



Olive Leaves

September 2019



From Pastor Voges Page 1	Table of Contents		September Anniversaries Page 8
New Members Welcomed Page 2	From Our President Page 4	Sunday School Classes for All Page 6	Announcements Page 9
Musical Notes Page 2	Mt. Olive Lutheran Preschool Page 4	Stephen Ministry Page 7	Kid's Korner Page 10
Board of Christian Education Page 3	Board of Evangelism Page 5	Board of Stewardship Page 7	Call Committee Update & Prayers – Page 11
Board of Parish Fellowship Page 3	Board of Public Relations Page 5	Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards Page 8	Worship Schedule Insert
Pastoral Acts Page 3	Board of Social Ministry Page 6	September Birthdays Page 8	September Calendar Insert

FROM PASTOR VOGES

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

We are turning into that portion of the Church Year where a parish community exercises its ministry more fully. It's a much busier time than the early weeks of the Pentecost season, but it still has a powerful center – the holy places of the Lord's Scriptures and his Sacraments of Baptism, Forgiveness and Eucharist. In obvious, yet not always that obvious, these places are the core of our lives as the Lord's baptized people.

Baptism is the most important day of our lives because it breaks us free from the world's life and imbeds us in the Life of the Holy Trinity. The world's life ends at death, but the Trinity's Life pushes on into eternity. It is smart to re-connect with one's baptismal date and memorize it. If that date is unknown, pick the third Sunday after your birth date and utilize that date.

The Scriptures are vital to our lives because they are the Lord's holy Writings. In traditional practices, the three readings from the Sunday Liturgy are intended to spread over the entire week. This occurs when the Lord's Supper is carried during the week to a member who could not be at the Liturgy. But it also occurs when an individual, through the discipline of Daily Prayer, reads through the three biblical readings appointed for each day of the week. Both practices maximize our exposure to these holy Writings.



Forgiveness streams into our lives out of the confession and forgiveness of the Sunday Liturgy. It is intended to undergird all our relationships through the week.

This gift is primarily used among the Lord's baptized people. Those outside his family may not understand fully how sin (the instinctive desire to have everything revolving around ourselves) needs to be confronted. This is not done so our efforts can get rid of it, but is done so our Lord can pull it into his Forgiveness and free us from its choking grasp.

The Eucharist is the real Food given by the Lord God to his people. It reaches all the way back to the Exodus from Egypt. It reaches forward to eternity where his people will fully take part in it in his presence. As his baptized people it is our duty and our delight to participate in it. The Son's

Body and Blood sustain us now as we make our way through the world's life while drawing us to its completion in eternity.

With these holy places at the core of our lives as the Lord's people, the ministry of our parish ministry can be exercised fully and faithfully.



+ + + + +

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

Mt. Olive welcomed new members on the weekend of August 10th-11th. Please seek out these folks and invite them to get involved in fellowship, Bible study, and serving.

Philip & Beth Clauss	Stuart & Pamela Dalton
Dennis & Tina Dixon	Noelle Franzen
Fred Staulbaum	David & Barbara West
Lauren Brown (daughter of the Wests) & children: Harper Brown, Madelyn Brown, Hollis West	

+ + + + +



MUSICAL NOTES

Karen Meetze, Choir Director



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

This very hot summer is coming to a close and the Adult and Handbell choirs have really enjoyed having some time off to rest and re-charge. But now, *It's FALL Y'ALL!!!* And we are excited to get 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. We'd love for you to come and "make a joyful noise" with us!

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Natalie Crosland, Chairperson

A HUGE thank you goes to everyone who helped with VBS this year! We had 38 children attend, fourteen of whose parents saw the sign out front and followed through with registration and attendance. We raised \$425 for the Lexington County Sheriff’s Office K9 program.

Please help us find a youth leader. With the Duncan’s moving, we are without a leader for our youth and desperately need a special person to step up and take over the program.



We plan on starting the Ladies Bible Study up again and wanted to know if there was anyone interested in leading. We are hoping that once we have a leader, we can choose the material. Remember, by walking together we can accomplish great things for the Glory of God!!

Summer Sunday School wrapped up last week. We had so much fun walking through all of the numbers in the Bible from 2-by-2 on Noah’s Ark, to The Ten Commandments, Gods creation days, and the 10 plagues! We will be jumping back into regular Bible Story lessons on Sunday, September 1st. Get ready for lessons on Jonah, Jeremiah and Daniel in the Lions Den! We look forward to having all the children back from vacations, ready to hear how God used unlikely people to convey his power and mercy!

Choose to walk the road of life with Jesus. A mirror reflects a man’s face, but what he is really like is shown by the...friends he chooses” (Proverbs 27:19). The kind of person you are is reflected in the friends you pick. So if your life is unproductive and stagnant, look at the people you’ve surrounded yourself with. Friendships, good and bad, indicate the direction you are going. “Whoever walks with wise people will be wise, but whoever associates with fools will suffer” (Proverbs 13:20). Misery loves company, so avoid negative thinkers. It is better to travel alone than spend your life listening to people who drag you down. When you come into agreement with the right people, you “can accomplish more than twice as much” (Ecclesiastes 4:9). We as a church family can accomplish so much by working together for the Glory of God.

+ + + + +

BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Marlene Nes'bit & Kathie Voyles, Co-Chairpersons

The Fellowship Committee is pleased to welcome the following new board members to our group: Jill Brabham, Eric Hennington, and Debbie Meetze. Thank you for agreeing to be a part of this vital group. Members who will continue to serve include Judy Jones, Marlene Nes'bit, and myself.

Sue Strouse will be holding a fun, fall painting class in the fellowship hall on September 14th from 10 AM to 1 PM. Cost is \$3. Please bring a snack to share. E-mail Sue if you would like to attend.

PASTORAL ACTS

	<p style="text-align: center;">Funeral Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mary E. Green</p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 5, 1923 - August 22, 2019</p> <p style="text-align: center;">August 26, 2019</p>	
---	---	---

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

Happy August! I still can't wait for some cooler weather and that definitely means *Football!!!!* I want to thank everyone for making Vacation Bible School a success again this year. It takes a lot of time, meetings, and creative thinking to make sure all the kids and families have a great time.



The Call Committee has worked diligently throughout the year trying to find our next Shepherd and I think we are close. There were such good candidates this time and it was difficult to narrow them down. The last thank you goes to our congregation in trusting the Call Committee, the boards, and the council with the daily decisions that operate our church. It takes great people to plan for great success.

SAFETY TIPS While your children adapt to the new school year, please take the time and talk to them about being aware of their surroundings. This has many definitions like being bullied, drugs, hearing of violent tendencies, and even sexual encounters. I think we would all be surprised about what our elementary school students know and hear. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me or your local law enforcement agency. Please report your concerns!



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 – preschool@mtolivesc.org

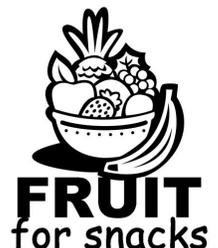
Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool – [Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool](https://www.facebook.com/mountolivepreschool)

Kindergarten Kamp was back in session the week of August 12th with eleven excited students in attendance! The children were able to practice the routines and expectations of “real school”! A favorite activity was picking up their snacks and milk on trays and carrying them without spills!

Preschool will be in full swing after Labor Day! We are welcoming 27 students and have interviews with more families the last week of August! Please pray for our children and their families, and that the ones who are not churched would turn to Christ and find a church home.

Thank you so much to our board members, Dianne BouFawaz, Page Fletcher, and Peggy Weed for painting one of the classrooms and a portion of the halls. They have given these areas a much-needed face-lift.

Remember that our children always need snacks. You may pick up a list from the preschool podium in the narthex. *Make sure that the snacks you bring are nut-free.* This year, you may bring fresh fruits or raw veggies on Sundays so that our children can have a healthy option for snacks. You can leave these in the kitchen refrigerator (marked MOLP) and please put a note in the preschool box in the workroom so we will know the snacks are there.



Thank you, Mt. Olive, for your continued support through prayer, snacks, and scholarships.



**BOARD OF EVANGELISM:
THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME**

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

***“And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom
for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14b***

In the story of Esther, we see a Jewish woman who ventures to see King Ahasuerus who has published an order to annihilate the Jews. Some time passes before the King finally summons her and she fears for her life as she has no idea if the king will be friendly towards her or have her killed because of her Jewish heritage. Her uncle encourages her to go to the king using the words quoted in the passage above.

Like Esther, God places each of us where and when it fits His plan. He has made you His own and He desires to raise up witnesses *“for such a time as this”*. Your words and actions can make a difference to everyone you meet, but you must be willing to accept the challenge. We have many in our church family who have accepted positions on our church boards. The Board of Evangelism is undergoing some changes. Chris Slaughter and Naven Olsen are moving on to other boards, as they have fulfilled their maximum terms. Lori Flenner will continue as a member of the board and Cindy Soto will be joining as a new member. May each see their position as a direction God has intended for them *“for such a time as this”*.

+ + + + +

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 welcomes Mitch Greer and Sue Strouse! They will be joining Sandy Osborne, Natalie Smith, and me as we continue our ministry of sharing Mt. Olive with our family, to the community, and *“to the ends of the earth!”* In the coming year, the board will continue to update and add sections to our pictorial directory, keep the website and social media accounts current, assist other boards with publicity for their projects and events, and complete the church year signs by adding signs for Season after Pentecost Day for years A and B of the lectionary.



At this year’s VBS, 14 of the 38 children in attendance enrolled because their parents noticed the sign! None of these children had any previous affiliation with Mt. Olive. What a wonderful opportunity we had as we shared Jesus’s love and goodness with these children and their families. The other children were our members’ children, grandchildren, and friends, with the exception of one former preschooler (and 3 more preschoolers who were also church members).

Our special treat was having seven Chinese children attend – five of who were visiting from Shanghai and spoke very little English! The local family attends one of the Chinese churches in the area and were thrilled that their two children and non-Christian cousins were welcome at VBS! When Jesus told us *“to be his witnesses to all the ends of the earth”*, we didn’t even have to leave Irmo! Can’t wait to see what else God has planned for us!

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

Charlene Meetze, Chairperson

***“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his deed.” Proverbs 10:17***

Your Social Ministry has some really great news. Shari Selke has agreed to join the board in an ex-officio capacity. Talk about having a pro on the team...this is a score!!!! And if that's not enough, our board will expand to include Katie Greer, along with Norma Hessary, Sue Knowles, and Shirlean Sons. With this team, Mt. Olive will be busy reaching out beyond our walls to share our Love for One Another.

Thanks for your help with collecting supplies for the Back to School Drive for Sharing God's Love! We filled the large tub and had extras in the grocery cart.

We are preparing and finalizing our 2019-2020 project plans to present to the Council at the September meeting. It is our prayer that we will soon welcome a new pastor to incorporate his leadership into our plans.

Our immediate projects will encompass support of the USO in honor of Veteran's Day.



Special Dates in September	
Sept. 2nd – Labor Day	Sept. 11th – Patriot Day
Sept. 8th – Grandparents Day	Sept. 23rd – First Day of Autumn

JOIN US FOR A SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS!

September 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	Pray that an adult leader will be called to teach the youth, to fill the void created when the Duncans moved away. Until then, please join one of the adult classes listed below.		
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	Choir Room	Eddie Magic	<i>Lutheranism 101</i> – The basic tenets of being Lutheran
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader

***“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you;
he will never let the righteous be shaken.”***

Psalm 55:22

Control: To exercise directing influence, power, and authority over conditions.

Humans like to be in control, having the power to choose exactly what is going to happen and when. Unfortunately, life isn't like that – we only *think* we are in control. So when something happens and we realize we are not in control, we feel lost, overwhelmed, angry, and even terrified! Stephen Ministers are trained to help when things are out of control. They provide support and encouragement while helping a person put faith and trust in God.

If you are feeling overwhelmed and are hanging on by a thread, why not ask for a Stephen Minister? Talk to Stephen Leader Bill Boykin who can match you with an available Stephen Minister. Remember that Stephen Ministry is highly confidential. Nobody will know that you are in a caring relationship unless you tell.

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

+ + + + +



BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

John Meyerboff, Chairperson



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Please join me in welcoming Naven Olsen as a member of the Board of Stewardship. I very much appreciate Naven being willing to serve God through his participation on the board.

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

Many people ask the question: “Why am I here?” The writer to the Hebrews gives a clear answer: that we may ***“serve the living GOD” (Hebrews 9:14)!*** The life Jesus lived for thirty-three years gives us a model of service to emulate. As Jesus lived to serve and extend His Kingdom, we are called to do the same. Jesus lived a perfect life of complete service to those He came to save, and His death and resurrection were His supreme act of service.

Our desire to love and serve our neighbors is our response to the Lord's love for us. ***“We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).*** To love is to serve; service is the natural outcome of love. Love is what gives us the energy and desire to serve. When we love someone with our whole heart, we want to continue to serve that person. The *agape* love of Christ enables us to love the unlovely as well. Our life of service is not offered as a way of receiving “more” of God's love. While God is pleased with our acts of loving service, they do not earn or bring His love. He already loves and accepts us unconditionally. Motivated by God's love for us, we offer our service as a deliberate gift to Him. Others will see God's love through us.

Prayer: Lord, grant me a loving and serving heart. Help me to see people as my brothers and sisters in Christ. Use me as Your instrument of love and service to all. Amen.



From Stewardship Advisors: “Living a Life of Service”

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



SEPTEMBER 2019 BIRTHDAYS

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



SEPTEMBER 2019 ANNIVERSARIES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

October Newsletter Deadline – Friday September 20th

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

Thank You!

Thank you, Kim BouFawaz, for sharing your personal experience of persecution in Lebanon and how the local Christians banded together, and with the Holy Spirit's guidance, were able to hold their ground until outside help came. Please check out The Voice of the Martyrs website and our own LCMS website, lcms.org, for ways to help those who are currently undergoing persecution.

New Downstairs Bible Study: September 1st

The Downstairs Adult Class will begin a new Bible study "Feed My Lambs" Sunday, September 1st. The purpose of the study, which was written by LCMS President, Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, is to explore how members of the body of Christ demonstrate love and compassion to people in need as an expression of faith. Please join us as we grow together and in love and faith. Natalie Osborne Smith will facilitate this study.

Baby Shower: September 8th

Ladies, please join us on Sunday, September 8th from 12 noon – 2 PM to celebrate with Mitch and Katie Greer as they prepare for the arrival of Baby Bruce! If you plan on joining us, please R.S.V.P. to Johnna Duncan at 803-318-4476 (text or call) or email at johnnalduncan@gmail.com by Wednesday, September 4th.



Another Guided Painting Class

Come and paint pumpkins and fall leaves on Saturday, September 14th from 10 AM to 1 PM. The cost is only \$3. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share, and bring your own drink. Email Sue Strouse at slstrouse@gmail.com to sign up for this fellowship and fun activity!

Women's Bible Study

The ladies hope to start their monthly Bible Study on Tuesday, September 17th at 6:00 PM. If you would like to facilitate the group, or have any suggestions for studies, please contact Natalie Crosland.

Men's Prayer Breakfast



The Men's prayer breakfast is back on tap for Saturday, **September 21st**. Come and bring your sons and neighbors for a hearty breakfast, devotion, and prayer.

Anniversary Celebration

Hal and Susie Hoffman (Harold & Marion) will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married September 24, 1949 in Trinity Lutheran Church, Coal Valley, Illinois, where Susie grew up. Hal & Susie met at Iowa State University. They lived in the Pittsburgh area, where Hal grew up, for 37 years before retiring and moving to Chapin, SC on Lake Murray.

All are invited to celebrate their anniversary on **September 22nd** in the fellowship hall after late service.

Hal and Susie will be honored with your presence at this joyous event. NO gifts, please.



Sharing God's Love: School Supplies & Ongoing Donations

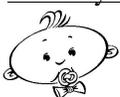
Ongoing pantry needs including: jelly, pasta sauce, canned fruit, canned soups, and canned meats: tuna, salmon, chicken, ham. Other needs include men's t-shirts and polo shirts. There is an urgent need for plastic grocery bags. Please bring your items to the grocery cart at church or drop them off at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

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.

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.

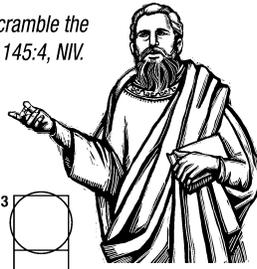
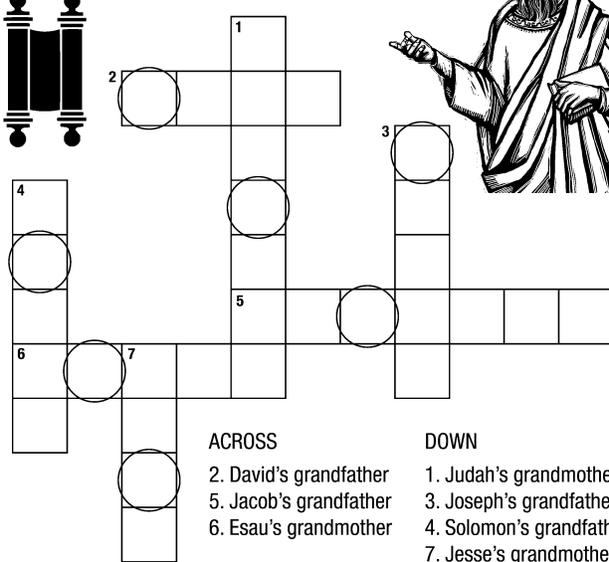
KID'S KORNER



Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.

ACROSS

- 2. David's grandfather
- 5. Jacob's grandfather
- 6. Esau's grandmother

DOWN

- 1. Judah's grandmother
- 3. Joseph's grandfather
- 4. Solomon's grandfather
- 7. Jesse's grandmother

One G _ N _ _ _ _ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obad, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah; DOWN: 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth. Generation



GROWING generations

Honor your grandparents with a gift that all generations can enjoy.

What you need:

- Cups (various sizes)
- Pencil
- Family photos
- Scissors
- Colored paper
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Clothespins
- A small potted tree or bush

What you do:

1. Use a cup to trace a circle around faces in the photos. Cut out the circles.
2. Cut larger circles out of paper. Glue each photo onto a paper circle.
3. Glue a clothespin to the back of each photo. Clip photos to the branches.
4. Present the gift to your grandparents, and tell them you're glad to be in their family tree.





SEPTEMBER PRAYERS
Aresa Boykin & Natalie Osborne Smith

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

Give Thanks for the faithfulness of our Call Committee: Rich O’Dell, chairperson, Jim Crosland, Johnna Duncan, Katie Greer, Mike Knowles, Karen Meetze, Sandy Osborne, Charlie Sandt, and Peggy Weed, especially for the hours they have spent in reading and digesting information, prayer, meetings, interviews, and discerning the pastor that God has chosen for Mt. Olive.

Give Thanks for Pastor David Panning, our Circuit Visitor, as he, too, has spent countless hours guiding our Call Committee.

Pray for Pastor Walter Harper and his wife, Renee, as they prayerfully seek God’s will as he considers our call.

Pray for the Call Committee and Church Council as they prepare the call documents.

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, 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 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.

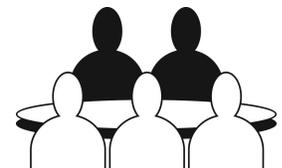
+ + + + +

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rich O’Dell, Chairperson

What a journey it has been! From Connecticut to California; from Michigan to Florida, and many places in between, our search for Mt. Olive’s next pastor has gone coast to coast. Originally starting with 12 names supplied by the Southeastern District, the Call Committee, through hours of diligent research and discussion, narrowed the field to six.

Then after extensive video interviews and more research, the field was narrowed to two: Pastor Harper and Pastor Hoffman. They and their wives were invited to Mt. Olive for a face-to-face meeting with the Call Committee, Elders, and Church Council. Then, on Sunday, August 25, the congregation met for a special Call Service where a vote was taken and a Call extended to Pastor Walter Harper of Danbury, Connecticut. We now await his decision.



The Holy Spirit has been at work in our congregation and the Call Committee thanks you for your prayers during this process. We’d also like to thank Pastor David Panning, our Circuit Visitor, for guiding us during this journey. Also, importantly, the past year would never have been as smooth without the support of Pastor Carl Voges and our Lay Minister, Bill Boykin.

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