



MESSENGER

JULY 2024

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

Whenever you give a banquet, invite people who are poor, who have disabilities, who are limping, and people who are blind; and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:12-14 New American Standard Bible)

When our daughter Josie was born with cerebral palsy and a host of other health conditions, I used to glare up at the sky and wonder why God would do this to her, why he would allow her to have so many difficulties and disabilities. Why did she (and more selfishly, why did we) get singled out to bear so many burdens? In these three years since she was born, we’ve experienced years filled with many health trials but also years with so much joy and progress! God has used little Josie to do a great bit of eye-opening for me.

He wasn’t doing this to her, as if he was handing out some kind of punishment on her or us! That’s the Pharisee’s way of thinking, **“Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”** (John 9:2) Remember how Jesus answered? **“It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”** On that day, Jesus was going to display that he was the Son of God by healing that man who had been obviously blind his whole life. His disability would provide the opportunity for God to be glorified.

Even though Jesus hasn’t come and miraculously healed little Josie, we have seen her disability provide the opportunity for God to be glorified as his people at Mount Olive have supported her and us in so many amazing ways. Her disability has also put us into a mission field that our eyes may not have been open to see, and I know we can support others with that same kind of love. Before Josie was born, God had assigned us to a congregation just blocks away from the Miracle League Field where kids with disabilities get to play baseball. It’s been the perfect opportunity for my family and us as a Mount Olive Family to let our light shine before others that they may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven.

Last year and this year, we’ve had about 15-20 Mount Olive volunteers serving as buddies and helpers on a weekly basis at the Miracle League of Fox Valley. Seeing our commitment to the program, Mount Olive was asked to be the indoor rain-date location for the Opening Day Miracle League Picnic. Guess what happened? It rained! Because of it, we were able to welcome several hundred people on our campus and show them a fun day, and now, we are inviting them back to a special event we are hosting!

On Saturday, August 10th, Mount Olive will host a special one-day Vacation Bible School called “New Friends—Jesus Cares” designed specifically for kids with disabilities and special needs. It will take place from 1:30 to 3 PM. We would love your help volunteering from 12:30-3:30 PM, (or as much as you’re able) to make this day a success. I stumbled upon a statistic that says that something like 90% of families with disabilities don’t attend a church, often because of the added difficulty or stress of going or even the members who didn’t react well to their child’s disability. This is one attempt we can make to do everything we can to invite and welcome new friends to learn about the true Friend we have in Jesus! Sign up to help in the atrium or on the Mount Olive website. If you’re reading this digitally, [click here](#) to sign up.

Pastor Priewe



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A Family
Growing
in Christ

Membership Changes

Baptisms

- * Gianna Marie Eastern, daughter of Jordan & Latasha, baptized on June 9, 2024

Deaths

- * Willis Loeck passed on June 12, 2024
- * Eleanor Zimmer passed on June 19, 2024

Adult Confirmation

- * Kaedon Heimann

Transfer Out

- * Greg & Pamela Jaenke to The CORE, Appleton
- * Emily Jaenke to The CORE, Appleton, WI

Release

- * Madeleine Lederer

Remove

- * Kelly Thao

Memorials & Gifts

Forward in Faith 2

- \$150 Family & friends in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$25 Tom & Elaine Bartel in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$25 Mary Borchardt in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$50 Sandy Kath in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$25 Mary Seidler in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$25 Jeff & Sheryl Schultz in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$20 Roger & Bonnie VandenLangenberg in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$20 Kay Zuberbier in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$35 Carl & Marilyn Rudolph in memory of Merlin Putz
- \$15 Kay Zuberbier in memory of Merlin Putz
- \$25 Jeff & Sheryl Schultz in memory of Merlin Putz
- \$30 Al & Debbie Vetting in memory of Merlin Putz
- \$20 Dan & Jeri Grunwald in memory of Merlin Putz
- \$50 Nancy Wunderlich in memory of Merlin Putz
- \$120 Family & Friends in memory of Merlin Putz
- \$25 Mark & Carol Schmidt in memory of Willis Loeck
- \$20 Dan & Jeri Grunwald in memory of Ellie Zimmer
- \$25 Carl & Marilyn Rudolph in memory of Ellie Zimmer
- \$25 Betty Flunker in memory of Ellie Zimmer

Organ Fund

- \$25 Lucille Stensberg in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$30 Karen Strey in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$100 Ken & Char Kiesling in honor of their 57th wedding anniversary
- \$25 Lucille Stensberg in memory of Willis Loeck

Ministerial Trust

- \$30 Al & Debbie Vetting in memory of Louise Ebert
- \$30 Ron & Donna Zahn in memory of Merlin Putz

Tuition Assistance

- \$2000 Werner & Jeanine Koehler in honor of their 75th wedding anniversary

Missions

- \$100 Brenda Meyers in thanksgiving for a friend's safe return from the military

Wisconsin Lutheran College

- \$25 Ken & Arline Kolander in memory of Willis Loeck



Church Council Report from June 17, 2024 Meeting

Pastors' Report

Pastor Raasch: Pastor Zank was re-elected as District President. Pastor Gawel was elected as Coordinator for District Discipleship. Pastor Raasch remains the Circuit Pastor for our circuit. Outdoor service and Family Fest this weekend. Organ maintenance will begin July 22nd and last 3-4 weeks. A number of volunteers are needed as well as a volunteer coordinator.

Pastor Zank: There was a 2-day district convention last week. Daryl Ohland was elected to represent our district for the Board of Control for Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

Pastor Gawel: Meeting and welcoming our new teachers. VBS is this week along with a brat fry on Thursday. Youth trip is next week to Colorado.

Financial Report

Reviewed May 2024 financial report:

- May offerings were \$12,545 lower than budgeted.
- Tuition was \$10,324 lower than budgeted.
- Other income was \$28,939 lower than budgeted.
- Total income was \$51,808 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses, before FVL/Synod distributions, were \$12,980 lower than budgeted.
- The net income for May, including FVL/Synod distributions of \$27,900 was \$10,710. This compares to a budgeted net income of \$49,538. The result is \$38,828 unfavorable to budget for the month.
- Of note, a \$20,000 Endowment Distribution and \$12,000 tuition payment was budgeted income for May but received in June.

Reviewed YTD (48 weeks ending May 2024) financial report:

- Offerings are \$3,363 lower than budgeted.
- Total income is \$60,746 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses are \$35,678 lower than budgeted.
- YTD net loss is \$5,339, which compares to the budgeted YTD income of \$19,459. The result is \$24,798 unfavorable to budget.

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

- In the month of May \$14,913 was received in gifts/offerings.
- At the end of May there was \$220,204 Forward in Faith funds available (of which \$130,000 has been invested in a US Treasury Account). After subtracting a reserve for July and October interest/debt payments of \$45,085, there's \$175,119 available for additional debt payments. These funds will accumulate until Bond D is due in April 2025.

Banking Update:

- There were no new items to report.

Operations Update:

- Operations Manager Paul Kolell presented a final 2025 balanced budget. The Board reviewed and approved it. The budget will be presented to the Church Council for recommendation to present to the voters during the June 20th, 2024, voters' meeting.
- Operations Manager Paul Kolell presented an updated Choice Program reserve balance spreadsheet to Church Council for approval.

Annual Audit:

- Clifton, Larson, Allen provided a formal proposal of audit services for fiscal years ended 2025-27.
- Clifton, Larson, Allen will host an Audit Planning & Progress Meeting Friday, June 14th. Additionally, they will be on-site Tuesday, July 16th, and Wednesday July 17th for pre-audit work. The audit field work will begin remotely Tuesday, August 6th and on-site Wednesday, August 7th.



Church Council Report from June 17, 2024 Meeting—*continued*

New Business

- Housing Allowance approval for new staff.
- Budget approval for 2024-2025
 - * Daryl Ohland and Paul Kolell gave an update on the proposed budget.
 - * The Reserve Balance Exhibit was presented and discussed.

Announcements

- Next EC meeting – Monday, July 8 at 7:30am
- Next Church Council meeting – Monday, July 15 at 7pm

Mission Partner Rummage Sale for Academia Cristo July 18-20

The Mission Partner Rummage Sale is a wonderful way for the entire congregation to support Academia Cristo's work throughout Latin America and help others at the same time! The congregation's participation has been outstanding! Thank you!

The 2024 rummage sale will be held in the Commons on July 18 – 19, 7AM–5PM, and July 20, 7AM–noon (everything is 50% off on Saturday).

Drop off: You are invited to donate clean, gently used items (free from stains, tears and holes) and in working order. Drop off is Saturday July 13th, 8am-6pm; Sunday July 14th, 7:30am-8pm; Monday July 15th, 9am-8pm and Tuesday July 16th, 9am-8pm.

We are accepting:

- Gently used, clean items in good condition
- Small working electronics and toys
- Furniture in good condition

Donations should be placed inside the entryway near the playground/gym entrance outside the gym interior doors. **Please do NOT place anything in the gym or the commons.** If you do not have anything to donate but would like to make a contribution, Mission Partner envelopes will be available at the sale or from the church office.

We cannot accept: car seats, weapons of any sort, gas powered or items with motor oil, copy machines, fax machines, laptops, PC's, phones, tablets.

If you'd like to help – Table set up is July 13, 10am–2pm. Sale set up is July 15 & 16 (unpacking boxes, sorting, item placement). Sale takedown is July 20, 12:30–2:30pm (taking down tables, setting up chairs, bagging and boxing remaining sale items). Paper bag donations are appreciated; volunteers to work the sale are invited to sign up in the church atrium.

Questions? Please call Cindy Helfrich (920) 585-3054, Elaine Bartel (920) 213-1855, Sarah Sehloff (920) 735-1569 or Joan Mueller (920) 585-5241.



2023 Rummage Sale Volunteers
Joan Mueller, Elaine Bartel and Sarah Sehloff



Mission Trip Grant Awarded

In June, Mount Olive's Scholarship Committee awarded a \$500 mission trip grant to Katie Slominsky. This summer and fall Katie is volunteering with WELS Mission Journeys in London, United Kingdom. A large portion of Katie's responsibilities will include preparing for and hosting several groups of short-term volunteers. Katie will plan their schedules and facilitate the work they will be doing in the community and at the church, while they are in London. Her responsibilities will also include a variety of miscellaneous administrative tasks: running the social media pages, designing flyers, organizing fellowship events and other tasks assigned by the pastors. Katie will also travel around the UK to attend small group bible studies and in-home worship services.

Mount Olive's Mission Trip Fund was established to assist Mount Olive students (grade school, high school or college) with expenses associated with their mission trip. Grants are for travel, lodging and meals, but not personal expenses. Students fill out a grant request form and submit the request to the church office. Students are asked to share information about their trip via *The Messenger* and post-service talks.

The Mission Trip Fund is not part of Mount Olive's operational budget and only receives funds by designated contributions from Mount Olive members. Contributions can be made by using the blue envelope in your envelope box, or blank offering envelopes now available in the church narthex, or electronically through Mount Olive's website (Give tab/other). Designate your gifts to the Mission Trip fund.

Please remember Katie with your prayers and personal encouragement.

2024-2025 Scholarships Awarded

The Mount Olive Scholarship Committee is pleased to report that for the 2024-2025 school year, Mount Olive is privileged to have four of its members preparing for the teaching ministry. The 2024-2025 tuition/room and board costs for Martin Luther College is \$26,020. Mount Olive has awarded \$6,000 to each student listed below for the 2024-2025 school year, \$3,000 per semester. Checks are sent to MLC at the start of each semester and are applied directly to the students' accounts.

Caitlin Broehm	5th year at MLC	Myah Loberger	2nd year at MLC
Emmalee Mindock	5th year at MLC	Adam Loberger	1st year at MLC

Total of 2024-2025 scholarships awarded: \$24,000

Mount Olive has entered into an agreement with Martin Luther College to participate in the Congregational Partner Grant Program. Through this program, congregations can encourage and support their members who want to prepare for the public ministry at MLC. The congregation awards a grant (scholarship) to freshmen, sophomore, junior, senior and 5th year students attending MLC, and MLC matches that grant up to \$1,450 per student. All four students are eligible to receive a matching amount from MLC's Congregational Partner Grant Program.

Please remember these students with your prayers and personal encouragements.

PLEA FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT: We pray that members will remember this fund with their gifts and memorials so that we can continue our awards to these students. Gifts to the **Mount Olive Ministerial Trust Fund (Scholarship fund)** can be made via the blue envelopes and a special Scholarship envelope in November. Blue envelopes can be found in your envelope box or blank offering envelopes are now available in the church narthex. Electronic gifts can be made through Mount Olive's website (Give tab/other). If you prefer to give to the endowment fund, you may designate your gift to the **Mount Olive Ministerial Student Endowment Fund**. Earnings from this Endowment Fund are annually distributed into the Scholarship Fund. Your support of future pastors and teachers is greatly appreciated.

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



The Hope Center—Stories of Hope

The Gospel Is Getting Through—How is it that you're a disciple, a follower, of Jesus? Probably in "the usual" way: baptized, instructed, confirmed, and a communicant member. It doesn't always work like that.



For one Hope Center client, they've been coming to the center and to church-related events for years. That was especially true after their significant other passed away. They attended GriefShare. Recently, doctors told them, "The cancer is back – in a bad way." They were actually asked by others, "If you die, what will you tell God, when you stand before him?" Answer: "I've got a way in: the blood of Jesus." Jesus' saving gospel has been getting through.

For another Hope Center client, they just finished Bible Information Class, and were invited to join the Lutheran Church. But they've always been a member of a different denomination. Their answer, "I'll come to church, but not to Communion, not quite yet." Despite their uncertainties, Jesus' saving gospel has been getting through.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. . ." (Romans 1:16). Our Hope Center volunteers have many conversations with our clients, and they lead to gospel conversations. They may not always work in "the usual way," but the gospel is getting through.

Thanks to all who share in this, The Hope Center – Appleton's ministry, or who still might. Your donations of money and material goods for 2024 through April, totaled in excess of \$23,000 (over 40% of our annual budget). Add to that over 700 volunteer hours this year, and it's allowed us to serve over 700 households, and over 2000 individuals in 2024. All of these were supplied amply with material goods, and an increasing number, with the gospel.

Find us at www.hope-center.org or phone 920-739-0039. Donate online or access a list of items that may be donated by clicking on the "Interested in Helping" button.



Church Library News

Video Recording (DVD): *The Letter Writer*, Christian Vuissa and The Bridgetone Multimedia Group, 2012. Maggie Fuller, is searching for identity and the acceptance of her peers. Her parents are divorced and she's a rebellious and troubled teenager who believes that she's a disappointment to her mother and all but invisible to her father. When she receives a letter from someone she doesn't know, giving her

encouragement and a sense of worth, she begins a journey that leads to healing in not only her life but in the lives of others. This film addresses difficult real-life issues: divorce, estrangement, betrayal, teen angst, aging, childhood cancer, and even death. The focus of the film is to impart the message that each of us has a unique purpose and God-given gift that can be used to bless those around us if we allow that to happen.

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!!





July 2	Ellen Wolfrath, 86
July 4	Michael Frailing, 80
July 5	Aldora Rockteschel, 93
July 7	Tom Sommers, 78
July 8	Jon Young, 77
July 8	Lucille Stensberg, 88
July 14	Bob Gunderson, 87
July 17	Larry Ciriacks, 76
July 23	Suzanne Arent, 84
July 25	Barbara Rohloff, 77
July 25	Michael Sass, 78
July 27	Judith Noffke, 83
July 30	Kent Kiesling, 78
July 30	Kay Van De Weghe, 88
July 31	Ken Richmond, 77

Coffee Café

Go to the [Mount Olive website](#) and 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 8-9:45 AM	Late 9:45-11:30 AM
July 7	Joan Mueller, OPEN	OPEN
July 14	OPEN	Waurio family
July 21	OPEN	OPEN
July 28	OPEN	OPEN

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 raiserright.com/brand. (Click on Categories and then on Travel.)

SCRIP gift cards are available for sale on Sundays in the church atrium from 9:00-9:15 AM and 9:45-10:00 AM.

Questions? Call 920-739-9194 or email scrip@mountoliveappleton.com.



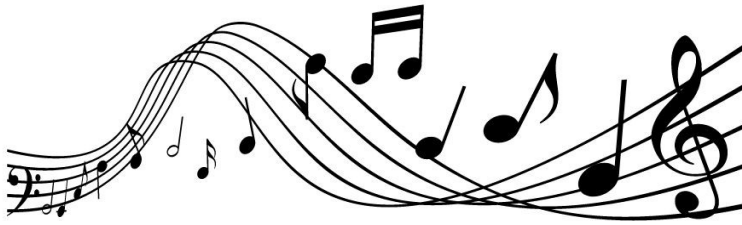
Apple Valley Food Pantry

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

The following list of items are needed: Hamburger/tuna/chicken helper meals, boxed potato side dishes, instant white and brown rice, rice side dishes, canned mixed veggies and carrots, canned chicken, beef/chicken stews, applesauce (24 oz jars), canned mandarin oranges & fruit cocktail, bath tissue, paper towel, napkins, laundry soap (50 load or less) and dish soap.

Thank you for your donations to the pantry. Please note that we cannot give expired food items, or pharmaceutical items, to our recipients.





Mount Olive’s Organ Cleaning Project

Dobson Organ is scheduled to begin the project on Monday, July 22. We anticipate the project will run between three and four weeks. A lot of hands will be needed to help share the work.

Volunteers are needed during the first two

weeks of this project (July 22-26 and July 29-August 2) to help with pipe removal, pipe washing, interior organ cleaning, and pipe reinstallation. You can indicate your willingness to volunteer by clicking on the link here: <https://forms.gle/8NSqJ5u988Gr57ki7> or by signing up in the church atrium. (Note that you won’t be asked or required to help every time you are available.) Our volunteer coordinator will contact you the day prior to see if you can assist the following day. The number of volunteers will vary daily and will be known only one day in advance. Thank you for your willingness to help!

2024 District Convention Report

Recently I served as a lay delegate for Mount Olive at the Northern Wisconsin District Convention held at Fox Valley Lutheran High School. The convention brings together pastors, male teachers, staff ministers, and lay delegates to discuss issues affecting both the district and the synod.

There were two excellent presentations during the convention. Pastor Karl Schultz discussed the difference between the spiritual Kingdom of God and God’s other kingdom (earthly kingdom). He discussed the role of government and politics and the authority provided to them by God. Pastor Ben Workentine discussed the “Digital Citizenship” and the use of online means to reach additional people.

The delegates broke into subcommittees to review the WELS 2024 Report to the Twelve Districts. My subcommittee reviewed the WELS Support Program that is available to retired called workers and their surviving widows. It is nice to know that the Synod has set aside funds to help those in need.

While the convention only lasted two days, the amount of information reviewed by the committee members and the feedback provided back to the Synod in each committee’s report was substantial. Mount Olive is blessed to have dedicated called workers who are leaders in many efforts at both the local, district and synodical levels.

Daryl Ohland, Mount Olive Lay Delegate

Daryl was elected as our district's representative to serve on the Board of Control for the Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, MI.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

July 4	4th of July, Church Office Closed
July 13	Apple Valley Food Pick up
July 18-20	Mission Partner Rummage Sale Thursday & Friday 7am – 5pm, Saturday 7am – noon
August 10	Jesus Cares Event, 1:30-3pm
August 10	Apple Valley Food Pick up
August 19	Forms & Fees Day, 8am-12:30pm, 3-6pm
August 21	First Day of School

