



# Olive Leaves

November 2022



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## From Pastor Walt: Thanksgiving and Voting

*Pastor Walt Harper*

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So November means two different things, and they are very un-alike. One of them is Thanksgiving, which means food, family, football, and remembering to thank God for His many blessings.

The other is Election Day, which means a free people selecting their leaders. Of course stated like that, it sounds very good. At the same time, we know the reality of the political division and the spirit of contention that exists in our country.



I strongly encourage Christians to be involved in both Thanksgiving and Voting! The Bible is clear that our God has saved us (most importantly), and also blesses us in many earthy, practical ways (less important than eternal life, but still very significant).

So, gather with family and friends. Enjoy the fellowship, and the food. And remember to spend some time in prayer to our gracious God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Just as strongly I urge everyone: Go vote! The pastor should never tell you how to vote; but he should always urge you to go and cast your vote. It's a rare privilege (in Human History), and really a responsibility.

So, does the Bible say anything about Christians and Government? Yes, more than can be put into one article. But here are some samples:

Psalm 72:1, "Endow the king with Your justice. O God." I.e., Christians pray for their leaders. Even if I didn't vote for this particular one, I still pray that God's ways be known and affirmed.

Proverbs 28:2, "When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers." That is, most of the time, most of the people are law-abiding. But if the people themselves become less and less lawful, they will be governed by an ever-growing Government presence. As a corollary, part of being a Christian is what used to be called "citizenship."

Nehemiah 2:2, "...so the king asked me, 'Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.'" In this passage Nehemiah has received terrible news about the conditions in Israel, which makes him sullen, which is

noticed by the pagan king Artaxerxes. Maybe this verse seems like a small thing; but it's great to be led by perceptive and compassionate leaders.

Acts 26:2-3, "King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews, and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently." This is a wonderful case of St. Paul, first of all, using his legal rights to defend himself, and then secondly, also addressing the person in authority with a respectful and appropriate tone.

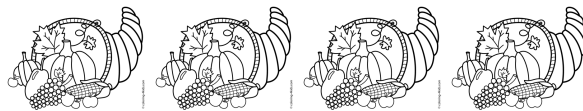
In Romans 13:1-7 we're told that God desires Good Government; that Christians are generally obedient toward it, and that the Government exists to punish the wicked and to reward the righteous. The passage of course also implies that Government has a responsibility to do exactly that; and that when it doesn't, it isn't holding up its end of the bargain.

Acts 5:29, "We must obey God rather than men." This is Peter and other disciples on trial for preaching the Gospel. The Government has told them to stop preaching, and they correctly respond that the Government generally has our obedience, but it does not have the right to tell us to stop practicing our Faith.

And finally, I'll put this here, to demonstrate that it matters very much that Christians vote on the basis of Values and Worldview:

Proverbs 29:2

"When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice;  
When the wicked rule, the people groan."



### **From our President: Strategic Plan**

*Jim Crosland, Congregational President*

The strategic plan has been distributed to the congregation and I really appreciate all the comments and suggestions. This is just a way for all of us to communicate on what we think is important and items that need immediate attention. It is also a way to put our capital items in a chronological order for completion. The strategic plan will remain a fluid document and will be updated on an annual basis along with the yearly budget. It's crazy when we think about a year ago compared to today. Thank you to all the Council Members, Bill Boykin



and Mary Keller for your assistance and diligence in ensuring that we have a budget for 2023. It definitely gets a little difficult to project revenues and expenditures throughout an entire year when inflation is rising. I know we are a strong congregation and with a lot of prayer, there is nothing we can't overcome.

Safety Tip: As the holidays approach, please be mindful of the people that may have ill intent to make us victims of crime. There's no embarrassment in reaching out if you think this may be happening to you or a family member.

## Board of Stewardship: Climate Change

*Naven Olson, Chairperson*

Some people are concerned about "climate change," but I am NOT. The website [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S.\\_state\\_and\\_territory\\_temperature\\_extremes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state_and_territory_temperature_extremes) shows that of 56 U.S states and territories 36 had their record high temperature in the years 1913-1954 and only 20 in the years 1972-2021. Of the 36, 24 were in the years 1930-1937 including 13 in the year 1936. Of the 20, only 7 were in the years 2006-2021. And far more important, God promised Noah in Genesis 8:22 *"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night Shall not cease."*

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." We need to read our Bibles daily. And we need to hear the message. And we need to hear the message again and again. And so many desperately need to hear the call to come to Calvary's holy mountain like it says in the LSB 435 verse 4 for:

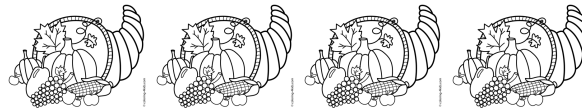


"They that drink shall live forever;  
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful;  
God will never Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died,  
Sealed when He was glorified."



1 John 5:11-12 states; *"And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."*

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: Directory Pictures

*Sue Strouse, Chairperson*

Get out your best clothes and wear them for new family photos for our church directory! Pictures will be made the weekends of November 5th-6th and 12th-13th in Bill's office before and after all services, no appointments needed. Just stop by. At Mt. Olive, our directory includes everyone who worships with us - both Family & Friends! There is no charge and no company that pressures you to make a purchase. Our directory, a loose-leaf binder, is a gift from your Board of Public Relations. We are looking forward to seeing everyone on picture days!



## Social Ministry Board: Birthright Baby Shower

*Mary Keller, Chairperson*

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1)*



**The Social Ministry Board is sponsoring a Baby Shower to support Birthright of Columbia**, a non-profit organization reaching out to girls and women who need aid during their pregnancy. They work around the schedule of the USC Nursing Students who spend the semester interning at the center and prepare the "Baby Shower" gift items. Please be assured that all

donated items will be given to new mothers throughout the year. As you can imagine, there is always a need for baby items year-round! **The collection receptacle is in the narthex through Thursday, November 3rd.** The needs list is on the table by the church office. What an incredible opportunity to help pregnant moms and their babies!

**In Times of Need the Social Ministry Board** has volunteers ready to provide a warm meal and a dessert too! Please contact the church office, or speak with Pastor Walt or Bill Boykin. We will be happy to connect with our team!

**Veterans in our Congregation** will be honored before/after the worship services on November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Sharing God's Love Thanksgiving Collection-** beginning November 5<sup>th</sup> - November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Giving Tree** – will be on display the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent.

**Details on these ministry opportunities** will be published in the weeks to come! Countless blessings as we give thanks and praise in response to His Love!

**Senior Retirees Ministry** meets on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 11:00 am and again on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments, hear about the month's ministry emphasis, and spend time enjoying each other's company.



## Fellowship Board:

*Jillian Brabham, Chairperson*

As of the deadline to submit articles, we had not had our Church Potluck; however, I am positive it was a wonderful time for all with lots of yummy food! We are discussing the possibility of bringing back the Christmas Baskets to embrace our members that are unable to join us for weekly services and will provide updates through the weekly bulletin with details if we decide to go forward.



The Advent lunches will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>, and December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Preschool Staff has graciously offered to provide the meal for November 30<sup>th</sup>! There will be a poster in the Narthex the week prior to Thanksgiving if you would like to sign up to provide the food for one of the lunches. You can also contact Jill Brabham at 803-587-9116 or [Jillian17L@gmail.com](mailto:Jillian17L@gmail.com) to sign up. We hope everyone has a safe and happy November!

## Preschool News: Prayers for Students

*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)



Greetings from the preschool! Your generosity and unwavering support of the preschool is a huge blessing as we strive to fulfill our mission to "Grow in faith and love by spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by providing a Christ-centered experience for young children." As we enter this season of thanksgiving, I ask you to consider supporting the preschool through prayer. You will receive a prayer bookmark with the name and picture of a preschool student in your worship



guide sometime during the month of November. Please use this bookmark as a reminder to pray for the children who are impacted by the preschool ministry each day.

We are so thankful for the Lord's continued protection and health as we enjoy being back together again, with parents in and out of the building. We are excited to have the opportunity to resume our Thanksgiving feast for our preschool "family" on November 21!

The two-year-olds have been learning about creation and are creating an art project to go along with their learning. The three-year-olds and four-year-olds have been busy learning about letters A through D, including **A**pples, **B**ears, **C**ats and **D**inosaurs- just to name a few! We have beautiful student artwork on display in the hallways and would love for you to please feel free to come down to the preschool area (outside of preschool hours) to see the students' artwork and what they are learning!



## The Board of Education: A Night in Bethlehem

*Jessica Dennis, Superintendent*

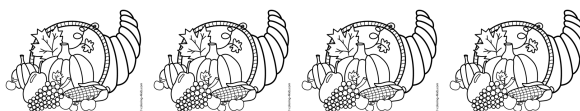
The Board of Education is very excited about this year's Christmas program! "A Night in Bethlehem" will be a fun-for-all family event. Families will enter the Gates of Bethlehem and walk the streets where they will learn what Bethlehem would have been like as Mary and Joseph entered over 2,000 years ago. They will visit the Scribe's Tent, a Metal Shop, a Pottery Shed, a Carpentry Shop, a Painter's Hut, the Bethlehem Bakery, and lastly, meet Mary and Joseph in the Stable. All volunteers will get to dress in robes and head dresses and have fun setting the scene for that glorious night when Jesus was born.



If you would like to join the fun, we have a few volunteer spots still open! And it never hurts to have extra hands. So, if you don't want to lead a station but would like to be around to help, please contact Jess Dennis. Volunteers will all meet on November 6th at 2 PM for planning. We will also need many hands for painting props on November 13th at 2 PM. And we will be setting up Bethlehem on November 30th at 1:30 PM. Please join us for fellowship and help make this a night that our children will remember for years to come. Most importantly, please plan to bring your children, grandchildren, and their friends for this special event! Registration begins on October 30th.

## 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, Megan Weed, & Brandy Maye	God's Creation
Confirmation Class (5th grade & up)	Preschool Big Room	Pr. Walt Harper	A two-year study 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	Sandy Osborne	"When God Troubles the Waters"
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			



## The Board of Trustees: Up Date on Projects

*Chris Slaughter, Trustee*

The Trustees have been busy working on the church over the past few months.

We have repaired a leaking toilet, replaced the faucet in the main sink in the kitchen, and repaired a p-trap in the nursery restrooms. This work was performed by our trustee, James Sharpe. Thank you for all of your help with this, James!

Repairs have been completed on our detention pond, which is located beside the playground. We have performed the following work:

- Removed sediment from the bottom of the pond.
- Stabilized one of the eroded embankment walls by:
  - Installed a geotextile fabric to control erosion.
  - Placed rye grass seed over the fabric, which will serve to keep the fabric in place as the grass grows over it.
- Added rip-rap (rocks) to the pond inlet flume, where water from the parking lot drains into the pond.
- Mowed the bottom of the pond.



The detention pond work was performed by our trustee, Mike Prater, for less than \$1,000. If an outside company had been hired, it would have cost between \$4,000 and \$6,000. Thank you for all of your help with this, Mike!

Several of our members have been trained on the new Audio/Video (AV) Equipment. We are currently forming an AV Team to record our church services for our homebound and out-of-town members to view online. If you are interested in serving on the AV Team, please email me at [trustees@mtolivesc.org](mailto:trustees@mtolivesc.org). More volunteers are needed and anyone willing to learn will be welcome!

## November 2022 Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
<b>November 6</b>	All Saints	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matt. 5:1-12
<b>November 13</b>	Proper 28	Malachi 4:1-6	Psalm 98	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-28
<b>November 20</b>	Proper 29	Malachi 3:13-18	Psalm 46	Colossians 1:13-20	Luke 23:27-43
<b>November 23</b>	ThGv. Eve	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	Psalm 67	Philippians 4:6-20	Luke 17:11-19
<b>November 27</b>	Advent 1	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 21:1-11

## Pastoral Acts

	<b>Memorial Service</b> <b>Mary Alice Schott</b> July 2, 1937 - October 9, 2022 October 15, 2022 Internment - October 24, 2022	
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## November 2022 Anniversaries

11/2	John & Neva Meyerhoff	11/22	Daniel & Noreen Powell
11/3	Michael & Billie Whitaker	11/24	Patrick & Joyce Lauterbach
11/9	Bruce & Darlene Schenemann	11/25	Jim & Gerry Harper
11/10	Robert & Barbara Spadaccini	11/28	Mike & Sue Knowles
11/11	Bruce & Paula Helming	11/29	Christopher & Kara Meetze

## November 2022 Birthdays

11/2	Chris Bauer	11/15	Wendy Barrett	11/19	Thomas Meetze
11/3	Connie Cook	11/15	Will Gepfert	11/19	Gerry Selle
11/3	Ken Kyte	11/15	Connie Kyte	11/20	David Meetze
11/7	Christian Baden	11/16	Pam Dalton	11/20	Henry Weed
11/7	Al Jabs	11/16	Linda Selle	11/23	Luanne Curry
11/7	Linda Schmidt	11/17	Kathie Voyles	11/24	Kaley Laprise
11/10	Robert Spadaccini	11/18	Calma Cook	11/24	Cyndi Nelson
11/11	Raymond Kapalka	11/18	Emily Ranta	11/27	Kathryn Meetze
11/12	Anita Meetze	11/18	Jacob Setterlund	11/29	Katie Matzko
11/13	Miranda Cook	11/19	Mike Knowles	11/29	Shirlean Sons
11/13	Jim Harper	11/19	Paula Meetze		

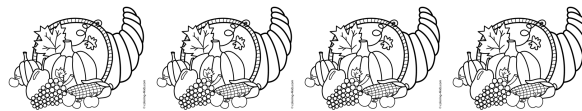
## Read the Bible in Three Years – November 2022

Super news! If you began Pr. Walt's 3-year Bible reading plan that he gave us shortly after he arrived, you will have read the entire Bible by the end of November! Congratulations!

Here are the books that we have left: First, we must finish the Old Testament prophet, Ezekiel. Then we move on to two of St. Paul's epistles, Galatians and Colossians. Remember, you may want to check out the introductions to the books in your Lutheran Study Bible or listen to the overview of each book on The Bible Project website. For additional study, you can go to the YouVersion or Bible Gateway sites to find daily reading plans with devotions that accompany these books.

Enjoy your home stretch of this great accomplishment!

November 2022							
Nov 1	Ezekiel 9-10	Nov 8	Ezekiel 23-24	Nov 16	Ezekiel 39-40	Nov 24	Galatians 4
Nov 2	Ezekiel 11-12	Nov 9	Ezekiel 25-26	Nov 17	Ezekiel 41-42	Nov 25	Galatians 5
Nov 3	Ezekiel 13-14	Nov 10	Ezekiel 27-28	Nov 18	Ezekiel 43-44	Nov 26	Galatians 6
Nov 4	Ezekiel 15-16	Nov 11	Ezekiel 29-30	Nov 19	Ezekiel 45-46	Nov 27	Colossians 1
Nov 5	Ezekiel 17-18	Nov 12	Ezekiel 31-32	Nov 20	Ezekiel 47-48	Nov 28	Colossians 2
Nov 6	Ezekiel 19-20	Nov 13	Ezekiel 33-34	Nov 21	Galatians 1	Nov 29	Colossians 3
Nov 7	Ezekiel 21-22	Nov 14	Ezekiel 35-36	Nov 22	Galatians 2	Nov 30	Colossians 4
		Nov 15	Ezekiel 37-38	Nov 23	Galatians 3		



### Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

***"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.  
I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High."***

**Psalm 9:1**

Continue to remember our homebound during the season of Thanksgiving, especially as they may be unable to attend family get-togethers. 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!



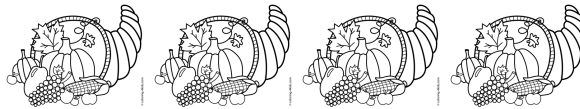
Don Angen	Cleta Dunaway	Anita Meetze	Eva Mae Monts	Linda Schmidt
Nadia R. BouFawaz	Teresa Hoefer	Charles/Laura Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Shirlean Sons
Phil Carter	Betty Hunter	Laurie Meetze	Polly Roland	Flora Weed
Shirley Curry	Harold/Sarah Jones	Margaret Meetze	Twila Sandt	Henry/Louise Weed
Jim/Andrea Doty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

## 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 are the previews of the November and Thanksgiving signs. Of course, the color versions are more pleasant to the eye. As you come into the church why not take the ramp and pause a few moments by the sign to pick out the key words from the week's Gospel. If you follow Mt. Olive on social

media (mtolivesc) you will have read weekly posts of the lectionary readings, so you can always use your smart phone to help you in your search.



## Announcements & Opportunities

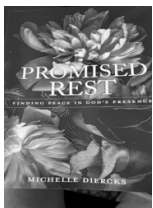
**FALL BACK** On Sunday, November 6, at 2 am, remember to set your clocks back 1 hour. We always do it before we go to bed on Saturday night, because, who likes to get up a 2 am?!?



### **Mark your Calendars**

On November 5th-6th and 12th-13th, we will be taking 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 Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesdays, November 1st and 15th at 7 PM. ALL women of the congregation are welcome to join in at this twice monthly class in the Fellowship Hall. We are reading from the book, *Promised Rest* by Michelle Diercks. If you want to purchase the book, it is available from CPH.com for \$18.52.

### **December/January Newsletter Deadline – November 28, 2022**

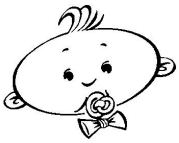
Your next deadline for submitting articles for the combined December/January 2022 issue of the Olive Leaves is **November 28, 2022**. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at [slstrouse@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com).



### **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: Fill in the Blanks**

Although the Bible doesn't mention turkey feasts, the gospels do describe a miracle dinner that made thousands of hungry people thankful (see Matthew 14:13-21). Fill in the words to complete a poem about that meal.

*Hint: Each pair of line endings should rhyme.*



ate	faces	quest	then
began	late	ran	ton
bunch	lunch	rest	true
done	men	spaces	you

Jesus was tired and went to find \_\_\_\_\_.  
So away from the crowd he started his \_\_\_\_\_.  
It came to an end before it \_\_\_\_\_.  
The crowd followed Jesus; they walked and they \_\_\_\_\_.  
His boat pulled ashore, and he looked at their \_\_\_\_\_.  
Five thousand men, plus families, filled all open \_\_\_\_\_.  
And so Jesus spoke, and he taught until \_\_\_\_\_.  
The disciples told him it was time they all \_\_\_\_\_.  
Jesus said, "Yes, that is certainly \_\_\_\_\_.  
And feeding this crowd is now up to \_\_\_\_\_."  
Feeding five thousand! It could not be \_\_\_\_\_.  
What would they do? They'd need a whole \_\_\_\_\_.  
But then a young boy came and offered his \_\_\_\_\_.  
Five loaves and two fish to feed this big \_\_\_\_\_?  
Jesus gave thanks and blessed it and \_\_\_\_\_ ...  
it fed all the women, the children and \_\_\_\_\_.