

"Finding Your P.L.A.C.E."

In our worship services for four weeks this fall, we looked at the Biblical understanding of our church membership by utilizing the book, *"I Am a Church Member"* by Thom S. Rainer. With the responses given by you to a membership emphasis each week, we will create a new Member Covenant. Once completed, I will ask all of us to sign and recommit ourselves to being an active part of God's mission here.

For the next five weeks, we want to follow up our look at church membership, by looking at how we can best serve in God's church through the local congregation. We will do that by looking at the **PLACE** process.

What is PLACE?

PLACE is a Bible-based self-discovery process that helps God's people discover their:

- Personality
- Spiritual Gifts
- Abilities—optimal environment or surroundings you need to be where your personality and spiritual gifts can flourish
- Passion—both felt and demonstrated
- Experiences of Life

With each week there will be an assessment for members and guests to take to help individuals discover their unique design by our Creator. This discovery will help guide all of us into knowing both **HOW** and **WHERE** to serve in ministry.

At the end of our series, *"Finding Your PLACE in Life and Ministry,"* you will be given an opportunity to fill out a form with your results from the completed assessments in all five areas. You will also be asked to sign up for our PLACE Personal Discovery sessions to show you which ministries or groups at Mount Olive fit best with your gift mix.

Why Complete the Process?

For potential new members, guest and visitors: Every person should have a better understanding of how God made them so they can better understand how to work best within the kingdom of God. Also, if you are considering becoming a member of Mount Olive, completing this process will almost complete the new member process. The only step remaining would be attending an orientation session.

For members, veteran and new: This process will help you see whether the place you now serve is the best fit or perhaps you should experiment with something else based on what you discover. Or if you have yet to find a place to serve here, let us help you.

If We've Done This Before, Why Do It Again?

If you have been part of the PLACE process before in recent years, or have taken similar assessments, you may wonder if it is important enough to do it again? The answer is YES! God continues to shape us and mold us into the child of God He desires, so our passions and interests, and even our gifts can change as we change. Personally, I have completed the PLACE process twice, and have otherwise taken several personality and spiritual gift assessments, each one with a little different result. And yes, I am taking it again!

Please join me and your brothers and sisters in Christ in discovering who you are as a child of God, and how and where you can best serve Him.

Connecting People to Jesus,

Pastor Jon

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 the Room 1115 at Mount Olive on November 12 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.

Service of the Word for Healing

Thursday, November 15 - 7:00 PM



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 21
6:30 PM



Welcome - L.I.F.E. Groups

By Jon Haakana

As we have begun a new education year as a church family, I would like once again to stress the importance of being part of a small group here at Mount Olive. There are several small group Bible studies each week, and home groups that meet for study, encouragement, prayer and fellowship. We call them **L.I.F.E. Groups** here at Mount Olive.

Now certainly we don't require participation in one of these groups, but I would encourage you to consider being part of one for edification, spiritual growth, and for strengthening the body of Christ here at Mount Olive. I have reprinted portions of our **L.I.F.E. Groups** brochure to remind us as we ask the question, "Why small groups?"

LIFE Small Groups



Living in Faith Everyday

L.I.F.E. Groups (*Living in Faith Everyday*) are a way of bringing people together as they seek to look closely, through the eyes of their hearts, at the guidance and transforming work of God in their lives.

L.I.F.E. Groups are foremost a listening group, spiritually directed with the opportunity to describe the milestones, detours and questions of our own spiritual journeys.

As Mount Olive grows in membership as a church, people may feel as if they are part of a crowd instead of a family. Some members may feel the church is "getting too big" and wish we could have that 'small church' feeling.

L.I.F.E. Groups connect one another to each other and to the body of Mount Olive. The body of Mount Olive cannot care for every member of our church, but a **L.I.F.E. Group** can care for each of its members.

Through a variety of Bible or topical book studies, each group sets their own schedules and plans fellowship and servant events. Prayer and care for each member becomes second-nature because lasting relationships have been formed. Join a group today!

There are currently **16 L.I.F.E. Groups** at Mount Olive that meet on various days and evenings of the week. Leaders of **L.I.F.E. Groups** have a passion for people, caring and loving hearts and want to see others build in their relationship with Jesus and others. If you have this passion, please pray about serving as a **L.I.F.E. Small Group** leader, and then talk with Pastor Jon at your earliest convenience.

As we have now entered this new education year, I hope you will consider becoming a part of one of our **L.I.F.E. Groups**, whether you have never been part of one or would like to start again. For days, times, and leader contact information please find the "whole" **L.I.F.E. Group** brochure located on the W's board under "Welcome," in the Welcome Center.

WELCOME

Word Ministry Focus - Life +

By Pastor Randy Stroming

Life† Bible Study Opportunities

SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Wide Angle Framing your Worldview

The eight-week study by Rick Warren and Chuck Colson is underway but your welcome to join anytime. Your worldview consists of the beliefs you build your life on. It determines how you view God, yourself and other people. It includes your thoughts about life and death, good and evil, pain and suffering, the past, the present, the future. It determines how you think about relationships, your time and your money. Everything you think about life is shaped by your worldview.

Come join us in Cana Hall at 9:15-10:15 AM each Sunday for coffee, fellowship and Bible study.

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 is also provides an opportunity to reconnect with God and yourself.

If there are any questions, contact Jim Rootes at farmalldork@gmail.com.

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Tuesday Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in the Room 1115/Bookstore. We are doing a study on 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 (bookless) Bookstore/Room 1115 by the Coffee Shop. If you want to study the Bible but an evening study doesn't work for you, we encourage you to try our early morning study - you just need to go to bed earlier on Tuesday night! Stop by on Wednesday morning or contact Paulette Lenz for more information: 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."

The Word

By Pastor Randy Stroming

I recently read an interesting article of why young people leave the church. Here is part of the article:

We tell people that the Bible is the basis of Christianity...

*“Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.”*

It's a line that many who grow up in the church know by heart, and it reflects a problem in modern American Christianity: many of us believe that the Bible is the foundation of our religion. I recently read a blog post by a former worship leader who left the faith after she read a book “proving” contradictions in the Bible. Apparently, she grew up believing the foundation of our faith is a non-contradicting book. It's not. Jesus is. When our faith stands on anything other than Christ, we put ourselves (and others) in position to fall.



The point of the article was to say that the Bible is not foundational for our faith. So how do we grow in faith? The Bible points us to Jesus who is the Word. “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” (John 1:1) Jesus and the Word of God go hand in hand. I think it comes down to faith. We have faith that the Word of God is true and points us to Jesus.

So the question is - Is the Bible true? Is it really reliable or is it full of errors? Doesn't it contradict itself? Is the Bible inerrant? This discussion has been going on for a long time. Luther and other Lutheran Reformers answered these questions in no uncertain terms, defending the inerrancy of Scripture. We stand with them today in how we look to scripture and believe scripture to be the Word of God. The inspiration of Scripture - the Bible is God's Word in all truth and purity.

The Holy Spirit is never wrong; He is God. It is sinful people who perceive the Bible to error and contradict itself. Luther did not mince words when he wrote: “It is impossible that Scripture itself error; it only appears so to senseless and obstinate hypocrites.”

If we don't believe the Word of God is inerrant and points to Jesus, it would leave doubt in our minds and that would have an impact on our faith. To deny it would mean that we cannot be certain that any word of the Bible is from God. There would always be doubt. And in turn this would mean that we would lose the certain comfort of Christ that the Bible so clearly teaches us, the certain comfort that He has exchanged His righteousness for our sin upon the cross and risen victorious over death and the grave so that we might live with Him forever. This is why we must continue to confess like our Lutheran forefathers did, the inerrancy of Scripture.

We stand on scripture as foundational to our faith and walk with Jesus. Don't let Satan get into your head to deny the truth of Scripture. Here are some verses that are key:

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

“Knowing this first of all that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:20-21)

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17)

In Christ,

Pastor Randy Stroming

The Word - Your Daily Intake Matters

By Matt Bradley

I was reading some headlines from the business world recently and one really grabbed my attention. The article was stating that although the Fitness Industry in the United States is booming, Americans are more obese than ever. The article wasn't pointing to a lack of physical activity. It was stating that physical activity does little to help us lose weight or stay fit. Our diet is the problem. What we take in, whether fast food, junk food, or perhaps just eating more than we need, all contributes. Consider this:

- You get a membership at a gym to improve your fitness/activity level
- You buy a nice array of workout clothing to look smooth when going to the gym
- You get that Fitbit and wear it to remind you each day of your activity
- You invest time (which has value) in exercising to stay fit

It all sounds great, but if you don't monitor what goes into you, it can all be for naught.

Can it become the same with our spiritual life? We become members at a church to grow and improve our spiritual life. We may buy some nice clothes to look our best when going to church. We become active in ministry at the church. But...do we monitor what goes into us?

It can be all too easy to become "fat" on the things of the world while pushing aside the good things of God that keep us in good spiritual shape. Church membership, presenting our best when coming to worship, and being active in ministry are excellent things, but if our daily intake is full of television shows, social media and games, how much room is left for taking in God's word?

In Chapter 1 of Joshua, God speaks to Joshua. Moses has passed away and God is doing some training of his servant Joshua. ***Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. (Joshua 1:7-8)*** God instructs Joshua to meditate on His word day and night.

When I hear the word "meditate", it sometimes sounds like something that would make me sleepy. God is not trying to help us take an afternoon nap with this statement. We can look at meditation as thinking or dwelling on God's word, preaching it to ourselves, inserting it into our thought life and allowing it to guide us in our daily walk. Recalling God's truths to our mind and embedding it in our lives and our hearts. When we meditate this way, God's Word becomes the lens through which we process our thoughts and actions. Having God's Word close at hand doesn't mean it is close at heart. We don't just want to get near to God's word, but we want it to be part of our balanced daily diet. Make time to take it in daily. Meditate on it daily. Not only will you be on your way to spiritual fitness, but you'll keep God's truth from slipping away from you. ***I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)***



Work Ministry Focus - Stewardship

By Jon Holtz

Update on Capital Campaign 2017-2018

By the time you read this article we will have about 1 month to close the 2017-2018 Capital Campaign strong. However, the reports are showing two months left so keep that in mind. I am writing this article in October, the financial reports are from close end of September, this is where we stand:

2017-2018 Goal	225,000
2017-2018 December 2017—September 2018	182,489
REMAINING GOAL	42,511

This brings our Mortgage to \$2,468,945.97 with the possibility to pay it off in 15 years. As stated above we can reach our goal for this year if we can reach \$40,000.

During November we will start producing material for our 2018-2019 Capital Campaign. We need to encourage one another to pull together for pledges and excitement to see what we can continue to accomplish.

Why do we need to pledge? Reason one, it will help project budgeting issues and give us a better overall fiscal picture that is needed. Think of your own house, if you can make rent or house payment, there is a roof over your head. Without payment no roof over your head and without our capital campaign no roof over God's house. Reason two, the sooner we pay down this debt, the faster this money can go towards ministry. A few years ago we were making "extra" payments to pay off debt faster, the faster we pay down, the faster we can put it towards ministry. Reason three, commitment is a spiritual issue. God talks about commitment and says He wishes we would be either hot or cold. If we are lukewarm we would be spit out of his mouth. Over and over in the Bible, disciples who could not FAITHFULLY follow him COMPLETELY were challenged by Jesus. Yes, we all sin and struggle at times for one reason or another, but in today's society that "doesn't like commitment" and wants freedom to change whenever and however. I believe Jesus is calling us to face commitment and not be afraid of it. For instance, in marriage, commitment is very important. Even in a dating relationship commitment is important. How many times has it been ruined by cheating or dating someone else when the other didn't know? God likeness giving to him in the same way in Malachi 3:8. Biblical versions use words such as rob or cheat God in this verse.

Hopefully, this year we can continue to use this tool as a way to encourage each other in how God can bless you PERSONALLY when we all give back to him.

Blessings!

Jon Holtz

P.S. 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

WORK

Witness - Manna Market

By Kristin Bradley



The next Zimbabwe project has started with the lease of a building that will be turned into a preschool in Mutare. The 3rd largest city in Zimbabwe, Mutare is about 45 minutes from the Mission Hospital site.



The fencing has been completed and a swing is being constructed. Next steps are cleaning up the outside area and making the inside functional

for the children. Tables, chairs and whiteboards are still needed. Our Mount Olive preschool donated some chairs and other items for the preschool that we were able to put on a GHM container bound for other locations in Zimbabwe. We hope the container arrives soon!

The Christian preschool is set to be operational January 2019 with 2 teachers and 35 students. Our mission team is very excited for this project because it is another way for the Mission Hospital to become self-sustaining. In Zimbabwe as in most African countries, children must pay tuition to go to school, regardless if is a private or public school. With the tuition fees for the preschool, any profit will go towards caring for the children with disabilities - helping with operational costs of electricity, food and caregivers. We are thankful that Preschool Director Shupie and her team are such good stewards of their resources!

If you think Manna Market is just about handing out food, you are mistaken. Thank you everyone for being part of this ministry! Thank you for being like Jesus and caring for our guests!! Below is a thank you we received this week:

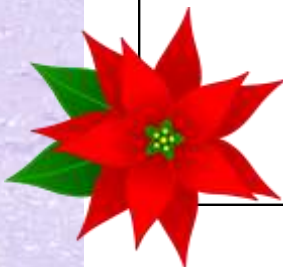
"Thank you so very much for the food I got last night at Manna Market that filled my freezer and fridge. Thank you for the volunteers who when I said "just one please" put in three or four things. I don't know how I will eat it all...And a special thank you to my helper, who showed me more kindness and love than anyone else has for a very long time."



Poinsettia Tree Donations

Would you like to help by donating to our beautiful Christmas displays: Fellowship Poinsettia Tree, Christmas Advent Wreath, and the Winter Flower Pots in front of church?

For your donations, please consider a donation of \$25 cash or a check written out to Mount Olive Lutheran Church and drop off at the Welcome Center.



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.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers and donators for the Fall Event. More will follow at a later date referring to our missions.

WOMO MEETING: Plan on joining us for our next meeting on Monday, November 5 at 1:00 PM in Cana Hall to review our projects.

CHRISTMAS TEA: A special invitation for our Christmas Tea which is a wonderful way to begin the blessed Christmas season. It will be held on Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30 PM. Look for an invitation closer to the event. Watch for a sign-up table for cookies, ways to help and a chance to decorate a table. Hear the Christmas story, some good music, enjoy delicious treats and Christian fellowship.

Operation Christmas Child Collection Site

Mount Olive is blessed to be a part of Operation Christmas Child again this year - *this marks our 10 year anniversary!* Since 1993, more than 61 million shoeboxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ. We pray that you, your family, friends, scout troops and your home group will pack a shoebox for a child this year and share the love of Christ! See the table in the Welcome Center for volunteer times available during Collection Week.

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK AT MOUNT OLIVE

November 12-19, 2018

Monday through Thursday: 6:00—8:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM—12:00 PM

Saturday: 11:00 AM—1:00 PM & 5:00-7:00 PM

Sunday: 11:30 AM—2:00 PM

Monday: 10:00 AM—12:00 PM



For more information contact:

Mary Scarborough, Kathy West or Peggy Rumsch

WITNESSES

Sunday School Christmas Event - Mark your calendars for our :



One Starry Night A Savior is Born

Sunday, December 16 9:00-10:15 AM Family Center

At One Starry Night, kids and families head to Bethlehem, where **they'll see, touch, smell, and taste what life was like when Jesus** was born. Families will visit the inn, meet the shepherds, sign the official census, and decorate their own Starry Night ornament.

Junior Youth

One of the requirements of confirmation is to complete Service Hours. This is the report from one of our 5th graders, Mackenzie Teske.



What did you do?

My friend and I did a lemonade stand to raise money for fabric so we could make tie blankets and donate them to Children's Hospital. The money that we had left over from the tie blankets we used to buy stuffed **animals, which we also donated to Children's Hospital.**

What did you learn from doing this service?

We learned how to ask for help at the fabric store and how to tell the employees how much fabric we needed.

How did your service make a difference in the lives of the people whom you served?

It made the kids at Children's Hospital not feel so nervous. It made them happy.

How did your service make a difference in your own life?

It made me so happy to make those kids happy and to do it with my friend.

Well done, Mackenzie!! You let His light shine through you!!

For more information please contact:

Carol Kietzman

Youth and Family:

Sunday School

Confirmation

763-421-7156 x107

carol@mtolive-anoka.org

Senior Youth



Over 100 teens from Anoka Hennepin schools gathered together on October 10 at Andover High School for Fields of Faith. The event is a student led event where students gather together to praise, sing, worship, share faith testimonies and pray for one another and their school communities. Mount Olive Senior Youth attended this gathering for the second year in a row, sharing their own faith stories.

Mount Olive youth are sharing their faith within their own school communities, representing nine different schools! We ask that you keep each of our youth in prayer, as they walk in their faith each day within each of those schools. They are choosing each day to boldly follow Jesus!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 21: No Youth Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 30-Dec 2: Senior Youth Retreat
- December 9, 10: Christmas Tonight!
- December 16: **Children's Christmas Event in Family Center 9:00 at AM**
- Dec 23-Dec 30: No Youth on Wednesdays or Sunday School
- January 2: Confirmation and Senior Youth resume at 6:30 PM

Upcoming Events

- November 2 & 16: Senior Fellowship
November 5: Women of Mount Olive Meeting
November 12-19: OCC Collection Week
November 15: Healing Prayer Service
November 16: Manna Market
November 21: Thanksgiving Eve Worship
(No Youth/Bible Study/Choir/Bells)
November 22-23: Church Office Closed
November 30-December 2: Senior Youth Retreat
December 4: Christmas Tea
December 15 & 16: Christmas Tonight

