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Preparing for Christmas

I am sure each of you is already making plans for Christmas or at least thinking about it. Who do we need to get a present for and what will we purchase for them? When will we get the decorations up? Where will we travel to be with family and how will we get there? And probably in the back of our minds – How will I pay for all of this?!?!?

Advent is an opportunity to not just prepare for the festivities of Christmas, but to prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gift of all, **Jesus Christ!** We have special services on Wednesday to help each of us focus on the joy of Christmas found not in earthly “stuff” but in our Immanuel, our God with us.

Hark the Glad Sound is the theme of our Wednesday worship services (10 AM and 7 PM) which focuses on the biblical songs of God’s people as they awaited the first coming of our Savior.

December 2: Luke 1:67-79, **Zechariah’s** Song revealed that his newborn son will be a prophet, sent to prepare the way of the Lord, and the song serves as a melody of repentance for us.

December 9: Luke 1:46-55, **Mary’s** Song declares that the Lord has remembered his covenant with us through his Son, making this a melody of remembrance.

December 16: Luke 2:8-14, The Song of the **Angels** announced with great joy the Good News of Christ’s birth, and echoes through our lives today as a melody of rejoicing.

Sunday, December 20: Isaiah 52:7-10, The Song of the **Church** carries the angels’ message of peace, good will to all the world, and resounds as a melody of reconciliation, bringing us into harmony with Christ and one another.

As part of your preparations for Christmas why don’t you **join us for worship** where we will “ponder anew” what God has given to us in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Borgstede



Web: mtoliveluth.org



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



Blog: mtoliveluth.blogspot.com



- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Johnston, Lynda
Mc Kelvey, Christine
Ahlman, Dale
Bellis, Dylan | | Belier, Rita
Jaynes, Douglas
Bair, Brian
Sudan, William |
| 2 | Nizami, Shakil
Mc Whirter, Nancy
Andrie, Martin | 17 | Feucht, Barbara
Galloway, Kaye |
| 3 | Eisenach, Marilyn
Jaremba, Deb
Gates, Mary
Goggins, Pam
Yoder, Dylan
Jones, Scott | 18 | Mc Coy, Sandi
Forbord, Lubna |
| 4 | Schoenhals, Dean
Broom, Robert
Humbargar, Cody | 19 | Borgstede, Jeanne
Mc Guire, Kayla |
| 5 | Mc Clain, Mike
Stark, Barbara | 20 | Swedberg, Robert
Wheeler, Melanie
Hicks, Noah |
| 6 | Wishmier, Leona
Maly, Michelle | 21 | Geisler, Orville
Hollman, Mary
de la Garza, David
Buerck, Brad
Potzer, Maria |
| 7 | Gombos, Robert
Petersen, Joanne
Dreiling, Lara
Gordon, Joshua
Dickinson, Joseph | 22 | Amore, Nancy
Stewart, Katie |
| 8 | Goeglein, Amber
Kendall, Brayden | 23 | Mc Kinster, Stan
Thiel, Porter |
| 9 | Clough, Martin
Sullivan, Colleen
Kerr, Isabelle
Wilks, Kaiya | 24 | Ciciulla, Irene
Carstens, Peggy |
| 10 | Krabbenhoft, Tim
Blesch, Keith
Amore, Brian
Opl, Joshua | 25 | Essig, Katherine
Wallace, Marie
Coverly, Je
Kirkeide, Tracy
Perez, Virginia |
| 11 | Archambeau, Al
Elmshauer, John
Chernet, Robert
L'Italien, Jimmy
Talamantes, Tamara | 26 | Schonack, Russell
Ashby, Wilna
Eckles, Kimberly
Carpenter, Justin |
| 12 | Bacon, Lorraine
Frank, Brian | 27 | Bentz, Terri
Eickmann, Nathan
Krekow, Martin
Hawley, Kerry
Bair, Kaitlin
Buchner, Adam |
| 13 | Fisher, Easton | 28 | Berlinski, Elaine
Buerck, Amy
Stewart, Shelley
Au ert, David
Kelsey, Brenden
Martino, Natalie |
| 14 | Yoder, Emily | 29 | Sharpley, Irv
Broom, Ruth
Engelhaupt, Ruth
Stibrich, Tyler
Fisher, Gracie Jo |
| 15 | Eads, Serena | 30 | Mc Pherson, Tim
Bame, Melanie |
| 16 | Huyghebaert, Linda | 31 | Heiser, Edwina
Co ey, John
Sudan, Carolyn |

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 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 |
| 22 | Bonita, Lorie/Ray |
| 27 | Buerck, Brad/Amy |
| 31 | Wallace, Darriel/Marie |



LWML

invites you to our



**Annual Christmas
Bake Sale**

December 5 and 6

**Before and after each
worship service**

If you are donating baked goods, please bring them to Mount Olive any time before December 5. We will store them in the freezer, and even plate your items for sale, too.

Book Club List for 2015—2016

Date	Book	Author	Leader
December 2	<i>The Boys in the Boat</i>	Daniel James Brown	Joanne Petersen
January 6	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	John Steinbeck	Joanne Petersen
February 3	<i>Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania</i>	Erik Larson	Marsha Raebel
March 2	<i>The Postmistress</i>	Sarah Blake	Roxanne Seewald
April 6	<i>Killing Patton</i>	O'Reilly/Dugard	Joanne Petersen



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



Cookie Cans for College Students

Our cookie cans continue to be sent out on these Saturdays: 2015-December 5; 2016-February 6, March 5 and April 2. On these days a cookie can filled with home-baked cookies, hot cocoa or cider mix and seasonal goodies will be mailed or delivered to each college student. Parents or students of Mount Olive can submit student names and addresses each year to receive the cookie can.

If you or your child would like to receive a can, please submit the name and address to Cindy Marschner, 303.690.3184 OR email to cjmarschner@msn.com.

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 2 1/2 dozen cookies for each can, so your help is needed and greatly appreciated. If you just love to bake, we would also welcome and appreciate your contribution too!

Ways to be involved:

Bake cookies, wrap them in packs of two with cling wrap or in a snack-size baggie and bring them to church for packing.

Donate cocoa, cider mix, seasonal candy, granola bars, popcorn, pretzels, cheese crackers, nuts, raisins and other dried fruits, trail mix, rice cakes, Crystal Lite, cider, hot chocolate, ice tea and other drink packets, etc.

Donate for mailing costs. There is a cookie can on the Book Rack table.

Come and help pack. It takes less than an hour and we have a great time working together and catching up on what our college kids are doing.



Several 'thank you' notes and emails were received from students last year letting us know how much they enjoyed the cans of goodies and how it "gave them a nice break" and "was a perfect pick-me-up after cold and snow in Boston". It gave them a nice break from their studies to enjoy a "taste of home".

We have around 15 cans this year and at 2 1/2 dozen cookies per can we will need about 38 dozen cookies each month. If you have 2 lb or 3 lb cookie cans with lids, drop them off in the church front closet please! Students living at home can have their cookie can hand delivered but postage for the 'at school' group runs between \$8.50-\$9.50 depending on the size of the can. Monetary donations are accepted at any time and are GREATLY APPRECIATED. They can be given to the Church Office or placed in the cookie can on the Book Rack table.

Thank you so much for all your support and help!

Blood Pressure Check

Saturday, December 19
4:30-6:15 PM

Sunday, December 20
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.



**Lutheran Women's
 Missionary League**

Faith Circle will meet Thursday, December 17, 9:30 AM at the home of Ellie Jones.

Glory Circle will not meet in December.

Mercy Circle will meet at Mount Olive on Tuesday, December 1, 9:30 AM.

OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSES OCTOBER 2015 (FISCAL YEAR JULY 2015-JUNE 2016)

Church Income	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Regular Offerings	238,823	245,533	(6,710)
Other Income	6,887	5,303	1,584
Total Income	245,710	250,836	(5,126)
Church Expenses			
Personnel/Benefits	158,259	187,028	(28,769)
Programs	31,048	37,114	(6,066)
Administrative	15,402	17,259	(1,857)
Properties	42,419	49,122	(6,703)
Total Expenses	247,128	290,523	(43,395)
Net Church Income	(1,418)	(39,687)	38,269
ECEC Income			
Tuition	47,647	62,310	(14,663)
Personnel/Benefits	43,582	49,423	(5,841)
Administration	930	1,862	(932)
Instructional	5,896	11,570	(5,674)
Total Expenses	50,408	62,855	(12,447)
Net ECEC Income	(2,761)	(545)	(2,216)

Military Appreciation

We are very thankful for those who give of their time/lives to serve in one of our U.S. military branches and we show our thankfulness by remembering them in prayer. We invite you to help update our military prayer list by submitting to the office names of those we can add to it. Be sure to indicate your connection with that individual as well as which military branch he/she is serving under. Thank you for your continued prayers.



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Bechley – US Army | * Brandon Ulmer – US Army |
| Steven Gerdjikian – US Army | Kevin Selander – US Army |
| James Stewart – US Army | * Don Mammano – USAF |
| Shelley Stewart – US Army | * John Otten – US Army |
| CJ Maul – US Army | Austin Norcross – US Army |
| * Matthew Kepler – US Army | Tom Sudan – USAF |
| Travis Geisler – US Army | * Katie Hubbard – US Navy |
| * Alexander York – USAF | Alex Bowers – US Army |
| Ian Johnston – US Navy | John Donner – US Army |
| | Sean DeCarlo—US Navy |
| | Thomas Nygard—US Navy |
- *Friends of Mount Olive

Young at Heart

Wednesday, December 9

11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

We will view a video presented by Pastor Borgstede, sing Christmas carols, and listen to the ECEC children sing. Come to enjoy the program, fellowship and good food.

Newcomers are always welcome!

Hosts: Shirley Fabozzi, Jean Dickinson
Glenn/Jo Kaltho

Thank You!! Thank You!!

... you also joining in helping us through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through the prayers of many (2 Corinthians 1:11).

Your LWML society sincerely thanks the entire congregation for your constant support of our mission projects with both your monetary and items collected at in-gatherings.

The projects receiving funding for this year are Aurora Warms the Night and Austin Kraft. In-gatherings will provide much needed items to the Alternative Pregnancy Center.

With God's guidance, your donations and your prayers, we are blessed to be able to assist those caring for others in need and studying to become a Pastor.

peace
on
earth



Merry Christmas

Mount Olive Church and ECEC Staff

Kim Mike Herman Keri
Greg
Kathy Carol Leah
Lindsey Dorothy
Robert Kate
Robin Becky JoAnn
Kaye

Endowment Fund

Please include the Mount Olive Endowment Fund in your prayers that our resources will increase so we may continue our ministry of support for those in need. Take a look at the Endowment Fund bulletin board for additional information from the folks we are supporting in ministry.



Kristin Matasovsky's ministry in South Africa ended in November

... Pray for her as she prepares to return to America and discover where the Lord in leading her for new service.

Please see her last newsletter on the Endowment Fund bulletin board.

Jonathan Jennings, student at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN

As Jonathan continues his studies at the seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, keep him and his wife, Stefanie (Stibrich), in your prayers.



Tyler Stibrich spreading the Gospel message on the campus of the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Tyler says, "this year has been off to an amazing start! Eighty people, including more than 20 new people joined us for our first worship service of the semester." Give prayers of thanksgiving for new friends.

Vicar Austin Kraft serving at Grace Fellowship Lutheran Church in Gypsum, Colorado

Vicar Austin is completing his first 12 week course at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. He states, "The studies are challenging but very rewarding." Offer prayers for the youth ministry at Grace Fellowship Lutheran Church as it has begun and is growing.



Rev. Charles Ferry and Family in Indonesia

The Ferry's house in Jakarta has been sold and they will move to Medan in North Sumatra. Give prayers for a smooth transition.

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 Endowment Fund Committee includes—Don Berlinski (chairperson), Duane Asmus, Orville Geisler, Gary Johnson, Kevin Meador and Brian Pelepchan

Dear Mount Olive Families and Friends,

I wish you a very happy Advent season as you prepare for Jesus' birthday celebration. There are many special activities at Mount Olive to help your family prepare for Christmas and celebrate our greatest gift. We invite our church families, ECEC families, and friends to participate in all special activities.

In addition to the special activities at Mount Olive, there are family Advent devotion materials available at our Child and Family Ministry counter for your family to use at home. The devotion materials include a devotion guide, stickers, and a tree to place the stickers on.

*Advent and Christmas Blessings,
Robin R. Kurth, Director of Child and Family Ministry*



Kid's Christmas Praise Party

December 2, 5:45 PM

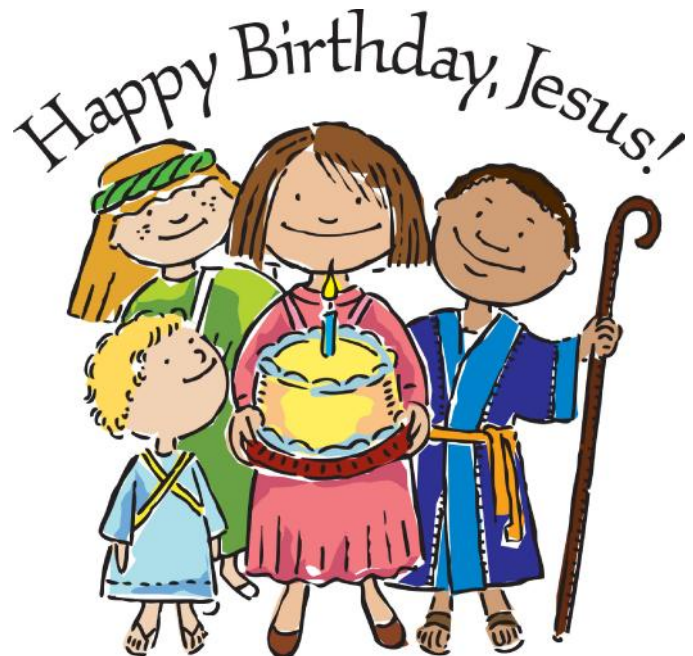


All children, age 3-grade 5 are invited to participate in our Kid's Praise Party. Kid's Praise Party meets the first Wednesday of every month, at 5:45 PM. During our December Praise Party, children will celebrate Jesus' birthday through stories, crafts, games, and snacks. Friends are always welcome.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party

December 20, 9:30 AM

Children will celebrate Jesus' birthday with a Happy Birthday Jesus Party in their Sunday School classroom. Children are invited to bring a gift for the party. This year, we are gathering warm socks for the homeless. The socks will be used in January as a part of a family service project.



Sunday School Christmas Program and Soup Supper

December 6, 4:00 PM

Saturday Practice

December 5, 9:30-11:00 AM

On December 6, our Sunday School 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 may purchase cookies at the LWML bake sale on December 6 and leave the cookies in the Fellowship Hall for the evening program. 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! All children age 3 through grade 5 may participate in the Christmas Program.

Pajama Party

December 27, 9:30 AM

Children will gather in the ECEC for a special pajama party. There will be a celebration of the new year, special snacks, story time, and pajama party games. Children are invited to bring one item from Christmas to "show and tell." Please bring the item in a labeled bag. We will hang the bags up in the cubbies before and after our show and tell time.

Youth and Family Ministry

SCHEDULE

December

6	9:30 AM 6:00 PM	The Story (Confirmation and High School) Middle School Christmas Party
13	9:30 AM 6:00 PM	The Story (Confirmation and High School) NYG Christmas Party/Meeting

CONFIRMATION
CLASS

**Christmas
PARTY**

Hot Chocolate
ICE SKATING
Devotions

6:00-9:00 PM
Sunday, December 6th

Wear your ugly Christmas sweaters!
Sign-Up by: November 29th
Cost is \$5

Thank you to the students who attended this year's confirmation retreat!

It was a great time of fellowship, learning, and being out in God's creation!



National Youth Gathering/High School Christmas Party

6:00-8:00 PM

Sunday, December 13

This will be our second meeting for the NYG, along with a Christmas party with our friends from Shepherd of the Hills!

Adult leaders and NYG youth are required to attend.

Early Childhood Education Center

Happy Birthday Jesus! The excitement is in the air as our Christmas fun has begun. The children's joy is contagious! We learn that Christmas is not only presents, parties, and Santa but more importantly Jesus' birthday! We'll begin on December 2/3 with a birthday celebration chapel led by Pastor Mike. 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 Interchurch.

The children will be singing for Young at Heart on December 9 and at our Advent service on December 16. The children love to sing out! And we love to bring them to church! Our family Christmas services will be on December 17/18 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 21-January 1, to give us special time with family and friends. We'll be back to school on January 4, 2016.

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

You're Invited

Join the ladies of Mount Olive

 **Christmas Luncheon**

 **Advent By Candlelight**

December 12

12 Noon

Mount Olive

Sign up at the ARK!
\$10 due in the Church Office by December 6 (checks payable to LWML).
Layette items of onesies, receiving blankets or pacifiers will be collected for the Alternatives Pregnancy Center

Wanderers



Friday, December 11, the Wanderers will tour the Governor's Mansion to see the Christmas decorations after a stop at Cherry Creek Mall to gaze at its magnificent Christmas tree and visit the new Restoration Hardware to see how

it has changed the face of the region's most iconic retail haven. Lunch will be on-your-own at California Pizza Kitchen, Johnny Rockets, etc. Depart Mount Olive at 10 AM and return approximately 2 PM. Cost is \$3.

Friday, January 15, you'll be astounded at the auto collection at Vintage Vault in Parker. Depart Mount Olive at 9:30 AM and return approximately 1:30 PM. \$10 includes tour and transportation. Lunch is extra.



You are invited to join the Wanderers on **Sunday, February 14**, at the Denver Brass concert, 2 PM at Gates Concert Hall at the Newman Center. \$40 includes transportation, lunch and ticket to Brass

on the Red Carpet. Prepay to Mount Olive Lutheran Church in an envelope marked "February 14 Wanderers."

Mount Olive Family News

We welcome:

We say goodbye to:

Cheryl Murphy
Richard/Elaine White

Baptism

Wedding

Deaths

Grace Wanderers

The Grace Wanderers have announced the following tours for 2016:

Washington, D. C. – April 5-15

Roaming Wyoming – August 8-13

New England Fall Colors – September 29 – October 14

More information is available in the Wanderers' notebook in the ARK. Registration has begun.

**Sign up at the ARK
for all Wanderer tours!**

Coming Saturday, January 23

9 AM—3 PM

Quilting Marathon



Plan to join us!

Church Staff

Rev. Robert Harmon, Vacancy Pastor
Rev. Michael Borgstede, Associate Pastor
Robin Kurth, Director of Child and Family Ministry
Becky Schutt, Director of Christian Education Intern
Kim Montross, Director of Music
Mike Kallas, Director of Finance and Operations
Kaye Cairns, Office Manager
JoAnn Stibrich, Director of the ECEC
Greg Karampelas, Building 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.

December 6 2nd Sunday in Advent	December 13 3rd Sunday in Advent	December 20 4th Sunday in Advent	December 27 1st Sunday after Christmas
Lessons 1 Kings 2:1-4 Philippians 1:2-11 Luke 3:1-6	1 Kings 12:1-11 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 2:25-35	Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-57	Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:22-40
Elders Saturday 8:00 Stan Humbargar 10:45 Kevin Hixson	Communion Assistants 8:00 Darold Boettcher 10:45 Gary Piazza (December 27)	Ushers 8:00 Larry Bargmann, Brian Pelepchan 10:45 F Candelaria, A Kirkeide, K/R Einspahr, L Gottberg	
Greeters Saturday Pat Wallingford 8:00 Sylvia Zwingelberg Kaye Cairns 10:45	Kenneth Schultz Bob/Jeanne Borgstede Marilyn Eisenach	Marlene Blesch Bud/Lucille McGee Sylvia Zwingelberg Ed/Doris Kilgore	Darlene Ommen Pat/Nancy Amore Edwina Heiser L Gottberg/A Talmage
Hosts 8:00 V Boettcher/E Heiser 10:45 Ed/Doris Kilgore	Jane Dunn Stan/Claudia Humbargar	Tom/Jane Fields	John/Joanne Petersen
Organists Elmshouser/Cairns	Marsha Raebel	Diane Asmus	Karen Montross
Lay Readers 8:00 Diane Asmus 10:45 Dorinda Vaughn-Porquis	Heather Cammack Sandi McCoy	Stan McKinster Bob Gombos	Christina Cateora Janet Buckingham
Altar Care Marian Burrell Jo Kaltho Sandra Sall	Danita Myers Sandi Bair Lori Bowers	Susan Shellenberger Michele McKinster Kathy Bodemann	Diane Van Stone Zoe Flint
Acolytes 8:00 Madison Myers Julia Matney 10:45 Chris Bott Austin Talmage	Paul Borgstede Alyse Coverly Lauren Emerson Meghan Emerson	Teag Parker Kira Parker Tanaya Tappe Dylan Forbord	Madison Myers Julia Matney Ashley Hawley Bryan Hawley
Assist Pews Jo Natomeli	Robert/Jeanne Borgstede	Devonne Domineck	Darlene Ommen
Bulletin Helpers Fabozzi/Kaltho	Bud/Lucille McGee	Fabozzi/Kaltho	Eisenach/Donner/Heiser