



Olive Leaves



February 2024

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

From Our Pastor: What Is the Pericopal System?

Pastor Walt Harper
walt.harper@mtolivesc.org

Thank You, Mt. Olive!

Renee and I want to first of all say Thank You to the congregation for your generous Christmas Gift. It remains our joy to serve this congregation. Your love and support mean much to us, and we look forward to the coming years of being with God's people gathered here at Mt. Olive!
Renée and Pr. Walt



What Is the Pericopal System?

Long ago, the Early Church designed a system of Scripture Readings for every Sunday of the year.

Some readings are obvious. On Easter Sunday, you read the Gospel accounts of the resurrection of Jesus. On Christmas Eve you read passages promising the Savior, and then passages about His birth. On Pentecost you read Acts 2.

All those readings were easily assigned. Then what to do with the rest of the year? Fairly early on the Church had created the Seasons of the Year, and each of those Seasons has their own themes. Epiphany is about the revelation of Jesus as being the Christ. So throughout Epiphany we read things about "Jesus as the Light of the World," or about miracles that demonstrate Him to be the Christ. Advent has readings about preparing for the coming of the Lord. The lengthy "Season after Trinity" became be an essentially sequential reading through the Life of Christ.

Way back when, there was a system for just one year. You had a set of readings, and you did them this year, then the same readings the following year, and the following year.

One peculiarity of the old system was that there were usually just two readings appointed for each Sunday. One reading was from an Epistle, and the other was from a Gospel. The Old Testament was seldom read, and then only when it was a passage that very directly spoke of the coming Christ.

So how did we get to where we are now?

These days, we have a Three-Year Cycle, and each Sunday has three readings, one from the Old Testament, one from an Epistle, and one from a Gospel.

Here is a fun fact: As all of the Liturgical Churches met in consultation about readings, it was the Roman Catholic Church that proposed we move to three readings over a three-year cycle. Why did they propose this? Because it put more Bible in the ears of the people.

I have always thought of that as being a "fun fact," since many Protestants too often say that Catholics don't care about the Bible as much we do. Of course that's not true, and we ought to acknowledge that our brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church gave us the system we use today.

The overall structure of those readings is preserved throughout the Liturgical Churches, although each Church has the freedom to make some small edits. Apart from those minor changes, on any given Sunday you will hear the same readings in a Catholic Church, in a Lutheran Church, and in Anglican Church.

Here is one more odd wrinkle: Some churches have lately returned to "The One-Year Lectionary." They favor its historicity, but have added a weekly Old Testament reading. Some prefer it because it is the "Lectionary of Luther." They also feel that reading the same passages repeatedly makes them that much more familiar.

I prefer "The Three-Year Lectionary" for the same reason it was originally proposed: it puts more Scripture in the ears of the people. Anyway, that's the story behind "Why we do it that way..."



From our President

James Crosland, President



February is here already! Thank you again to Jill and her team for a wonderful successful potluck lunch as we celebrated Bill's ministry. It was great to have his family with us! Also, a big shout out goes to James and the Trustees for a great looking new roof. All that preparation takes time away from their families and other duties. It is very much appreciated by all.

Jason Dennis will be forming the Nominating Committee soon, so please reach out to him and let him know that you want to serve. Be on the lookout as we will be posting our open positions soon. It truly is a wonderful feeling to serve in such a giving congregation. Church Council will be addressing other capital items this year, so more to follow.

Safety Tip: We have had an increase in mail and package thefts over the past month. The increased holiday package delivery contributed to this, but mail theft is also an issue. Just make a mental note of when any sensitive items may be delivered to your address and be on the lookout for them. And remember, do not put important outgoing mail in your mailbox as these may be stolen as well.

**Thank
you**

From Our Associate Pastor: The Angelus Painting by Jean-François Millet

Pastor Colin Ford

colin.ford@mtolivesc.org



The Angelus painting was commissioned by Thomas Gold Appleton, a wealthy Bostonian of Irish descent. The painting was possibly inspired by the memories of the recent disastrous Irish potato famine, or as it is also known as The Great Hunger. Thomas ultimately declined to accept the painting, so in desperation to sell it, Millet was forced to add the church in the background to market it.

In 1845, Millet would comment on his work, "The idea for The Angelus came to me because I remembered, while working in the fields and hearing the church bell, my grandmother always made us stop to say the Angelus prayer for the poor departed, very religiously, with cap in hand". (The *Angelus* is a daily prayer common in Catholic countries). In the painting, you can see a husband and wife taking a moment out of their day for a prayer even though it is harvest time. The church in the background invites the idea of bells signaling the momentary halt of the harvest. No doubt that this scene has more impact in an agrarian society, but the takeaway is there for everyone.

Do you ever find yourself so caught up in the day-to-day work, or activities to forget to pray? We are told in the letter to the Philippians, "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Psalm 50:15 reminds us to "call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." Prayer is essential to the life of a Christian, and Millet's painting reminds us that there will always be other things going on, but we are to take time to pray: when times are good; when times are bad; when giving thanks; or when asking for courage. I hope this image of The Angelus, reminds you to take time in your own life for prayer.

When you look at this work what do you see? Does anything else stand out to you? Do you hear the church bells echoing in the distance? Do you hear the call to pray?



February 2024 Lectionary

Date	Festival	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
February 5	Epiphany 5	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11	1 Corinthians 9:16-27	Mark 1:29-39
February 11	Transfiguration	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:1-6	Mark 9:2-9
February 14	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-19	Psalm 51:1-13	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
February 18	Lent 1	Genesis 22:1-18	Psalm 25:1-10	James 1:12-18	Mark 1:9-15
February 25	Lent 2	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 5:1-11	Mark 8:27-38

Board of Stewardship

Naven Olson, Chairperson

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

"Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who are sitting in front of you – indeed they are men who are a symbol, for behold, I am going to bring in My servant the Branch. For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; on one stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave an inscription on it', declares the LORD of hosts, 'and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.'"

Zechariah 3:8-9

It sounds like a prediction of the crucifixion of Christ, doesn't it? And there are several more predictions of the passion of Christ in Zechariah, which was included in the January, 2024 congregational reading plan.

Zechariah 9:9 predicts the triumphal entry on the first Palm Sunday.

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you, He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey."



Zechariah 9:11 speaks of how Jesus would make atonement for the sins of the world:

"As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit."

Zechariah 14 speaks of a time when the church would be severely persecuted followed by the return of Christ Jesus in judgment bringing relief and joy to the Christians and endless torment to unbelievers. Do not envy the sons of this world; pity them.

This Lenten season let us be in church on Sundays (and on Wednesdays if feasible); in Sunday Bible class if feasible; and in Bible study and prayer daily. Let us give generously of our time, efforts and resources to spread the gospel of Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification. And let us reach out to unbelieving and unchurched family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.



The Board of Fellowship: Lenten Lunches

Jill Brabham, Chairperson



The Fellowship Board would like to thank all that provided food for the Advent Lunches as well as the wonderful food brought by the congregation for Bill's retirement party!

It feels like Advent and Christmas just ended but here we are getting ready for Easter already! Lenten Lunches following the Wednesday Lent services begin Wednesday, February 21st and continue through Wednesday, March 20th. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex on Sunday to sign up to bring food. These lunches are always filled with good food and fellowship so please join us if you can!

The Board of Evangelism: The Task of Evangelism

Aresa Boykin, Board Member

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Matthew 9:37-38

Have you ever shared the good news of Jesus with someone in your life?

When Jesus was teaching and training the twelve disciples, He often used imagery and metaphors that were part of their culture to communicate important truths to them. In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus relates the work that He is doing to a farmer's work in the field.

Jesus says that the people who do not know Jesus are like a field of grain that is ready to be harvested. But there are not enough workers to go and harvest among the fields. Jesus says to pray that God would send more workers to gather the harvest.



Essentially, there are people that are ready and willing to hear and respond to the gospel message, the hope that Jesus brings for every person. But when Jesus says "the workers are few" (Matthew 9:38), what He really means is: there are not enough people sharing the good news with others.

As Christians, we are entrusted with the free gift of eternal life, and we're tasked with sharing that message with others. However, many Christians keep their faith to themselves.

We are to be bold in sharing the message of the cross with other people so that they can experience new life in Jesus, too.

Take a few minutes today to consider what small step you can take to begin sharing Jesus with other people. Ask your neighbors, co-workers, or friends what their spiritual background is so that you can begin having spiritual conversations. Pray for God to give you courage and then step out and begin sharing with others.



The Board of Public Relations: Lent

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

Lenten season is upon us, starting February 14th with Ash Wednesday and finishing March 30th with Holy Saturday. Many people choose to fast, or give up something, during this season to reflect on the trials that Jesus went through before the ultimate sacrifice of His own life. However, Jesus does not command us to fast to earn His love; we are His through God's Grace. As followers of Jesus, we should *want* to reflect on the 40 days He spent in the desert and reject all Satan's temptations. We should *want* to be servants to our brothers, sisters, and even our enemies. He endured all temptations imaginable, to be our servant, and died for our sins. We should *want* to spread the Word to everyone, so they can enjoy a relationship with God and the love He brings.



Mount Olive Preschool

Anna Brent, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 - preschool@mtolivesc.org

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



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

Registration for congregation members and current students begins on February 1st and for new students and families on February 15th.

Registration for 2024-2025 is done ONLINE ONLY. Use the QR codes below to access the registration form and pay the registration fee online.

Registration Form



Online Payment



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

Encourage them to call, email, or checkout the website. Anna is always happy to talk with families and provide tours of the preschool.



The Board of Education

Jessica Dennis, Superintendent

There are lots of exciting things in the works for Board of Education in the coming months!

Beginning this Sunday the youth group will have a board in the narthex announcing the Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser that they are participating in. Each year, the youth group collects canned goods and money for Sharing God's Love, along with youth groups across the nation, who then donate them to their respective organizations. They will collect canned goods and money on February 4th and 11th and take the donations to Sharing God's Love themselves to stock the shelves. They will then have their next youth lock-in on February 16-17.

VBS preparations have begun! We are choosing the VBS curriculum and volunteer sign-ups will begin in March. This summer, Vacation Bible School will begin Wednesday, June 12th - Friday, June 14th from 6-8 pm. Mark your calendars!

Join a Bible Class

Winter 2023-2024 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. Please 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, & Amanda Dalton	The Birth of Jesus Learning Christmas Carols
Confirmation Class	Preschool Area	Pr. Colin Ford	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	TBA
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			



Read the Bible in Three Years – February 2024

February 2024							
Feb 1	Job 9	Feb 8	Job 16	Feb 15	Job 23	Feb 22	Job 30
Feb 2	Job 10	Feb 9	Job 17	Feb 16	Job 24	Feb 23	Job 31
Feb 3	Job 11	Feb 10	Job 18	Feb 17	Job 25	Feb 24	Job 32
Feb 4	Job 12	Feb 11	Job 19	Feb 18	Job 26	Feb 25	Job 33
Feb 5	Job 13	Feb 12	Job 20	Feb 19	Job 27	Feb 26	Job 34
Feb 6	Job 14	Feb 13	Job 21	Feb 20	Job 28	Feb 27	Job 35
Feb 7	Job 15	Feb 14	Job 22	Feb 21	Job 29	Feb 28	Job 36

Leap Year: Feb 29 – Read your favorite chapter.

People rarely, if ever, overestimate God or what He can do. Our problem, like Job, is thinking that God is simply a better version of ourselves. Small faith has a small God, but biblical faith believes in the God who created all, sustains all and will transform all when Jesus returns.

God must have a plan for everything, and Job's suffering must surely have had a greater purpose than to simply punish a good man. Ultimately, Job's faith prevails over his suffering. In the Bible, Job, who was an unremarkable man except for his wealth and faith, came to represent the power of faith through adversity.

Job's story continues to be relevant to Christians today because of his ability to believe despite suffering. His season of loss is a reminder that no possession or relationship on this Earth is guaranteed to last forever. Not even our health. Job found himself losing all that he owned, all except for his faith.

Board of Social Ministry: Programs We Support

Mary Keller - Chairperson

Thank You Mt Olive

John 15:12: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you", a simple command and one that brings peace, comfort, and joy. The Social Ministry Board is trying to apply this command to all of the projects we undertake. What a telling experience we witness as we see our Mt. Olive Family following right along with the projects we undertake to meet the needs of others. With the generosity of our Mt. Olive Family we were able to provide a Christmas for so many families experiencing difficult circumstances. THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored a family! It is quite an experience to watch God at work!

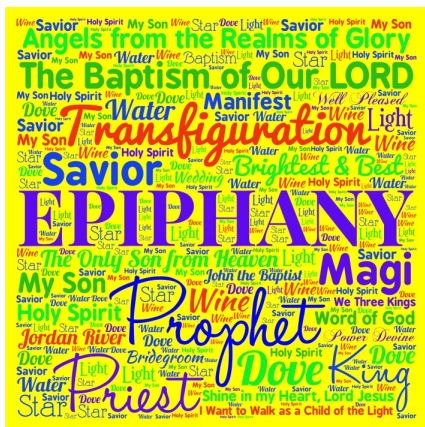
Sister Care (28 moms and children were overjoyed with their gifts.) Sister Care advocates for domestic violence survivors and their children to promote prevention of domestic violence. They offer crisis planning, support and services for those in abusive relationships and their children. They also provide long term support, shelter, and services for those who have left abusive relationships.

Lutheran Family Services – New American’s Program – (16 plus moms with children were helped including children who do not have a mom and were forced to migrate out of their country). This program is designed to help new arrivals become acclimated to life in the United States. Arranging housing, facilitating social services, public benefits, health screening school enrollment, basic human care needs...and the list goes on! Over 15.2 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their home countries.

Sharing God’s Love (18 teens were thrilled with your generosity). Sharing God’s Love was organized in 1984 when representatives from a few churches in the area got together and agreed that there needed to be a central location where community families facing emergencies related to their basic living needs could be served. Thus, they began to establish this ministry to provide food, clothing, and financial assistance to those in need. In 2022, Sharing God’s Love served 6,958 people (2,322 families) of which 464 were new families needing our services. The numbers grew exponentially in 2023!

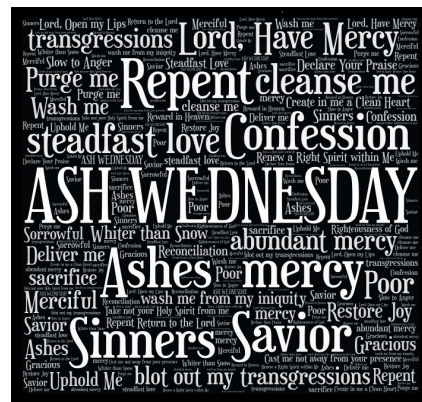


Signs at the Church Entrance



The Season after Christmas is the season of Epiphany where Jesus is revealed as the Son of God, and He transfigured. Jesus’ face and clothes, with Moses and Elijah, became dazzlingly bright.

The beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is where we are reminded of our human mortality and the need for our reconciliation with God.



February 2024 Birthdays

2/2	Chuck Bauer	2/12	Daniel Zahn		
2/3	Susie Hoffman	2/13	Kathie Bost	2/19	William Baden
2/3	Matthew Barnett	2/14	Paula Helming	2/19	Carole Mueller
2/10	Phil Carter	2/14	Eric Matzko	2/19	Susan Strouse
2/10	Joshua Thrun	2/15	Paul Sizemore	2/20	Kathy Eargle
2/11	Seth Duncan	2/15	Hannah Hennigan	2/21	Matt Christensen
2/11	Bailey Stuck	2/15	Jeff Thrun	2/21	Chris McKinney
2/11	Carly Stuck	2/16	James Crosland	2/22	David Buck
2/12	Noah Laney	2/16	Raegan Dalton	2/25	Kelsey Whitaker
2/12	Herb Loeb	2/17	Rachel Lewis	2/27	Hunter Robinson
2/12	Rosemary Sharpe	2/18	Natalie Crosland		

February 2024 Anniversaries

2/10	Todd & Elizabeth Barrett	2/25	Jens & Liz Rosinski
2/14	Dennis & Tina Dixon		



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

“Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.” Psalm 51:2

A prayer for our Homebound (and for everyone) for Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024:

Lord, Holy One, have mercy on us. We confess our sins to You. We have fallen short of Your glory, and without Your mercy and grace, we would be dust. We repent now. Lord, as we enter into this Lenten season, be near to us. Help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to feel the right conviction and repentance for our sins. Help us, by Your Spirit, to have the strength to overcome the enemy.



Thank you, Lord, that Easter is coming! Death has no sting and no victory because of Jesus! Glory and honor and praise to His name! Thank you for rescuing us. Help us keep both the weight and the joy of this season in our hearts, as we move through the next several weeks. Help us bear the good fruit of Your Spirit.



Thank you that ashes on our forehead do not symbolize our ultimate reality. From dust we might have been formed, but our bodies, our spirits, and ourselves await beautiful redemption and the restoration of all things. Help us long and look forward to that day, and let it come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.



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 Weed
		Thelma Miller		

Pastoral Acts

	<p>Holy Matrimony</p> <p>Matthew Garrett & Rebecca Dunn</p> <p>December 19, 2023</p>	
--	---	---

	<p>Funeral Service</p> <p>Louise Clamp Weed</p> <p>June 10, 1931 – January 18, 2024</p> <p>Funeral: January 22, 2024</p>	
---	---	---



Announcements



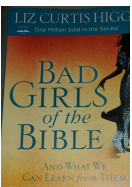
Mid-Week Lenten Services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

We will offer optional Imposition of Ashes at both services on this day. Wednesday mid-week services will continue through March 20. Service times are 12 Noon and 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Social Ministry: Save the Dates in February

Senior Retirees' Ministry Thursday, February 8th from 10:00 am – 11:00 am and Tuesday, February 27th from 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm.

Women's Book Club



The Women's Book Club is reading, *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays each month at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall. On February 6th, we will be discussing chapter 6 and on February 20th chapter 7. ALL women of the congregation are welcome to join in the class.

March Newsletter Deadline –February 23, 2024

Your next deadline for submitting articles for the March 2024 issue of the Olive Leaves is **February 23, 2024**. Please send your ½ page, nonpolitical articles to Sue Strouse at slstrouse@gmail.com.

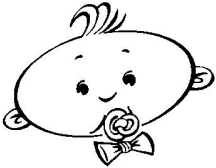


Painting class On Saturday, February 24th, we will have a painting class in the Fellowship Hall from 10 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$6 payable on Saturday. Bring a dish to share with all the artists.

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 JESUS' FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham.
Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.

- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah



How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?

