OLYMPUS COVE CONNECTIONS

From the editor…



I have been trying to catch up with everything since returning from travel, and it has taken me a while to get the newsletter out. I am combining November and December issues here, with the Inspirational Thoughts for both. I love this season where we are focusing on gratitude and giving. I find myself wishing I could find a perfect gift for my family and friends who are dealing with difficulties. I keep trying to think of a gift that would fix their problems. I recently heard a conversation where someone was saying they have one of those kinds of friends. "A friend who is more comfortable with solutions, rather than support." I realize that I myself have found greater strength and healing when family or friends offer loving support, rather than hunting for an answer or solution that will "fix" things. I also find that is what draws me to church, and my ward family. I don't require answers from others, because I find that the seeking continues and always grows. I come for support, for fellowship, to comfort and mourn together, to share our journeys, especially so we won't feel alone. I think that is the best gift I receive, and hope to offer. Much love to you all during this season.

Thank you to all who helped with this issue. Please send me information for the ward newsletter. My phone is 303-902-7062 and my email is hansen_home@comcast.net. Thank you for your help!- Jody Hansen

Inspirational Thought for November - by Dean Sapp

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving season, our hearts turn toward internal reflection of our blessings. The scriptures invite us to look even deeper... to cultivate a spirit of gratitude not only for our abundance, but in every circumstance and even in our trials in life. We should remember, Daniel's trial in the Lion's Den; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's fiery furnace; David's battle with Goliath; and Joseph's enslavement and years in bondage were all ultimate blessings to them, their families, people, and faith.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul counsels us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). The Book of Mormon echoes this same pattern. The prophet Alma taught his son Helaman to let his heart "be full of thanks unto God" each morning (Alma 37:37), while King Benjamin reminded his people, "...when we are in the service of our fellow beings, we are only in the service of our God," and that we owe Him all that we have and are (Mosiah 2:17, 21).

In President Dallin H. Oaks' General Conference address, "Give Thanks in All Things," he taught that when we give thanks in all things, we begin to see our hardships and adversities in the eternal context of the purpose of life. True gratitude is deeply rooted in humility. When we humbly recognize our dependence on the Lord, we stop focusing solely on our own pains, struggles, wants and needs and turn



November/December Birthdays

November 11 - Samuel Moss
13 - Darya Dahle
15 - Nate Zabriskie
18 - Kyle Taft
20 - Amelia Smith
21 - James Black, Charlie Randle
25 - Elle Callister
26 - Holly Daybell, Mitchell McBeth, Ryan Moss, Matthew Phillipps, Jeff Randle
29 - Robert Barnes
December 2 - Kathleen Clifford
5 - Jody Hansen
8 - Travis Moss
11 - Olivia Heiner
13 - Tod Hamblin
14 - Craig Clifford
15 - Nanette Benowitz
16 - Annabelle Boyden, Roger Knight
25 - Liz Phillipps, Lisa Tecklenburg
26 - Meghan McComas
28 - Marylin Dahlstrom, Sophie Sunderland
29 - Rachelle Birkinshaw
30 - Derek Cornaby, Chelsea Gardner
31 - Kjerstin Phillipps
January 4 - Kristin Hart, Abigail Moss
5 - Julie Zabriskie
6 - Brett Stephens

Please notify me of any preferred nicknames or proper names for the birthday list. I will try to update the official birthday list to honor that.

our hearts outward to do His will and bless those with burdens all around us.

This kind of humble, Christlike gratitude is powerfully reflected in the sacrifices of those who came before us. We think of the early Latter-day Saint pioneers, and modern pioneers across the world today, who gave up homes, comfort, and sometimes even their lives so that future generations could enjoy the blessings of the restored gospel. As President Oaks noted in his message "Following the Pioneers," praising their unselfishness and sacrifice is not enough; we honor them best when we let those same qualities guide how we serve our families, our ward, and our community today.
Above all, we give thanks for our Savior, Jesus Christ, who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might have hope, peace, and eternal life. This November, may we express our gratitude to Him not only in our prayers, but through quiet acts of service, humility, and love for our neighbors.
Wishing you and your loved ones a warm, peaceful, and blessed Thanksgiving! - Dean Sapp

Inspiration Thought for December - by Craig Clifford

Christmas reminds us of God's greatest gift to humanity: the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. As we celebrate His birth, we are invited to reflect His love through the intentional and purposeful giving of ourselves to others. This season calls us to offer our time, compassion, encouragement, and kindness to our families, friends, and loved ones.
Yet the message of Christmas extends far beyond those we know. The birth of Christ reveals God's heart for all people, especially those who are overlooked, lonely, and in need. As Scripture reminds us, "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18). Christmas is an opportunity to put that love into practice.
The angels proclaimed at Christ's birth, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14). That peace is meant to flow through us as we become instruments of God's grace to others. Whether through a helping hand, a listening ear, a generous gift, or an act of service, we share the light of Christ when we care for those around us.
Jesus Himself taught, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). These words remind us that our love and generosity should extend not only to family and friends, but also to those we have not yet met who may be carrying burdens we cannot see. In serving others, we honor Christ and reflect the very heart of Christmas.
As we gather to celebrate this holy season, may we remember that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" (John 3:16). May His example inspire us to give generously of ourselves, to welcome the stranger, to care for the vulnerable, and to embody the love that came down at Christmas.
May your Christmas be filled with joy, peace, hope, and love. And may the light of Christ shine through your words, your actions, and your relationships, blessing both those you hold dear and those whose lives you have yet to touch.
"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13)
Merry Christmas, and may God's love guide and inspire us to be a blessing to all. Love, Craig Clifford

Relief SocietyTemple Trip at the Taylorsville Temple - Thank you, Susan Smith for this information.

Please make an online reservation for the December 17, 9:30 am endowment session or the 9:45 Initiatory session at the Taylorsville Temple.

All are welcome to meet at the church at 8:30 to carpool. Thank you, sisters, for the love you feel for service in the temple. All are enthusiastically welcomed! It is a beautiful season to attend the temple together.

From the Bishop - Cove Connections

Hello Ward Family,

Our second episode of Cove Connections, our ward and neighborhood podcast, is now available.

In this episode, Bart and Brad visit with Amy and Seth Sunderland. This is the second of several conversations we'll share to get to know the great people in our ward and neighborhood.

I hope you enjoy getting to know the Sunderlands and hearing a little more of their story. We look forward to sharing more Cove Connections conversations with you soon.

Watch Episode 2 of Cove Connections [https://ww...7Q&index=2]

With much love,

Bishop Randle

Ward Christmas Party Activity -

Please plan on the wonderful annual Christmas Party in the Fortuna Building December 5 at 5:00 pm.



Worship through Sacred Music -
Hymns for this month.
Please raise your voices and sing!- from Chorister Jody Hansen

I am looking forward to a special 5th Sunday second hour meeting where we will be able to hear a small choir sing selections from the new hymns, and then sing along with them as a congregation. It will be a wonderful chance to hear and experience the new music that will be a part of the new hymnal which will be released next year. I really appreciate those who are giving of their time to prepare to sing.
It really does make a difference in our worship when there is participation in the singing. I hope some of you will consider preparing any arrangement of the new hymns to perform as a music number for sacrament meeting.
I am very grateful for the hymns that help us appreciate the great variety of experiences in countless faith journeys that shape our communities all over the world.
I really appreciate the willingness of so many to sing new and not yet familiar hymns. It is wonderful to hear old favorites we have not sung in a while, as well as learn the new, beautiful additions.
I invite you to please take a look, and possibly play the recording of any that are unfamiliar to you. You can pull the recordings up on the Gospel App under Sacred Music/Hymns for Home and Church. I love to hear you participate when we worship through song.
November 29 - 201, 176, 212, 203
December 6 - 1203, 194, 202
December 13 - 213, 187, 209
December 20 - Christmas Program
December 27 - 210, 184, 1208, 214

Ward Assignment for Church Building Cleaning - Thank you Warren Wadsworth!

The following families are scheduled to help clean the church in August. We will begin each Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m., unless the church is scheduled for another activity such as a funeral or a family gathering. The alternate time for cleaning will be 4:00 p.m. If you cannot attend on your scheduled Saturday, please arrange to have someone take your place.

December 5– Travis & Megan Moss and Stuart & Kathleen Peterson

December 12– Jeff & Cathie Randle and Kim & Robyn Roberts

December 19– Shawn & Maddy Rowland and Dean & Kristin Sapp

December 26– Steve & Shannon Scott and Jeff & Rebecca Simmons

Senior Luncheons -

Thank you to Robyn and Kim Roberts, for organizing these wonderful luncheons and senior events. Please join whenever you can. On December 10th at there will be a Single Senior Christmas Dinner.

Missionary Updates -

From Sister Charliece Hillery, currently serving in France…
Please follow news from Sister Hillery

at charliecehillery.blogspot.com. My email is charliece@gmail.com. Please reach out to say "Hello" or if you have family history questions I might be able to help with.
Missionaries…We really appreciate the service of our full time missionaries. Please send any messages or news from them so I can include a few things in the newsletter.
Excerpts from Sister Josie Larson emails…
November 19 email.
Welcome back its day #396 of being a missionary!! We got lucky enough to have two pdays this week and today we got to go to the temple!! Literally the highlight of my whole month - but the rest of the week was good too :)

🫘COOL BEANS 🫘
🫘 - sister Johnson had her birthday on saturday!!! It was so fun getting to decorate and celebrate her beautiful self :) plus we saw a ton of miracles that day so I think that was God's birthday present
🫘 - we've been working out every morning and HOLY COW it feels so good to be back at it! I never thought I would like running but its been so fun cuz we're training for a turkey trot on saturday!
🫘 - saw the prettiest rainbow over the grand canyon on our way to zone conference
🫘 - ZOCO WAS SO FUN CUZ WE GOT TO PLAY SPIKEBALL!!
(Watch out Murray family I'm getting better I swear)
🫘 - sister Taufa gave me her persimmons :)
🫘 - my amazing sister sent me a package of trader Joe's snacks and I cried a little when I opened it (I miss my good friend Joe)
🫘 - our friend Tyson is actually reslly progressing!! We had a lesson with him on Saturday and and when he found out it was sister Johnsons birthday he brought out a bunch of snacks and necklaces and then gave her a stuffed bunny!! He told us he didnt know why he had the thought to buy the bunny, but he's been trying to spend all his extra money so he doesnt spend it on alcohol (YAY FOR THE WORD OF WISDOM)
🫘 - we got to go to the red cliffs temple today!! It was sooooo so pretty and much needed

🫘warm beans 🫘
🫘 - its getting a little chilly out here
🫘 - driving through st george today and not taking the road to Salt lake was weird weird weird. It was so odd (and kind of hard) to be somewhere familiar and NOT with my family
🫘 - our friend came to church!! Just... drunk :(
🤍miracles🤍
🤍 - at that same lesson with Tyson he told us he wanted to pray for us as a birthday gift for sister Johnson 🥹 and it was the most beautiful tender heartfelt prayer Ive ever heard ever! I love hearing people pray for the first time
🤍 - I really struggle going to the temple sometimes. Because I always fall asleep!! And it feels like I'm wasting my opportunity and I'm not getting as much out of it as I could. Unfortunately today wasn't any different. If you put a tired missionary in a dark room for an hour I'm gonna fall asleep! But as I sat in the celestial room I felt the spirit so strongly. There is no ruining Gods plan. Even if you fall asleep in the endowment, you're still at the temple! You're still doing Gods work! We can make a whole ton of stupid human mistakes and it wont mess up His perfect plan for us :)

I guess thats kind of my spiritual thought for this week :) Don't you dare doubt God's ability to work with your imperfections.
Love you all and I hope your week is full of fantastic produce and yummy pies
- Sister Larson
- Sister Larson

Link to the livestreams for Sunday Meetings -

SacramentMeeting.OlympusCoveWard.org
ReliefSociety.OlympusCoveWard.org
EldersQuorum.OlympusCoveWard.org
SundaySchool.OlympusCoveWard.org

Temple and Family History resources -

We are here to help you. Temple & Family History Leader Lynn Collins 385-272-5969. Consultants: Karen Collins 385-272-4094, Gail McComas 801-580- 5468, or Alison Wilde.

Mt. Olympus Stake Family Search Center - located at the Millstream (north) building
Family History Center 2026 Hours
HOURS
Mondays - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays - 10 am - 12 noon
1st and 2nd Thursday 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Dear Stake Family,
The Adult Religion class with Armand Johansen will continue on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the stake center chapel.
Brother Johansen will teach from Come Follow Me - The Old Testament 2026.
We hope you will join us in person or online! And please feel free to pass this information on to anyone else who would be interested in being uplifted and learning with us.
Click here for the YouTube Live stream.
FYI: Those who are unable to watch the class during the live broadcast can view it later at the same link as above.

-Temple Recommends - Contact a member of the Bishopric for a phone interview. The stake interview can be arranged with one of the Stake Executive Secretary's (Andrew Olson)
Stake Temple Recommend Interviews: Standing time on Sundays from 1:30 to 2:30pm (the 4th Sunday is skipped)