



MESSENGER

MAY 2023

920.739.9194 • 930 E. Florida Ave., Appleton, WI 54911 • www.mountoliveappleton.com

The Power of Easter Forgiveness

Dr. Martin Luther once made the comment, “Most Christians have enough religion to feel guilty about their sin, but not enough to enjoy life in the Spirit.” There’s a great deal of truth in that statement. It doesn’t take much to get us to feel guilty about something we said or did. When we compare our behavior to God’s standard for our lives (“*As I have loved you, so you must love one another,*” *John 13:34*), it’s only natural that we feel a sense of guilt. That’s one of the purposes of God’s Law. It shows us our sin.

Unfortunately, that’s all some people get out of Christianity, namely, one big guilt trip. Because they only hear the Law part, the part that makes them feel guilty, they are uncomfortable with the message of our church. Because they don’t stay long enough, or listen carefully enough to hear the Gospel, which is God’s solution to their guilt, they don’t get to experience the forgiveness and new life in the Spirit that the gospel gives.

Or to put it another way, some people only live in the season of Lent (and the sins that put Jesus on the cross), that they never make it to Easter (and the peace that Jesus’ resurrection brings). Even Jesus’ own disciples were in danger of getting stuck in this pit. On that first Easter evening, imagine the guilt they were feeling. They had all fallen asleep when Jesus asked them to watch and pray with him. They had deserted him, or denied him, when Jesus was taken captive by his enemies. And now, Jesus was dead! How could they not be feeling terrible about what they had done?

And then suddenly, Jesus was standing among them. And the first words out of his mouth? “*Peace be with you!*” (*John 20:19*) In other words, “You can now be at peace with God because by my death, I have destroyed the sin that once separated you from God. You are not guilty. Rather, you are forgiven!”

But not only did Jesus share forgiveness with his disciples; he also gave them the authority to share that same forgiveness with others. Jesus told them, “*As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven.*” (*John 20:21,23*) The authority which Jesus gave to his disciples is called the Ministry of the Keys. And it’s something which every Christian still possesses to this day.

God has given you and me the right to announce that all sins—including our own—are paid in full by the blood of Jesus. And we can be assured that the payment that Jesus made on the Good Friday was accepted by the Father on Easter Sunday. Jesus’ resurrection is proof of that!

So, let the Law convict you of your sins, but don’t live in that guilt. Rather, live in the forgiveness that Jesus has won for you—and now gives you to share with others—all so that your heart, and theirs, can be at peace with God. That’s the power of resurrection forgiveness!

In the name of Him who lives for you,
Pastor Raasch



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Volunteer for The Miracle League of the Fox Valley

This is a program of Goodwill NCW, which gives children with disabilities the opportunity to play baseball at an accessible facility while building relationships, engaging socially with others and learning important life skills. Games are played at the fully accessible John Wollner Fox Cities Miracle Field in Memorial Park in Appleton. Mount Olive has become a sponsor and is adopting this as a community service project. As a Family Growing in Christ, we want to serve our community and share our love. Volunteers are needed to serve as buddies for each player, as well as umpires, coaches, pitchers, and announcers. Scan the QR Code to find more info and register as a volunteer. Speak with Pastor Priewe for more information. He will be the Tuesday night pitcher.



Memorials & Gifts

Forward in Faith 2

- \$25 Betty Flunker in memory of Ione Ziegler, mother of Todd Ziegler
- \$50 Bob & Dorothy Luft in memory of Phyllis Nelson
- \$30 Pat Bellin in honor of Claire Farragh's first birthday, her great granddaughter
- \$300 Bob Bauer in memory of William & Bernice Bauer

Mount Olive School

- \$20 Justin & Jodi Slominsky in memory of Beth Flatau's mother, Joanne Wolff
- \$25 Todd & Sue Volkman in memory of Phyllis Nelson
- \$615 Family & Friends in memory of Phyllis Nelson
- \$25 Mary Borchardt in memory of Phyllis Nelson
- \$150 Lana Ruwoldt in memory of Phyllis Nelson
- \$50 Mark & Debra Toll in memory of Phyllis Nelson
- \$50 Todd & Sue Volkman in memory of Phyllis Nelson
- \$20 Kay Zuberbier in memory of Phyllis Nelson
- \$125 Family & Friends in memory of Phyllis Nelson

General Fund

- \$50 Family & Friends in memory of Judy Yohr
- \$25.75 Family & Friends in memory of Phyllis Nelson

FVL

- \$25 Ken & Arline Kolander in memory of Kristin Heckert's mother, Andrea Ferguson

Membership Changes

Baptisms

- * Wes Daniel Gartner, son of Nate and Lauren Gartner, was baptized on March 29, 2023

Transfer In

- * Carolyn Brault from Peace Lutheran, Sun Prairie, WI
- * Barbara Colletta from Victory Lutheran, Lexington, KY
- * Julie Krause from Trinity Lutheran, Neenah, WI

Transfer Out

- * Grace Flatau to St. Marcus Lutheran, Milwaukee, WI
- * Brian & Laura Nason to Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Green Bay, WI

Remove

- * Tara Birling
- * Levi Schroeder



Church Council Report from April 17, 2023 Meeting

Pastors' Report

Pastor Raasch: Pictorial directory is a few weeks away, and there are about 40 slots available on each of the eight days of photo sessions. Sign up is available online on the Mount Olive website. Seven Mount Olive leaders are attending the Dare to Lead conference next week. There have been many Asia One activities lately.

Pastor Priewe: Confirmation is this Saturday. Very strong turnout at Easter Sunday Church.

Financial Report

Reviewed March 2023 financial report:

- March offerings were \$36,423 lower than budgeted.
- Tuition was \$11,278 higher than budgeted.
- Other income was \$5,025 lower than budgeted.
- Total income was \$30,170 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses, before FVL/Synod distributions, were \$4,355 higher than budgeted.
- The net loss for March, including FVL/Synod distributions of \$28,582 was \$29,088. This compares to a budgeted net gain of \$5,437. The result is \$34,525 unfavorable to budget for the month.

Reviewed YTD (39 weeks ending March 2023) financial report:

- Offerings are \$65,291 lower than budgeted.
- Total income is \$67,504 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses are \$26,425 lower than budgeted.
- YTD net loss is \$21,697, which compares to the budgeted YTD gain of \$19,382. The result is \$41,079 lower than budgeted.

Forward in Faith 2 cost tracking update:

- Assistant Treasurer Strey reported that at the end of March 2023, total Forward in Faith 2 receipts amounted to \$1,947,348 of which \$1,794,235 came from pledges and related offerings, and \$153,113 came from other sources.
- Assistant Treasurer Fred Strey reported that at the end of March 2023, total Member Pledges received were \$1,411,096 which is 84.5% of the three-year pledge goal of \$1,653,030. Additional receipts of \$273,472 are needed by October 31, 2023, to meet the three-year goal.
- Assistant Treasurer Fred Strey reported that at the end of February 2023 total Forward in Faith debt is \$1,628,664.
- Assistant Treasurer Fred Strey reported that there are sufficient funds to make a \$30,000 bank note prepayment. After this prepayment the note's balance will be \$110,000. The prepayment was approved by the Board.

Banking Update

- After March's meeting, the Board approved via email the purchase of a seven-month 4.55% \$40,000 Certificate of Deposit at Community First Credit Union.
- The group reviewed FDIC insurance coverage on deposits.

Offerings were lower than budget in March resulting in the YTD offerings being \$65,291 lower than budget. Peter Joch suggested sharing an update with the congregation as the fiscal year is coming to an end.

New Business

- Bob Weimer is stepping away as the Visitation Pastor. The pastors recommended Jerry Evansen to become the Visitation Pastor at Mount Olive. Motion carried to call Jerry Evansen as the Mount Olive Visitation Minister.
- The template for the 2023-2024 Mount Olive budget was shared with the Church Council. Each board was requested to complete the template.
- Please sign up to have your photo taken for the Mount Olive Pictorial directory.
- Jeff Loberger shared that they have three teachers who are actively holding calls. The pits at FVL are now filled and the lockers are being added in June. FVL is in the bottom five for tuition rate increases at 3.5%. There are some parochial high schools that increased tuition by nearly 10%. The estimated freshman class next year is 185. Jeff is estimating that the freshman class in two years will be around 230.

Announcements

Next Church Council meeting – Monday, May 15th, 7pm

Next EC meeting – Monday, May 1st, 9am

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**Missionary Mark & Sarah
Esther & Anastasia**

MISSIONARY ZONDAG CHANGES MISSION ROLE

Dear fellow mission workers at Mount Olive,

Jesus is risen! Much has changed for me in the last three months. At the Asia One Team annual meeting in January, the "AOT" gave me two new roles: Thailand champion and regional chairman. In both roles, I serve as a channel through which information and support are funneled. Let me explain these roles a little more:

As Thailand's champion, I serve as the connecting point between the AOT and local ministry partners, such as Friends Network and Thai Village. I learn the needs in a field and find ways to support local partners through the AOT's resources. Also, I represent local partners to the AOT. Much of this is done by meeting with local partners and asking a lot of questions.

Recently, the fields in the AOT were grouped into five regions (South Asia, East Asia, Pacific Rim, Vietnam and Exploratory Fields). Each region meets together to collaborate and support each other. As chairman of a region, I lead meetings and represent the region's needs to the larger AOT support group. I am also responsible for passing information back to the region from the AOT support group. Please pray for me as I grow into these new roles that God has given me. Each role has its own unique challenges and blessings. Also, pray for my family as we learn to adapt to new roles and responsibilities.

May the Lord bless your Easter season! He is not dead, but has risen. Because he lives, we do too!

Missionary Mark Zondag

JUNE MISSION PARTNER RUMMAGE SALE

Spring Cleaning? Remember our Mission Partner Rummage Sale!

Sale: Thursday, June 15 – Saturday, June 17. Donation drop-off days: Saturday, June 10 – Tuesday, June 13.

All proceeds will go to help our Thailand mission!

Gather your donations – details to follow! Thank you!

Vacation Bible School July 10-14: Registration and Volunteer Sign-up Coming Soon!

We're just getting through Wisconsin winter weather and looking forward to celebrating Christmas in July at Vacation Bible School. Hopefully you've already marked July 10-14 from 9AM-noon on your family calendars. In May, watch for registration on Mount Olive's website for four-year-olds through sixth graders who will explore some tree-mendous Bible stories, crafts, games, music and snacks. Volunteer sign-up for seventh graders through 107 year-olds will also be coming soon. Many hands are needed to spread the good news that Jesus was born, lived and died for us so we can be with him forever. **Joy to the world!**



MOUNT OLIVE SPRING CLEAN-UP/WORK DAY

Please help us beautify our campus on Saturday, May 13, 8 AM–Noon (or whenever the work is completed). Sign-up in the Atrium.

We are looking to tackle the following landscaping tasks with a Spring Work Day:

- At the Marnie Lane (Priewe) parsonage, install new plants in a couple of the plant beds and top dress all beds with new wood mulch.
- Along the south side of the church/school building, remove sod and install edging, install new plants, weed barrier and stone.
- Plant three new trees along the south lawn of the church and mulch the base of the trees.
- Extend the edging and stone along the patio of the Doris Lane (Zank) parsonage.

In addition, if we have hands and time available, we can accomplish some general sprucing up of the grounds. Please bring any of the following items if you have them: pick-up trucks/trailer, wheelbarrow, shovel, rake, fabric knife or scissors, work gloves, blower, edger, hedge trimmer, clippers, etc. In case of bad weather, the alternate date is Saturday, May 20.



LWMS

Thanking God for a wonderful evening of food, fellowship and mission news at the LWMS Spring Mission Banquet on April 18. Sixty Mount Olive members and guests enjoyed pulled pork sandwiches with all the trimmings and heard Stephanie Shinnick talk about the Vulnerable Children's Foundation and what the organization is doing to help feed

students attending the Lutheran Church of Central Africa schools in Lusaka, Zambia. Over \$1100 was donated by guests to help the food program. Thank you, Mount Olive once again, for your support of missions and for sharing Jesus with the world!

Check the June Messenger for a report on the Paperland Spring Rally. The mission box money from Mount Olive which was collected this spring is \$902. This money is going to Home Missions – *Tools for Outreach* and World Missions – *Repatriation Conferences*.

You still can register for the 60th Annual International Convention in La Crosse, WI on June 21-25, 2023. The theme this year is "Peace Like a River." Please go to www.lwms.org for registration information.

Mark your calendars for our next meeting September 12, 2023 and watch the Messenger for more LWMS news during the summer!





**Thank you to all who ordered Easter Lilies
to beautify our Altar!**

Barb Kobin in memory of Harold Kobin

Roger & Bonnie VandenLangenberg

Kevin & Deb Gertsch

Mary Souther

Kent & Char Kiesling

Sharon Hintz & family

Gale Schmidt

Adam & Mary Simonis

Tom & Karen Medema

Bruce & Faye Thede

Jon Riehle in memory of Sharon Riehle

Erika Priebe in honor of Dennis & Karen Priebe

Jay & Shelly Vanderhoof

Strey family

Dorothy Lee

Gawel family

Gucinski family in memory of Mart & Judy Gucinski

Doreen Rose

Rick & Sue Gulbransen

Werner & Jeanine Koehler

Pat Paltzer

Chris & Candy Reichelt

Ed, Trudy & Amanda Stern

Lucille Mueller in memory of Lloyd Mueller

Pat Bellin & Family in memory of Margaret Rehfeldt

Dale & Karen Schmidt

Dave & Mandy Gauvin

Dave & Patty Schwartz in memory of Pat Pussehl

George & Barb Green

Jim & Gloria Knoll

Karen Doell in memory of Arlyn Doell

Mark & Carol Schmidt

Lana Ruwoldt in memory of Tyler Neumann

Lucille Stensberg in memory of Pastor Burton
Stensberg

Church Library News

Adult Fiction: *Forgiven*, by Karen Kingsbury. Firstborn series #2. This series is the second installment in the continuing Baxter Family Drama: Dayne Matthews is working on what could be his best movie to date. Yet, he feels empty and unfocused. What he really wants is real love, and he aches for the family he'll never know.

After the Christian Kids Theater group is devastated by a tragedy greater than any of them could've imagined, director Katy Hart must find a way to walk the kids through their grief and give them a reason to believe again.

John Baxter reconnects with an old friend and shares a buried secret, one that he and his wife kept hidden all their married lives.

God's grace and redemption plays a major role in this ongoing series.



Internet Link to the Church Library: Go to 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!!



WLC Congregational Matching Grant Program

Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) is a liberal arts college affiliated with the WELS and is committed to providing quality teaching, scholarship, and service that are rooted in Holy Scripture; promoting the spiritual growth of students and preparing students for lives of Christian leadership. WLC offers a Congregational Matching Grant program so that churches can encourage and support students who want to attend WLC. WLC will provide a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$500, for any congregational grants given to full-time, undergraduate students. Each year, several Mount Olive students are enrolled at WLC.

Mount Olive's Scholarship Committee must approve all distributions from the WLC Matching Grant Fund. The actual amount of the yearly grant is the same for every student who applies by May 1st for the upcoming school year.

Mount Olive has awarded \$500 grants for the 2023-2024 school year to the following students:

- Gabrielle Medema
- Abbey Schuff
- Kaylee Nelson
- Audra Zanto

As the WLC Matching Grant Fund is a restricted fund, the Fund does not receive support from Mount Olive's operational budget. The WLC Matching Grant Fund is dependent only on direct contributions. If you would like to contribute to the WLC Matching Grant Fund, simply indicate your gift on any blue envelope or use electronic giving (other) directing your contribution to the WLC Matching Grant Fund. Based on federal and state tax regulations, donations to the Fund cannot be directed to any specific student but must be awarded equally among qualified students from the congregation.

Mount Olive's Scholarship Committee,
Al and Debbie Vetting, Steve and Tami Wasser, Ron Zahn



God's Richest Blessings to our Confirmands This Year!



Aricin Everett Amorde

Melita Lynn Ehlke

Samuel Jay Nielsen

Vivienne Sophia Amorde

Olivia Paige Fischer

Evan Daniel Pastorek

Morgan Grace Anderson

Taylor Jo Gordee

Jacob Paul Ratzburg

Madison Aubrey Babcock

Kaitlyn Rose Hitt

Court Andrew Salzwedel

Murphy Jones Beyer

Brayden Joseph Kaddatz

Kelsey Rose Schmidt

Jack Warren Bohlmann

Peyton Nicole Kaphingst

Faith Madisyn Schumacher

Cole Michael Budd

Taylor Martin LaGrow

Jameson Lee Sieg

Sage Simone Crubel

Jose Jesus Martinez

Nolan Henry Unruh

Sawyer Robert De Prycker

Hayden Michelle Massonet

Charles Frederick Drephal

Elijah Sabatino Mattioli



Mount Olive SCRIP

Please make note of the following:

- Kohl's physical gift cards and eGift cards are temporarily unavailable from RaiseRight, effective immediately.
- You can continue to use all Kohl's gift cards and eGift cards previously purchased from RaiseRight in Kohl's stores and on Kohls.com.
- Kohl's physical gift cards and eGift cards should be available to order from RaiseRight soon. These new cards cannot be applied to Kohl's Charge Card account balances.



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR The 2024 WELS International Youth Rally will celebrate 50 years of WELS youth rallies on June 24-28, 2024 at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

Coffee Café

The Coffee Cafe sign up is available on the [Mount Olive website](#).

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.



	Early 8-10 AM	Late 10 AM-Noon
May 7	Sarah Raasch OPEN	OPEN
May 14	Medema family	Waurio family
May 21	OPEN	OPEN
May 28	OPEN	OPEN



Apple Valley
FOOD PANTRY
An outreach of your WELS United congregations

Apple Valley Food Pantry

The pantry's next collection date is Saturday, May 13.

The following list of items are needed: healthy cereals (plain oat, honey oat, rice, corn, Total, Special K, etc.), gluten free baking items, mac 'n cheese, helper meals (tuna, chicken & hamburger), shampoo, conditioner, men's 2 in 1 products and men and women body washes. We want to thank you all for your continued support of the pantry.

The outpouring of donations over the past few months has been awesome!

2603 W College Ave, Appleton WI 54914

Email: applevalleyfoodpantry@gmail.com

Website: welsunited.org/programs/apple-valley-food-pantry.php





BIRTHDAYS

May 1 Red Beyer, 88
 May 2 Mark Johnson, 78
 May 2 James Tank, 89
 May 5 Paul Noffke, 90
 May 6 Dennis Leahy, 79
 May 7 Steve Collins, 76

May 11 Roy Schlavensky, 84
 May 13 Richard Wunderlich, 77
 May 17 Robert Johnson, 84
 May 19 Leta Krueger, 79
 May 23 Nancy Wunderlich, 86
 May 24 Irene Hintz, 79
 May 25 Peter Kuehl, 75
 May 27 Charles Dreger, 94
 May 28 Marilyn Becher, 82
 May 28 Werner Koehler, 94
 May 29 Wayne Strelow, 87
 May 30 Donald Mitchell, 76

It's time to gather our Mount Olive family into a new professionally produced directory. It's been 8 years since Mount Olive last produced a pictorial directory and our congregation has added over 700 new members. Every participating household will receive a free directory and an 8x10 portrait. Additional portraits can be purchased for personal use. Photos will be taken on June 7-10 and 21-24.



Pictorial Directory

Have you made your appointment?
 Scan the QR code,
 go to our website or
 stop in the Atrium!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

April 28-29 Mount Olive School Musical, 7 PM Friday & 2 PM Saturday
 May 18 Ascension Service, 6 PM
 May 25 Mount Olive School Graduation, 6 PM
 May 28 Summer Worship Hours begin
 May 29 Memorial Day, Church Office Closed
 June 7-10 Pictorial Directory Photos taken
 June 15-17 Mission Partner Rummage Sale
 June 21-24 Pictorial Directory Photos taken
 June 24-26 New Member Welcome Weekend
 July 10-14 Mount Olive VBS
 July 16 Family Fest

