



Olive Leaves

October 2018



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6 TRUTHS TO ENCOURAGE YOU DURING PASTORAL TRANSITION

By Rev. Ben Simpson

Reprinted from **9 Marks Blog**, 01.27.15

Somewhere right now a church is losing its pastor. The church has moved into a time of transition, and the members feel like they've had the wind knocked out of them. The pastor has loved them, fed them, and protected them. He has doctored their wounds and rejoiced when they rejoiced. But now this man is moving away, and sadness and discouragement well up. I want to hearten you with six biblical truths.

1. God will be with this church at all times.

You are not forsaken. God is with your congregation. "I will never leave you or forsake you," (Hebrews 13:5). Pastors will come and go. Only God will never leave us. And the presence of God is more vital to the life of the church.

2. God is in control.

God "works all things according to the counsel of His will" (Ephesians 1:11). Do you believe that? This pastoral transition is not happening outside of the will of God. God is working this according to the counsel of his will. So the question is not, "Who is in control?" God is in control. The question is, "Will you rest in him by trusting him?"

3. God plans good out of this transition.

It might not feel good right now, but God has promised that he works all things together for the good of his people (Romans 8:28). Is your church part of his people? If so, this transition is included in "all things"? Therefore, you can rest assured that good will come from it. That's how awesome God is: even those things that don't feel good are used for good. It might not be the good you have in mind, but it is good. Therefore, walk forward in faith.

4. It's okay to weep.

While good will come out this pastoral transition, that doesn't remove the deep sadness. Losing your pastor hurts. I'm reminded of how the Ephesian elders wept at Paul's goodbye: "And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping

on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship” (Acts 20:36-38).

I believe the Ephesians knew that God would be with them, that he was in control, and that he was going to bring good out of this transition. Nevertheless, they wept. And it’s okay to weep. It’s actually a way of saying thank you to both God and your pastor.

5. Ministry must go on.

Notice what the Great Commission does not say, “Go therefore and make disciples . . . if you have a pastor.”

One church that I used to work with lost their pastor. When I’d call their lay leaders about a ministry opportunity, their answer was always, “Well, you see, we just don’t have a pastor right now.” They had forgotten that ministry must continue in the interim. The Great Commission doesn’t include any conditionals.

Does ministry become a bit harder without a pastor leading? Probably so, but if he was a good pastor, he will have obeyed Ephesians 4:11-12 by equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. In the interim, you and the lay leadership of the church must make sure ministry continues. Get to work!

6. The church must not scatter.

Jesus promised the flock would scatter at his crucifixion (Matthew 26:31). For a season, that’s exactly what happened. The same often happens in churches during pastoral transition. Because “their” pastor is no longer there or ministry begins to lag, folks trickle out. Some reasons for going might be legitimate, but this may also be the time in which the congregation should most strongly gather together for support and encouragement.

Recognize the temptation to scatter and work more diligently to stay bound together in unity and love. This will be a season of testing for you. I know you didn’t ask for it, but with God’s help, you’ll endure it.



For churches currently in this situation: May the interim bring blessings you never expected, and I pray that God provides a new pastor for your church soon.

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PASTORAL ACTS

	<p>Holy Baptism</p> <p>Eliza Rose Wright</p> <p>May 27, 2018</p>			<p>Holy Baptism</p> <p>Sullivan Harper Wright</p> <p>August 22, 2018</p>	
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**Mt. Olive Lutheran:
a church that is growing
in faith and love
by spreading the Word
of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.**

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

As this is my first letter for the Olive Seeds, I would really like to take the time and thank everyone for their kind words of encouragement and for the smooth transition to the Church Council. I was very humbled when I received a phone call one evening asking if I was willing to serve as President. I immediately replied that I would and never considered what challenges may lie ahead.

That brings me to this point: some of the challenges we have faced in the past only prepare us for the ones we will face in the future. The most important challenge right now is the process of finding our new pastor. I, along with many other members of the congregation, will definitely miss Pastor Sizemore. We wish him well in his new call to serve the Lord in his home church. Although Pastor Sizemore can never be replaced in our hearts, we must trust in the Lord's guidance for our future.

We are currently are wrapping up the transition meetings and developing the church profile. The congregation provided input to the profile in small group discussions over the past few weeks.

Once the Transition Team finalizes the church profile, it will be made available to the congregation prior to its being sent to the district. The next step will be to ask congregation members for possible pastoral candidates whose names will be sent to the district with our completed profile. It is of the utmost importance for the church leadership to remain transparent with the congregation throughout the entire process of calling our new pastor.

Now that Hurricane Florence has passed, I have heard many negative conversations about the closings, highway lane reversals, and just a drizzle of rain for us in The Midlands. One of my co-workers responded to a similar conversation and stated, "Maybe just maybe, God answered our prayers and sent Hurricane Florence away." I had a good chuckle at that response but quickly realized how true it was. Thank you to all of our first responders and volunteers who continue to make sure our communities stay safe, and continue your prayers to all the people who suffered great loss during and after the storm! The end of hurricane season is in sight!



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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 season changes to autumn, continue to remember our homebound! Make a special effort to pray for, send cards, phone, and visit them. 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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|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Cleta Dunaway | Mary Green | Bonnie Jones | Anita Meetze | Grace Miller | Mary Schott |
| Virginia Gable | Betty Hunter | Elsie Lorick | Gladys Meetze | Al Rush | |

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



Mt. Olive hosted a fantastic luncheon to celebrate the ministry of Pastor Paul and Lisa. There was a wonderful turnout of members from our church, preschool, and the family.

Fellowship wants to thank the following people for all their help. First, Kim BouFawaz did so much to arrange for, prepare, and serve the food. The head table was beautifully decorated and set by Mary Keller and Charlene Meetze. Mary also made the lovely runner for the food table.

Those that helped in many ways with set-up, kitchen duty, and clean-up included Bill Boykin, Richard Chesley, Johnna Duncan & the high school youth, Tracy Gotz, James & Carolyn Kibler, Jan McCarthy, Charlene Meetze, Shari Selke, Chris Slaughter, Stan Slaughter, Charlie Stuck, Caitlin Voyles, and Pete Witt.

God speed to the Sizemores! They will be a blessing to their new church just as they have been to Mt. Olive.

Fellowship Board: Judy Jones, Marlene Nes'bit, Kathie Voyles, and Rita Witt



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 – preschool@mtolivesc.org

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

Apart from a crazy schedule with the recent weather, preschool is now in full swing! This ministry is growing and touching the lives of so many families in our community. We currently have 21 students who are settling in well and enjoying school.

NEW FOR THIS YEAR- There is a new bulletin board for the Preschool located in the hallway between the Fellowship Hall and Bill's office. It will be updated monthly and will have some pictures and information for you to get a glimpse of our school days and students. Also, please feel free to follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@mtolivepreschool).

We have two students who are currently on scholarship. We are thankful to have a partial scholarship already funded for one of them, but there is still a current need. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these children or a future student, please contact me.

Thank you, as usual, for your strong support and prayers!



“For several years I have read the Bible through twice in 12 months. It is a great and powerful tree, each word of which is a mighty branch. Each of these branches have I well shaken, so desirous was I to know what each one bore and what it would give me. And the shaking of them has never disappointed me.” —Martin Luther



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Natalie Crosland, Acting Chairperson

“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.” Psalm 37:5

This verse has helped me so much, especially in the last few months. I was stressed and worried about all the various positions that needed to be filled in our education program; and through prayer, our Lord has answered. The Mt. Olive family was led to respond, and most every position has been filled! We are still in need for volunteers for Circle of Friends. If you are interested and feel led to help, please contact Natalie Crosland.

It is not too late to join the Women’s Bible Study. We had a wonderful get-to-know-you session at our September class. The ladies will continue to meet the third Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM.

What do you see when you look in the mirror? Do you like what you see? Our Bible study, **Mirror Mirror**, will “encourage you to make personal application of God’s Word to your own life and help you see yourself as He sees you: His beloved, redeemed daughter.” Please contact Natalie Crosland if you would like to join the Bible Study. We ask you bring \$5 for the study book.



HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL
Seth & Johnna Duncan, Leaders

October is here already! The high school Sunday school class will continue working though our study, *Sticky Faith*, as well as adding to our visual verse wall. We look forward to seeing you all each week.



YOUTH GROUP: MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
Seth & Johnna Duncan, Leaders

Youth group this month will be held after church on Sunday, October 21st. We will have lunch, devotional, and games. We look forward to seeing you all! Parent pick up at 3PM outside the narthex. Please email or text Johnna (johnnalduncan@gmail.com / 803-318-4476) to let us know that your student(s) will attend. Thanks!

Mark your calendars for the future: youth group will always be on the third Sunday of the month.

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SPECIAL DATES IN OCTOBER

Reformation Sunday – October 28th
Reformation Day, October 31st



STEPHEN MINISTRY: SUPPORT

Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader



“When I said, ‘My foot is slipping,’ your love, O Lord, supported me.” Psalm 94:18

Support: To hold in position so as to keep from falling, sinking, or slipping.

Support is something we all need. God gives us support through our Christian brothers and sisters. Let us all be sensitive to one another’s needs and take the time to support each other through prayers, phone calls, friendly chats after church, and even visits. Also, remember that we have Stephen Ministers who are willing to give their support.

For more information about receiving support from one of our Stephen Ministers, please contact our Lay Minister, Bill Boykin. You may ask questions of any of our other Stephen Ministers & Leaders: Dianne BouFawaz, Charlie Sandt, Aresa Boykin, Nancy Thompson, Mike Knowles, Twila Sandt, Shari Selke, or Matt Williams.

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

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BOARD OF EVANGELISM: “A CHANGING LANDSCAPE”

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

He [Jesus] said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:7-8 ESV

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) recently presented the results from a 2018 study by the Barna Group regarding the trends in evangelism over the past 25 years. The study queried a sample of people from different age groups and religious affiliations and compared the answers to the same questions posed to similar groups in 1993. Here are a few of the findings.



- ***Weekly church attendance is down.*** – Percent of people who attended church the previous week dropped from 68% to 41%.
- ***Christians are becoming reluctant to witness.*** – Percent of Christians who felt sharing the good news was a personal responsibility dropped from 89% to 64%.
- ***The job of converting non-believers is shifting from the individual to the church.*** – Percent of Christians who felt that converting non-Christians is the job of the church increased from 8% to 28%.
- ***Christians do not feel adequately trained for sharing their faith.*** – Percent of Christians who feel trained to effectively share their faith dropped from 78% to 58%.

After the presentation there was an open question and discussion session. One of the comments that seemed to be shared by many was, the best approach to witnessing is to ***share what you believe***. This is probably the only conversation where you can use the word “I” and not turn someone off. And to help with your sharing, The Lutheran Hour Ministries has business cards printed with their statement of belief that you can give the other person. That way the people have something to take with them that will remind them of your conversation and cause them to think about a relationship with God.

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

Charlene Meetze, Chairperson

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6:10

Our board must now say goodbye to Sherri Selke as the chairperson of the group. We will be meeting to attempt to organize without her at the helm. Sherri is assuring us that she will advise and guide as we go along. Can you imagine following in her footsteps? Not sure that's possible, but we are going to give it our best.

The Social Board is responsible for reaching out beyond the church to help others. We will be identifying programs and other opportunities for Mt. Olive to become involved and will be sharing those plans in the near future.

In the wake of the recent hurricane, we are sure that opportunities will present themselves fairly soon, please watch for emails and sign postings at the church for ways you can get involved.



Your current board members are Norma Hessary, Janet Jobs, Sue Knowles, Charlene Meetze, Suzi Slaughter, and Shirlean Sons.



BOARD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

The big task for public relations this month is to make changes to our website and social media. We want our media to continue to welcome people to Mt. Olive even though we are in transition. The welcome message will be rewritten based on the wording of several churches who are also going through times of transition.

The changes to the website will be gradual and many will be subtle, like changing *Pastor's name* to “the pastor.” Getting short bios and photos of the interim pastors will be among the changes. The photos of Pastor Sizemore will be changed out gradually as we have new photos that correspond to the current ones. The sermon pages will remain and be archived by year. Pastor Sizemore now has CD's of all his sermons so he will have the audio to go along with his written manuscripts.

Many thanks to Meghan Smith who is using her web design expertise to help make a list of and implement all the changes.

Board Members: Aresa Boykin, Tracy Gotz, Sandy Osborne, and Natalie Smith

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7



BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
John Meyerhoff, Chairperson



I hope you and your families made it through Hurricane Florence. I thank God for sparing us from the brunt of the storm and pray for His blessings on everyone who was affected by the strong winds and record rainfall.

Merriam Webster defines stewardship in the following way:

1 : the office, duties, and obligations of a steward

2 : the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; *especially* : the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care - *stewardship* of natural resources

One of the earliest scriptures that talks about God creating man as the steward of His kingdom is **Genesis 2:15 ESV** – ***“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work and keep it.”***

It is important we remember that everything we have has been given to us by God. He has entrusted us as caretakers of all that He has created. He expects us not to just use what we have been gifted, but to grow it for His glory. Jesus confirms this responsibility in the Parable of the Talents in **Matthew 25: 14-30**, where the master in the story rewards the servants who multiplied what they were given and admonishes the servant who only returned the one talent he had been charged with caring for.

Every day, we should think about the wonderful gifts God has given us and remember He has entrusted us to care for His kingdom. May we was also pray that He gives us the strength, knowledge and compassion to use and grow all that He has blessed us with to His Glory. God's Blessings.



BOARD OF ELDERS

Charlie Sandt, Chairperson

We gave our beloved pastor a wonderful send off with the dinner and presentations. We will surely miss Pastor and Lisa as they move to Florida for Pastor's next call from our Lord. I am confident that he will be as amazing for Trinity Lutheran Church as he was for Mt. Olive!

We are moving on with the transition team and the process to complete our church profile. The transition team will be letting you know about its progress.



We have secured the services of Pastor Gary Williams and Pastor Carl Voges to serve as our vacancy pastors. We are so blessed to have these gentlemen placed in our congregation at this time. It is an exciting time as well as an anxious time in our lives. I am so thankful that we are relying on the Holy Spirit throughout the process.



OCTOBER 2018 BIRTHDAYS

10/3 Phillippe Folks	10/10 Pete Witt	10/21 Cleta Dunaway
10/3 Bonnie Jones	10/11 Meghan Smith	10/21 Isabella Patterson
10/3 Polly Roland	10/12 Eric Weed	10/24 Dieter Steinborn
10/5 Billie Whitaker	10/13 Chayden Eargle	10/26 Jack Robinson
10/6 Tim Kogelmann	10/13 Peggy Osborn	10/27 Eli Duncan
10/6 Larry Meetze	10/14 Jason Brabham	10/27 Debbie Meetze
10/7 Gene Schmitzer	10/14 Murray Meetze	10/27 Jaime Stuck
10/8 Wynn Meetze	10/17 Eva Mae Monts	10/27 Randy Voyles
10/9 Chris Slaughter	10/18 Grace Miller	10/29 Rita Witt
10/9 Carmen Witt	10/18 Declan Selke	10/31 Mazie Selke
10/10 Denise McKinney	10/20 Jens Rosinski	10/31 Wes Hammond

OCTOBER 2018 ANNIVERSARIES

10/2 Robert & Kathleen Bristow	10/19 Chris & Rebecca Griesch
10/6 Hank & Jenn Weed	10/26 Bill & Shirley Vogel
10/7 Jim & Natalie Crosland	10/29 Michael & Susan Strouse
10/9 Gary & Debbie Meetze	10/30 Odell & Pam Stuck
10/13 Berney & Kathy Eargle	

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JOIN US FOR A SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS!

October 2018 Sunday School & Bible Classes – 9:15 AM			
Infants – age 2	Nursery	Parents & small children are welcome to use the nursery. Please tidy up before leaving. Worship service may be heard via a speaker.	
Circle of Friends	Downstairs Classroom	Faithful Group of Volunteers	Bringing Jesus to Special Needs Children
PK3 – 4th Grade	Upstairs Classrooms	Pat LaGrange, Laura Laprise, & Connie Cook	Growing In Christ Series from CPH
5 th Grade & Older and their parents	Wagner House	Bill Boykin	A 2-year study of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism
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.			

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

November Newsletter Deadline – Saturday, October 20th

The deadline for submitting articles for the November 2018 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Saturday, October 20th**. Please email your announcements and articles to aresaboykin@sc.rr.com.

Flu Shot Clinic

Publix Pharmacy will be hosting a flu shot clinic on **Sunday, October 14th** in the fellowship hall following both services. Quadrivalent and High Dose vaccine will be available. Shots can be given to those who are ages 12 and up. Most insurances cover the vaccine at no cost. Cash price is \$42. If you have questions, contact Nadia BouFawaz at the Publix on Hardscrabble at 803-736-9599.

Men's Prayer Breakfast



The next breakfast will be the third Saturday in October the 20th. Come and bring your sons and neighbors for a hearty breakfast, devotion, and prayer.

Sharing God's Love Yard Sale: October 20th, 7 AM – 12 PM

SGL is accepting donations for its upcoming yard sale now through October 17th at noon. Donations may be brought to the ministry at 147 Friarsgate Blvd., Irmo, SC, Monday- Saturday, 9AM-12 PM. Please call 803-732-3188 to make arrangements for furniture donation.

Sharing God's Love Ongoing Donations

SGL tries to provide basic necessities for our neighbors in need. The following items are suggestions, but we are always grateful for whatever you choose to donate: Spaghetti Sauce, Stew, Canned Meats, Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, Chili, Soup, Mac & Cheese, Boxed Potatoes, Pork 'n Beans, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Canned Fruit, Jelly, Coffee, Oatmeal, and Peanut Butter.

Please consider donating by linking your Kroger Shopping Card at www.kroger.com/communityrewards, or by connecting your Amazon account at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-0815818>. These businesses will donate a portion of your purchase dollars. Thank you for helping SGL help our community!

Changing Table in Men's Restroom

A big thank you to our preschool for the donation of a changing table that is located in men's restroom. Moms, now the dads can help with this seemingly unending task! LOL!

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, <http://mtolivesc.org> (top right corner of home page), or use your phone to 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. Why not try something new in 2018? If you need help setting up your account or making changes to your existing account, please contact Aresa Boykin, Finance Committee Member, who will be glad to help.

KIDS KORNER

What you need:

- pen
- round object to trace (about 4 inches across)
- lightweight colored paper
- scissors
- ruled notebook paper
- Chinese food takeout box (or small paper gift bag)
- hot glue gun

What you do:

1. Trace circles onto the colored paper and cut them out.
2. Cut strips of notebook paper and write messages to a friend (or Bible verses about friendship).
3. Fold each circle in half without making a crease. Secure the top center edge with glue.
4. Pull the outside edges together by creating a bend in the center of the paper. Undo the bend and insert the fortune.
5. Re-bend the "cookie" into shape and add glue inside to hold it in place.
6. Put all the "cookies" in a takeout box and give to your friend.