

## Elder Enlightenment

Written by: Elder Gary Treece

Mt Olive is now officially in a Pastoral vacancy. However, Mt Olive is still a church as defined as a gathering of believers where the Gospel is purely taught and where the Sacraments are administered correctly. And there are blessings that can result from a vacancy. A vacancy can raise up a strong laity and can re-energize a congregation that leads to a healthy new life in the congregation. At the same time, a vacancy reminds us of what a blessing a Pastor is when we are forced to be without one for a time.

During a vacancy a congregation needs to be flexible. For Mt Olive that might mean a change in the frequency and timing of Communion. We will attempt to notify the congregation of changes required by the availability of an ordained Pastor.

A vacancy is a time when the congregation needs to continue its ministry. The congregation needs to remain faithful in attending Worship and Bible Studies and encourage one another to do likewise. A vacancy is also an opportunity for lay people to get more involved in the life of the church and for more lay people to get involved exercising their God given skills and talents.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### LWML

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

### Elder meeting

May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:15am

\*\*Please note date & time change\*\*

### Ministry Council meeting

May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am

\*\*Please note date change\*\*

### Ministry Fair

Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> after service

### Camp Hope

Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck

Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> after service

### Yard Sale Results:

The LWML Yard Sale was a great success thanks to the many Mt. Olive members and friends who donated items and helped out—we're very grateful! It was wonderful to reconnect with familiar faces and welcome community members who return each year.

We raised over \$4,800, which will go toward LWML Love Gifts supporting various organizations (see the list in the Resource Center or bulletin board). Thank you to everyone who contributed, from setup to takedown!



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**MAY**  
**NEWSLETTER 2026**



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church  
7809 Tieton Drive  
Yakima, WA 98908

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

During our April Ministry Council meeting, we formed a call committee to guide Mt. Olive in calling our next pastor. The months ahead may feel like “hurry up and wait” as we complete forms, send them to the NW District, and wait for their response. We’ll keep the congregation updated, and you’re always welcome to ask questions.

### Next Steps: Late Spring

1. The call committee will complete a congregational self-study. This includes information about our church, community, ministries, goals, and challenges. Some members may be contacted or asked to complete surveys. Once finished, a copy will be available in the office.
2. We will collect pastoral nominations. Members are encouraged to suggest pastors who may be a good fit. Feel free to reach out to pastors or church workers for recommendations. Nominations are due by the end of May.

### Mid-Summer

3. District President Pastor Von Bahren will gather names from our nominations and others across the country. He will send information about these pastors to the call committee.

### Late Summer / Early Fall

4. The call committee will contact each pastor to see if they are open to a call. Then they will prayerfully discern who God is calling to Mt. Olive.

Throughout this process, we pray for patience, wisdom, and that God’s will be done at Mt. Olive. You can also find helpful resources on our website or the NW District website ([nowlcms.org](http://nowlcms.org)).

## UPCOMING EVENT

### Ladies Night Out: Cake Painting

Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm we’ll do light refreshments, a cake painting class, and time to relax as busy ladies!



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It will also be important that the leadership communicate well with the congregation. At the same time, the leadership will need to hear from the congregation when a need is perceived. We would ask that you would contact your Elder for questions or concerns that arise.

Love one another. The stresses of a vacancy can lead to conflict. Peace and cooperation are needed at this time.

Prayer and reading God’s Word are always needed but are especially important at this time. Prayers for the Synod, our Seminaries, our Districts and those other congregation in a vacancy are important knowing the God answers prayer according to His Will and Time. We should also take this time to spend more time reading God’s Word both personally and corporately.

Take Heart. Christ knows the needs of every congregation, and He is with us and He is faithful. Mt Olive is not only a congregation in the LCMS Synod or a congregation in the Northwest District of the Synod, or a Lutheran congregation in Yakima. Mt Olive is Christ’s church.

Elder Gary Treece