



# Olive Leaves

May 2019



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## FROM PASTOR VOGES

*Pastor Carl A. Voges, Interim Pastor*  
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### THE SEVEN WEEKS OF EASTER

From April 14th-21st, our parish community took part in the liturgies of Holy Week, exposing us to the redemptive actions of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These liturgies were preceded by those that took place on Lent's Wednesdays. The parishioners are commended for their participation in those six weeks. In them we glimpsed readings from the Daily Prayer lectionary, used two of the prayer offices in the Lutheran Service Book, and publicly included the members in the prayers. We thank Cyndi Nelson, pianist, and Marilyn Bauer, organist, for accompanying the hymn singing.

For all their behind-the-scenes work during Holy Week, there are a number of people to thank: this includes the Parish Choir under the direction of Karen Meetze; Marilyn Bauer, organist; members of the Altar Guild under the direction of Joy Fletcher and Gloria Meetze; parish secretary, Mary Keller; Bill Boykin, Lay Minister; volunteer administrative assistants; and members of the Church Council.



During much of May I will be in Little Rock, Arkansas. My wife and I have three grandchildren who are graduating from their respective schools and one of whom will be confirmed. The three weekend services in my absence will be covered by Chaplain Brad Boyer (Fort Jackson) and Chaplain Scott Simpson (Shaw).

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

Since our ministry together is pushing out into the summer months, the Church Council has asked me to line up a new member class during that time. The preliminary work will be done in early May and we'll share the details with you in the latter part of that month.



## MAY 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, Chaplain Boyer, 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** for Pastor & Mrs. Voges as they travel to and from Arkansas for the family graduations and confirmation.

**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.**



## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Natalie Crosland, Chairperson*

**“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” Psalms 30:5**

God is with us during our “nighttime experiences.” Think about it; you’ve been knocked down, but by God’s grace you’ve gotten back up. No matter how dark the night, you’ve lived to see the morning. He’s the one who brought you through every difficulty in the past, and He promises to be with you every day of the future. Note the words “joy comes.” That means you will rise again and rejoice again.



The high school youth are very excited for the National Youth Gathering!!! Please remember to keep Jimmy, Abby, Noah, and Bailey in your prayers, as well as leaders Seth and Johnna, as they prepare for the NYG!

*Lutheranism 101* began the last Sunday of April, but it’s not too late to join the class.

## VBS: AUGUST 4-8, 2019

*Natalie Crosland, Chairperson*

Joy is just a part of what the children will discover at our August 4th-8th VBS – that no matter what happens, God is with us and God is good! We need all sorts of volunteers: preparation, decorations, teaching, cooking, clean up, and so much more. **We are having a VOLUNTEERS meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.** Please come join us at the meeting to see where your talents can be used.



### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

Thank you to everyone who helped with all the festivities over Easter. It truly felt wonderful to know that we have such a strong church family here at Mt. Olive. Another huge thank you to the Wednesday noon group who stayed after lunch to stuff all those eggs!

The Call Committee will soon be assembled to review the next group of candidates. It might seem like a setback but God is not ready to let us know his decision yet. Thankfully, we will still use our parish profile that was completed last fall, and we know the expectations and process involved. We are expecting the call list from the district again and will review it just like before. Please keep the committee in your prayers as we reconvene. Thank you, Rich O'Dell, for staying the course as chairperson of the committee. Thank you to Pastor Voges who will continue as our interim.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Jason Dennis, Barry Bost, Dianne BouFawaz, Charlene Meetze, and Charlie Sandt has done an outstanding job filling the vacancies of our officers and boards. If anyone else feels the calling to serve, please contact anyone on the Nominating Committee.

Thank you everyone for your trust that God is at work, for your patience, and for your encouraging words as we continue in our transition and call process.

**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 50 days of the Easter season, 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:  
HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT IS TRUE?**

*Richard Shealy, Chairperson*



**“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” Matthew 24:35**

You may be familiar with a TV game show, “To Tell The Truth”, which began in 1956, and is scheduled to start a new season in 2019. The premise of the show is that four celebrity panelists, through questioning, try to identify which one of three guests is telling the truth. Sometimes the panelists are able to get to the truth and sometimes they aren’t.

We are like those panelists as we try to absorb information from friends, neighbors, relatives, social media, and news media. Sometimes the news that we are exposed to seems true one day but has a new twist to it the next day. We often wonder why the news from one source can have a different slant than the same news from a different source. In our physical world we are left to ourselves to determine what we believe is true. The problem with that process is we can be swayed by influences that have no constant or central basis for truth.

The good news is we have a document authored by the creator of all things telling us what is true. We refer to it as the Bible. As Lutherans, we profess to this truth as Sola Scriptura. In order for us to be witnesses to God’s truth, we need to be in the Bible through study and worship so that our words and our actions to others are truthful and have a chance to be fruitful.

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**PRESCHOOL NEWS**

*Anna Brent, Preschool Director*

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



May is here already! It is hard to believe that we are just days away from completing our 12<sup>th</sup> school year. The preschool is heading into a busy few weeks as we prepare for all our May activities: May 5th fundraiser at the Fireflies baseball game, Mother’s Day activities, end of the year evaluations, memory books, and get ready to hold preschool graduation. We will also have our family picnic at Saluda Shoals Splash Park on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Do you know any families with young children who would benefit from our preschool? Our amazing staff creates a warm and loving environment in which they provide high quality learning experiences. The students learn about God’s love for them and His desire for them to be their best while they learn about and explore His world. Encourage them to call, email, check out the website or Facebook page, or come visit! Registration is ongoing and open for all classes.

And, thank you again, Mt. Olive congregation, for your continued support, prayers, for hosting Preschool Sunday, and for the generous donations through the M&M fundraiser!

**SPECIAL DATES IN MAY**

|          |                                    |          |                  |
|----------|------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| May 2nd  | National Day of Prayer             | May 19th | Voter’s Assembly |
| May 5th  | MOLP Fireflies Baseball Fundraiser | May 27th | Memorial Day     |
| May 12th | Mother’s Day                       | May 30th | Ascension Day    |

## HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH

*Seth & Johnna Duncan, Leaders*

High School Sunday School class is continuing on its journey through the book of Revelation. We are just about through our initial read and will start the video series early this month. Come join us on Sunday mornings in the Wagner House!

Thank you for your help with the Easter Egg Hunt for our younger children!

The next youth group will be on May 19th to finalize National Youth Gathering details and finish up the accompanying Bible Study. In just over two months and we'll be on our way Minneapolis!

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

2019 LCMS Youth Gathering

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**BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP**

*John Meyerhoff, Chairperson*



As I was searching through material preparing to write the Stewardship article for the May edition of the "Olive Leaves" it came to me that stewardship is very much like a three legged stool. Each leg representing one key area of what God calls us to focus on to be true Christian Stewards: our Time, our Talents and our Treasures. With all three legs in place, the stool is strong and solid and can easily carry all of our weight. But remove any one of the legs and the stool becomes unstable and no longer safe to support us.

Throughout the Bible, there are many references to what God calls us to do in each of these areas. In **2 Corinthians 9:6**, God talks to us about effectively using our **time**: ***"The point is this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully."*** God is telling us if we spend our time unproductively we will not reap the same rewards as someone who invested more time and effort in what they were doing.

In addition to time, God has lovingly given every one of us unique **talents** that are to be used to His glory. In **1 Peter 4:10**, God tells us, ***"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."*** We are challenged to reflect on our God-given talents and to use them to help bring non-believers to God's family and to support and strengthen our Church community.

For most of us, being good stewards of our **treasures** is the hardest area to be truly faithful. Our whole world focuses on money. How much should I give? How much should I save? If I am not giving according to my Lord's command, why aren't I? In **Matthew 6:24**, God clearly tells us what our focus should be, ***"You cannot serve God and money."***

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, please help me to constantly remind myself that all I have is a gift from you. Help me to focus on effectively using to Your glory, the Time, Talents and Treasures with which you have blessed me. Please help me to make the right choices when deciding between earthly desires and being a faithful Christian Steward. I ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen

## BOARD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

*Aresa Boykin, Chairperson*

***“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me [Paul] – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” Philipians 4:9***



The Board of Public Relations is dedicated to making Mt. Olive known to the world! This includes keeping our friends and family updated, providing information for guests and travelers who are looking for a church, and sharing the Gospel with anyone who happens onto our website, Facebook page, and other print and social media. When you greet guests at our services, make it a point to ask them how they learned about us. It's a great way to begin a conversation, helping our visitors feel Christ's love extending through each of us.

If you have a knack for sharing information, social media, and keeping people “in the know” about Mt. Olive, please talk with Sandy Osborn, Natalie Smith, or me.



## BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

*Charlene Meetze, Chairperson*

***“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12: 11- 13***

Wow! The Lenten 40-Day Challenge was a huge success! Three truckloads of red bags and other containers were delivered to Sharing God's Love. Think about it: our little treasures placed at the foot of the cross and now on the way to making someone else's life better. What a beautiful opportunity for us to honor our Lord!

(While delivering the items, one of the workers at SGL made the comment: “ You can always count on the Lutherans”. What a compliment!!!)

Now, take a little break and rest up, because we have a Summer Project on the way. Our own Shari Selke of Sharing God's Love has advised that 1600 children are served through SGL and just as soon as school ends, preparation for the new 2019-2020 school year must begin. Start gathering for the June collection: gently used book bags, #2 pencils, colored markers, colored pencils, black dry erase markers, plastic 2-pocket folders with prongs, notebook paper, and marble composition books. Watch for more details.

We are looking forward to working with the Board of Education for this year's VBS to provide meals and other assistance.

We, the members of the Social Ministry Board, are thankful for the opportunity to work with our Mt. Olive family.



Summer Collection



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

*Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader*

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

Have you checked out the Stephen Ministry website, [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)? There are videos and articles on many topics from becoming a Stephen Minister, receiving care, the *Journeying through Grief* series, learning more about cancer, and general information. You will find links to this page on the Mt. Olive website on the Stephen Ministry and Contacts pages. Why not take some time to learn more about this valuable ministry that our church offers.

As always, if you are experiencing one of life’s usual crises and would like more information about having a Stephen Minister, please contact me.

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

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

| May 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, & Kaley Laprise   | Growing In Christ Series from CPH   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> 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<br>See Worship/ Serving Schedule for Scriptures. |
| Adults   | Downstairs Classroom | Sandy Osborne                                  | The Book of 1 Corinthians   |
| Adults   | Choir Room           | Eddie Magic                                    | “Lutheranism 101”   |
| Young Adults   | Wagner House         | Meghan Gotz                                    | “The Law & Gospel”  |
| Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator. |                      |  |   |

**MAY 2019 ANNIVERSARIES**

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5/1 Rick & Liezl Baden        | 5/22 Randy & Kathie Voyles  |
| 5/4 Mike & Stephanie Jones    | 5/25 Wes & Michele Hammond  |
| 5/12 Seth & Johnna Duncan     | 5/26 John & Mary Lou Tedder |
| 5/12 Hunter & Stacey Robinson | 5/27 Chris & Kim Gepfert    |
| 5/19 Jason & Jill Brabham     | 5/29 James & Rebecca Shirah |

## MAY 2019 BIRTHDAYS

|                       |                        |                       |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5/2 Cindy Williams    | 5/12 Sue Knowles       | 5/20 McKenzie Brown   |
| 5/5 Jessica Dennis    | 5/13 Nadia M. BouFawaz | 5/21 Nancy Thompson   |
| 5/5 Joy Fletcher      | 5/13 Linda McGriff     | 5/23 Hannah Duncan    |
| 5/6 Bruce Helming     | 5/15 Rosie Sanguillano | 5/24 James Duncan     |
| 5/6 Stephanie Jones   | 5/16 Stanley Bouknight | 5/25 Bailey Dort      |
| 5/7 Marilyn Bauer     | 5/16 Joseph Maye       | 5/27 Lynne Schultz    |
| 5/8 Carolyn McCartha  | 5/16 T.J. Selke        | 5/29 Rebecca Griesch  |
| 5/8 LaToya Patterson  | 5/17 Dana Magic        | 5/29 Tiffany Meetze   |
| 5/8 Richard Schneider | 5/17 Olivia Stuck      | 5/30 Gloria Meetze    |
| 5/9 Jessica Clendenin | 5/18 Lori Flenner      | 5/30 Carole Myers     |
| 5/12 Bradley Carey    | 5/18 Paul Sanguillano  | 5/30 Matthew Williams |
|                       | 5/19 Pat LaGrange      |                       |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### June-July Newsletter Deadline – Monday, May 20th

The deadline for submitting articles for the combined June-July 2019 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Monday, May 20th**. Remember that you can send your articles early. Please email your announcements and articles to [aresaboykin@sc.rr.com](mailto:aresaboykin@sc.rr.com).

### Men's Prayer Breakfast



The May prayer breakfast will be the third **Saturday, May 18th**. 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 and will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, **May 21st**. Please join us at 6:00 PM as we apply God's Word to our own lives through *Mirror, Mirror* by Susan Senechal, chapter 8. All women are invited to participate!

### SAVE the DATE: 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 Christmas appetizer or dessert to share. The cost is only \$3.00. More details will be in the June-July newsletter, but you can contact Sue Strouse or Sandy Osborne for more information.



### Sharing God's Love: Ongoing Donations

This month, Sharing God's Love's current needs are spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese, canned meats, paper towels, canned or boxed potatoes, king and queen bedding, and new undergarments (all sizes). Please consider helping SGL on May 7th by making a donation through Midlands Gives, the biggest e-giving day in our area. You can also start collecting school supplies for the summer drive. Details are in the Social Ministry article. 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



Bailey Dort is our 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!)**



*A blessed woman*

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

*Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.*

She gets \_\_\_\_\_ while it is still \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 

she provides \_\_\_\_\_ for her \_\_\_\_\_ ....  
 

Her \_\_\_\_\_ rise \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 

\_\_\_\_\_ her blessed.  


PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answer: up, night, family, food, children, up, call



♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥  
**HEART-SHAPED**  
*breakfast*

Treat Mom with this yummy, beautiful yogurt parfait.



**What you need:**

- Large heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Greek yogurt (any flavor)
- Toppings (mini chocolate chips, granola, shredded coconut, chia seeds, oats, slivered almonds, blueberries, sliced strawberries, raspberries, bananas)
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup

**What you do:**

1. Place cookie cutter on a plate. Spoon in yogurt, spreading it to the edges of the cookie cutter.
2. Add toppings, making a nice design. Remove cookie cutter.
3. Drizzle syrup around the edge of the plate.
4. Serve to your mom on Mother's Day!

**MEMORIAL DAY**

