



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and Preschool
14280 Poway Rd., Poway, CA 92064 Reverend Bill Baker (858) 748-3817

The Preschool Press

Mt. Olive Lutheran Preschool, an NLSA accredited school, is a Christian ministry for our congregation and an outreach to the surrounding community. We are committed to providing a developmentally appropriate early childhood program to young children in a Christ-filled atmosphere where they can rejoice and grow in God's grace.

Mt. Olive Lutheran Preschool - Tina Higley, Director

January/February, 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Holiday with family and friends. I know I sure did! It was such a treat to see so many attend our classroom Christmas programs. The teachers and children work very hard preparing for their performances and I never get tired of seeing the children's faces light up when they see their family and friends enjoying *their* performance! Thank you all for coming and supporting the children in these very memorable moments.

During this time of year we usually see such growth in the children. The same children who came through our doors in September, perhaps full of anxiety about mom or dad leaving, are now so comfortable here at Mt. Olive! This is evident in the in the noise level in our classrooms as the children happily play and work together. Believe it or not, some children actually don't want to leave when it's time to go home! Hopefully that love for learning will last throughout all of their school years!

In this new year Mt. Olive Preschool will be holding a couple events you may find worthy of placing in your date books. The first of these events will be free hearing and vision screenings for children aged 18 mos. through 5 years. This screening will be conducted by North County Health Services (NCHS) "Project All Ready". This program has been funded through San Diego's First 5 and is a wonderful opportunity to have your child evaluated if you are interested. **Dates for the screening are Jan. 9 & 10.** You should have seen consent forms some home with your child earlier this week. If for some reason your child did not get home with the form (go figure) and you are interested in having your child evaluated we will have extra consent forms in our office. To learn more about North County Health Services, visit www.nchs-health.org or call (760) 736-6700.

Pastor Bill Baker has set aside some time in his busy schedule to meet with parents on the morning of Monday, January 23rd. (See "A Note From the Pastor".) Pastor Bill is serving as the new Intentional Interim Pastor here at Mt. Olive and would greatly welcome feedback from our preschool families with regard to the church and/or preschool. Please plan to attend! Childcare will be provided...and so will snacks!

There are two dates in January that your children will have off from school. January 16th in celebration of Martin Luther King Day, and January 27th which is a teacher in-service day. We will also be observing President's Day on February 20th and 21st.

Our annual parent/teacher conferences will be held February 22nd through 24th. This is your opportunity to celebrate your child's growth and development! There will be 20 minute blocks of time set aside for just you and your child's teacher. Child care will be available for your child and siblings if needed. During this time you and your child's teacher can address any questions or concerns you may have with regard to your child and his/her developmental progress. Watch for sign-up sheets to be posted on each classroom's sign in/out table the first part of February. If you cannot attend a conference during this time, please feel free to speak with your child's teacher in order to schedule a time that is more convenient.

Finally, enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year will begin Monday, February 27th. (See box below for enrollment dates and information.) The 2012-2013 school year brings with it the first year that the California State Department of Education will institute a Transitional Kindergarten program within the public schools. Thankfully, we at Mt. Olive already have such a program in place with Mrs. Cannon's 5 day class. In the past we have referred to this class in many ways...the 'gift of time' class, pre-kindergarten, Jr. Kindergarten, etc. In an effort to keep confusion to a minimum, we will now enlist the use of California State's "verbiage" and will now refer to Mrs. Cannon's class as our own "Transitional Kindergarten". Is it too vain to state that we believe our program is the gold standard? I think not!

And now it's time to get back to our regular routine. These next months will fly by so fast! Be sure to hang on to those precious little moments spent with your favorite little people!

God's grace and blessings to you and your loved ones in the New Year!

~Tina



PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Mark your calendars...it's that time of year again! Mt. Olive Lutheran Preschool will begin it's enrollment process for the 2012-2013 school year on the following dates:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| February 27 & 28 | - Existing Mt. Olive Church and Preschool Families |
| February 29 | - Mt. Olive Preschool Alumni Families |
| March 1 | - Public Enrollment |

WE FILL UP QUICKLY SO DON'T DELAY!!

~ A Note From the Pastor ~



To the Parents, Families and Friends of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and Preschool,

It has been but a few days since our joyous celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. School is back in session and our children and our staff return to the focus of bringing that good news to these young ones as we also diligently prepare our children for the years of life ahead of them in this temporal world. So, as life around us continues to take place in its many forms, we stay always focused on God and His Gift to us that is ours in Christ. January marks a new year and so, as is tradition among many of us, we say goodbye to the past and look forward with hope to a new beginning. For all of us here at Mt Olive, this is especially true as we have experienced a change in the pastoral leadership of this congregation.

Pastor Ken Roberts will not be returning to Mt. Olive, and so we say goodbye to Pastor Roberts and his family. We thank God for his ministry here, and for the many years he served you and God as the shepherd of this congregation. We pray for him and his continued ministry in a call that God will choose for him, and that God would bless him and that he will be able to fully utilize the gifts God has given him.

We pray also for this our congregation and for our school as we seek God's path for us and discover anew the plans and purpose of Mt Olive Lutheran Church and Preschool.

I ask also that you would keep me in your prayers as the Intentional Interim Pastor of this congregation. Pray also for the Elders of the church, as now my ministry and focus begins the transition from "filling in" during Pastor Ken's absence toward serving as Sole Pastor and having a purpose focused on preparing and leading this congregation through the process of renewed vision of ministry as well as helping to identify the type of Pastor, and the gifts he would need, in order to shepherd you in the next phase of life at Mt. Olive. I will be with this congregation throughout this process as long as God will allow.

This news may affect some of you in very different ways and bring up varying questions and concerns. To that end, the Elders and I are offering an opportunity to meet in an informal gathering to discuss how each of you might be feeling about the changes, how you viewed the presence and support of the church towards the school, your families, and especially your children, and how you might view that presence and support in the future. I will be meeting with the preschool staff on January 20th and would like to extend the invitations to gather with you the morning of Monday, Jan. 23rd, in the fellowship hall of the church. Childcare will be available in the "Mom's Day Out" room. We will have coffee, tea, and refreshments while we gather from about 9 and begin at 9:15. Again, the meeting is informal. Any thoughts, questions, or concerns may be brought out and will be discussed openly and without prejudice. The information I glean from this will assist me greatly in evaluating the church's position and direction for the future. I am always available to hear your thoughts or answer questions outside of this meeting as well. My prayer is that you will find this meeting to be helpful and positive.

God Bless you all and keep you in His Peace, especially now, that we might keep Christmas in our hearts and souls throughout this next year and beyond. Happy New Year!

~ Pastor Bill



OVERHEARD IN THE CLASSROOM...

By way of explaining the important roles in the Nativity play, Mrs. Lugo was showing the children all of the little items in the classroom's stable. As she pulled out each "character" she explained their significance. As she held up a little sheep, she asked the children "What's this?". One boy was quick to respond..."A Ghost!". Not to be outdone, when a little donkey was brought out another classmate identified it as "A Rat"!

While making cranberry relish in Mrs. Stanley's class, an observant young student remarked, "This looks like colorful...guk!"

The story of the Pilgrim's trials and tribulations prompted this remark..."Those Pilgrims probably would have had more food if they'd been on a pirate ship!"

Finally, we are always amazed at the vocabulary of our students..."I'm not playing with GAK! I'm making Crème' Brulee'!!!

Woman's Bible Discussion Group *Facilitated by Sue Roesner*

Tuesday evenings @ 7pm
January 17 - February 21, 2012

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

"I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong - that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." Romans 1:11-12 NIV

It is with great sadness that we inform you all that we will be losing one of our dearest staff members, Angie Kiem. She will be heading to her childhood home...in IOWA! Yes, we have all told her she is crazy and we do believe she has wondered about this herself, and yet she is determined to go through with her plans.

Angie has been with our preschool since September, 2003 and has been a HUGE part of our Mt. Olive family...a wonderful colleague and loyal friend to all of us who have had the pleasure of knowing her. Some of you have only just met Angie this year...others have known her as many as nine! There is no doubt in my mind that ALL of you have been touched by her generous, sweet spirit.

Angie's last day of teaching will be January 26th. If you have a chance, stop by her classroom after school or catch her while she's working Lunch Bunch to say good-bye. I know you all join the rest of us in wishing her and her family the best in this, the next "most excellent adventure" for the Kiem family!

GOD'S SPEED, ANGIE!!!





January

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4 Community Helper: Marcia Robinson, R.N. "Wash Your Hands & Stay Healthy"	5	6	7
8	9 "Project All Ready" Vision and Hearing Screenings Funded by "San Diego First 5"	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL	17	18 Community Helper: Officer Scott Wahl SD Police Department "Stranger Danger"	19	20	21
22	23 Meet w/Pastor Bill - 9:15 a.m. Community Helper: Firefighter Hays "Fire Safety"	24	25	26	27 Teacher In-Service Day NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 Community Helper: Dr. Dixon, D.D.S. "Oral Hygiene and Nutrition" Feb. Lunch Bunch Sign Up	31				



February



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2 Happy Groundhog Day! 	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!	15	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED	21	22 Parent/Teacher Conferences SCHOOL CLOSED	23	24	25
26	27 2012-2013 Enrollment Church & Preschool Families Feb. Lunch Bunch Sign Up	28	29 Alumni Enrollment	30 Public Enrollment March 1st		