



The Olive Branch

August 26, 2020

Sunday Readings A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 30, 2020
 13th Sunday after Pentecost
 Lectionary 22 A
 Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28

September 6, 2020
 14th Sunday after Pentecost
 Lectionary 23 A
 Exodus 12:1-14
 Psalm 149
 Romans 13:8-14
 Matthew 18:15-20

At this time, all worship services, ministries, and activities are being conducted online, not by gathering, in the interests of the health of our members, our neighborhood, and the world around us.

Accent on Worship *Jim Bargmann*

This week’s second reading, from Romans 12:9-21, seems to invite quiet reflection and prayer. So rather than add my own voice here, I would invite you to reflect on the words. When I worked in youth ministry, I would often lead our young people in a modified form of *lectio divina*, a slow, rhythmic reading and praying of scripture from the practices of the early church. I would invite you into this practice this week. Here is the short form of this practice I have used frequently in ministry and in my own life:

- Read** Slowly and thoughtfully, read the Scripture passage. Which word or phrase stands out to you?
- Reflect** Read the passage a second time. What is God saying to you in this passage? What feelings do these words bring up in you?
- Respond** Read the passages a third time, focusing on the words or phrases that God is pointing out to you, those that you find yourself lingering on. Ask God, “what would you have me do with this?” Rest in God’s love, and listen.

⁹ Let love be genuine;
 hate what is evil,
 hold fast to what is good;
¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection;
 outdo one another in showing honor.

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

- ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal,
be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.
- ¹² Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.
- ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.
- ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
- ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.
- ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another;
do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;
do not claim to be wiser than you are.
- ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil,
but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
- ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably
with all.
- ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the
wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will
repay, says the Lord."
- ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are
thirsty, give them something to drink;
for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."
- ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- Jim Bargmann

Do You Have a Story to Tell?

It is time to begin collecting oral and written histories for our archives about the experience of Mount Olive leaders and members as we have lived through the COVID-19 pandemic and the unrest following the murder of George Floyd in our neighborhood.

The first thing that we need are volunteers who are interested in doing (physically distanced) interviews and/or organizing written histories. No experience in doing oral history work is necessary. You just need an interest in history and the ability to record an interview on a cell phone. Training provided. If you're interested, please email Lora Dundek at lhdundek@usfamily.net, or call her at 651/645-6636.

Book Discussion

The Mount Olive Book group will be meeting virtually on the second Saturday of each month until we can meet again in person.

On Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m., we will meet online to discuss the book *My Grandmother Told Me to Tell You She's Sorry*, by Fredrik Backman. The October book (October 10) will be *Arrowsmith*, by Sinclair Lewis.

We will be using Google Meet platform. You do not need to download anything on your computer in order to join - just click on the link below. If you prefer, you may join by phone.

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/846736957>

You can also dial in using your phone:

United States (Toll Free):

1-877-309-2073

United States: +1 (646) 749-3129

Access Code: 846-736-957

The Olive Branch

A Look at Our Beautifully Landscaped Parking Lot

Because most of you will not have an opportunity to see for yourself the fruits of all the work which has gone into the pollinator garden surrounding our parking lot, we offer a few snapshots!



Neighborhood Ministry Update

Jim Bargmann

Friday Food and Supply Distribution

Volunteers Needed!

Our Friday Food and Supply Distribution continues every Friday morning and is meeting a need in our neighborhood. On a typical Friday, we serve between 100-120 people representing approximately 80 households. We are providing those who come with cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, personal care items, diapers, and of course, food.

We continue to need volunteers to help set up, to assist our neighbors in getting what they need, and to clean up after the distribution. The more we have, the lighter the work for all. Please join us.

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5yx7j6a>

We will begin set-up at 8:00 am and begin giving out food and supplies at 9:00 am. We close at 10:30 am, and then clean up.

Donations Needed

We recently found out that donations to our food shelf partner, Community Emergency Service (CES) have dropped off significantly, so much so that they are no longer able to provide food for our Friday distribution after this week.

However, there is still significant need with a number of our neighbors out of work and without access to their neighborhood grocery stores.

We are working with other area organizations and churches to supply food for members of our community.

However, if you are able to donate food, cleaning supplies, or personal care items, there are two ways you can do so.

Buy whatever you would like to donate and bring it to Mount Olive between 8:00 - 9:00 am on Fridays. Order items from Target that will then be shipped directly to Mount Olive. We have set up a Target wish list with items commonly needed or requested by our neighbors. If you wish to donate some of these items, simply click on this link and order the items you wish to donate.

To order, visit this site: <http://tgt.gifts/MountOliveLutheranGroceries>

Thanks for any help you can give!

Happy Birthday, Dear Carolyn!

Longtime Mount Olive member Carolyn Mowery's 100th birthday is coming up on August 28 (this Friday!) Sadly, we will not be able to hold a celebration here at church for her – but you can help to make her 100th birthday a happy one indeed! Drop a birthday card in the mail (825 Summit Ave. #1012, Minneapolis, MN 55403), or give her a call (612-825-7482) to wish her well.

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 and get groceries for those who need it. 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!

Did You Adopt-A-Drain During the Love Made Visible Challenge?

“First, we'd just like to say thanks for doing your part in helping to keep our local waterways cleaner and healthier. You, along with 7,000+ other storm drain adopters, have adopted over 12,000 drains and helped to keep over 200,000 pounds of debris out of our lakes, rivers and streams. Keep up the amazing work!

But we have more work to do. Please help us build our capacity to do it by recruiting a friend (or two) to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood. We've found that people are most receptive to hearing about the program from their friends and neighbors – aka YOU! With our largest community outreach effort being canceled this year (The Minnesota State Fair) we are hoping our passionate volunteers can help us spread the word.

For each new adopter that names you as their referrer when they sign up between now and Labor Day (9/7/2020), both you and the new adopter will receive a free Adopt-a-Drain tote bag – perfect for showing off your dedication to the environment (while supplies last). They can find adoptable storm drains near them and sign up in just a few minutes by visiting our website.

Again, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the Adopt a Storm Drain effort. We couldn't do it without you!”

Sincerely,
The Adopt-a-Drain Team

Stewardship Reminder

Thank you everyone for your compassion and commitment to Mount Olive. We want to make the process of supporting our church financially easy and convenient for everyone. If you are okay with the delay in the deposit posting to your account, please feel free to continue sending your offering via US mail. If you would like, we have alternative methods for giving that you may want to consider:

- **Bill Pay:** You can set up a regular offering through your bank by calling and talking to someone or by logging in online. You tell your bank how much to send, how often and they will electronically transfer the amount. This service is most often free of charge and already used by many at Mount Olive.
- **Electronic Funds Transfer:** Set up a regular deduction from your bank account through the church's existing account with Vanco Services. Contact the church office to set this up and a form will be mailed or emailed to you (or use the link in the cover page of this *Olive Branch* email). Complete the form and send it back to the church office either by US mail or via email.
- **Mount Olive Website:** 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 is good for one-time donations rather than recurring donations as the fees charged to Mount Olive per transaction are higher than the other two methods.

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>

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist:
Temporarily suspended

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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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