

From Pastor Dave NOVEMBER

N is for the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA. Mission Statement “Walking Together – Sharing Christ.” 200 congregations. Bishop Leonard Bolick and staff: Rev. Beth Kearney, Rev. Phil Tonnesen, Tammy Jones West – AIM, Ray Barnhardt, Rev. Bob Shoffner, Rev. Ernie Hinojosa, Catherine Fink, Connie Young – AIM, Melanie Bookout, Rick Godby, Diane Ryan, Kelly Zalinsky.

O is for orange pumpkin pie, sweet potatoes, sweet potato casserole, and other wonderful mouth-watering Thanksgiving season traditions.

V – All ya’ll volunteers who always do so much, in, around, and through Mt. Olive for the glory of God, but especially lately with the sanctuary restoration work and the red doors, especially Denny Hacker, Doug Moose, Richard Barger, Glenn Arndt, Nancy Arndt, Adeliah Roach, Mary Beth Sjaardema. **PLEASE SEE PAGE 5 for Denny’s Exciting Update!**

Each of the partner ministries we help support through the NC Synod: Agape+Kure Beach; Lutheridge+Lutherock; Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary; Lenoir-Rhyne University; Lutheran Family Services; Lutheran Services for the Aging; Lutheran Retirement Ministries of Alamance County; NC Lutheran Men in Mission; The North Carolina Synodical Women’s Organization.

Money you have generously given thus far this year toward Mt. Olive’s General Fund (over \$360,000) for the Lord’s work; to the Capital Campaign for the Sanctuary work over the last few years (\$600,000); and tens of thousands more to dozens of designated causes and ministries including recent appeals for “Families in Need,” Lutheran World Relief, CCM Harvest Hope Walk, and more!

Brrr. Cold mornings. Hot chocolate, coffee, cider.... I wonder what the temperature was in the Garden of Eden? Thanksgivings for people who share warmth (coats, heat, quilts, money, coffee, kerosene...) with those who suffer from lack of heat and funds to provide.

Educators educating children, youth, adults in life, faith, language, music, technology, theology, math, science, philosophy, economics, art.... Sunday school teachers too!

Righteousness “is consistently defined by the prophets, and in the psalms and gospels, as a willingness to care for the most vulnerable people in a culture, characterized in ancient Israel as orphans, widows, resident aliens, and the poor....John Newton ordered his slave ship to turn around in mid-ocean to return to Africa to set his human cargo free. When he wrote, *’twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed,*’ he had grasped the beauty of righteousness, he spoke the simple truth. And he himself became righteous.” (Kathleen Norris, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*. 1998)

MEMBERS

Becky Anthony
Betty Jo Bolick
Eunice Bumgarner, *Lutheran Home*
Matt Coyne
Brady Eckard
Geneva Eckard, *Sterling House*
Wilma Eckard, *Lutheran Home-West*
Margaret Frye
Lib Hamby
Virginia Hoover
Jan Hefner
Linda Huffman

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Vivian Anderson, *former member*
Jillian Apel, *daughter of former vicar Heather Apel*
Rev. Hugh Baumgartner, *former pastor*
Rhonda Brookshire, *friend of Beth Huber*
Margaret Byington, *mother of Karen Birkedal*
Eric Cogan, *brother-in-law of Pat Neill*
Charlotte Craig, *friend of Becky Anthony*
Millie Cunningham, *mother of Nina Keck*
Terry Cranford Family, *friend of Hank & Bernice McCrorie*
Huitt Drum, *husband of Pat Sipe Drum*
Evelyn Harkins, *grandmother of Jen Tice*
Arlee Helton, *mother of Eugene Helton*
Suzie Huber, *sister of Dan Huber*
Randy Ingold, *husband of Judi Ingold*
Albert Keck, *grandfather of Pastor Dave Keck*
Estelle Leatherman, *sister-in-law of Ruth Seabock*
Keith McDaniel, *friend of Danielle Job*
Kathryn Miller, *daughter of Jean Nutting*
Sharon Palmer, *sister of Linda Stine*
Danny Pattillo, *brother of Katie Fisher*
Thelma Rozukalns, *wife of Andy Rozukalns*
Joellen Schimoeller, *daughter-in-law of Wilbert & Ruth Seabock*
Kenley Sigmon, *daughter of Ellis Bolick*
William Smith, *former member*
Steven Stewart, *brother of Susan Petersen*
Dot Swing, *wife of former pastor*
Jean Wagner, *mother of Patty Williams*
Craig Waldon, *son of Paul & Marion Waldon*

Henry Jarvis
Virginia Killian
Maxine Kirchin
Patty Mesuch
Audrey Moose, *Lutheran Home- West*
Thelma Miller, *Lutheran Home- West*
Martha Price
Weyburn Seabock
Ben Setzer
Josephine Smith, *Brian Center-East*
Oran Starnes
Pat Townsend
Robert Welch

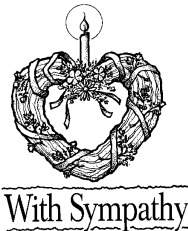
Our Military Family Members: *Chris Atwater, Coast Guard; Christopher Todd Metcalf, Army; Adam Moose, Navy*

Christian love and sympathy to the family of Berlyn Ledford upon his death.

Christian love and sympathy to Jane Spaugh upon the death of her mother Sallie Pennell.

Christian love and sympathy to Gwen Kingsley upon the death of her husband Tom.

Christian love and sympathy to the family of Terry Cranford upon his death.





Mt. Olive Trivia

This year the trivia questions will all pertain to the New Testament. The **answer** is placed somewhere in this newsletter.

Where did John the Baptist live before he started his ministry?



The annual Congregation Meeting will be held on **November 20, 2011** at **9:45 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to approve a budget for the coming year, to elect four (4) persons to serve a 3-year term to Congregation Council to replace those members whose term expires at the end of the calendar year, to elect congregation officers, to elect one (1) person to serve a 3-year term on the Audit Committee, to elect four (4) delegates to NC Synod Assembly for the next calendar year, elect one (1) person to serve a 4-year term on the Ministry Foundation, and six (6) persons to serve on the Nominating Committee for the next calendar year.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
“When God’s Spirit Moves”

Tuesdays: November 1,8,15,22,29 and December 6.
11:00 a.m. Tuesdays in the Education Building, Room 206.

6 Session study with DVD from author and pastor Jim Cymbala. Participants will learn how to make room for the Spirit’s action in your life and in your church; how God wants to work through your gifts and talents to enable you to do what only he can do; how to listen for the voice of the Spirit in prayer and how to apply God’s word to your life; how the Spirit can bring healing to your body, your emotions, and your relationships; how a life lived in the presence of the Spirit can transform the church and the world; how your church can become a place where people regularly experience God’s presence and power. Contact Pastor Dave for more information.

Attention Mt. Olive Seniors!!

We will hold our planning meeting for next year’s activities on Wednesday, November 16, at Abingdon Glen Clubhouse. After the meeting we’ll enjoy a pot-luck luncheon and fellowship. Please come at 10 a.m. with plenty of ideas of things/activities you’d enjoy doing during 2012. We’ll also be electing officers for the coming year, so please consider serving in some capacity. We look forward to our get-together on the 16th!

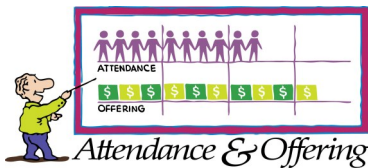
Questions??
Call Gwen Kingsley at 327-0997.



Calling All Seniors!

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 30, 2011



October 23

Sunday School	53
Worship, 8:30	62
Worship, 10:45	116
Worship, 5:13	24

October 30

Sunday School	47
Worship, 8:30	30
Worship, 10:45	124
Worship, 5:13	27

Stewardship Report

CASH BASIS	OCT. 23	OCT. 30
Total General	\$6,428.00	\$6,216.50

Offerings

Budgeted amt. needed weekly	\$8,627.00
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DESIGNATED FUNDS

World Hunger	120.00	110.00
Adult /Children S.S	8.00	25.50
WAMO	195.00	194.00
Lutheran World Relief	100.00	65.00
Tying & Tacking Girls	160.00	
CCM	230.00	50.00
Youth Fund	317.50	
Olive Oil Fund	190.00	162.00
Malaysia Ministry Fund	1000.00	
CDC Payroll Taxes W/H	2680.80	
Music Fund		50.00

Ttl Designated Collections	\$5,001.30	\$656.50
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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Capital Campaign	\$1,996.00	\$850.00
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Cash – Beginning of Month	\$8,391.77
Unrestricted Giving	\$32,335.63
Disbursements	(\$34,555.12)
Cash – End of Month	\$5,512.89
Borrowed from Designated Fund	\$0.00

Unrestricted giving of \$32,336 received during September was below the budgeted target of \$34,562. Actual expenses of \$34,555 for the month were also lower than the budgeted amount of \$36,895. As has been the case for many months, all expenses were restricted as much as possible, even though insurance premiums were due in September. With this activity, a net deficit of \$2,219 was recognized for the month, and was almost equal to the budgeted monthly deficit of \$2,333. The annual net surplus was \$919 at the end of September.

Unrestricted cash was \$5,513 (sum of the Main Account and Main Deposit Account) at the end of September. An item worth noting was that the temporary loan, which has been borrowed from the Designated Fund (Reserve-Repairs & Maintenance) for many months, had a balance of \$0 at the end of September. The balance of this loan was also \$0 at the end of August.

A full copy of our financial report is available on the bulletin board directly across from the office, and your continued financial support of the ministry of Mt. Olive is greatly appreciated.

NEXT OLIVE BRANCH - NOVEMBER 21, 2011
 ARTICLE DEADLINE - NOVEMBER 17 NOON

THE OLIVE BRANCH

NOVEMBER 8, 2011

Mt Olive Lutheran Church
2780 N. Center St.
Hickory, NC 28601

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit 97
Hickory, NC 28601



Mt. Olive Mission Statement

*Loving, Witnessing, Serving:
Making Christ Known!*

✂ Cut on the dotted line and keep for handy reference

November 20 *Christ the King Sunday*
Congregation Meeting

November 23 *7pm, Thanksgiving Eve Worship*

November 24 *Thanksgiving*

November 27 *Advent Begins*

December 24 *Christmas Eve*
7:30pm & 10:30pm Worship

December 25 *Christmas Sunday*
10:00 a.m. Worship

In the desert (Luke 1:80)

The Rev. David R. Keck, Jr., Pastor
The Rev. Walter L. Hitchcock, Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Eric Griggs, Youth & Family Ministry Dir.
Mr. Andy Rozukalns, Organist/Choir Director
Ms. Shirley Griggs, CDC Director
Ms. Jean Nutting, Parish Administrator
Ms. Kristen Seese, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Rick Stine, President Congregation Council
Mr. Darin Shook, VP Congregation Council
Mr. Chris Frye, Secretary, Congregation Council
Mr. Eric West, Treasurer
Telephone: 324-6198
(Emergencies) 324-6198 or
322-8129 (h) Pastor Dave
Email:
mtolivelutheran@embarqmail.com
Website: www.mtolutheran.org

Slightly excited... the renewal is appearing!

The ceiling, lighting, electrical, and floor polishing of Mt. Olive's Sanctuary are complete. The pews and chancel furniture have returned. The tile work is absolutely beautiful. Thanks to Rhonda Hull for color and design choices. The tile work will be complete soon. When the pulpit is in place, then the tile can be set around it.

Having heard comments about the ceiling I feel the need to add some more. I suspect many of us, me included, had a vision of a perfect white expanse of plaster dotted with a few lights. But there was a beam in the ceiling that could not be moved and did leave a ridge in one area. Now don't look for it if you haven't noticed or it will bug you like the ridge around the former hole in our family room ceiling. The hole I made by falling through the plaster. One last minute electrical change was to add a light sensitive fixture outside the side door of the sanctuary so that it is on every night for security and safety reasons.

There has always been a central zone in the ceiling. We had hoped to eliminate that when we had the textured asbestos removed. However that would have meant even more expense as more leveling would have been necessary. The Task Force opted to retain the architect's design. I point that out to say that the central section is by design and is not a flaw. When the lights are on all looks clean and bright. The center rectangle does pull your eye forward which I suspect was the architect's plan.

New carpet has been chosen and ordered for the airlock and the sacristy/ramp area. The carpet is a long wearing Lee's that is guaranteed for the time we have it down. When we have a better total on costs, we may ask Council to authorize new carpet on the spiral stairs. It would also be much safer if we added better lighting but that would be a later project.

We will need lots of clean up labor in the coming weeks. As soon as the carpet is removed from the airlock, it will be time to wash all those clear windows inside and out. After the furniture and carpet is complete in the sanctuary there will be sweeping and dusting to do. There will also be the task of bringing up the hymnals. So watch this space for a chance to help out as you have all summer.

Volunteers have painted the lower airlock ceiling and the exterior over hang and also the educational entrance from the parking lot. You will notice the difference. Anyone want to help with the last exterior ceiling? The area towards the bell tower.

The sound and video system will be reinstalled near the end of the project and the organ will be functional again. The organ people live and work in the epicenter of the Virginia earthquake and have lost some valuable work time. That combined with their previous commitments means they will not likely install the new blower until January.

Thanks for the amazing encouragement.

Denny Hacker

Stewardship: It's What I'm Supposed to Do

A Christian writer was telling about a new convert to the faith that started attending his church. She was in her early 30s, but already very successful in her career and was well compensated. When she became a Christian, and started attending that church, the offering totals were noticeably increased and it was apparent that this new Christian woman had quickly and remarkably become the church's top giver.

The writer asked this young woman what her motivation was for giving so much to the work of this church—was it gratitude for her own personal financial success? Or was it a feeling of joy that she received in giving so faithfully and generously? Why was she giving, and for goodness sake, why was she giving so much?

She was kind of surprised that her gifts were considered to be so far above the norm. She answered his question though by saying, "Gratitude? Sure I guess I feel gratitude for what I've achieved and what God has given me. But right now, at this brand new stage of discipleship, I'm just giving because it is what I'm supposed to do. It's what Jesus commands me to do. Maybe later, when I'm more adept at this, I'm sure I'll have all sorts of great theological reasons for my giving. But right now, I just give because I'm told to give."

That simple and straight-forward understanding of being a courageous and willing disciple is very helpful for us all, especially those of us who may have been in church a long time. Though we may have many reasons to give, it is very helpful to remember that our first impulse is simply a reaction to Jesus saying to us, "Come and follow me." And we give of ourselves, or of our time, our energy, our passion, our money—all because Christ has asked us to be faithful and to be his church.

by Josh Nelson (from Luther Seminary, Stewardship Resources)

Kids in Need (KIN) Fund Annual Holiday Tribute

*What do you buy for the person who has everything?
Do you feel like there is no meaning behind the gifts you give?
Do you wander aimlessly through the stores searching for the gift that is just not there?*

We have the perfect Holiday gift... Help a Kid in Need!

The KIN Fund was started by the School Health Team and benefits the uninsured and underserved school age children in Catawba County. The primary goal of the KIN Fund is to increase the number of students (K-12) that will receive medical, dental, and vision care after a need is identified.

The School Health Team invites you to participate in their Annual Holiday Tribute for 2011. This is how it works:

- ☆ Make a donation (no minimum amount required) to the KIN Fund in honor or in memory of a co-worker, friend, family member, teacher, etc. In return for your donation, we will send a letter in their honor or memory to the person you designate.
- ☆ In addition, a laminated paper ornament with the honorees name will be sent with the donation letter that can placed on their family tree, if desired.
- ☆ Holiday donation accepted November through New Years.
- ☆ Donations can be sent to/checks made payable to:

Catawba County Public Health - KIN Fund
Attn: Rhonda Stikeleather
3070 11th Ave. Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602

Please include the "in honor of/in memory of" name and mailing address where the gift notifications can be sent.

What a wonderful way to make a difference in the life of a Catawba County child.

Questions? Please contact Rhonda Stikeleather at 828-695-5893.