



Olive Leaves



November 2024

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From Our Pastor: VOTE

Pastor Walt Harper

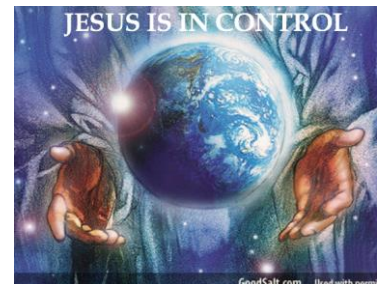
Every four years it happens: November contains a national day of celebration, Thanksgiving, and at the same time has a presidential election.

Of course, as I write this newsletter article in late October, I don't yet know the outcome of the election. One thing is for sure: many people are rejoicing, and many people are upset.

I wish that we made a lot less out of politics, especially as Christians. I am not in any way saying that elections don't matter. They matter a great deal. Who leads a nation is an immensely important reality.

But when you think it out, it is less important than the fact that Christ still reigns. He is still in control, even if at times that must remain a matter of faith.

A glance through the pages of a history book says that the Church has lived under good government, and under bad government; the Church has endured persecution from the government, and it has sometimes enjoyed the favor of the government. Funny enough, every situation has its own "pros and cons," as the saying goes.



Just to go back to the very early days of the Church. No one would want to endure the persecution faced in the days of the Roman Empire. But oddly, once Caesar became a Christian there was the confusion of many people "wanting to be Christians" only for the social and economic benefits that would mean.

Naturally, we all want to live under wise and prudent rulers. The challenge is: which candidate is that in any particular election? Christians of good faith are going to disagree about that, because both the Republican and the Democratic parties are rather flawed and are human organizations.

What is a Christian to do? Stay informed. Read a lot. Read some more. Dialog with people from both sides of the aisle. And then deliberate: What candidate most aligns with my values as a follower of Christ?

Adding one heaping spoonful of humility, I also must see myself as rather flawed and human. Somewhat frustratingly, there is a lot of "behind the scenes stuff" that none of us knows about. So, doing the best with what we know, doing the best with the limited

knowledge that we have, and being very aware that God's plans and knowledge are far greater than my own, I vote.

Of course we are all aware that the tenor of modern American political discussion is very poor. How nice it would be if Christians modeled what it looks like when people disagree, but remain able to have a civil conversation.

So as I say every four years: Vote! (The same is true of all those "lesser" elections in between.) And then when it comes to Thanksgiving, I'll have the stuffing and gravy, the cranberry sauce that has the lines from the can, a big heaping mound of mashed potatoes, and just enough turkey "to be polite."



From our Associate Pastor: The Council of Nicaea and the Nicene Creed

Colin Ford, Pastor

If you have been attending church, you are familiar with the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. But why do we have two? To understand this, we need to look at the Council of Nicaea.

In 325 AD, the early Church was divided over the nature of Christ. Arius, a bishop from Alexandria, argued that Jesus was created by God and not fully divine. However, scripture, like John 1:1-3, tells us that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This affirms that Jesus is eternal and fully divine.

To settle the debate, Emperor Constantine called the Council of Nicaea. The council rejected Arius's teachings and affirmed that Jesus is co-eternal with the Father. The Nicene Creed was written to clarify this, emphasizing phrases like "true God from true God, begotten, not made" to stress Jesus' divine nature. Colossians 1:15-17 further highlights this truth, declaring that "all things were created through him," affirming Jesus' eternal existence.



The Nicene Creed expanded on the Apostles' Creed, offering a fuller explanation of Christ's divinity and the Holy Spirit. Both creeds guide us in understanding core Christian beliefs, not as complete summaries of doctrine, but as foundations of faith.

The Importance of the Nicene Creed Today

Today, the Nicene Creed unites Christians across many denominations, reminding us of the essential truths of the Trinity and Christ's divinity. It connects us to the early Church's efforts to preserve these vital doctrines and continues to be a central part of Christian worship.

From our President

Jason Dennis, President

The month of October is always a busy month around our home with sports, school, work, and loads of social functions. I am sure that your calendars are all equally "busy." Time has flown by so quickly I cannot believe I am talking about the November Voters' Assembly.... The church council has been busy working through the business of the church to keep everything moving in the right direction!

Just like Christmas comes the same time every year, so does the work of the finance committee and the team led by Joel Fancey and Bill Boykin. They have been hard at work ensuring a presentable budget for the voting members. Now that they have completed their work on the budget, their work will be made available to members to review, discuss, and vote on the 2025 church budget at the November Voters' Assembly. There is never a shortage of projects or needs at the church and if money weren't a consideration, I would want to do them all immediately. However, as we go into the Voters' Assembly let us prepare ourselves to be mindful of the budget and to be good stewards of what the Lord has given us. I am looking forward to seeing you at the Voters' Assembly.

**November
Voters'
Meeting**



The Board of Public Relations: Being Thankful

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

***Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
James 1:17***

Thanksgiving and praise always go together. We cannot adequately praise and worship God without also being thankful.

Like any wise father, God wants us to learn to be thankful for all the gifts He has given us. It is in our best interest to be reminded that everything we have is a gift from Him, especially His gift of His Son! Without gratitude, we become arrogant and self-centered. We begin to believe that we have achieved everything on our own. Thankfulness keeps our hearts in right relationship to Him.



Giving thanks also reminds us of how much we do have. We human beings are prone to covetousness. We tend to focus on what we *don't* have. By giving thanks continually we are reminded of how much we *do* have. When we focus on blessings rather than wants, we are happier. When we start thanking God for the things we usually take for granted, our perspective changes. We realize that we could not even exist without the merciful blessings of God.

The Board of Evangelism: Ask Questions

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven." Matthew 16:15-17

When we speak with a friend about spiritual things, it is important to ask good questions. By doing this, we can assess their understanding and their assumptions about God or Jesus. Questions can get people to think about what they believe and why. Asking questions alleviates some of our anxiety because we don't have to worry about saying the wrong thing.

Asking questions is precisely the strategy Jesus used. Jesus rarely answered questions, but He certainly liked asking them. In the gospels, He was asked 183 questions and only answered three! Instead of answering, He asked 307 questions back! This helped Him see what His disciples and others understood or believed. Let's follow Jesus' lead in this and start being question-askers!

Though the Spirit can bring questions to mind, preparing some possible questions you could ask may be helpful. Here are a few that might help you begin a spiritual conversation:

➤ **Ask about their past spiritual experiences:**

Did you have any religious background as a child?
What have you tried in your spiritual journey since?

➤ **Ask about their present attitude about their journey:**

How has your search left you feeling?
Currently, how important is the spiritual side of life to you?

➤ **Ask about their future direction spiritually:**

Do you think you are moving toward God, away from God, or staying about the same?
How would you rate your desire to know God personally?

➤ **Reflect on these questions:**

What do you like about these questions? What questions might you add? Pray. Ask God to help you be a better question-asker. Ask Him to give you questions that best suit each person you are talking with, helping to build trust, and increase their curiosity about Jesus.

(Taken from the YouVersion Bible Plan, "Get Up & Go.")



November 2024 Lectionary

Date	Festival	1 st Reading	Psalms	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Nov. 3	All Saints	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalms 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
Nov. 10	Proper 27	1 Kings 17:8-16	Psalms 146	Heb. 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
Nov. 17	Proper 28	Daniel 12:1-3	Psalms 16	Heb. 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-13
Nov. 24	Proper 29	Isaiah 51:4-6	Psalms 93	Jude 20-25	Mark 13:24-37

Board of Stewardship

Naven Olson, Board Member

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Jesus' words in Revelation 2:10b

On September 30th, I listened to "Thy Strong Word" on KFUE. Pastor Booe and the guest pastor discussed the letters to the churches in Sardis and Philadelphia in Revelation 3. Jesus said to the church in Sardis "I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead." Revelation 3:1b. The guest pastor mentioned a 2010 survey that reported that only 18% of the members of the [formerly Lutheran] Church of Sweden believed in God. The abandonment of the preaching of Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification, and of Christ as the only way of salvation, and the rejection of Biblical authority in theologically liberal churches was discussed. Pope Francis's troubling statement in Singapore "All religions are paths to reach God. Since God is for all, then we are all children of God." was also discussed. Such ideas are shown to be false by John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'"

Discussion moved on to the letter to the persecuted and faithful church in Philadelphia. We live in a culture that is increasingly hostile to Biblical Christianity. We need to be in church weekly, in Bible class, in personal Bible study, and prayer daily to resist the culture's downward tug.

Let us be grateful for a church that upholds Biblical Christianity. Let us give of our time, efforts, and resources to spread the gospel of Christ. Let us reach out to unbelieving and unchurched relatives, neighbors, friends, and co-workers. And let us be careful to always submit to the authority of Scripture in all matters which it addresses.



The Board of Christian Education

Liezl Baden, Board Member

Help Needed!

Sign up to help
with Parents
Morning Out

The Board of Education is hosting a "Parents Morning Out" on December 7th, 9:30-11:30 AM. We hope that parents use the time to run errands, have a holiday brunch, or take a quick break while their children decorate Christmas crafts, play games, and enjoy other activities. This event is open to all Mt. Olive members' children, children from the Preschool, and extended to their friends and families. Please register via link or submit a form that is available in the narthex.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us out that Saturday morning. Please consider offering your time. What a great way to kick off your Christmas season! There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can sign up via the link.

LINK: Registration and Volunteering: <https://vbsmate.com/events/MOLCBOEvents/29975>

In October, the youth group had a great time bonding while bowling at Stars & Strikes in Irmo. They have also begun meetings for the 2025 National Youth Gathering (NYG) that will be in New Orleans this summer. Nine of our wonderful youths will be attending the event. The first fundraiser for NYG is a raffle for one of two gift baskets filled with wonderful FALL items. Please purchase your raffle ticket(s) in the narthex today!!!

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)

Greetings from the preschool! Even after the start-and-stop of school brought about by inclement weather and fall break, we are working hard each day to learn and grow! The two-year-olds have been learning about creation and are creating an art project to go along with their learning. The three-year-olds and four-year-olds have been busy learning about letters A through E and have learned how Noah was obedient to the Lord. The four-year-olds have been working hard to learn to write their names and numbers 1-5, and have been focusing on having joy, their fruit of the spirit for the month of October. Please feel free to come down to the preschool area (outside of preschool hours) to see the students' artwork and what they are learning!



Sunday, November 3rd, in your worship bulletin, you will receive a prayer bookmark with the name and picture of a preschool student. It displays scripture verses and a prayer for the child on your card. Please use this bookmark as a daily reminder to pray for the children who are impacted by our preschool ministry!

We are excited to have the opportunity to have our Thanksgiving feast for our preschool "family" on November 25th! It is a joyous time to fellowship and eat alongside our students and their families and reflect on what a blessing it is to steward the preschool ministry and strive to fulfill our mission to "Grow in faith and love by spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by providing a Christ-centered experience for young children."



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 Classrooms	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
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Pr. Colin Ford	"The Minor Prophets"
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

The Social Ministry Board: "A Thank You Prayer"

Mary Keller, Chairperson



I thank You God for this day. I Thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me. Forgive me this day for I have sinned. I ask now for Your forgiveness. Keep me safe from all danger and harm. Let me start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day and give my best in all that is put before me. Clear my mind that I can hear from You. Broaden my mind that I can accept all things.

Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. Let me continue to see sin through God's eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent, and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing, and receive Your forgiveness. And when this world closes in on me, let me remember Jesus' example – to slip away and find a quiet place to pray. It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray, Your Spirit groans for me. Continue to use me to do Your Will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak and unsaved. Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others.

I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who refuse to share a word from You. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those that will only read this and not speak this aloud in their own lives. I pray for those that don't believe. But I thank you that I believe. I believe that God changes people and God changes things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers. For each and every family member in their households.

I pray for peace, love, and joy in their homes that they are out of debt & all their needs are met. I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God. I pray that every stronghold be torn down in their lives. Every Battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees them and every mouth that confesses them willingly. (Excerpt from Lutheran Church Charities Daily Devotions written by Tim Hetzner).



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

***"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess,
for he who promised is faithful."***

Hebrews 10:23

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 to God 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. 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	

Signs at the Church Entrance: November

November will be a busy month for our church signs at the entrance with three of them for you to notice! The first Sunday in November is All Saints Sunday, so check out the sign with hymn titles and words that describe heaven. Next, we have the last three Sundays of the Season after Pentecost. Look for key words from the Gospel of Mark chapter 13 on this sign. Lastly, the Thanksgiving cornucopia sign will be displayed on the day of our Thanksgiving Eve worship service, November 27th.



Read the Bible in Three Years

November 2024							
Nov 1	II Kings 3	Nov 8	II Kings 10	Nov 16	II Kings 18	Nov 24	Micah 1
Nov 2	II Kings 4	Nov 9	II Kings 11	Nov 17	II Kings 19	Nov 25	Micah 2
Nov 3	II Kings 5	Nov 10	II Kings 12	Nov 18	II Kings 20	Nov 26	Micah 3
Nov 4	II Kings 6	Nov 11	II Kings 13	Nov 19	II Kings 21	Nov 27	Micah 4
Nov 5	II Kings 7	Nov 12	II Kings 14	Nov 20	II Kings 22	Nov 28	Micah 5
Nov 6	II Kings 8	Nov 13	II Kings 15	Nov 21	II Kings 23	Nov 29	Micah 6
Nov 7	II Kings 9	Nov 14	II Kings 16	Nov 22	II Kings 24	Nov 30	Micah 7
		Nov 15	II Kings 17	Nov 23	II Kings 25		

November is a big month in both the church year and in Pr. Walt's three-year Bible reading plan! The last Sunday of November marks the end of the Season after Pentecost with the Season of Advent, beginning the following Sunday. Because Pr. Walt's Bible reading plan follows the church year, we finish another year of reading 1/3 of the Bible at the end of November. (Spoiler Alert: In December, we will begin Year C of our reading plan starting with the book of Daniel.) Even more exciting is that if you have been following the reading plan since Pr. Walt arrived, you will have read the entire Bible **plus** you will be 2/3 of the way through the second time! What an accomplishment!

And if you haven't tried the plan, why not begin today? You can find the daily readings in the weekly Olive Seeds, the monthly newsletter, and on the calendar on our web site's home page, mtolivesc.org.

November 2024 Birthdays

11/2	Chris Bauer	11/13	Jim Harper	11/19	Thomas Meetze
11/3	Connie Cook	11/15	Will Gepfert	11/19	Gerry Selle
11/3	Ken Kyte	11/16	Pam Dalton	11/20	David Meetze
11/4	Cameron Dalton	11/16	Linda Selle	11/20	Henry Weed
11/7	Christian Baden	11/17	Kathie Voyles	11/23	Luanne Curry
11/7	Al Jabs	11/18	Calma Cook	11/24	Kaley Laprise
11/7	Linda Schmidt	11/18	Tammy Crider	11/24	Cyndi Nelson
11/11	Raymond Kapalka	11/18	Emily Ranta	11/25	Noreen Powell
11/12	Anita Meetze	11/18	Jacob Setterlund	11/27	Kathryn Meetze
11/13	Miranda Cook	11/19	Mike Knowles	11/29	Katie Matzko
		11/19	Paula Meetze		

November 2024 Anniversaries

11/1	Michael & Myran Trask	11/24	Patrick & Joyce Lauterbach
11/2	John & Neva Meyerhoff	11/25	Jim & Geri Harper
11/3	Michael & Billie Whitaker	11/28	Mike & Sue Knowles
11/11	Bruce & Paula Helming	11/29	Christopher & Kara Meetze
11/22	Daniel & Noreen Powell		



You Might Feel Dizzy

by Pastor Daron Lindemann, Time of Grace

There's a Greek word used in the Bible that means "spinning around and getting dizzy," like on one of those spinning rides at the fair.

It happens when anyone believes **"every wind of teaching"** and buys into **"the craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming"** (Ephesians 4:14). As a result, we are **"blown here and there."** That's where the Greek word for *dizzy* appears.

Man-made opinions about things in this world make people "more dizzy" than the Tilt-A-Whirl ride at the fair. Like opinions about education, raising children, politics, how to spend or save money, and the best way to address COVID, just to name a few.

Claim that your human opinion is as perfect and authoritative as Jesus' own true teachings, and it's proof you're dizzy, confused, and misdirected. It's okay to have ideas and opinions, as long as you remember that they are human ideas and opinions—not divine truths and answers.

So, don't claim to have a monopoly on the truth because it's your opinion. And don't judge others unfairly.

"Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (Ephesians 4:15,16).

Being loving toward others *and* true to Jesus is more important than being right about your opinion.

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 November 5th and 19th, 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.

December/January Newsletter Deadline – November 22, 2024

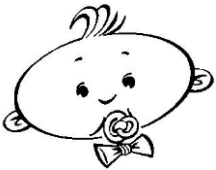
Your next deadline for submitting articles for the combined December - January issue of the Olive Leaves is November 22, 2024. Please send your 1/2 page, nonpolitical articles to Sue Strouse.



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

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

- This becomes a plant _____
- Willing to give _____
- The result of planting seeds _____
- The act of gratitude _____
- Food made from wheat _____

Now he who supplies _____ to the sower and _____ for food will also supply and increase your store of _____ and will enlarge the _____ of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be _____ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in _____ to God. *2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV*