

# THE OLIVE BRANCH



A Monthly Publication of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

715 2<sup>ND</sup> ST. NE

WATERTOWN, SD

December 2024

[www.mtolivewatertownsd.org](http://www.mtolivewatertownsd.org)

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 12



## "I'm Telling!"



The story of the birth of Christ is a telling one.

God told Adam and Eve. The prophets told the people. Gabriel told Mary. The angel of the Lord told Joseph. Mary told Elizabeth. Elizabeth told Zechariah. Joseph told the innkeepers. Angels and their songs told the shepherds. The shepherds told all they met. The Holy Spirit told Simeon. In a land far away, the star told the magi. The magi told Herod. King Herod told his teachers of the law. They told the magi. I'm sure the magi told the easterners. The Bible told me, as did my mother and father, pastors, and Sunday school teachers. I've told my children and grand children, and now, I am telling you!

No doubt about it the story of Jesus Christ is a telling one. But now that I think about it, how telling is it these days? Today it seems to be more a listening story. We have heard the story of Jesus' birth many, many times. But how often have we told it?

Jesus' birth is definitely a story to behold. But it is also a story to be told and retold.

What a privilege it is to tell others

the story of the Christ Child, who was born to die but lived to tell about! Even if you don't have a master's in communications, the Master can communicate through you. He tells His masterfully telling story not only through your words, but also through your Christlike acts of humility, love and childlike faith.

Who did the Master use to tell His story in the first place? Sinners and saints, Angels and Archangels, uneducated shepherds and unsuspecting merchants, the rich, the poor, teenagers and teachers, relatives and strangers, His creation and His life-creating word. Isn't that telling you something wonderful?

God wants you to hear his story. He calls you to join Mary in pondering your Savior and His story through you and me forgiven sinners and forever saints, whether rich or poor, uneducated or unsuspecting, teenagers or any-agers, pastors, and teachers. All of God's creation needs to know of its creator. A world of sinners needs to know their Savior.

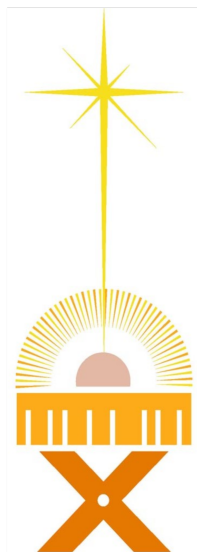
They need to know that Jesus is born, that Jesus died, that He lives, and that He loves them more than anyone else in all creation. All that is told in the

story of the birth of Jesus. I'm telling! How about you?



(The basis of this newsletter article comes from Tim Weseman's book "Season Under the Son")

*Pastor Bertell*



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Worship  
9:00 AM

Fellowship  
10:00 AM

OR ONLINE

Mt. Olive Lutheran  
Facebook Page  
Or  
Mt. Olive Website  
[mtolivewatertownsd.org](http://mtolivewatertownsd.org)

Scan QR code



 MOUNT OLIVE Lutheran Church



**OFFICIAL ACTS**

**BAPTISM**  
**MICAH JOSEPH KENT LUOMA**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 2024**

**Updated Photo Wall!**

We will be updating the photo wall. Some of the photos that were on before really need to be replaced and with the holidays coming it is perfect time to take family pictures. They need not be formal. The wall will always be a work in progress because we will want to add new faces and remove families who moved away or update as needed. It truly is a great way for people to get to know each other. So we encourage you to submit a photo digitally to the church office or leave your photo in the secretary's office. All people that had a picture in the new directory will have those on the wall and others can submit a photo as needed. Thank you, the Evangelism Committee



**December LWML Information**

The LWML will meet on Thursday, December 12, at 1:30 for the December meeting and Christmas party. Sue Magedanz will present the holiday program and there will be a short business meeting. For roll call members are asked to bring their Christmas stockings and treats for the lunch and also to be taken to shut-ins. You are asked to bring guests and any visitors are welcome.



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**Caroling- Caroling**

Christmas Caroling is planned for Tuesday, Dec 17. Meet at the church at 10 AM and we will go out to home bound and group homes to spread some Christmas cheer. We have books and all voices are welcome and needed! We will break for lunch and finish about 2PM. Join us for any part of the day that works for you. It is the best thing we can do to celebrate the season!



"Join us for Caroling!"

**Sunday School Christmas Program.**

Mark your calendars, the Sunday School Christmas program is scheduled for **December 15th** starting at **5 pm** with a supper following served by the Teens.

**MT. OLIVE BIRTHDAYS**

Special birthdays are remembered each month at Mt. Olive. Those being recognized are those with birthdays on the 5's and those 90 years and older. Those being remembered in December with a birthday on the 5's or those 90 years and older include:

- Trudy Paulson on Dec. 2nd**
- Margaret Snover on Dec. 3rd**
- Joyce Schoenbeck on Dec. 4**

Please remember these ladies with cards or letters, phone calls and prayers.



Station	City	Freq	Day
KMSD	Milbank	1510 AM	Sunday 7:00 AM

*People Of Christ With The Message Of Hope*

**December 1—"Will Everything Sad Come Untrue?"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A mother and her young son trade a life of privilege for one of poverty, a story that is borderline unbelievable, yet nonetheless true. (Jeremiah 33:16)

**December 8—"Completely Ordinary Human"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Everyone has a story to tell and yours can be one through which Jesus is working to make the world new again. (Malachi 3:7)

**December 15—"Sorrow Welcomed Here"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The church welcomes people, but does it also welcome their problems? Dr. Michael Zeigler says the church should be a place that makes room for both joy and sorrow. (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

**December 22—"Does It Matter If Jesus Is God?"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus sets a good example, but good examples can't help dead people. Only God's Son can make us alive again. (Luke 2:10-11)

**December 29—"No Getting Better Than This"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

The Good Life--what is it? Pastor Chad Lakies says life is truly good when it's life the way God meant it to be (Colossians 3:12-17)



**December Birthdays**

12/1 Phyllis Froke Brooks Schoenefeld	12/24 Emma List
12/2 Trudy Paulson	12/25 Olive Krause
12/3 Margaret Snover	12/27 Harper Lau Alan Rasmussen
12/4 Joyce Schoenbeck	12/29 Emily Johnson
12/5 Andrew Jondahl	12/30 Karmen Wiesinger
12/11 Janelle Harms	
12/12 Adam Kiefer	
12/15 Lori Fox Tom Olson	
12/17 Bryn Leddy	
12/18 Pat Helle	
12/21 Nathan Brey Larry Kannas Jerry Riedel	
12/23 Hunter Killion	



**December Anniversaries**

12/3/88	Todd & Sheila Rose
12/5/70	Charles & Sharon Falk
12/9/06	Kevin & Glenda Meyer
12/19/92	Lindee & Mike Waba



Advent: Wednesday Dec. 3, 10, 17 @ 7:00 PM  
 Christmas Eve: Wednesday Dec. 24 @ 4:30 PM  
 Christmas Day: Thursday Dec. 25 @ 9:00 AM

**WEBSITE ADVENT CALENDAR**

Advent is the time of year when we anticipate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. The Latin word *adventus*, means “arrival” or “coming.” Back by popular demand, you will find an Advent Calendar on our website to aid you in reflection and anticipation of this wondrous birth.



**A LESSON LEARNED DURING ADVENT**

Julie Reynolds of Snohomish, Washington, tells of one Advent season when all her young children came down with chicken pox. Everything planned was put on hold or forgotten altogether. They missed many church and community activities as well as get-togethers with family and friends.

But Julie discovered something during her forced hiatus. She had time to do things with her children. The children were well enough to engage in some family activities that the normal Christmas rush might have prevented.

She read Christmas stories to the children. The kids used blankets, walking sticks and other objects to reenact the story of the holy family traveling to Bethlehem. They had time together to discover the joy of family fellowship and to think seriously about the meaning of Christmas.

Julie recalled other Christmases when she had been so busy shopping, decorating, cooking and running about that she missed Jesus. She said, “I completely missed celebrating the joy of His birth in my own heart. And the emptiness I have felt at those times brought a sorrow and regret deep in my soul.”

No more! Now she deliberately schedules “open days” on her calendar, especially during Advent. There are days for waiting upon God, praying, listening and enjoying the peace of God. And there are days of truly being with her family, keeping the bond strong, and the relationships in good repair. Now, she recalls with gratitude the lesson she learned during that Advent years ago.



**ELDERS Contact Information**

Pastor Brad Birtell - 402-276-1188  
 Dennis Anderson - 886-3178  
 Neil Schamber - 237-3834  
 Doug Jerke - 880-7007  
 Brent O'Bryan - (712) 261-0316  
 Chris Pownell - 354-0489  
 Stephen Heidenreich—  
 (970) 333-8155

**ELDERS OF THE MONTH  
 DECEMBER**

Neil Schamber  
 &  
 Brent O'Bryan

ACOLYTES <b>Acolyte Calendar</b> ACOLYTES	
December	January
12/1 Lydia Stemwedel	1/5 Ella Harding
12/8 Leland Harding IV	1/12 Maddox Warne
12/15 Nora Pownell	1/19 Alayna Arthur
12/22 Trevan Schoenefeld	1/26 Levi Jondahl
12/22 Elijah Wold	

