



Kindle the Fire

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www.mtoliveluth.org/kindlethefire

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Remember the song, *It Only Takes A Spark?* We sang about how a roaring fire began with a spark on to the kindling and compared it to God's love and spoke of passing that love on to others. The *Kindle the Fire* campaign here at Mount Olive has this idea in mind.

Named *Kindle the Fire*, this campaign began a few years ago with a motion made at a voters meeting by Daryl Milius to both renew our congregation spiritually as well as making improvements to our finances and building. That idea became RENEW 2009 and had great plans for renewing our ministries as well as expanding our building. The national economy changed shortly after the decisions were made to go ahead with this campaign and so, the Executive Board recommended postponing the campaign.

Last year, a group of concerned members of Mount Olive met to consider our financial position at the request of the Executive Board. This committee recommended a capital campaign—separate from our annual stewardship emphasis—designed to reduce or eliminate our mortgage and church van debts so that those funds could be set free to support and increase ministry opportunities at and through Mount

Olive. The voters approved that recommendation and now, we are ready to begin to meet those goals together.

Why “Kindle the Fire?” Traditionally, when you retire your mortgage, you burn it. So, we want to kindle that fire to retire the mortgage. Also, remembering the goals of RENEW 2009 and Daryl's original motion, we want to increase the opportunities for the Holy Spirit to renew and rekindle His work among us and through us.

We have engaged Wittenberg Associates out of the Chicago area to help us toward our goals as they have developed faith goals as part of the campaign—you will be asked to commit to increased Bible study, prayer time and worship following what will be called the “Wilderness Time.” (Jesus' time in the wilderness helped focus and prepare Him for His ministry; God used the time in the wilderness to draw His people closer to Himself during the Exodus.) We want, by God's grace, to be a place that—like the song—passes God's love along to others. Later, you'll be asked to prayerfully consider a financial goal as your gift to help us eliminate the debt and free us for mission.

Joy in the journey!
Pastor Jeff Shearier

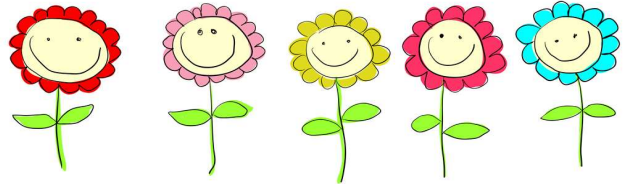
Spiritual Renewal Sunday - May 9th

As part Mt. Olive's Kindle the Fire campaign, we will be celebrating our spiritual renewal after our time in the "wilderness".

We ask that on May 9th, each family bring petunias as a symbol of our spiritual pledge to our Lord, to Mt. Olive and to spreading the gift of God's love.

We will present our offerings in church and then plant them outside the front doors to remind us of our new spiritual commitment.

Bring your Flowers!



Secure your Mask!

"In case there is a loss in cabin pressure, yellow oxygen masks will deploy from the ceiling compartment located above you. To secure, pull the mask towards you, secure the elastic strap to your head, and fasten it so it covers your mouth and nose. Breathe normally. Even if the bag does not inflate, please keep in mind that oxygen is flowing. Please make sure to secure your own mask before assisting others."

Recognize this speech? Every time that you fly, you are asked to secure your own mask before assisting others. You will not be able to help anyone else on that plane until you have first helped yourself.



Paying off the church debt is basically the same thing. As a congregation, we are not able to help others, because we have this debt keeping us down. Eliminating the existing church mortgage debt and bus loan payment will free up our congregation to be able to "assist others" in this journey of life because we will be in a financial position to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

Kindle the Fire Imagine being part of a congregation that can REACH out to the lost through targeted outreach programs because we have funds available. Imagine being part of a congregation that can CARE for others through local, national and international ministries because we are financially nimble. Imagine being part of a congregation that can BUILD new churches in Denver because we have the experience and the finances to do it.

We CAN be that congregation! Together, we can eliminate our debt so that the Gospel fire will burn even more brightly among us.

***Kindle the Fire* and Warm up to a Spiritual Exercise Routine**

Many people have a physical exercise routine and those who don't wish they did. We have been reminded over and over again in our culture about the importance of good physical health. What we don't hear about is the need for spiritual exercises that lead to good spiritual health. Our *Kindle the Fire* program has a helpful prescription to that end.

Ultimately *Kindle the Fire* is about our congregation's financial health (paying off our debt) **but the Bible teaches that good stewardship grows out of spiritual renewal** and so the first phase of the campaign is all about assessing and addressing our spiritual health.

This newsletter is a part of the campaign *Wilderness Preparation Packet*. For the next three Sundays we are going out into the wilderness, so to speak, as Jesus did when He began His ministry. The purpose is to take a few quiet moments out of the craziness of modern life and assess where we are in our personal spiritual exercise program and then build up the weak muscles and further strengthen the strong ones.

Where is your spiritual strength and weakness? Do you attend church regularly? If so, that is a strength. Does your mind wander when you are at church? That is a weakness that needs to be addressed. Do you own a devotional book? If so, that is great. Do you use it everyday? If not, that is another weakness that could be addressed. The enclosed *Spiritual Renewal Inventory* sheet will help you assess these and other spiritual strengths and weaknesses.

Here is how it works and the steps that each member is asked to take:

Read through the enclosed one page *Spiritual Renewal Inventory* sheet. (There are two sheets in each mailing. If you need more for your family they are available in the church office.)

Use the three Sunday *Wilderness Period* (April 25 - May 9) to assess your current spiritual exercise routine and pray for strength and commitment to increase it.

Sometime before May 8, check one or more areas of spiritual exercise on the *Inventory Sheet* that you will re-commit yourself to or that you will increase.

Seal your *Renewal Inventory Sheet* in the enclosed pledge return envelope.

On May 8 – 9 bring your sealed pledge envelope to church. After the offering all members will bring their spiritual pledges forward in dedication to the Lord. (There will be copies of the inventory sheet available at church that weekend.)

If you cannot be in church on May 8 – 9 please mail your spiritual pledge to church or bring it to the church office.

These pledges of increased spiritual exercise will bring more of God's word and sacraments into our lives which will give us the spiritual strength to make meaningful financial pledges later in the campaign.

Blessings,
Pastor Tim Rossow

Kindle the Fire: Fanning the Flame of God's Gifts

Case Statement:

Mount Olive is nearly a half century old. Where other congregations might be content to maintain and look inward, the members of Mount Olive will not sit idly by. We will kindle the fire of the Gospel by taking up new ministry opportunities in the community and the congregation. However, our \$8,000 monthly debt payment is holding us back. It is suffocating the flame of the Gospel and restricting our ability to capitalize on new opportunities. Together, we can eliminate our debt so the Gospel fire will burn even more brightly among us. *Imagine the possibilities!*

Your Prayers are Needed!

We need your heart, your mind and your folded hands for prayer at the *Kindle the Fire* Prayer Vigil on Saturday May 8th. The vigil will start at 9:00 am on Saturday morning and end with the Saturday service at 5:00 pm.

The more people we have attending this moving event, the more we will be able to uplift our prayers of thanksgiving and supplication before the throne of God in heaven so that His work can be fulfilled through our *Kindle the Fire* campaign. God has told us that he is like a loving father who wants to hear requests from the hearts of his beloved children.

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:11-13

Those of you who have been to a vigil before know how meaningful it is and we hope you will join us. If you have never been to a vigil, do not worry - there will be a host there to assist you. There will also be prayer guides and prayer requests from Mt. Olive members provided along with some special music.

Whether you've got a few minutes or an hour, come join us as we raise our prayers to our Lord.

Save these Dates!



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| May 4 | Watch for the third newsletter. |
| May 8 | Participate in the Prayer Vigil. |
| May 9 | Bring your Petunias to church. |
| May 10 | Watch for your Cottage Meeting invitation. |
| May 16-29 | Attend a Cottage Meeting. |