

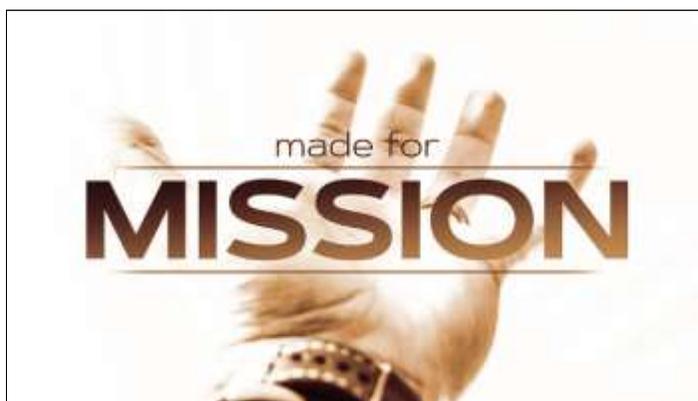
Made for Mission

It's no secret, people long for a life filled with meaning, a life that matters for something more than their own personal comfort and temporary success. Yet, as J.D. Greer has put it, there are few lies that cripple the mission of the church more than the belief that only a select few are called to ministry. We will begin a six-week series on January 27 in worship that is designed to unlock the amazing truth that every child of God was *Made for Mission*. As we journey together through the teaching of Scripture, there is no doubt in my mind or heart that our church community will grow in our understanding of what it means to surrender our lives to the radical calling of Jesus Christ, who whispers to every heart, *"Follow me."*

Opening with an examination of the calling of Matthew—the socially outcast tax collector who wasn't on anybody's A-list—we begin to realize that God isn't looking for all-stars, just ordinary people who are willing to join Him in an extraordinary mission to change the world through the message of the gospel. Together, we will discover the powerful message of God's grace and what it means to share this message throughout every aspect of our lives, wherever God has placed us.

One thing this series will make crystal clear to all of us is that that no matter where we are in life, whatever career path we have chosen, whatever gifts we think you have (or don't have), God has made each of us unique and He has called each of us to follow Him. My prayer for this series is that everyone in our church will gain a greater understanding of the simple truth that we were all *Made for Mission*.

Plan on joining us each week! We will use Scripture, videos and illustrations remind us all that we were ***Made for Mission***.



See you in church!

Connecting People to Jesus,

Pastor Jon

OLIVE PRESSES

WELCOME

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 Room 1115 on February 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.

WINTER WORSHIP SERIES

Made for a Mission

(A Six Week Series: January 27 - March 3)

January 27	We are Called	Galatians 1:10-24 Matthew 9:9-13
February 3	What's My Mission	Philippians 3:7-14 Luke 9:57-62
February 10	What's My Message?	Romans 5:12-21 Luke 8:26-39
February 17	Who is My Mission?	Acts 16:25-34 John 4:4-14
February 24	Why Am I On Mission?	Romans 10:9-15 John 13:1-17
March 3	Bring Someone With You!	Acts 9:36-42 Luke 8:49-56



Welcome - L.I.F.E. Groups

By Pastor Randy Stroming

The heartbeat of our life together at Mount Olive is our small groups. It means to be connected with other Christians in small group relationships that foster spiritual growth, spiritual fruits and build up the body of Christ. The fellowship (koinonia) is the harmony and unity to be the Body of Christ and Family of God that God desires his people to be.

This LIFE in the church as the Body of Christ is all about relationships. It begins with a relationship with Jesus and connects with others as we grow in our faith ourselves. That is J(esus) O(thers) Y(ourself). JOY is a gift that we receive from God as we this life in Jesus. This joy and Peace and hope come from God as we grow in faith in Christ by his Word and Spirit. Below is an acronym for relationships that gives meaning to our relationship with God and others. What words do you come up with that define Life in Gods church?

R elational / Real / Reconciliation

E verlasting / Encouragement / Emmanuel

L ove / Laughter / Live-

A dore / Acceptance Awesome

T rust / Together / Thankfulness

I ntimacy / Involve / Insight

O thers / Overcome / Opportunity

N ame / Need / Neighbor

S cripture / Safe / Saved

H oly Spirit / Home / Happy

I n Christ / Imagine / Increase

P ersonal / Praise / Participate

S ing / Search / Servants

LIFE Small Groups



Living in Faith Everyday

Blessings,
Pastor Randy

WELCOME

WELCOME

Events

UFF DA DINNER

Flannel, Food, and Fellowship

Sunday, Feb 24, 5-8pm

\$40 per ticket

Featuring MN themed foods, including choice of Swedish Meatballs or Tator Tot Hotdish

Enjoy entertainment by our own Mt. Olive Youth!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE 33 YOUTH ATTENDING THE 2019 LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Purchase tickets online @ www.mtolive-anoka.org or at the welcome desk

Senior Youth

The 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis July 11-15, 2019.

We have 33 youth and 6 adults from Mt. Olive attending what will be an amazing event close to home.

This gathering's theme is

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

Thank you for your prayers and support for your Mount Olive Youth!

By Pastor Jon Haakana

“Missio Dei”

Since we are beginning a six-week look at the mission God has given to all of us, I thought I would use the opportunity to take a look at the concept of mission and the “Missio Dei” since they are words not used in Scripture, but the concepts surely are!

What does Missio Dei mean?

Missio Dei is a Latin Christian theological term that can be translated as the “mission of God,” or the “sending of God.”

What is the mission of God?

The call in the book of Ephesians is for the church to fulfill its role in the **mission of God**, to participate in the mission Dei. (Eph. 1:7-10) One writer put it, “**God’s mission** flows from God to Christ to the Holy Spirit, who empowers the church, who carries on the mission to the world.”

What was Jesus’ mission?

Jesus’ mission statement and job description can be found in Isaiah 61:1-2 and proclaimed by Jesus Himself in Luke 4:18–19:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

What is mission in the Church?

Some church bodies would argue that the **mission** of the Church is to confront injustice and alleviate suffering, doing more to express God’s love for the world. Others, including our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod would emphasize the proclamation of the Gospel as commanded in the **Great Commission** of Jesus before ascending into heaven:

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV)

The **Great Commission** is the instruction of the resurrected Jesus Christ to His disciples to His teachings and saving work to all the nations of the world. This instruction has lived on in the Christian church and has become the tenet in Christian theology emphasizing ministry, baptism, Christian education, evangelism and missionary work.

In other words, God’s mission has become our mission!



WORD

Word Ministry Focus - Life +

By Pastor Randy Stroming

Life† Bible Study Opportunities

SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

How to Get Through What You're Going Through: Beginning January 6 at 9:15 AM. Contact Michael and Judy Fedo for more information at michaelfedo12@gmail.com.

In 7 Sessions, we'll use Scripture to address the following:

- When Your World Collapses
- Getting Through Life's Losses
- When Life Makes No Sense
- The Path to Peace
- Transformed by Trouble
- Finding Treasure in Darkness
- Never Waste Your Pain

*"No one can predict misfortune. Like fish caught in a net or birds in a trap, people are caught by sudden tragedy."
(Ecclesiastes 9:12)*

Highlighted Verses Bible Study: This Bible study focuses on specific verses (from Genesis to Revelation) that people have highlighted (as having special significance) in their Bibles. The study meets in the second floor Meeting Room at 9:00 AM during the Sunday morning education period. Participation is required. The goal is to develop confidence in sharing one's faith with others. Participation has resulted in great discussions and sharing.

Small groups, such as LIFE groups, may want to add this type of study to their group's activities. Sharing the highlighted verses provides others to describe the impact God's word have on their lives. It can generate all kinds of emotions and feelings. The results are amazing. I would encourage each small group to try this type of study and sharing.

Also, as individuals you can go through your Bible and copy your highlighted verses in one document. It is very interesting to see in a few pages all that you have considered significant to highlight. You will be amazed at the consistency in the Bible and in what you have highlighted. It also provides an opportunity to reconnect with God and yourself. If there are any questions, contact Jim Rootes at farmalldork@gmail.com.

† † † † † † †

Tuesday Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in the Room 1115/Bookstore. We are studying the Old Testament prophetic book of Isaiah, "*The Gospel of the Old Testament*." We'd love for you to join us for prayer, fellowship and the study of God's Word. Contact Karen Albu at 763.432.7652 or karenalbu@comcast.net or Chris Schomburg at Chrisschomburg@gmail.com with any questions.

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 from 6:00 - 7:00 AM in the Room 1115 by the Coffee Shop. We are studying from "*S.H.A.P.E.*" from Rick Warren. Stop by on Wednesday morning or contact Paulette Lenz for more information at mp.lenz@gmail.com.

In the Word Bible Study: This Bible Study meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM. This Bible study continues in the Book of Isaiah. The method we are using for this study is to listen to a dramatization reading of Isaiah and then follow-up discussion. We completed the study through Chapter 24. Contact Jim Rootes at farmalldork@gmail.com.

"Sometimes we look at our lives or our world and wonder what good could possibly come out of it. That's exactly what we find in the book of Isaiah. Here you'll see how the prophet raises a cry for revival in the midst of a rotting society. And you'll find comfort for your own troubled times."

By Jon Holtz

PLEASE CONTINUE THE COURSE!

I am writing this article after giving two articles congratulating a job well done by the congregation reaching our financial goals of debt to dedicated and the mortgage!
However, to date we are running behind in both the general fund AND the capital/ building/ mortgage fund.

As of today, the General fund is about -28,000 behind our budget year forecast to general. The capital/ building/ mortgage fund is currently in the dangerous territory. Normally, we experience a "bump" in December with the capital campaign "kick-offs". This year, hoping our congregation would respond the same as other years to receive a bump. We currently have not. In fact, taking in less than 1/2 we normally do. This will put a tremendous strain on our operational budget.

2019 Capital / Mortgage Goal	\$112,500
Received year to date (December - January 22)	\$32,471
Goal that remains	\$80,029

What can **YOU** do?

- 1) Please consider tithing or more and watch God shower blessing on you. A second option would be to tithe to general and give what you can to capital campaign.
- 2) We as a congregation need to pull together again and reach out to our Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors and invite them to Mount Olive. As Pastor Jon has stated so MANY times, "we need to be missionaries in the World that God has placed us." The circle of people you come in contact everyday are the ones God wants you to shine your light to. Ask God to open up opportunities to share your faith everyday and watch your life change!
- 3) If you are a giver but are inconsistent, please consider the Give+ options. It will stabilize your budget and be a very helpful too.

Blessings!
Jon Holtz

PS. If you are planning on "flying south" for the winter, or if you ever forget your check book, or envelopes, no worries, GIVE+ is here to help.

Give + 5 Tools for Giving (located in the pew)

1. **Give+** Mobile App
2. **Give+** Text by texting 763.324.9754
3. **Give+** Online through our webpage: www.mtolive-anoka.org/onlinegiving.html
4. **Give+** at the Welcome Desk
5. **Give+** Simply Giving (as it has been available all this time)

GIVE+
By Vanco Payment Solutions

W
O
R
K

Witness - Home and Abroad

By Kristin Bradley



Thank you so much to the Anoka Hennepin School Volunteers for serving Mount Olive at Manna Market in January.

We served 99 families, which equals 255 individual family members and 30 lbs. of food per person!! Thank you all our volunteers!!!

Mount Olive Preschool - Mutare

Getting ready with colorful surroundings to open for preschool children. Excited they will be learning about Jesus along with their letters and numbers. Pray the economy in Zimbabwe stabilizes and the political divisions can become unified.



Pastor Togara's Book is Published!

While Togara was on sabbatical in Minnesota last year, he wrote the book *"Inspired by Lutherans."* Pastor Jon wrote introductions to many of the chapters. With help from multiple donors, the book was published and we have received the first copies. Taken from Togara's perspective, he chronicles how our mission team became involved with Odzi, DOCAS and the mission hospital.

Email mtolive@mtolive-anoka.org if you wish to purchase a copy. Each book sells for \$20 and all proceeds go to support the mission hospital.

Witness Ministry Focus - WOMO

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Mark your calendars for the Women of Mount Olive's meeting on February 4 in Cana Hall at 1:00 PM. This is an important meeting as there are many items that will need a decision and hoping you all can make it!

At the present time the religious cards are being housed in Room 1115 off the Coffee Shop. Don't forget these are available.

We have been informed by the bank that they will not accept checks made out to "LWML"—please make any checks for cards or Mite box donations to "Women of Mount Olive"—indicate on the memo line where it is to be directed.

We need you to pick up a Mite box and prayer calendars as Mites are running behind this year.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD began 25 years ago giving 157 million shoeboxes to boys and girls in over 160 Countries. Mount Olive has been collecting shoeboxes from our surrounding groups, churches and individuals for 10 Years. Each shoebox is packed with fun stuff and the Gospel message. Christmas is Over but the gift of the Gospel and Jesus loves you, keeps on giving all year.

THANKS to each person that packed a shoebox and entered Mount Olive to drop off their Gift to a needy boy and girl. Thanks to the following that helped at Mount Olive:

- The Peterson/Scarborough Life Group.
- To each person who helped to greet, pray and receive each shoebox.
- Senior High Youth groups that shopped and packed many shoeboxes.
- Peggy Rumsch encouraging River Oaks to pack approximately 60 boxes.
- Erna Sandness packing 195 shoeboxes.
- Mount Olive preschool packing approximately 65 boxes.
- Don Huizenga for transporting over 1000 shoeboxes from Mount Olive to Forest Lake Crossroads Church.

It was a great year for OCC and the good news is Mount Olive will again be a major Drop Off Center in 2019. Our goal is to involve more Life Groups and other groups to be actively packing shoeboxes.



Again, THANKS TO ALL. Any questions or comments, contact Mary Scarborough at maryjscarborough@hotmail.com.

WITNESSES

YOUTH

Sunday School

Our Sunday School children have been faithfully bringing in offerings. We are sending \$167.97 to help **the victims of last year's hurricane.** The children also wrote notes of encouragement to share with the people.



They also have been busy sharing pictures and cards with our shut-in members.

Junior Youth



Wednesday February 13th at 6:30 PM

Summer Servant Event Meeting for 6-8th graders and their parents. Our summer servant event at The Wilderness Fellowship is an exciting way to serve our Lord, build relationships with God and other young Christians and to have a ton of fun! Join us this night to find out what it is all about, upcoming dates and how you can be a part of this great adventure.

For more information please contact:

Carol Kietzman

Youth and Family:

Sunday School

Confirmation

763-421-7156 x107

carol@mtolive-anoka.org

Mt. Olive

Girls' NIGHT

WHO: 7-12 grade girls
WHEN: Friday, Feb 15
 6:00-8:30pm
WHERE: Mt. Olive Church

Bring \$5 for the evening and a friend!

MUSIC **CRAFTS** **FOOD**
BIBLE STUDY **GAMES**

Senior Youth

GUYS NIGHT

March 1st, 6-9pm
 5 Dollars Per Person

- Food
- Nerf War
- Smash Bros Tournament
- Bible Study

Upcoming Events

- February 13 Servant Event Meeting 6-8th Graders & Parents (6:30 PM)
- February 15 **Girls' Night Grades 7-12** (6:00-8:30 PM)
- February 20 Confirmation Ceremony Info Mtg 8th Grade & Parents (6:30 PM)
- February 22-23 Junior Youth Lock In (8:00 PM - 6:00 AM)
- March 1 **Guys' Night Grades 9-12** (6:00-9:00 PM)
- April 27 Run2Grace 5K (9:00 AM)

Upcoming Events

February 8: Preschool Family Fun Night

February 15: Youth Girls' Night - Grades 7-12

February 15: Manna Market

February 22: Junior Youth Lock In

February 23: 500 Card Club Fellowship

February 24: Special Vision Assembly Meeting

February 24: NYG Fundraiser Dinner

March 1: Senior Youth Boys' Night - Grades 9-12

April 26: Run2Grace 5k Race

