



Olive Leaves



October 2026

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From Our Pastor Lutherans: The Evangelical Catholics *Pastor Walt Harper*

Wait? What? How do those two words fit together? Well, like this:

- “Evangelical” means centered in the Gospel. And the Gospel is the central (and non-negotiable) idea that we are saved by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, on account of Christ Alone. We’re not saved by works, or pedigree, or by rank or position. Faith is just the “open hand” that receives the gifts of God.
- “Catholic” literally means “universal,” but is typically used to mean things that are consistent with what the Church has been like across the centuries. It has an interest in “What the Church Fathers said,” and what they understood the Scriptures to mean.

Now, we need to be clear about this much: Everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is our brother or sister in Christ. Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Charismatics, non-denominationalists, and others are “tribes” of the one Big Christian Church.

THE
WORD



But the reason we Lutherans identify as Evangelical Catholics is that we do share with the modern Evangelicals an emphasis on “Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone.” We also emphasize that faith is personal and not inherited from your parents or your grandparents. We confess the Scriptures to be God’s Word in written form, and do not bend with the winds of culture.

At the same time, we know that the more you look into the Early Church the more you will find liturgies, and sacraments, and a liturgical calendar, and candles, and pastors and acolytes. Unfortunately, many churches that today call themselves “Evangelical” have set aside much of that, calling it “too Catholic.”

That is where Lutheranism comes in. We say, Yes, to the heart-warming teaching of God’s unmerited Grace in Christ. And at the same time, Yes to the robes and the chanting.

So, Lutherans have a foot in both worlds. In fact, one funny thing a Lutheran pastor will observe is that quite often when a Baptist marries a Catholic, they wind up Lutheran. The Catholic will say that they recognize a lot of the worship service. And the Baptist will appreciate the strong stance we take on the Bible.

Having said all that, we lamentably have to notice that these days some Lutheran denominations have really lost their doctrinal footing. The question isn't "Does your church sign say Lutheran?" The question has now become: "Are you sticking with what the Confessions say?"

So once again October has come. And once again we remember the work of the Early Church, and the work of the Reformers. And we pray that our Synod would remain faithful to that grand inheritance.

Pastoral Acts

	Holy Baptism Joseph Nolan Hammond September 13, 2026
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From Our President

James Sharpe

As the fall weather finally settles in, October brings wonderful news and a spirit of gratitude for our congregation.

At our recent voters' meeting, our church family officially approved moving forward with the process to call an associate pastor from the seminary! This is an exciting milestone that reflects the growth of our ministry and our shared commitment to serving our community.



Please join us in daily prayer for this process, specifically that God would lead us to a candidate who is a wonderful fit for Mt. Olive, our mission, and our church family. We will share more details as the call process unfolds.

We also have a quick update on our front sign. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who pitched in to clean up the damaged sign and put up our temporary signs! We have officially received the insurance check from the adjuster and will now begin collecting bids and renderings for review as we prepare to replace it.

Finally, with October here and Halloween at the end of the month, please keep a watchful eye out for trick-or-treaters on the roads. The days are getting shorter, so an extra bit of caution when driving through our neighborhoods in the evenings goes a long way toward keeping our kiddos safe!

Thank you for your continued faith, support, and dedication. It is a joy to walk into this new season together!

Choir Director: Do you Have Musical Talent?

Renee Harper, Director

"But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble." Psalm 59:16

God is our mighty fortress, and it is that time of year to sing about it again! We are working on our Reformation and All Saints music now so it is a perfect time to join the choir. If you are new to the church, choir is one of the best ways to get connected and get to know a smaller group of people (really fun people). We are still looking for more folks, ladies and men! And we need a few bell players too!

Christmas practices will be upon us soon, so please consider lending us a hand! You can contact Renee Harper at 203-885-6733 for more information.

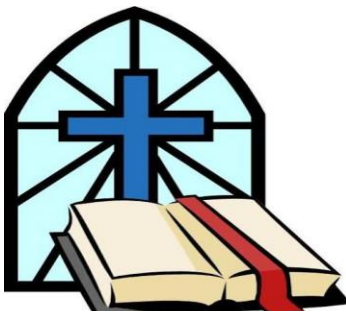


Board of Worship

Liz Rosinski, Chair

"Whatsoever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for man, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Colossians 3:23-24

The Board of Worship recently updated Mt. Olive's training guide for those who serve and held a series of sessions the last weekend in September, reviewing roles for greeters, lectors, and ushers. The training guide also covers the roles of acolytes and crucifers. Parents are encouraged to review the guide with their child(ren) who currently serve in these positions. To view, an electronic copy can be found on the Home page (<https://mtolivesc.org/>) under "Upcoming Events" or you may pick up a hard copy on the table near Pastor's office.



Since not everyone was able to attend, a make-up training will be held on Sunday, October 11th at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Please join us if you currently serve OR you are interested in learning more about the opportunities available. Please direct any questions to Liz Rosinski at lizrosinski@me.com.

Board of Evangelism
James Draffin, Chairperson

Evangelism centers on proclaiming Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord with the aim of persuading people to come to Him personally and be reconciled to God. The term itself derives from Greek words meaning to announce or proclaim good news and biblically refers to the message that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose on the third day in fulfillment of Scripture, providing redemption for sinful humanity.

Who has the responsibility?

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28: 18-20

*“Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.”
Galatians 6:66*

I think all Christians are called to share their faith, but we do not because we are not sure how. I have an effective tool that will assist in sharing God’s word with others. If you are interested, please reach out to me at 803-730-5413. I will be glad to share what I have.



Board of Fellowship
Kelly Thrun & Rebecca Selle, Co-Chairpersons

Fellowship is such a special part of our church family. It gives us an opportunity to come together, share a meal, enjoy conversation, and grow closer to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Whether it is a potluck, coffee and conversation, or simply spending time together after worship, these moments help strengthen our church family and remind us that we are never walking this journey of faith alone. We are thankful for the fellowship God has blessed us with and look forward to sharing many more moments together as the holiday season begins!

Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

*"The Lord is the one who will go before you. He will be with you;
He will not leave you or abandon you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."
Deuteronomy 31:8*

Autumn is here, and along with the cooler temperatures comes the beauty of God's creation as the leaves on the trees turn amazing colors! We pray that all of our homebound friends will enjoy watching this change.



As always, remember to pray for, call, or send cards to our homebound members. 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	

Join a Bible Class

October 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
PK2 – 4th Grade	Upstairs Classroom	Dana Magic, Connie Cook, Amanda Dalton, Paula Helming, Brandy Maye, & Melissa Marberry	Ages 2-7: Bible Lessons from the Old & New Testaments Ages 8-9: The Apostles
Confirmation Class	Preschool Area	Pr. Walt Harper	A 2-year study of Luther's Small Catechism & the Bible
Middle & High School Youth	Wagner House	Parents of the Youth	Applying Bible Lessons to Life in our World
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Sandy Osborne & Sue Strouse	"Who is Jesus and Why Do His Miracles Matter?"
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](https://www.facebook.com/mountolivepreschool)

The Preschool has had a wonderful start to the school year, and we are so thankful for each of the precious children that the Lord has put in our care. October marks a month full of learning and fun! As fall approaches, we will be getting ready to settle into our routines and prepare for Halloween and Thanksgiving. This ministry is growing and touching the lives of so many families in our community. I am reminded daily of just how IMPORTANT and NEEDED our little preschool is in countless ways. I'm grateful that the Lord continues to bless us here at MOLP, so that we can be a blessing to others, all in His name.

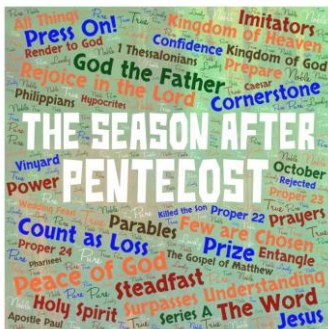
We currently have 26 students who are settling in well and enjoying school. We are at full enrollment for our 4-year-old class! Our Friday BAM class is also full! There are only a few spots available in the 2-year-old and 3-year-old classrooms. Children need to be 2 by September 1st of this year to enroll in the 2-year-old class and 3 by September 1st of this year to enroll in the 3-year-old class.



In the coming weeks, we would love for you to come down and peek at the beautiful artwork hanging in the halls and see the bright, engaging classrooms where we spend our days. The new carpet makes everything look so fresh and new! We are all so thankful for the nice, clean look downstairs!

Please continue to pray for our staff, students, and families as the school year continues. Pray that the Lord protects us and keeps us healthy and equips us for His service each day. Pray for flexible spirits and for the Love of Christ to be evident in all we do.

Signs at the Church Entrance: The Season After Pentecost



The church year has different seasons much like our calendar year. In Advent we await the coming of Christ. In the Christmas season we celebrate Christ's arrival. In Epiphany we proclaim that Christ is our Savior. In Lent we prepare for His death. During Holy Week we reenact His death. In Easter we celebrate His resurrection. On Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and the church. The Season after Pentecost is when we continue to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus and to continue to proclaim His life and teachings of saving grace. During this long season, there will be a different sign each month through November.

Board of Education

Liezl Baden, Chairperson

Rally Day or "Sunday School Festival" was spent at Flight Adventure Park in Irmo this year. A total of 14 students came to play at the trampoline park. It was a wonderful event to kick off the new Sunday School year!

Many events are planned as the Christmas season approaches. Sunday School has a Christmas Program on December 6 at the 10:30 service. A Night in Bethlehem is planned for December 11 at 6:00 p.m. Volunteer opportunities will be announced soon.

Board of Social Ministry

Jan McCarthy & Tina Dixon, Co-Chairpersons

E.M. Bounds said: "What the church needs is...people the Holy Spirit can use." And Mt. Olive has many people that the Holy Spirit uses in so many different ways. One group that we do not always think about is our wonderful church staff that the Holy Spirit uses daily. In addition to Pastor Walt Harper, we are blessed with Mary Keller, Secretary; Catherine Black, Organist; Renee Harper, Choir Director; Eric Weed, Groundskeeper; and Jamie Burns, Preschool Director. Our church staff works hard for all of us. They are the oil that keeps Mt. Olive running smoothly. So please join the Board of Social Ministry to show your appreciation of the Mt. Olive Staff on Sundays October 11th and October 18th.



And let us repeat: "What the church needs is...people the Holy Spirit can use." If you would like to use your talents for Social Ministry or any other board, please let us know. Remember many hands lighten the work!

Read the Bible in Three Years – October 2026

October 2026							
Oct 1	Judges 7	Oct 9	Judges 15	Oct 17	Malachi 1	Oct 25	Isaiah 9-10
Oct 2	Judges 8	Oct 10	Judges 16	Oct 18	Malachi 2	Oct 26	Isaiah 11-12
Oct 3	Judges 9	Oct 11	Judges 17	Oct 19	Malachi 3	Oct 27	Isaiah 13-14
Oct 4	Judges 10	Oct 12	Judges 18	Oct 20	Malachi 4	Oct 28	Isaiah 15-16
Oct 5	Judges 11	Oct 13	Judges 19	Oct 21	Isaiah 1-2	Oct 29	Isaiah 17-18
Oct 6	Judges 12	Oct 14	Judges 20	Oct 22	Isaiah 3-4	Oct 30	Isaiah 19-20
Oct 7	Judges 13	Oct 15	Judges 21	Oct 23	Isaiah 5-6	Oct 31	Isaiah 21-22
Oct 8	Judges 14	Oct 16	Obadiah	Oct 24	Isaiah 7-8		

Judges shows God's grace by demonstrating that it was through the mercy of God that Israel was not absorbed into the pagan nations around her. There was a recurring cycle during the period that the judges ruled: the people's disobedience and rejection of God, followed by their crying out to Him, and then the nation's repentance, and God's deliverance through a judge....

Obadiah is the prophet that tells the Israelites that Edom (Esau's descendants) will not be the nation that the Messiah will come from, but He will come through the line of Jacob.

Malachi is the last prophet of the grace of God. He tells Israel about the coming of Jesus and the coming of the prophet John the Baptist.

The book of Isaiah, which Pr. Walt is teaching on Wednesdays, is filled with Messianic prophecies to Israel and to the church. Many of these were fulfilled through Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, yet we await those that will be fulfilled at His second coming.

October 2026 Anniversaries

10/5	Uzama Udogwu/Becky Elam	10/9	Gary & Debbie Meetze
10/6	Larry & Louise Meetze	10/13	Berney & Kathy Eargle
10/6	Hank & Jenn Weed	10/15	Matthew & Emily Kears
10/7	Jim & Natalie Crosland	10/29	Michael & Susan Strouse
10/8	Rich and Mary Joel Keller	10/30	Odell & Pam Stuck

October 2026 Birthdays

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

October 2026 Lectionary

Date	Festival	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Oct. 4	Proper 22	Isaiah 5:1–7	Psalm 80:7–19	Philippians 3:4b–14	Matthew 21:33– 46
Oct. 11	Proper 23	Isaiah 25:6–9	Psalm 23	Philippians 4:4–13	Matthew 22:1–14
Oct. 18	Proper 24	Isaiah 45:1–7	Psalm 96:1–9 (10–13)	1Thessalonians 1:1–10	Matthew 22:15– 22
Oct. 25	Reformation	Revelation 14:6–7	Psalm 46	Romans 3:19–28	John 8:31–36



Announcements

Women's Book Club

The ladies meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. This month, the group will meet on October 6th and 20th. You do not have to read the book to join us. All ladies are welcome to join! We are currently reading *God's Provision in a Wilderness World*, by Lindsay Hausch. There are 2 extra copies, or you can order the book from CPH.org, Amazon, or Christianbook.com. Please contact Renee Harper for more information at 203-885-6733



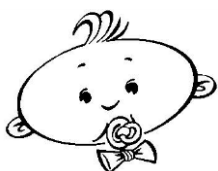
Secure E Giving

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, 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. Our e-giving is powered by VANCO, a secure company that follows strict guidelines and policies that we must adhere to. Even though the e-giving page looks like our website, 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's nursery 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