



Newsletter

2024

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

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From Pastor Kimberly:

A couple of summers when I was a college student, I worked at church camp. Both camps I worked at were great—games, songs, campfire worship, crafts, and lots of sleep deprivation due to hyped up or homesick kiddos. But I loved it. As a youth, the week of church camp was something I looked forward to all year. Working there was fantastic.

One of the things that we did was sing really silly songs. One of the favorites was called the Hippopotamus song. The little kids especially loved it because at one part of the song you got to stomp around like a hippo. But my favorite thing about the song was the phrase that went “God’s fingerprints are everywhere, just to show how much God cares.” I loved that line because it felt so true. In each child you could see the unique way that God had created them—the personality, the quirks, the questions, it was all there revealing God in a way special to that individual.

Genesis 1:26, God says “Let us make humankind in our image...” and that is exactly what God did. God made each one of us in the likeness of God. Each one of us, no matter our gender, our physical characteristics, or our personality and its special quirkiess, are made in God’s image. This image of God that we bear, are the fingerprints of God left on our lives.

But God doesn’t just create us in God’s image leaving God’s fingerprints all over us just because. God does it so that we can be and reflect God’s love for us and for all creation to one another. Luther called this being “little Christ’s” for one another so that in our love others may come to see and know Christ more deeply. St. Paul said it this way in Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Being the handiwork of God, bearing the fingerprints of God is a gift from God. God lays claim to us, loves us, calls us, and gifts us to serve. As such, you are beautiful, perfect, delightful in God’s sight. As we spend time together as siblings in Christ, may we celebrate the finger prints of God in one another, and help one another better see God’s heart for each of us and for our whole world. There is much to celebrate and much to delight in.

To end, I want to quote some lyrics from another song, this one by Christian artist, Steven Curtis Chapman. He sings:

Never has there been and never again
Will there be another you
Fashioned by God's hand
And perfectly planned
To be just who you are
And what He's been creating
Since the first beat of your heart
Is a living breathing priceless work of art...

I can see the fingerprints of God
When I look at you
I can see the fingerprints of God
And I know it's true
You're a masterpiece
That all creation quietly applauds
And you're covered with the fingerprints of God

In Christ,

Pastor Kim



Worship times for Sunday will start at 8:45Am, until further notice.

Stuff the Altar was a huge success. Several of our members took over 5 shopping carts to the Food Pantry. Thank you to all who brought items for the Food Pantry.



When you receive this on April 7th, we will be doing spring cleaning on the inside and outside of Mt. Olivet. If some things are left undone there will be a list of those things. Perhaps any of those cleaning tasks could be done at another time.

The 2024 Sunday school for April are on the 7 and the 21. Classes be held for 2 year olds through 6th grade. The children had a fun time hunting Easter egg on March 17.

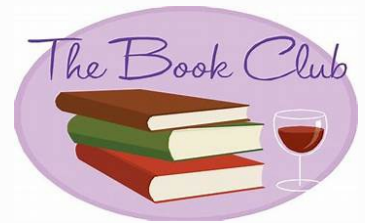


April 24th at 5:30pm Mt. Olivet's church council will meet. At 6:30 there will be a joint council with Immanuel Lutheran. These will be at Mt. Olivet.



Our members will meet after worship on April 7th to discuss **Mt. Olivet's community orchard**. More information will be posted later.

Women of the Word - will be meeting on Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. at church to discuss *The Dearly Beloved* by Cara Wall. Books are available to share, and it can also be accessed in ebook and audio formats.



Prayer List

Prayers are powerful and as a church we want to be sure that whenever anyone in our family is hurting we are lifting them up in prayer. So please feel free to contact any of our church council members with any prayer concerns you may have. These may be for yourself or for people you care about, members or not.



You are invited to a special **May Day/Mother's Day celebration**. On Wednesday, May 1 at 6pm we will be having a salad supper. Staff from Backwards Boutique and Blonde Sisters will be joining us and will fill us in on what trends are happening this spring.

Quarter Tube: Bring your quarters in to fill the Quarter Tube to benefit the Perry Ministerial group.



Thank you to those who bought Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary for our Easter Service. You may take them home today.



Worship Leaders & Greeters - April

April 7: Stetzels

April 14: Golays

April 21: Huntingtons

April 28: Nelsons

Fellowship for April

April 7: Claire Drizness

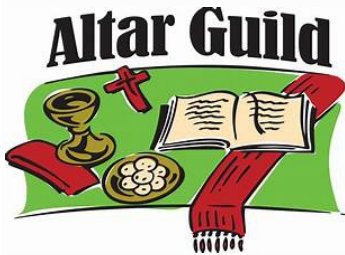
April 14: Marlene Johnson

April 21:

April 28: Kathy Bonjour



Coffee Fellowship



Altar Guild: All those interested in helping out with the Altar Guild, please talk with Darlene Lyons to learn about procedures and showing you where the documentation is for all procedures and the calendar for parament colors.

36th Annual Convention and Gathering of the Southeastern Iowa Synod

Women of the ELCA will be June 14th and 15th at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Clinton, Iowa. For more information or registration materials, please see the community event bulletin board.



Summary of Mt. Olivet Church Council Meeting March 21, 2024

Offerings are ahead of last year. The painting bill was \$2244.70 and the funds came out of the memorial funds. An internal audit committee will be formed for an end of year audit.

Some topics from the Long Range – Property committee

Trent Fallom offered to be on the committee. Mowing schedule will be in the foyer. Spring clean up after worship on April 7th. Time on clocks updated and one ceiling fan is not working. Bell tower needs some tuck pointing and get the bell sounding again. Speakers and sound system need to be updated and working better

Faith Formation – discussion of VBS and looking at options.

Social Concerns and Fellowship – Rusty hoping to get kids involved with community orchard. May 19 recognition for those graduation with cake and celebration during the service. March 25 is set for a healing service for faculty and staff of the schools. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Altar Guild – two people are taking care of communion setup and clean up.

Pastor's report – Mt. Olivet received a donation for healing services from Peace Lutheran in Pella. She will meet with an organization called ANIS that works with faith groups to focus on helping serve community needs. Walking together project is April 17.

Other business:

Craig is getting a proposal for new phone system.

Worship time was voted on and passed to be moved to 8:45am.

Doug Stetzel has a policy for purchasing big items.

Family Fun night for this quarter - Ball Unit. Other activities for other quarters. Carols and cold ones, Reformation celebration, Lunch and clothes (fashion show with salads set in May during a week night). Donuts and Dads, Fishing with Dads, 4th of July Parade. (Rusty said he has three sheep and a trailer if Pastor would be the shepherd). Some of these ideas would be great for short term involvement for some of our members.

Roger would like to have a separate Long-Range Planning Committee.

Synod Convention is May 17 and 18. Deadline to sign up is April 12.

Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.