



# Olive Leaves

August 2022



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## From Pastor Walt: National Youth Gathering

*Pastor Walt Harper*

[walt.harper@mtolivesc.org](mailto:walt.harper@mtolivesc.org)



So another National Youth Gathering has happened. 20,000 high schoolers and their adult chaperones gather in one major city, and have a five-day youth conference. This year we were in Houston, TX. Hot, but a great city to visit.



It has to be in a major city, because the Gathering will occupy a couple dozen hotels, and need one major Convention Center and one major Sports Arena. The Convention Center will need break-out rooms for various speakers; it will need to have large-scale food operations, and it needs space for games and activities, as well as a display room for all the organizations that want to bring a presentation to the Gathering.

The Sports Arena will hold the "mass events," when everyone is in the same place at the same time. Just like any sporting event, getting 20,000 people into and out of a building is in itself a logistical exercise. Getting them back to their hotels at the end of the event is another logistical exercise (which this year didn't always flow quite as smoothly as it should have).

There's always a "house band," that leads worship. There's also a "headliner band," that's more well-known. I have to admit that, given my age, I didn't know either band. (Sheepish smile.)

In the old days there was a Communion Service early in the Gathering; often on a Sunday, because, well, it's Sunday. This year the Communion Service was the very last event, and closed out the Gathering. When I first saw the schedule I wasn't sure that I'd like that, but once we did it that way I really liked the change. Synodical President Matt Harrison preached, and 20,000 of us had the Sacrament together, before being on our ways back home.

One fun part of the Gathering is that our kids get to see how Midwestern the Synod really is. Every day you meet hundreds of people, often asking, "Where are you from?" So our kids got to hear from people from Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Iowa quite a lot. They also got to see the surprised look on the face of the Midwesterners when we said "South Carolina." "There are Lutherans out there?" was all over their faces.

So there are skits (sometimes silly, sometimes pretty good), there are speakers (I liked them a lot this year), and there are all those participants. The Big Message of the Gathering is that you are not alone in your faith walk.

Like any family trip, there was a lot of fun. There was some waiting in lines. There were a couple moments of tiredness and getting short with one another. Put it all together and it's really quite nice.

A word of thanks to Mt. Olive: Your support for this event, as is typical of our congregation, was generous and helpful.

All in all, another successful Gathering. A lot of fun. We're all exhausted. And it's not all bad that they only happen every three years. In 2025, we'll see everybody in New Orleans.



### **From our President:**

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

Summer is almost coming to an end and now looking forward to some fall weather!

We have several boards and committees that have been very busy. They've done a wonderful job updating some spaces for better uses. Church Council has also been busy in completing the Strategic Plan. This plan should give everyone a clear path of what's important, as far as updates, future land uses, and capital projects. The most recent update is from the Call Committee for our Associate Pastor. We have already met and will start meeting twice per month until we can offer a call. The committee will make sure updates are sent out on a regular basis. Thank you for all of our volunteers here at Mt. Olive. You truly make the difference.



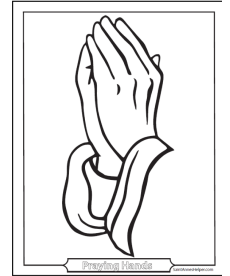
**Safety Tip:** Phishing by email is at an all-time high. Please watch out for those weird emails that make you want to click on something for verification. You can click on the email sender's name to reveal the address. For example, if the email says it's from your bank, but when you click on the address, it is from a random person's account, then chances are it is fake. You can do your own research as well, such as going to your Amazon account or bank account through your own portal instead of the email link. Or you can call your local bank to find if the email is real. Please be careful!

## The Board of Evangelism: The Lord's Prayer Meaning

*Richard Shealy, Chairperson*

The Disciples' Prayer must be something that flows out of a truly committed heart. It ought to be a definition of your spirit, your attitude toward God, what is inside you. An unknown author puts it this way:

I cannot say "our" if I live only for myself.  
I cannot say "Father" if I do not endeavor each day to act like His child.  
I cannot say "who art in heaven" if I am laying up no treasure there.  
I cannot say "hallowed be Thy name" if I am not striving for holiness.  
I cannot say "Thy Kingdom come" if I am not doing all in my power to hasten that wonderful event.  
I cannot say "Thy will be done" if I am disobedient to His Word.  
I cannot say "on earth as it is in heaven" if I'll not serve Him here and now.  
I cannot say "give us this day our daily bread" if I am dishonest or am seeking things by subterfuge.  
I cannot say "forgive us our debts" if I harbor a grudge against anyone.  
I cannot say "lead us not into temptation" if I deliberately place myself in its path.  
I cannot say "deliver us from evil" if I do not put on the whole armor of God.  
I cannot say "Thine is the kingdom" if I do not give the King the loyalty due Him from a faithful subject.  
I cannot attribute to Him "the power" if I fear what men may do.  
I cannot ascribe to Him "the glory" if I am seeking honor only for myself, and  
I cannot say "forever" if the horizon of my life is bounded completely by time.



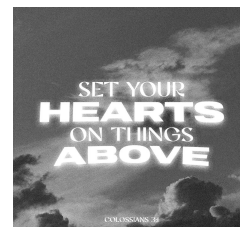
## Board of Stewardship: "Set Your Mind on Things Above"

*Naven Olson, Chairperson*

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

**"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory." Colossians 3:2-4**

The things of this present world are not necessarily bad; a mindset fixated on them is. While viewing the Answers in Genesis website recently, I discovered this link: <https://theparadise.ng/holy-bible-demonstratively-desecrated-in-seattle/> It describes an incident in Seattle where pro-abortionists played "soccer" with a stolen Bible and then tossed it in a public toilet. The Answers in Genesis web page contained this statement: "The outcry against Christians and Christian belief over the past few weeks should be (yet another) wake-up call to Christians—this world is not our home!"



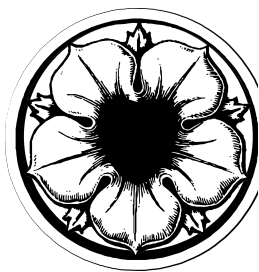
The LCMS memory verse for the week starting 07/17/2022 is: **"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'"** Revelation 1:7-8 ESV

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.

## The Board of Public Relations: Luther Rose

*Sue Strouse, Chairperson*

***"For one who believes from the heart will be justified." Romans 10:10***



The **Luther Rose** was designed in 1516 by Martin Luther, who said that it set forth the basic elements of Christian theology.

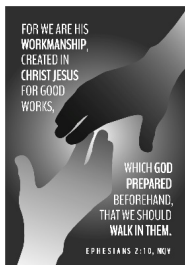
The black cross on a red heart reminds us that the crucified Christ saves us. The heart is in the center of a white rose, to show that faith brings joy, comfort, blessedness and peace beyond that of the world. The background of the rose is sky blue to show that this joy in the Spirit and in faith is the beginning of the heavenly joy to come. It is surrounded by a golden ring, to signify that the bliss of heaven is endless and lasts forever, and is more precious than all other joys and treasures.



## Social Ministry Board: Improving Relationships

*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)*



Our Board's focus over the past year was how do we connect in ways that foster, facilitate and improve relationships with people inside and outside the church.

Reflecting on the first year overseeing this board, we have made some progress with a few new concepts. Out-reach to the Preschool by hosting the Fun Friday Craft Day was a success! In-Reach by implementing personal conversations with members and providing meals during transitional situations is underway.

We are building a team involving members of our congregation that are hands-on workers who connect with our Board, and are very thankful a few members volunteered to get involved!

We've barely scratched the surface and there is so much more that needs to be accomplished!! We have more in-reach thoughts that are brewing and in discussion. Also, we're in conversations with a local pregnancy center, women's shelter, and orphan relief distribution center to see what they're all about.

*We need YOUR help and participation to minister even more than we can imagine! Please set time aside to pray about getting involved and feel free to contact me for more details. "When God gives an assignment, He also gives the skill. Study your skills, then, to reveal your assignment." (Max Lucado).*

## The Board of Education: Summer Full of Blessings

*Jessica Dennis, Superintendent*

This summer has been full of so many blessings, at Mt Olive! First, we held our first VBS since August of 2019! It was such a blessing watching our church come together, volunteers sharing themselves and the Good News of Jesus, with 25 children. We had some new faces from the community and lots of Sunday school friends. Our Rainforest Explorers and volunteers had a great week full of crafts, snacks, Bible lessons with skits, and singing!

**VBS**  
**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING**  
**New Sunday School Rooms**

Second, four of our youth group set off for National Youth Gathering, from July 9-13. Through team building activities, service events, Bible studies, worship events and Holy Communion with 20,000 youth and volunteers, they grew in faith and friendship! Both youth that are able to make the 2025 NYG (in New Orleans!), are excited to go back!

Lastly, we welcome everyone to come up and see the improvements made to the Children's Sunday school rooms! We now have 2 large rooms, after combining two small rooms. This allows us to keep our younger group together and they can continue grow in friendship and faith as well, rather than splitting them into smaller classes. Thanks be to God, for these blessings!

A few quotes from our youth who attended NYG:

"When I had a question about a Bible study I was able to go to Pastor and he would explain it. So I had a deeper understanding!"

"The worship music was great and we had fun together as a group!"

"God is in all things including the good and the bad, so now I won't feel alone during bad times."



### 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)	Wagner House	Rick Baden	Summer: Attend the Middle School Class
Middle School, including recently confirmed students	Wagner House	Rick Baden	A variety of lessons from the Bible
High School Youth	Wagner House	Joel & April Fancey	Bible Study
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Pastor Walt: Digging in the Dirt	Biblical Archeology
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

## Preschool News: Kindergarten Kamp

*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)



It is hard to believe that we are entering into the last stretch of summer and are already planning and preparing for the school year ahead! We are so thankful that the beginning of this school year will be more relaxed in the way of health protocols than in the previous 2 years, and we look forward for even more ways to build relationships with the preschool students and their families as more face-to-face interaction is possible.

Do you know of someone with a rising kindergartener? Kindergarten Kamp is offered again this year! It will be held on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1pm. Students must be entering into kindergarten to attend and spaces are limited. An informational flyer and registration form can be found on the website.

We will kick off the 2022-2023 school year on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> with our Parent Meeting! The Lord has blessed us with 26 students who are already registered and we are enthusiastic to see them soon. We currently have spaces available in our two-year-old and three-year-old classes for the 2022-2023 school year. Registration information can be found on the preschool website and paper copies are available downstairs by the preschool entrance and on the preschool bulletin board. Please share with friends and loved ones!





Also, as a part of outreach from this church into the community, we like to be able to offer scholarships to children who are unable to afford preschool tuition. Funding for partial scholarships is currently needed for three returning students. If you would like to be a part of this outreach, please contact me!







## August 2022 Lectionary

Date	Proper	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Aug. 7	Proper 14	Gen. 15:1-6	Psalm 33:12-18	Heb. 11:1-16	Luke 12:22-34
Aug. 14	Proper 15	Jer. 23:16-29	Psalm 119:81-88	Heb. 11:17-31; 12:1-3	Luke 12:49-53
Aug. 21	Proper 16	Is. 66:18-23	Psalm 50:7-15	Heb. 12:4-24	Luke 13:22-30
Aug. 28	Proper 17	Prov. 25:2-10	Psalm 131	Heb. 13:1-17	Luke 14:1-14

## June and July Pastoral Acts

	<b>HOLY BAPTISM</b>  Robert Louis Selle June 4, 2022			<b>HOLY BAPTISM</b>  Colter Hugh Greer July 3, 2022	
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	<b>FUNERAL</b>  Carlos Ray "C.R." Miller February 2, 1943 – July 16, 2022  July 20, 2022 Catawba, NC			<b>HOLY BAPTISM</b>  Gabriella Marie Hennighan Matthew Patrick Hennighan July 31, 2022	
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Mt. Olive Officers and Boards Beginning in September 2022			
<b>President</b>	Jim Crosland	<b>Council Secretary</b>	Noelle Franzen
<b>Vice President</b>	Jason Dennis	<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Vacancy
<b>Church Treasurer</b>	Bill Boykin, interim		
<b>Elders</b>	<b>Christian Education</b>	<b>Preschool</b>	<b>Worship</b>
Kim BouFawaz	Liezl Baden *	Connie Cook *	Sherry Ervin
Christopher Bauer	Rebecca Curry	Mike Knowles	Joy Fletcher **
David Buck	Jessica Dennis **	Page Fletcher **	Gloria Meetze **
Stuart Dalton *	Laura Laprise *	Katie Matzko	Sue O'Dell
Dennis Dixon	Karen Meetze *	Jan McCarthy	
Randy Gifford		Abigail Sharpe *	<b>Public Relations</b>
Eddie Magic	<b>Evangelism</b>	Myran Trask	Aresa Boykin
Hunter Robinson **	Tina Dixon		Natalie Crosland
Daniel Zahn	Richard Shealy **	<b>Social Ministry</b>	Linda Gifford
		Norma Hessary	Natalie Osborne-Smith
		Katie Greer	Sue Strouse **
<b>Fellowship</b>		Mary Keller**	
Jill Brabham **	<b>Trustees</b>	Suzi Slaughter	<b>Stewardship</b>
Debbie Meetze	Kevin Kibler		Barry Bost**
Marlene Nes'bit	Mike Prater	** Chairperson	Naven Olson
Jill Scuderi *	James Sharpe *	* New to Board	vacancy
Sandra Stoker *	Chris Slaughter **		

## August 2022 Anniversaries

8/4	Nancy & Nelson Thompson	8/17	Terry & Luanne Rodgers
8/10	Pastor Walt & Renee Harper	8/18	Merle & Peggy Weed Jr.
8/11	David & Joy Fletcher	8/24	Chuck & Marilyn Bauer
8/11	Randy & Linda Gifford	8/26	Calvin & Charlene Meetze
8/15	Mark & Linda Selle	8/30	Harold & Kathryn Meetze Sr.
		8/31	Thomas & Tiffany Meetze

## August 2022 Birthdays

8/1	August Kibler	8/17	Jacob Thrun
8/2	Charlie Stuck	8/18	Calvin Meetze
8/2	Megan Weed	8/18	Geneva Meetze
8/4	Barry Bost	8/18	Lucas Patterson
8/5	Paul Selle	8/19	Christopher Boykin
8/6	Mikaela Weed	8/19	Cathy Roof
8/7	Gabriella Hennighan	8/20	Sandy Osborne
8/7	Rich O'Dell	8/19	James Prag
8/8	Abigail Kibler	8/22	Kaysen Box
8/10	Bobby Lewis	8/22	Grady Crosland
8/11	Megan Gotz Humphrey	8/22	Twila Sandt
8/11	C.J. Meetze, Jr.	8/23	Aresa Boykin
8/13	Diane James	8/23	Michael Dosen
8/13	Fred Stalbaum	8/23	Leonard Fowler
8/14	Savannah Lewis	8/23	Jacob Gepfert
8/15	Becky Bass	8/24	Erika Dominick
8/15	Mike Prater	8/27	Lucas Thrun
8/16	Joel Fancey	8/27	Theron Weed
8/16	David West	8/28	Camden Gray Stuck
8/17	Walter Arnold	8/29	Mary Beth Schultz



## Read the Bible in Three Years –August 2022

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



**"The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.  
He restores my soul." Psalm 23:1-3a**

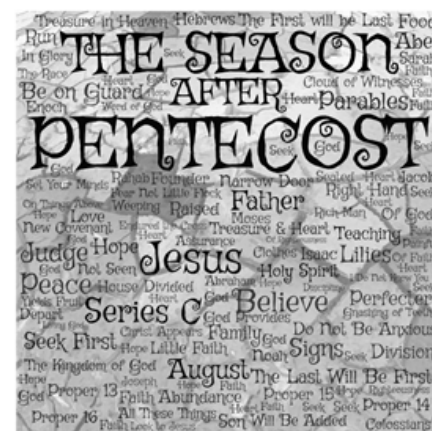


MINISTRY TO OUR  
**Homebound**

Don Angen	Cleta Dunaway	Carolyn McCartha	Eva Mae Monts	Mary Schott
Nadia R. BouFawaz	Teresa Hoefer	Anita Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Molly Kate Shealy
Phil Carter	Betty Hunter	Charles/Laura Meetze	Polly Roland	Shirlean Sons
Shirley Curry	Bonnie Jones	Laurie Meetze	Twila Sandt	Flora Weed
Jim/Andrea Doty	Harold/Sarah Jones	Margaret Meetze	Mandy Schultz	Henry/Louise Weed
	Melvin/Judy Jones	Thelma Miller	Linda Schmidt	



At the right is the preview of the August sign. Of course, the color version is 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

**Wednesday, August 17 at 4:00 pm** The FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Columbia Division will hold an educational class at Mount Olive. Topic: Safety and security threats at houses of worship and how to respond.



The Security Team at Mt Olive encourages the maximum of 30 members to make the effort to attend. Please respond in a timely manner by contacting the church office.

### **September Newsletter Deadline – August 26, 2022**

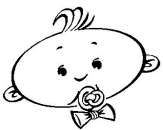
Your next deadline for submitting articles for the September 2022 issue of the Olive Leaves is August 26, 2022. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at [slstrouse@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com).



### **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

Look up each verse in an NIV Bible and find a word that fits in that row. Then write the word from the bold vertical column in the blank below to complete Proverbs 24:3-4.

1 Corinthians 8:1		<b>N</b>			
Philippians 1:9					<b>H</b>
2 Peter 1:5					<b>S</b>
			<b>A</b>		2 Timothy 3:7
Matthew 24:32				<b>S</b>	
John 7:15				<b>R</b>	
					<b>I</b>
2 Peter 3:18					<b>E</b>
		<b>W</b>			Proverbs 24:5

By wisdom a house is built, and ...  
through \_\_\_\_\_ its rooms are filled with  
rare and beautiful treasures.