



The Olive Branch

Loving Christ in Worship, Fellowship, Education and Service

February 2025

PASTOR TIM'S ANNUAL REPORT

Over the past several years at Mt. Olive, we've been engaging with our community in new ways, especially through our annual Vacation Bible School and Trunk or Treat events. We are also in the beginning stages of a new relationship with Trail Life USA. And with Justin Tagawa's input on our church council, we are looking into new ways we can utilize our church property for mission and ministry within our Crescenta Valley community.

In addition to all of this, we've started an outreach Bible study at Panera Bread Restaurant in La Cañada every third Saturday at 8:30am. We also have a Meetup.com page for this special Bible study, and we've had three Bible study participants join us from this social media page so far.

Regarding worship, we are rotating between three liturgies throughout the year: ELW 2, ELW 4 (which is basically LBW 2), and Victory Feast. Jim Tagawa has formed the Cross Street Kids group with our little ones, and they have presented various musical offerings for worship several times this past year. We continue to be blessed to have Sean Paxton and Angela Zelaya direct our choirs. Rita Kubela and the Sanctuary Decorations Committee continue to decorate the sanctuary for our annual cycles of worship. Furthermore, we are also holding joint worship services with Lutheran Church in the Foothills (LCIF) for Ash Wednesday and Thanksgiving Eve each year on a rotating basis.

Lastly but most importantly, we continue to faithfully offer Christ to and for all people. Our clear message to the Crescenta Valley community continues to be the following:

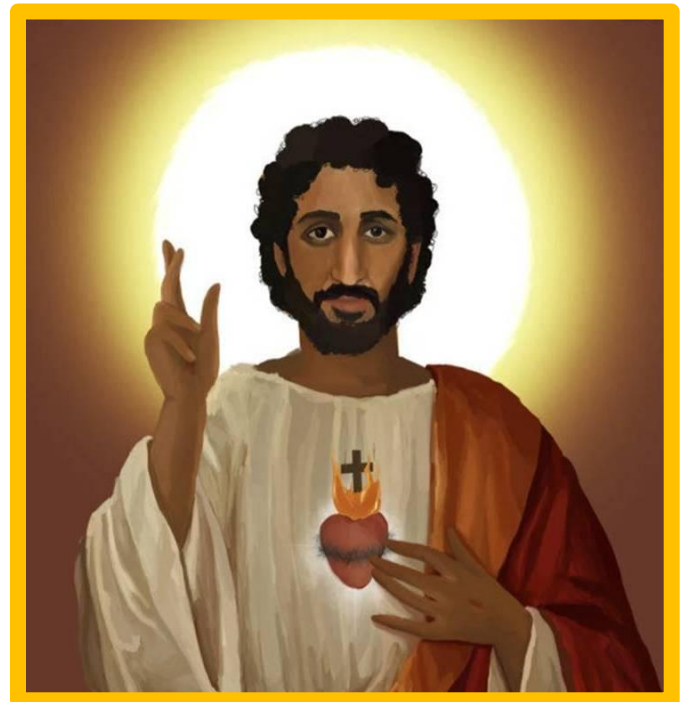
God loves you, and he has poured out his love for you in and through Jesus Christ. By his sacrificial death and resurrection life, Christ renews your life.

At Mt. Olive Lutheran Church we continue to proclaim Christ crucified for us and for all people. Visitors to Mt. Olive find God with his people. Every Sunday morning at 9:30am they find a grace-filled encounter with God through the Holy Word and Blessed Sacrament of Jesus our Lord, as well as through sacred prayers, time-honored hymns and spiritual songs. Moreover, every week at our midweek Bible study, and every third Saturday at our outreach Bible study at Panera, people find personal connection and spiritual relationship with each other around the Word of God within the Holy Scriptures.

May the love, grace and peace of Christ our Lord be with all of you!

Respectfully Submitted in the Name of Jesus Christ,

Pastor Tim



**"This is my Son, my Chosen One, listen to him..."
Luke 9:35**

Pam's Pearls of Prayer

Scripture of the Month: Ephesians 4:2

*"Be completely humble and gentle;
be patient, bearing with one another in love."*

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Thought for the Month

Because it's Valentine's Day on February 14th, I'm reminded of the love theme which flows throughout the Bible. Being patient, humble and gentle isn't always easy for any of us. But that's what Jesus was all about. He's the best example there is of love. Let's follow His example and reach out to others in peace and love. When we have differences of opinion, let's agree to disagree without being disagreeable.

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Prayer for the Month

Father, we ask that you give us the strength to be more like Your Son and follow the Golden Rule – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"! And do it with love. In Your Son's name, we pray. Amen



Mt. Olive Preschool Update

Happy New Year!

I hope that 2025 has started off well for each of you. We had a very quick start that was halted by the local fires, but we are happy to report that we are all safe, and back in the swing of things again. We hope the same goes for you. This month we kicked off our new year by setting goals for ourselves learning the numbers in our new year 2025! Then we rolled into our World Changers week. This week is important to us because it is where we learn about all the people who have shown kindness and how that kindness changed the world like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. And that we too can change the world through our kindness to people, to animals and to ourselves. It is a big concept but the kids were eager to learn and show off their kindness. Next we headed into our Arctic animals week and we are learning about all the animals that live in the snow and their features to help them live in such a cold climate. This last week we will be learning about Chinese new year and all the traditions that are celebrated in China. It has been a fun start to the year and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings.

Blessings!

Mrs Ashley, Mrs. Amanda, Mrs. Robyn, Ms. Hannah, and Mrs. Emily

Community Luncheons

Due to the tragic wildfires in January, we cancelled our January luncheon. Our hearts go out to those who suffered losses. God willing our February luncheon will be held on February 12th. This month's entertainment will be one of our favorites, Jimmy Villafior. We look forward to fine fellowship, food and fun! Come join us!

Cinematic Fellowship Event



"Song of the Sea" Movie

Saturday, February 8th
Geffen Theater, 11:00am

(We will meet at MOLC to carpool at 9:30am)

This is a 2014 animated movie of the fantasy genre that plunges into a mythical world of Irish elves, fairies and sea creatures, telling a redemptive story filled with Christ-like themes of confession and forgiveness, healing and renewal. All are welcome to join us for this fellowship event!

God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs

**FROM: MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3561 FOOTHILL BLVD.
LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:

DATED MATERIAL – DO NOT HOLD

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 6 – Stephanie Coats | 13 – Linda DeBoer |
| 7 – Larry Hovland | 25 – Keighley Pardo |
| 11 – JoAnne Sierks | 26 – Kenny Kurtz |
| 12 – Jim Slouber | |

ANNIVERSARIES IN FEBRUARY

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| 14 – Rita & Todd Kubela | No. 36 |
| 28 – Diane & Larry Vogelsang | No. 21 |

MEETINGS & EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

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|---|----------|
| 2 – Worship with Trail Life USA | 9:30 am |
| 8 – Fellowship Movie Event @ Geffen Theater | 9:30 am |
| 9 – Worship with The Gideons | 9:30 am |
| 10 – Threads of Hope | 9:00 am |
| 11 – Church Council | 7:00 pm |
| 12 – Community Luncheon | 12:00 pm |
| 15 – Breakfast Bible Study at Panera | 8:30 am |
| 16 – Bailey Center Food Donation Sunday | 9:30 am |
| 16 – Tree Dedication for Sheridan | 11:00 am |
| 23 – Tree Dedication for Kyle | 11:00 am |
| 25 – Worship & Music Committee | 7:30 pm |

**Some Thoughts to Ponder
About God’s Love**

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.’” – Matthew 22:36-37

Do you love God with all your heart? Do you love Jesus Christ just as much as you loved Him when you first came to know Him? Nothing is more important than us loving the Lord with all of our being.

So, this begs the question: Why do we love God in the first place? Well, the first thing to realize is that God

loves you! God loves you more than anyone on this Earth loves you, more than anyone ever will. In fact, 1 John 4:19 says, “We love, because He first loved us.” And that, my friends, is *why* we love Him.

To love God and love others is only possible when we understand that He loves us first.

We don’t naturally love God most. We don’t naturally love others like we do ourselves. We’re all wrapped up in ourselves, our lives, our agendas, and our priorities, yet God keeps loving us. His love never changes.

It amazes me every time I think about the fact that God loved us before we loved Him. And through Jesus Christ and what He did for us on the cross, we can finally understand that the way to know God is to know Jesus. Our lives are transformed and then we WANT to love God because we truly see that He first loved us!

Has that happened in your life? I hope you won’t let another day go by without knowing the love of God in Jesus Christ for yourself. It is awesome, indeed!

