



# Olive Leaves



April 2020

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## From Pastor Walt: Wisdom from an Ancient Prayer

*Pastor Walter Harper*  
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Tucked away on p. 288 of our hymnal is The Litany. It is seldom used, which is a shame, really.

This ancient prayer originated in Turkish Antioch in the 4<sup>th</sup> century; some attribute it Saint John Chrysostom. From Antioch it found its way to Constantinople and from there to Rome. In Rome it picked up too many prayers to the saints. But Luther fixed that in a 1529 edit, and so it found its way into Lutheran hymnals. Funny enough, when Thomas Cranmer was working on the Reformation in England and designing the then-new Book of Common Prayer (1549) he included Luther's version of The Litany.

In the past I have often used The Litany as a prayer during communion services at nursing homes. It's not exactly a communion liturgy, but it is a beautiful prayer, and it's designed to be either spoken or sung. Using it as a spoken liturgy I thought it helpful for the residents of the homes, because it has the rhythm and feel of a prayer you already know.

Some of it is a quick back-and-forth, as it is from the very beginning:

P: O Lord,  
 C: have mercy.  
 P: O Christ,  
 C: have mercy.  
 P: O Lord,  
 C: have mercy.



The Litany includes prayers for nearly all of life. It asks God for protection and help, it says much about the life and ministry of Christ, it asks for protection of the Church, and then protection for people in all stations of life.

As wonderful as all that is, the part that always gave me pause was the one longer prayer that I always thought to be morose.

“From all sin, from all error, from all evil; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and violent death; from pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion; from lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death; Good Lord, deliver us.”

Really? From “pestilence and famine”? It sounded so medieval. In the modern world we don’t face those things – or so I thought – being born in the 1960’s and enjoying decades of prosperity and a near-immunity from the struggles of life. Besides, hadn’t modern technology essentially banned all “pestilence”?

So here we are in 2020, and pestilence has re-emerged in our world. Suddenly life doesn’t seem so modern.

Don’t misunderstand. I’m not saying that God has sent the virus as a punishment. I don’t have any particular insight about such things.

What I am saying is that now and again calamity strikes and it gives us a different perspective on things. Only weeks ago we cared very deeply about two teams playing an NFL game that would crown one of them as “Champion of the 2019 Season.” After a lockdown during a pandemic, that Super Bowl has faded in its significance.

But what are we to make of this? Well, for one thing The Litany prays, and continues to pray, that God would deliver us from all such things.

Next, we must consider that every crisis is a time to re-evaluate. Is our life ordered in the proper way? Do we value what is truly important, or do we focus on the trivial and the inconsequential?

At my prior parish we would now and again have church members speak to the congregation about their personal testimonies. I never previewed what they were about to say, and I exercised no editorial control over them. I just let them share, as the Holy Spirit moved.

The one I will never forget is a lovely older Christian woman who said that every crisis will either push us farther away from God, or draw us closer to Him. Bear in mind that this saint of the Lord had laid to rest her husband of many years only a few months before. Of course anyone can say those words. Coming from a recently widowed saint, her words came with some extra oomph.

So it is not medieval. It is practical to pray, “Lord, deliver us from pestilence.” At the same time, we do an inventory: Am I where I ought to be with the Lord?

Of course Easter is this month, and I have written about something else. Or is it something else? Isn’t it the case that we still serve a risen Lord Jesus Christ? And doesn’t that shape how we deal with pestilences and the crises of life? Of course we do not gladly enter into the hardship. But we do continue to reflect on what Christ has done, and then get back to faithfulness to the task He has given us.





## From our President

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

As we pray for one another through this difficult time in the world, our country, and our state, please pay attention to our neighbors. Call or text them once in a while to see what they may need. Praying that they will do the same for you!

Please be patient and exercise restraint during the new normal. I'm not sure that anyone has gone through a national medical crisis, but I really think we're ready. As we have all read before, use social distancing, wash your hands, don't touch your face, and probably a few other techniques. In closing, please pray daily for the full recovery of our neighbors, state, country, and the world. God Bless.



## Board of Christian Education: God isn't finished with us yet.

*Natalie Crosland, Chairperson*



The Lord will  
bless his people  
with peace.

Psalm 29:11

**"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ."  
Philippians 1:6 NKJV**

When Mark Matousek, an American memoirist, teacher, and journalist, told people that a potentially fatal disease had saved his life, they didn't understand. He wasn't glad he got sick. But without it, he would have never discovered and tapped into the strength to confront and overcome some of his core fears. He writes: "Hardship can be the blood in muscles that pushes us forward. Crisis takes us to the brink and forces us to keep moving. When people call it a blessing, they're describing a paradox. It's why men often blossom in wartime and women are changed by childbirth—they come alive as never before." The truth is, God is committed to your spiritual growth: "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ." And along the way you'll be tested, sometimes to your limits. God wants our whole and committed hearts. When trials don't make sense, He promises to set limits, to walk with us, and bring forth good.

We are living in unprecedented times and we have never faced a pandemic like the coronavirus, but through God's grace, we will endure. Even though we are limiting exposure to each other, please remember to check on one another and keep each other in our prayers.



## Preschool News

*Anna Brent, Preschool Director*

803-781-7180 – [preschool@mtolivesc.org](mailto:preschool@mtolivesc.org)

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



With the coronavirus keeping everyone isolated and home from preschool, we need to pray and put our faith in God that He will keep us safe.

**"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8**

## Stephen Ministry

*Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader*

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and  
I will give you rest."  
Matthew 11:28**



Are you feeling out of control because of your concern regarding the coronavirus and how it can impact you? Are you overwhelmed about another issue in your life?

Your Stephen Ministers can help. They are available for anyone who is upset or in a crisis, no matter how small, because the little ones can add up to something huge. So don't put off your fears. Consider Stephen Ministry, the eyes and ears of Jesus. Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential Christian care for you.

If you would like to speak with one of our Stephen Ministers on the phone so he/she can listen, affirm your concerns, and pass on God's reassurance, please contact any one of our team: Dianne BouFawaz, Aresa Boykin, Bill Boykin, Tina Dixon, Mike Knowles, Charlie Sandt, Twila Sandt, Nancy Thompson, or Matt Williams.

**"STEPHEN MINISTRY IS CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE."**



### Board of Public Relations

*Aresa Boykin, Chairperson*

**"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:13**

As I compose my newsletter article on St. Patrick's Day, I am wondering what April will bring? Will the coronavirus be a thing of the past? Or will there be more devastation in our nation and community? All of us have spent the last 2-3 weeks preparing to have enough food, sanitizer, medicines, and toilet paper (I couldn't resist!) so that we could stay home and curb the virus's spread. We have recited *The Lord's Prayer* a zillion times as we washed our hands. At church, we cut out the fellowship opportunities but continued with our worship services until the CDC and DHEC limited groups to 10 or less. We have tried to be mindful of "social distancing" which has been extremely hard for our loving congregation.

With all of this in mind, how do we, as God's people, respond? We can continue to pray a prayer from *Our Daily Bread* that came up on Mt. Olive's Instagram feed: "Lord, calm my anxious heart. The disruption caused by the coronavirus is not a surprise to you. Help me to be thankful for all the blessings You have poured into my life today."

Then continue with other petitions including, but not limited to: families that are struggling with financial hardship due to the coronavirus; ways to help local agencies that serve our community; the healthcare workers who must continue to minister to those in crises; those who are more vulnerable to the virus; that **Your peace that passes all understanding** will surround me; that I will keep my focus on Jesus instead of the circumstances.

**Finally, remember that you can listen to Pr. Walt's sermons on our website, [mtolivesc.org](http://mtolivesc.org). Click on the Sermon Page tab to access these.**



## Board of Evangelism: Fear Not

*Richard Shealy, Chairperson*

**... "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control". 2 Timothy 1:7 ESV**

Hopefully, by the time you read this article, everything will be back under control. Governor McMaster just announced the closing of all schools in SC. There is a shortage of disinfecting supplies and personal care products. People are avoiding crowds, handshakes, and hugs. Public events have been either cancelled or performed without audiences. There is no breaking news about a miracle cure for the coronavirus. All this sounds like gloom and doom. In times like this, we tend to go into a self-protection mode. Like a mother hen that gathers her chicks under her wings, we tend to stay at home, keep our family members close, and avoid personal contact with others.

Also in times like this, we can be forced to align our actions with our beliefs. If our neighbor is in need, do we venture exposure to the virus to lend a hand or give them food from our pantry? We may be able to work from home in order to stay away from the office, but what about going to church to be with other believers? And if things get worse, do we revisit our priorities? Whatever we decide to do during this time, we need to keep God's Word in front of us.



## Board of Stewardship: Sowing Generously

*John Meyerhoff, Chairperson*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We will soon be celebrating Easter, the most holy and precious holiday of all. When, as promised, God sacrificed His one and only Son for our sins. An unfathomable gift no sinner has or will ever deserve.

When Jesus completed His earthly mission and ascended into Heaven, He left us to be stewards of His earthly kingdom. As Jesus taught us in the Parable of the Talents, we as His servants, have been charged with taking care of our Master's earthly kingdom until He returns for our final judgment. How will we be judged? Will we be found to have been good and faithful servants who followed the Law and the Gospel? Will we be found lacking in faith? Until Judgment Day, will we remember everything we have, is a gift from God and it is our responsibility to use these gifts to care for our fellow man and to grow God's Church? The choice is ours. God has given us all of the tools necessary to carry out His command. We just need to take action and do as He has taught us in His Word. Let us all be met with a greeting of "good and faithful servant" on that final day.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for all that You have bestowed upon us. Especially the gift of Your Son, our Savior, who You sacrificed for the forgiveness of our sins. Help us to remember that You have charged us with being Stewards of Your Kingdom and give us the faith and drive necessary to carry out the acts that true stewardship requires. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

## Board of Social Ministry

*Charlene Meetze, Chairperson*

Your Social Board will be meeting with Lutheran Services of the Carolinas to determine where Mt. Olive can participate on a volunteer level to support the services they provide. Meetings are being held, as well, with Sharing God's Love to discuss planned projects on which Mt. Olive could be of assistance.

As you read this Social Board Report, please share any ideas you may have regarding community outreach or needs within our church, with the church office, your elder, or directly to any member of the Social Board.

A Martin Luther Quotation: **"God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does."**



### Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards



***"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*** Philippians 2:1-4

Please remember the homebound and others who have illnesses during this time of social distancing and isolation. These folks, who were once active members, are experiencing more isolation than usual. Most of them do not use the computer or social media to help them remain connected to their families or to church. While you are at home, please take a few moments to reach out to them.

Betty Barrett	Phil Carter	Cleta Dunaway	Virginia Gable	Bill Hoefer	Betty Hunter
Bonnie Jones	Dickie Lawhorne	Mary Lawhorne	CR Miller	Mike McGriff	Anita Meetze
Gladys Meetze	Laura Meetze	Dorothy Prater	Eddie Roland	Myrna Rush	Henry Schmidt
Linda Schmidt	Mary Schott	Molly Kate Shealy	Shirlean Sons	Dan Stocker	Rita Witt



### April 2020 Anniversaries

4/5	George & Stephanie Boatwright	4/22	C.R. & Thelma Miller
4/5	Chris & Denise McKinney	4/27	Alonzo & Marlene Nes'bit
4/17	Michael & Ann Dosen	4/29	Joseph and Brandy Maye
4/20	Jeff & Judy Bedenbaugh		

## April 2020 Birthdays

4/1	Thom Funderburk	4/8	Emily Ervin-Kearse	4/15	Tyler Laprise
4/1	Michele Martin	4/8	Derrick Robinson	4/16	Allie Martin
4/1	Margaret Meetze	4/8	Mariah Robinson	4/17	Bonnie Fancey
4/2	Randy Gifford	4/9	James Lewis, Jr.	4/17	Brianna Soto
4/2	Elijah Ben Patterson	4/11	Alonzo Nes'bit	4/17	Flora Weed
4/3	Brian Laprise	4/11	Lincoln Weed	4/20	April Fancey
4/3	Hayley Setterlund	4/12	Patti Painter	4/21	Adeline Fletcher
4/4	Jean Carter	4/13	Charlie Adkins	4/25	Mike Jones
4/4	Ryan Whitaker	4/14	Katie Greer	4/25	Michael Strouse
4/6	Judy Bedenbaugh	4/15	Berney Eargle	4/27	Barbara Chesley



## Read the Bible in 3 Year: April 2020

Apr 1	II Peter 3
Apr 2	Genesis 1
Apr 3	Genesis 2
Apr 4	Genesis 3
Apr 5	Genesis 4
Apr 6	Genesis 5
Apr 7	Genesis 6
Apr 8	Genesis 7

Apr 9	Genesis 8
Apr 10	Genesis 9
Apr 11	Genesis 10
Apr 12	Genesis 11
Apr 13	Genesis 12
Apr 14	Genesis 13
Apr 15	Genesis 14
Apr 16	Genesis 15

Apr 17	Genesis 16
Apr 18	Genesis 17
Apr 19	Genesis 18
Apr 20	Genesis 19
Apr 21	Genesis 20
Apr 22	Genesis 21
Apr 23	Genesis 22
Apr 24	Genesis 23

Apr 25	Genesis 24
Apr 26	Genesis 25
Apr 27	Genesis 26
Apr 28	Genesis 27
Apr 29	Genesis 28
Apr 30	Genesis 29

ONCE WE RESUME OUR USUAL SCHEDULE: April 2020 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	The Miracles of Jesus
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade & Older and their parents	Wagner House	Pr. Walt Harper	A multi-year study of The Bible & Martin Luther's Small Catechism for Confirmation
Middle School	Wagner House	Rick Baden	A variety of lessons from the Bible
High School	Wagner House	Will & Katrina Folks	A variety of lessons from the Bible
Adults	Downstairs Classroom	Sandy Osborne	The Book of Ruth – Join us for this study that the NIV Study Bible is described as “an exquisitely wrought jewel of Hebrew narrative art.”
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Barry Bost	The Weekly Lectionary - A closer look at the epistle Scripture appointed for each Sunday
Adults	Choir Room	Eddie Magic	<i>Lutheranism 101</i> – The basic tenets of being Lutheran
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

**"Our Hopeful" 2020 LENT, HOLY WEEK, and EASTER  
SCHEDULE of WORSHIP**

Please check the following places for the latest updates:  
Mt. Olive's Website, [mtolivesc.org](http://mtolivesc.org); your email;  
or Mt. Olive's Facebook page, [facebook.com/mtolivesc](https://facebook.com/mtolivesc).  
As of March 20th, all worship services & activities have been cancelled.  
You can listen to sermons online on the website.

The Last Wednesday in Lent April 1st	12:00 Noon	Midweek Lenten Worship
	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Worship
Saturday April 4th	5:00 PM	Celebrating Palm Sunday: Worship & The Lord's Supper
Sunday April 5th 	8:00 AM & 10:30 AM	Palm Sunday: Worship & The Lord's Supper
Thursday April 9th	7:00 PM	 Maundy Thursday Worship Service and The Lord's Supper
Friday April 10th	7:00 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae 
Saturday April 11th	5:00 PM	 The Easter Vigil with The Lord's Supper
 Sunday April 12th	8:00 AM & 10:30 AM	The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday 

## Announcements & Opportunities

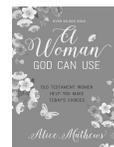
### **Secure E Giving**

E Giving Reminder:

If you are unable to attend church and are concerned that you cannot get your contributions to church, now may be the time to try e giving. The link is also on the website: on computers, it is in the top, right hand corner; on phones and tablets, scroll down to the bottom of the page. You may give through your checking account or credit card. Our e giving is powered by VANCO, a secure company that follows strict and safe policies. Even though the e giving page looks like our website, Mt. Olive will have no record of your account, your card number, or your personal information. If you need help setting up your account, contact Aresa Boykin.

### **Ladies' Bible Study**

**The tentative date** for the ladies' monthly Bible Study is on **Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30 PM**. The class will be studying Ruth, "How to see God in the Dailiness of Life," from the book, **A Woman God Can Use**. All ladies, including teens, are welcome to attend. Come join in the study and Christian fellowship.



### **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

**The tentative date** for the next Men's prayer breakfast will be **Saturday, April 18th**. Come and bring your sons and neighbors for a hearty breakfast, devotion from Pr. Walt, and prayer. Please check your electronic media closer to the time.

### **May Newsletter Deadline – April 20th**

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the May 2020 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Monday, April 20th**. Remember to mail them to Sue Strouse at [slstrouse@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com).



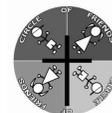
**VBS Time!!!!** Our VBS theme this year is **Concrete and Cranes – Building on the Love of Jesus**. VBS will begin on Monday, June 22nd and end on Friday, June 26th, 2020. If you are interested in helping, please see any of the Board of Education members. Please think and pray about helping because we use our different gifts and abilities, to work together to reach, inspire, and build a foundation for our Lord in each child (and in us)!!

### **Sharing God's Love:**

Sharing God's Love has suspended accepting donations, except for food, until further notice. They will reschedule their April yard sale at a future date. They are working with a skeleton staff and taking necessary precautions for social distancing. You can still collect your items at home.

### **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 worship 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.

## Kids Korner

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

**Directions:** Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letter in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5 who was <b>R</b> aised  | 11 int <b>E</b> rceding |
| 3 di <b>E</b> d           | 1 <b>C</b> hrist        |
| 2 Je <b>S</b> us who      | 6 <b>T</b> o life       |
| 12 for <b>U</b> s         | 7 <b>I</b> s at the     |
| 8 <b>R</b> ight hand      | 9 <b>O</b> f God        |
| 4 mo <b>R</b> e than that | 10 a <b>N</b> d is also |

... <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ - <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ - <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ . *Romans 8:34 NIV*

\_\_\_\_\_