

*“...they will call him
Immanuel”
— which means,
“God with us.”*



Matthew 1:23

Merry Christmas from the staff of Mt. Olive!

MEMBERS

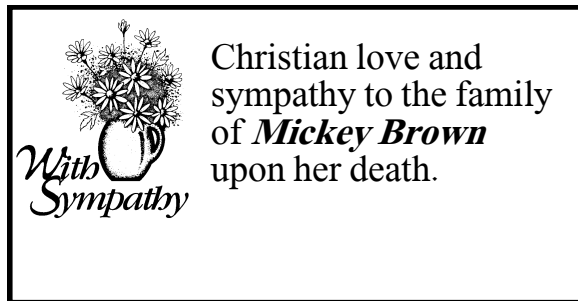
Florence Barton
Betty Jo Bolick
Jennie Bost
Eunice Bumgarner, *Lutheran Home*
Matt Coyne
Geneva Eckard, *Sterling House*
Margaret Frye
Joe Glass
Mary Gregory
Lib Hamby
Virginia Hoover
Jan Hefner

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Vivian Anderson, *former member*
Jillian Apel, *daughter of former vicar Heather Apel*
Rev. Hugh Baumgartner, *former pastor*
Rhonda Brookshire, *friend of Beth Huber*
Charlotte Craig, *friend of Becky Anthony*
Millie Cunningham, *mother of Nina Keck*
Terry Cranford Family, *friend of Hank & Bernice McCrorie*
Evelyn Harkins, *grandmother of Jen Tice*
Arlee Helton, *mother of Eugene Helton*
Suzie Huber, *sister of Dan Huber*
Randy Ingold, *husband of Judi Ingold*
Albert Keck, *grandfather of Pastor Dave Keck*
Estelle Leatherman, *sister-in-law of Ruth Seabock*
Keith McDaniel, *friend of Danielle Job*
Kathryn Miller, *daughter of Jean Nutting*
Sharon Palmer, *sister of Linda Stine*
Danny Pattillo, *brother of Katie Fisher*
Wilma Rhinehart, *sister-in-law of Mary Gregory*
Thelma Rozukalns, *wife of Andy Rozukalns*
Joellen Schimoeller, *daughter-in-law of Wilbert & Ruth Seabock*
Kenley Sigmon, *daughter of Ellis Bolick*
William Smith, *former member*
Steven Stewart, *brother of Susan Petersen*
Dot Swing, *wife of former pastor*
Jean Wagner, *mother of Patty Williams*

Jeanette Huffman
Linda Huffman
Henry Jarvis
Virginia Killian
Maxine Kirchin
Patty Mesuch
Audrey Moose, *Lutheran Home- West*
Thelma Miller, *Lutheran Home- West*
Martha Price
Weyburn Seabock
Ben Setzer
Jordyn Setzer
Josephine Smith, *Brian Center-East*
Oran Starnes
Pat Townsend
Robert Welch
Royall Yount

Our Military Family Members: *Chris Atwater, Coast Guard; Christopher Todd Metcalf, Army; Adam Moose, Navy; Dusty Holland, soldiers and families at Ft. Bliss, Texas; James Yount, Army*



Dear Mt. Olive,

Thank you for the prayers, food, cards and other kindness during Wilma's lengthy illness and death. A special thank you to Pastors Dave and Boyce Whitener for the wonderful memorial service.

Brady Eckard & Family

Progressive Dinner - Friday, January 6, Epiphany Night

- 6pm Salad and Soup (Crackers, bread) in homes (groups of 8-12 people)
- 7pm Appetizers and Hors de oeuvre's in homes (groups of 8-12 people)
- 8pm Dessert and Epiphany Celebration at Mt. Olive

_____ I will host 6pm Soup/Salad in my home

_____ I will host 7pm Appetizers in my home

_____ I will make a (Circle all that apply) and take it to a home/to Mt. Olive:

Appetizer Soup Salad Dessert*

**Dessert brought to Mt. Olive before the beginning the 6pm dinner*

_____ I/we would like to participate but not necessarily bring anything.

Name _____

Phone# _____

Number participating including yourself _____

Return to Mt. Olive's office by Sunday, December 18.



Mt. Olive Trivia

This year the trivia questions will all pertain to the New Testament. The **answer** is placed somewhere in this newsletter.

What three gifts did the wise men bring to the baby Jesus?

Notice there is no mention of how many wise men.

Memorial Funds

Contributions to the memorial fund should be made separate from regular contributions to Mt. Olive. The memorial fund is administered by the Ministry Foundation. Contributions should be made by check and in a separate envelope, marked "Memorial Fund."

The Nativity near Mt. Olive's Sanctuary entrance doors were give by Loretta Kuhn in memory of Philip Kuhn.

The Christmas Banner near the cross was created by Karen Hacker.

The Christmas Paraments on the altar, pulpit, and lectern are gifts from the Parament Fund, the Herbert and Becky Seabock Memorial Fund and the Jan Killian Memorial Fund.

From Former Vicars

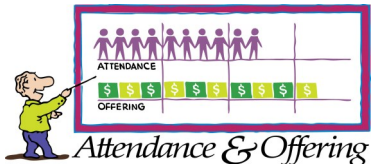
Jillian Riddle and Ingrid Chenoweth both report that they have received LTSS Faculty Approval for ordination as well as their Synod's Candidacy Committee Approval. Therefore, early next year they will be placed in one of the ELCA's 9 Regions and one of the 65 Synods. Then they will begin interview discussions with congregation call committees as they also continue classwork during their last semester at LTSS. They will graduate from LTSS on Friday, May 11. They thank you for all of your prayers, guidance, and support!

~ Submitted by Pastor Dave

2012 Lutheran Marriage Encounter

Husbands and Wives... Only YOU can set marriage fires! Want to find out how to keep yours burning? Take each other on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend is February 17-19, 2012 in Myrtle Beach, SC . For more information or to apply for a weekend just visit our website at www.godlovesmarriage.org. You can contact Ed & Judy Raney, by phone at 843-707-7085 or by e-mail at jemarriageencouter@gmail.com.

Space is limited and the deadline to apply is January 27,2012.



TREASURER'S REPORT

November 30, 2011

December 4

Sunday School	57
Worship, 8:30	74
Worship, 10:45	134
Worship, 5:13	25

December 11

Sunday School	65
Worship, 8:30	75
Worship, 10:45	166
Worship, 5:13	24

Cash – Beginning of Month	\$9,769.54
Unrestricted Giving	\$29,930.93
Disbursements	(\$32,084.40)
Cash – End of Month	\$8,538.84
Borrowed from Designated Fund	\$0.00

Unrestricted giving of \$29,931 received during November was again significantly below the budgeted target of \$34,562. Actual expense of \$32,084 for the month were also below the budgeted target amount of \$35,595. As has been the case for many months, all expenses were restricted as much as possible during the month. With this activity, a net deficit of \$2,153 was experienced for the month, which was consistent with the budgeted monthly deficit of \$1,033. The annual net surplus was \$4,096 at the end of November, and compared very favorably to the net cumulative deficit of \$19,820 recognized through the same time period for last year.

Unrestricted cash was \$8,539 (sum of the Main Account and Main Deposit Account) at the end of November. An item worth noting was that the temporary loan, which has been borrowed from the Designated Fund (Reserve - Repairs & Maintenance) for many months, had a balance of \$0 at the end of November. The balance of this loan was also \$0 at the end of October.

A full copy of our financial report is available on the bulletin board directly across from the office, and your continued financial support of the ministry of Mt. Olive is greatly appreciated.

2012 Lutheran Marriage Encounter

Plants need fertilizer to grow healthy and strong and so does your marriage. Without some nurturing and care it will remain weak and unfulfilling. Spread a little fertilizer on your relationship. Make a Marriage Encounter weekend and watch your love for each other grow. For more information or to apply for a weekend just visit our website at www.godlovesmarriage.org. You can contact Ed & Judy Raney, by phone at 843-707-7085 or by email: jemarriageencounter@gmail.com.



The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend is February 17-19, 2012 in Myrtle Beach, SC. Space is limited and the deadline to apply is January 27, 2012.

Don't wait too long!!!

Stewardship Report

<u>CASH BASIS</u>	<u>DEC. 4</u>	<u>DEC. 11</u>
Total General	\$13,464.50	\$14,271.81
Offerings		
Budgeted amt. needed weekly	\$8,627.00	
<u>DESIGNATED FUNDS</u>		
World Hunger	285.00	135.00
Adult /Children S.S	133.75	26.00
CCM		111.00
Families in Need		20.00
Poinsettias		601.00
Advent Folders	64.50	199.50
Youth Fund		50.00
Birthday Fund	25.00	
CDC Payroll Taxes W/H	3484.28	
Pastor's Discretionary Fd.	100.00	100.00
Staff Bonus		25.00
Tying & Tacking Girls		25.00
Ttl Designated	\$4,092.53	\$1,292.50
Collections		
<u>CAPITAL CAMPAIGN</u>		
Capital Campaign	\$3,235.00	\$6,450.00

NEXT OLIVE BRANCH - JANUARY 10, 2011
ARTICLE DEADLINE - JANUARY 6 NOON

THE OLIVE BRANCH

DECEMBER 20, 2011

Mt Olive Lutheran Church
2780 N. Center St.
Hickory, NC 28601

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit 97
Hickory, NC 28601



Mt. Olive Mission Statement

*Loving, Witnessing, Serving:
Making Christ Known!*

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matt. 2:11)

✂ Cut on the dotted line and keep for handy reference

December 24 *Christmas Eve*
7:30pm & 10:30pm Worship

December 25 *Christmas Sunday*
10:00 a.m. Worship

January 1 *8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Worship*

January 6 *Epiphany Night Progressive Dinner*
Contact the church office by December 30th

The Rev. David R. Keck, Jr., Pastor
The Rev. Walter L. Hitchcock, Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Eric Griggs, Youth & Family Ministry Dir.
Mr. Andy Rozukalns, Organist/Choir Director
Ms. Shirley Griggs, CDC Director
Ms. Jean Nutting, Parish Administrator
Ms. Kristen Seese, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Rick Stine, President Congregation Council
Mr. Darin Shook, VP Congregation Council
Mr. Chris Frye, Secretary, Congregation Council
Mr. Eric West, Treasurer
Telephone: 324-6198
(Emergencies) 324-6198 or
322-8129 (h) Pastor Dave

Email:
mtolivelutheran@embarqmail.com
Website: www.mtolutheran.org

January Birthdays

Beth Huber	1/1
Bryna Riley	1/1
Steve Seif	1/1
Lynnette Carson	1/2
Johnnie Garren	1/2
Lydia Smith	1/2
Jennifer Tice	1/2
Daniel Richter	1/3
Chris Frye	1/5
Bob Townsend	1/6
Joshua Coulter	1/8
Barton Huber	1/8
Pat Townsend	1/8
Alyssa Wright	1/8
Tim Setzer	1/10
Camden Williams	1/11
Kathryn Fisher	1/16
Cindy Sullivan	1/17
Forest Huffman	1/19
Derek Moose	1/19
Gail Welch	1/19
Sarah Hull	1/20
Ben Bazzle	1/22
Todd Propst	1/22
Jordyn Setzer	1/23
Karen Setzer	1/23
Jean Queen	1/24
Mary Beth Sjaardema	1/24
Cathy Huffman	1/25
Xander Williams	1/25
Adeliah Roach	1/26
Charles Bost	1/29

A One Million for Jillian update -

In just a few short weeks, 7200 pop tabs have been collected here at Mt. Olive for the "one million for Jillian" campaign. (Thanks CDC for your participation!) Keep them coming! They can be any type of tab—from soda cans, soup, pet food, etc.

Please give your tabs to any member of the Abigail Circle or drop them off in the collection jar at the entrance to the Education Building.

This campaign is a project of Heather Apel (Mt. Olive Vicar, 2004-2005), and her husband, Wade, in honor of their infant daughter, Jillian. They hope to collect one million tabs by Jillian's second birthday, June 10, 2012. The tabs will be given to the Ronald McDonald House at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. Heather and Wade have made use of the RMD House during the many months Jillian was

hospitalized. As of Dec. 9, the project had received approximately 130,000 tabs.



ELCA NEWS SERVICE December 7, 2011

Secretary of State Clinton highlights the work of ELCA-related ministries

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton noted the vital work of Lutheran social ministry organizations in welcoming refugees to the United States, during her Dec. 7 address at the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugee's ministerial conference in Geneva.

In her presentation to world leaders, Clinton shared a story about Fatuma Elmi, who applied for asylum in the United States after civil war broke out in her native Somalia in 1991. Settled in Minneapolis, Elmi has worked as an employment counselor at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota for the past 17 years. She has been able to find jobs for 79 percent of her clients this year, despite the difficult economy.

Elmi's life is "clear evidence of the wisdom of investing in women," said Clinton, adding that the United States would be delivering 28 pledges to the conference, one designed to build awareness on a major "cause of statelessness, which is discrimination against women," she said.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is an affiliated ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), along with 285 other social ministry organizations across the country.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson said he appreciates Clinton's sharing of Elmi's story and the recognition of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, particularly "on this historic occasion of the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 50th anniversary of the Statelessness Convention in a gathering of world leaders." The ministerial conference brings together more than 150 representatives from around the world. Clinton is a member of the U.S. delegation.

"In sharing Fatuma Elmi's story, Secretary Clinton has affirmed the invaluable contributions resettled refugees bring to life in American communities. In naming Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, she has also recognized the vast network of Lutheran social service organizations that are an expression of faith active in loving service to our neighbor," Hanson said.

"This is who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Many are descendants of a once immigrant people, and others of those who came as slaves. Together we are now participating in God's work of restoring and reconciling communities by welcoming refugees and working towards fair and just immigration reform," he said.

"As individuals, congregations, Lutheran social ministry organizations and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, we know we can achieve things together on a scale and scope we could never do otherwise. As the ELCA, let us make these significant anniversaries an occasion for renewing our commitment to welcoming the new immigrant into the life of our neighborhoods and congregations."

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is one of the United States' leading agencies in welcoming and advocating for refugees and immigrants. Based in Baltimore, it works on behalf of the ELCA, The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Kim Dettmer, director of refugee services at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, said Elmi has "dedicated her life to helping refugees find safety and stability in our community as an employment specialist. Through partnerships with employers, primarily in manufacturing and hospitality industries, many refugees have found entry-level work that has required minimal technical or English skills."

Calling this "a win-win-win situation for refugees, employers and our community," Dettmer said it takes "a community to help refugees succeed. Minnesota has a long tradition of lending a hand to refugees, and they have enhanced our quality of life in many ways. Fatuma is a great example of people from war-torn countries who have worked hard to establish new lives and have given back to the community."

Shortly after her arrival in the United States and prior to her work at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Elmi volunteered at a Somali women's organization mentoring mothers and daughters to ensure that both understood women's roles in the U.S. and the value of an education. Her actions were effective, as five of the six girls Elmi mentored went on to receive a college education, according to Dettmer.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is one of five resettlement organizations in Minnesota helping refugees gain self-sufficiency. Information about the service is at www.lssmn.org.

Information about Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is available at www.lirs.org.

About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with 4.2 million members in 10,000 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer, Martin Luther.