



The Olive Branch

July 22, 2020

Sunday Readings

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 26, 2020

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary 17 A

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 2, 2020

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary 18 A

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

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

Vicar Bristol Reading

Last week, my husband's cousin had a bris for her newborn son, Leo. This is a celebratory ceremony to mark the circumcision and naming of Jewish boys. Michael and I joined the video call over our lunch break, but for others, calling from Ireland or Israel, it was a different time of day. I marveled at the diversity of ages on the screen, some faces I recognized and many I didn't, a whole colorful collection of people from around the globe gathered virtually to celebrate this sweet new life who had been born in such a crazy time.

After some confusion and milling about, the rabbi came on screen, herding the parents and sleepy baby into the view of the camera while attempting to keep physical distance from them. She started the ceremony, trying to explain in multiple languages what was happening. The sound went in and out, as it does on video calls, and people who forgot to mute themselves could be heard chattering in the background. The Hebrew singing was hard to follow, and it was difficult to tell who was who under their masks.

But something about the whole event was so moving, and I noticed myself tearing up. I didn't understand much as this was my first bris (neither Michael nor I come from Jewish backgrounds), but I sure knew when it was time to say amen and when it was time to clap and cheer. Prayer and celebration are universal enough to overcome language barriers and the great distance of virtual communication. It was not lost on me that this event would not have been possible without the strange realities of the pandemic.

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Those of us who wouldn't have been able to travel to New England for the ceremony would have missed out, and even if the family had decided to video stream for some reason, would Leo's great-grandma in Jerusalem have known how to get on the video call before the time of COVID?

I'm sharing this story because I'm tired of worshipping through video screens and audio recordings, and I'd bet many of you are, too. I'm sick of seeing myself on camera, and I've got a chronic case of "Zoom fatigue," the term experts use to describe the mental and emotional toll of constant video calls. If you relate to that, then know that it's okay to pace yourself, to take extra naps and walks, and to tune in to worship a day late if you want, even while wearing your pajamas.

But don't stop tuning in. We need you as part of the human family, the global community of faith who are navigating these unusual times together. There are ways we can show up for one another that we couldn't have imagined six months ago, and we have the creativity and perseverance to do this, even when the internet connection is spotty. There are still Leos being born every day who need you to say "amen" to the blessings spoken over them. Don't lose hope: God is with us, and we are with each other, always.

- Vicar Bristol Reading

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!

Farewell to Vicar Reading Aug. 16

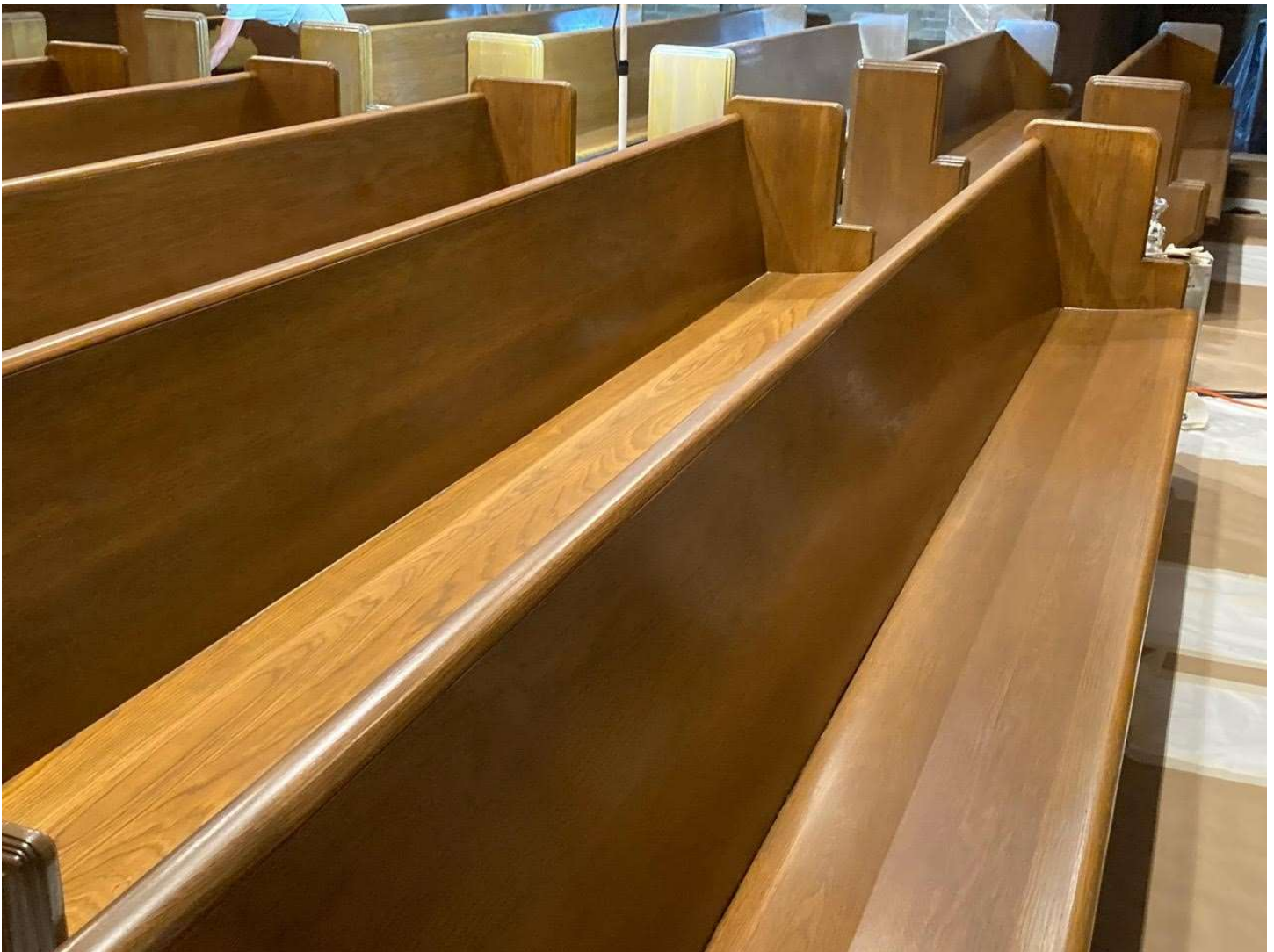
Vicar Bristol Reading's time with us is sadly coming to a close, and her last day with us will be August 16. We're still working on how we can appropriately and joyfully greet her and celebrate her time with us. Given this time of separation, all the things we normally do - reception on her last day, staff lunch, neighborhood ministry picnic - are not possible as they are usually done. Be that as it may, please mark your calendars for August 16, probably at noon, and as soon as the vicar committee and Vestry figure out what we will do, we'll let you know.

Pew Refinishing Underway

Thanks to the generosity of one of our Mount Olive members, there is a currently a large project underway in the nave. All of the pews are being refinished. As you can see from the picture the dark, stained wood looks rich and clean.

It is anticipated the project will take two to three weeks, but with the nave not being used for services it is the right time to take on this task. The prep work included covering the entire floor, wrapping the pillars, covering the organ, and closing off the sacristy. The work on the pews is being done by a skilled painting contractor and involves cleaning, sanding and staining each surface.

When we gather again in the nave for worship – and we will – you will be greeted by clean, warm, and shining wood pews.



Neighborhood Ministry Activities

Jim Bargmann

Here a few of the things happening in Neighborhood Ministry.

Remote Food Shelf

We will operate as a remote distribution site for one of our food shelf partners, Community Emergency Service (CES), every Friday morning 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 church at 8:00 am to set up, then 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

The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, in cooperation with Minneapolis Sanctuary Movement, Mount Olive, and other area organizations, has been working to provide security, food, and other basic needs to residents of an encampment that has been set up at Powderhorn Park.

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. Meals can be homemade or ordered from local restaurants, picked up, and then distributed by you or your family at the park.

Synod Justice Forums

Did you know that the Minneapolis Area Synod offers monthly online forums on specific justice issues? The next forum on Thursday, July 23, 6:30-7:15 pm, will be about energy. Guest speaker Alice Madden, from the Inclusive Financing Coalition, will talk about one local option for increasing access to energy efficiency solutions. Attendees will also have the opportunity to take a simple and effective action step ahead of a critical hearing on inclusive financing in Minneapolis.

Come learn about a sustainable future for our city! Register for this online event here:
<http://mpls-synod.org/event/answering-the-call-leading-with-love-toward-local-energy-justice/>

Christ In Our Home

Several have requested the current issue of the devotional booklet, *Christ in Our Home*, be mailed to their home. We have received our regular shipment for this new quarter and can send one in the mail to you if you would like one, too. We currently have a limited number of large print editions, also. Simply drop a note to the church office via email to welcome@mountolivechurch.org, or call the church office and leave a message in Cha's voice mail (612-827-5919). Please specify if you need a large print copy. She will put one in the mail to you as soon as possible.

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/mountolivechurch.org

Do You Have a Story to Tell?

It is time to begin collecting oral and written histories for our archives about the experience of Mount Olive leaders and members as we have lived through the COVID-19 pandemic and the unrest following the murder of George Floyd in our neighborhood.

The first thing that we need are volunteers who are interested in doing (physically distanced) interviews and/or organizing written histories. No experience in doing oral history work is necessary. You just need an interest in history and the ability to record an interview on a cell phone. Training provided. If you're interested, please email Lora Dundek at lhdundek@usfamily.net, or call her at 651/645-6636.

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>

New Vicar Assigned for 2020-2021

Mount Olive's next vicar is Andrea Bonneville DeNaples, a student at Luther Seminary. She grew up in northern Minnesota and is a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead. We'll give more of a biography when she arrives. Andrea is taking a couple summer classes, so she will begin her vicar year with us on August 31.

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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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.*

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