



Olive Branch

December 2013
Volume 48 Issue 12

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 11500 E. Iliff Avenue, Aurora, CO 80014 mtoliveluth.org 303.755.9123
Worship services are: Saturday, 5 PM; Sunday, 8 and 10:45 AM

Christmas/Advent Worship

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Advent Worship is December 4, 11 and 18 ~ 10 AM and 7 PM



Christmas Eve Services

December 24

4:00, 6:30 and 9:00 PM

**Candlelight services
with Holy Communion**

Christmas Day Service

December 25

10:00 AM

with Holy Communion



New Year's Eve Service

December 31

7:00 PM

with Holy Communion



Web: [mtoliveluth.org](http://www.mtoliveluth.org)



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



Blog: mtoliveluth.blogspot.com



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



Join your fellow Mount Olive friends on New Year's Eve from 8-11 PM in the Fellowship Hall for snacks, fellowship and games.

Bring a snack to serve eight.

Beverages will be furnished.

Sign up in the Narthex!

Human Care

Blood Pressure Check

Saturday, December 21
4:30-6:15 PM

Sunday, December 22
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.

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 Mike at 303.755.9123 for more information or to get a form.

Dates are:
November 10/24
December 8/22
January 12
February 9/23
March 9/23



Aurora Interchurch

December donations

Canned meat/tuna, chili, stew

Brown grocery bags are needed every month.

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.



Reach Out
To Those in Need

Christmas Blessings from Mount Olive Church and ECEC Staff

Melissa
Kate Karen
Greg Cindy
Pastor
Kim Herman Tammy Keri
Mike
Robin Kaye Jo Ann John



It's time for our annual LWML bake sale
Saturday, December 7, and Sunday, December 8!

Your donation of baked goods helps support our missions here in our community and overseas.

If you are donating baked goods, please bring them to Mount Olive any time before December 7. We will store them in the freezer, and even plate your items for sale, too.

If you can help with set up, selling, or clean up, please sign up at the ARK.

Thank you for your support!

December Birthdays

1	Johnston, Lynda Mc Kelvey, Christine Ahlman, Dale Bellis, Dylan	7	Gombos, Robert Petersen, Joanne Dreiling, Lara Gordon, Joshua	14	Yoder, Emily Grace	25	Essig, Katherine Wallace, Marie Coverly, Jeff Kirkeide, Tracy Bessert, Virginia
2	Nizami, Shakil Mc Whirter, Nancy Huss, Maranda Andrie, Martin	8	Goeglein, Amber Kendall, Brayden	15	Eads, Serena Huyghebaert, Linda Belier, Rita	26	Schonack, Russell Ashby, Wilna Eckles, Kimberly Carpenter, Justin
3	Eisenach, Marilyn Jaremba, Deb Gates, Mary Goggins, Pam Gordon, Aaron Yoder, Dylan Jones, Scott	9	Witt, Lanette Clough, Martin Sullivan, Colleen Marschner, Pamela Kerr, Isabelle Wilks, Kaiya	16	Bair, Brian Brandt, Collin Sudan, William	27	Bentz, Terri
4	Schoenhals, Dean Broom, Robert Humbargar, Cody	10	Krabbenhoft, Tim Blesch, Keith Amore, Brian Opl, Joshua	17	Feucht, Barbara Galloway, Kaye	27	Eickmann, Nathan Bair, Kaitlin Buchner, Adam
5	Mc Clain, Mike Stark, Barbara	11	Archambeau, Al Elmshouser, John Chernet, Robert L'italien, Jimmy Talamantes, Tamara	18	Mc Coy, Sandi Forbord, Lubna	28	Berlinski, Elaine Schilling, Joey Buerck, Amy Stewart, Shelley Crane, Sarah Auffert, David Kelsey, Brenden Martino, Natalie
6	Wishmier, Leona Maly, Michelle Polson, Matt Klekamp, Jesse Huebschmann, Molly	12	Bacon, Lorraine	19	Borgstede, Jeanne Mc Guire, Kayla	29	Sharpley, Irv Broom, Ruth Engelhaupt, Ruth Stibrich, Tyler Fisher, Gracie Jo
		13	Schilling, Malakai Fisher, Easton	20	Swedberg, Robert Downs, Virginia Hicks, Noah	30	Mc Pherson, Tim Bame, Melanie
				21	Geisler, Orville Hollman, Mary Buerck, Brad Potzer, Maria	31	Heiser, Edwina Sudan, Carolyn
				22	Amore, Nancy Stewart, Katie		
				23	Mc Kinster, Stan Thiel, Porter		
				24	Ciciulla, Irene		

December Anniversaries

6	Einspahr, Keith & Rosalie
8	Butler, Charles & Melanie
9	Crane, Thomas & Patti
11	Eller, Steve & Winnie
17	Gates, David & Mary
18	Depuy, Matthew & Rebecca
21	Williams, Robert & Judith
27	Buerck, Brad & Amy
27	Ernst, Benjamin & Melissa
31	Elmshouser, Matthew & Rebecca
31	Wallace, Darriel & Marie

Mount Olive Family News

Mount Olive says hello to:

We say goodbye to:

Ryan/Krissy/Maddox and London King

Baptisms

Frank Richard Casessa
Shelby Jo Obando

Deaths



Mount Olive's Book Club List for 2013-2014

Date	Book	Author	Leader
November 6	<i>Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot</i>	O'Reilly/Dugard	Joanne Petersen
December 4	<i>Benediction</i>	Kent Haruf	Nancy McWhirter
January 8	<i>Orphan Train</i>	Christina Baker Kline	Jennifer Klekamp
February 5	<i>River of Doubt</i>	Candice Millard	Janice Muir
March 5	<i>Impossible Odds</i>	Buchanan/Landemalm/ Flacco	Ellie Jones
April 2	<i>Inferno</i>	Brown	Connie Taylor



We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 5:45 PM in the Library.

Cookie Cans for College Students –

It's not too late to receive a can – submit the name and address of your college age child to Kathy, 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 16 cans times 25 cookies = 400 cookies per month or about 34 dozen ... **so your help is needed and greatly appreciated.**

If you don't have college age kids but love to bake, we would 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!!!

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., anything small that will fit in the coffee cans.

There will be no sign up sheets on the Narthex table anymore so please bring your baked goods and other items to the church either by or on the Saturday we pack cans.

Thank you so much for all your support and help!

Operating Income and Expenses October 2013 (Fiscal Year July 2013-June 2014)

Church Income	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Regular Offerings	249,810	262,977	(13,167)
Other Income	3,854	4,653	(799)
Total Income	253,664	267,630	(13,966)
Church Expenses			
Personnel/Benefits	133,989	178,449	(44,460)
Programs	39,800	43,611	(3,811)
Administrative	11,197	15,507	(4,310)
Properties	69,071	54,084	15<070
Total Expenses	254,057	291,651	(37,594)
Net Church Income	(393)	(24,021)	23,628
ECEC Income			
Tuition	60,880	66,271	(5,391)
Personnel/Benefits	45,957	50,765	(4,808)
Administration	888	2,549	(1,661)
Instructional	4,924	13,705	(8,781)
Total Expenses	51,769	67,019	(15,250)
Net ECEC Income	9,111	(748)	9,859

News from Missionary in South Africa

Kristin Matasovsky, LCMS teacher in South Africa, and supported through Mount Olive's Endowment Fund, wrote in her September 2013 newsletter:

This is a country rich in culture and I absolutely love being immersed in it! This past weekend we celebrated Heritage Day at church. As I sang along to the songs and watched my church family worship together, I was reminded once more what an amazing calling I have to serve among and alongside these people. The imprints we make are not defined by the cultures we come from but by the blood of Christ that binds us to Him and to one another. We **ARE** the Body of Christ.

Kristin is beginning the second year of her two year assignment in South Africa. She has grown fond of her students and the challenge they present. She requests our prayers that her students show love and forgiveness to one another, along with respecting their teachers. She also asks for prayers that plans go well for the organization of school for the 2014 school year.

The Mount Olive Endowment Fund (MOEF)

- ⇒ Helps aid students preparing for ministry
- ⇒ Assists in unique outreach ministry opportunities in our community
- ⇒ Reaches out in mission opportunities here and abroad
- ⇒ Supports select unbudgeted projects at Mount Olive



Request forms for a MOEF grant may be obtained in the Church Office or on the church website under the "Connecting" heading. Please include the MOEF in your prayers and with gifts, memorials and wills.

The current Board of Managers include—Don Berlinski (chairperson), Orville Geisler, Kevin Meador, Kristin Neuharth, Brian Pelepchan and Fred Piazza



For more than 30 years, the Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival (LSM) has transformed lives and engaged talented young musicians in a program where musical excellence is achieved, lifelong friendships are born, faith is deepened, and the spark to serve is ignited.

While the world of music can often be highly competitive, LSM fosters a spirit of encouragement in which performers can realize their God-given talents. Designed for band, orchestra, choir, piano, pipe organ and composition students completing grades 8 – 12, LSM is a four-week residential training and performance program at Luther College located in Decorah, IA.

If you know of a dedicated young musician looking for a focused but fun summer have them consider LSM. Contact Kim Montross or Alison Winslow for more information.

December Sunday School



December 1

Jingle Bell Project

There is no regular Sunday School due to Thanksgiving. Children and parents are invited to make jingle bell necklaces for Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center.

December 8

Sunday School

December 15

Happy Birthday Jesus Party

Children will celebrate Jesus' birthday with a Happy Birthday Jesus Party in their classroom. Children are invited to bring a gift for a new mom or baby at Alternatives Pregnancy Center. Please see below for suggestions.

baby gifts– diapers, pacifiers

new mom gifts– small lotions, nail polish, chap stick, note pads, cute pens, jewelry, devotion books etc.

December 22

Service Project Sunday

All children will gather together for a special service project. Children will create cards and pack Ziplocs with small gifts for new moms. The small bags will be included with layettes at Alternatives Pregnancy Center. Children will meet in the ECEC.

December 29

Pajama Party

Children will gather in the ECEC for a special pajama party. There will be a little celebration of the new year and special snacks and activities.



Sacred Heart House

December 7

5:00 PM

One family is needed each month to serve dinner and help with children's activities at Sacred Heart House. Sacred Heart House is a shelter that offers a continuum of services to homeless mothers with children and single women, with a commitment to become self sufficient. If your family would like to help share God's love, please contact Robin Kurth at rkurth@mtoliveluth.org or sign up in the Children's Ministry Binder at the ARK.



December Family Service Club

December 1

9:30 AM– Create Necklaces
Noon– Caroling

Families are invited to create beaded jingle bell necklaces for the residents of the Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center. We will create the necklaces during the Sunday School hour at 9:30 AM. There is no regular Sunday School, and children should be accompanied by an adult. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Then, shortly before Noon, families are invited to meet at the Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center, which is located at 1600 S. Potomac St., Aurora, CO. We will then pass out the necklaces and carol for the residents of the rehab unit in their lunch room. Join us we share joy with others!

Kid's Club

December 4

6:00 PM



All children, age 3-grade 5 are invited to participate in Kid's Club. Children will grow in faith and friendship, while studying God's Word, making crafts, playing games, and eating treats. Kid's Club meets the first Wednesday of every month, at 6:00 PM.

Good News, Great Joy!



December 8

4:00 PM

On December 8, 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 or help with serving, please contact Robin Kurth at 303.775.9123 or 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!

Saturday Practice:

December 7

9:00-11:00 AM

All children age 3 through grade 5 may participate in the Christmas Program.



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.

Youth and Family Ministry

Weekly/Monthly Events

Junior High JOURNEY/ Sunday Confirmation

Bible study for middle school students (Gr. 6-8) meets every Sunday in Room 2 at 9:30-10:30 AM.

Confirmation

Confirmation explores more about what it means that Jesus is our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend. Confirmation instruction on Sundays at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 6 PM.

Senior High REELTIME

Bible study for high school students (Gr. 9-12) meets every Sunday in Room 10, 9:30-10:30 AM.

Senior High Impact

Senior High youth meet twice a month on Sunday evenings from 6-8 PM (unless otherwise noted) for food, devotions and fun activities.



Come and carol for people who'd love your joy. December 22!



Mount Olive team at

Holy Cross Dodge Ball tournament on November 10

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 1-9:30 AM REELTIME & JOURNEY
- 4-6:00 PM Confirmation at *Oasis*
- 8-9:30 AM REELTIME & JOURNEY
- 6:00 PM—IMPACT
- 11-6:00 PM Confirmation at *Oasis*
- 15-7:30-11:00 AM *Hearty Breakfast*
- 9:30 AM—REELTIME & JOURNEY
- 11-6:00 PM Confirmation at *Oasis*
- 22-9:30 AM REELTIME & JOURNEY
- 12 Noon **Joint SENIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY AND CAROLING**
- 25-NO Confirmation
- 29-NO REELTIME or JOURNEY

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

For 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students
At Lutheran Valley Retreat
January 24-26, 2014

HEARTY BREAKFAST FUND RAISER FOR SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

You can support our students at the **Hearty Breakfast** on December 15. We're planning two summer *mission trips* in 2014, one each for Senior High and Middle School students. The Senior High trip will be a YOUTHWORKS sponsored trip to Cortez, CO July 13-18. We're still researching several Middle School opportunities, including ones that might help flood or fire victims in our own state. If you have a question, please share it with one of our youth leaders soon.



Young at Heart

Wednesday, December 11

11:30 AM

Potluck lunch — Fellowship Hall

The Aurora 88 Singers will return to entertain us with songs of the season. Come enjoy the singers, great food, and fellowship. **Please bring a little extra dessert for the singers.**

Hostesses: Shirley Fabozzi, Marilyn Eisenach and Darlene Donner.

Newcomers are always welcome.

Come for fellowship, good food and an interesting program.

Young@HEART



- ⇒ Are you out of debt?
- ⇒ Are you on Baby Step 7 and don't know where to go from here?

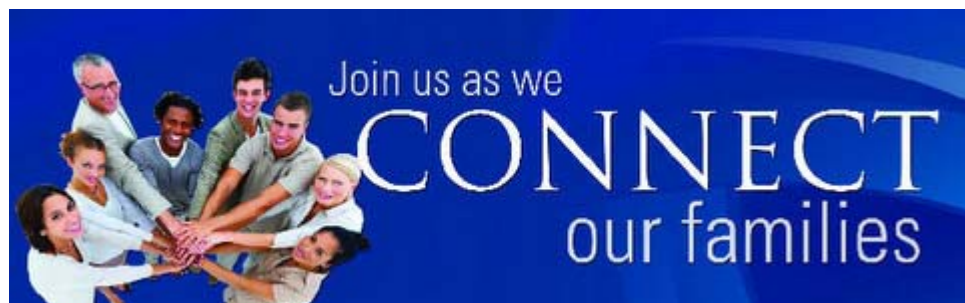
The Legacy Journey is an all-new, seven-week, biblically based class that teaches you how to truly live and leave a legacy for generations to come. This class will lead you deeper into investing, basic estate planning, purposeful living, safeguarding your legacy, and discovering the keys to generational wealth and true generosity. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small-group activities, you'll learn a biblical framework for living intentionally now so that later you'll be able to leave a legacy that will secure your family's future and make a lasting impact on the world around you.

The Legacy Journey classes meet for around an hour and a half each week for seven weeks at 7 PM and will start on January 9, 2014.

Go to mtoliveluth.org for the link to sign up or to get more information!!

*Live like no one else so later you can live,
and give, like no one else!*

Sign up information will be available in February.



Pictorial directory coming in 2014.

Dates for pictures are: March 11-15, March 25-29 and April 11-12

In an effort to make the information in the directory as accurate as possible, please check either online at mtoliveluth.org or in the Church Office that all your family information is up-to-date. Some families have children listed and those children are now married or living on their own. We would like to be able to connect with all members.

Early Childhood Education Center

Happy Birthday Jesus!

The excitement is in the air as our Christmas fun has begun. Their joy is contagious! We help the children learn that Christmas is not only presents, parties, and Santa but more importantly Jesus' Birthday! We'll begin on December 4 and 5 with a birthday celebration chapel led by Rev. Tim Lawson from Cross of Christ. Afterwards we will have a birthday party for Jesus. The party would not be complete without cake and presents. The gifts we bring for Jesus will be boxes of cereal. The cereal is then donated to Aurora Inter-church.

The children will be singing at our Advent service on December 11. The children love to sing out! And we love to bring them to church! 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. Miss Robin will lead our Christmas worship service. Afterwards we gather in the classrooms for a party. This is a great way to end the year.

The rest of the month will be filled with Christmas arts and crafts, singing and laughing and making a special surprise present for our parents. The ECEC will be closed from December 23-January 3, to give us special time with family and friends. We'll be back to school on January 6, 2014.

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

50th Anniversary Update

November 9, 2014

will be the kickoff!



Committee members are: Duane Asmus, June, Elmshouser, Teri Johnson, Brian Pelepchan, Marie Wallace, Mike Kallas and Kaye Cairns.



Christmas Party

Ladies of Mount Olive,
you are invited to a Christmas Party!

Saturday, December 14,
11:30 AM

Blossoms Restaurant at Heather Gardens
\$16.50 per person

Sign-up sheet and
payment envelopes at the ARK.

Hosted by Glory Circle

God's Servants - December 2013

December 1 1st in Advent	December 8 2nd in Advent	December 15 3rd in Advent	December 22 4th in Advent	December 29 First after Christmas
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Lessons

Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 21:1-11	Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-11 Matthew 11:2-15	Isaiah 7:10-17 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 63:7-14 Galatians 4:4-7 Matthew 2:13-23
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Elders Saturday Howell Parker

8:00 Duane Asmus
10:45 Arnie Wirth

Communion Assistants

8:00 Rev. Darold Boettcher
10:45 Gary Piazza

Greeters**Saturday**

Howell Parker	Walter/Ruth Pelepchan	Darlene Ommen	Kenneth Schultz	Marlene Blesch
8:00 Bud/Lucille McGee Stan/Claudia Humbargar	Don/Elaine Berlinski R/J Borgstede	Orville/Betty Geisler Lois Schliske	Roy/Lenore Sande Marilyn Eisenach	Joe/JoAnn Stibrich Edwina Heiser
10:45 Ed/Doris Kilgore	S/K Dankenbring	Tammy Dixson Elaine Steffen	Lois Gottberg Austin Talmage	Ed/Doris Kilgore

Organists

Karen Montross	Marsha Raebel	Nathan Eickmann	Diane Asmus	Mark Elmshouser
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Lay Readers

8:00 Darold Boettcher	Kevin Meador	Jeanne Borgstede	Don Berlinski	Stan McKinster
10:45 Joe McCoy	Dorinda Vaughn-Porquis	Jim Wert	Bob Gombos	Phyllis Eifler

Ushers

8:00 Larry Bargmann, Joe Stibrich, Brian Pelepchan, Christina Cateora
10:45 Richard Pittenridge, Frank Candelaria, Aaron Kirkeide

Altar Care

Lynn Sattler	Donna Bame	Sue Shellenberger	Christine Pittenridge	Jo Kalthoff
Michele McKinster	Mary Frevert	Cindy Meador	Ellie Saving	Cindy Meador
Jane Dunn	Lori Bowers	Kathy Bodemann	Sandra Sall	Sandra Sall Lynn Sattler

Acolytes

8:00 Jozef Dankenbring Colton Storm	Josiah Borgstede Ryan Carbaugh	Katie West Alyse Coverly	Christopher Polton Awet Samuel	Kelcy Brandt Katie West
10:45 Gil Tappe Austin Talmage	Sara Bogh Tanaya Tappe	Jeff Matney Josh Bond	Trevon Deden Lauryn Sall	Hannah Vorbeck Anna Potzer

Assist Pews

Jim Langhofer	Marlene Blesch	Jim Langhofer	Darlene Ommen	Darlene Ommen
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Bulletin Helpers

S. Fabozzi/J. Kalthoff	Bud/Lucille McGee	Larry Auffert	Walt/Ruth Pelepchan	D. Grahn/M. Hollman
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