



Mt Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

7979 Holdrege Street Lincoln, NE. 68505

Office phone: 402-484-8711 Pastor Kemnitz' Cell 402-440-8145 pastor@mtolivewels.org

Website: www.mtolivewels.org

ministers: every member

President: Greg Boggs

Pastor: Ray Beckmann

In an ever-changing world, Mt. Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to build Christ's kingdom in people's hearts with the un-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.



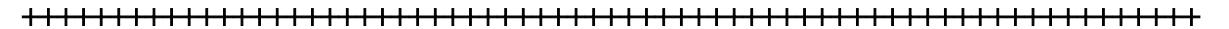
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Check us out at www.facebook.com/MtOliveLincolnNebraska

Our Mission Statement:

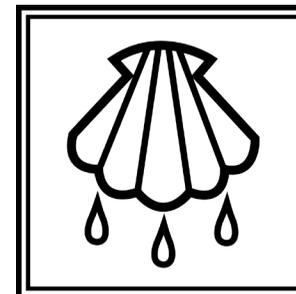
“Mt Olive exists to proclaim God’s Word in its truth and purity, so that each believer may GROW in their faith in Jesus and be equipped to GO with the good news of Jesus Christ to our community and world, so that together we may GLORIFY God into eternity.”



Welcome to worship this morning. We extend a special welcome to those with us as guests today. We're reminded as another calendar year slips by that most things in this world change and fade away. However, we take comfort that our God is faithful and unchanging. Today he gives us his solemn promise to love us and give us genuine and lasting life through Jesus Christ. His promises never change or fade away.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated this morning. In Holy Communion we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ. In this Sacrament God gives us forgiveness of our sins and also the strength to follow Him in the new year. In his Supper, our Lord assures repentant believers of his never-changing mercy. We kindly ask those who are not members of our congregation to speak with our Elders or Pastor before coming to the altar to receive the Lord's Supper. We'd be happy to discuss what joining our Communion fellowship entails.

Prayer before worship: Lord, we are coming to you again as this year comes to a close, looking back on what was and looking forward to what may be. Some among our family of believers have endured heart-rending grief and trials in the past year. Some have silently borne hurts known only to you and them. Others have experienced unexpected joys. We ask you to come to us all tonight and do what only you can: assure us that you will never leave us, no matter what. Promise us yet again that you will never abandon us. Teach us to rely on the promises you have made. Lead us to believe that these words from you will never change, even if all else does. Establish our faith on the solid foundation of your grace. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, who is the same yesterday and today and forever. Amen.



GATHERING

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

RESPONSIVE LITANY FOR THE NEW YEAR

M: Lord Jesus Christ, as the old year comes to a close, we are reminded of how swiftly life passes. We are strangers and pilgrims in this world; our real home is with you in heaven. Help us to keep our eyes on that heavenly goal and not to become distracted by the temporary joys of this life which soon pass away. Everything may change and decay, but You, O Lord, remain the same.

C:  **Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!**

M: Lord, the struggles of this life are constant. The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh are no friends to your people. These enemies never stop trying to rob us of our faith and Christian joy. Because the danger is real and the fight of faith is critical, be at our side every moment of the year that lies ahead. Be a permanent and honored member of our families. Cleanse us from our sins, and we shall be white as snow.

C:  **Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me oft as I left thee.
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.**

M: Lord Jesus, You know us better than we know ourselves. You know the sins and rebellious patterns of our lives. We have gone our own way. We have forsaken you to follow our own desires. Though we have often left you, you have not left us. You have reclaimed us from the way of death and restored us to your kingdom of life. In the temptations that yet lie in the future, even in this coming year, abide with your grace, and equip us to overcome them all.

C:  **I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!**

M: Lord Jesus, you have destroyed the terror of death and robbed it of its victory. Abide with us then, to the very end of life. Let your cross shine through the gloom of that last hour as we eagerly wait for our eternal home. And there—free from all the troubles and dangers of this earthly life—we shall abide with you, and you with us, forever.

C:  **Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray: Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the shortness of our lives and on the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

RESPONSORY, Psalm 90

M: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

C: **Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

M: You turn men back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, O sons of men.”

C: **For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.**

M: You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning – though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.

C:  **O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter in the stormy blast, And our eternal home,**

**Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.**

M: We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation.

C: **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

M: All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.

C: **The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength; yet
their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.**

M: Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

C: 🎵 **Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.**

M: Teach us to number our days aright,

C: **that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

M: Relent, O LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

C: **Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

M: Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.

C: **May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.**

M: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands.

C: 🎵 **O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!**

THE WORD

M: As we hear the Word of the Lord while closing out the Old Year, we are reminded of this truth from the prophet Isaiah:

C: **The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”**
(Isaiah 40)

First Lesson: Hebrews 13:5-8 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” 6 So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” 7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

M: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Holy Gospel Luke 2:21-32 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. 22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **God be praised for His Good News!**

Hymn of the Day CW 71 “The Old Year Now Has Passed Away”

Sermon I Samuel 2:18-20,26 “Bible-based Values for every year”

I. Prayer and service always have value

II. Growth in faith is always an important value

OFFERING

PRAYER AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR

M: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

C: **Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**

M: It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

C: **You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**

M: You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

C: **You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

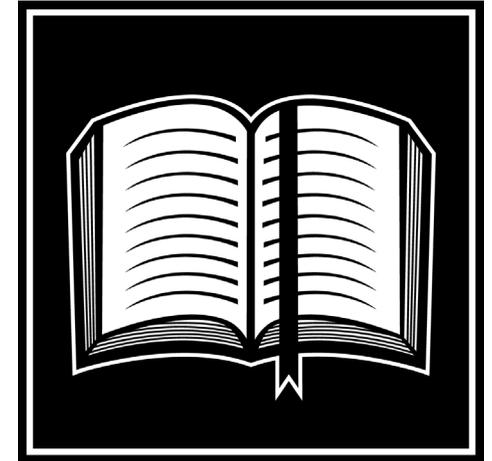
M: Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

C: **We thank you for these blessings, and ask you to continue to grant them to us.**

M: We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

C: **Increase our commitment to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

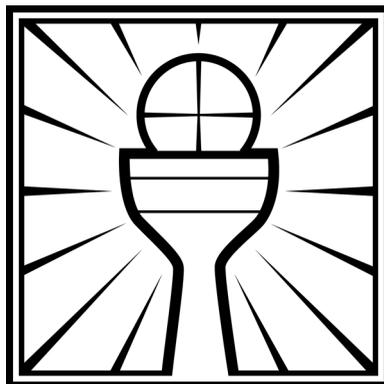


Silent prayer

M: Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

C: **We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT



The Service continues with the Lord's Prayer on p. 32 and the Service of the Sacrament on p. 33

Distribution Hymns

CW 64 "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

CW 41 "Let All Together Praise Our God"

After the Sacrament, please stand for the closing prayer and blessing

Luther's Morning Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. "I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen."

Blessing

This blessing is one that has been spoken over God's people for about 3400 years, since the time of Moses. The blessing is not merely a wish; it is a powerful promise of God's love, peace and protection. The blessing energizes us as we head into 2019 to serve God in the many ways he has called us to serve—as parents, friends, spouses, employees, students, citizens, and more.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor + and give you peace

C: (Sings) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn CW 507 "Lord of our Growing Years"

NEWS-N-NOTES

To our visitors and guests: Thanks for joining us today! We invite you to join us for after the service in the Narthex. Please sign our guest register so we have a record of your visit with us today and please join us again!

Thank you, Pastor Ray Beckmann, for serving us this morning with God's Word.

Thank You, Linda Tesch, for taking time and using your musical gifts "on loan from God" to serve as our organist this morning.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY/THIS WEEK:

Early Service

Late Service

Altar Care: Ellen Donahoe, Dee Kemnitz Delores Wasserman, Tiffany Beiermann

Ushering: J&I Meyer, S Raasch, T Monroe M Lauber, R Krenke, J Mattox, C Beiermann

Cleaning God's House This week: Bergen (D) Beckmann (U) Beiermann (N)

In God's House on 12/23,24,25 : 113+52+48=213

Given for God's Glory: Budget Offerings:

Advent 3 \$1,345.50

Sunday December 23 \$4,364.50

Christmas Eve \$985.00

Christmas Day \$2,365.00

Budget Pace -\$5,696.03

Sermon text: I Samuel 2:18-20,26

¹⁸ But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. ²⁰ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD." Then they would go home. ²⁶ And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people.

OUR WEEK IN THE LORD AT MT. OLIVE

TODAY- 8&10:30 A.M. Christmas 1 Communion Worship

No Sunday School or Bible Class

WEDNESDAY- No Catechism or Windcrest Bible Study

THURSDAY-No evening worship until January 10

SUNDAY- 8&10:30 A.M. Christmas 2 Worship

9:30A.M. Bible Study and Sunday School