



Olive Leaves



April 2023

Table of Contents				
From Pastor Walt Page 1	Board of Stewardship Page 3	Board of Social Ministry Page 5	Read the Bible in 3 Years Page 7	Signs of the Season Page 8
From our President Page 2	Board of Public Relations Bible Page 4	Board of Education Page 5	April Anniversaries & B-days Page 7	Announcements Page 9
Pastoral Acts Page 2	April Lectionary Page 4	Mt Olive Preschool Page 6	Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards Page 8	Kid's Korner Page 10
Board of Fellowship Page 3		Bible Classes Page 6		April Calendar Page 11

From Pastor Walt: The Bible is About Jesus

Pastor Walt Harper

walt.harper@mtolivesc.org

- Eve was told that the “seed of the woman” would defeat Satan.
- Samson died standing in the shape of a cross.
- David defeated Goliath just outside the town of Bethlehem.

These are some of the Old Testament passages we’ve been looking at in the Midweek Services this year. These are Historical Narratives, and took place in space and time. But at the same time they were pointing to what God would do in Christ to save us.

The Old Testament is full of such things:

- God asked Abraham to offer his “only son,” and also gave him back to Abraham.
- Israel went through the waters of the Red Sea and so were “baptized into Moses.”
- Countless lambs, spotless males, were offered for the sins of the people.
- After David’s sin with Bathsheba the un-named “son of David” died for the sins of others.
- And this: Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days.

How many such passages are there? The more you read, the more you find them. Again, this is not to make the Old Testament an allegory. It’s just that we notice God has sent the message over and over again.

This spring, like every other spring, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You’ve heard it many times, of course. But we never tire of hearing it: Christ died for your sins, then rose for your victory.

Prophets sometimes said it directly (Is. 7:14), and sometimes in more subtle ways. And then there are those places where the Old Testament narrative itself is a depiction of what Christ will do.

I’ve always thought that this is why St. Paul became an overnight Christian evangelist. He knew his Old Testament very well. But he didn’t initially see that it was about Christ, and so he opposed the new Christian faith.

After the miraculous encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus he suddenly had a 180 degree shift in the way he read the Old Testament Scriptures. He had once read it as History. He now saw it as being fulfilled in Christ.



Any Christian of course starts out there: the Bible is about Jesus. But New Testament Christians will often have fun finding all those ancient texts that either directly, or sometimes only as a whisper, refer to what Christ would do.

Christ was crucified; Christ is risen; Christ is coming again.



From our President: Volunteers Needed!!!

James Crosland, President

April showers bring May flowers! Happy Easter everyone.

We are desperately looking for volunteers this month to fill our vacancies on our boards and offices. If you feel the Holy Spirit tugging at your heart, please reach out to Jason Dennis or anyone on council, for information. We would love for you to serve in our house of the lord.

Volunteers needed

Big shout out to James Sharpe and all our volunteers that came out for the Mt. Olive workday. With such busy schedules, we know it is tough sometimes.



Lastly, thank you for the members of the congregation that stayed after the service and officially voted unanimously to send a call to the Seminary for our Associate Pastor. Now we pray that we will call the person who God chooses.




Safety Tip: There has been an increase of robberies from the ATMs lately. Although, not specifically in our area, but nationally. Please be aware of your surroundings for people loitering close by or suspicious vehicles. If anything looks suspicious, report it, and drive to another location.

Happy Easter and please be safe.



March Pastoral Acts

	<p>Funeral Service Teresa Aughtry Hofer February 23, 1944 - March 5, 2023 March 9, 2023</p>	
---	--	---

	<p>Holy Baptism Gianni Hunter Vega March 12, 2023</p>		<p>Holy Baptism Camden Thomas Crelly March 12, 2023</p>	
---	--	---	--	---

Fellowship Board: Easter Breakfast

Jillian Brabham, Chairperson

Thank You

Happy April, He Is Risen! At the time articles were due, we had enjoyed 4 Lenten Lunches and all went very well with wonderful food and fellowship. Thank you so much to Jessica & Jason Dennis, Aresa & Bill Boykin, Sue & Mike Strouse, Renee & Pastor Harper, Tina & Dennis Dixon, and Mike Knowles & Rodgers Creations (Megan Weed/Brandy Maye) for providing our main entrees. As always, a huge thank you to those of you that we can always count on for our delicious desserts!

This month we look forward to Easter Sunday breakfast, which will be sure to include nourishment for body and soul. Breakfast will be held beginning at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. The fellowship board will provide scrambled eggs, locally smoked ham, grits, fresh fruit, yogurt and coffee, tea and lemonade. We are asking each family to bring something to add to the menu such as fresh fruit, sweet rolls, pastries etc. Please bring your dishes to church on Easter morning and drop them off in the kitchen. We will also have a light continental breakfast ready at 8:45am for all our kiddos attending the Easter Egg Hunt!



Board of Stewardship:

Naven Olson, Chairperson

"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death." 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 NASB

This brings to mind the last two verses of my favorite Easter hymn "He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus the Lord", words and music by C. F. W. Walther, translation from LW 138.



"Oh where is your sting, death? We fear you no more,
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.
"Then sing your hosannas and raise your loud voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
In glory he reigns, yes, and ever shall reign."



Since Christ has atoned for the sin of Adam and for all the subsequent sins of all of humanity by His death and resurrection, let us make this saving message known to our relatives, neighbors, friends and coworkers by word and deed in this dark time and support the ministry of this church with our time, talents, resources and presence so that as many as possible may know Jesus and escape the wrath to come and enjoy a blissful eternity with the Triune God in heaven.

The Board of Public Relations: Passover & Easter

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

The Passover and Easter have many things in common and are celebrated about the same time each year. The first Passover happened when the Israelites were living in Egypt. God saved the Israelites from slavery by sending Moses to deliver them. Similarly, God saved mankind from sin and death by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, rise from the dead, thus giving all who believe eternal life with Him in heaven.

On the first Passover, God instructed Moses to have each of the Israelite families place the blood of an unblemished lamb on the door posts of their homes to show the angel of death to “pass over” and not kill their first-born sons. This act points to Jesus who became the sacrificial lamb for the world, saving us from sin, death, and the devil.



Moses told the Israelites to roast the lamb and eat it with unleavened bread. They were to be fully nourished and clothed, and ready to go because they did not know the hour when Pharaoh would let them go. As Jesus was celebrating the last Passover before His death, He instituted the familiar words, “This is my body” and “This is my blood,” showing Himself to be the true Passover lamb. As believers, Jesus taught us to continue to “be ready” for His return by faithful study of His Word, participation in worship, and receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion. God is the only One who knows when that time will be!



April 2023 Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
April 2	Palm Sunday	Zechariah 9:9-13	Psalm 118:19-26	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11
April 6	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-14 or Exodus 24:3-11	Psalm 116:12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-32	Matthew 26:17-30
April 8	Holy Saturday	1 st Lesson Genesis 1:1-2:3	N/A	2 nd Lesson Genesis 7:1-8;9:8-13 Third Lesson Exodus 14:1-31	John 20:11-18
April 9	Easter	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 16	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
April 16	Easter 2	Acts 5:29-42	Psalm 148	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
April 23	Easter 3	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-14	1 Peter 1:17-25	Luke 24:13-35
April 30	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

The Social Ministry Board:

Mary Keller, Chairperson

"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the Gospel of the grace of God."

Acts 20:24 (NKJV)



We are all gifted and called by God, and we ought to take it seriously. So why do we often run from instead of move towards what we've been assigned to do? Look inside yourself and you'll find the key! Will you make mistakes? Of course! But God loves you enough to correct you, redirect you, and get you back on track.

How do we go about discovering our assignment can be challenging. Some questions to consider are: What desires have been living in me most of my life? What motivates me to work hard and be productive? What makes me refuse to give up when I meet resistance? What makes my creative juices flow? What do I do that doesn't seem to work out? Prayerfully ask God to shed some light on your life's purpose. It has already been determined by Him. Pray that He will reveal it to you, and ask for discernment to follow His plan not your own! When you know what our God-given assignment in life is, and that God has your best interests in mind, you will be filled with supernatural joy!!

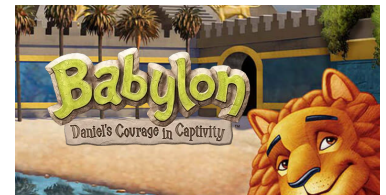
Seniors Retirees' Ministry meet twice a month on Thursday, April 13th, at 10:00 – 11:00 am and again on Tuesday, April 25th, at 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm. We meet in the fellowship hall for light refreshments, devotion, and fellowship.



The Board of Education: Babylon is Coming!

Jessica Dennis, Superintendent

Babylon is coming! It's that time again... we're preparing for VBS 2023 and this time we're headed to Babylon. Children will join one of the tribes of Israel to explore Babylon with Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Babylon will be very similar to A Night in Bethlehem, but we hope – on an even larger scale!



Therefore, we need everyone's help! Please let us know if you can help with props (we're building Nebuchadnezzar's palace!), donating items (like the ones collected for A Night in Bethlehem), or if you would like to join in on the fun, you can volunteer to lead a station or "tribe" during VBS!

Mark your calendars and join us for Babylon, Wednesday, June 14th-16th from 6-8pm. Parents are welcome to participate! Registration will open soon.

Preschool News: 2 Year Old Openings

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 - preschool@mtolivesc.org

Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool - Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool



Spring has sprung down in the preschool. We are knee deep in spring and Easter crafts and enjoying getting to play outside. It is a wonderful time of year to explore God’s beautiful creation!

As you walk around the church, please feel free to walk around and look at the preschool area. The students’ artwork is always on display and you can see pictures of the sweet faces that represent over 33 families that come in and out of the church doors each week.

We still have a few spots available in our 2-year-old class for the 2023-2024 school year. We are excited to begin planning for another school year and look forward to seeing how the Lord is going to work in and through the preschool during the upcoming year! So, if you know anyone who might be interested, please have them contact me (listed above).

As always, thank you for your continued support and prayers!



Join a Bible Class

Spring 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	Pr. Walt Harper & Mr. 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	Sandy Osborne Barry Bost	"Biblical Reconciliation" "A Longer Look at the Epistle"
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

Read the Bible in Three Years - April 2023

April 2023							
Apr 1	Genesis 7	Apr 8	Genesis 14	Apr 16	Genesis 22	Apr 24	Genesis 30
Apr 2	Genesis 8	Apr 9	Genesis 15	Apr 17	Genesis 23	Apr 25	Genesis 31
Apr 3	Genesis 9	Apr 10	Genesis 16	Apr 18	Genesis 24	Apr 26	Genesis 32
Apr 4	Genesis 10	Apr 11	Genesis 17	Apr 19	Genesis 25	Apr 27	Genesis 33
Apr 5	Genesis 11	Apr 12	Genesis 18	Apr 20	Genesis 26	Apr 28	Genesis 34
Apr 6	Genesis 12	Apr 13	Genesis 19	Apr 21	Genesis 27	Apr 29	Genesis 35
Apr 7	Genesis 13	Apr 14	Genesis 20	Apr 22	Genesis 28	Apr 30	Genesis 36
		Apr 15	Genesis 21	Apr 23	Genesis 29		

During the month of April, and the first half of May, we will continue to read through the book of Genesis.

“On its own, the book of Genesis reads like a string of epic stories: a semi-tragic saga of a world that just keeps going wrong, despite its Creator’s intentions. But Genesis isn’t a stand-alone book. It is the first installment in the five-part *Torah*, the foundational first five books of the Old Testament. The Torah is Israel’s origin story: it is the history of how the nation of Israel got its population, its land, and its religion.” (from *Bible: The Beginner’s Guide* by Jeffrey Krantz, 2018.)



April 2023 Anniversaries

4/5	Chris & Denise McKinney	4/27	Alonzo & Marlene Nes’bit
4/17	Michael & Ann Dosen	4/29	Joseph and Brandy Maye

April 2023 Birthdays

4/1	Margaret Meetze	4/8	Mariah Robinson	4/17	Brianna Soto
4/2	Randy Gifford	4/9	James Lewis, Jr.	4/17	Flora Weed
4/3	Brian Laprise	4/11	Alonzo Nes’bit	4/20	April Fancey
4/3	Hayley Setterlund	4/11	Lincoln Weed	4/21	Adeline Fletcher
4/4	Jean Carter	4/14	Katie Greer	4/25	Mike Jones
4/5	Ann Dosen	4/15	Berney Eargle	4/25	Michael Strouse
4/8	Emily Kearse	4/15	Tyler Laprise	4/27	Barbara Chesley
4/8	Derrick Robinson	4/17	Bonnie Fancey	4/28	Louise Meetze

Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 1Thessalonians 3:12



Easter, spring, and daylight savings time are here, but for many of our homebound members who are confined to home or at a facility, there is little difference between these brighter days than any other time of year. What better way to give our spirits, as well as theirs, a boost than to pray for, send cards to, or phone these precious people. A card with a handwritten note is a thoughtful way to brighten someone's day. Cards are so very meaningful because they can be saved and read over and over.

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!

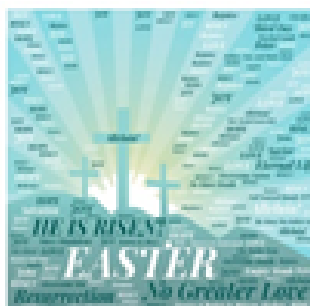
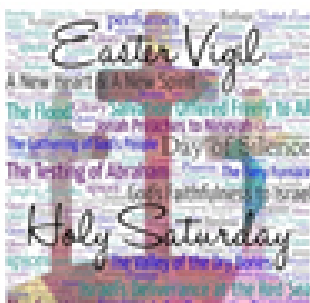
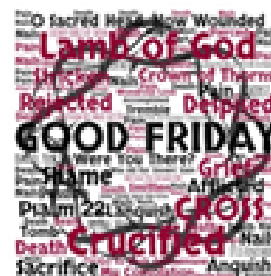


Don Angen	Jim/Andrea Doty	Anita Meetze	Eva Mae Monts	Linda Schmidt
Nadia R. BouFawaz	Cleta Dunaway	Laura Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Shirlean Sons
Phil Carter	Betty Hunter	Laurie Meetze	Polly Roland	Flora Weed
Shirley Curry	Harold/Sarah Jones	Margaret Meetze	Twila Sandt	Henry/Louise Weed
	Carolyn McCartha	Thelma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



Signs: Holy Week & Easter

It's the time of year when the church entrance signs are ever-changing for one of the most significant times of the church year: Holy Week and Easter! As you come to all these worship services, pause to look at each sign to help you prepare for Jesus's journey for our salvation.



2023 Pictorial Directories Coming Easter Weekend!

NEW Pictorial Directory



Last fall, so many of you came by to have updated photos taken for our new directory. As Mt. Olive grows, it is important to have current photos of our church family, both members and guests, so we can put names and faces together to help us learn everyone.

The 2023 directories will be ready for you on Easter weekend! If you are relatively new and have not received your binder you will get your complete set! If you received a binder/directory in the past, you will get a packet of pages to replace your outdated ones. Besides the pictures, you will get an updated cover, intro page, staff pages, and a one-page update to the church history. Please note that the contact information section will come out after Easter, so please remember to snap it in your binder when you get it.

As always, there is no cost to you. This is a gift from Mt. Olive's public relations board.

Announcements & Opportunities

Women's Book Club The Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 18th at 7 PM, we will NOT meet during Holy week, April 4th. 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.



Ladies of Mt Olive - On Saturday, April 22, 2023, there will be a LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) Joy Event in our Fellowship Hall. Registration forms are on the table by the church office and "HELP NEEDED" signup sheet for those interested in helping the Zone Ladies set and clean up after the event.

May Newsletter Deadline –April 25, 2023

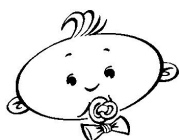
Your next deadline for submitting articles for May 2023 issue of the Olive Leaves is **April 25, 2023**. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at slstrouse@gmail.com.



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: Resurrection Refresher

All four gospels confirm Jesus' resurrection,
and each one offers important details.

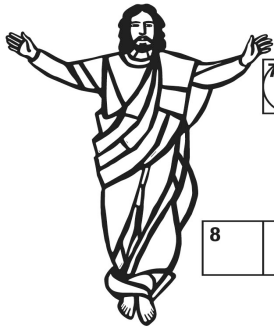
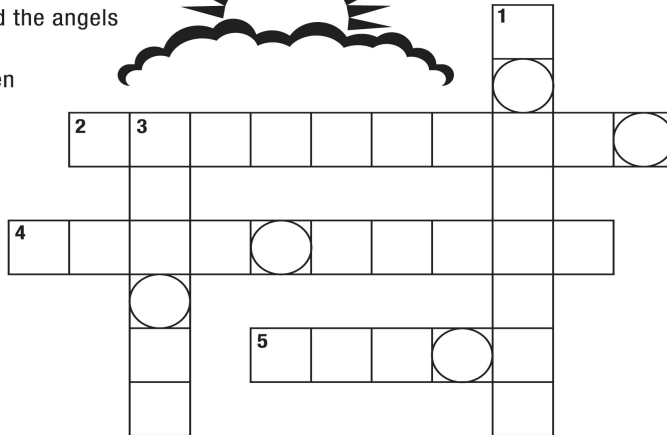
Directions: Complete the crossword. Then insert the circled letters (in order of the clue numbers) to complete John 20:17 below.

ACROSS

- 2. The women did this when they heard the angels talk about Jesus' death. (Luke 24:8)
- 4. The women at the tomb did this when they saw Jesus. (Matthew 28:9)
- 5. The man in Jesus' empty tomb wore this color robe. (Mark 16:5)
- 7. Jesus instructed his brothers to go here. (Matthew 28:10)
- 8. Peter saw strips of this in the tomb. (Luke 24:12)

DOWN

- 1. At first, Mary thought Jesus was this person. (John 20:15)
- 3. As an angel came from heaven, this happened. (Matthew 28:2)
- 6. She went with Mary to anoint Jesus' body. (Mark 16:1)



What did Jesus want Mary to tell his brothers?

"I _ m ascen _ ing _ o my
Fat _ er and your Fa _ her,
to _ y _ od and your God."
Joh _ 20:17, NIV