



# Olive Leaves

*September 2021*



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## From Pastor Walt: Two Things You've Supported

*Pastor Walt Harper*  
walt.harper@mtolivesc.org

This month I'd like to focus on two ministries which Mt. Olive supports. They are:

### The Nazarene Fund



We've all seen the horrific images coming from Afghanistan. Of course the church newsletter is not about to start debating the politics of any of this. But we do focus on the human tragedy of it, and wonder:

What can we possibly do?

Our first and natural reaction is to assume that there's nothing that can be done. In this case, I'm happy to say that Dana Magic, our Church Treasurer, called to say that she'd heard of the efforts of the Nazarene Fund to get people out of Afghanistan, and could we support it?

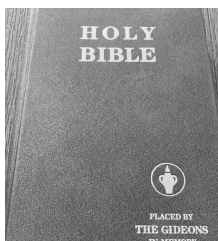
Their mission statement is: "To liberate the captive, to free the enslaved, and to rescue, rebuild and restore the lives of Christians and other persecuted religious and ethnic minorities wherever and whenever they are in need."

To that end the Fund has relocated people from places of persecution, or in other cases has rebuilt towns, schools, and even religious sites.

In the case of Afghanistan, they've said that it would take around \$4,000 to get one person out of the calamity happening there. Given that a need for a quick response was necessary, Treasurer Magic proposed that we send \$4,000 to the Nazarene Fund, which we have done.

Her next thought was: I wish we could do more. But we are one part of what will undoubtedly be a much larger response from the Christian Church throughout the country. The reports on their efforts are so far encouraging.

### The Gideons International



You know them as the people who place Bibles in hotels. Of course that's part of their mission, but the Gideons print and distribute Bibles much more widely than that. They give them out to college students, send them along with our troops, place them in prisons, and leave them at nursing homes.

The Gideons are inter-denominational, which means that Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, and others, are involved. There may be some specific differences between these Christians. But the mission of the Gideons is one we can whole-heartedly support: Get the Word of God out!

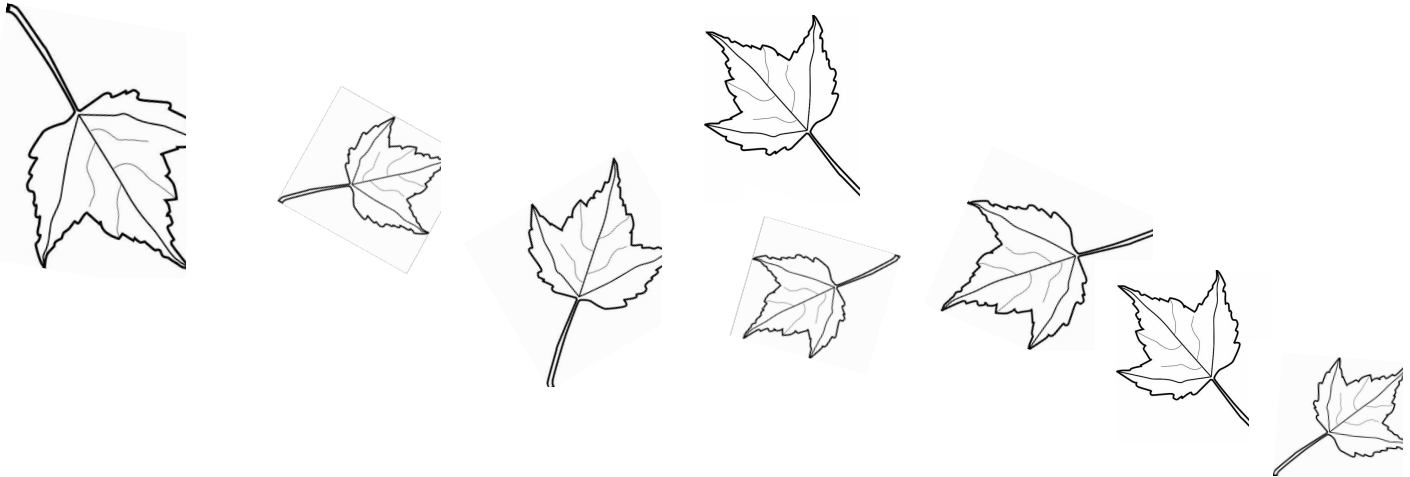
I'll never forget that when I was a college student the Gideons came to give out, for free, a little New Testament and Psalms. It was in the New King James Version, which is one of my favorites. And it's so small that it easily fits in a pocket. They gave me that "Pocket Testament" (as they often call it) in 1980 or 1981. I still carry it around with me. It's in my car, and is my Bible for hospital and home visits.

To support this important mission two brothers from the Gideons came and spoke briefly at all three weekend services on the weekend of August 21st-22nd.

I'm happy to say that when we took a "door offering" for this ministry people gave \$747.

The modern world is getting pretty nearly overwhelming. Talking to believers, I sense the feeling that the "problems are so big that there's nothing we can do." As the Gideons always remind us: The first thing is to pray. They're right about that.

And having prayed, it makes good sense for us to turn our support into very practical support. As a congregation you do this very well. So I wanted to share that in August of 2021 here were two ways you have done so again.



### **From our President**

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

Well, schools are back in session which usually means football and fall weather coming soon. Many of us love this time of year when the weather finally cracks from its summer inferno and we anticipate those crisp nights.

Church Council is welcoming in new volunteers who will be working on the new 2022 budget. We are so blessed as a Church to have such wonderful people volunteering and applying their expertise.

*Thank you* On a personal note: Thank you everyone for the nice notes for Grady during his quarantined birthday. Jimmy has received his orders to be stationed on the USS Missouri out of Pearl Harbor starting October 21<sup>st</sup>. We can't wait to see him during his transition.

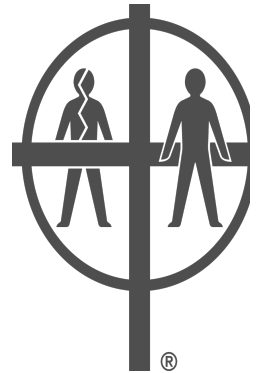
Safety Tip: Fraud cases have surged since the variant has surfaced. Please be mindful on robocalls and door to door salesman. If it looks suspicious then it probably is!

## Stephen Ministry: Struggling with Grief

*Bill Boykin, Leader*

The following blurb was posted on Instagram in late July by columbiatherapyonline. Even though Stephen Ministers are NOT counselors or therapists, these words ring true:

"Grief comes in many forms and can result from any number of events: The passing of a loved one, the loss of a relationship or a job, moving to a new location, or even the letting go of a dream that no longer seems possible or appropriate. Any type of transition or change in life can involve significant loss and therefore, grief. If you are struggling to make sense of your life as the result of a loss or major change, you are not alone. Finding joy and finding meaning in life as you continue the grieving process is possible. The pain won't necessarily be taken away. You will simply grow and expand to allow room for things like laughter, enjoyment, passion, and love. These things will exist alongside your grief because you will learn to create space within you for all of it. Your grief will no longer consume and dominate you. It will simply remain part of the rich tapestry that IS you."



If you are "struggling to make sense of your life as the result of a loss or major change", consider reaching out to me to find out if you might benefit from a Stephen Minister, a Christian friend who will walk with you every step of the way.



## 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)*

**15  
years**

This school year will mark the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the Preschool ministry at Mt. Olive! Teachers arrive back at the preschool on August 31<sup>st</sup> and the school year will kick off with Parent Meetings on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Many new and returning students will be filling our halls and it is such a privilege to serve the families that have chosen Mt. Olive Preschool as their child(ren)'s first school experience.



We have been praying, planning, and preparing for the upcoming year. Our students' health and safety are a priority and we have thoughtfully implemented additional health and safety measures amidst the ongoing pandemic, many of which are the same as last year. Please be in prayer for our preschool students and families, staff, and preschool board. Pray that the Lord would provide a hedge of protection, flexible spirits, and most importantly, that the Gospel would be spread and that the Lord would be glorified.

Also, as a new year begins, I wanted to take the time to thank the current Preschool Board for their willingness to serve: Peggy Weed, Chair, Page Fletcher, Phyllis Griesch, Mike Knowles, Jan McCarthy, Katie Matzko, and Myran Trask. Their hard work and dedication are such a blessing and they are using their God-given talents to serve Him in such a tangible way.

I am continually thankful for the blessing of this ministry as an outreach into the community. It stands as a testament to this church's commitment to children and young families.

## The Board of Christian Education

*Jessica Dennis, Sunday School Coordinator*



How fast this summer went by! Isn't that always the truth, though?! Have you felt like this "pandemic period" has drug on or possibly flown by faster than usual? I hope that you have been able to find something(s) to hold onto and cherish over the past year! For our family, there are a few things that will always remind us of this time, in our lives. First, the kids decided they wanted to watch all 9 Star Wars movies, so last summer we had 2 months of movie nights dedicated to those! Second, we dove into gardening and the kids have loved

helping me tend to flowers, and tomato, pepper, and green bean plants! And life has been a bit slower for us, not doing ALL of the extras we were used to. So, we've had lots more *us time*: bike riding, bird watching, Bible reading, and game nights! Even though Mt. Olive's kiddos are back to school (at home or in the school building) and life may be getting busier again, I hope that you all can reflect and find a few pleasant things to help shape this uncertain, sometimes scary world we're living in. Find the beauty in how God has blessed you and share that with your children today!

Please watch the church FB page or email for updates on Children's, Middle, & Youth Sunday School classes! Also, planning has begun for the Youth Gathering 2022! All youth who are interested should reach out to Pastor Walt, Mr. Bill Boykin, or me!

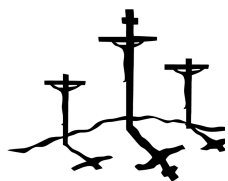


## Board of Stewardship: "Song of Moses"

*Naven Olson, Chairperson*

**"Rejoice, O Nations, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants,  
And will render vengeance on His adversaries, And will atone for His land and His people."  
Deuteronomy 32:43**

Today while reading along with the congregational daily Bible reading plan, I noticed something I had never noticed before in reading Deuteronomy many times. I noticed that the last verse of the "Song of Moses" is a prophecy of Christ's atoning sacrifice on Calvary. Kudos to whoever designed the reading schedule.



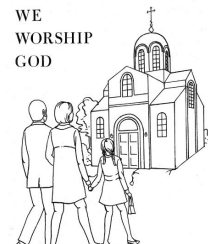
The discovery today was a blessing and an encouragement. God gives us many blessings, both material and spiritual, and He gives them to us so that we can use His blessings to make known the **greatest** blessing: Jesus Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification. So let us make use of our blessings (both material and spiritual: our time, our talents and our possessions) so that others may know of Jesus' love and let us not be preoccupied or excessively concerned with the affairs of this world.

## The Board of Public Relations: Putting Others First

*Sue Strouse, Chairperson*

**"Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor." 1 Corinthians 10:24**





I was very lucky that I grew up in a Missouri Synod Lutheran family. My Lutheran grandparents came from Czechoslovakia at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, where the communists had control of their country. My grandmother's fear of the communists lingered with her for a long time after coming here. She would always say, the communists were going to get us. My grandfather would calm her down by saying that we were fortunate to be in America, to worship in the church of our choice and at home without fear of punishment.





The pandemic has created difficult times with hot topics about our rights involving masks and vaccinations. As we think of others, we need to be understanding of their comfort zones rather than our own, just as Jesus did when He was with us. Whether we wear masks or not, or get vaccinated or not are not the important questions, but being able to hear the Word of God in our church.



### August Pastoral Acts

	<b>FUNERAL SERVICE</b>	
	<b>William A. Hoefer</b> September 13, 1941 – August 2, 2021 August 9, 2021	
	<b>FUNERAL SERVICE</b>	
	<b>Richard J. Schneider</b> May 8, 1938 – August 23, 2021 August 31, 2021	

	<b>HOLY BAPTISM</b>	
	<b>Genevieve Jolene Maye</b> August 15, 2021	



### September 2021 Lectionary Readings

Date	Sunday	Old Testament Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Sept. 5	Proper 18	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Psalm 146	James 2:1-10; 14-18	Mark 7:31-37
Sept. 12	Proper 19	Isaiah 50:4-10	Psalm 116:1-9	James 3:1-12	Mark 9:14-29
Sept. 19	Proper 20	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Psalm 54	James 3:13-4:10	Mark 9:30-37
Sept. 26	Proper 21	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	Psalm 104: 27-35	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50

## Join us for a Sunday Morning Bible Class!

September 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 Area	Jessica Dennis	The Promises of Jesus
Confirmation Class (5th grade & up)	Preschool Area	Pr. Walt Harper	A 2-Year study of the bible and Luther's Small Catechism
Middle School, including recently confirmed students	Outside behind Preschool Area	Rick Baden	A variety of lessons from the Bible
Adults & High School	Fellowship Hall	Sandy Osborne	God's Covenants with His People
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

### Adult Bible Study

Sandy Osborne will be leading the study on covenants beginning Sunday, September 5th in the fellowship hall.

From Genesis on, God enters into one formal relationship after another (i.e., covenants) with various humans in order to rescue His world. These divine-human relationships push that narrative forward until it reaches its climax in Jesus.



### September 2021 Anniversaries

9/2	Bradley & Amy Carey	9/24	Hal & Suzie Hoffman
9/7	Rich & Sue O'Dell	9/26	Mike & Dot Prater
9/9	Richard & Laura Shealy	9/26	Pete & Rita Witt
9/12	Joseph & Kim Perkins	9/29	David & Connie Cook
9/16	Jeff & Kelly Thrun	9/29	Stan & Suzi Slaughter Jr.

### September 2021 Birthdays

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

## Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

***"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."***  
**Philippians 4:6**



As Christians, we are thankful that God knows our thoughts and prayers even when we don't have words to express them. Often, God uses His family to express His encouragement to those who need it most. Let's continue our ministry to those in our congregation 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!

Don Angen	Betty Hunter	Carolyn McCartha	Carole Myers	Mary Schott
Phil Carter	Bonnie Jones	Anita Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Molly Kate Shealy
Shirley Curry	Harold/Sarah Jones	Laura Meetze	Dorothy Prater	Shirlean Sons
Cleta Dunaway	Melvin/Judy Jones	CR/Thelma Miller	Polly Roland	Flora Weed
Virginia Gable	Ron LaGrange	Dot Monts	Mandy Schultz	Waneta White
Teresa Hoefer	Herb Loebis	Eva Mae Monts	Henry/Linda Schmidt	



## Read the Bible in 3 Years

During the month of September, we will be continuing with the writings of the Prophet Jeremiah until the last week of the month. The letter of Paul to the church in Ephesus will conclude the month. Ephesians deals with topics at the very core of what it means to be a Christian. Paul reminds the church that Christianity is for all believers only by grace, through faith in Christ, and that this is God's free gift. Paul also gives practical insight into how believers must live in an unbelieving world.

September 2021							
Sep 1	Jeremiah 13-14	Sep 8	Jeremiah 27-28	Sep 16	Jeremiah 43-44	Sep 24	Lamentations 4
Sep 2	Jeremiah 15-16	Sep 9	Jeremiah 29-30	Sep 17	Jeremiah 45-46	Sep 25	Lamentations 5
Sep 3	Jeremiah 17-18	Sep 10	Jeremiah 31-32	Sep 18	Jeremiah 47-48	Sep 26	Ephesians 1
Sep 4	Jeremiah 19-20	Sep 11	Jeremiah 33-34	Sep 19	Jeremiah 49-50	Sep 27	Ephesians 2
Sep 5	Jeremiah 21-22	Sep 12	Jeremiah 35-36	Sep 20	Jeremiah 51-52	Sep 28	Ephesians 3
Sep 6	Jeremiah 23-24	Sep 13	Jeremiah 37-38	Sep 21	Lamentations 1	Sep 29	Ephesians 4
Sep 7	Jeremiah 25-26	Sep 14	Jeremiah 39-40	Sep 22	Lamentations 2	Sep 30	Ephesians 5
		Sep 15	Jeremiah 41-41	Sep 23	Lamentations 3		

## The Season after Pentecost Sign of the Month

It's September and the church is half way into its longest season, The Season after Pentecost. Watch for the Year B September sign at the entrance to the church. During year B of the church calendar, the Gospel scriptures generally come from Mark and in September, they will be from chapters 7 and 9. The first two weeks recount Jesus healing a deaf and mute man and a boy with an impure spirit. The third week, Jesus again predicts His death a second time. The fourth week, Jesus warns the disciples about being careful to not cause other believers to stumble.

Here is the preview of the September sign. As you come into the church why not take the ramp and pause a few moments by the sign to pick out the key words from each week's Gospel. Here is a little hint to help you out: the words on the signs are color coded by week! If you follow Mt. Olive on social media ([mtolivesc](#)) you will have seen posts of the weekly lectionary readings, so you can always use your smart phone to help you in your search.



## 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.

## **October Newsletter Deadline – September 24, 2021**

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the October 2021 issue of the Olive Leaves is September 21, 2021. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at **[slstrouse@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com)**.



## Women's Book Club



Ladies Book Club! We will be meeting the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. This Fall's book will be *The Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream. While we will meet September 7<sup>th</sup>, we will start discussion of the book on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Please feel free to come even if you don't read the book. We have great fellowship and the leader will synopsise the chapter so you will still get valuable information from attending! For more information contact Renee Harper at 203-885-6733 or [waltandrenee@att.net](mailto:waltandrenee@att.net).



## 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

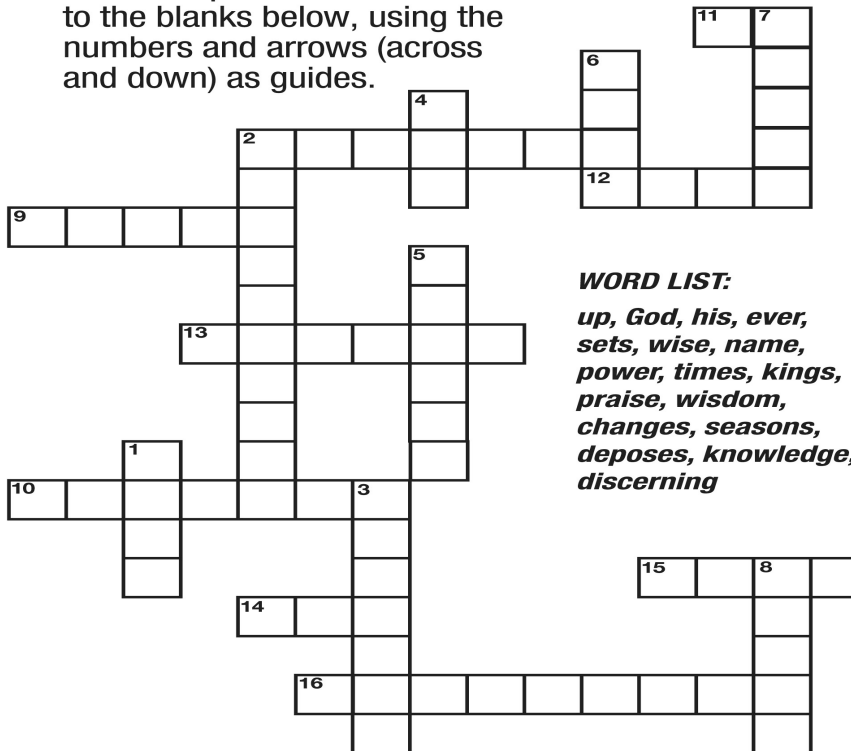


Mt. Olive has a nursery that is located downstairs, just behind the sanctuary. Parents are welcome to stay with their children during any worship service. There is a speaker so you will be able to hear the worship service. Parents, as you are leaving, please sanitize the toys with which your child has played.



## Kid's Korner Puzzle!

Fit these words from the book of Daniel into the squares. Then transfer them to the blanks below, using the numbers and arrows (across and down) as guides.



### WORD LIST:

*up, God, his, ever, sets, wise, name, power, times, kings, praise, wisdom, changes, seasons, deposes, knowledge, discerning*

" \_\_\_\_\_ be to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_  
 and \_\_\_\_\_ ; he \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 them. He gives \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ ." DANIEL 2:20-21

# Mount Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church

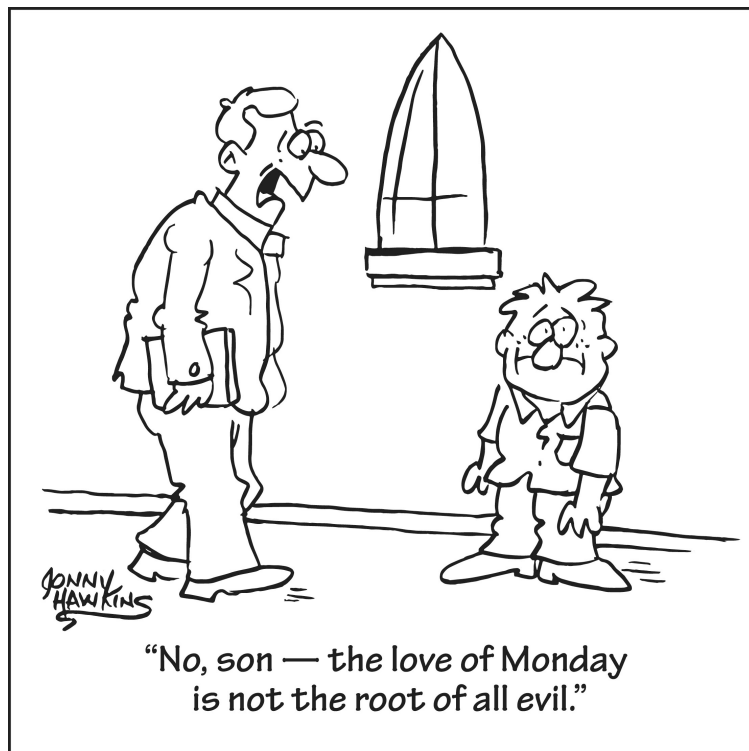
*Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

1541 Lake Murray Boulevard  
Columbia, SC 29212

Email: [LCMS@mtolivesc.org](mailto:LCMS@mtolivesc.org)  
Website: [www.mtolivesc.org](http://www.mtolivesc.org)  
Phone: (803) 781-5845  
Fax: (803) 781-3821

Return Service Requested

*September 2021*



Worship & The Lord's Supper  
Saturdays, 5:00 PM  
(Face Coverings Required)  
Sundays, 8 AM & 10:30 AM  
(Relaxed Pandemic Protocol)  
Sermons are on the Website, too.

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Bible Class & Sunday School  
Sundays, 9:15 AM

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Office Hours  
Monday – Thursday  
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM  
(803) 781-5845

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Christian Preschool  
Ages 2 – 4  
(Mornings during the School Year)

**Our mission is to grow in faith and love by spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**