



The Olive Branch

July 29, 2020

Sunday Readings

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

August 9, 2020

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary 19 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

Jim Bargmann

When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

- Matthew 14:14-16

These three verses, from our Gospel reading for this upcoming Sunday are a part of a larger story commonly referred to as the feeding of the five thousand. Likely, that count only included the men, so it is highly probable that the group was significantly larger, knowing there were whole families in attendance. But that's another issue.

Commonly, it is Jesus' actions in miraculously multiplying the food to feed such a large crowd or even the sacrifice of the one who gave up his lunch that are emphasized when we talk about this story. Those are indeed good things to pay attention to. But in my reading of this passage in preparation for writing this Accent, I noticed another less emphasized part: Jesus' instruction to the disciples - "you give them something to eat."

I believe that instruction is being directed at us today, just as it was then.

"You give them something to eat."

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

We are currently dealing with overlapping crises, first an economic crisis dealt by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent loss of incomes throughout our community and the fallout from the civil unrest following the killing of George Floyd resulting in the closing of many of our neighborhood stores. Both have led to a shortage of food in our area and in the cupboards of our neighbors. This on top of existing struggles with economic inequality, a shortage of affordable housing, and more.

And we hear “you give them something to eat.”

Notice that Jesus didn’t let the disciples in on what he was doing. He didn’t say “you give them something to eat and I am going to multiply what you provide to feed all these people.”

Just the same, Jesus hasn’t told us what he will do with our work, our contribution.

The unavailability and unaffordability of food, the lack of affordable housing, struggles with economic inequality, and lack of racial justice make it seem as though we are attempting to feed ten thousand people with five loaves of bread and two small fish. Our efforts may seem meager; we may be feeling tired and worn out from our work. Jesus hasn’t told us what he will do with our efforts. He has only asked us to give them something to eat. Give them a place to stay. Work for justice on their behalf.

But there is a pattern here. Throughout Jesus’ ministry and throughout history, God has acted in concert with and on behalf of people. We do not yet know how our efforts will be used by God in our neighborhood, our city, our state, our world. But we know God can and will do great things, like feeding ten thousand people with five loaves of bread and two small fish.

- Jim Bargmann

Farewell to Vicar Reading Aug. 16

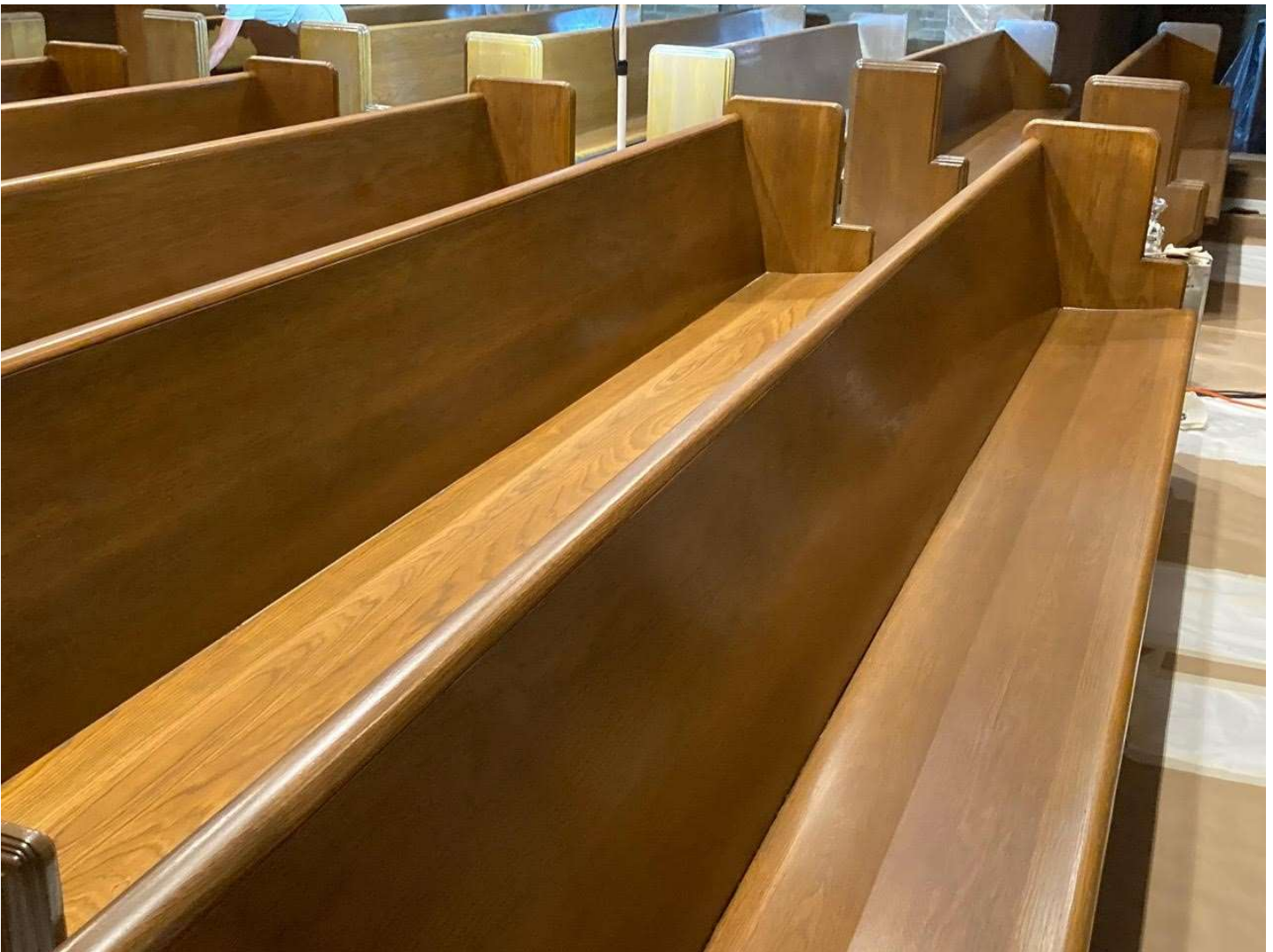
Vicar Bristol Reading’s time with us is sadly coming to a close, and her last day with us will be August 16. We’re still working on how we can appropriately and joyfully greet her and celebrate her time with us. Given this time of separation, all the things we normally do – reception on her last day, 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 Update

Jim Bargmann

Friday Food and Supply Distribution

Volunteers Needed!

Our Friday Food and Supply Distribution continues every Friday morning and is meeting a need in our neighborhood. On a typical Friday, we serve between 100-120 people representing approximately 80 households. We are providing those who come with cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, personal care items, diapers, and of course, food.

We continue to need volunteers to help set up, to assist our neighbors in getting what they need, and to clean up after the distribution. The more we have, the lighter the work for all. Please join us.

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5yx7j6a>

We will begin set-up at 8:00 am and begin giving out food and supplies at 9:00 am. We close at 10:30 am, and then clean up.

Donations Needed - CES Pulling Out

We recently found out that donations to our food shelf partner, Community Emergency Service (CES) have dropped off significantly, so much so that they are no longer able to provide food for our Friday distribution after this week.

However, there is still significant need with a number of our neighbors out of work and without access to their neighborhood grocery stores.

We are working with other area organizations and churches to supply food for members of our community.

However, if you are able to donate food, cleaning supplies, or personal care items, there are two ways you can do so.

Buy whatever you would like to donate and bring it to Mount Olive between 8:00 - 9:00 am on Fridays. Order items from Target that will then be shipped directly to Mount Olive. We have set up a Target wish list with items commonly needed or requested by our neighbors. If you wish to donate some of these items, simply click on this link and order the items you wish to donate.

To order, visit this site: <http://tgt.gifts/MountOliveLutheranGroceries>

Thanks for any help you can give!

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

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.

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!

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

3045 Chicago Avenue South

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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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