



The Olive Branch

June 17, 2020

Sunday Readings

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 28, 2020

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary 13 A

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalms 13

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

July 5, 2020

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary 14 A

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalms 45:10-17

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

For everything there is a season.

I remember Church Musician Peter Hallock in Seattle talking about some of their journey at the Cathedral of St Mark's (Episcopal). Peter had a long, long tenure there – from the 40s until retiring in the 90s, and remained connected until his death just a few years ago. They had a dreadful organ in his early years. The point he was making was that rather than gripe about the organ they had, they simply spent energy growing and developing in areas other than the organ. "We just focused our choral work." Their Acapella choir became highly skilled and developed, and they launched the weekly Sunday evening service of Compline – begun not long after he started there. They now have a first-rate organ yet still have outstanding choral singing, and the service of Compline still continues Sunday evenings, usually to capacity assemblies of a huge variety of cultural representations.

So, for Mount Olive, what now, during this time? Two of our most cherished and meaningful activities are not possible: assembling for the Eucharist and singing together. As I prepare our Sunday materials, I marvel at our collective voice on the recordings we bring back for Sundays. Strong four-part "Lord's Prayer," strong 4-part canon on "How Firm a Foundation" – just strong all over. We're kind of good at that. It's exciting to hear but it creates lament as we're not able to be doing that right now. For now, we feed on these recorded musical feasts and remember. There is no doubt in my mind these things will return.

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

In the meantime, since we can't sing together? Maybe here's where Peter Hallock's point can teach us. Rather than lamenting about our not gathering and singing, let's take this time to further develop some "skills" – either as individuals, or as a faith community.

Here are some possible ideas, or at least some that I have discovered for myself.

- Be the initiator of connecting with a friend, or friends. Even if you're the introvert. Especially those who live alone. They may like living alone, but might enjoy more conversation opportunities since we can't gather.
- Volunteer for Friday food distribution at church – striking up conversations with folks who live near us at church.
- Bring business to one of our neighboring businesses, like the ice-cream shop on the corner of Park and Lake, or the car wash across the street.
- Send an extra donation somewhere. Work on increasing what you give away.
- Learning a new skill (for me, editing videos!!) – especially with on-line resources.
- Sing by yourself! Work at being less intimidated by that. You can access a lot of our hymnody on our YouTube channel, or SoundCloud channel if you want some company.
- Learn something new about hymns you don't know, or even ones you do know. There is a lot of information available on line: take a walk through the ELW, pick a hymn and look it up on www.hymnary.org, for example.
- Look through it to see what all is there. You'll find quite a bit. If you don't have a hymnal, let me know – we'll fix that.
- Do more writing and/or reading (a hard one for me).
- Enter into a part of our church life together that you normally have not – such as neighborhood ministries, or building and grounds – both even more needed right now.

Just some thoughts – to which you can add yours. Then when we can add gathering and singing back, we keep the improved skills and efforts we focused on during this time AND we can sing about that too.

- Cantor David Cherwien

Rest in Peace

Our brother, + Gary Flatgard, + has died, and we commend him to the eternal love of the Triune God. Gary died this past Sunday afternoon, June 21.

With our public health emergency, Gary'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 Nancy and all of Gary's family in our prayers.

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

Weekly Grocery Distribution: Here's how You Can Help!

Want a quick and easy way to donate items to Mount Olive's weekly grocery distribution? Go to the registry address below, click on the items you'd like to purchase, and pay. The items will automatically ship to Mount Olive. Thanks!

tgt.gifts/MountOliveLutheranGroceries

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!

Ecumenical Water Initiative Letter Writing Event

Thursday, July 2, 8:30-9:30 am

Join people of faith from around the region in writing letters supporting a water infrastructure proposal being considered by the state legislature. The video call will be hosted by synod leaders who will help you understand the issue and feel empowered to write to your elected officials. Please register [here](#) to receive a link to the video call and join us Thursday morning, in your PJs if you want!

A Note About the Lectionary this Pentecost Season:

As we did the past two years, in our worship during this season after Pentecost we will use the semi-continuous lectionary option for our First Readings (which come from the Hebrew Scriptures) for whole season. Year A in the semi-continuous cycle is the year of the story of God's people Israel. We'll spend the most time in Genesis, beginning with Abraham and Sarah in June, Jacob in July, and Joseph in August. On Aug. 21 we turn to the book of Exodus, and the story of Moses and the people's leaving Egypt and travelling to the promised land. At the very end, in November, we'll briefly hear of Joshua and Deborah, as the people of Israel settle in the Promised Land.

In the usual semi-continuous Second Readings for year A, we'll hear from Romans until September. September 20 we switch to Philippians, and in mid-October to 1 Thessalonians, which will bring us to the end of the Church Year, not counting All Saints or Christ the King.

A reminder: the full lectionary listing is in our worship book, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Pages 39-53 in the front of the book list the readings for this season, including both semi-continuous and complementary options.

Neighborhood Ministry Update

Jim Bargmann

Here a few of the things happening in Neighborhood Ministry.

Remote Food Shelf

Mount Olive has formalized an agreement with one of our food shelf partners, Community Emergency Service (CES) to operate as a remote distribution site for food, household goods, and personal care supplies.

We will operate our remote food shelf every Friday morning, beginning this week, until the need for a neighborhood source of food and supplies is eased by the reopening of our neighborhood stores.

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. Each Friday, we meet at 8:00 am to set up, the open for distribution at 9:00 am. We typically close at 11:00 am, then clean up. All are welcome and needed.

In terms of donations, we have noticed a particular need for personal care items and household cleaning supplies. Laundry soap is a particular need. We also need fresh fruits and vegetables and baby care supplies like diapers and wipes.

Neighborhood Walks

We are organizing neighborhood walks two to three times a week. Each time we go out, there will be a brief training on how to facilitate caring conversations with our neighbors.

Past experience has shown that these conversations can sometimes lead to requests for help. When you join us on these walks, you can be prepared to listen, pray, and perhaps work. If you have tools for basic repairs or lawn and garden work, perhaps brooms and other cleaning supplies, bring them along.

Families, this is a kid and teen friendly way to serve.

While there is no regular schedule for these walks, this ministry of caring conversation and service projects will continue for the foreseeable future. I will publish and send out dates and times as they are confirmed - two or three days at a time.

Powderhorn Park Encampment

A group of people experiencing homelessness, many displaced by the damage on Lake Street, have set up an encampment in Powderhorn Park.

The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, in cooperation with Mount Olive and other area organizations, has been working to provide security, food, and other basis needs.

This link will take you to a sign up for volunteer opportunities: <https://tinyurl.com/ybhqw6fl>

Please consider signing up. Individuals can sign up for certain roles or households could even team up to provide a meal or clean up.

If you would choose to provide a meal, you would not have to cook unless that is what you would choose to do. Meals can be ordered from local restaurants, picked up, and then distributed by you or your family at the park.

Final Request

Does anyone have two or three extra lawn or camp chairs you would be able to let Neighborhood Ministry use for the foreseeable future? We would like to have a safe space to visit with our neighbors outside of the building, given the still very real COVID-19 concerns. A few lawn or camp chairs would enable us to have a safe space for conversation outside our building. Contact Jim Bargmann (neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org) if you can help.

New Display

Sadly, we were unable to fully enjoy the beautiful art exhibit of Aaron Silver's work, however Aaron contacted me recently to let me know that he has reworked one of the art pieces that was in the exhibit.

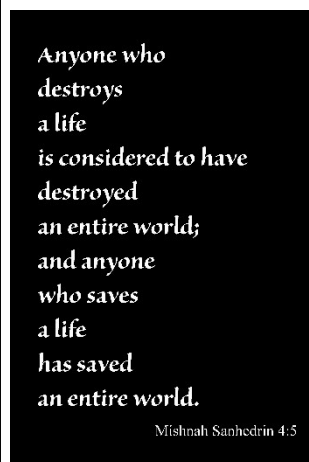
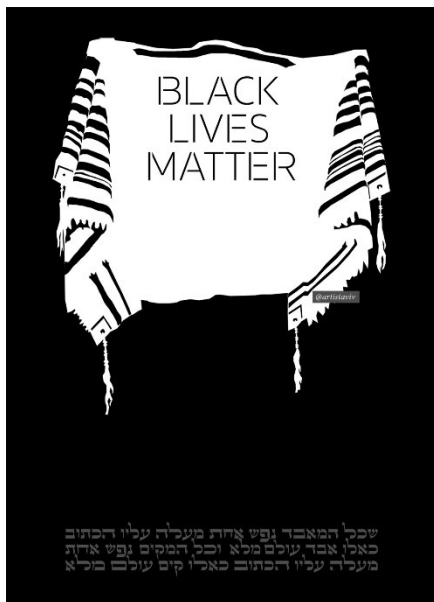
On the back wall was a small piece labeled "Black Lives Matter" on a Jewish tallit (prayer shawl). The new piece Aaron created is a poster featuring the original art piece accompanied with a Hebrew text from the Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5. "Anyone who destroys a life is considered to have destroyed an entire world; and anyone who saves a life has saved an entire world."

I bought one of the posters from Aaron and I printed out the translation. Both of these, along with a statement from Aaron, are in the new hallway display at Mount Olive.

If you would like to own one of the posters they are available in a variety of sizes. Go to Aaron Silver's website for more information. <http://artistaviv.com/black-lives-matter>.

We are unable to physically be at Mount Olive right now, but as we know the church is very much alive, vibrant, and a loving sign to the community that God does love and care for all.

- Paul Nixdorf



Black Lives Matter wrapped in a tallit



Poster print based on a papercut

About the Hebrew text

The Hebrew text is from the Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5 and means: "Anyone who destroys a life is considered to have destroyed an entire world; and anyone who saves a life has saved an entire world."

About the English text

This text is important because it highlights a terrible truth in America - as a nation, we act as though Black lives do not matter. Proclaiming this slogan is a cry to right this centuries-long wrong.

About the tallit

The tallit spoke to me because I was thinking about Jewish responsibility for *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, with visions of embracing (what the tallit does when you wear it). In the original pencil drawing of this design, I wanted to display the tallit as embracing or hugging the phrase Black Lives Matter. If the tallit is symbolic of a Jew, or of the Jewish people, the image is saying, "We, the Jewish people, are obligated to repair the world and actualize the truth represented by this phrase, a truth we often don't see happening in the world around us."

As I developed the papercut, I was forced to confront the choice to either change my method of producing papercuts (i.e. by introducing glued-on letters) or to cut into the tallit with my knife to produce the English words. I balked at doing that because it seemed initially to be violent toward the tallit. However, as I dwelled on it, I found a different meaning, which is not in the act of cutting the paper tallit, but in the result, which is to reveal that the Jewish people is also made not-whole by the existence of structural racism, and through our ignorance of, silence about, or participation in it.

Read more (about this piece and others) at my website.

Aaron Hodge Silver Greenberg

<http://artistaviv.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/artistaviv/>



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, 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.

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

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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: *Temporarily suspended*

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Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry
– *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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