



Olive Leaves

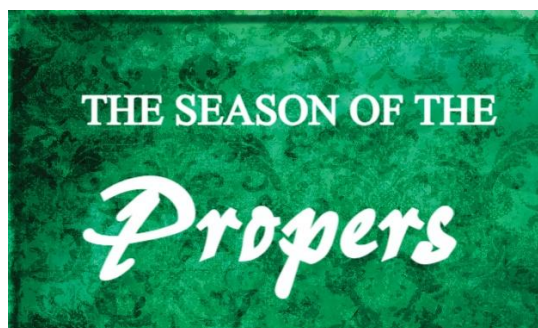


August 2026

Table of Contents				
From Pastor Walt Page 1	Board of Worship Page 4	Choir Director Page 6	Read the Bible in Three Years Page 7	Announcements Page 9
From Our President Page 3	Thoughts, Prayers, Calls Page 5	Mt. Olive Preschool Page 6	August Anniversaries Page 8	Kids Korner Page 10
Board of Evangelism Page 3	Board of Public Relations Page 5	August Lectionary Page 7	August Birthdays Page 8	August Calendar Page 11
Board of Social Ministry Page 4	Board of Education Page 5	Join a Bible Class Page 7	Signs of the Season Page 8	

From Our Pastor The Season of the Propers: What Does This Mean?

Pastor Walt Harper



So we've now entered the "Season of the Propers." The Sundays of August are Proper 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. Many people will remember the older system of "Sundays after Pentecost." And if you're a little bit older than that, you'll remember the "Sundays after Trinity."

All of these seasons point to the same part of the Church Year, the "second half," or the "Season of the Church," as it is sometimes called.

Of course, the "first half" is very much focused on the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Advent: Jesus is coming
- Christmas: Jesus is born
- Epiphany: Jesus is the Christ
- Lent: Jesus suffers
- Easter: Jesus is risen

Having moved through those themes, the Church then recalls the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, the sending of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Church. For many years this long second half of the year was referenced by the number of Sundays after Trinity, since Trinity Sunday was the last Sunday before the "Season of the Church." But then a discussion got going about how the Church really came into being at Pentecost; and so it was switched to the number of Sundays following Pentecost.

Sundays after Trinity was the system in "The Lutheran Hymnal" of 1941. Sundays after Pentecost was the system in "Lutheran Worship" of 1982. Because Easter moves around, one of the oddities of both of those systems was that any given Sunday, say "the 12th Sunday after Pentecost" would also move around. Sometimes by quite a lot.

So, with our most recent hymnal it was decided to tie all of these Sundays to the regular calendar. If you look in LSB (of 2006) you'll see that Proper 12 will always happen sometime between July 24 and July 30. This keeps any particular Sunday at the same time of year, even with Easter moving around. The last one is always Proper 29; it follows Thanksgiving and precedes the following year's Advent 1.

Because the year always ends in the same place, flexibility happens at the front end of the Season; it can start at Proper 3 or 4 or 5, or other numbers, depending on whether Easter was early or late.

But why the name "Proper"? Because it's being said that here are the readings and prayers "proper to this date."

This year we started at Proper 5, on June 7. And then it's pretty much numbers in sequence (6,7,8,9, etc.) up to 29. The two exceptions here at Mt. Olive are that we celebrate Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday of October, and All Saints Sunday on the first Sunday in November.

None of this is commanded in Scripture. It's just a system that creates a way of moving through the year, with three readings designed to cover the major points of Biblical Christianity.

All Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter; most celebrate Pentecost. So everyone already has a "Church Calendar." The Liturgical Churches have just expanded this into a system of readings and prayers for every Sunday of the year. This creates a structure, some would say a discipline, to our worship life.

As I'm sure you've noticed, life is full of the dates of the calendar. Every year has our birthday, and the 4th of July, and Christmas and Easter, and plenty of other observances. So every year there's a repetition; and yet every year there are also differences. All that's to the good, especially if it reminds us of God's constant work in our lives, the seasons that we all experience, and the Word that continues to speak.

Pastoral Acts

	Kathleen 'Kathie' Bost Feb. 13, 1948 – June 7, 2026 Funeral: June 12, 2026	
---	--	---

	Patricia Eiserman July 1, 1939 – June 24, 2026 Funeral: July 25, 2026	
---	---	---

	Adult Baptism Kristopher Reardon Autry July 18, 2026	
---	--	---

From Our President

James Sharpe

As summer winds down and we look toward the start of a new season, I want to express my deep gratitude for the incredible effort our church family has put into our ongoing painting and flooring updates.

Thank you
VOLUNTEERS!

Transforming our space throughout the building has taken an immense amount of work both behind the scenes and on the ground. Thank you to everyone who put in the initial legwork evaluating flooring options and securing bids, those who packed boxes, handled paint touch-ups, and were boots on the ground during the process interacting with the contractors. A very special thank you as well to Pastor Walt and Mary for graciously working through the disruption of being displaced from their offices during the project. Every bit of care and flexibility you've shown has made a visible difference in our church home.

As we put the final finishing touches on these spaces, please continue to keep safety top of mind around any active work areas. Looking ahead, we also warmly welcome our incoming board members, whose terms will officially begin on September 1. Thank you all for your ongoing dedication and service.

The Board of Evangelism: Excuses

Aresa Boykin, Chairperson

"So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord." Acts 9:28

"But Lord!"

I've grown really good at something: **giving God my excuses.** When He challenges me to take another step of faith, my excuse instincts kick in. *"But Lord, I'm not qualified, good enough, or smart enough. I'm an introvert. I don't speak well. I'm busy!"* It is like I am accusing God of a lack of strategy, foresight, or even intelligence. It's as if I, the clay pot, am telling God, the potter, how to make pottery.

Someone once said, *"When God called us to be His ambassadors, He already factored in our stupidity!"* Yes, God loves to use us broken people to demonstrate His glory!

For example, one day Ananias, described simply as "a believer," was told by God to go pray for Saul of Tarsus, the man who loved to persecute Christians. This would be like you being told by God to go share your faith with the head of ISIS or Hamas. The Bible gives us no list of spiritual credits or accomplishments for Ananias. He was just "a believer." Here's how he responded: *"But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name." Acts 9:13-14.*



Do we actually think God is going to change His mind when we remind Him of our excuses? Rather, we should be flattered that God sees strength in us that we don't. Here's God's response: *"But the Lord said, 'Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel.' ... Then he got up and was baptized. ... And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is indeed the Son of God!'" Acts 9:15, 20.*

God did not discuss Ananias' excuses, fears, or lack of qualifications. He explained His purpose and told him to go. And because Ananias obeyed, we get to read about the incredible results. God moved Ananias from **excuses to evangelism.** From the ordinary to the supernatural. From his own strength to God's strength. And so it is with us. We cannot do evangelism in our own strength. We need His Spirit to fill us with boldness, compassion, and wisdom. (from YouVersion, *One Minute Witness*)

Board of Social Ministry: Lighthouse for Life

Mary Keller, Chairperson

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



Join us for an unforgettable evening at 'Fund the Fight' as we open the doors to what hope truly looks like in action. Listen to inspiring survivor stories focusing on healing, restoration, and fighting human trafficking. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants, bid on unique items from local artisans, and take a moment to write an encouraging note to survivors and drop it off in our mailbox. There will be a powerful program featuring a live drama, stories of impact, and a look at how we are actively addressing the issue of human trafficking. The night will be a time of connection and community with reminders that hope is real, present, and personal.

Date & Time: Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 6:30 PM – 8:45 PM

Location: Riverland Hills Baptist Church, 201 Lake Murray Blvd, Irmo, SC 29063

Admission: Free (Registration via [Lighthouse for Life Events](#) required)

More details and a link to register to attend the event will be published in the weekly bulletin in late August when we're closer to the event time.

As I step away from the role as chairperson of the Social Ministry Board, my heart is filled with gratitude. Serving in this ministry has been both an honor and a blessing, and I am thankful for the opportunity to walk alongside so many faithful servants committed to caring for others. Thank you for trusting me, supporting me, and walking this journey with me. Blessings, Mary

Board of Worship

Liz Rosinski, Chairperson

*"Let the wise listen and add to their learning and
let the discerning get guidance." Proverbs 1:5*



The Worship Committee has spent the summer updating Mt. Olive's training guide, "**Serving In Worship**," which was last published in 2011. Once the document is finalized, the Worship Committee will hold a series of brief training sessions to review guidelines and expectations for those serving as lectors, ushers, acolytes and crucifers. To make these sessions accessible to everyone, they will be offered at several times:

- Saturday prior to worship
- Between the Sunday liturgies
- After late Sunday service

All current volunteers are encouraged to attend, and **any members interested in serving** in these roles are warmly invited as well. We are always grateful for additional volunteers, and with our current rotation, most positions serve no more than once a month.

Please **watch the weekly bulletin for upcoming dates!** If you have any questions, please contact Liz Rosinski at lizrosinski@me.com or 803.413.3364.

Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

*"And my God will meet all your needs
according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19*

We seem to be moving through the months of 2026 at a record pace! Yet our members, who are confined at home or at a facility, 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	Cleta Dunaway	Anita Meetze	Margaret Meetze	Mandy Schultz
Chuck/Marilyn Bauer	Al Jabs	Laura Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Linda Schmidt
David Buck	Harold/Sarah Jones	Thelma Miller	Polly Roland	

The Board of Public Relations: 2026 Pictorial Directories

Shanna Stuck, Chairperson



By now, most of you have received your 2026 Pictorial Directory updated pages.

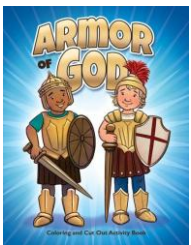
Please remember that Mt. Olive's directory is not only for the members, but for everyone who worships with us! And it is such a great tool for matching the names and faces of people you see every week. Contact information is included along with a section about our church leaders and a compiled history of the church. **If you have not received your directory or are new and would like your own copy, please contact Mary in the church office.** Office hours are Monday–Thursday, 9:00 AM–3:30 PM.

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. In addition, you can let her 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, which is updated as changes come in. If you would like access to these secure members pages, please register at www.mtolivesc.org, Member's tab. You will be notified of your approval in 2-3 days.

Board of Education

Liezl Baden, Chairperson



The "Armor of God Boot Camp" VBS weeklong event this summer had 34 children in attendance. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped make this week extraordinary, especially with the hot but exciting activities outside. A special thanks to Christopher Meetz and Mitch Greer who taught the children about defenses on the ground and in the spirit. Katherine Greer gave countless hours orchestrating this wonderful program and it was evident in the smiling and enlightened faces each night.

To mark the upcoming 2026-2027 school year, Rally Day is set for August 30. Please be on the lookout in the bulletin for details. All Sunday school classes will resume the following weekend.

Choir Director

Renee Harper

Psalms 146:2 I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

It's that time of year! We are starting back up the rehearsals: We will start the singing choir on August 23 at 5:00 pm upstairs in the choir loft. We end promptly at 6:00 pm. We will not rehearse on September 6 due to the Labor Day holiday. This is the perfect time to join in.



The bell choir will start one week later on August 30 at 4:00 pm in the front of the church. We have one new ringer but would love to have a couple more – we have several options to work with (four player bells, six player bells, hand chimes).

We also need solo and/or duet singers and instrumentalists. I have many choir pieces that can be accompanied by an instrument with the piano. Please contact me if you are willing to use your gifts in our worship services. Renee Harper (203) 885-6733, waltandrenee@att.net

Mount Olive Preschool

Jamie Burns, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 - preschool@mtolivesc.org

Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool - facebook.com/mountolivepreschool



We are so very thankful to the entire Mt. Olive church family for supporting the painting and flooring projects to include those in the Preschool Wing of the church building. Due to the scheduling of this work in the Preschool Wing, and to ensure the safety of children and those doing the work, we are unable to have Kindergarten Kamp this year. We look forward to having Kindergarten Kamp back at the Preschool in August 2027.

It is hard to believe that we are entering into the last stretch of summer, and we are already planning and preparing for the school year ahead!

We will kick off the 2026-2027 school year on Tuesday, September 1 with our Parent Meeting! The Lord has blessed us with 26 students who are already registered, and we are enthusiastic to see them soon. Please pray for our teachers, families and students as we begin a new school year. Pray specifically that we would fulfill our mission of "growing in faith and love by spreading the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through providing a Christ-centered experience for young children" and that, above all, the LORD would be glorified.

Do you know any families with young children who would benefit from our school?

Encourage them to call, email, or check out our website! We currently have limited spots available in our two-year-old class and in our three-year-old class. Jamie is always happy to talk with families and provide tours of the preschool!

In closing, we want to let you know how excited we are to welcome new members to the Preschool Board. We especially want to thank outgoing Board Members Dana Magic and Myron Trask for their tireless support and guidance as members of the Preschool Board.

August 2026 Lectionary

Date	Festival	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Aug 2	Proper 13	Isaiah 55:1-5	Psalm 136:1-9	Romans. 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Aug 9	Proper 14	Job 38:4-18	Psalm 18:1-6	Romans 10:5-17	Matthew 14:22-33
Aug 16	Proper 15	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Psalm 67	Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32	Matthew 15:21-28
Aug 23	Proper 16	Isaiah 51:1-6	Psalm 138	Romans 11:33-12:8	Matthew 16:13-20
Aug 30	Proper 17	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Psalm 26	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28

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. 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	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.			

Read the Bible in Three Years – August 2026

Aug 1	Proverbs 13	Aug 9	Proverbs 21	Aug 17	Proverbs 29	Aug 25	Numbers 6
Aug 2	Proverbs 14	Aug 10	Proverbs 22	Aug 18	Proverbs 30	Aug 26	Numbers 7
Aug 3	Proverbs 15	Aug 11	Proverbs 23	Aug 19	Proverbs 31	Aug 27	Numbers 8
Aug 4	Proverbs 16	Aug 12	Proverbs 24	Aug 20	Numbers 1	Aug 28	Numbers 9
Aug 5	Proverbs 17	Aug 13	Proverbs 25	Aug 21	Numbers 2	Aug 29	Numbers 10
Aug 6	Proverbs 18	Aug 14	Proverbs 26	Aug 22	Numbers 3	Aug 30	Numbers 11
Aug 7	Proverbs 19	Aug 15	Proverbs 27	Aug 23	Numbers 4	Aug 31	Numbers 12
Aug 8	Proverbs 20	Aug 16	Proverbs 28	Aug 24	Numbers 5		

As August begins, we will continue reading through Proverbs. The book invites us to live with wisdom and in the fear of the Lord. Proverbs is a collection of generations of wisdom. It brilliantly describes God's wisdom and applies it to life on Earth, warning us of what it looks like to live by our own wisdom instead of by God's. (from *The Bible Project*)

The book of Numbers begins with a census of all the Israelites who were headed out of Egypt. After that, it chronicles Moses and Israel's journey from the foot of Mount Sinai to the edge of the promised land of Canaan. If this were a regular road trip of that time, the journey would only take about two weeks; however, it will take the people 40 years! In September, we will be reading the chapters that recount why the group is delayed. (from *Overview Bible*)

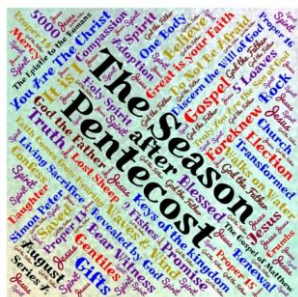
August 2026 Anniversaries

8/4	Nelson & Nancy Thompson	8/18	Merle & Peggy Weed, Jr.
8/10	Pastor Walt & Renee Harper	8/19	Fred & Neide Nieto
8/11	David & Joy Fletcher	8/24	Chuck & Marilyn Bauer
8/11	Randy & Linda Gifford	8/29	Matthew & Bailey Barnett
8/15	Mark & Linda Selle	8/30	Harold & Kathryn Meetze, Sr.
8/16	Shuler & Olivia Houck	8/31	Thomas & Tiffany Meetze

August 2026 Birthdays

8/2	Charlie Stuck	8/13	Diane James	8/20	James Prag
8/2	Megan Weed	8/13	Fred Stalbaum	8/22	Grady Crosland
8/4	Barry Bost	8/13	Brooksie Waldrop	8/22	Twila Sandt
8/4	Tyler Grubbs	8/14	Savannah Lewis	8/22	Kaysen Weed
8/5	Paul Selle	8/14	Hallie Randall	8/23	Aresa Boykin
8/6	Mikaela Weed	8/15	Becky Bass	8/23	Michael Dosen
8/7	Alexander Harper	8/15	James Draffin	8/23	Leonard Fowler
8/7	Gabriella Hennighan	8/16	Joel Fancey	8/23	Jacob Gepfert
8/7	Rich O'Dell	8/17	Walter Arnold	8/27	Lucas Thrun
8/9	James Marberry	8/17	Jacob Thrun	8/27	Theron Weed
8/10	Bobbie Lewis	8/18	Geneva Meetze	8/28	Camden Stuck
8/11	C.J. Meetze, Jr.	8/19	Cathy Roof	8/31	Allison Crandall
		8/20	Sandy Osborne		

Signs at the Church Entrance: The Signs of Pentecost



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

Here is the preview of the August 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 daily posts of the lectionary readings, so you can always use your smart phone to help you in your search.

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 next one is Tuesday, August 18 at 1:00 pm. We are tentatively meeting at Veneziano's Pizzeria in Lexington. 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, 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.

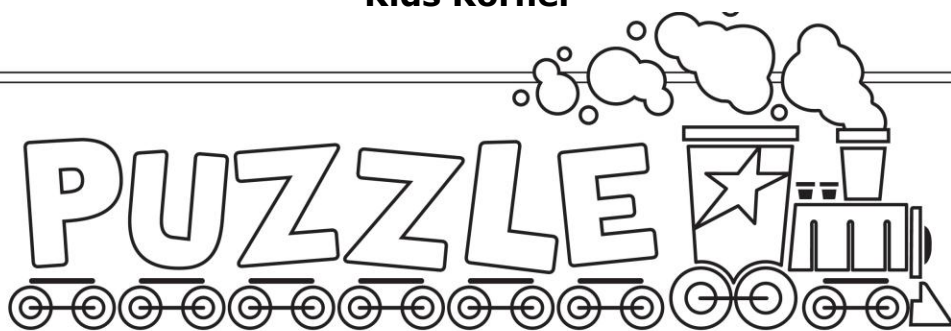


Stigma-Free Concert

NAMI Mid-Carolina, Classical Healing Keys, and Mental Health America of South Carolina will host a free *Stigma-Free Concert* on **Tuesday, September 8, 6:00 pm** at the **USC School of Music Recital Hall**. The event will feature live classical music and personal stories from individuals affected by mental health challenges, encouraging open conversation and reducing stigma.



Performers include Mary Lee Taylor Kinoshian, Jacqueline Hendricks, **our own organist Catherine Black**, and Joseph Eller. Visit classicalhealingkeys.com for more information.



JOYFUL PSALMS

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are happy songs of praise.
They all begin and end with the same sentence.

Put the words below in alphabetical order in the boxes. Then read down
the second column to discover the special sentence from Psalms!



FEAST
KHAKI
MOUTH
ESSAY
LLAMA
ORBIT
CARRY
UDDER
BRUSH
ITEMS
APPLE
LEARN
CIDER





_____ !

Answer: Praise the Lord!