



*Mount Olive* EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

# MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2023

920.739.9194 • 930 E. Florida Ave., Appleton, WI 54911 • [www.mountoliveappleton.com](http://www.mountoliveappleton.com)

## A Message for Every Language

***“We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts. 2:11)***

As I write these words, I'm sitting inside the international airport in Bangkok, Thailand. All around me I see faces that look different from me, speaking words I don't understand. It's a veritable cacophony of unknown languages. And I find myself thinking, “I wonder if this is what Babel (Genesis 11) sounded like?” Imagine, the whole world suddenly speaking in different tongues. Talk about instant confusion, not to mention suspicion of others. (“Are those people talking about me? Can I trust that foreigner? I better shy away from that stranger.”) These are some of the reactions we might have when we see people who look and sound different from us.



But even though language can be something that separates people from each other, it can also be used as a tool to bring people together—when the language that is spoken is proclaiming the wonders of God. Isn't that what happened at the first Pentecost (Acts. 2)? What brought people together on that day was not merely that the apostles were suddenly communicating in the people's native languages. No, what united the people in Jerusalem was the message the Apostles were proclaiming. The apostles were “*declaring the wonders of God.*” In that situation, the wonders of God undoubtedly included the good news that Jesus of Nazareth had been raised from the grave, guaranteeing eternal life for all believers. It's that message which still unites people today, regardless of what language they speak.

Whenever possible, WELS missionaries work to learn the native language of the people they are sent to serve. It helps them build a bond with people they are living among. But in the end, it's not the language or the dialect or the accent that connects people to God and each other. It's the gospel—the good news that God loved a world full of sinners enough to give his Son to live and die in our place to make us members of his family, for time and for eternity.

As you think about people speaking different languages around the world, keep our WELS missionaries in your prayers, as they seek to bring the Good News to distant lands. And look for opportunities to share with the people in your life “the wonders of God”, in whatever language you speak.

Your fellow ambassador for Christ,  
Pastor Raasch



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A Family  
Growing  
in Christ

## Memorials & Gifts

### Forward in Faith 2

\$55	David & Janet Pelzl in honor of 55 years of marriage
\$25	Carl & Marilyn Rudolph in memory of Donn Komschlies
\$20	Jerry & Audrey Greve in memory of Jill Wunderlich
\$25	Mae Schrab in memory of Jill Wunderlich
\$30	Al & Deb Vetting in memory of Jill Wunderlich
\$405	Family & Friends in memory of Lillian Court
\$25	Kay Zuberbier in memory of Lillian Court
\$25	Tom & Elaine Bartel in memory of Lillian Court
\$20	Jerome & Sue Laabs in memory of Lillian Court
\$25	Richard & Victoria Wunderlich in memory of Jill Wunderlich

### Ministerial Student Trust Fund

\$20	Friends & Family in memory of Don Knuth
\$25	Ken & Arline Kolander in memory of DuWayne Marquardt

### General Fund

\$20	Pat Bellin in memory of Margaret Rehfeldt
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### Tuition Assistance

\$215	Friends & Family in memory of Bill Juen
\$35	Carl & Marilyn Rudolph in memory of Bill Juen
\$50	Dan & Leslie Voss in memory of Bill Juen

### Mount Olive School

\$25	Mae Schrab in memory of Laura Nason's father, Loren Dittman
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## Membership Changes

### Baptisms

- \* Zeke Timothy Dunham, son of Steven & Rebecca Dunham, was baptized on January 15, 2023

### Deaths

- \* Shirley Schutt passed away on January 17, 2023

### Adult Confirmation

- \* Rachel Alanko
- \* Jeremy & Ashley Briggs (2 children)
- \* Kelly Carow (2 children)
- \* Deborah DeBruin
- \* Jason & Jessica Emerick (1 child)
- \* Raina Engle (2 children)
- \* George & Lori Gosz
- \* Collin Ketchum
- \* Tom Tillman

### Transfer In

- \* Rev. Joe & Jackie Gawel (2 children) from Victory Lutheran, Lexington, KY
- \* Taylor Schabo from St. Paul Lutheran, Stephenville, WI
- \* Jason & Julie Wheelock (2 children) from Bethany Lutheran, Appleton, WI

### Transfer Out

- \* Brad & Megan Beck (2 children) to St. Paul Lutheran, Appleton, WI
- \* Rev. Nathan & Rachel Wordell (1 child) to St. John's on the Hill, Milwaukee, WI



## Church Council Report from January 16, 2022 Meeting

### Pastors' Report

Pastor Gawel This is the first Church Council meeting Pastor has joined at Mount Olive. Pastor appreciates the warm welcome he and his family received by the Mount Olive staff and congregation.

Pastor Raasch had a productive meeting in Thailand with the Asia One team. This is the first time Pastor has been to Thailand in three years (pre-covid). There is a change in leadership for Asia One with Steve Witte now leading after Stephen Wiesenauer took a position with (WELS) Friends Network.

### Staff/Congregation News

Holly Dannecker and Rachel Brown accepted calls to join Mount Olive Lutheran School.

Please keep Mr. Nate Gartner in your prayers as he considers his call to Luther High School in Onalaska, WI.

### Financial Report

#### Reviewed December 2022 financial report:

- December offerings were \$28,659 higher than budgeted.
- Tuition was \$9,327 lower than budgeted.
- Other income was \$564 lower than budgeted.
- Total income was \$18,768 higher than budgeted.
- Total expenses, before FVL/Synod distributions, were \$11,690 lower than budgeted.
- The net loss for December, including FVL/Synod distributions of \$30,346 was \$22,234. This compares to a budgeted net loss of \$52,692. The result is \$30,458 favorable to budget for the month.

#### Reviewed YTD (26 weeks ending December 2022) financial report:

- Offerings are \$4,620 lower than budgeted.
- Total income is \$42,891 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses are \$34,648 lower than budgeted.
- YTD net loss is \$50,864, which compares to the budgeted YTD loss of \$42,621. The result is \$8,243 lower than budgeted.

#### Forward in Faith 2 cost tracking update from Assistant Treasurer Fred Strey:

- Assistant Treasurer Fred Strey reported that at the end of December 2022, total Forward in Faith 2 receipts amount to \$1,811,055 of which \$1,672,540 came from pledges and related offerings, and \$138,515 came from other sources.
- Assistant Treasurer Fred Strey reported that at the end of December 2022, total Member Pledges received were \$1,329,597 which is 80.4% of the three-year pledge goal of \$1,653,030.
- Assistant Treasurer Fred Strey reported that at the end of December 2022 total Forward in Faith debt is \$1,798,092.
- Assistant Treasurer Fred Strey reported that there are sufficient funds to make a \$25,000 bank note prepayment, leaving a balance on the note of \$275,000. The prepayment was approved by the Board.

#### Banking Update

- Assistant Treasurer Fred Strey suggested moving more money from the Community First Money Market account into Certificates of Deposit (CD). The Board approved moving \$50,000 into a 4.30% 8-month CD and moving \$50,000 into a 4.55% 16-month CD.

Pastor Raasch asked for an update on why tuition is below budget. Paul Kolell shared that part of the reason is a result of the timing of payments. There were fewer people paying up front compared to prior years. In addition, fees get paid before tuition, so tuition payments were delayed in some situations. We expect tuition to start catching up in the coming months. Tuition will likely still be below budget at the end of year as a few students left Mount Olive, who were enrolled earlier in the year.

*Continued on pg 4*



## Church Council Report—continued

### New Business

1) Sanctuary lighting proposal—Suburban Electric provided a quote on new recessed lighting, wall sconce lighting, and the organ track head lighting. The church council discussed an option to retrofit current light fixtures to increase brightness instead of replacing the fixtures. The Church Council is waiting for the estimate to retrofit, which could be available later this week.

2) Tuition committee resolution—Jeff Schultz read the resolution to Establish a Tuition Committee. The formation of this committee will require approval from the Mount Olive voters as this will amend the Church Constitution Bylaws.

After a minor amendment, a motion was made and seconded to approve the Resolution to Establish a Tuition Committee and bring this resolution to the next Voters' Meeting. Motion carried.

### Announcements

- Next EC meeting - Monday, February 6th, 8am
- Next Church Council meeting - Monday, February 20th, 7pm

Mount Olive will conduct worship services which are designed with our guests, new members, and returning members in mind. Attending a worship service after being away for months or even years, can feel awkward for some. But an atmosphere of God's love, coupled with a relevant message from God's word for both children and adults, along with some friendly smiles and warm handshakes, can make all the difference in the world. Whether you are the one being welcomed, or you are the one who's doing the welcoming, please plan to gather with the Mount Olive family on Welcome Weekend.



### Church Library News

**Adult Nonfiction:** *Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success*, by Sharla Fritz. In our success-worshipping society, our failures can make us feel worthless. We might even wonder if God can bring anything good out of our mistake-riddled attempts and see past our mediocre existences. In this book, the author thoughtfully examines the Biblical stories of eight far from perfect men and women including Joseph,

Rahab, and Peter. Like us, their lives overflowed with blunders, failures, struggles, and sin. Why would God include these stories of mess-ups and mistakes in the Bible? Answer: because they show us the power of His transformative grace .... God stuck with those eight Biblical people, nurtured them, forgave them, and helped them to do His good work. This book reminds us that status, worth, or success in life does not depend on our flawed opinion of ourselves, nor that of others. God's definition of success is nothing like the world's. God can take all of our missteps and make them into miracles. He redeems failure for His glory and frees us from our guilt and shame.

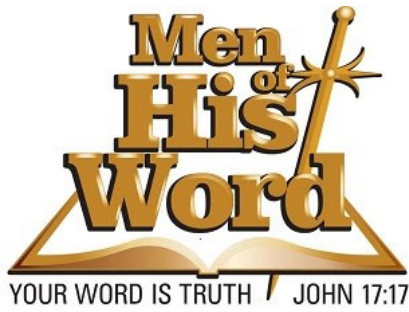
**Internet Link to the Church Library:** Go to [www.mountoliveappleton.com](http://www.mountoliveappleton.com), click the "Member's Page" heading found at the top of the homepage. Then within the "Quick Links" section on the right, select "Church Library Access." You will be taken to the church library's 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!!***







## 2023 Oshkosh Men of His Word Conference

MAN UP: in a man down world

Saturday February 18, 2023

7:15 AM – 3:30 PM

Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center

1 N. Main Street in Oshkosh, WI

- Registration is OPEN at [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org)—Paper registration forms are available in the atrium.
- Space is limited to the first 650 registrants.
- A day spent worshipping God and bonding with our Christian brothers.
  - ◇ Pastor Dan Solofra (CrossWalk Lutheran Church in Laveen, Arizona) will be the keynote speaker.
  - ◇ Koine' will lead us in song worship.
  - ◇ 16 heart-hitting, soul-searching sessions based on God's Word
  - ◇ Continental breakfast and buffet lunch
  - ◇ Same flexible schedule as previous years with multiple/staggered lunch times

### LWMS

Once again...thank you, Mount Olive for your faithfulness and dedication in sharing God's word through mission outreach. Because of your generosity, LWMS received \$3,000 in donations for our Christmas Mission Tree Project, for the Vulnerable Children's Fund which is helping feed the students attending the Lutheran Church of Central Africa schools in Lusaka, Zambia.

This donation will help over 600 African students severely affected by food shortages. Join me in thanking our Lord!



Our annual **"Heart for Missions Bake Sale"** is almost here. We will be offering baked items for sale before and after each church service on **February 4, 5, 6**. Please consider helping out by donating cookies, bars, pies, breads, candy bags, etc. Drop off your items in the Atrium on Friday, February 3, from 8:00 - 4:30 or on Saturday morning from 9:00 – 10:00 AM, so we can price and arrange items for sale. Please sign up on the sheet in the Atrium and let us know what items you can bring and if you are able to help set-up and price items on Saturday, February 4, from 9:00 – noon. Vande Walles candy bars will also be for sale. All checks should be made out to Mount Olive. Proceeds from the "Heart for Missions Bake Sale" will be divided between The Friends Network (formerly Friends of China) and the new WELS mission outreach in London, England.

Please go to [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org) for registration information on the annual convention in La Crosse, WI the week of June 22-25, 2023.

Remember to check the LWMS bulletin board in the west hallway of the school for news and updates on LWMS/missions.

#### Below are LWMS dates for the coming months.

- \* February 4-6, 2023, Heart for Missions Bake Sale – Atrium
- \* February 14, 2023, 6:00 PM, meeting – Fireside Room
- \* March 14, 2023, 6:00 PM, meeting – Fireside Room
- \* April 18, 2023, 6:00 PM – Spring Banquet, Mission Speaker, Commons
- \* Paperland Circuit Spring Rally – April 22, 2023, St Paul, Appleton
- \* June 22-25, 2023, 60th Annual LWMS Convention – La Crosse, WI "Peace Like a River"

Thank you, Mount Olive for the continued support and prayers for LWMS and WELS missions.





# Baby Shower

SISTERS is inviting you!

Who: New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers

A WELS affiliated ministry located in Milwaukee, WI

When: Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 PM

Where: Mount Olive Lutheran Church Commons

(Dessert and beverages provided)

RSVP: Please sign up in the Atrium  
or [click here](#) to sign up online



You're cordially invited and do not need to bring a gift. We want our shower to be a fun event bringing women together! If you'd like to bring an unwrapped gift, baby registry items are on the Target website—First Name: "New" Last Name: "Beginnings". There also is a registry on <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg> - search "New Beginnings". Other items needed are laundry detergent, batteries, and Christian baby books.

The New Beginnings program provides opportunities to advance education, learn fundamental parenting and financial skills, participate in counseling sessions, and acquire an objective baseline for responsible living through a structured faith-based program. Ultimately, our vision is to equip each mother with the skills and education needed to earn self-sustaining wages without an indeterminate need for government assistance. To learn more about this ministry go to [www.HomeforMothers.com](http://www.HomeforMothers.com) or [facebook.com/homeformothers](https://facebook.com/homeformothers).

## High School Youth Events

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT

February 5th, 4-7 PM. Please come and enjoy some fellowship, fun and food! At 4:15 PM we will talk about our plans for the Youth Mission Trip, come with questions and ideas. Supper will be served. Open gym and games from 5-7 PM. Please [sign up here](#) and note any food allergies.

### SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP

tentative dates are July 24-31 and we will be traveling to Chattanooga, TN. Depending on the amount of interest another location may be added. We need to lock in plans by February 22nd. Those interested, please [sign up here](#). Questions can be directed [student.ministry@mountoliveapleton.com](mailto:student.ministry@mountoliveapleton.com).

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SERVING ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER

February 22. Donations will be going towards the HS youth mission trip to Chattanooga, TN. Those helping serve will also qualify for volunteer hours. Dessert donations are appreciated. Sign up here to help or to let us know you would like to donate a sweet treat. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoE4AAFA929A5FBC34-ashwednesday>





### 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 beginning the spiritual training of their child - even before their child is born!

The materials are designed for expectant parents, whether new to the faith or long-time Christians. The earlier in the pregnancy the parents receive the materials, the more useful and beneficial the materials are to both the parents and their child.

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

## February BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Sandy Kath, 81
February 2	Carol Richmond, 76
February 2	Elaine Putz, 86
February 5	Darleen Chipman, 76
February 5	LaWellyn Tesch, 84
February 6	Thomas Fuerst, 80
February 8	Barbara Kobin, 82
February 9	Dale Schmidt, 75
February 11	Jerelyn Grunwald, 79
February 12	Myrtle Siegler, 99
February 15	Dr. J. E. Papendorf, 89
February 19	Kay Zuberbie, 81
February 21	Geraldine Schroeder, 85
February 25	Corrine Sievert, 79



**Apple Valley Food Pantry** The pantry's next collection date is **Saturday, February 11 from 9 AM—1 PM**. The following list of items are needed: boxed potato sides, canned chicken, canned mandarin oranges and pears, 1 lb bags plain rice and 14 oz boxes instant rice, 16 oz peanut butter, helper meals, pancake mix & syrup and bath tissue, facial tissue and paper towels.

Thank you all for your generosity to the pantry!

### 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 63 families served every month
- 1,600 bags of non-perishable groceries; 675 bags of sundries distributed
- Nearly 30,000 pounds or 15 tons!
- \$24,000 in SCRIP provided to families to purchase fresh food such as meat, dairy and produce
- 70 volunteers
- 23 WELS congregations
- 12 Food Drives (Interested in having a food drive? Please contact us ahead of time for assistance.)

2603 W College Ave, Appleton WI 54914 Email: [applevalleyfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:applevalleyfoodpantry@gmail.com)

Website: [welsunited.org/programs/apple-valley-food-pantry.php](http://welsunited.org/programs/apple-valley-food-pantry.php)





## Mount Olive SCRIP

Fast Fund February - Kwik Trip 2/1/23 - 2/28/23

- 10% discounted rate on Gift Cards and Fuel Only Gift Cards (Reg. 5%)
- 20% discounted rate on Grocery Card (Reg. 15%)

Purchase gift cards for all your shopping needs while raising money for Mount Olive Lutheran Church and School! Many gift cards are available immediately, and special orders are placed each Monday. To view a complete list of available retailers, visit [ShopWithScrip.com](http://ShopWithScrip.com) or use the RaiseRight app.

SCRIP gift cards are available for sale from 9:00-9:25 AM and 10:00-10:25 AM on Sundays in the church atrium and on Mondays and Fridays from 7:40-8:10 AM and 2:40-3:10 PM in the school office.

Questions? Call 920-739-9194 or email [scrip@mountoliveappleton.com](mailto:scrip@mountoliveappleton.com).

## Coffee Café

The Coffee Café sign up for January through April 2023 is available on the [Mount Olive website](http://MountOlive.org).

Please sign up!

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 8-10 AM	Late 10 AM-Noon
<b>Feb. 5</b>	Medema family	OPEN
<b>Feb. 12</b>	Sarah Raasch, OPEN	Waurio family
<b>Feb. 19</b>	OPEN	OPEN
<b>Feb. 26</b>	Medema family	Sarah Raasch, OPEN

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

January 30-February 3	Mount Olive Christian Education Week
February 4-6	Heart for Missions Bake Sale, before and after services
February 5	FVL Musicfest, 1-4:30 PM
February 5	High School Open Gym/Game Night at Mount Olive, 4-7 PM
February 9-13	No School, Teacher's Convention & Inservice
February 11	Apple Valley Food Pantry Pick-up
February 14-17	Mount Olive School Spirit Week
February 18	Men of His Word Convention in Oshkosh
February 22	Ash Wednesday, Midweek Lenten Services at 10 AM & 6 PM
February 22	Lenten Supper 4:30-5:30 PM
February 25-27	Welcome Weekend
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Midweek Lenten Services at 10 AM & 6 PM
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Lenten Supper 4:30-5:30 PM
March 2	Women's Ministry Baby Shower, 6:30 PM
March 11	Apple Valley Food Pantry Pick-up
March 13-17	Mount Olive School Spring Break

