



Olive Leaves



May 2023

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From Pastor Walt: Associate Pastor Procedure

Pastor Walt Harper

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What does it mean that we asked to receive a graduate from the St. Louis Seminary, but did not receive one?

For one thing it means that the "clergy shortage" is real. This year the St. Louis Seminary had 30 graduates and 60 churches asked for one of them. We are therefore one of the 50% that did not receive a pastor from the Seminary. (I.e., we're not alone.)



But all of that is the pragmatic side of the question. The theological side of the question is that it means God has someone else in mind for us.

As many people will recall, Mt. Olive has in the past issued a call to a pastor, and after much prayer and deliberation that pastor declined the call. As a former District President of mine used to say, It's always good for a pastor to deliberate a call. Both the pastor and the congregation begin to think about their ministry: where they are, and where they might go. Whether the pastor accepts or declines a call, that thought process is good and healthy.

So where are we now? I'm happy to say that as soon as our District President told me we wouldn't be receiving a graduate, he immediately added: he's already begun assembling a "Call List" for Mt. Olive.



A Call List is a list of candidates that a District President assembles, in coordination with other District Presidents, as they know who might be available to make a move, and what might be a match of pastor and congregation.

So our DP will assemble a Call List. Our Call Committee will start reading through their paperwork, and then decide how many to interview; and which ones should receive a second interview, etc. At some point all this will result in another Call Meeting where names will be presented to the congregation to deliberate. Lord willing, at that meeting we'll call a candidate, and that man and his wife (if he's married) will pray to discern how God is leading.

We will find an Associate Pastor. God has someone in mind. And in a sometimes mysterious (something mystifying) process, we will find each other. As is true in other areas of life, God's will gets done. Here's the challenge: God's timing will also get done.

From our President: Prayers for an Associate Pastor

James Crosland, President

Jason Dennis and the Nominating Committee did a great job finding volunteers for this year. There are still some vacancies if anyone is interested.

**Volunteers
still needed**

The Choir loft refit has been completed thanks to Peggy, Karen, Herbie, and crew and there are so many more projects to complete.



Pastor Walt had some not so wonderful news about our Associate Pastor not coming from the Synod. We know God has a plan for us! With that, the Call Committee and the District will be moving forward in reviewing applications and interviewing prospecting Pastors. Thank you to our wonderful congregation for their patience and perseverance!

Safety Tip: Vehicle Break-ins are on the rise for Spring time. Not sure if it is the warm weather or more targets for opportunities. Please make sure you lock your doors and hide your valuables from plain sight.



The Board of Public Relations: 40 Days

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

There are a couple of reasons why Jesus didn't go directly to heaven after rising from the dead. One reason is that He wanted to show His followers that He was alive. Many of his followers went into hiding when He died because they thought that they would be persecuted for following Him when He was alive. By showing Himself to the thousands that believed in Him, they would truly understand that He was the Son of God. Jesus continued to teach the Kingdom that is to come.

Another reason that Jesus didn't ascend into heaven right away was because He needed to get the disciples ready to spread the word. The disciples were just like us, ordinary people with problems and preconceived ideas, especially with the Torah. They believed in the law and it was hard for them to understand that the only way to heaven was through Jesus. Even though Jesus had about 3 years to live with them and teach them, sometimes, like us, they didn't get it. Now, Jesus had 40 days to get them ready to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations". With His patience and parables and the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples did go out and spread the word, giving their lives for Him. We still must preach the word and continue to show others who Jesus is and He is the way to salvation!



Board of Stewardship: Translators of the Bible

Naven Olson, Chairperson

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance." Acts 2:4 NASB

This Pentecost season I will discuss two men, who used great linguistic ability given them by God to translate the Bible into many of the languages of India; and two other men, who assisted them.

Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg (1682-1719) was a German Lutheran missionary to south India. He went to India in 1706, began translating the New Testament into Tamil in 1708 and completed it in 1711. This was the first complete translation of the New Testament into any Indian language. By the time of his death in 1719, he had translated the Old Testament books from Genesis to Ruth into Tamil. His ministry was supported by King Frederick IV of Denmark (1671-1730; reigned 1699-1730).





William Carey (1761-1834) was an English Baptist missionary to India. He translated the Bible into Bengali, Oriya, Marathi, Hindi, Assamese, and Sanskrit. He also translated parts of it into 29 other languages and dialects. Carey's missionary work was made possible by **Ole Bie** (1733-1805), a Danish Lutheran and governor of the small Danish trading colony at Serampore, India. The British East India Company (ruled India from 1757-1858) was strongly opposed to Christian missionary activity. Bie granted Carey political asylum in the Danish colony and a government job as his gardener, which gave Carey income and diplomat-like passport privileges. Both Carey and Bie campaigned against the barbaric traditional Hindu customs of infant sacrifice and **sati** (burning widows alive on their husbands' funeral pyres). (See <https://www.icr.org/article/contending-for-faith-genesis-mandate>)

Since the days of those four men, Germany, Denmark and England have become highly secularized countries where Biblical Christianity has little influence. Cultural, economic and political elites who oppose Christianity are still around. And there are still languages lacking Bible versions and people working to produce the needed translations. Per Lutheran Bible Translators over 1 billion people do not have the full Bible in a language that touches them deeply and an estimated 165 million do not have a single Bible verse. And faith in Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification is still the only way of salvation.

So let us trust in Christ alone for salvation, and let us trust in Him to provide for us in this life. And let us be in church whenever possible; involved in Bible study; in prayer for yourself, family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and this church and the church at large. Reach out to family, friends, neighbors and coworkers with the gospel of Christ crucified for our sins and rose for our justification. Generously support this church with your time, talents and resources. And let us remember those people groups who do not yet have the Bible in the language of their heart.



April Pastoral Acts

	<p>Funeral Service Flora Potter Weed April 17, 1949 - April 17, 2023 April 21, 2023</p>	
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Preschool News: Celebrating 16 years

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 - preschool@mtolive.org

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

May is here already? It is hard to believe that we are just weeks away from completing our 16th school year. The preschool is heading into a very busy season as we prepare for Mother's Day, complete end of the year evaluations and memory books, and get ready to hold preschool graduation. We will also have our end of the year celebration with preschool families on Wednesday, May 24th to celebrate the blessing of another wonderful year together!



Do you know any families with young children who would benefit from our preschool? Our amazing staff creates a warm and loving environment in which they provide 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. Encourage them to call, email, check out the website or Facebook page, or come visit! Registration is ongoing and we still have a few openings in our classes.

Thank you for your prayers and support.



The Board of Education: VBS Volunteers Needed

Jessica Dennis, Superintendent

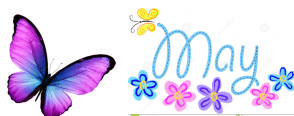


VBS preparations are in FULL swing and we need your help to pull off this amazing VBS! If you had any part in "A Night in Bethlehem," Babylon will look a lot like that... but BIGGER! We need to build and paint Nebuchadnezzar's palace! And the Hanging Gardens! We need a fiery furnace and a lion's den! And a Babylonian marketplace. Wow! This VBS will be so special. We will be building and painting props on May 7th at 3pm. We would love your help! All levels of creativity can be used. It is NOT too late to join in and volunteer with "Babylon." We still need a handful more volunteers. Please contact Jess Dennis if you would like to be a part of this awesome event.

Lastly, registration is open! The link can be found on Mt. Olive's Facebook page or registration forms are in the Narthex. During "Babylon" children will learn that Daniel was courageous in captivity because he knew that God was in control! Parents (and grandparents) are welcome to attend VBS with their children - like "A Night in Bethlehem," this will be fun and faith-building for the whole family!

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.			



The Social Ministry Board: Fruits of the Spirit

Mary Keller, Chairperson



We have all behaved in ways that aren’t Godly to fill an emptiness inside. We find and use unhealthy vices to fill the void. Often, we blame others for our wrongs to avoid looking at ourselves. But if we understand what the Holy Spirit can do, we won’t be able to live a single day without His help. He will help plant our feet on the path of truth. When we doubt our salvation, He will confirm that we are truly His redeemed child. In difficult situations when we don’t know what to say, He will give us the right words at the right time. He will reproduce His nature in us, the fruits of the spirit not the efforts of our flesh.

So, when you find yourself wobbling your way through situations and trying to steer your own ship, STOP! Ask God to fill you with His Spirit. Stay vigilant in prayer and read His Word daily. Pray for His guidance and influence to guide you so that others will see Jesus in you. (But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23.)

Seniors Retirees’ Ministry meets twice a month on Thursday, May 11th, at 10:00 – 11:00 am and again on Tuesday, May 23rd, at 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm. We meet in the fellowship hall

for light refreshments, devotion and fellowship.

May 2023 Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
May 7	Easter 5	Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60	Psalm 146	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 14	Easter 6	Acts 17:16-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 21	Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
May 28	Pentecost	Numbers 11:24-30	Psalm 25:1-15	Acts 2:1-21	John 7:37-39



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

***"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous hand."* Isaiah 41:10**

May is here and with it comes warmer temperatures! For our members who are confined at home or at a facility, or cannot drive, they continue to remain isolated from their Christian community. Let's continue our ministry to these lovely people by lifting them up to God in prayer. And please send cards, visit, 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	Thelma Miller	Twila Sandt
Nadia R. BouFawaz	Betty Hunter	Laura Meetze	Eva Mae Monts	Mandy Schultz
Phil Carter	Harold/Sarah Jones	Laurie Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Linda Schmidt
Shirley Curry	Carolyn McCartha	Margaret Meetze	Polly Roland	Shirlean Sons
Jim/Andrea Doty				Henry/Louise Weed

Read the Bible in Three Years – May 2023

May 2023							
May 1	Genesis 37	May 9	Genesis 45	May 17	I Corinthians 3	May 25	I Corinthians 11
May 2	Genesis 38	May 10	Genesis 46	May 18	I Corinthians 4	May 26	I Corinthians 12
May 3	Genesis 39	May 11	Genesis 47	May 19	I Corinthians 5	May 27	I Corinthians 13
May 4	Genesis 40	May 12	Genesis 48	May 20	I Corinthians 6	May 28	I Corinthians 14
May 5	Genesis 41	May 13	Genesis 49	May 21	I Corinthians 7	May 29	I Corinthians 15
May 6	Genesis 42	May 14	Genesis 50	May 22	I Corinthians 8	May 30	I Corinthians 16
May 7	Genesis 43	May 15	I Corinthians 1	May 23	I Corinthians 9	May 31	Psalms 1
May 8	Genesis 44	May 16	I Corinthians 2	May 24	I Corinthians 10		

As May begins, we continue our journey with the founding fathers as told in the book of Genesis. Then from May 15th-30th, we will be reading a familiar book, I Corinthians, the book of Pr. Walt's recent sermon series. As you read, reflect of his sermon points and of how this book applies to our church and times. Finally, on May 31st, we begin our summer series of Psalms.



May 2023 Anniversaries

5/1	Rick & Liezl Baden	5/22	Randy & Kathie Voyles
5/4	Mike & Stephanie Jones	5/25	Wes & Michele Hammond
5/12	Seth & Johanna Duncan	5/26	John & Mary Lou Tedder
5/12	Hunter & Stacey Robinson	5/27	Chris & Kim Gepfert
5/19	Jason & Jill Brabham	5/29	Matt & Jessica Christensen

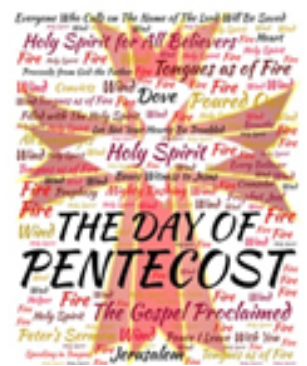
May 2023 Birthdays

5/2	Cindy Williams	5/8	Carolyn McCartha	5/17	Olivia Stuck
5/4	Joe Harper	5/9	Jessica Clendenin	5/19	Pat LaGrange
5/5	Jessica Dennis	5/10	Henry Dosen	5/21	Nancy Thompson
5/5	Joy Fletcher	5/12	Bradley Carey	5/23	Hannah Duncan
5/5	Myran Trask	5/12	Sue Knowles	5/24	James Duncan
5/6	Colter Greer	5/13	Nadia M. BouFawaz	5/24	Joy Mann
5/6	Bruce Helming	5/13	Linda McGriff	5/27	Lynne Schultz
5/6	Stephanie Jones	5/16	Stanley Bouknight	5/29	Tiffany Meetze
5/7	Marilyn Bauer	5/16	Joseph Maye	5/30	Gloria Meetze
5/8	Dennis Dixon	5/16	T.J. Selke Jr.	5/30	Matt Williams
		5/17	Dana Magic		

Signs at the Church Entrance: May 2023



The church will be in the Season of Easter for most of the month of May. As you enter the church, spend a few moments at the sign to reflect on and thank Our Lord for His gifts of forgiveness and salvation. On the last Sunday, May 28th, it will be the Day of Pentecost, the birthday of the church, where we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit being poured out on all who believe.



Footprints in the Sand



One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two set of footprints. Other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow, or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord, "You promised me, Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have only been one set of prints in the sand. Why, when I have needed You most, you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "My dear child, the times when you have seen only one set of footprints, that is when I carried you."



Announcements & Opportunities

From Catherine Harper: To the congregation at Mount Olive Lutheran Church,

We wanted to thank all of you for the love and support you have provided during this time. We have felt the many prayers that were sent for the boys, Jim and myself.

We appreciate any further prayers for us as we continue to navigate this season of our life. We are immensely thankful for the donations that have been provided. We cannot wait to visit and see everyone again.

With great love and blessings,

The Harpers

Women's Book Club



The Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesdays, May 2nd and 16th 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.

June/July Newsletter Deadline – June 7, 2023

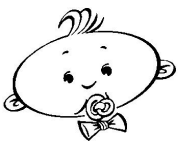
Your next deadline for submitting articles for June/July 2023 issue of the Olive Leaves is **June 7, 2023**. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Aresa at aresaboykin@gmail.com. The June/July newsletters will be sent out June 10th.



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

Find the names of these fathers and sons from the Old Testament.

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

ADAM	REUBEN
CAIN	DAN
ABEL	ASHER
SETH	JUDAH
NOAH	LEVI
HAM	GAD
SHEM	NAPHTALI
JAPHETH	SIMEON
ELKANAH	ISSACHAR
SAMUEL	ZEBULUN
AARON	BENJAMIN
NADAB	JOSEPH
HUR	MANASSEH
CALEB	EPHRAIM
ABRAHAM	SAUL
ISHMAEL	JONATHAN
ISAAC	DAVID
ESAU	SOLOMON
JACOB	