



# The Olive Branch

June 3, 2020

## Sunday Readings

June 7, 2020

The Holy Trinity

Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23

June 14, 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23]

*At this time, all worship services, ministries, and activities are being conducted virtually, not by gathering, in the interests of the health of our members, our neighborhood, and the world around us.*

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

## Accent on Worship *Cantor David Cherwien*

### *The Church has left the building*

At the end of our liturgies we say: "Go in peace, to love and serve as Christ." It is the great second part of what liturgy is about. "GO" - take the strength just inspired into us and go be in and of the world, serve. Hopefully, our vigor in liturgy matches the vigor outside the walls.

These past three months and especially the things we've just experienced this past weekend will be permanently and prominently etched in my mind, forever.

This past weekend, it appeared things might go one horrific step further than only being in the state of the pandemic and simply not being able to gather or sing together. There was the very real concern that we might also lose the very building altogether through destructive violence. The place where we gather in all its beauty, the spaces, its inhabitants in the columbarium, the instruments it contains (which serve as our partners for singing) was in the path of danger.

*Go in peace. To love and serve as Christ.*

The relief felt upon seeing the building standing, mostly untouched was quickly countered by the grief and shock upon seeing first-hand the destruction on Lake Street and Chicago Ave. last Friday and Saturday morning.

*continued on page 2*

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

On the northeast and northwest corners and then down the block north along Chicago Ave., most structures are completely destroyed by fire. Apartments and all their inhabitants' belongings gone. I heard that the Red Cross has put the residents up in hotels while they sort out what's next for them. On the south corners, severe vandalism – including the Work Force Center, the new building and restaurant on the corner, and the laundromat. The destruction is all up and down Lake Street – especially east of Chicago.

As I walked around the neighborhood each morning in the aftermath, I've had more meaningful conversations with those who live around us this past weekend than I have in the 19 years I've been here. These are great people – across Chicago Ave., behind us across the alley, watching out for us as people approached the building with perhaps malintent. One neighbor who coaches young basketball teams was visited by a former player hurt by the tear gas needing help. Other people brought brooms and dustpans to help clean up the shattered glass from the bus stops. People pulled up with donations of water and food to distribute. People tucked our huge garbage dumpsters deep in their backyards as to not have them easily accessible to arsons. We have been through a common trauma, yet there is wonderful energy around us, welcoming us to be with them in addition to them with us helping each other do what needs to be done now.

I yearn for the day when we can once again “gather in song, our hearts aglow” (ELW 627, “Oh, Day Full of Grace,” st. 5), when we can hug, when I can play the organ to help us sing as loud as we want, shout “amen” as loud as we feel, eat bread and drink wine as we sing for as long as we can. We long for when we can again gather and check up on each other following our liturgy. Yet, we are bid:

*Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.*

There is a lot of need surrounding us, and right now there is a lot of hurt surrounding us. There is need within each of us. It's been there all along, but now is showing itself big time. Time to listen to that, hear it, and offer what we can, hear what we can, learn what we can. Time to ask, “does the vigor of our liturgy match the vigor of our serving and being Christ?” There is real racism – chronically so – that we must insist get worked on. Our siblings around the Chicago and Lake neighborhoods need resources we have access to, and many of them have resources we can assist them in distributing. Time to work together on spreading those out as the “fire of [God's] love.”

Our church is not closed, it has just left the building. Once we are able to return to the INSIDE together, let us not forget to keep looking around us as we leave again, remembering that the liturgy is not over.

*Go in peace, to love and serve as Christ.*

- Cantor David Cherwien

## Olive Branch Publication Schedule

Normally during the summer months, *The Olive Branch* is published every other week. In light of the current situation with local emergencies and also the pandemic, we will continue the weekly publication of *The Olive Branch* for time being, in the interests of keeping you all informed. However - there will be no *Olive Branch* next week, June 3, as Administrative Assistant, Cha Posz, will be on vacation.

## Communication in the time of Covid-19

A group of about 25 people, coordinated by Lora Dundek, have been working hard to make sure that everyone in the congregation gets at least one phone call or email during this “stay home” time. And another group, overseen by Katie Krueger-McCuen, have agreed to run errands and get groceries for those who need it. If you have any need for food, supplies, or just for a friendly voice, call the church office and leave a message in Cha’s voice mail (ext. 10), and either Lora and Katie will arrange for a helpful person to contact you. This is how we are church together!

## Choir rehearsal in the time of Covid-19

*Cantor Cherwien and a quartet prepare and record a psalm antiphon for a Sunday worship recording.*



## Help Needed!

Mount Olive has received a delivery of surplus food donations from our food shelf partner, Community Emergency Services (CES). We are planning to distribute the food to anyone in need in our neighborhood on the morning of Thursday, June 4. (tomorrow!) We are in need of volunteers to help set up, to assist our neighbors in getting what they need, and to clean up after the distribution.

We would also love anyone with counseling, social work, pastoral care, or chaplaincy experience to join us, in case there are neighbors who simply need someone to talk to.

We will begin set-up at 8:00 am and begin giving out food at 9:00 am. We will go until the food is gone, and then clean up.

Please join us for however long you are able.

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## The First (and only, we hope!) Virtual BachTage

This weekend, June 6 and 7, many of you would have participated in BachTage 2020. Instead, please set aside some time for Virtual BachTage.

Look for an email from Cantor Cherwien on Friday, which will contain links to the various parts of BachTage to access via internet.

Elements will include a presentation by Art Halbardier on Cantatas 6 and 68; Kathy Romey will provide personal reflections on the music from a conductor's perspective; Cantor Cherwien will offer insights into Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E-flat and perform it on the Mount Olive organ; and, finally, a recording of the 2017 Bach-Tage Vespers will be available. If you have other commitments that weekend, Virtual BachTage will be available for two weeks after online.

At this time, you can download scores and a translation of the text of the cantatas at [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org). At the bottom of the home page, you will find a link to Virtual BachTage 2020.

And, let us fervently pray that by June 2021, we will be able to gather in-person for BachTage 2021!



BACH · TAGE  
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN  
MINNEAPOLIS

## COVID-19 and Our Mission Partners

### *Mission Partner Update--Southern Africa*



Our mission partner in Southern Africa is ELCA missionary Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson. We began sponsoring Phil many years ago when he was a missionary specifically to South Africa. Today he is the ELCA Global Mission regional program director for all of Southern Africa. Phil was raised in South Africa, and he and his wife Lou remained in Johannesburg with their family when the CoVid19 pandemic began. We had hoped to host Pastor Knutson on June 21 when he was to be in the United States and to hear from him directly. In lieu of that, we share with you portions of Pastor Knutson's May 25 blog entry.

“South Africa has recorded the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases thus far (over 22,000 as of May 25) among the ten countries in the Southern Africa region. On May 18, Presiding Bishop C. Faindi of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe shared the following information: COVID 19 deaths have remained low since its arrival, but as winter is coming, the authorities have anticipated a heavy upswing and decided not to lift the lockdown. The food situation continues to be unbearable. While there are promises to assure people that no one is going to die of hunger, if these are not fulfilled soon, people may starve to death. However, we have encouraged our members to share what they have with others and fulfill God’s command. Please continue to pray for us, as we fight the invisible enemy. Be blessed.

“ELCA Global Mission continues to support mission personnel, companion churches, mission outreach and Diakonia/World Hunger development and disaster response projects as much as possible during this difficult and uncertain time. Leaders of Lutheran churches in the region have expressed their appreciation for the ongoing companionship of the ELCA Global Mission and ELCA Companion Synods and offer their prayers in return.”

Once again, as with our partners in Nigeria and India, we hear that the availability of food has been made significantly more difficult by the pandemic and the associated lockdowns. We hold all of our mission partners in prayer and support during this trying time.

## Stewardship Reminder

Thank you everyone for your compassion and commitment to Mount Olive. We want to make the process of supporting our church financially easy and convenient for everyone. If you are okay with the delay in the deposit posting to your account, please feel free to continue sending your offering via US mail. If you would like, we have alternative methods for giving that you may want to consider:

- **Bill Pay:** You can set up a regular offering through your bank by calling and talking to someone or by logging in online. You tell your bank how much to send, how often and they will electronically transfer the amount. This service is most often free of charge and already used by many at Mount Olive.
- **Electronic Funds Transfer:** Set up a regular deduction from your bank account through the church's existing account with Vanco Services. Contact the church office to set this up and a form will be mailed or emailed to you (or use the link in the cover page of this *Olive Branch* email). Complete the form and send it back to the church office either by US mail or via email.
- **Mount Olive Website:** 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 is good for one-time donations rather than recurring donations as the fees charged to Mount Olive per transaction are higher than the other two methods.

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## 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>

## 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*

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 – Cantor David Cherwien**
- **Food Distribution Help Needed June 4**
- **COVID-19 and Our Mission partners**
- **Stewardship Resources**
- ***Olive Branch* Publication Schedule**