

## Sunday Readings

April 12, 2020

Resurrection of Our Lord

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

*At this time and until further notice, all worship services and activities are suspended, in the interests of the health of our members, our neighborhood, and the world around us.*

# The Olive Branch

April 8, 2020

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

## Accent on Worship

*Jim Bargmann*

*For context, I would invite you to read both Gospel accounts assigned for this past Sunday, which together retell the story of the Passion and the week we call Holy: Matthew 21:1-11 and Matthew 26:14 – 27:66.*

There can be a terrible up and down pattern to life.

When I worked in youth ministry, I often invited the young people I worked with to visualize the events of their lives. I would ask them to draw a timeline of their life up to that point, starting with their birth on the far left side of the paper and the present on the right. The middle of the paper was to be average day - nothing great happening, but nothing bad either. Those high points of life were to be marked with peaks higher on the paper; the low points, lower on the paper. I invited them to either illustrate or write the most significant points on the graph and reflect on how those events had shaped them up to the pre-sent day.

In these illustrations, often these young people would often include five or six high points and a similar number of low points, spanning roughly 15 or so years.

*continued on page 2*

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

Sometimes it seems as though we go through 15 or so years of high and low points in a week.

It certainly seems as though that was the case for Jesus and the disciples through what we now refer to as Holy Week. For them, it was just a week.

For many of us, it may seem as though we are living in that kind of accelerated up and down, roller coaster, kind of reality right now. There is daily news of the growing number of COVID-19 cases. The death rate from a frightening sickness seems to be ever increasing. Yet, there is also news of governmental leaders and non-profit agencies teaming together to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

Many of us have had to refrain from physical contact with loved ones we are accustomed to seeing on a regular basis, unsure of when we will see them again. Yet, many families who are able to be physically together are discovering a new reality - a new reality of being home together, sharing meals, games, movies, and more, without the hourly barrage of schedule requirements.

The characteristics of this virus and its methods of transmission from one person to another have necessitated drastic changes in how we live our lives and we have, for a time, had to forgo many of the very things we love, including in-person, communal worship. And yet, through this, many are discovering new ways of being the Church, active and alive in the world.

I certainly do not want to sound as though I am minimizing the suffering caused by this virus by bringing up the high points too. There are many doctors, nurses, retail workers and more struggling with difficult work schedules. There are many already mourning the loss of loved ones. There is indeed much suffering. And it is those very facts that make it hard to end this article. It would be all too easy to say something trite, some patronizing phrase with good intentions, to bring this around to a "happy ending." I cannot and will not do it. Take what you will from these words and know that I am riding this up and down roller coaster kind of ride right along with you.

- Jim Bargmann

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## A Word About Your Email ... Please check it frequently!

This is important! During this time, **email will be our primary method of contacting Mount Olive members who have email, and it will be the easiest way to contact us.** (Those who don't have email will be kept informed via snail mail or, if necessary, a phone call, if urgent). Please, if you have email, check it at least daily (even if you don't like to). If you are on the paper copy mailing list but have email, please let us know so we can save a bit of time and postage.

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## Rest in Peace

Our brother, LeRoy Erlandson, has died, and we commend him to the eternal love of the Triune God. Leroy died this past Sunday afternoon.

With our public health emergency, Leroy's family will be waiting to have the funeral until we know when it's appropriate to gather.

With hope and confidence in Christ's victory over death, we hold Charlotte and all of Leroy's family in our prayers.

*Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on him. May Leroy, and all the blessed dead, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

## 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>

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## Bach Tage 2020 Cancelled

Considerable sadness accompanies writing this article.

Due to the global pandemic, we must cancel Bach Tage June 5-7, 2020. Mount Olive has now been shuttered for three weeks, and we have no idea when it may be safe for the building to reopen. Current predictions for COVID-19 transmission peak is at least several weeks from now, and no one knows how long it will be before it will be safe again to schedule events like Bach Tage.

So, considering all the uncertainty surrounding life going forward, we have decided to postpone this year's Bach Tage to June 5 and 6, 2021. All of the soloists and players have eagerly agreed to put those dates on their calendars now, and we hope you will also.

However, an entire year without Bach is just too dismal a thing to imagine. So, we hope you will accept our invitation to the first (and only, we hope!) **VIRTUAL BACH-TAGE**. On the weekend we would have gathered for Bach Tage, June 6 and 7, please join us at [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org) for a "virtual Bach Tage" experience. That weekend, Art will bring you an updated version of his presentation from Bach Tage 2017; Kathy Romey will provide personal reflections on the music from a conductor's perspective; a recording of the 2017 Bach Tage Vespers will be available. If you have other commitments that weekend, Virtual Bach Tage will be available for two weeks after.

Look for an email with links to "Virtual Bach Tage" during the week prior.

Please put "virtual Bach Tage," the weekend of June 6 and 7, on your calendar now. And, add June 5 and 6, 2021, as well.

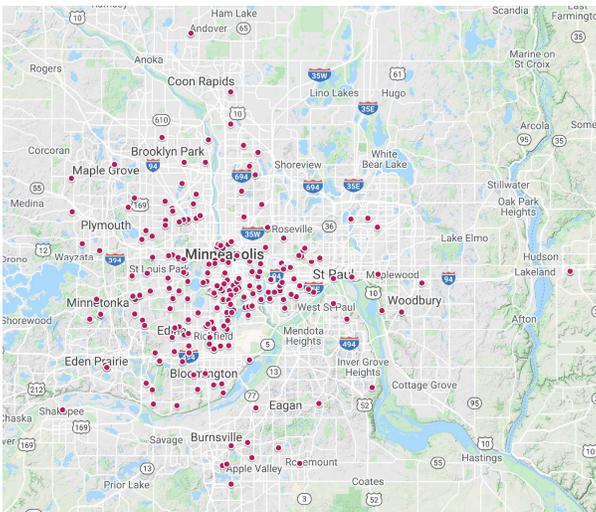
With deep regret,

*Art Halbardier, Cantor David Cherwien, Kathy Romey, conductor*

## Mount Olive in the Community

Mount Olive in the Community is a new feature in *The Olive Branch*, led by Neighborhood Ministry. Mount Olive in the Community seeks to raise up those things the people of Mount Olive are doing in their own neighborhoods and communities while we are participating in the StayHomeMN programs initiated by our State elected leadership in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mount Olive in the Community will provide our faith community an opportunity to see many examples of what the Church looks like in the world that we typically do not have the opportunity to see. The hope is that these shared ideas will inspire future and continued action on the part of our dispersed community.

Most often, when we talk about Neighborhood Ministry at Mount Olive, we think about the neighborhood in which our Mount Olive building sits. Even then, there are a series of concentric circles (or sometimes rather irregular shapes) that define what we call our neighborhood - Chicago Avenue, Powderhorn, Phillips, South Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Twin Cities.... You get the idea. This is important and necessary. However, if we are serious about our belief that the Church is not defined by a building or even a congregation, it is important to see each of the neighborhoods where we live as our "neighborhood ministry." This is always true - but acutely so now. We hope this inspires you to come to a fuller realization of yourself as the Church in your neighborhoods and take action to care for those around you.



Do you know how many neighborhoods the people of Mount Olive are connected to? From information in the last directory, collectively, we represent 289 separate addresses. That's 289 streets and neighborhoods. Here is a visualization of where the majority of us reside.

We have the opportunity to connect to people throughout the Twin Cities and beyond.

Each week, this page will include three sections, Sharing, Inspiration, and Education. This week, you will see a description of each section, an example or two of what kinds of things you will see going forward in each, and some practical things we are asking of you.

***Please take note of these. We want and need your involvement.***

### Sharing

This section will feature pictures and stories of things the people of Mount Olive being the Church. You are invited, no, encouraged, to email me stories and pictures of things you and your family members do in the next coming weeks.

*(continued on page 5)*



*A few pictures of worship at home. And, when the Mount Olive Paschal Candle arrives, but is not able to be delivered because the store is closing, it needs to be picked up!*

## Inspiration

This section will include ideas about how to connect to neighbors and community members in a time of physical isolation. If you have an idea for caring for others you are working on and would like to share, please send it to me and we can include it in a future issue.

## Education

This section will include resources that may be valuable to you as you care for others. Our neighborhood ministry team and others have many contacts with sister congregations, social service agencies, governmental programs, and more. As we become aware of needs in our community and those agencies that can help meet them, we will share those ideas here. And, if you know of an organization doing good work, please let us know. Your connections might be valuable to another member of our community.

*An educational piece for this week. Did you know that we can use our Mount Olive Neighborhood resources anywhere? Our financial assistance funds, diaper depot resources, referral service and more are not limited to use in south Minneapolis. If you encounter a neighbor or friend with needs that you do not know how to meet, please contact me or give them this number: (612) 216-8637. This is a special number set up for responding to assistance requests (financial and otherwise) remotely. Texting is preferred, but calling is acceptable too.*

On a personal note, please know that while the stories and pictures above were from things done by me and my family, I am not in any way attempting to hold myself up as the example of how do to this! I am on this journey with you - a fellow sojourner if you will. We simply needed a place to start, and these particular examples of ministry and pictures were already available.

- Jim Bargmann, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry, [neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org)

## Alternative Methods for Regular Offering

We appreciate our community's response and commitment to ensure our staff are paid, our work carried out and budget being met. Many have called and emailed to ask how to make your weekly contributions that you would have placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

We receive approximately 70% of our weekly gifts in the form of checks in the offering plate or mailed directly to the church office. This is an important part of our ability to carry out our ministry. Here are ways to continue your giving:

- The simplest way is to mail your contributions to the church office via first-class mail (3045 Chicago Ave., Mpls., MN 55407). We are picking up the mail at the post office during this time. **Please note that we will not deposit checks until the governor's shelter in place order expires.**
- Set up a regular offering through your bank via bank "bill pay" system. You tell your bank how much to send and how often, and they mail a check from your account to the church for you. This service is most often free of charge and already used by many at Mount Olive.
- Set up automated giving via electronic funds transfer (formerly known as "Simply Giving") through the church's existing account with Vanco Services. An enrollment form was included/attached to the April 1 issue of *The Olive Branch*. Complete the form and send it back to the church office via email or regular post.
- Finally, you can donate by credit card through the church website. Visit [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org), go the very bottom of the home page and a "Donate" link is on the left. (This method was primarily initiated for non-member givers to Mount Olive on a one-time or very occasional gifts, and the fees associated with it are fairly high. It's preferable all the way around for members to use one of the previous 3 methods).

The Vestry and staff are committed to continuing to serve Mount Olive and are actively working to engage our community. There will be more information forthcoming in *The Olive Branch* and TWIG on ways you can continue to share your gifts, talents and resources. We are grateful for the generosity that is shown daily from our Mount Olive community.

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## Olive Branch Deadline

During this time of suspended activity at Mount Olive, we plan to continue to publish the weekly newsletter on the same schedule. Please note that the deadline for articles is the same as it's always been: Mondays.

If you have information to be published, please send it via email to the church office at [welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org) no later than Monday, and it will run in that week's issue.

Thanks!

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

**Sunday Eucharist:**  
*Temporarily suspended*

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 612/827-5919

Fax: 612/827-4557

Web: [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org)

### **Staff**

Pastor - *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Cantor - *Chad Fothergill*

Vicar - *Bristol Reading*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry

- *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant - *Cha Posz*

Sexton - *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ  
congregation.*

## Contacting the Church Office During This Time

The best way to contact Cha at the church office during regular office hours (M-F, 8am-3pm) is via email. She leaves her church email open all day long while working from home and will quickly see a message from you and be able to respond quickly, too. So if you can, please send an email.

If you don't have email or if you need to contact the church office right away for any reason, you may also call the church and leave a message in Cha's voice mail. **Be sure to leave a message!** Our voice mail system has an outcalling feature which notifies her when a voice mail has been left. During office hours, she will call in, get your message, and return your call shortly. Messages left after office hours will be returned when office hours resume.