



Olive Leaves

April 2019



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FROM PASTOR VOGES

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MOVING FROM LENT TO EASTER

Early in April our parish community concludes its Lenten journey of spiritual conditioning. On Wednesdays we were exposed to Responsive Prayer One and Evening Prayer, to the readings and psalms of Daily Prayer, and to the Prayer Lists of our members. We also worked through a biblical study (led by Mrs. Natalie Smith) on five of the Seven Signs in John's Gospel.

This six-week journey of spiritual conditioning was and is preparing our members and friends for the liturgies of Holy Week – Passion (or Palm) Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day. For the Church this is the premier week of the year because it takes us into the actual center of the world's redemption from the destructive and deadly realities of sin, Satan, and death.

We take part in these liturgies not because we have to, but because we have been rescued from the anxieties and horrors of living for one's self. The liturgies of Holy Week are unique and the Lord's people are steadily encouraged to participate in them. This involves us changing our routines that week so the liturgies can cross our lives, but it is what the Lord's people do.

Our redemption from this world's life was not easily accomplished. That is why it is vital for the Lord's people to be exposed to the events that surface in the course of this Week.

The world honestly thinks one can have the resurrection without the Jerusalem entrance on Sunday, the gift of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, the crucifixion on Friday, and the Son's visit to hell on Saturday; but, tragically and pathetically, the world is wrong with that assessment.

Remember that Lent's six weeks were conditioning and toughening us as the Lord's people so we can stride into the world-shaking and world-redeeming events of Holy Week. They enable us as the Lord's people to emerge on Easter Day, fully imbedded in the Son's crucifixion and resurrection!



LENT, HOLY WEEK, and EASTER SCHEDULE of WORSHIP and EVENTS

The Remaining Wednesdays in Lent April 3 & 10, 2019	12:00 Noon	Midweek Lenten Worship: Responsive Prayer Light Lunch after the Noon Service	
	6:00 PM	Bible Study The 5th & 6th Signs of Jesus in the Gospel of John	
	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Worship: Evening Prayer	
Saturday April 13, 2019	5:30 PM	Celebrating Palm Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion Worship & The Lord's Supper	
Sunday April 14, 2019 	8:00 AM & 10:30 AM	Palm Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion Worship & The Lord's Supper	
	9:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes	
Thursday April 18, 2019	7:00 PM	 <i>"Given for you..."</i>	Maundy Thursday Worship Service with The Lord's Supper
Friday April 19, 2019	7:00 PM	Good Friday Worship Service 	
Saturday April 20, 2019	5:30 PM		Worship with The Lord's Supper
 Sunday April 21, 2019 	8:00 AM	The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday with The Lord's Supper	
	9:00 AM	Breakfast (No Sunday School) Note: Families with children may come at 8:45 so they will have time to eat before the Activities.	 Easter Morning Breakfast
	9:30 AM	Resurrection Celebration, Activities, & Easter Egg Hunt Families will begin in the downstairs "Big Room." The egg hunt will continue outside for children through 4 th grade.	
	10:30 AM	The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday with The Lord's Supper	



APRIL PRAYERS

Aresa Boykin & Natalie Osborne Smith

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we have made great progress towards calling our new Pastor. In this time of waiting, we should continue to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and support. Please KNOW that God is omniscient (all knowing) and omnipresent (always present) in all things, so we should continue to pray for the call process knowing that He is in control and is always faithful to those who love Him. **For the month of April:**

Pray for Pastor Jeff Marquardt and his wife as they prayerfully seek God’s will as he considers our call.

Pray and Give Thanks to the Holy Spirit for leading our Call Committee: Rich O’Dell, chairperson, Jim Crosland, Johnna Duncan, Katie Greer, Mike Knowles, Karen Meetze, Sandy Osborne, Charlie Sandt, and Peggy Weed.

Pray for Pastor Voges as he continues to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, and minister to our congregation and guests. Give thanks for their ongoing care.

Pray that Lay Minister Bill Boykin, Elder Chairperson Charlie Sandt, and secretary Mary Keller will be filled with wisdom and discernment from the Holy Spirit as they keep up with the day-to-day challenges during our time of transition.

Pray for our Elders as they care for our members who are in need.

**We entrust these prayers to each board and group. Please pray them at your meetings.
We challenge every person to keep these prayers in a prominent place and pray them daily.**



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rich O’Dell, Chairperson

On Sunday, March 10th at a special afternoon Call Service, the confirmed members of Mt. Olive unanimously voted to call Pastor Jeffrey Marquardt as our next Pastor. To aid in the process and give him as much information as possible, we provided Pastor Marquardt with a copy of our Congregational Profile that was completed in 2018, complete demographic information on the Irmo and the greater Columbia areas, a copy of our by-laws, copies of our bulletins and Newsletters, information on our preschool, along with numerous publications detailing recreational activities in The Midlands.

Pastor Marquardt is currently serving as Pastor of Lake Norman Lutheran Church in Denver, North Carolina. During this time of contemplation, he and his wife will visit Mt. Olive and spend a little time in our area. We’ve asked Pastor Marquardt to prayerfully come to a decision within a month, which would be mid-April.



Pastor Marquardt, the Mt. Olive Congregation, and the Lake Norman Congregation ask for your prayers as we continue through this process.



BOARD OF EVANGELISM: WHO ARE YOU?

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Hebrews 13:2 ESV

During each of the last two Men’s Prayer Breakfasts, I have had the pleasure of meeting two church members that I did not know. Imagine that! We have so many members in three services that we don’t get to know each other until we have a common event. Fortunately, we introduced ourselves and we are no longer strangers going to the same church.

Am I the only one who has experienced this situation? I think not.

Have you ever visited another church? Did you feel lonely or rejected until someone introduced himself or herself to you? I’ve been there, done that, and it’s not fun. That is probably the way first time visitors to our church feel if we don’t introduce ourselves to them and welcome them to our service. If a visitor is not welcomed on their first visit, chances are they will not be back. There is a saying that goes, “You only get one chance to make a good first impression.”



If you introduce yourself and find that the person is a member, don’t feel uncomfortable. He or she is probably glad you took a moment, and you just made a new friend. Take the initiative the next time you see someone in church that you don’t know and introduce yourself.

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

It is definitely pollen season and it does not look like there is an ending in sight! The good news is that warmer weather is approaching and I’m looking forward to all those spring activities.



Your Church Council will be hosting its traditional Easter breakfast! Families with children who will be participating in the Easter activities can begin eating at 8:45 AM followed by everyone else at 9:00 AM. Council will provide scrambled eggs, meat, grits, coffee, and juices. Congregation members are asked to bring breads, pastries, and fruit.

Thank you to Jason Dennis and the Nominating Committee for seeking out members who have the gifts and commitment to fill our vacant positions for officers and boards. We always welcome those who would like to serve, so if you hear the calling to serve, please contact Jason Dennis to volunteer. One of the great things about new volunteers is the creativity and ideas they bring to the church that we love so much.

As we pray for our new pastor and for God to let us see his decision, there are some projects that the Church Council is working on. We are in the process of reviewing our employee contracts to make sure that they are all up to date, consistent, and follow the LCMS guidelines. We are also working with the preschool in an effort to make sure that our ministry to the children of our community will be successful and sustainable for future years to come. With that being said, thank you to the preschool board and staff for attending the last council meeting and giving us a peak for their future plans. God Bless.

**Mt. Olive Lutheran: a church that is growing in faith and love
by spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Natalie Crosland, Chairperson

***“Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6***

The Board of Christian Education is eagerly planning for Easter activities! As is traditional at Mt. Olive, there will be an Easter breakfast, beginning at 8:45 AM for families with children. At 9:30, children, toddlers through 4th grade, and their parents will gather downstairs in the preschool area to hear the Easter story followed by the egg hunt. What a joyful celebration! The folks who come to the midweek Lenten luncheon of April 10th will have the opportunity to stuff the hundreds of eggs! Older children and youth will get to “hide” the eggs on Easter morning. This is truly an activity where people of all ages can be involved!

Lutheranism 101 will begin April 28th. This class will discuss our Lutheran beliefs and heritage. This will be a great for review for *old* Lutherans, or to develop understanding to *new* Lutherans, or for anyone in between! Please join us in the choir room.

The board is planning to purchase Lutheran Study Bibles for the graduating high school seniors so that they have their own as they head off to college this fall.

The youth are very excited for the National Youth Gathering!!! They have begun their Bible study for the gathering, so please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for the NYG in July.



VBS: AUGUST 4-8, 2019
Natalie Crosland, Chairperson



The Board and our faithful volunteers are truly blessed to have the opportunity to teach our children more about our Lord. We are already preparing for our August 4th-8th VBS, *ROAR! Life is Wild! God is good!!* The children (and adults) will learn that throughout their lives, whether unfair, scary, or sad, God is with them and God is good.

Volunteers are needed to make VBS a success!! Please prayerfully consider helping in any way that you can. There are many opportunities to volunteer: decorating before August 4th, leading classes, assisting with crafts, preparing food, cleaning up the evening of August 8th, and so much more. Please join us in “starting the children off” with the Word of God.



BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP
Kathie Voyles & Marlene Nes'Bit, Co-Chairpersons

Many thanks to all the members who signed up for mid-week Lenten luncheons. Thanks for helping the Fellowship Board in the kitchen with providing food, setting up, serving, and cleaning up to Laura, Richard, Carole, Kathie, Pat, and the downstairs adult Bible School class. We still need a volunteer for providing and serving lunch on April 10th. Please sign up or let Marlene or Kathie know if you can fill in.



As usual Church Council will sponsor Easter morning breakfast between the two worship services. Council will provide scrambled eggs, meat, grits, and beverages. Plan to bring your favorite breakfast breads, sides, or fruit to share, and join the celebration!



BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
John Meyerhoff, Chairperson



From Steward Builders: The Parable of the Rice Field

There is a parable told in India about the selfish man who inherited a rice field. The first year the man irrigated the field and it was fruitful. The water, in fact, flowed onto his neighbor's field and this too produced a bountiful harvest.

But the next year the selfish man decided: Why should I let this water flow through my field into his? Water is precious, and I must keep it. So, he built a dam. This prevented the water from flowing into his neighbor's field, but it proved to be disastrous to his own crop as well. Irrigation water nourished the field only if it flowed. When it did not move, because of the dam, the water became stagnant and the field a swamp.

We own no rice fields. Still, the parable is clear. Think of what we have inherited from God; think of all He has given us. If we are selfish and keep all He has given us, our lives become stagnant, a dismal swamp of mere existence. But if we give back to God by giving to others, both the giver and the receiver share in the fruits of God's love.

Dear Lord, help us to be like the flowing waters of the parable, letting the many gifts You have given us flow through us to others in your kingdom so they may come to know your Love and forgiving Grace.



THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, CALLS, & CARDS

"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17a



During the seasons of Lent and Easter, please remember our homebound. Make a special effort to pray for, send cards, phone, and visit these members. Cards are so very meaningful because they can be saved and read over and over. You may include others who are on the weekly prayer page in the bulletin. Contact information is in the church directory.

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|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Phil Carter | Virginia Gable | Betty Hunter | Mike McGriff | Gladys Meetze | Mary Schott |
| Cleta Dunaway | Mary Green | Bonnie Jones | Anita Meetze | Al Rush | Shirlean Sons |

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BOARD OF ELDERS
Charlie Sandt, Chairperson



We have called Pastor Jeffrey Marquardt to be our next shepherd. What a moving call service we had on Sunday, March 10th! Pastor Panning's message was awesome, giving all the glory to God for the process that we followed to discover who God wants to lead Mt. Olive. Keep those prayers coming, asking for God's guidance as we continue to plan our future.



We are in the midst of Lent where we follow our Lord and Savior through his journey to the cross, where he sacrificed his own body, that we might have forgiveness and everlasting life with Him in heaven. God bless our congregation as we look forward to celebrating Christ's Resurrection on Easter morning!

In the meantime, remember our ongoing 40-day Lent Challenge to support Sharing God's Love. Bring your bags or containers of items anytime during Holy Week.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

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Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool – [Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool](https://www.facebook.com/mountolivepreschool)



Spring has sprung down in the preschool! We are knee deep in spring and Easter crafts and enjoying getting to play outside. It is a wonderful time of year to explore God’s beautiful creation!

Sunday, April 28th will be “**Preschool Sunday**” at Mt. Olive. The preschool children will be singing during the 10:30 AM worship service. It is our hope that this will allow for a sweet time of fellowship between you, the faithful members of the church congregation, and the preschool students and their families. **We are so thankful for your support of this ministry and the children look forward to lifting their sweet voices to the Lord in song during the service.** Be on the lookout for the M&M fundraiser that the youth group is sponsoring for the preschool! Chocolate? Yum!

An Afternoon at the Ballpark: Love baseball and want to have a portion of your ticket be donated back to the preschool? **Use the special link below to buy your tickets to the Columbia Fireflies game on Sunday, May 5 at 2:05 pm.** Tickets are only \$9/person and will be held for you to pick up at the *Will Call* booth when you get to the game. This is NOT a preschool or church-only event, so please invite your friends and family to buy tickets as well! The game will feature a splash day for kids.

The link to purchase Fireflies tickets is:

<https://fireflies5.streamlineticketing.com/group/event/Mt.Olive/>



As always, thank you for your continued support and prayers!



HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH

Seth & Johnna Duncan, Leaders

The High School Class is starting a new Bible study on the book of Revelation! Come join us to find out what it's all about! We look forward to seeing you all each Sunday!

During the month of April, the youth group will be sponsoring a fundraiser to benefit the Mt. Olive Lutheran Preschool! Please take a tube of mini M&Ms, enjoy the chocolate, and then fill the tube with change, or cash, or checks, ha! M&Ms will be available after each service on March 30th-31st & April 6th-7th, and are due back on April 28th, just in time for our first Preschool Sunday celebration!



Please help us support this great ministry that we have right here in our church!

National Youth Gathering Update: We are continuing with the Bible study on this year’s gathering theme: “Real. Present. God.” Youth who are attending, please be on the lookout for meeting dates and times.

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

2019 LCMS Youth Gathering



BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY
Charlene Meetze, Chairperson

“As Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17

The Social Ministry Board is actually every member of the church. Welcome to the Board! The following are the members of the board who work to identify and accomplish its mission: Norma Hessary, Sue Knowles, Charlene Meetze (Chairperson) Suzi Slaughter, and Shirlean Sons.

Shirlean Sons, a faithful servant on the Social Ministries Board who remembers all of the members who are sick or homebound with her precious card. Please keep her in your prayers as she recovers from a recent hospitalization.

Our current project is the 40-Day Lenten Challenge. With the help of the Public Relations Board, this project was identified and launched for church participation for our 40-day sacrifice during Lent. Over 100 large red trash bags were handed out for family participation and as a result, we look forward to lining the walls during Holy Week with these bags and other containers filled for delivery to Sharing God’s Love.



The Board is currently studying the Church Constitution and By-Laws to ensure that all of the areas of responsibility are being met. Until we can receive guidance from our new Pastor, our current focus is on supporting the LCMS World Relief and obtaining a list of all available social agencies for referrals from the church.

We are eager to meet our new pastor and receive his guidance for future projects by the Social Ministry Board.



BOARD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16 ESV***

The Board of Public Relations is involved in promoting so many areas of our church! In addition to the newsletter, church website, and social media, we are involved in promoting the Board of Social Ministry’s 40-Day Lenten Challenge and supporting the Board of Evangelism in the updating of Mt. Olive’s brochure. For the most up-to-date reminders of the services and activities, please like our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/mtolivesc.

Easter is the most magnificent time of the church year! We celebrate Christ Jesus’s resurrection where he paid the penalty for all our sins, overcoming death, so that we have eternal life as children of God. Be on the look out for information on our Holy Week and Easter activities.



If you have a knack for sharing information, social media, and keeping people “in the know” about Mt. Olive, please talk with Sandy Osborn, Natalie Smith, or me.

SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL

April 1st	April Fool's Day	April 14th	Palm/Passion Sunday
April 18th	Maundy Thursday	April 19th	Good Friday
April 21st	Easter Sunday	April 24th	Administrative Professional's Day



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STEPHEN MINISTRY

Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader

“STEPHEN MINISTRY IS CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE.”

During the next months, our Stephen Ministers will be involved in a book study for continuing education, *Pastoral Care under the Cross – God in the Midst of Suffering*, by Pastor Richard C. Eyer. The book examines care in relation to the theology of the cross and offers a practical approach to Christian caregiving. It also provides a Christian response to questions in the area of medical ethics. Rev. Eyer has served as a parish pastor, university professor (CU-Wisconsin), and director of pastoral care at Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

We are looking forward to gaining a deeper understanding of our roles as caregivers through the study of Pastor Eyer's book.

As always, if you are experiencing one of life's usual crises and would like more information about having a Stephen Minister, please contact me.



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JOIN US FOR A SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS!

April 2019 Sunday School & Bible Classes – 9:15 AM			
Infants – age 2	Nursery	Bailey Dort	Love and care during Sunday school and 10:30 Worship Service.
Circle of Friends	Downstairs Classroom	Katie Tyczynski & Faithful Group of Volunteers	Bringing Jesus to Special Needs Children
PK3 – 4th Grade	Upstairs Classrooms	Pat LaGrange, Laura Laprise, & Kaley Laprise	Growing In Christ Series from CPH
5 th Grade & Older and their parents	Wagner House	Bill Boykin	A multi-year study of Martin Luther's Small Catechism for Confirmation
Middle Schoolers	Wagner House	Rick Baden	A variety of lessons from the Bible
High Schoolers	Wagner House	Seth & Johnna Duncan	The Book of Revelation
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Barry Bost	The Weekly Lectionary – The Epistle Lesson See Worship/ Serving Schedule for Scriptures.
Adults	Downstairs Classroom	Sandy Osborne	The Book of 1 Corinthians
Young Adults	Wagner House	Meghan Gotz	“The Law & Gospel”
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

APRIL 2019 ANNIVERSARIES

4/5 George & Stephanie Boatwright	4/22 C.R. & Thelma Miller
4/5 Chris & Denise McKinney	4/27 Alonzo & Marlene Nes'bit
4/20 Jeff & Judy Bedenbaugh	4/29 Joseph & Brandy Maye

APRIL 2019 BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Thom Funderburk	4/8 Derrick Robinson	4/17 Bonnie Fancey
4/1 Michele Martin	4/8 Mariah Robinson	4/17 Flora Weed
4/1 Margaret Meetze	4/9 James Lewis, Jr.	4/17 Brianna Soto
4/3 Brian Laprise	4/11 Alonzo Nes'bit	4/20 April Fancey
4/4 Jean Carter	4/11 Lincoln Weed	4/21 Adeline Fletcher
4/4 Ryan Whitaker	4/12 Patti Painter	4/25 Mike Jones
4/6 Judy Bedenbaugh	4/14 Katie Greer	4/25 Michael Strouse
4/8 Emily Ervin Kears	4/15 Berney Eargle	4/27 Barbara Chesley
	4/15 Tyler Laprise	

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

May Newsletter Deadline – Monday, April 22nd

to accommodate Easter, Holy Week, and spring break, the deadline for submitting articles for the May 2019 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Monday, April 22nd**. Remember that you can send your articles early. Please email your announcements and articles to aresaboykin@sc.rr.com.

How's Your Lenten Challenge Bag Filling Up?



The Board of Social Ministry is counting you to be filling your big red bags, or other containers, with 40 things that you are giving up to donate to Sharing God's Love. Please bring your bags during Holy Week when you come to a service or during office hours. If you need assistance transporting your items, please call Charlene Meetze, or the church office.

Midweek Lenten Schedule

Wednesdays during Lent, April 3rd & April 10th will be a reflective time at Mt. Olive led by Pastor Voges. The noon service will be Responsive Prayer and the 7:00 PM service will be Evening Prayer, both in the LSB. A light lunch will follow the noon worship and a 6:00 PM Bible Study, Jesus's 7 Signs from John's Gospel, will be taught by Natalie Osborne Smith. BYO Supper!



Men's Prayer Breakfast



There will be no April prayer breakfast because it falls the day before our Easter breakfast! The May prayer breakfast will be the third **Saturday, May 18**. Come and bring your sons and neighbors for a hearty breakfast, devotion, and prayer.

Women's Bible Study

The ladies of Mt. Olive will continue their monthly Bible study, but due to Easter, will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, **April 23rd**. Please join us at 6:00 PM as we apply God's Word to our own lives through *Mirror, Mirror* by Susan Senechal. All women are invited to participate!

Nominating Committee: Get Involved!

There's still time to join a board! Please examine your heart and decide for 2019 which team you are willing to assist either by membership or special prayers. All of our boards are staffed with dedicated members and are energizing to anyone who works with them! The Nominating Committee, chaired by Jason Dennis, our vice president, is firming up the list of nominations to present at the May Voter's Assembly. Imagine what we could do with all everyone working for our church in the name of Christ Jesus!



