

the OLIVE BRANCH



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

34 Prospect Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545-2339

Of all the exciting things to be expected in this busy season, the ones that excite me the most are the worship and activities we will share with other local churches with whom we share full communion relationships. While adjusting our own routines may require some flexibility, we have seen already that by coming together we enjoy an increased, spiritual liveliness and are enriched by the experience of each others' traditions. How blest we are to be multiple church families who are one in Christ!

-Pastor Heisen

MT. OLIVET
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34 Prospect Street, Shrewsbury

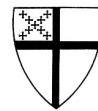


Season of Ecumenical Shared Worship & Fellowship

*Light coming into our world to illuminate the presence of God.
Emmanuel God with us.*

TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

440 Main Street, Shrewsbury



December 3rd @ 10:00 AM: Eucharist Service at Trinity Episcopal Church

December 3rd @ 4:00 PM: Brassboro Brass Ensemble Concert
with Special Guest Organist David Hagberg

December 10th @ 10:00 AM: Eucharist Service at Mount Olivet
Pickup choir open to all rehearsing at 9:00am

December 17th @ 10:00 AM: Eucharist Service at Trinity Episcopal Church

December 24th @ 10:00 AM: Service of Lessons and Carols at Mount Olivet
Also shared with Wellspring United Methodist Church
Pickup choir open to all rehearsing at 9:00 AM

December 24th: Christmas Eve Worship Services with Eucharist
Trinity Episcopal @ 4:00 PM Mount Olivet @ 5:00 PM

December 31st @ 10:00 AM: Eucharist Service at Trinity Episcopal Church
with Guest Preacher Rev. Susan DeHoff, Ph.D., Presbytery of Boston



Prayer List

We of Mount Olivet hold in prayer Kal Hyyrynen, Justin Lingenberg (relative of Joyce), Ryan Turner (neighbor of Don and Cathy Sheehan), Amanda Parker (relative of Vincent and Jackie Walsh), Karen Eisenhauer (Nadine Argento's sister), Kirsten Bergman, Shirley Liljegren (relative of Joyce Danielson), Bill Romey (friend of Andy Turpin), Meta Mueller, Cathy Sheehan, Dave Gruben, Alyssa Bianchi (friends of Cathy Sheehan), Fr. Dennis Gallagher (friend of Michael), Gail St. Pierre (friend of Joyce), Rev. Nancy Beckwith, Lyle Van Hove (Nina's brother), Jennifer Bergstrom (niece of George), Helge and Helen Nordstrom, Eva Strachan, Jim and Ann (relatives of Stephanie Ruggiere), Becky Boutwell, Sarah and Jacob (Nina and Doug), Samantha Smith (friend of Frankie's), Walter Johnson, Christine Webb, Lee Webb (relatives of Cathy Sheehan), Michael Argento (Nadine's son), Liza Aston (friend of Eileen), Clarice Pavlak, Jim Vogt (Meta's husband), Roz (friend of Kris Sheehan), Julie Dawes, Valerie Duggan (friend of Dave Cote), Brian Pihl (relative of Joyce), Diane Cyr (friend of Cathy Sheehan), Alan Johnson, Fran Johansen, Patti S. (friend of Joyce), Janine Gill, Joyce Straub, Deb Brousseau, and Michael & Eileen LeBlanc.

Bible Sharing

Thursdays, 7:12 PM

Come, share an active faith with others as we consider God's Word together.

Christmas Decorating

Sunday, December 10th, 11:15 AM

Decorating of the church for Christmas will occur after the morning service on Sunday, December 10th. Many hands will make for light and joyous work, so please consider staying for a little while to help!

Poinsettia Sign-Up Sheet

Poinsettia plants may be purchased for \$12.50 each. They will be displayed in the church until after the Christmas Eve service, and then may be taken home. Please use the sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board if you wish to purchase one. Your offering to cover the poinsettia cost may be placed in the offering plate or forwarded to the church office.

Visit Ancient Bethlehem

Saturday, December 2nd

**Sunday, December 3rd,
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Visit ancient Bethlehem, a site transformed to resemble the Biblical birthplace of Jesus, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM, December 2nd and 3rd on the grounds of Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1 Hager Park Road, Westminster. Visitors will hear the sound of drums playing, smell the scent of strong spices and campfire smoke wafting in the air, see the sight of costumed townspeople milling about as young people enjoy Hebrew dancing, shepherds tend their sheep, Roman soldiers patrol the streets, and busy innkeepers turn away prospective guests. In the midst of all the activity, Mary and Joseph welcome the arrival of their newborn son in a stable. The handicap-accessible event is free, including refreshments and off-street parking.

SANTA VISITS.....SUMNER STYLE

**Saturday, December 2nd from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Shrewsbury Center, 5 Church Road**

The Chiampa Funeral Home, received a phone call from Santa's elves, and just like years past "Santa at the Sumner House" will be happening on Saturday, December 2nd, from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM.

We have received word from the North Pole that Santa himself will be arriving on 12:30 PM and will be listening to all the good little boys and girls Christmas wishes. Santa will be posing for pictures with his sleigh in the back ground. Elves will be handing out coloring books to all children.

Come and enjoy with hot chocolate and munchkins as the carolers get us in the Christmas spirit. Bring your letter for Santa and post it in his mail box which goes 1st class to the North Pole.

Mount Olivet on SPAC

Mount Olivet's worship services are broadcast on Shrewsbury Public Access Channel (SPAC), channel 28 during the following time slots:

Wednesdays - 8:00 PM
Thursdays - 1:00 AM
Thursdays - 10:00 AM

Blue Christmas Service

A worship service for those who are stressed, lonely or hurting

Saturday, December 16th, 2017, 7:00 PM
Wellspring United Methodist Church,
Lawrence Hall @ Trinity Episcopal Church
Free meal will be served at 6:00 PM

There are years when we hurt at Christmas time and cannot get into the festivities others seem to be able to do...

In these times, we can make the space and take the time to acknowledge our pain and sadness. We can remind ourselves that we are not alone. We can experience the love and concern of God through the caring of others. We invite you to join us for a time of holy worship in prayer, Scripture, meditation, songs led by the Melody Makers music group, and light. We invite you to come experience a Word of hope that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle, and that God's Word comes to shine light in our darkness.

Please accept this invitation - a time to move from feeling "blue" to experiencing the wonder and hope of Christmas.

Music Rehearsals

Choir Practice Schedule

Sunday, December 10th, 9:00 AM, 11:15 AM
Sunday, December 24th, 9:00 AM

Pick-up choir is open to anyone who would like to sing regardless of musical experience.

Drop-In Play Group

Fridays, 9:30 - 11:30 AM
Advent/Christmas party on December 22nd

THERE IS NO PLAY GROUP ON DECEMBER 29th

Playgroup is open to children, infants through kindergarten. For more info, contact Karilyn Heisen at (857) 615-7626.



CAROLING ON THE COMMON

Saturday, December 23rd, 7:00 PM

Come join in this wonderful town-wide tradition as we once again gather on the Common, on December 23rd at 7:00 PM, with song sheets in one hand and hot chocolate in the other for a night of carols and camaraderie. The Worcester Brass Consort, made possible by the "Arts on the Green" concert series of First Congregational Church, Shrewsbury, accompanies participants as we sing carols. Song sheets and hot chocolate are provided by Scizzors Hair Salon, Shrewsbury. Please bring a flashlight. We also encourage you to bring a donation or bag of toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner and/or deodorant which will be distributed to the more than 280 families living in Shrewsbury who are served by Saint Anne's Food Pantry. The event will be held in snow, rain, sleet or moonlight!

Annual Report

Deadline: Tuesday, January 2nd

There will be no January issue of *The Olive Branch*. The Annual Report will be available in mid-January. Those submitting reports for the Annual Report are respectfully asked to send them by e-mail, to arrive in the church office NO LATER than Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018. Thank you!

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28th, 2018, 11:30 AM

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th, 2018 immediately following morning worship. The snow date is Sunday, February 4th.

Women's Reading Group

Tuesday, January 19th, 12:00 Noon

The Women's Reading Group will meet Tuesday, January 16th at 12:00 noon to discuss MRS. LINCOLN'S DRESSMAKER by Jennifer Chiaverini. It is the story of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln and Lizzie Keckley, a former slave who became Mrs. Lincoln's seamstress and confidante. All are welcome for lively conversation and warm fellowship.

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER.

Council Meeting Minutes - November

Bishop Hazelwood said that the church is in transition, and has written “Going Forward as a Synod of Experimentation & Discovery: The Church Isn’t Dying, It’s Being Reborn” which the council will read and discuss at the next meeting. Pastor Andrew has additional copies. We discussed opening the church for prayer and contemplation in times of crisis. The Nominating Committee is continuing to firm up the slate of council members and officers for the Annual Meeting. We will share worship with Trinity Episcopal and Wellspring Methodist this Advent season, alternating between churches. Pastor Andrew said that one parishioner has pledged to match up to \$5000.00 in contributions now through December 17th.

Remember the Number 20!!!

The deadline for all submissions to *The Olive Branch* is the 20th of each month. Submissions for the February, 2018 edition are due in the office by Saturday, January 20th. Thank you!

Weather Cancellation Policy

In general, it would take an extremely unusual weather event for our Sunday morning services to be cancelled entirely. However, if the weather causes travel to be at all dangerous, please err on the side of caution and stay home. Also, specific activities may be cancelled depending on the situation. For cancellation updates please watch WBZ-TV or go to CBSBoston.com, or join the Mount Olivet FaceBook group. Closings will no longer be announced on WBZ-AM radio.

Online Calendar

Did you know that the church calendar is on our website with all the most up-to-date changes? Rather than rely on the enclosed snapshot, check <http://www.mtolivetlutheran.org>

Notes from the Financial Secretary

Net Operating Income October, 2017			
	Month of Oct	Year to Date	Budget (Planned)
Our Ministry Income	\$ 10,529.08	\$ 111,618.55	\$112,670.00
Our Ministry Expenses	\$ 13,164.97	\$ 124,055.18	\$129,331.96
Income Net of Expenses	\$ (2,635.89)	\$ (12,436.63)	\$ (16,661.96)

Financial Update & Challenge to Reduce Deficit

As illustrated in the chart provided above, Mount Olivet’s operating deficit is \$12,436.00 as of the end of October. The deficit reported in last month’s newsletter was \$9,800.00. The deficit continues to be less than anticipated, due to significantly lower than expected expenses, but is growing. With respect to income, 20 out of our 44 pledges for 2017 remain in arrears as of October month end. Although there was an improvement in the number of pledges in arrears since last month, the amount has increased to close to \$6,000.00 due to extenuating circumstances for several

pledging families. Fortunately, for the time being, amounts in arrears are being offset (for the most part) by exceeded pledges along with larger than anticipated amounts from non-pledging contributors.

On the bright side (yes, there is indeed a bright side!), as of November 26th, four families have made contributions totaling \$2,600.00 (over and above their pledged amounts), in response to the deficit reduction challenge explained in Pastor’s letter dated November 22nd. So we are well on our way to meeting the \$5,000.00 challenge that has been offered by a very generous donor among us. A successful challenge along with strong Christmas offerings and as many fulfilled pledges as feasible could very well result in a balanced budget at year end. That would truly be a Christmas miracle (and a dream come true for the Financial Secretary)!

Smile Amazon – Attention all shoppers!

Please ask your family and friends to use Smile Amazon when they do their Christmas shopping! Mount Olivet is eligible to receive .5% of all purchases that folks make on Amazon. Simple directions are as follows: Go to www.smile.amazon.com to shop and you will be asked what organization you would like to support. Choose Mount Olivet Evangelical Lutheran Church and then you are good to go! It’s as simple as that. The next time you go to the Smile Amazon website to shop, Mount Olivet will automatically appear as your choice of organization.

2018 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2018 will be available for distribution in mid-December. They will be arranged on a table in the Narthex in alphabetical order and can be picked up at any time through the end of the month. If you do not currently have envelopes and are interested in receiving some for the upcoming year, please contact me (hjpavlak@aol.com or 508-842-4830).

2018 Pledge Update

As of Sunday, November 26th, we received 29 pledges for a total of \$89,528.00. For 2017, we received 44 pledges totaling \$114,369.00. The receipt of at least 14 more pledges is anticipated. If you are intending to pledge but have not yet done so, please complete a pledge card and return it to my attention as soon as possible. Pledge cards are on the table in the narthex, or you may contact me by e-mail or phone.

Donating Securities

If you are interested in finding out how to donate securities, please see me for more information. Mount Olivet has a securities donation form that we ask you to complete and send to me prior to donation. Use of this form is required to simplify things for both the donor and the financial officers as well as to provide an expected date of the donation.

- Holly Pawlak, Financial Secretary

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Outside Groups Dec 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10am - Morning Worship At 1pm - Schoolhouse Quilters 4pm - Brassboro Concert 7pm - AA Meeting	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am - Choir Practice 10am - Morning Worship @ 11:15am - Choir Practice 11:15am - Tree Decorating 7pm - AA Meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10am - Morning Worship at 7pm - AA Meeting	12pm - Women's Reading 6pm - Weight Center	10:30am - Russian Play 7pm - Brassboro Ensemble 7pm - Prayer Shawl	10:30am - Russian Play 7pm - Brassboro Ensemble 7pm - Prayer Shawl	6pm - Girl Scout Troop 7:12pm - Bible Sharing @	9:30am - Drop-in Playgroup 9:30am - Drop-in Playgroup 10am - Finance	7pm - Al-Anon meeting 7pm - Al-Anon meeting
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9am - Choir Practice 10am - Advent Lessons & 5pm - Christmas Eve	Office Closed	Office Closed	Eileen - Vacation - Office Closed 10:30am - Russian Play 7pm - Brassboro Ensemble	7:12pm - Bible Sharing @		7pm - Al-Anon meeting
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Guest Preacher: Susan 10am - Morning Worship at 7pm - AA Meeting						

Worship Assistant Schedules for December, 2017 & January, 2018

If you are unavailable on your assigned dates, please find a substitute.

Thank you for your continued service.

December	3rd	10th	17th	24th (Christmas Eve) Lessons & Carols	31st (New Year's Eve)
Cantor	***	Frankie Morelli	***	Kris Sheehan	***
Lectors	Frankie Morelli Eileen LeBlanc	Joyce Danielson Kris Sheehan	Bill & Nancy Robbins	Holly Pavlak Clarice Pavlak George Bergstrom	Michael LeBlanc
Coffee/Snack	***	Gabriela Szabo	***	Peg Harbert	***
Altar Guild	<i>Holly & Clarice Pavlak</i>				
Counters	<i>Ray Pavlak & Don Sheehan</i>				

January	7th	14th	21st	28th
Cantor	Frankie Morelli	Kris Sheehan	Karilyn Heisen	George Bergstrom
Lector	Nancy Robbins	Michael LeBlanc	Holly Pavlak	Kris Sheehan
Coffee/Snack	Joyce Danielson	Barbara Schuh	Ginny Aikens	Stephanie Ruggiere
Altar Guild	<i>Joyce Danielson & Kathleen Keohane</i>			
Counters	<i>Stephanie Ruggiere & Sue Whalen</i>			

the OLIVE BRANCH



As recipients of God's gracious love shown through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are called in faith to:

- receive God's love in Word and Sacrament
- celebrate God's love in Christian community; and
- share God's love in inviting, caring and service toward one another and the world

PASTOR

Rev. Andrew Heisen
Cell: (617) 999-9796

Email: pastor_mtolivet@townisp.com

OFFICE SECRETARY/ORGANIST

Eileen Straub LeBlanc
E-mail: office_mtolivet@townisp.com

OFFICERS

Don Harbert.....President
Don Sheehan.....Vice-President
Kathleen Keohane.....Secretary
Cathy Sheehan.....Treasurer
Holly Pavlak.....Financial Secretary

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

George Bergstrom	Kathleen Keohane
Don Harbert	Holly Pavlak
Nadine Argento	Carolyn Skoglund
Lina Dickey	Rebecca Hanson-
Rob Erickson	Richardson
Don Sheehan	

Church telephone: 508-842-2731

Website: www.mtolivetlutheran.org



Find us on Facebook!