



Olive Leaves

October 2019



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FROM PASTOR VOGES

*Pastor Carl A. Voges, Interim Pastor
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Since October of last year, it has been a privilege to exercise the Church's ministry with all of you as the members and friends of Mount Olive Lutheran Church. While that exercise stepped up significantly in January, thankfully the Lord God gave all of us the energy and ability to carry out what he baptized and ordained us to do. During the month of October, our parish community will be preparing for Pr. Walter Harper's entrance into this ministry.

The classical Lutheran tradition has understood the Church's ministry as a divine institution that is essential to the Church's existence. This is a healthy contrast with those church bodies who view their pastors as employees of their congregations. The Lutheran tradition regards the responsible public proclamation and application of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments as the primary content of the ministry. This, too, is a healthy contrast with those churches who believe that the ability and personality of the pastor is their main component. The Lutheran tradition looks upon ordination as the indispensable act of admission to the Church's ministry. This contrasts, in a good way, with those church bodies who believe that a pastor is self-called to carry out his work.

On the first two Sundays of October we will have a guest presider and preacher, Pr. Craig Beaton. He and his family are members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Greenville, SC. He is filling in for me while I travel to the Chicago area for the first two weeks in October. While there I will be participating in the annual Touchstone Conference. This year's various speakers will deal with the Church's attitude toward our culture – standing up to it or running from it.

On the last two Sundays of October I will be presiding and preaching. During those weeks I will conclude the pastoral visits and participate in the Marriage Liturgy of Emily Kibler and Joshua Ranta on the Saturday before the Installation of Pr. Harper on October 27th.

Through all these changes, may we remember that it is the Lord's holy places of Baptism and the Scriptures, of Forgiveness and the Supper, which remain constant and sustain us during these changes. It is my continuing prayer that these places will continue to be at the center of all we are and do as the Lord's baptized people.



OCTOBER PRAYERS

Natalie Osborne-Smith & Aresa Boykin

**"I press on toward the goal for the prize
of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:14**

Give Thanks that Pastor Walter Harper has accepted our call. We ask you first to stir our energies and abilities as we prepare to welcome him into our ministry at his Installation Service on October 27th at 5:00 PM.

Pray that The Holy Spirit enables Pastor Walt & Renee to be filled with clarity and discernment as they continue to work through the details of their move to SC.

Pray that the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Danbury, CT, are surrounded with God's power and presence as they prepare to enter 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 Frank Osborne, Congregation President Jim Crosland, 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 as our time of transition is coming to a close.

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.**



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rich O'Dell Chairperson

We are pleased to tell you that Pastor Walter Harper of Danbury, CT has accepted our Call to be the next Pastor at Mt. Olive. He and his wife, Renee, have found a home in our area and can't wait to move in. They have a lot of work to do in Connecticut in getting ready for the move and they hope to be in the Irmo area in mid-October.



A very special Installation Service will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 27, at 5:00 PM where Pastor Harper will officially become our pastor. A catered meal will follow the service in our Fellowship Hall, and you will have a chance to meet Pastor and his wife.

As you know, the Call process has been long and involved. I'd like to thank the members of the Call Committee for their total commitment to the process and the hours they spent in service to the congregation. The members are: Jim Crosland, Johnna Duncan, Katie Greer, Karen Meetze, Mike Knowles, Sandy Osborne, Charlie Sandt, and Peggy Weed. We'd also like to thank Bill Boykin who has always been with us through the process. Thanks also, to the congregation for their continued prayerful support. It has meant so much.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

We have a new pastor starting at the end of this month! How exciting is that! Pastor Voges has been exceptional during our transition and things would not have gone as smoothly without him. Thank you so much to everyone who took on more responsibilities during this past 12 months.

The Church Council's work is never done! Most members will be diligently working on their 2020 budgets and trying to incorporate needed items. Once the budget has been completed and approved, the busy autumn holiday season will be upon us, including Reformation, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Please thank your council members when you see them. It has been a very busy year for them.



There have been several individuals and families to be welcomed as new members in the last several months. Please reach out to them. Make them feel at home. Get to know them. Help them get plugged into Sunday school. Invite them to special activities, and even help them get involved on boards. Happy Reformation, Halloween, and All Saint's Days! Bring on the cooler weather!

SAFETY TIPS

We have noticed an elevated percentage of vehicle collisions over the past month in the city. I'm not sure why. There are football games and many sponsored events that may be factors. Whatever the cause, please remember to obey all traffic laws and be good defensive drivers. The most common citations issued for collisions are following too closely, failure to yield right of way, and traveling too fast for conditions. Please be safe and God Bless.

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BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Marlene Nes'bit & Kathie Voyles, Co-Chairpersons

The Board of Parish Fellowship is thankful for the food provided for the funeral of Mary Green. Thanks go out to Marilyn Bauer, Dianne BouFawaz, Barbara Chesley, Gerry Fletcher, Charlene Meetze, Twila Sandt, Peggy Weed, and Rita Witt. We are also thankful for the help of Debbie Meetze and Carole Mueller who served and cleaned up.

A catered meal will be provided after Pastor Harper's installation on October 27th. More details will follow about this joyous event.



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STEPHEN MINISTRY

Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader

**"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it;
if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."**
1 Corinthians 12:26



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Crisis: An emotionally charged time of instability during which a crucial change occurs

The Chinese word for crisis is a combination of two characters: one for “danger,” the other for “opportunity.” This drives home the fact that every crisis, though it involves impending danger, also offers opportunities for personal or spiritual growth. Stephen Ministers are trained to walk with you through the dangers of your crisis and to help you find the opportunities God has in store for you. For more information about Stephen Ministry, please contact Stephen Leader Bill Boykin.

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



BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP:
MAKE A PLAN BY PR. MATT EWART
John Meyerhoff, Chairperson

Do you wish you were more generous? Sure you do – who doesn't? *How to become more generous is the question.*

You might think that more would make you more generous. That sounds good at first, but between the lines you are actually blaming God for your lack of generosity: ***Until He gives you more money, you can't be generous.***

Since blaming God never seems to end well, let's think through this in a different way. God's greatest act of generosity did not require money. It required a plan and a sacrifice. Might the model of generosity He wants you to follow be similar?



Make a plan. Throw away the list of everything God hasn't given to you and replace it with an inventory of what He *has* given you. Then the first thing you do is decide how much to give back to Him through an offering.

So how much should you give? That's a fair question, but there is actually a better one that you can ask. It might scare you but it goes like this: ***How much money do you have to sacrifice before you are forced to trust God with what's left?***

***"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).**

Having a plan insulates you from giving reluctantly or out of compulsion. A plan that includes sacrificial giving moves you to trust in God every day. Generous people don't make more money. They make a plan.



From Time of Grace

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BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Natalie Crosland, Chairperson

"Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you."
Proverbs 4:25

With everything we have going on today and all the distractions in our lives, it is easy to lose focus. As you try to keep your eye on the ball, this dilemma will constantly threaten your focus: "How do I choose what is best over what is merely good? Or the long-term perspective over the short-term one?" You must not lose focus; your task is too important. Solomon bottom-lines it:

***"Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left"* (Proverbs 4:25-27 NIV).**

The Board of Education is excited about the start of the new Sunday School year! We are decorating the upstairs so it is more inviting. Karen Meetze has agreed to work with the children so that they learn how much fun it can be to worship our Lord through song.

We will start the Ladies Bible Study back up on Tuesday, October 15th at 6:00 PM. We will be studying *A Woman God Can Use: Old Testament* and how these women help you make today's choices. If you are interested, please contact Natalie Crosland.

So keep your gaze fixed on our Lord and his path for you and we will not fail!!

BOARD OF EVANGELISM:

BEAUTIFUL FEET

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

**"And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written,
'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'" Romans 10:15**

We are so fortunate to have had dedicated pastors to fill in this past year to keep us grounded in God's Word. Without such pastors, we could easily go astray and become disoriented and lost. But those who preached the Good News to us have kept us on the path that leads to our Savior's arms. Many thanks go out to Pastor Williams, Chaplin Boyer, and Chaplain Simpson for their service, and to Pastor Beaton who will be with us two Sundays in October. A special thanks goes to Pastor Voges who stayed the course with us! Soon we will be welcoming a new set of beautiful feet of God's choosing bringing us the Good News of His great love and mercy. Welcome Pastor Harper!

We should also be thankful to our parents, grandparents, fellow Christians, and all those in our lives who taught us about God's great love for us and His plan for our salvation. They too have beautiful feet. The next step is ours – to walk with beautiful feet and take the Good News to those who need to hear it.

PASTORAL ACTS

	Holy Baptism Hailey Rebecca Hoffman September 22, 2019	
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BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

Charlene Meetze, Chairperson

*"To the loved, a word of affection is a morsel;
but to the love-starved, a word of affection can be a feast." — Max Lucado*

So, the above message could easily be, "To the lonely, hungry, and desperate, a word of affection or a kind action can be a feast."

There we have our marching orders for our Social Ministry goals this year and we look forward to having our ideas reviewed and blessed by Pastor Harper in the near future.



In the meantime, Veteran's Day is approaching. Please join us in honoring of Veterans especially on Veteran's Day. Our member Veteran names will appear in the Olive Seeds on November 10th. In their honor, a USO collection will begin on Sunday, October 20th and end on Sunday, November 10th. Our soldiers traveling through the Columbia Airport enjoy knowing that they are loved and supported by those who provide the items in the USO welcome room. The items needed are: packaged items (crackers, chewing gum, Slim Jims, hard candy, peanuts, etc.), small bottles of hand sanitizer, foot spray (Gold Bond), & feminine products.



Your Social Board team of Katie Greer, Norma Hessary, Sue Knowles, Charlene Meetze, Shari Selke, Susie Slaughter and Shirlean Sons invite you to join us in this collection, as our Mt. Olive members are the best!



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 – preschool@mtolivesc.org

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

This school year will mark the 13th year of the Preschool ministry at Mt. Olive. Teachers arrived back on August 27th and the school year began with the Parent Meeting on September 3rd. 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 Preschool as their children'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: Peggy Weed, Chair, Dianne BouFawaz, Page Fletcher, Phyllis Griesch, Jan McCarthy, and Linda Schmidt. 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.

One is a returning student. The other one is a new student who needs a positive educational experience. We are happy to have both of them joining us. The full scholarship amount needed for each student is \$1,832.50. We have received generous donations toward our scholarship fund, but are still in need of \$732.50. Please pray that the Lord would provide the funds needed for these scholarships.

Preschool Snacks



Snacks are needed! Hungry children mean we will go through a lot of snacks!

There is an updated snack list in the narthex. Please note: NO PEANUTS because of student allergies.



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.*"

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BOARD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

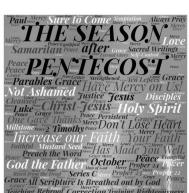


“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

The Board of Public Relations is excited to be working on several projects during the upcoming year! Our members, Mitch Greer, Sandy Osborne, Natalie Smith, Sue Strouse, and I will be updating Mt. Olive's history to add to your pictorial directory, developing an internet security plan for the church, working with the Boards of Worship and Evangelism to further train our greeters, and completing the 24" church year sign project. All of these things are in addition to our routine duties of advertising, doing the newsletter, and keeping the website and social media current.

While the church is in the long Season after Pentecost, I'd like to pose a weekend challenge: As a family, read over and discuss Sunday's Gospel. You can find it at the bottom of the Worship Schedule in the newsletter or at the front of the Lutheran Service Book on pages xiv-xix. (It is year

C where most of the Gospel lessons are from Luke.) Talk about the key words. Review on your way to church. Then, before you enter church, stop for a moment to see *how many of your key words* you can find in the church sign. The signs will change monthly as they go along with the 3-year lectionary. Have fun!



THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, CALLS, & CARDS

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."
Hebrews 10:24

Please remember our homebound during the autumn months. 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. Don't forget about family members and care givers, too. Contact information is in the church directory.

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

Special Dates in October

October 6th – World Communion Sunday

October 27th – Reformation Sunday

October 31st - Reformation Day

JOIN US FOR A SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS!

October 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	Bible Heroes from the Old Testament
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	Noah Laney, Facilitator	The Letters of the Apostle Paul to Pastors & Churches
Adults	Downstairs Classroom	Natalie Smith	<i>Feed My Lambs</i> , by Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison – Demonstrating compassion & love to those in need as an expression of faith
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Barry Bost	A Longer Look at the Lessons – A study of the weekly lectionary scriptures
Adults	Choir Room	Eddie Magic	<i>Lutheranism 101</i> – The basic tenets of being Lutheran
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

OCTOBER 2019 ANNIVERSARIES

10/6 Hank & Jenn Weed	10/15 Matthew & Emily Kearse
10/7 Jim & Natalie Crosland	10/26 Bill & Shirley Vogel
10/9 Gary & Debbie Meetze	10/29 Michael & Susan Strouse
10/13 Berney & Kathy Eargle	10/30 Odell & Pam Stuck

OCTOBER 2019 BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

November Newsletter Deadline – Sunday October 20th

The deadline for submitting articles for the November 2019 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Sunday, October 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.

Women's Bible Study

The ladies will start their monthly Bible Study on Tuesday, October 15th at 6:00 PM. If you would like to participate, please contact Natalie Crosland.



Men's Prayer Breakfast



The next Men's prayer breakfast will be Saturday, **October 19th**. Come and bring your sons and neighbors for a hearty breakfast, devotion, and prayer.

Church History Memories

The Public Relations Board is planning an update for our Church History story. We want to complete the history through 2019. In addition, we want to collect anecdotal memories that you wish to share. For example, is there one special interaction or event that played a role in your decision to become a member of Mt. Olive? Do you have some interesting information about the church that many people may not know? We would like to interview members that would be willing to share their special memories of Mt. Olive. If you would agree to an interview, please call or e-mail one of these board members.

Sandy Osborne 803-772-9276 fandsosborne@gmail.com

Sue Strouse 832-434-4631 [slstrouze@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com)

Sharing God's Love: Ongoing Donations & Yard Sale

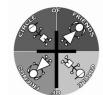
Ongoing pantry needs including: jelly, pasta sauce, canned fruit, canned soups, and canned meats: tuna, salmon, chicken, ham. Other needs include men's t-shirts and polo shirts. There is an urgent need for plastic grocery bags. Please bring your items to the grocery cart at church or drop them off at SGL Monday-Saturday, 9 AM – 12 Noon. Thank you for helping! And remember our **Fall Yard Sale, Saturday, October 6th, 7 AM – 12 PM**.

A Thank You Note

Dear Mt. Olive Family, Thank you for all your prayers, cards, calls, and visits over the years to my sister, Mary Green. The meal furnished after her funeral was so much appreciated. Thank you to everyone involved in making her funeral such a wonderful, Christian way to demonstrate Christ's love to each of us. – Marge Carter & Family

Circle of Friends

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.

If you know of anyone who loves small children and is interested in a part-time job on Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM, please contact the church.

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

PUZZLE

Harvest hunt

Directions: After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.

caepe reway delfis

Galatians 6:9 James 3:18 John 4:35

Peacemakers who sow in ____ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become ____ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the ____! They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

Answer: peace, weary, fields

HARVEST Trail Mix

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.

What you need:

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

What you do:

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.