

Olive Leaves



October 2021

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From Pastor Walt: The Continuing Work of Reformation

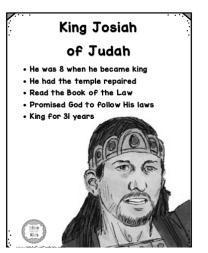
Pastor Walt Harper walt.harper@mtolivesc.org

A few days ago I was talking with someone about the various ups and downs of the people of God over the years. In that conversation I referred to the "Reformation that happened during the reign of King Josiah." I smiled inside, because the work of Josiah (II Kings 22 and 23) was certainly important; but I wondered if I'd just "Lutheranized" that era by calling it a Reformation.



I don't think so. This is because the work of Reformation is always necessary. This means that the work of Luther was essential, but at the same time that it was a continuation of the work of God in His Church all along.

In fact, one of the reasons Luther was so surprised about the Church's rejection of his work is that he knew his history. He knew that people like Bernard of Clairvaux, and even some popes like Gregory I, had previously called the Church to repentance and change.



So following that conversation about Josiah, I decided to re-read the verses about Josiah. And it struck me again: the work of that Reformation started with the re-discovery of the Word of God.

Imagine this, the words of Scripture had once been important to Israel. But over the years, worship at the Temple had become formalistic, and no longer heart-felt. They'd gotten caught up in "Here's how we do things here," and had forgotten what the Bible was actually saying.

It was during restoration work at the Temple that someone found some old manuscripts, and brought them to the King. He read anew what had God had said long before. Josiah scratched his head, and said, "We have got to get back to the Word." That one simple thing changed the nation (well, at least until they decided later to forget about the Word again).

From that day to this, Reformation follows (it does not precede) a renewed interest in what God has said, and a renewed emphasis on putting it into practice.

Is it any wonder that when Luther was forced into hiding, he immediately sat down to translate the New Testament from Greek into German? And is it any wonder that once the people started reading the Bible in their own language, they immediately got on with the project of reforming the Church?

How will the Lutheran Church of the 21st century keep the work of the Reformation alive? No surprise here: By a strong and serious commitment to the Word of God in written form.



From our President: Church Budgets

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

The first couple days of officially being fall have not been disappointing. The weather has been sunny and cool! College football is in full swing! And hunting season is in! I love this time of year and I am sure I am not alone.



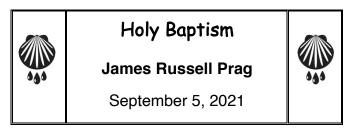
The Chairpersons for the boards have been busy preparing their 2022 budgets. Church council will discuss and approve the budget at the October meeting in time for it to be on the agenda at the November Voter's Assembly. We are so blessed to have such a loving, compassionate, and giving congregation.

Thank you for everyone's understanding as the new COVID variant completes its wrath. I am praying that we can be back *in person* for all meetings in November. I am looking forward to getting back to a more normal routine.

Safety Tip: Theft is on the rise! It is hard to believe that lumber is such a hot commodity. If you are making any renovations, please keep your materials out of sight and be vigilant for those who might steal your lumber and wire. Catalytic converters for your cars are also topping the theft list. Please be safe!



September Pastoral Acts



Stephen Ministry: Keeping Your Mental Well-Being

Bíll Boykín, Leader

Stephen Ministry focuses on the well-being of people, especially when they are overwhelmed by grief or one of life's crises. Here are some things to do to help you with your mental well-being that were a part of a newsletter I received from Concordia Plans:



- If something (or someone) is weighing on your mind, write about it. Researchers found that those with anxiety who wrote about what's on their mind three days a week over a 12-week period had increased feelings of well-being and fewer depression symptoms after one month.
- Read a book. Getting lost in a book can lower levels of cortisol and other un- healthy stress hormones by 68%.
- Do something for someone else. Pay for the food for the car behind you in the drive-through. Take a meal to a family going through a crisis. Acts of kindness can lift the spirits of those you help and boosts your wellbeing in the process.
- Take some time to laugh. Watch a comedy movie. Listen to a humorous podcast while driving. Check out funny videos or comedians online. Laughter is good for the heart and increases blood flow by 20%.
- Practice forgiveness even if it's just forgiving that person who wasn't driving well during your morning commute. People who forgive have better mental health and report being more satisfied with their lives.
- Devote some time each week to being outdoors. Walk or bike through a park or take a hike in the woods. Research shows that being in green space can increase energy levels, reduce depression and boost well-being.
- Get help when you need it: Seeking help is a sign of strength not a weakness.

Source: Better Health Fall 2021 Newsletter from Concordia Plans Resources, content from Mental Health America



The Board of Christian Education: National Youth Gathering

Jessica Dennis, Sunday School Coordinator

While we have been waiting to resume Youth Group activities, we've encouraged Mt. Olive's youth to join the Adult SS class. Now, National Youth Gathering 2022 preparation is fully underway! I've been calling parents and gauging interest. We plan to hold our first Youth Gathering prep meeting with youth, parents, and volunteers at the end of October! Registration will begin November 1st. This is the time for Mt. Olive's youth to reunite and get excited about joining Lutheran youth from around the country to study and



worship, next summer! The NYG will be held in Houston, TX from July 9th through the 13th, with an "in All Things" focus. PLEASE reach out to me if your high schooler (rising 9th graders through seniors) is interested in participating!

Preschool News

Anna Brent, Preschool Dírector 803-781-7180 - preschool@mtolívesc.org Web: mtolívesc.org/preschool - Facebook.com/mountolívepreschool



The preschool is now full of the sounds of precious children! This ministry is growing and touching the lives of so many families in our community. We currently have 30 students who are settling in well and enjoying school. There are only a few spots available in the 2-year-old classroom. Students must turn 2 by September 1, 2021 to enroll.

While only students and teachers are allowed in the preschool area during the school day, we would love for you to take a look at the bulletin board for the Preschool located in the hallway between the Fellowship Hall and Bill's office. It has the faces of the children whom the Lord has placed in our care this year. It will be updated monthly and will have information for you to get a glimpse of our school days. Also, please feel free to follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@mtolivepreschool).

We have 1 1/2 scholarships that are being used to help 3 families, all returning students. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these children or a future student, please contact me. Some choose to give support monthly or others help with a one-time gift.

Please continue to pray for our staff, students and families as the school year continues. Pray that the Lord protects us and keeps us healthy, and equips us for His service each day. Pray for flexible spirts, wisdom in navigating policies and procedures, and for the Love of Christ to be evident in all we do.



The Board of Public Relations: God's Path

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:11-12

This month we are celebrating Reformation Sunday. Martin Luther knew changes had to be made about the indulgences that were being sold by the Catholic Church to people for their repentance. It was a huge change that had to be made to show people that God loves them without payments or good works.

As growing Christians, we need to pray, read the Bible, attend church, participate in

Bible studies, and search out God's plan. Studying Bible verses and listening to church services or Bible classes can open our minds to revelations that we have never seen or heard before. When this happens to me, I go straight to the Bible to make sure I am on the correct path to a new discovery. Once I discern that this is God's plan, it helps me to make changes in my life that ensure I am on God's path, not my own or someone else's.



Board of Stewardship: Reformation Sunday

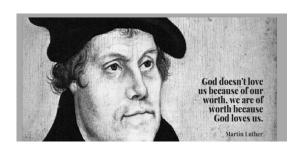
Naven Olson, Chairperson

"I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant, For I do not forget Thy commandments." Psalm 119:176

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

"But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Galatians 6:14

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me." Galatians 2:20



This month we look forward to Reformation Day on October 31 and remember the *Solas* of the Reformation: Scripture alone, grace alone, faith alone and Christ alone. The 1st verse above is the last verse of the longest chapter in the Bible, which is a long ode to the sacred Scripture. The psalmist's final conclusion is that he is a wayward sinner. The 2nd verse is a reminder that we are saved only by grace through faith. And the 3rd and 4th verses remind us that the

object of our faith is Jesus Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification.

In gratitude for His work may we give generously of time, efforts and resources to support the proclamation of Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification; reach out to our families, friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc.; be regular in church attendance, Bible study and prayer; and reject dreams of worldly glory.

And may I make two recommendations for stewardship of time: 1) Pastor Walt is teaching an excellent Bible study on Genesis at 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM on Wednesdays; 2) I also listen to KFUO on my computer on Tuesdays including "A Moment in Creation" with Pastor Warren Worth shortly after 1:30 PM and other KFUO programming.



October 2021 Lectionary Readings

Date Festival		Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel	
October 3	Proper 22	Isaiah 27:2-6	Psalm 128	Galatians 5:16-26	John 15:1-5	
October 10	Proper 23	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	Psalm 90:12-17	Hebrews 3:12-19	Mark 10:17-22	
October 17	Proper 24	Ecclesiastes 5:10–20	Psalm 119:9-16	Hebrews 4:1–13	Mark 10:23-31	
October 24	Proper 25	Jeremiah 31:7–9	Psalm 126	Hebrews 7:23–28	Mark 10:46-52	
October 31	Reformation	Revelation14:6-7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19-28	John 8:31-36	

Social Ministry Board

Mary Keller, Chairperson

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:21



How many times has something inside urged you to do a certain thing, but instead you allowed the voice in your head to overrule the voice in your spirit? That thought you've had so many times, but paid no attention to it. We doubt ourselves, over analyze and think, 'That can't be right' or 'I couldn't possibly do that.' We build our own barriers and paralyze ourselves because we're afraid. We only see our limitations which become our limitations. As we

grow in relationship with God, seek His Word, and speak to Him in prayer, we will grow in recognizing that inner voice, our spiritual intuition. We will become more confident in recognizing how God is speaking to us as He tells us what we need to do, when we need to act, what direction to take, and what changes we need to make. When our inner voice aligns with His Word we can act with confidence!

Lutheran Services of the Carolinas are aiding Refugees who have been forced to flee from their homes. The Midlands area is anticipating 137 refugees from Afghanistan in the coming weeks. Some will arrive with only what they are wearing. From there, if needed, they will be placed in a temporary housing situation to get them acclimated to their new community. So, LSC is creating a Network Welcome Circle for incoming refugees. This networking process is evolving along with a list of needs that will be stored at Sharing God's Love. (The list will be available in the coming weeks). If your inner voice is nudging you to get involved, please contact me at the church office (803-781-5845) or on my cell (586-822-4624) for more details about this significant ministry opportunity. We will only flourish in the place where we belong, doing what God has called and equipped us to do! 'It is God who works in you to will and act according to His good purpose' (Philippians2:13).



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

Board of Evangelism: Seven Tips for Witnessing

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 1:8 ESV

In his Internet article "Are You Too Christian for Non-Christians?" Rick Segal identifies seven tips we can use to boost our evangelism efforts with unbelievers. Rick Segal is Vice President of Advancement and a Distinguished Lecturer of Commerce & Vocation at Bethlehem College & Seminary.

1. Pray for the unbelievers in your life by name.

We personally know people in our work place, and casual friends who do not have a church home. We can take those relationships to a new level by taking their given names before the Lord in prayer.

2. Be intentional in pursuing relationships and scheduling time with unbelievers.

Identify someone outside of your Christian circle with whom you think you would enjoy knowing better or a person who appears to need someone's help as they struggle with life's burdens. Spend the time to build a closer relationship with them, but don't sacrifice your principles or values in order to love them.

3. Don't withdraw from unbelieving family members. Lean in.

There may be members of your family with whom you have differences. All we can do is love them and be sincerely interested in their successes and failures. Lean in and pray for them.

4. Love your neighbors.

Engage in conversation to get to know your neighbors. Look for opportunities to show hospitality and concern for them.

5. Appreciate your workplace as the best place.

We should take an active interest in our coworkers as fellow human beings without compromising our values. Recognize that unbelieving co-workers are the objects of our work as ambassadors for Christ.

6. Harvest relationships from your children's activities.

We need to be friend people with a variety of backgrounds, customs and beliefs. We can help bring people together by doing things with them and include family members, coworkers, and neighbors.

7. Take up a new hobby, especially one shared in groups.

Find something that is fun or interesting to learn or do, but also requires meeting new people.



October 2021 Anniversaries

10/6	Larry & Louise Meetze	10/15	Matthew & Emily Kearse
10/6	Hank & Jenn Weed	10/26	Emily & Joshua Ranta
10/7	Jim & Natalie Crosland	10/26	Bill & Shirley Vogel
10/8	Rich and Mary Joel Keller	10/29	Michael & Susan Strouse
10/9	Gary & Debbie Meetze	10/30	Odell & Pam Stuck
10/13	Berney & Kathy Eargle		

October 2021 Birthdays

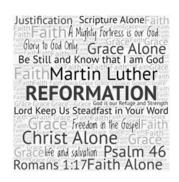
10/3	Phillippe Folks	10/10	Pete Witt	10/21	Isabella Patterson
10/3	Bonnie Jones	10/11	Megan Smith	10/24	Dieter Steinborn
10/3	Polly Roland	10/12	Eric Weed	10/25	LaVelle Walker
10/5	Billie Whitaker	10/12	Barbara West	10/26	Linda Gifford
10/6	Larry Meetze	10/13	Peggy Osborne	10/26	Jack Robinson
10/7	Gene Schmitzer	10/13	Chayden Weed	10/27	Eli Duncan
10/8	Wynn Meetze	10/14	Jason Brabham	10/27	Debbie Meetze
10/9	Bruce Greer	10/14	Tina Dixon	10/27	Jaime Stuck
10/9	Matthew Kearse	10/14	Murray Meetze	10/27	Randy Voyles
10/9	Chris Slaughter	10/17	Eva Mae Monts	10/29	Rita Witt
10/9	Carmen Witt	10/18	Declan Selke	10/31	Wes Hammond
10/10	Mark Carter	10/20	Jens Rosinski	10/31	Mazie Selke
10/10	Denise McKinney	10/21	Cleta Dunaway		





The Season after Pentecost and Reformation Day Signs

The church is nearing the end of its longest season, The Season after Pentecost. Watch for the Year B October sign at the entrance to the church. The Gospel scriptures for the first four Sundays come from Mark 10, the entire chapter. On the sign, you can find references to: Jesus' rebuke of the Pharisees after they tried again to test Him, this time on



divorce; on our having trusting hearts like children; the rich man who asked Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"; Jesus predicting his death; and the healing of a blind man.

The final Sunday in October is Reformation Day! Look for phrases on this sign that refer to the Holy Spirit's revelations from scripture to Martin Luther and the hymns we often sing on this historical day for Christianity!

Join us for a Sunday Morning Bible Class!

October 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	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.						

Read the Bible in 3 Years

During the month of October, we should not be bored in our Bible readings because we will be reading from six different books! To begin the month, we finish up our reading of Ephesians with chapter 6, the armor of God. If this wasn't one of your favorite passages, it should be now after hearing Pr. Walt's sermon from August 29th.

Next, we are back in the Old Testament reading two of the minor prophets, Joel and Jonah. Joel prophesied about the future day of the Lord, that God's Spirit would fill all His people, and the world will be renewed. Scholars do not know for sure when the book of Joel was written, but he does quote from several other books including Isaiah, Amos, Nahum, Zephaniah, Ezekiel, Obadiah, Malachi, and Exodus. This shows that he was a well-educated man.

Most of us are familiar with the book of Jonah and the incredible account of how God redirected him, via a big fish, to go to the evil capital of Assyria, Nineveh, to prophesy God's judgment on them if they did not repent. Jonah was from the northern kingdom of Israel and Assyria was a cruel enemy who, in Jonah's mind, did not deserve a second chance! Therefore, he decided to go in the opposite direction. His waywardness should remind us to be obedient to God.

Jonah is only one of four prophets that Jesus mentions by name during His earthly ministry. Jesus identified Jonah's three days in the belly of the great fish as a foreshadowing of His own death and resurrection (Matthew 12:39-42).

Ecclesiastes is our next book, beginning October 9th. The book gives us a chance to see the world through the eyes of a person who, though very wise, is trying to find meaning in temporary, human things. The writer wants to spare future generations the suffering and misery of seeking after materialistic emptiness and to offer wisdom by seeking God instead.

We return to the New Testament book of James on October 21st. These chapters should be very familiar to us as all four of the September epistle readings were taken from James. This book was written by Jesus' half-brother in approximately 48-49 A.D., making it one of the first letters to be written. James is teaching to the early Christians, encouraging them to endure the turbulent times by giving them wise, practical ways to put their faith into action.

The last week of October finds us in 1st Kings, a book of narrative history and prophecy. The book begins with Solomon's reign as the last king of the united Israel and then its split into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The rebellious north was comprised of 10 of the original tribes and was first ruled by Jeroboam. The south was made of tribes of Judah and Benjamin and ruled by Solomon's greedy son, Rehoboam.

October 2021								
Oct 1	Ephesians 6	Oct 9	Ecclesiastes 1	Oct 17	Ecclesiastes 9	Oct 25	James 5	
Oct 2	Joel 1	Oct 10	Ecclesiastes 2	Oct 18	Ecclesiastes 10	Oct 26	I Kings 1	
Oct 3	Joel 2	Oct 11	Ecclesiastes 3	Oct 19	Ecclesiastes 11	Oct 27	I Kings 2	
Oct 4	Joel 3	Oct 12	Ecclesiastes 4	Oct 20	Ecclesiastes 12	Oct 28	I Kings 3	
Oct 5	Jonah 1	Oct 13	Ecclesiastes 5	Oct 21	James 1	Oct 29	I Kings 4	
Oct 6	Jonah 2	Oct 14	Ecclesiastes 6	Oct 22	James 2	Oct 30	I Kings 5	
Oct 7	Jonah 3	Oct 15	Ecclesiastes 7	Oct 23	James 3	Oct 31	I Kings 6	
Oct 8	Jonah 4	Oct 16	Ecclesiastes 8	Oct 24	James 4			

Announcements & Opportunities

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who remembered my 90^{th} birthday with prayers, cards and calls. I am thankful for my church family and so thankful to God that I can still attend Mt. Olive to be with you all in prayer and worship. May God bless each of you. Love, Marge Carter.



Flu shots at Mt. Olive!

Publix Pharmacy will be hosting a flu shot clinic on Sunday, October 10. There are some changes this year. The clinic will take place in the **preschool classrooms** following both services. Flu shots will be available for ages **4 years old and up.** High dose vaccine will be available for members age 65 and up. State, Tricare, and Medicare members will receive their vaccine at no cost. Most other insurances cover the vaccine at no cost, as well. **Please**

note: it is not required to wait any length of time between other vaccines (i.e., COVID vaccine) and the flu vaccine. Questions? Please contact Nadia BouFawaz via email at boufawaz@gmail.com, or by phone at 803-345-7542.





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.

November Newsletter Deadline -October 26, 2021

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the November 2021 issue of the Olive Leaves is October 26, 2021. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at strouse@gmail.com.



Women's Book Club



Ladies Book Club! We will be meeting the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This fall's book will be *The Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream. We will meet October 5th, to study Hagar, the second part of chapter 1. Please feel free to come even if you don't read the book. We have great fellowship and the leader will synopsize the chapter and you will learn so much from attending! For more information contact Renee Harper at 203-885-6733 or waltandrenee@att.net.

Painting Class - Join in the fun by signing up for the painting class on Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We can take 25 people, but some painters will not have use of an easel. Since the pandemic is rearing its ugly head again, bring your own drink and a pre-packaged snack to share. The cost is \$6.00, payable on Saturday.



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



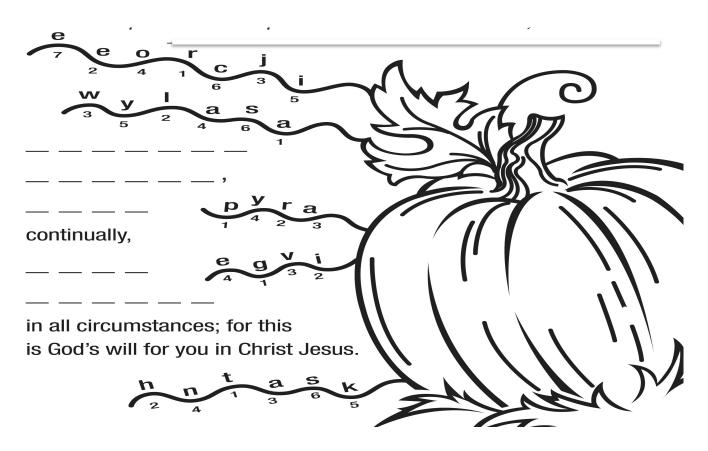
Mt. Olive has a nursery that is located downstairs, just behind the sanctuary. Parents are welcome to stay with their children during any worship service. There is a speaker so you will be able to hear the worship service. Parents, as you are leaving, please sanitize the toys with which your child has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

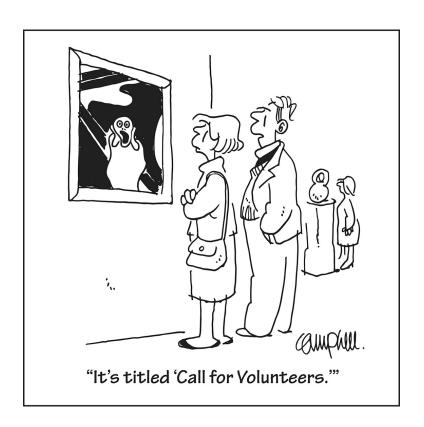


Kid's Korner



Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the line provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18.







Saturdays, 5:00 PM
(Face Coverings Required)
Sundays, 8 AM & 10:30 AM
(Relaxed Pandemic Protocol)
Sermons are on the Website, too.
+++

Bible Class & Sunday School Sundays, 9:15 AM

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

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