



Olive Leaves



November 2025

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From Our Pastor: Why So Many Old Testament Readings?

Pastor Walt Harper

If you do the "Read Through the Bible" selections printed in the bulletin (and I always encourage everyone to do so), you may have lately started to think that we're spending a lot of time in the Old Testament. Well, that's true; but for one big reason: There is more in the Old than in the New.

Breaking It Down by Books: The OT has 39 books. The NT has 27 books. The difference is even more pronounced when you do it by chapters!

Breaking It Down by Chapters: The OT has 929 chapters. The NT has 260 chapters.



Every now and again someone comes along and says, "We do not need the Old Testament; we are New Testament Christians." That view is entirely mistaken. We are certainly New Testament Christians, and at the same time we accept the entire Bible as the written Word of God.

In the second century of Church History a man came along, Marcion, who taught that we don't need the OT. He also thought we didn't need any of the Gospels except for Luke. He only accepted some of the letters of Paul, then nothing else in the rest of the NT.

Why? Because he had strange ideas about God and so he just lopped off any passages that made it hard for his "theology." To summarize, he thought that the "God" of the Old Testament was a God of wrath and punishment, and therefore a "lesser God." In his view, the God of the New Testament was a God of grace and mercy, who was revealed by Jesus Christ.

The Early Church completely rejected that teaching, labelling it heresy. This was necessary firstly because Marcion was in fact teaching unbiblical things. But it was also necessary that the Church state very clearly: we accept the Old Testament as God's inspired Word.

The Old Testament lets us know that God created all things. It tells us that our ancient ancestors Adam and Eve fell into sin, resulting in the reality we now live in. The Old Testament also promises a Savior, the first mention of this being Genesis 3:15. The Old Testament is full of a constantly growing number of prophecies about the coming Savior. In fact, we have to say that when the New Testament says that Jesus fulfills the words of the prophets, those words are found in the Old Testament!

HISTORY



The Old Testament contains a ton of history, which is great for history buffs, as many of you are. But all of that history is really there to show us how God has walked with, and protected, His people across the centuries.

The Old Testament says many things about God and humanity and the nature of the created order that today we would call worldview.

The Old Testament has a lot of poetry, and the older you get the more important it becomes to you. That poetry is sometimes beautiful praise of God; but quite often it shows the turmoil of the human heart and the doubts and questions we all have.

Obviously, all of these things come to fullness in the New Testament, where we see the Savior actually being born, then living, and ministering, then dying, then rising. Yes, we are New Testament Christians, because we live on this side of the cross and the empty tomb. But let's not forget that we understand who Jesus Christ is and what it all means on the basis of what the Old Testament establishes.

Pastoral Acts

	Funeral Service Robert Phillip Carter Jr. Feb. 10, 1953 – Sept. 26, 2025 October 26, 2025	
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	Holy Baptism Jovi Alexander Mason October 4, 2025	
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	Holy Baptism Rebecca Pleam Elam Adult Baptism October 25, 2025	
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	Holy Baptism Arlo Mattie Udogwu October 25, 2025	
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From Our President

James Sharpe

When the days grow colder, I'm reminded how much I value time spent with others. There's a special kind of warmth that comes from being with fellow Christians—a warmth that encourages us to shine the light of Jesus even brighter. We do this by sharing our time, our resources, and our gratitude for the blessing of our church family. God's goodness is all around us—in our worship, our friendships, and the ways we care for one another.

A quick reminder: our Voters Meeting will be held Sunday, November 23rd, right after the second service. If you're a registered voter, we'd love for you to join us. New voters are accepted at the beginning of the meeting, too. The meetings are a great opportunity to stay informed, be part of the conversation, and provide guidance on important matters of the church. A primary focus during this upcoming meeting will be our budget for 2026. A special thanks goes out to our finance committee including Bill Boykin, Randy Gifford, and John Meyerhoff. Please take a minute to thank these men for the hours they spent working diligently to prepare a plan for us to review.



Safety reminder: this time of year often brings an increase in email scams and phishing attempts. Be cautious when opening messages or clicking links that look unusual. When in doubt, delete it or check with someone you trust before responding. Another type of scam includes spoofing in which a scammer calls and the caller ID looks reputable but it is a scammer. I've seen situations where they have impersonated power companies and even law enforcement. If in

doubt, hang up and look up the actual number. Have a questioning attitude if something doesn't feel right.

Let's keep giving thanks, stay safe, and continue to look for ways to share God's love with others.

Board of Worship

Liz Rosinski, Chairperson

"...addressing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart." Ephesians 5:19



Late last month, we were notified that the new Allen Organ is ready to be shipped from Pennsylvania! Representatives from the company will be onsite – both in anticipation of the delivery and again when it arrives to ensure all components are complete and ready for installation. In addition, there will be a number of follow-up visits by the company representatives as the organ needs to be acclimated to our space for sound and tuning. The Board of Worship will begin to make plans for the organ's installation and dedication once it has been fully installed.

We are still seeking a few more volunteers to serve on the Altar Guild, specifically related to take down responsibilities. 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 volunteer for the Altar Guild, please contact Angela Eustice at 803-324-9928 or atre1999@icloud.com or Gloria Meetze at 803-530-7522.

The Board of Evangelism

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." 1 Corinthians 9: 22b-23

What if we try being curious instead of critical when we first ask someone about their beliefs? What if authentic curiosity about someone else's faith leads to a sincere, vulnerable conversation about life and death? What if curiosity makes someone feel genuinely loved? What if it leads them to wonder what your beliefs are? What if it gives you access to the opportunity to present this scenario: "You are offered the eternity of your dreams for free, but it comes with Jesus. Do you want to know more?"



Actually, Paul said it in a very similar way in 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23: Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

So here is the question: You are offered the opportunity to partner with God in the mission to make heaven crowded, but it comes with an attitude of genuine curiosity about people very different from you. Do you accept it?

From Emily Krill, Time of Grace

Choir Director: Do you Have Musical Talent?

Renee Harper, Director

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Well, at least the highs for this next week aren't supposed to go above 70! The choir is getting ready to start practicing Advent and Christmas Eve music. Now is the perfect time to join us! You don't need to be a professional musician, just willing to come and put some effort into learning the music. We have a good time and try to make it as easy as possible. Call or text Renee at 803-885-6733 for more information.



Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

"I will give thanks to You, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing the praises of Your name, O Most High."
Psalms 9:1



Continue to remember our homebound during the season of Thanksgiving, especially as they may be unable to attend family get-togethers. 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	David Buck	Anita Meetze	Margaret Meetze	Mandy Schultz
Chuck & Marilyn Bauer	Cleta Dunaway	Laura Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Linda Schmidt
Nadia R. BouFawaz	Harold/Sarah Jones	Thelma Miller	Polly Roland	

Board of Social Ministry: Thanks Living Is Thanksgiving!

Mary Keller, Chairperson

"But thanks be to God. He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 15:57

Thanksgiving is much more than a holiday celebrating a special day on the calendar called "Thanksgiving." It is rather another day given to us by God for us to practice "Thanks Living!"

Here are "12 Thank-Filled Signs" that reveal how we celebrate Thanksgiving every day, as we give thanks to the Holy One:

1. We give thanks to the Lord every morning as we awaken to a new day of blessings and challenges.
2. We have chronic positive expectations – the tendency to frame events in a positive light.
3. We have regular signs of joy in living.
4. We have an increased sensitivity to others' needs.
5. We have a tendency to adapt to changing conditions.
6. We look for the "good" in people rather than picking out the "bad" in people.
7. We have a compulsion to care for other people, rather than to cure them.
8. We have a tendency to identify and communicate our feelings.
9. We have repeated episodes of gratitude and generosity.
10. We have a persistent sense of humor. We are known to even laugh out loud!
11. We have a life centered in the forgiveness of Christ!
12. We daily affirm that our baptism assures us of our calling as God's sent-out people. So, let's get going as together we proclaim Christ to the least, the lost, the last and the lonely.

Happy THANKS LIVING, every day, as we "give thanks to the Lord for He is good, and His mercies endure forever!"

Prayer: Lord of Thanksgiving, thanks for filling us with your love, forgiveness, and "thanks living" so that we can continue to point others to you, the Giver of all good things! In joy and thankfulness to you, Amen! (Excerpts from Lutheran Church Charities, Rich Bimler)

Mount Olive Preschool

Jamie Burns, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 - preschool@mtolivesc.org

Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool - [Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool](https://www.facebook.com/mountolivepreschool)



Greetings from the preschool! Teachers and children alike, are working hard each day to learn and grow! The two-year-olds have been learning about creation and are crafting art projects 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. They 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, you will receive a prayer postcard with the name and picture of a preschool student in your worship guide. It displays a scripture verse and a prayer for the child on your card. Please use this card as a reminder to pray for the children who are impacted by the preschool ministry each day!

We are excited to have the opportunity to have our Thanksgiving feast for our preschool "family" on November 24th! It is a joyous time to fellowship, eat alongside our students and their families, 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."



Again, we are so grateful and thankful for the congregation's and staff's prayers and support of all things in the preschool—staff, children, their families, our space, and our mission. It truly means so much. We know how blessed we are as a team and partnership! God is good!

Board of Education

Liezl Baden, Chairperson

This December, we will celebrate a "Journey to Bethlehem." It will be one night where children can learn about those who were called to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. The children will interact with Mary and Joseph, the Three Kings, the shepherds, the Inn Keeper and many others. Registration is open at <https://vbsmate.com/events/MOLCVBS2025/31406>. As always, volunteers are needed! If able, please sign up at the display in front of the church.

Last month, the youth group volunteered at Sharing God's Love. They had a Bagging Party where they took bulk items such as flour, sugar, grits or rice and bagged them into smaller individual portions to disperse. It was a messy job, but they all had a great time! Afterwards, they spent the early afternoon together and enjoyed lunch and a movie. More fellowship and service activities are planned for December. I hope the entire youth group will be able to enjoy these activities together!

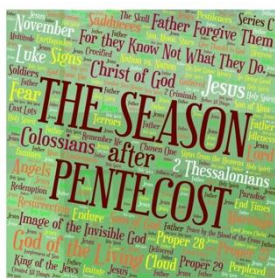
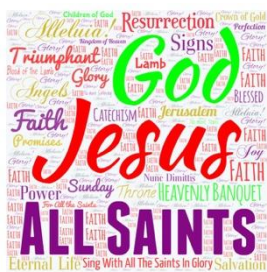
Join a Bible Class

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, Connie Cook	The Life of Jesus
Confirmation Class	Preschool Area	Pastor Walt Harper	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	Pastor Colin Ford	The Book of Romans
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

November 2025 Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
November 2	All Saints	Revelation 7:9–17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1–3	Matthew 5:1–12
November 9	Proper 27	Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 148	2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 3-17	Luke 20:27-40
November 16	Proper 28	Malachi. 4:1–6	Psalm 98	2 Thessalonians 3: 6–13	Luke 21:5–28
November 23	Proper 29	Malachi 3:13–18	Psalm 46	Colossians 1:13–20	Luke 23:27–43
November 26	TG Eve	Deuteronomy 8:1–10	Psalm 67	Philippians 4:6–20	Luke 17:11–19
November 30	Advent 1	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 21: 1-11

Signs at the Church Entrance



The church is well into the longest of the church seasons, The Season after Pentecost. Because this season usually lasts through November, there will be monthly signs based on the Gospel lessons as outlined in the Year C Lectionary. All Saints Day is the first Sunday of the month, but The Season of Advent (and Year A Lectionary) begins on the final Sunday!

Here are the previews of the November signs. 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 – November 2025

November 2025							
Nov 1	Ezekiel 9-10	Nov 8	Ezekiel 23-24	Nov 16	Ezekiel 39-40	Nov 24	Galatians 4
Nov 2	Ezekiel 11-12	Nov 9	Ezekiel 25-26	Nov 17	Ezekiel 41-42	Nov 25	Galatians 5
Nov 3	Ezekiel 13-14	Nov 10	Ezekiel 27-28	Nov 18	Ezekiel 43-44	Nov 26	Galatians 6
Nov 4	Ezekiel 15-16	Nov 11	Ezekiel 29-30	Nov 19	Ezekiel 45-46	Nov 27	Colossians 1
Nov 5	Ezekiel 17-18	Nov 12	Ezekiel 31-32	Nov 20	Ezekiel 47-48	Nov 28	Colossians 2
Nov 6	Ezekiel 19-20	Nov 13	Ezekiel 33-34	Nov 21	Galatians 1	Nov 29	Colossians 3
Nov 7	Ezekiel 21-22	Nov 14	Ezekiel 35-36	Nov 22	Galatians 2	Nov 30	Colossians 4
		Nov 15	Ezekiel 37-38	Nov 23	Galatians 3		

Super news! If you began Pr. Walt's 3-year Bible reading plan that he gave us shortly after he arrived, by the end of November, you will have read the entire Bible TWICE! Congratulations!

Here are the books that we have left: First, we must finish the Old Testament prophet, Ezekiel. Then we move on to two of St. Paul's epistles to the Galatians and Colossians. Remember, 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. Also, you can go to the YouVersion or Bible Gateway sites to find daily reading plans with devotions that accompany these books.

Enjoy your home stretch of this great accomplishment!

November 2025 Anniversaries

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

November 2025 Birthdays

11/1	Bill Vogel	11/13	Miranda Cook	11/19	Paula Meetze
11/2	Chris Bauer	11/13	Jim Harper	11/19	Thomas Meetze
11/3	Connie Cook	11/15	Will Gepfert	11/19	Gerry Selle
11/4	Cameron Dalton	11/16	Linda Selle	11/20	David Meetze
11/7	Christian Baden	11/17	Kathie Voyles	11/22	John Carlson
11/7	Al Jabs	11/18	Calma Cook	11/23	Luanne Curry
11/7	Linda Schmidt	11/18	Tammy Crider	11/24	Kaley Laprise
11/11	Raymond Kapalka	11/18	Emily Ranta	11/24	Cyndi Nelson
11/12	Addilyn Meetze	11/18	Jacob Setterlund	11/27	Kathryn Meetze
11/12	Anita Meetze	11/18	Robert Weinberger	11/29	Katie Matzko
		11/19	Mike Knowles		

Announcements

Young Adults Luncheon



There will be a luncheon for the young adults (married or single, 18-40) following the late service on November 16th in the fellowship hall. The main dish and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will start planning our calendar of events for 2026 during lunch. Contact Renee Harper with any questions at 203-885-6733.

Women's Book Club

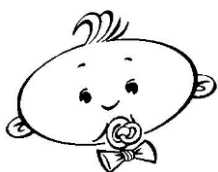
The ladies meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. You do not have to read the book to join us. All ladies are welcome to join! We will begin our new book on November 4th: *God's Provision in a Wilderness World*, by Lindsay Hausch. You can order the book from CPH.org, 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. 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.

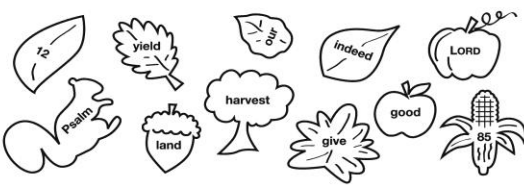


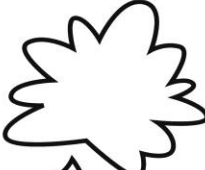
PUZZLE

HARVEST OF GOODNESS

God always provides, no matter the season.

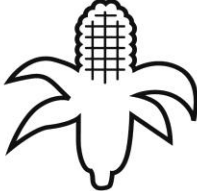
Directions: Match the shapes in order to write the words in the correct places below.

“The  will  

what is , and 

 will  its .”

  : , NIV

Answer: “The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.” Psalm 85:12, NIV