

# THE OLIVE PRESS

July 2026  
EDITION 50



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# Celebrating 250 Years of God's Blessings Upon Our Nation

4<sup>th</sup>  
of  
July

As we gather during this Independence Day weekend and commemorate the 250th (semiquincentennial) anniversary of the United States of America, we give thanks to God for His gracious providence toward our nation. For two and a half centuries, the Lord has preserved our country through times of prosperity and hardship, peace and conflict, blessing and trial.



As Lutherans, we confess that all authority comes from God and that He rules through earthly governments for the preservation of order and justice (Romans 13:1-7). We therefore thank God for the freedoms we enjoy, especially the freedom to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to gather around His Word and Sacraments.



At the same time, we remember that no earthly nation is our ultimate home. Through Holy Baptism, God has made us citizens of His eternal kingdom. Our true hope rests not in human institutions or political leaders, but in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose again for our justification. He alone is the Savior of the world and the King whose reign has no end.

As faithful Christian citizens, let us pray for our nation, its leaders, members of the armed forces, first responders, and all who serve the public good. Let us also seek to be salt and light in our communities, bearing witness to Christ in both word and deed.

## Prayer for Our Nation

Lord God, heavenly Father, You are the ruler of all nations and the giver of every good gift. We thank You for preserving our country through 250 years and for the many blessings You have bestowed upon its people. Grant wisdom and integrity to all who hold public office. Protect those who serve in the military and all who safeguard our communities. Preserve among us the precious freedoms we enjoy, especially the freedom to hear and proclaim Your saving Word. Turn our hearts in repentance, strengthen Your Church, and lead us ever to trust not in ourselves but in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Have a blessed 4th of July!





## I would like to introduce our church choir.

The choir members come to the church early every Sunday morning for rehearsal and glorify God through their praise during the service.

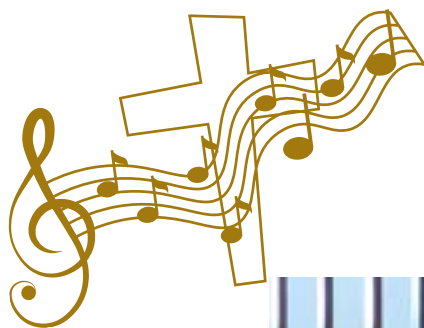


After serving without a break through Advent, Christmas Eve, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, the choir is now on vacation.

During the choir vacation, soloists, duets, solo instrumentalists, or students visiting from Korea offer special music for praise.



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I am grateful for the encouragement and cheers the congregation offers the choir members each week.

I am especially thankful for the church's annual support of the choir luncheon. Anyone wishing to support the choir luncheon is most welcome to do so; please contact choir director and organist Seong-Ok Yuh.

Blessings,  
Seong- Ok Yuh



# History of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

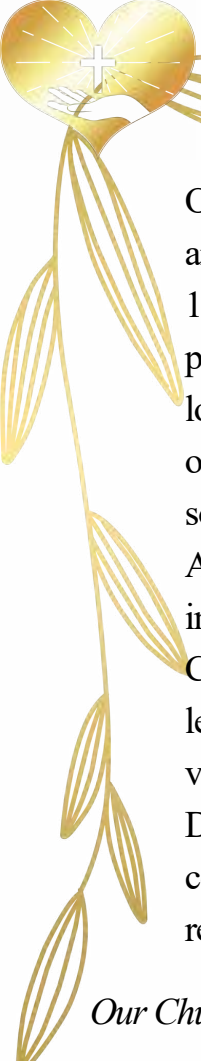
by **Chief Elder, Bill Dahlgren**

"In order to freely practice their Christian faith in accordance with the Lutheran Confessions outlined in the Book of Concord, Stephan and about 700 Saxon Lutherans left for the USA in 1838."

Our Church dates back to 1847 when German immigrants established churches in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, New York, and Ohio. Our church was originally named, "The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri. In 1947, the name was changed to Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) on the occasion of the Church's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## *Why did We Leave Germany?*

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the German kingdom of Saxony, Lutheran pastor Martin Stephan and many of his followers found themselves increasingly at odds with rationalism, Christian ecumenism, and the prospect of forced union with the Lutheran Church and the reformed church. In the neighboring kingdom of Prussia, the Prussian union of 1817 put in place what Pastor Stephan considered non-Lutheran communion and baptism doctrine and practice. In order to freely practice their Christian faith in accordance with the Lutheran Confessions (Augsburg Confessions) outlined in the Book of Concord, Stephan and about 700 Saxon Lutherans left for the USA in 1838. The immigrants settled in Perry County, MO, and Martin Stephan became Bishop of the settlement. He was expelled from the settlement due to charges of corruption and sexual misconduct. C.F. Walther became the leader of the county.



Our first president was Rev. Dr. C.F. Walther. He was only 27 years old, and he settled in Perry County, MO. He served as president from 1850-1887. The LCMS has congregations in all 50 states and two Canadian provinces. We are about 2 million members with over half our members located in the Midwest. Our headquarters are in Kirkwood, MO., a suburb of St. Louis. We have 35 districts with more than 6000 congregations and some 9000 plus pastors. We operate the largest protestant school system in America. We do active mission work in nearly 90 countries; The LCMS is in full factorial fellowship with more than 35 other confessional Lutheran Church bodies worldwide. The members' responsibility for congressional leadership is a distinctive characteristic of the LCMS. Power is vested in voter's assemblies, generally composed of adults of voting age. Synod Decision making is given to delegates at the triennial National and district conventions where the Synod is equally divided between lay and pastoral representations.

### *Our Church Becomes Divided*

In 1973, J.A.O. Preus II was elected President of the LCMS. Prior to being elected, he had promised to address the liberal theology that was being taught at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. In response to his election, moderate, and liberal pastors formed the ELIM (Evangelical Lutheran in Mission). At first the organization had very little lay support.



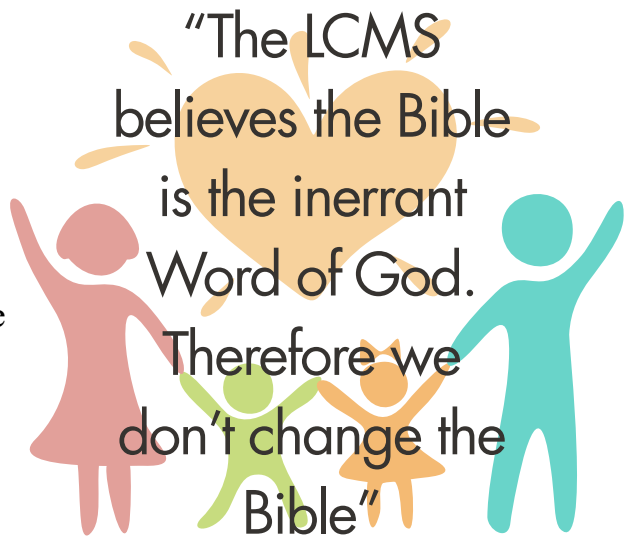
“The members’ responsibility for congressional leadership is a distinctive characteristic of the LCMS”



However, in 1976, Preus was re-elected by a large majority. Several district presidents were permitting graduates of the new seminary to become pastors in their district; Preus admonished them, and when four refused to stop, he removed them from their offices. In that year, members of ELIM decided to leave to the LCMS. In December, about 250 congregations with a combined membership of 100,000 people left the Synod and formed the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC). (The LCMS had about 2.7 million members at the time.) The AELC ordained its first female pastor the following year. It quickly entered into talk with the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and American Lutheran Church (ALC), and it served as a catalyst for uniting the three churches into one new body, the ELCA, in 1988.

Thank God for J.A.O Preus II His actions saved our church from becoming what the ELCA is today. The ECLA believes the Bible contains the word of God, but the ELCA must determine what is the Word of God. This allows the ELCA to change the Bible to fit the ELCA lifestyle. The ELCA interpretation of the Bible allows them to have gay and lesbian pastors, transgender Bishops and pro-abortion positions. The LCMS believes the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. Therefore we don’t change the Bible.

“The LCMS believes the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. Therefore we don’t change the Bible”



# Mt. Olive Preschool Teacher Spotlight: Veronica Mateo

This month I am delighted to introduce Veronica Mateo, one of our wonderful two-year-old teachers in Room 2. Veronica will celebrate four years at Mt. Olive Preschool this August, and we are grateful for the love, patience, and joy she brings to our youngest learners each day.

Veronica comes from a close-knit family and enjoys spending time outdoors hiking and camping with her husband, dad, siblings, and extended family. While she is not a mother herself, she shares that many children in her life look up to her like a parent, including her nieces, nephews, and the preschool children she cares for each day.



Her passion for working with young children began in high school while volunteering in after-school programs. Through those experiences, she noticed how much support and encouragement little ones need and discovered a calling to help them learn and grow.

Not surprisingly, Veronica's favorite age to teach is two-year-olds! She loves the strong bonds they form with their teachers and the joy they find in singing, dancing, and learning together. One of her favorite moments each day is welcoming children in the morning when they arrive excited and ready to jump into activities. She especially enjoys watching them communicate through gestures, expressions, and body language as they develop their growing vocabulary.

Written by **Julie Kurtz**



Veronica says that preschoolers have taught her patience, a lesson that serves her well both in and out of the classroom. She works hard to help every child feel safe, loved, and welcomed by building trusting relationships and making sure their needs are met.



Faith has always been an important part of Veronica’s life. Having grown up attending church and Bible school, she treasures the opportunity to share God’s love with young children. She hopes that as they learn about God during their preschool years, their faith will continue to grow throughout their lives. Each morning she begins her day with a simple prayer of gratitude, asking God for strength and for a wonderful day for the children in her care.

As Veronica looks ahead to the coming year, she is excited to watch her current students move up to the next classroom and to welcome new children into Room 2. When asked what she hopes children remember most about preschool, her answer was simple and heartfelt: “How fun I am!”

Please join us in praying for Veronica—for strength, patience, and many joyful days as she continues to share Christ’s love with the children of Mt. Olive Preschool.



# PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Hazel and Luca enjoy playing on the playground and stopping by to say hello to a tiny lizard on a log.

# PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Written by Preschool Director David Welch

June started with an abundance of newly enrolled children, and many of our past students are spending the summer with us. We had a graduating class of seven children going into kindergarten this fall. The weather was fabulous, and the children spent most of their time outdoors.

Several parents toured our school, and we have already enrolled a few children for the fall. Our educational program focuses on the "whole child" and provides an environment suitable for all types of lifelong learners.



Mira turns playground time into reading time!



Audrey loves reading stories with the kids and bringing books to life!

Our monthly Christian curriculum consists of the stories The Wise & Foolish Builders, The Parable of the Talents, and The Story of the Good Samaritan.

Our Discovery Point says that Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' – Mathew 22:37-39.

# CALENDAR




| SUNDAY                                                    | MONDAY                   | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY                        | SATURDAY              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 28                                                        | 29                       | 30      | 1         | 2        | 3<br>9:15am Preschool Chapel  | 4                     |
| 5<br>9am Confirmation<br>9am Bible Class<br>10am Worship  | 6<br>ESL Class @ 9:30am  | 7       | 8         | 9        | 10<br>9:15am Preschool Chapel | 11<br>Youth Group 7pm |
| 12<br>9am Confirmation<br>9am Bible Class<br>10am Worship | 13<br>ESL Class @ 9:30am | 14      | 15        | 16       | 17<br>9:15am Preschool Chapel | 18                    |
| 19<br>9am Confirmation<br>9am Bible Class<br>10am Worship | 20<br>ESL Class @ 9:30am | 21      | 22        | 23       | 24<br>9:15am Preschool Chapel | 25<br>Youth Group 7pm |
| 26<br>9am Confirmation<br>9am Bible Class<br>10am Worship | 27<br>ESL Class @ 9:30am | 28      | 29        | 30       | 31<br>9:15am Preschool Chapel | 1                     |

Holidays and Observances: Independence Day (4)

written by **Laurelee Lapid** picture by **Anonymous** 14

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



# Editor's Message

## *Greetings, Mount Olive!*

Blessings to you, MOLC congregation! Thank you for taking the time to read the 50th 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](mailto: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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