

Welcoming All, Growing in Christ Sharing God's Love

# Olive Branch 

Mount Olive Lutheran Church 2170 Havasupai Blvd. Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

## mtolc.com

December 2023 No. 826

## Message from our Pastor

For those who wanted the list from the Thanksgiving Worship or for those who missed it, here is the list. Giving credit where credit is due, this is a list provided by Rev. Shane L. Bishop, Pastor of Christ Church in Fairview Heights, IL. Enjoy.

1) Make everyone stay at the table for a full hour. Set a timer. No one leaves. No one. "Are you done eating? Who cares? Sit down." And not a bit of dessert or a sip of coffee for forty-five minutes.
2) No phones at the table. None. If you look at your phone, it goes in the turkey carcass with the stuffing until supper. If your phone rings, you are doing dishes. No exceptions. Late violations can carry over to next year.
3) Say grace. Old fashioned. Heads bowed, eyes closed, holding hands. Have the patriarch or matriarch do it. Kids are cute. Let old people say grace. One person can keep their eyes open to monitor.
4) Remember those by name who are not in their chairs this year. Speak out the names of deceased loved ones. Remember their lives, place in your family and their sacrifice.
5) Tell your favorite Thanksgiving stories. The year of the huge Thanksgiving blizzard. The year when it was like summer outside and everyone went on a walk. The big family football game of 1972. The sweet potato casserole debacle of 2001. When the dog ate the turkey. Get out the old photos. The kind you don't have on your phone.
6) Laugh. A lot. Tell your funniest family stories. Make them better than last year.
7) Count your blessings. Slow it down. Focus on what you have in front of you instead of what or who is missing. Have people share one thing for which they are thankful right before dessert.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP,

 SERVICE, and EDUCATIONCurrently we offer
Worship

## Saturday <br> Sunday

5:00pm Traditional
8:ooam Traditional 10:00am Contemporary
Live Stream

## 8:00am \& 10:00am

Visit our website mtolc.com. There are links for Facebook and YouTube. Both of them allow you to watch the service "live" or at a later time. Communion is available on "live" participation.

Family Fellowship
Al-Anon
Men's Fellowship
Prayer Shawls
Outreach (Library)
Gospel Guys
Chancel Choir
Ladies Ensemble
Quilters
TOPS
TOPS
Praise Band
Sunday School
3rd Monday 6:00 pm
Monday at 7:oopm
Tuesday at 9:00am
2nd Tuesday 10:00am
2nd Tuesday 6:00pm
Thursday 5:00pm Thursday 5:30pm
Thursday 6:30pm
Thursdays at 8:30am
Fridays at 8:00am
Saturday at 8:00am
Saturday at 9:ooam
TBD

## LISTEN

KNLB FM 91.1 knlb.com
"Winds through the Olive Trees"
Sunday mornings at 9 am
"The Lutheran Hour" Sunday at 10 am

2023-2024 Mount Olive Council Liaisons
Shelly Hales $\qquad$ President

Jim Day...............Vice President
Susan Leifer.........Secretary...Liaison. $\qquad$ PG \& E

Colleen Klatt....Treasurer.....Liaison...Family Fellowship Karol Falsetti. $\qquad$ Liaison $\qquad$ Worship

Mike Flesher..............Liaison...........................Property
Mary Hawkins...........Liaison............Family Fellowship Hannah Joy................Liaison.........Christian Education

Kris Kidder. $\qquad$ Liaison $\qquad$ Personnel

Craig Medhaug $\qquad$ Liaison $\qquad$ .Outreach

Ernie Swanson. $\qquad$ Liaison $\qquad$ TBD

Craig Corbin $\qquad$ .The Church

Pastoral $\mathcal{A}$ cts
Memorials for Shari Drives, Nathan Barrows and Lorraine Coughlin
In Person Worship Hours
5:00 pm Saturday - Traditional
In Person \& Live Stream
Worship Hours
8:00am Sunday Traditional
10:00am Sunday Contemporary
The Worship Center open during
business hours and worship.
Office open 9am -3pm Monday-Friday
Pastor is available by phone
715-338-2325
Office 928-855-2299
Wanda 928-716-3556
Jenifer 928-662-8764

## Message from our Pastor cont'dpg. 1

8 ) Tell the people around your table just how much you love them and why they are special to you. There are no guarantees they will be here next Thanksgiving. Or you either for that matter.
9) Help clean up and stick around. Clear the table. Watch some football. Remember great Thanksgiving football games past! Google Clint Longley. Take a nap. Go on a walk. Drink coffee. Drink more coffee.
10) Give thanks. Find a moment to get away, drop to your knees and personally tell God thank you.
11) Don't talk politics. If anyone does, construct them a home-made political button denoting the opposite party and touting the name of their least favorite president of all time. Make them wear it all day. No button, no pie.
12) Make the best of things. Things will never be "perfect." Take what you have and make the best of it. No matter how things go, at least you are not a turkey.

And from my sermon on November 26, the recommended daily prayer that I suggested we pray on a daily basis. For your consideration and possibly for your daily walk with Jesus.
"Lord make me an instrument of your love. Lord, help me to see you today, in the places where I would least expect to see you and in the people that I would least expect to see you. Lord, help me to see with your eyes, feel with your heart and love with your love, because our ability to see with your eyes, feel with your heart and love with your love, only comes from the fact that you loved us first, and that is what makes it possible for us to be little Christ's to one another.

Grace and Peace,

[^0]| December | Vicki McCormack | 22)Acacia Daley |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Birthdays | John McDonald |  |
| 1) Donna Torrecillas | Holly Panno | Doug Nelson |
| 2) Rick Cartright | Louann Striyle | 23)Sherman Henson |
| 5) Suzanne Elliott | 13)Audrey Hanka | Sylvia McCampbell |
| Linda Johnston-Naves | Bob Jewkes | 24)Lorie Jarrell |
| Hannah Jones | Barbara Nygren | John Larsen |
| Skylar Jones | 14)Marcia Niemi | Tonya Shockley |
| 6) Delaine Hildebrand | Cathleen Royer | 26)Roberta Bayles |
| 7) Maddox Cosentino | 15)Carol Bowen | Robin Miller |
| Neoma Woischke | Cynthia Kapellusch | Aiden Steele |
| 8) Orline McFadden | 16)Kris Kidder | 28)Sheree Kneisel |
| 9) Patricia Haslam | 17)Christie Mills | Matthew Wafford |
| Emaleah Lynnes | Sawyer Wafford | 29)Pat Scheel |
| Ben Pehling | 18)Penny Malone | 30)Harvey Karlin |
| 11) Preston Matzdorff | 20)Nathan Hawkins |  |
|  | 21)Russell Rowe |  |

## Thank You

I want to give a BIG thank you to Joan Morbeto for her creativity on the beautiful and amazing designs on the backs of the Lord's Prayer Bookmarks.
You really did an awesome job. I can't thank you enough for doing them.
Many Blessings Always,
Jerry Bodnar

## December Readings

December 2 \& 3: Isaiah 64: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
December 9 \& 10: Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
December 16 \& 17: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28; Psalm 126
December 23 \& 24: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38; Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26
December 30 \& 31: Isaiah 61: 10-62:3; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 22-40; Psalm 148
$\square$

Bible Study
Wednesday 1:00pm Lakeview Room
Bible Study will be held weekly in the Lakeview Room

No Bible Study on
December 27, 2023


In memory of Nathan Barrows to the Outreach Fund by Jerry and Jeff Jr Bodnar.

In memory of Dennis Bertles to the Cursillo Fund by Betty Christenberry.

In memory of Dennis Bertles to the Outreach Fund by Lennie Hart-Hawkins.

In memory of Robert Streeter to the Undesignated Memorial Fund by Jodie Gjefle.

In memory of Lyle Matzdorff to the Altar Guild Fund by Lennie Hart-Hawkins.

In memory of Lorraine Coughlin to the Outreach fund by Betty Christenberry.
In memory of Lorraine Coughlin to the Decorating fund by Lennie Hart-Hawkins.


SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!
Time to declutter!!!!

## White Burro Rummage Sale

February 8, 9 \& 10, 2024
More information to follow.

## SHAWLMINSTRY

The prayer shawl meeting will be held on December 12th at 10:00 in the Fireside Room. After the meeting we plan on going to lunch together.
We had two new members last month and we welcome all to join us! We also delivered prayer shawls and lap robes to Hospice of Havasu in November. There will be a blessing of the prayer shawls at all services on December 9th and 10th.

Christmas is a season of peace, joy, love and hope. We pray that the recipients of the shawls will wrap themselves in a cozy shawl and feel the warmth of God's love for them.

If you know of someone who could use a shawl, please contact one of these persons:
Kathy Sporre. 928-706-4626
Jerry Bodnar. 928-680-1847
Dorothy Schneider. 928-453-8560

Have a Blessed Christmas $\underset{8}{8}$

## Other Notes

## Bible Quiz

## Let's have some fun to see how well we know the Bible. <br> Answers will be posted in the next issue of the Olive Branch

## Questions!

This month's questions:

1) Who became a fugitive after killing an Egyptian? (Exodus 2: 11-15)
2) Who, along with the other apostles, said "We ought to obey God rather than men"? (Acts $5: 29$ )
3) $\qquad$ " of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperence:; against such there is no law. (Galations 5: 22-23)

## Answers from last month's questions:

1) How many locks of hair did Delilah have cut from the mighty Samson's head? (Judges 16: 18-20) 7
2) Who made a great throne with a lion standing beside each armrest? (1 Kings 10: 19-21) Solomon
3) Who was the first of twelve apostles? (Matthew 10 : $1-2$ ) Simon who is called Peter


## December 2023

Sunday School


Sunday school meets at 10:15 am on Sundays in the Nursery. For any questions, to register or volunteer please contact Jen Clark at event@mtolc.com or 928-662-8764

## Address updates

Clairdell Ross-delete home phone add cell 928-727-2916
Todd Henning: New Phone-928-302-1240


Thank you to Pastor Craig, Lil Aston and everyone who attended Nathan Barrows memorial.

God Bless,
Robin Miller


## Coordinator Needed

## Lector \& Communion Assistants

The congregation is in need of someone to help contact and schedule lector's and communion assistants.

There is a list of those who regularly volunteer, as well as an on-going sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

The position will begin January of 2024.
Please prayerfully consider this and contact
Pastor Craig or Wanda at the office. 928-8552299

Or Colleen Klatt 530-802-6162

## Happy Work Anniversary



## Bryant Christensen Accompanist

I was raised in South St. Paul, Mn. My BA is from Bethel University and Seminary in Music Education and Piano. My Master's is from St. Cloud University. I taught K-12 for 35 years in Isle, MN with a short three year hiatus to Birmingham, Alabama where I taught Music Theory, Arranging, and Intro To Church Music at Southeastern Bible College. All through those years I hosted music festivals, was a clinician for district wide elementary choir festivals, and judged high school vocal competitions throughout Minnesota's central region. I moved to LHC around 2005 and taught for two and a half years at the high school and had 6 different choirs and ensembles. I stayed in LHC because I did several earlier years at Mount Olive. From there I took a teaching job in the Globe/Miami area of AZ and worked in the Miami High School music dept and later at the San Carlos Reservation junior high teaching instrumental music. When I tried to retire I got bored and did some cooking at the casino across the lake and the Firehouse Bar and Bistro, but eventually was led back to Mount Olive. I have always enjoyed working with, and arranging music for, choirs within the church setting. Of course, my favorite music is our rich Christmas hymn tradition and I spent time both in Alabama and here in LHC arranging and composing music for Christmas. Some bible verses I have held close through all the years of moving around, trying new jobs, and life's ups and downs are: Romans 8: 35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, or height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. I have no favorite song or musical style. In my spare time I just relax, take Bean to the small dog park, and enjoy beer and a hamburger.

# Happy Work Anniversary 



## Wanda <br> Shockley <br> Office Manager Bookkeeper

Wanda was born in Nebraska and moved with her parents, Janice and Bill Dewey and two brothers to Lake Havasu in 1970. She attend school here through high school and attended some community college at MCC.
Wanda worked for JD Drywall, Inc. as the office manager from 1990 to 2008. She then worked for the local bowling alley as the manager and bartender.
In 2011, Wanda moved to North Dakota where she worked for Dakota Growers Pasta Factory. She started out as a machine operator, making "long goods" ie: spaghetti, fettucine, etc. In 2012, she moved upstairs into the office. She worked as a customer service representative, accounts receivable and payable and purchasing department. All of my work history I believe was God's way of getting me ready for my current job here at Mount Olive. The summers were great in North Dakota but the winters took a toll.

Wanda moved back to Lake Havasu in 2020, to the heat, but no snow and ice. Being a Dewey, she is a family person. She is very close with her two daughters, three granddaughters, two brothers, sister-in-law and her parents. She also has a niece, nephew and his wife who she is also very fond of.

Wanda has been here at Mount Olive for three years as an Office Manager 2. Her job duties include, managing the office, bookkeeping, preparing weekly bulletins, monthly Olive Branch, all reports and anything pertaining to the office.
Wanda became a Notary Public in 2021 to help Mount Olive members and snowbirds in need of notary service.

When asked her favorite Bible verse, Wanda replied John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life". When asked for a quote to live by, Wanda replied "Treat others as you would like to be treated". On December 28, 2023, Wanda completes her third year here at Mount Olive as Office Manager 2. We appreciate your hard work, dedication and patience with all.

# MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH <br> Council Meeting Minutes <br> <br> October 17, 2023 

 <br> <br> October 17, 2023}

Call to Order: President Shelly Hales called to order the regular meeting of the Mount Olive Lutheran Church Council at 7:01 pm on October 17, 2023, in the Lakeview Room.

In Attendance: Jim Day, Colleen Klatt, Susan Leifer, Pastor Craig, Karol Falsetti, Mike Flesher, Mary Hawkins, Hannah Joy, Kris Kidder, Craig Medhaug and Ernie Swanson.

Devotions and Opening Prayer: Pastor Craig led us in opening prayer. Ernie Swanson shared a devotion.
Additions to the Agenda: Hearing no calls for any additional additions or changes to the agenda, Jim Day moved to approve. Ernie Swanson seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes from the Last Meeting: Shelly Hales called for any corrections or additions to the September 19, 2023, minutes. Hearing none, Jim Day moved to accept the minutes as written. Karol Falsetti seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None.
Financials: Colleen Klatt presented the financial reports for September 2023. Although September 2023 net income of ( $\$ 4808.78$ ) was $\$ 2,000$ lower than September 2022, net income YTD 2023 of $\$ 11,519.96$ is ahead of YTD 2022. Jim Day moved to accept the reports as presented. Mike Flesher seconded. Motion carried.

Coffee with the Council Update: Kris Kidder shared the following concerns brought to her attention: Finish parking lot, complete striping of the parking lot, and the need for a large print bulletin. Wanda Shockley was asked to provide approximately 12 large print bulletins for services.

Consent Agenda: Kris Kidder asked to pull the Personnel Committee report with the following reports received: Christian Education, Family Fellowship, Outreach, Pastor's Report, Program Communications Manager, Property and Worship. Mary Hawkins moved to accept the change to the consent agenda. Colleen Klatt seconded. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee presented a proposal to increase the stipend for musical accompaniment at memorial services from $\$ 75$ to $\$ 100$ and weddings from $\$ 75$ to $\$ 125$. Jim Day moved to approve the increase. Craig Medhaug seconded. Motion carried. Wanda Shockley will make corrections to the pamphlets itemizing these services. Personnel also asked for Council approval for the new employee scholarship benefit proposal to be added to the employee handbook. Jim Day requested that this item be tabled at this time for further discussion. No motion was required. Kris Kidder stated that the employee recognition luncheon was well received.

## Unfinished Business:

Audit Committee: Pastor Craig asked to have the audit completed by the next Council meeting for approval prior to the Congregational meeting in December.

Long Range Planning: Input from the October 14 brainstorming session is being compiled. The list of priorities was voted on and the items receiving the top votes will be presented at the next Council meeting. Steps for implementation will be discussed at that time.

## MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Council Meeting Minutes

## October 17, 2023

Window for Front Office: The process of opening the interior drywall to assess what needs to be done prior to installing the window will happen this month.

Nominating Committee: At this time there are seven individuals who have indicated that they would be interested in running for Council: Shelly Hales, Karol Falsetti, Steve Philo, Naomi Gilbertson, Jerry Govoni, Herb Anderson and Athena Conway as the youth representative.

Café \& Music Room Floor Care: The issue presented at last month's meeting has been resolved and the vendor has been paid.

Insurance Premium Estimate: After contacting two other carriers, Butch Shaffer recommended that we stay with our current carrier, Guide One, as the total premium was consistent with what the other carriers were able to quote this far in advance. They are expecting an approximate $5-8 \%$ increase in our premium for next year and the Church can always switch carriers once a more solid quote becomes available closer to renewal. The premium estimate will be incorporated into the 2024 budget.

2024 Budget: Colleen Klatt distributed the first draft to be reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to presenting to Council in November.

## New Business:

Woodshop Fundraiser: Colleen Klatt moved to approve the request. Mary Hawkins seconded. Motion passed.
Personnel: Renee Jennings reported that the committee has established suggested pay increases on an individual employee basis. These increases considered both performance and inflation. She will present the changes to Colleen Klatt who will incorporate the new wages into the 2024 budget for consideration.

Call to the Congregation: A question was asked about the distribution of funds raised by the Woodshop. Jim Day said there was no formal committee but that the group as a whole decides where the money goes and, per Thrivent guidelines, a certain percentage must go back to the Church.

The new Church Constitution incorporating the By-law passed during the special Congregational meeting has been distributed and the Synod notified.

It was suggested that we invite outside groups using our facility to future Council meetings to share what they do.
Walk on Items: The September Special Congregational Meeting minutes will be presented and approved at the December Congregational Meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Jim Day moved to adjourn. Shelly Hales seconded. Motion carried. President Shelly Hales adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: November 21, 2023
Minutes submitted by: Susan M Leifer
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
December 2023

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[^0]:    Pastor Craig

