## Pastor Toby Joeckel

One of the best things about Advent, I think, is how simple it is. We wait with listening ears in the quiet stillness as we meet together in Christ's church. Advent wreaths composed of a bit of greenery and four candles help mark the season in our sanctuaries and homes. As our days become darker and colder, we turn our faces toward the flickering candlelight and hear of the light of the World (John 8:12). We fast, pray and contemplate, not because such actions merit us any righteousness, but because they discipline us to accept with patience and building joy what Christmas brings us. Advent, this wonderful, preparatory season, brings us not an artificial panorama of commercial allure but God's incarnate promise of eternal life. Though we can't fully escape the secular trappings around us, we can focus our eyes on the one thing needful and strive to remember and pray the age-old words that God still answers: ***O come, o come, Emmanuel.***

**message cont. next page**

## The Quilt Room Needs Your Help

Our quilters have worked all year to assemble quilts for donation. We need help in delivering quilts to needy organizations during December and January. We have stacks of quilts and lists of organizations and addresses. If you know of groups that are not on our lists, you can deliver there too. Staff will be in the Quilt Room (Room 28) on December 2, 9, and 16 10:00-noon, then all 4 Wednesdays in January for you to pick up quilts. Please plan to come by for a stack of quilts! Thank you for supporting this ministry of Mount Olive.



## Adopt a Family

Thank you so much for the generosity supporting the two families at Mt. Olive Preschool and Sonshine Learning Center. Just a reminder to please return all gifts unwrapped by Friday December 11th If you have an questions please call the front office. Thank you for this generosity!

# Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

*Where the SON Always Shines!*

To develop devoted disciples by reaching, building, and sending

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2026

**Mt. Olive Lutheran Church**
**7809 Tieton Drive**
**Yakima, WA 98908**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Communion Sunday**
December 13th
**Elder Meeting**
December 13h at 7:15am
**Camp Hope**
Saturday, December 26th at 3pm
**Front Office Closed**
December 24th- January 1st
**NO Wiggle Church**
December 20th and 27th

### Town Hall Meeting

After worship on Sunday Dec. 6th will be our next town hall meeting in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will focus on committee updates, Peace Endowment overview, Vision Planning Survey, congregational Q & A.

### Lutheran Women in Mission

Next meeting is December 6th following the town hall meeting. We will be doing a service project for our shut-ins.

### Preschool Butter Braid Fundraiser

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser to new classroom furniture! Orders will be available to pick up on December 14th

### NEW - Women's Bible Study

What does the Bible say about hospitality? How can it teach others about Christ's love for us and build up His church? Join us for a women's study titled, "Just Open the Door" when we resume on Dec. 13th , meeting in the Fireside Room after worship. See Cindy Moore about getting an accompanying book.



### Stephen Ministry: *The Longest Night*

We invite you and those in the community to join us on Monday, December 21st at 2pm at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. This service offers a welcoming space for reflection, prayer, and comfort for anyone experiencing loss. Whether grieving the loss of a loved one, relationship, trust, job, home, health, faith, or joy, all are invited to come together seeking peace, healing, and the reminder that they are not alone.

### From Pastor Joeckel: In Other News

- Christmas Eve services will be at 11AM and 7PM. Bring your relatives and friends! There will also be a Christmas Day prayer service at 9 AM.
- The Bible Class on Romans taught by Pastor Joeckel continues all winter on the Sundays Pastor is here. He is scheduled to preach 3 Sundays a month.
- If you need pastoral help you can contact Pastor at 702-523-6210 or contact your Elder. If you do not know who your elder is contact church office.
- My normal office hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11AM to 1PM but I am here on other days and times. Always contact the Church office before coming to see me or call me.
- After Christmas, I plan to schedule more appointments with members using signup sheets. So far, I have met with 26 members of Mt. Olive, and it has been a joy. Everyone is glad to be here, and a few offered valuable suggestions. Thank you for your input.

# December Services

## WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES



**December**
**2nd, 9th, 16th**
*Soup Supper*
*6:00pm*
*Worship Service*
*7:00pm*

## Christmas Eve



**December 24, 2026**
Christmas Worship
11:00am & 7:00pm



CHRISTMAS DAY
**Devotional**
**Worship Service**
**9:00am**


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