



Olive Leaves

August 2019



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FROM PASTOR VOGES

*Pastor Carl A. Voges, Interim Pastor
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We are about a quarter of the way through the Pentecost season. Our understanding of the Lord's Life has been deepened as the Lord has used the Gospel readings from Luke to draw us into conversations with him and one another along with those outside the Church's life. One of those conversations involved a non-parishioner who was concerned that he could not keep himself motivated to be one of the Lord's people. It was noted that an individual needs continual exposure to the Lord's Scriptures and Sacraments. It is only from those holy places where we see our motivation – the Lord God rescuing us from ourselves and imbedding us in the Life of the Holy Trinity.

On August 4th we will complete the class for new and current members. The people participating worked through the six brief parts of Luther's Small Catechism while looking at those parts from his Large Catechism. The class has stirred good thinking and discussion. It has included people coming from other Christian traditions and people transferring their membership from other Lutheran churches and parishioners. These individuals will become members of our parish community on August 10th-11th in a special rite in the liturgies of those days.

The annual Vacation Bible School is August 4th-8th. In the Sunday prayers we have been asking that the Lord God gift us with volunteers and students as we witness in this community to the realities of the redemption given us by the Son's dying and rising.



Rally Day for the Sunday School will occur August 25th (after the late service) as we structure the classes for a new year. On that day we will also install the new officers of the Church Council.

In various ways this parish's life and work carries out the template given us in Luke 24:44-53 on Ascension Day in May. May the Lord God continue to use us to proclaim his Gospel as his Life bores into the world's life and rescues the people who are trapped by its realities of sin, Satan and death.



AUGUST PRAYERS

Arsea Boykin & Natalie Osborne Smith

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
Matthew 6:10

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 as they have interviews with the candidates.

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

Pray for Pastor Voges as he continues to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, and minister to our congregation and guests. Give thanks for his 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.**

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CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rich O'Dell, Chairperson



This is a busy summer for the Call Committee as we've been focused on a deep dive into specifics of the pastors on the Call List given to us by Southeastern District President Denninger. District Visitor Pastor David Panning has been with us at every meeting to help guide the discussions and add to our understanding.

We started with twelve names and after much discussion and research, we are now down to six. Over the course of this process, no pastor on the original list has removed himself for any reason. We're now to the point of interviews. On August 4th and 5th, the call committee will do a series of interviews as we speak with all six pastors. These will be video interviews utilizing either Skype or FaceTime. It is our hope that these interviews will help us narrow the search even more as we move closer to presenting our findings to the congregation in a Call Service.

Your prayers have been so helpful along the way and we ask you to continue. Thank you so much for your continued support.

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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 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Natalie Crosland, Chairperson



Rally Day, the Sunday School kick off picnic for the entire church, will be **August 25th** at church this year! We are hoping that everyone will attend so we are eating in the coolness of the fellowship hall on this hot August day! The VBS children are planning to share some of their songs! There will be children's activities outside and adult fellowship and game. The Board of Education is providing the meat and drinks. Come and bring your favorite side dishes and desserts! More details will be in the weekly Olive Seeds.



VBS: AUGUST 4-8, 2019
Natalie Crosland, Chairperson

ROAR! VBS week is here, August 4th-8th! The theme is: **GOD IS GOOD TO ALL!** During the week, we will learn that when life is unfair, scary, changing, sad, and good, God is good! The children will be exploring these truths by journeying with the Israelites' in Egypt to the Promised Land, culminating with Jesus's Resurrection!



The VBS kick-off meal will be Sunday evening at 5:30 PM. We will be eating pulled pork, cole slaw, baked beans, and assorted desserts provided by the downstairs Bible Class. VBS will begin at 6:00 PM and end at 8:00 PM. Classes are for children 3-years-old through rising 5th graders. Barry Bost will also be teaching an adult class. Youth can either attend the adult class or sign up with Natalie Crosland to volunteer.

It is not too late to register at the link on the Mt. Olive website's home page, mtolivesc.org, or call the church office for assistance. Plan to come and bring your friends and neighbors!

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BOARD OF ELDERS
Charlie Sandt, Chairperson



The Board of Elders is busy behind the scenes here at Mt. Olive. We have been corresponding via email throughout the summer.

I am getting ready to pass the torch to our next chairman of the Board of Elders in September as I am moving over to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Elders will be welcoming Dan Zahn and selecting a new chairman at the September meeting. The elders will be meeting in August with Pastor Voges, who has been a real Godsend for us here at Mt. Olive. It's amazing how our God puts people in our midst exactly at the right time.

We look forward to moving forward with the call committee and trust that God will show us the pastor he has chosen for Mt. Olive.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

Summer is here and it is HOT! The funny thing about it is most of us were wishing for warm weather a few months ago. Don't you wish we could have a few of those days now!

It's hard to believe that we are approaching a year for our hard working Call Committee attempting to find the pastor who God has chosen for us. We have a comprehensive list this time and interviews will be the first week of August. Please pray for the call committee, the pastoral candidates, and all the members of the church who have stepped up during the interim.

Thank you Natalie Crosland and volunteers for our upcoming Vacation Bible School. I hear it is going to be a "ROAR"! Please plan to join us August 4th-8th, 5:30 PM meal and 6:00 PM VBS. There will be an adult class, too.

SAFETY TIPS Please remember your children and pets during this heat. They don't belong in cars during the summer without air conditioning or proper air movement. For children, make sure they drink plenty of water and wear sunscreen when they are outside. For pets, remember the temperature of the asphalt or pavement when taking them for walks. For outside pets, keep fresh water located in the shade. Enjoy the rest of the summer and please be safe!



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



BOARD OF EVANGELISM: THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHURCH LEADERS

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

"... tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." Psalm 78:4b ESV

Have you ever stopped to think about how you came to believe in God and to know and understand his laws? It was probably your immediate family or friend who took you to church where you learned about God's law, Biblical history, and the need to apply those lessons to your life. No matter how we came into a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, it is only natural that we would want our children to continue in the same faith and pass it on to future generations. We can help ensure that happens by taking responsibility for a ministry in our church. There is always a need to teach and serve those who are in the church and to reach out to those who do not have a church home.

May our highest individual and corporate priority be the continued sharing of the good news of forgiveness and eternal life that Jesus has earned as a gift for all believers.





MUSICAL NOTES

Karen Meetze, Choir Director



"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4

The Lord provides us many reasons to rejoice! The Adult and Handbell choirs have truly rejoiced to have some time off to rest and re-charge this summer. I rejoice and am so thankful for the dedication and faithfulness of all the choir members! And soon we will all rejoice to join together again and sing and ring God's praises!

Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, September 8th. We have a wonderful, fun, and committed group of musicians and we need new members to join us! For singers, reading music is helpful but not completely necessary. We go over our anthems many times and you can learn them! Ringers need to have some very basic music reading skills but no handbell experience. We practice until we know it well and I know there are some of you who would love to give it a try and I am positive you can succeed! The Handbell choir meets at 4:45 and the Adult Choir meets at 6:00 on Sunday evenings.



We haven't had a handbell choir since before Christmas last year because some of our long time ringers moved. I need at least 7 members to play all the bells. I pray the Lord will lead some of you to join our music ministry. You will be a blessing to our congregation and experience great joy in serving our Lord!

Please call me at 240-8710 if you would like more information or have questions.

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him with joyful songs." Psalm 100:1 - 2

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PRESCHOOL NEWS

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 – preschool@mtolivesc.org

Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool – Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool



Kindergarten

Kamp

It is hard to believe that we are entering into the last stretch of summer and we are excited to welcome new and returning students at the beginning of September!

We currently have spaces available in each of our two, three, and four-year-old classes for the 2019-2020 school year. Registration information can be found on the preschool website and paper copies are available downstairs by the preschool entrance and on the preschool bulletin board. Please share with friends and loved ones!

Do you know any children who will be entering into kindergarten this fall? Kindergarten Kamp has returned this summer and will be August 12-16 from 9:00 AM-noon. The cost is \$50 to register, and we will be doing lots of fun activities in preparation to begin kindergarten. Please see the website or a flyer on the preschool bulletin board for more information.

Also, as a part of outreach from this church into the community, we like to be able to offer scholarships to children who are unable to afford preschool tuition. Funding for partial scholarships is currently needed for three students, one returning and two new students. The full scholarship amount needed is \$1,855. If you would like to be a part of this outreach, please contact me!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Seth & Johnna Duncan, Leaders

Seth, Johnna, Jimmy, Abby, Noah, and Bailey would like to start with a huge thank you to the congregation for allowing them to attend the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis last month. We spent the week diving deeper into our faith, the Psalms, and worshiping with over 22,000 other LCMS youth from around the world! It was truly incredible! The theme was REAL. PRESENT. GOD. We left knowing that our God is an awesome God - **He is real, He is always with us, and He is all powerful!**



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BOARD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"*
Matthew 5:16

Not since Adam and Eve's first date has there been so much openness in society. People reveal almost anything on social media. Millennials are masters of social media, and many of us are not far behind. This native transparency has a huge upside for spreading Christianity. The gospel is not an encrypted message. Jesus had this in mind all along.

People are recruited to all kinds of movements from what they see via social media. Friends, could you use it to let your light shine so that others may glorify God? Would you be willing to reveal your personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Would you be willing to let the world see your reverence when you bow your head and listen in real time when you pray? Could you use new platforms to show others the power of the cross in your life? Could you upload a video of you singing an original Christian song. I'm very confident you will be able take it from here.



Content from "In an Age of Openness" by Pr. Jason Nelson, July 19, 2019, Time of Grace.



BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Marlene Nes'bit & Kathie Voyles, Co-Chairpersons

Thanks to Sue Strouse for teaching the "Christmas in June" painting event held at Mt. Olive on June 22. Our Christmas tree masterpieces turned out great! Watch for another painting class in the fall.

The beach-themed potluck on June 30th was well attended. Thank you to everyone who prepared yummy beach-themed dishes. Thanks to Pat LaGrange for setting up our beach scene photo op.



BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

Charlene Meetze, Chairperson



Hopefully you are enjoying your summer. Please join me in praising Mr. Willis Carrier, the inventor of air conditioning!

It is time for us to get serious about our “School Collection Box”. A swing through the school supply aisle at Wal-Mart or the Dollar Tree will take care of that little chore. Thanks in advance for helping us get a good supply to Sharing God’s Love for the children. Here’s a reminder list:

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

We look forward to assisting with VBS and watching the children playing and learning about how important God is in their lives.

The board will soon create its fall and winter project plans and looks forward to sharing them with you the September Newsletter.

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BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

John Meyerhoff, Chairperson



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I can't believe it is already August. For me, this summer has just flown by. I hope you have had time to enjoy our famously hot summer with friends and family.

Each month as I prepare the Stewardship article for Olive Leaves, I remind myself that Stewardship is more than an annual program to ask for money from the congregation. It is God's command for all Christians to give of their time, talents, and treasures every day of our lives.

This month, rather than writing the usual article, I have 3 specific Stewardship requests for you:

1. Please take time each day in August to pray for our country, our church and all of it's members, the church council, the call committee, the elders, all of our church workers and Pastor Vogues.
2. Consider volunteering to help with Vacation Bible School. It happens August 4th-8th, 6:00 PM, and is a very important program to help young people learn more about our Savior.
3. Soon we will be mailing out a Time, Talent and Skills Inventory to each member of Mt. Olive. God has commanded us to actively use our talents. In **1 Peter 4:10** we are told **“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God”**. The goal of the inventory is to help identify our special talents and our willingness to use them to help our congregation meet God's Stewardship call. We also want to identify additional programs and activities (i.e. children's choir, missionary activities, LWML group, couples club, etc.) people would like to be made available at Mt. Olive to grow our Christian faith.

Please take the time to complete the inventory so we can work to capture the God given talents of our members and put them to use to the glory of God



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader

“Cast your burden of the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.” Psalm 55:22

When was the last time you were overwhelmed? If you have a job outside the home, stay at home, work with people, have any association with family members of any age, and/or are still breathing, my guess is that it hasn't been all that long. Perhaps the peaceful parts of your life are falling like dominoes. The light turns red. Someone loses something. You lock yourself out. The treatment isn't working. Your family member throws a wrench in the well-worked-out plan. The baby refuses to sleep or go to anyone but you.



Impulsiveness has not served well as a reaction to being overwhelmed: making unnecessary purchases, sending reactionary emails and texts, or changing hair colors, all to no avail.



Recently, Christian blogger, Amber Albee Swenson, has decided to be impulsive and embrace being completely overwhelmed, not in the usual ways that are fruitless, but by being overwhelmed by the goodness of God! Perspective is everything. In the midst of unimaginable crises, like Job, we can worship and praise the Lord! It is easy to be overwhelmed by God's goodness once you get started. God provides a roof over your head, food in the cupboards, family, beautiful summer flowers, and the gorgeous sunset.

The key is to be overwhelmed by God's goodness while things are falling apart. When the car runs, “Thank you, Jesus;” and when it doesn't, “Thank you for the repair places and friends who don't mind giving you rides!” When the sun shines on your outdoor activities, wonderful. And when it doesn't, thank God for dry clothes and the green grass!

Don't let stress determine your mood and don't live in a constant state of being overwhelmed, unless it is because you see that God is good, no matter your circumstances.

Content from Amber Albee Swenson's Blog, July 25, 2019.

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

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AUGUST 2019 BIRTHDAYS

8/1 August Kibler	8/11 C.J. Meetze	8/19 Chris Boykin
8/2 Charlie Stuck	8/14 Savannah Lewis	8/20 Elizabeth Griesch
8/2 Megan Weed	8/15 Becky Bass	8/20 Sandy Osborne
8/4 Barry Bost	8/15 Virginia Gable	8/22 Grady Crosland
8/6 Mikaela Weed	8/15 Mike Prater	8/22 Twila Sandt
8/7 Rich O'Dell	8/16 Joel Fancey	8/23 Aresa Boykin
8/8 Abby Kibler	8/17 Walter Arnold	8/23 Jacob Gepfert
8/8 Brian Smith	8/18 Calvin Meetze	8/24 Erika Dominick
8/10 Bobby Lewis	8/18 Geneva Meetze	8/26 Stephanie Smith
8/11 Megan Gotz	8/18 Lucas Patterson	8/29 Mary Beth Schultz

AUGUST 2019 ANNIVERSARIES

8/1 Richard & Claudia Schneider	8/23 Geoff & Phyllis Griesch
8/4 Nelson & Nancy Thompson	8/24 Chuck & Marilyn Bauer
8/10 Carroll & Betty Barrett	8/26 Calvin & Charlene Meetze
8/11 David & Joy Fletcher	8/30 Harold & Kathryn Meetze
8/17 Terry & Luanne Rodgers	8/31 Thomas & Tiffany Meetze
8/18 Merle & Peggy Weed	



JOIN US FOR A SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS!

August 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, Jessica Dennis	Summer Sunday School – Numbers in the Bible
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	Downstairs Classroom	Sandy Osborne	The Book of 1 Corinthians
New Members Classes	Fellowship Hall	Pr. Carl Voges	Through August 11th, a study of the 6 parts of Martin Luther's Catechisms.
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

KID'S KORNER

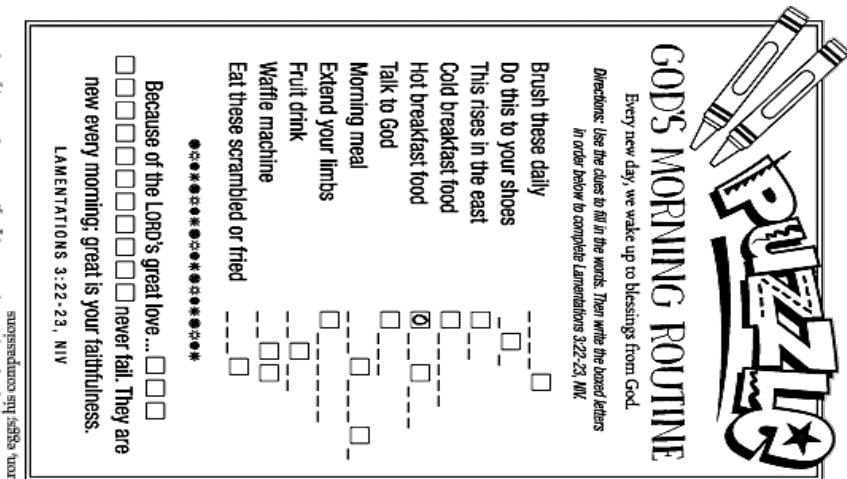
WAKE-UP WORDS
Play this memory game to start each day in God's Word.

What you need:

- Paint and paint brushes
- Stickers
- An empty, clean tin can
- Permanent marker
- Bible
- Wooden craft sticks

What you do:

1. Paint and decorate the outside of the can.
2. With marker, write a Bible verse on several sticks (only two or three words per stick).
3. Put the sticks in the can, and set it in a spot you'll see daily. As you eat or brush your teeth, practice unscrambling the verse and placing sticks in the correct order.
4. When you've memorized the verse, repeat with a new one.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

September Newsletter Deadline – Tuesday, August 20th

The deadline for submitting articles for the August 2019 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Tuesday, August 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.

ROAR VBS: August 4th-8th

Please plan to attend VBS Sunday – Thursday evenings. Dinner is at 5:30 PM followed by VBS from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. There will be an adult class in the sanctuary beginning at 6:30 PM.



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 are taking the summer off. from its monthly Bible study. The group plans to start back up in September. If you have any suggestions for studies, please contact Natalie Crosland.

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 and canned vegetables: potatoes, green peas, carrots, and mixed vegetables. Thank you for helping SGL help our community!

Rally Day Indoor Picnic: Sunday, August 25th

Because August is so hot, the Board of Education decided to picnic in the fellowship hall this year! The board is furnishing the meat and beverages, so all you need to bring are sides or desserts. The whole church is invited to this wonderful day of fellowship that marks the beginning of a new Sunday School year. There will be both indoor and outdoor activities.

Circle of Friends Has A Certified Teacher!

Katie Tyczynski, a certified special education teacher, is leading our Circle of Friends class. Our faithful 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. 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.