



*Mt. Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church*

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
7979 Holdrege Street Lincoln, Nebraska 68505

Office Phone: 402-484-8711 Pastor’s Cell: 402-440-8145  
Website: [www.mtolivewels.org](http://www.mtolivewels.org) E-mail: [pastor@mtolivewels.org](mailto:pastor@mtolivewels.org)  
Check us out at [www.facebook.com/MtOliveLincolnNebraska](https://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.”

**Mt. Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS-Caring and Conservative)

+++++  
**The Epiphany of Our Lord**

**COME, LET US WORSHIP THE KING!**

“We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

=====

**WORSHIP EMPHASIS TODAY:** The word *epiphany* means “manifestation” or “visible display” and refers to the “revealing” of Jesus as Savior, not only of the Jews but of all the peoples of the world. Epiphany means “revealing.” The Eastern Christian churches celebrate Christmas when we celebrate Epiphany – January 6, the Twelfth Day of Christmas. This Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord is the celebration of Christ our King to whom the Magi (the Wise Men) offered gifts and worshiped. The Magi were Gentiles (non-Jewish peoples) who worshiped the King of the Jews.

The Magi represent the end of God’s separation of his chosen people, the Old Testament Israelites (Jews) from the Gentiles. Israel’s Lord is God of all. We, most of whom are also Gentiles, give praise to the God of all, who revealed his love and light in the One whom the Wise Men worshiped.

**WELCOME, VISITORS!** As you offer your heart to Jesus today, may your faith in him be strengthened; may you grow in your love because of the forgiveness he has offered you; and may your zeal to worship him increase all the more! Please sign a friendship register (in the pew) or the guest register (as you came in) so that we have a record of your visit. You are always welcome here, so please worship with us again soon!

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Father in heaven, I thank you for revealing your Son to me and all believers on the pages of sacred Scripture. Through him you have led me to see my forgiveness, peace for my heart, and the reason to live a life of joy and praise. As one who has seen the light, lead me to worship you with an undivided heart and guide me to put the lessons I learn today into practice in my daily life. I pray not only for myself, but also for all who are gathered with me today. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

+++++

Pastor’s Greeting and Focus for Worship

Opening Hymn: 94 “O Jesus, King of Glory”

## INVOCATION AND ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE

- P:** In the name  
of the Father, who is the “Father of the heavenly lights,” and  
of the Son, who is the “Light of the world,” and  
of the Holy Spirit, who reveals that light to us through the gospel.
- C:** **Amen.** (*spoken*)
- P:** Arise! Shine! Your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
- C:** **The darkness of sin surrounds the earth. Nations upon nations are turning away from the Lord.**
- P:** But you are honored to live in the Light of the Lord.
- C:** **His glory and grace are shining on us.**
- P:** The Lord is present.
- C:** **Look! We are standing on holy ground!**
- P:** Let us reflect the light of God’s love
- C:** **so that others may live in his light!**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

- P:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
- C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**
- P:** Having heard your confession, I share with you the blessing of God’s mercy through Jesus. As his called servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Forgiven, the Lord sends you and me into the world with his Word, the Light of Truth, to be his representatives.
- C:** **Savior, empower us; Spirit, enlighten us to represent you well!**

## COME, LET US WORSHIP THE KING!

### OUR KING COMES

#### **Matthew 2:1-12**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:” “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

#### **HYMN 83 vs. 1-3 “As with Gladness Men of Old”**

### OUR KING IS WORTHY OF HONOR AND PRAISE

#### **Revelation 5:11-14**

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

#### **Hymn 84 vs. 1,2 &5 “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”**

## OUR KING SAVES US

### I Timothy 1:15-17

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### Hymn 85 "O God from God, O Light from Light"

## OUR KING PROVIDES AND PROTECTS

### from Psalm 72

Endow the King with your justice; O God, the royal Son with your righteousness.

The mountains will bring prosperity to the people; the hills the fruit of righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor.

He will endure as long as the sun; as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field; like showers watering the earth.

In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

All kings will bow down to him; and all nations will serve him.

For he will deliver the needy who cry out; the afflicted who have no one to help.

He will take pity on the weak and the needy; and save the needy from death.

He will rescue them from oppression and violence; or precious is their blood in his sight.

Long may he live; may gold from Sheba be given him.

May people ever pray for him; and bless him all day long.

Let grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway.

Let its fruit flourish like Lebanon; let it thrive like the grass of the field.

May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun.

All nations will be blessed through him; and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel; who alone does marvelous deeds.

Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

### Hymn 81 vs. 1&3 "Arise and Shine in Splendor"

## OUR KING GIVES COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT

### Psalm 34:15-20

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry

The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;

He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

### Hymn 80 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

## OUR KING REVEALS HIMSELF AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

### from Isaiah 60

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy. All from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

### Hymn 79 vs. 1-3 "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"

## OUR KING PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO PROCLAIM HIS NAME

### Romans 10:11-17

As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame. "For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH-EPIPHANY

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

**You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

**Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN (melody: *Christian Worship* hymn 291)

The faithful Magi saw from far, and followed on his guiding star;  
And led by light, to Light they pressed, and by their gifts their God confessed.

All glory unto Jesus be, and praise for his epiphany,  
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit evermore.

Our Week in The Lord at Mt. Olive (God-Willing)

TODAY 8&10:30 A.M. Epiphany Worship

9:15A.M. "Growth in the Word" for All Ages (Sunday School starts in the chapel.)

MONDAY-7:00P.M. Monday Night Worship at St. Mark

WEDNESDAY- 3:00P.M. Windcrest Bible Study

4:30P.M. Catechism

THURSDAY- 7:00P.M. Thursday Night Worship (a preview of next Sunday's service-Communion is served)

SUNDAY 8&10:30 Communion Worship

9:15A.M. Family Bible Study Hour

THANK YOU: We thank the Lord for the humble and faithful service of Jackie Kronebusch, who served as our organist this morning. Thanks, Jackie, for showing us how to step forward in service to our Savior as you serve His people with your music ministry!

OFFERING ENVELOPES/ELECTRONIC GIVING: Communicant members are encouraged to pick up their offering envelopes for the year of our Lord 2019-located in the narthex next to member boxes. If you didn't get offering envelopes or have a question about our budget or offering designations-please speak with Rod Wasserman-our treasurer or Jeremy Landis our financial secretary. If you would prefer to make use of "Simply Giving" our e-giving program which enables you to use direct deposit from an account of your choice on a schedule of your choosing-that can be arranged by speaking with the two above mentioned men who can assist you with filling out the form and setting thing up.

LOOKING FOR...A FEW GOOD MEN/VOTERS. While there are lots of ways to get involved in a Christian congregation and to serve our Savior...our present structure calls for us to seek out and "call" a "few good men" to serve in special capacities as leaders here at Mt. Olive. Our nominating committee made up of President Greg Boggs and some of the other outgoing officers are seeking out names to use for the ballot on January 20<sup>th</sup> - our scheduled date for the first Voters' Meeting of the New Year. If approached by one of your former leaders (for whom we give thanks to God for their faithful service) please use prayerful consideration as you deliberate this call-for it comes indirectly (via a media) from Christ himself. It is he who gave some to be "apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers (as well as giving other gifts to be used for his glory!) to prepare God's people for works of service..." Ephesians 4:11ff.

NEW YEARS' RESOLUTIONS: If you haven't already...why not consider making some spiritual resolutions this year-to accompany the other ones made? A great one to consider: Making use of daily devotions and Bible readings sent to your e-mail from our synod. You can subscribe to these by visiting [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net). Talk to an Elder for more information. Also, did you realize that you can get the Meditations daily devotions sent to you via e-mail? Just contact Mel Helget who will set you up with these by sending your request to [mhelget@allophone.com](mailto:mhelget@allophone.com) For those who are using podcasts-you can subscribe to a wonderful series of podcasts called "Time of Grace" which comes to us from Pastor Mark Jeske from St. Marcus (WELS) Milwaukee, WI. All these are free and serve as a terrific way to stay connected to your Vine in the year to come! We have subscribed, as a congregation, to a daily Bible reading program which follows the schedule of the church year. A copy of this will be placed into each member box-one per family. Talk to Pastor if you want a specially structured way of staying in the Word! "Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of Christ." Romans 10:17

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY/THIS WEEK:

Early Service

Altar Care: Beth Ferrell, Christine Smith

Ushering: J & W Costin, T Smith

Cleaning God's House this week: Downstairs- Dennis Upstairs- Costin Narthex- Donahoe

\*If you can't clean please call Kevin Ferrell @ 430-7823 and he will find you a sub...

Late Service

Emma Gettemy, Shawna Fox

L & R Wasserman, C&J Hansen

---

In God's House On 12/30: 46+48 = 96

Given for God's Glory: \$4,792.25

---

NEW MEDITATIONS AND FORWARD IN CHRIST MAGAZINES AND JANUARY NEWSLETTER: Please pick up your free copy of these periodicals in the back for spiritual growth and encouragement and then give them away (after reading them) to a soul who needs God's Word of comfort and encouragement.

VOTERS' MEETING FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT: All men in the congregation are asked to set aside January 20<sup>th</sup> and to attend our annual Voters' Meeting which begins right after second service at 11:45A.M. Among other things, we will be voting on leaders and on the budget for 2019.

If you are a Thrivent member and have Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2018, you may still designate them through March 31, 2019.

"The Thrivent Choice ® program encourages benefit members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes an amount of its charitable grant funds. Members make this recommendation by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

Member eligibility requirements

To be eligible to participate in Thrivent Choice, you must be a benefit member.

Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

- Holding a qualifying Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position.
  - Having \$750 or more in annual premiums of qualifying insurance products.
  - Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products.
- Member eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis.
- Minimum and maximum Choice Dollars designations
- Eligible benefit members will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31). Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year. "from Thrivent.com

