Happenings at Mount Olive! -- Sunday In-Person Worship & HC

Sermon Themes: **Sunday, November 22nd – Sheep or Goat**
Sunday, November 29th – It's Advent

A Special Guest at Mount Olive TODAY: We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Becky Erb Strang to Mount Olive **at both our 8 and 10 a.m. worship services.** Becky serves as Assistant to Bishop Paul Erickson and specializes in stewardship as a biblical practice. She articulates the theology of stewardship in ways that help us see it not simply as a financial responsibility, but as a life-giving part of our journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. A 1993 graduate of Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Becky was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1994. Throughout her ministry, she has served congregations in Texas and Ohio, most recently as a part-time Support Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Celina, Ohio. We look forward to welcoming Becky, hearing her insights, and exploring together what it means to live generously as people of faith. Please join us!

Grace at Night: Ladies, be sure to join in the fun of conversation, connection, and faith at our second "Grace at Night" on **Tuesday, November 24th**. We gather from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Porch Bar in Mukwonago. Friends welcome! Come and see!

A Thanksgiving Thank-You to Our Walking Group! As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to **thank** everyone who has joined us for our Thursday morning walks this year! It's been wonderful sharing some fresh air, conversation, laughter, and fellowship along the way. Whether you joined us every week or only when your schedule allowed, I'm grateful you were part of the group. Sometimes the best part of a walk isn't how far we go, but the people we get to walk alongside! **Last Thursday** was our final walk together for 2026. After that, we'll take a little winter break and plan to get the group back together in the spring—or whenever warmer weather makes walking together enjoyable again. Until then, may you enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with gratitude, good company, and many blessings. Thank you for making this such a fun and welcoming group. I look forward to hitting the trails together again in the new year! Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! **Pastor Steve**

Midnight Magic Advent Path: As we enter Advent, this season of waiting and hope, you are invited to experience our Advent Path. Take a few quiet moments to reflect, to breathe, and to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ. Each step along the path offers a gentle reminder of God's promise of hope, peace, joy, and love to be a light in the darkness for your journey. Come as you are. Walk slowly. Let your spirit be renewed. **December 5th (after the Midnight Magic parade) from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the Green Space.** Stay for a hot chocolate and fellowship by the campfire.

Friends of Jesus Christmas Children's Gift Collection: This year, our Sunday School will again collect gifts for inner-city Milwaukee children through a program called Friends of Jesus. They are looking for new gifts costing a minimum of $15. Please wrap and place them in the Narthex **through Sunday, December 6th, at 9 a.m.** Info and name tags are on the bulletin boards and in the entryway.

-- Over –

Something New This Advent: Dinner Church & Theology Party! What happens when worship, good food, great conversation, and a little curiosity come together? You get **Theology Party!** This Advent, Mount Olive is trying something new with our midweek gatherings. On December 2nd, 9th, and 16th, we'll gather for Mid-Week Advent worship through Dinner Church. We'll share worship, enjoy a meal, and be fed by God's Word and one another. But we won't stop there! After dinner, we'll continue the evening with **Theology Party**—a relaxed, welcoming opportunity to connect, laugh, share stories, ask questions, and explore how faith connects with everyday life.

Each evening will explore a different Advent theme:

--**December 2nd – HOPE:** Where do you find hope when life gets difficult?
--**December 9th – PEACE:** What does peace look like in a world that rarely slows down?
--**December 16th – JOY:** What makes you laugh, and where do you find joy?

These aren't just conversations for one evening. They invite us to carry these conversations into our homes, with our beloved relationships, and through our prayers during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Not everyone feels comfortable attending a Bible study or speaking about God, but many people have questions about life, relationships, the world, and God. You don't need to have all the answers or even know what questions to ask. Just bring yourself! Advent is a season of waiting, wondering, hoping, and preparing. What better time to gather, share, and explore what God is doing in our lives and in the world around us?

Advent Soup Suppers & Advent Services: We are pleased to announce Advent Soup Suppers serving from 6-6:45 p.m. **on December 2nd, 9th, & 16th,** with Advent Services to follow at 7 p.m. **If you are a cook, please sign up on the bulletin board to bring a crockpot of your favorite soup and/or dessert along. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.**

Come as you are. Bring a friend. Pull up a chair. There's room for everyone at the party! Gather. Be Fed. Connect. Explore. Be Sent. This Advent can be more than about getting ready for Christmas. This Advent can be about growing together as Children of God!

Little Free Pantry/Kitchen Kupboard Food Pantry Needs: Located in the lower level of Mount Olive, we are grateful for the Kitchen Kupboard Food Pantry and their ministry to those in need in our community. Also, *Mount Olive's* ***Little Free Pantry*** is located outside the lower doors of MTO and is available 24 hours a day/7 day a week. Please note the items listed below and drop them off in the basket marked ***Food Pantry***, located in the Narthex**.** Thank you for working to fight food insecurity in our community! **They could use the following items: ketchup, mac and cheese, canned sweet potatoes, jellied cranberries, lunch fruit packages (applesauce, pears, etc.), canned fruit, jarred pickles and olives, and ESPECIALLY bottled juice (orange, grape, and apple).**