



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

February 2023 No. 816

Message from our Pastor

As of February 1, 2023, it has been seven years since I officially started the call to be pastor here at Mount Olive Lutheran. Much has changed in that time span, we have brought in several new members to our faith community and yet, many of those same people have already moved on for various reasons. We have remained a relatively stable congregation. We have many dedicated people who reach out in every day personal ways to minister to others, both in our faith family and in the greater community. We continue to be strong supporters of the local food bank, both financially and with feet on the ground. The Open Table ministry in partnership with Guiding Light Educational Center has proven to be a positive and fruitful venture. The Prayer Shawl group continues to touch lives as well as the Quilters. The Woodshop Ministry also does much for the greater Havasu community and thousands of people have been blessed with palm crosses. The youth, young adult and younger families is still an area where we struggle. This is not unique just to Mt. Olive, this is an area of ministry that many mainline congregations have struggled with nationwide. Young families are engaged with multiple outside offerings (sports, theatre, clubs, competitions, etc.) and the good old days of communities respecting set aside times for religious expression is no longer the norm.

One of the more traumatic, life changing and impactful things that has occurred in the last seven years is the Covid-19 Pandemic. It changed all of our lives in one way or another. We lost several members of our faith family due to Covid. That, in and of itself, has affected many of us in a very personal way. Relationships were severed and dear friends are no longer a part of our lives. I don't think we will truly know the deep seeded effects of the pandemic for years.

Our worshipping community is not the same as it was prior to the shut-down caused by the pandemic. Yes, we were forced to make some adjustments. One of them being, livestream ministry became a reality for us much sooner than we had ever imagined. For better or for worse, livestream does afford many of our members, winter visitors and some of our former members to continue to stay in touch with us, through our worship streaming. It also makes it possible for folks to opt out of in-person worship. Online, zoom meetings are now the norm for many of us.

cont'd pg2

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE, and EDUCATION

Currently we offer

Worship

Saturday	5:00pm Traditional
Sunday	8:00am Traditional
	10:00am Contemporary
Live Stream	8:00am Traditional
	10:00am Contemporary

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.

Bell Choir	Monday 5:30pm
Family Fellowship	3rd Monday 6:00 pm
Men's Fellowship	Tuesday at 9:00am
Prayer Shawls	2nd Tuesday 10:00am
Outreach (Library)	2nd Tuesday 6:00pm
Gospel Guys	Thursday, 5:00pm
Chancel Choir	Thursday, 5:30pm
Ladies Ensemble	Thursday, 6:30pm
Quilters	Thursdays at 8:30am
PITS	Thursday, 6:30pm
Praise Band	Saturday at 9:00am
BE BOLD	Sunday @ 9:15am
Sunday School	Sunday @ 10:15am

LISTEN

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

2021-2022 Mount Olive Council Liaisons

Jim Day.....President
Butch ShafferVice-President
Steve Philo.....Treasurer
Shelly Hales.....Secretary
Mike Flesher.....Liaison.....Property
Kris Kidder.....Liaison.....Personnel
Mary Hawkins.....Liaison.....Family Fellowship
Colleen Klatt.....Liaison.....Family Fellowship
Janet Pippin..Liaison.....Christian Education
Hannah Joy.....Liaison.....Christian Education
Butch Shaffer.....Liaison.....Outreach
Shelly Hales. . . . Liaison.....Worship & Network Table
Jeff Bodnar Jr. . . . Liaison Outreach
Karol Falsetti.....Liaison.....Worship
Mikael Ash.....Liaison.....Columbarium
Craig Corbin.....The Church

Pastoral Acts

Memorial/Inurnment
Joyce McCloud on 1.7.23
Alex Martinez on 1.14.23

***In Person* Worship Hours**
5:00 pm Saturday - Traditional

In Person & Live Stream
Worship Hours

8:00 am Sunday - Traditional
10:00 am 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

Message from our Pastor *cont'd pg. 1*

We do have a very significant decision in our congregation in the month of February. The retirement of the remaining balance on our mortgage. When I first came here in February of 2016, the church still had a total debt load of \$1.1 million dollars. Over the past seven years, we have had at least 3 challenge fund campaigns. The original challenge was for \$100,000 and the remaining two were for \$50,000 respectively. Each time, we met and exceeded the challenge goal. All total, we raised in excess of \$450,000 **plus** from the three challenge campaigns. We also had some estate gifts come our way and several other large one-time gifts that helped to reduce the principal on the mortgage. We also refinanced the loan balance once, in the past seven years, greatly reducing the interest rate. The church faithfully made monthly payments of roughly \$6,000. As of this writing, the church roughly owes somewhere around \$160,000 plus or minus. The congregation votes on February 5th to retire the remaining balance. We will give you the details as to how that will be possible at the meeting on February 5th.

Many people have been faithfully giving to the Building Fund to help with the monthly payments on the loan. **Thank you all, for your faithful and generous support!!** Now that we are facing the reality of no longer having a mortgage, those dollars given to the Building Fund are still needed. 2022 was a year in which we **ended the year over \$13,000 in the red**. We balanced the books by transferring money from the Capital Fund Reserve to zero out the books for 2022. I want to encourage all of you who were contributing to the Building Fund to now give those funds to the General Envelope Offering. Kim and I have already made the switch. Every dollar we had been giving to the Building Fund is now being given to the General Envelope Offering. If everyone else joins Kim and I in this giving pattern change, we will more than likely have a healthy general fund balance for the positive by year end 2023.

This is also a time for the church council to be doing some dreaming and imagining for the future. Considering the fact that we as a congregation were paying \$72,000 per year on a mortgage payment. That burden is no longer going to be on the church. Yes, we need some of those dollars to make the budget, but it also makes it possible for us to do some dreaming, finding other ministry and mission opportunities that we did not think possible because of our financial burden.

Where will there be a resurgence? Will we be finding outreach opportunities in our community? Where will there be renewal? Where will our energy, people and resources be at work in the coming months and years? This is not a time for us to simply keep on keeping on, with any expectation that something will change or grow. This will need some intentional discernment, dreaming and planning. A significant burden will be lifted once the mortgage is retired. Let us invoke and ask the Holy Spirit to inspire us to see the possibilities for new or renewed ministries in the months ahead.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Craig

February Birthdays



- 4) MaryAnn Fleharty
Karen Shaplin
Robert Ward
- 5) Diane Terenti
- 6) Doris Anderson
Susan Blanchard
Rinaldo Falsetti
- 7) Karen Martin
Jane Mitchell
Skip Schulzkump

- 8) Hannah Joy
Kanon McAfee
Betty Shaffer
Julia Terenti
- 9) Carly Cosmano
- 12) Kevin Jackson
- 16) Kathryn Ronningen
Judy Thomas
- 18) Everett Dewey
- 20) LaVonne Poole
- 21) Sarah Cooper
- 22) CJ Larsen
- 23) Judy Specht
- 24) Delcy Curry

- 24) Clairdell Ross
- 25) Les Niemi
Ernie Swanson
- 26) Shannon Murray
Kari Thompson
- 27) Maria Cartright
Micayla Clark
Mike Flesher

White Burro Sale

February 16-18, 2023

Start thinking about ways you can participate in this year's White Burro Sale. Set-up will be on Monday, 2/13, Tuesday, 2/14 and Wednesday, 2/15. Help is needed with set-up, organizing, pricing, layout and moving of items. All of these areas are critical components of this event.

Most, if not all proceeds from this sale go back into the Lake Havasu Community. The sale will start on Thursday, 2/16 from 8am to 2:30pm, Friday, 2/17 from 8am to 2:30pm and Saturday, 2/18 from 8am to noon.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Leslie Hollman at 928-854-1516.

February Readings

February 4 & 5—Isaiah 58: 1-9a [9b-12]; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 [13-16]; Matthew 5: 13-20; Psalm 112: 1-9 [10]

February 11 & 12—Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9; Matthew 5: 21-37; Psalm 119: 1-8

February 18 & 19—Exodus 24: 12-18; 2 Peter 1: 16-21; Matthew 17: 1-9; Psalm 2

February 25 & 26—Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7; Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11; Psalm 32

Thank You

and other notes

March: Game Day on Sunday March 12th after the 10 AM Service

Please join the Family Fellowship Committee for Game Day on March 12th after the 10 AM Service. There will be a large selection of games to play like: dominoes, cribbage, 5 crowns, scrabble and others. If you have a favorite you like to play feel free to bring it with you and share the fun. We will have light snacks for you to enjoy while we have some fun and fellowship! We hope to see you there.



The Friendship Café
OPEN

Sunday, 7am to Noon
Wednesday's
8am to 10am

Come join your friends for a cup of coffee and more.



Thank you to all members for a successful Remembrance Tree year—we sold 36 ornaments in memory of your loved ones.

We have also returned the 2020 ornaments .

We will be giving a check to our Youth Group to be used this year towards their project needs.

Barbara Hanson and Lou Ann Striyle

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl ministry group will be meeting at 10:00 am on February 14th. Please note that we will be meeting in the music room instead of the fireside room this time due to set up for the white burro sale.

As always, we welcome you to join our group. The shawls are given free of charge and can be requested by contacting one of these persons:

Kathy Sporre - 928-855-1704

Jerry Bodnar - 928-680-1847

Dorothy Schneider- 928-453-8560

We will be going out to lunch as a group after the meeting.

Happy Valentines Day! ♥ Our ministry is a small way we can share love for one another.

Thank You

and other notes

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Doug Watkins by David & Illa Moore to the Memorial Building Fund.

In memory of Alex Martinez by David & Illa Moore to the Memorial Building Fund.

In memory of Dorothy Murphy by David & Illa Moore to the Memorial Building Fund.

In memory of Dorothy Murphy by Lois Scharnhorst to the Music Fund.

In memory of Bill Bodnar by Bernie & Kathy Sporre to the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

In memory of Alex Martinez by Bud & Lennie Hawkins to the Decorating Fund.

In memory of Alex Martinez by Andy & Lynda Anderson, Jerry & Jeff, Jr. Bodnar to the Prayer Shawl Fund.

In memory of Alex Martinez by Gary & Sharon Powers to the General Fund.

In memory of Alex Martinez by Helen Williams to the Building Fund.

Address Updates

Gary & Sharon Powers—Remove 928-302-3396

LouAnn Striyle—Update phone 928-486-1382

Jean & Aiden Steele—3022 Dawn Dr, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

Joann Benter—2110 Swanson Ave #322, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403



QUILTERS' SALE

The Mount Olive Quilters (originally Lutheran World Relief Quilters) are planning their next sale for March 17-18 from 9 am to 2 pm in the Café/Lakeside Room. The group has some talented (including new members) ladies doing some beautiful quilts of all sizes and colors.

Unless, we can still acquire volunteers to transport LWR quilts to the MN warehouse, we plan to contribute monies from the Sale to LWR for their quilt distribution expenses, in keeping with origin goals.



February: Family Favorite Pot Luck Dinner and Bunco on Feb 11th

Please join the Family Fellowship Committee on Saturday February 11th at 6PM after the 5PM Church Service in the Cafe. Bring a family favorite dish to share and enjoy the fellowship. After dinner we have Bunco planned for those who would like to participate. If you have never played Bunco we will teach you this fun and simple game of luck! We hope you can attend.

February is State Recognition Month
Friendship Café, Wednesday's 8am to 10am



Join us on Wednesday mornings from 8am to 10am to enjoy coffee, donuts and great fellowship. Get to know our winter visitors.

February 1, 2023 – Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.

February 8, 2023 – Minnesota

February 15, 2023 – North Dakota, South Dakota

February 22, 2023 – Ohio, Michigan, Washington & Wisconsin

All are welcome each week and looking forward to meeting everyone. What a great time to get to know our fellow neighbors.



Hello Mount Olive! As most of you know I will be leaving my position as the Youth Director to travel with my husband and dog, Maya until the fall. My last day will be Friday, February 24th. As I write this I can't help but to reflect on the awesome people at Mount Olive that helped guide the youth in their faith journey, assisted in events and just popped in my office to say hi or give Maya some love. It has been an absolute blast being part of each and every kiddo's life. I am excited for my next move, but will greatly miss each and every one of you. I will never forget how much fun we had playing games, van rides and sharing our love for Jesus. I am so grateful for all the families who supported and encouraged their youth's relationship with our Lord.

Please be looking out for more details on how Pastor Craig, Christian Education board, and council will be navigating new ideas to continue to build our youth group. If you would like to help out in my absence please contact me or Pastor Craig.

I will miss seeing my church family but I look forward to seeing what everyone can accomplish by welcoming all and serving others. Thank you for all of your friendship and support. Of course this isn't goodbye, please keep in touch. You can find me on Facebook, kadenkartersmom@gmail.com or give me a call at 928-486-0787.

Blessings. Jill

**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.**
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

Event Coordinator Message

February 2023

Welcome to February! The season of love and celebrating those close to us!

The Gospel of Mark Bible Study with Pastor Al Schoonover **Wednesdays** meets for the last time on February 15th , 2023 at noon in the Sanctuary.

Friendship Cafe remains open Wednesdays with Coffee, pastries, goodies, and good ol' fashioned friendship from 8-10 am.

Quilters return to every **Thursday** 8:30am -11am in the Parish Hall

Craft'n Friends will be gathering from 1-4pm in the Parish Hall for crafts of all kinds and fellowship fun.

Outreach meets 2/14 @ 6pm

Family Fellowship will not meet this month but will return to regularly scheduled meeting in March

W.O.W. has returned on Tuesdays at 9am and they are meeting in the Cafe!

COUNCIL meets 2/21 @ 7pm

SPECIAL NOTICES:

White Burro Sale SET UP will be Feb 13th-15th and the SALE will be the 16-18th Mark your calendars to volunteer or come shopping.

ASH WEDNESDAY is Feb 22nd. Services will be at 12:15 and 6pm. See the Narthex for sign ups for the Soup Suppers coming in March

I look forward to seeing you all! Please continue to visit our website www.mtolc.com to see the latest news, events, updates and more! Always on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube!

Jenifer Clark, Event Coordinator

February 2023

Sunday School



This year marks some significant changes in our Youth ministry as Jill Ada will no longer be the confirmation or High School group leader. With this significant change, as my position has evolved and grown into what it is today, I have resigned from Sunday School Director. The complexity of all my tasks and duties has rendered my ability to handle the workload unfeasible. With the addition of Jill Ada resigning from her position as well, this provides the Church a unique opportunity to find a candidate or organize a board of members to work with all of the youth programs as a whole. There would be an unbroken and consistent operation of youth programs with a unified message from birth through high school. Creating this continuity is vitally important to youth ministry.

I continue to appreciate my responsibility to the other ministries of Mount Olive and will do what I can to provide the best service possible to tasks at hand. For the time being Sunday School will still operate in the same way as our volunteer Jesse Clark remains steadfast in his role as Sunday School teacher. The kids love his energy and enthusiasm.

Sunday school meets at 10:15am on Sundays in the Nursery.

For any questions, to register or volunteer please contact Jen Clark at event@mtolc.com or 928-662-8764

Jenifer Clark, Sunday School Coordinator



Network Tables for Child Care Centers Expansion in Arizona

Mount Olive's Network Table was the first designed to support a child care center. We are a pilot project supported entirely by Open Table. Jon Katov and Angie Williams, Open Table's CEO and COO, felt the network table model was ideal to create a partnership between a church and child care in our community. We have learned an incredible amount over the course of a year. We've had hiccups, setbacks, slow-downs, as well as giant-sized accomplishments. As we've learned what works and what doesn't, we've shared with Jon and Angie to help fine-tune the model for child care centers. Table members continue to work with Open Table to finesse the process and to assist with planning for future tables.

Our success has helped Open Table apply for and receive grants to support an additional 15 tables in Arizona. Five tables for north Phoenix, five tables for south Phoenix, and five tables for various locations in the state are in the planning stages. Open Table submitted a grant application with Lake Havasu City to support additional tables in our community. The grant process is being finalized. Open Table is on the grant approval final list and is negotiating for a final grant amount. **We are hoping to receive enough funds to support five more tables in Lake Havasu!** Please pray for the network table team and our community that the ministry bears fruit abundantly! (Thank you, Janet Pippin, for an excellent question which has become a newsletter article topic.)

The Fall Zone team and Windows/Doors team have wrapped up their projects. Hallelujah! The teams have done an incredible job this year working for the children of Havasu!

REMINDER! The Periodontal team, with assistance from other table members, will be raising funds for the Guiding Light staff member's dental work. Please watch for more information and share!

Thank you, Mount Olive members, for your continuing support of this ministry!

Jen Clark, Kim Corbin, Shelly Hales, Kelly Hays-Thorson, Kris Kidder, Rita Kidder, Susan Leifer, and Linda Paquette.

Network Table is a trademark of Open Table, Inc., and is used with permission.

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2022

Absent: none

I. Call to order: Jim called meeting to order at 7PM. Pastor said a prayer. Karol shared devotions.

II. Standing Agenda Items:

A. Two items were added to agenda as new business by Pastor Craig. Colleen made motion to adopt agenda with additional new business. Mary seconded. Motion passed.

B. Correction needed on last month's minutes. Steve was absent. Mary moved minutes be approved as corrected. Mike seconded. Minutes approved with changes.

C. Correspondence: Thank you note from a gift card recipient was read.

D. Financial Report: For the month of November general fund is -\$6446.25. YTD income and expenses are almost \$26,000 in the red. Question was asked about decorating fund on the restricted funds report because it shows a negative balance. Steve indicated there were donations expected to cover that deficit. Kris moved to accept financial report. Butch seconded, report approved by all.

E. Coffee with Council feedback: none

F. Consent Agenda: Wanda received reports from PGE, Christian Ed. and Outreach. Janet moved to approve consent agenda and Karol seconded. All in favor.

III. Unfinished Business:

Leslie has been ill. White Burro Sale moved to Jan.

IV. New Business:

Pastor's Housing allowance 2023: Pastor agreed to use \$18,000 housing allowance. Council secretary signed form for his records. Mary moved to accept this action and Janet seconded. All approved motion.

Staff Xmas bonus: Pastor made motion for \$1050 to be used from his discretionary fund in order to divide that amount equally and add Xmas bonus to all staff pay checks. Colleen seconded. Passed.

Youth Ministry: Jill Ada is resigning as youth director. She will fulfill her obligation for spaghetti dinner. Decisions for how to handle this void will be made at a later date. She will be extremely missed.

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2022

V. Call to congregation:

Comments: Mary shared that the program Jenifer set up for the 10AM service this past Sunday was excellent. Seeing so many of the congregation put on a costume and participate was wonderful! This was a new and inspiring way to tell the Christmas story.

Pastor announced Pastor Dan Paulsen would be preaching Dec. 31 and Jan.1 then Pastor AL would be doing the sermon at the services (at normal times) Jan.7 and 8.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Butch and seconded by Kris. Meeting adjourned at 7:34PM with the Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting date: **January 17th 7 PM**

Prayerfully submitted by Shelly Hales council secretary

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 08:00 AM-Worship w/Holy Communion 09:15 AM-Be BOLD 09:15 AM-Parent Ministry 10:00 AM-Worship w/Holy Communion 10:15 AM-Sunday School	6 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:30 PM-Bell Choir 06:00 PM-Cub Scouts 992 07:00 PM-AI-anon- Lib	7 09:00 AM-Men's Fellowship 09:00 AM-W.O.W. Book Study 11:00 AM-Staff Meeting - PC Hall	8 08:00 AM-Cafe Open 12:00 PM-Pastor Al Bible Study 01:00 PM-Colomonde	9 08:30 AM-Quilters 01:00 PM-Craft'n Friends 05:00 PM-Woodshop 05:00 PM-Gospel Guys 05:30 PM-Chancel Choir 06:30 PM-Boy Scouts 06:30 PM-Pits 06:30 PM-Treble Clef Singers	10 08:00 AM-Tops 06:00 PM-Havasu Rock & Gem	11 07:00 AM-Winter Expo 07:00 AM-AI-anon AWSC meeting 08:00 AM-Tops-MR 09:00 AM-Praise Band 05:00 PM-Worship 06:15 PM-Family Favorites
12 08:00 AM-Worship 09:15 AM-Be BOLD 09:15 AM-Parent Ministry 10:00 AM-Worship w/Holy Communion 10:15 AM-Sunday School	13 08:00 AM-Burro SET UP 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:30 PM-Bell Choir 07:00 PM-AI-anon- Lib	14 08:00 AM-Burro SET UP 09:00 AM-Men's Fellowship 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl 11:00 AM-Staff Meeting - PC Hall 06:00 PM-Outreach-Library 06:00 PM-Worship Board-Cafe	15 08:00 AM-Cafe Open 08:00 AM-Burro SET UP 12:00 PM-Pastor Al Bible Study 01:00 PM-Colomonde	16 08:00 AM-Burro Sale 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:00 PM-Gospel Guys 05:30 PM-Chancel Choir 06:30 PM-Pits 06:30 PM-Treble Clef Singers	17 08:00 AM-Burro Sale	18 08:00 AM-Burro Sale 09:00 AM-Praise Band 05:00 PM-Worship w/Holy Communion
19 08:00 AM-Worship w/ Holy Communion 09:15 AM-Be BOLD 09:15 AM-Parent Ministry 10:00 AM-Worship w/Holy Communion 10:15 AM-Sunday School	20 08:00 AM-Office Closed 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:30 PM-Bell Choir 06:00 PM-Cub Scouts 992 07:00 PM-AI-anon- Lib	21 09:00 AM-Quilters Sew-ciey 09:00 AM-Men's Fellowship 09:00 AM-W.O.W. Book Study 11:00 AM-Staff Meeting - PC Hall 07:00 PM-Council Meeting - LVR	22 08:00 AM-Cafe Open 12:15 PM-Ash Wednesday 01:00 PM-Colomonde 06:00 PM-Ash Wednesday	23 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:00 PM-Gospel Guys 05:30 PM-Chancel Choir 06:30 PM-Boyscouts 06:30 PM-Pits 06:30 PM-Treble Clef Singers	24 08:00 AM-Tops	25 08:00 AM-Tops-Parish Hall 09:00 AM-Praise Band 05:00 PM-Worship
26 08:00 AM-Worship 09:15 AM-Be BOLD 09:15 AM-Parent Ministry 10:00 AM-Worship w/Holy Communion 10:15 AM-Sunday School	27 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:30 PM-Bell Choir 06:00 PM-Cub Scouts 992 07:00 PM-AI-anon- Lib	28 09:00 AM-Men's Fellowship 09:00 AM-W.O.W. Book Study 11:00 AM-Staff Meeting - PC Hall				