



Olive Leaves



October 2024

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From Our Pastor: "Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi"

Pastor Walt Harper

It's October: time for another newsletter article about the Reformation. But what to say this year? So I decided to walk into our sanctuary, and notice what I see.

- I see there's a center aisle. "Well, pastor, who cares about that?" I recall that in our days before being Lutheran, Renée and I attended a church that had three seating sections, and two aisles. Why? It was explained that a center aisle is "too Catholic." That struck me as a funny. But it turns out that a center aisle is saying that this church fits inside what is often called "The Great Tradition."
- I immediately notice stained glass, and lots of it. It's beautiful, even more so given that as I write this the church lights are off, and the afternoon sun is giving the sanctuary a warm glow. The windows are full of historic Christian symbols, which, as has been covered in numerous Children's Messages, teach the story of our faith. Stained glass also says that a church has an appreciation for the arts.
- I see that as I look toward the front of the church the first thing sitting there in the middle of the aisle is the Baptismal Font. This teaches that the Church is (most often) entered by the waters of Baptism. It also reminds us of the Great Commission to makes disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching.
- Just beyond the font is the altar, surrounded by a rail. The altar is elevated, and dominates the whole front end of the Church. This esteems the Sacrament of the Altar, recalling that Jesus said to "Do this." There is a pulpit, sure; but the font and the altar are right in the middle, placing the sacraments at the center of what the Church is.
- Speaking of the pulpit, it is off to the side. Many churches have the pulpit front and center, to say that they see preaching as central. As a preacher, I can say that I have some sympathy for that view. But thinking about my role in the life of the Church, it's much better to put the work of God in His sacraments ahead of the preaching done by a man. The pulpit is elevated, too; but this time it's just the practical matter of the pastor maintaining eye contact with the people.
- Opposite the pulpit is the lectern, where the Scriptures are read. The pulpit and the lectern are connected to show that the Word of God is read, and then the sermon ought to be on what was just heard.

- It's not immediately obvious, but if you look, you can see that the floor plan of the church is in the shape of a cross. So there we are, pastors and people, altar and pews, living in the shape of our salvation. This shows that the cross of Christ is preached, believed, and central to what it is to be church.
- There are paraments with colors that match the season of the year. Another part of "The Great Tradition," these colors remind us of the cycle of the year, the continuing work of God, and the constant teaching that goes on in a Christian worship space.
- Oh, and there are plenty of crosses throughout the worship space. On the altar. On the pulpit. In several of the windows. As has been said about the floor: the cross remains central to us as the people redeemed by the Crucified One.



So what does "Lex orandi, lex credendi" mean? It's Latin, and literally translates to "The law of praying is the law of believing." In English that sounds clunky, so what does that mean? It means that the way we worship shows what we believe.

Can innovations happen in the worship life of the Church? Of course. Changes have taken place to get where we are now. But those changes are to be made carefully, deliberately, and with the constant question: "Yes, but what does that teach?"

In the Reformation, Lutheranism was born. A great deal of it reflects the "Church across the ages." Some of it was changed to reflect Reformation Theology, especially the focus on the Gospel, and the salvation of sinners by Grace Alone.

So next time you enter any church, wonder: Why is that there? What does that teach? And you'll notice that a lot is going on.



From Our President
Jason Dennis, President

Hello, I hope this note finds each of you doing well. The voter's meeting was held on September 22 after the 10:30 service which was the first day of fall and the first voter's meeting with our new church council.

In terms of new business, the finance committee has been pulled together to work through the important business of managing the church finances which will be led by Joel Fancey and Bill Boykin. Joining them on the finance committee are James Sharpe, Mike Knowles and Randy Gifford.

Also, Randy Gifford has elected to step down from the Board of Worship and focus his talents as Financial Secretary after the voting members unanimously voted to approve his new role. We are grateful for Randy's talents and willingness to serve our church in this important role!

Jim Crosland and Nelson Thompson are also going to be working together to rewrite the security plans and to help provide background checks for preschool workers, church volunteers, etc.

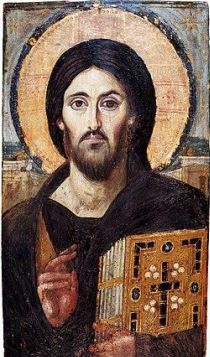
Last but not least, the council held an online vote to approve Renee Harper as church choir director. We are thankful to have her talents and enthusiasm as choir director at Mt. Olive!

We have a lot of exciting things going on around our wonderful church and are thankful for the efforts of our volunteers and church workers. It's never too late to talk to anyone on the council about how you might be able to volunteer in service to our church! Have a wonderful start to fall and God Bless.

From our Associate Pastor: Christian Art: Christ Pantocrator

Colin Ford, Pastor

This month, we continue our exploration of famous Christian art, reflecting on the spiritual significance and rich symbolism they convey. Today we look at the iconic image of Christ Pantocrator—one of the most enduring examples of Byzantine religious iconography, dating back to the 6th century AD. The term Pantocrator translates to "Ruler of All," and this image serves as a powerful visual representation of the dual nature of Christ. At first glance, you might notice something striking: Christ appears almost bisected down the middle. This division is not accidental, but deeply symbolic.



On Christ's right side (the viewer's left), His features are softer, representing His human nature—the incarnation of Christ as fully man. On this side His right hand extends in a gesture of blessing, offering grace and mercy to those who follow Him. In contrast, Christ's left side (the viewer's right) is sterner, representing His divine nature—fully God. His left hand clutches a book, traditionally understood to be the Gospel, symbolizing His role as the ultimate judge and the eternal Word. This juxtaposition of Christ's two natures—the human and divine—reminds us of the mystery of the incarnation. Christ was fully God, yet fully man, walking among us, sharing in our suffering, yet offering the hope of eternal life.

As you contemplate this artwork, consider how Christ both blesses and judges, offering love and truth in equal measure. The Christ Pantocrator reminds us that in Christ we find both compassion and righteousness—our Savior and our King.



The Board of Public Relations:

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast". Ephesians 2:8

At the end of this month, we celebrate the Reformation of the church, that began with Martin Luther's 95 Theses in 1517. Luther knew, by reading the Bible, the Pope was giving the people information that was totally against what God says in His Word.

There were many things the people were told that were not biblical. For instance, the Pope collected money from the churchgoers, called indulgences, to pay for their salvation. Also, the Pope said the priests were the intermediaries between God and humans rather than Jesus. The congregations believed these things because many were illiterate, did not have access to Bibles in their language, and the priests were allowed to read only the Latin ones. Thank goodness Luther, in his studies of the scripture, found many discrepancies with what the authorities were proclaiming. Luther was compelled to tell the world the truth: we are saved by God's grace, through faith.

Be thankful that we have Bibles and commentaries that we can study and learn what God intended for us, especially that He sent us a Savior, His Son, Jesus Christ.



The Board of Evangelism: "The Mission of God" From a *You Version* Devotion

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." Acts 20:24

All of our lives are used for something. Most people spend their lives focused on growing a family, building their career, or amassing possessions. While none of those things are necessarily wrong, they can become distractions from our ultimate goal in life.

In the book of Acts, we see Paul's transformation in Christ. As a result of meeting Jesus and being changed by His grace, Paul spends the rest of his life preaching the good news of Jesus. For Paul, God's grace and salvation are so great that nothing on this earth is as important as God's work.

Paul says that nothing in His life matters as much as telling others about God's grace. His goal in life was to finish his own race well by faithfully accomplishing as much of the mission of God as possible.

The mission of God is not opposed to growing families or building careers. In fact, God desires for us to use those opportunities to faithfully accomplish the mission of God. We can raise families in the way of God, and we can tell our coworkers about God's grace. Any place we find ourselves in can be an opportunity to accomplish the mission of God.

Take a moment to consider your own life and where you spend your time. Are you using every opportunity you have to spread the good news of Jesus? Does your life, like Paul's, point toward God? Consider a few ways that you can begin to change your perspective and live your life on mission for God.



The Board of Fellowship

Jillian Brabham, Chairperson

**"Every good and perfect gift comes from above."
James 1:17**



Please join us on Saturday, October 26th from 12-2PM in the fellowship hall for a Baby Shower honoring Tiffany and Thomas Meetze and their coming bundle of joy, Baby Girl Meetze! The entire congregation is welcome and we will have plenty of food and fun in store. Please be on the lookout for more information and details to RSVP by email or bulletin in the coming weeks!







October 2024 Lectionary



Date	Festival	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Oct. 6	Proper 22	Gen. 2:18-25	Psalm 128	Heb. 2:1-13	Mark 10:2-16
Oct. 13	Proper 23	Amos 5:6-7,10-15	Psalm 90:12-17	Heb. 3:12-19	Mark 10:17-22
Oct. 20	Proper 24	Eccl. 5:10-20	Psalm 119:9-16	Heb. 4:1-13	Mark 10:23-31
Oct. 27	Reformation	Rev. 14:6-7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19-28	John 8:31-36



Pastoral Acts

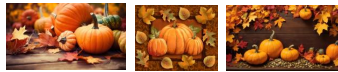
	<p>Holy Matrimony</p> <p>Matthew Barnett & Bailey Stuck</p> <p>August 29, 2024</p>	
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	<p>Holy Matrimony</p> <p>Matthew Garrett & Rebecca Dunn</p> <p>September 7, 2024</p>	
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	<p>Memorial Service Non-Member Private</p> <p>Sallie Caitlin Shakib</p> <p>Dec. 11, 1947 – Dec. 8, 2023</p> <p>September 15, 2024</p>	
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	<p>Memorial Service</p> <p>Shirlean Jennings Sons</p> <p>Nov. 29, 1938 – Aug. 14, 2024</p> <p>September 22, 2024</p>	
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	<p>Holy Baptism</p> <p>Cairo Laroy Nalls</p> <p>September 14, 2024</p>	
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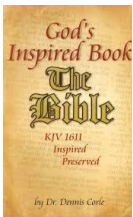


Board of Stewardship

Naven Olson, Board Member

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17



Martin Luther said at the Diet of Worms: "My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen." He insisted that the doctrine and practice of the church should be based on Scripture alone. And he insisted upon salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone: ***"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."*** Ephesians 2:8-9

We live in a day where hostility to Biblical Christianity is common in the culture, in the mainstream media, in academia, and even in many corners of the professing church. What should we do?

Recently, I was listening to "Concord Matters" on KFYO radio. The discussion led me to read the last few sentences of Article XVI of the Augsburg Confession. Regarding civil government they say, "Therefore, it is necessary for Christians to be obedient to their rulers and laws." The only exception is when they are commanded to sin. Then they must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

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.

The Social Ministry Board: Birthright of Columbia Baby Shower

Mary Keller, Chairperson



We are sponsoring a Baby Shower to support Birthright of Columbia. The agency is collaborating with USC Nursing Students who choose to volunteer at the center as a part of their required first semester curriculum. The students organize, prepare, and host this massive baby shower benefiting expectant moms who need our support. **The collection receptacle will be in the narthex beginning Sunday, October 13th through Sunday, November 3rd.** A comprehensive list of needs will be published in the coming weeks.

Birthright's Philosophy: Our focus is on positive and loving alternatives to abortion because we believe that **"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born."** They work with and through local agencies, ministries, churches, and individuals who can help achieve their objectives. If you or someone you know feels alone and is pregnant Birthright is there to help you! They listen and can help in making a decision about your pregnancy, provide options for you and your baby, and provide encouragement and concrete help. They offer friendship, confidential support, pregnancy tests, and health care items, along with baby and maternity clothes. They have information and referrals for prenatal care, medical assistance, parenting skills, and education.

The center provides referrals for medical support, financial, legal, and employment resources, housing, counseling, to name a few. They also provide information about pregnancy, parenting, adoption, child safety programs, and personal development. If you know of anyone who is desperate and confused, the National 24/7 Hotline Number is: 800-550-4900.



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)

We have had a wonderful start to the school year and are so thankful for each of the precious children that the Lord has put in our care. October marks a month full of learning and fun! This ministry is growing and touching the lives of so many families in our community. We currently have 30 students who are settling in well and enjoying school. There are only a few spots available in the 4-year-old classroom and one spot left in the 3-year-old classroom. Students must have turned 4 and 3 by September 1, 2024 to enroll.



Please take a look at the preschool bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall. It has the faces of the children the Lord has placed in our care this year. It will be updated monthly and will have information for you to get a glimpse of our school days. Also, we would love for you to look at all the beautiful artwork that hangs in the hallways and classrooms downstairs.

Please continue to pray for our staff, students and families as the school year continues. Pray that the Lord protects us and keeps us healthy and equips us for His service each day. Pray for flexible spirits and for the Love of Christ to be evident in all we do.

The Board of Christian Education

Liezl Baden, Board Member

December 7 Parents Morning Out

The Board of Education is hosting a "Parents Morning Out" the first Saturday in December, the 7th. This will be a fun time for parents to do any last-minute shopping, run errands, or take some time for themselves while their children decorate Christmas crafts, play games, and participate in other activities. This event is open to all Mt. Olive and Preschool children, and to their extended families and friends, too.

Registration will open mid-October BUT we are accepting volunteers now. Please consider offering your time and talents to this event. What a great way to kick off your Christmas season! There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex and via link on the church website.

In September the youth group had an outing to Frankie's Fun Park for putt-putt golf. As usual, they had a great time. This October 6th, the registration forms for the 2025 National Youth Gathering must be completed and returned to April Fancey or Jessica Dennis along with the \$200 registration fee. Checks can be made out to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and make sure to put "National Youth Gathering" in the byline. Registration forms are available on the narthex table.



Join a Bible Class

Autumn 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	Pr. Walt Harper	A two-year study of Luther's Small Catechism and the Bible for 5th-6th Graders & Youth who haven't been confirmed.
Middle & High School Youth	Wagner House	Joel & April Fancey Rick Baden	Bible Study – Weekly preview on Mt. Olive's social media
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Pr. Colin Ford	"The Minor Prophets"
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

October 2024 Birthdays

10/3	Polly Roland	10/12	Eric Weed	10/23	Mark Selle
10/5	Billie Whitaker	10/13	Peggy Osborn	10/24	Dieter Steinborn
10/6	Larry Meetze	10/13	Chayden Weed	10/25	LaVelle Walker
10/7	Gene Schmitzer	10/14	Jason Brabham	10/26	Linda Gifford
10/8	Wynn Meetze	10/14	Tina Dixon	10/26	Jack Robinson
10/9	Bruce Greer	10/15	Robert Fong	10/27	Eli Duncan
10/9	Matthew Kearse	10/15	Connie Kyte	10/27	Debbie Meetze
10/9	Carmen Witt	10/16	Ezra Sharpe	10/27	Jaime Stuck
10/10	Mark Carter	10/17	Eva Mae Monts	10/27	Randy Voyles
10/10	Pete Witt	10/20	Jens Rosinski	10/29	Rita Witt
		10/21	Cleta Dunaway		

October 2024 Anniversaries

10/6	Larry & Louise Meetze	10/15	Matthew & Emily Kearse
10/6	Hank & Jenn Weed	10/23	Ken & Connie Kyte
10/7	Jim & Natalie Crosland	10/26	Emily & Joshua Ranta
10/8	Rich & Mary Joel Keller	10/26	Bill & Shirley Vogel
10/9	Gary & Debbie Meetze	10/29	Michael & Susan Strouse
10/13	Berney & Kathy Eargle	10/30	Odell & Pam Stuck



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

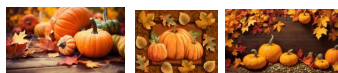
"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17a

Please continue to remember our homebound as the season moves from summer to autumn, especially as they continue to be isolated. Please encourage our saints by lifting them up to God in prayer. And, do 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. 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	Henry Weed
Shirley Curry	Carolyn McCartha	Margaret Meetze	Polly Roland	



Announcements

Women's Book Club



The Women's Book Club is studying the *Ten Commandments: Love Rules* by Christina Hergenrader, a book that you can order from Amazon. The ladies meet on October 1st and 15th, the first and third Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. ALL women of the congregation & friends are welcome to join in the class.

November Newsletter Deadline – October 25, 2024

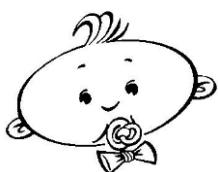
Your next deadline for submitting articles for the November 2024 issue of the Olive Leaves is October 25, 2024. Please send your ½ page, nonpolitical articles to Sue Strouse.



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.



Kid’s Korner GOD’S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

Write the bible verse by starting with the number 1 on the vine and fill in the corresponding letters.

7 e o r c j
2 4 1 6 3 5
w y l a s a
3 5 2 4 6 a

continually,

in all circumstances; for this
is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
h n t a s k
2 4 1 3 6 5

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks