

# THE OLIVE PRESS

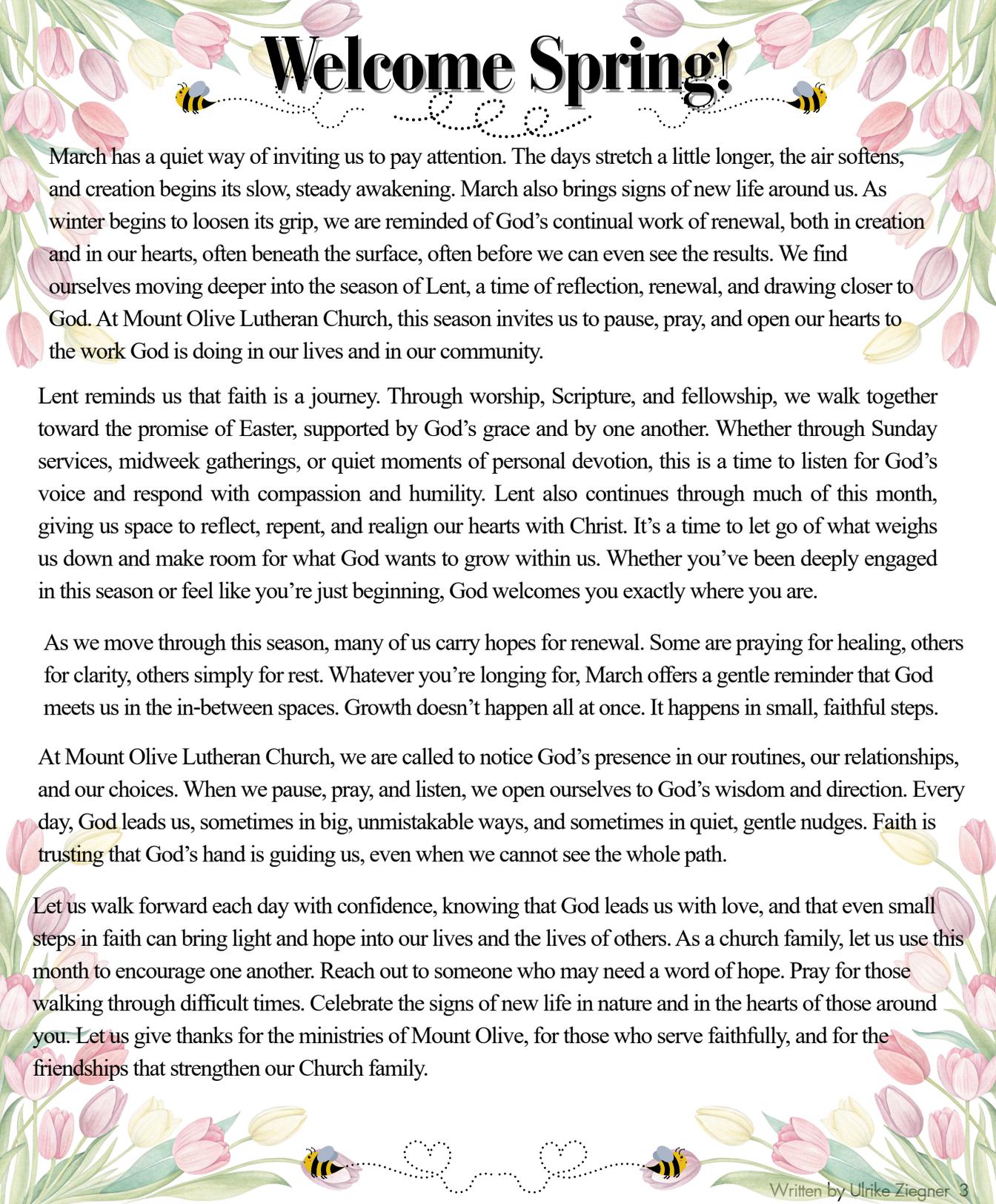
March 2026  
EDITION 46



# CONTENTS

Cover Page.....	1
Contents.....	2
Welcome Spring.....	3
Nancy Alvarez.....	4
John Mark.....	6
Preschool Activities.....	9
Calendar.....	10
Council Contacts.....	12





# Welcome Spring!

March has a quiet way of inviting us to pay attention. The days stretch a little longer, the air softens, and creation begins its slow, steady awakening. March also brings signs of new life around us. As winter begins to loosen its grip, we are reminded of God's continual work of renewal, both in creation and in our hearts, often beneath the surface, often before we can even see the results. We find ourselves moving deeper into the season of Lent, a time of reflection, renewal, and drawing closer to God. At Mount Olive Lutheran Church, this season invites us to pause, pray, and open our hearts to the work God is doing in our lives and in our community.

Lent reminds us that faith is a journey. Through worship, Scripture, and fellowship, we walk together toward the promise of Easter, supported by God's grace and by one another. Whether through Sunday services, midweek gatherings, or quiet moments of personal devotion, this is a time to listen for God's voice and respond with compassion and humility. Lent also continues through much of this month, giving us space to reflect, repent, and realign our hearts with Christ. It's a time to let go of what weighs us down and make room for what God wants to grow within us. Whether you've been deeply engaged in this season or feel like you're just beginning, God welcomes you exactly where you are.

As we move through this season, many of us carry hopes for renewal. Some are praying for healing, others for clarity, others simply for rest. Whatever you're longing for, March offers a gentle reminder that God meets us in the in-between spaces. Growth doesn't happen all at once. It happens in small, faithful steps.

At Mount Olive Lutheran Church, we are called to notice God's presence in our routines, our relationships, and our choices. When we pause, pray, and listen, we open ourselves to God's wisdom and direction. Every day, God leads us, sometimes in big, unmistakable ways, and sometimes in quiet, gentle nudges. Faith is trusting that God's hand is guiding us, even when we cannot see the whole path.

Let us walk forward each day with confidence, knowing that God leads us with love, and that even small steps in faith can bring light and hope into our lives and the lives of others. As a church family, let us use this month to encourage one another. Reach out to someone who may need a word of hope. Pray for those walking through difficult times. Celebrate the signs of new life in nature and in the hearts of those around you. Let us give thanks for the ministries of Mount Olive, for those who serve faithfully, and for the friendships that strengthen our Church family.



# Meet Our Preschool Teacher: Nancy Alvarez

Each month, we are pleased to introduce you to one of the caring teachers who serves our preschool families. This month, we invite you to get to know Nancy Alvarez, who interacts with all the students in our preschool as she fulfills her role as our floater and support for the classroom teachers. Nancy has been part of our preschool community for about a year.

Nancy works part-time at Mt. Olive because she also works at El Camino College in the Early Childhood Education College helping to get permits and placements for teachers at different sites. She has vast experience in the area of early childhood education and is an amazing asset to have as a part of our preschool. Nancy was drawn to working with young children from the very beginning. She has 11 siblings and was an aunt at age 12.

She loves watching children grow and immersing herself in their world. She shares that what she has learned from teaching preschool is patience. Whether it's teaching in the classroom, helping with snack time or playing outside, she delights in understanding where each child is and how she can meet them there as she helps them learn, grow, and feel deeply loved.



Faith is woven into everything Nancy does in the classroom. She describes how teaching is naturally spiritually connected because you are working with children who are God’s work, and she hopes that each child experiences God’s love during their time in preschool. Nancy has a heart for teaching and nurturing young lives.



Outside of school, Nancy enjoys jogging, reading books, thrifting, education and quality time spent with her children. She has two adult children, and two children still in school. A few fun facts: her favorite children’s book is *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein, her favorite snack is apples, and one word she uses to describe her teaching style is “flexible”.

As the school year continues, Nancy is especially excited about becoming a grandma as well as continuing to care for the children in our preschool. She shares that she feels connected to our church community when we do the monthly parent chapel or have visits from church members to read with children or sing during music time. Our Preschool Director David feels blessed to have such a great, hardworking employee with such an extensive background in early childhood education. And, when you ask other teachers about Nancy, they talk about her always being on top of it when someone needs her help, her great organizational skills and how she helps with everyone.

We are grateful for Nancy and the gentle, faithful presence she brings to our preschool each day. As you pray for our Mt. Olive remember to pray also for our preschool, it’s teachers and give thanks for Nancy Alvarez.

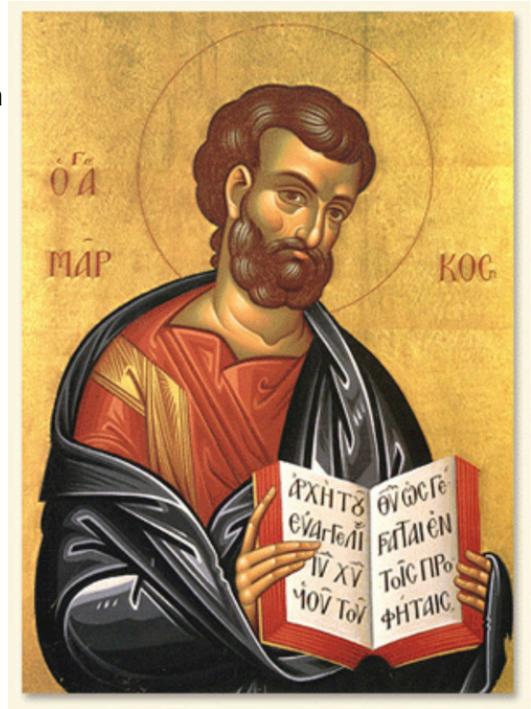


# John Mark, The Gospel Writes

by Chief Elder, Bill Dahlgren

John Mark was a disciple of Peter, and many scholars believe that the Gospel of Mark is mainly the preaching of Peter put in writing. It is believed the Gospel was written in Rome between 60 and 70 A.D. An examination of the four Gospels has many features in common but Matthew, Mark and Luke have many specific similarities and are called the Synoptic Gospels.

The Majority of New Testament scholars believe that Matthew and Luke used Mark as a major source. Mark can be distinguished from the other synoptic Gospels (Matthew & Luke) by the absence of the birth of Christ and Genealogy and by a similar amount of material containing the teachings of Jesus. In studying the Gospels, I recommend you start with Mark, Matthew, and Luke. John was written last and covers a different time span.



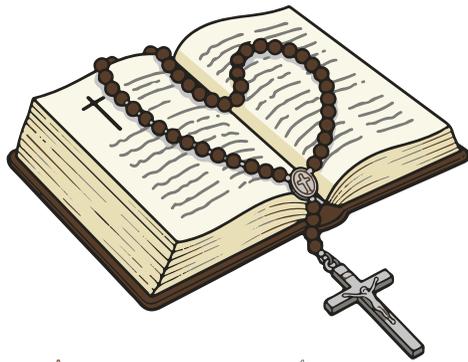
The message of Mark is that Jesus is the messiah and son of God, whose death and resurrection paid the penalty of our sins and achieved victory over Satan, sin and death. Jesus is a savior who is truly divine, truly man and who gives his life uniquely as substitute atonement for our sins. I like what Mark says about prayer 11:24-25 therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.





And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your father in heaven may forgive your sins.

Not much is known about Mark. The Apostles used his mother's house for meetings. Mark would have been a teenager when Christ walked this Earth. Mark was not an Apostle as he was not chosen by Christ. Mark made a trip with Paul and Barnabas in Asia minor but Paul and Mark had some friction and Mark was not asked to join Paul on his second missionary journey. Mark and Paul stopped working together at a later date as Mark was with Paul when Paul was martyred in Rome.



Mark was probably the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt. He may have founded the church of Alexandria. The Pagans of Alexandria resented Mark taking away people from their pagan gods. The pagans tied a rope around his neck and drug him through the streets until he died.



In 828, relics of Mark were stolen from Alexandria and taken to Venice, Italy. They are on display in St. Mark's cathedral in St. Mark's square.



# PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Audrey purchased and admires David's innovative air plants, which he creates to support the preschool.

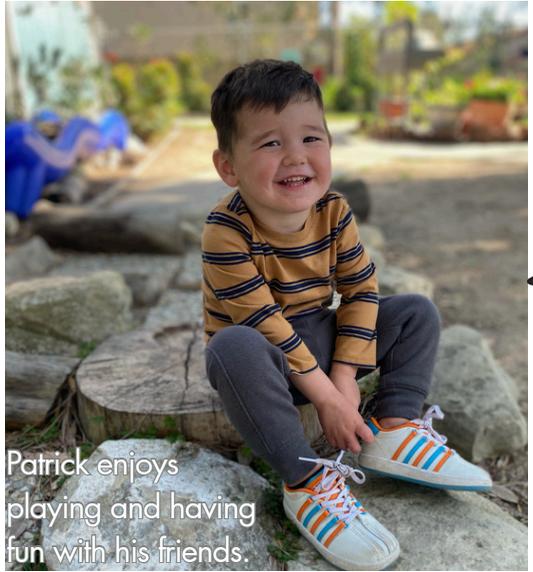


# PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Written by Preschool Director David Welch

February is off to a great start. We just signed up a few families, and a few more will join our program in the next few months, allowing us to help raise wonderful children. We just celebrated the Lunar New Year, and many of our parents from around the globe came to celebrate with us.

We are extremely lucky to have Audrey, who spends a great deal of time on our playground reading books, playing basketball, and getting to know the children exceptionally well.



Patrick enjoys playing and having fun with his friends.



Jordyn enjoys helping in her preschool garden.

We are truly blessed to be part of such a fantastic community filled with love!

Our monthly Christian curriculum consists of the stories: Jesus Blesses the Children, Jesus teaches us about birds and flowers, and Jesus stops a storm. Our discovery point explains God, our Heavenly Father, loves and cares for us and our needs.

photos by David Welch

# CALENDAR



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

Holidays and Observances: St. Patrick's Day (17)

\*For further calendar updates, please visit [www.mtloverpv.com](http://www.mtloverpv.com)

*Handmade*  
GIFTS MADE EASY

# Editor's Message



*Greetings, Mount Olive!*

Blessings to you, MOLC congregation! Thank you for taking the time to read the 46th 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*



## COUNCIL CONTACTS

President: Ulrike Ziegner

uziegner@rivieraallergy.com

Vice President: Andrew Sherwin

contact@sherwinandrew.com

Chief Elder: Bill Dahlgren

apache1223@aol.com

Treasurer: Julie Reynolds moejmr@gmail.com

Preschool: Audrey Dahlgren drdahlhg@aol.com

Trustee: Richard Xie rchdx@hotmail.com

Recording Secretary: James Kringel

james@crpdata.net

Administrative Business Manager: Lauralee

Lapid office@mtoliverpv.com

## MOLC WEBSITE

SCAN ME



## FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



MT. OLIVE: @mtoliverpv

MT. OLIVE PRESCHOOL:

@mtolivepreschoolrpv