

THE OLIVE BRANCH



A Monthly Publication of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

715 2ND ST. NE

WATERTOWN, SD

January 2025

www.mtolivewatertownsd.org

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 1



"A Guiding Light for a New Year"



Happy New Year! January 2025

I heard recently about one poor fellow who decided to make only resolutions he could keep. He resolved to gain weight, to stop exercising, to read less and watch more TV, to procrastinate more, to quit giving money and time to charity, to not date any member of the cast of Baywatch, and to never make New Year's resolutions again.

Maybe he's onto something. Why torture ourselves when we never keep those resolutions more than a week or two anyway?

What we need of course, is not another resolution but a revolution. We need a turning point in our lives. Like the wise men of old we need to catch a glimpse of a guiding light, and we need to faithfully follow that light to the new life found only in Christ Jesus.

There is a scene in the movie Apollo 13 where astronaut James Lovell is asked if he was ever afraid. He said that he had been afraid many times but one time sticks out in his memory.

He was returning from a combat mission and couldn't find the aircraft carrier. It was dark, and because they were under combat conditions the carrier didn't have its lights on. His radio navigation equipment was

of no use because they were under total radio silence to avoid enemy detection.



In a last attempt to determine his location, he turned on his map light to see if he could calculate his position. Suddenly an electrical short caused all the lights to go out.

It was then that he saw it. In the darkness there was a luminescent glow. It was the glow of sea plankton that is generated by the wake of a ship as it passes through. All he had to do was follow this glowing plankton like a highway to the ship.

Lovell said, "If the map light would have never gone out I would never have seen the glowing wake."

In the 60th chapter of the prophet Isaiah we read:

Arise, shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Arise and shine! says the proph-

et Isaiah. What a great thought to begin the New Year. In a world that is covered in darkness we are encouraged to rise and shine and let the light of the world our Lord Jesus Christ shine through us. And this we can do! Empowered by God's Holy Spirit and equipped by His holy word we can let our light shine before all men in the New Year with the hope that others may see our light and be drawn to the light and the love of Jesus.

May this be the one resolution we all keep in the New Year!

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



OFFICIAL ACTS

FUNERAL
JOYCE SCHOENEFELD
DECEMBER 23, 2024

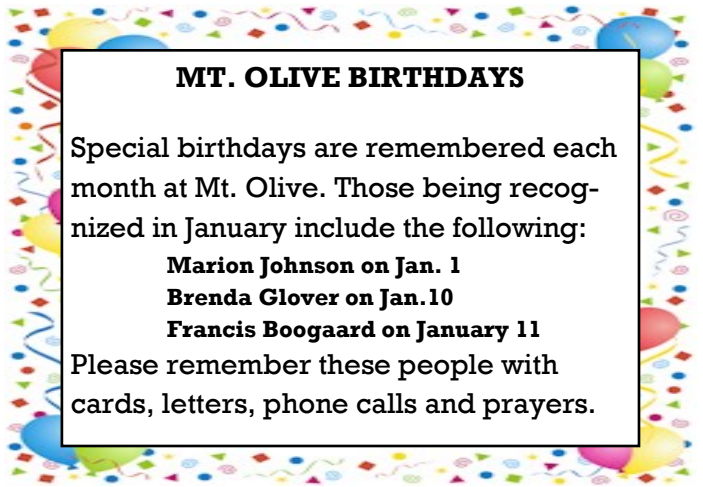


January LWML Information

The LWML will meet on Thursday, January 9, at 1:30 at the church. The topic will be taken from the **new winter Quarerly** and will be led by Pastor Birtell. For roll call members are asked to



bring quarters or other financial donations for Orphan Grain Train. Hostess will be Jean Passow. All ladies are invited to attend.



MT. OLIVE BIRTHDAYS

Special birthdays are remembered each month at Mt. Olive. Those being recognized in January include the following:

- Marion Johnson on Jan. 1**
- Brenda Glover on Jan. 10**
- Francis Boogaard on January 11**

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

PUZZLE

The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?

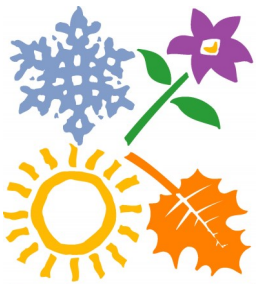
Directions:
 Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.

But if we _____ in the _____, as he is in the _____,
 we have _____ with one another, and the _____
 of Jesus, his Son, _____ us from all sin. If we claim to be
 without sin, we deceive ourselves and the _____ is not in us.
 If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just and will
 _____ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV

Congregational Meeting

The annual voters meeting with potluck will be held on Sunday, January 5th. There will be a potluck at 11:30 AM right after bible class. The meeting will begin shortly after finishing with the Potluck meal. Please plan to join to see what is happening in our congregation.



ANNUAL MEETING

TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS

It has been decided that the Christmas tree and other decorations will be taken down after services on Sunday, January 5. We thank you in advance.



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

People Of Christ With The Message Of Hope

January 5 "In the Beginning Was Dialogue"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Do you need more faith? Then you need the Word. Faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ. (John 1:1)

January 12 "What's This Neighborhood Coming To?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When you're not limited by the size of your table, you can invite everyone. (John 1:14)

January 19 "He Made Me a Believer"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God makes us believers and the more we believe, the more we become involved in the institutions God made--church, marriage, family, and work. (John 2:11)

January 26 "An Overture to the Greatest Story Ever Told"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez

Like an overture that introduces a great musical work, John the Baptist is the living voice sent by God to bear witness to Jesus' lordship and salvation. (John 3:26-36)



January Birthdays	
1/1	Avery Alverson Marion Johnson Kristin Linke
1/3	Ryan Killion Lisa McIntire
1/4	Sarah Johnson
1/5	Melissa Schmeling Danika Schoenefeld
1/6	Mark Ramsey
1/7	Steve Geerdes
1/8	Curt Kunkel
1/9	Derrick Jerke
1/10	Brenda Glover Rossi Helle
1/11	Francis Boogaard Nathan Waxdahl
1/12	Maverick Alverson
1/13	Harry Johnson
1/14	Steven Sears Thomas Schulz
1/15	Gregory Kreutner
1/16	Pam Helle
1/17	Sue Magedanz
1/19	Mark Koepke
1/20	Zaiden Sauer Myra Waxdahl
1/21	Tracy Brandenburger Brooke Helle
1/22	Alexis Goche
1/24	Dorothy Peterson Daryl Schoenefeld
1/25	Kelsey Arthur
1/27	Kendra Schweer
1/28	LaVonne Schoenefeld
1/29	Sharon Falk
1/30	Ally Helle



January Celebrations

January Anniversaries	
1/22/1988	Rick & Wendy Schulz
1/19/1983	Alan & Shelly Rasmussen
1/31/1969	Tom & Barb Werner



SERVICE SIGN-UPS

In the upcoming months we will continue to ask all members to volunteer their time and services to help with the service by reading scripture, ushering, greeting worshipers, and serving fellowship. The sign-up sheet is located on the table at the back of the church. If we all sign-up for a few services it will make light work for everyone. Thank you for your faithfulness.



Scan QR code

Giving Your Best

Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ's tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone



**Start the
New Year
with a
Prayer**



ELDERS OF THE MONTH JANUARY

Doug Jerke
&
Stephen Heidenreich

ELDERS Contact Information

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

ACOLYTES



Acolyte Calendar

ACOLYTES



January

1/5 Ella Harding
1/12 Maddox Warne
1/19 Alayna Arthur
1/26 Levi Jondahl

February

2/2 Mackenzie Konrad
2/9 Lydia Stemwedel
2/16 Leland Harding IV
2/23 Nora Pownell

