



Olive Leaves

February 2019



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FROM PASTOR VOGES

Pastor Carl A. Voges, Interim Pastor

Since we observed the Son's Birth on December 25th, the Lord's people are seeing Sunday after Sunday how that Birth impacts their lives along with the lives of the world's people. His people, though, recognize how such seeing is not easily done. The world, wrapped up with and committed to its own gods, initially pushes back against the Son's Birth. This, however, does not dismay or dispirit the Lord's people. They have been guided to recognize that the Birth leads to the Son's dying and rising.

Thus they are determined to be continually exposed to the Lord's redeeming activity so they can faithfully reflect it to the people around them. This year the Epiphany season runs out to its full eight weeks (Easter Day will be as late as it can be – April 21, 2019!) This means we will have much more time to explore how the impact of the Son's Birth extends into our lives and beyond. Let us remember that such exploration is always framed by the Lord's Scriptures, Baptism, Forgiveness, and his Supper.

As your interim pastor during these months, remember that the Church's ministry is grounded in the Holy Trinity's activity of Baptism and Ordination. Rooted in the classical Lutheran tradition, we pastors are to proclaim, serve, and teach the Gospel. My tasks with you will include presiding and preaching in the weekend liturgies, leading special liturgies, and calling on the parish's members and friends.



My contact information is: Mobile phone – 803.269.6656

Email address – carl.voges4@icloud.com

In our Lord's grace, fear, and mercy, Pr. Carl A. Voges

Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it.
 And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred
 and are utterly devoid of love?
 —Dietrich Bonhoeffer



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rich O'Dell, Chairperson

There is no more important decision a Congregation faces than the calling of its Pastor. We believe God has a design for Mt. Olive and has already made his selection. The Call process began and continues with prayer – prayer in all services, prayer in our Bible studies, and individual prayer to help us identify our new Pastor.

We're being guided through the process by District representatives starting with President Denninger, District Facilitator Pastor Mark Schroeder, and our Circuit Visitor Pastor David Panning. On January 8th, we received the official Call List with the names of seven Pastors from four different states. The committee has been provided with the Pastors' Personal Information Form (PIF) and Self-Evaluation Tool (SET) that have specific information ranging from personal backgrounds to preferences in types of worship services. On January 22, the Committee began the process of identifying Pastors most compatible with the vision expressed in the Mt. Olive Congregational Profile. Once narrowed down, we will have phone interviews with several candidates and eventually in-person interviews with finalists. The Committee is focused and wants to thank you for your prayerful support.



FEBRUARY PRAYERS

Aresa Boykin & Natalie Osborne Smith

***“For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us...”
Romans 8:26b***

Our Call Committee has begun the process of reviewing the candidates on our list. Please keep in mind that everything the committee is doing is highly confidential: the names of the candidates, the churches and communities where they are currently serving, and the discussions during the committee meetings. That being said, God is omniscient (all knowing), so we can still pray effectively without knowing the details. Remember, The Holy Spirit always intercedes for us.

Pray for 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 that they will prayerfully discern God's will as they review the candidates

Pray for Pastor David Panning, our Circuit Visitor, as he guides us in the call process.

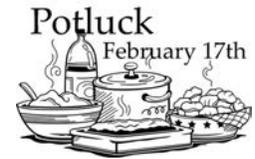
Pray that Pastor Voges and Pastor Williams will continue to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, and minister to our congregation and guests. Give thanks for their ongoing support and care.

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 who receives this newsletter to keep these prayers in a prominent place and pray them daily.



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

The Board of Parish Fellowship wishes to thank the wonderful members who provided food for the meal for the Dave Osborn funeral and/or helped with the set-up/clean up. This includes: Barbara Chesley, Nancy Thompson, Charlene Meetze, Aresa Boykin, Katrina Folks, Peggy Weed, Sally Kinard, Johnna Duncan, Carole Mueller, Kathie Bost, and Norma Hessary.

Mark your calendar for our next potluck on February 17th celebrating Valentine's Day. Each family is asked to provide two dishes to share. Fellowship will provide drinks and dessert.

PASTORAL ACTS

	Memorial Service	Memorial Service	
	Grace A Miller October 18, 1920–December 6, 2018 December 15, 2018	David Robert Osborn August 15, 1949 – January 6, 2019 January 12, 2019	
	Holy Baptism	Memorial Service	
	Edith Rose Sanguiliano January 20, 2019	Elsie Lorick January 24, 1926 – January 23, 2019 January 27, 2019	

FROM OUR PRESIDENT
Jim Crosland, Congregational President

Hope everyone had a great holiday and ending to another year. If not, here is an opportunity, and a good time, to reflect and become more spiritual in your life. I know, I have become more spiritual since attending Mt. Olive and I have learned to let God help me in my journeys. This has also saved me some money on my blood pressure medication.

We have many moving parts still in motion like the Call Committee, February 9th spring clean-up, Lent and Easter, and of course spring break for the kids. Seems like once we get past a busy season another one approaches. I think this is God's plan to keep us fully engaged in his work and honestly, I look forward to the challenges ahead.

I sincerely want to thank Rich O'Dell for his leadership with the Call Committee and keeping the communication lines flowing with the district. This is a very busy task for an outgoing president who wanted to slow down a little bit. (I'll still honor my proposal to you Rich, with a steak dinner.) Thank you Bill Boykin for your continuous dedication and commitment to Mt. Olive. Bill has been very busy with family and keeping everything moving at the church, including the replacement of the fellowship hall HVAC units and filling in at worship services. Sometimes I really think he has a twin around to help!

I love my church family and hope everyone has an outstanding year! Blessings



BOARD OF ELDERS

Charlie Sandt, Chairperson



We are in the midst of our journey to call a new shepherd for our congregation. It is an exciting time for our congregation and also very trying at times. We all need your prayers as we go through the process. We are very fortunate that God has put many people in our spiritual life to help us along. Please continue to pray for direction from the Holy Spirit so that we make the right decisions and call the person that God has chosen for us. The Board of Elders is stepping up to help our Vacancy Pastors and Lay Minister Bill with visitations. If you know of anyone who needs a caring visit, please contact the church office so we don't miss any opportunities to serve in the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

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 SOCIAL MINISTRY

Charlene Meetze, Chairperson

***"A new command I give you: Love One Another.
As I have loved you, you must love one another.
By this, everyone will know that you are one of my disciples."
John 13: 34 -35***

Thanks once again Mt. Olive for your tremendous support of projects in 2018. Our expression of love and support is a testimony of heeding God's instruction for our lives. Our projects in 2019 will continue to support the needs of our community. We will participate in the collection of food items for the Lexington District 5 school pantries and will be meeting with Habitat for Humanity to learn of how we can participate in local building projects. Sharing God's Love is an awesome ministry right here in our community and of course managed by our own Shari Selke. SGL is not only a resource for our local community; they assist with many other ministries across the Midlands. Consider volunteering there to assist with the hefty tasks of sorting and inventorying the contributions. There is happiness and laughter coming from that building as within its walls are loving Christian people working for Jesus!

I recently heard a sermon entitled: "Live Right to Die Right". Pretty profound isn't it? Throughout the Bible, it teaches and reminds us of God's expectations of us and ultimately his gift of Jesus to us. That GIFT alone is the lifeblood for all of us.

Rest up in this quiet wintertime...we will have some work to do come spring!



THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, CALLS, & CARDS

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.”

Psalm 67:1



As the winter months continue, remember our homebound. These months are often dreary because of cold rains and less daylight. 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.

Cleta Dunaway Mary Green Bonnie Jones Anita Meetze Al Rush
Virginia Gable Betty Hunter Mike McGriff Gladys Meetze Mary Schott



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Natalie Crosland, Acting Chairperson



WE NEED GOD IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND SCRIPTURE!

“You will come to the grave in full vigor.” Job 5:26 NIV.

Author Norman Cousins said, “No disease is more lethal than the boredom that follows retirement.” Here’s a true story of a lady in her eighties who went to her doctor for a checkup. He asked if she stayed active. She gave him a big smile and said, “I jog about four or five miles every day.” Surprised, he told her she needed to be careful and not overdo it. “Take it easy,” he suggested. She took his words to heart and decided to slow down. She reduced her jogs to slow walks, and cut back to one or two days a week. Within a year she was dead. After hearing about her death, the doctor who’d given her such advice told a friend, “Never again will I tell a patient who’s doing so well to take it easy.”

The Bible is filled with the stories of people who *lived on* because they had something to *live for!* Remember Caleb? At eighty-five he attacked the giants in the hill country, drove them out, and became a land developer (Joshua 14:9-13). And how about Noah? He began building the ark when he was five hundred years old. And a hundred years later he helped to start the world all over again. Age means nothing unless you’re cheese! And wrinkles, gray hair, and spots on your hands mean less than nothing. As long as God chooses to leave you on this earth, don’t just exist—live! Claim the promise: “You will come to the grave in full vigor.” Keep dreaming. Accept new challenges. And don’t even *think* about taking it easy!

This is from my devotional and want to extend the challenge to everyone throughout.

In Education news, Jessica Dennis has stepped up to teach until a replacement teacher can be found for the 3-year-olds. It’s not too late to join the Ladies’ Bible Study. We meet again on Tuesday, February 19th at 6:00 PM. We are having a clean up day on Saturday, February 9th from 9 AM -12 Noon. Please come out and join in the cleaning and reorganization of our materials.

HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH
Seth & Johnna Duncan, Leaders



We are continuing our study in the series Sticky Faith. We are learning to notice God in our everyday lives and are thinking about what God wants us to learn from the situations we encounter. We encourage all high schoolers to attend!

National Youth Gathering: Thank you all so much for your support with the envelope fundraiser; you donated over \$1500 to the trip and we are very thankful! We are continuing to prepare for the gathering with the Bible study on this year's gathering theme: "Real. Present. God." during youth group meetings. Our students who are attending are Abby Kibler, Bailey Stuck, Jimmy Crosland and Noah Laney. Youth: please be on the lookout for meeting dates and times.



SPECIAL DATES IN FEBRUARY

February 2nd	Groundhog's Day
February 14th	Valentine's Day
February 18th	President's Day



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BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
John Meyerhoff, Chairperson

***"And they went and woke him, saying, 'Save us, Lord; we are perishing.'
And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?'
Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm."
Matthew 8:25-26***

Faith means trust. And if you trust your Heavenly Father, what need is there to fear? On the other hand, if you give in to your fears, you'll find that your faith fades to the background. A lot of our unfaithfulness in stewardship comes from fear. How would our generosity change if we trusted the Lord more? (*From LCMS.org*)

The fears are real. Unexpected bills do pop up. The washing machine needs to be replaced; the car breaks down; medical emergencies happen. But the love of our Lord is also real. God always has and always will take care of our needs. It may not be in the way we expect or fully understand, but He is always there for us. We need to trust that our God will fulfill his promises to us. Has he ever failed to do that? NO!

Prayer: Dear Father, help of us to turn our fears to trust in You, our loving and giving Lord. Help our trust in You make us better stewards of all the gifts you have bestowed on us, our earthly home and all of those around us. We ask this in your Holy name. Amen



JOIN US FOR A SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS!

February 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, & Jessica Dennis	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	“Sticky Faith” – Sticking to your faith & beliefs while living in the world
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Barry Bost	The Weekly Lectionary – See Worship/ Serving Schedule for weekly Scriptures.
Adults	Downstairs Classroom	Sandy Osborne	“Upon this Rock” - Bible study based on the 2018 LCMS Convention
Young Adults	Wagner House	Katie Greer & Meghan Gotz	“The Law & Gospel”
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			



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PRESCHOOL NEWS

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 – preschool@mtolivesc.org

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



The 21 students and their families who are being served this school year in the preschool are flourishing! Our amazing staff creates a warm and loving environment in which they provide high quality learning experiences. The students learn about God’s love for them and His desire for them to be their best while they learn about and explore His world. Do you know any families with young children who would benefit from our school? Encourage them to call, email, check out the website or Facebook page, or come visit! Registration for current students begins on February 1st and for new students and families, February 15th.

Some of you may be wondering why you have not heard details announced regarding a Mardi Gras Dinner and Auction. We are going to be doing something a little different this year, and are praying that it will be a fun night for you and your family, as well as a blessing to the preschool ministry! Be on the lookout for more information soon!





BOARD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

Your Public Relations Board continues to work behind the scenes to bring Mt. Olive to the world. This involves ongoing updating to the website and Facebook, along with listings and posts on other media and apps. Transition prayers are being updated each time after the Call Committee meets. The church directory was distributed in December and new sections are in the works, including an updated church history. If you are interested in helping with the history, please contact me.

Another task is to keep our church family up-to-date. Every Thursday at 9:00 AM, you will find a Facebook post, "This Week @ Mt. Olive Lutheran Church," that lists the upcoming activities. If you have liked our page, [www.Facebook/mtolivesc](https://www.facebook.com/mtolivesc), and have not been getting our posts, be sure to search for us and comment on one of our posts from time to time to ensure that you don't miss out. Our Facebook and website links are in the Olive Seeds each week.

Meghan Smith is busily reworking our website even though Brian & she have moved to Texas. We miss them, but are glad that website work can be completed remotely. The updated site will look similar to the current website with the addition of drop down lists so that specific content can be located easier. There will be a secure page that is accessible by permission and a secure log-in/password. This page will host our church directory and other information that will be useful to our church family. The website already has a "Parish Updates" calendar on the home page similar to the one on Facebook. Circle of Friends has been added to the education page so that families with special needs children will know they are welcome at Mt. Olive.

Public relations is exciting and ever-changing! There is always something going on, whether it is something new or routine. 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.



BOARD OF EVANGELISM: SHARE THE JOY

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

"As he [Jesus] was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, 'Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.'" Mark 5:18-19 ESV

Here we are starting the second month of a new year. How are your New Year's resolutions? Have you kept them or already forgotten about them? I saw in a recent article that the idea of making and keeping New Year's resolutions is losing favor. Have you thought about the things that went well for you last year? Did you stop to thank God for the good that came your way and also for the things that did not turn out the way you wanted? Yes, even in the worst of times we need to realize God is with us. There is no better witness to God's mercy than someone who is faced with a traumatic situation, even impending death. All of us have every reason to tell family, friends, and strangers how much the Lord has done for us and that he has had mercy on us. Being able to recognize God's grace in our lives and telling our story can stimulate others into listening; and, listening stimulates curiosity and the desire to have that same joy in their lives!



STEPHEN MINISTRY
THE MINISTRY OF COMFORT

Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader



“Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

Your Stephen Ministry team is always at work behind the scenes at Mt. Olive, caring for those who are “weary and heavy laden” from the crises of life. These crises include grief, confusion, or despair from events such as the death of a loved one, unemployment, relationship woes, illness, relocation, or loneliness. You may have experienced one or more of these crises in the past and gotten along just fine; yet now, as you face another one, you are struggling. Please don’t feel like you are a failure. Actually, this is quite normal.

Whether a person needs ongoing, weekly care or a single conversation or visit from a caring, Christian friend, Stephen Ministers are here for you. Stephen Ministers are caring individuals who will accept you, listen to you, remind you of God’s promises, and pray with you. Everything you share is kept confidential. To learn more about Stephen Ministry or to have a Stephen Minister visit you, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders or Ministers: Bill Boykin, Aresa Boykin, Dianne BouFawaz, Charlie Sandt, Mike Knowles, Twila Sandt, Shari Selke, Nancy Thompson, or Matt Williams.

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



FEBRUARY 2019 ANNIVERSARIES

2/10	Todd & Elizabeth Barrett	2/26	Henry & Linda Schmidt
2/25	Jens & Liz Rosinski		

FEBRUARY 2019 BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Dot Monts	2/12	Noah Laney	2/19	Carole Mueller
2/2	Chuck Bauer	2/12	Herb Loeb	2/19	Susan Strouse
2/2	C.R. Miller	2/13	Kathie Bost	2/20	Kathy Eargle
2/3	Susie Hoffman	2/14	Trent Boykin	2/21	Chris McKinney
2/7	Sally Kinard	2.14	Paula Helming	2/22	David Buck
2/7	Hunter Kogelmann	2/15	Hannah Hennighan	2/23	Teresa Hoefer
2/8	Beth Lipkin	2/16	Scott Birkelien	2/25	Kelsey Whitaker
2/10	Phil Carter	2/16	James Crosland	2/26	Henry Schmidt
2/11	Jeff Bedenbaugh	2/17	Rachel Lewis	2/26	Dan Stocker
2/11	Seth Duncan	2/18	Natalie Crosland	2/27	Hunter Robinson
2/11	Bailey Stuck	2/19	William Baden	2/27	Suzi Slaughter
2/11	Carly Stuck			2/29	Mike McGriff

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

March Newsletter Deadline – Wednesday, February 20th

The deadline for submitting articles for the March 2019 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Wednesday, February 20th**. Remember that you can send your articles early. Please email your announcements and articles to aresaboykin@sc.rr.com.

Sharing God's Love: Souper Bowl of Caring & Ongoing Donations

SGL tries to provide basic necessities for our neighbors in need. **Sunday, February 3rd** will be the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. Please bring your extra \$\$ as there will be a collection after each worship service. Food items currently needed are: spaghetti sauce & noodles; jelly; oatmeal; cereal; coffee; canned: meats, pasta, chili, soup, stew, pork & beans, vegetables, and fruit; boxed: potatoes & mac & cheese. Thank you for helping SGL help our community!

Work Day, Saturday, February 9th, 9:00 AM

There will be something for everyone! Bring your pruners & chain saws to cut back our overgrown shrubbery. Or, work with the Board of Education on organizing and consolidating their supplies that have been stored in various locations in the church.

Men's Prayer Breakfast



The February prayer breakfast will be the third **Saturday, February 16th**. 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 on the third Tuesday of the month, **February 19th**. Please join us at 6:00 PM as we apply God's Word to our own lives through *Mirror, Mirror* by Susan Senechal. If you need a book, contact Natalie Crosland, but you don't have to have a book to study with us!

Get Involved!

On HIS behalf we reach beyond ourselves to *Love One Another*. We always need additional hands on our Mt. Olive boards. 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! Imagine if every member adopted one of our boards to work with in some fashion. Imagine what we could do with all of those hands and feet working for our church under the watchful eye of Jesus. The authors of the newsletter articles are the board chairs, so please talk to them about offering a helping hand!



Circle of Friends Has A Certified Teacher!

The Board of Christian Education is pleased to announce that Katie Tyczynski, a certified special education teacher, is leading our class. Our volunteers continue to assist. If you know of families who have special needs children, please invite them to Mt. Olive. The Circle of Friends meets during Sunday School and the 10:30 AM worship service.



Nursery Reminder



Bailey Dort is our new nursery keeper. She is a student at USC majoring in early childhood education and is excited to care for our precious children! Bailey is the granddaughter of Al and Marlene Nes'Bit. The nursery is open during the Sunday School hour and the 10:30 Worship Service.

Secure E Giving

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and Preschool both offer secure electronic giving alternatives. You may set up your accounts from the website links on the home page or scan the QR codes in the Olive Seeds bulletin insert. Both recurring and one-time gift options are available via credit cards or bank draft. If you need help setting up your account or making changes to your existing account, please contact Aresa Boykin, who will be glad to help. Your information will be kept confidential.

KID'S KORNER



**A MESSAGE OF
Love**

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.