



Olive Leaves



August 2024

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From Our Pastor: "boundary stones"

Pastor Walt Harper

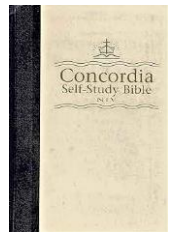
"Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your forefathers."

Proverbs 22:28



As I write my newsletter article this month we're literally getting ready to pack for vacation. One part of that packing is deciding, "Which Bible am I bringing?" Sometimes I don't pack a Bible at all, and assume the hotel will have one. (Thank you, Gideons!)

When we're home, I do my Bible-reading from the Concordia Self-Study Bible. It's NIV, which I prefer. And it's an excellent Study Bible produced by our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. By which I mean that the notes are orthodox.



But a Study Bible is too bulky to throw into a suitcase. So I'll do what I usually do: I'll bring along the Bible that was given out to all the participants in the 2010 National Youth Gathering, Why this one?

- 1) This Bible is NIV, which I prefer.
- 2) This Bible is small enough to travel easily, but big enough to still be read by my 61-year old eyes.
- 3) This Bible doesn't have as many notes as a full Study Bible, but it does have a few helpful notes.
- 4) This is the Bible that was given out at the National Youth Gathering that I attended with both of our sons.

And that's what Prov. 22:28 is about. It's true to say that "We all have a history." But it's also true to say that "We all have a history with God." And if so, then there are little markers along the way, reminders, "boundary stones."

I've been to four Youth Gatherings. All of them have been fun and rewarding in their own ways. I've gotten the "freebie" Bible from all of those Gatherings. But it will always be a favorite memory the time Jim and Joe and I were at the Gathering together.

So this Bible goes into the suitcase again. It's a Bible, and it will serve for my daily Bible reading. It's got a few helpful notes that I'll look at. But it also has some fond memories behind it. And those will go with me too.

(P.S., the next National Youth Gathering will be July 19-23, 2025.)

From our Associate Pastor: **The Triumph of Christianity over Paganism by Gustave Doré**

Colin Ford, Pastor

Gustave Doré (1832-1883) was a prolific French artist, renowned for his detailed and dramatic illustrations. This painting symbolizes the transition from ancient pagan practices to the rise of Christianity, capturing the moment of transformation with emotional and visual intensity.

The 19th century saw a resurgence in religious art, partly as a response to the scientific and industrial advancements of the time, which some feared were leading society away from spiritual values.

The painting vividly represents the biblical theme of triumph over false idols and the spread of true faith. Several Bible verses resonate with this theme:

- ❖ 1 Kings 18:20-40: The story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, where Elijah proves the power of the one true God over the false gods of Baal.
- ❖ Acts 19:23-41: Paul's mission in Ephesus, where he challenges the worship of the goddess Artemis, leading to a riot by those who profited from making idols.
- ❖ Revelation 21:4: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." This verse speaks to the idea of a new, divine order replacing the old ways.

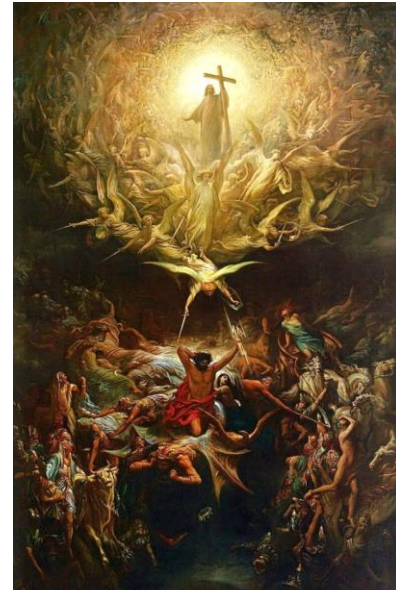
In biblical terms, light often symbolizes truth, purity, and the presence of God, while darkness represents sin, falsehood, and separation from God. It is no surprise that the top of the painting is bathed in light, while the false gods are shrouded in darkness.

- ❖ John 1:5: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
- ❖ Ephesians 5:8: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."

As you look at Gustave Doré's work, the most recognizable figure on the bottom half is Zeus, clutching his thunderbolt in vain. I encourage you to look and see what other pagan gods you recognize—it's like a "Where's Waldo" for paganism.

The main takeaway from this painting is that it is triumphant and unashamed. Many today like the idea of coexisting with other religions or hold a belief in Unitarianism. But Christ preaches exclusivity and speaks about how He is "the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). By extension, this message rejects all other ways.

In conclusion, Gustave Doré's "The Triumph of Christianity over Paganism" is not just a historical artwork but a profound visual sermon that continues to inspire and challenge believers today.



Board of Worship

Liz Rosinski, Chairperson



Catherine Black is our organist and also a collaborative pianist, often wearing additional hats as a piano teacher, mental health advocate, and entrepreneur.

An active musician since 2011, Catherine has enjoyed serving many congregations as interim and substitute pianist or organist. She has served as a Young Juror for the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition, holds a position as a Staff Accompanist at the University of South Carolina, and serves as the Artistic Director for Classical Healing Keys.

Catherine earned the Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance with Concentration in Entrepreneurship from the University of South Carolina and the Master of Music in Piano Performance with Distinction in Performance from Converse University.

Here is her website: <https://www.catherinesarahblack.com/>



The Board of Public Relations: Pentecost

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4



Pentecost is not merely a past, historical event, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit, but it is also for us in the Church today. There are some important things for Christians to remember about Pentecost.

Jesus spent His 33 years walking this earth spreading the Good News about His Father, teaching us how to live by loving God first and our neighbors as our selves.

The Holy Spirit was given to us to be our conscious; that is, to continue to live according all that Jesus taught us. It invites us to pray for comfort and hope. The Spirit—our Helper—does not give us over to discouragement, but strengthens us in our faith. He reminds us that Christ, our Savior saved us from sin and death, holds us firmly in His undying grip, and helps us hold firmly to Him. The Spirit consoles us, confirming in us the belief that God’s Word is true and His promises sure. The Spirit gives us joy in the midst of grief, peace in the face of fear. The Spirit unites believers through the bond of peace. As the apostle Paul testifies, the Spirit calls us to one hope, the hope of the glorious salvation life of Christ.

The Holy Spirit, like Jesus, has an intimate relationship with each of us. If you listen to the Spirit, you will know when someone or something is leading you away from God. At that time you should be praying for guidance, searching the scriptures for God’s truths.

The Board of Evangelism: “How (Not) to Save the World: Fight to Be Right”

Aresa Boykin, Board Member

**“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,
as though God were making an appeal through us;
we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20**

When I (Hosanna Wong) was eighteen years old, my dad died from cancer. My little brother, Elijah, was twelve, and he shut down emotionally and would not speak to anyone about what he was feeling. He didn’t want to talk about my dad, much less, God. It seemed there was no way to connect with him.

I was hundreds of miles away at college, and when I would call to ask how he was doing, all he wanted to do was talk about comic books. I soon realized that if I wanted to have a relationship with my brother, I had to immerse myself in his world. I had to start reading comic books. Not just on a shallow level, but I needed to fall in love with what he loved. I needed to learn how he saw the world. Over the next couple of months, whenever I’d call him, we had a lot to talk about.

When we take the time to enter someone else’s world, we can speak more effectively into their real life. So often we want to do and say the right thing, but we don’t consider the context of who is listening on the other end of our perfected, spiritual speeches.

Often, we get mad at those in our lives who are not where we want them to be, and don’t see the world the way we see it. But, to effectively show who Jesus really is and the life He truly offers, we need to step into their world, learn their words and ways, and fight for the relationship. We need to love others as God has loved us. Before they love us, love them. Before they choose us, choose them. Before they step into our world, step into theirs.

One of the names of Jesus is Immanuel, meaning God with us. He calls us to be with people too: To hear why they’re hurting; To be present in their pain. Many times, your greatest witness will be your **with-ness**. God is asking us to really get to know people so that they can really know Him. It won’t be easy, but it will change lives. It will help others know how loved they are. Nobody hates being loved.



We need to stop fighting to be right, and start fighting for our relationships. Who can you come alongside and be with, right where they are? Whose lens of the world can you learn? How would our families, our churches, and our world look differently if we were all fighting for people, not against people, and fighting for our relationships?

Taken from a YouVersion Devotion by Hosanna Wong.



August 2024 Lectionary

Date	Festival	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Aug. 4	Proper 13	Exodus 16:2-15	Psalm 145:10- 21	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:22-35
Aug. 11	Proper 14	1 Kings 19:1-8	Psalm 34:1-8	Ephesians 4:17-5:2	John 6:35-51
Aug. 18	Proper 15	Proverbs 9:1-10	Psalm 34:12-22	Ephesians 5:6-21	John 6:51-69
Aug. 25	Proper 16	Isaiah 29:11-19	Psalm 14	Ephesians 5:22-33	Mark 7:1-13

Signs at the Church Entrance



As August rolls around, the church is one third of the way into its longest season, The Season after Pentecost. Watch for the Year B August sign at the entrance to the church. During year B of the church calendar, the Gospel scriptures generally come from Mark. However, the first three Sundays of August are readings from the Gospel of John, chapter 6, from the teaching of Jesus, "I am the bread of life." In the final Sunday of the month move back to Mark chapter 7 where the Pharisees try to trip up Jesus concerning their cleanliness rituals.

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 each week's Gospel. Here is a little hint to help you out: the words on the signs are color coded by week! If you follow Mt. Olive on social media (mtolivesc) you will have seen posts of the weekly lectionary readings, so you can always use your smart phone to help you in your search.



Board of Stewardship

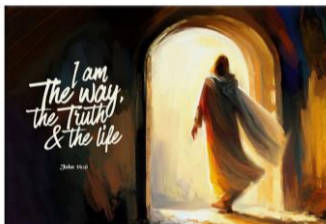
Naven Olson, Chairperson

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me." John 14:6

It is no secret that our culture is becoming more hostile to Biblical Christianity. The downward cultural trend has continued for several years. We need to be in church (and hopefully Bible class) weekly and in Bible study and prayer daily to resist its downward pull.

Pastor Colin, in his July 14, 2024, sermon discussed the account from Mark 6 where John the Baptist was beheaded because he condemned King Herod's unlawful marriage to his brother's wife. He also told of a time in his high school years when he was rejected by several of his peers for refusing to reject the Bible's clear teaching condemning homosexuality. Telling the truth can have unpleasant consequences in this world. The book of Deuteronomy called on the Hebrews to reject the false religion of the Canaanites stating "they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods." Deuteronomy 12:31b.



We must speak out against sin with love. All people who are not believers in Christ are lost and condemned, no matter how virtuous they may seem. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me." Let us bear witness for Christ as we have opportunity. Let us remember Biblical examples of sinners who were brought to faith: Rahab the prostitute; Judah, who sold his younger brother, Joseph, into slavery; the woman at the well; the thief on the cross; Saul of Tarsus; and others. Let us "speak the truth in love." Ephesians

4:15. And let us remember to support this church with our time, talents, and resources.

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)

Kindergarten Kamp is Monday, August 5th 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.



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 2024-2025 school year on Tuesday, September 3rd with our Parent Meeting! The Lord has blessed us with 31 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 two spaces available in our two-year-old class and one in our 4-year-old class. Anna is always happy to talk with families and provide tours of the preschool!



The Board of Christian Education

Liezl Baden, Board Member

Vacation Bible School "SCUBA- Diving into friendship with God" was a success. Thirty-eight children attended this 3-day event. We want to thank all the wonderful volunteers that helped with VBS, from setup, assisting in the evening activities, to lending items to use as decoration and props. A special thank you to Jess Dennis that led, coordinated VBS and created the decorations that transformed the fellowship hall into an underwater oasis.

Fifteen helpers from the Youth group volunteered their time and talents at VBS, as well. They truly made the evenings more enjoyable with their help and presence. In July, they (15) took a night out of their summer for a Lock-In. It was evident that they really enjoyed their time together from their tired eyes and worn-out chaperones. If your youth missed this event, we hope they consider it the next time. Information for the 2025 National Youth Gathering was also shared with the parents. If you plan to join, please inform BOE no later than September 28th for budgeting purposes.



To mark the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, Rally Day is set for August 25. It will be a potluck at the church after the 10:30 service. There will be fun and games for all! Lastly, if you or someone you know is interested in being a Sunday School teacher for the Circle of Friends, please let us know. Happy Fall!

Join a Bible Class

Summer 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 Life of Jesus
Confirmation Class	Preschool Area	Summer Break. Attend the Middle School Class.	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 & Pr. Colin Ford	Modern Heresies
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			



Board of Social Ministry: Lutheran Services of the Carolinas

Mary Keller - Chairperson



A New Home – A Fresh Start-- Lutheran Services Carolinas New Americans Program is dedicated to helping millions of people worldwide who have been forced to flee their home countries due to their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. These individuals are granted legal “refugee” status by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and the U.S. government. Many

have to live in designated refugee camps or move from place to place seeking shelter for years, even decades. While getting here is difficult, it accounts for only part of their journey.

LSC’s New Americans Program is designed to welcome New Americans to our country and help them on their journey to achieve self-sufficiency. This program helps new arrivals acclimate to life in the US. Case managers work with families and co-sponsoring organizations to help facilitate the following services: arrange housing; coordinate access to social services and public benefits; arrange health screenings and access to healthcare; assist with school enrollment; provide cultural education and self-sufficiency planning; assist with communication needs; ensure access to English classes or one-on-one language tutoring.

During the months of October 1, 2023, through June 19, 2024, LSC has welcomed 327 refugees and SIV’s. Here’s the breakdown: Africa-75, East Asia-48, Latin America/Caribbean-69; Middle East/South Asia-135. Since a few weeks have passed since these numbers were calculated the numbers are even higher now! We are currently around 80 away from capacity and are on pace to hit 440 by October 1, 2024. Our local LSC office has proposed increasing their capacity to 500 for the next fiscal year. With the hundreds of resettles with people from regions all over the world, we can’t do this without our amazing volunteers! For more information, please go to <https://lscarolinas.net/new-americans-program>. Lutheran Services Carolinas—New Americans Program - Phone: (803) 461-2642).

Read the Bible in Three Years –August 2024

August 2024							
Aug 1	Deuteronomy 24	Aug 9	Deuteronomy 32	Aug 17	Jeremiah 11-12	Aug 25	Jeremiah 27-28
Aug 2	Deuteronomy 25	Aug 10	Deuteronomy 33	Aug 18	Jeremiah 13-14	Aug 26	Jeremiah 29-30
Aug 3	Deuteronomy 26	Aug 11	Deuteronomy 34	Aug 19	Jeremiah 15-16	Aug 27	Jeremiah 31-32
Aug 4	Deuteronomy 27	Aug 12	Jeremiah 1-2	Aug 20	Jeremiah 17-18	Aug 28	Jeremiah 33-34
Aug 5	Deuteronomy 28	Aug 13	Jeremiah 3-4	Aug 21	Jeremiah 19-20	Aug 29	Jeremiah 35-36
Aug 6	Deuteronomy 29	Aug 14	Jeremiah 5-6	Aug 22	Jeremiah 21-22	Aug 30	Jeremiah 37-38
Aug 7	Deuteronomy 30	Aug 15	Jeremiah 7-8	Aug 23	Jeremiah 23-24	Aug 31	Jeremiah 39-40
Aug 8	Deuteronomy 31	Aug 16	Jeremiah 9-10	Aug 24	Jeremiah 25-26		

In July, our daily Bible readings took us to the Book of Deuteronomy, or *the second Law*. We will complete this last book of the Pentateuch on August 11th. We will finish out the month in the Old Testament reading two chapters per day from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. He is often called the weeping prophet because he is saddened that God's chosen people have turned away from Him and are on the brink of captivity and destruction. The people are listening to false prophets who tell them that all is well rather than listening to Jeremiah who is speaking the true Word of God. As you read through these parts of Israel's history, think and pray about current events in the U.S. and the world and how we can return to the Lord.



August 2024 Birthdays

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

August 2024 Anniversaries

8/4	Nancy & Nelson Thompson	8/18	Merle & Peggy Weed Jr.
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

Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

***"Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, You know it all together." Psalm 139:4***

As Christians, we are thankful that God knows our thoughts and prayers even when we don't have words to express them. Often, God uses His family to express His encouragement to those who need it most. Let's continue our ministry to those in our congregation by lifting them up in prayer. And please send cards 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	Mandy Schultz
Nadia R. BouFawaz	Betty Hunter	Laura Meetze	Eva Mae Monts	Linda Schmidt
Phil Carter	Harold/Sarah Jones	Laurie Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Shirlean Sons
Shirley Curry	Carolyn McCartha	Margaret Meetze	Polly Roland	Henry Weed



Announcements

Women's Book Club



The Women's Book Club will be studying the *Ten Commandments: Love Rules* by Christina Hergenrader starting in September. You can order your book from Amazon. The ladies meet on the first and third Tuesdays each month at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. ALL women of the congregation are welcome to join in the class.

September Newsletter Deadline –August 27, 2024

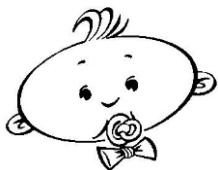
Your next deadline for submitting articles for the September 2024 issue of the Olive Leaves is August 27, 2024. Please send your ½ page, nonpolitical articles to Sue Strouse.



Secure E Giving:

For those of you who are contributing by e giving, you will notice that the site has a new look. According to VANCO, your account, password, and recurring payments remained the same. You should see pictures of Mt. Olive above the giving labels. If you would like to set up a new account, the link is on the home page of our church website, mtolivesc.org. You may give through your checking account or by credit card. Our e giving is powered by VANCO, a secure company that follows strict guidelines and policies. Even though the e giving page looks like our website, Mt. Olive will have no record of your account, your card/bank account number, or your personal information. If you need help setting up your account, contact Aresa Boykin.

Nursery "Cry Room" Reminder



Mt. Olive has a 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

Find and circle all the words horizontally. Then, starting on the top line and moving across from left to right, read John 6:35 (NIV). Put the words in order on the spaces below to complete the Bible verse.

JOHN 6:35

WORD LIST

am and be believes bread comes in whoever
 hungry go life me me never to never the the of will
 will thirsty whoever

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

"I _____

 _____,

 _____"

-John 6:35, NIV