



Olive Leaves



September 2025

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From Our Pastor: Installing a Lay Deacon

Pastor Walt Harper

On September 14th, at both Sunday morning worship services, we will be installing Bob Fong as our Lay Deacon.

This is a position created by our own Southeastern District (SED) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It is designed to enhance the ministry of the local congregation.

There is a vigorous two-year program coordinated through the District's Lay Deacon Advisory Board. There are classes in Bible, and Theology, and also apologetics, demographics, and missions. The head of this program is Dr. Lannon Martin, one of our pastors in Woodbridge, VA. The District says that something like 5 to 10% of our SED congregations have engaged with this ministry.

Okay, but what does a Lay Deacon do? Very briefly, "support the work of the pastors." That of course will take different forms in different congregations.

In our case, we are blessed with Bob who has done many similar things in his former district, the California-Nevada-Hawaii District. Back then he did what might be called "island-hopping," taking a plane to LCMS congregations in Hawaii who were looking for various types of ministry coverage.

Here, Bob has gotten connected to our Seniors' Ministry, our Small Group Ministry, and he has begun some work with the Synod's ministry to service members, Operation Barnabas. This fall he has joined our Board of Elders. Other roles will come into play as we "see where there is need."

The main thing for the congregation to know is that Bob is now certified by the SED as a trained Lay Deacon. This is not the same thing as a pastor but certainly means that various types of ministry may be performed by him in our congregation.





Many of you already know Bob and his wife Carol. They have been active members of our church since moving to the area.

We pray that God would always prosper the work of every local congregation, and in this particular case we ask for His blessing on the ministry of Mt. Olive through Lay Deacon Fong.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Walt

Pastoral Acts

	Eva Mae Monts October 17, 1929 – August 18, 2025 Funeral: August 22, 2025	
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From Our President

James Sharpe, President

September 1 marks a season of change within our church leadership. We extend heartfelt thanks to those who have faithfully served on our boards and council. Your dedication has blessed our church and furthered God's work among us. We also warmly welcome new members stepping into these roles. May God guide you as you continue the mission of growing His Kingdom.

A few notes beyond the church walls:

Beginning September 1, 2025, South Carolina requires drivers to use only hands-free devices while driving—no holding phones, texting, or watching screens. For the first six months, officers will give warnings, followed by fines and points for repeated violations. Let's view this not just as a law, but as a way to protect one another and honor life.

With school back in session, traffic is heavier, and children are once again filling sidewalks, crosswalks, and buses. As drivers, let's practice extra patience and care as an act of love for our community.

May we respond to these changes with wisdom, caution, and grace, showing Christ's love in all, we do.





Mt. Olive Officers & Boards September 2025 - August 2026			
President	James Sharpe *	Council Secretary	Jill Brabham*
Vice President	John Meyerhoff *	Financial Secretary	Randy Gifford
Church Treasurer	Bill Boykin		
Elders	Education	Evangelism	Fellowship
Dennis Dixon **	Liezl Baden **	Aresa Boykin **	Rebecca Selle **
<i>Michael Dosen *</i>	Rebecca Curry	Vacancy	Jill Scuderi
<i>Robert Fong *</i>	<i>Katie Greer *</i>	Vacancy	Sandra Stocker
<i>Mike Knowles *</i>	<i>Brandy Maye *</i>		Kelly Thrun **
Doug Lacey	<i>Megan Weed *</i>	Social Ministry	
Eddie Magic		Tina Dixon	Stewardship
Hunter Robinson	Preschool	Mary Keller **	<i>Chris Bauer *</i>
Matt Williams	Amanda Dalton	Jan McCarthy	Barry Bost
	<i>Dana Magic *</i>		<i>Kevin Kibler *</i>
Public Relations	Abi Sharpe	Trustees	Worship
Linda Gifford	Myran Trask	Matthew Fletcher	<i>Karen Meetze *</i>
Shanna Stuck **(**)	Peggy Weed * (**)	Joe Harper	Neva Meyerhoff
		Bruce Helming	Liz Rosinski **
		Merle Weed *	<i>Natalie Smith *</i>
			David Setterlund

****Board Chairperson/Co-Chairperson * Newly Elected Board Member**

Board of Worship: Worship Committee

Liz Rosinski, Chairperson

**"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for His steadfast love endures forever."
Psalm 107:1**

The Worship Committee is pleased to announce that the congregation met its goal to raise \$92,000 for the new organ! We extend our gratitude and thanks to the members and friends of Mt. Olive Lutheran who supported the fund-raising campaign but also recognizing that these amazing gifts and acts of generosity come from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The committee will continue to keep the congregation informed of the progress of the instrument as it is being built in Pennsylvania and eventually shipped to the church for installation. Meanwhile, you can access the Organ donation page, <https://mtolivesc.org/new-organ-fundraising/>, for updates as they become available.



The Board of Evangelism: The Holy Spirit's Nudge

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

"The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.' Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked." Acts 8:29-30 NIV

One of the most powerful ways to share the Gospel is by responding to a prompt from the Holy Spirit. God often works through small nudges—an idea, a sense of urgency, or a gentle push to speak, act, or reach out to someone. These moments are opportunities to step into what God is already doing in someone's life.

In Acts 8:29-30, the Holy Spirit prompts Philip to approach a chariot where an Ethiopian man is reading Scripture. Philip obeys, asking a simple question: "Do you understand what you are reading?" This act of obedience leads to a conversation about Jesus and the Ethiopian's decision to be baptized. Philip's willingness to act opened the door for a life-changing encounter with Christ.

The Holy Spirit's prompts can take many forms. You might feel led to send an encouraging message, ask a friend how they're doing, or share a Scripture that's been on your heart. These actions might seem small, but they often arrive at just the right moment for the other person, demonstrating God's care and presence.

If you feel unsure or hesitant, remember that the Holy Spirit equips you for what He asks you to do. Your job is to step out in faith, trusting that God will work through your obedience. Even if you don't see immediate results, know that you are part of God's plan to sow seeds of faith.



Pray: *Holy Spirit, thank You for guiding and prompting me to share Your love with others. Help me to recognize and act on the nudges You give me, even when they seem small or uncertain. Fill me with courage, wisdom, and trust to step out in obedience. Use my actions to reveal Your presence and truth to those around me. Teach me to listen closely to Your voice and follow where You lead. Amen*

Choir Director: Do you Have Musical Talent?

Renee Harper, Director

**"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music."
Psalm 98:4**

The choir has just started rehearsing again! Please consider joining us Sundays at 5:00pm upstairs in the choir loft! The choir is open to teens as well as adults. We sing once a month at an 8:00am service and twice a month at a 10:30am service. Very rarely do we sing twice on a Sunday, usually for special Sundays like Reformation and Easter.

The handbells can use one more full-time player. We meet Sunday's at 4:00pm in the front of the church. I am also willing to teach handbells to anyone wanting to learn. We would use the four-player format with piano which makes it easier!

If you can play an instrument, please prayerfully consider lending your talents to the Glory of God in our worship services. Contact Renee Harper, 203-885-6733 waltandrene@att.net



The Board of Public Relations

Shanna Stuck, Chairperson

I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for our church and for the ability to serve as a member of the Board of Public Relations here at Mt. Olive! Our committee is responsible for creating the Olive Leaves Newsletter, updating Mt. Olive's Facebook (facebook.com/mtolivesc) page, recording the sermons, and uploading them to our YouTube channel (@MountOliveLutheranChurchSC), as well as assisting with the Church's website. Linda Gifford and Audrey Harper serve on this board and together, we are committed to serving you and the church well! Please let us know if you have any suggestions or would like to assist with any of these tasks.

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

Board of Social Ministry: Lighthouse for Life – Educational Event

Mary Keller, Chairperson



Lighthouse for Life, is a faith-based 501c3 organization that embraces the biblical core values of Faith, Integrity, Gratefulness, Humility, and Togetherness.

Their mission is to fight and eradicate human trafficking by educating our community and empowering survivors. In our efforts to bring awareness to this

sensitive issue, we are hosting an educational event, Saturday, **September 27, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.**

Our guest presenter, Sheila Foster, is a retired speech pathologist who has been affiliated with Lighthouse for Life for about 6 years. Her volunteer position is that of Community Educator, and she travels to various South Carolina towns and cities sharing valuable information on the realities of human trafficking in our state.

The training is a foundational educational experience designed to equip individuals and communities with critical awareness about the realities of human trafficking. Rooted in the mission to eradicate trafficking through education and empowerment, the training unpacks what sex trafficking is, how it operates, and who is vulnerable. It highlights the manipulation tactics traffickers use—such as force, fraud, and coercion—and breaks down the process from victim targeting to control. The course dispels harmful myths, explores the impact of pornography, sextortion, and online exploitation, and emphasizes the vital role of prevention and early identification.

Attendees are trained to recognize red flags, respond appropriately, and understand the long-term trauma survivors face. This training provides the opportunity for a call to community action through practical steps for advocacy, reporting, and survivor support. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, teacher, medical provider, or simply a concerned citizen, this training empowers you to join the fight against trafficking with knowledge, compassion, and confidence. It is through collective awareness and community engagement that we can bring about meaningful change.

'Save the Date' and plan to attend! And don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors! For planning purposes, registration is necessary. Details for registration will be published in our weekly bulletin, or you can contact the church office. Your presence and participation can make a difference in the fight against human trafficking! (A light lunch will be served.)

Board of Christian Education

Liesel Baden, Chairperson



Rally Day "Fiesta" on August 31 kicked off the 2025-2026 children, youth, and adult Sunday morning classes for Christian education. There was a potluck, games, and a pinata to celebrate this event. Sunday school / Bible study classes start up again on September 7th. We would like to thank those who have stepped up and volunteered to teach our Sunday School and Youth group this coming year. If you have any ideas, suggestions, questions or comments with our Christian Education program, please reach out to anyone in the BOE.

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	Bringing Jesus to Special Needs Children
PK3 – 4th Grade	Upstairs Classroom	Dana Magic, Brandy Maye, & Amanda Dalton	The Life of Jesus
Confirmation Class	Preschool Area	Pr. Walt Harper & Pr. Colin Ford	A two-year study of Luther's Small Catechism and the Bible
Middle & High School Youth	Wagner House	April Fancey & Jenn Weed	Bible Study
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Pr. Colin Ford	TBA
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

Mount Olive Preschool

Jamie Burns, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 – preschool@mtolivesc.org

Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool – Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool

It's ALMOST Fall, y'all!!! We're off to a great start to a new school year! I appreciate all the warm, heartfelt messages and notes welcoming me to the director position here at MOLP! Anna is a tough act to follow, but with the Lord's help, I surely intend on carrying out this ministry just as it has been done the last almost two decades! Please help me welcome the new (sort of) MOLP Board: Peggy Weed, Dana Magic, Amanda Dalton, Abigail Sharpe, and Myron Trask. They will continue to serve, and in some cases serve again, guiding us and supporting us in this important ministry. We are so thankful for their willingness to serve. We would also like to thank previous board members, Connie Cook and Mike Knowles for their hard work and dedication throughout the years.

Do you know anyone with young children that would benefit from our school? We have full enrollment in both the threes' class and the fours' class. We have a few open spots in the twos' class! They tend to fill up quickly after the school year starts, but please send any sweet families that cross your mind!

This preschool ministry continues to be an amazing mission field, fostering commitment to children and young families. We are so grateful for the ever-present prayers, words of encouragement, and support that the congregation so generously gives to this ministry. God is good!!

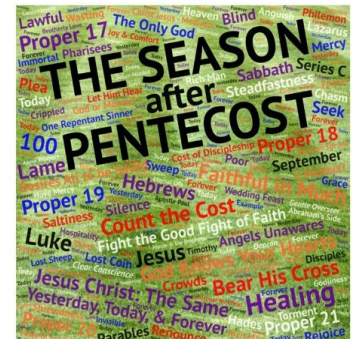
September 2025 Lectionary

Date	Festival	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Sept. 7	Proper 18	Deuteronomy 30:15–20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1–21	Luke 14:25–35
Sept. 14	Proper 19	Ezekiel 34:11–24	Psalm 119:169–176	1 Timothy 1:12–17	Luke 15:1–10
Sept. 21	Proper 20	Amos 8:4–7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1–15	Luke 16:1–15
Sept. 28	Proper 21	Amos 6:1–7	Psalm 146	1 Timothy. 6:6–19	Luke 16:19–31

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 September 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 – September 2025

September 2025							
Sep 1	II Chronicles 24	Sep 8	II Chronicles 31	Sep 16	Ezra 2	Sep 24	Ezra 10
Sep 2	II Chronicles 25	Sep 9	II Chronicles 32	Sep 17	Ezra 3	Sep 25	Nehemiah 1
Sep 3	II Chronicles 26	Sep 10	II Chronicles 33	Sep 18	Ezra 4	Sep 26	Nehemiah 2
Sep 4	II Chronicles 27	Sep 11	II Chronicles 34	Sep 19	Ezra 5	Sep 27	Nehemiah 3
Sep 5	II Chronicles 28	Sep 12	II Chronicles 35	Sep 20	Ezra 6	Sep 28	Nehemiah 4
Sep 6	II Chronicles 29	Sep 13	II Chronicles 36	Sep 21	Ezra 7	Sep 29	Nehemiah 5
Sep 7	II Chronicles 30	Sep 14	Philemon	Sep 22	Ezra 8	Sep 30	Nehemiah 6
		Sep 15	Ezra 1	Sep 23	Ezra 9		

For the first half of September, we will be completing the book of II Chronicles reliving the ups and downs of the kings of Judah ultimately ending in the Babylonian captivity for 70 years. Chapter 36 includes both the captivity and the people's return to Jerusalem. After a day in the New Testament book of Philemon, we turn back to where we left off at the end of Chronicles: the people returning to rebuild their temple and their city as told in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

September 2025 Anniversaries

9/2	Bradley & Amy Carey	9/19	Robert & Carol Fong
9/7	Rich & Sue O'Dell	9/24	Hal & Suzie Hoffman
9/9	Richard & Laura Shealy	9/26	Pete & Rita Witt
9/16	Jeff & Kelly Thrun	9/29	David & Connie Cook

September 2025 Birthdays

9/2	Joyce Lauterbach	9/11	Ivan Harper	9/18	Scott Barrett
9/3	Kathy Arnold	9/12	Doug Lacey	9/18	Abigail Ford
9/3	Rick Baden	9/13	Frank Osborne	9/18	Robert Lewis
9/3	Aiden Coutant	9/14	Kim Gepfert	9/18	Scott Randall
9/3	James Dosen	9/14	Don Meetze	9/20	Will Marberry
9/5	Veronica Kapalka	9/15	Nadia R. BouFawaz	9/21	Chris Gepfert
9/7	Laura Meetze	9/15	Gary Meetze	9/23	Daniel Powell
9/9	Shuler Houck	9/15	Neva Meyerhoff	9/24	Annette Holladay
9/9	Merle Weed Jr.	9/16	Marge Carter	9/24	Thelma Miller
9/10	David Setterlund	9/17	Millie Grace Waldrop	9/25	David Cook
		9/18	Johnny Barrett		

Announcements

Women's Book Club

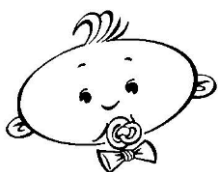


Ladies Book Club starts back September 2 at 7:00pm. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the fellowship hall. You do not have to read the book to join us. All ladies are welcome to join! We are wrapping up our book on the Ten Commandments and will be picking a new book soon. Please contact Renee Harper for more information, 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. 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

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8,
a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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<div> <div></div> <div>22 13 16 24 18</div> </div>	<div> <div></div> <div>2 1 20 7 14 7 20</div> </div>	<p>ISAIAH 40:8</p> <p>💡❤️✚🌐</p>	

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our
God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV