



Olive Leaves

April 2022



From Pastor Walt Page 1	Table of Contents			New Sign Page 8
From Our President Page 2	Board of Evangelism Page 3	Bible Classes Page 5	April Anniversaries Page 7	Announcements Page 8
Pastoral Acts Page 2	Board of Stewardship Page 4	April Lectionary Page 6	April Birthdays Page 7	Kid's Corner Page 9
Board of Fellowship Page 3	Mt Olive Preschool Page 4	Lenten Services Page 6	Thoughts, Prayers, Calls Page 7	Lent, Easter Schedule Page 10
Board of Public Relations Page 3	Board of Education Page 5	Board of Social Ministry Page 6	Read the Bible in 3 years Page 8	March Calendar Page 11

From Pastor Walt: A Most Holy Week

Pastor Walt Harper

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There is an old tradition in many churches of celebrating "Passion Sunday." According to this practice the first Sunday of Holy Week starts out as Palm Sunday, and ends up at the Passion. The service starts out with palm branches and the singing of "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna." It concludes with Jesus on trial before Pontius Pilate.

I've never been a big fan of that tradition. It seems to jumble nearly the whole of Holy Week into one day.

And so our "new tradition," that began last year, is to have a Holy Week during which the days of the week fit the same days of that Original Holy Week.



Holy Week

So Palm Sunday will be on April 10th, and all of our Scripture readings will reflect that one day. The hymns will be about the Triumphal Entry. The preaching will be about Jesus coming into the Holy City.

We don't have services on Monday through Wednesday. But we can remember that for those days Jesus was on the Temple Mount preaching and teaching every day. Contrary to what you may have heard about Him losing disciples, Jesus was actually gaining in popularity every day. Of course that led to the ever increasing animosity of the religious and the political leaders of the time.

Thursday evening He had the Last Supper with His disciples, changing the older Passover Celebration into a meal about His own sacrificial death. Their entire lives the disciples had taken part in that meal. Only this year they had it reconfigured: "This is My body...This is My blood." So, on Thursday evening at 7:00 PM we'll gather for reflection on, and reception of, the Supper. The evening concludes with the arrest of Jesus.

On Good Friday we have a Tenebrae Service at noon and another at 7:00 PM. This is a powerful and moving service to reflect very intently on the death of our

Savior. The readings focus on His words from the cross, and candles are extinguished one at a time to depict His slowly ebbing life.

On Holy Saturday those original disciples hid in fear and confusion. They'd thought that Jesus was the Messiah, the Deliverer. Now He was dead and buried. They feared the same fate awaited them. It was a day of quietness, so at 5:00 PM we'll have a service meditating on some of the Scripture passages that cover the great actions of God across the ages, and we'll also be reminded of our Baptismal Grace.

Easter Sunday we have services at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, who really was, after all, the Messiah and the Deliverer.

"But that's a lot of services." Yes, and each day will have the focus that fits with it. It's the most important week ever, that one week back in AD 30, when Jesus Christ really won our salvation and our eternal life. I hope and pray to see many of you walking that road with Him, being reminded of that which you already know, but which we need to hear over and over again.



From our President:

Jim Crosland, Congregational President



Happy Easter everyone! Spring is here in full swing with the pollen! As we suffer through allergies and the yellow stuff everywhere, let us remember why April is such a special month for us: Christ's death and resurrection to redeem our sins and to give believers eternal life in Him!



Church Council is very excited this month to formally name our call committee, tasked with narrowing down the field of candidates for an Associate Pastor. Having two Pastors and Lay Minister Boykin will be an excellent transition for our congregation. In addition, the committees and boards are diligently working on their strategic plans to present to Council. Council will then have a work session to compile all the information to present to the Voters at the end of May. This plan will outline and prioritize the projects that the group would like to see implemented. The strategic plan will be available to the congregation when finalized. Exciting times but also busy times lie ahead! Thank you all for your time and willingness to serve.

Safety Tip: I hate to repeat myself, but theft is still on the top of the list again, everything from vehicle break-ins to theft of actual car parts. Batteries and catalytic converters are the real money makers. Please secure your valuables out of plain sight, lock your doors, and park in a well-lighted area.

March Pastoral Acts

	<p>Funeral Service Waneta Marten White June 13, 1923 - February 25, 2022 March 5, 2022</p>	
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The Board of Fellowship: Easter Breakfast

Jill Brabham, Chairperson



Fellowship has officially hit the ground running in 2022, praise the Lord! Our weekly lunches following the Lenten noon services in March were a wonderful time with good food and fellowship and we greatly appreciate all who provided food and their time to make these lunches happen. This month we are looking forward to Easter Sunday breakfast, which will be sure to include nourishment for body and soul.

For the month of May be on the lookout in the weekly bulletins for information on a Mother's Day Lemonade & Cookie Social as well as our first potluck in over TWO YEARS. Happy Easter, He is Risen!



The Board of Public Relations: Family

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

¹⁹ Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian. Ephesians 2:19

As we celebrate Easter, the day that Jesus rose from the dead to save us from our sins, let's think about how fortunate we are to be free! We spend the year celebrating His birth, agonizing through the weeks of Lent, and grieving as He suffered through betrayal, arrest, abandonment, and crucifixion. Then suddenly, our sadness is transformed into exuberant jubilation at His resurrection. Now we are free to enjoy all that He has done for all people throughout the ages. He has kept His promises to be with us and not only be our Savior, but our friend and confidante. Knowing that God is with us every second of every day, we must put our arms around Him, love, and thank Him, like we would for one of our family members. I believe that is what He really wants – to be part of our family.

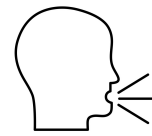


The Board of Evangelism: Joining God in His Plan

Richard Shealy, Chairperson

So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

Evangelism is all about getting God's word out to all people. God's word is powerful. In Genesis we see God creating the Earth and everything in it by speaking them into existence. In the New Testament, we see Jesus, through his words, heal, calm roaring seas, cast out demons, raise the dead and grant forgiveness of sins. We are part of God's plan to spread His Word. It is through faith that we believe in God's Word and understand that is it our mission to spread His Word (the Great Commission Matthew 28:16-20) so that it is fruitful and does not return to Him empty. We ask for your prayers that this board be in accord with God's plan.



Board of Stewardship: "He is Risen, He is Risen, Christ the Lord"

Naven Olson, Chairperson

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death." 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

This brings to mind the last two verses of my favorite Easter hymn "He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus the Lord", words and music by C. F. W. Walther, translation from LW 138.



"Oh where is your sting, death? We fear you no more,
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.
"Then sing your hosannas and raise your loud voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
In glory he reigns, yes, and ever shall reign."



Since Christ has atoned for the sin of Adam and for all the subsequent sins of all of humanity by His death and resurrection, let us make this saving message known to our relatives, neighbors, friends and coworkers by word and deed in this dark time and support the ministry of this church with our time, talents, resources and presence so that as many as possible may know Jesus and escape the wrath to come and enjoy a blissful eternity with the Triune God in heaven.



Preschool News

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 - preschool@mtolivesc.org

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

Spring has sprung down in the preschool. We are knee deep in spring and Easter crafts and enjoying getting to play outside. It is a wonderful time of year to explore God's beautiful creation!



As you walk around the church, please feel free to walk around and look at the preschool area. The students' artwork is always on display and you can see pictures of the sweet faces that represent over 30 families that come in and out of the church doors each week.

We still have a few spots available in our 2-year-old and 3-year-old classes for the 2022-2023 school 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 at the above numbers or websites;

As always, thank you for your continued support and prayers.

The Board of Education:
Jessica Dennis, Superintendent

Thank you to all who have supported Mt Olive's youth group fundraising efforts, for National Youth Gathering. The youth group will be busy preparing almost 40 sandwich lunches, on April 3rd. After extra doughnut payments came in, from Krispy Kreme orders, they ended up with almost \$500 towards their trip! They sincerely thank you for your generosity!

Thank
You



The little ones upstairs are already talking excitedly about Easter egg hunts! We are working our way through Lenten lessons and looking towards the cross. Jesus has been teaching and preaching and showing himself as true God and the little ones soak it in. How sweet it is to be "interrupted" by a 3- or 4-year-old telling you, "Jesus loves me so much!" We're very excited to have two new Sunday School teachers upstairs. The children have welcomed Ms. Brandi and Ms. Megan with open arms!

Lastly, we'd love to have your children in Sunday School - if they've not tried a class or maybe it's been a while. If you'd like to know about any of the classes, details are in the chart below and on our website, mtolivesc.org. We'd love to help them find the right class and get them involved!



Join a Bible Class

April 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	Pr. Walt Harper	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	TBA	Bible Study
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Barry Bost	A Longer Look at the Epistle Lessons, an in-depth study
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

April Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
April 3	Lent 5	Is. 43:16-21	Psalms 126	Phil. 3:8-14	Luke 20:9-20
April 10	Palm Sunday	Zech. 9:9-12	Psalms 24:7-10	Phil. 2:5-11	Luke 19: 28-40
April 14	Maundy Thursday	Jer. 31:31-34		1 Cor. 11:23-32	Luke 22:7-20
April 16	Holy Saturday	1st Lesson Genesis 1:1-2:3		2nd Lesson Genesis 7:1-8;9: 8-13 3rd Lesson Exodus 14:1-31	John 20:11-18
April 17	Easter Sunday	Is. 65:17-25	Psalms 16	1 Cor. 15:19-26	Luke 24:1-12
April 24	Easter 2	Acts 5:12-20	Psalms 148	Rev. 1:4-18	John 20:19-31

Lenten Worship in April

Services	Dates	Service Times
Sunday Lenten Service	April 3	Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 8:00 am & 10:30 am with Holy Communion
Wednesday Midweek Service	April 6	12:00 Noon; 7:00 pm Light Lunch Following the Noon Service

Social Ministry Board: God's Grace

Mary Keller, Chairperson

**Where there's grace, there's growth.
And where there's growth, there's clear evidence of it.**

Grace makes us more caring and compassionate, and less critical and judgmental. It makes us slow to speak and quick to consider the other person's point of view. We're less likely to react in anger when things don't go our way, and more likely to put the good of others ahead of our own. As believers, we should be growing in 'grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior' (2 Peter 3:18). And there should be evidence of it! When we surrender to Christ, He equips us with everything good for doing His will' (Hebrews 13:21.)

An excerpt from a book I read by Jon Walker. When we become a believer, our role changes. We no longer have the job of looking out for our own interests; our job is to represent the interests of Jesus. We are the face of Jesus; showing up in the lives of others on His behalf...in hospitals...at funerals...at weddings...across the table as you share coffee with a friend. We're on the job for Jesus, and the more we serve others in love, the more we'll influence them toward Christ.

Continue to pray that Holy Spirit would guide our board's efforts while we develop a couple new ministry concepts. If you like to cook, bake, or have a phone conversation there is an opportunity for you to be the face of Jesus. If the Holy Spirit is urging you to find out more, please contact me at the church office. We need YOU! Heavenly Father, make me an instrument of Your Grace by all I do and to all I meet. Amen.

Upcoming Events Social Ministry Board: Fun Friday, April 22.

April 2022 Anniversaries

4/5	Chris & Denise McKinney	4/27	Alonzo & Marlene Nes'bit
4/17	Michael & Ann Dosen	4/29	Joseph and Brandy Maye
4/22	C.R. & Thelma Miller		

April 2022 Birthdays

4/1	Thom Funderburk	4/8	Emily Ervin-Kearse	4/16	Allie Martin
4/1	Michele Martin	4/8	Derrick Robinson	4/17	Bonnie Fancey
4/1	Margaret Meetze	4/8	Mariah Robinson	4/17	Brianna Soto
4/2	Randy Gifford	4/9	James Lewis, Jr.	4/17	Flora Weed
4/2	Elijah Patterson	4/11	Alonzo Nes'bit	4/20	April Fancey
4/3	Brian Laprise	4/11	Lincoln Weed	4/21	Adeline Fletcher
4/3	Hayley Setterlund	4/13	Charlie Ann Adkins	4/25	Mike Jones
4/4	Jean Carter	4/14	Katie Greer	4/25	Michael Strouse
4/4	Ryan Whitaker	4/15	Berney Eargle	4/27	Barbara Chesley
4/5	Ann Dosen	4/15	Tyler Laprise	4/28	Louise Meetze



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

Easter brings a new beginning for everyone with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. As we celebrate our beginnings with our families, 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	Cyndi Nelson	Mary Schott
Phil Carter	Harold/Sarah Jones	Charles/Laura Meetze	Dorothy Prater	Molly Kate Shealy
Shirley Curry	Melvin/Judy Jones	Margaret Meetze	Polly Roland	Shirlean Sons
Cleta Dunaway	Ron/Pat LaGrange	CR/Thelma Miller	Mandy Schultz	Fred Stalbaum
Teresa Hoefer	Herb Loeb	Eva Mae Monts	Linda Schmidt	Flora Weed
Betty Hunter	Carolyn McCartha			Henry/Louise Weed

Read the Bible in Three Years – April 2022

April 2022							
Apr 1	Revelation 20	Apr 8	Hosea 9-10	Apr 16	Esther 2	Apr 24	Esther 10
Apr 2	Revelation 21	Apr 9	Hosea 11-12	Apr 17	Esther 3	Apr 25	Psalms 101
Apr 3	Revelation 22	Apr 10	Hosea 13-14	Apr 18	Esther 4	Apr 26	Psalms 102
Apr 4	Hosea 1-2	Apr 11	Song of Songs 1-2	Apr 19	Esther 5	Apr 27	Psalms 103
Apr 5	Hosea 3-4	Apr 12	Song of Songs 3-4	Apr 20	Esther 6	Apr 28	Psalms 104
Apr 6	Hosea 5-6	Apr 13	Song of Songs 5-6	Apr 21	Esther 7	Apr 29	Psalms 105
Apr 7	Hosea 7-8	Apr 14	Song of Songs 7-8	Apr 22	Esther 8	Apr 30	Psalms 106
		Apr 15	Esther 1	Apr 23	Esther 9		



New April Sign



April is a busy time for our signs, especially when Lent, Holy Week, and Easter all come in the month. That means there will be six signs in all! In addition to the ones for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, look for the brand-new sign for Holy Saturday, the Day of Silence. Jesus was buried in the tomb, and his followers were in shock and mourning because they could not understand what had happened to their Savior.

At the 5:00 PM Holy Saturday Communion Service, we will be remembering our Holy Baptism. Look for these reminders in the new sign, the references to the Day of Silence, and also other scripture references of God saving his people throughout the ages.



Announcements & Opportunities



Small group Bible study on Friday, April 1, 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.

Upcoming Event: Fun Friday – April 22

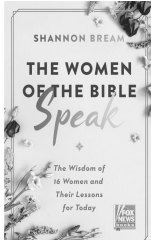
Four-year-old children from both church and preschool (accompanied by a parent) can attend Fun Friday on the fourth Friday of each month. Contact Mary Keller at the church office or Anna Brent in the preschool for more information. Pre-registration required.

May Newsletter Deadline – April 26, 2022

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the April 2022 issue of the Olive Leaves is April 26, 2022. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at slstrouse@gmail.com.



Women's Book Club

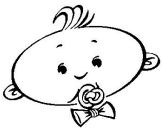


The Ladies Book Club will meet the first Tuesday of April at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the book by Shannon Bream, *"The Women of the Bible Speak"*. We will meet only on April 5, and we will be studying the chapter on Mary of Bethany. Please feel free to come even if you haven't read the book. We have great fellowship and prayer, and the leader will synopsize the chapter. For more information contact Renee Harper at waltandrenee@att.net or call or text at 203-885-6733.

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: Cross Word Puzzle

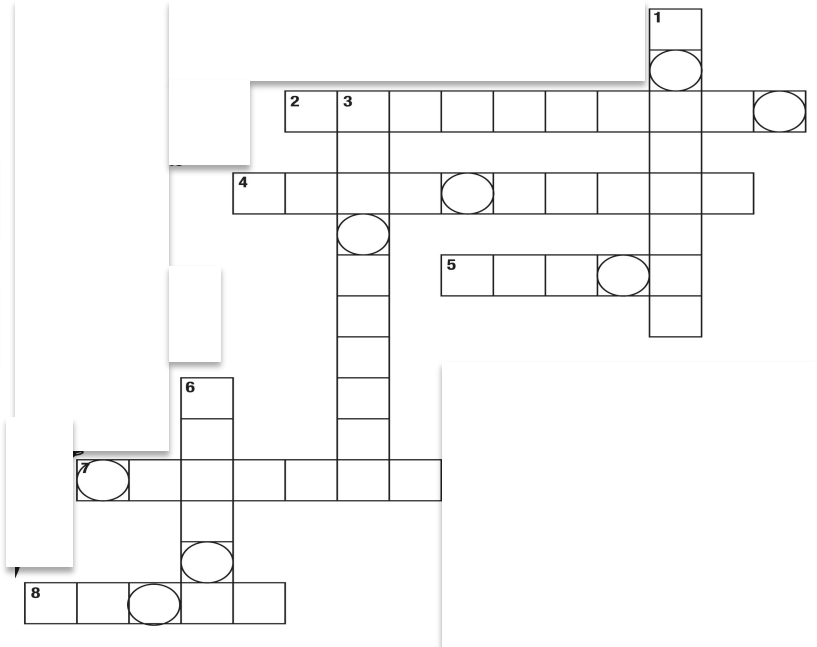
Directions: Complete the crossword. Then insert the circled letters (in order of the clue numbers) to complete John 20:17 below.

ACROSS

2. The women did this when they heard the angel talk about Jesus' death. (Luke 24:8)
4. The women at the tomb did this when they saw Jesus. (Matthew 28:9)
5. The man in Jesus' empty tomb wore this color robe. (Mark 16:5)
7. Jesus instructed his brothers to go here. (Matthew 28:10)
8. Peter saw strips of this in the tomb. (Luke 24:12)

DOWN



1. At first, Mary thought Jesus was this person. (John 20:15)
3. As an angel came from heaven, this happened. (Matthew 28:2)
6. She went with Mary to anoint Jesus' body. (Mark 16:1)



What did Jesus want Mary to tell his brothers?

"I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." John 20:17

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

The Last Wednesday in Lent, April 6th	Noon & 7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Worship: "Visited by Prophets: Daniel"
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	Noon & 7:00 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae
Saturday April 16th	5:00 PM	Holy Saturday Baptismal Remembrance Service The Easter Vigil with The Lord's Supper
 Sunday April 17th 	8:00 AM	The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Sunday
	9:00 AM	Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall Please bring pastries or breads to go with scrambled eggs, ham, and grits provided by Church Council.
	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

