



Olive Leaves

June-July 2019



From Pastor Voges Page 1	Table of Contents		Sunday School Classes for All Page 8
Prayers & College Graduates Page 2	Board of Evangelism Page 4	Board of Public Relations Page 5	Birthdays Page 8
Board of Christian Education Page 2	Mt. Olive Lutheran Preschool Page 4	What is Thrivent? Page 6	Anniversaries Page 9
VBS Update Page 3	High School Youth Page 5	Board of Social Ministry Page 6	Announcements Page 9
From Our President Page 3	Board of Parish Fellowship Page 5	Stephen Ministry Page 7	June Calendar & Worship Schedule - Pages 10-11
Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards - Page 3	Special Dates in June-July Page 5	Board of Stewardship Page 7	July Calendar & Worship Schedule -Insert

FROM PASTOR VOGES

Pastor Carl A. Voges, Interim Pastor
803.269.6656 – carl.voges4@icloud.com

MOVING INTO THE PENTECOST SEASON

Pulling away from the Great Fifty Days of Easter, we observed the Ascension of our Lord on May 30th. This ancient festival marks the completion of the Son's redemptive work as he returns to the Father and pours out his Spirit on the Church, enabling its baptized people to reflect and carry his Life into this world. The Gospel reading for that Liturgy, Luke 24.44-53, is highly significant because Jesus is commissioning his followers, giving them a template for their ministry today.

We have a number of young people who are completing their Confirmation instruction under the leadership of Bill Boykin. These people: Ashton Boykin, Miranda Cook, Adeline Fletcher, and Xander Polkowsky, will confirm their baptismal promises on Sunday, June 2nd, in the 10:30 AM Liturgy. We ask you to plan on surrounding them with your presence and prayers on that significant day.

Sunday, June 9th, will mark the Festival of Pentecost. We will celebrate the out-pouring of Jesus' Spirit on that day. The Spirit's work will then unfold throughout the six months of the Pentecost season.

On Sunday, June 16th, we will observe the Festival of the Holy Trinity. The striking addition to that day will be the use of the Athanasian Creed. The creed is named after Athanasius, a faithful bishop from Alexandria, Egypt, who lived 296-373 AD. The creed came into the Church's use during the 500s AD. In the Lutheran tradition, it is customary to use the creed as the confession of faith on this festival day.

Also, on June 16th, I'll begin teaching a New Members Class in the Fellowship Hall. It will begin at 9:15 AM. We will work through the six chief parts of Martin Luther's Catechisms, using both its Small and Large versions. The plan is to extend the class into early August. Members of the parish are invited to participate in this class as well.



JUNE-JULY PRAYERS

Aresa Boykin & Natalie Osborne Smith

**“I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”**

Psalm 121:1-2 NIV

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 throughout the next phases of the call process.

Pray for Southeastern District President John Denninger as he selects the pastors for our call list.

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

Pray for Pastor Voges and Chaplain Simpson as they 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 to keep these prayers in a prominent place and pray them daily.**

+ + + + +

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES

Tyler Laprise graduated from the University of North Carolina Charlotte with a Bachelor of Architecture. He is considering multiple job offers with architectural firms.

Emily Kibler graduated with honors from Clemson University on May 10th earning a Bachelor’s degree in Health Sciences. She will be continuing her education this fall in a graduate program at USC School of Medicine and is applying to medical school for the Fall 2020.

Krista Knowles graduated from Clemson University on May 11th. She plans to pursue a career in the sciences or attend graduate school in the Charlotte area.



+ + + + +



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Natalie Crosland, Chairperson

“The rain and snow come down from the heavens...to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my Word,” Isaiah 55:10-11 NLT. If you want a harvest you must sow a seed: **“Whoever sows generously will also reap generously,”** 2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV. But you must also water your seed, and you do that by praying and speaking God’s Word over it! That’s what will “cause the grain to grow.” We need to plant the seed into our children so that they will continue to grow in the Lord!!

The youth are very excited for the National Youth Gathering!!! Please remember to keep them in your prayers as they prepare for and travel to Minneapolis for the July 11th-15th gathering!

June 2nd will be our Confirmation Sunday at the 10:30 service. There will be a reception for those being confirmed at 9:15 AM in the fellowship hall. Please come out to support the confirmands and their families on this special day as they affirm their Baptismal vows.



VBS: AUGUST 4-8, 2019

Natalie Crosland, Chairperson



VBS is quickly approaching and it is not too late to volunteer. We need help in all areas: invitations, planning, decoration, kitchen area, registration, teaching, and group leaders. Our theme is ROAR!! God is good!! The children (and adults) will learn that throughout our lives, whether unfair, scary, or sad, that God is with you and God is good.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

The voters have given me another year, which I know is a blessing. Our dear Lord has more work for me to do inside the church and there is still a growing list. I consider this to be one of my biggest challenges so far in life besides raising two boys. So, if anyone has suggestions or issues that you think I need to focus on, please let me know. I would love to hear your ideas or try to resolve any issues that you may have. One of the most important unwritten rules in any organization is communication. If we lack communication then we lack the focus for the future.



For everybody that reads the church bulletins know that I always like to thank and show appreciation to the members that volunteer or help the church in the daily activities. Please reach out and thank our Lay Minister Bill Boykin. With our vacancy pastor position still open, he has taken on more responsibility than he really should. If you know Bill, he does not gripe or complain he just completes the task because it needs to be done. Thank you so much Bill for your hard work and dedication. You are truly appreciated.

Summer Safety Tip: Please make sure your vehicles are locked, especially in your driveways, where most of us feel safe. Most thefts are from unlocked vehicles where valuable items were left out in the open. We call this "pulling handles."



Please be safe this summer and God Bless!

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



THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, CALLS, & CARDS

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

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

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

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: WHAT NEWS DO YOU HAVE?

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9 ESV

As we read the Bible, we see that news traveled mostly by personal contact. People receiving visitors from distant cities often greeted them by saying, “What news do you have?”

Today we have many different tools for spreading the news ranging from personal conversations to elaborate electronic media. But no matter which media we use, each of us decides what news to share and how and when we share it. When we have good news, we tend to share it with everyone we know and use a variety of tools. For example, we joyously share news of a birth or marriage by word of mouth, postal letter, e-mail, Twitter, or Facebook, to name a few.



In all the conversations we have with family, friends, co-workers, strangers how often do we present the news of Jesus Christ as our Savior? How often do we joyfully continue the conversation if the other person shares their faith with us? When we participate in these conversations, we help spread the incredibly *Good News* that God loves us so much that he sacrificed his son for our everlasting life. What news could be better than that?



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 halls are quiet, materials are packed away, and classrooms are cleaned; and it is hard to believe that another preschool year has come and gone. While it may sometimes seem like ABC's, crafts, and playground fun, the work that is being done in and through this ministry is invaluable to our children and their families.

You are so incredibly generous in your support, both financially and through your time and talents. I speak on behalf of the entire preschool staff to say thank you for your support and I am especially thankful for your trusting in me as we share in this ministry together.

Even though the preschool area is often quiet this time of year, please continue to pray for the school-year ahead as we are busy preparing, enrolling new students and families and planning the ways in which the Lord would have us fulfill our mission to “grow in faith and love by spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by providing a Christ-centered experience for young children.”

We still have a few openings in each of our classes, so if you know someone who is looking for a Christ-centered preschool for their little one, please give send them our way! Registration information can be found on the preschool bulletin board upstairs by the Fellowship Hall. Have a wonderful summer!

preschool registration



HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH

Seth & Johnna Duncan, Leaders

The High School Sunday School class is continuing the journey through the book of Revelation. We have read through the book and have now started a video series to dig deeper. Come join us on Sunday mornings in the Wagner House!

Congratulations to our two graduating seniors: **Abby Kibler and Noah Laney!**

Abby is graduating with honors from Chapin High School on May 31st, and will be attending the Calhoun Honors College at Clemson University majoring in Biomedical Engineering.



Noah is graduating from Lexington High School on June 8th, and is headed to the University of South Carolina as a Capstone Scholar. He plans to major in German and will be enrolled in the Foreign Language Teaching program.

NYG participants, be on the lookout for meeting information in June to finalize trip details. NYG is July 11-15 and we are so excited to be on our way to Minneapolis! **Please keep the youth and leaders attending in your prayers: Bailey, Abby, Jimmy, Noah, Johnna, and Seth.**

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

2019 LCMS Youth Gathering

BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Marlene Nes'bit & Kathie Voyles, Co-Chairpersons

Many thanks to the church council for cooking and serving the Easter breakfast, and to all the helping hands who joined in with prep and cleanup. It was a delightful celebration.

And, a special thank you goes to Kim BouFawaz for cleaning out our ice machine!

On June 2nd, we will be rejoicing with our newest confirmands! Please join us in congratulating them at the 9:15 AM reception in the fellowship hall.



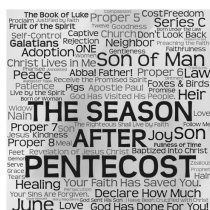
June 30th will be our next 5th Sunday potluck dinner. Look forward to bringing your favorite side dishes to share and join us for delicious food and wonderful fellowship.



BOARD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

I trust you have been enjoying our church signs! Get ready, because they will be changing weekly for Ascension, Pentecost Day, and Holy Trinity Sunday! Don't worry about our having only one sign for the six-month Season after Pentecost! There will be a sign for each month, June – November. Each sign will have the weekly scriptures, or *propers*, for the month. You can find these in our *Lutheran Service Book* on the Lectionaries pages, xiv-xix. We are currently in Series C and will rotate back to Series A in Advent.



Let's have some fun with the signs beginning June 23rd: The key words for each week are color coded, so take time each week to figure out the color for the Sunday's scriptures and see if you can figure out the Gospel and New Testament passages from the key words.

At our May Voter's Assembly, the Preschool Board president raised a question about our Preschool's receiving *Thrivent Choice Dollars*. These donations come to our preschool periodically and are a great help to supplement its budget. But where do they come from?

Thrivent is a not-for-profit Fortune 500 membership organization of Christians. For over a century, it has been helping Christians build solid financial futures and strengthen their communities by providing insurance and financial services. Thrivent helps its members be wise with money and be good stewards of the gifts God has given them. Today, Thrivent serves more than 2 million members nationwide. If you are in need of financial services, there are several chapters in the Midlands, so Google Thrivent to find a representative near you.

If you are a Thrivent member, you can log on to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice and direct your Choice Dollars to our preschool. (Please note: There are several Mt. Olive Preschools, so make sure you select ours at 1541 Lake Murray Blvd., Columbia, SC.) These donations are one of the ways that Thrivent gives back to its members' communities.

Another way Thrivent gives back is by providing up to \$250 of seed money for fundraisers and projects. Our latest use of this seed money was to purchase the M&M's for the preschool fundraiser. Mt. Olive has used Thrivent seed money several times over the years. Each Thrivent member can apply for two grants per year.

SPECIAL DATES IN JUNE-JULY

June 2nd	The Rite of Confirmation	June 16th	Holy Trinity & Father's Day
June 9th	The Day of Pentecost	June 21st	Summer Begins
June 14th	Flag Day	July 4th	Independence Day

+ + + + +

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

Charlene Meetze, Chairperson



"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16

OUR SUMMER PROJECT: Help our area kids get ready for the new school year! We will have boxes in the Narthex for collecting the following items needed by Sharing God's Love:

Book Bags (new or gently used)	Marbled Composition Books
Plastic 2-Pocket Folders with Prongs	Pre-Sharpended #2 Pencils
Notebook Paper	Pencil Cases & Erasers
Black Dry Erase Markers	Colored Pencils & Markers

Children's underwear of all sizes is also needed.

Blood Drive: Mt. Olive will host our semi-annual blood drive on Saturday, July 27th, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Mark your calendars! We want to break the record for units given from our area!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader

***“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”
Romans 12:10***

Summer can be an extra lonely time for those who are unable to enjoy the outdoors, drive, or travel on family vacations. Please make a special effort to remember these friends and family members and to include them in your activities.

As always, if you or a friend would like more information about having a Stephen Minister to meet with you weekly, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Bill, Aresa, Dianne, or Charlie for more information.

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



+ + + + +

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: THE GIFT OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

John Meyerhoff, Chairperson

***“Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased’”
Luke 3:21-22***

God was pleased. With whom was He pleased? His son, Jesus of course! But have you ever wondered why? What had Jesus done up to this point to cause such a pleasure for his Father? He hadn’t done anything exceptional up to this point. No healings. No teaching. Even in Luke 3, all Jesus does is go down into the water and is baptized by His cousin John. Nothing spectacular to inspire pleasure in the Father has been seen yet.

But that is what gives us the greatest stewardship lesson. Stewardship isn’t about the spectacular. You don’t have to give millions of dollars to be a Father-pleasing steward. You don’t have to go to Africa for mission work to get approval from God. Stewardship that is faithful is found in everyday life. It is the husband loving his wife because she is a gift from God. It is the mom feeding her baby in the middle of the night because she has been given a new life to steward. It is a child doing his/her level best because talents are a gift from God.

You have been doing this every day. Simple gifts have been entrusted to you. Your faithful presence in worship, your generosity for the Gospel, the investment in your family with the message of the Gospel, and so many other mundane efforts are stewardship. It is your faithfulness to the callings you have been given.

The Father was well pleased with Jesus because of what He had done up to that point. He was also well pleased with what He was going to do. The same is true for you, faithful steward. He is pleased with what you have done and what He knows you will do. He knows you will heed His Word and answer His call. He has given you all the grace you need to be His faithful steward. With you He is well pleased.

Prayer – Grant us the grace to be faithful in the stewardship of our daily lives. When we fall short, lead us back to Jesus. We know that it is because of Him that you are pleased with us. Lead us to be faithful stewards of His Gospel every day! Amen

JOIN US FOR A SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS!

June-July 2019 Sunday School & Bible Classes – 9:15 AM			
Infants – age 2	Nursery	Parents may stay with their infants & toddlers in the nursery, as we are in between caregivers. Please listen to the worship service through the speaker.	
Circle of Friends	Downstairs Classroom	Katie Tyczynski & Faithful Group of Volunteers	Bringing Jesus to Special Needs Children
PK3 – 4th Grade	Upstairs Classrooms	Pat LaGrange, Laura Laprise, & Kaley Laprise	Growing In Christ Series from CPH
5 th Grade & Older and their parents	Wagner House	Bill Boykin	A multi-year study of Martin Luther's Small Catechism for Confirmation
Middle Schoolers	Wagner House	Rick Baden	A variety of lessons from the Bible
High Schoolers	Wagner House	Seth & Johnna Duncan	The Book of Revelation
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Barry Bost	The Weekly Lectionary – The Epistle Lesson See Worship/ Serving Schedule for Scriptures.
Adults	Downstairs Classroom	Sandy Osborne	The Book of 1 Corinthians
Adults	Choir Room	Eddie Magic	"Lutheranism 101"
New Members Classes	Fellowship Hall	Pr. Carl Voges	Beginning June 16th, a study of the 6 parts of Martin Luther's Catechisms.
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			



JUNE-JULY 2019 BIRTHDAYS

6/1 Kara Meetze	6/21 Caleb Dominick	7/9 Tim Stuck
6/2 Judy Jones	6/23 Hank Weed	7/12 Sandra Howe
6/4 Brady Young	6/24 Duck Kinard	7/12 Odell Stuck
6/4 Lillian Young	6/25 Mandy Kibler	7/13 Johanna Folks
6/5 Bill Boykin	6/25 Jan McCarthy	7/13 Margaret Ludwig
6/5 Zachary Laprise	6/25 Marlene Nesbit	7/14 Don Mueller
6/7 Viona Ballensky	6/27 Naven Olson	7/16 Herbie Meetze
6/7 Landon Howard	6/27 Stan Slaughter	7/19 Michael Whitaker
6/7 Kevin Kibler	6/28 Jill Brabham	7/20 John Perkins
6/8 Harold Meetze	6/28 Orra Gotz	7/20 Connor Robinson
6/10 Louise Weed	6/30 Edwin Nelson	7/21 Santana Sanguiliano
6/11 Charlene Meetze	7/1 Betty Hunter	7/24 Todd Selke
6/12 Matthew Fletcher	7/1 Melvin Jones	7/25 Al Holladay
6/13 Waneta White	7/2 Joe Ann Barrett	7/25 Sue O'Dell
6/16 Carroll Barrett	7/2 Mary Schott	7/28 Amy Carey
6/16 Lois Meyer	7/3 Tracy Gotz	7/28 Jessica Howard
6/17 Richard Chesley	7/4 Harold Jones	7/29 Joseph Perkins
6/18 Jill Scuderi	7/5 Mary Green	7/29 James Sharpe
6/19 Ashton Boykin	7/6 George Boatwright	7/30 Brandy Maye
6/20 Julian Patterson	7/9 Betty Barrett	7/31 Gabriel Sharpe

JUNE-JULY 2019 ANNIVERSARIES

6/1 Herbie & Karen Meetze	6/26 Duck & Sally Kinard
6/3 Bill & Aresa Boykin	6/28 Joel & April Fancey
6/3 Bill & Teresa Hoefer	6/30 Frank & Sandy Osborne
6/4 Walter & Kathy Arnold	6/30 Gene & Marguerite Schmitzer
6/7 Keith & Lori Flenner	7/1 Eric & Megan Weed
6/9 Charles & Gerry Fletcher	7/3 Kim & Dianne BouFawaz
6/10 Greg & Sherry Ervin	7/7 Eric & LaToya Patterson
6/13 Barry & Kathie Bost	7/9 Jason & Jessica Dennis
6/14 Will & Katrina Folks	7/18 Matt & Cindy Williams
6/17 Kas & Norma Hessary	7/19 Melvin & Judy Jones
6/18 Al & Janet Jabs	7/26 Stephen & Luanne Curry
6/24 Don & Carole Mueller	7/30 Henry & Louise Weed

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

August Newsletter Deadline – Saturday, July 20th

The deadline for submitting articles for the August 2019 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Saturday, July 20th**. The day will be here sooner than you think! Remember that you can send your articles early. Please email your announcements and articles to aresaboykin@sc.rr.com.

Men's Prayer Breakfast



The Men's prayer breakfast will adjourn for the summer, but save the date **September 21st**. Come and bring your sons and neighbors for a hearty breakfast, devotion, and prayer.

Women's Bible Study

The ladies of Mt. Olive have completed their Bible study, *Mirror, Mirror*, and will take the summer off. The group plans to start back up in September. If you have any suggestions for studies, please contact Natalie Crosland.

Painting "Christmas in June" Saturday, June 22nd, 10:00 AM

We are going to have a Christmas-themed painting party! Our own Sue Strouse will lead the class through the painting of a Christmas tree. Each person will bring his or her own drink and a Christmas appetizer or dessert to share. The cost is only \$3.00. This will be a wonderful time of fun and fellowship! Contact Sue Strouse or Sandy Osborne to sign up.



Sharing God's Love: School Supplies & Ongoing Donations

This month, Sharing God's Love is focusing on collecting school supplies for over 1000 area children. Details are in the Social Ministry article. In addition, there are ongoing pantry needs including: spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese, canned meats, paper towels, canned or boxed potatoes, king and queen bedding, and new undergarments (all sizes). Thank you for helping SGL help our community!

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



Mt. Olive has a nursery that is located downstairs, just behind the sanctuary. Parents are welcome to stay with their children during any worship service, as we are between care providers. There is a speaker so you will be able to hear the 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.