



# Olive Leaves

September 2018



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## THOSE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE

*Pastor Paul C. Sizemore*

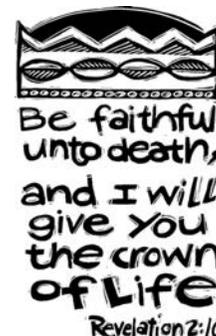
This is the last newsletter article that I will write as the Pastor of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church to appear in our monthly newsletter, better known as *The Olive Leaves*. Therefore, I want to thank both God and you all out loud one last time for the privilege he has given me of being your pastor now for over 20 years.

Neither Lisa nor I could ever thank our gracious God and you enough for all the years we have been privileged to share in this wonderful “partnership in the Gospel” with you (Philippians 1:6). So, in closing, please let me share with you one more time, one of the greatest promises our Crucified, Risen, Ascended, and Glorified Savior has ever made to us. In Revelation 2:10 Jesus tells us: **“Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life!”**

Crowns, of course, are symbols of glory and power. Throughout the history of the world, various kings and queens have spent innumerable riches trying to create glorious crowns that would amaze their royal subjects as the highest symbols of success and honor and power.

Nevertheless, crowns are not something that people can simply seize for themselves. Those who possess a much greater power must bestow them upon them.

In Revelation 2:10 we read of a very special crown that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ promises He will give one day to those who believe in him. This is the crown of eternal life. Our Lord won the right to give us this crown of life because his is the greatest power of all. To him belongs the power of the resurrection. Christ defeated sin, death and the devil so that his victory is now complete. He rules the Church in glory from the Father’s right hand on heaven’s throne and to him belong all power and authority in heaven and on earth.



We Christians, however, know that it all depends upon God’s rich mercy. It is the good pleasure of God, His abounding mercy that saves us. It is God’s mercy that brings His blessing into our lives. This is the joy of the Christian’s experience—God’s mercy brings life. Our souls, set free by the work of the Spirit, can now feel the life of Christ pulsating through us, at times, especially when we celebrate in meaningful worship the joy and wonder of the new life that is now ours in Christ Jesus!

But who will receive this crown of life? The New Testament teaches us that it is only those who are faithful to death who will receive the crown of life! True faith cannot be turned on and off like a faucet. A saving relationship with God is not temporary. A disciple of Jesus is called to life-long service. Membership in the Church is a long-term, lasting commitment.

In our spiritual lives we must follow Jesus, first by searching the Scriptures and learning from them the will of God for our lives! In our walk of faith, we must repent of our sins daily through God’s promise first given to us at our Baptisms. We must rejoice in God’s forgiveness, even as we are called upon to receive the True Body and the True Blood of Christ through the Holy Eucharist faithfully for our souls’ salvation.

My prayer for the people of Mt. Olive is that they will remain faithful to Christ and that they will read, study and love the Bible, for it is God’s own letter to us. My prayer for the people of Mt. Olive is that they will worship in our sanctuary each Lord’s Day, rain or shine, vacation time or not. My prayer for the people of Mt. Olive is that they will always be people of prayer and good stewards of all that God entrusts to them of their time, their talents and their treasures.

In Revelation 2:10, we hear our Savior’s promise to each of us:  
***“Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life!”***



**PASTORAL ACTS**

	<p><b>Funeral Service</b>  <b>Lucile Yenny Meetze</b>                  Died – July 31, 2018                  Service - August 4, 2018</p>	
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	<p><b>Holy Baptism</b>  <b>Gabriel James Sharpe</b>                  August 4, 2018</p>	
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## OUR FIRM FOUNDATION

From The NEWSLETTER newsletter, September 2018

During his childhood on the Atlantic Coast, Gregory Elder devoted much time to creating elaborate sandcastles. “Whole cities would appear beneath my hands,” he writes. One year, when bullies repeatedly crushed his handiwork, Elder finally placed large rocks and concrete chunks at the base of his kingdoms. The returning bare-footed thugs soon learned a lesson.

Many people consider today’s church under attack from secularism, heresies and sin, Elder writes. **“They forget that the church is built upon a Rock over which the gates of hell itself shall not prevail.” Matthew 16:18**

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

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### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*Rich O’Dell, Congregational President*



Can you believe it’s September already? This year seems to be going so fast – school is back in session, the football season is starting, and we’re approaching autumn -- Can cooler weather be far behind?

Mt. Olive is a very strong church, and as we say good-bye to Pastor Sizemore and Lisa, we also begin the transition period. Our diverse membership represents not only lifetime South Carolinians, but also people from throughout the US who have come together to worship and fellowship together. I think that word *together* is so important. Together, we get on the same page – God’s page. Together, with God’s help, we can accomplish many things. Are you ready?

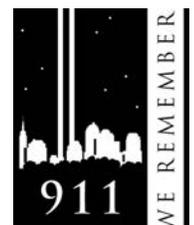
The Mt. Olive Transition Team is in place and has begun the first steps in the process of preparing us to call our next pastor. God already knows who our next Pastor is and it is our job to discern his will through prayer and study of the Word. We ask for your prayers as we go on this journey - together.

Another transition is happening on the Church Council as Jim Crosland takes over as President. I’d like to thank each of you for your participation during the past year. So many people have volunteered their time in a variety of ways, some obvious and others behind the scenes. Lots of progress has been made including passing the measure allowing women to serve as Congregational President and Vice President and instituting a Safety Plan for the church. I’ve enjoyed representing you on the Church Council and look forward to great things ahead.



### SPECIAL DATES IN SEPTEMBER

Labor Day – September 3rd	Patriot Day – September 11th
Pastor Sizemore’s Celebration September 9th	Hispanic Heritage Month September 15th – October 15th
Grandparents Day – September 9th	Autumn Begins – September 22nd





## STEPHEN MINISTRY: CHANGE!

*Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader*



Our lives are delicately balanced. A small shift in one area of life can set us off kilter. A major change can send us spinning out of control. Our church is on the verge of a major change as Pastor Sizemore, after serving as our pastor for 20 years, has accepted a call to Florida. If this change, or other changes in your life have sent you spinning out of control, our Stephen Ministers are here to help. They listen and care, and most importantly, bring the stability of Jesus' love and grace into people's lives.

If your life or that of someone you know has shifted out of balance, consider Stephen Ministry! Contact Bill Boykin for more information, or you may ask questions of any of our 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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### PRESCHOOL NEWS

*Anna Brent, Preschool Director*

803-781-7180 – [preschool@mtolivesc.org](mailto:preschool@mtolivesc.org)

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

This school year will mark the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the Preschool ministry at Mt. Olive. Teachers arrived back at the preschool on August 28<sup>th</sup> and the school year will kick off with the Parent Meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Many new and returning students will be filling our halls and it is such a privilege to serve the families that have chosen Mt. Olive as their child(ren)'s first school experience!

As a new year begins, I wanted to take the time to thank the current Preschool Board for their willingness to serve: Linda Schmidt, chairperson; Dianne BouFawaz, Johnna Duncan, Phyllis Griesch, treasurer; Jan McCarthy, and Peggy Weed. Their hard work and dedication are such a blessing and they are using their God-given talents to serve Him in such a tangible way.

**Scholarship help is needed:** We currently have a need for 2 full scholarships. These are 2 returning students/families who need a positive educational experience for their child and we are happy to have them join us again in September. The full scholarship amount needed for our three-year-old student is \$1,705 and \$1960 is needed for our 4-year-old student. You can pay this all at once or through monthly installments. Also, as school begins, we are often asked to enroll some other local children who do not qualify for services in the school district, but whose families cannot afford preschool. Please consider sponsoring a child this school year.



**Snacks are needed:** Hungry children mean we will go through a lot of snacks! Please help us fill our shelves. An updated shopping list can be found in the narthex.

I am continually thankful for the blessing of this ministry as an outreach into the community. It stands as a testament to this church's commitment to children and young families. Join me in praying for the staff, board members, children, and families that the Gospel would be spread and that the Lord would be glorified.



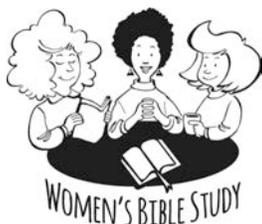


## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Natalie Crosland, Acting Chairperson*

With the start of the new Sunday School year, let us be reminded of why our children's spiritual education is so important. We are to teach our children about the Lord and his commandments. In Mark 10:14, Jesus told his disciples to **"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."** What are we doing, if not hindering them by not teaching our children about God's grace?! This is why we must have teachers, mentors, and parents working together to demonstrate the importance of Christian education! Mt. Olive is in need of a Sunday School director and substitute teachers. Please pray and search your heart.

We are excited to have Connie Cook returning to teach the three and four-year-old class. Laura Laprise and Pat LaGrange will continue to teach the elementary children, along with Bill Boykin who will continue Confirmation for our 5th and 6th graders. Seth Duncan will be joining Johnna in teaching a combined middle and high school class. Katie Greer and Megan Gotz are on fire with the Young Adults and have begun a podcast at [podbean.com](http://podbean.com) entitled *YALutheran*. Check it out! We appreciate the faithfulness of Barry Bost and Sandy Osborne as they teach the adults.



If you are being led to teach or have an idea you would like to see, please contact the BOE. I would like to start a Women's Night to meet twice a month, if interested, please email Natalie Crosland at [nccrosland@gmail.com](mailto:nccrosland@gmail.com) to determine who would be interested in attending.

Together we can do so much for our Lord.



## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH & SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Seth & Johnna Duncan, Leaders*

Summer has officially come to an end! This September we look forward to our newly combined Sunday school group for middle and high school students. **Sticky Faith** will be the first topic of our class. This is a study to help us "stick to our faith" as we live in today's world. We will continue to meet in the Wagner House, and can't wait to see you all after your summer travels and activities!

We are going to kick off the first fall youth group meeting by going tubing at Saluda Shoals! We will go Sunday, September 16th after the late service. Please bring a change of clothes, \$10 for tube rental, and drinks to go in the cooler. Lunch will be provided. Parent pick up will be in the church parking lot at 4:00 PM. If you are interested in chaperoning, please contact Johnna Duncan (803) 318-4476. Hope to see you all there! **Mark your calendars for the future: youth group will always be on the third Sunday of the month.**





**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOOTNOTE**  
*From Pastor Mark Jeske, Time of Grace Ministry*

As Labor Day approaches, the advertising supplements are full of “Back to School” sales and coupons. Kids look forward to new clothes, and parents can go back to their normal schedules. As the lazy days of August fade away, it’s time to go back to class, stepping up to the next grade.

People are not born literate and “numerate.” Decoding language symbols and manipulating the number system is learned behavior. It’s hard work—nothing comes automatically. Knowing the ways of God doesn’t come automatically either. It must be patiently taught by the mature to the immature, from the wise to the young. God’s Word has real answers for our lives. Only Scripture helps people discover their Creator; only Scripture helps people meet their Savior; only Scripture reveals the Spirit’s agenda for our lives. King Solomon tells us that only those who know the Lord are truly wise: **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline”** (Proverbs 1:7).

As you see to the schooling of your children and grandchildren, don’t forget Sunday school. The teachers do not replace your own responsibility for discipling the young, but they are priceless partners in that crucially important endeavor.

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**BOARD OF EVANGELISM**  
*Richard Shealy, Chairperson*

**“The only constant in life is change.” Heraclitus**

Lately, there have been several articles in The State Newspaper regarding the decrease in church attendance during the past several decades. The decrease in attendance and membership and the increase in population simply means the percentage of our population who attend corporate church is decreasing. The articles also say that growth in church attendance is occurring in the Catholic Church and house churches. The news articles refer to these changes as “a fundamental culture shift in South Carolina.” But with a little research we can see that the changes we read about locally are occurring nationally. The reasons for these changes are many and I am sure that each person reading this, including myself, has an opinion of why overall attendance has declined.

Here at Mt. Olive we have not seen a drastic decline as depicted in the news. But change is inevitable. God changed the world when he sent Jesus to be physically among his people. We are on the verge of a change as we start the transition period and search for our new pastor. And like Jesus' disciples, we must recognize and embrace God inspired changes. We can best do that through prayer and a sense of unity in our mission. For if we are not unified, the evil one will seize it as an opportunity to divide our congregation and cause us to lose our focus to discern God’s perfect will for Mt. Olive.



**“Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,  
that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,  
what is good and acceptable and perfect.”**  
**Romans 12:2 ESV**



**BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY**  
*Charlene Meetze, Chairperson*

Our July blood drive was a success as we collected over 30 units of blood! Thank you to everyone who came out to donate and help! After years of service, Katrina Davis is stepping down as Blood Drive Coordinator. Anyone who is interested in assuming this role for future American Red Cross Blood Drives at Mt. Olive, please contact Katrina Davis at 467-0494.

Sharing God's Love is in need of gently used clothing for school-aged children. They would also appreciate donations of *heat & eat* foods such as Spaghetti O's, ravioli, stew, chili, etc.

SGL is also hosting its annual Golf Tournament of September 10th. If you wish to get a foursome together or just want to play, please contact Gorge How (781-4168) or Ron Feaster (741-4846). You may also download a registration form at [sharinggodslve.net](http://sharinggodslve.net).



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**BOARD OF ELDERS**  
*Charlie Sandt, Chairperson*



Wow! What an exciting time to be a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church! We get the privilege of honoring our own Pastor Sizemore and Lisa for over twenty years of service at a special dinner on September 9, 2018. We can look back on all of the highlights of his ministry here at Mt. Olive and celebrate his future calling at Trinity, Daytona Beach.

At the same time, we are beginning our transition period led by the Southeastern District to begin our prayers, congregational profile, and future direction. Our transition team is in place, and we are anxious to see what God has in store! Please keep all of our leadership in your prayers so that we can discern God's perfect will for our church.

Finally, remember to thank the Lord for sending us Pastor Gary Williams at this exact time to preach the Word during Pastor Sizemore's vacation in August and September.



**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.

- |                |              |              |               |              |             |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Cleta Dunaway  | Mary Green   | Bonnie Jones | Anita Meetze  | Grace Miller | Mary Schott |
| Virginia Gable | Betty Hunter | Elsie Lorick | Gladys Meetze | Al Rush      |             |



There is a small country in Europe named Macedonia. St. Paul traveled there and spread the Good News about Christ our Lord. Many people accepted Jesus as their Savior and several churches were started. Sadly, St. Paul wrote to Christians living in Corinth, Greece, telling about some sort of affliction the Macedonians were suffering. Paul did not say what the trouble was but what impressed Paul was they did not let their troubles kill their joy. In fact, the Macedonians enjoyed being Christians so much that they begged Paul to take a gift of money to use to tell others about salvation.

Paul told the Corinthians about how generous the Macedonians had been. Even though the Macedonians were mostly poor, they had given cheerfully, not begrudgingly. He wanted the Corinthian Christians to know that “God loves a cheerful giver.” Someone may ask, “Does not God love everybody?” The answer is “Yes, of course!” But those who give of themselves readily, cheerfully, generously discover a certain satisfaction, a sense of well-being, they had not known before.

Paul compares what we reap in life to what we sow. If we sow love, good will, and gifts to God meagerly, we will reap meagerly. On the other hand, if we sow love, good will, and gifts to God generously, we will reap bountifully.

As Paul put it to the Corinthians: “God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, enable each of us to discover the joy which comes from generous giving.” **Amen.**



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**A DEPARTING PRAYER FOR PASTOR**

*Adapted from the LSB Agenda*

Lord God, heavenly Father, You promised to send Your servants the Holy Spirit and to give them power from on high. We give thanks that You called Pastor Sizemore as Your servant and entrusted him with the Office of the Holy Ministry. We praise You and ask that You continue to keep him in good health and firm faith. Grant that he may continue to be a blessing to Your people and that they may be a blessing to him.

We also give thanks that You have so faithfully nourished Pastor Sizemore and his family with us. As Pastor and Lisa depart from us, we ask Your continued blessing and protection upon them in their loving service to others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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**SEPTEMBER 2018 ANNIVERSARIES**

9/2 Bradley & Amy Carey	9/25 Craig & Genia Henwood
9/7 Rich & Sue O’Dell	9/26 Mike & Dot Prater
9/9 Richard & Laura Shealy	9/26 Pete & Rita Witt
9/12 Joseph & Kim Perkins	9/29 David & Connie Cook
9/24 Hal & Susie Hoffman	9/29 Stan & Suzi Slaughter

## SEPTEMBER 2018 BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Terry Rodgers	9/12 Doug Lacey	9/18 Robert Lewis
9/3 Kathy Arnold	9/13 Bill Hoefler	9/19 Katrina Folks
9/3 Rick Baden	9/13 Frank Osborne	9/19 Geoff Griesch
9/4 Joel Gotz	9/14 Kim Gepfert	9/20 Travis Boatwright
9/7 Laura Meetze	9/14 Don Meetze	9/21 Chris Gepfert
9/9 Brittnei Beerman	9/15 Nadia BouFawaz	9/21 Eva Jones
9/9 Bruce Schenemann	9/15 Gary Meetze	9/24 Annette Holladay
9/9 Merle Weed	9/15 Neva Meyerhoff	9/24 Thelma Miller
9/10 Jason Dennis	9/16 Marge Carter	9/25 David Cook
9/10 Chris Griesch	9/18 Johnny Barrett	9/26 Will Folks
9/11 Chelsey Godwin	9/18 Scott Barrett	9/27 Parker Dominick
9/11 Darlene Schenemann		9/30 Marla Mamrick

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### JOIN US FOR A SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS!

September 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	God Protects His People in Egypt and the Exodus – Lessons from the Old Testament
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade & Older and their parents	Wagner House	Bill Boykin	A 2-year study of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism
Middle & 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



### October Newsletter Early Deadline: Tuesday, September 18th

The deadline for submitting articles for the October 2018 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Tuesday, September 18th**. Please email your announcements and articles to [aresaboykin@sc.rr.com](mailto:aresaboykin@sc.rr.com).

### Men’s Prayer Breakfast



The next breakfast will be the third Saturday in September 15th. Come and bring your sons and neighbors for a hearty breakfast, devotion, and prayer.

### Nursery Reminder

Parents are welcome to take their small children to the nursery where the worship service can be heard via a speaker. Please remember to tidy up before you leave.



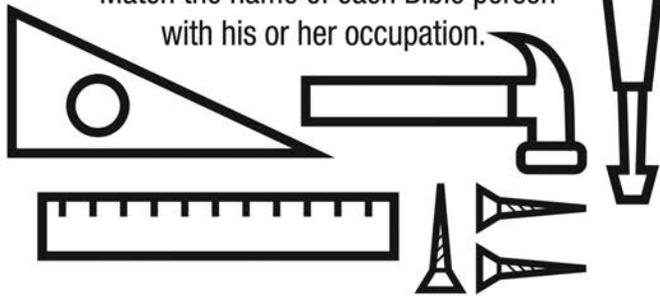
## Secure E Giving

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

# Puzzle!

Match the name of each Bible person with his or her occupation.



- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Nehemiah  | A. soldier       |
| 2. Luke      | B. carpenter     |
| 3. Demetrius | C. cupbearer     |
| 4. Matthew   | D. clothseller   |
| 5. Lydia     | E. fisherman     |
| 6. Joseph    | F. shepherd      |
| 7. Paul      | G. tax collector |
| 8. Cornelius | H. tailor        |
| 9. Tabitha   | I. silversmith   |
| 10. Amos     | J. priest        |
| 11. Eli      | K. tentmaker     |
| 12. Peter    | L. physician     |

Answers: 1. C, 2. L, 3. I, 4. G, 5. D, 6. B, 7. K, 8. A, 9. H, 10. F, 11. J, 12. E

## Make a "Prayer Pretzel"

Pretzels were first made by monks in Rome during the 5th century. The shape looks like a person's arms folded in prayer. You can make your own pretzels.

### You will need:

-  A roll of refrigerated bread stick dough
-  One egg yolk
-  1 1/2 tablespoons of milk
-  Cookie sheet
-  Coarse salt



### How to make them:

-  Shape each piece of dough into a pretzel shape.
-  Place on cookie sheet.
-  Brush with a mixture of the egg yolk and milk.
-  Sprinkle with salt. (You can use parmesan cheese, if you prefer.)
-  Bake according to package directions.