



Mount Olive

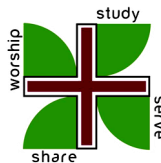
December Worship Opportunities

Worship Times (unless otherwise noted)

Saturdays - 5:30 p.m., Sundays - 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., & Mondays - 6 p.m.

December Services

December 20	Children's Service (FVL) <i>No Advent Worship at Mount Olive</i>	6 p.m.
December 23	Worship	5:30 p.m.
December 24	Worship Christmas Eve Service	8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Service <i>No Evening Worship</i>	9 a.m.
December 30	Worship	5:30 p.m.
December 31	Worship New Year's Eve Service	8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. 6 p.m.
January 1	Worship	6 p.m.



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THIS WEEK

December 17-25, 2017

SUNDAY 3rd Sunday in Advent	8 a.m. - Lord's Supper 9:10-9:25 a.m. - SCRIP Open 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School 9:25 a.m. - Adult Bible Class	10:10-10:25 a.m. - SCRIP Open 10:30 a.m. - Lord's Supper 3 p.m. - Adult Co-Ed Volleyball 7:30 p.m. - Adult Open Basketball
MONDAY	6 p.m. - Lord's Supper	7 p.m. - Church Council
TUESDAY	6:30 a.m. - BC at Mary's 5 p.m. - Building Expansion Committee	6 p.m. - LGP & LP 6:30 p.m. - Handbell Choir
WEDNESDAY	<i>No Bible Class, Advent Worship, or PSI School Early Dismissal</i>	6 p.m. - Children's Christmas Program at FVL
THURSDAY	<i>MOL School Christmas Break Begins</i>	7 p.m. - Voters' Meeting
FRIDAY	6:30 a.m. - Men's BC	7:30 p.m. - Recovery/Peace through Christ
SATURDAY		5:30 p.m. - Worship
NEXT SUNDAY Christmas Eve	8 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Worship <i>No Bible Study, Sunday School, SCRIP, Volleyball, or Basketball</i>	2 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service 4 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service 6 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service
NEXT MONDAY Christmas Day	9 a.m. - Christmas Day Service with communion	<i>Church Office Closed No Evening Worship</i>

OFFERINGS/OTHER INCOME		BUDGET	ACTUAL
Offerings	Week of 12/11/17	\$31,716	\$21,647
Offerings	Year-to-date	\$1,316,492	\$1,256,934
Offerings + Other Income	Year-to-date	\$1,819,036	\$1,757,483
Forward in Faith	Week of 12/11/17		\$165,640
Forward in Faith	Year-to-date		\$704,214

USHERS (December)

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Mike Evers, Captain; Brian Willman; Todd Lettau; Terry Jastrow; Peter Schloff.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - Roger VandenLangenberg, Captain; Brian Zuberbier; Richard Wunderlich; Mark Matz; Ben Liebszeit.

Sunday 10:30 a.m. - Mark Schroeder, Captain; Darion Schroeder; Brian Kirchner; Ken Richmond; Scott Rademacher.

Monday 6:00 p.m. - John Hoh, Captain; Ron Peters, Victor Bode.

GREETERS

This Week: (8:00 a.m.) - Petra Thao, Mark & Carol Schmidt;
(10:30 a.m.) - Jacqueline Dorow, Darwin & Irene Hintz.

Next Week: (8:00 a.m.) - Jerry & Miriam Gronholz, Lynn Page;
(10:30 a.m.) - Corey & Jamie Zorowski, Scott & Lori Plach.

COFFEE CAFÉ

This Week: (8-10 a.m.) - Lueddecke Family; (10 a.m.-noon) - Sarah Raasch, Karen Thomas.

Next Week: (8-10 a.m.) - Self Serve; (10 a.m.-noon) - Self Serve.

AV TEAM

This Week: **December 16** (5:30 p.m.) - David Deng; **December 17** (8 a.m.) - Cody Manske;
December 17 (10:30 a.m.) - Caden Rindt; **December 18** (6 p.m.) - Scott Krueger.

Next Week: **December 23** (5:30 p.m.) - Erick Nason; **December 24** (8 a.m.) - Marcus Medema;
December 24 (10:30 a.m.) - Brad Erickson; **December 25** (6 p.m.) - *No Worship Service.*

ALTAR GUILD (December)

Sandy Kath, Mary Hall, Louise Ebert, Karen Johnson, Betty Flunker.

Announcements

Attendance:

Weekend Services: 933

Saturday (Preschool Christmas Service): 331

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. 285, 10:30 a.m. 196

Monday: 121

Advent Services: 305

10 a.m.: 101

6 p.m.: 204

Baptism: Aiden Grant Suehring, son of Lauren and Bradley Suehring, will be received into Christ's Kingdom of Grace after Saturday's 5:30 p.m. service.

Portraits of Christmas: Come and get acquainted with the people, politics, places, and prophecies that relate to the Christmas story. The Lord had everything ready and in place when that time had fully come to send his Son into the world. During a busy season of the year, slow down and prepare your hearts for Christmas with this brief study. Pastor Sellnow will lead *Portraits of Christmas* on **Sunday, 17th at 9:25 a.m.** in the Church Nave.

A Christian's Use of Psychoactive Medication (*A crutch, a blessing, or a danger?*) is the subject of Sunday's discussion at *Timely Topics, Timeless Truths* taught by Pastor Raasch in the Fellowship Hall at 9:25 a.m. Please join us!

Divine Call Accepted: Pastor Sellnow has accepted his call to serve as a mission pastor at St. Paul's in Adams, WI. A farewell for the Sellnow family will take place on Sunday, January 21 between services. Please keep Pastor Sellnow and his family in your prayers as well as Mount Olive as we begin the process of calling a new pastor.

Sign Up Today for Poinsettias: To help decorate our chancel during Christmas, we will be taking orders for twenty-one poinsettias. There is a sign-up sheet for ordering the poinsettias in the Atrium. The cost is \$24.95 per poinsettia.

On behalf of the Benevolence Committee, we are asking that this month you remember to help the less fortunate by making a contribution to the Benevolence Fund. You will find a special envelope in your weekly offering envelopes. Thank you for your generosity!

LWMS Mission Tree: This year Mount Olive's LWMS has chosen Nepal as the recipient of our mission tree offering. To contribute, please take an envelope from the mission tree in the Atrium, put your donation in the envelope, and place it into the offering plate or the LWMS mailbox in the west hallway. Let's share some of our many blessings with the children of Nepal this Christmas season.

Sub-Contractors Needed: Mount Olive will soon be seeking bids on various components of our building project. If you work for a contractor (or know of a good company) who should receive an invitation to bid, or if you personally have skills in these trades, please contact John Murphy (John.Murphy@miron-construction.com), Jeff Retzlaff (retz@new.rr.com) or Pastor Raasch (pastor.raasch@mountoliveappleton.com).

2018 Offering Envelopes: Your 2018 offering envelopes are now available in the Atrium. Please pick up your 2018 box today, but do not use the 2018 envelopes until January. Envelopes for our public school students are in the Atrium as well. Thank you!

Mount Olive's China Dishes: Mount Olive Ladies Aid has decided to clear the kitchen cupboards of a large portion of our commercial-grade china dishes. Most of the china has Mount Olive stamped in green ink on the back. The china will be available in the Atrium after Sunday church services on **December 17th**. We will be offering 4 or 8 place settings (which include a plate, lunch plate, cup, and saucer) or by the individual plate, lunch plate, cup, or saucer. Also available are a limited number of creamers and sugar bowls. In exchange for the china, Ladies Aid is looking for a free-will offering that will allow us to make a monetary donation to the *Forward in Faith* Campaign.

Stock Donations: If you are planning to make a charitable donation to Mount Olive by transferring stocks or mutual funds, please inform the finance office at 739-9194 or finance.office@mountoliveappleton.com. This will allow Mount Olive to properly record your gift on your offering statement. (The donor is often not identified when Mount Olive receives stock transfers, thus making it difficult to give the donor a record of their tax-deductible charitable gift.)

**FOR TO US
A SON IS GIVEN**





**Forward
IN Faith**

Building for the next generation

Mount Olive has now approved a building expansion project consisting of the following components: a new gym, early childhood wing, space for a first floor kitchen and reconstructed parking lot. God-willing, this project will be completed by October, 2018 at a cost of approximately \$4.8 million. Remodeling on

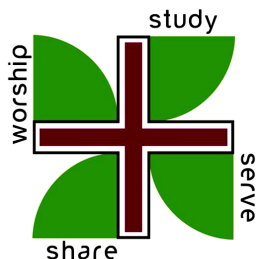
the current gym into a commons area, fellowship hall into additional classrooms, moving the kitchen to the main level, and locker room renovation will be postponed until 2021. (Volunteer efforts may allow that work to be done sooner.)

- **As of December 11th**, the amount pledged toward Forward in Faith (including matching funds) totals over **\$3.336 million**. We are grateful to God for the generosity he has worked in the hearts of his people!
- **Donors** who are in a position to make a lump sum gift in 2017 or 2018 (rather than spreading it over 3 years) are encouraged to do so. Such gifts will reduce the amount of money we need to borrow for our construction loan.
- **Online giving** is a convenient way to make your Forward in Faith offerings. Go to www.mountoliveappleton.com and click on “Give.” You can also pick up an authorization form from the church office.

Accounting for Year-End Contributions

If you are planning to make a year-end contribution, please note that any contribution made using a 2017 envelope will be treated as a contribution in 2017 for tax reporting purposes. Any contribution using a 2018 envelope, will be treated as a 2018 contribution. Forward in Faith contributions made on or before Sunday December 31st will be recorded as a 2017 contribution. Please note how our counters and Board of Finance will report contributions:

Contribution Made In:	On or before 12/31/17, treated as:	On or after 1/1/18, treated as:
2017 Offering Envelope	2017 contribution	2017 contribution
2018 Offering Envelope	2018 contribution	2018 contribution
Forward in Faith Envelope	2017 contribution	2018 contribution



Mount Olive

Nominees for 2018 Leadership Positions

All positions are 2-year terms.

Elections to be held at the Voters' Meeting on
December 21st at 7 p.m.

Board of Member Ministry:

(5 vacancies)

Larry Ciriacks
Doug Enter*
Randy Kreuscher*
Tom Medema*
Carl Rudolph

Board of Church Properties:

(3 vacancies)

Brad Beyer*
Mike Crubel
Dan Fick*

Board of Education:

(3 vacancies)

Paul Knoll*
Jeff Schultz
Dave Wenzel*

Board of Evangelism:

(2 vacancies)

Ian Schaefer
Ken Wallace*

Board of Finance:

(2 vacancies)

Daryl Ohland*
Randy Schauman

Board of Worship:

(2 vacancies)

Mark Arnold*
Chad Krowas*

Board of Youth Ministry:

(2 vacancies)

Ryan Neff*
Brandon Vandenhoof*

Board of Stewardship:

(2 vacancies)

Ben Haupt
Pete Nelson*

Vice President:

Todd Ziegler

Treasurer:

Jay Vanderhoof*

Secretary:

Greg Schmidt*

* Individuals with asterisks behind their names are current board members who have agreed to renew their terms and serve another two years on the board.



FVL News

THE FVL CHOIRS invite you to attend their annual Christmas concert on Sunday 12/17 at 4 pm. The concert is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be taken.

FVL MUSICFEST 2018, will be held 1/28 with performances beginning at noon. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. Musicfest is currently seeking items or basket donations for the Silent Auction. Interested in helping? Find out more at www.fvlhs.org/fvl-musicfest or call Megan Beyer at 920-560-5122. Please bring donations to the FVL School Office by 1/5.

FVL IS HIRING FOR THREE STAFF POSITIONS. Applications are being accepted for an Academic Resource Center Assistant, a Communications Assistant and for a 2nd shift Custodian. Visit fvlhs.org for detailed job descriptions and applications.

SCHOOL OFFICE & SCRIP

CHRISTMAS BREAK OFFICE HOURS:

Thursday, 12/21 - Friday, 12/22 - OPEN 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Monday, 12/25 - Tuesday, 12/26 - CLOSED

Wednesday, 12/27 - OPEN 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thursday, 12/28 - Tuesday, 1/2 - CLOSED

Wednesday, 1/3 - OPEN 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thursday, 1/4 - Normal Hours Resume





WELS News & Notes

Inter-synodical Meetings Continue



On Nov. 28-30, representatives from the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS), the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) met in Jacksonville, Fla., for the sixth annual meeting for informal discussions. The main topics covered were the Doctrine of the Call and a comparative review of the recently published catechisms by WELS and the LCMS. The last version of the catechism for the ELS (2001) also was used in discussing the new editions of the explanations to the Small Catechism. In this 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation we especially treasure the work of Dr. Martin Luther in composing his Small and Large Catechisms of 1529.

The three synod presidents provided updates on the respective work of their church bodies. Challenges and blessings also were noted in respect to pastoral training, the filling of congregational vacancies, and the relationships with international churches. The LCMS is part of the ILC (International Lutheran Conference), while the ELS and WELS are members of the CELC (Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference).

None of the participants at these informal meetings anticipate a restoration of church fellowship between ELS/WELS and the LCMS in the near future. Yet, the sessions themselves were once again helpful as areas of agreement, as well as specific differences, were addressed in a cordial but candid manner. The representatives of the three synods have decided to gather once again in the fall of 2018.

Also in November, representatives of WELS and the ELS met with counterparts from the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). The CLC was formed in the 1950s when a number of congregations left the Wisconsin Synod because they believed that the synod was not acting quickly enough to break fellowship with the Missouri Synod. The meeting was a continuation of formal doctrinal discussions intended to determine if fellowship between the synods can be restored.

In 2015 the group had composed a document entitled “A Joint Statement on the Termination of Fellowship.” Agreement on this joint statement is seen as a necessary first step in the doctrinal discussions. The ELS convention approved the statement in 2016; the WELS convention approved it last summer. The CLC convention discussed it and recommended further study by its pastoral conferences. The CLC will consider the statement again at its next convention.

Even if the Joint Statement is adopted by all three synods, other issues remain to be more fully discussed and resolved before fellowship can be reestablished. We pray for God’s blessings on these efforts to establish fellowship based on a full agreement in doctrine.

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder