



Olive Leaves

March 2019



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FROM PASTOR VOGES

Pastor Carl A. Voges, Interim Pastor
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On March 6th the Church begins the season of Lent with the observance of Ash Wednesday. There will be two identical liturgies that day – one at 12 noon and the other at 7:00 PM. Rather than having a homily in them, we will reflect the Church’s ancient practice of having brief comments after each biblical reading. In addition the prayers will include the reading of parishioners’ names (the listing of everyone has been put on three pages that will rotate throughout Lent; the lists will be available for personal use throughout this season and beyond).

On the succeeding Wednesdays of Lent, the liturgies will continue at 12 noon and 7 pm. The noon liturgy will follow Responsive Prayer Two (Lutheran Service Book) and the evening liturgy will follow Evening Prayer (Lutheran Service Book). These liturgies will incorporate the psalms appointed for use on those days. We will have available (again for personal use) a laminated listing of the one hundred fifty psalms designated for each day of the month.

This sounds like additional work and it is! Remember, though, that the Lenten season has always been viewed as a “spiritual conditioning time” for the Lord’s baptized people. It gets us in shape for Holy Week and Easter Day by bringing us face to face with our natural desire to be wrapped up in ourselves while seeing how our Lord breaks the hold the unholy trio (sin, Satan, death) has on our lives.

This additional work toughens us as the Lord’s faithful people. Let us remember that the Church’s ministry is imbedded in the Lord’s holy places of his Scriptures and Sacraments. It is vital that his baptized people continue to be in contact with such places.

In our Lord’s grace, fear and mercy.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rich O'Dell, Chairperson

First of all, thank you for your continued prayers for our Committee, the Call process, and our church. The support from the congregation has been so meaningful over the past few months.

After starting with an original call list of 12 names, I'm happy to say that the process has now taken us to the point of having a Call Service. This special worship service will take place at 4:00 PM on Sunday afternoon, March 10th, in the Sanctuary. Pastor David Panning, our LCMS Circuit Visitor who has been with the Call Committee every step of the way, will lead the service and give the sermon. You will hear from the Call Committee about the process it has gone through over the past few weeks and at a specific point in the Service, a vote will be taken. According to our By-Laws, all confirmed members of the congregation are eligible to vote, hopefully resulting in a Call being extended to our next Pastor.

As we've said from the beginning, there is no more important decision a Congregation faces than the calling of its Pastor. We encourage you to attend and continue your prayers.



BOARD OF EVANGELISM: DISTRACTIONS

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

“But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.’” Luke 10:41-42 ESV

The Lutheran Hour web site recently featured a sermon by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler titled “Enter His Labor.” Dr. Zeigler tells the story about how German-born composer George Frederic Handel wrote “Messiah” in 1741. The original manuscript consisted of 259 pages containing about a quarter-million musical notes. Handel wrote all the melody lines, harmony lines, the instrumentalists and the vocalist in about 24 days. He skipped meals and worked around the clock as though he was taking dictation directly from God. Dr. Zeigler’s sermon continues with the story of Jesus as recorded in John 4:1-42 describing how Jesus had to deal with distractions stemming from differences in people (ethnicity, gender, etc.), having to walk long distances to preach and teach, and having to deal with differences in the religions. Despite these distractions Jesus stayed focused on transforming everyday people to do the will of the Father.

How do we, as everyday Christians, deal with distractions? Do we let the earthly things around us prevent us from church and Sunday School attendance, personal Bible study time, personal prayer time, and opportunities to bring others to Christ? We are surrounded by an abundance of distractions, such as TV, the Internet, sports events, live entertainment events, and cell phones, just to name a few. These are not bad things in themselves, but how we manage our distractions is an indication of where we place our priorities. There are times when we need to stop, think about what is really important, and consider necessary changes to our daily lives.





BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
John Meyerhoff, Chairperson

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am not sure if you are like me, but all too often I take for granted the many gifts God has bestowed on me. I think about how hard I worked to get what I have: the long hours in the office; frequent flights taking me away from home and family; vacations not taken because I thought I was too busy at work. I often focus on what I don't have rather than give thanks for the many blessings I have received.

In reality, none of what I have is because of anything I have done. Everything I have and will receive are gifts from my Father in heaven. He has given me my body and mind, my talents, my family, my home, the food I eat, and the air I breathe. Most importantly He has given me a Savior who died on the cross for my sins. Again, not because of anything I have done, but purely out of His grace and love for me.

For this, I need to constantly give thanks. But I also need to remember Stewardship is much more than just giving thanks. It is taking action and sharing God's word and gifts through love and caring for our family, neighbors, country and church.



Prayer: Dear Father, please help me to remember that all I have is an undeserved gift from you. Help me to not only give You thanks for these gifts, but to also share my many blessing with those around me. Especially, help me to share the good news of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to save me from my sins. I ask this in Your Holy name. Amen

PASTORAL ACTS

	<p>Memorial Service Marvin L. McCartha, Jr. December 23, 1955 - February 4, 2019 February 8, 2019</p>	
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BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Kathie Voyles & Marlene Nes'Bit, Co-Chairpersons

Many thanks go out to all the members who helped to make our Valentine's luncheon a success. Thanks for helping the Fellowship committee in the kitchen with setup, serving, and clean up to Bill, Susie, Pat, Kathleen, James, Christian, Alonzo, and Randy. Thanks to Anna and Pat for all the great decorations from the Preschool and Sunday School kids. And thanks to Aresa and the Youth Group (Noah, Bailey, and Jimmy) for setting up and manning the Valentine's photo booth.

That was so much fun!

Lent will be here soon, and we need volunteers for providing and serving lunch for the midday services on March 13th, March 20th, March 27th, April 3rd, and April 10th. Please sign up or let Marlene or Kathie know if you can fill in one of these Wednesday afternoons.





FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

I would like to start off by sending a big thank you to everyone involved that helped during church cleanup day on February 9th. I know we made some real progress to our shrubbery and cleaning and organizing the Sunday School rooms. I understand that we may have irritated the employee at the yard debris compactor of the Lexington County Recycle Center after the 30th trip. It cost some of us a Wendy's extra value meal #1, but was well worth it!

The Call Committee has completed the next milestone in the call process. The sincere dedication, professionalism, and compassion of everyone involved will soon pay huge dividends in the selection of our future shepherd. Thanks again for everyone's time and commitment in this very important endeavor. Thanks Rich!



This time of year, the Nomination Committee will be meeting to fill certain vacant positions on the different boards that we have here at Mt. Olive. Some new members have already volunteered but we really need more! Please, please if you have that certain little tug pulling at you to help our Church by volunteering, let one of our committee members know. Vice President Jason Dennis will chair the Nomination Committee.

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 ELDERS

Charlie Sandt, Chairperson



The Board of Elders is working with Pastor Voges and Lay Minister Bill Boykin to make sure our care groups get spiritual support. We are grateful for Pastor Voges who is stepping up to fill the void as we search for a new shepherd for our church.

Mike Knowles and I have the pleasure to serve on the Call Committee and are grateful to Pastor Panning, our Circuit Visitor, who has been helping us understand the process and keep us grounded so that we can let the Holy Spirit lead us to our next Pastor. Please keep our Elders, Pastor Voges, Pastor Panning, and Call Committee members in your prayers as we get closer to calling our new shepherd.

We are also fast approaching Lent and Easter, which are times for us to be thankful that Christ came to earth, lived as one of us, and sacrificed his life so that our sins are forgiven insuring our everlasting life in heaven.



SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH

March 1st	World Day of Prayer	March 3rd	The Transfiguration of Our Lord
March 6th	Ash Wednesday	March 10th	Daylight-Savings Time Begins
March 20	The First Day of Spring		



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 – preschool@mtolivesc.org

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

Mark your calendars for some upcoming fun in May!

An Afternoon at the Ballpark: Love baseball and want to have a portion of your ticket be donated back to the preschool? **Buy your tickets to the Columbia Fireflies game on Sunday, May 5 at 2:05 PM.** Tickets are only \$9 per person and will be held for you to pick up at the **Will Call** desk 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 fireworks and is a splash day for kids. Let's try to double our turnout from last year!



To purchase tickets visit: <https://fireflies5.streamlineticketing.com/group/event/Mt.Olive/>

We are excited to begin planning for another school year and look forward to seeing how the Lord is going to work in and through the preschool during the upcoming year! It is already registration time for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. So, if you know anyone who might be interested, please share our contact information, which is listed above. You might also share our Facebook registration post with your local friends.



We would like to thank everyone for the generous donations of snacks during the month of February. Snack time is a daily event, so we are always in need. You may pick up a list of suggested snacks in the narthex on the black stand.

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BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Natalie Crosland, Acting Chairperson

"Praise the Lord.

***Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his loves endures forever."***

Psalms 106:1



ROAR!!! It's time to get ready for VBS 2019!! Our theme this year is 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. Please pray for our VBS. This is a great way to reach out into the community and let children learn of God's love. VBS will be August 4-8, 2019, with decorating the weekend prior. We are in need of volunteers and I know that by coming together as a church family we can show all of the children that God is good!!

The youth are very excited for the National Youth Gathering!!! They are trying to raise money for the trip so please remember to keep the youth in your prayers as they prepare for the NYG!

Coming soon! Eddie Magic has volunteered to teach an adult bible study on the book, *Lutheranism 101*. More information will be in the weekly Olive Seeds.

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

Charlene Meetze, Chairperson



The 40-DAY LENT CHALLENGE is an opportunity for each of us in our homes to give up something to share with someone else. Giving up something from your home to help someone in need is extending love and compassion in honor of the season of Jesus's ultimate sacrifice and love shown to each of us. We will use this challenge as a fun project to give up items that we don't really use or would just like to share.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 6th, select a place in your home for the collection of the items such as a large trash bag or box and label it for the Lent Challenge Collection. Then, your family can select the item for the day and celebrate sharing it from your home.

Your Lent Box/Bag will be placed at the foot of a cross in the Narthex during Holy Week to be celebrated and delivered to Sharing God's Love.

Above are suggestions to jump-start your mind to identify items. Furniture items don't have to fit in your bag, LOL! And, don't forget to check in your attic, basement, and the back of your closets! Everyone, please pick up your special trash bag at worship service on March 2nd or 3rd.



HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH

Seth & Johnna Duncan, Leaders

High School Sunday School: 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: We are preparing for the gathering 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

THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, CALLS, & CARDS

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.” Psalm 67:1



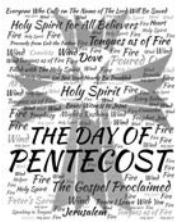
During the season of Lent, please remember our homebound. Many of this group faithfully attended our mid-week services, so they will especially miss their church. Make a special effort to pray for, send cards, phone, and visit these members. Cards are so very meaningful because they can be saved and 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 PUBLIC RELATIONS

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson



Have you noticed the signs located outside Mt. Olive’s main entrance? These small gray scale images do not do them justice! The Public Relations team has been working diligently to complete a set of signs for the entire church year! The project began in 2017 as a set of visuals to help explain the liturgical calendar to both members and visitors. Besides catching your eye, we are hoping that you will take a few minutes to reflect on each sign and contemplate the scriptural and hymn

references. The bright yellow Epiphany sign has been out for 8 weeks, and will soon be replaced by the Ash Wednesday and Lenten signs.

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.



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STEPHEN MINISTRY: WHATEVER YOU DID FOR THE LEAST OF THESE...YOU DID FOR ME

Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader



In **Matthew 25**, Jesus says, **“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in....”** We have many opportunities to respond to Jesus’ great love by showing that love to others. Stephen Ministry is one way our congregation shows that love to people who have deep needs for care. You, too, as Mt. Olive’s congregation members, have many opportunities to show Jesus’ love during the week. As you encounter people these next weeks, get in the habit of asking yourself, “How can I show them Jesus today?” You may offer a kind word, a helping hand, or pay it forward in the checkout line. The opportunities are endless!

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.”

JOIN US FOR A SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS!

March 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	Meghan Gotz	“The Law & Gospel”
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

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MARCH 2019 BIRTHDAYS

3/3 Eddie Roland	3/13 Charlie Sandt	3/21 Ryan Voyles
3/5 Charles Meetze	3/13 Pam Stuck	3/22 Jimmy Crosland
3/6 Gerry Fletcher	3/14 Charles Stuck II	3/23 Donna Sons
3/6 Stacey Robinson	3/14 John Tedder	3/24 Karen Meetze
3/6 Myrna Rush	3/15 Rebecca Curry	3/24 Nelson Thompson
3/6 Mandy Schultz	3/16 Kathleen Slaughter	3/25 Eric Patterson
3/8 Sandra Stocker	3/17 Caitlin Voyles	3/29 Stephanie Boatwright
3/11 Al Rush	3/19 Sara Jones	3/29 Eddie Magic
3/12 Owen Dennis	3/19 Dot Prater	3/29 Martin Taylor
3/13 Carolyn Kibler	3/21 Norma Hessary	3/31 Connor Howard
	3/21 Liz Rosinski	

MARCH 2019 ANNIVERSARIES

3/5 Hannah & Chris Hennighan	3/18 Todd & Shari Selke
3/6 Ron & Pat LaGrange	3/20 Laura & Brian Laprise
3/16 Al & Annette Holiday	3/22 Parker & Erika Dominick
3/17 David & Paula Meetze	3/24 Brian & Meghan Smith
3/17 Charlie & Twila Sandt	3/27 Charles & Laura Meetze

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

April Newsletter Deadline – Wednesday, March 20th

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

Spring Forward!

March 10th is a very special day! Not only is it the day of our Call Service, but also it is the day to “Spring your clocks forward” into another season of Daylight Savings Time! So, set your clocks, get to morning worship on time, take an early afternoon nap, and be back at church at 4:00 PM!



Midweek Lenten Schedule

Wednesdays during Lent, March 13th-April 10th, will be a reflective season led by Pastor Voges. The noon service will be Responsive Prayer and the 7:00 PM service will be Evening Prayer. Lunch will follow the noon worship. Prior to the evening service, a 6:00 PM Bible Study, Jesus's 7 Signs from John's Gospel, will be taught by Pastor Voges & Natalie Osborne.

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

Thank you so much for raising over \$600 for the Souper Bowl of Caring! This month, Sharing God's Love's greatest need is children's clothing. You may have seen the Facebook post of the nearly empty clothing shelves. Food items are always needed, too. Thank you for helping SGL help our community!

Men's Prayer Breakfast



The March prayer breakfast will be the third **Saturday, March 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, **March 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!

Nominating Committee: 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! The Nominating Committee, chaired by Jason Dennis, our vice president, will be contacting you soon, so start praying today! Imagine what we could do with all everyone working for our church in the name of Christ Jesus.!



The Lutheran Hour



A wonderful resource for daily devotions and sermons is **The Lutheran Hour**. You can go to their website, www.lhm.org, and sign up to receive daily devotional emails. Or if you have a smart phone or tablet, you can download the free app. Then all you need to do is touch it and instantly have the daily devotion! The devotions are very relevant to daily life and include the best stories to “make you think.” I have considered printing one each month in the newsletter, but they are too lengthy to fit the USPS constraints we must follow.

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 (NOT JUST FOR KIDS, OF COURSE!)



Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

Day 1 (light) ____ Day 2 (waters) ____ Day 3 (land and plants) ____ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) ____
 Day 5 (birds and water animals) ____ Day 6 (land animals and people) ____ Day 7 (God rested) ____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.