

Strawberry Festival

Mt. Olive, Hickory, hosted their annual Strawberry Festival on Sunday, May 15, a tradition that began several decades ago when introduced by a former church musician. The festival is a musical gathering, open to the community to come and enjoy music and fresh strawberry desserts. The Chancel Choir and the Worship & Music Committee sponsored the event, along with assistance from the Hospitality Committee.



This year's theme was "Singing the Faith: Hymns Old and New" and music included instrumentals as well as the singing of some favorite hymns. Participating music ensembles included the Chancel Choir, Faith Out Loud contemporary ensemble, Mt. Olive Ringers, Jugendmusik (youth music) Ensemble, and Kinderchor, a group of young children who sing, play percussion instruments, and dance. Over 100 people enjoyed the music and strawberries.

The Strawberry Festival was supported this year by a Thrivent "Living Generously" Action Grant. The event was free, but a love offering was gathered to support Mt. Olive's "Micah's Cupboard" food ministry for school children and their families. During extended school-year vacations, "Micah's Cupboard" provides boxes of food to help alleviate child hunger. The ministry also provides local schools with new packages of underwear and socks for children who do not have extra clothing stored at school for emergencies. And in partnership with Longview Baptist Church, two free meal events are held each year to provide free clothing and school supplies for families.

Mt. Olive Lutheran is located at 2780 North Center Street in the Viewmont section of Hickory, next to the Rite Aid pharmacy. The church is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and worship is held at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. For more information, please call Mt. Olive Lutheran at 828-324-6198.

By Lynne Reed