



# Olive Leaves



April 2021

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## From Pastor Walt: Witnesses

*Pastor Walt Harper*  
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On the first Easter a few women went to the tomb of Jesus to anoint His body with oils and perfumes. They didn't expect to find anything but a corpse, and they went to render a humble and thoughtful service. They became the first witnesses to the empty tomb.

Those women told the men: the body of Jesus is not at the tomb! A few of the men went to see it for themselves. They became the next witnesses.

Two men were walking toward Emmaus when the risen Jesus began walking and talking with them. More witnesses.

Jesus appeared to a group of them huddled behind a locked door. More witnesses.

Jesus appeared to another group of disciples, this time including Thomas, who would only believe the reports if he saw evidence himself. More witnesses.

First Corinthians 15 tells us that on one occasion He appeared to more than 500 people at the same time. That's plenty of witnesses.

All this is as clear as it can be. Jesus was crucified and buried on Friday; and on the following Sunday and over the next couple weeks hundreds of people saw Him alive from the dead.

Reading through the book of Acts you hear it again and again in the preaching of the First Generation Church: Jesus died for the sins of the world, He rose again for our victory over death and grave, and we've all seen this with our own eyes.

Importantly, when the authorities told them to stop preaching "in the name of Jesus" they answered very clearly: "We can only tell you what we've seen with our own eyes." If the authorities threatened them with death, they kept preaching anyway. Some were killed, some were exiled; but the preaching about this risen Jesus never changed.

None of us today have seen His resurrection with our eyes, so we look to the testimony of the witnesses, and the change that the whole thing made in their lives.

A few centuries later the Church, in combatting error, was forced to start writing the creeds. They meant each of them to be a synopsis of "here's what we believe, and here's what we're saying about it." All of them mention the resurrection of Jesus.

The Apostles' Creed: He "was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead."

The Nicene Creed: He "was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures."

The Athanasian Creed: He "suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead."

The Church continues and will always continue to confess this foundational truth. Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, born of the virgin Mary, has died to take away the penalty of our sins, but death did not hold Him, and He rose again on the third day, and was seen by hundreds of people who confessed the truth of what they'd seen so that generations of Christians could continue to believe in Him who died and who rose again. A happy Easter to you and yours, in the name of this risen Jesus!



### From our President

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

April is here and the pollen is in full swing! With that being said, it means Easter is also here and we are ready to celebrate the resurrected Savior.

I would like to remind everyone that the Nominating Committee is currently seeking volunteers to our boards to join in our ministries. You will not be serving alone. So, please contact one of our Council Members if you feel you are being called to serve. Lastly, I would like to thank Pastor Walt, Lay Minister Bill Boykin, and Aresa Boykin for working faithfully and diligently in making sure the Saturday evening worship service is flawlessly executed every weekend.

Safety Tip: The scammers are in full swing, keeping up with the new influx of stimulus money and tax refunds. Please remember that the IRS, or any federal or state agency, *will not call* you and threaten to take you to jail if you don't pay. If you're unsure, seek advice from law enforcement or another trusted source.



### April 2021 Lectionary Readings

Date	Festival	Epistle	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Apr. 1	Maundy Thursday	Ex. 24:3-11	Psalm 116:12-19	1 Cor. 10:16-17	Mark 14:12-26
Apr. 2	Service of Tenebrae				
Apr. 3	Holy Saturday	Genesis 1:1-2:3 (1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson)	Genesis 7:1-8:19; 9:8-13 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson)	Exodus 14:1-31 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Lesson)	John 20:11-18
Apr. 4	Easter Sunday	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 16	1 Cor. 15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8
Apr. 11	Easter 2	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 148	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
Apr. 18	Easter 3	Acts 3:11-21	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36-49
Apr. 25	Easter 4	Acts 4:1-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18

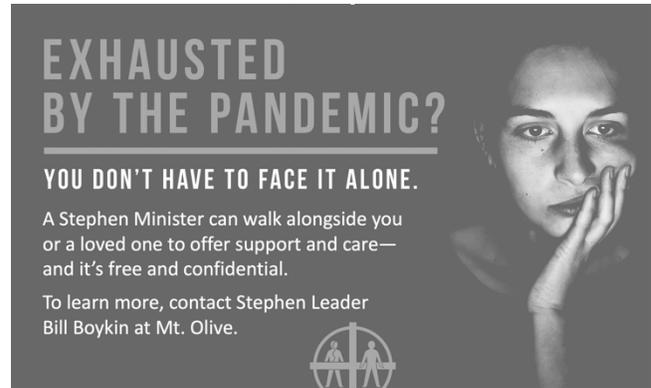
## Stephen Ministry: The Basics

*Bill Boykin, Leader*

With the Christ-centered skills Stephen Ministers develop through their training, they can adapt their caring to a variety of situations, making them a crucial part of their congregations' caring ministry—both during the pandemic and beyond. So, if you are experiencing the feeling that the pandemic will never go away and that things will never return to normal, you might consider having your own Stephen Minister.

We need to remember that The Holy Spirit comes into the midst of our pain and lovingly dwells with us to strengthen and comfort us. Sometimes that comfort comes as a caring, Christian friend who will walk alongside you in your struggles. We pray that you would have the courage to seek help from your brothers and sisters in Christ who are trained Stephen Ministers.

Please contact me any time to learn more about Stephen Ministry.



**EXHAUSTED  
BY THE PANDEMIC?**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.**

A Stephen Minister can walk alongside you or a loved one to offer support and care—and it's free and confidential.

To learn more, contact Stephen Leader Bill Boykin at Mt. Olive.



## Board of Stewardship

*Naven Olson, Chairperson*

**"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. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death." 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 NASB**

This brings to mind the last two verses of my favorite Easter hymn "He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus the Lord", words and music by C. F. W. Walther, translation from LW 138.

"Oh where is your sting, death? We fear you no more,  
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;  
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own."



"Then sing your hosannas and raise your loud voice;  
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor and praise to the Lamb that was slain,  
In glory he reigns, yes, and ever shall reign."



Since Christ has atoned for the sin of Adam and for all the subsequent sins of all of humanity by His death and resurrection, let us make this saving message known to our relatives, neighbors, friends and coworkers by word and deed in this dark time and support the ministry of this church with our time, talents, resources and presence so that as many as possible may know Jesus and escape the wrath to come and enjoy a blissful eternity with the Triune God in heaven.



## Board of Trustees

*Chris Slaughter, Board Member*

During February and March, the Trustees have been busy making improvements to the church.

The required elevator maintenance was completed. Our vendor performed the necessary hydraulic test. In addition, standing water was removed from the elevator shaft.

A successful church work day was held on Saturday, March 20th. The crepe myrtle trees and oak trees by the preschool parking lot were trimmed back, improving the aesthetics of the area. In addition, the old lean-to structure behind the Wagner House was demolished and overgrown vines behind it were trimmed back.

*Thank  
you*

We would like to give special thanks to the dedicated volunteers who made the work day a success: Kevin Kibler, Jim Kibler, Merle Weed, Mike Prater, Richard Shealy, Greg Ervin, Chris Slaughter, Casey McDermott, and Bruce Helming. We really appreciate your time and team efforts to complete these special projects that improve our church grounds.



## The Board of Evangelism

*Charlene Meetze, Chairperson*

Evangelism...The words of the song by **We Are Messengers** entitled "**Made in the Image of God**" has a good message for us:

"I woke up with a broken heart in my chest  
I couldn't sleep couldn't get no rest  
Weighed down by the heaviness of life  
And I try to shake it flipping through my phone  
But all it does is make me feel more alone  
How could anything that feels so wrong be right

Seven billion voices separate us  
But only one can show us who we are

We are made  
Made in the image of  
Made in the image of God  
Beautiful shades of love

We are made  
Made in the image of  
Made in the image of God  
That's where the light comes from..."



As we all know, Mt. Olive is such an awesome place to worship and hear the one true word of our Lord and Savior. By joining our hearts and voices, we can spread the word to everyone we know...it's a message that becomes a gift.

## Join us for a Sunday Morning Bible Class!

April 2021 Sunday School & Bible Classes			
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	Preschool Area	Katie Tyczynski & Faithful Group of Volunteers	Bringing Jesus to Special Needs Children
PK3 – 4th Grade	Playground, 9:30 AM	Pat LaGrange, Laura Laprise, Kaley Laprise, Jessica Dennis	The Parables of Jesus
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade & Older and their parents	Preschool Big Room, 9:15 AM	Pr. Walt Harper	A multi-year study of The Bible & Martin Luther’s Small Catechism for Confirmation
Middle School	Outside behind Preschool Area, 9:30 AM	Rick Baden	A variety of lessons from the Bible
Adults & High School	Fellowship Hall, 9:15 AM	Sandy Osborne (Class is taught in 6-week sessions alternating with Barry Bost)	“Being the Remnant Church” a study from the LCMS
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

## 2021 HOLY WEEK, and EASTER SCHEDULE of WORSHIP and EVENTS

<b>Thursday April 1st</b>	7:00 PM	 <i>"Given for you..."</i>	<b>Maundy Thursday Worship Service &amp; The Lord’s Supper</b>
<b>Friday April 2nd</b>	12 Noon & 7:00 PM		<b>Good Friday Tenebrae</b> 
<b>Saturday April 3rd</b>	5:00 PM		<b>Holy Saturday with The Lord’s Supper</b>
  <b>Sunday April 4th</b>  	8:00 AM	<b>The Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Sunday</b>	
	9:15 AM	<b>Resurrection Celebration, Activities, &amp; Easter Egg Hunt</b> Families will begin on the playground. The egg hunt will continue outside for children through 4 <sup>th</sup> grade.	
	10:30 AM	<b>The Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Sunday</b>	

## Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards



Easter, spring, and daylight savings time are here, but for many of our homebound members who are confined to home or at a facility, there is little difference between these brighter days than any other time of year. What better way to give our spirits, as well as theirs, a boost than to pray for, send cards to, or phone these precious people. A card with a handwritten note is a thoughtful way to brighten someone's day especially during these endless months of isolation and quarantine. 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. Let's make a special effort to connect with one another!

**May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. (1Thessalonians 3:12).**

Don Angen	Virginia Gable	Mary Lawhorne	CR Miller	Mandy Schultz
Stanley Bouknight	Bill/Theresa Hofer	Carolyn McCartha	Eva Mae Monts	Henry/Linda Schmidt
Phil Carter	Betty Hunter	Anita Meetze	Carole Myers	Mary Schott
Shirley Curry	Bonnie Jones	Laura Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Molly Kate Shealy
Pam Dalton	Harold/Sarah Jones	Dot Monts	Dorothy Prater	Shirlean Sons
Cleta Dunaway	Melvin/Judy Jones	Margaret Ludwig	Polly Roland	Dan Stocker
David Fletcher	Ron LaGrange	Herb Loeb	Myrna Rush	Flora Weed



## The Board of Christian Education

*Jessica Dennis, Sunday School Coordinator*

For those that have been able to join, we are all thrilled to be back together in Sunday School! You need look no further than a child's face to see how fast this past year has gone by! Thanks be to God! Classes for ages 2-10 are meeting outside on the playground each week, weather permitting. Middle schoolers are meeting outside, on the concrete area behind the preschool area Youth are still encouraged to join Adult Sunday School class. Check email and FB for weather related cancellations.

We hope all of Mt. Olive's children can attend our annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th, at 9:15. We will start on the playground for the Easter Story. Please bring your Easter baskets!

Children, if you haven't joined us for Sunday School yet, we hope to see you soon! We are working our way through God's promises, and remember, God ALWAYS keeps his promises!

## April 2021 Anniversaries

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



## Read the Bible in 3 Years

April 2021							
Apr 1	John 19	Apr 8	Exodus 5	Apr 16	Exodus 13	Apr 24	Exodus 21
Apr 2	John 20	Apr 9	Exodus 6	Apr 17	Exodus 14	Apr 25	Exodus 22
Apr 3	John 21	Apr 10	Exodus 7	Apr 18	Exodus 15	Apr 26	Exodus 23
Apr 4	Exodus 1	Apr 11	Exodus 8	Apr 19	Exodus 16	Apr 27	Exodus 23
Apr 5	Exodus 2	Apr 12	Exodus 9	Apr 20	Exodus 17	Apr 28	Exodus 25
Apr 6	Exodus 3	Apr 13	Exodus 10	Apr 21	Exodus 18	Apr 29	Exodus 26
Apr 7	Exodus 4	Apr 14	Exodus 11	Apr 22	Exodus 19	Apr 30	Exodus 27
		Apr 15	Exodus 12	Apr 23	Exodus 20		

As we continue our journey through the Bible, we will complete the Gospel of John just before Easter. This is perfect for 2021 as we have been reading the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and then to His resurrection. We complete the month by reading through the first 27 chapters of Exodus. We will recount the Israelites last days in Egypt, the first Passover, their miraculous escape, wandering in the desert, and the construction of the tabernacle. Press on through Exodus and rejoice on May 14th when we begin Paul's epistles to the church at Corinth.



### Announcements & Opportunities



#### **The 5:00 PM Saturday Service**

The 5:00 PM Saturday Service requires a face covering for the entire service. If attending church on Saturday is your preference but you cannot wear a face covering for the entire service, you may view the live worship service in the fellowship hall.

#### **May Newsletter Deadline – April 22nd**

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the May 2021 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Thursday, April 22nd**. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at [slstrouse@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com).



#### **Women's Book Club**

The Women's Book Club will be meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We are reading the book by Jess Connolly, "You are the Girl for the Job" and discussing questions from the study guide. The tables are socially distanced for your protection. If you have any questions, contact Renee Harper at 203-885-6733 or [waltandrenee@att.net](mailto:waltandrenee@att.net).



#### **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 simulcast there? Very few people have taken advantage of this option. 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.)

**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. 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.

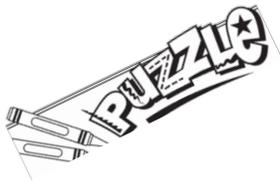
**Nursery "Cry Room" Reminder**



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 with which your child has played. Thank you.



**Kid's Korner**



Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blank. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



Answer: Path 3. come cattle cave Lord sine scarlet white snow



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace



" \_\_\_\_\_ now, let us \_\_\_\_\_ the matter," \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Though your \_\_\_\_\_ are like \_\_\_\_\_,  
 they shall be as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ ...."

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

## Interesting Content from *The NEWSLETTER Newsletter*

### The Calvary Cross (Graded Cross)



This Latin cross with three steps symbolizes both Jesus' climb up Calvary's mountain and the three gifts of faith, hope and love. Those gifts are intrinsically connected to Jesus' death and resurrection and are ours by sheer grace. "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).



### A Reason to Laugh

The week after Easter, some churches observe Holy Humor Sunday — a tradition dating back to the fourth century. Early Christian theologians coined the term "*risus paschalis*," or "the Easter laugh," saying God played the supreme joke on death. Some believers celebrated Bright Monday, by gathering the day after Easter to mock Satan's defeat.

On the first day of April, remember that "we are fools for Christ" (1 Corinthians 4:10, NIV). Then later in the month, take time to smile and laugh, knowing that victory is yours, thanks to Jesus.



### Easter Around the World

Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ's ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with handmade fabric. Then they feast with non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus' Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town's main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!