



MESSENGER

MAY 2024

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

Christ High-Ascended!

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Ephesians 1:18–23)

These words are Paul's beautiful "Ascension" prayer for Christ's church on earth – for you and me, for our parents, our children, and our grandchildren – for all who share our faith in Jesus. Paul knows what we need, and he asks God to give it to us. We need power – at least I do.

Sin, my sin, is to me what Kryptonite is to Superman. Every day my sin leaves me powerless to battle its temptations. Sin turns me inward so that I haven't an ounce of compassion for the people struggling alongside of me. Sin's guilt weighs me down, reminding me of what a loser I am, one who keeps falling for Satan's lies, his same old lies, day after day after day. I know my sin. I know what I deserve for it. I know that I'm surrounded by sinners, who like me, keep making a mess of life. What is to become of us? Is there any hope for you and me?

Oh yes – all the hope in the world! Better yet – all the hope in heaven!!! Why? Because that's where our POWER lives! We have no power of our own. In fact, we cause ourselves nothing but sin and grief when we think and act like we do. Paul knows this, not just as an observer of sinful humans, but as one himself. That's why he points us to the One who died for sinners and with his death, atoned for sin and guilt once and for all. Of course, a dead savior is no savior at all, so Paul makes sure to remind us that God has raised Christ from the dead as proof that his sin-payment counts and our eternal debt is canceled.

But notice, Paul doesn't stop at Easter. He moves right on to Ascension Day. No one saw God's power at work in the tomb as Christ wiped the sleep of death from his eyes. But the disciples were there to see God's might at work as the Risen Savior slowly, steadily ascended on high. That takes power far greater than a Saturn rocket. This is the power of God, not just overcoming gravity but actually setting it aside. He can do that. He can do everything!

Why give us a glimpse of such power through the account of eyewitnesses? Because this is the "incomparably great power" at work for us who believe. Paul pulls back the curtain of heaven and shows us that Christ ascended all the way to the right hand of his Father – the ultimate position of power and authority. What's he doing there? He's ruling over everyone and everything, seen and unseen, including Satan and all his evil minions. God has placed "*all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything FOR THE CHURCH.*" (Ephesians 1:22).

How amazing! The One who loves us and gave himself for us now lives to make sure that his saving work is not lost to us. He uses that power to make sure that where our sin increases, his grace increases all the more. He uses this powerful life-changing news to turn us naturally selfish souls inside out, so that now we have both the desire and the ability to love God and others. By God's gracious power, we who were once slaves to sin are now servants of the Most High God. We get to demonstrate his love through selfless acts of service to family, friends, and neighbors. When trouble, sorrow, and grief come our way, God uses the strength of his promises to see us through all difficulties, assuring us that he's with us to console us and even to bless us by making the cause of our every hurt serve our

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Membership Changes

Death

- * Louise Ebert passed away on April 18, 2024

Remove

- * Garrett Lemke
- * Larissa Lemke

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highest good. Last, but not least, the ascended Lord promises to each of us the gift of his Holy Spirit, so that as we live in and speak of the joy of his victory over sin and death, our message is packed with the power of God himself, power that turns hearts from unbelief to faith and makes dead sinners eternally alive – just like us!

Basking with you in Christ's Ascension glory,
Pastor Joel Zank

Memorials & Gifts

Forward in Faith 2

\$30 Dale & Karen Schmidt in memory of Vicki Wunderlich

\$30 Nancy Wunderlich in memory of Vicki Wunderlich

\$1000 Friends & Family in memory of Vicki Wunderlich

Tuition Assistance

\$30 Ron & Donna Zahn in memory of Minnie Nelson, sister of George & Barb Green

\$140 Friends & Family in memory of Minnie Nelson, sister of George & Barb Green

\$25 Roger & Bonnie VandenLangenberg in memory of Vicki Wunderlich

Ministerial Trust

\$25 Ken & Arline Kolander in memory of Minnie Nelson, sister of George & Barb Green

Organ Fund

\$300 Robert Bauer in memory of William & Bernice Bauer

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

Sign up for VBS!!

Sign up to volunteer!!

share the love

Faith in Action
VBS

June 17-21, 9AM-Noon



Church Council Report from April 15, 2024 Meeting

FVL Update—FVL President Jeff Loberger shared updates including Bargain Garden milestones, FoxFest, call news, construction updates, and enrollment trends.

Staff/Congregation News—Missionary Mark Zondag and his wife Sarah had a baby girl last week.

Pastors' Report

Pastor Priewe: Holy week went well. Ascension will be a student participation service. Miracle League offers a service opportunity for our members.

Pastor Gawel: Seder meal on Palm Sunday. Confirmation is coming up with 31 confirmands.

Pastor Raasch: District Convention, requires a congregational delegate. Digital Ministry Committee is looking to provide good content online and equip our people to share that content.

Pastor Zank: Assignment work ongoing. District convention on June 11-12. Pastor Raasch will be the convention preacher.

Financial Report

Reviewed March 2024 financial report:

- March offerings were \$6,101 lower than budgeted.
- Tuition was \$10,456 lower than budgeted.
- Other income was \$1,437 lower than budgeted.
- Total income was \$17,994 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses, before FVL/Synod distributions, were \$1,072 lower than budgeted.
- The net loss for March, including FVL/Synod distributions of \$33,300 was \$53,552. This compares to a budgeted net loss of \$36,630. The result is \$16,922 unfavorable to budget for the month.

Reviewed YTD (40 weeks ending March 2024) financial report:

- Offerings are \$23,671 higher than budgeted.
- Total income is \$38,731 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses are \$31,921 lower than budgeted.
- YTD net income is \$28,931, which compares to the budgeted YTD income of \$35,740. The result is \$6,809 unfavorable to budget.

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

- In the month of March \$24,810 was received in gifts/offerings.
- At the end of March there was \$208,076 of Forward in Faith funds available (of which \$130,000 has been invested in a US Treasury Account). After subtracting a reserve for April, July, and October interest/debt payments of \$67,711, there's \$140,365 available for additional debt payments. These funds will accumulate until Bond D is due in April 2025.

Banking Update:

- The group decided to reinvest the funds from a Certificate of Deposit (CD) maturing April 14th, 2024, into a 13-month CD at Community First Credit Union. Treasurer Tim Weihing will execute the transaction.

Operations Update:

- Operations Manager Paul Kolell presented the fiscal 2025 budget in process. The budget will be presented again to the Board of Finance during next month's meeting for final review.

Annual Audit:

- Board member Peter Joch informed the group that Clifton, Larson, Allen is in the process of preparing a letter of engagement for a three-year period of service.

New Business

- Visitation Pastor update—Pastor Raasch provided an update on visitation ministry.
- Tech Director—Options for a called position in the short term would be very limited. Encourage qualified candidates to apply for the hired position.

Announcements



*Next EC meeting – Monday, May 13 at 9am

*Next Church Council meeting – Monday, May 20 at 7pm

The Hope Center—A Compassion Ministry

Here are a few statistics to let everybody know how our compassion ministry is having a real impact in and on our community. The needs fulfilled by The Hope Center continue to grow by leaps and bounds along with the number of families being served. Just last month, we served 189 households with cleaning and personal items to help bridge the gap between income and needs.

There is, however, another statistic—one almost impossible to assess. You see, the hope that The Hope Center dispenses and brings to families is not just comprised of the hope to fill a physical need; it goes well beyond.

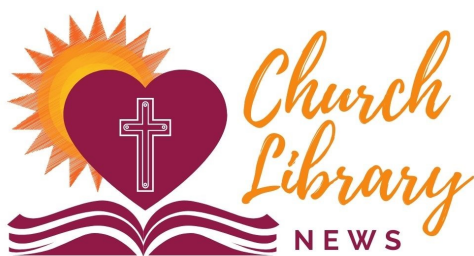
To many, hope is no more than a wish, but in a spiritual sense, hope is anticipation with certainty, backed by God's promise. But you cannot have hope unless it is tied together with faith. Not only does The Hope Center look to support physical needs, like personal and hygiene items, but more importantly, we strive to share a hope found in God's promises. More than anything, this is the true HOPE that The Hope Center has to offer.

"How?" you may ask. Much of this is done by simply building caring relationships with people in need—volunteers checking in with guests by phone, pastors being available to assess and address deeper spiritual needs, prayers, and occasional activities in the gym for young families, which provides opportunities to share God's love.

So much is being done, and so much that can be supported, even by you! Whether it's with your gift of time as a volunteer, the donation of items or financial support, please consider helping The Hope Center as we work to share the eternal hope of salvation found in God's promises.

To help as a volunteer or receive a list of needed items, please contact John Pellinen and/or Pastor Kuske. Monetary donations can be received by pew envelopes marked for "The Hope Center", or through the online giving portal.

The Hope Center—(920) 739-0039—www.hope-center.org



Church Library News

Adult Nonfiction: *The Baptismal Life*, by Rev. Dr. Michael Berg. From the seas of Genesis to the glorious crystal rivers in Revelation, water appears everywhere in the Scriptures. Throughout Bible history, as well as today in our daily lives, water has kept God's people alive not just physically, but spiritually also. In this book, the author reflects on the power of water in Scripture and what impact this has on baptism...

how this precious sacrament connects believers to Christ. He tells about the "water story" of the Word from creation and the flood to ultimately our arrival before God in paradise. And by focusing on the very beginning of our spiritual lives, our baptism, he addresses issues from the fear of death to everyday struggles throughout our Christian lives.

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!!



Technology Director Position The Technology Director will be responsible for leading the development, management and strategic implementation of all technological facets within Mount Olive Church and School. This will be a non-called, full-time salaried position with benefits. The incumbent will report to Mount Olive's Executive Committee. A complete job description can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/munsfejn> or by contacting the church office at church.office@mountoliveappleton.com. Please share this information with anyone you know who may be interested in applying.

To apply, please submit a resume and cover letter to paul.kolell@mountoliveappleton.com by May 5. Questions may be directed to Operations Manager Paul Kolell.

Teacher Farewell On Sunday, May 19th, Mount Olive will gather to honor the following Mount Olive teachers: Principal Landon Zacharyasz, who has accepted a call to serve as principal of Wisconsin Lutheran H.S.; Mr. David Liebhard who has accepted a call to teach physics at St. Croix Lutheran H.S.; Mrs. Stephanie Olson, who has accepted a call to teach at Immanuel Lutheran, Greenville; and Mrs. Joan Mueller, who is retiring. A fellowship hour, with a brief program, and refreshments, will be held from 9:15-10:15 AM. (No Sunday School or Bible classes that day.) A box for cards and gifts will be available in the narthex.

Altar Guild The Mount Olive Altar Guild fulfills the sacred duty in the Lord's House of maintaining cleanliness and good order in the Chancel and adjoining rooms and by supplying services which facilitate the celebration of the Lord's Supper and special holidays.

We are currently looking for ladies to join a team of three or four members that serve two months out of the year. We hold four meetings a year to address any changes and updates that may take place. If you have an interest in becoming part of a team or simply want to learn more about our purpose, please join us on Monday, May 13th at 1:00 PM in the Atrium, or contact me anytime.

Faye Thede, Chairperson—920-731-6271—thedefaye@gmail.com

LWMS

Our Spring Mission Banquet was a big success with 66 men and women attending! Pastor Dennis and Kerri Kleist spoke about Academia Cristo and what it's like having a daughter married to a missionary in Quito, Ecuador. The highlight of the evening was being able to see and hear from Missionary Nathan and Alyssa Schulte as they joined us via video conference from Ecuador. The donations from the evening, plus a special gift, amounted to \$1,340 that was sent to Academia Cristo. Also, a big thank you to Rich Mueller for the delicious pulled pork sandwiches.



Just a reminder that 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

- June 15, 2024, WELS Taste of Missions 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
- June 19, 2024, Mount Olive SISTERS Garden Gathering – 6:00 PM at Kleist's home
- 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.




Mount Olive Spring Clean-Up/Work Day

Please help us beautify our campus on **Saturday, May 18, 8–11 AM** (rain date is Saturday, May 25). Sign-up in the Atrium.

Tasks to be completed:

- Tree pruning
- Check & clean drains
- Inspect playground equipment and tighten nuts and bolts as needed
- Redistribute chips evenly across playground
- Clean out leaves and debris around shrubs
- Clean out window wells
- Rake out any dead areas in the lawn
- Trim back the dogwoods located near the dumpster
- Paint the benches in the lower courtyard
- Wash windows as needed
- Check heat tape on the roofs

Please bring any of the following items if you have them: work gloves, rakes, hoes, lopping shears, clippers, ratchet set, etc.



BIRTHDAYS
May

May 1	Red Beyer, 89
May 2	James Tank, 90
May 5	Paul Noffke, 91
May 6	Dennis Leahy, 80
May 11	Roy Schlavensky, 85
May 13	Richard Wunderlich, 78
May 17	Robert Johnson, 85
May 23	Nancy Wunderlich, 87
May 24	Irene Hintz, 80
May 25	Peter Kuehl, 76
May 28	Marilyn Becher, 83
May 28	Werner Koehler, 95
May 29	Wayne Strelow, 88
May 30	Donald Mitchell, 77

Apple Valley Food Pantry

The pantry's next collection date is **Saturday, May 11**.

The following list of items are needed: Hamburger, tuna and chicken boxed meals, canned tomato and chicken noodle soups, jam/jelly, cookies, all crackers, canned tomatoes (diced, sauce and stewed), adult cereals (Total, Special K, Chex), shampoos, conditioners (or 2-in-1 hair products) and body washes (including men's 3-in-1 products).

Just a reminder that the pantry does not give expired food to our recipients. Thank you all for your support of the pantry.

Mount Olive School students participated in a Food Drive to help stock the shelves at the Apple Valley Food Pantry. Kindergarten teacher, Amy Cain, served as teacher contact and the Benevolence Committee along with volunteers, tallied the number of items brought in. The winning classrooms were Mrs. Sehloff's second grade with 208 items and Mrs. Mueller's seventh grade with 400 items. To see the compassion and service of students to those in need was heartwarming.



God's Richest Blessings to our Confirmands This Year!

Luke Jesal Beyer
Dylan Louis Bouchette
Dylan James Brenn
Brianna Nicole Dahlke
Kailah Rose Daily
Louisa Richelle Falck
Alyvia Jean Fox
Addison Marie Grasse
Hudsyn Calland Joch
Cael Josiah Loberger
Jaxson Steven Mark McLister
Chase Joseph Mignon

Kellan Michael Murphy
Aubree Lola Neff
Jillian Laura Nielsen
Blake Curtis Pautz
Nora Lucille Probst
Landon Adam Pruess
Bryce Charles Ratzburg
Isaiah Robert Reabe
Josiah Carl Schaefer
Abigail Grace Schmidt
Maxwell Thomas Segelstrom
Benjamin Michael Smith



Braelynn Jayda Smith
Jackson Patrick Stark
Aidan Robert Steffes
Isaiah Charles Thompson
Alyssa Lyn Vanderhoof
Natalie Marie Vanderhoof
Austin William Zanto



The Miracle League of the Fox Valley

Mount Olive is once again encouraging people to volunteer at Miracle League. The Miracle League of the Fox Valley, a program of Goodwill NCW, is an organized baseball league for children ages 4-19 with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. Games are played weekly during June and July at the accessible John Wollner Fox Cities Miracle Field facilities in Memorial Park, Appleton. Volunteer info and registration here. <https://goodwillncw.org/mlfv/volunteer-registration/mlfv-volunteer-registration-form/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

May 3 & 4	Mount Olive School Musical, Friday at 7 PM, Saturday at 2 PM
May 9	Ascension Service, 6 PM
May 19	Teacher Farewell, 9:15-10:15 AM (No Sunday School or Bible Study)
May 23	Last Day of School, 8th Grade Graduation
May 27	Memorial Day, Church Office Closed
June 8	Apple Valley Food Pick up
June 8-10	New Member Welcome Weekend
June 17-21	Vacation Bible School, 9AM-Noon
June 23	Outdoor Service, 10 AM—Family Fun Day
June 24-28	WELS Youth Rally in Colorado
July 4	4th of July, Church Office Closed
July 13	Apple Valley Food Pick up
July 18-20	Mission Partner Rummage Sale

