

THE OLIVE PRESS

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Throughout These Forty Days

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on March 5th. The Ash Wednesday tradition of putting ashes on the foreheads of believers has been done in the Church for centuries. This practice can be traced to the Old Testament practice of wearing sackcloth and ashes (e.g. Genesis 37:33-35; Job 2:8, 42:6, Daniel 9:3). The imposition of ashes is a pointed call to repentance, reminding us of our mortality and sinful nature inherited by Adam. As he puts ashes on your forehead, the Pastor will say the words “You are dust, and to dust you shall return,” which are the words God spoke to Adam after he and Eve sinned (Genesis 3:19).

However, the imposition of ashes also recalls our Baptisms and the redemption we have in Christ. In our Baptism our sinful nature (the Old Adam) was drowned and buried, and we are raised to new life in Jesus Christ. This call to repentance and daily returning to the dying and rising of your Baptism sets the tone for the rest of the season of Lent.

Lent is a forty-day period of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. The forty days of Lent remind us of Christ’s temptation in the desert, which lasted forty days, and of Israel’s journey through the wilderness for forty years.

The Altar is decorated with violet, which represents Christ’s royalty, but is also a somber color. One of the distinct characteristics of Lent is not singing or

saying alleluia, creating a subdued character for the season. Alleluia is a joyful expression that means “Praise the Lord.” By restraining to celebrate throughout Lent, the Church prepares to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. On Easter, we sing Alleluia, and the Altar is adorned with white, and we begin to celebrate once again.

Historically, the Church also used Lent to prepare new believers for Baptism. Adult candidates would go through a period of instruction that would culminate with their Baptism at the Easter Vigil and being welcomed into the Church. This tradition again reminds all believers, old and new, that the entire life of a Christian is a return to our Baptisms.

This year for Lent, I encourage you to join us on **Ash Wednesday, March 5th, for worship and the imposition of ashes at 7:00 PM.** Also, join us at our midweek Soup Supper and Services: **Wednesdays (March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9) at 6:00 pm for Soup Supper and at 7:00 PM for Worship.**

*Throughout These Forty Days
Throughout These Forty Days
Throughout These Forty Days*



**"O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed
and kept the fast; Inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past."**

LSB 418:1

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

LUKE THE GOSPEL WRITER



Luke was the only Gospel writer who was not Jewish. He was born in Antioch. By profession, he was a physician. He became a disciple of the Apostle Paul and later followed Paul until Paul's death. Having served the Lord continuously, unmarried and filled with the Holy Spirit, he died at the age of 84. Luke wrote the Gospel from 55-60 AD. The Gospel is directed to Theophilus. It is believed that Theophilus was a Roman official with high position and wealth. Theophilus was possibly Luke's patron responsible for seeing that Luke's writings were copied and distributed. Such a dedication to the publisher was common at the time. The message of Luke's gospel was intended for

Theophilus as well as the instruction of those among whom the book would be circulated. The Gospel was written to strengthen the faith of all believers and to answer the attack of unbelievers. It was presented to displace disconnected and ill-founded reports about Jesus. Luke wanted to show that the place of the Gentile Christian in God's Kingdom is based on the teachings of Jesus. The Gospel presents the works and teachings of Jesus that are especially important for understanding the way of salvation. Its scope is complete from the birth of Christ to his ascension. The writing is characterized by literary excellence appealing to Jews and Gentiles. Luke was also the Author of Acts. Acts is a continuation of Luke's Gospel. After reading the Gospel, start reading Acts immediately and see how the Gentiles as well as the Jews were justified through the Gospel alone without the law.

REMAINS OF LUKE

The remains of Luke were brought to Padua, Italy sometime before 1177AD according to tradition. Carbon dating comparison with the purported skull of Luke in Prague confirmed that these were the remains of an individual of Syrian descent who died between 130 AD and 400 AD. The Bishop of Padua, Italy then delivered the rib of Luke to be kept in his tomb in Thebes, Greece.



PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Caolina & Ellie enjoying the outdoors.

PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

We are blessed to be here in 2025, and this year is already off to a fast start. A few families moved away from our community, and a few more families joined our preschool. We have over 70 families registered in our program, and several more are joining us in the Spring. We received an outstanding achievement award from Yelp as one of the top recommended businesses in 2023, and it looks like we will be getting another one for 2024. Please feel free to post a review because it enormously impacts viewers looking for a dynamite preschool. Lastly, we had our unannounced visit from the Department of Social Services and were 100% compliant, which is outstanding.

Our monthly Christian curriculum consists of the stories: *Jesus Grows as a Child*, *The Boy Jesus at the Temple*, *Jesus is Baptized*, and *Jesus Chooses 12 Disciples*. Our discovery point is that Jesus chooses his disciples to follow Him and be his helpers here on earth. He also calls us to be his helpers and helps us to show love to one another.

**written by Preschool
Director David Welch**



KAZARI



HENRY



Sarah and Avery Hjulberg

INTRODUCING MRS. SARAH HJULBERG

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for the warm welcome I've received at Mount Olive. I'm looking forward to life and marriage here in sunny California!

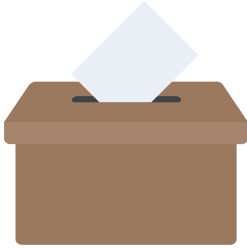
Avery and I got married on January 3, 2025, at Village Lutheran Church in St. Louis, where I am from. We had our reception in the very place where we first met—Koburg Hall, on Concordia Seminary's campus. It was so wonderful to have all our family and friends around us to celebrate.

A little about myself: I grew up LCMS (my grandpa and great grandpa were both pastors, and my dad works at the seminary), and I'm so happy to be a pastor's wife and support Avery in his ministry. For my job, I write for the three official publications of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: *Reporter*, *The Lutheran Witness*, and *Lutherans Engage the World*. This job is a joy because it means I get to interview Lutherans all over the country (and sometimes all over the world!) about the work of our Synod and our life together in Christ.

Before working for the Synod, I taught high school literature and philosophy at Trinity School at Meadow View, a small Christian school in Falls Church, Virginia. Before that I studied English at Hillsdale College, and went on for my master's degree at the University of St. Andrews. Needless to say, I love to read and write!

Let us know how we can pray for you! I am excited to get to know you all.

In Christ,
Sarah

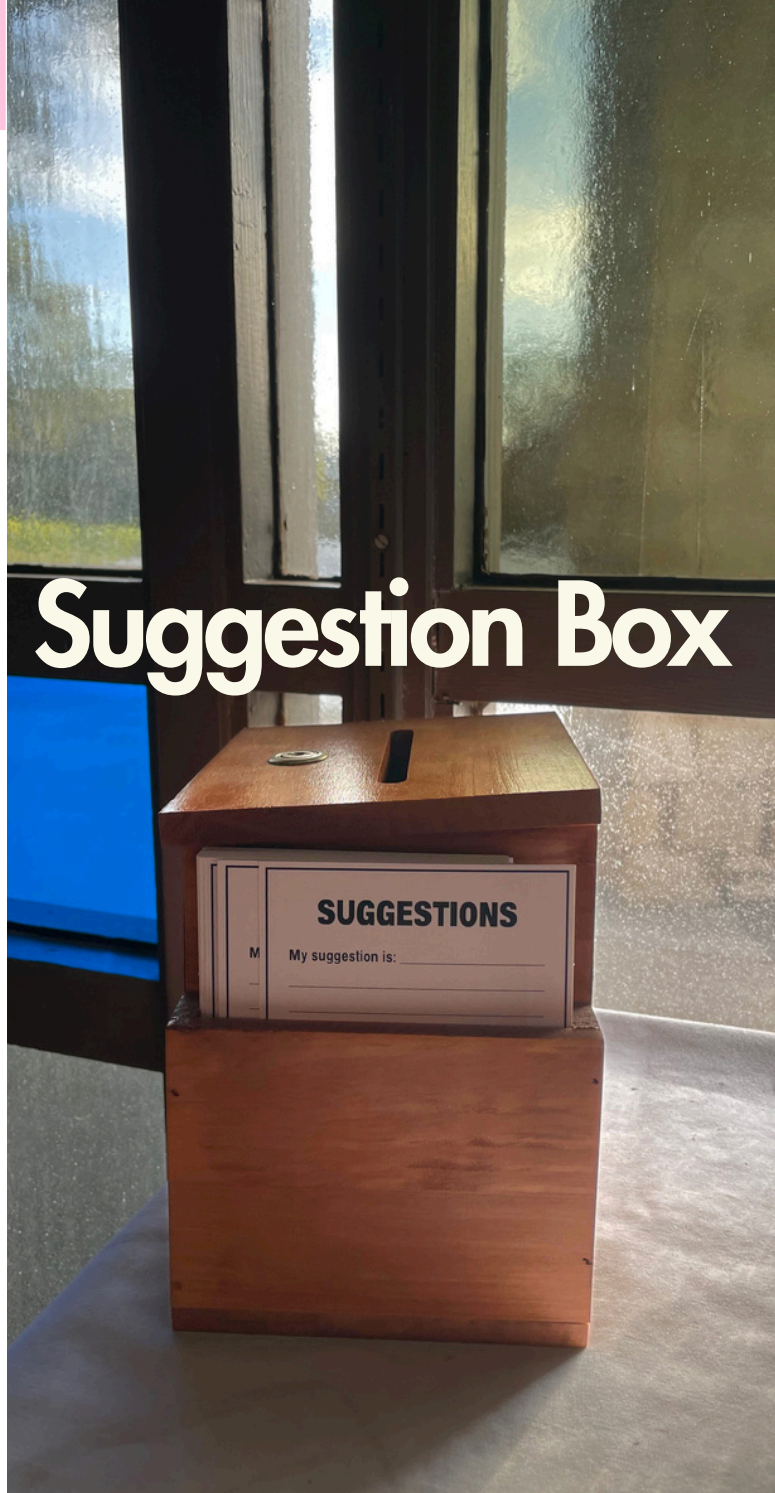


Church President Requesting Suggestions from the Congregation

The Mount Olive Lutheran Church Council represents the interests of our congregation and deliberates on matters concerning the welfare of our Church. The Council is interested in improving our worship experience. Any input from you is welcome.

We encourage you to provide written comments: positive, neutral, or negative. Anonymous suggestions are also welcome. All comments will be presented at the Church Council meeting and handled in confidence.

A suggestion box is located in the narthex of the church.



Editor's Message



SAVE THE DATE

Movie Night
February 13th at 6 PM
Now Showing: *The Chosen*



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



FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	27 9:30am ESL Class	28	29 2pm Zoom Bible Class	30 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10am Preschool Board 7pm Council	31 6:30pm Awana 7pm Bible Study	1
2 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	3 9:30am ESL Class	4	5 2pm Zoom Bible Class	6 9:30am Preschool Chapel	7 6:30pm Awana 7pm Bible Study	8 7pm Youth Group
9 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	10 9:30am ESL Class	11	12 2pm Zoom Bible Class	13 9:30am Preschool Chapel 6pm Movie Night	14 Valentine's Day 6:30pm Awana 7pm Bible Study	15
16 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	17 President's Day 9:30am ESL Class	18	19 2pm Zoom Bible Class	20 10am Preschool Board 7pm Elders	21 9:15am Parents Chapel 6:30pm Awana 7pm Bible Study	22 7pm Youth Group
23 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	24 9:30am ESL Class	25	26 2pm Zoom Bible Class	27 9:30am Preschool Chapel 7pm Council	28 6:30pm Awana 7pm Bible Study	1

Holidays and Observances: 14: Valentine's Day, 17: Presidents' Day

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

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

MOLC WEBSITE

SCAN ME



COUNCIL CONTACTS

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