christ.

The signup sheet and payment
envelopes on the Narthex table.

Sponsored by Faith Circle

LWML offers small group Bible studies at our **Circle Meetings** each month. They are available on different days and times and meeting places to fit into many of your schedules. The following circles are meeting in December. Questions? Contact Gilda Kaczmarek at 303.693.5519.

Circle Meetings

Charity Circle—Meeting time to be determined.

Mercy Circle—Tuesday, December 6, 9:30 AM at Mount Olive.

Glory Circle—No meeting in December.

Faith Circle—Thursday, December 15, 9:30 AM at the home of Ellie Jones.

Wanderers

Change of date and time: The Wanderers tour to Hammond's Candies has been changed to **Tuesday, December 6, departing Mount Olive at 9 AM.**

Lunch at Patsy's Inn, 3651 Navajo, is a neighborhood restaurant for over 60 years.

Return approximately 2:30 PM. \$15 includes transportation, tour and lunch. Drinks extra.

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

**Become a Wanderer by ...**

... 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.

Thank You ~ Thrivent Choice

The Governing Board would like to thank the participants in the Thrivent Choice program. Thrivent Choice dollars designated for Mount Olive Lutheran Church in 2011 have been collected and aggregated to be used to support ministry programs around the world.

At the October Governing Board meeting, the Governing Board approved disbursements to provide Hymnals for the Pakistani Lutheran Church, money to support Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, money to support Denver Lutheran High School, and money to buy building materials for houses to be built in Haiti.

Your continued support of Mount Olive Lutheran Church through Thrivent Financial is very powerful and is very much appreciated. We are excited about the opportunities that will continue to become available to our congregation because of your Thrivent Choice designation.

In His Service,
The Governing Board.



Elders Corner

Stan McKinster

Hi! My name is Gary Sliver and I am a recent addition to the Board of Elders at Mount Olive. My wife, Emma, and I began attending Mount Olive after moving to Aurora in the summer of 2006. Having attended Lutheran services on military installations prior to moving to Colorado, we formally joined the LCMS/Mount Olive congregation after attending Pastor Borgstede's new member class the fall of 2008. Over the past several years I have served Mount Olive as an usher, a communion assistant and a lay reader. This winter, I am looking forward to joining a couple of other elders in leading a new adult Sunday School Class titled "Lutheranism 101."

A native of south-central Pennsylvania, I graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, in 2001 and was commissioned as an Armor Officer in the U.S. Army where I served on active duty for five years in various command and staff positions at Fort Carson, CO (2002-2004); Iraq (2003-2004) and Fort Knox, KY (2004-2006). After leaving active duty in the spring of 2006, I went to work for Swisslog Healthcare Solutions, a global provider of integrated logistics solutions for hospitals, where I currently serve as the Vice President of Customer Support for our North American region.

Emma and I met in high school, began dating in college and were married in February 2002. We currently reside in southeast Aurora with our Black Lab, Maggie, and our cat, Socks. In our free time, Emma and I enjoy spending time outdoors enjoying God's creation, playing games and traveling both domestically and internationally.

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

2012 Flower Calendar



The Altar Flower Calendar for 2012 is up and ready for you to sign up for your special dates.

The calendar is located on the wall by the Church Office. Bouquets are \$30 each and checks are payable to Mount Olive Ladies Guild.

Music Ministry



Are you on Facebook?

Check out Mount Olive's Music page by searching for "Mount Olive Music" and "like" us! Schedules, service information, hymn spotlights, etc. will be posted from time to time for your enjoyment!

Coming Soon...Hymn spotlights!

Beginning in Advent look in your Sunday bulletins for a "Hymn Spotlight" of one of the hymns sung in that service. The "Hymn Spotlight" will take a more in-depth look at a hymn as a means for both congregation members and visitors to explore the background of composers and poets of the church as well as discover the Scriptural basis for our hymnody and how it may connect with our Scripture readings or a sermon text for that Sunday.

Thank You Mount Olive

Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me (Matthew 25:40).

This year we helped so many groups with our donations:

- Aurora Interchurch – ongoing donations of food and hygiene items
- Bethesda Home (formerly Good Shepherd) – mountains of paper towels
- Lutheran Family Services – backpacks and school supplies and Angel Tree donations
- Cookie Cans for College Students – donations of cookies and other treats
- Food Pantry – food items for people in need
- Benevolence Fund – donations of money to help members in need

We want to thank you for your generous donations that have helped many people in need and have shown the love of Christ as we "love our neighbor as ourselves."

THANKS!



Stephen Ministry

Ever thought about becoming a Stephen Minister?

Mount Olive would like to train another class of Stephen Ministers beginning in January 2012. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement and listening, please prayerfully consider whether you might want to be a part of this exciting ministry.

If you think you might be interested, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders ... Pastor Borgstede, Cynde Fischer or Kaye Cairns. Questions, please call the Church office, 303.755.9123.



Income/Expenses October 2011

Income	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Regular Offerings	722,544	802,481	(79,937)
Other Income	34,991	13,857	21,134
ECEC	128,762	148,403	(19,641)
Total Income	886,297	964,741	(78,444)
Expenses			
Personnel/Benefits	486,945	500,242	(13,297)
Programs	114,816	126,422	(11,606)
Administrative	25,467	30,274	(4,807)
Properties	167,032	172,146	(5,114)
ECEC	124,880	134,636	(9,756)
Total Expenses	919,140	963,720	(44,580)
Net Income	(32,843)	1,021	(33,864)

KINDLE THE FIRE
Fund Balance January 1, 2011: 16,041
YTD Income: 104,493 Additional Mortgage Principal: 112,319
Net: 8,215



Book Group



Read By	Book and Author	Leader
December 7	<i>Same Kind of Different As Me</i> by Hall and Moore	Anne Shearier
January 4	<i>O Pioneer</i> by Willa Cather	Mary Rindahl
February 1	<i>The Cruellest Miles</i> By Gay and Laney Salisbury	Kathy Meyer
March 7	<i>Five Quarters of the Orange</i> By Joanne Harris	Cynthia Southern

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.