

THE OLIVE PRESS

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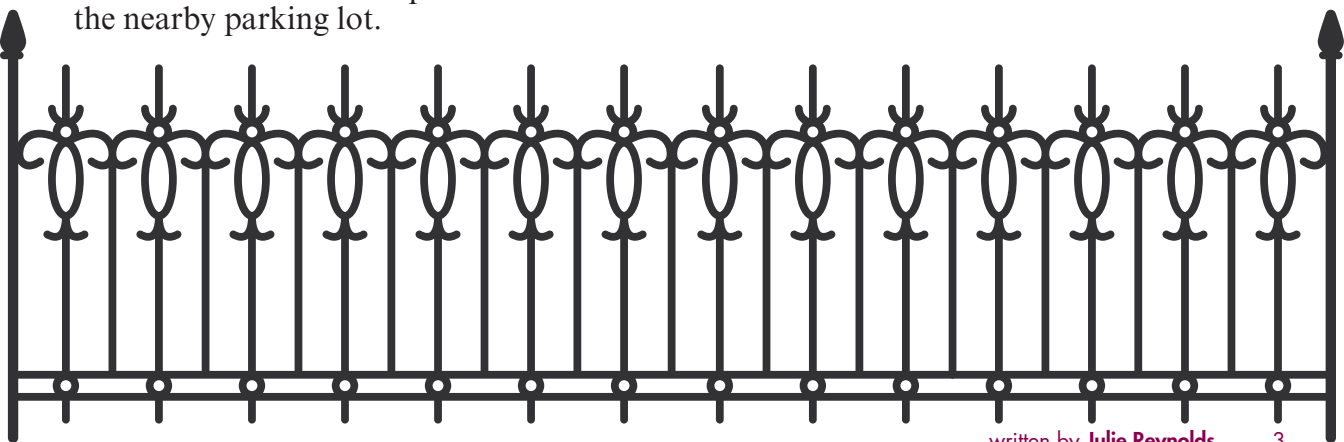
Mount Olive Preschool Takes Steps to Enhance Safety with New Security Fence

In today's world, creating a secure environment for our children has become increasingly essential, especially in schools and places of worship. Recognizing the importance of safety for its students and staff, Mount Olive Lutheran Church is installing a security fence around the Mount Olive Preschool. This initiative is part of a broader commitment to enhancing the well-being of everyone who enters the preschool.

In late 2023, JR5 Group Inc. conducted a comprehensive site security assessment at Mount Olive Preschool, the first Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) evaluation for the institution. CPTED principles focus on proactively preventing crime through strategic environmental modifications. Following the assessment, the Mount Olive Church Council decided to move forward with a professionally designed security solution, specifically crafted to provide a safe distance or "standoff" from semi-public areas such as the nearby parking lot.

The new fence, measuring approximately 424 feet long and 7 feet high, will consist of hot-dip galvanized ornamental iron with vertical slats to match the existing design. Not only will it secure the front grass area and create a greater boundary between the preschool and public spaces, but it will also limit access to the backyard areas from unauthorized visitors. This project includes multiple panic gates for rapid emergency exits and a vehicle access gate secured with a chain and padlock.

These safety measures demonstrate Mount Olive's commitment to fostering a protected, welcoming environment for our community's youngest members. We appreciate your ongoing support and prayers as we continue working to ensure the safety and security of our beloved preschool and church community.



What Lutheranism Is All About

The reformation rested upon **three fundamental principles**:

1. Our salvation is entirely a gift of grace from God. Not by what we do.
2. We receive that grace through faith and not by works we might do.
3. The sole norm and rule of all doctrine is the Holy Scriptures. So here is what we teach: Scripture alone. Lutherans believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God and that the Bible alone is the source of what we believe and practice. Lutherans are not anti-reason, anti-tradition, or anti-experience; we simply use the scriptures to judge the validity of these things. We believe the Bible is God's perfect word, and we will not change the Bible to agree with present-day living practices.

Grace Alone

At the center of what we believe is the assurance that salvation is based on the unearned gift of God's grace. What is so amazing about grace is that, though we are sinful by nature and deserve God's anger, we receive the riches of his love instead.

Faith Alone

God's gift of grace is received through faith that Jesus died for us. The good things we do flow out of being made right with God, but the good things have no power to make us right with God. This is what separates Christianity from all other world religions. Other religions point to what we have to do or what hoops we have to jump through to be made right with God. Christianity says Christ died on the cross to make us right with God. Through the word of God, baptism, and communion, our faith is created and sustained. Ephesians 2:8-9 says "By grace you have been saved through faith, and as a result, this is not your doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Christ Alone

Our sole basis and assurance of salvation is the life, death, and resurrection of God's son, Jesus Christ. Christianity is inclusive in that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. Salvation can only come from Jesus. In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me." This is what Lutheranism is in a nutshell--you can now tell other people that you are a Lutheran and show them how easy it is for them to receive eternal life in heaven. This is the way we escape death.

Friends of Mount Olive

Featuring John Reynolds

John Reynolds was born in Vineland, New Jersey and moved to California in June of 1991 for work. It was here that John met his wife of 27 years, Julie Moe Reynolds, and they had three children--Colton, Travis, and Ashley.

John and his wife began attending Mount Olive about three years ago after the Dahlgren's invited them. This invitation quickly turned into a membership at Mount Olive not long after.

A former special agent for the federal government of thirty-one years and retired supervisory special agent, John now has his own security consulting company called JR5 Group Inc.

Through his security consulting company and natural handiwork skills, John has managed to serve Mount Olive in a number of ways. Including but not limited to...

1. Assessing the security needs of both the church and preschool on an annual basis
2. Repairing and maintaining the gates outside the preschool for children's safety
3. Refurbishing the appearance of the church wood and front doors
4. Resurfacing and repainting the front of the preschool & its entrance
5. Installing signage to keep the property protected after hours



We are so happy to have John as a part of our Mount Olive family, not only for his physical contributions, but the selfless acts of service he exemplifies daily.

Marriage is Mysterious

because of how Special a Gift it is from God to all of us.

Genesis 2:24 and Mark 10:6-9 command “man to leave his father and mother to live and be with his wife and they shall become one flesh.” However, does anyone notice that in these verses the man’s father and mother are too one flesh?

These verses are a depiction of how a marriage between one man and one woman is a life-changing decision and while this decision affects the couple, it also affects everyone who is in their circle.

Apostle Paul (who was not married) illustrates through Ephesians 5:22-33 that marriage is the picture that God created demonstrating Christ’s relationship with the church and that the husband and wife have a sacred responsibility to love and respect each other. The Gospel in its entirety is about Jesus’ relationship with the church and what better way to live life than either being happily married, desiring to be married, or not being married, but still viewing the institution as holy and good!

This idea came to me after a good family friend, who is also a pastor, brought up that marriage is important because not only does the Word say it is, but it also is all around us, whether it’s your parents or your friends who are married. (It is also important to mention that marriage is embedded throughout our culture, especially in books and movies!)

Everyone has parents, friends, or at least knows people who are either married, separated, or even together not in marriage. My point here is that marriage is all around us and we all must pay attention and value it as a sacred institution that was created by God and God only.

I would also argue that a part of a marriage is having children; this would be God’s depiction of His relationship with His children, which is the entire Bible as a whole! In addition, if marriage had to affect one group, it is unquestionable that it is the children within the marriage.

Paul at the end of these verses called the institution a mystery, and why? Possibly because it is a gift that affects everyone even though it does not seem like it. Marriage is an image depicting how we should live our lives--whether married, divorced, or single.

Arguably, marriage is one of the best examples of how every person can be more like Christ: sacrificial, selfless, loving, loyal, respectful, and the like. As places and organizations such as the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty imply, the value of marriage as a sacred institution is being lost and it is important to remember that all our lives have been affected by marriage.

"Marriage is one of the best examples of how every person can be more like Christ: **sacrificial, selfless, loving, loyal, respectful**, and the like."



Katja Hokanson



PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Harper & Ellie sit in the reading tent.



PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

David Welch



David Welch

Our preschool continues to grow, with over 60 families joining our community and at least five families starting soon.

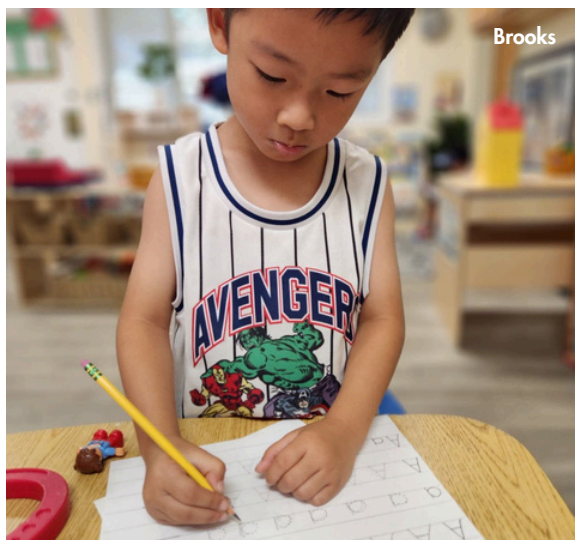
Our “Sing Sunday” was a huge success, serving over 120 hot dogs and enjoying a beautiful day with more than 45 children singing on stage.

Join us next for our next **“Sing Sunday”** in the Spring of 2025.

Our monthly Christian curriculum consists of the stories Hannah Prays, Samuel, David and Jonathan, and Elisha’s Home. Our discovery point is that God blesses our homes. Our discovery point is that God is with us to help us with our problems, especially our sins. He gives us victory over sin through Jesus.



Zen



Brooks



Trunk or Treat

Recap



Trunk or Treat was a huge success! Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers that came out to serve and thank you to everyone who helped make this possible through your donations.

What is Advent?

by Pastor Hjulberg

Days seem to fly by and before you know it, you are at the end of the year, ready to do it all over again. Coming to the end of the year means Christmas is right around the corner. There is always a certain excitement around this time of year. You keep an eye on all the sales so you can buy your Christmas gifts at the best deal. You take time off and travel to see family for Thanksgiving and Christmas. But in the chaos of the holiday season, we lose focus on what the season is all about.

Just like we have a calendar year, Christians have the Church Year. The beginning of the Church Year is Advent. The term “Advent” is derived from a Latin word which means “coming.” During the season of Advent, we focus on the first coming of Jesus Christ, when He was born to the Virgin Mary, in weakness and humility. Advent is a time to marvel at how our God took on our human nature. For Christians, Christmas is one of our chief celebrations (the other chief celebration is Easter).

Oftentimes you’ll see in church an Advent wreath with four colored candles and one white candle in the middle. This wreath helps us prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. The four colored candles represent the four Sundays of Advent leading up to Christmas. The themes that go with each Sunday are hope, peace, joy, and love. The white candle in the middle is called the Christ candle. This candle is lit on Christmas Eve.

As we meditate on the first coming of Christ during the season of Advent, we also look forward to the Second Coming of Christ. After His resurrection, Christ ascended into heaven. Now, we await His return. When Christ returns, He will raise all our bodies. In the Nicene Creed, we confess that we believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. We look for when Christ will usher in the new heaven and the new earth. There we will live in His presence for eternity.

So, as the days fly by and the holiday season approaches, slow down and meditate on the Advent of Christ.



Image from Canva



Pack a Shoebox!

Boxes are still available for pickup in the Church Office!

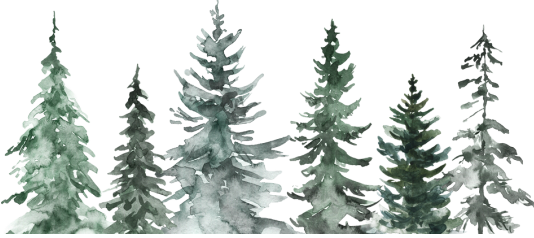
Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes.

Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way.

**Boxes will be collected at Mount Olive
November 3-November 17**



Editor's Message



Christmas Luncheon

Mount Olive's Annual Champagne Christmas Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, December 7th in the Fellowship Hall**. Sign-up is limited to the first 55 people. **Reserve your spot** today with the sign-up sheet in the church entryway!



Interested in Participating?

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are provided through individual's \$80 donations, which cover two beautiful arraignments. Sign up anytime in the church entry way!

Coffee Fellowship

Coffee Fellowship is provided through individuals donating food, setting up, and hosting the coffee fellowship after service on Sunday. Sign up to host one Sunday in anytime in the church entry way!

Writing in the Press

If you love to write, are passionate about ministry, or simply have a unique story to share, we want to hear you!

Contact

mtolive.ecarter@gmail.com
with any questions

Emma Carter

CALENDAR



NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	28 9:30am ESL Class	29	30 2 pm Zoom Bible Class 7:30pm 祷告会	31 9:30am Chapel	1 6:30pm Awana 7pm Chinese Bible Study	2
3 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	4 9:30am ESL Class	5 Election Day	6 2 pm Zoom Bible Class 7:30pm 祷告会	7 9:30am Chapel	8 7pm Chinese Bible Study	9 7pm Youth Group
10 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	11 Veterans Day 9:30am ESL Class	12	13 2 pm Zoom Bible Class 7:30pm 祷告会	14 9:30am Chapel 6pm Movie Night	15 9:15 am Parents Chapel 6:30pm Awana 7pm Chinese Bible Study	16
17 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	18 9:30am ESL Class	19	20 2 pm Zoom Bible Class 7:30pm 祷告会	21 9:30am Chapel 10am Preschool Board 7pm Elders	22 6:30pm Awana 7pm Chinese Bible Study	23 7pm Youth Group
24 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	25 9:30am ESL Class	26	27 2 pm Zoom Bible Class 7:30pm 祷告会	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 7pm Chinese Bible Study	30 <i>Homemade GIFTS MADE EASY</i>

Holidays and Observances: 5: Election Day, 11: Veterans Day, 28: Thanksgiving Day, 29: Black Friday

*For further calendar updates, please visit www.mtoliverpv.com

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