



# The Olive Branch

October 16, 2019

## Accent on Worship *Vicar Bristol Reading*

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to spend a few days in community with clergy and lay leaders from around the synod at the Bishop's Theological Conference.

The weather was perfect for walking along Gull Lake from Cragun's Resort where we stayed, and it was a joy to meet so many new colleagues. Four former Mount Olive vicars are now serving as pastors in the synod, and we gathered for a photo during one of the evening social hours! I am grateful to be in the lineage of students who have been formed for ministry by this special congregation.

The conference itself was focused on the role of scripture in our everyday lives. The keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Chan, is an Old Testament professor at Luther Seminary. He proposed two main uses of scripture: as a mirror and as a staff.

Scripture is a mirror because reading it can expose what we value and trust most deeply. The Word is not just an object of study, but an agent of the Spirit. Have you ever had an experience of reading a Bible passage that seems to be speaking directly to you? Have you ever been surprised at how convicting or relevant a scripture passage suddenly seems to your life? That is scripture as a mirror.

Scripture is a staff because it can be solid guidance for us when we need it most. Dr. Chan translates Psalm 23:4 as follows: "Even if I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil. For you are with me; your rod

and your staff give me courage." Have you ever had the experience of clinging to a scripture passage when you are hurting, grieving, or afraid? Are there Bible verses or stories that serve as a central mantra or theme for this chapter of your life? That is scripture as a staff.

So what do you think? Has scripture ever been a mirror or a staff in your life? Are there other metaphoric images for how scripture impacts your life? I'd love to hear more about how and why scripture matters to you.

### Sunday Readings

**October 20, 2019**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Jeremiah 31:27-34  
Psalm 119:97-104  
2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

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**October 27, 2019**  
**Reformation Sunday**  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 46  
Romans 3:19-28  
John 8:31-36



The Olive Branch, October 16, 2019

## Manz Tage 2019: October 25-26

Co-sponsored by Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts and the Mount Olive Foundation, Manz Tage is a two-day celebration of the life and ministry of Paul O. Manz (1919-2009), who served as Cantor at Mount Olive from 1946-1983. His ministry was internationally known and extremely influential to church music. This conference explores how his ministry continues to inform us as singing people of God.

- *Friday, Oct. 25, 7:30 pm* - Organ Recital by John Schwandt, followed by a reception hosted by the Mount Olive Foundation
- *Saturday, Oct. 26, 8:30 am-Noon* - Plenary address and workshops

A complete schedule of events is available [here](#).

This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

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## You Are Invited ... and Needed ...

... to share the Lord's supper with our Mount Olive brothers and sisters who are unable to join the table when we gather for worship on Sunday mornings.

Just now more people are finding a need for Home Communion. More communion ministers are needed to fulfill these requests. Have you considered participating in this ministry, and if not, would you?

Ministers (servers) commit to at least one Sunday a month, and serve up to two homes per month. It requires:

- some training (will be provided);
- contacting the person/family receiving to confirm date, time & location;
- communicating with the Sacristan of the day to assure a communion kit is prepared and pastor is notified;
- stepping forward at the end of the service to receive the consecrated kit and for the sending of the Sacrament from the congregation;
- visiting the recipient, communing the individual and others wishing to participate. A brief order of service is provided;
- making a brief on-line note, documenting the date communion was given. If you don't use a computer, someone else can do it for you.

Please give prayerful consideration to this ministry and contact the pastor, the church office, or Marilyn Gebauer, currently the scheduling co-coordinator. Contact the pastor and church office at: 612-827-5919 or [welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org). You can reach Marilyn at 612-306-8872 or [gebauevm@bitstream.net](mailto:gebauevm@bitstream.net).

- Marilyn Gebauer, Mount Olive Home Communion Ministry

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, October 16

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
*No Children's Choirs this evening*
- 7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
- 8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Thursday, October 17

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

### Saturday, October 19

- 11:00 am Diaper Depot open
- Noon Community Meal
- 5:30 pm India trip meeting

### Sunday, October 20 ~~3~~ -- Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*
- 9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
- 10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*
- Noon Budget Preview Meeting
- 12:45 pm Y4 Confirmation

### Monday, October 21

- 5:30 pm ReconcilingWorks Committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Tuesday, October 22

- Noon Bible Study
- 4-6 pm Diaper Depot open

## Third Quarter Contribution Statements

Third quarter statements are prepared and ready to be picked up at church. They are on a small table next to the coat room.

Take a moment to review your statement, and if you have any questions about it, please contact the church office.

Statements not picked up will be mailed after October 20.

## Coupons No Longer Needed

Thanks to everyone who has responded so generously to TRUST's request for coupons over the past couple of years! TRUST has informed us that are no longer using them in their programming, and so **these coupons are no longer needed.**

Thanks for your past support of this program.

## Book Discussion

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am in the West Assembly Area. All readers welcome!

On November 9 they will discuss *There There*, by Tommy Orange. On December 14, they will discuss *If Beale Street Could Talk*, by James Baldwin.

## ELCA's "Soul Searching" Resolution

For those of you who have copies of the exercise related to ELCA's resolution on "Soul Searching" on 18+ years of unending wars, we'll meet in the Gathering Area after late service this Sunday Oct. 20.

This tool was developed to encourage discussion. It describes the three different positions the Church believes Lutherans can take regarding participation in war: Serving in Conscience, Selective Conscientious Objection, and Conscientious Objection to all wars.

We then ask you to apply these positions to the possibility of a war with Iran.

If you haven't received a copy of the exercise, they're available in the Gathering Area. Pick one up when you attend next Sunday and join the conversation. We especially encourage military veterans and active military to share their perspectives.

## Upcoming Adult Forums

See brochures in the Chapel Lounge for detailed information about these forums.

- **October 20** – “Eucharistic Commitments to Justice and Peace,” presented by Dr. Samuel Torvend of Pacific Lutheran University
- **October 27** – “Masterpiece of Sacred Music: Mozart’s *Requiem*,” presented by Art Halbardier

## Notice of Congregation Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of Mount Olive congregation will take place on **Sunday, October 27**, following the second liturgy. The purpose of this meeting is to approve a budget for 2020.

All voting members of Mount Olive are encouraged to attend.

## *Krisis* of Faith? Thursday Bible Study Continues

John’s Gospel has perplexing questions about judgment and grace. Sometimes it seems as if God’s grace in Christ is for all; other times it seems to have an exclusive turn. The Greek word *krisis* means “judgment,” and that word and related forms occurs throughout John. In the first Thursday Bible study series of this year Pr. Crippen will lead an exploration of what judgment and grace means in John.

The study runs through Oct. 24. Meeting in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., there will be the usual light supper when we begin.

All are welcome to this study opportunity!

## Budget Preview Meeting This Sunday, October 20, Noon

*Bring your questions and comments  
about the proposed budget for 2020.*

## Every Church A Peace Church - Twin Cities

The next regular bimonthly potluck supper meeting will be on Monday, November 18, 6:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church (4537 3rd Ave. S., 612-823-8205, [ww.stjoan.com](http://ww.stjoan.com)).

The program will be “Health Care as a Human Right: The Minnesota Perspective,” presented by Dr. Ron Jankowski, medical director of CHW Solutions, providing oversight for community health workers, and an instructor Foundations of Critical Thinking U/M Medical School.

**Scope of Presentation:** 1) Health Care is a basic need and cannot be treated as a commodity for profit; 2) how the current system has led to the USA spending double what other countries spend to cover everyone; 3) how the current health care system contributes to continued disparities and bankruptcies in our society; 4) what is currently being done, and (5) what we can do to help.

## Schedule Your New Photo Directory Photo Session Now!

Does your Mount Olive picture directory photo need updating? Perhaps you've added a child or two (or more?) to your family since your last photo. Are the young children in your last photo now in high school? Maybe you just want a more recent picture. Whatever the reason, this is your chance to have a new, updated photo taken for the pictorial directory!

You may schedule your photo shoot in three different ways.

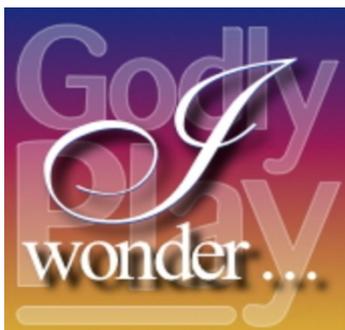
- 1.) Online, follow the link to choose an appointment time.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4AA9A828A2F94-photo>
- 2.) On Sunday morning, check for the sign-up desk in the hallway outside the Chapel Lounge. Please have your calendar with you, and be ready with two or three possible times. Someone will be there with a computer to get you signed up for a time slot.
- 3.) If you are unable to schedule your appointment electronically and unable to sign up at the desk on Sunday mornings, call the church office and Cha will help you sign up.

The following are the general remaining times available:

Thursday, Oct 17, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Saturday Oct. 19, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Tuesday, Oct 22, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Thursday, Oct 24, 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Friday, Oct 25, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

If you are unable to make any of those times work, please contact Paul Nixdorf directly to arrange an alternate time. Paul's contact info is [pnx@paulnixdorf.com](mailto:pnx@paulnixdorf.com), or 612-296-0055.

If you would rather submit your own photo for the directory, here are the requirements. The photo must be in jpeg format, high resolution. Please email the photo to the church office ([welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org)) and include the names of all the people in the photo, in order as they appear.



*"Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play."*

## Godly Play

All children are invited to join a circle each Sunday at 9:30. Here are the stories the children will be hearing next week:

**Circle 1:** Story - The Ark and the Tent (Book 2, Lesson 10)

Storyteller: Patsy; Door person: Linda

**Circle 2:** Story - The Exodus (Book 2, Lesson 8)

Storyteller: Larry; Door person: Sue

**Circle 3:** Story: Joseph (Book 6, Lessons 5)

Storyteller/Door Person: Molberts

Looking ahead to October 27, Diana will tell the Martin Luther story with all circles together. Any extra adult support is also welcome.



**Mount Olive Foundation’s Annual Gift**

A few months ago, Mount Olive Lutheran Church Foundation presented to the Church a check for \$49,620.00, which was our FY2018 annual gift to the congregation. For the ninth consecutive year, the Foundation’s gift represents another record amount: \$4,968 more than last year’s sum. The Foundation also has crossed the half-million dollar threshold, with gifts to the Church now totaling \$517,310.92—the majority since 2002.

Given the discussion between the Foundation’s Board and the Vestry, the latter has requested that the funds be used for currently identified projects and the remainder for items identified during the coming year. Again, the Foundation’s Board hopes its current and future funds will be used for items not currently in the Church’s approved budget. Within this new framework, the Foundation’s Board of Directors recommended that its gift be apportioned as follows:

Neighborhood Ministries (Sulzbach Fund)	\$ 978
2019 Manz 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration (Manz Fund)	\$ 1,963
Stained Glass Repair/Replacement (Peterson Fund)	\$ 351
“Bold Step Forward” Campaign Payment (2 <sup>nd</sup> of 3)	\$ 20,000
Remainder for future use	\$ <u>26,328</u>
<b>Total Gift</b>	<b>\$ 49,620</b>

We are pleased and privileged to foster Mount Olive’s mission in many and various ways. Every year, we see how prudently the Foundation’s gifts are used and how broadly they benefit the congregation. For all of you who support the Foundation through current and future gifts and commitments, thank you for all that you do to make this such a wonderful church!

Keith Bartz, President  
Mount Olive Foundation

# Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

## **Sunday Eucharist:**

**8:00 & 10:45 a.m.**

## **Contact Us**

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: [mountolivechurch.org](http://mountolivechurch.org)

## **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.*

## **In this Issue:**

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- **Budget Preview Meeting: This Sunday, 12:15 pm**
- **Pictorial Directory Photo Updates – Schedule Yours Now!**
- **Manz Tage 2019: October 25-26**
- **Communion Ministers Needed**
- **Congregation Meeting to be Held October 27, Noon**
- **Mount Olive Foundation Annual Gift**