

Sunday Readings

April 19, 2020
Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10

April 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

At this time and until further notice, all worship services and activities are suspended, in the interests of the health of our members, our neighborhood, and the world around us.

The Olive Branch

April 15, 2020

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Accent on Worship *Vicar Bristol Reading*

I'm grateful to be home safe right now, and I remain committed to loving my neighbors by "flattening the curve" of Coronavirus. But I know I'm not alone when I say that it's hard to be missing out on things right now. I had to withdraw my cap and gown order because there will be no seminary commencement this year. I've cancelled flights to visit family and deleted event after event from my calendar.

I especially grieved missing Holy Week observances with all of you at Mount Olive. As each liturgical event has come around, I have reminded myself to cherish every moment because I will only be with you for one year as your vicar. One Advent, one Christmas, one Lent, one Easter. My grief at missing my Holy Week with you has been a reminder of what an honor it is to have this year to learn from and worship with you all and how much I have come to feel a part of the Mount Olive community.

Even though it wasn't a typical Holy Week, it was Holy Week, and even though I didn't get to share the Triduum and Easter with you the way we'd anticipated, I did get to share it with you. Some of you may have seen the video compilation of Mount Olive folks declaring that "Christ is risen!" (You can see it here:

<https://youtu.be/lmjukvFoLOY>) I want you to know that receiving
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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

those videos throughout the week was such an unexpected gift for me. I watched them over and over and was moved to tears by seeing your faces and hearing your voices. All week long you declared to me the victory of Christ's resurrection. When the hours felt particularly discouraging or bleak, I had your joyful voices to remind me that God's love can shine in even the darkest places because Christ has conquered death. Alleluia! The tomb is empty.

Last week, churches were empty, too. But the body of Christ was alive out in the world, proclaiming the resurrection. It will be a time of healing and rejoicing when we can be together in person again. Until then, keep loving your neighbors and sharing the good news.

- Vicar Bristol Reading

A Word About Your Email ... Please check it frequently!

This is important! During this time, **email will be our primary method of contacting Mount Olive members who have email, and it will be the easiest way to contact us.** (Those who don't have email will be kept informed via snail mail or, if necessary, a phone call, if urgent). Please, if you have email, check it at least daily (even if you don't like to). If you are on the paper copy mailing list but have email, please let us know so we can save a bit of time and postage.

Communication in the time of Covid-19.

A group of about 25 people, coordinated by Lora Dundek, have been working hard to make sure that everyone in the congregation gets at least one phone call or email during this "stay home" time. And another group, overseen by Katie Krueger-McCuen, have agreed to run errands, get groceries, and, last week, drop off CDs of Holy Week music to those who aren't connected to the internet. If you have any need for food, supplies, or just for a friendly voice, call the church office and leave a message in Cha's voice mail (ext. 10), and either Lora and Katie will arrange for a helpful person to contact you. This is how we are church together!

Contacting the church office during this time

The best way to contact Cha at the church office during regular office hours (M-F, 8am-3pm) is via email. She leaves her church email open all day long while working from home and will quickly see a message from you and be able to respond quickly, too. So if you can, please send an email.

If you don't have email or if you need to contact the church office right away for any reason, you may also call the church and leave a message in Cha's voice mail. **Be sure to leave a message!** Our voice mail system has an outcalling feature which notifies her when a voice mail has been left. During office hours, she will call in, get your message, and return your call shortly. Messages left after office hours will be returned when office hours resume.

Regular link to the Tuesday Noon Bible Study: copy and keep

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week. Copy this text and print it off or keep it on your desk for easy reference each week.

To join from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/179693565>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (646) 749-3112

Access Code: 179-693-565

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/179693565>

Bach Tage 2020 cancelled

Considerable sadness accompanies writing this article.

Due to the global pandemic, we must cancel Bach Tage June 5-7, 2020. Mount Olive has now been shuttered for three weeks, and we have no idea when it may be safe for the building to reopen. Current predictions for COVID-19 transmission peak is at least several weeks from now, and no one knows how long it will be before it will be safe again to schedule events like Bach Tage.

So, considering all the uncertainty surrounding life going forward, we have decided to postpone this year's Bach Tage to June 5 and 6, 2021. All of the soloists and players have eagerly agreed to put those dates on their calendars now, and we hope you will also.

However, an entire year without Bach is just too dismal a thing to imagine. So, we hope you will accept our invitation to the first (and only, we hope!) **VIRTUAL BACH-TAGE**. On the weekend we would have gathered for Bach Tage, June 6 and 7, please join us at www.mountolivechurch.org for a "virtual Bach Tage" experience. That weekend, Art will bring you an updated version of his presentation from Bach Tage 2017; Kathy Romey will provide personal reflections on the music from a conductor's perspective; a recording of the 2017 Bach Tage Vespers will be available. If you have other commitments that weekend, Virtual Bach Tage will be available for two weeks after.

Look for an email with links to "Virtual Bach Tage" during the week prior.

Please put "virtual Bach Tage," the weekend of June 6 and 7, on your calendar now. And, add June 5 and 6, 2021, as well.

With deep regret,

Art Halbardier, Cantor David Cherwien, Kathy Romey, conductor

Mount Olive in the community

Mount Olive in the Community seeks to raise up those things the people of Mount Olive are doing in their own neighborhoods while participating in the StayHomeMN programs initiated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mount Olive in the Community provides our faith community an opportunity to see examples of what the Church looks like out in the world.

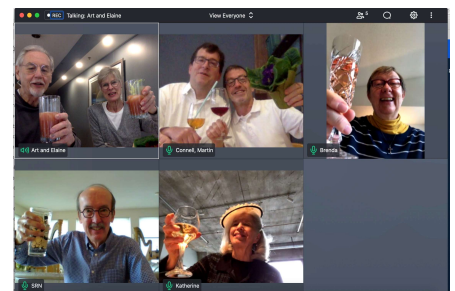
The Church is not defined by a building or even a congregation; it is important to see each of the neighborhoods where we live as our “neighborhood ministry.” This is always true - but acutely so now. We hope this inspires you to come to a fuller realization of yourself as the Church in your neighborhoods and take action to care for those around you.

Please send us stories, pictures, and ideas. We want and need your involvement.

Sharing: The people of Mount Olive being the Church

Where did you go on Easter Sunday? Nowhere?

There are five Mount Olive households in the Minneapolis North Loop separated by no more than a block or two: Brenda Bartz; Martin Connell and Greg Terhaar; Katherine Hanson; Steve Nelson; Art and Elaine Halbardier. All of us would probably have been elsewhere on Easter, gathered with family or friends, perhaps going out - a typical Easter. But not this year. Instead, we would be in our individual apartments. Because of COVID-19. Sheltered in place.



Then an idea flashed - a Virtual Easter Brunch. Elaine cooked; the neighbors gathered under our balcony - maintaining strict physical distance, of course. Food was delivered safely by basket on a rope. Then to our homes where we ate, gathered on the internet, sang a chorus of “This is the feast of victory for our God,” and chatted for a full hour. If this continues, we will do it again! Blessed Easter from us all.

- Art Halbardier



Inspiration: Ideas about how to connect to neighbors and community members

- Offering to shop for a neighbor who could be at greater risk of infection if they were to go out in public, especially if you are shopping for yourself (in person or for delivery)
- Making baked goods for your neighbors (with proper safety protocols observed, of course) and delivering contact-free to their doorsteps
- Sewing masks for vulnerable populations; some from Mount Olive have already been doing this, but we don't have pictures to share. One of our partners in ministry, Central Lutheran, is distributing homemade masks to those experiencing homelessness on a regular basis.

Education: Resources that can help as you care for others

For those of you in Hennepin County, there is a wonderful resource for finding help called Waypoint. If a neighbor expresses need for services beyond what you feel you can provide, you can let them know about this site: <https://gis.hennepin.us/waypoint/> Alternatively, if you encounter a neighbor or friend with needs that you do not know how to meet, please contact me or give them this number: (612) 216-8637. This is a special number set up for responding to assistance requests (financial and otherwise) remotely. Texting is preferred, but calling is acceptable too.

- *Jim Bargmann, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry, neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org*

National Lutheran Choir Virtual Gathering

The National Lutheran Choir is hosting a live, virtual event, "How Can I Keep from Singing," on Sunday, April 19, at 4pm CDT. To participate, simply go to www.nlca.com on your computer, phone or table. Share in the healing power of music and sing along. All are welcome, and all can participate.

Why is NLC doing this event at this time? April 19, 2020, was reserved for its annual Gala. But the global pandemic made the Choir ask what could be offered to help provide comfort and healing for individuals and communities at a time of loss and isolation.

To be sure, NLC needs the financial support of its followers more than ever to make it through this calamitous time. And, while there will be a brief opportunity to give, this will not be fashioned as a fundraising event. Rather, NLC will be sharing beloved music, singing together, and telling stories about the healing power of music.

Music has the power to bring communities together, even in this time of social distancing. We invite you to take this opportunity to join the National Lutheran Choir (in a different way) to listen, interact and sing together.

For additional information go to NLCA.com, email info@nlca.com, or call 612-722-2301.

Alternative Methods for Regular Offering

We appreciate our community's response and commitment to ensure our staff are paid, our work carried out and budget being met. Many have called and emailed to ask how to make your weekly contributions that you would have placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

We receive approximately 70% of our weekly gifts in the form of checks in the offering plate or mailed directly to the church office. This is an important part of our ability to carry out our ministry. Here are ways to continue your giving:

- The simplest way is to mail your contributions to the church office via first-class mail (3045 Chicago Ave., Mpls., MN 55407). We are picking up the mail at the post office during this time. **Please note that we will not deposit checks until the governor's shelter in place order expires.**
- Set up a regular offering through your bank via bank "bill pay" system. You tell your bank how much to send and how often, and they mail a check from your account to the church for you. This service is most often free of charge and already used by many at Mount Olive.
- Set up automated giving via electronic funds transfer (formerly known as "Simply Giving") through the church's existing account with Vanco Services. An enrollment form was included/attached to the April 1 issue of *The Olive Branch*. Complete the form and send it back to the church office via email or regular post.
- Finally, you can donate by credit card through the church website. Visit www.mountolivechurch.org, go the very bottom of the home page and a "Donate" link is on the left. (This method was primarily initiated for non-member givers to Mount Olive on a one-time or very occasional gifts, and the fees associated with it are fairly high. It's preferable all the way around for members to use one of the previous 3 methods).

The Vestry and staff are committed to continuing to serve Mount Olive and are actively working to engage our community. There will be more information forthcoming in *The Olive Branch* and TWIG on ways you can continue to share your gifts, talents and resources. We are grateful for the generosity that is shown daily from our Mount Olive community.

Olive Branch Deadline

During this time of suspended activity at Mount Olive, we plan to continue to publish the weekly newsletter on the same schedule. Please note that the deadline for articles is the same as it's always been: Mondays.

If you have information to be published, please send it via email to the church office at welcome@mountolivechurch.org no later than Monday, and it will run in that week's issue.

Thanks!

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist:
Temporarily suspended

Contact Us

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Staff

Pastor - *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor - *David Cherwien*

Vicar - *Bristol Reading*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry
- *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant - *Cha Posz*

Sexton - *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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