

Newsletter

2020

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

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From Pastor Jeremy

I don't know about you, but for me, it has been a little more difficult than usual to get into the Christmas spirit this year. I have my tree up and have rocked out to a couple of Christmas classics yet that excitement I usually feel for the coming holiday just isn't quite there yet.

I have been a little worried that I may not get much Christmas cheer this year. Let's face it, this is not going to be a typical Christmas for us. It has become increasingly apparent that we will not be able to fill the church for Christmas Eve. Family gatherings are all up in the air at this point. A lot of my favorite Christmas activities will need to be done differently, if they happen at all. It is a real bummer to think about.

So this has been a hard year to get excited for Christmas. Not for everybody though. I have a little boy at home who has had no issues at all getting excited for Christmas. I don't think much can dampen the Christmas spirit of a 4-year-old. It is all he talks about these days. In fact, he has created a new game we play daily. It involves us taking turns with one person pretending to fall asleep while the other pretends to be Santa and sneak a gift under their pillow. Apparently, Santa has been taking some pointers from the tooth fairy. Every night before bed he asks, how many days till Christmas? He has been very disappointed by the answers so far.

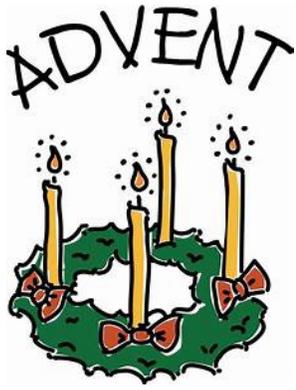
I have to say though, all of his excitement is really starting to rub off on me. I am getting genuinely excited for Christmas. Not for the same reasons as Henry maybe, but excited none the less. My son may be excited about Santa and presents but I am getting really excited about what Christmas is really about. I am genuinely excited to tell people Jesus is born on Christmas Eve. More so than even in years past. I have even written most of my Christmas Eve sermon already, which is about 4 weeks ahead of schedule compared to most years.

I think it is because this year more than ever we need to hear some good news. Not just any good news either but the good news of Christmas. For in Christmas we hear the good news that God doesn't leave us alone. That God loves us so much he came down to be with us. To be one of us. That God became human and lived among us. So that we could know his love. God with us. That is what Christmas is all about.

In the midst of a year filled with so much loss, it is so important to know that God is with us. As we sit at home and worship through a computer screen, God is with us. As we form new Christmas traditions because the old ones may not be possible, God is with us. As we keep our loved ones safe, God is with us. As we mourn those who are not there to celebrate, God is with us. If that is not a reason to get excited I don't know what is!

So as you get ready for Christmas this year, as different as it may be, don't forget that God is with you. That because of Christmas we are never alone. That Christ has come into this world and into your life to be with you. God is with us. This Christmas and every day. God is with us. Let us get excited!





Advent Devotional

Pastor Jeremy will be putting out a short Advent devotional video every Wednesday during Advent on both Facebook and Youtube. Watch them whenever you like.

Congregational Meeting

There will be an online congregational meeting on December 20th after worship to elect new council members for 2021. Pastor Jeremy will be sending out the info on how to attend through email. If you would like to vote and do not have access to a computer please contact Pastor Jeremy and alternative means can be arranged.



Sunday School

Sunday School will meet on December 6th and 20th at 10:00 online. If you know anyone who would like to take part please let Pastor Jeremy know and he can send them the link.



Church Council

Church Council will meet December 16 at 5:30.

Christmas Eve Worship



We will not be worshipping in person on Christmas Eve . Worship services will be live-streamed on Facebook at 7:00 PM. You do not need to have a Facebook account to watch, just got to www.facebook.com/mtolivetlutheranchurch. The service will also be available to watch later that evening on Youtube. If you would like to pick up a candle to light at home during the candlelight portion of the service they will be available at the church the week leading up to Christmas. You can stop by during the day to grab some or contact Pastor Jeremy and he will get them to you.

Church App

This is a great time to check out our church app. On the app, you can watch worship services every week. You can give your offering. You can also keep in touch with one another through our prayer wall. Here anyone can post prayer requests or just things you are thinking about. You can put your name with it or just post things anonymously. Others can then comment on them and share their feelings as well. It is a great way to keep each other informed on things we are going through during this difficult time. There is a link to the app on our website.



Offering

As you worship with us I ask that you please remember to continue giving your offerings every week. This is something you can easily do online as well. Click the link on the front page of our website to quickly and easily set up an online giving account. Or you can mail your checks to the church during the weeks we will not be meeting in person.

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 Pastor Jeremy with any prayer concerns you may have. These may be for yourself or for people you care about, members or not.

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church 2020 Church Council

Officers: President: Randy Reuter
Vice-president: Sandy Seeman
Secretary: Bobbi Lutmer

Committee Assignments

Worship and Fine Arts

Caitlyn Lamm, 515-238-0741, caitlyn.lamm@gmail.com
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