



# Olive Leaves

October 2022



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## From Pastor Walt:

*Pastor Walt Harper*

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So there are several movies about Martin Luther. But there are really two "biggies."



The earlier one was made in 1953. I doubt that most people have heard of any of the actors, although they certainly do a fine job. The film is rich in information. If such a thing is possible, it's almost too much so. In other words, the more you already know about the Reformation, the more sense it makes; and the less you know, the harder the film is to follow.



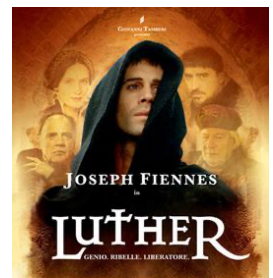
It's filmed in black-and-white. Unfortunately, some of the scenes are so dark it's literally hard to see what's going on. It obviously was not a large-budget film, and the director soldiers on to make a commendable film about the great reformer.

Many of our older members (a group I consider myself to be a part of) will have not only seen it; they've probably seen it over and over again. Some churches used to show this film every October. I'm not sure why that tradition has ended. Does it need to be revived?

Did I mention how much detail it has? No surprise, the writing credits involve two men who wrote the screenplay, and two theologians (Theodore Tappert and Jaroslav Pelikan) who worked on the details.

The more recent film is called "Luther," and it was made in 2003. It's got a cast of actors you've heard of (Joseph Fiennes, Alfred Molina, Peter Ustinov, and Bruno Ganz). In contrast to the earlier movie, it's not only filmed in color, the quality of the filming is very high. After watching the 1953 movie, you'd be inclined to call this one "bright."

The movie contains much fewer details than the earlier movie; but its pace is good, and you can always follow what's going on. Some things are left out; but everything necessary is there. And it probably benefits from transmitting a higher percentage of its content to the viewer because you're not lost in the fog of trying to keep up. Joseph Fiennes is particularly good as Luther, and the supporting cast makes this one an easily watch-able, easily enjoyable movie.



Which is better? The easy answer is that you ought to see both. Even better: see them both more than once. Then you can make up your own mind about which you like better.

Of course St. Paul once famously wrote that no one was baptized into the name of Paul (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 1:13). In the same way, no one was baptized into the name of Luther either.

Martin Luther was just a man. He was used powerfully by God at a particular time in the history of the Church, when his particular skills were very much needed. We are heirs of his work, and rightly celebrate the work of the Reformation.

We celebrate it, as long as we remember that the work of the Reformation was always and everywhere to esteem Christ, who alone is the Savior, who alone died for your sins, and who alone rose again for the guarantee of our eternal life. Many men and women have brought that message to us. But the Message Himself is Jesus.

So long as Jesus is central, the Church, I think, does well to remember the saints "gone before us." We remember how God has worked through them; and we ask that God keep us faithful in our own time.



### **From our President:**

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

The Church has been very busy lately and it really shows. Jess Dennis and Peggy Weed have done a wonderful job with the upgrades in the Sunday School area and choir/acolyte room. The Trustees are addressing the daily maintenance items that keep our church welcoming and functioning for the staff, preschool, guests, and members. Much appreciation goes out to the volunteers and staff that keep us moving forward.



## *Thank you volunteers*

The strategic plan has been compiled and will be sent out soon so that everyone will have time to review it and be able to contribute to the conversation during our October 30th potluck event. There are so many fantastic ideas and projects being suggested! I know we wish we could do all of them immediately, but we must remain good stewards of the finances. Church Council will have the 2023 budget presented to the Voters at the November Quarterly Voters' Assembly.

**Safety Tip:** We have noticed an uptick in thefts from motor vehicles this past month. Please make sure your vehicles are locked and nothing of value is in plain view.

## Board of Stewardship: Reformation Sunday

*Naven Olson, Chairperson*

**"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."  
Ephesians 2:8-9**

This month we look forward to Reformation Sunday on October 30th and remember the Solas of the Reformation: Scripture alone. Grace alone. Faith alone. Christ alone. Remembering grace alone and faith alone I think of the 3rd verse of "Rock of Ages":

*"Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die."*

Remembering Scripture alone, September 2022 marked the 500th anniversary of the publication of the first edition of Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament into German in September 1522. See the September 2022 issue of *The Lutheran Witness* for greater detail.

On a more personal level, fifty years ago in October 1972, I began my first read through of the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation. I finished it in August 1973. I was a freshman in the College of Engineering and was walking past the Russell House. I saw a street preacher's truck with several stern hellfire and damnation messages and the message, "Read the Bible while you are still able." I have not forgotten that message.



Remembering Christ alone, **Acts 4:12** states, **"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."** To have faith in Jesus leads to eternal life; to lack that faith leads to eternal death.

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, efforts, and resources. Let us reach out to unbelieving and unchurched family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors.



## Fellowship Board: October Potluck

*Jillian Brabham, Chairperson*

**"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of  
our God endures forever." Isaiah 40:8**



Fall is finally here, as short as it is in our lovely state, and with it comes the time to gather and enjoy fellowship with each other. Our 5th Sunday potlucks are officially back and our first one will be this month, on Sunday, October 30th, following the 10:30 service. Bring your family's favorite fall dish to share and Fellowship Board will supply the drinks, service, and fall decor!

Looking ahead a bit, mark your calendars for the return of lunch following Wednesday Advent services, beginning November 30th. There will be a sign-up board in the Narthex in mid-November for anyone who wishes to help provide food for the luncheons!

## Social Ministry Board: Serve Using Your Gifts

Mary Keller, Chairperson



Don't allow yourself to say, 'I'm of no use to God,' or 'I'm not needed in the church,' or 'There's no way God could use me.' You are gifted by God! You are called to use your gift to bless others, build up the Body of Christ, and display your gifts to those around you who are watching. ***"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."*** 1 Peter 4:10-11

Every Christian is a minister and has a ministry. The ministry of the Body of Christ is to be carried out as individual believers exercise their spiritual gifts in ministering to one another. And to the extent that you don't exercise your spiritual gift, you hinder the ministry of your church. And since the Holy Spirit decides which particular gift each of us receives, there's no place for jealousy and competitiveness. Each of us is gifted differently, and each of us is gifted perfectly. The Holy Spirit in His divine wisdom has given to each of us the precise gift, or gifts that will enable us to function most effectively in the body of Christ. So, start using your spiritual gift today! You are perfectly gifted by GOD!

**Senior Retirees Ministry** meets twice a month on Thursday, October 13th from 10:00 – 11:00 am and again on Tuesday, October 25th from 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments, hear about the month's emphasis, and spend time enjoying each other's company.



## The Board of Public Relations: More Church Symbols

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

***"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads."***  
**Deuteronomy 11:18**



The hand represents God the Father. The three fingers pointing up represent the three persons of the Trinity, and the circle around it is called a nimbus. In Christmas artwork, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the angels are often portrayed with a nimbus around their heads as a sign of sanctity, but Jesus' nimbus contains three rays within it to represent deity.



The fish represents Jesus, the Son of God. The Greek word for fish is **ichthus**. In the Greek language, it is spelled IXΘYC. These letters are an acronym, representing the first letter of five Greek words that in English mean "Jesus (I), Christ (X), God's (Θ), Son (Y), Savior (C)." Early Christians who were subject to persecution used this code to identify themselves to each other.

## October 2022 Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
<b>October 2</b>	<b>Proper 22</b>	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	Psalm 62	I Timothy 4:1-16	Luke 17:1-10
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Proper 23</b>	Ruth 1:1-19a	Psalm 111	I Timothy 5:1-25	Luke 17:11-19
<b>October 16</b>	<b>Proper 24</b>	Genesis 32:22-30	Psalm 121	I Timothy 6:1-21	Luke 18:1-8
<b>October 23</b>	<b>Proper 25</b>	Genesis 4:1-15	Psalm 5	II Timothy 4:1-8,	Luke 18:9-17
<b>October 30</b>	<b>Reformation</b>	Revelation 14:6-7	Psalm 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36



### The Board of Education: LCMS Youth Sunday

*Jessica Dennis, Superintendent*

Each year the children upstairs anticipate their big move from Children's Sunday School classes to Confirmation class. The Confirmands look forward to joining the Youth group classes. I'm amazed that before we know it, our own children will be joining Confirmation class. I'm so thankful to be able to watch all of these children grow in their knowledge of God's Word and in their own personal faith. If your children (younger or teens) haven't joined a Sunday School class yet, we would love for them to join in for learning, fellowship, and fun.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
AND  
YOUTH GROUP**

Our Youth Group participated in the first "LCMS Youth Sunday" event in September, with over 100 LCMS churches from across the country. During the Zoom event, we were paired with Trinity Lutheran in Troy, Missouri, as our "Sister church." Our Youth group (Middle and High) will meet monthly via Zoom with Trinity's Youth group to talk fun youth group ideas and be in prayer together. As for the event, they had lots of fun eating pizza and playing games together (Middle vs High), including a Bible verse Scavenger Hunt. The "Final Prize" went to the most winning group and they picked the next youth outing. High School Youth won and chose to go play laser tag, in October!



Lastly, we are very excited for our upcoming **"A Night in Bethlehem"** event. Children and their families will take a tour of Bethlehem, on **Friday, December 2nd**, from 6-8pm. Registration and more details, along with volunteer sign-ups, will be coming this month. Stay tuned!

## Preschool News: Sounds of Precious Children

*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)*



The preschool is now full of the sounds of precious children! This ministry is growing and touching the lives of so many families in our community. We currently have 31 students who are settling in well and enjoying school. There are only a few spots available in the 2-year-old classroom and one spot left in the 4-year-old classroom. Students must have turned 2 by September 1, 2022 to enroll.

Please take a look at the preschool bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall. It has the faces of the children whom the Lord has placed in our care this year. It will be updated monthly and will have information for you to get a glimpse of our school days. Also, we would love for you to take a look all the beautiful artwork that hangs in the hallways and classrooms downstairs.

We have a 1/2 scholarship that is being used to help a student who is returning to us this year. If you are interested in sponsoring this child or a future student, please contact me. Some choose to give support monthly or others help with a one-time gift.



Please continue to pray for our staff, students, and their families as the school year continues. Pray that the Lord protects us and keeps us healthy and equips us for His service each day. Pray for flexible spirits and for the Love of Christ to be evident in all we do.





## 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	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, Eddie Magic Sandy Osborne	<i>A Longer Look at the Epistle Lessons for the current Sundays</i> October 16th - November 27th: <i>When God Troubles the Waters</i>
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

## Pastoral Acts

	<p>Holy Baptism</p> <p>Hayley Mahaffey</p> <p>August 14, 2022</p>	
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	<p>Holy Baptism</p> <p>Alexander Harper</p> <p>September 18, 2022</p>	
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## October 2022 Anniversaries

10/6	Larry & Louise Meetze	10/15	Matthew & Emily Kears
10/6	Hank & Jenn Weed	10/26	Emily & Joshua Ranta
10/7	Jim & Natalie Crosland	10/26	Bill & Shirley Vogel
10/8	Rich and Mary Joel Keller	10/29	Michael & Susan Strouse
10/9	Gary & Debbie Meetze	10/30	Odell & Pam Stuck
10/13	Berney & Kathy Eargle		

## October 2022 Birthdays

10/3	Polly Roland	10/12	Eric Weed	10/21	Cleta Dunaway
10/5	Billie Whitaker	10/13	Peggy Osborn	10/23	Mark Selle
10/6	Larry Meetze	10/13	Chayden Weed	10/24	Dieter Steinborn
10/7	Gene Schmitzer	10/14	Jason Brabham	10/25	LaVelle Walker
10/8	Wynn Meetze	10/14	Tina Dixon	10/26	Linda Gifford
10/9	Bruce Greer	10/15	Robert Fong	10/26	Jack Robinson
10/9	Matthew Kears	10/16	Crelly Harper	10/27	Eli Duncan
10/9	Chris Slaughter	10/16	Ezra Sharpe	10/27	Debbie Meetze
10/9	Carmen Witt	10/17	Eva Mae Monts	10/27	Jaime Stuck
10/10	Mark Carter	10/20	Jens Rosinski	10/27	Randy Voyles
10/10	Pete Witt			10/29	Rita Witt

## Read the Bible in Three Years –October 2022

Through the month of October, we will finish reading Nehemiah and follow with five of the books of minor prophets. Last, we will begin reading the major prophet Ezekiel. Here is a quick overview.

Nehemiah was written to chronicle the rebuilding of the temple and the city of Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. The first four minor prophet books that we will be reading are from different times in history to warn the northern kingdom of Israel or the southern kingdom of Judah (and other surrounding countries) of God's anger toward their unfaithfulness and to repent of their sin. Neither nation repents and both are defeated and taken into captivity, Israel in the 700's b.c. and Judah in the 600's-500's b.c. Then we fast forward to Nehemiah's time where Haggai and Ezekiel encourage those who are rebuilding Jerusalem.

During this whirlwind journey, you may want to check out the introductions to these books in your Lutheran Study Bible or listen to the overview of each book on The Bible Project website.

October 2022							
Oct 1	Nehemiah 7	Oct 9	Amos 2	Oct 17	Nahum 1	Oct 25	Zephaniah 3
Oct 2	Nehemiah 8	Oct 10	Amos 3	Oct 18	Nahum 2	Oct 26	Haggai 1
Oct 3	Nehemiah 9	Oct 11	Amos 4	Oct 19	Nahum 3	Oct 27	Haggai 2
Oct 4	Nehemiah 10	Oct 12	Amos 5	Oct 20	Habakkuk 1	Oct 28	Ezekiel 1-2
Oct 5	Nehemiah 11	Oct 13	Amos 6	Oct 21	Habakkuk 2	Oct 29	Ezekiel 3-4
Oct 6	Nehemiah 12	Oct 14	Amos 7	Oct 22	Habakkuk 3	Oct 30	Ezekiel 5-6
Oct 7	Nehemiah 13	Oct 15	Amos 8	Oct 23	Zephaniah 1	Oct 31	Ezekiel 7-8
Oct 8	Amos 1	Oct 16	Amos 9	Oct 24	Zephaniah 2		



### Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

***"The Lord gives strength to his people;  
the Lord blesses his people with peace." Psalm 29:11***

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



## 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 October sign. 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

### Mark your Calendars

On November 5th-6th and 12th-13th, we will be taking updated pictures of our church family and friends to update the Church Pictorial Directory. Please go to Bill's office before, between, or after services for your photograph. The updated directory will be given out in early 2023.



### Women's Book Club

The Woman's book club will meet on Tuesdays, October 4th and 18th at 7 PM. ALL women of the congregation are welcome to join in at 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).

### November Newsletter Deadline –October 24, 2022

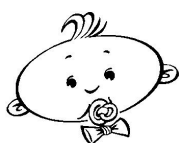
Your next deadline for submitting articles for the November 2022 issue of the Olive Leaves is **October 24, 2022**. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at [slstrouse@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com).



### 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 newly renovated 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 tidy up and sanitize the toys with which your child has played.

## Kids Korner: Quiz

If you don't know the answer to the question, look up the Bible verse given for each one.

### 1. Luke 15: 1-32

In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables. Which of the following is not one of them?

- A. The Parable of the Lost Sheep
- B. The Parable of the Lost Son
- C. The Parable of the Lost Pearl
- D. The Parable of the Lost Coin



### 2. Mark 4: 33-34

Jesus was known for using a certain type of speech in his teaching. What was it?

- A. soliloquy
- B. parable
- C. lecture
- D. riddle



### 3. 1 Kings 4: 29 - 34

Besides being known for his proverbs about wise living, King Solomon was knowledgeable in other fields, including which of the following?

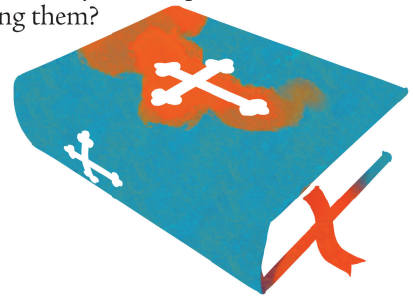
- A. zoology, including ornithology and ichthyology
- B. botany
- C. herpetology
- D. songwriting
- E. A and C
- F. B and D
- G. All of the above



### 4. Check out each book.

A few Bible books have only one chapter. Which of the following is not among them?

- A. Obadiah
- B. Philemon
- C. 1 John
- D. 2 John
- E. 3 John
- F. Jude



### 5. Galatians 5: 22-23

Which of the following is not called a "fruit of the Spirit" — but probably could be?

- A. love
- B. faithfulness
- C. self-control
- D. gratitude
- E. gentleness



### 6. Ezra 1: 1-4

Which king allowed — even encouraged — the Judean exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple?

- A. Cyrus of Persia
- B. Tiglath-pileser of Assyria
- C. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
- D. Hiram of Tyre



Answers: 1. C, 2. B, 3. G, 4. C, 5. D, 6. A