



# Olive Leaves



November 2020

Table of Contents			
From Pastor Walt Page 1	Board of Public Relations Page 4	Mt. Olive Lutheran Preschool Page 7	November Birthdays Page 9
From our President Page 2	Thoughts, Prayers, Calls Page 4	Adult Bible Studies Page 7	Announcements Page 9
Stephen Ministry Page 3	Board of Stewardship Page 5	Read the Bible in 3 yrs November Page 8	Kids Korner Page 11
November Lectionary Page 3	Social Ministry Page 6	November Anniversaries Page 8	Calendar Insert

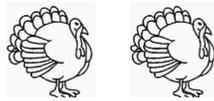


## From Pastor Walt: Random Thoughts on Thanksgiving

*Pastor Walter Harper*  
[walt.harper@mtolivesc.org](mailto:walt.harper@mtolivesc.org)

- I'm a supporter of the appointed readings for the liturgical year. Well, here's an exception: every year the pericopal system suggests we read the passage in which Jesus heals ten lepers, and nine aren't thankful. WHAT????? Why would we, celebrating Thanksgiving, read a text about lack of thankfulness? The reading too easily turns into a sermon on, "We're not thankful enough." Maybe that's even true, but it feels like a scold, rather than a sermon.
- Does your family have the tradition of saying prayer before the meal in which you go around the circle and everyone has to say something for which they're thankful? My family did not do that; Renee's family does. Isn't it funny how blank your mind can go under that kind of pressure? Not that we're not thankful (see point above), it's just that when "it's your turn" you freeze.
- Remember back in the 1970's when the Dallas Cowboys were good every single year? The Cowboys always played on Thanksgiving. But often, so did the Detroit Lions, who were always terrible. So a buddy of mine, who really didn't like the Cowboys, noticing that the Cowboys and the Lions have very similar colors would say, "On Thanksgiving Day I liked to watch the Lions lose, and squint my eyes so that it looked like the Cowboys were bad."
- I love stuffing. Turkey, not so much. So every year I have to strategize: How much turkey counts as having taken some turkey? And how much stuffing can fit on this plate? When it's time for dessert, I'd rather skip the sweets and have some more stuffing.
- Here are the exceptions to the above: turkey out of the turkey fryer is great, and Renee sometimes smokes the turkey, which is also wonderful. Turkey from the oven: that's just a vehicle for stuffing in my view.

- Don't you love the debate that some Christians have over whether or not Thanksgiving Day is a "real Church holiday"? I know, of course, that it was not established by Saint Chrysostom in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. But the people who came up with the idea for a national holiday were Christians. And they also said that they were setting aside a day to thank God for His rich blessings on us as a people. That seems to be enough, right?
- By the way, does it count as watching a football game if you watch the first two drives, then doze off until the fourth quarter? I'm going with a "Yes" on this one.
- In Connecticut you can sometimes have snow on Thanksgiving Day. In South Carolina, it's a lot less likely. All summer long I had this conversation about a thousand times: "Pastor, have you adjusted to the heat of the South?" Answer: "It's not snowing." In the winter that conversation switches to this: "Pastor, don't you hate this cold rain?" Answer: "It's not snowing."
- We have much to be thankful for. Funny how when the topic comes up I tend to start talking about "the stuff." True enough, all those are blessings from God, as are life, salvation, and forgiveness in Christ; a wonderful church family; the Word and the Sacraments; and the delight of worshiping Him in His sanctuary. We are blessed. Materially, and even more so spiritually. Even in 2020, we are still blessed. Happy Thanksgiving!



### **From our President**

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

November is here already and I am so excited for the beginning of the holiday traditions! Of course, I am taking into account our new normal and the COVID precautions. I am so thankful that Pastor Walt, Lay Minister Bill Boykin, and the Board of Elders have added an additional Worship Service where masks are mandatory. Now that is taking care of your Flock! Praying that everyone stays safe and healthy through these uncertain times. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

**Safety Tips:** There have been many reports coming in about scammers calling and asking for donations for certain political parties. Please make sure you verify the validity of any caller before making a donation. Others pose as federal government officials calling to say they have a warrant for your arrest unless you pay a fee. The federal government will not call you and request funds to have your charges dropped. Please notify your local law enforcement agency to report any scams. Lastly, please lock your car doors at night.

## Stephen Ministry

*Bill Boykin, Leader*

Grieving the loss of a loved one is difficult under any circumstances, but the effects of the ongoing coronavirus crisis have made grief even harder for many.

\*Family members may have been isolated from their loved one and not had the chance for closure or saying their final goodbyes.

\*Limitations on gatherings prevent loved ones from physically gathering to grieve and reminisce together at funerals and memorial services.

\*Extended family and friends are unable to visit and offer in-person support and condolences.

\*Comforting acts like hugging the grieving person, holding their hand, or sitting with them just aren't possible right now.

\*In the midst of their grief, people are also dealing with increased stress, anxiety, and other losses because of the crisis.

\*As those around the grieving person are facing many challenges of their own, they may have less emotional energy to reach out and offer care.



Whether or not a death was directly due to the coronavirus, factors like these compound the pain and isolation that many grieving people feel. Pastors, chaplains, and other caregivers are working diligently to provide as much care as they can, but current conditions limit what they're able to do right now. That's where the care Stephen Ministers offer can make a big difference. If you are experiencing any of the strong emotions fueled by the pandemic and are interested in talking with a Stephen Minister, please contact Bill Boykin, Stephen Leader to find out more.



### The November Lectionary

Nov. 1	All Saints' Day	Rev. 7:9-17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matt. 5:1-12
Nov. 8 (Proper 27)	Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 5:18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thess. 4:13-18	Matt. 25:1-13
Nov. 15 (Proper 28)	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Zeph. 1:7-16	Psalm 90:1-12	1 Thess. 5:1-11	Matt. 25:14-30
Nov. 22 (Proper 29)	Last Sunday of the Church Year	Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 95:1-7a	I Cor. 15:20-28	Matt. 25:31-46
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day	Exodus 15:1-11	Psalm 67	Phil. 4:4-9	John 4:1-42

## The Board of Public Relations: Where is the truth?

*Sue Strouse, Chairperson*

***<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. James 1:5-6***

We all live in a world where we are continually being bombarded with never ending information. Newspapers have taken a back seat to the computer. We don't have to wait for information to be served to us. We never know if the information is true, skewed, or completely false! What can we believe anymore? We can do all kinds of searches on our computers to try to determine the truth. Who hasn't heard the words, "just Google it"? How about Wikipedia, the site that has information on almost every subject? But how do we know if the information is true?



With newspapers full of articles and unlimited information available from computers, we often forget about the Bible. We can look around and see all the latest issues that are occurring including violence, tragedies, love, and prosperity. But guess what? It's all old news! It has all happened before and similar situations are recorded in the Bible. Where does the truth lie? The newspaper? The computer? No, the truth is in the Bible!



### Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards



God of compassion and grace,  
we pray for all those who  
find themselves imprisoned  
by chronic illness  
within the loneliness of home,  
watching a world outside  
that once had their  
full involvement  
increasingly pass them by.

Be with and bless them, Lord,  
along with family and care givers  
calling through the week to help.  
May they know that they are loved,  
still precious in your sight,  
and feel your arms support them  
in the day and through the night.

*From faithandworship.com*

Please continue to remember our homebound as the year moves into the holiday season, especially as they continue to be isolated. You may send cards, make phone calls, and include them in your prayers. Contact information is in the church directory.

Marge Carter	Phil Carter	Cleta Dunaway	Virginia Gable	Bill Hoefler
Betty Hunter	Bonnie Jones	Ron LaGrange	Mary Lawhorne	Margaret Ludwig
C.R. Miller	Mike McGriff	Carolyn McCartha	Anita Meetze	Laura Meetze
Carole Myers	Ed Nelson	Dorothy Prater	Eddie Roland	Polly Roland
Myrna Rush	Henry Schmidt	Linda Schmidt	Marguerite Schmitzer	Mary Schott
Molly Kate Shealy	Shirlean Sons	Dan Stocker	Henry Weed	Louise Weed

## Board of Stewardship:

*Naven Olson, Chairperson*

**"If Christ is our hope in this life only, we deserve more pity than any other people."  
I Corinthians 15:19 God's Word to the Nations**

The verses that follow this one state:

**"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when he delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power." I Corinthians 15: 20-24 NASB**

These verses clearly state that for those who are believing Christians, the eternal future is much brighter than the temporal future. **II Timothy 3:12 NASB** states **"And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."** The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod website has a page that is devoted to encouraging Scripture memory and posts a Bible verse for memorizing each week (<https://www.lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge>). LCMS Director of Worship and International Center (IC) Chaplain Rev. Sean Daenzer states on the IC web page (<https://blogs.lcms.org/2020/synod-chaplain-issues-scripture-memory-challenge>) that:

"When Jonah was in the belly of the whale, it was too late to pull out his Bible. It was too late to grab his catechism and his hymnal. ... The great Song of Jonah in Chapter 2 is nothing but pieces of the psalms stitched together. They're his childhood memory verses and bedtime prayers that he was able to use in the total darkness of the whale to pray faithfully, to bring God's Word to bear on his situation, and to comfort himself in the midst of great distress.

"And that's exactly why we learn the Scriptures now: We never know when persecution may come, when technology or even access to Bibles and churches may go away. We're getting a taste of that now in the quarantine time. So, it drives home the point that we need to have Scripture ... on our hearts and our minds."



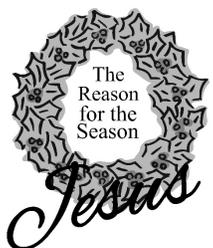
I don't know how this strange year will turn out. I will just urge you to regularly read your Bible; to attend church regularly to hear the Bible read and its message preached and to receive the Lord's Supper; and to attend the Bible studies when feasible. I would urge you to support this church with your time, talents and abilities. And I would also urge to be diligent and faithful in your daily work and to reach out to unbelieving and unchurched friends, coworkers, family and neighbors.

## Board of Social Ministry: Advent Preview

*Norma Hessary, Board Member*

December is always a special giving month! We have so many opportunities to share the abundance of our blessings AND share our JOY in JESUS! As we partner with Sharing God's Love again this year, consider the multiple opportunities to share your JOY. The following displays will be in the narthex at the end of November. You may participate in one or both of these ministry projects.

### Advent Challenge Food Drive



*Collect the listed item(s) and bring your collection to place in the display area in the narthex. A delivery to Sharing God's Love will be made each week leaving room for the next week's collection. Shopping bags with list attached will be displayed in the narthex at the end of November.*



✓	December 1	Box of Cereal		December 13	Canned Beans
	December 2	Peanut Butter & Jelly		December 14	Box of Saltine Crackers
	December 3	Stuffing Mix		December 15	Package of Rice
	December 4	Boxed Potatoes		December 16	Box of Instant Oatmeal
	December 5	Macaroni 'n Cheese		December 17	Package of Pasta
	December 6	Canned Fruit		December 18	Spaghetti Sauce
	December 7	Canned Tomatoes		December 19	Chicken Noodle Soup
	December 8	Canned Tuna		December 20	Tomato Soup
	December 9	Pork 'n Beans		December 21	Canned Corn
	December 10	Jar of Applesauce		December 22	Canned Mixed Vegetables
	December 11	Canned Sweet Potatoes		December 23	Canned Carrots
	December 12	Cranberry Sauce		December 24	Canned Green Beans

### Christmas Giving Tree



Christmas stockings, with gift purchase details inside, will be placed on our Giving Tree. Select a stocking from the tree and shop for the gift, meeting the details noted inside the stocking. The stocking will serve as the "Gift Tag" so please leave the details inside the stocking and attach it to your gift. For ease of distribution, **please use Gift Bags** rather than wrapping the gifts. The collection will conclude on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Sharing God's Love will distribute these gifts to families and seniors in the Midlands.

*The Christmas Giving Tree will be displayed in the narthex at the end of November.*

**For loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away.**

**The Christmas spirit is a spirit of giving and forgiving as the message of loving one another was put on our hearts by Jesus." (Anonymous)**



## 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)*

Greetings from the preschool! We are now back to a full-time schedule for students and we are so thankful for the Lord's continued protection and health as we enjoy being back together again.

The two-year-olds have been learning about creations and are creating an art project to go along with their learning. The three-year-olds and four-year-olds have been busy learning about letters A through D, including **A**pples, **B**ears, **C**ats and **D**inosaurs – just to name a few!

While I know that health and safety concerns have changed many ways that people are attending and meeting within the church, please feel free to come down to the preschool area (outside of preschool hours) to see the students' artwork and the changes that have taken place over the spring/summer.

Your generosity and unwavering support of the preschool is a huge blessing as we strive to fulfill our mission to "Grow in faith and love by spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by providing a Christ-centered experience for young children." As we enter this season of thanksgiving, I would ask you to please prayerfully consider supporting the preschool financially. Beginning on November 1<sup>st</sup>, you will see a **Tree of Thanksgiving** displayed in the Narthex. It will have the pictures, names and handprints of all of the preschool children. If you are willing and able to help, please place your donation in the offering plate or in the decorated basket on the table in the Narthex. **The tree will be displayed through Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.**



## Adult Bible Studies

Barry Bost is teaching from the books of I John, I Thessalonians, I Corinthians, and Philipians. These are the epistle readings you will find in the 3-year Lectionary Year A, found in the Lutheran Service Book, pages xlv-xv.

Pastor will wrap up his Midweek Study at 1:30 pm and 7pm, on November 4th. We have learned so much from his teaching the history of how the Bible came to be in the form as we know it today. All of the factors the Bible translators must take into account are mind-boggling!

## Read the Bible in 3 Years November 2020

***"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."***

**Romans 10:17 (NKJV)**

The month of November finds us in the Old Testament. First, we will complete the book of Judges, following the Israelites and their struggles with disobedience, repentance, and deliverance from the enemies that continued to live in the Promised Land. Next we will read two short prophets, Obadiah and Malachi for 5 days before we embark on the major prophet, Isaiah! This book contains so many prophecies of the Messiah and it's timely that we will be reading through it into Advent.

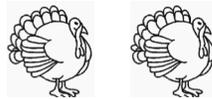
If you are struggling to understand all the events in these books, you may want to try using the following helps:

- \* Read the introduction to each book in your study Bible;
- \* Find a study plan for each book on a Bible app/website such as *YouVersion* or *Bible Gateway*.
- \* Watch the overview of each book at [BibleProject.com](http://BibleProject.com); or
- \* Listen to the commentary for each chapter at [ThroughtheWord.org](http://ThroughtheWord.org) (download the app).

The insights that these pastors and theologians have help bring the Bible to life!

### November 2020

Nov 1	Judges 15	Nov 9	Malachi 1	Nov 16	Isaiah 7-8	Nov 24	Isaiah 23-24
Nov 2	Judges 16	Nov 10	Malachi 2	Nov 17	Isaiah 9-10	Nov 25	Isaiah 25-26
Nov 3	Judges 17	Nov 11	Malachi 3	Nov 18	Isaiah 11-12	Nov 26	Isaiah 27-28
Nov 4	Judges 18	Nov 12	Malachi 4	Nov 19	Isaiah 13-14	Nov 27	Isaiah 29-30
Nov 5	Judges 19	Nov 13	Isaiah 1-2	Nov 20	Isaiah 15-16	Nov 28	Isaiah 31-32
Nov 6	Judges 20	Nov 14	Isaiah 3-4	Nov 21	Isaiah 17-18	Nov 29	Isaiah 33-34
Nov 7	Judges 21	Nov 15	Isaiah 5-6	Nov 22	Isaiah 19-20	Nov 30	Isaiah 35-36
Nov 8	Obadiah			Nov 23	Isaiah 21-22		



### November 2020 Anniversaries

11/2	John & Neva Meyerhoff	11/27	Tom & Sharon Funderburk
11/3	Michael & Billie Whitaker	11/28	Mike & Sue Knowles
11/9	Bruce & Darlene Schenemann	11/29	Christopher & Kara Meetze
11/11	Bruce & Paula Helming		

## November 2020 Birthdays

11/1	Phyllis Griesch	11/12	Anita Meetze	11/19	Thomas Meetze
11/1	Bill Vogel	11/13	Miranda Cook	11/19	Marguerite Schmitzer
11/2	Chris Bauer	11/15	Wendy Barrett	11/20	David Meetze
11/3	Connie Cook	11/15	Will Gepfert	11/20	Henry Weed
11/4	Sharon Funderburk	11/16	Pam Dalton	11/23	Luanne Curry
11/7	Christian Baden	11/17	Kathie Voyles	11/23	Sebastian Folks
11/7	Al Jabs	11/18	Calma Cook	11/24	Kaley Laprise
11/7	Linda Schmidt	11/18	Emily Ranta	11/24	Cyndi Nelson
11/9	Joshua Witt	11/18	Jacob Setterlund	11/27	Kathryn Meetze
11/10	Robert Spadaccini	11/19	Mike Knowles	11/28	Ethan Godwin
11/10	Hollis West	11/19	Paula Meetze	11/29	Shirlean Sons
11/12	Madelyn Brown			11/30	Jeffrey Griesch



## Announcements & Opportunities

### **Bulletin Board Photos**

It is time to update the Elders and Church Council bulletin boards with the correct photos. If you are a new elder or board chair, please see Aresa before or after worship services to have your picture taken. Let's try to get these done the first two weekends in November.

### **Worship Overflow Area in Fellowship Hall**

Have you thought about attending worship services but would prefer a setting with less people? Why not come to Mt. Olive's fellowship hall and watch one of our three entire services that are projected there? Through September, the most that have taken advantage of this setting is 3 people. Tables are socially distanced over 6 feet. If you would like to receive communion, you can either come to the sanctuary or have an elder bring communion to you in the fellowship hall. (Please notify an elder when you arrive if you would like this option.)

### **NEW: Face Mask-Required Worship Service**

On the last Sunday of each month at 3:00 PM, there will be an additional worship service where facemasks are required. If you have not been comfortable with worshipping in person, we pray that this will be an opportunity for you to return. As always, social distancing is practiced and additional sanitation measures are in place. During Communion, the usher maintains space between each family. We look forward to seeing you on the last Sunday of the month.

## **Thrivent Seminars**

The second presentation that our Stewardship Board has scheduled from Thrivent representative, Alan Hyatt, will be **November 22nd** during the 9:15 AM Sunday School hour. The topic will be *Your Legacy: Family, Church and Charity*. If there are people and/or organizations you care about and want to help financially, but you are also concerned about your financial future, please come learn how anyone can develop a retirement strategy that includes helping the people and causes they care about.

## **December/January Newsletter Deadline – November 20th**

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the December 2020/January 2021 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Friday, November 20th**. Remember to send them to Sue Strouse at **slstrouse@gmail.com**.



## **Portals of Prayer for October – December are available.**

You can still have a copy of the current *Portals of Prayer* mailed to you. Please notify Mary at the church office.

## **Sharing God's Love**



Remember that any families that donate soups and/or crackers before the services on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> may get a handcrafted piece of pottery as thanks for your generosity.

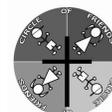
Sharing God's Love is also accepting donations of non-perishable food items and personal care products. The needs are: peanut butter & jelly, canned or dried fruit, spaghetti sauce, soup, crackers, dried beans, canned carrots, peas, or mixed veggies.

## **Secure E Giving Reminder**

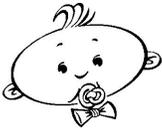
E giving contributions are on the rise. Have you thought about giving this a try? The link to set up your account is on the home page of our church website, [mtolivesc.org](http://mtolivesc.org). You may give through your checking account or credit card. Our e giving is powered by VANCO, a secure company 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 give by card, you can opt to pay the small fee the church is charged for this service. If you need help setting up your account, contact Aresa Boykin.

## **Circle of Friends**

When Sunday School resumes, 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. Once we return to meeting together, The Circle of Friends meets during Sunday School and the 10:30 AM worship service.



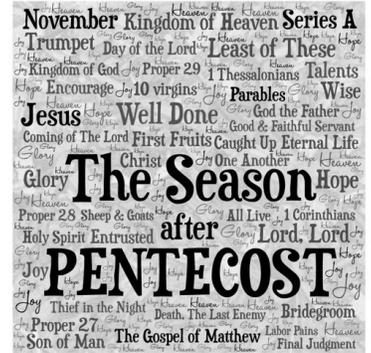
**Nursery "Cry Room" Reminder**



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. Parents, as you are leaving, please sanitize the toys of which your child has played. Thank you.

**The L-o-n-g Season after Pentecost is Coming to an End.**

The Season after Pentecost has one more sign for November, but not until after All Saint's Day, November 1st. Next, get ready for the Thanksgiving turkey-shaped sign! And finally, Advent begins on the last Sunday of November, so be ready for another sign change! Remember to check out these signs at the entrance of the church. See if you can spot the key words from the current week's Gospel lesson on the *after Pentecost signs*. On the *festival and seasonal signs*, look for both scripture references and hymn titles!



**Kid's Korner**

**Puzzle!**

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column to discover the sentence that begins and ends Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150.

- FEAST
- KHAKI
- MOUTH
- ESSAY
- LLAMA
- ORBIT
- CARRY
- UDDER
- BRUSH
- ITEMS
- APPLE
- LEARN
- CIDER

A				



Answer:

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