

What's Our Image?

If asked, what would you say the “**image**” of Mount Olive Lutheran Church is? Now remember that how Mount Olive is seen by our community and surrounding area is based on the relationships that they have with the disciples of Christ of Mount Olive (that's you!). Would you say that they see Mount Olive as a church that only takes care of themselves, concerned only about their own needs, or would you say that they see us as “**missional**” disciples of Christ? Now when we talk of the disciples of Christ or churches being “**missional**” we need to discover the definition of **missional**: “**An adjective that describes the way in which we do all of our activities, rather than identifying any one particular activity.**” To be **missional** is to align all the activities, programs and functions of the church around the mission of God. As we see in the book of Revelation that the words God gave to John to record, the true Christian Church will always be **missional**:

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star. The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.” (Revelation 22:16-17)

Christ's Mission is the only legitimate rationale for every activity.

So the answer is not how we are doing an activity in the church. But how God, by the Holy Spirit will enable us to be **missional** as we serve each other and our community, as Christ gives us that assurance in Mathew 28:18-20: “*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* So, Mount Olive disciples of Christ, because Christ has redeemed us, He now sends us with **His mission and ministry**, in the **image of Christ**. We go with the Holy Spirit enabling us in the **image of Christ** as we disciple amongst our community, region, state, nation and the world. We go into all of our activities in and outside the walls of this building with the mission and vision of the church in mind. We go seeking ways for our people and our various ministries to serve to the glory of God and His people. We go equipped with His mission, and empowered by His Spirit.

Connecting People to Jesus,

Pastor Jon

**The MISSION of
Mount Olive Lutheran Church:
“Living to Love People to Christ”**

Compassionate Friends

By Marcy Weight

Members of Compassionate Friends meet monthly to offer Christian love, hope, strength and companionship to:

- ◆ Cope with a recent diagnosis of cancer
- ◆ Meet the daily challenges of a chronic disease or terminal illness
- ◆ Encourage a neighbor, family member or friend suffering from a diagnosis of an acute disease
- ◆ Offer hope to you as a survivor



The next meeting for Compassionate Friends will meet in the Bookstore at Mount Olive on September 11 at 1:00 PM. This support group is open to everyone who has gone through or is going through an illness. Call Marcy at 763.755.6368 for more information.

Stephen Ministry

By Dave Dawson

Hello Everyone!

Summer is well on under way and I hope everyone is enjoying and relaxing. It's also a good time to catch up on some reading.

Did you know the church library has a Stephen minister's section of really caring and compassionate books? There are about 18 books and some of the titles are *"Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart"*, *"Joy Comes in the Morning"*, *"Empty Arms: Emotional Support for Those Who Have Suffered Miscarriages"* and *"Disappointment with God?: Three Questions No One Asks Aloud."* Plus many other wonderful books. The next time you are in church, stop by and check out a book or two...it just might change your life.



"For as the Heavens are high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward those who fear him." Psalm 103-11

Welcome- L.I.F .E . Groups

By Pastor Randy Stroming

In The Hazy, Lazy, Daze of Summer

Life in Minnesota! Wow is it hot out! Hot enough for you! These are things we say and hear in Minnesota. It wasn't that long ago we heard, (and will be hearing again soon) Wow it sure does get cold in Minnesota. Cold enough for you! Once again, we face the reality of life in Minnesota and its extremes - hot and cold. Once in a while we get to enjoy some of the middle ground but most of the time we are on the roller coaster ride of extremes. That seems to fit with many of our life styles especially when it comes to our relationship with Jesus. It seems to be hot or cold. Scripture speaks to be hot and cold in Christ. It says that we should either be hot or cold, not lukewarm. But that has to do with knowing Jesus as Savior. When it comes to a relationship that knows Jesus and needs to grow in him, regular consistent growth is the best.



Living in Faith Everyday

When it comes to my devotional life it seems that I am on the mountain or the valley. My problem is that I put way too much on my feeling towards devotion. "What am I going to get out of this." "Do I have time for this." My attitude is off from the start. I need an attitude adjustment. A devotional life begins with Jesus. My humanness will get in the way and try to smother it with excuses or feelings. Satan will work hard at getting my attention to focus away from Christ and on other things also.

Here is a list of things that help cultivate regular growth no matter what the weather outside is...

- An attitude that my daily walk with Jesus needs a regular focus.
- Read the Word daily! It seems like a no brainer but Satan has ways to get in our way and seem as if it is not important.
- Get involved in a small group that can hold you accountable to regular growth. The groups will be gearing up for the new season. If you're not in a group the time to join is now!
- Listen to Christian music! It builds a joy in your heart and soul.
- Attend worship on a regular basis. Don't let the hazy summer attitude rob you of your Sabbath time with God and other Christians.
- Share your faith and life to those around you. Make it part of just what you do when you are around people.
- Be a servant and grow a servant heart. This attitude fosters a caring heart for others.
- Read books that foster thoughts and growth IN your walk with Christ.

Summer-time can be great time to get into a habit of Bible devotion and prayer time. You don't have to take on the mountain and spend an hour. Start with 5 –7 minutes of Bible reading and prayer. And build from there.

"I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name FOREVER!" Psalm 86: 12

WELCOME

Welcome Focus - *Women's Ministry*

By Mary Schultz

When God Messes with Your Life Plan.....with permission from *desiring God.org*

Creating life plans is big business these days. For a sum of money, you can hire a Life Coach (Life Guru, Life Master, Life Sensei, whatever it's called), and they will then help you construct a master life plan. The life plan will probably contain some, or all, of the following items:

- A grandiose life mission statement, which makes you sound pretty awesome.
- One-year goals, five-years goals, and life goals.
- Specific areas of focus in your life (spiritual, physical, familial, etc.).
- A specific trajectory for your life. In other words, a specific description of where you want to be in five years. Most likely, this will include a specific job, a specific level of income, a specific geographic location, and perhaps a specific body mass index.

And the reality is, even if you don't have a formal, written life plan, you have a life plan in your head. We all do. You have an imagined future in your head. You want to have a family, have kids, get a college degree, start a business, travel to Europe, etc. You get the point. I don't have a formally stated life plan, but I want to accomplish certain things. I want to attain a certain level of comfort and stability for me and my family. I want my life to actually mean something. To reference a well-known author who seems to get quoted a lot on this site, I don't want to waste my life.

Now don't get me wrong: I'm all for planning. Without plans, little of enduring value gets accomplished. Those who fail to plan often find themselves binge watching on Netflix.

But the reality is, there are many times when God intentionally messes up my life plan. And that's a really good thing.

One Messed-Up Life

God really messed up Joseph's life plan. His brothers threw him into a dry well, then sold him into slavery. The wife of his Egyptian master tried to seduce him. When he refused her advances, she turned him over to the Egyptian cops, who then tossed him in prison. He spent years in prison, waiting to be released. I don't imagine that Joseph included prison time in his life plan. Finally, after many years of painful waiting, God exalted him to the second in command in all of Egypt.

When all was said and done, what did Joseph say to his brothers?

"Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." (Genesis 50:19-20)

God messed up Joseph's life plan, and it was a really good thing. He did for Joseph what Joseph could never have done for himself.

Two More

God really messed up Abraham and Sarah's life plan. He allowed Sarah to be infertile and barren for years. He took them out of their homeland, away from their family and friends. Finally, after the couple waited earnestly for many years, God promised them a son. Then God made them wait some more. Finally, their hopes and dreams were realized when their son Isaac was born. Then God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Talk about a wrench in the life plan.

After God rescued Isaac, and all was said and done, God made the following astonishing declaration to Abraham: "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." (Genesis 22:16-18)

God seriously messed up Abraham's life plan, and it turned out to be a really good thing. God accomplished for Abraham what Abraham could never have accomplished on his own.

He Knows Exactly What He's Doing

The moral of the story? God really, truly knows what he is doing. He usually takes longer than we would like. He often leads us through strange territory. Sometimes he defers, or even destroys, our dreams. But God, our loving, tender, delightful Father, knows exactly what he is doing. He is accomplishing more in you and through you than you could ever think or imagine.

Are you in a place you never expected to be? Has God taken you on a path you never would have willfully chosen? Take heart. God hasn't deserted you. He hasn't forgotten you. He hasn't made a mistake. He knows exactly what he's doing. He knows exactly what you need and where you need to be.

The truth is, God's life plan is always better than mine.

Stephen Altrogge (@stephenaltrogge) is a husband, dad, and writer. His most recent book is entitled, Untamable God: Encountering the One Who Is Bigger, Better, and More Dangerous Than You Could Possibly Imagine. He also writes regularly at The Blazing Center.

WELCOME

By Pastor Jon Haakana

The Apostles' Creed – Questions & Answers

This year marks the 500th anniversary of when Martin Luther nailed Ninety-Five Theses (statements) to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. This historic event will be celebrated and remembered throughout this year in our Synod.

One of the ways we have been celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is by using parts of Luther's Small Catechism in our worship services this summer. Later this month we will take a look at the three articles of the Apostles' Creed.

What is a Creed? A creed is a statement of what one believes, teaches, and confesses. The creed also provides a summary of all of God's work in creation and human history as set forth in the Bible.

Why does the Creed follow the Ten Commandments in the Catechism? The Ten Commandments are written on the hearts of all people by virtue of their creation. They reveal our sin and prepare us to receive the gifts of salvation confessed in the Creed. Luther said, "The Commandments teach what we ought to do. But the Creed tells what God does for us and gives to us."

What is the Apostles' Creed and when was it written? The Apostles' Creed is best known and most widely used of the Christian Creeds (beside the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds). This creed is a summary of what the apostles believed and taught the early Christians. Although its content was written in the first or second century, the first mention of the expression "Apostles' Creed" occurs in a letter written by Ambrose in 390 AD from a synod held in Milan, Italy.

Why do we use the Apostles' Creed? It is the one most commonly used in Baptism. We were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In three articles or parts the Creed expresses the divine work commonly associated with each person of the Trinity: the Father (creation, the Son (redemption), and the Holy Spirit (sanctification).



Why does the Creed begin with the words, "I believe..."? The English word *creed* comes from the Latin word *credo* – "I believe." A creed is a statement of faith, a statement of what I believe. To say "I believe" is to say what God has done **for me**. I am convinced the God has **made me, redeemed me, and sanctified me**.

"If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (Romans 10:9-10)

Word Ministry Focus - Life +

By Pastor Randy Stroming

Life+ Bible Study Opportunities

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Tuesday Women's Bible Study is at 10:00 AM, Tuesdays, in the Meeting Room. Our summer schedule is as follows:

We will view movies during June, July and August. We will meet June 6 (FMSC), June 20 (movie) July 11 & 25 (movie), and August 1 & 8 (movie). Some movies mentioned were ... *God is Not Dead*, *Gates of Jerusalem*, *The Case for Christ* and *War Room*. Contact Carol Martin or Karen Albu for more information.

Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00 AM in the Coffee Shop. Contact Jeff Paschke at 763.427.5539.

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study meets at 6:00 AM in the meeting room by the Coffee shop. We will be studying Jeremiah, *Daring to Hope in an Unstable World*, by Melissa Spoelstra. Anyone interested in joining can call or email Paulette Lenz at 763.576.0933 or mp.lenz@gmail.com.

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The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at Mount Olive on Monday, September 25 from 12:30-6:30 PM in Cana Hall. Ages 17 and up (weighing a minimum of 110 lbs) are encouraged to donate. Sign up in Welcome Center. Free childcare is available.

Work Ministry Focus - Stewardship

By Jon Holtz

Last month, we talked about change and that it is a Godly principle. If we are not changing to become more like Christ Jesus, we are drifting backwards, we are lukewarm, or worse, rebelling against Him. All of those adjectives are not good and Jesus confirmed this in Revelations 3: 15-18.

This month, join with me as we continue to define the word as it relates to a Christian; and in our case, members of Mount Olive.

Stewardship is more than just fundraising campaigns, capital appeals and challenges to meet a tithe. Sometimes as a member you can feel they are just “slick” advertising methods the church is using to raise money. At home on the TV or computer, we have all seen the starving children, animals and other needs in various ad campaigns. Stewardship is really your PERSONAL complete Discipleship picture or profile. The question becomes what does your picture or reflection look like right now?

At Mount Olive we have the five “W’s” that we measure ourselves against: Witness, Welcome, Word, Worship and Work. If you notice the side right graphic, “Work” encompasses our serving God in time, talents and treasures. Now here is where it gets sticky and some Christians really do not like this next part. What do you see as you measure yourself to the five “W’s” and take a “picture” of your spiritual health? Not only measure yourself if you have done them but where are you according to God’s Word?

What are some scriptures to measure ourselves?

Matthew 6: 19-21

Matthew 7: 1-27

Matthew 25: 1-46

May the Holy Spirit speak to all of us as He guides us in truth and empowerment. Let us continue the journey next month!

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18th Annual
Mount Olive
Golf Scramble!!!



Monday
September 11, 2017
Elk River Country Club

3:30 PM—Registration
4:30 PM—Shotgun Start
7:00 PM—Social Hour
& Pig Roast

Families, friends, golfers and non-golfers alike are welcome to participate in this 9-hole, Sign up TODAY. Proceeds support our Human Needs Fund.



By Jan Block

LWML ONLINE: National website is www.lwml.org. Many of you use your email, text and other tech items on a daily basis. Check on the www.mnslwml.org and see all the many things that come up. There are items for ministries, events and resources. This is for the MN South District. Also, check our LWML table on the way to Cana Hall. It has several items for your use. There are Quarterlies, mite boxes and calendars that can be used to help fill your mite boxes. Encourage children to use them also.

Mark your calendars for the

Annual Fall Lunch/Bake Sale and Craft Fair

Friday, November 3, 2017

Coffee and Donuts: 9:00 - 11:00 AM

and

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Bake Sale: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

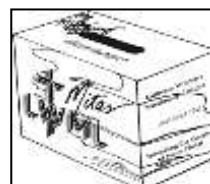
Soup or Sandwich Lunch: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sandwich Lunch: 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Craft Fair

9:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Call Jan Block at 763-421-7987 if you can help.



Keep saving your spare change and fill up your mite boxes.

WITNESSES



ENEVERYONE IS INVITED!

On August 10 at 7:00 PM you are invited to a phenomenally fun and inspirational for all ages program put on by 40 youth from all over the country. They are spending two weeks BI KING all over MN sharing **God's Word through music, skits, testimonies and more!**

Calling all 5th Graders and their families...

Here at Mount Olive, we start formal Confirmation classes when kids enter **5th grade. To ensure a clear understanding of Confirmation, it's** implications for the faith life of your family, and things specific to the program at Mount Olive, our Director of Youth Ministries, CAROL KIETZMAN seeks to meet with each of the incoming 5th graders AND THEIR **FAMILIES. It's actually a great chance to get to know Carol, have some DQ (Carol's treat) and get excited about the next step in your family's faith** journey. Be on the lookout for a letter to come home regarding these visits.

"Children will learn far more by watching than by listening." -Billy Graham

With the beginning of the school year upon us I have been pondering the ramifications of education of any sort, and my role in it. It seems that throughout the decades, both church and state have taken more and more of the responsibility of training children out of the hands of parents. Even at church, the concepts of Sunday School and Confirmation have gone from them being used as tools and supplements to what they were also seeing and hearing at home to something very different. Now it seems, much like the educational system, that Christian Education tools have replaced parents involvement in their kids faith walk. **Culture has trained us as parents to look to someone "trained" or "more knowledgeable" than ourselves to teach our kids Holy Scripture and how to have a saving relationship with Christ. It's up to the organized churches to train our kids to have servant hearts and be followers of Christ. Obviously, parents maybe don't intend for this to be the situation, but it so easily becomes it. It's the expected norm set up by current culture. Let's face it, it's easier too. In the midst of todays ultra scheduled and busy lives (including my own), it's so much easier to let a trusted source do the training. But here's the thing, We are only with your kids 1-3 hours A WEEK. We have very little influence in and of ourselves as church leaders. We want to help guide your family, we want to supplement you, the parent's knowledge base and set up opportunities for growth in Christ, but without the parents desire to know the Lord, without them daily seeking out God's wisdom and grace, and without their ongoing desire to SHOW their kids what it means to follow Christ, it's really an uphill battle to have the kids follow in Christ's footsteps. The youth team at Mount Olive is excited and ready to help your family seek Christ TOGETHER!**

For more information please contact:

Marla Chesser
Children's Ministry
 PreK-Grade 4
 763.421.7156 x 117
 marla@mtolive-anoka.org

Carol Kietzman
 Youth Ministry
 Grades 5-12
 763.421.7156 x 107
 carol@mtolive-anoka.org

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, August 10: Spoke Folk at Mount Olive!
- Sunday, September 17: Rally Sunday
- Sunday, September 24: Regular Education Hour begins at 9:15 AM

August 2017

August 2017							September 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
							3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
27	28	29	30	31									

Jul 30	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5
Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00am Classic Grace Communion 9:30am Living Praise	9:00am National Night Out 9:00am Preschool Summer Camp (Room 109) 10:00am Women's Bible Study (Meeting Room) 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision Meeting (Bookstore)	6:00am Men's Bible Study (Coffee Shop) 6:00am Women's Bible Study (Bookstore) 9:00am Preschool Summer Camp (Room 109) 5:30pm Midweek Meals (Cana Hall-West)	8:45am Leave for Bethesda (Main Entrance) 9:00am Preschool Summer Camp (Room 109) 5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal (Worship Center) 7:00pm First Place 4 Health Group (Conference Room) 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (M)	7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Meeting Room)	4:30pm Living Praise Rehearsal (Worship Center) 5:30pm Saturday Night Worship with Communion
8:00am Classic Grace with Communion 9:30am Living Praise	7:00am Parking Lot Re-Surfaced (Lower Parking)	6:00am Men's Bible Study (Coffee Shop) 6:00am Women's Bible Study (Bookstore) 5:30pm Midweek Meals (Cana Hall-West)	7:00pm First Place 4 Health Group (Conference Room) 7:00pm Spoke Fork Family Night Program (Worship Center) 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Meeting Room)	7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Meeting Room)	4:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal (Worship Center) 5:30pm Saturday Night Worship
8:00am Classic Grace with Communion 9:30am Living Praise	7:00am Rain Backup Parking Lot Re-Surfaced (Lower Parking)	6:00am Men's Bible Study (Coffee Shop) 6:00am Women's Bible Study (Bookstore) 5:30pm Midweek Meals (Cana Hall-West)	3:30pm Manna Market Setup (Family Center) 5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal (Worship Center) 7:00pm First Place 4 Health Group (Conference Room) 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Meeting Room)	2:00pm Manna Market Setup (Family Center) 5:00pm Manna Market Reg/Distr (Family Center) 7:00pm Manna Market Clean-up (Family Center) 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Meeting Room)	4:30pm Living Praise Rehearsal (Worship Center) 5:30pm Saturday Night Worship with Communion
8:00am Classic Grace with Communion 9:30am Living Praise	9:00am Preschool Orientation Sessions (Cana Hall East & Classroom) 7:00pm Preschool Orientation Sessions (Cana Hall East, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, Nursery)	6:00am Men's Bible Study (Coffee Shop) 6:00am Women's Bible Study (Bookstore) 5:30pm Midweek Meals (Cana Hall-West)	5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal (Worship Center) 7:00pm First Place 4 Health Group (Conference Room) 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Meeting Room)	11:00am Senior Fellowship (Cana Hall) 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Meeting Room)	4:30pm Living Praise Rehearsal (Worship Center) 5:30pm Saturday Night Worship

Aug 27 - Sep 2

Aug 20 - 26

Aug 13 - 19

Aug 6 - 12

Jul 30 - Aug 5

Mount Olive

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Saturday Night Service 5:30 PM
(contemporary service)

Sunday Worship Services:

Classic Grace: 8:00 AM
(traditional service)

Living Praise: 9:30 AM
(contemporary service)

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Change Service Requested



August 2017

Upcoming Events

July 31-August 3: MOLC Preschool Summer Camp

August 1: National Night Out

August 10: Spoke Folk Evening Concert

August 18: Manna Market

August 25: Senior Fellowship

August 29-31: MOLC Preschool Orientation

