



Newsletter

2022

**Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church**

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**From Pastor Ortiz:**

**“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:1**

Welcome to Epiphany! Christmas is a short season. Epiphany is a longer season. It begins with the visitation from the Magi that travelled from faraway place and came to worship and bring gifts for this newborn king. For us, epiphany is a time of revelation or manifestation. Jesus revealed himself to the Israelites and the Gentiles as represented by the Magi or Wise Men.

“For we saw his star when it rose.” They had seen an unusual new star in the sky and knew that it told of the birth of a special King in Israel. So, they followed. The Bible says they ‘saw it in the east’ and then when they were in Jerusalem that it ‘went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.’ These Wise Men or Magi understood the importance of this special King in Israel and that was worth traveling to find him.

Having an epiphany (revelation) is great, but the real task of an epiphany is following. The Wise Men or Magi rejoiced, and they followed the star. The disciples left everything behind as they responded to the call to follow Jesus. The Christian life is one of receiving the epiphany and following. As we believe, God revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ to us. God is surely here. Christ is present with us in Word and Sacrament. He is present when we gather for worship, and He goes with us when we go to face the reality of life.

May we open our hearts to receive a new revelation from God this New Year. May we share the reason for which we have hope and willing to celebrate the epiphany of the Lord in our lives. May we be willing to follow the star of epiphany with gladness and joy.

See you in church,

**Pastor Eliezer**

Interim



**A heartfelt 'Thank you'** to you for your monetary gift this Christmas.

May the Lord continue blessing you as a congregation and individually.

Peace, from Pr. Ortiz

Thank  
you ❤️



### **Poinsettias**

Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated for the Christmas Season.

**The 2021-2022 Sunday school** for January are on the 2 and the 16th. Classes be held for 2 year olds through 6th grade. The older two groups will study the New Testament this year through Spark Classroom. The youngest group will learn about the Bible through Frolic Preschool.



HEALING  
SERVICE



**Time for Healing:** The January 2 Worship will include a time for healing where you are invited to come forward and be anointed and prayers will be offered for you. The church embraces the ministry of healing as a important way of bringing the loving care of God to people in their need.

### **Christmas Fellowship Food from many countries**

The Sundays of Epiphany we are going to highlight Christian food traditions at Christmas from other countries. Here is the list of countries and sponsors providing these goodies for us.

*January 2 - German by Burgetts*

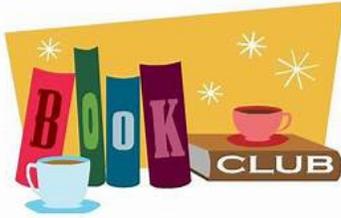
*January 9 - Dominican Republic by Pastor Ortiz*

*January 16 - Chinese by Gene Grell*

*January 23 - Dutch by Liz Eastman*

*January 30 - Norwegian by Hardys*





**Women of the Word** - will be meeting Thursday, January 13 at church to discuss *A Lineage of Grace* by Francine Rivers. Copies of the book are available to share.

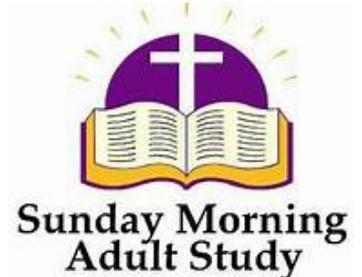
### **Prayer List**

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.



### **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT STUDY**

Pastor will begin a 4-week emphasis on learning more about the Latino community and their religious and community needs.



### **Un - Decorating the Church**

After worship on January 9<sup>th</sup> we will take down the Christmas decorations. Lend a hand for the process to go quickly.

### **Worship Leaders & Greeters - January**

January 2: Bonjours

January 9: Burgetts

January 16: Burns- Weyer

January 23: Normans

January 30: Niemeyers





The Social Concerns/ Fellowship & Care committee have divided the church member list into three groups. The groups are posted in the Fellowship Hall near our new white board. These groups will help with funerals, soup suppers and other events to help get members more involved with church activities. The white board has the current month on it and scheduled events listed.

### Offerings

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. For those using envelopes for your offerings, you will find them in your mailbox in the church foyer.



### Community Christmas Day Dinner

Mt. Olivet contributed the salads for this event. Meg Menke is organized the salad recipes and several women help to prepare them. Meg had all the grocery items purchased and ready for the assembly on Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December. Mt. Olivet paid \$154.00 for the groceries. Along with salads were several dozens of cookies delivered to the Elk's Lodge.

**Mt. Olivet's Annual Congregational meeting is January 30.**



### Tithe.ly app.

From Theresa: I am updating the files on the app. I will send out short notes from time to time. It is another way to keep abreast of what is happening at Mt. Olivet. To get the Mt. Olivet app you can download Church App - Tithe.ly from the app store and select our church or just go to the following link; <https://tithely.app.link/mt-olivet-lutheran-church> Make Mt. Olivet a part of your daily routine. Our website has the current newsletter and the bulletin for Sunday's Worship.

# Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church Council Minutes –

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church Council Minutes –December 28, 2021

**Members Present:** Matt, Meg, Rusty, Theresa, Paula, Sally and Caitlyn



**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**—Meg did a great job organizing our 'salad-making' event for Perry's Community Supper. We had a nice turnout for our Christmas Eve Service with 105 in attendance.

**Opening Devotion and Prayer**—Meg led.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**—Meg motioned to approve. Rusty seconded.

**Special Presentations and Communications**—None.

**Treasurer's Report**—Rusty motioned to approve. Sally seconded.

## Mission and Ministry Reports

- 1. Worship and Fine Arts**—The 2022 Greeter and Reader schedule is complete. The first six months of the schedule will be included in the January Newsletter. The complete report will be in the Annual Meeting report
- 2. Faith Formation**—None.
- 3. Social Concerns/Fellowship and Care**—None.
- 4. Property and Long-range Planning**—A/C needs looked at.

**Pastor's Report**—Pastor in Chicago for holidays. No report.

**Old Business**—Copier contract was signed, and new copier will be delivered on Jan. 5, 2022.

**New Business**—The council created a short list of projects to benefit the church to present to Esther Brooks' daughter for a memorial fund. The list: a prayer garden, new table clothes for the Fellowship Hall, new banners for the sanctuary, new children activity bags, more age appropriate bibles for the youth.

Theresa read information from the Church's Constitution that stated that members could serve two consecutive terms on the church council. Also noted that a nominating committee is assigned to help with nominating members to the council.

Still searching for three people to fill council spots for those going off in 2022.

**The Call Committee** will begin interviews for a new pastor soon.

Next meeting is January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.



## Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church 2021 Church Council

**Officers:** President: Matt Hardy  
Vice-president: Meg Menke  
Secretary: Nicole Hayes

### Committee Assignments

#### Worship and Fine Arts

Caitlyn Lamm, 515-238-0741, [caitlyn.lamm@gmail.com](mailto:caitlyn.lamm@gmail.com)  
Paula Nelson, 515-205-4525, [pnelson@prairieinet.net](mailto:pnelson@prairieinet.net)

#### Property and Long Range Planning

Matt Hardy, 515-341-2630, [matthew.hardy@g.perry.k12.ia.us](mailto:matthew.hardy@g.perry.k12.ia.us)  
Rusty Burgett, 515-708-8850, [rustyburgett@gmail.com](mailto:rustyburgett@gmail.com)

#### Social Concerns\Fellowship & Care Committee

Jill Onnen, 515-954-8173, [jill.onnen@yahoo.com](mailto:jill.onnen@yahoo.com)  
Sally Radke, 515-432-2124, [salbobradke@gmail.com](mailto:salbobradke@gmail.com)

#### Faith Formation

Nicole Hayes, [nicole.hayes@g.perry.k12.ia.us](mailto:nicole.hayes@g.perry.k12.ia.us), 515-343-6587  
Meg Menke, 319-415-4192, [megemenke@gmail.com](mailto:megemenke@gmail.com)

**Pastor Eliezer Ortiz** has office hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 5pm. His email is [eliezerdortiz@gmail.com](mailto:eliezerdortiz@gmail.com) and his cell phone is 786-447-7994.

**Theresa Burns**, church secretary: 515-975-6102 and email: [theresadburns@gmail.com](mailto:theresadburns@gmail.com)

