



# THE OLIVE BRANCH

## SEPTEMBER 2021



From the desk of Pastor Ryan

“Keep calm and carry on” became the motto of the British during Germany’s bombing blitz of their country during World War II. It also makes for an appropriate mantra for all of us during the Pandemic. As I’m guessing you also believed, like I did, that the worst was behind us, I am learning that may not be the case. Yet, even in the midst of many unknowns, the gospel still promises the best is ahead of us. God is always at work. As God was surely present in Jesus’ suffering and death for us on the cross, God is also present in our trials and tribulations. God’s presence through tough times is not only a comfort, but a challenge and a call. As the body of Christ in the world, we are called to be present for others when they struggle. Now that I think of it, a better motto for us is “Trust God and carry on.” The grace and love we receive is intended to spill over on others. God works through the likes of us, imperfect as we are, to bring hope and meet needs of the world. It is in trusting God and joining in God’s work that we find calm. As Paul wrote to the Philippians “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7). Pray, trust, and follow are our marching orders. May you find peace and calm in your obedience to them.

In Jesus’ love,  
Pastor Ryan



### Gathering Guidelines

Following guidance of the NC Synod’s Regathering Task Force, Mt. Olive requires social distancing and mask-wearing by everyone present at all indoor events. There will be no eating or drinking at church events for the time being.

**MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
**2780 NORTH CENTER STREET**  
**HICKORY, NC 28601**  
**PHONE: 828-324-6198**

**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:**  
**September 15**

Please note: newsletter articles  
should be sent to Karen at  
[mtolivechurch@embarqmail.com](mailto:mtolivechurch@embarqmail.com)



## How to Worship from Home

**If you don't have internet access:** Mt. Olive is currently holding 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in-person services each week. Communion is offered weekly. In addition to Mt. Olive's worship offerings, the NC Synod has coordinated a shared worship experience you can access via your telephone. To listen to Worship anytime, call toll-free: 833-924-1988. Press 1 to hear the full worship. Press 2 to hear only the sermon. Press 3 to hear only the prayers.

**If you have internet access, but not a Facebook account:** All of the above worship options are available to you. Also, even without a Facebook account, you can watch Mt. Olive worship live on our Facebook Business Page by searching for "Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC – ELCA." Without a Facebook account you cannot leave comments. You can also watch the NC Synod's worship online at [www.facebook.com/NCsynod/](http://www.facebook.com/NCsynod/)

**If you have internet access and a Facebook account:** All of the above worship options are available to you. In addition, you can comment and interact in real time during live worship on Facebook and join the "Mt. Olive Lutheran – Hickory" Facebook Group.

**Thanks to all who volunteered for our new Connection Ministry Team,** which will take "Happy Birthday!" yard signs to each member on the month of their birthday.

### 3 Things to Know about Online Worship

- 1) Pastor Ryan has begun an experimental interactive online service from 10-10:30 a.m. each week. The goal of this service is to build an online worshipping community which interacts with Pastor Ryan throughout the worship service. This half-hour service is offered in addition to, not in place of, the live broadcast of the 10:45 service.
- 2) In addition of the safety measures of wearing masks, social distancing, limiting capacity, and using sealed elements, remember that our sanctuary has been equipped with "air scrubbers," which provide a constant flow of clean air to the worship space.
- 3) Your church council has contracted with Larry's Music & Sound to update both video and audio equipment for the online service. Updates will be made within the next few weeks which should produce major improvement to both sight and sound of the online service.

### Synod-wide Fall 2021 Bible Study

Using the curriculum "Dialogues on Race," the group will explore our relationship with race, the Bible, and our theological responses. Each week's dialogue explores the history of racism, personal faith stories, and biblical reflections with an eye toward community building. In early November, there will be a Zoom panel discussion with some of the authors! Individuals wanting to participate can do so through the synod's website. Stay tuned for more details!

**\*\*The church office will be closed on Labor Day\*\***

### The Rev. Ralph Kraft (Visitation Pastor)

Dear Mt. Olive Congregation,

Grace and peace to you. I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself as I have officially been welcomed on board as a part time staff person at Mt. Olive to help Pastor Ray out with pastoral care type needs. This will include visiting and taking Holy Communion to the home-bound and shut-in members as well as being on call for emergencies when Pastor Ray is out of town.

I am originally from Savannah, GA and am an Eagle Scout as scouting was a significant part of my upbringing. I graduated from the University of GA with a degree in agriculture, concentration in horticulture. I had thought my calling was to be a park ranger or county extension agent or something along the lines of helping make the world a better place through education and conservation efforts. During and after college I had a variety of jobs and experiences including working as a Boy Scout camp counselor, office supply work, landscaping and an Environmental Education instructor. A year and a half out of college some things came together in my life to where the Lord let me know it was time to go to seminary. This made sense as church has always been an important part of my life. In fact, The Rev. Hugh Baumgartner who served at Mt. Olive from 1959-1965, left here to serve as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran in Savannah which was my dad's home church. I attended the day school there and have memories of Pastor Baumgartner leading weekly chapel services. His son, Paul also became a pastor and he was at Redeemer Lutheran in Savannah (my home congregation) when I felt called to go to seminary. It all goes to show it is a small world where Lutherans are concerned.

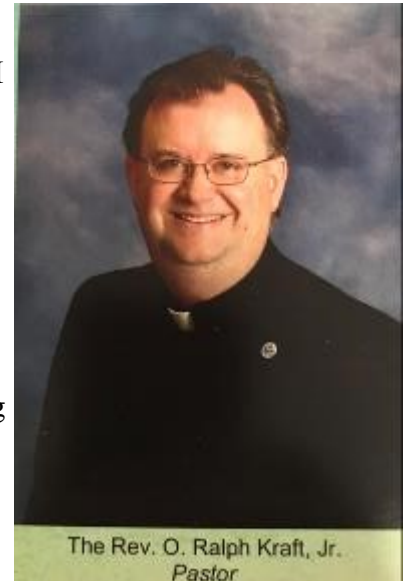
I was accepted to attend Southern seminary in Columbia, SC in 1991. Seminary is a four year process which includes a one year supervised internship. I just happened to get assigned to Morning Star Lutheran in Matthews just outside of Charlotte. My year of internship did a lot to solidify my sense of call to the ministry and I received a warm welcome into the North Carolina Synod. This welcome was so significant that it led to my desire to serve in this synod as a pastor, something the Lord has worked out as my entire 26 years of ministry has been in North Carolina. For the past nine years I have been the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Startown/Newton on Startown Rd. This is not to be confused with Old St. Paul Lutheran or St. Paul Reformed Church, both of which are also in Newton.

I am married to Mary, my wife of 18 years. We don't have children but do have four cats we take care of and spoil. She is a tremendous support to me and my ministry. Her father is the Rev. Malcom Lerch a retired Lutheran pastor here in Catawba County.

Last month, Pastor Ray reached out to me with this opportunity saying he needed some help at the church and I was in need of some extra pastoral work. He and I have known each other for years and have worked together with youth related service projects and confirmation. I am thankful for this opportunity and partnership in ministry and look forward to getting to know you as together we are partners in ministry in service to our Lord.

God's Peace,

Pastor Ralph Kraft



The Rev. O. Ralph Kraft, Jr.  
Pastor



1. Who was anointed the first king of Israel?
2. Who healed Naaman of leprosy?
3. Complete the following saying of Jesus: "I am the way..."

### Music Rehearsals

Music rehearsals will resume in August! Beginning on August 11, we will return to a weekly rehearsal schedule. All are welcome!

Wednesdays 5:30- 6:30 PM Children's Music- Meets in education building

Wednesdays 6:30- 7:30 PM Faith Out Loud (Sings at 8:30 Service) - Meets in Sanctuary

Wednesdays 7:30- 8:30 PM Chancel Choir (Sings at 10:45 Service) - Meets in Olive Chapel

Sundays 5:30- 6:30 PM Handbells (Beginning August 15) -Meets in Sanctuary

If you are interested in handbells, please contact me so I can plan music according to the number of ringers.

No experience is needed to participate in any of the musical ensembles. All you need to bring is yourself, and our purpose is to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Please contact me if you have any questions at [mtoorganist@gmail.com](mailto:mtoorganist@gmail.com) or 828-850-1153.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Jenna

### Ministry with Our Children

We need a leader to coordinate our ministry with children. Please begin praying daily that God will lead us to the right person. God provides for all our needs. If you know of a good and faithful candidate, please pass that name on to Pastor Ryan.

**Youth Quake 2021** is Saturday, October 9, 2021 from 9:00am-3:00pm at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church in Hickory. Youth Quake is our synod's annual retreat for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. Children will explore what it means to be the church in small groups, through music and dancing, and through play and prayer. This is always a fun event, and we hope you will join us! Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 15 at noon.

### **2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis – Boundless: God Beyond Measure**

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. The upcoming Gathering is scheduled for July 24-28.

### Blessing of the Animals

Grab a leash and lawn chair and bring your "fur friends" to the grassy lawn beside the lower parking lot at 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We'll have a brief animal blessing to thank God for our quadrupedal companions. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors.

# September Happenings at Mt. Olive

## Trivia Answer:

1. Saul (1 Sam 10:1)
2. Elisha (2 Kings 5:1-19)
3. "the truth and the life." (John 14:6)

Christian Sympathy for the family of Betty Rink on her passing.



## Altar Flowers for September

Sep. 5 Mary Gregory  
Sep. 12 Gail Miller  
Sep. 19 Pam Sigmon  
Sep. 26 Marion Waldon

Please send in check or cash and label them flowers. The total amount with tax is \$53.50

Following the service please take your flowers with you as we currently do not have a flower ministry, or you may pick them up a day or so after Sunday.

## Hickory Soup Kitchen

We will be assisting the Soup Kitchen on Monday, September 13th. If you are interested in helping, contact Debbie Carmack.

## Martha & Esther Circle

The Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 7th at 11:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall.

Esther Circle has changed its meeting day and time to the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall. We look forward to seeing you on September 2nd.

## Vases for Columbarium

The new flower vases have been placed in the columbarium. Margaret Barger purchased them in memory of Richard Barger.

## September Birthdays

Sep 2	Chris Cook
Sep 3	Donald Coulter
Sep 4	Curtis Paul Geoff Yount
Sep 5	Jane Hitchcock
Sep 6	Josh Sullivan
Sep 9	Lisa Atwater
Sep 11	Charles Smith
Sep 12	Joy Job Haley Ormand
Sep 16	Sarah Garner Pat Thompson
Sep 17	Matthew Cook Darrell Punch
Sep 19	Teresa Bazzle
Sep 22	Judy Ingold
Sep 23	Roxy Poovey
Sep 27	Frank Miller
Sep 28	Cathy Laxton
Sep 29	Declan Anthony
Sep 30	Keri Anthony

## WELCA News

An executive board meeting will be held on Sunday, September 12th at 2:00 p.m. We will have a general meeting at 3:00 p.m. to assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Please plan on joining us for this school kit activity. You do not have to be a WELCA member to participate. Hope to see you on September 12th in Heritage Hall. Please wear masks and observe social distancing. Thanks!

## Adult Fellowship

The adult fellowship group will meet on Wednesday, September 15th at 10:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall. We will be playing Bingo. Please join us for a fun-filled time. Please bring a very inexpensive trinket for prizes. Lynette Carson is in charge of the program. Please free to join us for a great get together. Hope to see you there! Remember to wear masks and social distance.

*Thank You!*

You all are Amazing! Our guests are so fortunate to have your help. God bless you.

Austin Pearce  
Hickory Soup Kitchen

Mt. Olive family,

Thank you so much for the lovely reception on August 15th and meaningful send off on August 22nd. The signed framed picture is absolutely beautiful. As I said in my last sermon, I will hold you all in my heart.

Love,  
Vicar Denise

**Mt. Olive Congregation Council Minutes**

**Attending:** Gerald Burke, Mickey Barnett, Pastor Ryan, Becky Anthony, Pam Sigmon, Eric Griggs, Sue Seabock, Herm Price, Libby Garner, Teresa Bazzle

**Absent:** Carly Seif, Chris Frye, Denise Henry

**Guests:** Tim Lineberger, Penny Lineberger, Frances Hallman

Eric Griggs called our meeting to order. Micah 6:8 was the reading.

Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Finances:** Gerald covered the finances of Mt. Olive. We've had more bldg. mtc and ground mtc this year than in 2020. He gave us each a copy of notes concerning the pay increases for staff. Libby Garner made motion to accept Finance Committee's recommendation for the increase in pay for Karen for her extra duties for 2020 & 2021, and Jenna's increase as she is taking on more of Lynne Reed's tasks. Teresa Bazzle seconded motion; motion passed to accept recommendation.

Pastor Ryan has talked with Pastor Ralph Kraft (he is currently serving as part-time pastor at St. Paul's, Startown), asking him if he is interested in serving us part-time as a visitation pastor plus filling in with pastoral issues when Pastor Ryan is away. Pastor Kraft is interested in serving in this capacity. He will begin this job the week of August 22-28, due to Pastor Ryan being away for school (Doctor of Ministry studies).

**Sound system:** Larry's Music and Sound visited our church to assess our sound situation in the sanctuary; he told us what is needed to improve our sound and video in the sanctuary and submitted an estimate of \$15,640. He also suggested that we update our audio system. Our system is quite good but does need some updating. Larry will also check the connections of the TV screens in Heritage Hall and in the nursery. Estimates on this work will be attached to the council meeting notes. Net cost is below the 5% amount for authorization by council. There is also COVID money available from the NC Synod. Those forms can be found on the NC Synod web site. Teresa moved that we approved this work to be done; Libby seconded; motion passed.

**Security cameras:** Hope to hear back from Select Tech this week regarding more security cameras to be installed.

**Church revitalization/breakthrough prayer initiative update:** Pastor Ryan addressed this topic. He has not heard back from Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey as yet (if this is to begin in September or October); he has some questions regarding this congregational portion of his Doctor of Ministry. They may be 'on hold' for a bit regarding COVID. Pastor Ryan begins his first intensive schooling the week of August 22-28.

**2022 budget preparation:** Council members, please touch base with church teams you work with regarding updating budget numbers for 2022 and this info needs to be provided to Gerald (the earlier the better is preferred).

**Estimates received for window installation:** 6'(w)x4'(h) window to be installed in wall between Narthex and back of sanctuary (on the south side of the center sanctuary double doors). This will aid in security issues and also parents with small children can use that area and still know what is going on in the sanctuary. The current TV screen will be placed above the window after construction is completed. Libby made motion and Beckie Anthony seconded to accept King Builders' estimate of \$6125.00 (estimate attached with council notes).

**Topics for the good of the church:**

**Security:** Mickey suggested that we need to get back to our schedule of having one usher stationed at the drive-thru area in back of the church while members and guests are arriving prior to the service. We do not have enough people volunteering to help with ushering tasks, as well as acolyte, crucifer, etc. and the volunteers need to be told what their tasks are to be and the length of time they will need to be at their post. Libby suggested that there might need to be someone dedicated to monitoring the screens during the service. The more prepared and aware we are during church services, the less likely we will be a target of robbery or something worse. And a good rule of thumb is: **IF YOU UNLOCK A DOOR AT THE CHURCH, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE IT IS SECURED AGAIN BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE PREMISES! AND REMEMBER TO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS, TOO. WHATEVER AREA YOU WILL BE WORKING IN, CHECK THE DOORS IN THAT AREA TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE SECURED PRIOR TO BEGINNING YOUR TASK. THAT IS WAY BETTER THAN A STRANGER SURPRISING YOU WHILE YOU ARE HERE!**

Also, there are some areas in Heritage Hall where there are some members' personal items that need to be moved out of Heritage Hall.

Meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Sigmon



## OFFERINGS

Cash Basis:	Jul 25	Aug 1	Aug 8	Aug 15	Aug 22
<b>Total General Offerings</b>	<b>\$5,221.00</b>	<b>\$9502.41</b>	<b>\$5,881.00</b>	<b>\$4,091.25</b>	<b>\$4,391.50</b>
<b>Budgeted amount needed weekly</b>					
<b>Designated Funds:</b>					
World Hunger		\$100.00	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$210.00
Cemetery funds					
Micah's Cupboard	\$560.00	\$250.00			\$10.00
Quilting Fund	\$310.00	\$10.00			\$10.00
Pastor's discr fund					
Memorials					
Evangelism/Outreach/School	\$10.00	\$10.00			
Feeding homeless					
Youth fund					
Soup Kitchen		\$70.00			\$50.00
Operation Christmas Shoebox					\$10.00
CCM		\$50.00			\$50.00
Use of building					
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$880.00</b>	<b>\$490.00</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>\$340.00</b>

<b>Reserve - Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>\$365.00</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
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Financial Update at a glance:	June	July	August
Month to date giving	\$34,032.93	\$35,483.82	\$23,866.16
Monthly budgeted amount:	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$33,000.00

### JULY 2021 TREASURER'S REPORT

Total income for July 2021 was \$35,451, the budget amount was \$32,000, and July 2020 was \$34,365. Total expenses were \$30,617, compared with a budget amount of \$33,674. For this month, income exceeded expenses by \$4,834.

Income for the seven-month period ending July 30, 2021 was \$238,228, compared with the prior year period of \$259,120. Expenses were \$208,319 for this period in 2021, compared with the prior year of \$202,256. For the seven-month period, income exceeded expenses by \$29,910.

Gerald Burke,  
Treasurer



## MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

8:30 Service	9/5/2021	10:45 Service
Chris Bass	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Penny Lineberger
Connie Burleson	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Naomi East
Chris Bass	<b>Crucifer</b>	Penny Lineberger
Connie Burleson	<b>Acolyte</b>	Naomi East
Chris Bass	<b>Lay Lector</b>	Naomi East
Sylvia Price	<b>Greeter</b>	Paulette Church
Herman Price / Bob Eliasson	<b>Ushers</b>	Gerald Burke / Tim Lineberger

8:30 Service	9/12/2021	10:45 Service
Shirley Griggs	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Maleah Garner
Eric Griggs	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Libby Garner
Shirley Griggs	<b>Crucifer</b>	Libby Garner
Eric Griggs	<b>Acolyte</b>	Maleah Garner
Debbie Carmack	<b>Lay Lector</b>	Libby Garner
Amy Cook	<b>Greeter</b>	Frances Hallman
Rick / Debbie Carmack	<b>Ushers</b>	Craig Garner / Teresa Bazzle

8:30 Service	9/19/2021	10:45 Service
Connie Burleson	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Naomi East
Chris Bass	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Audrey Glenn
Connie Burleson	<b>Crucifer</b>	Audrey Glenn
Chris Bass	<b>Acolyte</b>	Naomi East
Roxy Poovey	<b>Lay Lector</b>	Teresa Bazzle
Pat Neill	<b>Greeter</b>	Jane Spaugh
Ken / Susy Morrison	<b>Ushers</b>	Tim / Penny Lineberger

8:30 Service	9/26/2021	10:45 Service
Shirley Griggs	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Amy Hollar
Mickey Barnett	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Hannah Hollar
Shirley Griggs	<b>Crucifer</b>	Tyler Hollar
Mickey Barnett	<b>Acolyte</b>	Hannah Hollar
Debbie Carmack	<b>Lay Lector</b>	Kate Rhea
Cindy Sullivan	<b>Greeter</b>	Paulette Church
Doug / Josh Sullivan	<b>Ushers</b>	Gerald Burke / David Glenn



**Mt. Olive Members in  
Assisted Living or Nursing Facilities:**

**Heritage Care**  
John Beatty

**Trinity Village, Springs Road:**

Edna Punch  
Lyn Stilley  
Clyde & Sarah Hull

**Brookdale Assisted Living Falling Creek**

Gwen Kingsley  
Carol Tawney

**Catawba Valley Living at Rock Barn:**

Maxine Kirchin

**Grace Ridge**  
Jennie Bost

**We are proud** of our Mt. Olive members who are continuing their education post high school. **Please remember to keep them in your prayers.**

Emma Barger, Darrius Adam Barger, Ben Bazzle, Brittany Collins, Matt Cook, Keely Horton, Whitney Horton, Halee Ormand, Markus Pope, Daniel Richter, Kayla Seabock, Jenna Waters, Katie Tice, Caleb Hedgepeth, Meadow Frye, Leaci Brice.

**Prayer List for Members of Mt. Olive**

Esther Armstrong	Clyde & Sarah Hull
Margaret Barger	Lynette Stilley
Jennie Bost	Sylvia Whisnant
Chris Brookshire	Chip Drum
Brad, Meredith, and	Karen Pruett
Owen Elder	Gail Welch
Nina Fullwood	Becky Psioda
Mary Gregory	Wayne Hefner
Eugene Helton	Rosa & Ronnie Owens
Jeanette Huffman	Carolyn Sigmon
Linda Huffman	Tony & Diane
Gwen Kingsley	Shacklady
Terry Laxton	Kathy Starr
K.C. Setzer	Jan Hefner
Tom Rhea Jr.	Jerry Barger
Tom East	Carol Tawney
Van Seabock	
John Beatty	
Sarah Garren Taylor	
Michael Bock	
Loretta Stephenson	
Miya Teague	
Henry & Thelma Jarvis	
Herman Price	
Todd Propst	
Georgia Collins	

**Our Family and Friends**

Wayne Austin, friend of Penny & Tim Lineberger  
Shirley Baker, friend of Kathy Starr  
Anne Barnes, friend of Susy Morrison  
Robert Beard, friend of Jimmy Seabock  
Margie Black, friend of Penny Lineberger  
Barbara Boudreaux, daughter of McCrorie's  
Bill Canata, friend of McCrorie's  
Barbara Van Cleave, cousin of McCrorie's  
April Colbert, niece of Van & Debbie Seabock  
Frances Cranford, friend of Eva Helton  
Bill Field, family of June Field  
Louise Foster, mother of Paulette Church  
Misti Fuller, granddaughter of Mary Gregory  
Joyce Garrett, friend of June Field  
Deborah Gleaton, friend of Amanda Truett  
James & Cathy Grant, friend of Rick and Debbie Carmack  
Bobbie, Christopher, Jada, and Jason Halle  
David Harwood, friend of Hank & Bernice McCrorie  
Mary Howell, friend of Teresa Bazzle  
Peggy Hollar, mother of Scott Hollar  
Kathy Holmes, friend of June Field  
Mona Hughes, sister of June Field  
Michael Hutchinson, friend of McCrorie's  
Sue Johnson, friend of Pat Neill  
Sandy Kauk, friend of Chris & Brenda Bass  
Chelsea Larkin, friend of Josh & Courtney Goble  
Gregory Larochelle  
Lindsay Kate LeZotte, friend of Becky Anthony  
Sandy Mangum, friend of Van & Debbie Seabock  
Tom McCarthy, brother-in-law of Ellis Bolick  
Olivia Mason, great niece of Teresa Bazzle  
Shelby Mason, niece of Teresa Bazzle  
Eric Nilsen, brother of Amy Whaley  
Donna Parker, sister of Frances Hallman & Margaret Barger  
Lauren Parlier, Paul Rozzelle & Zeke, friend of Amy Whaley  
Randall Parsons-friend of Tom & Kate Rhea  
Courtney Pearce, granddaughter of Sylvia Whisnant  
Richard Rhea, Tom Rhea's brother  
Jim Russell, friend of McCrorie's  
Alton Piester, brother of Elma Jean Beatty  
Terry & Linda Psioda, friend of Kate Rhea  
Terri Brown Robbins, friend of Tom & Kate Rhea  
Amanda Rogers, Jim William's sister  
Norene Setzer, Cindy Sullivan's mother  
Erica Sigmon, friend of Amanda Truett  
Courtney Spencer, daughter of Jane Kazelman  
Wade Spencer, Marion Waldon's son-in-law  
Janet & Buddy Spoon, friend of Carol Tawney  
Jim Starkey & family, friend of Eva Helton  
Cindy Brittain-White & Abby Brittain-daughter in law of Kate Rhea and granddaughter  
Joan Whitt, friend of Jim & Sue Coble  
Ann Widner, friend of Lynn Seabock  
Robert & Kaye Ullman-sister, brother-in-law of Nina Fullwood  
Raigen, brain surgery  
Tim & Erica, son of Carol Tawney

# STAFF AND CHURCH LEADERS

**Pastor and Teen Ministry:**

The Rev. Ryan T. Ray  
Cell Phone: 828-310-0776  
Email: rray001@luthersem.edu

**Visitation Pastor**

The Rev. Ralph Kraft  
Cell Phone: 828-855-7212  
Email: pastorralph@stpaulstartown.org

**Organist/Pianist & Choir Director:**

Jenna Waters  
Email: waters.j@artist.unca.edu

**Parish Administrator:**

Karen Abernathy  
Email: mtolivelutheran@embarqmail.com

**Congregation President:** Chris Frye

**Congregation Vice President:** Eric Griggs

**Congregation Council Secretary:** Pam Sigmon

**Church Treasurer:** Gerald Burke

**Newsletter information Contact:** Karen Abernathy

Email: mtolivelutheran@embarqmail.com

**Homebound Communion Contact:** Pam Sigmon

Phone: 828-320-1356

Email: jiminy@embarqmail.com

**Outreach Team Chairperson:**

TBD

**Prayer Chain Contacts:**

Karen Birkedal: 828-495-9372 or 828-303-0239

Frances Hallman: 828-638-1680

**Sanctuary Flower Contact:** Penny Lineberger

Phone: 828-256-6092

Email: pen\_tim@yahoo.com

**Micah's Cupboard Contact:**

Adeliah Arndt 828-612-9774

**WELCA Contact:**

Debbie Carmack 828-320-0525

**Hospitality Contact:** Pat Neill 828-381-5375

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Mt. Olive Lutheran Church**

2780 North Center Street Hickory, NC 28601

Phone: 828-324-6198 Fax: 828-324-0292

Email: mtolivelutheran@embarqmail.com Website: www.mtolutheran.org

**Emergency Contacts information:**

**Pastor Ryan: 828-310-0776**

**Worship Times:**

Sunday Mornings  
8:30 am & 10:45 am

**Office Hours:**

Monday through Thursday  
8:00 am—4:00 pm  
The office is closed on Friday

Our Mission Statement:

In response to the love of Jesus Christ, our mission is:

Believe, Belong, Serve. God's Work. Our Hands.