

# The Olive Branch

Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

## Accent on Worship

*Jim Bargmann*

This week's first reading comes from Genesis 2 and 3. Many Bible translations give this section the subtitle, "The First Sin" or "The Fall into Sin." It is a well-known story to anyone who has grown up in a Christian church and known to many outside of the church as well. This story is part of the canon of stories told in a traditional Sunday school curriculum and has been referenced in popular culture numerous times through movies, television shows, comics, and more. The first people, Adam and Eve, are tempted by a serpent, disobey God and eat fruit they were specifically told to avoid. The couple come to realize their nakedness and attempt to cover themselves with leaves.

It is the verses following this week's reading, however, that I would like to focus on in this article. We won't read this passage together in liturgy until next summer.

Following their disobedience and poor attempt at covering themselves, Adam and Eve hear the sound of "the Lord God walking in the garden" and they hide.

How often do we do the same? We find ourselves embarrassed by something we have done - something we know to be wrong - and we hide - from God and from our loved ones.

It is at this point in the Biblical recounting of this story that we get one of the most beautiful phrases in Scripture, in my mind. God calls out to the people he created, "Where are you?"

This is not only a question of geography. God certainly knows where they are physically. It is a question of status. And an invitation. An invitation to come back into relationship. Because, ultimately, no matter the sin, that is what sin does - it breaks relationships - between God and people, and our relationships with one another.

Adam responds, stating he hid because he was afraid. God continues to question the couple, not in an accusing, judgmental manner, but continuing the invitation to re-enter the relationship.

*continued on page 2*

## Sunday Readings

**March 1, 2020**

**First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

**March 8, 2020**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

## Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26  
(TODAY!)

Holy Eucharist with the  
Imposition of Ashes at  
Noon and 7 pm  
*All are welcome.*

## Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Adam and Eve ultimately admit what they have done, and God points out the consequence of their sin - not punishment - but the natural consequences that come from broken relationship. Sin will infect the whole of creation, work will become hard, not joyful, and death becomes a reality. God speaks the phrase we will hear spoken over us this week, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

And then, the "Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them."

This story is so much more than a Sunday school lesson. So much more than simply a story about how sin came into the world. So much more than a morality lesson. So much more than content for television, movies, and comics. It is a powerful example of how God demonstrates love to all of creation, even in the face of sin and disobedience.

No matter the offense, God is the one who comes to Adam and Eve. And God comes to all of us.

No matter the offense, God invites Adam and Eve, and all of us, to admit what we have done. God comes to call us back into relationship - with God and others.

No matter the offense, it is God who offers forgiveness and new clothes, much better than the flimsy attempts we make at covering up our own sin.

"After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb... These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

[Revelation 7:9, 13].

- Jim Bargmann

## Book Discussion

On March 14, the Book Discussion group will discuss, *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. For April 11, they will read *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry*, by Fredrik Backman.

This group meets every second Saturday of the month at 10:00 am. All readers welcome!

## Lent Procession Service THIS Sunday, March 1 4:00 p.m.

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts will present Lent Procession, a contemplative service of lessons and carols for Lent.

Designed as an opportunity to withdraw from the busyness of life; a time to sing, pray, listen, smell - a time to fully enter into the season of Lent, renewing our lives as children of God.

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## Lenten Devotional

A number of people have requested the return of the devotional booklet for the season of Lent, and so Susan Cherwien has updated and revised the devotional from the last time we were in Year A of the lectionary, the year of Matthew. The devotional contains brief rites of Morning and Evening Prayer with daily reflections, prayers, and practices based on the week's pericopes (assigned scripture readings). It is available in print form in various locations around Mount Olive, as well as in blog form at [www.journeyintolent2020.blogspot.com](http://www.journeyintolent2020.blogspot.com) beginning today, Ash Wednesday.

## Calendar

### Wednesday, February 26 - Ash Wednesday

9:00 am Staff meeting  
Noon *Ash Wednesday Eucharist*  
7:00 pm *Ash Wednesday Eucharist*

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Sunday, March 1 - First Sunday in Lent

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*  
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum  
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*  
Noon Theological Discussion group  
4:00 pm *MFA Event: Lent Procession*

### Monday, March 2

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

### Tuesday, March 3

Noon Bible Study  
4-8 pm Diaper Depot  
7:00 pm Missions Committee meeting

### Wednesday, March 4

9:00 am Staff meeting  
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*  
1:00 pm Soup Luncheon  
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Comm. meeting  
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper  
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals  
6:00 pm Confirmation  
6:30 pm Soup Supper  
7:00 pm *Midweek Lenten Vespers*  
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal  
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

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## Upcoming Adult Forums

**March 1:** "The Art of Space," presented by Aaron Hodge Greenberg Silver

Artist Aaron Hodge Greenberg Silver shares the craft and art of his creative process relating to his current exhibit of paper cuttings at Mount Olive.

**March 8:** *To be announced*

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## Communion Bread Now Gluten-free

Beginning this Sunday, March 1, the bread used for Holy Communion at Mount Olive will be gluten-free. The bakers who usually bake the bread will use a gluten-free recipe from the chapel at Valparaiso University. It is gluten-free, dairy-free, and nut-free, but not vegan. It is baked, although with care, in non-gluten-free kitchens. See the West Commons kiosk for the recipe.

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## Walking the Lenten Journey

It is time to walk our Lenten journey together. This Lenten season there will be a 20'x20' canvas labyrinth in the church Undercroft for you to walk as you meditate, pray, practice your spiritual discipline and focus the mind through these days of Lent.

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to experience the labyrinth discipline, to enjoy a time of peace, quiet and reflection.

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## Allies and Friends Together

You are invited for a day of conversation, learning and relationship-building between Muslims and Christians this coming Saturday, February 29. This workshop, sponsored by the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA, will be at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 8600 Fremont Avenue South in Bloomington from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.: "The Allies and Friends workshop creates a sacred space for Christians and Muslims to come together to hear stories, have conversations, ask God's blessing and link arms as we walk together toward peace." Check the kiosk in the west assembly room for more information. Leave your name in the office, email Judy Hinck ([missions@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:missions@mountolivechurch.org)) or register on-line. The Missions Committee will pay your registration fee.

## Events

**Powderhorn Art & Soul:** March 23, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00 pm; Pillsbury House and Theatre, 3501 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis

Powderhorn Art & Soul will feature a silent art auction, live music, and local artisan foods. Proceeds support general operating expenses that help PPNA gather, mobilize, and build a vibrant Powderhorn community. For more information or for tickets visit

<https://tinyurl.com/ue6qtpc>

**Art 4 Shelter 2020:** May 13, 2020; The Fillmore, 525 North 5th Street, Minneapolis

Create Art. Buy Art. Give Shelter.

Simpson Housing Services is now accepting artwork for Art 4 Shelter 2020. Registration for the event will follow soon. Please visit this website to review submission guidelines or download a submission form:

<https://tinyurl.com/yx7zphll>

**Midweek Lenten  
Worship**  
*Wednesdays during  
Lent*

**Holy Eucharist at  
Noon, followed by  
Soup luncheon**  
**Evening Prayer at 7,  
preceded by Soup  
supper at 6 pm.**

## Tutors Needed! After School Program with ACE in the City

ACE in the City will be kicking off their after-school programming with students on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm.

They are looking for fun, energetic and encouraging volunteers to jump in and make this program as successful for our students as possible.

Please email Bekah, our Program Coordinator, for more details on how to get involved, [bekah.simpson@aceinthecity.org](mailto:bekah.simpson@aceinthecity.org).



## March is Minnesota Food Share Month

March is Minnesota Foodshare Month and Community Emergency Services is asking for our support. They want to gather a total of 40,000 pounds of food and raise \$125,000 during March. We can help! Bring food pantry items or hygiene supplies to drop off in our grocery cart and/or give a financial donation to help CES make purchases. Please note that financial donations purchase much more food for food shelves than we can buy with the same money.

\*Items suggested: Cooking oils, sugar and flour, toilet paper, hygiene products (deodorant, toothbrushes and paste), canned chicken, tuna & chili.

Nearly one in ten Minnesotans experience food insecurity (*US Dept. of Agriculture*) 13.8% of children in Minnesota are food insecure (*Feeding America*). Food security is “access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle.” Food insecurity means access to adequate food is inconsistent and limited by a lack of money and other resources through the year. Food insecure households report their diets to be of reduced quality, variety, or desirability and/or experience disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

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## Advocacy Opportunities

**Minneapolis Economic Development Coalition Meeting**, sponsored by the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association; March 4, 2020, 4:00 to 5:30 pm. Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association Office, 821 East 35th Street, Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Equitable Development Coalition (MEDC) focuses on changing systems and policies that lead to inequitable development practices, displacement, poor labor conditions, and other consequences for communities across the city. MEDC brings together community organizers, residents, and developers.

### Homes for All

Homes for All recognizes that there isn't one kind of housing that fits the needs of every Minnesotan. That's why they work to maintain and increase statewide investments across Minnesota's Housing Continuum – from preventing homelessness to producing affordable rental homes to preparing homebuyers.

Advocate for funding and policy changes that affect the availability safe, affordable housing. <https://tinyurl.com/u73tetu>

**Homeless Day on the Hill:** Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

8:00 am, Registration and Training: Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St., St. Paul

10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Advocacy: State Capitol, 75 Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., St. Paul

Homeless Day on the Hill is a day of advocacy. Together, hundreds of Minnesotans gather and talk with their lawmakers about the need for more safe and affordable housing across the state. Registration is free but recommended. <https://tinyurl.com/u9bghl6>

## MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 – <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> FOOD COLLECTION <b>8 am – Eucharist</b> 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. <b>10:45 – Eucharist</b> Noon – Theological Discussion  <b>4pm – MFA Lent Procession</b></p>	<p>2  7 pm – LOL Board 7 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>3  Noon – Bible Study  4:00 pm – Diaper Depot Open  7 pm – Missions Committee  7 pm – NLC rehearsal</p>	<p>4 9 am – Staff Mtng. <b>Noon – Midweek Eucharist</b> 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Y2 Confirmation 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal <b>7 pm – Evening Prayer</b> 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal  1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group meets at Blue Ox Coffee Co.</p>
<p>8 – <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b> <b>8 am – Eucharist</b> 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. <b>10:45 – Eucharist</b> 12:45 pm -Y1 Confirmation  6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Dinner</p>	<p>9  7 pm –Vestry mtng.  7 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>10 Noon – Bible Study  4:00 pm – Diaper Depot Open  7 pm – NLC rehearsal</p>	<p>11 9 am – Staff Mtng. <b>Noon – Midweek Eucharist</b> 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal <b>7 pm – Evening Prayer</b> 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14  10 am – Book Discussion</p>
<p>15 – <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b> <b>8 am – Eucharist</b> 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. <b>10:45 – Eucharist</b> 12:45 pm -Y1 Confirmation</p>	<p>16  6:30 pm – Reconciling Works Committee meeting  7 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>17 Noon – Bible Study  4:00 pm – Diaper Depot Open  7 pm – NLC rehearsal</p>	<p>18 9 am – Staff Mtng. <b>Noon – Midweek Eucharist</b> 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal <b>7 pm – Evening Prayer</b> 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21  11 am – Diaper Depot open  Noon – Community Meal</p>
<p>22 – <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b> <b>8 am – Eucharist</b> 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. <b>10:45 – Eucharist</b></p>	<p>23  7 pm – Worship Committee  7pm – Vicar Committee 7 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>24 Noon - Bible Study  4:00 pm – Diaper Depot Open  7 pm – NLC rehearsal</p>	<p>25 9 am – Staff Mtng. <b>Noon – Midweek Eucharist</b> 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal <b>7 pm – Evening Prayer</b> 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>26  6 pm – Evangelism Committee meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28  AGO Competition in the Nave (All day)</p>
<p>29– <b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> <b>8 &amp; 10:45 – Eucharist</b> 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. <b>10:45 – Eucharist</b></p>	<p>30  7 pm – N.A.</p>	<p><b>31</b> Noon - Bible Study  4:00 pm – Diaper Depot 7 pm – NLC rehearsal</p>				

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

### **Sunday Eucharist:**

**8:00 & 10:45 am**

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 612/827-5919

Fax: 612/827-4557

Web: [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.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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- **Ash Wednesday is TODAY, Eucharist at Noon and 7 pm**
- **Church calendar for March, 2020**
- **MFA Lent Procession: This Sunday, March 1, 4 pm**
- **Lenten Devotional Books Now Available**
- **Ushers Needed: Can You Help?**