



# Olive Leaves

August 2023



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## From Our Pastor: "What does it mean to be a Confessional Lutheran?"

*Pastor Walt Harper*  
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For many American Protestants it's a bit of a surprise to find that Lutherans have a body of written doctrine, on which they agree. It seems to them to contradict the principal of Scripture Alone. They'll think: "Isn't Scripture all we need?" Or, "Have you supplanted the Bible with a different book?"



Of course, one of the principals in our Confessions is that no book is to be accepted as being on a par with Scripture. Thinking it out, that includes the Confessions themselves. And let's be clear: it includes everything Martin Luther ever wrote.

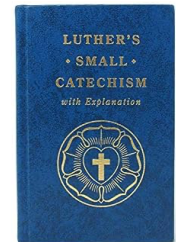
But having said that, we must be clear about something else, many commentators say that they support Scripture, but then all sorts of differing views spring up on what they think the Scriptures mean.

There's no surprise that a Baptist pastor preaches like a Baptist, or that a Presbyterian pastor would preach Calvinism. It shouldn't be a surprise that a Lutheran pastor preaches like a Lutheran.

What printed-out doctrinal statements do is to say: 1) We believe the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God and nothing else, and 2) Here's what we believe the Bible to be saying.

Initially, no one really planned to write these Confessions. The earliest of them are the two Catechisms that Luther wrote. He wrote both the Small Catechism and the Large Catechism in 1529.

The Reformation had been going on for two decades, so Luther decided to tour Germany to see what was being preached and taught in the local churches. He was shocked, to put it mildly! (Read his introduction to the Small Catechism if you want to read some un-varnished Luther.) His answer to the bad state of things was to write the two Catechisms, with the goal that every Christian home would regularly read the Small Catechism, and that all pastors would regularly read the Large Catechism to inform their preaching and teaching.



The very next year, 1530, Charles V, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, called a council of the various theological factions emerging in his realm. He asked all the parties to write and present a statement of their theological position. The Lutheran position was written by a man named Philip Melancthon, and it's called The Augsburg Confession. It's really quite excellent, and, rare for theological works, it's very read-able.

The emperor was a Roman Catholic, however, and to no one's great surprise, after hearing statements from Catholics, Lutherans, and other reformers, he declared that the Catholic position was the correct one and that it was time for everyone else to drop it.

That, as you know, did not bring the Reformation to an end. In fact, it caused more writing. Melancthon then wrote The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, and published it in 1531.

In 1537, the Reformation still going on, there was a rumor that the Emperor would call another council. He didn't do so, but Luther had put together some talking points as a matter of preparation. This work was published as The Smalcald Articles.

That same year he also wrote The Treatise on the Power and the Primacy of the Pope. You won't be surprised to know that it didn't concede much power to the Pope; and you also won't be surprised to know that the Pope was a not a fan.

Forty years later, and the Reformation was still not over. So, to prevent "doctrinal drift" a next generation of Lutheran theologians wrote The Formula of Concord in 1577.

By 1580 there was the idea of binding them all together into one book. Before these documents were gathered, they smartly decided to include the Three Ecumenical Creeds as a way of saying that Lutheranism is part of the Historic Christian Church.

And so "The Book of Concord" was published in 1580. As mentioned, it does not supplant the Bible, and was never intended to do so.

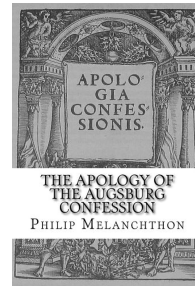
The purpose of the Book of Concord is to put down roots: Here's what we believe, teach and confess about the Word of God, and God's mighty acts to save us. By putting this down into writing you have a test by which to examine: Is our pastor teaching correctly? You also have a handy resource to be able to research things for yourself: How did the earlier Lutheran theologians talk about these things?

They were all initially written in either German or Latin (or sometimes both). They've of course been translated into other languages since those early centuries.

The first translation into English was made by David Henkel in New Market, VA in 1851. One of my joys of Seminary was to have taken a class with Dr. Won Yong Ji, a South Korean Lutheran theologian who was the man to have translated the Book of Concord into Korean.

I'll say in sermons and Bible Class quite often, "We have a text." That text is the Bible, the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

As Lutherans we have a confessional standard which answers: What does it mean to be Lutheran? This isn't a contradiction; it's a great strength of our church.



## From our President

*James Crosland, President*

Wow! I cannot believe it is August already! We have so much going on with school starting early for the kiddos, searching for our Associate Pastor, capital projects, and oncoming and off-going for some of our board members. I really want to send a huge "Thank You" to our off-going volunteers. Your service to the congregation, your dedication, and the representation of Mt. Olive were extremely appreciated. The church would have an awful time trying to function without its volunteers. To our oncoming chairpersons and board members, "Thank you for your willingness to serve our congregation and representing Mt. Olive during your term. We look forward to your fresh ideas and familiar faces."



Safety Tip: Please remember our furry friends and children in those hot cars. There have already been emergency calls for these such preventable events!



## The Social Ministry Board

*Mary Keller, Chairperson*

***In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35).***

Backpack &  
School Supply  
Collection



**Back to School Backpack and School Supply Drive:** A new school year brings children the chance for a fresh start—and that means brand-new clothes, shoes, and school supplies. But because of inflation, parents will need to spend more than ever to get their children ready for school this year. The National Retail Federation predicts that school needs will cost families an average of \$890 this year. For families experiencing poverty, and even for those simply living on a careful budget, meeting these expenses on top of rent, food, and bills is a hardship.

A small way we can help is by purchasing school supplies. So, beginning July 30<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a Backpack and School Supply Drive. We are partnering with Sharing God's Love who will distribute school bags and supplies to students throughout the Columbia Area. Students in grades kindergarten through high school will benefit from our help.

Since we will not know if a boy or girl is receiving the bag of supplies, PLEASE purchase gender neutral items in SOLID colors (For example, no *Hello-Kitty* or Superhero items). Backpacks will be distributed by grade breakdown NOT gender. A detailed school supply needs list and grade breakdown will be posted beside the collection container in the narthex through August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Senior Retirees' Ministry** begins meeting again in September on Thursday, September 7, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and again on Tuesday, September 19, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. We meet in the fellowship hall for light refreshments, devotion, and fellowship. Make a note that on September 19 we will have a Sing-Along. All Seniors are welcome!



## The Board of Education

*Jessica Dennis, Superintendent*

Over the summer Mt. Olive's youngest Sunday schoolers have had a blast working through "What book of the Bible was that?" We've been reviewing Old Testament Bible stories and sorting them into boxes labeled with their Bible book. Where do we read about Abraham, Samson, or Elijah? And we've learned memory verses from each Bible book. Even better, we've had fun finding many of those Old Testament verses pointing us to the Savior.



The Youth group is working on plans for another lock-in and a trip to Carowinds! Stay tuned for dates!

If your child or teen hasn't participated in a while or has never joined us for Sunday school, August is the perfect time to begin! We will be diving into new lessons in time for the school year to begin and both children and youth groups have back-to-school parties/activities planned in August.



## Preschool News

*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)*



**It is hard to believe that we are entering into the last stretch of summer and are already planning and preparing for the school year ahead!**

We will kick off the 2023-2024 school year on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> with our Parent Meeting! The Lord has blessed us with 29 students who are already registered, and we are enthusiastic to see them soon. Please pray for our teachers, families and students as we begin a new school year. Pray specifically that we would fulfill our mission of "growing in faith and love by spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through providing a Christ-centered experience for young children" and that, above all, the LORD would be glorified.

**Do you know any families with young children who would benefit from our school?**

Encourage them to call, email, or check out our website! We currently have a few spaces available in our two-year-old class and our 4-year-old class. Anna is always happy to talk with families and provide tours of the preschool! Also, paper copies of an information packet with registration materials are available on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and downstairs on the table near the preschool entrance.

**Kindergarten Kamp is August 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm.**

If you know a rising kindergartener, please pass along the information! We will have a day full of fun, including learning, lunch, and a visit from a school bus! Information and registration can be found on our website: [mtolivesc.org/preschool](http://mtolivesc.org/preschool).

## Join a Bible Class

| Summer 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     | 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   |                    | Summer Break  | Attend the Middle School Class           |
| Middle School Youth  | Wagner House       | Rick Baden  | Bible Study                              |
| High School Youth  | Wagner House       | Joel & April Fancey   | Bible Study                              |
| Adults   | Fellowship Hall    | Pr. Walt Harper   | The Gospel of John                       |
| Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator. |                    |   |  |



### The Board of Public Relations

*Sue Strouse, Chairperson*

***“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2: 8-9***



As Lutherans, we know that we are saved by grace, and we cannot earn our way to heaven. But God still chose us to be His children. Knowing what God did in the Old Testament by choosing Abram to be the father of His people, the Israelites, we can see that God chooses us and will love us no matter what.

God chose Abram to father His people, not because they were special, but than through them, He would bless the world by sending His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Even though the Israelites did not always choose God, He remained faithful to them. God sent prophets to steer the Israelites back to Him. He gave them kings because they wanted to be like other nations. He fought for them in battles with His heavenly armies. He gave them the land of *milk and honey*. Even after the Israelites were enslaved, God freed them and continued to be with them. Most importantly, He sent His Son to take on the sins of the world, to die a terrible death on the cross, so we could have eternal life. We don’t deserve God’s love, but He gives it to us by His grace through faith because He loves us, He chose us, and we are His children that He wants to live with forever!

## August 2023 Lectionary

| Date      | Festival  | Old Testament    | Psalm         | Epistle                    | Gospel           |
|-----------|-----------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| August 6  | Proper 13 | Isaiah 55:1-5    | Psalm 136:1-9 | Romans 9:1-5               | Matthew 14:13-21 |
| August 13 | Proper 14 | Job 38:4-18      | Psalm 18:1-6  | Romans. 10:5-17            | Matthew 14:22-33 |
| August 20 | Proper 15 | Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 | Psalm 67      | Rom. 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32 | Matthew 15:21-28 |
| August 27 | Proper 16 | Isaiah 51:1-6    | Psalm 138     | Romans 11:33-12:8          | Matthew 16:13-20 |



### Board of Stewardship

*Naven Olson, Chairperson*

***"Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path." Psalm 119:105***

***"and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15***

I was reading an old Mt. Olive pamphlet for visitors. In the middle of the front page is the statement "Our Mission is to grow in faith and love by spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!". Inside are statements of **WHAT WE BELIEVE**. First is "The Triune God: God the Father; Jesus, God's Son; and The Holy Spirit." Next, "The Bible is God's Holy Word, without error and the sole source and norm of all Christian teaching." And then "As a Lutheran Church, we affirm the Book of Concord (1580) to be faithful and true interpretations of the Holy Scriptures."

In the fall of 2022, I attended Pastor Walt's Wednesday night classes on the Reformation. His handout on 'The Three Solas' includes the statement "The Bible is the Word of God; it is inspired and inerrant in all that it teaches" and also states "The Bible is the Word of God, and everything else isn't." It quotes from the introduction to the **Formula of Concord**: "We believe, teach and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone... Other writings of ancient or contemporary teachers, whatever their names may be, should not be regarded as equal to Holy Scripture, but all of them together shall be subjected to it."



Sadly, there are many "churches" that call themselves "Christian" that look to man's word rather than God's Word as their authority. As a result, they reject Biblical teachings on morality and/or reject the Biblical truth that salvation is only through faith in Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification.

Let us be grateful for a church that upholds the authority and inerrancy of Scripture. 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, and neighbors.

## Signs at the Church Entrance: The Season after Pentecost



The church is well into the longest of the church seasons, The Season after Pentecost. Because this season lasts through November, there are monthly signs based on the Gospel lessons as outlined in the Year A Lectionary.

Here is the preview of the August 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 daily posts of the lectionary readings, so you can always use your smart phone to help you in your search.



## Read the Bible in Three Years – August 2023

As August begins, we will continue reading through Proverbs. The book invites us to live with wisdom and in the fear of the Lord. Proverbs is a collection of generations of wisdom. It brilliantly describes God's wisdom and applies it to life on Earth, warning us of what it looks like to live by our own wisdom instead of by God's. (from *The Bible Project*)

The book of Numbers begins with a census of all the Israelites who were headed out of Egypt. After that, it chronicles Moses and Israel's journey from the foot of Mount Sinai to the edge of the promised land of Canaan. If this were a regular road trip of that time, the journey would only take about two weeks; however, it will take the people 40 years! In September, we will be reading the chapters that recount why the group is delayed. (from *Overview Bible*)

| August 2023 |             |        |             |        |             |        |            |
|-------------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|------------|
| Aug 1       | Proverbs 13 | Aug 9  | Proverbs 21 | Aug 17 | Proverbs 29 | Aug 25 | Numbers 6  |
| Aug 2       | Proverbs 14 | Aug 10 | Proverbs 22 | Aug 18 | Proverbs 30 | Aug 26 | Numbers 7  |
| Aug 3       | Proverbs 15 | Aug 11 | Proverbs 23 | Aug 19 | Proverbs 31 | Aug 27 | Numbers 8  |
| Aug 4       | Proverbs 16 | Aug 12 | Proverbs 24 | Aug 20 | Numbers 1   | Aug 28 | Numbers 9  |
| Aug 5       | Proverbs 17 | Aug 13 | Proverbs 25 | Aug 21 | Numbers 2   | Aug 29 | Numbers 10 |
| Aug 6       | Proverbs 18 | Aug 14 | Proverbs 26 | Aug 22 | Numbers 3   | Aug 30 | Numbers 11 |
| Aug 7       | Proverbs 19 | Aug 15 | Proverbs 27 | Aug 23 | Numbers 4   | Aug 31 | Numbers 12 |
| Aug 8       | Proverbs 20 | Aug 16 | Proverbs 28 | Aug 24 | Numbers 5   |        |            |





### August 2023 Birthdays

|      |                     |      |                  |      |                |
|------|---------------------|------|------------------|------|----------------|
| 8/1  | August Kibler       | 8/13 | Diane James      | 8/20 | Sandy Osborne  |
| 8/2  | Charlie Stuck       | 8/13 | Fred Stalbaum    | 8/20 | James Prag     |
| 8/2  | Megan Weed          | 8/13 | Brooksie Waldrop | 8/22 | Grady Crosland |
| 8/4  | Barry Bost          | 8/14 | Savannah Lewis   | 8/22 | Twila Sandt    |
| 8/5  | Paul Selle          | 8/14 | Hallie Randall   | 8/22 | Kaysen Weed    |
| 8/6  | Mikaela Weed        | 8/15 | Becky Bass       | 8/23 | Aresa Boykin   |
| 8/7  | Alexander Harper    | 8/15 | Mike Prater      | 8/23 | Michael Dosen  |
| 8/7  | Gabriella Hennighan | 8/16 | Joel Fancey      | 8/23 | Leonard Fowler |
| 8/7  | Rich O'Dell         | 8/17 | Walter Arnold    | 8/23 | Jacob Gepfert  |
| 8/8  | Abigail Kibler      | 8/17 | Jacob Thrun      | 8/27 | Lucas Thrun    |
| 8/9  | James Marberry      | 8/18 | Calvin Meetze    | 8/27 | Theron Weed    |
| 8/10 | Bobby Lewis         | 8/18 | Geneva Meetze    | 8/28 | Camden Stuck   |
| 8/11 | C.J. Meetze, Jr.    | 8/19 | Cathy Roof       |      |                |

### August 2023 Anniversaries

|      |                            |      |                             |
|------|----------------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| 8/4  | Nancy & Nelson Thompson    | 8/19 | Fred & Neide Nieto          |
| 8/10 | Pastor Walt & Renee Harper | 8/24 | Chuck & Marilyn Bauer       |
| 8/11 | David & Joy Fletcher       | 8/26 | Calvin & Charlene Meetze    |
| 8/11 | Randy & Linda Gifford      | 8/30 | Harold & Kathryn Meetze Sr. |
| 8/15 | Mark & Linda Selle         | 8/31 | Thomas & Tiffany Meetze     |
| 8/18 | Merle & Peggy Weed Jr.     |      |                             |

### Pastoral Acts

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  | <p><b>Holy Matrimony</b></p> <p>Jackson Nettles &amp; Noelle Franzen</p> <p>June 10, 2023</p>                            |  |
|  | <p><b>Memorial Service</b></p> <p>Murray Melinda Meetze</p> <p>October 14, 1986 – June 21, 2023</p> <p>July 22, 2023</p> |  |



## Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

**"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19**

We seem to be moving through the months of 2023 at a record pace! Yet our members, who are confined at home or at a facility, 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    | Eva Mae Monts | Mandy Schultz     |
| Nadia R. BouFawaz | Betty Hunter       | Laura Meetze    | Cyndi Nelson  | Linda Schmidt     |
| Phil Carter       | Harold/Sarah Jones | Margaret Meetze | Polly Roland  | Shirlean Sons     |
| Shirley Curry     | Carolyn McCartha   | Thelma Miller   | Twila Sandt   | Henry/Louise Weed |



## Announcements & Opportunities



**Women's Book Club** The Women's Book Club will resume meetings on the first and third Tuesdays in September at 7 PM. ALL women of the congregation are welcome to join in this twice monthly class in the Fellowship Hall. We will finish reading from the book, *Be Thou My Guide* by Margo Heath Dupre, and will be picking another book to read starting in October.

### **September Newsletter Deadline – August 25, 2023**

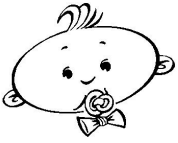
Your next deadline for submitting articles for the September 2023 issue of the Olive Leaves is **August 25, 2023**. Remember to send your ½ page articles to Sue Strouse at [slstrouse@gmail.com](mailto:slstrouse@gmail.com). There is usually lots of information for the August newsletter as programs and meetings that have been on hiatus for the summer return to the schedule. Be thinking ahead of what all needs to be included from your board.



### **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.

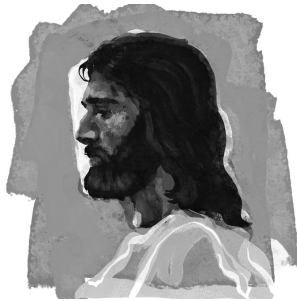


## **Kids' Korner: Quiz**

### **1) Mark 4:33-34**

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

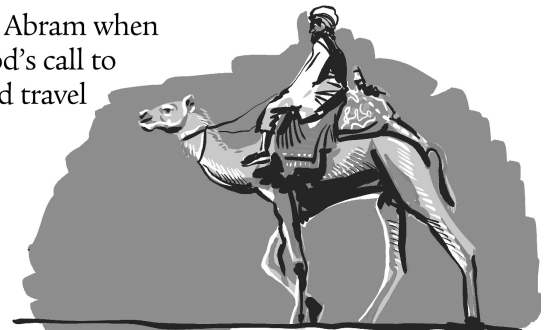
- A. soliloquy
- B. parable
- C. lecture
- D. riddle



### **2) Genesis 12:4**

How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

- A. 25
- B. 50
- C. 75
- D. 100



### **3) Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11**

In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus



### **4) John 13: 1-17**

The night before Jesus' crucifixion, he demonstrates humble service by washing his disciples' \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. hands
- B. feet
- C. hair
- D. supper dishes

