

The Messenger

the monthly newsletter of Mount Olive Lutheran Church October 2011

Mount Olive
Lutheran Church
3411 South Taft Ave
Loveland, CO 80537
970-669-7350
mountolive@yaho.com

Sunday Worship
9:00a.m.
Education Hour
10:45a.m.- 11:30a.m.

Wednesday Evening
Worship and Bible Study
7:00p.m.

Pastor
Rev. Mark Nierman
pr_nierman@juno.com
970- 980-5584

Visitation Pastor
Rev. John Israel
970-203-1652

Office Hours
Tuesday and Wednesday
9:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.
Friday 9:00a.m. – Noon

**Additional hours by
appointment.**

*Thy strong word did
cleave the darkness;
At thy speaking
it was done.*

*For created light
we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered
seasons run.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to thee who
light dost send!*

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!
(LSB 578)*

Maker of Heaven and Earth ***Part three in a series on the Apostles' Creed***

How did God first create life?

God created all living things, both plant and animal, by His Word alone, from nothing. He created humanity specially, from dust, then gave us His own breath as life. (From an Explanation of the Small Catechism, question 103)

In May of 2007 a new museum opened near Petersburg, Kentucky sparking a lot of controversy. It is called The Creation Museum. This 27 million dollar project presents an account of the origins of the universe, life, mankind, and man's early existence according to a literal reading of the Book of Genesis. It boldly asserts that God created the earth and living creatures over a six day period, and it rejects the theories of Darwinian evolution which asserts that the earth is billions of years old and that life sprang from primordial soup. Simply put, The Creation Museum makes the bold confession that God is the maker of heaven and earth.

Needless to say, this museum is at odds with much of our culture that accepts Darwin's theory of evolution as truth. The real truth of the matter is that Darwinian evolution remains only a theory, and is not scientific fact. The evidence that one species has ever changed into another species simply does not exist. In fact, the more scientists learn about the complexity of living organisms, the more doubts are raised about evolution. The theory of evolution tries to explain the origins of life apart from a creator or designer. Today, many scientists are looking at the data and positing the theory that there is indeed an intelligent designer.

As Christians, we confess that the earth and all creatures living upon it are the work of a designer. We confess that God is the maker of heaven and earth. We believe this not based on what we can see. We believe it because of what He has told us in his Word. Hebrews 11:3 says, "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

Some people have tried to "marry" the teaching of evolution and Scripture together, and simply say that God used the evolutionary process. This answer is completely unacceptable. It may sound good on the surface, but in reality it forces us to deny important truths from Scripture, including man's fall into sin, the consequence of that sin, and our need for a savior. Evolution cannot coincide with the Christian faith. If we accept evolution, then we deny the truth of God's Word.

As Christians we boldly confess that God is the maker of heaven and earth. By faith we accept God's creation account as recorded in Genesis 1 and 2 to be the truth. We believe that "God created all living things, both plant and animal, by His Word alone, from nothing." We believe "He created humanity specially, from dust, then gave us His own breath as life."

God lovingly created the world and us through the power of his Word. Let us, by His power, lovingly confess His Word to the world.

In Christ, Pastor Mark Nierman

From the Board of Stewardship



Christian stewardship is the **free and joyous activity** of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Many people may argue that Christian stewardship is more about following laws, rules and instructions than it is about free and joyous activity.

Historically, believing and living as Christians has also been more about laws, rules and instructions than it has been about a free and joyous way of living. On October 31 we will join with Christians around the world in celebrating the 494th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. In the years leading up to the reformation some serious false teachings had crept into the basics of the Christian life and faith so that people felt like they were slaves to all kinds of rules and regulations. Christianity was not very free and joyous. The good news of being saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our salvation, was in danger of being hidden from God's people. Jesus died so that we might have life and have it abundantly and joyfully. One of the key passages that opened Martin Luther's eyes to the true way of salvation was, of all things, from an Old Testament book. He found it in Habakkuk 2:4a: ***"The just [righteous] shall live by faith!" [NIV]***

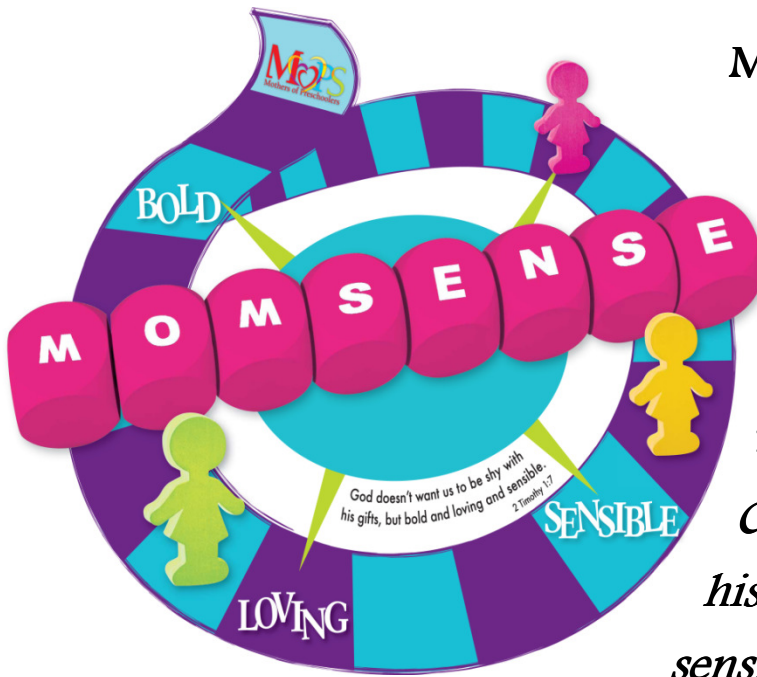
This discovery led to a new and refreshing way to look at the contents of the Bible. It is easy to find all kinds of laws, rules and commandments and get the idea that if you want to be right with God you must obey all of these laws, rules and commandments. The problem is that because of our sinful natures we are not able to keep all these laws, rules and commandments and are pretty much left with the options of either trying harder or giving up. Neither of these options leads to a life that is free and joyous.

The Bible contains all kinds of laws, rules and instructions for our Christian living, but these laws, rules and instructions are not written for the purpose of saving us. Rather, they drive us to the good news of salvation through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Forgiveness of our sins frees us from past failures and opens up a new way of living.

"Don't you know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." [Romans 6:3-4 NIV]

Through Christ we are freed from ***"have to living"*** to move toward ***"get to living ."*** What a refreshing freedom for us to live godly lives not in order to be saved, but because we have been saved.

Truly, God's redeemed stewards, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."



Mothers of young children, infancy through preschool, are invited to join MOPS@ Mount Olive.

Join us for a year of learning to be BOLD, LOVING, and SENSIBLE moms in the game.

God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible. 2 Timothy 1:7

October 5th 9:15-11:15am

Game: Minute to Win It!
The art of discipline with Love and Logic.

Speaker: Janelle Flanscha

Discussion: Discipline

October 19th 11:00am - 1:00pm

Park Day!
North Lake Park
Bring your own lunch.

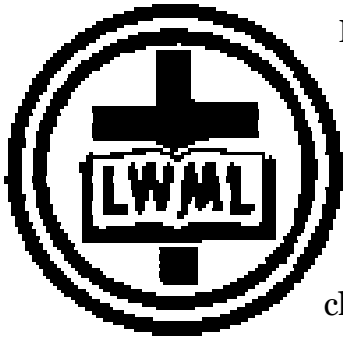
October 26th 8:45am
Steering Team Meeting

MOPS News and Notes

If you have a Wednesday morning free and would like to come help out with child care, please talk to Laura Burrill, Jodi Nierman or Kellee Zweifel.

Stop upstairs and check out the MOPS and Sunday School rooms. The toys have all been sorted and the tables and chairs arranged to make this a great new year!

Thanks to everyone who has helped out by donating everything from toys to snacks to furniture.

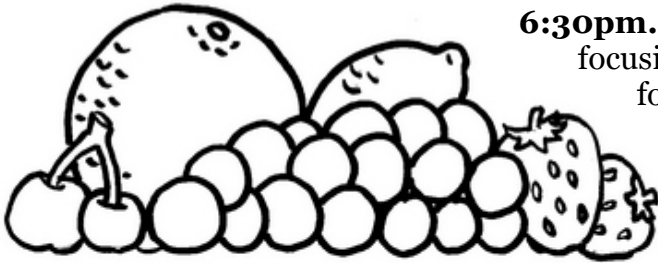


LWML Sunday will be celebrated October 2, 2011. The first Sunday of October is designated as the date when LCMS churches in the USA recognize the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. "The mission of the LWML is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world" (www.lwml.org). The LWML does not exist to do mission work on behalf of her members, but rather does mission work with her members and the gifts that have

been entrusted to each person. Success in the LWML is not based on money raised or new programs started, but rather on individual lives that are changed here in time and in heaven for eternity through our Triune God who gives growth. We may not think that our gift or talent is very important, but each one of us called in our baptism is God's fellow worker with a message to proclaim through word and deed in big and small ways. After all, we can only use what God has given us and He will cause the growth. We pray that God will help us to use the gifts He has entrusted to us to cause His Word to be proclaimed through our words and deed in service to Him and in ministry to the world.

Mount Olive WINGS will meet on Monday, October 10th at 6:30pm.

We will continue our "Fruit of the Spirit" Bible Study focusing on Faithfulness. Hostess will be Cheri Hedstrom. Don't forget to bring your mites and offerings! Invite someone new to join us!



love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, & self control.

Galatians 5:22-25

WINGS stands for Women In God's Service and meets the second Monday of the month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. The WINGS group has adopted the by-laws and the constitution of the Mount Olive Ladies Guild and serves as an extension of the guild. All ladies are welcome to attend. Meetings include a short Bible Study, Mite collection, planning of service projects, church receptions and social events, prayer, fellowship and dessert! For information please contact Laura Burrill.

Mount Olive Ladies Guild will meet on Tuesday, October 18th 2011, at 9am in the lower level. (Note: Date was incorrect in our 2011 Yearbook and Sept. Agenda). Hostesses will be Jan Closson and Jeanne Karr. Jan Closson will lead the devotion: "Prayers and Pray-ers". Joanne Nagel will lead the Bible Study: "Heaven: A Five-Star Review", Fall Quarterly, page 18. Mary Hoel will lead the Mite Box Devotion. All ladies of the congregation are invited for a time of fellowship, prayer, Bible study, Mite/Offering collection and a short business meeting. Contact Jan Bloss for more information. Guests are always welcome. Come, find out what the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is all about.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

For information and resources go to www.lutheransforlife.org

"It was never there before, but now it is, and it is beautiful-a flowered forest floor. Amazingly, this lush, multi-colored foliage came about through death."

These are the opening words of Dr. James Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life, in his recent letter to sponsor members of LFL.

Here is what follows: "...our family headed back this year to our usual vacation spot in the Rocky Mountains west of Fort Collins, Colorado. For several years now the mountain pine beetle has devastated the lodgepole pines in this area. Millions of dead trees cover the mountainsides and stretch into the sky like dried up telephone poles with branches. But in the last couple of years something has happened. These dead trees started losing their needles. As if a giant shade had been rolled up, the sun shone upon the forest floor making flowers and other plants thrive. I counted six different kinds of flowers just in one area. ...There were also scores of little spruce trees two and three feet tall stretching toward the sun.... Life because of death! Hmmm-sound familiar?"

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil' (Hebrews 2:14).

"...Jesus' death 'brought life and immortality to light' (2 Timothy 1:10). In the Colorado forest, when you look up you see dead trees. When you look down, you see life brought about by their death. When we as Christians look up, we do not see dead trees but a dead man hanging on a tree. When we follow His blood as it trickles down, we see life and immortality for it flows into our lives through His Word and the waters of holy Baptism and in holy Communion.

"...We live in the irony of 'life through death.' The world turns to death as its god for hope and rescue from problems. We turn to the death of our God in Jesus Christ for hope and rescue from our problems.

"...Sometimes we do not feel rescued and life can seem very dark like walking through the shadows of a canopied forest....Not always, but sometimes God gives us a glimpse, and we realize that because of the cross, we walk on a flowered forest floor.

October Life Thoughts

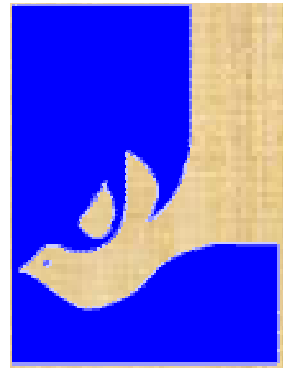
October 2 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Paul states a fundamental source of value and motivation, "Christ Jesus has made me his own" (Philippians 3:12b). Having already paid the price for their salvation, Jesus desires to make every human being His own. What value this gives to life! What motivation this gives to live!

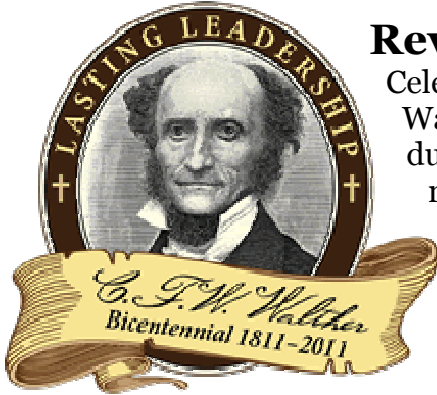
October 9 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Christ's people need to beware of the cultural influence that says death is our friend, a source of help and hope. Death is our enemy and should be treated as such. Our only source of help and hope is Jesus who has "swallow[ed] up death forever" (Isaiah 25:8a).

October 16 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost We follow our Lord's admonition to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's" (Matthew 22:21b). But life does not belong to "Caesar." Life belongs to God. As citizens of God's kingdom in Christ, we are compelled to strive for change in a government that sanctions the destruction of innocent human life.

October 23 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost The second greatest thing a human being can do is to love his neighbor (Matthew 22:39). Remember, those not yet born are neighbors too.

October 30 – Reformation Sunday The objective declaration of righteousness that comes through faith (Romans 3:19-28) offers a powerful truth that can be freeing to those who have sinned against life. It does not depend upon seeing ourselves as righteous or feeling righteous. It depends upon the already accomplished work of Jesus on the cross.





Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther Bicentennial (1811 - 2011)

Celebrate, study and discover the ministry and the legacy of Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther, the first president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), during the Walther Bicentennial. Many LCMS entities and congregations will recognize the bicentennial of Walther's birth with special events, activities and resources starting in 2011 and extending through the 125th anniversary of his death in 2012.

Walther joined the Saxon Germans who immigrated to the United States in 1839 (the date of arrival), and at the age of 27 found himself leader of the group that settled in Perry County, Missouri. In 1847, Walther played a key role in the founding of the LCMS, which now ranks as one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States with more than 2.3 million baptized members in some 6,200 congregations and more than 9,000 pastors.

In honor of this historic event, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is producing a five-part, high-definition video series which will follow the life of Walther, present a history of the LCMS, and – through studying Walther's life and teachings – provide viewers with a better understanding of the importance of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

Go to www.lcms.org for many other resources about Walther and events celebrating the bicentennial.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CONVERSATIONS OF GRACE

Regional Outreach Conference, November 4-5, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO.

- *Featuring the Speaker of The Lutheran Hour, Rev. Greg Seltz
- *Encouragement from Trustguy Ministries Founder, Dr. Micah Parker
- *Practical breakout sessions on hard-hitting topics to reach today's culture
- *Opportunities to connect to ministries that help you share the Gospel
- *Family-friendly events and youth-training activities
- *Spanish-language workshops, translation of main stage programs and much more!

More information and registration at <http://www.lhm.org/roc/co.asp>.

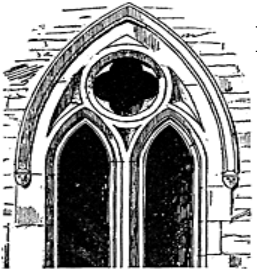
Registration is \$85.00 and hotel rooms are \$85.00/night.

Please pray daily:

Oh, Rock of our Salvation, because you said in John 4:35, "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest," You emphasize the urgency of the missionary task, and we pray that You will fill us with joy and a passion for telling others about Christ. We pray for Your guidance and direction for the Rocky Mountain District Evangelism Outreach Team in conjunction with the Lutheran Hour Ministries Regional Outreach Conference Manager, that the planned program will be a blessing to all those who attend the Conversations of Grace at the ROC, November 4-5, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Colorado Springs, CO, and You will give us the opportunities to be a light in a dark world. All we have to do is be who You created us to be and You will use our talents, weaknesses and our interests for Your glory. Thank You, Lord, for teaching us how to be Your light, out of love for our Savior and for His lost sheep. O Lord, let me experience the joy of freely sharing Your Word with others, whoever they may be. We pray in Your glorious name, Amen.

Contact Jan Bloss for further information, 303-684-8195.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to a Pastor's Conference October 5th-7th there will no Youth Confirmation or Wednesday night church/Bible Study on Wednesday, October 5th. The choir will meet at 7:00pm on Wednesday the 5th.



Keenagers will meet Thursday, October 13th at Mount Olive. Ron and Char Hildahl will host a presentation on the Churches of Europe. Potluck lunch begins at Noon. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert. If you have any questions please contact Ron or Char Hildahl. Everyone over 50 is invited to attend!

Mark your Calendars! October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

We will be showing our appreciation to our Pastors at Mount Olive with a card shower on Sunday, October 23rd. There will be baskets for Pastor Nierman, Pastor Israel and Pastor Flanscha on the table near the kitchen. Please keep our Pastors in your prayers and take this opportunity to show your appreciation.

Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 23rd at 1:00pm.



Men of Mount Olive will meet at the new Loveland Buffalo Wild Wings on Tuesday, October 25th at 6:00pm for wings and fellowship.

Oktoberfest old fashioned potluck will be held at Mount Olive on Saturday, October 29th at 5:00 pm. Bring your favorite dish and join in the fellowship!



Confirmation is Sunday, October 30th

Congratulations to the following confirmation students!

- Hannah McCrimmon
- Brisco Schaefer
- Michael Cox
- Benjamin Flanscha

Confirmation questioning will be held on Saturday, October 29th at 3:30 pm. All members of the congregation are invited to attend.



Taking a Tour of Heaven



What do the parts of the liturgy mean? This is a frequently asked question; maybe you have asked that question yourself. The following descriptions of worship and the parts of liturgy were first published in an article entitled "Taking a Tour of Heaven."

Words of Our Lord

Among many Christians, the words of Jesus that we often refer to as the Words of Institution are nothing more than an historical report: this is what Jesus did and what he said. Period. We have been blessed to know, however, that these words mean much more. They do what they say. According to the command of Christ, we celebrate the Lord's Supper not as a mere meal of remembrance but as a Sacrament by which Jesus himself comes to us. We don't transport ourselves back in time; rather, he comes to us and brings heaven down to earth for our benefit.

Of course, in heaven we won't receive the Lord's Supper. There we will have Jesus—the Bread of heaven—in all his fullness. But for now, as we wait for his return, he establishes his own beachhead in our sin-infested world, coming as our defender and deliverer, offering his own body and blood as the medicine of immortality. Here we find strength for the journey as Christ dwells in us and we in him. And the more we partake of this sacred food, the greater our desire becomes to be with Christ forever. In the words of Thomas Aquinas' great eucharistic hymn:

*O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see, May what we thirst for soon our portion be
To gaze on Thee unveiled, and see Thy face, The vision of Thy glory, and Thy grace. (LSB #640)*

Agnus Dei

Turning again to the Revelation to St. John, at one point John sees a scroll in the right hand of the One who was sitting on the throne. A "strong angel" puts forth the challenge, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" Then, between the throne and the elders, the Lamb comes into view. Undoubtedly the most significant feature in John's description of this Lamb is that it is a lamb who appears to have been slain.

When we sing the Agnus Dei, "Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us," we are preaching and praying all at once. It was, after all, with these very words that John the Baptizer pointed his disciples to Jesus (John 1:29, 36). As we prepare to feast on the Lamb of our salvation, we do indeed proclaim him who gave his life for us. Here is the Lamb of God! Yet we also pray to him who is now present in his body and blood. We pray for mercy, mercy from the One who showed the true depths of mercy and compassion as he was silently led to slaughter, dying like a lamb shorn of all its honor.

Returning one more time to the apostle John's vision of heaven, we later hear his description of the saints in white robes. "Who are they?" John is asked. The answer: "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:13-14). This is the blood of our redemption, the propitiatory sacrifice that was foreshadowed at the first Passover when the blood of the year-old lambs was sprinkled on the doorpost as a sign that blood had already been shed in that house. In his Easter hymn, Martin Luther applies that incident to us, thus revealing our standing before the Father:

See, his blood now marks our door; Faith points to it; Death passes o'er, And Satan cannot harm us. (*Lutheran Service Book* #458)

So it is at every celebration of the Lord's Supper. The blood of the Lamb is poured out for our drinking and his flesh for our eating. Clearly, God's mercy is shown, and his peace rests on us.

Worship is like no place else in this world.

But there is one place that it does resemble, and that is heaven.

If you are able to serve as Coffee Hosts sign up on the Servant Bulletin Board.

If you have questions about serving, please call the office for more details!

Elder Schedule

October 2 Larry Currey and Neil Hughes
October 5 Conrad Brandt
October 9 Brian Fischer
October 12 Rick Pfeiffer
October 16 Dan Daggett and Conrad Brandt
October 19 Rick Pfeiffer
October 23 Larry Currey
October 26 Rick Pfeiffer
October 30 Brian Fischer and Dan Daggett



Usher Schedule

October 2 Ron Hildahl, Rick Pfeiffer, Monte Wegner, Jerry Layne
October 9 Darrell Viegut, Jack Bloss, Pat DeGooyer, Conrad Brandt
October 16 Dan Flansch, Brian Fischer, Rick Pfeiffer, Billy Meggenberg
October 23 Pat DeGooyer, Darrell Viegut, Monte Wegner, Brian Burrill
October 30 Jerry Layne, Rick Pfeiffer, Jack Bloss, Ron Hildahl

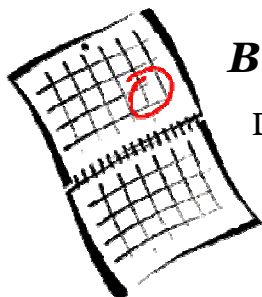
Coffee Hosts

October 2 LWML Ladies
October 9
October 16 Pat and Vi DeGooyer
October 23
October 30 WINGS Ladies - Confirmation Reception



Altar Guild

Joyce Flansch and Lynette Ford



BULLETIN AND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an announcement for the weekly bulletin or the Mount Olive Messenger? Please submit your information to Laura in the church office by email at mountoliveohio@yahoo.com. **Bulletin information is needed by Wednesdays and newsletter submissions no later than the 20th of each month.**

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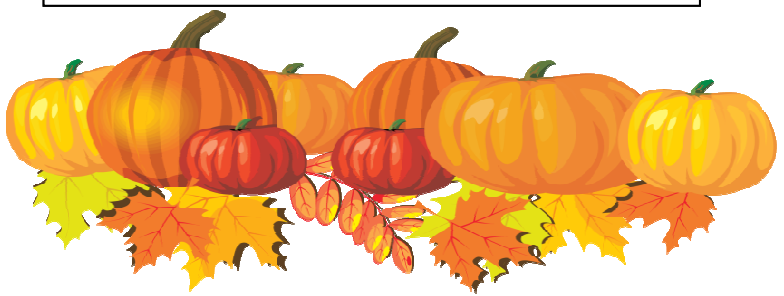
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October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8am Weavers
2 Mite Box Sunday LWML Sunday 9 am Holy Communion 10:30am Bible Class/SS	3	4 7pm - Elders	5 Pastor's Conference 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:15 am MOPS@MO 7pm - Choir Practice	6	7	8 7pm Pinochle
9 9 am Worship Service 10:30am Bible Class/SS	10 1pm - Bunco 12 Group 6:30pm WINGS	11 6pm Board of Evangelism/PR 7 pm Board of Ed, Fellowship, Stewardship, Trustees 7:15pm Board of Youth	12 6:30am Men's Bible Study 5:45pm Youth Confirmation 7pm -Worship & Bible Study 8pm - Choir Practice	13 Noon - Keenagers 4:00 pm Adult Instruction	14	15
16 9 am Holy Communion 10:30am Bible Class/SS	17	18 9am Ladies Guild 7pm Parish Planning Council	19 6:30am Men's Bible Study 11:00 am MOPS@ the Park 5:45pm Youth Confirmation 7pm -Worship & Bible Study 8pm - Choir Practice	20 4:00 pm Adult Instruction	21	22
23 9 am Worship Service 10:30am Bible Class/SS CARD SHOWER For Pastor Appreciation 1 pm Voter's Mtg	24	25 6pm Men's Night Out @ Buffalo Wild Wings Loveland	26 6:30am Men's Bible Study 5:45pm Youth Confirmation 7pm -Worship & Bible Study w/ HC 8pm - Choir Practice	27	28	29 3:30 pm Confirmation Questioning 5pm Oktoberfest Potluck
30 9 am Holy Communion Confirmation Sunday 10:30am Bible Class/SS	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Mount Olive Lutheran Church 3411 South Taft Ave Loveland, Colorado 80537 970-669-7350 mountoliveloveland@yahoo.com</p> </div>				