

**THIS WEEK — December 31-January 7**

<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>	8 AM– Worship with Communion 10:30 AM – Worship with Communion	1 PM – Adult Volleyball 7 PM – Men’s Basketball	
<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	<i>Church Office Closed</i>	6 PM– Worship with Communion	
<b>TUESDAY</b>			
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<i>School Resumes</i>	4:15 PM – PSI 6:30 PM – Adult Choir	
<b>THURSDAY</b>		6:30 PM – Stamp Club	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	6:30 AM – Men’s Bible Class 8:15 AM – Mornings w/ Mommy		
<b>SATURDAY</b>	8:30 AM Altar Guild tree takedown	5:30 PM – Worship w/ Communion	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	8 & 10:30 AM – Worship w/ Communion 9-9:25 & 10-10:25 AM – SCRIP 9:15 AM – Sunday School / Bible Study	1 PM – Adult Volleyball 7 PM – Men’s Basketball	
<b>OFFERINGS/OTHER INCOME</b>		<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
Offerings	Week of 12/25/2023	\$45,320	\$68,480
Offerings	Fiscal Year-to-date	\$779,980	\$796,685
Offerings + Other Income	Fiscal Year-to-date	\$1,464,919	\$1,451,956
Forward in Faith 2	Week of 12/25/2023		\$9,050
Forward in Faith 2	Total Campaign to-date		\$2,235,128
<b>USHERS</b>	<u>Saturday 5:30 PM</u> – Keith Wundrow (Captain) Peter Sehloff, Brad & Murphy Beyer <u>Sunday 8 AM</u> – Bryan Thede (Captain) Richard Mueller, Richard Raddatz, Chris & Elijah Mattioli <u>Sunday 10:30 AM</u> – Jesse VanderHeyden (Capt) David Sievert, Gary Manske, Derek & Luke Kritzer <u>Monday 6 PM</u> – John Hoh (Captain) Bruce Thede, Bob Luedtke		
<b>GREETERS</b>	<u>This Week:</u> (Sun 8AM) – Arnold, OPEN, OPEN (Sun 8AM) – Raddatz, OPEN, OPEN (Sun 10:30 AM) – Chipman, Fuhrmann, OPEN <u>Next Week:</u> (Sat) – Frost, Arnold, Rudolph (Sun 8AM) – Van Dyke, Ziegler, Zacharyasz (Sun 10:30 AM) – Chipman, McKown, Balke		
<b>COFFEE CAFÉ</b>	<u>This Week:</u> (8-10 AM) Sarah Raasch, OPEN (10 AM-Noon) Caleb, Theresa, Lily Mielke <u>Next Week:</u> (8-10 AM) John & Cindy Kehl (10 AM-Noon) Brad & Laura Waurio		
<b>AV TEAM</b>	<u>December 30-January 1:</u> Saturday – Steve Priebe; Monday – NEED Sunday (8 AM) – Sam/Jillian Nielsen, (10:30 AM) – Josh Lecker <u>January 6-8:</u> Saturday – Jack Bohlmann; Monday – Ben Haupt Sunday (8 AM) – Ethan Schabo, (10:30 AM) – Brayden Kaddatz		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:**

**Christmas Eve:** 8 AM 279, 10:30 AM 444, 4 PM 434, 6 PM 178, **Online: 101; Total: 1,436**

**Christmas Day:** 328; **Online: 84; Total: 412**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** The cross bouquet is placed to God's glory by Irene Stamp, Ann Brukardt & family, David & Maridee Schroeder in memory of Rev. Marlyn Schroeder.

**DIVINE CALLS** **Mr. David Liebhard** has returned his call from David's Star in Jackson, WI. **Mr. Kurt Nielsen** is deliberating his call from King of Kings in Maitland, FL to serve as 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Athletic Director & Technology coordinator. Please keep them in your prayers.

**LWMS MISSION TREE** will help the Malawi, Africa Sanitation Crisis. Contributions to the Christmas Mission Tree will aid in helping volunteers restore the sanitation system, build new latrines, and give emergency clean water kits to many African Lutheran households. Take an envelope from the tree in the Atrium and your donation can be placed in the offering plate during any service. Make checks payable to Mount Olive Lutheran Church. **The tree will be up through January 2nd.** Thank you to the second-grade classrooms for providing ornaments.

**ALTAR GUILD** Reminder that the trees will be taken down on Saturday, January 6 at 8:30 AM.

**CONVERSATIONS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN** will resume on **Sunday, January 7** at 9:15 AM in the church sanctuary. Join Pastor Gawel to get a glimpse at some of the intense conversations Jesus had with the lost he came to save. New faces are welcome!

**IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON** is a video-based Bible class designed to help every Mount Olive member confidently share Jesus whenever and wherever God has planted you. Join Pastor Raasch in the Commons at 9:15 AM beginning **Sunday, January 7th**, for this practical study, relevant for every Christian.

**A NEW BIBLE READING PLAN** for Mount Olive members will start on January 8, 2024.

Download the YouVersion Bible app to your phone and/or go to

<https://bible.com/p/63134450/386a070875474b1211e44326f3d75bf> to join the reading plan called "*The Incredibly Exciting Old Testament.*" We'll cover approximately one chapter a day.

**MOUNT OLIVE'S LIFE GROUPS** are lay-led small groups which meet at various times throughout the week, at church or in people's homes. They apply the weekly sermon to the lives of participants, with the goal of growing closer to God and one another. After taking a break for Christmas, many groups are starting back up this month. If you would like to join a Life Group, or start your own, please contact Pastor Raasch at 920-840-2078 or [pastor.raasch@mountoliveappleton.com](mailto:pastor.raasch@mountoliveappleton.com).

**DO YOU HAVE A WILL?** When was the last time you updated it? On Sunday, January 14 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room, WELS Christian giving counselor Pastor Tom Mielke will give a presentation on how to write or revise a will to reflect your values while providing for your family and the ministries you care about. He will repeat the same presentation at 6 PM on Wednesday, January 17. Refreshments will be served. All information is provided free of charge. Please sign-up in the atrium or call the church office if you plan to attend.

**2024 FLOWER DONATION CALENDAR** Members may sign-up to donate a floral arrangement for the Chancel area. This is a nice way to help beautify our church as well as commemorate special events or express gratitude for blessings received.

**YEAR-END GIFTS** Mount Olive's fiscal year ends on June 30. However, your special offerings at the end of 2023 are vital for maintaining our ministries throughout the year. All gifts received by mail, online or in the offering plate, by December 31, 2023, will be recorded on the giver's 2023 offering statement. Thank you for your gifts of love!

**THE 2024 MOUNT OLIVE OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now available in the atrium. If you give online, and opted out of offering envelopes, you do not have a box of envelopes to pick up.

**MOUNT OLIVE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OPEN** Enrollment is open for all returning school families and Mount Olive Church member families. Secure your seat soon because enrollment will open to all community families in January. Contact Landon Zacharyasz ([principal@mountoliveappleton.com](mailto:principal@mountoliveappleton.com)) for enrollment questions or information.

**VALLEY TEEN NIGHT** on Sunday, January 14th, 2024 at The CORE, 820 W. College Ave, Appleton, WI 54914 from 5:45-8:00 PM.

Register here: <https://922ministries.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2052317>

**What to expect:** Teen-led Worship, Bible Talk & Discussion, Yummy Snacks

God Loves Nobodies is a fact clearly stated in the pages of the Bible and is a precious truth that we can cling to. Using Matthew Doebler's excellent book, "God Loves Nobodies", we'll examine this truth and explore what it means.

**DOES YOUR EMPLOYER MATCH CHARITABLE GIFTS?** Many local companies provide matching grants for employees who make donations to K-12 schools. Contact your human resources department to see if your company matches gifts for its employees or go to [www.doublethedonation.com](http://www.doublethedonation.com). If you need additional help, contact our [finance.office@mountoliveappleton.com](mailto:finance.office@mountoliveappleton.com) or 739-9194. Thank you for your support!

**QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS** Did you know that if you are age 70.5 and older, you can support gospel ministry by requesting a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your individual retirement account (IRA) directly to Mount Olive? Even better, if you are age 72 and older, the QCD will count toward your required minimum distribution! A special tax benefit is that Qualified charitable distributions of up to \$100,000 per person per year are excluded from your taxable income. For more information, pick up a “Charitable Contributions of Appreciated Assets” brochure in the tract rack or contact the church finance office (920) 739-9194.

**2024 OSHKOSH MEN OF HIS WORD CONFERENCE** We are excited to announce this year’s conference – **Built to Serve, Galatians 5:13** on Saturday February 17, 2023 from 7:15 AM – 3:30 PM at 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).

## **FVL NEWS**

- **Youth Summer Baseball (deadline 12/31)** information is available, and registration is open. Go to [fvlhs.org/youth-sports](http://fvlhs.org/youth-sports) for details and to register.
- **FVL grads who were a part of the band program**, please consider joining us for a special alumni band performance at Musicfest on Sunday, 2/4. Go online ([fvlhs.org/news](http://fvlhs.org/news)) to view details and registration link. Registration deadline is 1/9.
- **Do you enjoy baking?** Consider making and donating homemade desserts (pies, cakes, tortes, candy) for Musicfest on February 4. Event proceeds benefit the FVL Music Program. Go to [fvlhs.org/musicfest](http://fvlhs.org/musicfest) for details and to sign up.
- Information for the 2024 season for **Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin (LVW)**, a WELS high school marching band, has been posted to its website. The season will begin with a preview and rehearsal camp on January 6-7 to be held at FVL. LVW is open to all WELS members in grades 8-12. The summer schedule, eligibility, cost, registration procedures, and more can be found on the JOIN page. Go to [lutheranvanguard.org](http://lutheranvanguard.org) for the information. If you have questions, contact the LVW Executive Director, James Neujahr ([jneujahr@fvlhs.org](mailto:jneujahr@fvlhs.org)).
- Families can **enroll for Semester 2** at FVL. Contact the Admissions Office at <http://www.admissions@fvlhs.org> or 920-560-5105 for details.
- **FVL CHRISTMAS BREAK School & SCRIP Office Hours:**  
**Thurs., 12/21 – Wed., 1/3** – All Offices Closed (including Guidance)  
**Thurs., 1/4** – Regular School & SCRIP Office hours resume