



Olive Leaves

March 2022



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From Pastor Walt: Sermon Series for Lent Midweek Services

Pastor Walt Harper
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"Visited by Prophets"

Last Advent we had a sermon series for the Midweek Services. It was called, "Visited by Angels," based on the prevalence of angels in the run-up to Christmas.

Angels, it was noted, are God's non-corporeal messengers, always active, but uniquely so in anticipation of the birth of the Savior.

So this Lent we'll look not at "angels" in that sense, but the "other messengers from God," His holy prophets.

You can't get far into the Old Testament before you start bumping into these guys. There are many of them, and they span many centuries of work.

Unlike angels, they are quite corporeal. They're human, limited, fallen, imperfect, full of hopes and dreams, as well as frustrations. Sometimes they're powerful, often they're full of doubts and hesitation. (You will regularly see them saying something along the lines of: "Send someone else," or even "Are You sure You want to send me?")

Still, off they went. They preached the words God gave them. They called their own people to repentance. And of course they preached that someday God would do something special through the Messiah.

We can't look at them all in the few weeks of Lent. But we can look at some of them, and we will. Here's the plan:

- March 2: Intro to the Prophets
- March 9: Elijah
- March 16: Isaiah
- March 23: Jeremiah
- March 30: Ezekiel
- April 6: Daniel



I hope that you'll consider joining us for either the 12:00 (noon) service, or the 7:00 pm service.

Blessings,
Pr. Walt

From our President: Five Year Plan Coming Soon

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

Finally, looks like COVID is getting put on the back burner and some normalcy is starting to appear. Mt. Olive is very busy catching up with projects from the past and looking to the future, too. Due to the number of projects being presented, Church Council thought it would be a great idea to formulate a strategic five-year plan to present to the Voters in May. The board chairpersons are working on a particular set of questions for their board members to complete and then present to Council. Church council will then have a work session to finalize the plan and distribute.



With so many committees doing great work for the church, I thank you so much for your time and commitment. The Nominating Committee will start looking for volunteers this month so if anyone has the desire to serve, please reach out to church council.

Safety Tip: We are seeing an increase in property crimes this month. Please make sure your sheds, garages, homes, vehicles, and other property are secured and locked.




The Board of Fellowship: Potlucks are Back!

Jill Brabham, Chairperson

After a seemingly never ending hiatus due to COVID, the fellowship board is incredibly excited to be cranking up again to serve our wonderful congregation! We have much planned for 2022, starting with Lenten Lunches following the noon midweek services. We will hold lunch following the service beginning Wednesday, March 9th, through Wednesday, April 6th. Look for the signup sheet beginning this week in the Narthex to sign up to bring food. We also have plans for something special on Mother's Day, Father's Day and Grandparent's Day, as well as 5th Sunday potlucks following the 10:30 a.m. service. More to come on all of these exciting events! If you feel the call to serve on our board, we always need more helping hands. Please contact Jill Brabham at 803-587-9116 or Jillian17L@gmail.com if you would be interested.



February Pastoral Acts

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | <p>Funeral Service Sarah Alice "Sally" Long Kinard February 7, 1938 - January 28, 2022 February 4, 2022</p> |  |
|---|---|---|

The Board of Public Relations: A Prayer for Lent

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2nd. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make crosses on parishioners' foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they are a sign of mourning, humiliation, and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your Word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."

(Taken from the March 2022 NewsletterNewsletter.)



Board of Stewardship: Lent

Naven Olson, Chairperson

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)



On March 2nd, we will enter the season of Lent, a season for remembering and focusing on the passion of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The cross of Christ has always been God the Father's only plan to save fallen and sinful mankind. As early as **Genesis 3:15** God promised that a redeemer born of a virgin would crush the serpent's head: "**And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.**" And **Psalm 22** and **Isaiah 53**

vividly describe His crucifixion and the reason for it. Jesus' 4th word from the cross was **Psalm 22:1a: "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"** **Psalm 22:16-18** vividly describes his crucifixion: "**For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers have encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones, They look, they stare at me; They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.**" And **Isaiah 53:5-6** states the reason for His passion: "**But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.**"

This Lenten season lets us be in church on Sundays and on Wednesdays, in Sunday Bible class, and in Bible study and prayer daily. Let us give generously of our time, efforts, and resources to spread the Gospel of Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification. And let us reach out to unbelieving and unchurched family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Preschool News

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

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Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool - [Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool](https://www.facebook.com/mountolivepreschool)



We are looking forward to all things “spring” and will begin learning about spring growth/changes and continuing to work our way through the alphabet with the help of our Zoophonics animal friends. We will also begin learning about Easter and celebrate our Risen Savior!

It is registration time for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. We currently have limited openings in 2’s and 3’s classes for next year. We are excited to begin planning for another school year and look forward to seeing how the Lord is going to work in and through the preschool during the upcoming year! So, if you know anyone who might be interested, please have them contact me.



The Board of Education: Bowling in March

Jessica Dennis, Superintendent

The Children’s Sunday School upstairs is full and there’s lots of excitement these days, as you may hear if you are anywhere near, on Sunday mornings between 9:15 and 10:15! We welcome all little ones between the ages of 3 and 10 (some as young as 2 join often). They’re currently learning that while faith doesn’t require works, in our Christian life we can’t help but show Jesus’ love to others! God has BIG plans for them!



Middle Schoolers are continuing to the meet downstairs with Mr. Baden. The Youth group is getting back in the swing of things. Pastor Walt is teaching Youth Sunday School for the next few months and having a great turnout for those classes. Fun trips out are being planned each month. The first was to Escapology and we had a great time trying (but failing) to escape! Please reach out to me if your teen wants to be included for bowling, in March.

Lastly, we NEED volunteers for VBS! Dates are set for June 26-30th, 6pm-7:30. If you’d like to Chaperone one of the age groups, teach, manage craft/snack table, etc., please let me know. We are SUPER excited to have VBS for the first time since 2019!



March Lectionary

| Date | Festival | First Reading | Psalm | Epistle | Gospel |
|---------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| March 2 | Ash Wednesday | Deuteronomy 18:18-22 | Psalm 51:1-13 | 2 Peter 1:16-21 | Matthew 5:17-19 |
| Mar. 6 | Lent 1 | Deuteronomy. 26:1–11 | Psalm 91:1–13 | Romans 10:8b–13 | Luke 4:1–13 |
| Mar. 13 | Lent 2 | Jeremiah 26:8–15 | Psalm 4 | Philippians 3:17—4:1 | Luke 13:31–35 |
| Mar. 20 | Lent 3 | Ezekiel 33:7–20 | Psalm 85 | 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 | Luke 13:1–9 |
| Mar. 27 | Lent 4 | Isaiah 12:1–6 | Psalm 32 | 2 Corinthians. 5:16–21 | Luke 15:1–3, 11–32 |

Social Ministry Board: Purpose Accompanied By Peace

Mary Keller, Chairperson

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12



Have you ever wondered, 'If I have a purpose, how can I know what it is?' Or 'What am I supposed to do with my life?' God answers these questions through our abilities. He leads us to our life's purpose through the skills and talents He has given us. God-given gifts are the skills we easily perform, often without formal training. We derive great pleasure from doing what we're naturally good at doing. If you aren't sure of your life's purpose, just do what you do well and watch God confirm it by blessing your endeavors. If what we do makes us miserable and fills us with a sense of dread, usually it's not in God's perfect will. Look at what you enjoy, what you're good at, and what God is giving you the grace to do – then let God be God in your life. He wants to flow through you, and it may not be in the same way as He flows through others. Trust His ability in and through you, and don't be afraid to be unique. God has a specific place and a specific plan for each of us.

Our board continues to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance while we focus our attention developing two new ministry concepts. If your gift is listening and you enjoy having a phone conversation or if you like to cook and/or bake, you have an opportunity to use your skills and gifts. As you pray about what He has called you to do remember He gives us peace and joy to let us know we're fulfilling His perfect plan. 'For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace.' We know we are operating in our gifts and calling when what we do ministers life to others. How will you know you're in the right place fulfilling His plan? You will have peace! Please contact me at the church office for more details and continue to pray about your involvement. We need your participation to make this happen.



The Board of Evangelism: Mission Restrictions

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

"For a long time now—to this very day—you have not deserted your fellow Israelites but have carried out the mission the LORD your God gave you."

Joshua 22:3 NIV

A news article in Christianity Today tells of a man in southeastern Russia who was fined the equivalent of \$80 USD for handing out tracts that read, "You must be born again!" In South Korea a man met with 10 friends in a private home to talk about the Good News of Jesus Christ, and he was fined the equivalent of \$400 USD. Several countries have restrictions on religious activity by foreigners who are only visiting. In some countries, foreigners who participate in religious activities other than those that are state approved, can be classified as extremists and terrorists. These are just a few examples of the restrictions and persecutions of Christians around the world.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has recommended sanctions in response to violations of religious liberty. But what can we as individual Christians do? Support Lutheran missionary efforts financially and prayerfully.

Source: www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/august/baptists-russia-religious-liberty-putin.html

Join a Bible Class

| March 2022 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 Classroom | Jessica Dennis & Volunteer Helpers | The Promises of Jesus |
| Confirmation Class (5th grade & up) | Preschool Area | Lay Minister Bill Boykin | A 2-Year study of the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism |
| Middle School, including recently confirmed students | Preschool Area | Rick Baden | A variety of lessons from the Bible |
| High School Youth | Wagner House | Pr. Walt Harper | Bible Study February 6th-March 27th |
| Adults | Fellowship Hall | Sandy Osborne Barry Bost | The Names of Jesus, through 3/6. The Epistle Lesson, beginning 3/13. |
| Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator. | | | |



Lenten Worship Opportunities

| Services | Dates | Service Times |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Ash Wednesday | March 2 | Optional Imposition of Ashes with Holy Communion |
| Sunday Lenten Services | March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3 | Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am & 10:30 am with Holy Communion |
| Wednesday Midweek Services | March 9; 16; 23, 30, & April 6 | 12:00 Noon; 7:00 pm Light Lunch Following the Noon Service |



March 2022 Anniversaries

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------|------|------------------------|
| 3/5 | Hannah & Chris Hennighan | 3/17 | David & Paula Meetze |
| 3/6 | Ron & Pat LaGrange | 3/18 | Todd & Shari Selke |
| 3/7 | James & Abigail Sharpe | 3/20 | Laura & Brian Laprise |
| 3/15 | Stuart & Pam Dalton | 3/24 | Brian & Meghan Smith |
| 3/16 | Al & Annette Holladay, Jr. | 3/24 | Charles & Laura Meetze |

March 2022 Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|--------------------|------|----------------------|
| 3/5 | Charles Meetze | 3/14 | Charles Stuck, II | 3/21 | Ryan Voyles |
| 3/6 | Gerry Fletcher | 3/14 | John Tedder | 3/22 | Jimmy Crosland |
| 3/6 | Stacey Robinson | 3/15 | Rebecca Curry | 3/23 | Donna Sons |
| 3/6 | Myrna Rush | 3/16 | Kathleen Slaughter | 3/24 | Karen Meetze |
| 3/6 | Mandy Schultz | 3/17 | Lauren Brown | 3/24 | Nelson Thompson |
| 3/8 | Sandra Stocker | 3/17 | Caitlin Voyles | 3/27 | Matthew Polkowsky |
| 3/11 | Matthias Folks | 3/19 | Sara Jones | 3/29 | Stephanie Boatwright |
| 3/12 | Owen Dennis | 3/19 | Dot Prater | 3/29 | Eddie Magic |
| 3/13 | Carolyn Kibler | 3/21 | Norma Hessary | 3/29 | Taylor Martin |
| 3/13 | Pam Stuck | 3/21 | Liz Rosinski | 3/31 | Connor Howard |



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

As spring nears, the days turn warmer and brighter, and new growth emerges on the plants, remember our homebound members. Please encourage these saints 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!



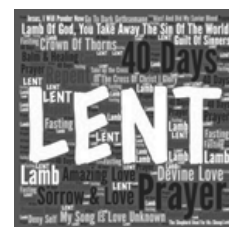
| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Don Angen | Bonnie Jones | Anita Meetze | Dorothy Prater | Molly Kate Shealy |
| Phil Carter | Harold/Sarah Jones | Charles/Laura Meetze | Polly Roland | Shirlean Sons |
| Shirley Curry | Melvin/Judy Jones | Margaret Meetze | Mandy Schultz | Fred Stalbaum |
| Cleta Dunaway | Ron/Pat LaGrange | CR/Thelma Miller | Linda Schmidt | Flora Weed |
| Teresa Hoefer | Herb Loeb | Eva Mae Monts | Mary Schott | Henry/Louise Weed |
| Betty Hunter | Carolyn McCartha | Cyndi Nelson | | |



Ash Wednesday and Lent Signs



During March, the Ash Wednesday and Lenten signs will be on display at the church entrance. Don't miss the Ash Wednesday sign, because it is only out for a few days leading up to the day of reflection and repentance. Read the encouraging words from Jesus as he prepares for his journey to take on our sins.



This theme continues throughout the season of Lent as you will see on the purple sign. Throughout the 40 days of Lent, remember Jesus' steadfast love for His children and how he willingly prepared to go to the cross for each one who believes.

Read the Bible in Three Years –March 2022

| March 2022 | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|
| Mar 1 | Leviticus 16 | Mar 9 | Leviticus 24 | Mar 17 | Revelation 5 | Mar 25 | Revelation 13 |
| Mar 2 | Leviticus 17 | Mar 10 | Leviticus 25 | Mar 18 | Revelation 6 | Mar 26 | Revelation 14 |
| Mar 3 | Leviticus 18 | Mar 11 | Leviticus 26 | Mar 19 | Revelation 7 | Mar 27 | Revelation 15 |
| Mar 4 | Leviticus 19 | Mar 12 | Leviticus 27 | Mar 20 | Revelation 8 | Mar 28 | Revelation 16 |
| Mar 5 | Leviticus 20 | Mar 13 | Revelation 1 | Mar 21 | Revelation 9 | Mar 29 | Revelation 17 |
| Mar 6 | Leviticus 21 | Mar 14 | Revelation 2 | Mar 22 | Revelation 10 | Mar 30 | Revelation 18 |
| Mar 7 | Leviticus 22 | Mar 15 | Revelation 3 | Mar 23 | Revelation 11 | Mar 31 | Revelation 19 |
| Mar 8 | Leviticus 23 | Mar 16 | Revelation 4 | Mar 24 | Revelation 12 | | |

We pray that all of you are continuing your daily Bible reading even though we are immersed in all the sacrifices and laws given by God in Leviticus! If you are struggling, you might try one of the many on-line apps to help you. Through the Word offers chapter by chapter commentary on every book of the Bible, as well as topical studies. Another option that can be helpful is the You Version Bible App or Bible Gateway. These apps offer a multitude of devotions. There is a daily devotional for Leviticus on You Version by Spoken Gospel entitled "Jesus in All of Leviticus." So far, it has been helpful in explaining how everything in Leviticus points to Jesus! Why not try a new approach to help you with reading the harder books.

The last half of March, we will move on to Revelation. This is another confusing book filled with imagery of past, present, and future visions given to John the Apostle. Again, you may want to supplement your reading with your Lutheran Study Bible commentary or one of the above apps.



Announcements & Opportunities

March 2nd – Ash Wednesday

Mid-Week Lenten Services begin on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. We will offer optional Imposition of Ashes at both services on this day. Wednesday mid-week services will continue through April 6th. Service times are 12 Noon and 7:00 pm. in the sanctuary.



March 13th Deadline

In an effort to make more space for needed storage, we are asking if any members want the fabrics we have stored. They were used by LWML members in the past. Please let Dana Magic know by March 13th. The fabric will be sold or donated after March 13. Dana can be reached at 803-446-9278 or dmagic1962@gmail.com.



Small group Bible study on Friday, March 11, 2022.

We will be studying *Luther's Small Catechism - A Manual for Discipleship* and meeting every second Friday of the month. For contact information: Dennis and Tina Dixon at dennis.dixon@comcast.net.

Social Ministry Upcoming Event: Fun Friday – March 25.

Preschool Age 4 children accompanied by a parent. Pre-registration required.

Painting Class on March 26th

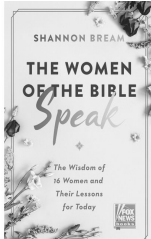
Sign up for the painting class on Saturday, March 26 at 10 AM in the Fellowship hall. The cost is \$6, payable on Saturday. Bring a lunch to share with all the artists.

April Newsletter Deadline – March 30, 2022

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the April 2022 issue of the Olive Leaves is March 30, 2022. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at slstrouse@gmail.com.



Women's Book Club

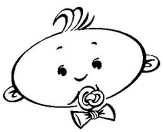


Ladies Book Club! We will be meeting the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the book by Shannon Bream, "The Women of the Bible Speak". On March 1st, we will be studying Esther and on March 15th, Rahab. Please feel free to come even if you don't read 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.

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: Quiz

Look up the bible verses for the correct answers.

1) Luke 19:40

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, crowds praised him loudly. When Pharisees told him to silence the people, what did Jesus say would shout if his followers didn't?

- A. Stones
- B. Palm branches
- C. Trees
- D. Hillsides



2) Matthew 26: 6-13 Luke 7: 36-39

All four Gospels tell of a woman anointing Jesus. Details vary; clearly, she isn't the same person in all accounts. In John, who is she?

- A. Jesus' mother, Mary
- B. Mary Magdalene
- C. Mary of Bethany (sister of Martha and Lazarus)
- D. None of the above

Mark 14: 3-9 John 12: 1-8



3) Revelation 21:2

In the book of Revelation, who or what is “prepared as a bride, adorned for her husband”?

- A. The church
- B. The Spirit
- C. Mary Magdalene
- D. The new Jerusalem




4) Genesis 25:1

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. What was his second wife’s name?

- A. Miriam
- B. Keturah
- C. Bathsheba
- D. Tamar



2022 LENT, HOLY WEEK, and EASTER SCHEDULE of WORSHIP and EVENTS

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022 | Noon & 7:00 PM | Worship with The Lord’s Supper & The Imposition of Ashes |
| Wednesdays in Lent March 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th April 6th | Noon & 7:00 PM | Midweek Lenten Worship |
| Saturday April 9th | 5:00 PM | Celebrating Palm Sunday: Worship & The Lord’s Supper |
|  Sunday April 10th | 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM | Palm Sunday: Worship & The Lord’s Supper |
| | 9:15 AM | Bible Classes |
| Thursday April 14th | 7:00 PM |  Maundy Thursday Worship Service & The Lord’s Supper |
| Friday April 15th | 7:00 PM | Good Friday Tenebrae  |
| Saturday April 16th | 5:00 PM |  The Easter Vigil with The Lord’s Supper |
|  He is RISEN Sunday April 17th | 8:00 AM | The Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Sunday |
| | 9:30 AM | Resurrection Celebration, Activities, & Easter Egg Hunt Families will begin on the playground. The egg hunt will continue outside for children through 4 th grade. |
| | 10:30 AM | The Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Sunday |