



# Olive Leaves



October 2025

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## From Our Pastor

*Pastor Walt Harper*

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you  
to give a reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."  
1 Peter 3:15*

I just recently read an article in which former U.S. Secretary of Education Bill Bennett said that Charlie Kirk "may have been the last American who genuinely believed you could change someone's mind with a good argument."

His point was that most of us have become so jaded that we assume that people think what they think and will never change. If that's so, then there's nothing left to talk about, and our politics come down to a head count to determine who gets to wield power. That has lamentably produced the frustration, anger, and occasional violence we now have in our national life.



You don't have to agree with everything that Charlie Kirk said to notice that he loved a discussion, especially a discussion with people who disagreed with him. There was that ever-present smile, his amazingly broad range of knowledge, and, as Dr. Bennett points out, the boyish enthusiasm that was meant to change hearts and minds through discussion.

So, here's a funny juxtaposition: Bill Maher is a man of the Left who in many ways is much like that. Once again, any one of us will disagree with Maher about his stance on any particular issue. But his television show has that same enthusiasm for discussion, even very frank and pointed discussion, with the thought that we just somehow might arrive at the truth. To Maher's enduring credit, his show regularly has on it people with whom he disagrees, but with whom he is obviously delighted to have a vigorous exchange of ideas. It should be no surprise then that Charlie Kirk was once a guest on Bill Maher's show, and their conversation was everything you'd hoped it would be.

So, in this month in which we celebrate the Reformation of the Church, isn't this the project of the Church? We want to change hearts and minds by the discussion of, and search for, truth.

Come to think of it, Martin Luther was probably rather idealistic when he started the Reformation. There were errors in the Church that needed to be corrected; and he just pointed them out.

Frankly, St. Peter urged this on us, too. Christ has made a difference in our lives. We should speak of it.

In recent days I've heard many Christians saying that they used to feel uncomfortable talking about their faith, but watching Charlie Kirk has made them emboldened to do so. Well, good!

"Always be ready to give an answer." That's how Peter saw it. And as I've always pointed out, the verse doesn't end there. He continued: "But do this with gentleness and respect."

That's the balance we try to maintain. Not too shy to speak of Christ, but not too bold so as to become obnoxious. Able to give an answer, but always gentle and respectful. And maybe just naïve enough to think that doing so might make a difference.



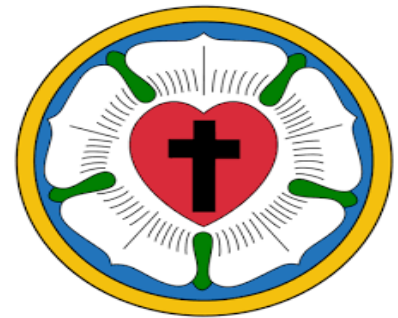
### **From Our Associate Pastor**

*Pastor Colin Ford*

## **The Reformation: The Peace of Augsburg (1555)**

Every October, we celebrate the Reformation and reflect on how God preserved His Church through trials, conflicts, and reforms. While Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses in 1517 is well known, the story of the Reformation stretches far beyond that moment. One important milestone came in, 1555, with the signing of the Peace of Augsburg.

This Peace represents a critical moment that allowed the Lutheran Church to become a recognized entity. After decades of religious conflict and calls for reform, the rulers of the Holy Roman Empire signed the treaty, granting legal recognition to Lutheranism and offering a measure of protection to its followers.





At the heart of the agreement was the principle of *Cuius Regio, Eius Religio*: "whose realm, his religion." This meant that the ruler of each territory determined whether the land would follow Roman Catholicism or Lutheranism. To modern ears, this may sound restrictive, as it did not allow individual freedom of religion as we understand it today. Yet for the Lutheran Church, it was a historic step forward. For the first time, believers were legally protected and could worship openly, though their freedom depended largely on the province in which they lived. Not a perfect solution, but one that allowed the Church to flourish, and Bibles to be printed in the common language of the people.

The Peace of Augsburg reminds us that the Church has often faced struggles in a world that resists God's truth. Yet through it all, God has preserved His people and His Gospel. Just as the Israelites were delivered from persecution and exile, God sustains His Church through every trial.



As Lutherans, we can look back with gratitude, remembering that our freedom to gather around Word and Sacrament today was not easily won. It was purchased through perseverance, faithfulness, and God’s sustaining grace. May this reminder encourage us to value our ability to gather and worship, teach, and fellowship without persecution. So let us not take for granted what was once fought for and protected, but instead use our freedom to boldly proclaim Christ, encourage one another, and live as witnesses to the hope we have in Him.

### Pastoral Acts

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Funeral Service</b>  <b>Betty Frances Weed Hunter</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 1, 1934 – Sept. 14, 2025          September 20, 2025</p>	
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### From Our President

*James Sharpe*

Fall is here—bringing warm days, cool nights, new routines, and opportunities to care for one another in faith and daily life.

While I’ll miss the long days of summer, I look forward to cooler weather and evenings by the fire. Yet, shorter days also mean more driving in the dark. Please keep your windshields clear, headlights in good condition, and watch carefully for deer, especially at dawn and dusk.

This season also brings more families outdoors—walking, enjoying festivals, and trick-or-treating. Drivers, slow down in neighborhoods, keep your lights on, and watch closely for children crossing streets. Parents, reflective clothing and flashlights can help keep little ones safe after dark.



October is National Fire Prevention Month. As we turn to heaters, fireplaces, and candles, let’s take precautions: test smoke alarms, check heating equipment, and never leave flames unattended. A few moments of care can protect lives and homes.

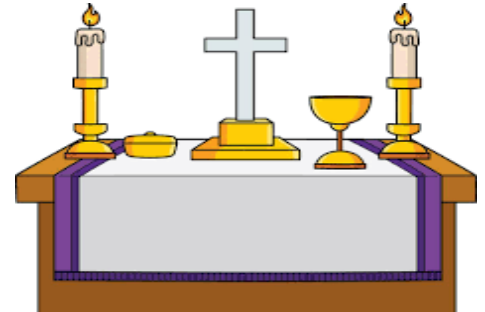
As we enjoy this season of fellowship and community, may our choices reflect Christ’s love. Let us walk wisely and look out for one another.

**Board of Worship**  
*Liz Rosinski, Chairperson*

**"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Psalm 96:9**

Mt. Olive is blessed to have a group of volunteers that serve on the Altar Guild. These men and women ensure that the vessels for Holy Communion are ready for the saints to receive Christ's true Body and Blood.

Specifically, they are responsible for preparing and maintaining the altar and sanctuary for worship, which includes changing paraments and linens to reflect the liturgical season, preparing and cleaning sacred vessels, and overseeing communion supplies. They ensure the space is dignified and reverent for weekly services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other special occasions, serving a vital role in the congregation's worship life.



The Worship Committee is seeking additional volunteers to serve on the Altar Guild. Experience is not required as training will be provided. Instead, we seek members who have a willingness to serve our Lord in this important role of the church's worship life.

To sign up, please contact Angela Eustice at 803-324-9928 or [atre1999@icloud.com](mailto:atre1999@icloud.com) or Gloria Meetze at (803)-530-7522.

**The Board of Evangelism: How to Start Gospel Conversations**

*Aresa Boykin, Chairperson*

**"And whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.'  
And if a man of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him;  
but if not, it will return to you." Luke 10:5-6**

**Mention Jesus.** There are many outgoing people. I'm outgoing and could have ten to twenty conversations a day and never mention Jesus. But I would miss out on my God-given purpose to have intentional conversations centering on Christ. We should always remember to "put in a good word for Jesus".



Plant a seed of the Good News of Jesus with someone in your existing daily spheres of influence. This might be saying something like, "God has given us a beautiful day." If this person is a person of peace, as Jesus refers to in Luke 10, and is interested in talking about God, they'll hear my faith and continue to converse about God or ask questions.

This week, put in a good word for Jesus. Mention Him. Listen actively to see if your friend, co-worker, family member, or stranger wants to continue in a conversation about Jesus. Start praying regularly for the people you will encounter this week. (From YouVersion Devotion: How to Start Gospel Conversations)

## **The Board of Public Relations**

*Shanna Stuck, Chairperson*

The bulletin board in the hallway has been updated to reflect current elders, officers, and board chairpersons. Please stop by and take a look! If you are interested in getting involved, reach out to any of the board chairpersons for information. If you need assistance with contact information, please reach out to me via email [shanna.rozier@hotmail.com](mailto:shanna.rozier@hotmail.com) or text 843-442-9734.

## **Choir Director: Do you Have Musical Talent?**

*Renee Harper, Director*



Choirs have started back! We are busy learning new music for the fall, and we will soon be looking at Christmas! We have been blessed with some wonderful musicians who are sharing their talents, and we have room for more! We can use soloists, duets, instrumentalists, bell ringers, and choir singers! Please consider lending your musical talents to the work of the church. Contact Renee Harper 203-885-6733 or [waltandrenee@att.net](mailto:waltandrenee@att.net).

## **Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards**

***"The Lord gives strength to his people;  
the Lord blesses his people with peace." Psalm 29:11***

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. Remember the 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	Phil Carter	Anita Meetze	Margaret Meetze	Polly Roland
Nadia R. BouFawaz	Cleta Dunaway	Laura Meetze	Thelma Miller	Mandy Schultz
	Harold/Sarah Jones	Laurie Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Linda Schmidt

## Board of Social Ministry: Birthright of Columbia Baby Shower

*Mary Keller, Chairperson*



In support of these vital services, the Social Ministry Board is hosting a Baby Shower for Birthright, joining forces with dedicated USC Nursing Students who have chosen to volunteer as part of their first semester curriculum. These students bring energy and compassion, organizing and hosting a large-scale baby shower to benefit expectant mothers in need of encouragement and practical assistance.

Members of our church family are invited to place donations in the designated receptacle found in the narthex from Sunday, October 12th through Sunday, November 2nd. Your generosity makes a real difference! A detailed list of requested items will be published in the weekly bulletin and made available on the table between the offices, ensuring that contributions directly address the needs of the mothers served. Birthright's mission is to extend hands and hearts to women facing pregnancy without adequate support, reminding them of their inherent worth and dignity, especially as they nurture new life. Through listening, guidance, and hands on help, Birthright stands beside expectant moms, educating and empowering them to make informed choices and providing a compassionate foundation as they embark on the journey of motherhood. Every contribution helps ensure that these mothers and their babies receive much-needed care and encouragement during this important time.

**Love & Support:** Services are always free and available to any woman regardless of age, race, circumstances, religion, marital status, or financial situation. When expectant moms are ready to talk, trained Birthright staff and volunteers are ready to listen. Their services are non-judgmental and completely confidential. **Referrals:** The center provides referrals for medical support, financial, legal and employment resources, housing, counseling, and more. They also provide information about pregnancy, parenting, adoption, child safety programs, personal development, and more. If you know of anyone who is desperate and confused, their National 24/7 Hotline Number is: 800-550-4900.

## Board of Christian Education

*Liezl Baden, Chairperson*

Sunday morning classes for Christian education are well underway. Christian Education is a very important component at Mt. Olive as it serves as a smaller setting for Bible Study, spiritual growth and fellowship. We encourage the Mt. Olive family to try and attend and/or volunteer for one of these programs each week. Volunteers for the Children Sunday School and Circle of Friends are needed. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." If you are interested in volunteering, please text Liezl Baden at 803-397-0038.



This December, Mt. Olive will host "Journey to Bethlehem." It will be a one-night event where children can learn about those who were called to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. It will be fun and exciting! I am inviting all who can to volunteer and help with the event. Look out for a volunteer list in the upcoming weeks.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, questions, or comments, please reach out to anyone on the Board of Education.



## Join a Bible Class

Autumn 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 Rick Baden	Bringing Jesus to Special Needs Children
PK3 – 4th Grade	Upstairs Classroom	Dana Magic, Brandy Maye, Amanda Dalton, Connie Cook	The Life of Jesus
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, Jenn Weed, Eric Weed	Bible Study
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Pr. Colin Ford	The Book of Romans
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

## October 2025 Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
Oct. 5	Proper 22	Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4	Psalms 62	2 Timothy 1:1–14	Luke 17:1–10
Oct. 12	Proper 23	Ruth 1:1–19a	Psalms 111	2 Timothy 2:1–13	Luke 17:11–19
Oct. 19	Proper 24	Genesis 32:22–30	Psalms 121	2 Timothy 3:14–4:5	Luke 18:1–8
Oct. 26	Reformation	Revelation 14:6–7	Psalms 46	Romans 3:19–28	John 8:31–36

## Signs at the Church Entrance

The church is well into the longest of the church seasons, The Season after Pentecost. Because this season lasts through November, there will be monthly signs based on the Gospel lessons as outlined in the Year C Lectionary.

Here is the preview of the October 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 the week's Gospel. If you follow Mt. Olive on social media (mtolivesc) you will have read weekly posts of the lectionary readings, so you can always use your smart phone to help you in your search.



## Read the Bible in Three Years – October 2025

Oct 1	Nehemiah 7	Oct 9	Amos 2	Oct 17	Nahum 1	Oct 25	Zephaniah 3
Oct 2	Nehemiah 8	Oct 10	Amos 3	Oct 18	Nahum 2	Oct 26	Haggai 1
Oct 3	Nehemiah 9	Oct 11	Amos 4	Oct 19	Nahum 3	Oct 27	Haggai 2
Oct 4	Nehemiah 10	Oct 12	Amos 5	Oct 20	Habakkuk 1	Oct 28	Ezekiel 1-2
Oct 5	Nehemiah 11	Oct 13	Amos 6	Oct 21	Habakkuk 2	Oct 29	Ezekiel 3-4
Oct 6	Nehemiah 12	Oct 14	Amos 7	Oct 22	Habakkuk 3	Oct 30	Ezekiel 5-6
Oct 7	Nehemiah 13	Oct 15	Amos 8	Oct 23	Zephaniah 1	Oct 31	Ezekiel 7-8
Oct 8	Amos 1	Oct 16	Amos 9	Oct 24	Zephaniah 2		

Through the month of October, we will finish reading Nehemiah and follow with five of the books of minor prophets. Last, we will begin reading the major prophet Ezekiel. Here is a quick overview.

Nehemiah was written to chronicle the rebuilding of the temple and the city of Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. The first four minor prophet books that we will be reading are from different times in history to warn the northern kingdom of Israel or the southern kingdom of Judah (and other surrounding countries) of God's anger toward their unfaithfulness and to repent of their sin. Neither nation repents and both are defeated and taken into captivity, Israel in the 700's BC and Judah in the 600's-500's BC. Then we fast forward to Nehemiah's time where Haggai and Ezekiel encourage those who are rebuilding Jerusalem.

During this whirlwind journey, you may want to check out the introductions to the books in your Lutheran Study Bible or listen to the overview of each book on The Bible Project website.

### October 2025 Anniversaries

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

### October 2025 Birthdays

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



## Announcements

### **Women's Book Club**

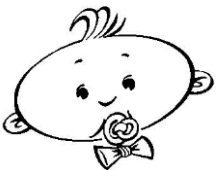
The Ladies meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. You do not have to read the book to join us. All ladies are welcome to join! The group is wrapping up its current book on the Ten Commandments in October, and will begin our new book on November 4th: *God's Provision in a Wilderness World*, by Lindsay Hausch. You can order the book from CPH.org, Amazon, or Christianbook.com. Please contact Renee Harper for more information at 203-885-6733.



### **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](http://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

## GIVE PRAISE

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

**Directions:** In each group, circle the word that doesn't belong. Then write the circled words on the lines below.

<b>1</b> Give Take Grab	<b>2</b> peanut praise pear	<b>3</b> temple house LORD	<b>4</b> proclaim past present	<b>5</b> name boy lad	<b>6</b> ruin destroy make
<b>7</b> pine acorn known	<b>8</b> train nations bus	<b>9</b> done donut muffin	<b>10</b> Sing Sleep Yawn	<b>11</b> she him girl	<b>12</b> sun praise moon
<b>13</b> tell fast slow	<b>14</b> red all blue	<b>15</b> horrible dreadful wonderful	<b>16</b> acts sisters aunts		

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_;  
 \_\_\_\_\_ among the \_\_\_\_\_ what he has \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, sing \_\_\_\_\_ to him; \_\_\_\_\_ of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_

PSALM 105:1-2, NIV