

THE OLIVE PRESS

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EDITION 45



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SCAM**ALERT**

BE AWARE OF SCAMS

Repeatedly, members of the congregation received e-mails from my e-mail address, requesting financial help. Unfortunately, generous people clicked on the provided link out of their good intention to support me and donated debit and gift cards. Please know that none of these e-mails originated from me. My e-mail address is not only published in the weekly bulletin, but also all over the internet, which makes it prone to being hacked and a risk for spam activity. I am sharing all this to reiterate that if you ever get an e-mail or notification that looks suspicious, please contact that person directly before you proceed to donate.

I found the following recommendations on the internet. While anyone can fall prey to the many scams that are out there, seniors/elderly are particularly vulnerable. Please keep in mind:

- (1) Never give your personal information (especially your Social Security Number) to anyone;
- (2) Don't fall prey to telemarketers – ask for a supervisor's name and/or call back the number to verify if the organization is legitimate. Many times, after asking for this information, the caller will hang up – this should indicate that the call was probably an attempt to scam you;
- (3) Never let anyone into your house or onto your property to perform some work or service unless you have previously arranged for it.
- (4) Follow a few Do's and Don'ts to protect yourself from becoming a victim:



Do's:

- Use direct deposit for your checks
- Shred all documents containing personal information
- Check your credit report annually
- Check your bank statement for unauthorized withdrawals or unusual activity
- Cancel unused or seldom used credit cards
- Document all financial arrangements
- Keep money and valuables secured
- Keep PIN numbers and passwords secure
- Stay abreast of the latest scams so you are forewarned
- Check references and call the Better Business Bureau to verify authenticity before contracting for any services.

Don'ts:

- Allow yourself to become socially isolated. Social isolation increases your risk of becoming a victim, so make sure you have regular outside contact with friends and family.
- Respond to internet, telemarketing or door-to-door solicitations. Offers of prizes and special deals are often scams. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Hire household help without performing a background check. Make sure the agency you use checks their employees. If you are hiring directly, be sure to investigate thoroughly.
- Sign documents without understanding them. Make sure you always understand the fine print.
- Respond if you get an e-mail stating "Somebody changed your password, please reply!" This could be identity theft!

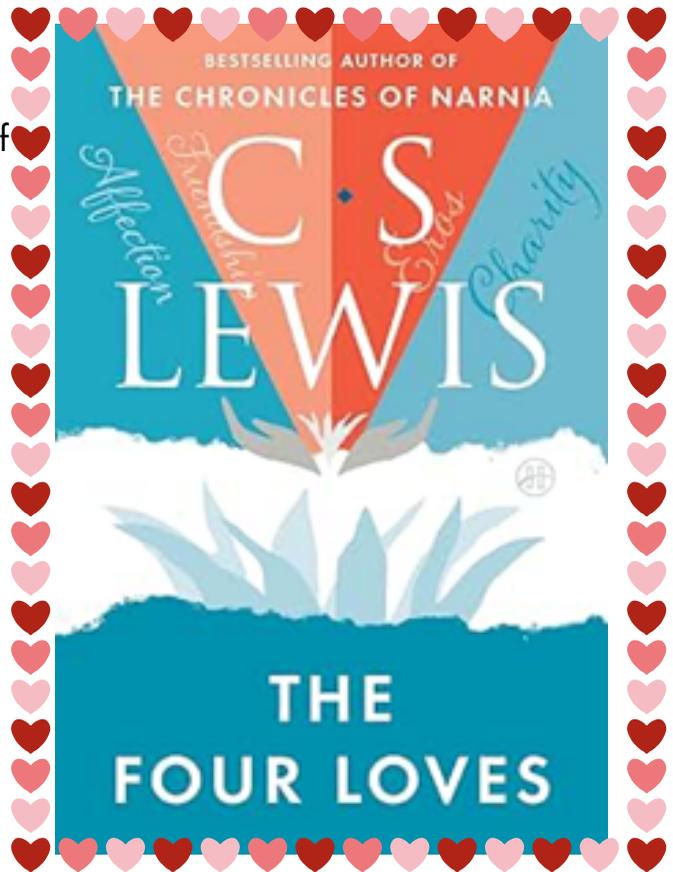
God is Love

John 4:7–8 – “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

February often brings thoughts of love — hearts, flowers, and Valentine’s Day cards. While romance certainly has its place, the ancient Greek language gives us a richer picture of love than a single word can hold. In the New Testament there are four distinct kinds of love, each helping us understand how God created us to love and be loved.

Storge (στοργή) is family love—the quiet, steady affection between parents and children, siblings, or those who feel like family. It is often unnoticed because it feels so natural, but it is a powerful bond that provides safety, belonging, and care.

Philia (φιλία) is friendship love. This is the love of companionship, shared interests, loyalty, and trust. It grows through time, conversation, and shared experiences. Scripture often highlights this kind of love in the deep friendships between believers who walk together in faith.





Eros (ἔρως) is romantic love. This is the love most often associated with Valentine’s Day—desire, attraction, and intimacy between husband and wife. In a Christian understanding, eros is a good gift from God, meant to be expressed with faithfulness, respect, and commitment.

Agape (ἀγάπη) is self-giving love. This is the highest form of love in Scripture—the love God shows us in Jesus Christ. Agape is not based on feelings or worthiness; it chooses to serve, forgive, and sacrifice for the good of another. “God is love” (1 John 4:8) points us directly to this kind of love.

If you’d like to explore these ideas more deeply, theologian and writer C.S. Lewis offers a thoughtful and accessible reflection in his book *The Four Loves*. Lewis examines each type of love with honesty, wisdom, and a deep grounding in Christian faith.



In our American culture, the word love is used so often and so casually that it can lose its depth. We say we “love” pizza, a favorite sports team, or a movie we enjoyed, using the same word to describe things that bring us momentary pleasure as we use for people we are committed to and sacrifices we are willing to make. While enjoyment and enthusiasm are good things, this broad use of the word can flatten its meaning and make it harder to recognize the richness and responsibility that real love carries. The Greek language helps us recover that depth by reminding us that love takes many forms—each with its own purpose, beauty, and calling.

As we celebrate love this month, it can be meaningful to reflect on which kinds of love are strongest in our lives, and which God may be inviting us to grow in. Family affection, friendship, romance, and self-giving love are all gifts from God, meant to shape how we live and care for one another. As Scripture reminds us, “Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony” (Colossians 3:14). May this season encourage us to put on love each day—allowing it to guide our words, our actions, and our witness to the world.



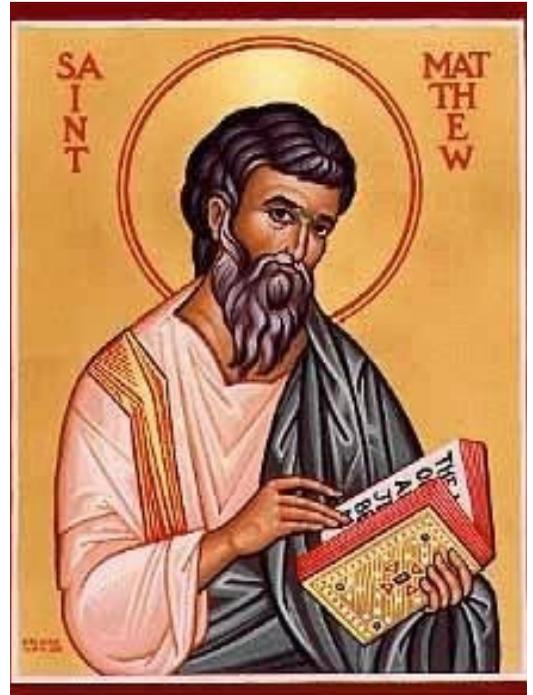
Matthew, Gospel Writer

by Chief Elder, Bill Dahlgren

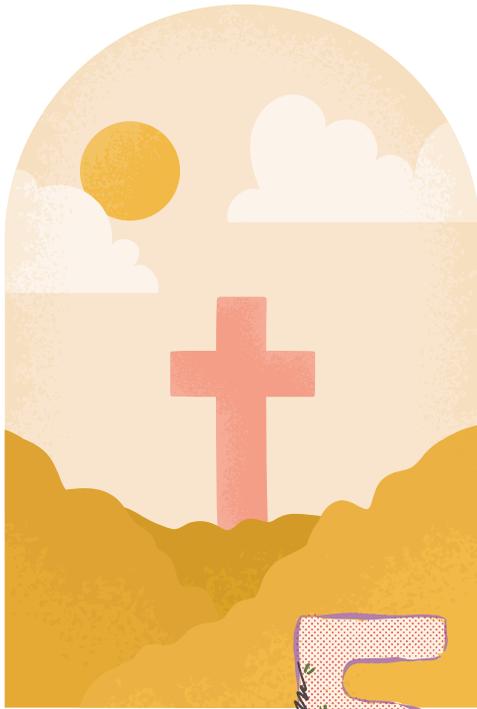
With this writing I have finished my articles on all four of our Gospels. All these gospels were written by men whom God inspired. I encourage you to read these four gospels in your own time and enjoy the peace that comes from these readings.

Matthew was probably written in Palestine in the early church period when the audience was mainly Jews. Matthew was a tax collector before following Jesus. Matthew composed the Gospel in Greed around 70 A.D. He emphasizes the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies by Jesus Christ.

Christ is a new law giver whose divine mission was confirmed by repeated miracles. Matthew traces the genealogy of Jesus back to Abraham.



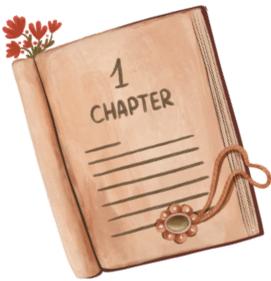
His gospel is directed to follow Jews trying to get their acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah. Matthew is claiming that Jesus is greater than Moses and Jesus isn't just another prophet or king but is the true triune God who fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.



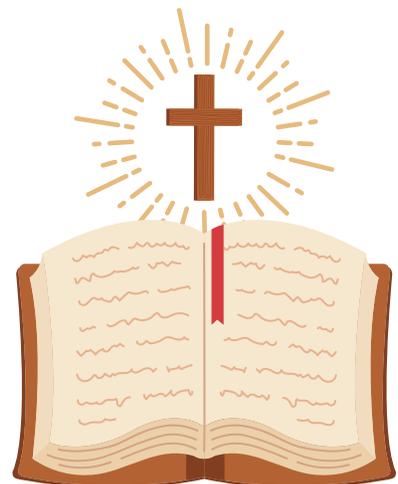
Jesus has conquered the power of death and promises eternal life to his believers. Matthew mentions 36 miracles performed by Jesus which are the most mentioned in all the gospels.

One of the most important chapters in Matthew is Chapter 5, The Sermon on the Mount. The beatitudes present a new set of ideals that focus on love and humility rather than force and extortion. The beatitudes echo the highest ideals of Jesus's teachings on spirituality and compassion. My favorite part of Matthew is the last chapter 28:16-20 the great commission.

Verse 19, go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son and of



the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And behold I am with you to the end of the age. At Mt. Olive we have always tried to follow the great commission and will continue to do so with the help of the Holy Spirit.



PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Patrick enjoys playing with the outdoor ball games at his preschool



PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Written by **Preschool Director David Welch**

We are blessed to be here in 2026, and this year started fast. We have almost 60 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 2025.

We are having a wet winter so far, which is really helping our playground look beautiful. We are hiring a new teacher this month, who should be a dynamic part of our fabulous teaching staff.



Jordyn enjoys riding the scooter with her classmates



Aviana enjoys the slides at her school playground

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.

CALENDAR



FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	2 ESL Class @ 9:30am	3	4	5 9:30am Preschool Chapel	6 GROVE 6:30pm-8pm	7
8 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	9 ESL Class @ 9:30am	10	11	12 9:30am Preschool Chapel	13 GROVE 6:30pm-8pm	14 Youth Group 7pm Valentines Day
15 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	16 ESL Class @ 9:30am Presidents Day	17	18	19 9:30am Preschool Chapel	20 GROVE 6:30pm-8pm	21
22 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	23 ESL Class @ 9:30am	24	25	26 9:30am Preschool Chapel	27 GROVE 6:30pm-8pm	28 Youth Group 7pm

Holidays and Observances: Valentine's Day (14), Presidents' Day (16)

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

Editor's Message

THANK
YOU!
♥

Greetings, Mount Olive!

Blessings to you, MOLC congregation! Thank you for taking the time to read the 45th Edition of the Mount Olive Press.

I hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter. For anyone who would like to contribute to next month's newsletter, don't hesitate to send an email to office@mtoliverpv.com

Additionally, if you are perhaps new to the congregation, or have not had the chance to introduce yourself, don't be shy! We would love to hear from you.

Thank you for all of those who contributed to this newsletter: Chief Elder Bill Dahlgren, Preschool Director David Welch, President Ulrike Ziegner Hokanson, and Youth Director Julie Kurtz.

It is always nice to get a newsletter and learn something new each time.

God Bless!



Lauralee Lapid



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SCAN ME



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