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hello
SEPTEMBER

The Sharp and Powerful Word of God

Greetings, brothers and sisters loved by God at Mount Olive.

The Word of God is powerful. It accomplishes what it says (Is 55:10-11). It is the sharp, two-edged sword of the Spirit which gives life and defies death (Heb 4:12; Eph 6:17).

The Old and New Testaments of the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, are God's Word. By this Word, He pierces, judges, and cleanses sinful hearts of sin and creates faith. Believing Christians then wield this same Word to persevere in faith.

Frist, God's Word is spoken to us so that we might be saved from sin and death and brought to new life with Jesus Christ. The Word of God is rightly divided into Law and Gospel. The Law tells us what God's good will is for us. It tells us how to live a good, holy, and godly life with God. Since we are all sinners, the Law ultimately shows us that we fall short of God's glory. The Law reveals our sin and hopelessness and our need for a Savior.

The Gospel reveals to us this Savior. The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ, true God and true man (the Word of God in our flesh!), lived, suffered, died, and rose for everyone's salvation. Jesus lived His life in perfect obedience to God's Law. Jesus suffered the punishment we deserve because of our sin. He suffered God's wrath in our place and died our death. He paid for our sin on the cross and shed His blood to forgive our sins. He rose from death, victorious over the grave, to secure everlasting life for all people.

The Bible is all about Jesus, the Savior of the world. God speaks this Word about Jesus to you so that you might hear it, believe it, and trust it to be true for yourself. As with a sharp two-edged knife, His Word cuts deep into your heart and is precise to remove your sin and give you new life. By this power of His Word, God gives you faith to believe in Jesus as your own crucified and risen Lord and Savior.

Written by **Pastor Cory Willweber**

Second, God's Word is your weapon to fight against the schemes of the devil and resist the temptations of this world and your sinful nature. You Christian, who hear God's Word and claim it to be effective for your own forgiveness, salvation, and life, are to continue to wield the Word of God in your daily life.

As you (1) hear God's Word read and preached in the Divine Service, (2) meditate upon it in your personal devotions, and (3) learn it in Bible study, you grow in faith and understanding. You are empowered to withstand the attacks of the evil one and you are conformed to the life of Jesus Christ who fulfilled the law and will of God for you. This is also the power of God's Word.

The Word of God is life-giving and death-defying when the Holy Spirit pierces into hearts and creates faith in them. It is life-giving and death-defying when you, a child of God, wield it in your ongoing battle against the world, sin, and the devil.

God's Word accomplishes what it says. He says He loves you (John 3:16) and He desires to continually forgive, strengthen, and care for you in this life (1Pet 5:6-11). He promises to save you (Mark 16:16), be with you (Matt 28:20), and bring you to Himself in heaven (John 14:2-6).

Thanks be to God that His Word is more powerful than anything else! Thanks be to God that His Word accomplishes what it says.

This month, I encourage you to sing and meditate upon the hymn *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* (LSB 655) as part of your regular devotions. May the Lord bless you and keep you steadfast in His Word.

In Christ,
Pastor

Kids' Corner: The Big World and the Good Friend

This bedtime story is based on a lullaby that my mom used to sing to us children in Germany, a place far across the big ocean:

Once upon a time, when the sun went down and the sky turned into deep, beautiful blue, the little stars began to wake up. They blinked and shined like tiny nightlights in the dark. Do you know how many stars are shining up there right now? It's a very big number! But someone knows exactly how many there are. God knows each star, and He takes care of every single one of them, from the biggest, brightest sun to the tiniest, sparkling dot.





Out in the big world, lots of things were getting ready for sleep.

- The clouds that spent the afternoon floating lazily across the sky were slowing down.
- The little birds who sang happy songs in the warm sunshine all day long were tucking their heads under their wings.
- The little fish who played and splashed in the sparkling waters were finding quiet spots to rest.

God made them all, gave them life, and looks after them with so much love.



Written by **Ulrike Ziegner, MD, PhD**
Allergist/Immunologist & Pediatrician



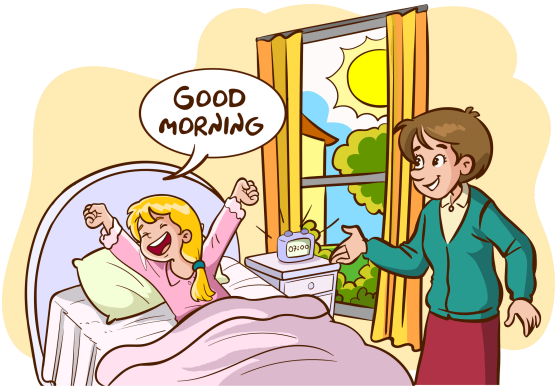
Time for Bed



When the morning light comes, the children will open their eyes, wake up happy and free from worries, and go joyfully into a brand new day. And do you know a wonderful secret? God knows you too, and loves you just as much. He is your best and dearest Friend, watching over you day and night.



Now, it was time for the children to go to sleep, too. All over the world, little boys and girls crawled into their cozy, warm beds. They pulled up their blankets and closed their tired eyes. As they fell asleep, sweet dreams came to visit them. They didn't have to worry about a single thing, because they knew they were safe. God knows every single child's name, and He loves them so very much.

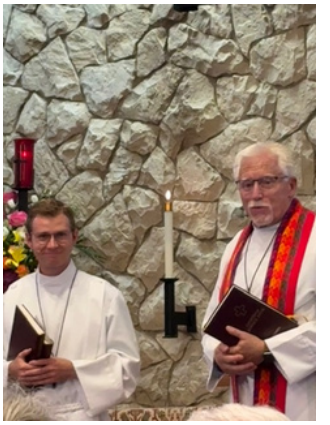


Written by **Ulrike Ziegner, MD, PhD**
Allergist/Immunologist & Pediatrician

Ordination and Installation August 9, 2026

Mount Olive Lutheran Church Warmly Welcomes Pastor Cory Willweber

On August 9, 2026, Rev. Cory Willweber was ordained and installed as the permanent Pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church. The service was officiated by Rev. Mike Gibson, President of the Pacific Southwest District, with Pastor Willweber's father, Rev. Paul Willweber, presiding over the service. We are blessed and thankful to have Pastor Cory Willweber leading our congregation.











Written by **Ulrike Ziegner, MD, PhD**
Allergist/Immunologist & Pediatrician

Luther's Tower Experience

by Chief Elder Bill Dahlgren

I had often wondered how Luther came up with his belief that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. You only need to read Romans 3:28 and you have the answer.

In Luther's early life, he came up to understand that if forgiveness depended on our obedience to the law, we have no chance for salvation. In 1515 he was very concerned about his own sinfulness. He started studying the books of Psalms and Romans as part of his vocation as Professor of Theology. Reading Romans 3, he got the answer specifically in Romans 3:28 which reads, " For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works."

When we trust in Christ alone for salvation, our sins are imputed to Christ as the one who took on the wrath that we deserve. By faith alone his righteousness is given to us, and we are declared not guilty by the Father.

Here is a list of Scriptures that totally justify Luther's position.

1. Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:6

2. Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Galatians 3:6

3. What does the Scripture say? " Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as rightousness." Romans 4:3

4. But the righteous will live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:4b

5. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:17

6. Where then is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from the law. Romans 3:27-28

7. "…..and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."
Philippians 3:9

8. For it is by grace you have been saved through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8,9

9. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they do not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Romans 10:2-4

10. You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. Galatians 5:4-5

11. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing. Galatians 2:21

12. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring. Romans 4:16

13. And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ. Romans 3:24



Teacher Spotlight: Meet Gisele Cort

One of the newest members of our preschool family is Gisele Corte, who joined us six months ago as a two-year-old teacher in Room 5. Although she has only been with us a short time, Gisele's warm and nurturing spirit has already made her a wonderful addition to our preschool community.

Gisele is the youngest of three sisters and currently lives with her parents. Outside the classroom, she enjoys hiking, traveling, and spending time outdoors. She also loves running—and has even completed marathons! Her energy, determination, and positive outlook are qualities she brings into her work with children each day.



Gisele was drawn to preschool teaching because she loves helping children learn and grow. While she enjoys caring for our two-year-olds, she also especially likes teaching four- and five-year-olds. At that age, children are developing greater independence and are able to connect with the curriculum in more expressive ways.

Written by **Julie Kurtz**

Working with preschoolers has taught Gisele that every child has a unique personality and individual needs. She strives to understand each child and develop strategies that help them feel safe, supported, and successful. She wants parents to know that their children are cared for, their feelings will be validated, and they can feel secure in her classroom.

For Gisele, working in a Christian preschool is especially meaningful because of the strong sense of community and the opportunity to connect with God. Her faith helps her approach each day with happiness, gratitude, and a positive spirit. She hopes children experience Jesus in her classroom by developing a trusting spirit and a joyful presence.

Gisele's favorite part of the preschool day comes in the middle of the morning, after everyone has settled in and the class gathers for activities. She especially loves watching the children sing and dance during music time. If her classroom had a theme song, it would be "Hop Little Bunnies!"



When it comes to children's books, Gisele has too many favorites to choose just one! Her list includes the Pigeon books, Clifford the Big Red Dog, the Berenstain Bears, The Giving Tree, and Pete the Cat. Her favorite snacks are veggie chips and pineapple, and she describes her teaching style in two perfect words: warm and nurturing.

This year, Gisele is excited to meet new students and see how much the returning children have grown. She hopes they will remember the songs they sang, the crafts they created, the skills they learned, and all the happy moments they shared.

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES





Support Mount Olive Lutheran Preschool by purchasing a beautiful handmade air plant, lovingly crafted by David Welch! Every purchase helps support the preschool and its students.

photos by **David Welch**

PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Written by Preschool Director David Welch

As we approach the end of Summer, we are preparing for the new school year. Our fantastic environment includes science, engineering, art, math, and especially a quality Christian education.

This is important for parents looking for a quality education for their children. We closed room five and turned it into an art studio and prayer center. We are excited to open the year with a bright new beginning.



Mira enjoys playing in the sandbox with her friends



Patrick enjoys reading with his friends

Our Christian Connection Education consisted of The Beatitudes. Week 1 talked about what we are grateful for. Week 2 explained reaching goals.

Week 3, we talked about forgiveness. Finally, in week 4, we spoke about being helpful. Children need something concrete to help them build associations. Our Bible verse is Mathew 5:1-12

photos & written by **David Welch**

CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER 2026

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

Holidays and Observances: Labor Day (7)

9:15am Preschool Chapel

written by **Lauralee Lapid** picture by **Anonymous**

*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 52nd 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, Youth Director Julie Kurtz, and Pastor Cory Willweber.

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

God Bless!



Lauralee Lapid



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