



**Mt. Olive  
Lutheran Church**  
Rooted in God's Grace

Mount Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA  
211 Main Street, Mukwonago, WI 53149-1525  
Ph: 262-363-8251 E-mail: [mto@mountolive-elca.net](mailto:mto@mountolive-elca.net)  
Web-site: [www.mountolive-elca.net](http://www.mountolive-elca.net)

**August 2024**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION:**

**Summer In-Person Worship & HC @ 8 & 9:30 a.m.**

Our worship services will be livestreamed @ Facebook, and YouTube. Facebook stream also found on the home page of our website: [www.mountolive-elca.net](http://www.mountolive-elca.net)

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Church Office: 262-363-8251  
Email: [mto@mountolive-elca.net](mailto:mto@mountolive-elca.net)

**CHURCH STAFF**

***Pastor – Please contact the church office***

Office Phone: 262-363-8251  
Email: [mto@mountolive-elca.net](mailto:mto@mountolive-elca.net)

***Administrative Assistant***

Debbie Wagner

***Maintenance***

David Gill

***Housekeeping***

Marie Sackett

***Worship Accompanist/Praise Team Director***

Deanna Kulow [deanna.kulow@mountolive-elca.net](mailto:deanna.kulow@mountolive-elca.net)

***Sunday School Coordinator***

Cindy Dobberke

***AofB Coordinator***

Cindy Dobberke 262-719-5711  
[cindy.dobberke@mountolive-elca.net](mailto:cindy.dobberke@mountolive-elca.net)

***Prayer Chain***

Betty Hinkelman 262-662-0205 or  
Church office 262-363-8251

***Websites***

[www.mountolive-elca.net](http://www.mountolive-elca.net)  
[www.milwaukee-synod.org](http://www.milwaukee-synod.org)  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



Dear friends in Christ at Mount Olive,

Pastor Steven Bogie has accepted our call to become our Pastor. He begins his journey with Mount Olive **on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**, where he will lead us in worship at both services. His installation as our pastor by the Bishop will come at a later date.

**Please join us in worship on the 25<sup>th</sup> for this joyous occasion.**

Your Mount Olive Council

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**MOUNT OLIVE BLOOD  
DRIVE**

**GIVE BLOOD**



**SAVE LIFE**

Join Mount Olive's Health & Wellness and Service Teams and the BloodCenter of Wisconsin for a blood drive!

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>  
Fellowship Hall -- 2-6 p.m.**

Almost anyone can donate blood. Basic requirements for donating include being at least 17 years old, weighing at least 110 lbs., and in generally good health. It takes about an hour to donate, and with one donation, you can save up to three lives.

Walk-ins are also welcome. BloodCenter of Wisconsin is the only provider of blood to 55 Wisconsin hospitals in 28 counties.

Pat Vandehey



## TWO SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

**MEMORIAL DAY thru  
LABOR DAY WEEKENDS –  
Sunday Worship & Holy Communion  
8 a.m. – Worship & HC  
and  
9:30 a.m. – Worship & HC  
(No Education Hour during summer)**

Our services will be livestreamed on our Facebook page, YouTube channel, and found on our webpage with a Facebook link.

The livestreamed recordings will also be available for your viewing 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

**50**  
years



ELCA World Hunger is observing its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. ELCA WH is our greater church's ministry, working to alleviate and eliminate hunger so that all may be fed and be able to feed themselves.

At our Synod Assembly in May, the Greater Milwaukee Synod voted to raise an additional \$50,000 toward our synodical support of this ministry. We at Mount Olive are very excited to be a part of this opportunity!

During the month of August, Mount Olive is holding an envelope challenge. Will you help clear the board as we raise an additional \$1,250 for ELCA World Hunger? It's simple!!

- Choose an envelope (or two or three) from the board in the Narthex, all envelopes have an amount designated on it, from \$1 to \$50!

- put in the amount listed on the envelope and
- drop it into the MTO offerings.

Rather pay with a credit card? Use the MTO QR code and choose "Special Offering," note *World Hunger challenge*, and you are all set!



## SERVICE TEAM UPDATE

**Sheets for Sleep in Heavenly Peace:** During the month of August, the Service Team will be collecting NEW TWIN SIZE SHEETS and PILLOWCASES for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace projects.

SLP builds beds for kids and distributes them free upon request. If you are interested in helping with "Build Days" in either Waukesha or Walworth county, contact Bob Dickey at [rdickey45@yahoo.com](mailto:rdickey45@yahoo.com). These workdays are scheduled periodically.

Volunteering for "Build Days" is not the only way to help this organization as they are in need of bedding to go with the beds. Sheets and pillowcases should be appropriate for children and twin size only. They may be dropped off in the Narthex any day in August.

*"Think not about what you want  
but about what they need."*



## Little Free Pantry/ Kitchen Kupboard Food Pantry needs:

Many Mount Olive members are unaware of the Food Pantry that is housed in MTO's lower level. We are grateful for their ministry to those in need in our community. Also, the Little Free Pantry, which originated as a Silver Award Girl Scout project by Grace Graczyk, is available 24/7 outside the lower doors of MTO) is kept stocked by the Kitchen Kupboard Food Pantry team (open on Thursdays or as needed). Please note the items listed below and drop off in the basket marked **Food Pantry**, located in the Narthex.

Also, do you have garden produce to share? Please consider donating to the Kitchen Kupboard on the days that the pantry is open, second and fourth Thursdays of each from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and also noted on the MTO calendar. Thank you for working to fight food insecurity in our community!

- Mac & Cheese boxes
- Potato and noodle boxes
- Dry goods
- Cereal
- Granola bars
- Tuna
- Canned soups
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Laundry soap
- Deodorant



## GREEN SPACE UPDATE

### Save the Date for Music on the

**Green: Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8 p.m.** Rain or shine. Invite some friends and bring a chair and enjoy music by a local band (members are Andy Carrol, Matt Ruthenburg and Casey Kroll). Feast on the tasty offerings of Phantom Eats food truck. Hope to see you there!

**Save Another Date: All-Church Picnic -- Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Fried chicken will be provided; you bring the sides and desserts. The famous cake walk is back by popular demand, and there will be games and more. (There will be sign-up sheets for the sides, desserts, cakes, and set-up/clean-up). Plan to come on September 8<sup>th</sup>!!

## Join us for a night of learning, practice, and... food trucks!



This event will be focused on the practices of community mapping and prayer walks. Each person will be given some money to spend that night while "listening" (being present & noticing) in the neighborhood. We'll end the night with a debrief and some thoughts about how these practices can be a source of mission renewal in your congregation.

**Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**  
**Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, Milwaukee**

This new workshop is designed for GMS congregational teams, rostered ministers, and individuals striving to deepen their understanding of anti-racism and LGBTQIA+ inclusion.

The day will be grounded in the practice of Dwelling in the Word and the process of learning through stories. Participants will examine the construction and meaning of "isms," provide tools to understand our own place within systems of oppression, and identify steps and opportunities to grow in both understanding and action.



## FAITH EXPLORERS

### Faith Explorers: Vacation Bible Camp:

*What:* Compassion Camp from Illustrated Ministries

*Dates:* August 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. until 12 noon

**Registration:** \$15 per child, with reduced pricing for families with more than three children attending. Invite your family, neighbors and friends!

VBC is our summer opportunity for exploring the love of Christ in an intergenerational setting. We'd love to have your children participate and your help in many areas! Please contact the MTO office or Cindy Dobberke for more information. **Registration form found on the MTO website or via the MTO office!**

Vacation Bible Camp needs:

- **Yoga/exercise mats-** might we borrow yours for a week? We promise to sanitize it prior to its return.
- **Travel-sized Toiletries-** yes, we are again collecting toiletries to be used as a part of our Compassion Camp experience. Personal care items are an important blessing to those who are un-housed or living in shelters. *Suggested items to donate are: pairs of new socks, travel-sized deodorant, mini-tissue packs, Chapstick, body wipes, toothbrushes, and travel-size toothpaste.*
- **Guides and junior guides to complete our team!** If you have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up, join us for the week or even a couple of days. We'd love to have you be a part of Compassion Camp!
- **Movement Guide-** Might you have an interest in

leading Yoga-type sessions with our VBC crew? If so, this leadership area is for you! This component promotes physical engagement to connect our minds, bodies, and spirits with God and to connect Compassion Camp's main themes with our lives.



### Faith Explorer: Upcoming High School Events:

Stay tuned for a Sunday evening bonfire for all High School students- watch your email for the date!

### HS MYSTERY TRIP SUNDAY, AUGUST 4<sup>th</sup>:

During the month of July, four brave Mount Olive-ites, with help from our MTO family, successfully completed our High School Mystery Trip. We invite you to hear our story on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, at both services. Be there!

Much of our work centered around addressing food insecurity and feeding ministries. As our follow-up to the trip, we would like to invite the congregation to participate with us in additional opportunities.

Please stay tuned for the specific dates for the following AND MORE!

4 X annually: Assemble 100 bag lunches for those living without shelter, as supported by Street Angels, held Sundays following the late worship service.

4 X annually: Just One More Ministry Group Snack Bag Pack- held Saturday mornings.



## GRIEF SUPPORT

Grief can and does enter our lives in a huge variety of ways. You are invited to attend either one of these groups for very informal discussions in a safe place and supportive environment. Please feel free to call if you would like further information, login Zoom info, or have any questions: Betty Hinkelman.

- **Thursday Group:** The meeting is on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 12:30 p.m. Attendance is at Mount Olive in the Fellowship Hall or on ZOOM, whichever you are comfortable with. **August's date is Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.**



## INVITATION TO PRAY

You are invited to come and pray as we come together for contemplative prayer on the labyrinth. Join me for prayer with Holy Scripture using the ancient method of Lectio Divina, or you may choose to come for Centering Prayer, a prayer practice with silence as we simply rest in God's presence for a twenty-minute period of time. No experience is needed for either of these quiet methods of praying. A simple desire to be with God is all that you need to bring.

I invite you to come at any of these following times for this prayer opportunity (schedule of dates & times below). If you want to participate but need a different time slot or if you have any questions or would like further explanation, please feel free to call any time. I look forward to praying together. Betty Hinkelman

### Monthly Schedule of Prayer Opportunities:

#### **Lectio Divina:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month...beginning at 11 a.m.

**Centering Prayer:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month...beginning at 11 a.m.



## ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response Match Challenge!

Thank you for your awesome response to our matching challenge! MTO raised \$110, which will be combined with that amount from the MTO ACTS Benevolence monies.

*Forgot to contribute? You can still help with this important ministry.*

*How? Write a check to MTO, noting "LDR match". Place it into a pew envelope, place into the offering basket or drop off in the MTO office.*

*You may also give online using the "Special Offering" tab, noting "LDR" or Lutheran Disaster Response.*

*Your Mission Support and Benevolence team thanks you for helping Mount Olive meet the challenge and helping those who are in the throes of surviving a disaster!*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT & SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Night Bible Study class has concluded for this year, but will resume again in September.

The classes are Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. thru May. It is not necessary to have any prior experience in Bible study. All that is needed is a desire to know more about the Bible, while having good fellowship and a little bit of fun. If interested, contact Dwight Cruikshank.

The Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study meets at **9 a.m.** but has concluded for this year. Planning will start this summer for the 2024-2025 education season. Join us for the education and fellowship. Join us to just listen or to participate in the discussion. Join us for a few sessions or for many sessions. We're looking forward to welcoming you!

Contact Laura Conry with any questions.

## DON'T MUNCH ALONE BUNCH (DMAB)



Come and join us when **Don't Munch Alone Bunch (DMAB)** meets on **Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m.**, at the Princess Café, 2695 Main Street, East Troy.

DMAB is a fun fellowship activity, inviting all ages to meet, eat and share together. Bring a friend if you'd like. There's no need to make a reservation, because we'll save a place at the table for you.

If you'd like more information, please call Glenna Gunderson. We hope you will join us.

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## THE KNOTTY KNITTERS...

Are a group that invites anyone interested to join them in the church library on Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon to knit prayer shawls and such, share stories, and have goodies. **All are welcome...no experience necessary.**

*Please note that the Knotty Knitters are taking a summer break...watch for more details come early September.*

If you have questions, please call Betty Hinkelman or Inge Adams.

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## LADIES BOOK CLUB

Mount Olive's Ladies Book Club will NOT meet in August. They will meet next on **Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m., @ Mount Olive.** They will be discussing "The Paris Daughter" by Kirstin Harmel.

All are welcome...even if you haven't read the book! If you have any questions, please contact Diane Dickey or the church office at 363-8251.



## GATHER FAITH EXPLORATION GROUP

Summer 2024

**"After certainty: A biblical guide"** by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

**Gather Faith Exploration Group:**  
**Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m.,**  
**Mount Olive Narthex**

(Zoom link also available.) Join on the second Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 am for our conversation and faith exploration using Gather magazine- a publication of the Women of the ELCA. Copies of the magazine and devotional will be available for all.

August 2024

**After certainty: Compassion**

*When certainty becomes judgmentalism, it contributes to divisions between people and within communities. The teachings of Jesus and the pastoral writings of the apostle Paul sometimes urge people to choose compassion over correctness—a model that can offer Christians guidance in a polarized time.*



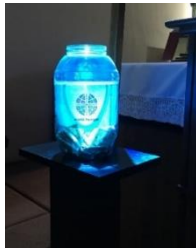
**WORSHIP MINISTRY  
OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND  
AT MOUNT OLIVE!**

Might you be interested in helping to lead worship as an AV operator, assisting minister, reader, usher, altar guild, fellowship hour providers, or in other roles?

Please contact Cindy Dobberke or Debbie Wagner in the Mount Olive office for more information. Training provided!

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**ELCA World Hunger**

**The Hunger Jar appreciates the jingling of our change!** Starting for a new goal in 2024, our donation is now at -- **\$267.74.**



If you are collecting your change at home for ELCA World Hunger during our time of online worship, please consider sending in a check or bringing the funds into Mount Olive so that they can be deposited. We will send them out into the world as a witness to our faithfulness during this critical time.

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**MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATUS  
from the Bookkeeper**

	<b>June 2024 Actual</b>	<b>June 2024 Plan</b>
General Income	\$153,653	\$129,110
General Expenses	(103,158)	(139,945)
Surplus/(Deficit)	50,495	(10,835)
General Fund Cash Balance	53,719	

**Ways to Give  
To Mount Olive**

 **In Person**

Place checks or cash in an offering envelope and drop in the offering plate as it goes by.

 **Text**

Text 262-290-4066 with dollar amount (for example: 10) to set up a one-time or recurring donation.

 **Giving App**

Download the 'Give Plus Church' app to set up a one-time or recurring donation.



 **Online**

Visit <https://mountolive-elca.net/donate/> or scan the QR Code below to set up a one time or recurring donation.



At Mount Olive, we are committed to giving back to God for all he has given us so that we can help others locally and around the world.

**OFFERING/DONATION UPDATE**

You can also share your financial gifts by:

1. Mailing your offering to the office:  
Mount Olive Lutheran Church  
211 Main Street  
Mukwonago, WI 53149
2. Donating via our webpage: Make a one-time or recurring donation. Any recurring donation will require you to register if you don't already have a Simply Giving account. Contact Debbie in the office if you need any help with the webpage...262-363-8251.

Thank you for your ongoing support to the ministries of Mount Olive.

Dennis Martin  
Treasurer  
Finance and Stewardship Team

## VARIOUS TEAM/GROUP UPDATES

<b>Group Meeting</b>	<b>Time and Frequency</b>	<b>Contact person</b>
<b><i>Wednesday Bible Study/Lectio</i></b>	9 a.m. every Wednesday @ Mount Olive & via Zoom	<b>Church Office</b> <a href="mailto:mto@mountolive-elca.net">mto@mountolive-elca.net</a>
<b><i>Knotty Knitters</i></b>	10 a.m. every Friday – <i>Does not meet June thru August</i>	<b>Inge Adams</b> <b>Betty Hinkelman</b>
<b><i>Gather Faith Exploration Group: Meeting in person &amp; via Zoom</i></b>	9:30 - 11 a.m. on second Tuesday of each month	<b>Cindy Dobberke</b> <a href="mailto:Cindy.dobberke@mountolive-elca.net">Cindy.dobberke@mountolive-elca.net</a>
<b><i>Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study</i></b>	Sundays @ 9 a.m. – <i>Does not meet in the summer months</i>	<b>Laura Conry</b>
<b><i>Wednesday Evening Bible Study</i></b>	Wednesday evenings @ 6:30 p.m. – <i>Does not meet in the summer months</i>	<b>Dwight Cruikshank</b>
<b><i>Don't Munch Alone Bunch</i></b>	11:30 a.m. on second Tuesday of each month	<b>Glenna and Bruce Gunderson</b>
<b><i>Lectio Divina: Meeting in person &amp; via Zoom</i></b>	11 a.m. on Mondays – <b>August 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Betty Hinkelman</b>
<b><i>Centering Prayer: Meeting in person &amp; via Zoom</i></b>	11 a.m. on Monday – <b>August 12<sup>th</sup> &amp; 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Betty Hinkelman</b>
<b><i>Grief Support: Meeting in person &amp; via Zoom</i></b>	Meeting time varies, please contact Betty or see page 6	<b>Betty Hinkelman</b>
<b><i>Service Team</i></b>	Sharing info and ideas via email	<b>Jean Cruikshank</b>
<b><i>Food Pantry Donations</i></b>	Donations can be made directly to pantry as follows: <b>August 8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 22<sup>nd</sup> -- 9:30-11:30 a.m.</b> ; contact Carole Hahl @ 262-662-3953	<b>Church Office</b> <a href="mailto:mto@mountolive-elca.net">mto@mountolive-elca.net</a>
<b><i>Aluminum Can Donations</i></b>	Please continue to collect aluminum cans for our HS students to support their annual youth accompaniment trips; your donations can be dropped off at a future date!	<b>Church Office</b> <a href="mailto:mto@mountolive-elca.net">mto@mountolive-elca.net</a>



### **ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING at Mount Olive!!**

Yep, our High School students are still doing it! Want to help? Be sure to save your cans and drop off at the rear door at Mount Olive so that we can send the cans on their way to the recyclers. It's a great way to save the environment AND our help our High School students when they head off on their next big Accompaniment trip!



## PRAYING FOR MEMBERS at Mount Olive Lutheran Church

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone. I Timothy 2:1

It seems to me that no one is so poor as an individual for whom not a single soul is praying, and has no one who takes him or her personally and persistently to God in prayer. O. Hallesby, Prayer

“Praying for Every Member” is sponsored by Prayer Ministry. By using this monthly newsletter insert, we will pray unceasingly for each other.

8/1	Joseph, Andrea, Lexi, & Connor Kokott
8/2	Kimberly Koppelhuber
8/3	Emma & Beckett Krause
8/4	Bryan & Lori Krzycki
8/5	Leo Krzycki
8/6	Jane Kulinski
8/7	Kevin, Deanna, & Elliott Kulow
8/8	Connor, Eleanor, & Jack LaFreniere
8/9	Brian & Ruth Lang
8/10	Herman Lange
8/11	Dennis & Susan Leffelman
8/12	Kevin, Liam, Bentley, Adeline Leffelman
8/13	Lee, Amy, Emma, & Ellie Libeck
8/14	Tiffany, Jeremy, Madison, & Hailey Lindbloom
8/15	Victoria Luebke
8/16	Richard, Sue, Turner, Jacob, & Katie Lynch
8/17	Anna, Natalie, & Ethan Mack
8/18	Jerry Manke
8/19	Dennis & Kim Martin
8/20	Pam Massman
8/21	Charles & Angie Mathe
8/22	Barbara Mather
8/23	Ross McMiller
8/24	Diane Messer
8/25	Albert Mihlbauer
8/26	Shirley Miller
8/27	Laura Mueller
8/28	Lee, Denise, Brady, & Lauren Munger
8/29	Peggy Munsell
8/30	Paul & Cheryl Mysliwski
8/31	Jay, Lisa, Alex, Adam, & Amy Neidhold



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS...

Trent Smith	8/1
Nicole Carpenter	8/3
Molly Kietzmann	8/3
Jerry Arntson	8/5
Micah Budd	8/5
Sheri Watkins	8/5
Jane Kulinski	8/6
Julie Fredrick	8/7
Evan Schell	8/8
Kaitlyn Fick	8/9
Riley Grossklau	8/9
Leo Krzycki	8/10
Angie Jellish	8/11
Mason Stephenson	8/11
Sherryl Gruetzmacher	8/12
Jameson Sidders	8/13
Nicole Sanderson	8/15
Turner Lynch	8/19
Shannon Wilcher	8/19
Bill Carpenter	8/22
Marlene Fitzgerald	8/22
Linda Holasek	8/23
Elliott Kulow	8/23
Pam Massman	8/23
Hunter Kadrich	8/25
Lexi Kokott	8/25
Finn Wright	8/25
Theo Clarey	8/28
Anthony Wilcher	8/28

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES...

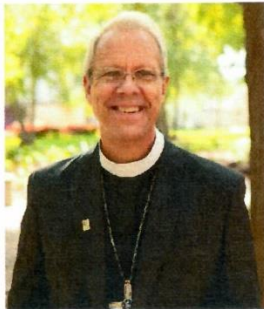
Diane & Bob Dickey	8/2
David & Tracy Jahnke	8/2
Peggy & Michael Munsell	8/4
James & Vanessa Cruikshank	8/7
Kate & Gary Graczyk	8/10
Bryan & Lori Krzycki	8/10
Tim & Karen Sperstad	8/10
Vern & Rose Roman	8/14
Charlie & Jackie Druecke	8/18
David & Charlene Hein	8/19
Christine & Daniel Pawlak	8/19
Casey & James Sidders	8/21
Rick & Robin Webber	8/24
Tiffany & Jeremy Lindbloom	8/27
Jim & Jennifer Cotturone	8/29
Jay & Lisa Neidhold	8/29
Ken & Cheryl Shanovich	8/29

<b>COUNCIL CORNER</b>		
<b><u>Council Member</u></b>	<b><u>Phone Number</u></b>	<b><u>Email Address</u></b>
President Mike Zaddack		
Vice President Cheryl Shanovich		
Secretary Linda Burie		
Treasurer Dennis Martin/Finance/Stewardship		
Inge Adams		
Cindy Dobberke		
Tim Sperstad		
Duane Thornton		
Adopted Council minutes are posted on the Council bulletin board for your review. Please feel free to contact any Council member listed above with any new ideas or caring concerns regarding Mount Olive. Please remember all our Council Members in your prayers.		

<b>GET CONNECTED</b>			
ACTS Team	Betty Arntson		
Administrative Assistant	Debbie Wagner	262-363-8251	mto@mountolive-elca.net
Adult Forum (Sunday mornings)	Laura Conry		
Altar Guild	Eva Schindhelm		
AMMPARO	Karen Sperstad		
Gather Bible Study (monthly)	Cindy Dobberke	262-719-5711	cindy.dobberke@mountolive-elca.com
Bookkeeper	Doug Bue		finances@mountolive-elca.net
Coffee Fellowship	Debbie Wagner	262-363-8251	mto@mountolive-elca.net
AoB Coordinator	Cindy Dobberke	262-719-5711	cindy.dobberke@mountolive-elca.com
Custodial	Debbie Wagner	262-363-8251	mto@mountolive-elca.net
Don't Munch Alone Bunch (DMAB)	Glenna Gunderson		
Financial Secretary	Debbie Wagner	262-363-8251	mto@mountolive-elca.net
Grief Support Group	Betty Hinkelman		
Health & Wellness	Pat Vandehey		
Knotty Knitters	Betty Hinkelman Inge Adams		
Ladies Book Club	Diane Dickey		
Loaves & Fishes	Cindy Dobberke	262-719-5711	cindy.dobberke@mountolive-elca.com
Memorials	Angela Porter		
Mt. Menu Coffee	Debbie Wagner	262-363-8251	mto@mountolive-elca.net
Praise Team Director	Deanna Kulow		deanna.kulow@mountolive-elca.net
Prayer Chain	Betty Hinkelman		
Service	Jean Cruikshank		
Sunday School Coordinator	Cindy Dobberke	262-719-5711	cindy.dobberke@mountolive-elca.com
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Congregational Advocate	Matt & Julie Fick		
Wednesday Night Bible Study	Dwight Cruikshank		

### **THIS WEEK AT MTO**

**Did you know that a weekly email is sent out each Wednesday entitled "This Week at MTO."** Each weekly email contains the following types of info: special messages, Mount Olive's calendar for the coming week, and any other events that are happening at Mount Olive over the next week or so. If you are not currently receiving this email, please let the church office know your email address, and we will add you to the circulation list. Or sign up on our website at: [www.mountolive-elca.net](http://www.mountolive-elca.net). Don't miss out! **PLEASE LET US KNOW...**If you, a family member, or a friend would like to have a visit from the pastor, please notify the church office or Cindy Dobberke. We rely on you to keep us informed so that our ministry with you can continue: 262.363.8251 or [mto@mountolive-elca.net](mailto:mto@mountolive-elca.net).



## Notes from the Bishop

As the summer heats up, so does the political rhetoric, especially in this presidential election year. Even as political content seems to overwhelm our social media feeds and dominate the airwaves, we don't always know how to engage in conversations on these matters with folks who may disagree with us, especially if they are our friends, families or members of our congregations. While some may have no desire to participate in potentially divisive conversations, I would hope that, as faithful disciples of the risen Lord, we could find a way to have these hard and holy conversations about topics that are central to the health and future of our democracy.

The question is, how? How do we discuss these hot topics without demonizing or dismissing those who disagree with us? As a general guide, I have found that the four core values we have identified as a synod can be helpful tools as we wade into these turbulent waters.

- 1. Curiosity.** I have found that it is more helpful to view hard conversations as an opportunity to learn, not to convert the other to your way of thinking. Questions like, "What experience led you to that conclusion?" "How does that perspective connect with your faith?" "What are the core values that guide how you think, act, and vote?" can open the door to more reflective conversations. Too often, we think that we can lob facts back and forth in order to convince someone of the rightness of our perspective. I have found that most of us come to our convictions as a result of our life experiences and the core beliefs that we have long held, and then we look for facts to back up our positions. If we can listen first, seeking to learn and not convince, we can begin to identify some shared beliefs and seek some common ground.
- 2. Courage.** I have found that we are often afraid of these emotionally charged conversations, fearful that simply having them will damage our relationships and upset the fragile peace of our family gatherings or our congregational events. There's no denying that doing this well is hard work and carries some risk. I would hope, however, that we can recognize that these are important conversations to have, and the decisions we make in the political arena carry life and death consequences for many. Can we summon the courage we need to ask questions and open a conversation, trusting that the Holy Spirit will guide us?
- 3. Compassion.** One of the most distressing components of what passes for political discourse these days is the tendency folks have to diminish the humanity of others. Whether it is those who think and vote differently, or the "enemy" who is trying to take what we have or destroy our way of life, whenever we build walls to separate "us" from "them," we stray from our core Christian belief that each and every person is made in God's image and is a beloved and redeemed sinner, just like we are.
- 4. Collaboration.** If we can find some common ground with our conversation partner and begin to identify some shared values and goals, we might begin to imagine ways that we could work together to achieve those goals. It may well be that our different perspectives and experiences prevent us from joining forces, but we may be able to recognize that, even though we disagree on the strategies and policies that will move us forward, we share a common commitment to building a stronger and more just world. It may also be that the divisions between us are so sharp and enduring that the best we can hope for is a respectful understanding that, even though we don't and may never agree, we now have a deeper understanding of and appreciation for one another's perspective.

The Apostle Paul invites us to "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3) I believe this is not a call to seek a shallow sense of peace that overlooks our differences, but a call to engage in respectful, faith-filled conversations about the pressing issues and challenges of this age.

In Christ,

Bishop Paul Erickson

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# AUGUST 2024

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b> 2-6pm Blood Drive	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8am Worship & HC 9:30am Worship & HC 7:30pm Alanon*	<b>5</b> 9am-12noon VBC	<b>6</b> 9am-12noon VBC	<b>7</b> 9am-12noon VBC	<b>8</b> 9am-12noon VBC 9:30am MCC Food Pantry*	<b>9</b> 9am-12noon VBC	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8am Worship & HC 9:30am Worship & HC 7:30pm Alanon*	<b>12</b> 11am Centering Prayer 6:30pm Church Council	<b>13</b> 9:30am Gather Faith Exploration Group 10am Muk Crazy Quilters* 11:30am DMAB Lunch @ Princess Café in ET	<b>14</b> 9am Weekly Bible Study/Lectio	<b>15</b> 12:30pm Grief Support Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8am Worship & HC 9:30am Worship & HC 7:30pm Alanon*	<b>19</b> 11am Lectio Divina	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9am Weekly Bible Study/Lectio 1pm Muk Crazy Quilters*	<b>22</b> 9:30am MCC Food Pantry*	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8am Worship & HC 9:30am Worship & HC 7:30pm Alanon*	<b>26</b> 11am Centering Prayer	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9am Weekly Bible Study/Lectio 6-8pm Music on the Green	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

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