



Mount Olive EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

MESSENGER

MARCH 2024

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

God Loves Nobodies: Good News for Somebody Like Me

The title comes from Pastor Matthew Doeblér's book published by Northwestern Publishing House in 2022. The book explores those themes listed in the title in a way that convicted me "dead to rights" and also, proclaimed good news in a profound way. What follows is just a short summary of what would be an extremely valuable book to add to your shelf.

Doeblér lays out the *Somebody Problem* this way: ***Everybody wants to be a somebody. Nobody wants to be a nobody.***

"If you believe you are nobody, your thoughts will continually be plagued with worry and desperate plans to become somebody. If you are confident that you are God's somebody, your thoughts will be shaped by peace and humble confidence because your status before God and your future are secure in Jesus. If you believe you are a nobody, you will always be busy seeking yourself. If you are confident that you are God's Somebody, you will be busy serving God and others—especially the nobodies of the world." (p 18-19)

With this framework in mind, Doeblér then explores a number of traps and pitfalls that assail us when we think we are nobody and try to become a somebody on our own. One trap is that we try to prove our "somebodyness" before God. If I work hard enough, if I make progress, if I climb up the ladder, if I gain the approval of my peers, if I get better at avoiding sin, if I preach a really good sermon, then I will be "somebody" in God's sight. If you're like me, maybe you thought that as a child of the Lutheran Reformation truths—grace alone, faith alone—that you didn't really struggle with the Roman Catholic idea of doing good works to earn God's favor. Boy, were we wrong! This struggle for approval and acceptance and to be somebody is so much a part of us. This is the natural religion (or the Latin opinion legis) inside of us that thinks we can do something good to present ourselves as somebody good before God, rather than the sinners worthy of condemnation that we are.

Pursuing these desperate plans to become somebody before God fills our lives with pressure, restlessness, exhaustion, and the urge to "live like a parasite on the approval [of others] to build a better name for ourselves" (p 35). This kind of pursuit can also easily lead you into other pitfalls like gossip and scorn for people who don't approve of you. Doeblér writes, "Because I felt like a nobody, I thought I could become a somebody at someone else's expense...It secretly make us feel like more of a somebody when another nobody looks bad" (p 80). This kind of behavior turns us all into a bunch of nobodies dragging each other down the mountain while trying to step on each other to get to the top.

What's the good news cure from all this for sinners like you and me? You are Somebody, God's Somebody." God has made you that Somebody. **"Now this is what the LORD says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you Israel; 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine' (Isaiah 43:1). And again, 'I have engraved you on the palm of my hands' (Isaiah 49:16). And a third time, 'You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light' (1 Peter 2:9). 'You dear child of God, don't have to prove you are worthy of God's name, because God's righteous name was given to you in Jesus' (p 41).**

Life changes so much under this realization. The pressure to perform is gone. Christ gives you his performance. The urge to push others down to lift yourself up doesn't carry the same appeal because of your confidence that Christ has already lifted you up and made you his own. When life's not about proving yourself, think of the time it opens up to serve nobodies and help them realize they are Somebody in Christ.

Visit online.nph.net and search for the title "God Loves Nobodies" to get your copy.

Pastor Tim Prieue



In this issue:

Pastor's Pen	1
Memorials & Gifts	2
Membership Changes	2
Mount Olive Tuition Assistance	2
Church Council Report	3
Mission Partners	4
Church Library News	4
LWMS	5
March Birthdays	6
SCRIP	6
Coffee Café	6
Apple Valley Food Pantry	6
Forward in Faith 2	7
Upcoming Events	7

Memorials & Gifts

Forward in Faith 2

- \$250 Melody Truby in memory of John Truby
- \$1000 Mark Truby in memory of John Truby
- \$20 Melody Truby in memory of John Truby

Scholarship Fund

- \$30 Al & Debbie Vetting in memory of John Truby

Mount Olive Tuition Assistance

- \$300 Mary Seidler in memory of Tom Seidler

General Fund

- \$45 Melody Truby in memory of John Truby

Ladies Aid

- \$50 Melody Truby in memory of John Truby

Membership Changes

Baptism

- * Grayson Sagunsky, son of Andrew & Kendra Sagunsky, was baptized on February 11, 2024

Death

- * Sandra Freis passed away on February 26, 2024

Transfer In

- * Ryan & Shannon Andersen (3 children) from St. Matthew, Appleton
- * Liane Ebben from St. Matthew, Appleton
- * Danny & Karla Fuller from Faith Lutheran, Reedsburg, WI

Profession of Faith

- * Dana Piehl

Adult Confirmation

- * Robert & Deborah Amorde
- * Keri Coons
- * Lynn Miller
- * RoxAnna Novak
- * John Vander Heyden

Transfer Out

- * Karen Grams to Trinity Lutheran, Neenah
- * Erick Nason to Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Green Bay
- * Steve & Abbey Unruh to The CORE, Appleton
- * Nora Unruh to The CORE, Appleton
- * John Unruh to The CORE, Appleton
- * Nolan Unruh to The CORE, Appleton

Release

- * Denis Dougherty

Remove

- * Victor & Connie Bode, Valin Bode
- * Chris Carow
- * Herbert Houle
- * Allison Miller (2 children)
- * Reid Tjernagel & Riley Tjernagel

Mount Olive School Tuition Assistance

Mount Olive Lutheran School seeks to assist the families of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in need with their school tuition costs.

Therefore, in addition to participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, we have established a financial assistance application process. The financial assistance application window is from February 13th to April 21st. If you have children who attend Mount Olive Lutheran School and do not qualify for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, please consider exploring our financial assistance program by visiting www.molmustangs.org. Additionally, if you are interested in supporting that financial assistance program, please use your Blue Offering Envelopes and write for 'Tuition Assistance' on the line. Last year, we were able to give \$8,000 to Mount Olive families in need of some assistance.



Mount Olive
Lutheran School



Church Council Report from February 19, 2024 Meeting

Pastors' Report

Pastor Priewe: Plans for a Seder meal are being finalized by Family Ministry for Palm Sunday between services. This is an opportunity for 7th and 8th graders to serve. Pine car derby is March 3rd.

Pastor Raasch: Busy extending multiple calls to Asia.

Financial Report

Reviewed January 2024 financial report:

- January offerings were \$9,748 higher than budgeted.
- Tuition was \$17,250 lower than budgeted.
- Other income was \$6,475 lower than budgeted.
- Total income was \$13,977 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses, before FVL/Synod distributions, were \$2,120 higher than budgeted.
- The net loss for January, including FVL/Synod distributions of \$28,400 was \$43,662. This compares to a budgeted net loss of \$27,565. The result is \$16,097 unfavorable to budget for the month.

Reviewed YTD (31 weeks ending January 2024) financial report:

- Offerings are \$19,493 higher than budgeted.
- Total income is \$26,122 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses are \$22,963 lower than budgeted.
- YTD net loss is \$47,308, which compares to the budgeted YTD loss of \$44,149. The result is \$3,159 unfavorable to budget.

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

- In the month of January \$34,482 was received in gifts/offerings plus \$348 of interest was earned during the month totaling \$34,830 additions for the month.
- At the end of January there was \$167,183 of FIF2 funds available. After subtracting a reserve for April and July interest/debt payments of \$45,149, there's \$122,034 available for additional debt payments.

Banking Update:

- Treasurer Tim WeiHING informed the group that the Line of Credit with Nicolet Bank has been renewed. The current Line of Credit balance is \$0.
- Board Member Peter Joch is having communication with Nicolet Bank regarding the reinvestment of the bond that matured on 1/31/24.
- The group agreed to invest \$130,000 of Forward in Faith funding into an additional treasury bond at Nicolet Bank. Board Member Peter Joch will contact Nicolet Bank to create the transaction.

Operations Update:

- Operations Manager Paul Kolell informed the group that templates will be sent to various individuals in March to begin the Fiscal 2025 budgeting process.

Annual Audit:

- The group began discussion on audit firm renewal. Clifton, Larson, Allen will complete their audit contract with Mount Olive after the Fiscal 2024 Financial Audit is completed.

Discussion of decision to invest in a treasury bond versus making an additional payment against the loan, which would also incur a fee. Article coming up in the Messenger to provide a Forward in Faith debt update.

New Business

- Review Budget schedule for 2024-2025
- Call extended to Miss Heidi Moldenhauer to teach middle grades.
- A call for our next principal will be extended on February 26.

Announcements

- Next EC meeting – Monday, March 4th at 9am
- Next Church Council meeting – Monday, March 18th at 7pm



Nathan & Alyssa Schulte—Academia Cristo Mission Partners 2024-2025

Hola! ¿Cómo estás? (Hello! How are you?) Our names are Nathan and Alyssa (nee Stuebs) and we have the privilege of serving on your behalf in our mission to Latin America. We have a special connection to you at Mount Olive because it was Alyssa's home congregation growing up and we were married there last year.

I grew up on the other side of the state (near Wisconsin Dells). I started studying Spanish in high school, but really got into it in college and even took a year off to teach English in the South American country of Peru. In the Seminary, I got opportunities to work in Spanish in Milwaukee, Texas, and Washington D.C. In 2017, I graduated from the seminary and received the call to be part of the mission team. I lived in Mexico for a year and then have been in Quito, Ecuador since then. Alyssa has jumped wholeheartedly into Spanish and is taking classes here in Quito, making lots of friends along the way. You can find lots of patient and happy people if you just say with a smile, "Estoy aprendiendo español (I'm learning Spanish right now)."

I find great joy working on our Latin American mission team (Academia Cristo—Christ Academy) because I love the philosophy of training everyone for doing ministry—big or small. I love the Bible story of the Samaritan woman because she learned about Jesus and immediately told others what she knew. She certainly kept growing in her faith but she didn't wait to share Jesus with others. She took what she knew and gave it away. That's what we do in Academia Cristo. Train others and encourage them to work in the ripe harvest fields.



Church Library News

Adult Nonfiction: *Forgiveness: Received From God, Extended to Others*, by Donna Pyle (aka Donna Snow). When someone has offended us, the temptation to not forgive is great. But God has commanded us to forgive one another. So how do we do that? This eight-chapter Bible study guides readers to discover the Scripture that leads to Biblical forgiveness and spiritual transformation. Chapters

include understanding forgiveness in terms of myths and barriers, God's words about it, and how to move forward. Each chapter includes five short daily lessons and verses to memorize. The author shows that forgiving others means recognizing our own sin. It means looking to Jesus and His constant forgiveness toward us. And It means sharing that same grace with others.

Child Nonfiction: *My Happy Easter Book: Matthew 27:57-28:10 for Children*, by Gloria A Truitt. Arch Book series. The story of Jesus' resurrection and what it means to us. Ages 5-9.

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!!



LWMS

Our “Heart for Missions Bake Sale” was a great success. Thank you again for all of the help and donations. We were able to send \$1,000 to WELS Institutional Ministries and a \$1,000 to The CORE’s Lighthouse on the Avenue Program.



We would love to have you join us for the Paperland Circuit LWMS Spring Rally on Saturday, April 20 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 8 S. 4th St., Winneconne. The theme for the day is “We Proclaim the Word of Life” and the guest speaker will be Pastor Ryan Kolander, speaking on the Detroit Hispanic Mission. Registration and refreshments from 8:00 – 9:00 am, concluding with a lunch at 12:30 PM. If you are planning to attend the rally, please sign up in the atrium by March 31st.

Just a reminder that mission box money is being collected until March 24th. There will be an offering box in the narthex the weekends of March 17th and 24th. You can also use the LWMS envelope or the monthly blue envelope for your offering. Just check the bottom line for donations, mark LWMS Spring Rally and place it in the regular offering plate. Make any checks payable to Mount Olive. The mission money offerings are going to Home Missions – First Public Worship Service Assistance and World Missions – Bangladesh Missions.

The congregation is invited to our Spring Mission Banquet on April 9 in the Mount Olive Commons. Join us for supper at 6 PM and a then a mission presentation at 6:30 PM. We are happy to have Pastor Dennis and Kerri Kleist as our speakers. They will share the excitement of Academia Cristo, our WELS digital mission based in Quito, Ecuador. There will be a live, interactive video visit with missionaries Nathan and Alyssa Schulte and Luke and Rachel Beilke. Missionary Beilke is one of our BAM (Befriend A Mission) pastors. Alyssa and another Academia Cristo missionary in Quito, Matt Behmer, are graduates of Mount Olive Lutheran School. Amazingly, this mission reaches over 2 million people in South America and beyond to connect them to Jesus through online outreach. The missionaries will explain how people are confirmed, leaders trained and congregations formed. It’s a new, unique and effective way of sharing our Savior! We hope to see many of you there. Watch the bulletin for signup information.

The LWMS International Convention is in Sioux Falls, SD, June 27-30, 2024. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other mission-minded Christians from throughout the world. Please go to www.lwms.org for registration information.

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

- March 12, 2024, 6:00 PM – LWMS Meeting, Fireside Room
- April 9, 2024, 6:00 PM Spring Banquet/Mission Speaker
- April 20, 2024 Paperland Circuit Spring Rally – St Paul’s Winneconne
- June 27-30, 2024, International LWMS Convention – Sioux Falls, SD

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



Connected
e-updates for the Mount Olive Family

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.



March BIRTHDAYS

March 3	Elleanor Zimmer, 100
March 7	Fay Dreger, 91
March 13	Bruce Heckert, 77
March 13	Fred Strey, 87
March 14	Patti Jo Arnold, 78
March 19	Darwin Hintz, 80
March 19	Mary Borchardt, 92
March 23	Char Kiesling, 78
March 26	Mary Hintz, 79
March 28	Pat Paltzer, 77
March 28	Tom Bartel, 80



Mount Olive SCRIP

Did you know that you can earn SCRIP rebates for travel expenses?

Some examples include: Airbnb (5%), Hotels.com (6%), Southwest (4%), Delta (4%), Holiday Inn (9%), Carnival (8%), Disney (3%), Royal Caribbean (13%), Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park, Uber (2.5%) and many others. For a complete list, visit raiseright.com/brand. (Click on Categories and then on Travel.)

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.

Coffee Café

The Coffee Cafe sign up for January through April 2024 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
Mar. 3	Mark & Merri Schroeder	Brad & Laura Waurio
Mar. 10	Sarah Raasch, OPEN	OPEN
Mar. 17	OPEN	OPEN
Mar. 24	Amanda & Layla Smith	OPEN
Mar. 31	Closed for Easter	



Apple Valley Food Pantry The pantry's next collection date is **Saturday, March 9**. The following list of items are needed: adult cereals, pasta sauces, spaghetti noodles, egg noodles, pasta noodles, 24 oz. jars of applesauce, canned fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges, peaches, pears, women's deodorant, hand and body lotions. We could also use paper grocery bags WITH handles.

Thank you all for your generosity to the pantry!

2603 W College Ave, Appleton WI 54914

Email: applevalleyfoodpantry@gmail.com

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



Forward in Faith 2 Debt Update

Our 3-year Forward in Faith 2 pledge commitment ended on October 31, 2023. However, our need for gifts to continue to pay down our building project debt continues. Mount Olive members have continued to respond generously, giving a total of \$91,724 over the first three months following the end of the pledge commitment period. Below is a summary of our offering and debt picture.

Nov 2023, Dec 2023, Jan 2024 offerings	\$91,724
Interest earned	855
Total receipts	\$92,579

How Receipts were used:

Pay interest on debt	\$13,458
Debt principal payment	9,428
Increase cash on hand	\$69,693

Debt Status	10/31/23	1/31/24
Total Owed on Bonds	\$1,460,381	\$1,450,953
FIF Cash on Hand	97,490	167,183
Net debt	\$1,362,891	\$1,283,770



By the grace of God, Mount Olive was able to reduce its net debt by \$79,121 over the past three months. Please continue to make regular gifts to Forward in Faith. Gifts can be given through the Mount Olive website, the Vanco mobile app, or offering envelopes. Thank you for your gifts, large and small.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 3	Pine Car Derby
March 6, 13, 20	Midweek Lenten Services at 10 AM & 6 PM
March 6, 13, 20	Lenten Supper 4:30-5:30 PM
March 9	Apple Valley Food Pick-up
March 10	Daylight Savings Time Starts
March 11-15	Mount Olive School Spring Break
March 24	Walk through Seder Meal between services in the Commons
March 28-April 1	No School, Easter Break
March 28	Maundy Thursday Services at 10 AM & 6 PM
March 29	Good Friday, Church Office Closed
March 29	Tenebrae Services at 5 & 7 PM
March 31	Easter Sunday Services at 6:30 (w/ Communion), 8, 9:30, 11 AM Easter Brunch, 7-9:30 AM
April 9	LWMS Spring Banquet, 6 PM in the Commons
April 13	Apple Valley Food Pick-up
April 13	Cultivating Connections, 9-11 AM
April 14	Valley Teen Night @ Our Shepherd, Appleton
April 27	Examination & Confirmation, 9 AM
May 3 & 4	Mount Olive School Musical, Friday at 7 PM, Saturday at 2 PM
May 23	Last Day of School, 8th Grade Graduation
May 27	Memorial Day, Church Office Closed

