



# Olive Leaves

June/July 2022



Table of Contents				
From Pastor Walt Page 1	Board of Public Relations Page 3	June-July Lectionary Page 5	Thoughts, Prayers, Calls Page 7	Announcements Page 8
From our President Page 2	Board of Stewardship Page 4	Bible Classes Page 5	Read the Bible in 3 years Page 7	Kid's Corner Page 9
Board of Education Page 2	Board of Social Ministry Page 4	June-July Birth & Anniver Page 6	Signs of the Season Page 8	June Calendar Page 10
Mt Olive Preschool Page 3	Pastoral Acts Page 5			July Calendar Page 11

## From Pastor Walt: Adoption into the Family of God

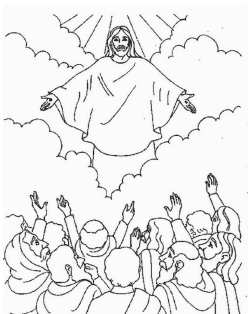
*Pastor Walt Harper*  
walt.harper@mtolivesc.org

**For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear,  
but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba,  
Father." Romans 8:15 (NKJV)**

Renee and I are now with our third greyhound. All of them have been rescues. A delightful breed of dog, they are a wonderful part of the family.

When people hear that we have a greyhound they usually ask: Are they really the world's fastest coach potato? Answer: Yes, they are the fastest dog breed in the world. They are often said to run 43-45 miles per hour. They also sleep about 20 hours per day. Loads of energy, burned off fast, followed by a crash. If you visit my house, Brandy will happily greet you. Then after about ten minutes of socializing she will go to one of her three beds, and you'll never again see any evidence that we have a dog.

I don't know the stats on this now, but when we adopted our first greyhound the terrible reality was that about 50% of them were euthanized after their racing careers. In an earlier time that number was much worse. This led to the creation of the greyhound rescue societies, which do great work.



Here's the theological side to it: One year I was working on my message for School Chapel, and I decided to use the greyhound as an illustration of how "God adopts us as His children." Apart from Christ we're lost, but in Christ we have a new life.

As part of that message I brought my greyhound to chapel. Of course this was a hit with the kids. I talked a little about the dogs. She was very excited to see all the kids, and they were excited to see her.

And then I made the theological connection: this dog has been adopted into my home, so she has a new family, she is loved, and she loves us. The message was really connecting...and then the dog piddled on the church carpet.

Alas. Another good idea, struck down by harsh reality.

In any case, we are still adopted into the family of God, without merit on our part. Jesus Christ has paid the price. He has made us a part of a new family, and has given a new life. In thinking on this, St. Paul called it an "adoption."



All illustrations fail at some point. Hopefully the kids remembered the part about Grace, rather than the carpet.



### **From our President:**

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

Summertime is finally here, and everyone is gearing up for some well-deserved vacation time. The Croslands are also ready for some too!

Our May voters' meeting went well with some good information and projects coming soon. There is so much going on and council really appreciates everyone's patience through this planning period. Thank you for those of you that have graciously volunteered your precious time for our boards and committees. We love the new ideas and fresh sets of eyes to make our church even better.



There are some important projects that we are working on such as calling an associate pastor, creating a strategic plan, and exploring our hooking into the sewer system. We will keep everyone informed of the progress.

Lastly, thank you to everyone that reached out to me about the murder of our police officer. I knew Drew Barr very well and watched him grow through his career. I will truly miss him but know that he is surrounded in all the glory and that we will meet again.



### **The Board of Education: VBS Coming Soon**

*Jessica Dennis, Superintendent*

I hope that everyone has some exciting (AND relaxing) things planned for this summer. We have lots to look forward to at Mt. Olive this summer. First, VBS is fastly approaching on **June 26th-30th**. This will make our first VBS since August of 2019! This year's VBS is themed: "Rainforest Explorers - Jesus Leads the Way." Registration has begun for 2-year-olds through rising 5th graders. Forms are in the church narthex. If your middle and high school youth want to participate, we'd love to have them as volunteers. We will sing many fun songs that week and plan to allow the children to sing those in service, the following Sunday. So, make sure your children, grandchildren, and their friends are signed up for Mt. Olive's VBS 2022! Dinner will be served at 5:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Adult classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Children's VBS will be downstairs, in the Preschool area, from 6:00-7:45 PM.



Next, the Youth Group is getting closer and closer to their National Youth Gathering trip set for July 9th-13th! The NYG coordinators have been releasing info steadily on the great musicians that will be performing and introducing the Bible Study leaders. It will be an amazing week of learning, worship and service!

Lastly, we ARE continuing through the summer with Children's, Middle, and Youth Sunday School classes. Before Easter, the Children's Sunday Schoolers had begun a whole Bible review and were learning a "Books of the Bible" song. As we wrap up Easter lessons, we will return to those studies and continue learning our song! By the end of summer, we might have a group of little ones who'd like to sing their song in service! Stay tuned.

## Preschool News: Two- & Three-Year-Old Openings for 2023

*Anna Brent, Preschool Director*

*803-781-7180 - [preschool@mtolivesc.org](mailto:preschool@mtolivesc.org)*

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

We are so, so thankful for the opportunity to complete the 2021-2022 school year with minimal interruptions. The Lord has continued to pour out His many blessings on our preschool and allowed us to finish the year strong, with in-person celebrations and events, and with hearts that overflowed with the joy that comes from another year of learning and building relationships with one another. While it may sometimes seem like ABC's, crafts, and playground fun, the work that is being done in and through this ministry is invaluable to the children and families we serve.

Even though the preschool area is quiet this time of year, please continue to pray for the school year ahead as we are busy preparing and planning for the ways in which the Lord would have us 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."

We have openings in our 2's and 3's classes for next year, so if you know someone who is looking for a Christ-centered preschool for their little one, please send them our way!

You are so incredibly generous in your support, and I speak on behalf of the entire preschool staff to say thank you for your unwavering kindness and I am especially thankful for your trusting in me as we share in this ministry together.

*Thank  
You*

Have a wonderful summer!



## The Board of Public Relations: July 2, 1505

*Sue Strouse, Chairperson*

**Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)**

Here is some Bible history from July 2, 1505 that changed religion forever. When Martin Luther was about 22 years old, he was walking from his home in Mansfeld, Germany back to Erfurt, where he was studying law, and a thunderstorm hit. The thunder rumbled and he almost got hit by lightning. Luther was so scared that he begged St. Anne (a Catholic saint) to save his life, vowing to "become a monk" if he survived. He survived. And he kept his promise by entering St. Augustine's Monastery in Erfurt. In Stotternheim, the simple, granite Luther Stone commemorates the event.



## Board of Stewardship: Remember Those Who are Persecuted

*Naven Olson, Chairperson*

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

**"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**

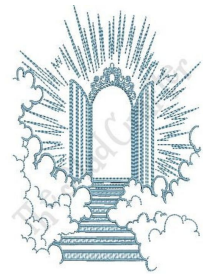
Since graduating from high school, I have seen increasing hostility to Biblical Christianity in the western world in general. On March 30, 2022 Bishop Juhana Pohjola of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (a small church body in fellowship with the LCMS) and Dr. Päivi Räsänen (a medical doctor, member of parliament, mother of 5 and grandmother of 10) were acquitted of criminal charges of "hate speech" for having expressed Biblical views on homosexuality. The prosecutor (or persecutor) is appealing the acquittal. Doubtless some people in this country would like to see similar prosecutions here. And let us remember the Christians who face severe persecution in North Korea, China, India and many Muslim countries.

I attended Pastor Walt's Bible study on Exodus Wednesday night. He quoted from **Genesis 50**, where Joseph commanded his brothers to embalm his body and put it in a coffin in Egypt but not to bury it there. Joseph was making a statement that Canaan (the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) not Egypt was his true home. And Pastor Walt reminded us that this present world is not our ultimate home.

I will quote the refrain of a famous poem by C.T. Studd:

*Only one life, 'Twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.*

Let us be in church weekly, in prayer and Bible study daily and in Bible class when possible. Let us support this church with our time, effort and resources. Let us reach out to unbelieving and unchurched family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.



## Social Ministry Board: Trust, Lean and Submit

*Mary Keller, Chairperson*



***Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6***



TRUST IN THE LORD  
WITH ALL YOUR  
HEART,  
AND LEAN NOT ON  
YOUR OWN  
UNDERSTANDING.  
PROVERBS 3:5, NV

Most of us can recite Proverbs 3:5-6. With the latest news reports, I found myself pouring over this verse that is packed with God-breathed power. **Trust in the Lord:** Not ourselves, not our possessions, position or power. Trust in the only One who is safe and trustworthy. **With all your heart:** Engage all that you are and trust with reckless abandon. **Lean not on your own understanding:** In this life we are never going to figure everything out. Life is complex, sometimes things just don't make sense. Lean into Him and His wisdom. **In all your ways submit to Him:** All includes our thoughts, time, family, money, church, talents; everything we have comes from the hand of the Lord. **And HE will make your paths straight:** We cannot unbend the fork in the road. Our path can only be directed by the Maker of the path. He will lead, guide, protect and provide because He is a loving Father who embraces us with His all-consuming love!

## May Pastoral Acts

	<p><b>Funeral Service</b></p> <p><b>Dorothy T. (Dot) Prater</b></p> <p>March 19, 1941 – May 1, 2022</p> <p>Service – May 21, 2022</p>	
---	---	---

	<p><b>Holy Baptism</b></p> <p><b>Nova Dali Thornton</b></p> <p>May 21, 2022</p>	
---	---	---



## June/July 2022 Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
June 5	The Day of Pentecost	Gen. 11:1–9	Psalm 143	Acts 2:1–21	John 14:23–31
June 12	The Holy Trinity	Prov. 8:1–4, 22–31	Psalm 8	Acts 2:14a, 22–36	John 8:48–59
June 19	Proper 7	Is. 65:1–9	Psalm 3	Gal. 3:23–4:7	Luke 8:26–39
June 26	Proper 8	1 Kings 19:9b–21	Psalm 16	Gal. 5:1, 13–25	Luke 9:51–62
July 3	Proper 9	Is. 66:10–14	Psalm 66:1–7	Gal. 6:1–10, 14–18	Luke 10:1–20
July 10	Proper 10	Lev. 19:9–18	Psalm 41	Col. 1:1–14	Luke 10:25–37
July 17	Proper 11	Gen. 18:1–10a	Psalm 27:7–14	Col. 1:21–29	Luke 10:38–42
July 24	Proper 12	Gen. 18: 20–33	Psalm 138	Col. 2:6–15	Luke 11:1–13
July 31	Proper 13	Eccl. 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26	Psalm 100	Col. 3:1–11	Luke 12:13–21



## Join a Bible Class

Summer 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	Rick Baden	Summer: Attend the Middle School Class
Middle School, including recently confirmed students	Preschool Area	Rick Baden	A variety of lessons from the Bible
High School Youth	Wagner House	Joel & April Fancey	Bible Study
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Sandy Osborne: Bible Stories for Adults—How do the action-packed Bible stories of our youth point us to Christ and help us to grow in our faith?	Barry Bost: Beginning in mid-June, the adults will be “Taking a Longer Look at the Epistle Lesson” for each Sunday.
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

### June-July 2022 Anniversaries

6/1	Herbie & Karen Meetze	6/28	Joel & April Fancey
6/3	Bill & Aresa Boykin	6/30	Frank & Sandy Osborne
6/4	Walter & Kathy Arnold	7/1	Eric & Megan Weed
6/6	Jim & Catherine Harper	7/3	Kim & Dianne BouFawaz
6/7	Keith & Lori Flenner	7/7	Eric & LaToya Patterson
6/9	Charles & Gerry Fletcher	7/9	Jason & Jessica Dennis
6/10	Greg & Sherry Ervin	7/14	George & LaVelle Walker
6/13	Barry & Kathie Bost	7/18	Matt & Cindy Williams
6/14	Will & Katrina Folks	7/19	Melvin & Judy Jones
6/15	Mitch & Katie Greer	7/25	Chris & Megan (Gutz) Humphrey
6/17	Norma & Kas Hessary	7/26	Stephen & Luanne Curry
6/18	Al & Janet Jabs	7/27	Jimmy & Calma Cook
6/24	Don & Carole Mueller	7/30	Henry & Louise Weed
6/27	David & Barbara West		



### June-July 2022 Birthdays

6/1	Kara Meetze	6/24	Duck Kinard	7/15	Zay Box
6/2	Judy Jones	6/24	Genevieve Maye	7/15	Jim Harper
6/4	Brady Young	6/25	Mandy Kibler	7/16	Herbie Meetze
6/4	Lillian Young	6/25	Jan McCarthy	7/17	Renee Harper
6/5	Bill Boykin	6/25	Marlene Nes'bit	7/19	Michael Whitaker
6/5	Zachary Laprise	6/27	Naven Olson	7/20	John Perkins
6/7	Landon Howard	6/27	Stan Slaughter	7/20	Connor Robinson
6/7	Kevin Kibler	6/28	Jill Brabham	7/21	Mary Joel Keller
6/8	Harold Meetze Sr.	6/28	Jovie Peebles	7/21	Santana Sanguiliano
6/10	Louise Weed	6/30	Kelly Thrun	7/22	Phillip Clauss
6/11	Charlene Meetze	7/1	Betty Hunter	7/22	George Walker
6/12	Matthew Fletcher	7/1	Melvin Jones	7/24	Todd Selke
6/16	Carroll Barrett	7/2	Jo Ann Barrett	7/25	Al Holladay
6/17	Richard Chesley	7/2	Kinsley Kearse	7/25	Sue O'Dell
6/18	Catherine Harper	7/2	Mary Schott	7/28	Amy Carey
6/18	Jill Scuderi	7/4	Harold Jones	7/28	Jessica Howard
6/19	Ashton Boykin	7/9	Michael Dosen	7/29	Joseph Perkins
6/20	Julian Patterson	7/9	Tim Stuck	7/29	James Sharpe
6/21	Caleb Dominick	7/12	Odell Stuck	7/30	Brandy Maye
6/23	Birdie Brabham	7/13	Johanna Folks	7/31	Gabriel Sharpe
6/23	Hank Weed	7/14	Don Mueller		



## Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

**"See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands." Isaiah 49:16**

The long, hot South Carolina summer is just around the corner! In fact, the last of May has felt like August or September! Remember to encourage our 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	Teresa Hoefer	Carolyn McCartha	Eva Mae Monts	Mary Schott
Nadia R. BouFawaz	Betty Hunter	Anita Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Molly Kate Shealy
Phil Carter	Bonnie Jones	Charles/Laura Meetze	Polly Roland	Shirlean Sons
Shirley Curry	Harold/Sarah Jones	Laurie Meetze	Twila Sandt	Flora Weed
Jim/Andrea Doty	Melvin/Judy Jones	Margaret Meetze	Mandy Schultz	Henry/Louise Weed
Cleta Dunaway	Ron/Pat LaGrange	CR/Thelma Miller	Linda Schmidt	



## Read the Bible in Three Years – June 2022

June 2022							
Jun 1	Psalm 138	Jun 8	Psalm 145	Jun 16	Titus 3	Jun 24	Joshua 8
Jun 2	Psalm 139	Jun 9	Psalm 146	Jun 17	Joshua 1	Jun 25	Joshua 9
Jun 3	Psalm 140	Jun 10	Psalm 147	Jun 18	Joshua 2	Jun 26	Joshua 10
Jun 4	Psalm 141	Jun 11	Psalm 148	Jun 19	Joshua 3	Jun 27	Joshua 11
Jun 5	Psalm 142	Jun 12	Psalm 149	Jun 20	Joshua 4	Jun 28	Joshua 12
Jun 6	Psalm 143	Jun 13	Psalm 150	Jun 21	Joshua 5	Jun 29	Joshua 13
Jun 7	Psalm 144	Jun 14	Titus 1	Jun 22	Joshua 6	Jun 30	Joshua 14
		Jun 15	Titus 2	Jun 23	Joshua 7		

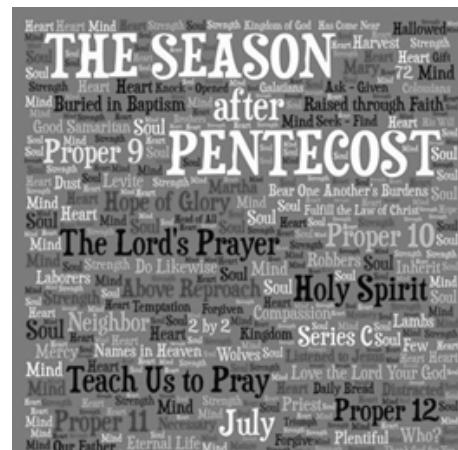
## Read the Bible in Three Years – July 2022

July 2022							
Jul 1	Joshua 15	Jul 9	Joshua 23	Jul 17	I Chronicles 7	Jul 25	I Chronicles 15
Jul 2	Joshua 16	Jul 10	Joshua 24	Jul 18	I Chronicles 8	Jul 26	I Chronicles 16
Jul 3	Joshua 17	Jul 11	I Chronicles 1	Jul 19	I Chronicles 9	Jul 27	I Chronicles 17
Jul 4	Joshua 18	Jul 12	I Chronicles 2	Jul 20	I Chronicles 10	Jul 28	I Chronicles 18
Jul 5	Joshua 19	Jul 13	I Chronicles 3	Jul 21	I Chronicles 11	Jul 29	I Chronicles 19
Jul 6	Joshua 20	Jul 14	I Chronicles 4	Jul 22	I Chronicles 12	Jul 30	I Chronicles 20
Jul 7	Joshua 21	Jul 15	I Chronicles 5	Jul 23	I Chronicles 13	Jul 31	I Chronicles 21
Jul 8	Joshua 22	Jul 16	I Chronicles 6	Jul 24	I Chronicles 14		

## The Signs at the Entrance

This year, Pentecost Day will be celebrated on June 5, 2022. Now we are entering into the longest of the church seasons, The Season after Pentecost. Because this season lasts through November, it would be so boring to have the same old sign at our church entrance for six months. Therefore, there will be monthly signs based on the Gospel lessons as outlined in the Year C Lectionary.

Here are previews of the June and July signs. Of course, the color versions are more pleasant to the eye. As you come into the church why not take the ramp and pause a few moments by the sign to pick out the key words from the week's Gospel. If you follow Mt. Olive on social media ([mtolivesc](#)) you will have read weekly posts of the lectionary readings, so you can always use your smart phone to help you in your search.



## Announcements & Opportunities

**Blood Drive** The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Monday, July 11, 2022 from 11 AM to 4 PM.



**Women's Book Club** The women's book club will meet again in the fall. Stay tuned for what we will be studying then!

**August Newsletter Deadline – July 26, 2022**

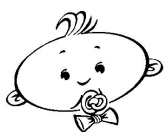
Your next deadline for submitting articles for the August 2022 issue of the Olive Leaves is July 26, 2022. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at **[slstrouse@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com)**.



## Secure E Giving Reminder

E giving contributions are on the rise. Have you thought about giving this a try? The link to set up your account is on the home page of our church website, [mtolivesc.org](http://mtolivesc.org). You may give through your checking account or credit card. Our E giving is powered by VANCO, a secure company that follows strict and safe policies. Even though the E giving page looks like our website, Mt. Olive will have no record of your account, your card number, or your personal information. If you need help setting up your account, contact Aresa Boykin.

## Nursery "Cry Room" Reminder



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



## Kids Korner: Puzzle

God is all-knowing, and his thoughts toward us are beyond number.

*Directions: Solve the addition problems and use the code to complete Psalm 139:17-18, NIV.*



How                      to me are your                     , God!

13+10

12+6



How            is the            of them!

8+11

10+3



Were I to                      them,

15+6

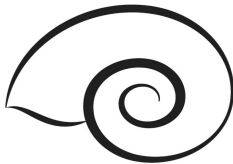
they would                      the grains of                      —

3+12

4+18

when I                     , I am still with you.

13 + 4



**PSALM 139:17-18, NIV**



Answer: precious, thoughts, vast, sum, count, outnumber, sand, awake