



# Olive Leaves

September 2022



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## From Pastor Walt: Order of Worship

*Pastor Walt Harper*

*walt.harper@mtolivesc.org*

**"Lamb of God, You take away \_\_\_\_\_."**

If I were to ask, "What does John 1:29 say?" then how many Christians would be able to answer that question? But if I ask you to fill in the blanks at the top of this page, now how many can do it? I'd rather not take a guess at the first number. But I'm pretty sure the second number is something close to 100%.

The reason you can fill in the blanks is that we sing it in Church, in a portion of the Liturgy called the Agnus Dei. It's been a part of the Communion Liturgy since the late 7<sup>th</sup> century (!), and has been sung by countless Christians since that time.

Of course the verse has a context. In John 1, John the Baptist was pointing his disciples to Jesus, the Christ. It's a key moment of transitioning from the ministry of the desert prophet to the ministry of the promised Messiah. Those disciples did in fact move from following John to following Jesus. They became early Christians.

But imagine how easy it is to remember these words of John once they've been put to music, and once the Church started to sing them week after week after week.

The specific tune of the words is changed from one Divine Service to the next (variety is a good thing), but the content is ever-present (consistency is a good thing).



This is why for several weeks, and for several more, the Children's Messages have been focusing on the parts of the Order of Worship. Each of them has a scriptural basis (and I am so delighted that the hymnal now puts those scriptural references onto its pages). Each of them has the period of time when they "entered the Liturgy." Each of them has become ingrained in the minds, and more importantly, the hearts, of God's people.

Is there a divine commandment that the Church must worship in the precise form that's found in the Lutheran Service Book? Of course not. Is there something extra sacred about liturgical decisions because they were made long ago? Well, no.



But there is that old phrase about “things that have stood the test of time.” In the worship life of the Church many changes have been made. Some of them lasted because they were pretty good (things like the Agnus Dei). And some of them haven’t stuck around because they were too time-bound, or not very deep. (Let’s leave that up to everyone’s imagination.)

So, no, we do not make a Law out of the Liturgy. But at the same time it’s hard not to notice that Scripture, put to music, and used regularly, is a wonderful way to get the Bible into the lives of disciples.

Is that true for the kids? Yes, including the kids who are in their 60’s, their 70’s, their 80’s and beyond.



### **From our President: New Council Members**

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

Happy September,

We have several people rotating off church council and boards and we want to thank you very much for your dedicated service over the last several years. And remember, if you get “bored,” there are other boards that would love to have you! We welcome our incoming chairpersons and are excited to hear your fresh ideas. The council will be working on the 2023 budget for the next two months so, if there is a particular project that needs to be addressed, please reach out to the appropriate board chairperson.

The Call Committee is progressing nicely and there should be an update from Pastor Walt or myself very soon.

Lastly, thank you Peggy for your diligence and passion for leading the Space Utilization Committee. What an awesome project you are leading!

**Safety Tip:** Seems like road rage complaints have spiked recently. It might be lack of patience or the transition to autumn with back-to-school stresses. Please drive defensively and just let the ragers pass by and be on their way. I am also taking my own advice as the morning and afternoon commutes can be frustrating.



**New  
Council  
Members**

## 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 **
		Mary Keller **	
<b>Fellowship</b>		Suzi Slaughter	<b>Stewardship</b>
Jill Brabham **	<b>Trustees</b>		Barry Bost
Debbie Meetze	Kevin Kibler		Naven Olson
Marlene Nes'bit	Mike Prater	** Chairperson	vacancy
Jill Scuderi *	James Sharpe *	* New to Board	
Sandra Stoker *	Chris Slaughter		



## September 2022 Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>Proper 18</b>	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-35
<b>Sept. 11</b>	<b>Proper 19</b>	Ezekiel 34:11-24	Psalm 119:169-176	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
<b>Sept. 18</b>	<b>Proper 20</b>	Amos 8:4-7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-15	Luke 16:1-15
<b>Sept. 25</b>	<b>Proper 21</b>	Amos 6:1-7	Palm 146	1 Timothy. 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

## The Board of Public Relations: Some Church Symbols

*Sue Strouse, Chairperson*

**<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12**

Sitting in church and looking at all the symbols on the altar and other places in church, I looked up the symbol's meanings to share with you.



Chi-Rho is a Christian symbol where Χ = chi and Ρ = rho. In Greek ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ is Christ. The Chi-Rho symbol was used by the Roman Emperor Constantine I (r. 306–337 AD).



The emblem is often interpreted as symbolizing the reward in heaven (the crown) coming after the trials in this life (the cross) (James 1:12).



IHS is called a "Christogram," and is an ancient way of writing the word "Jesus Christ." The image of the crown in Paul's writings is developed in detail in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 with his image of the race and the perishable crown that the victor wins. In contrast to that crown stands the imperishable crown that goes to the Christian who completes the race. The crown is an honor received as a cause of joy.





Most of us know that the dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit. God sending the dove down to Jesus at His baptism was the public display of Christ's divinity. In the Old Testament, because it represented purity, the dove was used as a ritual sacrifice for the people that couldn't afford a spotless lamb. Also, it was the bird that brought back the olive leaf to Noah after the flood.



The scalloped shell with the drops of water symbolizes baptism. During the first centuries of the Christian church, the people met in the catacombs where there are paintings of people getting baptized with water that was poured out of a seashell.



### August Pastoral Acts

	<p>Holy Baptism</p> <p>Christian Alexander Patterson</p> <p>August 21, 2022</p>	
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## Board of Stewardship: Benign Neglect

*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**

On Sunday, August 14th, as I was leaving the apartment building to go to church, I saw a bumper sticker on what appeared to be a very expensive SUV with the phrase "I'M NOT IN YOUR LITTLE BOOK CLUB" surrounding a burning Bible.

The web page <https://blogs.lcms.org/2020/synod-chaplain-issues-scripture-memory-challenge> contains the following quote: "We never know when persecution may come, when technology or even access to Bibles and churches may go away." And it is a sad fact that many follow a policy of complacency and "benign neglect" toward Christ and the Bible. Amos 8:11-14 (NIV) speaks of a "famine of hearing the words of the LORD" when "lovely young women and strong young men will faint because of thirst." Could we be seeing this in America today?

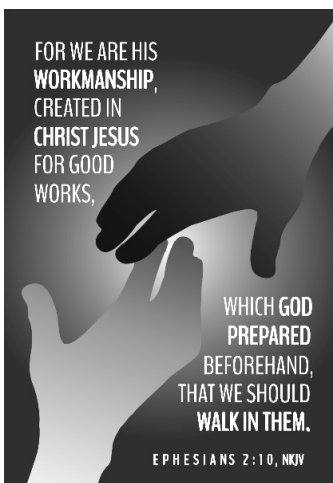
Let us be in church weekly, in prayer and Bible study daily and in Bible class when possible. Let us support this church with our time, effort and resources. Let us reach out to unbelieving and unchurched family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. And pray for me, that I may reach out to people much more and that I may be "neither bashful nor bombastic." People's eternal destinies are at stake.



## Social Ministry Board: New Ministries

*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)**



As mentioned in last month's publication, we are building a team involving members of our congregation that are hands-on workers who connect with our board. Meals during times of transition and phone contacts are underway, but we could use more helpers. *ALSO*, we're trying something new with preschool this year. The preliminary concept is to have members "adopt" a preschool child. We are developing the criteria, but this will be an opportunity for our church to connect in a personal way with our preschool ministry. *AND* we're kicking off a Senior Retirees' Ministry beginning on September 8th from 9:30 AM-10:30 AM. Each month we will emphasize a different ministry opportunity for our older retired members to participate in.

Please pray about your role in His Kingdom work at Mount Olive. If you're wondering 'Who am I' and 'What is my calling' be assured, we are servants called to do the will of God, wherever He appoints us to serve. And that's a good thing! In being a servant there's relief from the pressure to perform. There are interest signup sheets posted on the bulletin board by the church office OR please give me a call. Blessings!

## The Board of Education: Sunday School Classes Resume

*Jessica Dennis, Superintendent*

We are looking forward to a new year of Sunday School classes beginning in the coming weeks. Children's Sunday Schoolers are working hard to finish learning the "Books of the Bible" song. We begin a new Sunday School curriculum this Sunday (8/28), beginning all over with Creation. We won't loop back around to Creation for 4 years, so make sure not to miss the coming weeks! Our classes upstairs will start looking and feeling a lot more like Vacation Bible School, each week. The teachers are excited and we think the kids will be, too!



Middle School and High School groups continue to meet in the Wagner House and we are happy to see that the recent Confirmands have moved up to the Middle School group! What a blessing to see these young people move from class to class, growing in friendships and faith.

Women's Book Club will be starting a new study looking at the book, *Promised Rest*, by Michelle Diercks, on September 6th. These classes will continue, on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, from 7-8 PM. There are copies of the book available in the office and you are welcome to join even if you have not had a chance to read the session's chapter ahead of time. Renee Harper is leading this class and time of women's fellowship and prayer.



## Preschool News: Celebrating 16<sup>th</sup> Year of Preschool

*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)



This school year will mark the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the Preschool ministry at Mt. Olive! Teachers arrived back at the preschool on August 30<sup>th</sup> and the school year will kick off with Parent Meetings on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Many new and returning students will be filling our halls and it is such a privilege to serve the families that have chosen Mt. Olive Preschool as their child(ren)'s first school experience.

We have 30 preschool children enrolled and we are excited for a new year to begin! Please be in prayer for our preschool students and families, staff, and preschool board. Pray that the Lord would provide a hedge of protection, flexible spirits, and most importantly, that the Gospel would be spread and that the Lord would be glorified.

Also, as a new year begins, I wanted to take the time to thank the current Preschool Board for their willingness to serve: Page Fletcher, Chair; Connie Cook, Mike Knowles, Jan McCarthy, Katie Matzko, Abigail Sharpe, and Myran Trask. Their hard work and dedication are such a blessing and they are using their God-given talents to serve Him in such a tangible way. I would also like to thank Peggy Weed for her many years of service on the preschool board and the enormous amount of time and energy she poured into the preschool ministry.

I am continually thankful for the blessing of this ministry as an outreach into the community. It stands as a testament to this church's commitment to children and young families. To God be the glory!



## Join a Bible Class

Autumn 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	God's Creation
Confirmation Class (5th grade & up)	Preschool Big Room	Pr. Walt Harper (beginning September 11th)	A two-year of The Small Catechism & The Bible
Middle School, including recently confirmed students	Wagner House	Rick Baden	Bible Study
High School Youth	Wagner House	Joel & April Fancey	Bible Study
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Barry Bost	A Longer Look at the Epistle Lessons for the current Sundays
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			



## September 2022 Anniversaries

9/2	Bradley & Amy Carey	9/19	Robert & Carol Fong
9/7	Rich & Sue O'Dell	9/24	Hal & Suzie Hoffman
9/9	Richard & Laura Shealy	9/26	Pete & Rita Witt
9/12	Joseph & Kim Perkins	9/29	David & Connie Cook
9/16	Jeff & Kelly Thrun	9/29	Stan & Suzi Slaughter

## September 2022 Birthdays

9/2	Joyce Lauterbach	9/10	David Setterlund	9/16	Marge Carter
9/3	Kathy Arnold	9/11	Ivan Harper	9/18	Johnny Barrett
9/3	Rick Baden	9/11	Darlene Schenemann	9/18	Scott Barrett
9/3	Aiden Coutant	9/12	Doug Lacey	9/21	Stuart Dalton
9/4	Beth Clauss	9/13	Frank Osborne	9/21	Chris Gepfert
9/5	Veronica Kapalka	9/14	Kim Gepfert	9/21	Eva Jones
9/7	Laura Meetze	9/14	Don Meetze	9/24	Annette Holladay
9/9	Bruce Schenemann	9/15	Nadia R. BouFawaz	9/24	Thelma Miller
9/9	Merle Weed Jr.	9/15	Gary Meetze	9/25	David Cook
9/10	Jason Dennis	9/15	Neva Meyerhoff	9/26	Jonathan Schaefer
9/10	Amy Schaefer			9/27	Parker Dominick

## Read the Bible in Three Years –September 2022

September 2022							
Sep 1	II Chronicles 24	Sep 8	II Chronicles 31	Sep 16	Ezra 2	Sep 24	Ezra 10
Sep 2	II Chronicles 25	Sep 9	II Chronicles 32	Sep 17	Ezra 3	Sep 25	Nehemiah 1
Sep 3	II Chronicles 26	Sep 10	II Chronicles 33	Sep 18	Ezra 4	Sep 26	Nehemiah 2
Sep 4	II Chronicles 27	Sep 11	II Chronicles 34	Sep 19	Ezra 5	Sep 27	Nehemiah 3
Sep 5	II Chronicles 28	Sep 12	II Chronicles 35	Sep 20	Ezra 6	Sep 28	Nehemiah 4
Sep 6	II Chronicles 29	Sep 13	II Chronicles 36	Sep 21	Ezra 7	Sep 29	Nehemiah 5
Sep 7	II Chronicles 30	Sep 14	Philemon	Sep 22	Ezra 8	Sep 30	Nehemiah 6
		Sep 15	Ezra 1	Sep 23	Ezra 9		

Through the month of September, we will continue to read the history of the Southern Kingdom of Judah as the people return from seventy years of captivity and slowly rebuild Jerusalem and God's Temple. The book of Chronicles was probably written as a reminder to those who were returning from captivity who their God is and how He blesses His people when they remain faithful in their worship of Him. The books of Ezra & Nehemiah are the actual accounts of the return of the people.



### Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

***“A friend loves at all times.” Proverbs 17:17a***

Please continue to remember our homebound as the season moves from summer to autumn, especially as they continue to be isolated. Please encourage our saints by lifting them up to God in prayer. And, do 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. Contact information is in the church directory. Let's make a special effort to connect with one another!



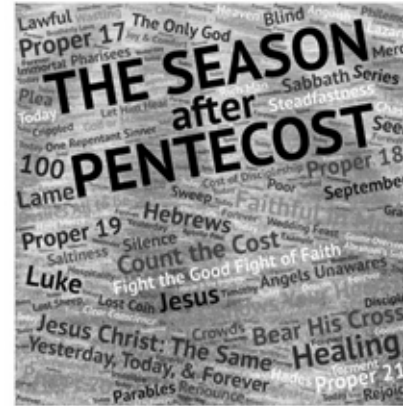
Don Angen	Cleta Dunaway	Carolyn McCartha	Eva Mae Monts	Mary Schott
Nadia R. BouFawaz	Teresa Hoefer	Anita Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Molly Kate Shealy
Phil Carter	Betty Hunter	Charles/Laura Meetze	Polly Roland	Shirlean Sons
Shirley Curry	Bonnie Jones	Laurie Meetze	Twila Sandt	Flora Weed
Jim/Andrea Doty	Harold/Sarah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



## The Signs at the Entrance

The church is well into the longest of the church seasons, The Season after Pentecost. Because this season lasts through November, there will be monthly signs based on the Gospel lessons as outlined in the Year C Lectionary.

Here is the preview of the September 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.

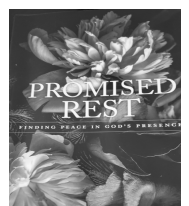


## Announcements & Opportunities

**New Members** On August 14, 2022, Mt. Olive welcomed another group of new members. Please seek them out, introduce yourselves, and get to know these unique children of God:

Matthew & Jessica Christensen	Travis & Amanda Dalton, Cameron, Regan
Patricia Eiserman	Chris & Hannah Hennighan, Gabriella, Matthew
Jim & Geri Harper	Paul & Rebecca Selle, Gerry, Louie
Joyce Lauterbach	James & Abby Sharpe, Gabriel, Rosemary, Ezra
Daniel & Noreen Powell	David & Sandy Stepanovic
Cathy Roof	

**Women's Book Club** The Woman's book club took a break over the summer months but will resume on Tuesdays September 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. We welcome ALL women of the congregation to join us for this bi-weekly class in the Fellowship Hall. We will be reading from the book, *Promised Rest* by Michelle Diercks. If you want to purchase the book ahead of time, the cost is \$18.52. (Make checks payable to Mt Olive Lutheran Church).



## October Newsletter Deadline –September 23, 2022

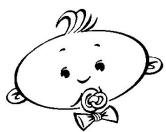
Your next deadline for submitting articles for the October 2022 issue of the Olive Leaves is September 23, 2022. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at [slstrouse@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com).



## 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

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8,  
a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
														1				22							

13	12	7				6	20	16	22	22				26	11	13	12	7	20	22			13	12	7
2	5	1	26	7	20									2	16	18	7	22							
2	5	1	26	7	20									25	15	13									
26	1	20	18			1	2							6	1	18									
22	13	16	24	18										2	1	20	7	14	7	20					

ISAIAH 40:8

💡❤️✚🌐

ANSWER: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV