



Olive Leaves



May 2025

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From Our Pastor: Mother's Day and Law/Gospel

Pastor Walt Harper



A friend of mine once preached what he thought was a great Mother's Day sermon. He wanted to esteem mothers and all that they do. He spoke of the many attributes that make a great mom.

After this sermon he asked his wife what she thought. She responded: If you don't quit preaching sermons like that, you'd better hit the father's just as hard next month.

He'd stumbled into the old dynamics of Law and Gospel. He'd forgotten what the Seminary had told him: no matter how well-meaning you are, every time you erect a standard, you've just preached the Law.

Here's how it goes. The preacher means well when he says that a mother is a master of many tasks, that she's hard-working, and self-sacrificial; that she puts the needs of her family above her own, that she is kind and gentle and warm. All that is very often true. But the pastor has unintentionally made some of the moms feel like they're not good enough, that they don't make the grade. The feeling runs deep within that "I'm not the perfect mom; I've let my family down."

We easily notice the Law when it condemns sin. But it is also Law to say "The perfect mom is like this..." Unintentionally, such a sermon has made moms feel inadequate and unworthy.

The Gospel is that Christ has died for our sins, and risen for our victory. The Gospel is that mom serves under a constant covering of forgiveness. She will sometimes keep the Law; and sometimes she won't. But she remains a child of God, who sees her every moment through the blood of her Savior.



Mother's Day is an important celebration. Moms do really do quite a lot; and we are right to show gratitude for that, but let's make it clear to mom that we are all redeemed by Christ, and that we walk in Grace, and that our relationships flow from that.

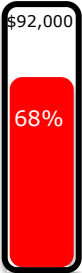
Board of Worship: Worship Committee May Update

Liz Rosinski, Chairperson

The month of April served as the kickoff for Mt. Olive’s fundraising campaign with a goal of raising \$92,000 towards the purchase of a new organ. Given that there have been issues with the current organ in just the last few weeks, it is good that the campaign got underway when it did.

Over the past month, we asked members and friends of the parish to prayerfully consider what monetary contributions they could give toward this significant endeavor.

To God be the glory for the generous gifts given to Mt. Olive! To date, the congregation has donated \$62,691 – which is 68% toward our goal. It is our hope and prayer that the funds for a new organ will be used to lift our hearts and minds in worship and glorify His name for years to come.



Both Church Council and Worship Committee members have recommended that the congregation place an order for the new organ, given the significant funds that already have been raised, as well as consideration for the length of time it takes to fill the order (approximately 5-6 months for the organ to be built, shipped and installed). At the May Voters Meeting, members will be asked to approve the purchase of a new organ.

To learn more about how you can give, visit the display table in the Narthex or go online to <https://mtolivesc.org/new-organ-fundraising/>.



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains." James 5:7

Another spring is in full bloom! Remember to encourage our saints 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, 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	
	Carolyn McCartha	Margaret Meetze	Polly Roland	

The Board of Evangelism: Jesus Brought the Kingdom of God to Earth

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

"And Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15

Just before Jesus left earth and ascended to heaven, He gathered His disciples who had been with Him for the past three years. While they were sitting around a table sharing a meal, Jesus commissioned them to continue the work that He had begun.

Jesus had spent most of His ministry proclaiming the arrival of the Kingdom of God, which is the rule and reign of God. The right response to this arrival was for people to turn from their old ways and believe in Jesus.

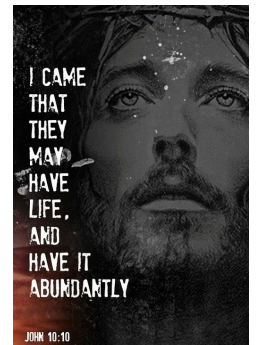
The very first words of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark are in Mark 1:15, and they are an announcement of the arrival of God's Kingdom. And Jesus' last words to His disciples, starting in Mark 16:15, build upon His first announcement: to continue to tell others the good news of the Gospel.

This good news is that Jesus has brought the arrival of the Kingdom of God to earth, and that through His death and resurrection, He has made a way for all people to have a new and eternal life in Him.

This task of evangelism, or telling others about Jesus, was the first thing that Jesus asked His followers to do as He left earth. Telling others about what Jesus has done for them is one of the most important things that we can do with our time. We have been given the greatest gift of all—eternal life with God. But that free gift is freely available to the rest of the world as well.

So take some time today to pray for those in your life who do not know the hope that Jesus gives. Pray for their salvation, but also pray for opportunities to share your own faith story with them. You should seek out intentional and meaningful conversations with others. When we do this, we are continuing the work that Jesus left us to do.

From YouVersion Bible App Verse of the Day: "Going into All the World"



The Board of Public Relations: After Easter

Sue Strouse, Chairperson

Eastertide, the 50 days after Easter, is such a beautiful season of reflection and celebration. The way God remains present with His people throughout history—from creation to the prophets, to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and finally, the gift of the Holy Spirit—is truly awe-inspiring. His love is unchanging, always guiding and strengthening us in our faith. It is incredible to think about how that same Spirit continues to work in our lives today, encouraging us to share His love and truth with the world.



Board of Social Ministry: Growing through Criticism

Mary Keller, Chairperson

***"Whoever disregards discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored."* Proverbs 13:18**



Solomon said, 'If you accept correction, you will be honored.'

Charlie Shedd gives us ten ways to grow through criticism:

- 1) **Criticism is often a compliment.** The barbs in daily life strike only those who raise their heads above ground level. Jesus said, 'Count yourself blessed every time someone cuts you down...it means...that the truth is too close for comfort and that that person is uncomfortable' (Luke 6:22).
- 2) **Accept that you have faults which are open to censure.** Stay humble, and criticism won't rattle you.
- 3) **The words of the godly save lives' (Proverbs 12:6).** Invite criticism from friends; then when it comes from your enemies, you will be broken in.
- 4) **Let criticism make you better.** When you burn with anger, you destroy the passport to your own improvement. 'When you do right and suffer for it...take it patiently' (1 Peter 2:20).
- 5) **Some criticism should be ignored, especially if it stems from false motives.** Never give unhappy people the key to your happiness.
- 6) **Keep it in perspective.** Everybody hasn't heard. Most people don't care. One bad word doesn't cancel the good in you.
- 7) **Let criticism make you kinder.** Remind yourself that you have criticized others too. Is this a boomerang that started in your own heart?
- 8) **Pray for your critics.** It will improve them and neutralize your bitterness. Hate destroys your health and steals your happiness.
- 9) **Check with the Master Critic.** What does God say? How do things look deep in your soul?
- 10) **When you have checked to make sure you are right, move ahead.** In quiet confidence finish what you started, because God's promises are to those who endure (see Hebrews 6:12).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me grow from the honest remarks of others, using them to become better. In Jesus' name, Amen.



May 2025 Lectionary

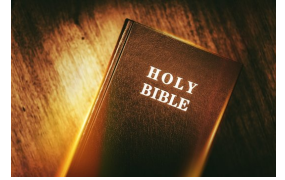
Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
May 4	Easter 3	Acts 9:1-22	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:8-14	John 21:1-14
May 11	Easter 4	Acts 20:17-35	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-33
May 18	Easter 5	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-7	John 16:12-22
May 25	Easter 6	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27	John 16:23-33
May 29	Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53

Board of Stewardship

Naven Olson, Board Member

(All Scripture verses are from NASB)

This article discusses the many reasons why I appreciate the LCMS. I appreciate the fact that the LCMS upholds the authority and inerrancy of Scripture. I appreciate the fact that it upholds the Reformation **solas** of grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, and Scripture alone.



I strongly appreciate its position on creation as set forth in the Brief Statement of 1932. It begins: "We teach that God has created heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Genesis 1 and 2, namely by His almighty creative word, and in six days."

I enjoy its radio station, worldwide KFUO, which I often listen to. KFUO is the oldest continuously broadcasting Christian radio station in the world and celebrated its 100th anniversary of continuous broadcasting on December 14, 2024. I am currently enjoying listening to a study on Genesis which is now airing weekdays at noon Eastern time on "Thy Strong Word".

I enjoy reading **The Lutheran Witness** and **Lutherans Engage the World** and learning about the worldwide evangelistic and mercy ministries of the LCMS and its partner churches.

I enjoy Sunday school, the worship services, and the midweek Bible studies at Mount Olive. And, of course, I enjoy the pot lucks!

Let us trust in Christ alone for salvation, and let us trust in Him to provide for us in this life. And let us be in church whenever possible: involved in Bible study; in prayer for yourselves, family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, this church, and the church at large. Reach out to family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers with the gospel of Christ crucified for our sins and raised for our justification. Generously support this church with your time, talents and resources. And, if we have the means, let us support the LCMS at the national level.



Board of Christian Education

Liezl Baden

On Easter Sunday, we had our much-anticipated Egg Hunt. Many eggs were stuffed by our Youth Group, and many were hunted by the children. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to all involved in making this event a success.



Great news, we will have VBS this summer. Katie Greer has graciously volunteered to be the VBS Director. Registration will start in May. Keep your eyes open for details.

Fundraising continues for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans, LA. This month there is a Spring Basket raffle. The baskets are in the narthex for your viewing and ticket purchases. It is \$5 per chance, and we will be drawing the winners in May.

Lastly, we are still in search of volunteers in our Children's Ministry. Open positions are Superintendent, Youth Group Leader, teacher for Circle of Friends, and Sunday School teachers. If interested, please reach out to Pastor Walt Harper or Liezl Baden.

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)

It is hard to believe that we are just weeks away from completing our 18th school year. The preschool is heading into a very busy season as we prepare for Mother's Day, completing end of the year evaluations and memory books, and getting ready to hold preschool graduation. We will also have our end of the year celebration with preschool families on Wednesday, May 21st to celebrate the blessing of another wonderful year together!

Do you know any families with young children who would benefit from our preschool? Our amazing staff creates a warm and loving environment in which they provide 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. Encourage them to call, email, check out the website or Facebook page, or come visit! Registration is ongoing and we still have a few openings in our 2-year-old class.

Thank you for your prayers and support! Please continue to pray for the preschool ministry and the children and families that the Lord has and will place in our care next year and that the Lord's will be done in the searching and hiring for a new preschool director.



Join a Bible Class

Spring 2025 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	Megan Weed, Brandy Maye, & Amanda Dalton	Favorite Bible Stories
Confirmation Class	Preschool Area	Pr. Walt Harper	A two-year study of Luther's Small Catechism and the Bible
Middle & High School Youth	Wagner House	April Fancey, Rick Baden. & Jenn Weed	Bible Study
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Pr. Colin Ford	TBA through June 1
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

Pastor Walt will start the six-week Midweek Bible study on Wednesday, May 14th. We will be studying the Book of James, a book of practical Christian living. Classes will meet in the fellowship hall at 1:30 and 7 PM.

Read the Bible in Three Years – May 2025

May 2025							
May 1	Psalm 107	May 9	Psalm 115	May 17	Psalm 123	May 25	Psalm 131
May 2	Psalm 108	May 10	Psalm 116	May 18	Psalm 124	May 26	Psalm 132
May 3	Psalm 109	May 11	Psalm 117	May 19	Psalm 125	May 27	Psalm 133
May 4	Psalm 110	May 12	Psalm 118	May 20	Psalm 126	May 28	Psalm 134
May 5	Psalm 111	May 13	Psalm 119	May 21	Psalm 127	May 29	Psalm 135
May 6	Psalm 112	May 14	Psalm 120	May 22	Psalm 128	May 30	Psalm 136
May 7	Psalm 113	May 15	Psalm 121	May 23	Psalm 129	May 31	Psalm 137
May 8	Psalm 114	May 16	Psalm 122	May 24	Psalm 130		

In each spring of the 3-year plan, we read 1/3 of the Psalms, or 50 of them. In Church Year C, we read the last third, Psalms 101-150. Did you know that Psalm 117 is the shortest and 119, the longest? Be sure to save extra time in your schedule on May 13th to read all 176 verses. And did you know that Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the Bible? There are 594 chapters before and after Psalm 118. If you add $594 + 594 = 1188$ and Psalm 118:8 is the middle verse of the Bible: ***"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in Man."*** How profound!



Signs at the Church Entrance: Season of Easter



We in the Lutheran Church are fortunate to celebrate the season of Easter for six weeks! Therefore, we will get accustomed to seeing the Easter sign out front. The sign will remind us of the most important event in history: the day Jesus Christ arose from the dead, ensuring eternal life with Him in heaven to all who believe!



A Prayer for Mother's Day

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



May 2025 Anniversaries

5/1	Rick & Liezl Baden	5/22	David & Angela Eustice
5/4	Mike & Stephanie Jones	5/22	Randy & Kathie Voyles
5/12	Hunter & Stacey Robinson	5/26	John & Mary Lou Tedder
5/19	Jason & Jill Brabham	5/27	Chris & Kim Gepfert

May 2025 Birthdays

5/2	Cindy Williams	5/9	Jessica Clendenin	5/17	Olivia Stuck
5/4	Joe Harper	5/10	Henry Dosen	5/21	Nancy Thompson
5/5	Joy Fletcher	5/12	Bradley Carey	5/22	Elizabeth Williams
5/5	Myran Trask	5/12	Sue Knowles	5/23	Hannah Duncan
5/6	Colter Greer	5/13	Nadia M. BouFawaz	5/23	Christopher Waldrop
5/6	Bruce Helming	5/13	Linda McGriff	5/24	James Duncan
5/6	Stephanie Jones	5/16	Stanley Bouknight	5/27	Lauren Marberry
5/7	Marilyn Bauer	5/16	Joseph Maye	5/27	Lynne Schultz
5/7	Pastor Colin	5/16	T.J. Selke Jr.	5/29	Tiffany Meetze
5/8	Dennis Dixon	5/17	Dana Magic	5/30	Gloria Meetze
5/8	Carolyn McCartha			5/30	Matt Williams



Henry Bennett holding our new crucifix



Our Easter Alter

National Day of Prayer – May 1, 2025

On May 1st, Americans observe the National Day of Prayer. Waiting on God is an important component of prayer. It's hard to understand why God delays when we cry out for help. Why does he allow us to suffer, when he could just say the word and make it all better? Why must we wait?

Consider a child whose parents always give her whatever she asks, as soon as she asks for it. That child has little opportunity to learn patience or gratitude. Because she doesn't know what it's like to not have, she cannot appreciate the true value of something.

God may have some of these things in mind when our prayers go unanswered for a time. As the psalmist exhorts, "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" (Psalm 27:14, NRSV).

From The NEWSLETTER Newsletter, May 2011



Memorial Day – May 26, 2025

Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.



Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared."

From The NEWSLETTER Newsletter, May 2009



Announcements

Women's Book Club



The Women's Book Club is studying the *Ten Commandments: Love Rules* by Christina Hergenrader. The ladies will meet on May 6th and 20th, at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. ALL women of the congregation & friends are welcome to join in the class.

June/July Newsletter Deadline May 27, 2025

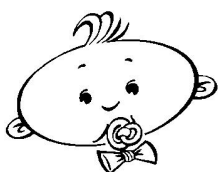
Your next deadline for submitting articles for the June/July issue of the Olive Leaves is May 27, 2025. Please send your 1/2 page, nonpolitical articles to Sue Strouse.



Secure E Giving:

E Giving is becoming a more popular way to give. 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. Once you set up your account and log in, you should see pictures of Mt. Olive above the giving labels. Choose one, including the new Organ Fund, and follow the prompts. 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

A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.

She is _____ _____ with strength and dignity;
she can _____ _____ at the days to come.

She _____ _____ with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her _____ _____.

She watches over the affairs of her _____ _____
and does not eat the _____ _____ of idleness.

Her _____ _____ arise and call her blessed;
her _____ _____ also, and he praises her:

"Many _____ _____ do noble things,
but you surpass them all." *Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV*

WORD BANK

bread, household, women, laugh,
children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue

Charm is _____ eceptive, and be _____
ty is fl _____ eting; but a woma _____
w _____ o _____ f _____ rs the Lo _____ d is to
be prais _____ d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV