



# Olive Leaves



May 2021

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## From Pastor Walt: Pray for Those in Authority

*Pastor Walt Harper*  
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Sometimes odd things pop into your head. And as Christians who live in the world, sometimes those odd things come from the stories that we see in the news. So, one of those topics is the U.S. Supreme Court. Really, the court is always in the news, since their decisions shape our society and our life together as a people.

Most often I think about the Court, and which way it might rule on this or that case. I wonder how they will protect our rights guaranteed by our Constitution and Bill of Rights. I wonder about which president has nominated which ones, etc. And these days we listen to the debate about “packing the court.”

With that stuff in my mind, this morning I thought I ought to look at the names of the current justices. Some of the names appear in the media frequently; some hardly ever. But this morning the thought that came to my mind was: I should be praying for the members of our nation’s highest court. Here they are:

- Chief Justice John Roberts
- Clarence Thomas
- Stephen Breyer
- Samuel Alito
- Sonia Sotomayor
- Elena Kagan
- Neil Gorsuch
- Brett Kavanaugh
- Amy Coney Barrett

If you follow the court, reading those names likely provokes a wide array of responses. We’ve of course divided them into the “Left Wing” and the “Right Wing” of the court. As mentioned above, we might think of which president nominated each justice. Thinking more deeply we might even wonder if the president was always satisfied with the way any particular justice voted on issues that mattered to him. And of course, some of those names make us recall bitter nomination battles.

Again, as a citizen and a voter I do naturally have my own political opinions, and I think about the Court the way anyone else would. But as a believer I’m called to pray for these people.

Saint Paul said it this way in First Timothy 2:1-4, “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

As is typical of the man, Paul's concern ultimately ties back to the proclamation of the Gospel. We should pray for leaders; these people have much to do with the circumstances in which we live; all of us would love to live a life of peace and quiet; but God desires those conditions for the sake of the preaching of the Gospel, so that people would come to faith.

Here's the challenge: Look again at the list of our Supreme Court justices; say them out loud, and then offer a prayer to God for them. Even the ones you don't agree with. Pray for wisdom, effectiveness, humility, faithfulness to the text of our Constitution, and of course for the good of our nation, and the spread of salvation. Not that the Supreme Court itself is concerned with the spread of God's Word; but because its actions have much to do with the context in which that Word is spread.



### From our President

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

April showers bring May flowers! Well, another season of the pollen fog is finally over and we are able to start enjoying the outside.

The Church has been very busy with improvements by the trustees, progress from the A/V Committee, and the filling of the 2021 slate of candidates for officers and boards from Nominating Committee. There is room for you to be involved, so if you are interested in serving on one of our boards, please reach out to the board chairperson for information. The bulletin board in the hall outside the office has photos of our current chairpersons and descriptions of each board's responsibilities. Each board has a minimum of three members, so you won't have to worry about working alone!

The May 16th Voter's Meeting will follow our pandemic procedures: Voters will receive their packets via email or U.S. mail, and approve items by signing the forms in the narthex or emailing the church. I truly hope that September's meeting will be back in person. Oh, how I miss all those smiling faces!

Safety Tip: Several road rage incidents have popped up in the last month involving shootings. Please drive defensively and if you feel that you may be a victim of an incident, dial 911 immediately and attempt to stay away from the suspect.



### April Pastoral Acts

	<b>Memorial Service</b>
	<b>Charlie. R Sandt</b> <b>Date of Birth:</b> March 13, 1950 <b>Date of Death:</b> January 15, 2021 <b>Funeral:</b> April 24, 2021

	<b>Holy Baptism</b>	
	<b>Matthias Hall Folks</b> <b>Birth Date:</b> March 11, 2021 <b>Baptism Date:</b> March 27, 2021	

## Stephen Ministry: The Basics

*Bill Boykin, Leader*

After not meeting the first months of 2021 because of the surge in the pandemic, your Stephen Ministers will begin monthly meetings in May. They will continue to review the basics of caregiving to keep on top of their skills so that they can continue to provide the best Christian care for you when you are in crisis or simply overwhelmed by the struggles of life.

When you are in need of a Christian friend to visit on a weekly basis to help you with something you are going through, contact Stephen Leader Bill Boykin to learn more and to see if you qualify for your own Stephen Minister. The entire process is 100% confidential. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to serve you!



## Board of Stewardship

*Naven Olson, Chairperson*

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

**"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" Ephesians 6:17**

**"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16**

**"But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." John 20:31**

**"We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work." John 9:4**

Last night (April 15) I was perplexed concerning what to write this month and I requested prayer during the Zoom meeting of church council. This afternoon after 5:30 PM I was listening to a podcast of "A Moment in Creation" on KFUE by my friend, Pastor Warren Woerth of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Arnold, MO and I had my idea. (You can listen to this program via the internet on Tuesdays, just after 1:30 PM Eastern Time.) Pastor Woerth quoted the first and third verses of *Lutheran Worship* hymn 342:



"Almighty God, your Word is cast Like seed into the ground.  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend And righteous fruits abound  
"Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy  
But let it yield a hundredfold the fruits of peace and joy."



In this dark time when open hostility toward Biblical Christianity is rapidly increasing in our culture and among those who hold worldly power, we need to be in the Word and in prayer. We need to take advantage of the worship services and Bible studies at Mount Olive. (Pastor Walt started a Wednesday study on the Gospel of Mark on April 21st.) We need to focus on what we can do now and NOT on what we cannot do now or what we will be able or unable to do in the future. Let us be involved in daily personal Bible study and prayer; and in outreach to unbelieving and unchurched relatives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. And let us support this church with our time, effort, and resources.

## The Board of Public Relations: Traditions

*Sue Strouse, Chairperson*

During one of our Bible studies, my table partner and I were discussing how blessed we were born knowing who Jesus is. We are so fortunate that our parents brought us to church to learn about God and His Son and gave us a Bible to study The Word. The people of the Old Testament relied on the traditional beliefs of their families as to whether they believed in God. If their forefathers didn't believe in God but in idols, then that's what they believed. The people that lived during Jesus's time on earth had to decide if they were going to believe that He was the Messiah, the Son of God, the promised Savior that came to die for our sins, or believe that He was just a man, not a loving Savior. I ask myself, "What would I have believed?" It scares me to think that I may have chosen not to follow Jesus, because of the traditions of my family and not reading about the prophecies to find out for myself.

There are many people in today's world that have never had the chance to really know the comfort that following Jesus can give them. Now is the time for us to step forward and let others know what they are missing, not living under the love that God has given us by sending His Son to die for our salvation.

Let's plant the seeds of salvation as we interact with others this Easter Season and always.



### Preschool News

*Anna Brent, Preschool Director*

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May is here already? It is hard to believe that we are just weeks away from completing our 14<sup>th</sup> school year! The preschool is heading into a very busy season as we prepare for Mother's Day, complete end of the year evaluations and memory books, and get ready to hold preschool graduation. We will also have our end of the year celebration with preschool families on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the blessing of another wonderful year together!



Do you know any families with young children who would benefit from our preschool? Our amazing staff creates a warm and loving environment in which they provide high quality learning experiences. The students learn about God's love for them and His desire for them to be their best while they learn about and explore His world. Encourage them to call, email, check out the website or Facebook page, or come visit! Registration is ongoing and we still have openings for our 2-year-old class.

## Board of Trustees

*Chris Slaughter, Board Member*

During the months of March and April, the Trustees continued improving the church facilities.

After months spent trying to repair leaking flush valves on the urinals in the men's restroom near the Fellowship Hall, we replaced them with Automatic Flush Valves. Special thanks to Calvin and Charlene Meetze for helping us with this project.



We are currently in the process of ordering more light bulbs and ballasts for the church. The florescent lights in the upstairs portion of the church use a special type of ballast, which means that they have to be ordered from a specific vendor. Once the new ballasts get delivered to the church, we will be replacing the ones in the fluorescent lights by the restrooms in the office hallway and in the fellowship hall.

The board is also planning on working with a vendor to waterproof the elevator shaft. This has been an issue for the church for a while, and we are excited at the possibility of a permanent fix to this problem.

The trustees are always looking for help with projects, so if you have any skills or suggestions on how to improve the church facilities, please get in touch with board chairperson, Charlie Stuck. Thank you for your support!



## The Board of Christian Education

*Jessica Dennis, Sunday School Coordinator*

***"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 18:3***

We are so happy that Children's Sunday School is back in full swing! Mt. Olive has some of the cutest kids around and they LOVE getting together for Sunday School! We are continuing to work our way thru God's Promises in the Bible and the Easter story. If your 2- to 11-year-old hasn't joined in yet, we'd love to have them! This group is moving inside to the Children's Sunday School area (upstairs above Nursery) starting Sunday, May 2nd.

Mr. Baden is leading the Middle School Sunday School class outside, behind the Preschool, weather permitting. The high school youth are still encouraged to join the Adult Class in the fellowship hall.



## Thoughts, Prayers, Calls & Cards

***"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous hand."* Isaiah 41:10**



May is here and with it comes more pollen and warmer temperatures! Now that many of our members have received their Covid-19 vaccinations, some who were in isolation have ventured back to church. For our members who are confined to home or at a facility, or cannot drive, they continue to remain isolated from their Christian community. Let's continue our ministry to these lovely people by lifting them up to God in prayer. And please send cards and/or phone them, too.

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	Ron LaGrange	Herb Loebs	Mandy Schultz
Stanley Bouknight	Bill/Theresa Hoefler	Mary Lawhorne	CR Miller	Henry/Linda Schmidt
Phil Carter	Betty Hunter	Carolyn McCartha	Eva Mae Monts	Mary Schott
Shirley Curry	Bonnie Jones	Anita Meetze	Carole Myers	Molly Kate Shealy
Cleta Dunaway	Harold/Sarah Jones	Laura Meetze	Dorothy Prater	Shirlean Sons
Kathy Eargle	Melvin/Judy Jones	Dot Monts	Polly Roland	Flora Weed
		Margaret Ludwig		



## Read the Bible in 3 Years

The daily chapters for May begin with the last 13 chapters of Exodus as we follow the Israelites into The Promised Land. Next, we will read Paul's second letter to the Corinthian Church where he continues to remind its members of the unity found in Christ and how to live that unity on a daily basis. On May 27th, we begin reading the middle 50 Psalms. As you read these psalms, look for how the ancient Israelites shared both their praises and problems with God, and be reminded that we can approach Him with anything.

May 2021							
May 1	Exodus 28	May 9	Exodus 36	May 17	II Corinthians 4	May 25	II Corinthians 12
May 2	Exodus 29	May 10	Exodus 37	May 18	II Corinthians 5	May 26	II Corinthians 13
May 3	Exodus 30	May 11	Exodus 38	May 19	II Corinthians 6	May 27	Psalms 51
May 4	Exodus 31	May 12	Exodus 39	May 20	II Corinthians 7	May 28	Psalms 52
May 5	Exodus 32	May 13	Exodus 40	May 21	II Corinthians 8	May 29	Psalms 53
May 6	Exodus 33	May 14	II Corinthians 1	May 22	II Corinthians 9	May 30	Psalms 54
May 7	Exodus 34	May 15	II Corinthians 2	May 23	II Corinthians 10	May 31	Psalms 55
May 8	Exodus 35	May 16	II Corinthians 3	May 24	II Corinthians 11		

## May 2021 Lectionary Readings

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
May 2	Easter 5	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 150	1 John 4:1-11	John 15:1-8
May 9	Easter 6	Acts 10:34-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-8	John 15:9-17
May 16	Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
May 23	Day of Pentecost	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 139:1-12	Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 30	The Holy Trinity	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	John 3:1-17



## Join us for a Sunday Morning Bible Class!

May 2021 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	Preschool Area	Katie Tyczynski & Faithful Group of Volunteers	Bringing Jesus to Special Needs Children
PK3 – 4th Grade	Upstairs Classroom	Jessica Dennis with Faithful Parent Volunteers	God's Promises for Us in the Bible
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade & Older and their parents	Preschool Big Room	Pr. Walt Harper	A multi-year study of The Bible & Martin Luther's Small Catechism for Confirmation
Middle School	Outside behind Preschool Area	Rick Baden	A variety of lessons from the Bible
Adults & High School	Fellowship Hall	Barry Bost & Sandy Osborne (Class is taught in alternating 6-week sessions.)	Barry Bost – May 2nd-23rd Sandy Osborne – May 30th-July 4th
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			



## May 2021 Anniversaries

5/1	Rick & Liezl Baden	5/22	Randy & Kathie Voyles
5/4	Mike & Stephanie Jones	5/25	Wes & Michele Hammond
5/12	Seth & Johnna Duncan	5/26	John & Mary Lou Tedder
5/12	Eric & Robin Hennington	5/27	Chris & Kim Gepfert
5/12	Hunter & Stacey Robinson	5/29	Rebecca & James Shirah
5/19	Jason & Jill Brabham		

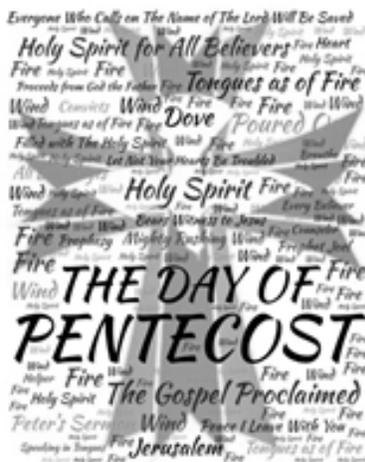
## May 2021 Birthdays

5/2 Cindy Williams	5/9 Jessica Clendenin	5/18 Paul Sanguiliano
5/4 Joe Harper	5/10 Henry Dosen	5/19 Pat LaGrange
5/5 Jessica Dennis	5/12 Bradley Carey	5/21 Nancy Thompson
5/5 Joy Fletcher	5/12 Sue Knowles	5/22 Harper Brown
5/5 Myran Trask	5/13 Nadia M. BouFawaz	5/23 Hannah Duncan
5/6 Bruce Helming	5/13 Linda McGriff	5/24 James Duncan
5/6 Stephanie Jones	5/15 Rosie Sanguiliano	5/25 Bailey Dort
5/7 Marilyn Bauer	5/16 Stanley Bouknight	5/27 Lynne Schultz
5/8 Dennis Dixon	5/16 Joseph Maye	5/29 Tiffany Meetze
5/8 Carolyn McCartha	5/16 T.J. Selke Jr.	5/30 Gloria Meetze
5/8 LaToya Patterson	5/17 Dana Magic	5/30 Carole Myers
5/8 Richard Schneider Sr.	5/17 Olivia Stuck	5/30 Matt Williams
	5/18 Lori Flenner	



### Our Signs for May

In keeping with our liturgical church year calendar, there will be four square signs during the month of May! The month begins with the Easter sign, as the Season of Easter continues. The last 3 weeks of the month will each have different signs: The Ascension of Our Lord, The Day of Pentecost, and Holy Trinity Sunday. We pray that these visual representations of the church seasons will add to your worship experience.



## 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.

### **June and July Newsletter Deadline – May 21**

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the combined June/July 2021 issue of the Olive Leaves is **Friday, May 21st**. 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 May 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<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).



### **Midweek Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark**

Pr. Walt began the Midweek Bible Study, "The Gospel of Mark," on Wednesday, April 21st. It will last throughout May and end on June 9th. Each week, the class will focus on two chapters of the Gospel. May 5th will include chapters 5 and 6, should you want to read them before class. Classes are held each Wednesday at either 1:30 PM or 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

### **Mt. Olive Rides**

Mt. Olive Church Council, in its search to include those who are unable to worship in person, have decided to form Mt. Olive Rides, a group of people who are willing to bring individuals who are unable to drive to church. Drivers and those in need of rides will be matched by geographic areas. If you are able to provide a ride or if you would like to have a ride to church, please contact the church office at 803-781-5845.

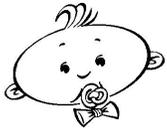
### **Worship Overflow Area in Fellowship Hall**

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](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 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**

**Puzzle!**

**Puzzle!**

Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



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