



The Olive Branch

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ Delano, MN

September, 2008

THE MISSION OF MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH:

The spiritual care and nurturing with the Gospel of the people entrusted us by God.

The equipping of our members for service in God's Kingdom.

The sharing of the Gospel of Christ.

**TO GOD
ALONE BE THE
GLORY!**

PEACE
through
Jesus⁺
Know it. Live it. Share it.

*"The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much,
but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep."*

--Ecclesiastes 5:12

Dear Members and Friends of Mt. Olive,

The Labor Day holiday at the beginning of September sounds as though it should be a workaholic's favorite day of the year! Actually, of course, it is just the opposite. "Labor" Day is not a day for labor—it's a day off from labor.

The words of Solomon above of remind us not to despise a day off from work. Our labors may bring us all kinds of tensions, frustrations, and aggravations. Our pay may be too small, unfair, or, in a few cases, really too much for our own good. A day off, however, is always welcome. Rest from work is a gift from God—really a better gift than our paychecks.

Time off from work should be doubly sweet for us who are children of God. For us, a day off is more than just a rest for the body and mind. It is more than temporary relief from the daily grind. A day off is also a picture of the eternal rest from our labors which God has in store for us through the forgiveness of our sins in Christ—the "rest" we often call "heaven."

Right now we don't have the ability to understand the kind of joy our Lord has in store for us in our heavenly home, so he gives us simple comparisons from everyday life to help us understand. We understand very well that a day off from work is pleasant. God assures us that our heavenly home will be every bit as pleasant as our best holidays. This Labor Day, take a moment or two from your recreation to consider that!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Pastor Paul Marggraf

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following couples are celebrating their wedding anniversary this month. God's richest blessings to them!

Clyde & Les Dalchow
 Gerry & Peggy Domjahn
 Myron & Neva Ellwein
 Lucas & Christina Esler
 Robert & Kathy Jopp
 Mike & Kathy Niewind
 Jack & Renatta Russek
 Dan & Tammy Sinkel
 Willie & Heidi Staunton
 Dennis & Gail Trittabaugh

(The Church office doesn't have the wedding anniversary dates for all our families—if your names aren't included in the list above and should be, please let the church office know!)

FAMILY GET-TOGETHERS...

We're family at Mt. Olive Lutheran! Come and enjoy each other's company at the upcoming events....

- ♦ **Church Picnic, Sunday, September 7.** It will be potluck style, so bring a main dish to pass and a salad or dessert. Afterwards, there will be games and activities including (*at this point tentatively*), pony rides, 'Guitar Hero' competition, ladder golf, bean bag toss, horse shoes, and possibly an inflatable fun house for the kiddies.
- ♦ **Golf Outing, Sunday afternoon, September 28.** All golfers, regardless of age and skill level, are invited to participate in our annual golf outing at **Albion Ridges** near Annandale. A sign up sheet is available in the church entrance.
- ♦ **Bonfire of the Vanities II** - Actually, there's no vanity about it, just a fun get-together around a bonfire in the softball field next to church. Bring your own chairs, munchies and beverages. *We had over 70 people last year!* **Friday, October 3.** More information will be coming.

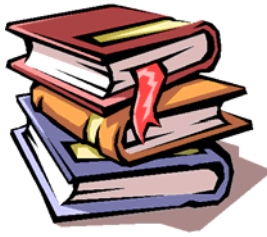
GROWING IN THE WORD!

We've got lots of opportunities at Mt. Olive for you to grow in your relationship to your Savior through a study of his life-giving Word. Below is listed the various Bible Studies that will take place this fall. Choose one or choose them all--just come!

- Six-part series entitled "**Heaven & Hell**" on Sunday mornings after church for about 45 minutes beginning September 7. Lessons include:
 - a. There is a Heaven--Really!
 - b. Popular Misconceptions
 - c. Pictures of Heaven
 - d. That 'Other' Place
 - e. Living for Heaven
 - f. Curiosity Questions about Heaven
- The **Book of Revelation** on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am beginning September 10. This is a continuation of what we started last spring, but honestly (as the song says), we've only just begun! Explore this often misunderstood book in an informal setting. The class is free--and so is the coffee!
- The "**Fruits of the Spirit**" on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm beginning September 11. This Bible study is led by Mt. Olive member Dawn Lindholm and specifically tailored for the ladies of our congregation--young and old. They meet in the fireside room, but with their growing numbers, they may soon outgrow it!
- "**Wrestling With God--Life Lessons From Jacob**". This is a half-hour Bible study that will take place at the beginning of our monthly Women's Club meeting. The Women's Club, a wonderful service and fellowship organization of Mt. Olive, meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month during the school year at 7:00 pm beginning September 9. Come for the study, stay for the friendship and fellowship!

Are you looking to class up your life a little? Do it with Bible Class--you won't be sorry you did!

Your Church Library...



The Mt. Olive Church Library is up and running! "Thank You" to all who donated books. Together with Pastor Marggraf, the library committee went through and kept those books they thought

would be most appropriate for our use. There are books for adults, teens, children, Bible study and reference, devotional, spiritual growth, family, parenting, marriage and much more! In the future we hope to establish a "wish list" of books and DVDs that would further improve what we already have. If you have any "wish list" items, please tell a library committee member or leave a note in the basket in the library.

To kick off our new library, located in the Fire-side Room, we are planning to have a 'Library Awareness Sunday' on September 21 right after church for about 20 minutes before Bible Class starts. We invite you to come on in and acquaint yourself with how the books, etc, are set up, and maybe even check out a book or two.

Checking out is easy! All you have to do is fill out the library card (*remember the old days?*) located on the book or video with your name and date, then file the card in the box according to your last name. When you return the items, get your card from the box, put it back in the pocket of the item you check out, and then put the item in the basket provided so it can be reshelved by a committee member. We appreciate your help in all of this.

When you visit the library also take a moment to look at the religious cards available on the card shelf on the right side of the room. You can purchase whole boxes or individual cards for almost any occasion: sympathy, baby, birthday, wedding, get well, etc. There are also some church cookbooks available. Just put money for any items purchase in the box on the shelf.

Finally, a big thanks to Melissa Hedtke and Cara Sandlass for cataloguing all the items in our library!

SPEAKING OF THANKS...

- ♦ Have you seen the school sign lately on Bridge Avenue? It was redesigned, repainted and reconfigured front and back by Ted Wetzel, Barb Scherer and Rachel Luehring. We thank them for their work--the sign looks great!
- ♦ We thank Brian & Katie Tolkkinen for accepting the janitor duties at Mt. Olive School. They have made it a family affair--involving their four children, Malia, Lindsay, Evan and Collin. We once again thank Larry Heyer for familiarizing the Tolkkinens with their duties and for helping out with the school floor waxing this summer.

MONDAY SERVICES...

Don't forget to make use of the Monday Evening worship services when you are gone for the weekend. They are held every Monday night at 7:00 with very few exceptions. Please note the following about the Monday evening services in September:

- There *will be* a service on **Monday evening, September 1** (Labor Day). It worked well to have a service on Memorial Day, so we'll give this a try too.
- There will be **no service** on Monday, September 15. Pastor Marggraf, and most of the WELS pastors in the area, will be attending a conference in Grand Rapids, MN.

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE...

Each quarter of the year, there is a offering envelope in your packet marked "special". This quarter's special offering envelope has been designated to WELS missions. Please give generously.