

THE OLIVE PRESS

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hello

FALL



Trunk or Treat at Mt. Olive Friday October 31, 2025



Don't miss this year's Trunk of Treat at Mt. Olive. Friday, October 31, 2025 will be an opportunity for Families, Preschool, Church members and neighbors to enjoy a fun activity together. There will be Trunk or Treating, yard games, face painting, popcorn, crafts and more games in the fellowship hall and an opportunity to meet your neighbors and friends.



This is an event for the entire congregation! You can make the evening fantastic by volunteering to decorate your trunk car and give out candy as well as helping to run a game or help to set up and clean up. The event starts with cars arriving for set up from about 5:30 P.M. and the Trunk or Treating and games begin at 6:30 P.M. This event brings together the whole Mt. Olive family.

This is an amazing night full of happy children all dressed up in super cute costumes, families who decorate a car together and enjoy the night, an opportunity to reach out to the community, get to know the young families that are a part of Mt. Olive's ministry and share the Joy of Christ with one another.



I hope you will consider being part of the fun this year. To volunteer contact **Julie Kurtz 310-489-1969** or [**jckurtz@gmail.com**](mailto:jckurtz@gmail.com)



Updates from Mount Olive: the Search for a Shepherd

At Mount Olive, we're in an exciting season of change as we seek for our next pastor. A recent survey showed what matters most to our church family—building strong relationships and sharing God's Word in meaningful ways. The approval of our updated Constitution and Bylaws reflects our unity and readiness for the future. These aren't just tasks, but signs of a congregation listening to God and moving forward in faith and hope.

...Seeking Our Next Shepherd

On August 14, the Church Council, the Elders and the Call Committee met with President Michael Gibson from the Pacific SW District. He requested a congregational survey, completing the LCMS questionnaire on the Desired Pastoral Skills, Abilities and Attitudes. The following results were submitted on August 29:



PEOPLE SKILLS81 POINTS
SICK AND SHUT-IN VISITATION..... 41 POINTS
WORSHIP..... 26 POINTS
PREACHING CONTENT..... 24 POINTS
ATTITUDES Flexible vs. Rigid..... 44 vs. 2
ATTITUDES Traditional vs. Contemporary..... 13 vs. 13



EVANGELICAL PERSUASION/ THEOLOGICAL POSITION

1 (= ultra-liberal) 0
2 (= liberal) 2
3 (= moderate) 15
4 (= conservative) 7
5 (= ultra-conservative) 5



The revision of the MOLC Constitution/Bylaws was approved by the Church Council and the Elders prior to being approved by a majority vote at the Voters' Meeting on July 13, 2025 with a quorum of voters in attendance and voting (38 yes vs. 3 no). The draft of the revision was submitted to the Pacific SW District on July 14.



The Reformation

In October, we celebrate the Reformation and this article will help us to better understand the Reformation. If we go back to the year 1500, the Roman Catholic Church was very powerful both politically and spiritually in western Europe.

However, there were other political forces at work too: the Holy Roman empire (largely made up of German speaking regions, ruled by princes, Dukes, and electors), the Italian city states, England, as well as the increasingly unified nation states of France and Spain.

The power of the rulers of these areas had increased in the previous century and many were anxious to take the opportunity offered by the Reformation to weaken the power of the papacy and increase their own power in relation to the church of Rome.

For some time the church had been seen as an institution plagued by internal power struggles (at one point in the late 1300s and 1400s, the church was ruled by three Popes simultaneously.) Popes and Cardinals often lived more like kings than spiritual leaders. Popes claimed political as well as spiritual power. They commanded armies, made political alliances, and sometimes even waged war.



Simony and nepotism were rampant. Clearly, if the Pope was concentrating on these worldly issues, there wasn't much time left for him to care for the souls of the faithful. The corruption of the church was well known, and several attempts had been made to reform the church, notably by John Wycliffe and Jan Hus, but none of these efforts successfully challenge the authority of church practice until Martin Luther's actions in the early 1500s.

The greed and scandalous lives of the clergy had created a split between them and the common people. Furthermore, the clergy did not respond adequately to the people's needs because they did not speak the local language or live in their own diocese. The papacy lost much of their prestige.

The invention of the printing press helped both to spread awareness of the church's abuses and coordinate a response. In 1515, the post started a new indulgence campaign to raise money for the rebuilding of Saint Peter's Basilica at church in Rome. This was the last straw for Martin Luther.

On October 31, 1517, he nailed the 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg chapel in protest. Luther, who was viewed as an enemy of the pope, was excommunicated. Luther never planned to leave the Catholic Church or create a new Religion; He simply wanted to reform the Catholic Church.



Luther had experienced a spiritual crisis. He concluded that no matter how good the church tried to be, no matter how he tried to stay away from sin, he still found himself having sinful thoughts.

He was fearful that no matter how many good works he did, he could never do enough to earn his place in heaven (remember that according to the Catholic Church doing good works helped one gain entrance to heaven).

This was a profound recognition of the inescapable sinfulness of the human condition. After all, no matter how kind and good one tries to be we all find ourselves having thoughts which are unkind or sometimes worse.



Luther found a way out of this problem when he read Saint Paul, who wrote “the just shall live by faith” Romans 1:17. Luther understood this to mean that those who go to heaven (the just) will get there by Faith alone—not by doing good work.

In other words, God’s grace is something freely given to human beings, not something we can earn. For the Catholic church on the other hand human beings need both good work and faith in Christ to go to heaven.



The selling of indulgences was really the part that ignited the reformation to raise money for Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome. The indulgence salesmen were going all over the Roman empire to raise money.

For Catholics at the time, sin was divided into two categories. Mortal sin was enough to send you to hell after death. For lesser sins, you get some years of purifying punishment in purgatory. The indulgence salesman would basically sell a pass that allowed your relatives to leave purgatory and go into heaven.



When the salesman came to Luther’s area. He became so enraged that he put the 95 theses on the church door and this action brought him to the council of worms where he was excommunicated from the Catholic Church.

The reformation was now beyond the point of no return. Lutheranism became the state religion of most of Germany, Scandinavia, and the Baltics after this.

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Hunter having fun on the preschool playground!



photo by David Welch

PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Koby painting on cement!



Fernando posing inside the tunnel!

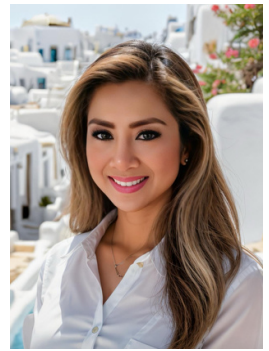
Our preschool continues to grow, and we redesigned our fabulous playground by rearranging the furniture and adding plants everywhere. If you have any plants or pots to donate, we would greatly appreciate the support.

We welcomed Samantha Ramirez to our outstanding team of teachers. She replaced Linda, who went to teach kindergarten. Lastly, the families who left our program are grateful that we set their children up academically and beyond.

Our monthly Christian curriculum consists of the stories Hannah Prays, Samuel, David and Jonathan, and Elisha's Home.

Our discovery point is that God blesses our homes. Our discovery point is that God is with us to help us with our problems, especially our sins. He gives us victory over sin through Jesus.

Written by Preschool
Director David Welch



Hello Mount Olive family! My name is Lauralee Lapid, and I'm so thankful to be joining this wonderful community as your new Administrative Business Manager.

I'm the oldest of three children and was blessed to grow up with my sister Lylah, who now lives in Iowa, and my brother Marco, who lives in San Diego caring for our parents. My mother is a retired nurse practitioner from the Veterans Hospital, and my father retired; proudly served many years in the U.S. Navy before working as an engineer.

Because of my father's military service background, I began traveling the world at age 12, living on American bases overseas. I attended middle school in Madrid, Spain, Bangkok, Thailand, and graduated high school in Yokosuka, Japan — These experiences shaped my global perspective and gave me a deep appreciation for diverse cultures.

After returning to San Diego, I earned my bachelor's degree in Business Administration from California State University, Long Beach, and later completed my MBA in International Business Administration with a minor in Human Resources.

Life has since brought me to Rancho Palos Verdes, where I met my husband, Michael. We have a beautiful daughter, Kailee, who is currently a student at Ridgecrest Middle School. I love living here — it's peaceful, family-oriented, and only 5 minutes from Mount Olive Lutheran Church. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside such kind and generous people.

I feel blessed to be part of this loving church and preschool community and look forward to dedicating my work to advancing God's kingdom through the ministry of Mount Olive.



Editor's Message



Greetings, Mount Olive!

Blessings to you, MOLC congregation! Thank you for taking the time to read the 41st 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

CALENDAR



OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			5:30PM WOMO Fellowship	9:30am Preschool Chapel	9:15am Parents Chapel GROVE 6:30pm-8pm	
5 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	6 ESL Class @ 9:30am	7	8 5:30PM WOMO Fellowship	9 9:30am Preschool Chapel	10 9:15am Parents Chapel	11 Youth Group
12 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	13 Columbus Day ESL Class @ 9:30am	14	15 5:30PM WOMO Fellowship	16 9:30am Preschool Chapel 7pm Elders Meeting 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10AM Preschool Board	17 9:15am Parents Chapel GROVE 6:30pm-8pm	18
19 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	20 ESL Class @ 9:30am	21	22 5:30PM WOMO Fellowship	23 7pm Council 9:30am Preschool Chapel	24 9:15am Parents Chapel GROVE 6:30pm-8pm	25 Youth Group
26 9am Confirmation 9am Bible Class 10am Worship	27 ESL Class @ 9:30am	28	29 5:30PM WOMO Fellowship	30 9:30am Preschool Chapel	31 Halloween 9:15am Parents Chapel GROVE 6:30pm-8pm	1

Holidays and Observances: 13: Columbus Day, 31: Halloween

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

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY



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MOLC WEBSITE

SCAN ME



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