



The Olive Branch

October 30, 2019

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

I thought I would depart from my normal Accent on Worship pattern and move in a very practical direction this month. A member of Mount Olive posed a question to me and I wrote out a response.

After considering this question and the response, I realized it might be beneficial to the larger Mount Olive community and decided to publish it in the forum.

The Question

“I have a question about people (all too many of them, unfortunately). I encounter who have signs asking for help. On Minneapolis streets, on highway exit ramps, etc. The parable of the Good Samaritan calls out to me. What is the best thing to give them besides eye contact and a smile? Money? Water and a sandwich? Info on where to get a free meal? Hygiene products and/or socks? Something else? [We] are blessed with an abundance of resources. In addition to other giving we do, I'd like to use them to their best impact to make an immediate difference (even a small one) for people in need. Any advice is greatly appreciated.”

My Response

Recently, the Pope said this about giving to people on the street, “the way of giving is as important as the gift. You should not simply drop a bill into a cup and walk away. You must stop, look the person in the

Sunday Readings

November 3, 2019

All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31

November 10, 2019

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b – 2:9

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

The principles at play here are important.

So here are my thoughts:

- Whether or not you are going to give, make eye contact and greet the person. Don't walk by on the other side of the sidewalk, don't roll up your windows, don't stare straight ahead as if there is no one there. The poor and homeless are human beings and deserve to be treated as such.
- If you feel like giving, then do so. Go for it. It's a myth that the majority of people begging will use the money for alcohol or drugs. A survey in San Francisco (I do not know of a similar study for the Twin Cities) revealed that 94% of the money given to those begging went to purchasing food. Further, the percentage of the homeless population struggling with addiction is surprisingly low - around 35% depending on the survey and location. There is a lot more detail and nuance to this statistic that I can go into if you want to know, but for the purpose of your question, this is likely enough.
- Listen (or read) what the person is asking for. If they are asking for money, give money, if food, give food, if a toothbrush or socks or whatever.... Try to meet the need. Sometimes people who give impose their thoughts on the other. Mark Horvath, writing for *The Huffington Post*, recounts this story: “A homeless friend once shared a story about when he needed a toothbrush. He stood in front of a grocery store displaying a sign asking for money to buy the toothbrush.”

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It wasn't long before people started to give him food. He gratefully accepted multiple bags of fast food meals as he tried to collect money to buy a toothbrush. He set the bags next to him. Although it was clear he had already been given food, people continued to give him more. He never was able to purchase the toothbrush he needed."

- That being said, cash or gift cards (see below) are often the most useful - and easy to transport when you are carrying everything you own in a bag or backpack. Bulky food that can easily be damaged in transit (like bananas) are not a practical help for someone on the street.
- Be safe. If the location you and they are in does not appear safe, don't stay in that location longer than you need and if you don't feel safe taking out your purse or wallet, then don't do so.
- If you don't feel like giving or feel uncomfortable doing so, simply say so. Say you are sorry. Don't lie and say you don't have anything to give (unless that really is the reason - very common for me - I do very little business in cash anymore). Look the person in the eye and acknowledge them - but don't feel bad about needing to say no. Just don't ignore their presence.
- If you do feel uncomfortable with cash or don't carry food around with you, get gift cards and bus cards and keep some at the ready. However, a few cautions with gift cards. First, try to carry a variety of cards or cards for stores that carry multiple things (Target, because of the wide variety of things they have available is great) with you - so you can meet the need they are asking for help with (see story above). Second, know that gift cards are currency on the street. There is almost always someone willing to buy a gift card at a discounted rate in exchange for cash. So if you are trying to avoid giving cash to ensure your money is getting used for what you want, you might not accomplish that goal. Third, make sure the person receiving the card can get to the store or restaurant to use the card. For example, giving someone in the Mount Olive neighborhood a Walmart card is often not helpful - the nearest Walmart is in Bloomington.
- Finally, and perhaps most importantly, if you are able, take time to talk to the person you are helping. Introduce yourself. Get their name. Use their name. Too often, people on the street are known by labels and haven't had anyone refer to them by name in a very long time. Ask what they need. Provide it if you are able.
- [Note: I have added this point for *The Olive Branch*. It was not a part of my original response.] There are three gentlemen who are regularly outside of Mount Olive asking for help on 31st St. I know them, their names, their stories. Everything written above applies to these men, with this addition: Please join me in extending invitations for them to join us for coffee and snacks on Sunday morning. I have invited them all in the past and have occasionally taken food or cups of coffee out to them. But they have, up to this point, refused invitations to come in. But that doesn't mean we stop inviting!

- Jim Bargmann

Fall Back!

Daylight Savings Time ends this weekend! Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour on Saturday night!

Calendar

Wednesday, October 30

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:30 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, November 2

- 11:30 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal
1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group meets at Blackeye Roasting

Sunday, November 3 - All Saints Sunday

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am Holy Eucharist

Monday, November 4

- 7:00 pm LOL Board meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, November 5

- Noon Bible Study
4-6 pm Diaper Depot open
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Keeping Up with India Visitors

On November 5, nine travelers from Mount Olive will fly off to visit Bethania Kids ministry in India. Prayers for an enriching journey will be held in worship on Sunday morning, November 3. Follow their journey on their blog at: <https://bethaniajourney.blogspot.com>.

Third Quarter Statements

Third quarter contribution statements have been available at church for the past several weeks. They were also available for pick up at the congregation meeting last weekend.

If you have not picked yours up and wish to have it mailed to you, please call the church office and we will mail it.

We will hold the remaining statements for the next couple of weeks.

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.

Names of the Deceased Saints Invited

As a part of our All Saints liturgy this Sunday, Nov. 3, worshippers are invited to submit the names of loved ones close to them who have died in the past year, since last All Saints Sunday, who weren't members of Mount Olive. (Members of the parish who have died are always named.) These other names submitted will be included in the prayers of intercession. You may also contact the church office with the names.

Please keep this to just those who have died this past year, so we can have a more manageable list.

Upcoming Adult Forums

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

- **November 3** - Tours of Love - Bethania Kids
- **November 10** - ELCA Statement on "Faith, Sexism, and Justice," part 2 - Vicar Bristol Reading
- **November 17 and 24** - "From Biblical Narrative and Law to Halakhah and Aggadah," a 2-part series presented by Nina Samuels and Earl Schwartz

Attention Mount Olive Worship Assistants!

The Servant Schedule for the first quarter of 2020 (January - March) will be published at the beginning of December 2019. The deadline for submitting requests is November 8, 2019. Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com.

"The Word for Those Who Worry"

Thursday Evening Bible Study Begins November 7, 6 pm

There are more than 200 verses in the Bible that express exhortations not to fear. Many of them have long been beloved by Christians, such as the Psalmist's declaration that "even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." But the reality is that evil can be pretty terrifying, and sometimes we're still afraid, even though scripture says not to be. Can the Bible's wisdom still speak to our contemporary experiences of anxiety, worry, exhaustion, and doubt?

This six-week study led by Vicar Bristol Reading will be a deeper dive into some familiar Scripture passages, exploring how we might find in God's Word a renewed sense of peace, comfort, and gratitude.

This study session begins as usual, with a light supper on **Thursday, November 7, at 6 pm**. If you can bring the meal for the first session, please let Vicar Bristol know.

Me La Amargates Tú Chamber Ensemble to Perform at Mount Olive

Sunday, November 17, 2019 - 4:00 pm

Hosted by Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts, Me La Amargates Tú will present a concert of Sephardic Romances with Spanish Romances, featuring romances that have the same text (more or less) but were done differently by the Sephardic Jews and the Spanish populations, but the themes were the same (circa 15th and 16th centuries). Included will also be some well-known ladino songs.

Me La Amargates Tú is one of the leading Sephardic music ensembles in the world. Prize winners of the International Jewish Music Competition in Amsterdam, the group's members hail from five different countries, joined by shared musical traditions and research of Sephardic music, as well as Spanish music from the Medieval and Renaissance periods. A reception will follow the concert.

Learn more about Me La Amargates Tú at www.mlat.org.

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, www.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.

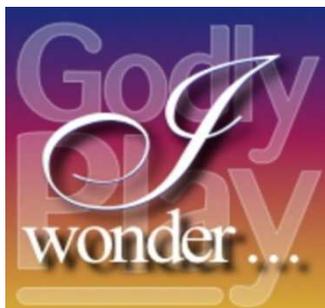


Bethania Kids--Tours of Love and Partnership

For over 30 year Mount Olive has partnered with Bethania Kids in southern India. On Sunday, November 3 in the education hour meet Josephine Mary Selvan from Bethania for her final stop in her Tour of Love across America. Josephine has worked with the Bethania Kids ministry for nearly 25 years. She will share stories of Bethania Kids children that will touch your heart deeply. You will long remember their smiles and their captivating life stories that God has turned into wonderful futures. Read more about how Bethania started at

<https://bethaniakids.org/about/the-kingdom-of-god-is-within-you/> .

And then at the 10:45 liturgy send off our first Mount Olive team to visit Bethania. They will visit Dayavu, Shalom and Grace Children's Homes, Kids Care Centers, the Women's Empowerment Center, and the Special School for the Disabled. They will share their pictures and stories on their blog at <http://bethaniajourney.blogspot.com>, and bring back much to share with you at Taste of India, Part II in February. Everyone can participate in our partnership with Bethania Kids as we celebrate, learn from, and support our Christian brothers and sisters around the world.



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:

This Sunday, October 27:

National Lutheran Choir All Saints Concert: Mozart's *Requiem*

Four incredible international soloists – all familiar to Twin Cities audiences – and a full orchestra join the National Lutheran Choir for Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's timeless and colossal *Requiem*. Presented in the context of our annual All Saints program, the 12 movements of the Requiem Mass lend a unique setting to the reading of names in remembrance of the faithful departed. Don't miss this powerful opening to the season!

A pre-Concert lecture will take place one hour prior to each performance. Mount Olive's own Halbardier will share the history of Mozart's *Requiem* and the mystery and deception that has lived alongside Mozart's final composition for 200 years.

Visit NLCA.com/allsaintsnames to submit names of the deceased, since last All Saints, that you wish to be memorialized in print live at the concert.

- *This Saturday, November 2, 7:30 pm* - Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata, MN
- *This Sunday, November 3, 4:00 pm* - St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN

Tickets: Adults and Seniors, \$42 | Students and Children, FREE.

Our Saviour's Housing's New Program

The OSH Transitional Housing Program Manager is going to begin teaching a cooking class for the eight women in the program. Her vision is to teach them how to prepare meals with ingredients that can be found in the food shelf and fit within their budgets. She would love for every woman to also have a basic cooking set to bring to every class which includes:

- 1 - 8x8 Pyrex casserole baking dish
- 1 set of measuring cups
- 1 set of measuring spoons
- 1 whisk
- 1 spatula
- 1 small/medium cutting board (not wood)
- 1 kitchen knife (for cutting vegetables and meat)
- 1 medium-sized mixing bowl (plastic)
- 1 - 8-inch non-stick skillet
- 1 tote bag to place their cooking items in when they come to the main office for the class

It would great to have 8 of these cooking sets donated. Can you help? The class will begin when we have enough of these sets.

Elaine Halbardier will prepare a sample kit to showcase what they are looking for. If you are able to provide a whole kit, please do - if only one or two pieces, that is also helpful - workers in the Neighborhood Ministry program will assemble individual pieces into kits for Our Saviour's.

NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 1-3 pm – Prayer Shawl group meets at Black Eye Roasting Co.
3 – ALL SAINTS SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist	4 7 pm – LOL Board 7 pm – N.A.	5 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	6 10 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Cong. Life Comm. 5:30 pm – Neighborhood Ministries Comm. 5:30 pm – Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir 7 pm – Y2 Confirmation 7 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	7 6pm – Bible Study	8 10 am - Book Discussion group 7pm – Recovery & Wellness Support Group	9 10 am – Book Discussion
10 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist 12:45 – Y4 Confirmation 6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Meal	11 7 pm – Vestry Meeting 7 pm – N.A.	12 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	13 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir 7 pm – Y2 Confirmation 7 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	14 6pm – Bible Study	15	16 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 4pm – Kane/Crawford wedding
17 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist 12:45 pm – Y4 Confirmation 4pm – MFA event: Me La Amargates Tu Chamber Music concert, followed by reception	18 4-6 pm – NLC Board meeting 6:30 pm – ReconcilingWorks 7 pm – Worship Committee meeting 7 pm – N.A.	19 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	20 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir 7 pm – Y2 Confirmation 7 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	21 6pm – Bible Study	22 7pm – Recovery & Wellness Support Group	23
24 – <i>Christ the King</i> 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist	25 7pm – Vicar Committee 7 pm – N.A.	26 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – Missions Comm. mtng. 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	27 10 am – Staff Mtng. <i>No choirs this evening</i> 8 pm – N.A.	28 – <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 10:00 am - Eucharist	29	30

News From Karen Anderson in Chile

Dear Family and Friends (written Oct. 22),

It has been an incredible few days. Little did we know on Friday morning that everything in Chile was going to change by the evening. These articles sum up what is happening, although, in reality, the recent developments are beyond logic and no one really knows what to expect in the near future.

After Fare Hike Stirs Violent Unrest in Chile, President Suspends It:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/19/world/americas/chile-protests-emergency.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/20/chiles-president-reverses-fare-increase-as-unrest-continues>

It is turning into a very scary and unpredictable time. For the first time since the dictatorship, we are in a declared state of emergency with the military in the streets and with a curfew imposed at night. The curfew last night was at 7 p.m.! Videos circulate on social media of people being shot- and some killed - by the military. As always, the most vulnerable are people living in poor communities. The news is completely controlled.

There is analysis that this level of social explosion hasn't occurred in over 70 years - **in the dictatorship, the protests had clear political leadership, clear objectives and a clear enemy. None of that is true today.** The level of violence, looting of supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, banks, etc., and then burning them down is unbelievable considering the military is supposedly in the streets to assure security. Some of the violence is complete orchestration by the police. For example, yesterday there was looting in poor neighborhoods at the local outdoor markets. Neighbors in one community banded together to catch the looters and it turned out they were plainclothes police. They had their ID on them. Examples like those abound. Videos show military standing by and watching as a crowd rushes in to loot a supermarket. There is widespread psychosis that the looters are going to enter people's homes. People are worried that the government is setting the stage for even more violent repression. It is inexplicable that there are 10,000 troops in the streets and yet they don't seem to be able to stop the looting.

I am both grateful and sad that my kids aren't here. It is the kind of time you want to hug your kids but I am glad they are safe. They are glued to their computers and phones watching endless social media about what is going on and worrying about everything. Elisa is at a march in Berlin right now in solidarity with Chile. Camila has gathered with Chilean friends in Minneapolis to watch what is happening. We are in touch by Whatsapp and phone throughout the day.

The EPES team is in constant contact via Whatsapp, monitoring, sharing information and trying to understand the short and long-term implications of this situation. We are also in contact with health promoters and other community organizations that we work with. Everyone is fine but very worried about what is coming. The supermarket and pharmacy near our center in Concepcion have been looted but our center is undisturbed. The supermarket **a block away from** EPES in Santiago was also looted.

I have written to the ELCA and Global Ministries of the Disciples to keep them informed and ask for their support and prayers. We need international attention to what is happening here. I am also representing EPES with an ad hoc team to write a letter to President Piñera that will be signed by many church leaders and ecumenical organizations and delivered in person tomorrow.

The overwhelming support for the initial protests was incredible and inspiring after years of such acute injustice, abuse and silence. Chile is such an unequal society and people were just fed up. Saturday and Sunday, I was with thousands of people in the Plaza Nuñoa protesting pacifically - musicians, cyclists, children, families, women, men, etc. It was so moving! But, at this point it is hard to know how the situation will end. The government has been completely inept and unbending in its repressive discourse to stop the vandalism instead of acknowledging the underlying causes of this profound discontent and rage and seeking broad based solutions. Two weeks ago, during an international visit, the president called Chile an oasis of stability and democracy in Latin America; in his televised address last night he said we are **at war**. It was very unsettling to hear him suggest we are at war; it brought back deep fears of the dictatorship and Pinochet's war with the "enemy within" who were none other than fellow Chilean citizens (especially the poor and those who were fighting to build a more just society).

Today, most businesses are closed. Some supermarkets are open and there are long, long lines to get in and the military is standing outside with submachine guns. There is speculation the intention is to create a deeper sense of chaos and fear so that eventually people will ask for military intervention and the government can continue to govern with more social control. It's a good time to reread Naomi Klein's book, *The Shock Doctrine*.

I am listening to the helicopters overhead as I write and remembering the years of the dictatorship. Let's hope and pray that this legitimate explosion of discontent can lead to a new social contract where the dreams and aspirations of the Chilean people can be realized.

Thank you for your emails and calls. We all appreciate knowing you are there.

Abrazos y bendiciones, Karen

Powderhorn Empty Bowls - This Friday

The 13th annual Powderhorn Empty Bowls event is this Friday, Nov 1, 11am - 7pm at the park building.

Come to the park, pick out a beautiful handmade bowl donated by local potters, & make a donation to hunger causes helping people around the neighborhood. Then share a meal of soup & bread with old & new friends & neighbors. We'll wash your bowl to bring home empty, as a reminder of those among us whose bowls are too often empty.

Here's a link where they say it better:

<https://www.ppna.org/single-post/2019/10/02/13th-Annual-Powderhorn-Empty-Bowls>

India Mission Trippers

Our Mount Olive team has spent time preparing for our trip: getting visas, learning more about Bethania from Kate Hennig Teece, gaining insight and enthusiasm from Mark Spitzack who has visited India before. We had a lovely evening getting firsthand information about this area of India from Johnny Vegesna who grew up in eastern India, and Paul Nixdorf took our team photo: (front) Heather Halen, Kate Hennig Teece, Walt and Judy Hinck, (back) Mark Spitzack, Carol Peterson, Linda and Mark Pipkorn, and Lora and Alan Dundek.



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

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.*

What is Special to You About Mount Olive?

Our work as congregation and vestry is to tend and cultivate what is special about Mount Olive by creating a budget that allows us to thrive and flourish. This past Sunday we approved our 2020 budget. We have made a commitment as a congregation to live fully in Christ and our budget embodies that. Join us in sustaining what is special about our community by making a pledge on Stewardship Sunday, November 17, 2019.

Pledge cards will be in the mail soon. Pledging is engaging in the life of Mount Olive to carry out our shared commitment to living a life in Christ through our fellowship, ministry, and stewardship together. In the spirit of Pastor Crippen's reflection on being "free in Christ," I invite you to intentionally and prayerfully consider what it means to be "free in Christ" as financial stewards. It is through our intentionality in how we apply our gifts and talents, that we can make an impact in the lives of others through our life together.

~ Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby, Director of Stewardship