



# Olive Leaves



*June/July 2026*

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## From Our Pastor: Mission Statement

*Pastor Walt Harper*

We've adopted a Mission Statement.

***"Still teaching the unchangeable Word of Christ."***

Looking back at my newsletter articles this year I see that I wrote about the movement toward a new Mission Statement in both March and May of this year. I'm happy to say that at our Voters Meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> we adopted the proposed Mission Statement, which you can see printed above.

As mentioned before: we're all very busy and have a hundred things dragging our attention toward them. It's sometimes a real challenge to remember "What are we up to as a local parish?"

A Mission Statement can answer that question. It should be short, so that it can be memorized. It should say something worth saying, otherwise why say it? It should have an outward focus, so that a visitor can see what our congregation is about. And it should have an inward focus, so that we literally remind ourselves where we've put down our stake.

Being short, every word of this Mission Statement has been discussed, and reviewed, and considered. Several changes were made over its development. The Board of Elders has been talking about it for two years. The Church Council has been talking about it for around one year. And a three-month long Sunday morning Bible Class talked about it in great detail every Sunday for three months. I'm very happy with the result.

So you'll now see this on the letterhead. You'll see it in "The Olive Leaves" in the weekly bulletin. And hopefully it will enter our awareness about who we are here at Mt. Olive.

The point of the Mission Statement is not to be cranky, of course. But there is a very real awareness among us that many things in our culture are changing, and that many of those changes have been contrary to God's will and plans for how we should live in this world.

In the face of rapid cultural changes there will always be churches who dive right in and say, "Us too!". They embrace what's going on, maybe because they already agree with those things; maybe sometimes because they want to "fit in" with their own time and place. Presumably this is done to make the church more palatable. Surprisingly (or maybe not so surprisingly) such churches are in rapid decline.



For churches that don't go in that direction there's always a need to remain rooted in the clear teaching of Scripture. It really does become our own "here I stand" moment. As Lutherans that should come naturally enough for us.

One is also reminded of what are now called "The Irish Monks." Look these fellows up. In the wake of the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, they preserved learning and scholarship, especially in the fields of the biblical languages and philosophy, whether it was popular or not. Their work was difficult, but they're retrospectively acknowledged as having done great things for the preservation of western society.



As mentioned, there's no need to be cranky, ornery, or irritable about any of that. But there is a need to be very clear: We teach what God has given us.

What has He given us? A Word that is both Law and Gospel; texts about His holy standards, and texts about a Savior who redeems the lost.

Given all the challenges of our era, I think that our Mission Statement reminds us of who we are as Confessional Lutheran Christians, part of Historic Biblical Christianity, and inheritors of the Reformation that Martin Luther started centuries ago.

The challenges of every era are unique. What's not unique is the constant pressure for the church to conform to the world around it. Because of that, the particulars always change; but the call to be faithful remains.

### Pastoral Acts

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p><b>Funeral Service</b><br/><b>LaVelle Little Walker</b></p> <p>Oct. 25, 1937 – Apr. 28, 2026<br/>May 2, 2025</p> |  |
|--|---|--|

### From Our President

*James Sharpe*

Boy, May was a busy month. As we step into June, our routines are shifting into summer mode. While the pace of the season might slow down, we are staying busy.

We have a lot of exciting momentum to celebrate following our recent voters meeting. First, a sincere thank you to our nominating committee for their hard work, and to everyone who has volunteered to step up and serve on our church boards. Our ballot was officially approved. We also approved our new mission statement: "Still teaching the unchangeable Word of Christ." Finally, approval was given to move forward with replacing the flooring throughout our church. I am looking forward to seeing these updates take shape and keeping our church home beautiful.



With everything happening, we are also looking for volunteers to help make our upcoming Vacation Bible School a success! Whether you can help with crafts, recreation, snacks, or leading a group, your time makes a huge difference for our children. Be on the lookout for signups in the narthex.

A Note on Summer Safety: With the arrival of June heat and summer travels, let's look out for one another. If you are serving, working outdoors, or tackling home improvement projects, please stay hydrated and take regular breaks. For those heading out on family vacations, we pray for safe travel on the roads.

Even if you are away for a Sunday or two, you remain an important part of our community. Let's keep each other in our prayers and look for daily opportunities to show neighborly love and care for our community.

## Board of Worship

*Liz Rosinski, Chairperson*

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10*

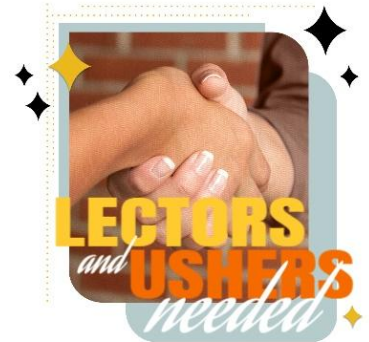
As many of you know, we rely on a steady stream of volunteers to assist in the ministry of Mt. Olive. Among those volunteers are members who serve as lectors and ushers during our liturgies. These important roles help support and enhance our worship services, and we are grateful for those who generously give their time to serve.

The Worship Board is planning training sessions in August for all current lectors and ushers. These brief sessions, expected to be held before, after, or between liturgies, will provide guidance and review the expectations that come with these positions.

The sessions will also offer an opportunity for anyone interested in serving to learn more about these ministries and consider sharing their talents with the congregation. Additional information will be shared later this summer regarding dates and times.

All current volunteers will be asked to attend one of the available sessions, and anyone interested in learning more is warmly encouraged to participate.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Rosinski at 803-413-3364 or [lizrosinski@me.com](mailto:lizrosinski@me.com).



## The Board of Evangelism

*Aresa Boykin, Chairperson*

*"For it is not you who are speaking, but it is the Spirit of your Father who is speaking in you." Matthew 10:20*

**The Holy Spirit in you empowers you.** God Himself, the Holy Spirit lives inside of you! Meditate on this. His will is for people to be saved. He speaks for you when you are sharing the Good News with someone. In fact, God's Spirit will prompt you to meet people when you are out and about. It does not matter if you are in a store, at a coffee shop, or anywhere.



You may not know what you are going to say when He prompts you to meet someone. But if you are obedient to the Spirit's promptings, He is faithful! God will speak through you. You will be able to listen to the other person, and the Holy Spirit will remind you of something that Jesus said and you will be able to offer encouragement.

This summer, ask God to make you sensitive to His nudges to meet someone and start a conversation about Jesus. Obey the Holy Spirit's promptings in your life. He will empower you.

**Taken from: "How to Start Gospel Conversations from Mobilize Ministries," A YouVersion Plan**

## Young Adults

*Renee Harper*

The Young Adults are planning a trip to Segra Park to see the Fireflies on June 9th! It's \$2.00 hotdog night (as well as \$2.00 Miller Lite, popcorn, or soft drinks).

### Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

*"Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."  
Ephesians 6:18b*

Summer is here and with it comes the famously hot South Carolina temperatures! For our members who are confined at home or at a facility, or cannot drive, they continue to remain isolated from their Christian community. Let's continue our ministry to these lovely people by lifting them up to God in prayer. And please send cards, visit, 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           | David Buck         | Anita Meetze  | Margaret Meetze | Mandy Schultz |
| Chuck/Marilyn Bauer | Cleta Dunaway      | Laura Meetze  | Cyndi Nelson    | Linda Schmidt |
|                     | Harold/Sarah Jones | Thelma Miller | Polly Roland    |               |

### Board of Social Ministry: Women's Tea/Brunch – Save the Date

*Mary Keller, Chairperson*

*"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"  
(2 Corinthians 9:15)*



We are excited to announce our very first Women's Tea/Brunch! All women are invited to join us for a special time of fellowship and learning on **Saturday, June 13, from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

We're honored to welcome **Lieutenant Andrea Grinstead** and **Seargent Kelly Mountzouros** with the **Town of Irmo Police Department** who will share an informative presentation focused on several topics of vulnerability and how to foster awareness among women in today's evolving society. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, grow, and support one another!

As part of our Lutheran tradition of hospitality and fellowship, each woman is invited to **bring a dish to share**. To help us prepare, **please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board near the church office if you plan to attend**. And as always, feel free to invite a friend or neighbor to join us for this meaningful time together. We hope you will mark your calendar and be part of this special day!

## Mount Olive Preschool

*Jamie Burns, Preschool Director*

803-781-7180 - [preschool@mtolivesc.org](mailto:preschool@mtolivesc.org)

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

The Preschool team is so, so thankful to have completed the 2025-2026 school year having served 31 students and their families. The Lord has continued to pour out His many blessings allowing us to finish the year strong with our hearts overflowing with the joy that comes from another year of learning and building relationships. We are so incredibly grateful for the many special events, new faces that are now part of the MOLP family, and the everyday wonder of all that happens at the preschool. While it may sometimes seem like ABCs, crafts, and playground fun, the work that is being done through this ministry is invaluable to these children and their families.

Even though the preschool area is quiet this time of year, please continue to pray for the school year ahead as we are busy preparing and planning for the ways in which the Lord would have us 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."



We currently have openings in our 2's and limited openings in the 3's classes for next year, so if you know someone who is looking for a Christ-centered preschool for their little one, please send them our way!

Calling all rising kindergarteners! If you know of a rising kindergartener (even if they didn't attend MOLP), we will have our Kindergarten Kamp on August 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Information about the camp and registration forms will be available on the preschool website in the coming weeks!

Thank you for your unwavering kindness and I am especially thankful for your trust in me as I entered the preschool director position, leading this most precious ministry. Have a wonderful summer!



## The Board of Public Relations: 2026 Pictorial Directories

*Shanna Stuck, Chairperson*

By now, most of you have received your 2026 Pictorial Directory updated pages. Our board would first like to thank all who were involved in the process of making this update possible!

Please remember that Mt. Olive's directory is not only for the members, but for everyone who worships with us! And it is such a great tool for matching the names and faces of people you see every week. Contact information is included along with a section about our church leaders and a compiled history of the church. **If you are new and would like your own copy, please contact the team at the directory table.** There are plenty of extras for everyone!



If you would like to be included in future directories, please email a photo and your contact information to Mary Keller at [lcms@mtolivesc.org](mailto:lcms@mtolivesc.org). In addition, you can let Mary know that you would like to be included in church emails.

There is a secure directory on Mt. Olive's website that is managed by Audrey Harper and updated as changes come in. If you would like access to these secure members pages, please register at [www.mtolivesc.org](http://www.mtolivesc.org), Member's tab. You will be notified of your approval in 2-3 days.

## Choir Director

*Renee Harper*

*“Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre.” Psalm 150:3*

The choirs are taking the summer off from formal practices and will start up again in late August or early September. Please consider joining us! The more the merrier!

During the summer there are plenty of opportunities to contribute to the special music of the church. If you play an instrument, or would like to sing (solo, duet, small group), please let Renee know and we will work you in!

Beginning June 7th, immediately after the 8:00 am service (9:05 or so), Renee will be teaching very basic beginner music to anyone 10 years old and older who would like to learn or have a refresher! We will be using the hand chimes and hope to have a basic song to play later this summer. This will continue throughout the summer, so if you can't join us the first week or every week, that's okay, just show up when you can.

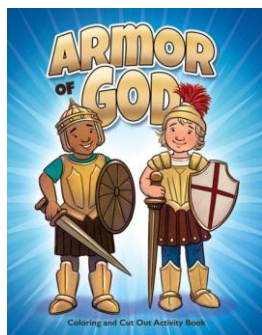


**Handchimes**

Please contact Renee Harper, 203-885-6733 or [waltandrenee@att.net](mailto:waltandrenee@att.net) for more information.

## Board of Education

*Liezl Baden, Chairperson*



This summer was kicked off with an “End of School Pool Party” hosted by Eric and Megan Weed. We hope that many of our church families were able to attend. The Youth Group had their annual trip to Carowinds. Eight teens that included three of our High School Graduates were able to celebrate one last big trip together.

Sunday School will continue through the summer. However, the Youth Group will be taking a break. There will be no Youth Group class in June, July, or August. All classes will resume after Rally Day in August.

Armor of God Boot Camp (*Ephesians 6:10-18*) Summer VBS will be July 13-17 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Children ages 2-11 (Mt. Olive members, pre-school, and friends and family) are invited. Families can register their children in <https://vbsmate.com/events/MOLCVBS2025/32018>. With all great events, volunteers are needed. Please donate your time and talents this summer and sign up to help at VBS. A volunteer sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Did someone say raffle time????!! The Youth Group will be fundraising this month with two delightful baskets. Celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country with a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic themed basket. OR enjoy the summer with an Ice Cream and Treat themed basket that includes a \$15 gift card to Handel’s Ice Cream Shoppe. Proceeds go toward the future funds for the LCMS National Youth Gathering.

## June & July 2026 Lectionary

| Date    | Festival  | First Reading     | Psalm                 | Epistle         | Gospel                   |
|---------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| June 7  | Proper 5  | Hosea 5:15-6:6    | Psalm 119:65-72       | Romans 4:13-25  | Matthew 9:9-13           |
| June 14 | Proper 6  | Exodus 19:2-8     | Psalm 100             | Romans 5:6-15   | Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-20) |
| June 21 | Proper 7  | Jeremiah 20:7-13  | Psalm 91:1-10 (11-16) | Romans 6:12-23  | Matthew 10:5a, 21-33     |
| June 28 | Proper 8  | Jeremiah 28:5-9   | Psalm 119:153-160     | Romans 7:1-13   | Matthew 10:34- 42        |
| July 5  | Proper 9  | Zechariah 9:9-12  | Psalm 145:1-14        | Romans 7:14-25a | Matthew 11:25- 30        |
| July 12 | Proper 10 | Isaiah 55:10-13   | Psalm 65:(1-8) 9-13   | Romans 8:12-17  | Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23    |
| July 19 | Proper 11 | Isaiah 44:6-8     | Psalm 119:57-64       | Romans 8:18-27  | Matthew 13:24- 30, 36-43 |
| July 26 | Proper 12 | Deuteronomy 7:6-9 | Psalm 125             | Romans 8:28-39  | Matthew 13:44- 52        |

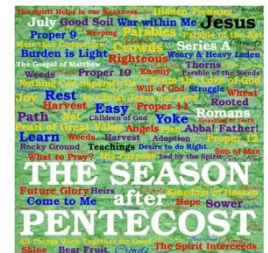
## Join a Bible Class

| Summer 2026 Sunday School & Bible Classes – 9:15 AM          |                    |   |  |
|--|--------------------|---|--|
| Infants – age 2  | Nursery            | Parents may stay with their infants & toddlers in the nursery.<br>Please listen to the worship service through the speaker.<br>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   | Bible Lessons from the Old Testament     |
| Confirmation Class   | Preschool Area     | Summer break  | Attend the Adult Class                   |
| Middle & High School Youth                                   | Wagner House       | Summer break  | Attend the Adult Class                   |
| Adults   | Fellowship Hall    | Pastor Walt   | TBA                                      |
| Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator. |                    |   |  |

### Signs at the Church Entrance: The Season after Pentecost



June is here and with it, the longest church season, the Season after Pentecost begins. During this season the weekly Gospel scriptures will focus on the life and ministry of Jesus. From June to November, there will be monthly signs that have key themes and words from the Gospel. Why not walk up the ramp and study the sign as you prepare for worship.



### June & July 2026 Anniversaries

|      |                            |      |                                   |
|------|----------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|
| 6/1  | Herbie & Karen Meetze      | 6/18 | Al & Janet Jabs                   |
| 6/3  | Bill & Aresa Boykin        | 6/20 | John & Adeline (Fletcher) Carlson |
| 6/3  | Eric & Katie Matzko        | 6/24 | Travis & Amanda Dalton            |
| 6/4  | Walter & Kathy Arnold      | 6/28 | Joel & April Fancey               |
| 6/5  | Wayne & Kathryn Cheney     | 6/30 | Frank & Sandy Osborne             |
| 6/7  | Raymond & Veronica Kapalka | 7/1  | Eric & Megan Weed                 |
| 6/10 | Greg & Sherry Ervin        | 7/3  | Kim & Dianne BouFawaz             |
| 6/10 | Jackson & Noelle Nettles   | 7/18 | Matt & Cindy Williams             |
| 6/13 | Barry & Kathie Bost        | 7/19 | Melvin & Judy Jones               |
| 6/15 | Mitch & Katie Greer        | 7/26 | Stephen & Luanne Curry            |
| 6/17 | Norma & Kas Hessary        | 7/31 | Paul & Rebecca Selle              |

## June & July 2026 Birthdays

|      |                    |      |                   |      |                  |
|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|------|------------------|
| 6/1  | Kara Meetze        | 6/23 | Adam Randall      | 7/9  | Tim Stuck        |
| 6/2  | Judy Jones         | 6/23 | Hank Weed         | 7/12 | Odell Stuck      |
| 6/4  | Gwen Draffin       | 6/24 | Duck Kinard       | 7/15 | Zay Weed         |
| 6/5  | Bill Boykin        | 6/24 | Genevieve Maye    | 7/16 | Herbie Meetze    |
| 6/5  | Zachary Laprise    | 6/24 | Arlo Udogwu       | 7/17 | Renee Harper     |
| 6/7  | Kevin Kibler       | 6/25 | Mandy Kibler      | 7/19 | Michael Whitaker |
| 6/8  | Harold Meetze Sr.  | 6/25 | Jan McCarthy      | 7/20 | John Perkins     |
| 6/9  | Matthew Hennighan  | 6/27 | Naven Olson       | 7/20 | Connor Robinson  |
| 6/12 | Matthew Fletcher   | 6/28 | Jill Brabham      | 7/21 | Haley Weed       |
| 6/12 | David Stepanovic   | 6/29 | Nate Marberry     | 7/22 | George Walker    |
| 6/16 | Carroll Barrett    | 6/30 | Kelly Thrun       | 7/24 | Todd Selke       |
| 6/16 | Birdie Brabham     | 7/1  | Patricia Eiserman | 7/25 | Al Holladay      |
| 6/17 | Richard Chesley    | 7/1  | David Eustice     | 7/25 | Sue O'Dell       |
| 6/18 | Jill Scuderi       | 7/1  | Melvin Jones      | 7/28 | Amy Carey        |
| 6/19 | Walt Brabham       | 7/2  | Jo Ann Barrett    | 7/29 | James Sharpe     |
| 6/19 | William Setterlund | 7/2  | Kinsley Kearse    | 7/30 | Brandy Maye      |
| 6/21 | Gannon Coutant     | 7/4  | Harold Jones      | 7/31 | Pam Northen      |
| 6/22 | Jovi Mason         | 7/6  | Cairo Nalls       | 7/31 | Gabriel Sharpe   |
|      |                    | 7/9  | Mickey Dosen      |      |                  |

## Read the Bible in Three Years

| June 2026 |         |        |          |        |          |        |          |
|-----------|---------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| Jun 1     | Psalm 2 | Jun 8  | Psalm 9  | Jun 16 | Psalm 17 | Jun 24 | Psalm 25 |
| Jun 2     | Psalm 3 | Jun 9  | Psalm 10 | Jun 17 | Psalm 18 | Jun 25 | Psalm 26 |
| Jun 3     | Psalm 4 | Jun 10 | Psalm 11 | Jun 18 | Psalm 19 | Jun 26 | Psalm 27 |
| Jun 4     | Psalm 5 | Jun 11 | Psalm 12 | Jun 19 | Psalm 20 | Jun 27 | Psalm 28 |
| Jun 5     | Psalm 6 | Jun 12 | Psalm 13 | Jun 20 | Psalm 21 | Jun 28 | Psalm 29 |
| Jun 6     | Psalm 7 | Jun 13 | Psalm 14 | Jun 21 | Psalm 22 | Jun 29 | Psalm 30 |
| Jun 7     | Psalm 8 | Jun 14 | Psalm 15 | Jun 22 | Psalm 23 | Jun 30 | Psalm 31 |
|           |         | Jun 15 | Psalm 16 | Jun 23 | Psalm 24 |        |          |

| July 2026 |          |        |          |        |            |        |             |
|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|------------|--------|-------------|
| Jul 1     | Psalm 32 | Jul 9  | Psalm 40 | Jul 17 | Psalm 48   | Jul 25 | Proverbs 6  |
| Jul 2     | Psalm 33 | Jul 10 | Psalm 41 | Jul 18 | Psalm 49   | Jul 26 | Proverbs 7  |
| Jul 3     | Psalm 34 | Jul 11 | Psalm 42 | Jul 19 | Psalm 50   | Jul 27 | Proverbs 8  |
| Jul 4     | Psalm 35 | Jul 12 | Psalm 43 | Jul 20 | Proverbs 1 | Jul 28 | Proverbs 9  |
| Jul 5     | Psalm 36 | Jul 13 | Psalm 44 | Jul 21 | Proverbs 2 | Jul 29 | Proverbs 10 |
| Jul 6     | Psalm 37 | Jul 14 | Psalm 45 | Jul 22 | Proverbs 3 | Jul 30 | Proverbs 11 |
| Jul 7     | Psalm 38 | Jul 15 | Psalm 46 | Jul 23 | Proverbs 4 | Jul 31 | Proverbs 12 |
| Jul 8     | Psalm 39 | Jul 16 | Psalm 47 | Jul 24 | Proverbs 5 |        |             |

The church is in the middle of Lectionary Year A, which means we will be reading through the first 50 Psalms. That takes from May 31st until July 19th. After that, we will be reading through Proverbs where we will be reminded that we should use Godly wisdom in all we do.

## Announcements

### Women's Book Club

The Book Club is taking the summer off from our evening meetings; however, we will be occasionally getting together for luncheons! Please join us if you are able. The first will be June 4 at 1:00 pm at Chapala's, 7001 St. Andrews Road. Please let Renee (203-885-6733) or Aresa (803-260-7198) know if you would like to attend so that we can make a reservation.



### Secure E Giving



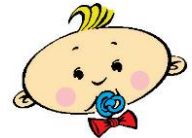
E Giving is becoming a more popular way to give. If you would like to set up a new account, the link is on the home page of our church website, [mtolivesc.org](http://mtolivesc.org), or scan the QR code. You may give through your checking account or by credit card.



Once you set up your account and log in, you should see pictures of Mt. Olive above the giving labels. Choose one and follow the prompts. Even though it looks like our website, our e-giving is powered by VANCO, a secure company that follows strict guidelines and policies that we must adhere to. Mt. Olive will have no record of 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.





# Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

*Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.*

- party - t = p r a y (v. 1)  
 lady + i = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 3)  
 drab + e = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 5)  
 rod + o = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 7)  
 bask - b = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)  
 keeps - p = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)  
 define - ee = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)  
 shift - t = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 11)  
 sneaky - y = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 11)  
 sift + g = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13)

Answer: pray, daily, bread, door, ask, seek, find, fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit