



# Olive Leaves

May 2022



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## From Pastor Walt: The Season of Easter = the Life of the Church

*Pastor Walt Harper*  
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You've heard the old saw, "Easter is a Season, and not just a Day." And so it is. On Easter Sunday the Church celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But that one day was followed by 40 days of His presence with His disciples. Many eyewitnesses saw Him and heard Him. That period of time before His ascension into heaven gives us the Season of Easter.

In Church, the First Lesson throughout the Season always comes from the Book of Acts. There are three years of appointed readings; this is true for all three years.

Why? Because the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus brings about the Life of the Church.

Acts is a great book, and is really unique in the Bible. The Gospels describe the life and ministry of Jesus. The Epistles explain what it all means. Revelation is the one book of prophecy in the New Testament (making it unique, too). But the Book of Acts describes the beginning of the Church, the spread of the Gospel, and the ministry of those early disciples.

Acts was written by Luke, "the beloved physician." (Col. 4:14) He also wrote the Gospel of Luke, which in Acts he refers to as "my former book." Although Luke wrote only those two books, the two of them together make up 26% of the NT!

So what's in Acts? A record of God's rather imperfect people, doing ministry in the name of Jesus. It's a delight to read.

People come to faith.

The Gospel goes out from Israel, to include the Gentiles.

Miracles are done in the name of Jesus.

And then the people of the Church bicker with one another, and argue about things that don't matter, and have personal rivalries, etc.

In a way it's encouraging. Jesus is the Savior. We are human, and prove it often. Despite the second of those truths, the Spirit of God is at work, and the message goes out.

So read a bit through this wonderful portion of Scripture.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! And either with us, or despite us, that Good News continues to make a difference in the lives of broken, but redeemed, people.

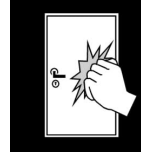


## **The Board of Evangelism: You Don't Know What You Don't Know**

*Richard Shealy, Chairperson*

***"To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." Colossians 1:27-28 NIV***

I think we have all heard the rule of etiquette that says, "never talk about religion or politics." But if we never talk about religion, then how we can tell others about Jesus? Isn't that our mission? If so, then how do we do that? Do we stand on the street corner and quote from the Bible? Do we go from door to door in our neighborhood and tell people about Jesus? That reminds me of a joke I heard. "What do you get if you cross a Jehovah's witness with a Lutheran? A person who knocks on your door but doesn't say anything". Yes, I know it's a terrible joke. But it does beg the question, "Do we speak enough about our faith in Jesus with relatives, neighbors, coworkers, friends, and others?"



Years ago, I worked for a large consulting firm and thought I knew my coworkers. On one out-of-town engagement we decided to share an evening meal and spend some time talking about family and life experiences instead of planning the next day's work schedule. I found out that we consisted of a Catholic and three Lutherans (WELS, ELCA and LCMS). I realized then that we did not know each other's religion until someone started first. Are there people with whom you have close contact but do not know their religious preferences? Be on the lookout for a chance to bring up the subject and act on it.



*Happy Mother's Day*



### **Quarterly Voter's Assembly**

Remember to attend our Quarterly Voter's Assembly on Sunday, May 22nd after the 10:30 AM worship service. The meeting will be held in the fellowship hall.



*Happy Mother's Day*



## **The Board of Education: New Youth Leaders**

*Jessica Dennis, Superintendent*

Just like that it's already May! I love spring and summer and am grateful for God's beautiful work in all of the green and flowers, even if the allergies are miserable! We're very excited for VBS coming up, next month, June 26-30. Thank you to all who've volunteered to help. If you'd still like to get involved, please let me know!

Thank you to everyone who generously donated and supported the National Youth Gathering bag lunch fundraiser. They put away \$660 for their trip, thanks to your donations and purchases! This trip is such a wonderful experience for teens from all over the country to come together in worship, sharing faith, and service to the community.

Have you heard the GREAT news?! The youth group is also excited to have new youth leaders. April and Joel Fancy are looking forward to getting to know this group better. All high school age youth are welcome to join, 9:15 in The Wagner House. We'll also be planning an end of school year outing for all middle/high schoolers. Stay tuned for that in the coming weeks!

## Preschool News: 2 & 3 Year Old Openings

*Anna Brent, Preschool Director*

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

May is here already? It is hard to believe that we are just weeks away from completing our 15<sup>th</sup> school year. The preschool is heading into a very busy season as we prepare for Mother's Day, complete end of the year evaluations and memory books, and get ready to hold preschool graduation. We will also have our end of the year celebration with preschool families on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the blessing of another wonderful year together!



Do you know any families with young children who would benefit from our preschool? Our amazing staff creates a warm and loving environment in which they provide high quality learning experiences. The students learn about God's love for them and His desire for them to be their best while they learn about and explore His world. Encourage them to call, email, check out the website or Facebook page, or come visit! Registration is ongoing and we still have openings for our 2- and 3-year-old classes.



*Happy Mother's Day*



## The Board of Public Relations: Loving God

*Sue Strouse, Chairperson*



We just got a new puppy. Someone left 6 puppies on the side of the road and we took one. It is amazing how loving they are. Giving them a little pat on the head or throwing a ball or toy and they love you unconditionally. And when you come home after being gone for 1 minute, they get so excited to see you.

It's really too bad that humans can't be more like a loving puppy. God has given us life, a place to live, food, clothing, everything we need, but are we thankful? No, we wish for more, plus we don't take care of what He did give us, the earth. In Genesis 1:29-30, God says,

**" 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.' And it was so."** But instead of loving God and being grateful for what He has given us, we rebelled and haven't been faithful and loving like He wanted us to be.

While you are mowing the grass or weeding your gardens this spring, be thankful and excited to be loved by such a wonderful God!

## The Board of Fellowship: Mother's Day Social

*Jill Brabham, Chairperson*

We hope one and all enjoyed the Easter Sunday Breakfast! We were blessed with lots of good food and a special thanks to those who helped make it happen. May brings a Mother's Day Lemonade & Cookie Social to give us all a chance to honor the mothers in our lives, past and present. We have decided to wait until July 31st to hold our first 5th Sunday potluck; more information will follow!



*Happy Mother's Day*



## Board of Stewardship: Do You Know the Son of God?

*Naven Olson, Chairperson*

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

As I was thinking about this month's article two items from the airwaves in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century came to my mind. **Lutheran Hour** speaker Ken Klaus preached a sermon on the Feeding of the 5000. He talked about how Jesus hid Himself from the crowds after the feeding, because they wanted to make Him an earthly king. Klaus stated that Jesus came to bear the sins of humanity on the cross and win an eternal heavenly kingdom for many, **not** to create a temporary second-rate "heaven" on Earth. And the pastor of a local independent congregation in Columbia, Det Bowers, frequently ran a TV ad in which he stated "There is no earthly eternity" and concluded by asking "Do you know the Son of God?".

And now some Bible verses:

***"Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."*** Philippians 3:17-21



***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."*** John 3:16

***"Remember Lot's wife."*** Luke 17:32

***"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*** Matthew 5:16

Let us be in church weekly and in Bible class if possible. Let us be in personal Bible study and in prayer daily. Let us give generously of our time, efforts and resources to this church (and to other worthy Christian causes if you can afford to do so). And let us reach out to unbelieving and unchurched family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

**Social Ministry Board: Stepping Out in Faith as We Trust God**

Mary Keller, Chairperson

**"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)**



In searching for God's direction I began thinking, and for me it is often overthinking! I'm wondering if other board leaders feel this same way. 'There are ideas we know would be beneficial, yet we hesitate to share too much or dream too big.'

As I read through my scrawled notes a few of my thoughts were: What if they don't work? What if we don't have enough hands-on support? What if people don't like them? What if the people above me second guess me? What programs do you keep alive even though they aren't serving their purpose? If you don't have anything on the horizon that might fail, you're failing as a leader. Unless you strive for innovation and creativity and try something new, you'll achieve the same outcome.

When we "Begin the tasks [God] assigned to us" we'll have to push boundaries and try things that might not work; looking at failure or roadblocks as a temporary detour, not a dead-end street. They are often just a delay and the first step toward success. Heavenly Father, help us to step out and try new things and drop the things that no longer are relevant or working. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



*Happy Mother's Day*



### April Pastoral Acts

	Holy Baptism	
	Harper Ann Crelly April 10, 2022	



*Happy Mother's Day*



### May Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
May 1	Easter 3	Acts 9:1-22	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:8-14	John 21:1-19
May 8	Easter 4	Acts 20:17-35	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
May 15	Easter 5	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-7	John 16:12-22
May 22	Easter 6	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Rev. 21:9-14, 21-27	John 16:23-33
May 26	Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53

**Join a Bible Class**

May 2022 Sunday School & Bible Classes – 9:15 AM			
Infants – age 2	Nursery/ Cry Room	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 Office	Rick Baden	A variety of lessons from the Bible
High School Youth	Wagner House	Joel & April Fancey	Bible Study
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Sandy Osborne, beginning May 8th	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?
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			



*Happy Mother's Day*



### May 2022 Anniversaries

5/1	Rick & Liezl Baden	5/22	Randy & Kathie Voyles
5/4	Mike & Stephanie Jones	5/25	Wes & Michele Hammond
5/12	Seth & Johnna Duncan	5/26	John & Mary Lou Tedder
5/12	Eric & Robin Hennington	5/27	Chris & Kim Gepfert
5/12	Hunter & Stacey Robinson	5/29	Rebecca & James Shirah
5/19	Jason & Jill Brabham		

### May 2022 Birthdays

5/2	Cindy Williams	5/10	Henry Dosen	5/18	Paul Sanguiliano
5/4	Joe Harper	5/12	Bradley Carey	5/19	Pat LaGrange
5/5	Jessica Dennis	5/12	Sue Knowles	5/21	Nancy Thompson
5/5	Joy Fletcher	5/13	Nadia M. BouFawaz	5/22	Harper Brown
5/5	Myran Trask	5/13	Linda McGriff	5/23	Hannah Duncan
5/6	Bruce Helming	5/15	Rosie Sanguiliano	5/24	James Duncan
5/6	Stephanie Jones	5/16	Stanley Bouknight	5/25	Bailey Dort
5/7	Marilyn Bauer	5/16	Joseph Maye	5/27	Lynne Schultz
5/8	Dennis Dixon	5/16	T.J. Selke Jr.	5/29	Tiffany Meetze
5/8	Carolyn McCartha	5/17	Dana Magic	5/30	Gloria Meetze
5/8	LaToya Patterson	5/17	Olivia Stuck	5/30	Matt Williams
5/9	Jessica Clendenin	5/18	Lori Flenner		



## Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

**"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains." James 5:7**

Another spring is in full bloom! 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	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	Flora Weed
Teresa Hofer	Carolyn McCartha	Eva Mae Monts	Linda Schmidt	Henry/Louise Weed
Betty Hunter				



*Happy Mother's Day*



## Read the Bible in Three Years –May 2022

May 2022							
May 1	Psalm 107	May 9	Psalm 115	May 17	Psalm 123	May 25	Psalm 131
May 2	Psalm 108	May 10	Psalm 116	May 18	Psalm 124	May 26	Psalm 132
May 3	Psalm 109	May 11	Psalm 117	May 19	Psalm 125	May 27	Psalm 133
May 4	Psalm 110	May 12	Psalm 118	May 20	Psalm 126	May 28	Psalm 134
May 5	Psalm 111	May 13	Psalm 119	May 21	Psalm 127	May 29	Psalm 135
May 6	Psalm 112	May 14	Psalm 120	May 22	Psalm 128	May 30	Psalm 136
May 7	Psalm 113	May 15	Psalm 121	May 23	Psalm 129	May 31	Psalm 137
May 8	Psalm 114	May 16	Psalm 122	May 24	Psalm 130		

## The Season of Easter Signs

We in the Lutheran Church are fortunate to celebrate the season of Easter for six weeks! Therefore, we will get accustomed to seeing the Easter sign out front. The sign will remind us of the most important event in history: the day Jesus Christ arose from the dead, insuring eternal life with Him in heaven to all who believe!

On the last Sunday of May, we will celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father. Luke tells us in his Gospel account that first,

Jesus opened the minds of the apostles so that they understood all of His teachings and He sent them out, beginning in Jerusalem, to bear witness to these things. After they watched Jesus ascend, they were joyful and worshiped continually!



## 10 Extraordinary Mothers of the Bible

### 1. Sarah: The Mother Who Waited

Sarah was married to Abraham and God told them that their offspring would be more than the stars in the sky. In [Genesis 11:30](#) we learn, *"Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive."* Abraham and Sarah waited 15 years before God renewed His promise, and 10 more years before the promise was fulfilled and Sarah bore a son, Isaac.

### 2. Hagar: The Mother Who Endured

Hagar was Sarah's Egyptian slave that Sarah gave to Abraham to have a child, because she couldn't have. Once Hagar became pregnant with Abraham's child, a rift developed between her and Sarah. After receiving mistreatment from Sarah, Hagar fled toward her homeland. But she met the angel of the LORD who told her to return, He also promised her numerous descendants through her son whom she was to name Ishmael.

Later, Hagar and her son Ishmael were sent away into the desert, where she believed they would both die. But God is faithful and showed her a well. [Genesis 21](#) tells us, *"God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer."*

### 3. Rebekah: The Mother Who Believed

Rebekah was married to Isaac. [Genesis 25](#) tells us that when Rebekah became pregnant she could feel two babies jostling within her. When she asked the LORD why this was happening, He answered her: *"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."* In that time, the older would have never served the younger, and the firstborn son would have inherited the best of everything.

Rebekah risked deception to follow God's promise because she believed what He said was true. It should be noted that God did not call Rebekah to deception, but God is sovereign despite the good or bad choices we may make. And His plan unfolded exactly as He had told her. Later her son Jacob would wrestle with God and be given a new name, Israel.

### 4. Leah and Rachel: The Mothers Who Had to Share

When Jacob went to stay with his uncle Laban, he met one of his daughters, Rachel, and loved her. He wanted her for his wife and was willing to work seven years to marry her. But Laban tricked Jacob by giving him his older daughter Leah in marriage instead. Jacob worked another seven years for Rachel, and he loved her more. Leah, knowing that she was unloved, bore Jacob many children to please him, while Rachel remained barren.

[Genesis 30](#) tells us, *"Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and enabled her to conceive."* Rachel bore Jacob two sons, Joseph and Benjamin, before she died in childbirth with Benjamin.

God blessed both Leah and Rachel with children, continuing his covenant promise with Abraham. Leah and Rachel's sons would go on to form the 12 tribes of Israel.

### 5. Jochebed: The Mother with a Plan

A Levite woman, Jochebed, gave birth to a son, Moses, and hid him for 3 months. [Exodus 2](#) tells us that the Pharaoh's daughter pulled his papyrus basket from the Nile and raised him in Pharaoh's palace.

Jochebed was determined to find a way to save her son, and God blessed her plan. Not only was her son saved from death, she was able to nurse and raise him until he was old enough to go live with Pharaoh's daughter. Her son, Moses, went on to free the



Hebrew people from Egypt, leading them in the desert toward the Promised Land according to God's plan.

## **6. Samson's Mother: The Mother Who Followed the Rules**

She is not mentioned by name in the Book of Judges, but her husband's name was Manoah. She wasn't able to conceive but [Judges 13](#) tells us, *"The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, 'You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.'"*

She gave birth and named the baby Samson, and the LORD blessed him. Although some of his actions were questionable, the LORD used him mightily in His plan to defeat the Philistines.

## **7. Naomi: The Mother-in-Law Who Shared Her Faith**

Naomi was a Judean living in Moab when her husband died. Her daughter in law, Ruth, went with Naomi back to her homeland. After learning about Naomi's faith, and listening to Naomi's instructions, Ruth married Boaz. They had a child named Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David who would be king. -[Ruth 4:17](#).

## **8. Hannah: The Mother Who Kept Her Promise**

Hannah was married to a man who loved her very much, but he also had another wife. This wife was able to bear children, but we learn that the LORD had closed Hannah's womb. The rival wife provoked Hannah continually, but Hannah would go to the house of the LORD to pray. Hannah prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly; she prayed so hard that her lips were moving but no sound came out so that the priest, Eli, thought she was drunk. The LORD blessed Hannah, and she gave birth to a son and named him Samuel, *"saying, 'Because I asked the LORD for him.'"*

She promised to give her son to the LORD and when the boy was old enough she took him to the house of the LORD and presented him to Eli.

Samuel lived a life dedicated to the LORD, and he would go on to lead the people of Israel, anointing Israel's first and second kings—Saul and David.

## **9. Elizabeth: The Mother Who Believed in Miracles**

Elizabeth was married to a priest named Zechariah, both beyond child bearing years. When Zechariah was serving in the temple, an angel of the Lord, Gabriel, approached him and told him that they were going to have a child, but Zechariah doubted him and was struck mute for the durations of Elizabeth's pregnancy.

When it came time for Elizabeth to give birth, she named her son John. When neighbors went to confirm this with Zechariah he wrote the same name and his mouth was opened; everyone wondered at what the child would be since his birth was miraculous.

John would go on to baptize people from their sins with water. He would prepare the way for the Messiah.

## **10. Mary: The Mother Who is Blessed among Women**

Mary, a virgin pledged to a man named Joseph, was also visited by the angel Gabriel. He said that she was to have a son, and His name is to be Jesus. Even though she wondered how all this was going to happen, she believed and bore the Son of God.

Mary treasured up many things in her heart as she raised Jesus, but she also had to endure the greatest sacrifice of all time—her son was the Son of God and He had come to give Himself up as a sacrifice, the one and only sacrifice that could be made for mankind. She had to watch Him suffer, be tortured and mocked, and die a cruel death on a cross by crucifixion.



*Happy Mother's Day*



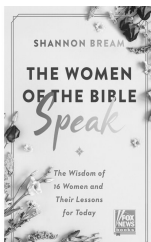
## Announcements & Opportunities

### **June-July Newsletter Deadline – May 28, 2022**

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the combined June-July 2022 issue of the Olive Leaves is May 28, 2022. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at [slstrouse@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com).



### **Women's Book Club**

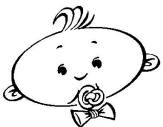


The Ladies Book Club will meet the first and third Tuesdays of May at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the book by Shannon Bream, "*The Women of the Bible Speak*". On May 3rd, and we will be studying the chapter on Mary of Bethany and on May 17th, Martha of Bethany. Please feel free to come even if you haven't read the book. We have great fellowship and prayer, and the leader will synopsise the chapter. For more information contact Renee Harper at [waltandrenee@att.net](mailto: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](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.

## Kid's Korner: Fill in the missing vowels

F\_\_r by gr\_\_c\_\_ y\_\_ h\_\_v\_\_ b\_\_ n s\_\_v\_\_d thr\_\_ gh

f\_\_th, \_\_nd th\_\_s \_\_s n\_\_t y\_\_r \_\_wn d\_\_ng; \_\_t \_\_s

th\_\_ g\_\_ft \_\_f G\_\_d ---- n\_\_t th\_\_ r\_\_s\_\_lt \_\_f w\_\_rks, s\_\_

th\_\_t n\_\_ n\_\_ m\_\_y b\_\_st.

\_\_ph\_\_s\_\_ns 2 : 8-9, NRSV