



Newsletter

2021

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

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From Pastor Ortiz:

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his
flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall
that is the hostility between us.”

Ephesians 2:11-22

“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and mind in Christ Jesus.” Those are liturgical words that are used during our time of worship to keep us aware of the need for peace. We are surrounded by multitudes that speak diverse languages, and whose roots go back to remote lands and nations. We are surrounded by people that think and act different from us.

So, to be able to live under these realities we need to learn how to be at peace with our neighbors. Now for ‘peace’ we can’t ignore the forces of conflicts and hostility that exist, yet the harmonious relationship with each other needs to be lifted. The activity of promoting peace can take a life time of serious commitments and learning. We need to lift-up the fact in which peace is seeing God’s gift and purpose for our lives. For the Christian people the ‘gift’ of peace is in the book of Ephesians, referred to as, ‘to be in Christ.’

To be in Christ is to be in line with the mediator of peace. In Him and through Him we received the power of this gift, and the responsibility of working for it. This conviction comes from the biblical affirmation that declares that Christ is the giver and the foundation of all peace. “Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does” John 14:27.

The good news is that in Christ we can find each other as brothers and sisters. He will make possible in us the need to see our fellow man in a new light. And not only that, but in Christ we have access to God in an open relationship with the Father. Christ is our peace, in Him and through Him we find peace with God. It is very important to be at peace with God, to receive and execute the gift of peace. And above all, in Christ we find peace with each other.

Brothers and Sisters, Christ gave His life to bring Jews and Gentiles together into God’s family. He gave His life to bring Black and White people together; he gave his life to bring Hispanic and Asians together, He shed His blood to give us the opportunity of sharing at the table His grace and love. He gives you and me the energy and power to go out into our world (together) with a message of peace, love and justice for all. As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things” (Romans 10:15).

See you in Church, Pastor Eliezer, Interim

Prayer List

Please add Leroy Hameister to your prayer list. He is at Mercy Hospital awaiting help from the doctors on the next steps dealing with his diabetes. Prayers are powerful and as a church we want to be sure that whenever anyone in our family is hurting we are lifting them up in prayer. So please feel free to contact any of our church council members with any prayer concerns you may have. These may be for yourself or for people you care about, members or not.



Harvest for the Hungry

With spring just around the corner, I'll be gearing up for the 10th year of Harvest for the Hungry. Each year I am looking for more people with excess produce from their gardens or orchards. If you know of anyone, neighbor, friend or relation that has produce they won't use, please call or text me at 515-728-8162 with the details. The need is great. I

serve first the low-income senior apartments here in Perry, then if I have excess it goes to the low-income apartments in Dallas Center. Please call, if you have a lead that will help out. Sincerely, *Gene Grell*

Gather to Nourish and food pantry donations

Gather to Nourish, organized by Meg Menke, holds freezer meal prep sessions in the church kitchen each month. The mission is to provide families easy and healthy meals in an efficient and fun way. People attending the session assemble meals for one another to take home. In addition, the profits from the session go into the Gather to Nourish fund to help feed local people in need. Prepared individual freezer meals have been given to seniors in need in previous months. This month Gather to Nourish is donating \$500 in nonperishable food to the Perry Area Food Pantry. This mission is possible because of generous support by the participants of the sessions.

"For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God."
-2 Corinthians 9:10-11



The Call Committee has the following members; Rusty Burgett, Nick Gregory, Brenda Golay, Gene Grell, Jolene Niemeyer, and Martha Stetzel. The ministry site profile requested by the Synod is finished, so they will go on to the next steps of the Call Committee.

Call Committee

Lawn Mowers needed for the summer

We have a sign up sheet in the foyer at church.

Here are the names for July Mowing:



Coffee Fellowship sign up sheet is in the foyer.

The Worship and Fine Arts Committee will assign Greeters and Readers for the rest of the calendar year. This is similar to what was done in 2019.

The First Christian Church has a Clothes Closet Project that offers free clothes and shoes. The clothes are sorted by ages and sizes and the church is open on Saturdays from 8am to noon for anyone to stop by and take a look at the large selection. Please spread the word about this service that the church offers.

Updating pictures, addresses, emails and phone numbers.

It is time to update our pictures in the fellowship hall. You can email those updated pictures to mtolivetlutheran@gmail.com Also if you have any changes in your contact information, please send those to mtolivetlutheran@gmail.com .



Offering

As you worship with us I ask that you please remember to continue giving your offerings every week. This is something you can easily do online as well. Click the link on the front page of our website to quickly and easily set up an online giving account. Or you can mail your checks to the church.

Church App

This is a great time to check out our church app. You can give your offering. You can also keep in touch with one another through our prayer wall. Here anyone can post prayer requests or just things you are thinking about. You can put your name with it or just post things anonymously. Others can then comment on them and share their feelings as well. There is a link to the app on our website.



Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church Council Minutes – June 23, 2021

Members Present: Matt, Meg, Rusty, Theresa, Caitlyn, Pastor Ortiz, Nicole

Joys and Concerns: Joys – We're happy to get some rain. Concern – Christen Burgett is recovering from gallbladder surgery.

Opening Devotion and Prayer: Pastor Ortiz shared devotion and prayer with us.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: Meg motioned to approve, Rusty seconded.

Special Presentations and Communications:

-Gene Grell had a few items to discuss:

-Woodward Library would like to purchase six easels we had stored at the church. Matt motioned to approve the purchase, Meg seconded.

-Dallas County Elections would like to rent the church for a polling location. Matt motioned to approve, Meg seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Rusty motioned to approve and Caitlyn seconded the motion.

Mission and Ministry Reports:

Worship and Fine Arts: Greeters sign-up still needs to be filled.

Faith Formation: No Vacation Bible School will be offered this year.

Social Concerns/Fellowship and Care: Nothing to report.

Property and Long Range Planning: Rusty is going to follow up with the roofers.

Pastor's Report:

-Pastor Ortiz visited Leroy Hameister in the hospital.

-Pastor's office hours at the church are Tuesday and Thursday from 9-5.

-Pastor has enjoyed getting to know the congregation and becoming more familiar with Perry.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business:

-Meg would like to donate \$500 from the Gather to Nourish funds to purchase food for the local food pantry. Nicole motioned to approve, Rusty seconded the motion.

-The Call Committee has collected information from the surveys sent out and is in the process of completing the ministry profile.

Next Meeting Date and Time: July 21st at 7:00pm **Closing with the Lord's Prayer**

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church 2021 Church Council

Officers: **President:** Matt Hardy
 Vice-president: Meg Menke
 Secretary: Nicole Hayes

Committee Assignments

Worship and Fine Arts

Caitlyn Lamm, 515-238-0741, caitlyn.lamm@gmail.com
Paula Nelson, 515-205-4525, pnelson@prairieinet.net

Property and Long Range Planning

Matt Hardy, 515-341-2630, matthew.hardy@g.perry.k12.ia.us
Rusty Burgett, 515-708-8850, rustyburgett@gmail.com

Social Concerns\Fellowship & Care Committee

Jill Onnen, 515-954-8173, jill.onnen@yahoo.com
Sally Radke, 515-432-2124, salbobradke@gmail.com

Faith Formation

Nicole Hayes, nicole.hayes@g.perry.k12.ia.us, 515-343-6587
Meg Menke, 319-415-4192, megemenke@gmail.com

Pastor Eliezer Ortiz has office hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 5pm.

His email is eliezerdortiz@gmail.com and his cell phone is 706-447-7994.

Theresa Burns, church secretary: 515-975-6102, email theresadburns@gmail.com

