



# The Olive Branch

November 13, 2019

## Accent on Worship *Vicar Bristol Reading*

1 Peter 5:7 says, “Cast all your anxieties on God, because God cares for you.” The Greek word for “anxieties” comes from a verb that means to be separated or drawn

in different directions. This seems fitting for our human experience: worrying leaves us feeling distracted and scattered.

The same word for “anxieties” actually shows up in the Parable of the Sower. In this story, various obstacles prevent the seed of the Word from taking root and growing. The soil is too sparse, too rocky, too thorny. It’s the thorny soil that connects to anxiety: “As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.” (Matthew 13:22). “Cares” of the world is the same word found in 1 Peter 5:7, “anxieties.” In other words, we might read the metaphor of thorny soil as representative of all the distractions and worries that separate us from God and pull us in a different direction.

Instead of letting our anxiety pull us away from God, in moments of stress or fear we can draw closer to God in prayer. Whatever worries us matters deeply to God. God cares for our cares: our health, our families, our finances, our futures. This is

why the apostle Paul encourages believers to “let your requests be made known to God by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving” because “the Lord is near” at all times (Philippians 4:5-6). Too often, Paul’s exhortation to “not be anxious about anything” in these verses is interpreted in a way that shames people for experiencing worry or anxiety. Instead, we can acknowledge that they are just part of being human, and that they can serve as an invitation to prayer and reminder to trust in the God who cares for us.

From November 7 through December 19, our Thursday evening Bible study series will be “The Word for Those Who Worry.” We will explore familiar Bible passages, like 1 Peter 5:7 and Philippians 4:4-7 that address anxiety, with the goal of uncovering some new insights into how these familiar verses might continue to be a helpful resource for us in times of struggle. Come to any or all of these sessions as you’re able.

## Sunday Readings

**November 17, 2019**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 65:17-25

Isaiah 12:2-6

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

**November 24, 2019**

**The Reign of Christ**

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

## 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 were mailed last week. 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

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## Video Call from Nigeria!

On two Sundays this month, we will have the chance to see and hear some of our global companions live on our screen. Since Brad Holt and his daughter, Karin Holt, will be visiting Nigeria for two weeks, they will try to organize a group to sing and greet Mount Olive folks on Sundays November 17 and November 24. All of the adult forums have already been scheduled, so these calls will happen **after the second liturgy during coffee hour**. Cantor Cherwien will lead us as we sing to Nigeria; Judy Hinck will be our coordinator.

On the first Sunday the call will be to Bronnum Lutheran Seminary, our immediate companion in Nigeria; on the second Sunday we will call from Numan, the Headquarters of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, from the archbishop's cathedral church. Because of the time differences, a call to Mount Olive at 12:30 pm will originate at 7:30 pm in Nigeria and it will be dark. If we are fortunate, the Archbishop himself will greet us.

Please plan to get your refreshments and sit in the Chapel Lounge to engage in this encounter.

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## Lost Hymnal Found

A red ELW given to "Grandmama" by four grandchildren has been found at church. Please contact Pastor Crippen if it belongs to you!

## Calendar

### Wednesday, November 13

- 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

### Thursday, November 14

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

### Saturday, November 16

- 11:00 am Diaper Depot open
- Noon Community Meal
- 4:00 pm Kane/Crawford wedding

### Sunday, November 17 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*
- 9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
- 10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*
- Noon Nigeria Calling
- 4:00 pm MFA event: Me La Amargates Tú Chamber Ensemble, followed by reception

### Monday, November 18

- 6:30 pm ReconcilingWorks committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Tuesday, November 19

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

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## Third Quarter Statements

If you have not picked your third quarter contribution statement 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 December 14, they will discuss *If Beale Street Could Talk*, by James Baldwin.

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## “The Word for Those Who Worry”

*Thursday Evening Bible Study Begins November 7, 6 pm*

Vicar Bristol Reading will lead a 6-week series on “The Word for Those Who Worry.” Scripture contains frequent encouragement to “be not afraid.” But many faithful Christians still experience anxiety, doubt, and fear frequently. This study will examine familiar biblical passages from a new angle to see how they might be a spiritual resource for us in the midst of worrying times. This Thursday (tomorrow!), we’ll start with a focus on Paul’s exhortation in Philippians: “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (4:6).

## Upcoming Adult Forums

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

- **November 17 and 24** - "From Biblical Narrative and Law to Halakhah and Aggadah," a 2-part series presented by Nina Samuels and Earl Schwartz

## Vestry News

The Vestry has appointed Katie Krueger to fill Chad King's unexpired term as Education Director on the Vestry. (Chad and Josh have moved out of state.)

## National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival

Friday, December 13:

4:30pm & 8pm

Saturday, December 14:

1:30pm & 8pm

Basilica of Saint Mary,  
Minneapolis

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [nlca.com](http://nlca.com).

## Keeping Up with India Visitors

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

## Me La Amargates Tú Chamber Ensemble to Perform at Mount Olive This Sunday

*Sunday, November 17, 2019 - 4:00 pm*

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](http://www.mlat.org).

## Staff Christmas Gifts

As is our tradition, this is the time of year that we gather monetary gifts for our terrific church staff. If you would like to contribute, please either use the offering envelope provided especially for this, or simply note "staff gifts" on your check and deposit it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or send it to the church office. Please have the gifts in by **Sunday, December 15**. Thanks for your generosity.

## Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

*Thursday, November 28, 10:00 a.m.*

Bring non-perishable food items to help re-stock local food shelves. Monetary donations are especially welcome (for every \$1 donated, food shelf personnel are able to buy about \$9 worth of food!)

As has been our custom for a number of years, the entire offering received at the Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day will be divided between Sabbathani Community Center and Community Emergency Services food shelves.

# The Olive Branch

## Movin', Movin' . . . Why?

Perhaps you noticed the waste and recycling bins in the North Lot this weekend? Why were they moved?

- Someone thought the North Parking Lot needed redecorating?
- The brown bins contrast nicely with the yellow garage behind?
- The bins are soft plastic, and will cushion the collision with the yellow steel bollards when racing competitors to the last remaining parking spot at 40+ mph?
- None of the above.



OK, enough foolishness. Here are the real reasons:

The heavier than normal snow in recent years (climate change, perhaps?) made the alley impassable in the winter for a huge truck. This location will help them service us.

And, frequently, the big brown bins in the alley behind the Parish House have offered visual cover for various undesirable activities (use your imagination), Clearing that area will create safer conditions for us, and for our neighbors across the alley.

## Our Saviour's Housing Meals: How YOU Can Help!

Mount Olive has had a longstanding ministry of providing food for the homeless at Our Saviour's Housing, just a few short blocks north of our church. Every second Sunday of the month we make a nutritious meal, bring it to the shelter, serve it and share the meal with the appreciative residents.

What we need NOW are people to transport the meal from MO to Our Saviour's Housing at 2219 Chicago Avenue.



**What Time?** 5:30 to 8:00 pm



**Commitment?** Second Sunday of the month: Do One Month or More



**Who Can Help?** Families, Singles, Anyone!

For more information call Connie Olson at 763-544-2381 or [olsonrr@gmail.com](mailto:olsonrr@gmail.com)

## **Thank You, and No More for Now, Thank You!**

When asked to outfit eight residents of Our Savior's Transitional Housing with cooking equipment, individuals at Mount Olive responded with their typical generosity. The first group of eight women are fully outfitted, and half the next group as well!

**For now, no more kitchen kits are needed**, and storage for them is limited. I'll let you know when the need next arises - it will, since the population in Transitional Housing is always changing.

Angela at Our Savior's sends her amazed and enthusiastic, "THANK YOU." You've made her new initiative with residents a reality.

- Elaine Halbardier

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## **Advent Luncheon for Seniors to be Held Wednesday, December 4**

Attention Seniors (65 and over)! Soon, you should receive your invitation to the annual Advent Luncheon for Seniors.

If you are age 65 or over and do not receive your invitation, it's likely because we do not have your birthdate (or correct birthdate) on file. If that's the case, please call the church office and let us know so that we can update your membership information. All members of the Mount Olive Community age 65 and over are cordially invited!

If you plan to come, please RSVP to the church office to let us know: phone - 612-827-5919, or email - [welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org).

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## **Christmas Worship Schedule**

### Christmas Eve, Dec. 24:

Christmas Eve Eucharist at 4:00 pm (UPDATED!)

Choral prelude at 9:30 pm

Christmas Eve Eucharist at 10:00 pm

### Christmas Day, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Eucharist at 10:00 am

## 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:**

- **Accent on Worship – Vicar Bristol Reading**
- **Stewardship Sunday, November 17**
- **MFA Event Nov. 17, 4 pm: Me La Amargates Tú**
- **Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, Nov. 28, 10:00 am**
- **Seniors Advent Luncheon to be Held December 4**
- **New Vestry Member Appointed**