

July 9, 2013

Dear Members of the Madison City Council,

We write in strong support of the Hoyt Park Area Joint Neighborhood Plan, which was approved by our neighborhoods' Joint Steering Committee and endorsed with limited comments by all participating neighborhood associations. We feel this plan offers a dynamic vision for the future that balances neighborhood preservation interests with urban infill and growth opportunities that benefit both the neighborhoods and the Madison region. Our efforts included surveys, many public meetings, reporting subcommittees, and ongoing feedback from neighborhood associations and residents. It was an open and transparent process in which everyone publically, passionately, and respectfully articulated their views.

We are dismayed that after this extensive process had been completed, representatives of Mt. Olive Church wrote you, arguing that their property should be rezoned for commercial use or multi-family housing and increased height. These topics were discussed at length during our open process, within the context of an integrated and coordinated vision for the entire Hoyt Park area, a process in which Mt. Olive did not participate. We are further dismayed that they have directed their members, most of whom reside outside our neighborhoods, to pursue a coordinated letter-writing campaign on religious grounds (Please see pg.3 of attached). They claim to have strong ties to the neighborhood, but they are encouraging their members to "go to battle" in pursuit of their own profit.

Mt. Olives's letter makes a major point of their site being on the periphery of the joint neighborhoods. They refer to Mineral Point Road as a "major arterial highway" and equate their site to sites along Midvale Boulevard and University Avenue. Had any representative of the church participated in the neighborhood planning process in any way prior to now, they may have understood our perspective. Their site may be at the edge of our planning area, but it is surrounded by single-family and church uses on all sides. It is not at the "extreme edge" of anything and is not a buffer to the encroachment of more intensive uses.

Over the past two years there has been much discussion about this site throughout the neighborhood. The policies in the draft plan regarding this site reflect the opinions of the large majority of participants in our process, including most of the 400+ respondents to our neighborhood survey and the 432 signers of a petition opposed to new zoning for this site. While there *is* limited support for uses that might require a rezoning, such as a "pocket neighborhood" or senior housing with the appropriate design, scale, and density, there is also substantial agreement that the Mt. Olive congregation has no particular right to profit through the upzoning of their tax-exempt property.

Our neighborhoods and our city have put a lot of effort into this process over the past few years, trying our collective best to be open, thorough, and fair. It is our hope that Mt. Olive's strategy – ignoring the planning process and petitioning alders at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour – will not be rewarded. Changes to satisfy their request for profit would be especially

insulting to the many residents who volunteered their time and energy over the past two years to hear all views and craft a fair outcome for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kenneth Raffa  
President, Sunset Village  
Community Association

Jason Valerius  
Co-Chair, Hoyt Park Area Neighborhood Plan  
Joint Steering Committee



110 North Whitney Way Madison WI 53705  
 Phone: 238-5656 Fax: 238-5714 mountolive-lutheran.org

**Summer Worship**

**6:30pm**

Thursday Evening

**8:00 am Sunday**

**Traditional Service**

Communion on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

**10:30 am Sunday**

**Contemporary Service**

music by *Olive Branch*  
 Communion on 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays

**Sunday Fellowship**

9:00 am Coffee Hour

**Sunday Education**

9:30 am Adult Bible Study

9:30 am Sunday School during the school year

**Church Staff**

**Jason Zobel**

Pastor

jzobel@molconline.org

**Linda Krueger**

Music Director

lkrueger@molconline.org

**Laurel Zobel**

Preschool Director

lzobel@molconline.org

**Kristi Mulcahey**

Office Staff

church\_office@molconline.org

**Dan Anderson**

Vicar

Calvary Lutheran Chapel  
 dan@calvarymadison.org  
 255-7214

**Jesus Is Able**

*“As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, ‘Have mercy on us, Son of David!’ When (Jesus) had gone outdoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’ ‘Yes Lord,’ they replied. Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith it will be done to you’; and their sight was restored.” Matthew 9:27-30*

We live in a world that doesn't seem to trust a whole lot anymore. Why should we? Our culture has proven time and time again that few, if any, are to be trusted when it comes to our lives and the relationships we have surrounding us. With that in mind, many get involved in friendships and marriages already expecting to see it dissolve because, as they say, “that's just the way it is today.” It's easy to see why trust is at an all time low when you look around.

**Thank God for Jesus!**

Jesus came to our broken world to redeem us and to let us know that there is someone whom we can trust. Please reread the text above. The two blind men, in faith, believed that Jesus was the Son of God and able to heal them. They trusted that Jesus could do something out of the ordinary, to make people see. Even though their lives were far from perfect, they looked for mercy instead of cursing at Jesus for their hard life. What did they receive? The gift of sight. Now you may not see any similarities to your own lives, but they are there. At the center of this text is the question of trust. Jesus asked, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” He asks us the same question today. Do you

believe that I am able to comfort you at the loss of a loved one? Do you believe that I am able to restore your relationship that seems to be headed for separation or divorce? Do you believe I am able to give you the strength to stop this addiction? Do you believe that I am able to save you? These are tough questions, yet Jesus has an answer for these and all the other questions that face us daily. “Yes, I am able.”

This brings me to an important question. Do you trust Him? Do you trust that Jesus is who He says He is and that He has done what He says He has done? If yes, and I pray it is for all of you, are you willing to trust Him with your lives? Trusting someone makes us vulnerable to them, but we needn't worry when it comes to trusting Jesus. He came because He loved us and wanted us to live eternally with Him in heaven. He is able to bring peace to our lives. He is able to give us balance as we live in this untrusting world. Trust Him in this! He is able!

God give you the strength to believe in all things that Jesus is able.



In His Service,  
 Pastor Jason



## Summer Service Schedule

### Thursday Evening Worship Services

Please join us Thursday evening at 6:30 pm  
May 23 through August 29

### Care Team Service August 18

We will be having a traditional service for the 10:30 service on this date so that our care team partners will be able to come and participate with us.

### Outdoor Service August 25

On August 25, 10:30am we will be having one service outside at a local park. Please mark your calendar and watch for details.



**Welcome**  
to Our  
**Church**  
**Family**

## Welcome New Members!

Please welcome the following members  
to our Mount Olive Family.

Jared Duffy (Lindsay Jaskowiak)

Harriet Katana

Pat Kalscheur

Lynn Blenker

Mike and Paula Hahn

Cal Perleberg

Laurie Sand

Tim, Judy, and Molly Adrianson

Tom, Jess, Ezra and Jude Rosenwinkel

W. Stephen Lush

Sean, Megan and Josephine Nelson

## August View Deadline

**Tuesday July 16**

E-mail articles to: [church\\_office@molconline.org](mailto:church_office@molconline.org).

Assembly: **Wednesday July 24 at 11:30am**

## Sunday Bulletin Deadline

The Sunday Bulletin deadline is always  
Wednesday noon for the following Sunday.

*Thank you!*

## Have you noticed?

Have you noticed . . . new chairs in the men's and women's restrooms are now in place as a memorial to **Don Duxbury**, Mount Olive member who died in 2006. A life that touches others goes on forever.

## Ben Ahlersmeyer to be Ordained

Ben Ahlersmeyer will be ordained and installed on June 30 at his called church, Peace Lutheran in Lombard Illinois. The service takes place at 3:00pm at 21 W500 Butterfield Rd., Lombard, IL. God's blessings to Ben and Melissa.



## Take me out to the ball game!

Come join the Mount Olive family at a Mallard's baseball game on **June 28**. \$16 will get you a ticket to the game and all you can eat food, soda and water. The sign-up sheet is on the board in the narthex



## Church Office Hours

Mount Olive office hours are 9:00am to 3:00pm daily. You may contact us at 238-5656 or by email, [church\\_office@molconline.org](mailto:church_office@molconline.org). If you have an emergency during non-office hours, please call Pastor Jason Zobel's cell phone: 608-228-4134.

## Stand Up! Be Counted!

As you may or may not be aware, the Hoyt Park Area Joint Neighborhood Plan draft has been completed. This plan is now scheduled to be introduced to the Madison Common Council on June 4<sup>th</sup> with a **target adoption date of July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. This is an important date to keep in mind. It is less than TWO months away!

**For good or bad, the plan that is ultimately adopted will greatly affect the value and marketability of our properties on Mineral Point Road, and control the extent to which the property can be developed.** Therefore, it is vitally important that we, as members of Mount Olive and “owners” (really God’s stewards) of those properties, speak up and voice our concerns over the recommendations of the draft plan concerning our properties (referred to in the draft plan as the Mineral Point Institutional Campus).

As drafted, the plan would limit the use of the properties to their current usage, or to low density single family homes of 1 to 2 stories. **If the plan is adopted with this provision, the value of our property and the salability of it will be greatly reduced.** That is why we must act now! As stewards, we are called to protect and enhance the value of the property God has put under our stewardship. We are to engage with the world to do so, and in the process, to show the love and light of Jesus Christ in and through our words and actions. The fight is God’s, but as soldiers of The Cross, we are called to be His hands and feet and “go to battle”.

There are at least two ways you can help us wage this battle to protect the value of the property God has placed in our care.

**Every member** of Mount Olive can write to our alder Chris Schmidt (our alder for the location) at [district11@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district11@cityofmadison.com) via email, or postal mail to Chris Schmidt, 4210 Odana Rd, Madison, WI 53511. You can also call Chris at 239-0940.

**Members who live in Madison alder districts** (there are just over 100 households living in 14 different Madison alder districts) can also contact their district alder by writing, email or phone.

A suggested “template” letter (in Word) is available for anyone to customize who would like to do so. You of course can certainly write your own original letter as well. If you are not sure who your alder is, we will be more than happy to provide that information for you. We can also customize a letter to your alder for

you, so that you would only need to sign it and mail it, if you would prefer.

**The most important thing is that you take action, now!** Take action by writing to Chris Schmidt, or your alder, if you live in a different alder district. If you want a copy of the letter, written on behalf of our congregation, to include with your letter, or if you want a customized template letter, just call or email George Krug at 608-335-0111 or [gkrug@ancoracoffee.com](mailto:gkrug@ancoracoffee.com).

Copies of the draft plan, and a copy of our letter to the common council, are both available at the office to view. Electronic copies are available upon request via email to you. We also have a list alders and their districts. If you are not sure who your alder is, or if you live in a Madison alder district, just contact the office or myself and we will be glad to provide that information to you. To become even better informed, check out the City of Madison website at [Hoyt Park Area Plan Info](#). Here you can look at the process, the draft plan and related documents & comments, the schedule for adoption, and more.

Take courage and remember the words of our Lord when he said, “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” MT 10:16

Please help us to communicate this concern to the Madison Common Council members. My goal is to get letters from at least 50 Mount Olive households to Alderman Chris Schmidt, and at least 60 letters to the combined 14 alders representing residents who are Mount Olive members & property owners, who live in their districts, by Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. For the sake of our mission and ministries, I hope & pray that you will please help us to reach that goal! Please let me know how I can be of help if you would like some assistance.

Thank you,  
*George Krug,*  
Executive Director

**Stand Up  
and be  
Counted!**