

# MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2023

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SOUP SUPPER</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CALENDER</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>THRIVIENT</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>COLLECTION</b>	
<b>DAYCARE &amp;</b>	<b>9—</b>
<b>PRESCHOOL</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SERVICE</b>	
<b>SCHEDULE</b>	

## SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST:

- **PRAYERS NEEDED:**  
Please continue to pray for the children, and families of children enrolled in our daycare and preschool program.

## FROM THE PASTOR

December 2023.... The season of Advent begins, a New Year in the Church Calendar and another Calendar year comes to a close. Our thoughts become centered around preparations and traditions in the family home and our church home as well.

By the time you read this, I expect that the stage will be in place for the Day Care Christmas program,. The Advent Wreath will have its place and be lit our first Sunday in December. The tree will be in the sanctuary adorned with lights and the Chrismons. Wreaths around the sanctuary and throughout the Narthex and Foyer. All of these visual messages of the heart of Christmas – Christ.

At home, My wife and I have our traditions that we look forward to: The tree as a focal with garland around the windows. Stockings hung over the fireplace. Silly hats for the cats. (They don't wear them for very long!) Soon Christmas cards and gifts will be sent and also received.

Still, there is for me nothing better than to sit by the tree in the early mornings and drink my coffee by the light of the tree. It is a time of peace. A time of Prayer. A time of Thanksgiving and a time of great joy and peace regarding the hopes of our future. I used to envy the shepherds that night when the angels came and shared their wonderful news, until it came to me that the Angel's message was given to me as well. What a Joy those words bring and what great peace. "For unto you is born this day a Saviour!" This message is proclaimed to you also!

This is why another tradition in our home is so important to me. Each year we will normally watch such movies as A Wonderful Life, A Christmas Carol (The one with George C. Scott) and the most important film – A Charlie Brown's Christmas.

The latter film summarizes all the issues our society faces each and every Christmas season: The business and commercialism of Christmas. I suppose Satan enjoys the idea that we are distracted from the important and singular message of Emmanuel!

**FROM THE PASTOR... CONTINUED**

Charlie Brown shares the timeless and ever so important message and I still shed a tear or two when Linus shares the Word of God for us all. These are the words we need to hear and remember...

## The Birth of Jesus Christ

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

So, I leave you with this; Yes, there is uncertainty about what the future will look like, but just look at what God has done for you. Look at how much God loves you. Look at what lengths God will go to provide for you. This is your God, and this is how He will continue to care for His people here at Mount Olive. God Bless you all and Merry Christmas

Pastor Bill



Each year we will normally watch such movies as A Wonderful Life, A Christmas Carol (The one with George C. Scott) and the most important film – A Charlie Brown's Christmas.

*Merry  
Christmas*

**ALTAR GUILD**

The 1st Sunday in Advent this year is December 3rd and is the start the Church's new year. The season of Advent consists of the four Sundays preceding Christmas and is a time of preparing hearts and minds for he "Coming" of Christ. (Advent is defined as "coming") And so the first part of Advent focuses on the return of Christ at the end of days, and the latter focuses on the coming of Christ as promised by God to His Old Testament People.

The Advent season is a season of hope for Christians around the world as our hope is in Him, and so the color of the season is Blue, the color of Hope. Many churches use Purple to designate Advent, as the hope we have in Christ (Blue) is ours through the blood of Christ (Red) and so combined results in purple, and this also makes a stronger tie to Lent, which is the reason why He came to us.

A wreath containing 4 candles is often used to count the Sundays of Advent and the Christ Candle is placed in the center which is lit upon the Birth of Christ.

At Mount Olive, a nativity set is used to mark the passage of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and continue through the twelve days of Christmas, which begins Christmas day and ends the last day before Epiphany, showing the movement and arrival of the Magi. Epiphany is always January 6th, and is usually celebrated on the nearest Sunday to the day.

December also observes 3 minor festivals: St. Thomas (12/21): Thomas was one of the original 12 disciples, known for doubting Jesus' resurrection unless he could verify with his own eyes. Historically his ministry was in India.

St. Stephen (12/26). Stephen is considered the first martyr of Christianity. After being accused of blasphemy he denounced the Jewish authorities and was sentenced to death. His stoning was witnessed by Saul of Tarsus later known as Paul after his conversion.

St. John (12/27). The youngest of the original 12 disciples and the



- \*The Altar Guild is always looking for new members even if you can only commit to one year (2 months is the amount of actual service). Men are also welcome.

**ALTAR GUILD**

brother of James. He is often referred to as the disciple whom Jesus loved, he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos. He wrote several New Testament books including Revelation and although an attempt by poison was made on his life he was the only disciple to die of natural causes. (Mark 16:18).

**SOUP SUPPER SCHEDULE**


# Soup Supper Schedule

**It will be returning at it's regular time of 6:00pm. Schedule dates Below:**

December 6th, 2023  
December 13th, 2023  
December 20th, 2023


**\*Following Soup Suppers will be having our Advent Midweek Services at 7:00pm**

DECEMBER: BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

12/02 Emma Wheeler  
12/07 Don Hoge  
12/10 Julee Kolman  
12/17 Lindsay Phipps  
12/21 Char Mann  
12/21 Melissa Fenton  
12/21 Bonnie Strohschein  
12/23 Don Hoge




**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

12/01/1984  
Pastor Bill & Vivien Baker

12/09/1978  
Dan & Julee Kolman

12/21/1975  
Gene & Linda Pardee



# DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 ADVENT BEGINS 10:45am: Voter's Meeting	4 10am Sewing Group	5 6pm: Women's Bible Study	6 10am: Bible Study 12:30 Lydia Ruth Luncheon 6pm: Youth Group 6pm: Soup Supper 7pm: Advent Mid-week Service	7	8 7pm: Daycare/ Preschool Christmas Celebration	9 10am: Men's Bible Brunch
10	11 10am: Sewing Group	12	13 10am: Bible Study 6pm: Soup Supper 7pm: Advent Mid-week Service	14 10am: Elders Meeting 6pm: Lydia Ruth Circle Mtg	15	16
17 Care Net Donations 10am: Jesus's Birthday Party	18 10am: Sewing Group	19 11am: Parkinson's Support Group 6pm: Women's Bible Study	20 10am: Bible Study 6pm: Youth Group 6pm: Soup Supper 7pm: Advent Mid-week Service	21 5:30pm: Gov Board Meeting	22	23
24 Turning Pointe Donations	25 10am Christmas Day Service	26	27 <b>NO BIBLE STUDY</b>	28	29	30
<b>NO BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>DAYCARE/CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>		<b>PASTOR GONE ON VACATION</b>			
31 <b>ONE SERVICE @ 10AM FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK</b>						

**NOVEMBER: WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**LECTORS**

Sunday Service:	*8:30 am Contemporary*	*10:00am Service	*11:00 am Traditional *
12/03/2023	Vivien Baker	N/A	Pam Stevens
12/10/2023	Vivien Baker	N/A	David Stevens
12/117/2023	Vivien Baker	N/A	Gene Pardee
12/24/2023	Vivien Baker	N/A	Linda Pardee
12/31/2023	N/A	Dave Rolfs	N/A

**USHERS**

All Month	
Early Service : 8:30am	Looking for volunteer ushers!!
Late Service : 11:00am	Looking for volunteer ushers!!

**COUNTERS**

All Month	Bob & Lorilyn Rogers
-----------	----------------------

**ALTAR GUILD**

Service Date	
12/03/2023	Julee Kolman
12/10/2023	Janice McMann
12/17/2023	Pam Stevens
12/24/2023	Bonnie,Sandy, & Dale
12/25/2023	Priscilla Kepler
12/31/2023	Bob & Lorilyn Rogers

\* December 31st,2023 will be a combined service at 10:00am followed by a potluck at 11:30am\*

# CROSSROADS HOUSING DONATIONS

COLLECTION  
BOX IN FOYER  
NEAR FRONT  
DOOR

**They desperately need your help.**  
Donations you make will help us provide:

## **NEW-PLEASE!**

- ✓ Shampoo
- ✓ Tooth Paste & Toothbrushes
- ✓ Deodorant
- ✓ Toilet Paper
- ✓ Diapers
- ✓ Shower Curtains
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Blankets

COLLECTED UNTIL DECEMBER 10TH





**DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL UPDATES... CONTINUED**

“JESUS JOY MOMENT(S)”: Last month, one of our weekly themes was about Joshua and the walls of Jericho. It’s been fun to watch the children, in their own time, acting out building the walls with blocks, walking around them, blowing their horns, shouting (they love this part) and then the walls coming down. Through Bible stories, the children learn about trusting in God and His great love for them. It’s great to see the Bible stories become real for the children!

CHAPEL: Did you know that we have chapel every Wednesday? The children also learn about Bible stories and about how much Jesus loves them during our daily Jesus Time. Jesus is with us every day!

ENROLLMENT: We recently hired two new teachers and they are working on completing all their required trainings. We will soon be able to fill a few openings for children on our waitlist. What a blessing it is to be able to reach out and share the love of Jesus with more families and children!

**WHAT DID WE LEARN ABOUT IN NOVEMBER?**

We learned about how God wanted Jonah to go to Ninevah, but he didn’t listen and tried to run away. We can’t run away from God because he is always with us. We also learned about Joshua and how God helped him knock down the walls of Jericho. Sometimes God wants us to do hard things, but he will always help us! We learned about the ten lepers and how only one remembered to say, “Thank You.” We talked about thankfulness and prepared for our Thanksgiving Soup Lunch. We had many parents join us for the special lunch. At the end of November, we learned about how the angel told Mary she was going to be Jesus’s mother. That was surprising news for her! We are excited to be able to learn more about baby Jesus



- We recently hired two new teachers and they are working on completing all their required trainings



**DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL UPDATES**

during the month of December. We also learned about whales, walls, construction, marching, turkeys, pilgrims, candles & Advent. We learned about the colors blue, brown, red, numbers 2, 3, 4, 16, circles and sorting by size & shape. We also learned about the letters Aa, Ff, Kk, Ll, Mm. Nursery Rhyme: Little Boy Blue



**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:**

1. We will need help building the stage for our Christmas Celebration. It will likely need to be assembled following worship on Sunday, December 3, and taken down Saturday December 9. If you've helped with this, previously, please consider helping again. If you've never helped before, we'd still appreciate your help! With a few hands, the stage comes together quickly. Please let Margarete know if you're interested in helping.
2. We will need some help with the cookie and juice reception following the Christmas Celebration. Please let Margarete know if you'd like to help.

- We are looking for someone to kill and remove the moss from the pavement behind the building.

**THRIVENT ACTION TEAM PROJECTS:**

We have two Thrivent Action Team projects to share with you.

1. **CROSSROADS HOUSING:** We will be collecting the following items to donate to Crossroads Housing as part of our Christmas Celebration offering. Shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, toilet paper, diapers, blankets, shower curtains & towels. (All NEW). We will also be collecting an offering, to benefit Crossroads Housing at our Christmas Celebration on December 8. We've had several families who have found housing through Crossroads, so we appreciate them! Checks can be written to "Mt Olive Lutheran" with "Crossroads Housing" listed in the memo line. Last day for donations is December 10.



**DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL UPDATES... CONTINUED**

2. NATIVITY SETS: We are hoping to be able to give each child an interactive nativity set that can be used for many Christmases to come. Although we have the seed money from Thrivent, we will need additional financial donations to achieve this goal of having one nativity set per child. Checks can be written to “Mt Olive Lutheran” with “Nativity Sets” listed on the memo line. An order will need to be placed before the end of November, but donations will be accepted until December 10.



**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Christmas Celebration—Friday, December 8 at 7:00 pm Please join us as we celebrate the real meaning of Christmas! The Christmas Celebration will be followed by a reception with cookies and juice. The younger children will dress in nativity costumes and the older children will read some Christmas bible verses. All the children will sing some special songs. We are looking forward to this opportunity to share the real meaning of Christmas with our families! We will be taking an offering for “Crossroads Housing.”

- Christmas Celebration—Friday, December 8 at 7:00 pm Please join us as we celebrate the real meaning of Christmas!

**HELP STILL NEEDED!** We are looking for someone to kill and remove the moss from the pavement behind the building. (Pressure Wash) We will pay for all supplies/equipment rentals. Please talk to Margarete if you are interested in helping us out. Thanks!

**PRAYERS NEEDED:** Please continue to pray for the children, and families of children enrolled in our daycare and preschool program.

**FACEBOOK:** We have a Facebook page! You will find us at “Mount Olive Lutheran Daycare and Preschool.” Please & “Like” us! On this page, you’ll be able to see pictures of learning activities that take place at Mt. Olive as well as pictures of special field trips.



Joyfully Serving, Margarete

# Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 pm and a Traditional Christmas Day Service will be held Monday, December 25th at 10:00 am. Both of these services will be available via Facebook Live.

**\*No Bible Study on December 24th, 2023\***

As a reminder we will only be having ONE SERVICE on December 25th.



# Advent Service Schedule

December 3rd is the beginning of Advent, so our first of three Advent Midweek services will be Wednesday December 6th at 7:00pm. We will be having two additional midweek services, on December 13th and 20th, both at 7:00 pm.

**NO ADVENT SERVICE DECEMBER 27th!!!**



**GOVERNANCE BOARD NEWS**

Governance Board met November 16th with four members present. There was a discussion on the state of our finances. We are a little behind on our budget so we will be watching that closely. Report was given on the Day Care/Preschool. Discussion was held on making more connections with our shut-ins. Lydia Ruth does a good job, but we were reminded that all members should try to reach out to them. Just a phone call will brighten their day. We scheduled a voter's meeting to be held December 3rd at 10:45. I made the mistake of not putting Debra Bezona up for re-election to a second, three year term as a board member. There will be a chance to present others that might want to run for this seat. This is the only business to be taken up at this meeting.

Phyllis Canaday

**TREASURER'S REPORT**



- Lydia Ruth does a good job, but we were reminded that all members should try to reach out to them.



PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY

# FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

*Get Certified in  
First Aid & CPR  
Program*

*Please Sign Up  
Today!!*

*Sign up sheet in  
the Foyer next to  
front door!!*

**COMING SOON**

To Mount Olive Lutheran Church

Training Includes:

- Learning about emergency situations
- Basics of Life Supports
- Get started with CPR
- Get started with First Aid
- Real Life demonstration

## **MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

206 East Wyandotte Ave

Shelton, WA 98584

Pastor: Rev. William Baker

Deacon: Bill Crowell (emeritus)

Deacon: Hank Sexton

Website: [www.mtoliveshelton.org](http://www.mtoliveshelton.org)

Office phone: 360-426-6353

Office email: [molcshelton@comcast.net](mailto:molcshelton@comcast.net)

Daycare/preschool:

Margarete Dohring 360-427-3165

Daycare email:

[daycaremolc@comcast.net](mailto:daycaremolc@comcast.net)

### *Sunday Service Schedule*

Contemporary Service 8:30am

Christian Education 10:00am

Traditional Service 11:00am

**(THIS SERVICE IS LIVESTREAMED ON FACEBOOK)**

