



Olive Leaves



November 2021

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From Pastor Walt: It's a Great Time to Be the Church

Pastor Walt Harper
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I recently listened to a presentation by Dr. Dale Meyer titled, "Why Your Congregation Is More Important Than Ever." Dr. Meyer was the long-time speaker for The Lutheran Hour, and just recently retired from being the president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

I've heard him say before "It's a great time to be the Church." Unsurprisingly, he repeated the phrase several times in this presentation.

Of course it's always a bit of a surprise to many when they first hear it. Especially us older folks. We tend to think of "all the things we've lost." We remember living in "Christian America" (much could be said about that phrase, but I think most know what it means), and lament all the changes that have gone on in the last 50 to 60 years.

Thinking on such things we'll say, "Dr. Meyer, how can you say that this is a great time to be the Church?" His answer is full of detailed comments, and you could consider hunting him down on YouTube. But a quick synopsis would be: If Jesus is still the Lord of the Church (He is), and if Jesus is still at work in the world (He is), and if Jesus has chosen to work through us in our own particular time and place (He has), then it's a great time to be the Church.

I smile as I think of it, because I can be as glum as anyone. Somehow 58 years of life turns your brain to thinking about "How things used to be." Not that those thoughts don't contain some truth. It's just that we often romanticize the past, and then contemplate "How bad things have gotten."

How easy it is to forget the hardships of the past.

- Lutherans often say, "O, to have lived in the days of Luther." You mean when the Gospel was outlawed, and when Luther lived under a death sentence?
- We think of the bravery of our soldiers during World War II. I thank God for them, but we should also consider how dire things were when it wasn't clear that Nazism would be defeated.
- We think of when a gallon of milk cost five cents. Yes, and do we remember that people made \$200 a month then?



- We think of delightful family gatherings when we were children. Yes, and the adults shielded us from the family turmoil.

None of this is to say that we don't face challenges in our era. We do, and they are serious. But every age has had its own challenges. We have to be totally clear on this: Every age has had its own challenges.



And throughout, this has remained true: Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Church, is at work in the world, and has chosen His people to be engaged in their time and place.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving once again, maybe we could think on the fact that it is still "A great time to be the Church." We are indeed richly blessed, and we have been chosen by God to be His Church right now.

And then perhaps our challenges have provided us with an opportunity to ask some questions: What are we really to be about in these circumstances? What are the core things that matter the most? What would Christ have us do, as His Church, at this time?



From our President: November Voter's Meeting

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

I can't believe Thanksgiving is around the corner meaning that the holiday season is here! This might be a little self-serving but I'm really looking forward to some traditional holiday scheduling! Church Council Chairpersons have done a wonderful job in completing their budgets and the finance committee has the 2022 budget ready for the Voter's Meeting on November 21st after the late service. Thank you so much!



Also, thank you everyone for the fine compliments on our son Jimmy. It was so nice to have him home after ten months of Navy "A" School. He is currently assigned to the USS Missouri out of Pearl Harbor. As you can probably tell, Yes, I'm one proud poppa!

Veteran's Day is November 11, so please take the time to honor all of our Veterans. They have sacrificed so much to give us the freedoms that we have today.

Safety Tip: We have seen an increase in cyber-attacks at work lately. Please take the time to thoroughly review your emails and make sure your passwords are protected. They are using the Phishing scheme in which they attempt to get you to enter your credentials. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Stan Slaughter. Stan is the man at the City of Cayce for our IT needs.

Stay Safe and Healthy.

Stephen Ministry: Caring for People

Bill Boykin, Leader

**"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."
Psalm 145:8**



Stephen Ministry is all about caring for people who are going through the normal crises of life including the loss of a loved one, loneliness, long-term illness, being overwhelmed, and many others. All of us need to work together to care for our friends, neighbors, and family members who are experiencing these tough times.

The first thing we can do in caring is to pray. Pray for the person, the situation, and that you will be open to the Holy Spirit's guidance as you minister. Pray that you will reflect the nature of God when you talk with or meet with your friend.

As you listen, empathize with your friend. Imagine yourself in his/her place and how you would feel if you were in that situation. Remember, you are not there to fix the situation. That is God's job. Your jobs are to support, listen, affirm, encourage, love, and then to keep listening some more.

If the Holy Spirit puts a relevant Bible promise or verse on your mind, share it at an appropriate time. When you share from scripture it reminds your friend that Jesus is always caring for his people.

Finally, ask to pray. Ask your friend what and how to pray about. You can pray in person or promise your friend that you will be praying at home.



The Board of Public Relations: Our Website

Aresa Boykin, Board Member

**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8**



Have you visited Mt. Olive's website lately? The next time you are on your computer or mobile device, go to mtolivesc.org and take a look. Click on all the tabs. Scroll down the pages. Get a general idea of our church's presence for the world to see!

As members of Mt. Olive, it is important that you be familiar with our site. Did you know that most of our visitors have explored it and know a lot about us before they walk in the door? They have read our calendar on the home page. They have read our pandemic policies and know that our Saturday service is face-covering required. They know our different outreach programs and classes. They know we have a preschool ministry. They have looked at our current newsletter. They have probably even followed a link to view a sermon or two. Some have shown their children the kids' messages so they will be familiar with Pr. Walt sitting with the children up front.

So please take a few minutes and become familiar with Mt. Olive's website. I hope that you are pleasantly surprised at our church's digital presence – our "witness to the ends of the earth."

Preschool News

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 - preschool@mtolivesc.org

Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool - Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool

Greetings from the preschool! We are so thankful for the Lord's continued protection and health as we enjoy being back together again.



The two-year-olds have been learning about creation and are creating an art project to go along with their learning. The three-year-olds and four-year-olds have been busy learning about letters A through D, including **A**pples, **B**ears, **C**ats and **D**inosaurs- just to name a few! We have beautiful student artwork on display in the hallways and would love for you to please feel free to come down to the preschool area (outside of preschool hours) to see the students' artwork and the changes that have taken place over the spring/summer.

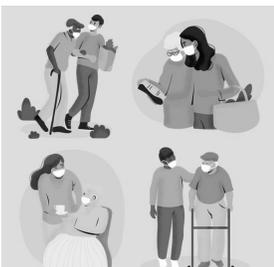
As we enter this season of thanksgiving, I would ask you to please prayerfully consider supporting the preschool through continued prayer and wish list items for the preschool & preschool classrooms. Beginning on November 7th, you will see a Tree of Thanksgiving displayed in the Narthex. It will look a little different this year and will have prayer bookmarks with a picture and name of one of our precious preschool students. It will also have a card that explains ways that you can donate specific items for classrooms or make a monetary donation to help purchase a new Crawl 'n' Climb Caterpillar for the playground. The tree will be displayed until Sunday, November 21st. Your generosity and unwavering support of the preschool is a huge blessing as we strive to fulfill our mission to "Grow in faith and love by spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by providing a Christ-centered experience for young children."



Board of Evangelism: What is your view of Mission Work?

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

**"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation.'"
Mark 16:15 NIV**



I used to think mission work was for trained missionaries going to foreign countries to preach and baptize and I never considered myself as a participant. Over time, and especially during the past several years, I have come to realize that the mission field is not restricted to foreign countries but includes every nation on this planet. Also, mission work is not restricted to preaching and baptizing, but includes helping others through acts of kindness and charity. We were reminded of this type of mission work through the recent visit to our worship services by Dan and Patty Schmelzer of Capstone Ministries.

As they provide reconciliation, food, clothing, and shelter to families in Kenya, they are given the chance to share Christ and exemplify God's love for them. We can and should support worldwide and local mission work through financial contributions, donations of clothing, furniture, and our time. Find a local mission where you can donate some of your time, you won't regret it.

Board of Stewardship: What Shall We Do?

Naven Olson, Chairperson

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'" John 14:6

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

"And when He [Jesus] approached, He saw the city and wept over it." Luke 19:41

This devotional was inspired by the Lutheran Hour devotional for October 16th on the LCMS web page, based on a sermon by former Lutheran Hour speaker Wallace Schulz. He was lamenting the sad state of our society and churches. Denial of the truths of God's Word is becoming more widespread!

What shall we do? First, we must weep and NOT rage. Second, let us set our hope on things above, not on the things of this world; and focus on individuals, not on society. Third, let us give generously of our time, talents, efforts and resources to spread the Gospel of Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification. Let us be in church weekly and in Bible study and prayer daily.

Pastor Schulz quoted Revelation 21:1-5: *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.' And He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' And He said, 'Write, for these words are faithful and true.'"* This is the hope that should motivate us.



October Pastoral Acts

	Holy Baptism	Funeral Service	
	Kinsley Bray Kearse October 3, 2021	Virginia Meetze Gable August 15, 1940 – October 8, 2021 October 16, 2021	

Social Ministry Board: An Attitude of Gratitude

Mary Keller, Chairperson

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1Thessalonians 5:18



Most of us know that cultivating a grateful heart is good for us. But we may not realize, just how good. By intentionally setting aside time to be grateful we can begin to cultivate an "Attitude of Gratitude". Here are a few thoughts to contemplate:

Gratitude glorifies God. Our gratitude glorifies God as we exalt not the gifts, but the Giver. Gratitude helps us realize all we have does not come because of us, but from God.

Gratitude helps us to see God. It opens our spiritual eyes. The more we thank Him, the more we see Him working in us and around us, His presence, His personalized care, and His perfect timing.

Gratitude puts us squarely in God's will. Even when a part of His will for us is difficult. And as a part of His will for us, to be thankful, giving thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus.

Gratitude brings peace. Counting our blessings and getting rid of the worry keeping us up at night. It helps us see that God's hand is over all our circumstances. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4:6-7.

Gratitude brings contentment. It makes what we have enough, grateful for what God has provided for us, and it's the key to contentment.

Gratitude draws us closer to God. It deepens our faith and is the gateway to joy because of His abundant goodness.

Gratitude is a testimony. When we thank God, we openly acknowledge what He has done for us, we proclaim a personal relationship with our loving God to the world around us. We show that contentment and peace do not come from what we have, but Who we know. Consider deliberate intentionality by journaling your "Attitude of Gratitude," a written testimony of God's faithfulness, mercy, and unconditional love!



November Lectionary

Date	Festival	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
November 7	All Saints Sunday	Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
November 14	Proper 28	Daniel 12:1-3	Psalm 16	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-13
November 21	Christ the King Sunday	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	Psalm 93	Jude 20-25	Mark 13:24-37
November 28	Advent 1	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 19:28-40

Join us for a Sunday Morning Bible Class!

November 2021 Sunday School & Bible Classes – 9:15 AM			
Infants – age 2	Nursery	Parents may stay with their infants & toddlers in the nursery. Please listen to the worship service through the speaker and sanitize the toys with which your child has played.	
Circle of Friends	Preschool Area	Katie Tyczynski & Faithful Group of Volunteers	Bringing Jesus to Special Needs Children
PK3 – 4th Grade	Upstairs Classrooms	Jessica Dennis	The Promises of Jesus
Confirmation Class (5th grade & up)	Preschool Big Room	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	Barry Bost	The Weekly Epistle Lesson
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”
Hebrews 10:23

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 minister 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	Cyndi Nelson	Mary Schott
Phil Carter	Bonnie Jones	Anita Meetze	Dorothy Prater	Molly Kate Shealy
Shirley Curry	Harold/Sarah Jones	Laura Meetze	Polly Roland	Shirlean Sons
Cleta Dunaway	Melvin/Judy Jones	CR/Thelma Miller	Mandy Schultz	Flora Weed
Teresa Hoefler	Ron LaGrange	Dot Monts	Linda Schmidt	Waneta White
	Herb Loebis	Eva Mae Monts		

November 2021 Anniversaries

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

November 2021 Birthdays

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



Read the Bible in 3 Years

The book of Kings was originally a single book that was divided into two shorter books in English Bibles. Kings gives an account of the kings of Israel beginning with the death of King David, to the reign of his son Solomon, to the decline and division of Israel into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, through the fall of both kingdoms. The ministry of the prophets Elijah and Elisha to the Northern Kingdom are recorded, as well.

As you read, it is helpful if you make a list that names each king, his kingdom (Judah or Israel), and whether or not he did what was right or evil in the eyes of the Lord.

November 2021							
Nov 1	I Kings 7	Nov 8	I Kings 14	Nov 16	I Kings 22	Nov 24	II Kings 8
Nov 2	I Kings 8	Nov 9	I Kings 15	Nov 17	II Kings 1	Nov 25	II Kings 9
Nov 3	I Kings 9	Nov 10	I Kings 16	Nov 18	II Kings 2	Nov 26	II Kings 10
Nov 4	I Kings 10	Nov 11	I Kings 17	Nov 19	II Kings 3	Nov 27	II Kings 11
Nov 5	I Kings 11	Nov 12	I Kings 18	Nov 20	II Kings 4	Nov 28	II Kings 12
Nov 6	I Kings 12	Nov 13	I Kings 19	Nov 21	II Kings 5	Nov 29	II Kings 13
Nov 7	I Kings 13	Nov 14	I Kings 20	Nov 22	II Kings 6	Nov 30	II Kings 14
		Nov 15	I Kings 21	Nov 23	II Kings 7		

Our November Signs

November will be a busy month for our church signs at the entrance with five of them for you to notice! The first Sunday in November is All Saints Sunday, so check out the sign with hymn titles and words that describe heaven. Next, we have the last two Sundays of the Season after Pentecost, including the last Sunday of the church year, Christ the King. Look for key words from the Gospels of Mark 13 and John 18 on these signs. Our Thanksgiving cornucopia sign will come next on November 24th-25th. November 28th marks the beginning of a new church year, Advent of year C where we will be preparing for the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Announcements & Opportunities



The 5:00 PM Saturday Service

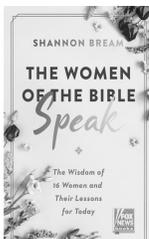
The 5:00 PM Saturday Service requires a face covering for the entire service. If attending church on Saturday is your preference but you cannot wear a face covering for the entire service, you may view the live worship service in the fellowship hall.

December-January Newsletter Deadline –November 23, 2021

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the December 2021-January 2022 issue of the Olive Leaves is Tuesday, November 23, 2021. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at slstrouse@gmail.com.



Women's Book Club



Our Ladies Book Club will be meeting the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet November 2nd to study Leah, the second part of chapter 2, and on November 16th, we will study Tamar, the first part of chapter 3 in the book by Shannon Bream "The Women of the Bible Speak." Please feel free to come even if you don't read the book. We have great fellowship and the leader will synopsise the chapter and you will learn so much from attending! For more information contact Renee Harper at 203-885-6733 or waltandrene@att.net.

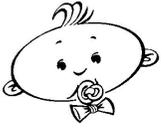
Thanksgiving Eve Worship, November 24th, 7:00 PM

Please mark your calendars and plan to worship with us on Thanksgiving Eve. This service is filled with praise and thanksgiving for our Heavenly Father and all that He has given us.

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

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M=1, N=2, O=3, ... A=15, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11

FIRST CLUE: 15 7 15 13 3 9 2 21 1 15 2

22 19 25 23 26 26 19 18 7 3 1 19 3 2 19.

SECOND CLUE: 22 19 11 15 7 8 19 2 18 23 2 21

7 22 19 19 4 23 2 8 22 19 18 19 7 19 6 8

11 22 19 2 21 3 18 17 15 26 26 19 18 22 23 1.

THIRD CLUE: 15 7 15 16 15 16 13 22 19 11 15 7

20 3 9 2 18 20 26 3 15 8 23 2 21 23 2 15

16 15 7 25 19 8 23 2 8 22 19 2 23 26 19 6 23 10 19 6.

Who is this person? _____
