



# MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2024

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## Do Whatever for the Least

Since there's nothing new under the sun, there's always a lot of talk about greatness. People strive for greatness in their careers, relationships, and even in recreational hobbies! There's no shortage of guidance and advice on how to be great, how to be top dog, but Jesus, as he so often does, flips the script on what true greatness looks like. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus paints a powerful image of final judgment, and it's not about how many achievements you've collected, it's about faith and it's about being alive and bearing fruit.

Jesus describes judgment and the final separation of humanity like a shepherd dividing sheep from goats. The sheep inherit the kingdom prepared for them, not because of power, personal merit, or self-defined greatness, but because they believed in Jesus with that saving faith being evidenced by something unassuming: they cared for the least. In faith for Jesus and love for neighbor, they fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick, spent time with the imprisoned. These aren't grand gestures or large-scale efforts, but ordinary acts of love and mercy which, in addition to a simple confession of faith, identify them as Christ's own.

It sure is easy to miss the significance of these small acts, isn't it? We're just so busy all the time! When we think of making a difference, often times, we do think in terms of large-scale initiatives and grand actions which grab attention. But here, Jesus reminds us that a real and really meaningful difference in someone's life is often made in the moments which don't catch our attention. "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," says Jesus in Matthew 25:40. This means that when you offer a meal to someone who's hungry, you're feeding Jesus. When you sit beside someone who's lonely or needs a friend, you are sitting with and welcoming Jesus. When you help someone who can offer you nothing in return, you are serving Christ Jesus himself!

There's a humility in this kind of love that echoes the humility of our Savior, Jesus. As Jesus humbled himself to serve us by going to the cross, so are we who are made new in his likeness called to humble ourselves in service to others. And there's no need to wait for the perfect time or the perfect person! The right time is now! The right person is whoever! In fact, the people we least expect – the overlooked, the marginalized, the broken – are the ones who need us to give them Jesus' love the most.

We might hesitate in this department because we feel we don't have enough to give. Maybe we don't have time, resources, or energy to help in the ways we'd like. But Jesus doesn't ask for perfection or excess. Jesus just loves to see the forms your love takes, even if it feels small in our estimation. A simple gesture, a kind word, a little time, a bottle of water – these small acts when done as a matter of routine habit, add up to something far greater than the sum of their parts because they reflect the loving heart of Christ.

So, as you go about your daily routines, remember that opportunities to serve Jesus by doing whatever, even for the least, are everywhere. They come in the faces of those we meet, especially those in need. Let's not look past or over them. Whatever you do, even the smallest thing, for the least of these, you do for the Lord of all creation. May we serve Jesus in the least and find that in loving others, we are loving Christ himself.

Pastor Gawel



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## Membership Changes

### Deaths

- \* James Wolfer passed on September 16, 2024

### Transfer Out

- \* Jenna Broehm to St. Peter, Appleton, WI
- \* Justin & Kayla Gunderson to Immanuel Lutheran, Greenville, WI
- \* Emily (Flatau) Holz to Hope Lutheran, Irmo, NC

### Remove

- \* Alyssa Thiel

## Memorials & Gifts

### Forward in Faith 2

- \$25 Paul & Kathy Kolell in memory of Nancy Lou Voss
- \$20 Dan & Jerelyn Grunwald in memory of Ellen Wolfrath
- \$20 Nancy Wunderlich in memory of Ellen Wolfrath
- \$25 Betty Flunker in memory of Ellen Wolfrath
- \$50 Mark & Carol Schmidt in memory of Ellen Wolfrath
- \$25 Doug & Diane Enter in memory of Ellen Wolfrath
- \$25 Jerome & Sue Laabs in memory of Ellen Wolfrath
- \$25 Tom & Gretchen Sommers in memory of Ellen Wolfrath
- \$20 Pat Bellin in memory of Leta Krueger

### General Fund

- \$20 Kay Zuberbier in memory of Nancy Voss

### Ministerial Trust

- \$20 Ruth Maves in memory of Ellen Wolfrath

### Organ Fund

- \$20 Roger & Bonnie VandenLangenberg in memory of Ellen Wolfrath

### Tuition Assistance

- \$30 Ruth Maves in memory of Ellen Wolfrath
- \$25 Tom & Gretchen Sommers in memory of Ellen Wolfrath



A Family  
Growing  
in Christ

## Mount Olive Parenting Workshop

You're invited to join us in the Mount Olive Commons on October 5 from 8:30-11:30 AM for a parenting workshop presented by Pastor Gawel titled "Three Kingdoms Collide: God, Parents, Children." This workshop will explore the dynamic relationship between faith, parenting, and child development, providing insights and practical tools to navigate these vital connections.

Whether you're a new parent or have years of experience, this event will offer valuable perspectives to help strengthen your family's spiritual foundation. We hope to see you there! Continental breakfast will be provided. Childcare will not be provided.



## Church Council Report from September 16, 2024 Meeting

### Pastors' Report

Pastor Raasch: Mount Olive Family Reunion coming up. Life Group leader training this week.

Pastor Priewe: New round of Family Growing in Christ started, with 20 attending. New school families and Catechism is back in swing. Going to Madison for Josie to have an elective therapy session.

Pastor Gawel: Catechism and PSI are starting, approximately 90 attendees. First of 3 Valley Teen nights was held, the next one will be at Mount Olive on November 3rd – topic is being a Christian in a democracy. Parenting workshop on October 5th. First meeting of Northern Wisconsin District Commission on Discipleship met. Continue to pray for students and teachers as the school year progresses.

### Financial Report

#### Reviewed August 2024 financial report:

- August offerings were \$8,731 higher than budgeted.
- Tuition was \$23,693 lower than budgeted.
- Other income was \$2,751 higher than budgeted.
- Total income was \$12,210 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses, before FVL/Synod distributions, were \$19,941 lower than budgeted.
- The net income for August, including FVL/Synod distributions of \$26,300 was \$162,055. This compares to a budgeted net income of \$154,324. The result is \$7,731 favorable to budget for the month.

Note: Balance sheet amounts are subject to change pending year-end audit entries.

#### Reviewed YTD (8 weeks ending August 31, 2024) financial report:

- Offerings are \$17,400 higher than budgeted.
- Total income is \$10,358 higher than budgeted.
- Total expenses are \$13,297 lower than budgeted.
- YTD net income is \$43,753, which compares to the budgeted YTD income of \$20,098. The result is \$23,655 favorable to budget.

#### Forward in Faith 2 cost tracking update—Operations Manager Paul Kolell reported that:

- In the month of August \$24,528 was received in gifts/offerings.
- At the end of August there was \$288,904 Forward in Faith funds available (of which \$230,000 has been invested in US Treasury Accounts). After subtracting a reserve for October and January interest/debt payments of \$45,019, there's \$243,885 available for additional debt payments. These funds will accumulate until Bond D is due in April 2025.
- Our net debt remaining (bond debt less funds available) stands at \$1,143,193.

#### Banking Update:

- Treasurer Tim Weihing informed the group that \$100,000 of Forward in Faith funds was deposited into a 4.8% six-month US Treasury Account at Nicolet Bank. A total of \$230,000 of Forward in Faith funds has now been put into US Treasury Accounts at Nicolet Bank.

#### Operations Manager Update:

- Paul Kolell informed the group that there will be a 3.5% increase in the health insurance renewal rate through WELS VEBA Group Health Care. This is a geographically adjusted rate that's favorable when compared to an overall standard rate increase of 7.0%. A 5.0% increase was budgeted.

#### Annual Audit:

- Operations Manager Paul Kolell updated the group on the progress of the annual audit. CliftonLarsonAllen LLP has provided Fiscal 2024 Audit Draft Financial Statements, Letters, and Supporting Documents for review and sign-off.

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## Church Council Report from August 19, 2024 Meeting—continued from pg. 3

### New Business

- A new cafeteria staff person started today.
- Sanctuary Updating—Consulted a company for suggestions for improvements that could be made. Nothing structural, but update options that could be brought to the congregation. Preliminary at this point. Working with audio/visual company to address microphone and atrium TV issues.
- Update on Staffing, scheduling call meeting—Mrs. Sehloff is retiring and Mrs. Brown is expecting a baby and will be stepping away at the end of the school year. Looking to have a call meeting on October 16th.
- Organ funds—Thanks to volunteers our invoice came in about \$10,000 less than anticipated.
- Care Committee for Called Workers—A draft is being prepared to establish a committee to support our called workers and their families. This includes spiritual, professional, physical, and emotional needs.

### Announcements

- Next EC meeting – Tuesday, October 8th 8:30 am
- Next Church Council meeting – Monday, September 21st 7:00 pm

**Everyone is invited to join us for Mount Olive's Fall Festival on Saturday, October 19th, from 2-4 PM. Fall Festival is fun for all ages, including events like Trunk or Treat, crafts for kids, carnival games, delicious food like donuts and caramel apples, and hot drinks like cocoa and apple cider!**



If you've never been to one before, Trunk or Treat is a fun event where people "dress up" their cars and themselves in whatever theme they choose, and then hand out candy to "trunk or treaters" as the kids walk from car to car in the Mount Olive parking lot. It's basically like kids going door to door trick-or-treating, but instead of houses, they're going from trunk to trunk!

We have a lot of kids that come to the event and go Trunk or Treating, so we need a lot of trunks to make the event as fun as possible for those who attend. If you'd like to see some decorating ideas, Google "trunk or treat ideas" and you can see others' creativity! Mount Olive members are invited to get creative and have some fun with their decorations (although please make sure they are appropriate decorations! Think creative/fun instead of scary/morbid). We had close to 30 "trunks" at our event last year, and everyone had a great time! ***If you're interested in hosting a trunk this year, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Atrium starting October 1st.***

If you'd like to help out, but won't be able to make it to the event, **we'll also be accepting candy donations, or gift card/money donations** so we can make sure everyone is amply supplied to handle large groups of trunk-or-treaters. Donate candy into the tub in the Atrium throughout the month of October.



### Stay Connected

Each week, Mount Olive sends out a weekly email called the *Mount Olive Connected*. This email contains the Mount Olive Minute, Mount Olive news, updates and links. If you are not receiving the *Mount Olive Connected* emails, please send an email including your first and last name to [communications@mountoliveappleton.com](mailto:communications@mountoliveappleton.com).



## Women's Ministry Fall Retreat & Afterglow

God again blessed this year's fall retreat with bringing women of all ages together. We learned how important it is for us to walk together during our different seasons of life. Our presenters did a great job pointing us to Jesus as our perfect example of being a servant and loving us so we can in turn love and serve one another. An extra bonus we got to spend more time with each other during the "afterglow." God blessed us with beautiful weather!



Gloria Knoll, Mandy Ehlke, Beth Flatau, Kerri Kleist, Dawn Gunderson, Julia McLister, Jodi Slominsky—Women's Ministry Committee



If you missed connecting with one another at the retreat, you have another opportunity to connect and serve our community at our **Make and Give night on Tuesday, October 29 at 6 PM.**

## Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS)

We had a busy and productive meeting in September and received news from the LWMS International Convention Sioux Falls, SD this past June. We also heard Paperland Circuit updates and shared lots of mission news. Our next meeting is October 8, 2024 and we will be deciding on projects for our LWMS Christmas Tree and also talking about mission recipients for our "Heart for Missions Bake Sale" in February. All women of Mount Olive are welcome!



The Paperland Circuit Fall Rally is on October 12th at St. Matthew, Appleton. The theme is "Sharing Love to Share Jesus" and the speakers for the day are Gary and Beth Evans who will share their joys and challenges working at the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM). Please note...men are welcome also! The Hope Center and Pillars are located on the St. Matthew campus, so tours of these facilities are being offered following the rally. If you didn't sign up for the rally and still would like to attend, please contact Louise Kesting.

If you are interested in going to the 2025 International LWMS Convention, June 26-29, 2025 in Tulsa, OK and would be a first-time attendee, you will be eligible for a drawing to reduce your expenses. This is Paperland Circuit's "Send One Sister Program" (SOS), which is a grant to help reduce convention expenses for women who have never attended a convention. Applications are on the LWMS bulletin board across from mailboxes H and I. You must be present at the rally on October 12th to be eligible for the drawing.

**We are excited to once again partner with SISTERS on October 29, at 6:00 PM, in the Commons for a "Make & Give Night"!** The evening will include a soup supper, blanket tying and lots of time for making new friends. We will be tying blankets and donating them to the Outagamie County Foster Care Closet. Watch the church bulletin and Facebook for more updates. This is an event for all women of Mount Olive. Please come and bring a friend!

### Dates to remember...

- LWMS Meeting – October 8, 2024, 6:00 PM, Fireside Room
- Paperland Circuit Fall Rally – October 12, 2024, St. Matthew, Appleton
- "Make and Give Night" with SISTERS – October 29, 2024, 6:00 PM, Commons
- LWMS Meeting - November 12, 2024, 6:00 PM, Fireside Room
- 62nd Annual LWMS Convention – June 26-29, 2025, Tulsa, Oklahoma



3rd Annual

# MAKE & GIVE NIGHT

Tuesday, October 29 at 6 PM  
in the Commons

Join Mount Olive Women's Ministry  
for a soup supper followed by  
making blankets for **Outagamie  
County Foster Care Closet**.

Sign up in the Atrium or on  
Mount Olive's website



## Make & Give Night—Oct. 29, 6 PM

The evening will include a soup supper, blanket tying and lots of time for making new friends. We will be donating the blankets to the Outagamie County Foster Care Closet. They also have a need for hygiene products, gently used children's clothing and winter gear (ranging in size from 2T-XL), diapers and wipes. If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them along. This is an event for all women of Mount Olive.

## The Hope Center-Appleton "Story of Hope"

### *Always An Opportunity to Share Christ*

It is said, it's impossible to look into the eyes of someone who God does not love. With each shift at The Hope Center, God gives us this opportunity. In addition to distributing health and hygiene items to 200 households each month, volunteers and pastors have many opportunities to share "hope's full assurance."

Recently, a young bilingual couple were received as new clients. Their unborn child presented the opportunity to talk about baptism: not just for the baby but for dad! The monthly supplies that this new family was seeking, opened the door to "hope's full assurance" that this young family yearns for: the expectation of "full life" with the Lord (John 10:10).

We're so grateful for your support of The Hope Center-Appleton ministry. Donations of money and material goods continue to grow. There's much more we can do, with your support. Find us at [www.hope-center.org](http://www.hope-center.org) or phone 920-739-0039. Donate online or access a list of items that may be donated by clicking on the "Interested in Helping" button.



## Church Library News

**Adult Nonfiction:** *Lutheran Cyclopaedia: A Concise In-Home Reference for the Christian Family*, edited by Erwin L. Lueker. The book lists 246 contributors. Although this is not a new book (reprint 1984), it contains many subjects of interest that are still relevant today. Each topic covered in this large reference work gives a short article of information. Plus, extensive cross references and bibliographies, included in many of the entries,

lends help toward further study. A sample of topics covered include: Women in Christian society, Predestination, Jehovah's Witnesses, Witchcraft, Psychotherapy, Biblical archaeology, Adoptionism, Absolution, Occultism, Synergism, and Gifts of the Spirit.

**Internet Link to the Church Library:** Go to [www.mountoliveappleton.com](http://www.mountoliveappleton.com), click the "Member's Page" heading found at the top of the homepage. Then within the "Quick Links" section on the right, select "Church Library Access." You will be taken to the church library's website where you can perform a custom search or simply click on "New Materials" to see what's been recently added to the library.

**Return all materials to the "Book Return" slot at the check out counter.**

**Come Check Us Out!!**





**Expecting a Baby or Know Someone Who Is?**

Mount Olive’s Cradle Roll program has materials for expectant parents to aid them in preparing for and to begin the spiritual training of their child - even before their child is born! Whether the parents are new to the faith or long-time Christians, this will be helpful for them!

If you are expecting or know someone who is, please contact the Church Office at 920-739-9194 or speak to one of our pastors, so that we can get the materials to you as soon as possible.

**Coffee Café**



September—December sign up is ready! Please sign up by scanning the QR code or going to the Mount Olive website!



Thank you to everyone who has helped out, it is so appreciated!

If you need a refresher or training, please contact Jenni Klemp [jklemp31@gmail.com](mailto:jklemp31@gmail.com).

	Early 8-9:45 AM	Late 9:45-11:30 AM
<b>Oct. 6</b>	Nicole & Chase Mignon	OPEN
<b>Oct. 13</b>	Brooklyn Schulz Chase Mignon	Brooklyn Schulz Joan Mueller
<b>Oct. 20</b>	Medema family	Waurio family
<b>Oct. 27</b>	OPEN	Mielke family

**Mount Olive SCRIP**

How does SCRIP work? You purchase physical or electronic gift cards through our program for everyday expenses like gas, groceries, dining out, clothing, etc. These gift cards are sold to Mount Olive at a discounted price, and 60% of the rebate is distributed annually to your account based on your chosen option on your enrollment form. Options include: tuition credit, hot lunch credit (new in 2024), Tuition Assistance Fund, General Fund, Forward in Faith 2 Fund, cash payout (a check is issued to you in June with your earnings for the previous year), participants also have the option to earn funds for another family (i.e., grandparents can purchase SCRIP and apply it toward their grandchildren’s accounts.)



To view the available retailers, go to [RaiseRight.com](https://RaiseRight.com) or download the app. If you have any questions or need help getting started, please contact Carol at [scrip@mountoliveappleton.com](mailto:scrip@mountoliveappleton.com).

**Apple Valley Food Pantry**

The pantry's next collection date is Saturday, October 12.

The following list of items are needed: Healthy adult cereals, hamburger/chicken/tuna helper meals, mac n cheese, pasta sauce, chunky soups, chilis, stews, boxed and bagged potato side dishes, peanut butter, jam/jelly, 24 oz jars applesauce, canned fruits (pears, fruit cocktail and mandarins), canned carrots, pork n beans/baked beans, bath tissue, paper towel, hand soap, dish soap and laundry soap.

Thank you for your support of the pantry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.





**FOX CITIES JOINT REFORMATION  
WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP**

A Joint Reformation Service will be held on Sunday, October 27 at 4:00 PM in the Fox Valley Lutheran High School auditorium. Rev. Robert Balza is the guest preacher.

All Federation members are invited to celebrate our gospel heritage restored to us in the Reformation of the 1500's. We are saved by Grace alone, by Faith alone, and according to Scripture alone.

Light refreshments & fellowship will follow the service.

Please join us for this special worship opportunity!



- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>October 8</b>  | <b>Carol Wolfer, 81</b>     |
| <b>October 9</b>  | <b>Judy Korth, 79</b>       |
| <b>October 12</b> | <b>Karen Radtke, 83</b>     |
| <b>October 12</b> | <b>Tony Kubek, 89</b>       |
| <b>October 12</b> | <b>Fred Zwicker, 90</b>     |
| <b>October 16</b> | <b>Carl Rudolph, 79</b>     |
| <b>October 22</b> | <b>Jeanine Koehler, 94</b>  |
| <b>October 24</b> | <b>Dorie Wedell, 86</b>     |
| <b>October 25</b> | <b>Bob Luedtke, 76</b>      |
| <b>October 29</b> | <b>Sharon Gunderson, 84</b> |

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*[Click here](#) to go to our website calendar for more details and the most up-to-date information.*

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| September 28-30 | SCRIP Sunday                                |
| September 30    | No School                                   |
| October 5       | Parenting Workshop, 8:30 AM                 |
| October 12      | Apple Valley Food Pantry Pick-up            |
| October 19      | Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat, 2-4 PM    |
| October 24-25   | No School                                   |
| October 26-28   | New Member Welcome                          |
| October 27      | FVL Reformation Service, 4 PM               |
| October 29      | Women's Ministry "Make N' Give Night", 6 PM |
| November 2      | Fall Clean-Up Day, 8-11 AM                  |
| November 3      | Valley Teen Night at Mount Olive, 6 PM      |
| November 8      | No School                                   |
| November 9      | Apple Valley Food Pantry Pick-up            |
| November 27-29  | No School, Thanksgiving Break               |
| November 27     | Thanksgiving Service, 6 PM                  |
| November 28     | Thanksgiving Service, 9 AM                  |
| November 28-29  | Church Office Closed                        |

