

M A Y 2 0 1 8

the OLIVE BRANCH



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

34 Prospect Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545-2339

The Holy Spirit! Come and See!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Blessings and peace to you in this Easter season.

With Holy Week and Easter Sunday over and the miracle of the resurrection announced, it can be easy to feel a bit of a post-holiday letdown. Even so, as we continue to gather to proclaim and hear how the church's story develops in the post-resurrection world, we find another miracle even more enlivening than the first: the new arrival of the Holy Spirit. Yes, the fire and wind of Pentecost is coming, when the whole of the Church received God's Holy Spirit just as Jesus' disciples did when He breathed upon them in the upper room.

In fact, the story of how the Church came to be is one of disciples new and old having one encounter after another with the Holy Spirit and the risen Christ. You may remember that the disciples on that first Easter were not ready to celebrate the resurrection; they lacked understanding and were thusly afraid. God never gave up on them, though, and through those repeated experiences of God's self-revelation they came to truly appreciate both the greatness of what God had done and the blessed roles God had for them in God's continuing work.

It is not so different for us in the Church today. True, our distance from that first Easter gives us a more informed perspective that perhaps prevents those feelings of fear and surprise. The challenge there for us can be in feeling the same immediacy of the event that the first disciples did. What is certain though, is that Easter experience by itself does not form us into fully mature disciples of faith and purpose. God's work of saving us is done, but our growth as people of God is not. We, too, need continuing experiences of the Holy Spirit if we are to live the lives of joy and faith that God has prepared for us.

But how are we, who live so long after the events of the Bible, who live in this modern world supposed to encounter the Holy Spirit? How would we recognize it if it were right in front of us?

In fact there are many spiritual practices in which one can participate that invite and illumine the Holy Spirit's presence. I, personally, find that certain group activities are the most effective. Regular gatherings for this purpose are sometime called "faith formation groups." Among them are Bible studies, prayer groups, and discernment groups, just to name a few. (These are different than fellowship activities, service, or outreach groups, which are also important but have different purposes.) Attending Sunday services is a start, but it is in the intentional gatherings throughout the week that this personal growth happens most readily. For those who are leaders in the church, such as council members, these are also the settings in which we develop the skills to make faithful, Christ-centered decisions for the good of the congregation.

So, mark your calendars for Sunday, May 20th, Pentecost Sunday. We will celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit with a celebratory service including the choir, French horn music, and festive worship. But I also invite you to join me in preparing for this event by participating in a faith formation group. Our Thursday night Bible Sharing group always welcomes new participants and is about to start an exploration of the Holy Spirit as described throughout the Bible. Our partners at Wellspring also offer Bible Study on Tuesday evenings. And if you prefer another time or activity, well, it's about time that we start hosting another group perhaps for people who prefer daytime hours. I, as your pastor, would be happy to work with one or more of you to start a new group to dedicate time to any of Bible study, discernment, or prayer. Together, let us discover some of the many ways in which the Holy Spirit is working to shape us and our church!

In Peace,

- Pastor Heisen

Prayer List

We of Mount Olivet hold in prayer Donna Jamros, Corliss Loomer, Kal Hyyrynen, Justin Lingenberg (relative of Joyce), Ryan Turner (neighbor of Don and Cathy Sheehan), Amanda Parker (relative of Vincent and Jackie Walsh), Karen Eisenhauer (Nadine Argento's sister), Kirsten Bergman, Shirley Liljegren (Art's wife), Bill Romey (friend of Andy Turpin), Meta Mueller, Cathy Sheehan, Dave Gruben, Alyssa Bianchi (friends of Cathy Sheehan), Father Dennis Gallagher (friend of Michael), Gail St. Pierre (friend of Joyce), Jennifer Bergstrom (niece of George), Eva Strachan, Jim and Ann (relatives of Stephanie Ruggiere), Becky Boutwell, Sarah and Jacob (Nina and Doug), Samantha Smith (friend of Frankie's), Walter Johnson, Christine Webb, Lee Webb (relatives of Cathy Sheehan), Michael Argento (Nadine's son), Liza Aston (friend of Eileen), Clarice Pavlak, Jim Vogt (Meta's husband), Roz (friend of Kris Sheehan), Julie Dawes, Valerie Duggan (friend of Dave Cote), Brian Pihl (relative of Joyce), Diane Cyr (friend of Cathy Sheehan), Alan Johnson, Fran Johansen, Patti S. (friend of Joyce), Janine Gill, Joyce Straub, Deb Brousseau, and Michael & Eileen LeBlanc.

Choir Corner

Our choir usually meets on the second Sunday of the month, however, this month, the choir will sing on

Sunday, May 20th (Pentecost)

Pick-up choir meets at 9:00 AM and is open to anyone who would like to sing regardless of musical experience. This will be the last Sunday choir will meet until September.

Women's Reading Group

Tuesday, May 15th, 12:00 Noon

The Women's Reading Group will meet Tuesday, May 15th at 12:00 Noon to consider ORDINARY GRACE by William Kreuger. Winner of the 2014 Edgar Allan Poe Award (presented every year by the Mystery Writers of America) the novel is "an extraordinary coming of age narrative" told in retrospect. All are welcome for stimulating discussion and warm fellowship.

Bible Sharing

Thursdays, 7:12 PM

Annual Yard and Bake Sale

Saturday, June 2nd

We will have our Bake Sale and Yard Sale again this year, and will need your baked goods and treasures. Sign up to help on the sheets on the bulletin board. Contact Ginny Aikens (508-845-1780) about the bake sale and Kathleen Keohane (508-757-1993) or Carolyn Skoglund (508-755-3373) about the yard sale. Bring your items in Wednesday afternoon, May 30th through Friday, June 1st. More details later!

Synod Assembly

Thursday, June 7th - Saturday, June 9th

This year's New England Synod Assembly will take place Thursday, June 7th through Saturday, June 9th. Along with all the normal presentations and festivities we will be electing a bishop! The church council is currently recruiting people to represent us at the assembly. If you are interested in attending either as a voting representative or just as a visitor, for the whole time or only part, please speak with Pastor Heisen for more information.

Drop-In Play Group

Fridays, 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Please contact Karilyn Heisen at (857) 615-7626 for more information.

Summary of Council Minutes

The ecumenical services around Lent and Easter were well-attended and a springboard for other ecumenical activities. The Why Committee updated the council on their progress, and one-on-one conversations with members will start in May. Pastor Andrew will make an announcement recruiting delegates for Synod Assembly June 7th - 9th. We will join with Wellspring in planning the Fellowship Table this summer at Dean Park with tentative services the 4th Sunday of the month. We started planning for a bake and yard sale.

Quilt Tying

June 18th, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Annual Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

**Saturday, May 12th
12:00 Noon - 6:00 PM
Shrewsbury Postal Distribution Center,
194 Main Street, Shrewsbury
Donations & Volunteers Needed!**

Please leave your donation of non-perishable food (in a sturdy bag) next to your mailbox before the delivery of mail on Saturday, May 12th. Donations will go to the Worcester County Food Bank for the benefit of Shrewsbury residents and others in Worcester County. Please do not donate items that are expired, in glass containers, open, or damaged. Sorting of donated food will be done at the Shrewsbury Postal Distribution Center at 194 Main Street from 12:00 Noon to 6:00 PM (the most need is from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM). If you are interested in helping with sorting on Saturday, May 12th, please use the link below to access sign up genius or send an email to rubin@townisp.com. Additionally, you can access the sign up genius link through the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive 01545 Facebook page. For safety reasons, volunteers must be at least 9 years old.

Thank you for your help in Stamping Out Hunger!
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054bacad29a7fc1-letter>

Mount Olivet on SPAC

Mount Olivet's worship services are broadcast on Shrewsbury Public Access Channel (SPAC), channel 28 during the following time slots:

Wednesdays - 8:00 PM
Thursdays - 1:00 AM
Thursdays - 10:00 AM

Online Calendar

To keep up with our ever-changing calendar, you can check <http://www.mtolivetlutheran.org>

Remember the Number 20!!!



The deadline for all submissions to *The Olive Branch* is the 20th of each month. **Submissions for the June/July edition are due in the office by Sunday, May 20th.**

Notes from the Financial Secretary

Net Operating Income March, 2018			
	Month of March	Year to Date	Budget (Planned)
Our Ministry Income	\$ 12,157.00	\$ 31,632.59	\$ 32,129.00
Our Ministry Expenses	\$ 11,751.57	\$ 37,293.59	\$ 40,359.05
Income Net of Expenses	\$ 405.43	\$ (5,661.00)	\$ (8,230.05)

First Contribution Statements for 2018

Contribution Statements for January through April will be mailed by mid-May. Upon receipt, please take a moment to review your statement and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Spread the word about Amazon Smile

Participating in the Amazon Smile program is very simple. Please tell your family and friends about this program! Anyone can participate. Rest assured that shopping at the Smile Amazon website is no different than shopping at the Amazon website.

Here are instructions for your family and friends. Go to www.smile.amazon.com. Choose Mount Olivet Evangelical Lutheran Church, Shrewsbury, MA when asked which organization you would like to support. And then you're ready to shop! Mount Olivet will automatically appear as your choice of organization the next time you use the Smile Amazon website.

- Holly Pavlak , Financial Secretary

Worship Assistant Schedule for May, 2018

If you are unavailable on your assigned dates, please find a substitute.

Thank you for your continued service.

May	6th	13th	20th	27th
Cantor	Kris Sheehan	Karilyn Heisen	Frankie Morelli	George Bergstrom
Lector	Nancy Robbins	Holly Pavlak	Kris Sheehan	Bill Robbins
Usher/Presenter 1	Sue Whalen	Nancy Cowan	Sue Whalen	Carolyn Skoglund
Usher/Presenter 2	Rob Erickson	TBA	Stephanie Ruggiere	Rob Erickson
Coffee/Snack	Joyce Danielson	Karen McKenzie	Barbara Schuh	Peg Harbert
Altar Guild	<i>Ginny Aikens</i>			
Counters	<i>George Bergstrom & Warren Englund</i>			

May 2018 (Eastern Time)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Outside Groups, Holidays in United States

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10 am - Morning 7 pm - AA Meeting	30	1 Eileen - Day off	2 10:30am - Russian 3pm - Confirmation 7pm - Brassboro	3 3:30pm - Why? 6pm - Girl Scout 7:12pm - Bible	4 9:30am - Drop-in	5 Cinco de Mayo 7pm - Al-Anon
6 Guest Preacher: 10 am - Morning 1 pm - Schoolhouse 7 pm - AA Meeting	7	8 6 pm - Weight Center 7 pm - Congregation	9 10:30am - Russian 7pm - Brassboro 7pm - Prayer Shawl 7pm - Why	10 6 pm - Celestial 7:12pm - Bible	11 9:30am - Drop-in	12 7 pm - Al-Anon
13 Mother's Day 10 am - Morning 7 pm - AA Meeting	14 9 am - Garden Club 6 pm - Girl Scout	15 12pm - Shrews 12pm - Women's	16 10:30am - Russian 6pm - Maple Tree 7pm - Brassboro	17 3:30pm - Why? 6pm - Girl Scout 7:12pm - Bible	18 9:30am - Drop-in	19 7 pm - Al-Anon
20 Pentecost 9 am - Choir Practice 10 am - Morning 7 pm - AA Meeting	21 6 pm - Girl Scout	22 6 pm - Weight Center	23 Eileen - Day off 10:30am - Russian 3pm - Confirmation 7pm - Brassboro 7pm - Prayer Shawl	24 7:12pm - Bible	25 9:30am - Drop-in	26 7 pm - Al-Anon
27 10 am - Morning 7 pm - AA Meeting	28 Memorial Day Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 10:30am - Russian 7pm - Brassboro	31 7:12pm - Bible	1 9:30am - Drop-in	2 Tag sale (tentative) 7 pm - Al-Anon



Taken on March 3rd. Pictured from left to right: Kathleen Keohane, Judy Fallon, Trax (Railers' Mascot), Holly and Ray Pavlak.

the OLIVE BRANCH



As recipients of God's gracious love shown through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are called in faith to:

- receive God's love in Word and Sacrament
- celebrate God's love in Christian community; and
- share God's love in inviting, caring and service toward one another and the world

PASTOR

Rev. Andrew Heisen
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OFFICE SECRETARY/ORGANIST

Eileen Straub LeBlanc

E-mail: office_mtolivet@townisp.com

OFFICERS

Don Harbert.....President
 Don Sheehan.....Vice-President
 Kathleen Keohane.....Secretary
 Cathy Sheehan.....Treasurer
 Holly Pavlak.....Financial Secretary

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

George Bergstrom	Kathleen Keohane
Don Harbert	Holly Pavlak
Nadine Argento	Carolyn Skoglund
Lina Dickey	Rebecca Hanson-
Rob Erickson	Richardson
Don Sheehan	

Church telephone: 508-842-2731

Website: www.mtolivetlutheran.org



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