

# THE OLIVE BRANCH



Issue 9

December 2011

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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Rev. Kenneth H. Roberts, Pastor Rev. Bill Baker, Pastor  
Mrs. Tina Higley Preschool Director  
Linda Koch Editor, The Olive Branch

Visit our Preschool website -

[www.mtolivepreschool.net](http://www.mtolivepreschool.net)

**MT. OLIVE'S**  
**MISSION STATEMENT**

*“Rejoicing and growing in God’s grace, we extend His loving hand to all.”*

## FROM THE PASTOR

It can be difficult sometimes to write about something in the past tense when it hasn’t actually happened yet, but when it comes to Thanksgiving, it is really quite simple.

Thanksgiving is a state of being, and although the official day has not yet arrived, I know it will be wonderful, because there is so much to be thankful for, even this year, especially this year, this year of all years.

I am thankful for my family and for the love they give me each and every day. I am thankful for the church; the church at large and the local congregation in which is found God’s Grace and mercy through His people, and for God placing me here at Mt. Olive, and for the love that you give to me and to my family. I am thankful for a place to call home and for all the indescribable joys that go with that. What a year, and yet what a year indeed.

But mostly I am thankful for the greatest gift that has ever been received by anyone on earth: Christ.

Now we wait in anxious anticipation for the Lord to come in Glory and to take us to be with Him in the Heavens, but on Christmas Day, we celebrate the joy that God came near. He put on the humility of being man and shared our world, our hopes, our dreams, our disappointments, our hurts, and our pain. God knows all about what we are, how we feel, and all

our flaws, and yet He took upon himself also our deaths, that we should live, and to live for Him and with him always, and so to shout out with all, “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.”

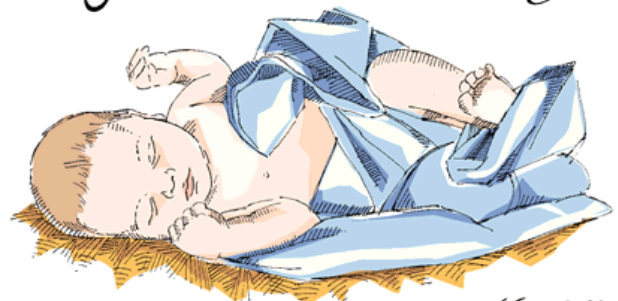
Whatever your trials and disappointments you may be experiencing this Advent Season, know also the joy of being loved. Of being loved so much that One would give up their life for you, and be comforted in the knowledge that the worst thing that could happen to you won’t happen, because of Christmas. And that the greatest thing that could be given to any human being, has been given to you, because of Christmas.

Because of Christmas, we are righteous. Because of Christmas, we have life. Because of Christmas we have the Glory of God and His presence. Because of Christmas, we have Hope, Peace, and Joy.

Merry Christmas to you all, and May God Bless you and yours all the more this Christmas.

Blessings in His Name, Pastor Bill

*And he will be their peace*



*Micah 5:5*

# MT. OLIVE HAPPENINGS

## YOUTH NEWS

During December, our main activity will be going to Pasadena to work with the Lutheran Hour Float Committee's Petal Pushers. We have signed up to work on December 17, and will leave from the church parking lot at 6:30 a.m., as our shift is from 9 to 3. We should be back at the church by 5:30 or so. If you are interested in joining us, or can help by driving a group up, please contact Amanda Harwell or Tammy Slater. Youth must be at least 13 years old to work on the floats.



**CHOIR** - Now is the time for any interested singers to join our small but dedicated group, as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' Birthday. During Advent, we will be rehearsing on Wednesday evenings after the worship services. Please consider giving it a try; we are especially interested in those who sing soprano, alto, tenor or bass (or anything in between).



## LIBRARY NEWS

Three new movies have been added to our library: *The Ultimate Gift*, *Facing the Giant* and *Blind Side*, as well as a couple of teen and young adult books. One in particular is *Who is Jesus Really?* by Josh and Dave Sterrett and reviewed by Julie Nasser: "In this book, the authors tackle tough and frequently asked questions about the identity of Jesus. Instead of presenting their arguments in a dry theological text, the authors choose to create a university campus setting in which characters interact through lectures, forums, coffeehouse meetings and everyday conversations. Because of the book's purpose in addressing intellectual issues, the dialogue can seem stilted in a few places, but the power of the message makes up for this rather minor flaw. All of the quotations and facts are very relevant. This book would be a great intellectual introduction for someone who desires to know more about Jesus or Christianity." There are also several books in the Christmas section for the Advent season.



Posted on the library bulletin board is a copy from the National Church Library Association that gives a list of reviews of current books from the following topics: church history, teen and youth, marriage and family, death and grief, prayer and devotional, Bible and theology, fiction and much more.

Blessings, Jenny

## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Although we have officially ended our "Stewardship Emphasis" for the month of November, we do want to encourage you to keep thinking about what it means to be good stewards of the many gifts that our God has given to each of us. What opportunities to use your time, talents and treasures will He place before you - and how will you respond?



**FINANCIAL UPDATE** - Envelope donations are running about 10% less than last year. Any extra year-end gifts would be much appreciated!

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding finance or stewardship, please contact any one of us: Linda Koch, Lillian Tomko, Linda Tone, Linda Kler, or Marcia Robinson.

**EARMARKED FUNDS** - All of our special funds are intended to be an additional opportunity for those wanting to offer help in specific areas, and should be over and above the individual's regular donations to the general fund.

**CLOTHING DRIVE** - A great big thank you to all who donated socks and underwear to our November drive. Your generosity brought in 36 t-shirts, 22 pairs of socks, 25 pairs of underwear (all included both men's and women's items), and a few items for young children, which were donated to Life Choices of Poway. The adult items were divided up, and Marcia Robinson took some to Pomerado Hospital while Danielle Stack took the others to the VA Hospital.



# MT. OLIVE COUNCIL NEWS

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month I wrote about our new fellowship activity – “*Movies at the Mount.*” From the feedback that I have heard, it is being very well received. People are being introduced to quality movies that they have not seen or heard about. The discussion time with dinner after the movie has become very lively, with many people responding to the discussion questions and raising a few new questions, as well.

If you haven't yet attended one of the screenings, your next opportunity will be in January when the movie will be “*Bella,*” a movie about the sanctity of life and problems in today's society. We will not show a movie this month to allow time to celebrate our Savior's birth.

While movies and fellowship are important to help us grow as a group, education classes are important for our personal growth. Two classes are offered each Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour. One is led by Pastor Baker, the other by one of our elders, Rich Thompson.

Pastor Baker is leading an information class for new members. However, this class is not just open only to potential new members, but to any interested adult. Many of our long-time members are enjoying his class. In addition to the basic information, Pastor Baker is uncovering many nuggets of information that will add to your faith knowledge.

Rich Thompson's class is a video series called “*Faith Lessons*” by Ray Vander Laan. Each class features a short video followed by a discussion. Mr. Vander Laan teaches the history of the Bible using geography and archeology to bring that history to life, with scenes being filmed on location in Israel. It is a richly produced video series, worth viewing many times.

I urge you to attend one of these classes. The Sunday school hour is conveniently scheduled between worship services, and classes for children and youth are held at the same time. Whether you come to first or second service, you are invited to enjoy some fellowship and refreshments before class, and even bring them to class. You'll be glad you attended.

SDG,  
Mike Kler



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Sunday School** - We continue to offer classes on Sunday mornings for all ages, and encourage all to find the best class for them. Children are encouraged to bring their friends, and we hope parents will discover the benefits of teaching that builds each week on the lessons from the previous weeks.

Due to increasing work and family responsibilities, Patti Dupont has recently found it necessary to resign from her position on the Board of Education. All of the Board expresses their thanks to her for the time she was able to give. Now we have a position open, and ask anyone interested to contact Becki Clause, Pastor Bill or Mike Kler. We are also looking for a volunteer to help with the administrative tasks of Sunday School; again, if interested, please contact Becki, Pastor Bill or the church office.

**Preschool** - On December 9, 12 & 13, you have the opportunity to see the fruits of our staff's efforts, as our preschool students share the nativity story in their own special way. You are welcome to attend the presentations in the sanctuary; the schedule is shown on page 8 of this issue. What a wonderful way to re-connect with the Christmas message!

## **New Evening Women's Bible Discussion Group**

**Beginning:** Tuesday, January 17, 2012  
(6 sessions)

**Ending:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012\*

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Fellowship Hall at Mt. Olive

**Topic:** Paul's Letter to the Romans

**Theme:** Romans 1:11-12: "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong - that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." (NIV)

**Who's invited:** Women (high school age and up) of the Mt. Olive family and their friends

**Facilitated by:** Sue Roesner

After January 1st, please see Margie Travis in the preschool office to sign up and receive your copy of the booklet we will use as a primary background source for our discussions: ***God's Abiding Word: Romans***, by Dr. Charles A. Gieschen, of Concordia Theological Seminary, published by Concordia Publishing House.

\*Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2012





# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

## Women in Mission, Women of the Word



### SPIRIT, COME!

*"Spirit, build the weary strong  
till all their grieving turns to song" -- Anon.*

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Dec. 4** Family Christmas Party, 1-4 pm
- Dec. 6** Executive Board meeting, 7 pm
- Dec. 7** Soup Supper, Advent Worship, 6 & 7 pm
- Dec. 8** LWML Christmas Party, 7 pm
  - Devotions** - Linda Koch
  - Program** - Hear the Bells
  - Guest Speaker** - Tammie Pontsler
  - Business** - Cookie Exchange, Select Secret Pals, \*Nickel Auction, Mite Box collection
  - Hostesses** - Executive Board
- Dec. 11** Mite Sunday
- Dec. 13** JOY Lunch & Christmas Party
- Dec. 14** Martha Circle 9 a.m.
  - Soup Supper, Advent Worship, 6 & 7 pm
- Nov. 24** Christmas Eve Worship, 7 pm
- Dec. 25** Christmas Day; Worship 9 am
- Dec. 31** New Year's Eve (no worship service)

*\*Gently/partially used items auctioned in \$.05 increments - proceeds go to District Mites.*

### MARTHA CIRCLE -

From Lois Bennett: *"Thanks from Martha Circle for buying our greeting cards on Sunday, November 13. The \$73.38 made on the sale goes to LWML to be used for a mission project of their choosing."*

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 14th at 9 a.m. We will have at least a couple of quilts to work on, and share some good fellowship - come join us, and see what happens!

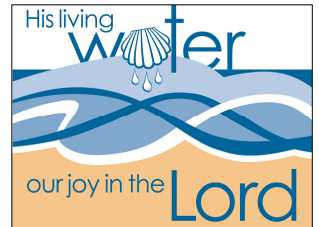
### EPIPHANY DINNER PLANS

We are making plans for our annual Epiphany Dinner, and want you all to be a part of it! We will have the event on Sunday, January 8, 2012, the closest Sunday to Epiphany (January 6). Save the date! And consider whether you would like to host a portion of the meal, so we could once again have it be a Progressive Dinner (going to different homes for the appetizers, main course and desserts). If we don't have enough volunteers, we will hold it at the church. Please contact Marcia Robinson or the church office to volunteer.



### HIS LIVING WATER—OUR JOY IN THE LORD The Pacific Southwest District LWML Convention

is fast approaching - now only six months away! Have you marked the date on your new calendar? Have you begun saving? Have you chosen your roommates? Not only will this be an awesome convention, but you will have a number of opportunities for tours in and near Ventura, either before or after the convention. This could be a family vacation! The Host Convention Committee is also offering a number of Servant Events prior to the convention and a first-time ever Silent Auction, featuring some awesome items! In case you couldn't tell - we really want **you** to come to Ventura for the LWML PSD Convention! All forms and more information will be on our website very soon. Check at [www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org), or contact your local or zone president, as they will also have all this information.



### MITE UPDATES

In a recent article on the LWML website, LWML President Kay Kreklau noted that we have brought in enough mites since the biennium began April 1st to fund three of the mission grants that were selected at the Peoria convention. That's great news! However, she also went on to say that we had six others who have requested their funds, but will have to wait. As we look at what is being donated per month, we are actually falling behind what is needed.



That is the situation at the national level; looking at our own district, we have an even more immediate need to bring in some funds. Our biennium ends on December 31, this year, and we still need nearly \$50,000 to complete our support of the mission grants that were chosen in June, 2010.

Ladies, (and all who support our LWML missions), we need to step it up! Consider donating the price of a cup of coffee, a soda or a sandwich each day; give a quarter for each year God has blessed you; donate in honor or memory of a loved one - whatever motivates you. But please, whatever or however you choose to donate, send it in to the Pacific Southwest District Financial Secretary by December 20. Thank you in advance for your support. — Linda Koch, LWML PSD President





# PAUSE FOR PRAYER

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... — Isaiah 9:6a*

*The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. — Revelation 22:17*

As you have probably heard by now, it's December, and Christmas is coming! For many, this marks the beginning of the season of giving - which then means the season of choosing, shopping, wrapping and then getting together to exchange gifts. And all too often, all this whole concept of "giving" leads not to Christmas joy, but to panic, frustration, perhaps even comparisons and resentment. So let's take a few moments to reflect on the "Reason for the Season," and our Father, the Giver of "every good and perfect gift," (James 1:17).

We celebrate this season because God, our Creator, gave a Gift to all mankind. He sent His Son, Jesus, to be born, live and die as one of us, a human being, in order to provide a way for us to live in His presence eternally. This is a gift that lasts into eternity; it cannot be matched. We cannot give back to God anything resembling His generosity. But what we can do, what we can give, is what He has asked of us - to love Him more than anything or anyone, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Of course, it's perfectly okay to shop for that "perfect" gift for our friends and family. But let's avoid the stress and panic that seems to fill the malls and even the internet. Let's remember to focus on Jesus as the First, Best Gift ever; then we will be able to give to those we love what was given to us - the Love that leads to eternal life. Then we will be able to say with all our hearts, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:17)

In your prayer times this month:

- Spend some time in the Scriptures, looking at all the prophecies regarding the promise of a Savior. Re-read the Christmas stories in the four Gospels and contemplate what that gift meant to God, our Father and the Father of that precious little Baby, born in a manger to bring light and life to all. Then give thanks for His gift, and make plans to share it with others.
- Continue to pray for Mt. Olive, that we would seek God's will for our church as well as for each individual. Praise God for the leadership He has provided us, and pray that we would encourage each other to grow in the knowledge of His Word, discover the best ways to accomplish His will in our community, and help our neighbors to know of His amazing love and grace.
- As we come to the end of the liturgical church year and begin the season of Advent, pray that each of us would intentionally set aside time with our Lord to prepare our hearts for the best and most wonderful Gift the world could ever know - Jesus Christ, born to be our Savior.
- Pray for Mark Loven, one of our hardworking groundskeepers, who will have knee surgery on December 7. Please pray that the operation would be successful and that the healing would be quick and complete.
- Join with Ruth Ellen Heumann in giving God thanks and praise for both her successful cataract surgeries. Not only did the procedures go well, but she was spared any pain or discomfort, and she is praising God for His goodness to her.
- Continue to pray for Holly Kausch, as she has been experiencing more pain and has become weaker in the past month or so. Pray that her caregivers are able to ease her pain, and that she is able to appreciate the love of God and of her family. Pray also that her husband Mark, daughter Bethany, grandson Asher, brother Bill and mother-in-law Betty will all know the peace that passes all understanding, even as they anticipate releasing Holly into her Savior's arms.
- Pray for all those across our country and the world who have suffered from recent severe weather: extreme cold, snow, high winds, earthquakes, floods, drought. Pray also for those who bring aid and comfort, helping to rebuild or to care for those in need. Ask God to inspire us to offer our support in whatever ways we are able.
- Pray also for all those who serve as our protectors in foreign lands and at home: military, firemen, and policemen, along with their families.

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**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**  
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**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Red Bradshaw
- 3 Brad Neas
- 4 Tiffany Tate
- 5 Gene Tillerson
- 6 Cathy Megargee, Brad Zenz
- 9 Ted Davis
- 10 Jen Thompson
- 11 Cody Marshall
- 14 Kira Sue Light
- 17 Elva Susalla
- 20 Max Hopkins
- 26 Bobbi Crone
- 27 Eli Dupont
- 28 Richard Thompson
- 29 Cassandra Von Nordheim
- 31 Holly (Ogle) Michaelis, John Tone



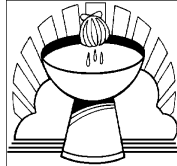
**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 19 James & Cindy Light



**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Linda Tone
- 4 Brady Tone
- 8 Rachel Johnson
- 14 William Ogle, Bob Bloemker
- 21 Asher Kausch
- 22 Julie Tone
- 24 Troy Kent, Thomas Kent, Joclaira Lehmann
- 28 Jessica (Harwell) Cruz



**Other Baptisms this month:**

None that we know of.

*If you find any errors or omissions in the information above, please contact the church office. Thank you!*



**STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER 2011**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:15</u>	<u>Offering</u>
6		46	26	\$4320
13		44	20	\$1556
20		40	46	\$1784
23	(Thanksgiving) 7 p.m.		40	\$ 555
27		40	36	\$ 805

**JOY - JUST OLDER YOUTH -**

We will have our Christmas lunch on Tuesday, December 13th at 11:30 a.m. Please join us for a good lunch and lots of fun. We will have our annual White Elephant Gift Exchange; if you want to participate, bring a wrapped item to exchange. Re-gifting is acceptable, even encouraged! The main course will be provided; you may bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Joy!

**FLOWER CHART SIGN-UPS**

The Flower Chart for 2012 is now up in the narthex, right next to the mailboxes. Now is the time to choose your dates to donate flowers to honor a special occasion or remember a loved one. Guidelines for placing flowers are on a tear-off sheet by the chart, or you may call Mary Ann Payton or the church office with any questions.



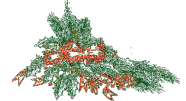
*Altar Flowers*

**BOOK TALK** With all the busy schedules Mt. Olive's Book Club will not be meeting in the month of December. The book I've selected to read over the holidays is *Paul, A Novel* by Walter Wangerin Jr., the National Book Award-winning author of the author of *The Book of the Dun Cow*.

*Paul, A Novel* is a story of the emerging church, the fierce debates of its birthing, and the crossing of the Gospel of Christ from Jerusalem to Rome. This is a novel, particularly, of the man who bore that Gospel, East to West with fury and faith and tenderness. Paul, in personality and learning - he is the hinge of history. Our meeting in January will be on Thursday, January 12th at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

— Bettylou Martin

**MANY THANKS!** To all the wonderful people who gave up their time on the Saturday morning after Thanksgiving, we say "Thank you!" These folks did some cleaning, put up and decorated the beautiful tree in the church, decorated the Fellowship Hall, and generally made Mt. Olive look warm and festive for Advent and Christmas. Those involved include: Tammy Slater and her sister-in-law Crystal Shelton, Julie, Emily and Amy Nasser, Cathy Megargee, Linda and Christine Kler, Bill Koch and Lauren Roesner. Please express your thanks when you see any of these hard-working members & friends of Mt. Olive.



# LIVING OUR FAITH

## ALASKA MISSION REPORT

Going to Alaska is always such an amazing experience, and this year was no different. This was my fourth year with Alaska Mission for Christ, and my third in Pilot Station. Last year, due to village tension, we could not go to Pilot Station, so this year all the volunteers were anxious to see how we would be received in the village.

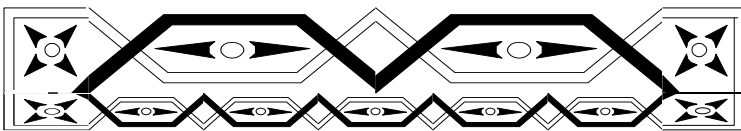


God really worked in the hearts of the locals; I felt like I was coming back to family, the way people warmly welcomed us. Most villagers had been politely nice to us in previous years; but now those same people were greeting us with bear hugs, making sure we knew we were missed last summer. The day we arrived, a traditional Eskimo Dance was held to welcome us back to the village - we felt so honored.

But prayers are still needed. Even though we are allowed back in Pilot Station, we still do not have the full approval of the Russian Orthodox Church of the village. The Priest scheduled youth camp for his little parishioners on the last three days of our Bible School. But at least those children were able to hear God's Word both with us and at the camp.

Overall, the trip was a very positive experience. We knew that people genuinely wanted us in the village; more children came to Vacation Bible School than ever before; and God's Word was preached. It was a good year in Pilot Station, and I cannot wait for the next one.

— Christine Kler



## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

As you make plans to celebrate this Christmas, please remember to set aside some time, and if possible, some simple gifts for those who are facing difficult times. Let God lead you in deciding how to honor Him, but consider helping local food and/or clothing distribution

efforts; those that help the homeless or abused; foster or adoption centers; schools; pregnancy crisis centers - the list of charities needing our help can seem daunting and even overwhelming. But remember that we are only asked to do what we can, as God inspires, and that if each one of us does just that, we can make a very big difference to those who perhaps need just a little extra to get through these days.



## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN POWAY

Christmas in the Park - Old Poway Park is offering a free old-fashioned holiday event on Saturday, December 10 from 3:30 - 8:30 p.m., complete with caroling, live music, a holiday craft boutique and a demonstration of square dancing. There will be a horse-drawn hay ride, visits with Santa and Mrs. Clause, and the opportunity to ride the 1907 Baldwin Steam Train. You are invited to bring an ornament for the community Christmas tree which will be lit at 5:15 p.m., after which Santa will arrive. For more information, call 858/668-4576 or visit [www.poway.org/oldpowaypark](http://www.poway.org/oldpowaypark).

## NEW - POWAY WINTER FEST !

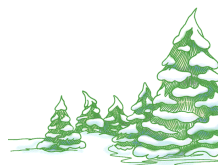
Looking for a chance to go ice skating? Go to Poway Community Park on Friday, December 16 from 4 - 9 p.m., or Saturday, December 17 through Monday, December 19 from 1 - 9 p.m. Skate rental included with the fee (\$5 ages 2-17; \$7 ages 18+; \$20 for family of four) - or bring your own skates. You can also enjoy a snow hill for sledding on Saturday!

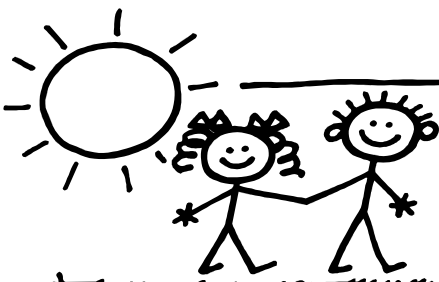


## HOLIDAY RECYCLING

EDCO will pick up Christmas trees on collection day for two weeks immediately following Christmas day.

Please remove stands and all trimming, cut trees to lengths of no more than 4 feet, and place at the curb.





# PRESCHOOL NEWS

December 2011



## From the Children's Director



November and December are very full months here at our little preschool. Children are learning a little bit about the Pilgrims and Native American culture, while on the playground winter planting of sugar peas, carrots, and lettuce has begun in the garden. Of course, all classrooms enjoyed celebrating their Thanksgiving Feasts!

December will likewise be very busy in preparation for Christmas. While our 3-year old children are learning new songs for their Classroom Programs, our 4 and 5 year old students will be practicing their parts for their respective Nativity Plays. Please bring your cameras for these events, as they are so memorable.

It is our prayer that your holidays are safe and spirit filled. We will all return in January to celebrate a new year with joy and gratitude!

God's Blessings,

Tina Higley, Preschool Director

**DECEMBER  
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

**Dec. 19th - Jan. 2nd**

**YOU'RE INVITED**  
**Preschool Nativity Plays**

The 4 yr. old classes and our Jr. Kindergarten will be performing their Christmas Nativity Plays the week of December 5th and 12th.

- Friday, Dec. 9 Stanley / Peters 11:15 a.m.
- Monday, Dec. 12 Lugo / Lopez 11:15 a.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 13 Cannon 11:15 a.m.

These are very special programs guaranteed to usher in the holiday spirit!

**Christmas Programs for 3 yr. olds  
in classrooms**

Thursday, Dec. 15th, 11:30 a.m.

Thanks to all the parents, friends, and children of Mt. Olive Preschool for your support of our Harvest Festival. The event was a tremendous success!

We couldn't have done it without you!

# Make a Pine Cone Angel

## You need:

- a pine cone
- an acorn
- cardboard
- 2 beans or seeds
- black marker
- 1 white pipe cleaner
- small piece construction paper
- gold pipe cleaner or piece of foil
- yarn
- glue



## How to make:

- Cut circle from cardboard for the base.
- Glue the wide part of the pine cone to the cardboard.
- Glue the beans or seeds to the cardboard for feet.
- Glue the acorn to the pine cone for the head.
- Make eyes with marker.
- Wrap pipe cleaner around for arms.
- Glue yarn on for hair.
- Use gold pipe cleaner for halo or make one from foil.
- Make book in hands from paper and glue.

## “Peace on Earth”... “Good Will to All”

The story of Jesus’ birth is found in Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2. Fill in the boxes below with words from the verses that fit the definitions. The letters in the darker boxes will spell a phrase that we hear during the Christmas season – and all year!

Baby Jesus’ bed


Mary’s husband


the town of Joseph’s family


Mary wrapped Jesus in these


heavenly messenger

it led the wise men

Jesus’ mother

a gift from the wise men

the kings; wise men

caregiver for sheep

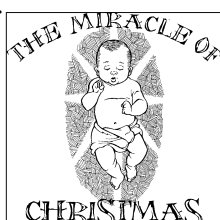
Final answer: Glory to God

manger, angel, Joseph, star, Mary, Bethlehem, gold, Magi, cloths, shepherd

## THE CENTRAL MIRACLE

The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say God became man. Every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this or results from this.

Just as every natural event is the manifestation at a particular place and moment of Nature’s total character, so every particular Christian miracle manifests at a particular place and moment the character and significance of the Incarnation.



—C.S. Lewis in The Joyful Christian

## WISE WORDS TO PONDER

*God's gifts put man's best dreams to shame.*

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning

*Faith is not a possession to keep, but a blessing to share, a light to diffuse, and life to communicate.*

*If we pause to think, we'll have cause to thank.*

*Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.*

*When we go into a new year, it is like sailing on a ship with sealed orders not to be opened until the voyage has begun.*

# The Olive Branch



**Mt. Olive Lutheran  
Church and Preschool  
14280 Poway Road  
Poway, California 92064**



**CHURCH OFFICE: (858) 748-3871  
PRESCHOOL: (858) 679-8169**



## THE OLIVE BRANCH



### DECEMBER EVENTS

- 3 - Family Christmas Party, 1-4 pm
- 7 - Soup Supper, Worship, 6 & 7 pm
- 8 - LWML Christmas Party, 6:30 pm
- 9 - P/S Nativity Play, 11:15 am
- 12, 13 - P/S Nativity Plays, 11:15 am
- 13 - JOY Christmas Lunch, 11:30 am
- 14 - Martha Circle, 9 am  
Soup Supper, Worship, 6 & 7 pm
- 20 - Petal Pushers Decorate Floats
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm
- 25 - Christmas Day Service, 9 am

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“...and his name shall be called **Emmanuel** (which means, God is with us).”  
—Matthew 1:23

