



Mt. Olive
Lutheran Church
Rooted in God's Grace

2019-2020
Faith Exploration Opportunities

at
Mount Olive Evangelical
Lutheran Church

211 Main Street
Mukwonago, WI 53149
(262) 363-8251

mto@mountolive-elca.net
www.mountolive-elca.net

EXPLORE MOUNT OLIVE

During this session we will have conversation regarding Mount Olive's various ministries and opportunities for spiritual growth. We will share with you our vision for being a discipling congregation. Together we will discuss how our community can best help you in your own faith journey.

Our next "***Explore Mount Olive***" is scheduled for **Saturday, November 2nd, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.** On **Sunday, November 10th**, during worship, you will be officially welcomed into our community of faith. Everyone who is interested in learning more about the faith community called Mount Olive should contact the church office or Pr. Scot.

GROWTH IN DISCIPLESHIP

Mount Olive partners with parents to help them share their faith with their children. Mount Olive is committed to offering a variety of events and classes to encourage and empower parents in this holy and marvelous responsibility.

Baptism – Baptism is a most wonderful gift from God where he claims us as his own and promises that he will never let us go. You do not need to be a member in order to be baptized at Mount Olive. Please contact the church office for more information or to schedule a baptism for you or your child.

Cradle Roll -- As a way to help parents share their faith with their children, families with newborns through age three are included in mailings with age appropriate materials to help nurture faith at home.

Presentation of Preschool Bibles – Reading the Bible together is a wonderful way to grow together in faith. As your children grow, Mount Olive supports families by presenting their child with an age appropriate Bible. On **Sunday, September 15th, at 9:15 a.m.**, we will present a children's Bible to our preschoolers. Also, if families choose, Sunday School is offered for 3 year olds through 5th grade as our SS teachers walk alongside parents in telling the story of God's love and grace.

SALSA Bible – Come and explore the wonders of God's Word as we "SALSA" through the bible! Third grade families will get an official invitation, but all are welcome to join the SALSA exploration team. This adult and child experience will be held in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, September 22nd, from 9:30-10:15 a.m. OR Sunday, September 29th, from 8:30-9:15 a.m.** Then, during the Sunday School opening on **September 29th, at 9:15 a.m.**, we will SALSA and celebrate with the families as they present their children with their very own "grownup" Bible.

First Communion – Children are offered the opportunity to explore the sacrament of Holy Communion during this mini-course. Together with their parents, grandparents, or guardians, the students will learn why we have communion, and what God does for us through this wonderful gift. This course will be pastor-led and culminates in the participants receiving their first communion during Holy Week on Maundy Thursday. Invitations to the class are sent to families with 3rd graders. If you have a younger child who you feel is ready to receive communion instruction, please contact Pastor Scot regarding your family's participation in the session. This course will be offered on **Saturday, April 4th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.** First communion is on **Maundy Thursday, April 9th.**

4th & 5th Grade Mini-retreat – Students in 4th and 5th grade will have their own mini-retreat at Mount Olive on Saturday, **January 11th, from 5:30-8 p.m.** The retreat's main purpose is to help the students understand how important they are in God's family and how they are called at baptism to be a disciple of Christ. The retreat will include a meal, learning, and discussion time.

Sunday School -- Sunday School is offered for three-year olds through 5th grade and adults during the education hour of 9:15-10:15 a.m. In 2019-20, Sunday School registration will be held on **Rally Day, September 8th, at 9:30 a.m.** in the entryway. The first full day of Sunday School will be on **September 15th at 9:15 a.m.** as we continue our exploration of God's love for all humanity, as shown through Jesus Christ.

Each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. from **September 15th** through **May 17th**, with a few noted exceptions, we meet as Pre-K through 5th grade in the Sanctuary for our opening where we sing, pray, celebrate birthdays, and hear a short message from Pastor Scot about the lesson for the day. Then we head off to learn, share, and grow in faith. Our lesson plan follows the Narrative Lectionary which is also used in our Sunday worship. The Sunday School students are invited to participate in the Sunday School Christmas program, held on **Sunday, December 15th, at 10:45 a.m.**

Faith Exploration for adults is discussed in other parts of this brochure.

Unless otherwise noted, there will be no Sunday School on the following dates: Thanksgiving Break, **December 1st**; Christmas Break, **December 22nd and 29th**; the Sunday School sponsored Fat Sunday Pancake Breakfast, **February 23rd**; Palm Sunday, **April 5th**; Easter Sunday, **April 12th**; and Mother's Day, **May 10th**.

Registration forms can be found on line at <http://www.mountolive-elca.net/>.

AoB -- Our Affirmation of Baptism is a three-year opportunity for 6th through 8th grade students to explore their faith using teaching, discussions, and experiences involving the Bible, Martin Luther's Small Catechism, and faith in daily life. The program typically begins when students are in 6th grade. We generally hold sessions on three Tuesday evenings per month, 6:30–7:30p.m., from September through April.

Our first session is **Tuesday, September 10th, from 6-7:30 p.m.** when all families are invited to join us for dinner, followed by an orientation session.

Continuing this year is **AoB Unplugged**, where all are invited to join in the AoB sessions. AoB Unplugged is most often held on the third Tuesday of each AoB month. Watch for further info details on the website, bulletins, and in the newsletter.

9th Grade AoB Sessions: As a continuation of their life-long faith journey, Mount Olive's ninth grade students will further explore affirming their baptism during a retreat on **Saturday, October 12th, from 3:30-7:30 p.m.** Also, on the 12th, we will gather with our families for a festive dinner. The students also invited to affirm their baptisms during the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Reformation **Sunday, October 27th**.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – is held for three-year-olds through 5th grade during one week in the summer. We meet from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for songs, skits, crafts, and games, all while exploring faith and learning about God's amazing love as shown through the life of Jesus. Older youth and adults help make this a great time for sharing our discipleship stories!

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES – Special opportunities are offered periodically throughout the year for all generations. Be on the lookout for events which invite all to explore their faith while learning and growing as disciples of Christ.

BIBLE/ADULT STUDIES

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study – In an informal setting, adults explore various books of the Bible and how they address the religious, moral, ethical, and social issues faced by Lutheran Christians today. Discussion/class topics are publicized in the weekly church bulletins and monthly newsletters. Discussions begin on **Sunday, September 15th, at 9:15 a.m.** in the Library.

This year's Adult Education will discuss the following:

- **Psalms:** A selection of the Psalms will be studied over this year's classes.
- **Advent:** The month of December we will be devoting to an Advent study.
- **New Testament Books:** We will be studying several of Paul's letters to the early churches, including Philippians, Colossian, Titus, and Philemon. We will also be studying 1st and 2nd Peter, written by the Apostle Peter.

Everyone is welcome! No experience is necessary! These studies are conducted throughout the year on Sunday mornings. **Unless otherwise noted, there will be no Sunday Adult Education on the following dates:** Thanksgiving Break, **December 1st**; Christmas Break, **December 22nd & 29th**; the Fat Sunday Pancake Breakfast, **February 23rd**; Palm Sunday, **April 5th**; Easter Sunday, **April 12th**; and Mother's Day, **May 10th**.

For more information, please contact Laura Conry, Dwight Cruikshank, Glenna & Bruce Gunderson, Betty Hinkelman, or Eva Schindhelm.

Theology on Tap – Do you enjoy a great brew, a glass of wine, or an ice cold soda? Would you like to talk about issues of faith in a fun, laid back atmosphere? Then this might be for you. Theology on Tap meets every third Monday from 7-8:30 p.m. at Badger Burger Company in Mukwonago.

Our first gathering will be **Monday, October 21st**. Other dates are: November 18th, December 16th, January 20th, February 17th, March 16th, and April 20th.

Theology on Tap is open to everyone 21 years of age and older. For more information, please contact Pr. Scot.

Weekly Text Study – On Wednesday mornings from 9-10 a.m., you are invited to join Pr. Scot in learning and discussing the Bible reading for the upcoming Sunday worship. Contact Pr. Scot for more information.

Looking for an opportunity to explore and share your faith with others? Please join us for a low key, no experience needed discussion. This once a month study and discussion group meets in the Mount Olive Narthex at **9:30 a.m.** on the second Tuesday of each month and uses Gather magazine as a resource. The first session is **Tuesday, September 10th.**

For more information, please contact Glenna Gunderson or Cindy Dobberke at cindy.dobberke@mountolive-elca.net.

This year's monthly topics are as follows:

Fall 2019: No hard feelings? Poetry and emotions in the Old Testament by Anna Madsen:

- **Tuesday, September 10th:** Session one – Stewarding the angst of anger.
- **Tuesday, October 8th:** Session two – Stewarding the ache of grief.
- **Tuesday, November 12th:** Session three – Stewarding the gift of joy.

December 2019 on Tuesday, December 10th: Advent/Christmas devotional (title TBD) by visual artist Vonda Drees.

Winter 2020: “We are called!” by Kathryn A. Kleinhans:

- **Tuesday, January 14th:** Session one – Hearing God's Call.
- **Tuesday, February 11th:** Session two – The Call of Jesus.
- **Tuesday, March 10th:** Session three – Called to Serve.
- **Tuesday, April 14th:** Session four – Calling Networks.

This year's 2019-20 All Team Nights will be held on the following Mondays at 7 p.m.:
**October 7th, December 2nd,
February 3rd, and May 4th.**