



Olive Leaves

February 2023



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From Pastor Walt: "On Daily Bible Reading"

Pastor Walt Harper

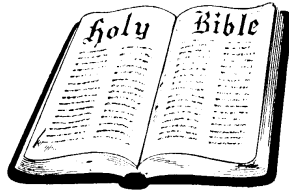
walt.harper@mtolivesc.org

By now you've heard me say (and say often) that every Christian should be reading from their Bible every day. So here are some more thoughts on this:

- If you've been doing the daily Bible reading in the bulletin since I got here you're now through with the entire Bible! The plan is designed to finish the Bible every three years; and I've now been here a little more than three years. If you're done, what should you do? Keep reading, and do it all again.
- Every time you read through the Bible you find something different. When I was a child I heard adults say this all the time. Of course as a kid you assume that when you read any passage of the Bible you figure out what it means and now "you've got it." Anyone reading the Bible regularly knows that there are layers and layers of meaning, and application, and different levels of understanding. Keep reading!
- If you intend to read the Bible every day, and sometimes accidentally miss a chapter, what should you do? You have to decide for yourself what ought to be done. If possible, it's best to read two chapters the next day. But if two chapters become three, and three then become four, it's probably best to read just the chapter assigned for today, and from that point on to: Keep reading!
- "But pastor, some parts of the Bible are hard to understand." So you've noticed, huh? Yes, that's true for all of us. We can try to gain understanding by reading the notes in a good Study Bible, or by looking at a Bible Commentary, or even by talking it over with a fellow believer. But sometimes we just don't quite get this particular passage. In that case, you put it down as "God may have something here that I'm not seeing now, but will someday see." And then: Keep reading!
- Many people love to ask the pastor: What's the best translation of the Bible? Not meaning this as a dodge in any way, I often answer: "The one you'll read." There are many excellent translations available today. To me, the "Big Three" are the ESV, the NIV, and the NKJV. It's sometimes fun to look at one passage in two or three different translations to see the different "flavors" of what the translators did. But whichever translation you settle on: Keep reading!



Isaiah 55:10-11, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth: it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (ESV)



From our President: Please Serve Your Church!

Jim Crosland, Congregational President

Happy Valentine's Day! As usual, Mt. Olive is very busy after the new year with projects and planning. Also, want to thank Hunter Robinson for being the chairperson of our call committee. Calling an associate pastor is moving along nicely and hoping to hear some good news soon.







Jason Dennis, Congregational Vice President, will be reaching out shortly to form the annual nominating committee. If you would like to help with that, please let him know. This is an ever-important committee that helps us find volunteers for our church council and boards. Also, you do not have to wait to be called! If you want to serve on any of the boards, committees, or just help out once in a while, please reach out to Jason. We will formally announce the nominating

committee at the February's Voter's Meeting. Hope to see everyone there.

Safety Tip: Email scams are at an all-time high. If you do not recognize the sender, just delete. Banks and such will never ask for that information through an email. If you still feel like it may be legit, call them to verify before sending any information.

December – January Pastoral Acts

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  | FUNERAL |  |
| | Carolyn Connelly Kibler March 13, 1943 – December 9, 2022 December 17, 2022 | |
| | GRAVESIDE SERVICE | |
| | Charles Jerry Meetze March 5, 1948 – December 29, 2022 January 22, 2023 | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  | Holy Baptism |  |
| | Arabella Rose Prag January 15, 2023 | |



Board of Stewardship: 1 Corinthians Series

Naven Olson, Chairperson

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then recompense every man according to his deeds."

Matthew 16:24-27

Pastor Walt is preaching a series on 1 Corinthians which will end in mid-April. On Easter Sunday his sermon will be on 1 Corinthians 15, the great chapter on the Resurrection. That epistle was addressed to Christians living in a pagan culture where sexual immorality was openly accepted and where Christians were out of the mainstream. This could be a helpful encouragement in facing today's American culture.

"Enter by the narrow gate, for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it." Matthew 7:13-14

Sadly, many of the people we know are on the broad road to destruction. Sadly, much of our educational system, most of our mainstream media, many "woke" corporations and many churches that have drifted away from the Bible and from Christ encourage them on their way to hell and oppose those who would warn them. Sadly, many influential people work diligently to draw children and youth away from the narrow way.

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. And let us remember Jesus' words from **Revelation 2:10** ***"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."***

The Board of Public Relations: Symbols

Sue Strouse, Chairperson



The triquetra is used to represent the Trinity. These forms of the triquetra often include a circle to emphasize the unity of the three parts of the Trinity. It is sometimes called the Trinity knot or the Trinity circle.



In the Bible, an anchor is used as a symbol of our hope in Jesus that gives us stability and steadfastness in life. In ancient days, the anchor was used in artwork and engravings as a symbol of Christianity. Anchors appear in the Roman catacombs on the tombs of Christians, showing the Christians' steadfast hope in eternal life.



In the Bible thorns often represent sin, and therefore, the crown of thorns is fitting—because Jesus would bear the sins of the world. But a crown is also fitting because it represents the suffering King of Christianity—Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.



The transformation of a butterfly and its release from a cocoon is associated with the rebirth of Christ after his crucifixion and is a symbol of resurrection for a Christian.

If the cocoon of a butterfly is tampered with, like cutting the cocoon to help the pupa out, it will cause the butterfly to emerge unhealthy and unable to fly to take care of itself. The timing and the chemicals produced in the struggle are needed for the chrysalis to develop into the butterfly.

The trials we endure make us stronger too.



Join a Bible Class

| February 2023 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 | Lay Min. Bill Boykin | 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 | Pr. Walt Harper | The Book of Jeremiah |
| Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator. | | | |

Preschool News: Next Year Registration

Anna Brent, Preschool Director
803-781-7180 - preschool@mtolivesc.org
Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool - [Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool](https://www.facebook.com/mountolivepreschool)



The 34 students and their families who are being served this school year in the preschool are flourishing! We are so, so thankful for the church support and our amazing staff which allows us to provide a warm and loving environment, small class sizes and high-quality learning experiences. The students learn about God's love for them and His desire for them to be their best while they learn about and explore His world.

Do you know any families with young children who would benefit from our school?
Encourage them to call, email, or checkout the website.

Anna is always happy to talk with families and provide tours of the preschool.

Registration for congregation members and current students begins on February 1st and for new students and families on February 15th. Registration materials are available on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall, on our website, and downstairs on the table near the preschool entrance.



The Board of Education: Souper Bowl of Caring

Jessica Dennis, Superintendent

Ephesians 2:10 says, 'For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.'

We know that our good works do not save us - God's Word alone, grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, and to the glory of God alone. And yet, many can finish this quote by Martin Luther, "God doesn't need our good works but... *our neighbor does!*"



The youth group is looking forward to a month-long service project, beginning in February and completing in March. They will be participating in the *Souper Bowl of Caring* on February 12th. Youth groups from around the country participate in this fundraising event each year and partner with local charities. Our youth group (middle & high) has partnered with Sharing God's Love again and will be collecting monetary donations to meet specific needs at SGL. I hear from the youth leaders that there is a friendly "girls versus boys" competition so choose your pot wisely! Then, February 19th & 26th the Youth group will be collecting canned and dry food goods. Stop by and visit with our youth group in the narthex after early service or before late service any of these Sundays in February. They will be delivering the food goods to SGL on Saturday, March 4th and stocking the shelves with the items donated. Afterwards, SGL has asked them to help portion their bulk dry goods like rice, sugar, and flour for distribution to needful families in our community.

They are looking forward to partnering with SGL and the opportunity to fellowship while serving our community!

February 2023 Lectionary

| Date | Festival | First Reading | Psalm | Epistle | Gospel |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| February 5 | Epiphany 5 | Isaiah 58:3-9a | Psalm 112:1-9 | 1 Corinthians 5 | Matthew 5:13-20 |
| February 12 | Epiphany 6 | Deuteronomy 30:15-20 | Psalm 119:1-8 | 1 Corinthians 6 | Matthew 5:21-37 |
| February 19 | Transfiguration | Exodus 24:8-18 | Psalm 2:6-12 | 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; 25-31 | Matthew 17:1-9 |
| February 22 | Ash Wednesday | Joel 2:12-19 | Psalm 51:1-13 | 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 | Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21 |
| February 26 | Lent 1 | Genesis 3:1-21 | Psalm 32:1-7 | 1 Corinthians 8 | Matthew 4:1-11 |



Mid-Week Lenten Services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22. We will offer optional Imposition of Ashes at both services on this day. Wednesday mid-week services will continue through March 29th. Service times are 12 Noon and 7:00 pm. in the sanctuary.



The Social Ministry Board: Unselfishness Abounding

Mary Keller, Chairperson

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4



Unselfishness does so many things for us. It improves the quality of our life. It gives us an appreciation for life and understanding of higher values. Seeing people in need and giving to meet those needs sets a lot of things into perspective.

When we think unselfishly and invest in others, we gain the opportunity to create a long-lasting impact that will outlive us. There were countless opportunities over the holidays in which the Mt. Olive Family shared their unselfish care and concern for others: the abounding amount of pantry items that were collected for Sharing God's Love, the Christmas gifts for SisterCare and Lutheran Family Services, the gifts given to our Preschool children that were prepared by our seniors group, the homebound Christmas bags filled with goodies, and the time given behind the scenes. When we begin to think unselfishly, invest in others, we receive the blessing of being a part of something greater than ourselves. And most importantly, we are responding to the Love that He unselfishly gave to each of us! ***Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3).***



Social Ministry: Save the Dates in February:

Senior Retirees' Ministry: Thursday, February 9th from 10:00 am – 11:00 am and Tuesday, February 28 from 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

The Board of Trustees: New Projects

Chris Slaughter, Chairperson

Over the last 2 months, the Trustees have been busy working on various projects in the church.

We replaced the broken lamp posts on top of the church sign with new, higher-quality lamp posts, and brighter light bulbs.

We replaced the 4 security cameras at each entrance and the stairwell to the preschool with high-definition cameras, and replaced the obsolete digital video recorder. These new security cameras allow the Safety Team to monitor the church better.

We also installed new smart sprinkler controllers as the old ones had reached the end of their useful life. The new controllers are easier to operate and use data from the weather report to automatically skip watering if it is going to rain. They will undoubtedly save the church a significant amount of water long-term.

We also have significantly improved the Wi-Fi connection throughout the church by installing access points in the sanctuary, preschool, and Wagner House.

We are also working with Dominion Energy to upgrade the fluorescent lighting to LED in the Fellowship Hall, select outdoor areas, and the Wagner House. LED lights will be brighter and save electricity. Dominion's program pays for the majority of the cost for this energy efficient upgrade.

In March or April, there will be a spring work day to trim back the crepe myrtle trees by the fellowship hall and remove the dead tree behind the Wagner House. Many hands make light work, so please stay tuned and check the church bulletin for the date of the upcoming work day and plan to help out if you are able.

If you have any questions, please email us at trustees@mtolivesc.org.



Read the Bible in Three Years –February 2023

During January, we began reading I Samuel and in February, we will continue through the book and move into II Samuel. The books follow the life of God's Prophet Samuel and Israel's first kings. They compare and contrast the rise and fall of King Saul, a man-pleaser, and King David, a God-pleaser. They demonstrate the futility and foolishness of disobedience to God as well as the humility, faith, and reward that characterizes a life lived to honor God.

| February 2023 | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Feb 1 | I Samuel 11 | Feb 8 | I Samuel 18 | Feb 15 | I Samuel 25 | Feb 22 | II Samuel 1 |
| Feb 2 | I Samuel 12 | Feb 9 | I Samuel 19 | Feb 16 | I Samuel 26 | Feb 23 | II Samuel 2 |
| Feb 3 | I Samuel 13 | Feb 10 | I Samuel 20 | Feb 17 | I Samuel 27 | Feb 24 | II Samuel 3 |
| Feb 4 | I Samuel 14 | Feb 11 | I Samuel 21 | Feb 18 | I Samuel 28 | Feb 25 | II Samuel 4 |
| Feb 5 | I Samuel 15 | Feb 12 | I Samuel 22 | Feb 19 | I Samuel 29 | Feb 26 | II Samuel 5 |
| Feb 6 | I Samuel 16 | Feb 13 | I Samuel 23 | Feb 20 | I Samuel 30 | Feb 27 | II Samuel 6 |
| Feb 7 | I Samuel 17 | Feb 14 | I Samuel 24 | Feb 21 | I Samuel 31 | Feb 28 | II Samuel 7 |

February 2023 Anniversaries

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|---------------------|
| 2/7 | Philip & Beth Clauss | 2/14 | Dennis & Tina Dixon |
| 2/10 | Todd & Elizabeth Barrett | 2/25 | Jens & Liz Rosinski |

February 2023 Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|------------------|------|--------------------|
| 2/2 | Chuck Bauer | 2/13 | Kathie Bost | 2/19 | Susan Strouse |
| 2/3 | Susie Hoffman | 2/14 | Paula Helming | 2/20 | Kathy Eargle |
| 2/10 | Phil Carter | 2/14 | Eric Matzko | 2/21 | Matt Christensen |
| 2/10 | Joshua Thrun | 2/15 | Hannah Hennigan | 2/21 | Chris McKinney |
| 2/11 | Seth Duncan | 2/15 | Jeff Thrun | 2/22 | David Buck |
| 2/11 | Carly Stuck | 2/16 | James Crosland | 2/23 | Teresa Hoefer |
| 2/12 | Noah Laney | 2/17 | Rachel Lewis | 2/24 | Barbara Spadaccini |
| 2/12 | Herb Loebbs | 2/18 | Natalie Crosland | 2/25 | Kelsey Whitaker |
| 2/12 | Rosemary Sharpe | 2/19 | William Baden | 2/27 | Hunter Robinson |
| 2/12 | Daniel Zahn | 2/19 | Carole Mueller | 2/27 | Suzi Slaughter |



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

***"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."* Philippians 2:3-4**

The darkness of winter is upon us and people may feel sad and lonely because of the shortness of daylight hours. We can be hopeful in February because each day arrives with an extra minute or two of sunshine!

God uses His family to be a light to those who need it most. Let's continue our ministry to those in our congregation by lifting them up to God in prayer. And please send cards and/or phone them, too.

You may include others who are on the weekly prayer page in the bulletin. Don't forget about family members and care givers, too. Contact information is in the church directory. Let's make a special effort to connect with one another!



| | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Don Angen | Cleta Dunaway | Anita Meetze | Eva Mae Monts | Linda Schmidt |
| Nadia R. BouFawaz | Teresa Hoefer | 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 | |

February Signs: The Seasons of Epiphany & Lent



As February begins, the church is midway into Season of Epiphany. You will see our bright yellow sign that recounts how Jesus revealed himself as both fully God and fully man, and as the Savior of the world including the gentiles. The last Sunday of the Epiphany Season, this year on February 19th, always recounts Jesus' Transfiguration.

This year the Season of Lent comes early with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. Don't miss this sign, because it is only out for a few days leading up to the day of reflection and repentance. Read the encouraging words from Jesus as he prepares for his journey to take on our sins.

The theme of reflection and repentance continues throughout the season of Lent as you will see on the purple sign. Throughout the 40 days of Lent, remember Jesus' steadfast love for His children and how he willingly prepared to go to the cross for each one who believes.



Announcements & Opportunities

Women's Book Club



The Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesdays, February 7th and 21st 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, *Be Thou My Guide* by *Margo Heath Dupre*, which can be purchased at CPH.org.

March Newsletter Deadline –February 23, 2023

Your next deadline for submitting articles for March 2023 issue of the Olive Leaves is **February 23, 2023**. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at **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. 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: Word Search

Search for and circle all the bold words from Psalm 18:2, which reminds us where we find our strength.

The **LORD** is **MY ROCK**, my **FORTRESS** and my **DELIVERER**; my **GOD** is my rock, in whom I **TAKE REFUGE**. **HE** is my **SHIELD** and the **HORN** of my **SALVATION**, my **STRONGHOLD**.

GOD ROCKS!

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | R | O | N | G | H | O | L | D | T | S |
| O | L | O | B | K | I | E | Y | E | J | S | A |
| R | E | F | U | G | E | I | Y | N | T | V | L |
| R | O | G | H | A | R | L | Q | R | A | Y | V |
| S | X | C | T | T | I | M | T | K | K | M | A |
| H | O | R | N | C | E | Y | R | A | E | D | T |
| I | G | F | V | L | O | L | K | E | N | S | I |
| E | N | F | O | R | T | R | E | S | S | G | O |
| L | T | U | R | G | Q | A | C | K | J | Q | N |
| D | C | D | E | L | I | V | E | R | E | R | E |
| K | Y | U | X | O | C | N | O | O | Y | Q | S |
| X | H | X | A | R | K | L | R | C | N | H | Y |
| G | O | D | T | D | K | A | D | K | U | D | X |