

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

March 2023 No. 817

### Message from our Pastor

We had a robust February, with a couple of significant events. We gathered for a special congregational meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2023 and made the decision to pay off the remaining balance of the mortgage. With principal and interest, the final payment was a little over \$166,000. This payoff was made possible because of an "anonymous gift" specifically given for the purpose of paying off the remaining balance, after the \$50,000 Challenge Fund was completed.

Once all the final paperwork is processed with the mortgage company and the county, we should be receiving official notice of the mortgage lien being cleared. We plan to have some kind of ceremonial burning of the mortgage at a future date, so stay tuned.

**Burro Sale**: The White Burro Sale is behind us now. Thank you!! to every person who had anything to do with planning, organizing, setting up, cooking, supporting one another during the sale and for packing and taking down everything after the sale. It was another learning year in many ways, as this has become a congregational project. We plan to tweak the process in the months ahead and look for ways of making the sale an even smoother process. We raised a little over \$5,000 dollars. We have agencies and groups identified who will be the recipients of the funds, however, a final church council approval will be necessary for the funds to be distributed.

Midweek Lenten Services: We have entered into the season of Lent. We will be gathering on Wednesdays for Midweek Lenten observance. It has been our tradition to gather for Soup lunches and Soup suppers prior to each worship. We still need more people to sign up for soup offerings and set-up and clean-up responsibilities. The sign-up sheets are in the Narthex, please consider sharing one of your favorite soup recipes with us during this time.

cont'd pg2

# **OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE, and EDUCATION**

### **Currently we offer**

Worship

Saturday Sunday 5:00pm Traditional 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
Family Fellowship
Men's Fellowship
Prayer Shawls
Outreach (Library)
Gospel Guys
Chancel Choir
Ladies Ensemble
Quilters
PITS
Praise Band
BE BOLD
Sunday School

Monday 5:30pm 3rd Monday 6:00 pm Tuesday at 9:00am 2nd Tuesday 10:00am 2nd Tuesday 6:00pm Thursday, 5:30pm Thursday, 6:30pm Thursdays at 8:30am Thursday, 6:30pm Saturday at 9:00am Sunday @ 9:15am 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 DayPresident
Butch ShafferVice-President
Steve PhiloTreasurer
Shelly HalesSecretary
Mike FlesherProperty
Kris KidderLiaisonPersonnel
Mary HawkinsLiaisonFamily Fellowship
Colleen KlattLiaisonFamily Fellowship
Janet PippinLiaisonChristian Education
Hannah JoyLiaisonChristian Education
Butch ShafferLiaisonOutreach
Shelly Hales Liaison Worship & Network Table
Jeff Bodnar Jr Liaison Outreach
Karol FalsettiLiaisonWorship
Mikael AshLiaisonColumbarium
Craig CorbinThe Church

### Pastoral Acts

Memorial/Inurnment

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 Jenifer 928-662-8764

### Message from our Pastor

cont'd pg. 1

During our midweek Lenten worship services we will be utilizing portions of Holden Evening Prayer. We have asked 5 people from the congregation to share a faith journey testimonial with us each week. Jesus meets us where we are in every circumstance in life. Whether it be a health challenge, relationship challenges, spiritual discernment / direction, family dynamics, or an unexpected emergency-accident-incident. These are the stories and experiences that shape us, affect us and cause us to ask and consider the presence of Jesus in the midst of them. We look forward to hearing these testimonials in the weeks ahead during the midweek Lenten services.

**General Fund Giving**: Once again, I am reiterating the challenge and request to the membership who were giving and supporting the building fund over these past years. If you have not already done so, we ask that you consider supporting the general fund with the financial support you had been giving to the Building Fund. As mentioned in February, we ended 2022 with a deficit general fund of over \$13,000. In order to end the year 2022 with a balanced budget, we transferred funds from the Capital Fund Reserve to cover the deficit spending. We plan on avoiding that situation this year. The additional funding generated from former Building fund giving, now designated for General Fund should bring us into a positive balance in years to come.

**Challenge to Growth Give**: Something for all of us to consider is the concept and practice of growth giving. Generally, most people know their giving pattern and their revenue sources. As an example, if your revenue source is \$1500 per month, your regular giving to the church is \$75 / month or equivalent to 5%. Increased giving to 5.5% would be, \$82.50 / month. 6% would be, \$90 per month. Something for all of us to consider. If we all gave, even a minor increase in giving per month it would go a long way towards securing a healthy general fund balance. Something for us all to consider.

Grace and Peace,

**Pastor Craig** 

# March Birthdays



- 1) Debbie CamouBill DeweyThomas Steinbach
- 3) Jim Foster
- 5) Don Westphal
- 6) Carma Rolands
- 7) Jordan Viera
- 9) Nicholas Anderson
- 10)Brice Chambers Peggy Fierro

- 10)Leslie Hollman12)Karol Falsetti15)Lynda Anderson17)Tavion Houston
- 18)Christopher Chambers Cara Collins
- Damon Saari 19)Dorothy Horak
- 21)Gary Cash
  - **Elaine Hegge**
- 22)Patrick Barney
  - Kenny Gehrman
  - Lyle Matzdorff Khloe McAfee

- 22)Tim Montbriand Heidi Trejo
- 23)John Nygren Justin Romm
- 24)Rebecca Gehrman
  - **Renee Jennings**
- 26)Sonja Medhaug
  - **Aimee Pelzer**
- 27)Anna Anderson
- 28)Andy Anderson
- 29)Cheryl Kiszczak
- 30)Jeff Buhmiller
  - Andrea Fisher

### Save the Date-It's a Party!!!!!!!

**Belle Kastoll's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**: Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 2, 1:30—3:30 pm. Come and gather with us in the Friendship Café to celebrate 100 years of life with Belle. Cake, coffee, lemonade and other munchies will be provided. This will be a joyous day and a joyous event to honor and celebrate with Belle. Live music will be provided, a good time will be anticipated. Join Us!!



### **March Readings**

March 4 & 5: Genesis 12: 1-4a; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17; Psalm 121

March 11 & 12: Exodus 17: 1-7; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42; Psalm 95

March 18 & 19: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41; Psalm 23

March 25 & 26: Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45; Psalm 130

# Thank You

and other notes

March: Game Day on Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> after the 10 AM Service

Please join the Family Fellowship Committee for Game Day on March 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



Andy and I would like to thank those who called, sent cards and prayed for him/us. We certainly felt the power of your prayers!! God has truly blessed us with a caring church family and healing for Andy!!

Andy and Lynda Anderson



The prayer shawl group will meet on March 14th at 10:00 am in the Music room. We were happy to have three visitors join us in February and welcome all. You don't need to attend Mount Olive to be part of our group! There is a continual need for prayer shawls, lap robes and children's hats. These items are given as gifts to the recipients. If you know of someone who is going through a rough time and could use a shawl you can contact one of these persons:

Kathy Sporre 928-855-1704 Jerry Bodnar 928-680-1847 Dorothy Schneider 928-453-8560

We are blessed to be a blessing to others!!



# Thank You

and other notes

### Bible Quiz

Let's have some fun to see how well we know the Bible.

Answers will be posted in the next issue of the Olive Branch

### Questions!

- 1) How many days and nights of solitude, prayer and fasting did Jesus spend in the wilderness? (Luke 4: 1-2)
- 2) Whom did God choose to replace Moses to lead the Israelites? (Deuteronomy 34:9)
- 3) Where did the Lord tell Jonah to go? (Jonah 1: 1-2)

### **Answers:**

To be provided in the April issue of the Olive Branch.

New questions next month.



### **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.



### Address Updates

Michelle Beck—PO Box 3725, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405 Maxine Benoit—New phone number—928-846-1160



### White Burro Sale Update

Whew! What a week... being a first-time volunteer at the sale is a bit overwhelming. But first the important news: just over \$5050 in sales were collected during the three-day sale. We know of a few additional sales that will be trickling in, but with the minimal expenses incurred this year we are confident that we will be able to distribute **\$5000 in proceeds** from this sale to the community this year. Thanks be to God!

You probably noted that "we" is used throughout the first paragraph. The reason is simple; this was a collective effort. A quick count shows **volunteers put in over 1200 hours** during the week to make this event a success. This is truly an example of "God's Work, Our Hands" in action.

If you're still reading this, please indulge me as I share a few personal observations from the week. One of the first things that surprised me was the number of volunteers involved behind the scenes. I had shopped at the sale many times but had no idea what took place to get ready. Just days before set-up was to begin, it seemed as though nothing was organized and nobody was ready... then poof! People and tables and clothing racks and more tables and hundreds of clothes hangers and rolls of masking tape appear as if conjured from thin air! Donation days are filled with sorting and organizing, pricing and rearranging. Is this item boutique worthy? My head was spinning.

And did you know that there are kitchen angels that show up early every day to nurture their fellow workers? These special ladies provide coffee, snacks, hot food, and love. Their caring presence sure boosted our spirits. The many ways that our members come together in service to others is truly amazing to experience.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6: 10

The most unique thing to witness, however, was the collaborative process these long-time volunteers have developed over the many years they have worked together. There is no formal "leader" for this group because the department heads cooperate in their decision making. Each one knows what to do and who to call upon to get it done. The department heads work together as donations come in to adjust displays and reallocate space. New volunteers are welcomed and shown the ropes. All work together in service to others. Discussions occur and consensus is reached. Leader? Might as well try to herd cats! Inevitably, mistakes were made; with so many involved things are bound to be overlooked. We are all imperfect people, after all, and grace is plentiful here.

While it is all still fresh in our minds, we are having a short **follow-up meeting** on **March 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:15 to 9:45** in the Fireside Room. We want to hear your feedback, so please stop by between church services and let us know how we can do better next year. We hope to see you there.

In His Service,

Steve Philo

# Event Coordinator Message

### **March 2023**

March, our Lent march has begun. We walk steadfast in the Lord with prayers and confessions on our lips. We march forward through changes, together as the body of Christ we are church together let us focus our Faith Awakenings through the season of Lent and march onward.

**Wednesdays** we host Soup Suppers at 11:30 and 5:15 in the Parish Hall, Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to provide soup or help with set up and clean up.

Midweek Lent Worship Wednesdays at 12:15 pm and 6 pm in the Sanctuary

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

Quilters 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 3/14 @ 6pm

Family Fellowship will meet 3/20 @ 6:30 pm in the Cafe.

W.O.W. on Tuesdays at 9am and they are meeting in the Cafe! The last date is March 28th.

COUNCIL meets 3/21 @ 7pm

### **SPECIAL NOTICES:**

Family Fellowship is hosting a Game Day on MARCH 12th after service. Lunch will be provided as game day snack style and various games will be available to play!

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

Jenifer Clark, Event Coordinator

### **March 2023**

### **Sunday School**



Jesse Clark remains steadfast in his role as Sunday School teacher. The kids love his energy and enthusiasm. The kids will experience a brief lesson, crafts and games. Currently 3-5 students attending

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

For any questions, to register or volunteer please contact Jen Clark at <a href="mailto:event@mtolc.com">event@mtolc.com</a> or 928-662-8764

Jenifer Clark, Sunday School Coordinator



### Funding for Network Table Expansion in Arizona and Lake Havasu City

Last month, we talked about how Mount Olive's Network Table has successfully created momentum for more network tables for childcare centers around the state of Arizona. Briefly, we'd like to share how tables are financed.

*Open Table* (the national training organization based in Phoenix) trains and supports table members to enable them to effectively assist individuals or organizations like childcare centers for a year. As a non-profit, *Open Table* trains and supports one table for about \$8,000 to \$10,000. In Mount Olive's case, as the first pilot of a new model, *Open Table* trained and supported our network table for FREE!

The \$8,000 to \$10,000 cost for training and support is normally paid to *Open Table* by the organization receiving the training (like a church). *Open Table* is pursuing alternative ways to pay for their services. They have received grants to cover the training/support costs for 10-15 new network tables in Arizona.

In Lake Havasu City, *Open Table* applied for a grant from the city to cover the training/support costs for new network tables like ours. *Open Table* received a \$50,000 grant to train and support 5 new network tables in Lake Havasu for other local childcare centers. These funds are to cover *Open Table's* recruiting/training/support costs and are not for childcare center projects being met by the network tables. The network tables are responsible for seeking in-kind donations, volunteer services, and fundraisers to meet the childcare centers' needs.

If you have any questions on what we are doing, or how the table operates, please ask any of the table members. We'd love to share our work with you!

The Periodontal team, with assistance from other table members, will be sponsoring the Easter Breakfast this year to raise funds for the Guiding Light staff member's dental work. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us! We will also be running an on-line donation campaign. Please watch for this as well.

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

### MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Council Meeting Minutes January 17th, 2023

Absent: Mikael Ash

Meeting was called to order by Jim Day at 7:05PM. Pastor shared prayer. Jim read devotions because Mikey was absent.

### Standing Agenda items:

Mortgage Payoff was added to new business. Kris moved to approve agenda with addition. Karol seconded. Approved.

Minutes from 12/20/22 had an unclear statement about moving the Burro Sale to January. Shelly will add "January council meeting". Mike moved to accept minutes as corrected. Butch seconded. Minutes approved by all.

Correspondence: NONE to report

### Financial Reports:

- 1.Steve stated the end of year "budget to actual" numbers showed we ended the year with a deficit of \$13,232.33. He said funds must be taken from Capital Reserve account to cover this. Colleen made a motion to transfer money to cover the 2022 operating deficit from the Capital Reserve Fund, retroactively to December 30,2022. Motion seconded by Kris. All approved.
- **2.** Restricted Funds are now correct for year 2022. Council members appreciate all the time and effort Steve contributes. KRIS MADE MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS. BUTCH SECONDED. REPORTS APPROVED.

Consent Agenda: Reports were received from Worship Board, Family Fellowship, Property, Outreach, White Burro Sale and Network Table. Kris asked to pull Network Table Report. Kris made motion to approve **C**onsent **A**genda and Butch seconded. **CA** passes.

### MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Council Meeting Minutes January 17th, 2023

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Kim Corbin was present to give an update on the progress of the priority needs Network Table members are working on for Guiding Light. The playground fall zone areas are finished! All new windows are in place! The work on doors is moving forward. The dental treatment for the staff member at GLCEC is still needed. Many weeks went by while several appointments occurred to find the lowest cost. Kim shared that this treatment is such a crucial need for the health of the staff member that we want it to happen as soon as possible. If we tried to do fund raising first, the treatment would be delayed. Network Table requests a LOAN from the church because Aspen Dental wants to be paid in full before the dental work can begin. Steve stated the easiest place to deposit money in to repay the loan would be to take the money from The Humanitarian Fund. Shelly made motion to loan Network Table UP TO \$4500.00 to be paid back as soon as possible. Mary seconded. Motion passed.

Fund raising form from Quilters for their sale on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18th is included in packet. Butch made motion to approve the sale. Colleen seconded. Council approves Quilt sale. Proceeds will go to LWR (Lutheran World Relief).

Anonymous gift to completely pay off the debt was given. Special congregational meeting has been called for Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> where a motion to pay off the mortgage will be presented and voted on. Council must decide to end offerings to the building fund. Butch made motion to suspend donations to the debt reduction fund at end of January. Mary seconded. Discussion included encouraging people to continue giving the same amount each month as they have been so that money goes into the general fund in the future. Can we give people other options if they don't want to give to the general fund? Not a good idea. The objective is to decrease our deficit. Motion passes. Jim indicated the Executive officers have met with the intention of addressing long range planning.

### Closing:

Kris made motion to adjourn. Colleen seconded. Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer at 8:02PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shelly Hales, secretary.

# Mount Olive Lutheran Church March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday 2	Friday	Saturday 4
			11:30 AM-Cafe Open 11:30 AM-Lunch Soup Supper 12:15 PM-Lent Worship 01:00 PM-Colomonde 05:15 PM-Soup Supper 06:00 PM-Lent Worship	8:30 AM-Quilters-P.Hall 1:00 PM-Crafth Friends- P. Hall 1:00 PM-Woodshop 5:00 PM-Gospel Guys 5:30 PM-Chancel Choir 5:30 PM-Boy Scouts 5:30 PM-Treble Clef Singers	9.00 AM-Tops-P. Hall 08:00 AM-WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	4 08:00 AM-Tops - P. Hall 09:00 AM-Praise Band 05:00 PM-Worship w/Holy Communion
<b>6</b> 01 05 06 07	<b>6</b> 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:30 PM-Bell Choir 06:00 PM-Cub Scouts 992 07:00 PM-Al-anon- Lib	7 09:00 AM-Men's Fellowship-lib 09:00 AM-Staff Meeting - PC Hall	8 08:00 AM-Cafe Open 11:30 AM-Lunch Soup Supper 12:15 PM-Lent Worship 01:00 PM-Colomonde 05:15 PM-Soup Supper 06:00 PM-Lent Worship	9 08:30 AM-Quilters-P.Hall 01:00 PM-Craff'n Friends- P. Hall 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:00 PM-Gospel Guys 05:30 PM-Chancel Choir 06:30 PM-Treble Clef Singers	<b>10</b> 08:00 AM-Tops-P. Hall 06:00 PM-Havasu Rock & Gem-P. Hall	11 08:00 AM-Tops - P. Hall 08:00 AM-Praise Band 12:00 PM-Pinewood Derby- PC 05:00 PM-Worship
<b>~</b> öZoöŏo	<b>13</b> 08:00 AM-WORKPLACE NAPPING DAY 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:30 PM-Bell Choir 06:00 PM-Cub Scouts 992 07:00 PM-Al-anon- Lib	144 08:00 AM-PI DAY 09:00 AM-Men's Fellowship-lib 09:00 AM-W.C.W. Book Study 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl-FSR 11:00 AM-Staff Meeting - PC Hall 06:00 PM-Outreach-Library 06:00 PM-Worship Board-Cafe	15 08:00 AM-Cafe Open 11:30 AM-Lunch Soup Supper 12:15 PM-Lent Worship 101:00 PM-Colomonde 05:15 PM-Soup Supper 06:00 PM-Lent Worship	16 08:30 AM-Quilters-P.Hall 01:00 PM-Craffin Friends- P. Hall 01:00 PM-Woodshop 02:00 PM-PG& E Meeting-Lib 05:00 PM-Gospel Guys 05:30 PM-Chancel Choir 06:30 PM-Treble Clef Singers	<b>17</b> 08:00 AM-Tops-P. Hall 09:00 AM-Quilt Sale	18 08:00 AM-Tops - P. Hall 08:00 AM-Praise Band 09:00 AM-Quilt Sale 05:00 PM-Worship w/Holy Communion
000000	20 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:30 PM-Bell Choir 06:30 PM-Cub Scouts 992 06:30 PM-Family Fellowship- Cafe 07:00 PM-Al-anon- Lib	21 09:00 AM-Quilters Sew-ciety 09:00 AM-Men's Fellowship-lib 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 11:30 AM-Lunch Soup Supper 12:15 PM-Lent Worship 01:00 PM-Colomonde 05:15 PM-Soup Supper 06:00 PM-Lent Worship	23 08:00 AM-PUPPY DAY 08:30 AM-Quilters-P.Hall 01:00 PM-Craffn Friends- P. Hall 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:00 PM-Gospel Guys 05:30 PM-Chancel Choir 06:30 PM-Treble Clef Singers	<b>24</b> 08:00 AM-Tops-P. Hall	25 08:00 AM-Tops - P. Hall 08:00 AM-Woodshop Sale 09:00 AM-Praise Band 05:00 PM-Worship
<b>N</b> 0000	<b>27</b> 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:30 PM-Bell Choir 06:00 PM-Cub Scouts 992 07:00 PM-Al-anon- Lib	28 09:00 AM-Men's Fellowship-lib 09:00 AM-W.O.W. Book Study 11:00 AM-Staff Meeting - PC Hall	29 08:00 AM-Cafe Open 11:30 AM-Lunch Soup Supper 12:15 PM-Lent Worship 01:00 PM-Colomonde 05:15 PM-Soup Supper 06:00 PM-Lent Worship	30 08:30 AM-Quilters-P.Hall 01:00 PM-Craftn Friends- P. Hall 01:00 PM-Woodshop 05:00 PM-Gospel Guys 05:30 PM-Chancel Choir 06:30 PM-Treble Clef Singers	<b>31</b> 08:00 AM-Tops-P. Hall	