



THE OLIVE BRANCH

JANUARY 2022



From the desk of Pastor Ryan

January is a welcome “calm after the storm” as we get through the Christmas holidays and all the busyness that goes with them. It’s a time many of us become reflective and commit to resolutions for self-improvement. There’s nothing wrong with trying to be our best selves as long as we remember that God loves us just as we are. Never forget you are enough. It’s hard to keep that in mind when every message we receive from the media points out all the things we lack and the many ways we can improve. Yes, we are flawed and imperfect. Because of Jesus we’re also loved and accepted. The pursuit of perfection leads us to heartbreak. We’re never perfect until Jesus makes us perfect, which by the way will not be in our earthly lifetimes. We’ll only be perfect when God’s kingdom comes and his will is “done on earth as it is in heaven.” So it turns out we needn’t pursue perfection because perfection pursues us in the person of Jesus, God’s perfect son. So let us make a resolution! Let’s resolve to love – to love the God who already loves us, to love our neighbors in spite of their flaws, and to love ourselves for who we really are – children of God.

In Jesus’ love,
Pastor Ryan

Did you know that Martin Luther King Junior was named Michael when he was born? His father changed his own name, and the name of his son, to Martin Luther after being inspired by stories of the reformer during a visit to Germany.

The church office is closed for Martin Luther King Junior Day on January 17.

Pastor Ryan will be away for the doctoral program Sunday evening, January 23rd through Friday, January 28th. Please contact Pastor Ralph (828-855-7212) with any emergencies during this time.

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

**DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:
January 15**

**Please note: newsletter articles
should be sent to Karen at
mtolivechurch@embarqmail.com**



The Holy Spirit calls us to worship together weekly. When the Spirit calls us, there are things we need to hear and receive which transforms us. Join us for worship and hear God's word and receive forgiveness, life, and salvation through the Lord's Supper.

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. We are also offering an online interactive worship from 10:00-10:30 a.m. 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/

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.

Worship News

Pastor Ryan's former supervisor, the Reverend Doctor Robert Shoffner, will be our guest preacher and presider on January 2nd.

We are so excited to baptize Mateo Jesus Coburn on Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 9.

Lutheran Services of the Carolinas has begun their "Be The Light" campaign to provide seed money to expand services designed to meet the unique needs of the people and communities LSC serves, specifically to expand opportunities for adults with varying life challenges and to support the needs of children. Mickey Barnett will share a temple talk with us at worship on January 9 and tell us how we can contribute to LSC's goals.

Pastor Ryan will offer private Communion in the downstairs chapel on Sunday, January 16 for those still not worshipping in-person. An opportunity to register for a time slot will be made available closer to the day.



1. What two people recognized the baby Jesus as the Messiah when his parents took him to the temple for dedication?
2. Who warned Joseph to take his family to Egypt and why?
3. When did an angel in a dream tell Joseph to return to Israel?

Music Rehearsals

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 -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 or 828-850-1153.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Jenna



January Happenings at Mt. Olive

Trivia Answer:

1. Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25-40)
2. An angel because Herod was going to search for the child to kill him (Matt 2:13)
3. When Herod died (Matt 2:19)_

Altar Flowers for November \$53.50 made payable to Mt. Olive Lutheran

- Jan. 2 Lynnette Carson
 Jan. 9 Howard & Petra Gayheart
 Jan. 16 Chris & Bryna Frye
 Jan. 23 Adelia Arndt
 Jan. 30 Frances Hallman

Hickory Soup Kitchen

We will be assisting the Soup Kitchen on Monday, January 9. If you are interested in helping, contact Debbie Carmack.

Martha & Esther Circle

The Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 4th at 11:00 a.m. in Heritage Hall.

Esther Circle will meet on Thursday, January 6th at 10:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall.

January Birthdays

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Jan 1 | Bryson Greiner |
| Jan 2 | Lynnette Carson Johnnie Garren Lydia Smith |
| Jan 5 | Chris Frye |
| Jan 8 | Joshua Coulter Alyssa Wright |
| Jan 10 | Tim Setzer |
| Jan 11 | Camden Williams |
| Jan 17 | Cindy Sullivan |
| Jan 19 | Gail Welch |
| Jan 20 | Sarah Hull |
| Jan 22 | Ben Bazzle Haiden Goebel Todd Propst |
| Jan 23 | Karen Setzer |
| Jan 25 | Xander Williams |
| Jan 26 | Adelia Arndt |

Teen & Family Events

WEATHER PERMITTING we'll head out early on Saturday, January 8 to snow tube at Jonas Ridge. The cost is \$25 or \$20 for ages 6 and under. We should be back around lunchtime.

Another Volunteer Opportunity

We have another volunteer opportunity at Catawba Valley Medical Center in the gift shop, at the front desk, or driving the van. If interested, contact Tracey Bolick (828-326-3670) at CVMC.



Thank You!

Thanks to all who helped with Micah's cupboard and getting all the food boxes filled and delivered. Thank you to all who helped with the shoeboxes for Pocahontas. Blessings to all.

You all are Amazing! Our guests are so fortunate to have your help. God bless you. Thank you for the continued support.

Austin Pearce
Hickory Soup Kitchen

Mt. Olive Congregation Meeting, Sunday, December 5, 2021, 10am

Meeting delayed due to waiting for a quorum.

A quorum was reached and Congregation President Chris Frye called the meeting to order.

Pastor Ryan opened the meeting with prayer.

Two items were on the agenda to be discussed.

Council members election:

Amy Hollar, by acclamation, will be secretary of council.

Hannah Hollar will represent Mt. Olive Youth to serve on council.

Craig Garner, by acclamation, will be new member of Ministry Foundation Board and Tim Lineberger, by acclamation, will remain as Chairperson of Ministry Foundation.

Mickey Barnett made motion; Eric Griggs seconded; motion passed. Ballots were handed out to vote for two new members to serve on Congregation Council.

Results of election: Frances Hallman and Rick Carmack will be the new council members beginning January 2022.

Financial plan for 2022:

Gerald Burke covered the financial plan for 2022, discussing changes, etc., and asked for questions from the congregation. We still have a line item for Children's Ministry Coordinator; it is unknown when we will have the position filled. Mickey Barnett made motion to accept the 2022 Financial Plan and Herm Price seconded, and the 2022 Financial Plan was approved.

Mickey made motion to adjourn meeting; Herm seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Sigmon

OFFERINGS

| Cash Basis: | Nov 28 | Dec 5 | Dec 12 | Dec 19 | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Total General Offerings | \$2,461.50 | \$14,475.50 | \$5,054.50 | \$7,858.50 | |
| Budgeted amount needed weekly | | | | | |
| Designated Funds: | | | | | |
| World Hunger | \$100.00 | \$110.00 | \$110.00 | \$110.00 | |
| Cemetery funds | | | | | |
| Micah's Cupboard | | \$75.00 | \$60.00 | | |
| Quilting Fund | | \$310.00 | \$10.00 | | |
| Pastor's discr fund | | | | | |
| Hospitality | | | | | |
| Evangelism/Outreach/School | | \$10.00 | | | |
| Advent | | \$276.00 | \$676.00 | \$359.00 | |
| Youth fund | | | | | |
| Soup Kitchen | \$50.00 | \$195.00 | | \$50.00 | |
| Operation Christmas Shoebox | | \$50.00 | \$110.00 | \$200.00 | |
| CCM | \$50.00 | \$175.00 | | | |
| Use of building | | | \$140.00 | | |
| TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS | \$200.00 | \$1,201.00 | \$1106.00 | \$719.00 | |

| | | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|--|
| Reserve - Repairs & Maintenance | n/a | \$365.00 | n/a | \$140.00 | |
|--|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|--|

| Financial Update at a glance: | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Month to date giving | \$35,601.71 | \$26,000.33 | \$27,528.50 |
| Monthly budgeted amount: | \$31,000.00 | \$33,000.00 | \$38,000.00 |

OCTOBER 2021 TREASURER'S REPORT

Total income for October 2021 was \$35,602, the budget amount was \$31,000, and October 2020 was \$28,244. Total expenses were \$27,976 compared with a budget amount of \$32,309. For the month, income exceeded expenses by \$7,626.

Income for ten-month period ending October 31, 2021 was \$329,363, compared with the prior year period of \$346,665. Expenses were \$301,295 for this period in 2021, compared with the prior year of \$293,106. For the ten-month period, income exceeded expenses by \$28,068 .

Gerald Burke / Treasurer

MONTH OF JANUARY

| 8:30 Service | 1/2/2022 | 10:45 Service |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Connie Burleson | Communion Assistant | Penny Lineberger |
| Connie Burleson | Crucifer | Penny Lineberger |
| Mickey Barnett | Acolyte | Teresa Bazzle |
| Mickey Barnett | Lay Lector | Lynnette Carson |
| Sylvia Price | Greeter | Kathy Starr |
| Herman Price / Kenny Morrison | Ushers | Jane Spough / Bryna Frye |
| | | |

| 8:30 Service | 1/9/2022 | 10:45 Service |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Eric Griggs | Communion Assistant | Barry Taylor |
| Eric Griggs | Crucifer | Barry Taylor |
| Shirley Griggs | Acolyte | Preston Taylor |
| Roxy Poovey | Lay Lector | Kate Rhea |
| Pat Neill | Greeter | Frances Hallman |
| Rick & Debbie Carmack | Ushers | Gerald Burke / Tim Lineberger |
| | | |

| 8:30 Service | 1/16/2022 | 10:45 Service |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Connie Burleson | Communion Assistant | Libby Garner |
| Connie Burleson | Crucifer | Libby Garner |
| Chris Bass | Acolyte | Maleah Garner |
| Debbie Carmack | Lay Lector | Hannah Hollar |
| Cindy Sullivan | Greeter | Teresa Bazzle |
| Doug / Josh Sullivan | Ushers | Craig Garner/ Bryna Frye |
| | | |

| 8:30 Service | 1/23/2022 | 10:45 Service |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mickey Barnett | Communion Assistant | Naomi East |
| Mickey Barnett | Crucifer | Naomi East |
| Eric Griggs | Acolyte | Jane Spough |
| Shirley Griggs | Lay Lector | Penny Lineberger |
| Rita Miller | Greeter | Paulette Church |
| Bob Eliasson / Frank Miller | Ushers | Teresa Bazzle / Nolan Ray |
| | | |

| 8:30 Service | 1/30/2022 | 10:00 Service |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Shirley Griggs | Communion Assistant | Penny Lineberger |
| Shirley Griggs | Crucifer | Penny Lineberger |
| Eric Griggs | Acolyte | Nolan Ray |
| Debbie Carmack | Lay Lector | Penny Lineberger |
| Amy Cook | Greeter | Frances Hallman |
| Susy / Kenny Morrison | Ushers | Mickey Barnett/ Frank Miller |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |



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

Heritage Care
John Beatty

Trinity Village, Springs Road:
Edna Punch
Lyn Stilley
Clyde & Sarah Hull
Gwen Kingsley

Brookdale Assisted Living Falling Creek
Carol Tawney

Catawba Valley Living at Rock Barn:
Maxine Kirchin

Grace Ridge
Jennie Bost

Kingston Residence:
Sylvia Whisnant

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, Ben Bazzle, Brittany Collins, Matt Davis, Keely Horton, Whitney Horton, Daniel Richter, Kayla Seabock, Paige Shook, Jenna Waters, Katie Tice, Caleb Hedgepeth, Meadow Frye, Leaci Brice, Simon Frye.

Prayer List for Members of Mt. Olive

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Esther Armstrong | Lynette Stilley |
| Margaret Barger | Sylvia Whisnant |
| Jennie Bost | Chip Drum |
| Chris Brookshire | Karen Pruett |
| Brad, Meredith, and 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 | Craig Waldon |
| John Beatty | Sonny Bolick |
| Sarah Garren Taylor | Jimmy Seabock |
| Michael Bock | |
| Loretta Stephenson | |
| Miya Teague | |
| Thelma Jarvis | |
| Herman Price | |
| Georgia Collins | |
| Clyde & Sarah Hull | |

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
David Bolick, friend of John & Kathie Hegert
Barbara Boudreaux, daughter of McCrorie's
Ed Byrd, friend of McCrorie's
Janice Campbell, Will Truett's aunt
Barbara Van Cleave, cousin of McCrorie's
April Colbert, niece of Van & Debbie Seabock
Frances Cranford, friend of Eva Helton
Lisa Faulkner, McCrorie cousin
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
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
Susan Kirkley, friend of McCrorie's
Chelsea Larkin, friend of Josh & Courtney Goble
Gregory Larochelle
Lindsay Kate LeZotte, friend of Becky Anthony
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
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
Kristin Spence, Marion Waldon's daughter
Wade Spencer, Marion Waldon's son-in-law
Janet & Buddy Spoon, friend of Carol Tawney
Jim Starkey & family, friend of Eva Helton
Jeff Stinson, friend of Van & Debbie Seabock
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
Chandler Williams, McCrorie friend
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

In-Person 8:30 am & 10:45 am (Facebook
broadcast)

Interactive Feedback Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday

9:00 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.