



Olive Leaves



September 2023

From Pastor Walt Page 1	Table of Contents			September Anniversaries Page 8
From our President Page 2	Board of Education Page 4		Board of Stewardship Page 7	Pray for your Kids Page 9
Board Members Page 2	Mt Olive Preschool Page 4	September Lectionary Page 6	Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards - Page 7	Announcements Page 9
Board of Social Ministry Page 3	Join a Bible Class Page 5	Signs of the Season Page 6	Read the Bible in 3 Years Page 8	Kid's Korner Page 10
Board of Fellowship Page 3	Board of Public Relations Page 5	Pastoral Acts Page 6	September Birthdays Page 8	September Calendar Page 11

From Our Pastor: "The More Things Change..."

Pastor Walt Harper
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I love these lists you can find on the internet comparing the modern world to former times. Here are some fun things to know:

In the United States, in the year 1900:

- Average life expectancy was 48
- Half of all Americans lived in poverty
- 28% of teenagers attended high school (the rest worked the farm, or in a factory)
- 1% of households owned a car (no Model T yet)
- 8% of homes had a telephone
- 3% of homes had electricity
- 1/3 of Americans had running water in their home
- 15% of homes had an in-door flush toilet
- Given all of that, the U.S. was the wealthiest nation on earth!



By comparison, in the United States, in the year 2020:

- The average grocery store has 42,000 items
- There are 1.88 vehicles per household, and 1/3 had 3 or more cars
- The average single family home is 2,300 square feet
- 99% of new cars are sold with air conditioning
- The average home receives 189 television channels (and there's still nothing worth watching)
- 75% of homes have a dishwasher (and 1/3 of them do not use it – huh?)
- 89% of homes have AC, and in the South it's 99%
- 96% of adult Americans have a cell phone
- 85% of homes have an internet connection



So why is this in the pastor's newsletter article? First of all because it's fun. But secondly to make us think and wonder a bit. What does it mean to the church that these changes have come?

Some things don't change. Come to think of it, quite a lot of things in life don't change. There will always be joys and sorrows, there will always be new babies, and illness and mortality.

Certainly the truth of the Gospel does not change. For every culture, place and time the Good News is that Christ has died to reconcile sinners to God. And the mission of the

church will always, always be to get that message out, and then to nurture and grow those who have come to faith.

Let all that remain. But these days when you say, "Open your Bibles" many people are opening the Bible App on their phones. Or if they couldn't get to church they watch the sermon on-line. Frankly, many of those changes are for the good.

Some things are different. Some things are the same. God, prosper the ministry of Your church!



From our President

James Crosland, President

School is back in session, and we are ready for some football! Love this time of year when the weather finally cracks, cool mornings start to set in, and the tailgating starts.

New Board Members Thank you to our outgoing board members and a hello to our in coming ones. Church officers will be busy over the next two months working on our 2024 budget. If you have any suggestions, please reach out to your council with your suggestions before November. We still have several capital projects that are out there waiting on processes, thank you all for your patience.

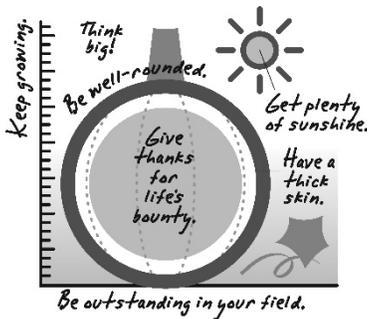
Safety Tip: The email scammers are at it again! Do not click on any links from emails to verify your passwords or personal information. Call the company's customer service to verify an email before sending private information. This has turned into big business for thieves.

Mt. Olive Officers and Boards Beginning in September 2023			
President	Jim Crosland	Council Secretary	Noelle Nettles
Vice President	Jason Dennis	Financial Secretary	
Church Treasurer			
	** Chairperson	* New to Board	
Elders	Christian Education	Preschool	Worship
Chris Bauer	Liezl Baden **	Connie Cook	Neva Meyerhoff *
David Buck	Rebecca Curry	Amanda Dalton *	Liz Rosinski *
Stuart Dalton	Jessica Dennis	Page Fletcher **	David Setterlund *
Dennis Dixon **	Laura Laprise	Mike Knowles	
Randy Gifford	Karen Meetze	Abigail Sharpe	
Doug Lacey *		Katie Matzko	Public Relations
Eddie Magic	Evangelism	Myran Trask	Natalie Crosland
Hunter Robinson	Aresa Boykin *		Linda Gifford
Daniel Zahn	Richard Shealy **	Social Ministry	Sue Strouse **
		Tina Dixon *	
Fellowship	Trustees	Mary Keller **	Stewardship
Jill Brabham **	Matthew Fletcher *	Jan McCarthy *	Barry Bost
Debbie Meetze	Bruce Helming *		Naven Olson**
Marlene Nes'bit	Kevin Kibler		
Jill Scuderi	James Sharpe **		
Sandra Stoker			

The Social Ministry Board

Mary Keller, Chairperson

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10 NKJV)



Here are some thoughts to build upon as we shift gears after the summer break to help us stay focused as we resume fall schedules at church, work, and home.

- 1) **Decide what you want to do, but always consult with God first.** 'Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails' (Proverbs 19:21).
- 2) **Write your thoughts down on paper.** Writing goals down gives them a sense of permanency with potential for the energy to get them done.
- 3) **Establish a deadline.** Without a definite beginning and ending it's easy to procrastinate and get nowhere.
- 4) **Make a list of what you need to do.** Keep it before you at all times; it will help you remain focused. Lack of decisiveness and objectives won't get you where you want to go.
- 5) **Convert your list to a plan.** Decide what you need to do first and what you can do later. An organized written plan with a timeline is always better than thoughts in your head.
- 6) **Act! Do something!** A mediocre plan that's implemented beats a brilliant one that never happens. Make the most of every opportunity, but be cautious and wise.
- 7) **Do something every day to move you forward.** Build it into your schedule; e.g.: Like our daily Bible scripture readings, catching up on an unfinished project a little each day, engaging in physical activity daily, and...
- 8) **Have a goal you're willing to devote your time and talents to.** Stay focused on the end goal.

Setting goals helps us accomplish more than we thought possible, but the thing that should matter to you most is doing God's will. 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom' (Psalm 90:12).

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



The Board of Parish Fellowship

Jill Brabham, Chairperson

Can you believe the summer is already over? You wouldn't know based on our weather in August! Fellowship started the summer with a wonderful confirmation reception for Grady Crosland and Gordon Threlfall, and another for Katie Schaefer in August. We hope everyone enjoyed Karen Meetze's retirement party in June. HUGE thanks to the fellowship committee members and Renee Harper, Joe Harper, Jim Crosland, Mary Keller, and all others for coordinating everything last minute when baby Walt decided to make an early appearance! We are doing well as a family of 4 and greatly appreciate all the cards, gifts and love from the congregation this summer.

Look for news next month regarding our next church potluck on October 29th!

The Board of Education

Jessica Dennis, Superintendent

The school year has begun for Mt. Olive's youngest members, and Children's Sunday School had a blast at our Back-to-School party on August 20th. They celebrated with the bounce house and lots of sweet treats! This coming Sunday, we will resume regular Sunday School lessons. We will pick back up with the book of Judges - "Wanted: Israel Wants a Leader, God is Patient." If your little one has yet to join Sunday School, now is a great time to let them join the fun! Littles, ages 3 through 4th grade, meet upstairs with Jess Dennis, Brandy Maye, and Amanda Dalton teaching.

If your confirmed middle- or high-schooler has yet to attend youth group, ask if they'd like to get involved! Middle and High youth groups meet in the Wagner House, next door, from 9:15-10:15 on Sundays with Mr. Baden, Mrs. April, and Mr. Joel Fancey. The youth group will be headed to Carowinds on September 23rd! Mark your calendars! Please let April Fancey or Jess Dennis know if your youth wants to join before tickets are purchased on September 15th.



Mom's Night Out will continue to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. All expecting moms through moms of high schoolers are welcome to join! We begin with food and fellowship, enjoy a devotional, and then play games!

Lastly, mark your calendars for "A Night in Bethlehem," December 1st, from 6-8pm. This was such a delightful event last year, celebrating the birth of our Savior. Children were able to walk the streets of Bethlehem, do various crafts (build and paint a nativity, Christmas ornaments, etc.), and hear parts of the Christmas story along the way. They even visited Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus at the stable. We're excited to bring Bethlehem to life again this year! Volunteer sign-ups will be out soon!



Preschool News

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 - preschool@mtolivesc.org

Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool - [Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool](https://www.facebook.com/mountolivepreschool)

This school year will mark the 17th year of the Preschool ministry at Mt. Olive! Teachers arrived back at the preschool on August 29th and the school year will kick off with Parent Meetings on September 5th. We will have many new and returning students that will fill the classrooms and it is a blessing to serve the families that have chosen Mt. Olive Preschool.



We have 31 preschool children enrolled and we are excited for a new year to begin! Please be in prayer for our preschool students and families, staff, and preschool board. Pray that the Lord would provide a hedge of protection, flexible spirits, and most importantly, that the Gospel would be spread and that the Lord would be glorified.

Thank you to the following members of the Preschool Board who have dedicated themselves to this ministry: Page Fletcher, Chair, Connie Cook, Mike Knowles, Amanda Dalton, Katie Matzko, Abigail Sharpe, and Myran Trask. I would also like to thank Jan McCarthy for her many years of service on the preschool board and the enormous amount of time and energy she poured into the preschool ministry, serving as Secretary for many years.

This preschool ministry continues to stand as a testament to this church's commitment to children and young families. To God be the glory!

Join a Bible Class

Fall 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	The Book of Judges - "Wanted: Israel Wants a Leader, God is Patient"
Confirmation Class	Preschool Area	Resumes September 10th (Attend the Middle School Class until then.)	A two-year study of Luther's Small Catechism and the Bible
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 Sandy Osborne	The Gospel of John "God Encounters" *
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

*Although we may not have seen a burning bush or encountered an angel, we can still prepare for our own God encounters by examining examples from scripture. Please join us from September 10th to October 8th in the adult Bible class for the series "God Encounters" led by Sandy Osborne.



The Board of Public Relations

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

Spreading the Gospel should be our main goal in life. Sometimes, it may seem overwhelming. But, leading a Christian life is one of the ways to spread the Word.

I remember when my daughter did something wrong, and I was shaking my finger at her while reprimanding her. A couple of days later she was scolding her doll just like I did to her! I found that my actions had to be better than words. As parents, we know that we should demonstrate our beliefs, by being careful of what we say and do. This same principle works in society. When people see you being generous, kind, and grateful, they will see the love of God glowing in you.

I thank God every day that He gave me a family that taught me to put God first, to be a good citizen, and to be a good parent. I am so grateful and hope that my life shows the love that God gives me.



Mt. Olive has reached a milestone! According to YouTube, we now have enough followers "to fill up a jumbo jet"! That's right, we have 500+ people who have chosen to follow our channel. We pray that those who are watching will be strengthened in their faith as they hear the Gospel preached each week.

September 2023 Lectionary

Date	Festival	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
September 3	Proper 17	Jeremiah 15:15–21	Psalm 26	Romans 12:9–21	Matthew 16:21–28
September 10	Proper 18	Ezekiel 33:7–9	Psalm 32:1–7	Romans 13:1–10	Matthew 18:1–20
September 17	Proper 19	Genesis 50:15–21	Psalm 103:1–12	Romans 14:1–12	Matthew 18:21–35
September 24	Proper 20	Isaiah 55:6–9	Psalm 27:1–9	Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30	Matthew 20:1–16



Signs at the Church Entrance: Pentecost



The church is well into the longest of the church seasons, The Season after Pentecost. Because this season lasts through November, the monthly signs will be based on the Gospel lessons as outlined in the Year A Lectionary, Propers 17-20.

Here is the preview of the September sign. Of course, the larger version is much easier to read! 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 these readings, so you can always use your smart phone to help you in your search.



Pastoral Acts

	<p>Holy Baptism Scott & Hallie Randall, Adam Randall August 20, 2023</p>	
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	<p>The Rite of Confirmation Katherine Elizabeth Schaefer August 20, 2023</p>	
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Board of Stewardship

Naven Olson, Chairperson

"And brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved."

Matthew 10:21-22

The excerpts below are quoted from President Matthew Harrison's article "Christ Crucified" in the April, 2023 issue of *The Lutheran Witness*: "the national debate went from whether or not states would allow same-sex marriage to the imposition of the same by the Supreme Court. Then things turned immediately and forcefully to the transgender issues, prepubescent sex change procedures and all related matters." ... "But now," ... "the entire government has put its full force against natural law and the biblical teaching of sex and marriage."

I received a letter in the mail last December from Ken Ham of *Answers in Genesis*. It showed a survey finding that only 8.72% of Americans ages 18-34 attend church on a weekly basis. We are truly living in a dark time. Jesus told us not to be surprised by this. Paul reminded Timothy: **"And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."** 2 Timothy 3:12

The time may be coming soon when the cost of following Christ might involve severe hardship and difficulty in this world. May we be willing to pay that price. **"We have an altar, from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Hence, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come."** Hebrews 13:10-14

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 raised for our justification. Generously support this church with your time, talents, and resources.



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

"But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells." 2 Peter 3:13

To say the summer has been, and still is, hot is an understatement! Even the active people are staying inside as much as possible! So while you are hanging out in the house, why not take a minute to remember our homebound folks. You can take time to pray for each of them, or make a commitment to call or write cards. And if you dare to go out in the heat, why not make a visit?



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	Laurie Meetze	Polly Roland	Shirlean Sons
Shirley Curry	Carolyn McCartha	Margaret Meetze	Twila Sandt	Henry/Louise Weed
		Thelma Miller		

Read the Bible in Three Years –September 2023

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

In August, we began to read the book of Numbers and continue reading it the first three weeks of September. As we begin the month in chapter 13, Moses sends a few spies into the land that God has promised the Israelites to scout it out for the upcoming invasion. Most of the spies come back in a panic, forgetting that God has already given them the land. This leads to a revolt, with the people refusing to take the land. God gives them their wish, decreeing that the whole generation will die in the wilderness, and the land will be taken by their children.

Judges is the book for the last week of September. In it, we read about the ups and downs of the Israelites as they navigate life in The Promised Land: their periods of faithfulness and periods of unfaithfulness to God; their captivity from nearby nations and times of freedom and peace. And, our Sunday School children will be studying the book, too! Get ready for the roller coaster ride!



September 2023 Birthdays

9/2	Joyce Lauterbach	9/11	Darlene Schenemann	9/18	Johnny Barrett
9/3	Kathy Arnold	9/12	Doug Lacey	9/18	Scott Barrett
9/3	Rick Baden	9/13	Frank Osborne	9/18	Scott Randall
9/3	Aiden Coutant	9/14	Kim Gepfert	9/18	Robert Lewis
9/5	Veronica Kapalka	9/14	Don Meetze	9/20	Will Marberry
9/7	Laura Meetze	9/15	Nadia R. BouFawaz	9/21	Stuart Dalton
9/9	Bruce Schenemann	9/15	Gary Meetze	9/21	Chris Gepfert
9/9	Merle Weed Jr.	9/15	Neva Meyerhoff	9/21	Eva Jones
9/10	Jason Dennis	9/16	Marge Carter	9/24	Annette Holladay
9/10	David Setterlund	9/17	Millie Waldrop	9/24	Thelma Miller
9/11	Ivan Harper			9/25	David Cook

September 2023 Anniversaries

9/2	Bradley & Amy Carey	9/19	Robert & Carol Fong
9/7	Rich & Sue O'Dell	9/24	Hal & Suzie Hoffman
9/9	Richard & Laura Shealy	9/26	Pete & Rita Witt
9/12	Joseph & Kim Perkins	9/29	David & Connie Cook
9/16	Jeff & Kelly Thrun		



Verses to Pray Over Your Kids as They Head Back to School

Joshua 1:9

Thank God for always being with them

Ephesians 4:32

Ask God to help them be kind



Proverbs 10:9

Ask God to help them walk with integrity

Psalms 56:3

Ask God to help them trust Him



Philippians 4:6-7

Ask God to help them not worry

Luke 2:52

Ask God to help them grow

Proverbs 17:17

Ask God to give them good friends

Colossians 3:23

Ask God to help them work hard

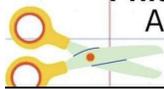


James 1:5

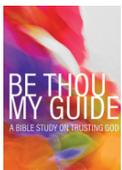
Ask God to give them wisdom

Philippians 4:12

Ask God to help them be content



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.

October Newsletter Deadline – September 22, 2023

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the October 2023 issue of the Olive Leaves is **September 22, 2023**. Remember to send your 1/2 page articles to Sue Strouse at slstrouse@gmail.com.



Thrivent to Match Maui Relief up to \$250,000

For every \$2 you donate through Thrivent's online giving platform to a featured organization, Thrivent will add \$1. Thrivent will also pay all the processing fees so 100% will go directly to the cause. In other words, your donation will increase by half! Click on one of the links, listed below, of the national disaster response organizations included in the matching opportunity:

[Convoy of Hope](#)
[LCMS Lutheran Disaster Response](#)
[Lutheran Disaster Response](#)
[Orphan Grain Train](#)

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:

Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then transfer the letters to the numbered boxes below to complete Psalm 107:1, NIV.

- Shape that symbolizes love 31 15 7 18 5
- Part of a stove used for baking 12 3 24 39
- Color made by red and yellow 28 42 7 8 27 37
- A present 1 32 20 11
- Clothing a girl wears 19 22 43 44 33
- Something you open to go into a room 40 29 17 47

- Opposite of soft (sound) 34 17 41 30
- To take a long walk 14 2 9 38
- A high body temperature 45 50 49 48 42
- Items used to build or fix things 13 35 21 16 26
- Edge of the sea 10 23 46 51 4
- Home for a bee 6 25 36 4

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9	10		11	12		13	14	15
	16	17	18	19		20	21	22
	23	24		25	26		27	28
29	30		31	32	33		34	35
36	37		38	39	40	41	42	43
44		45	46	47	48	49	50	51

Answer: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, door, loud, hike, fever, tools, shore, hive; Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1, NIV