



The Olive Branch

August 12, 2020

Sunday Readings

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 16, 2020
11th Sunday after Pentecost
Lectionary 20 A
Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:10-28

August 23, 2020
12th Sunday after Pentecost
Lectionary 21 A
Exodus 1 – 2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

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

Dear Mount Olive community and friends,

I have come to the end of my time as your vicar. It has truly been a privilege and joy to have had an extra-long internship at Mount Olive. When I started in June 2019, my husband Michael and I had just moved to Minneapolis from Chicago, where we lived while I was in seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology. The past year has been a time of learning and formation for me as a person of faith and as a leader in ministry.

Words do not seem sufficient to communicate my gratitude for how much I have gained in my months with you all, but I'll give it a try anyway. Thank you for offering me welcome and support since my first day. This is a vibrant congregation, filled with people committed to living their faith, and I am inspired by the depth of your community with one another. I am grateful to have gotten to experience your rich worship life and your joyful celebration of liturgy and music. Thank you to everyone who has ever offered feedback on my sermons or teaching: I am a better preacher and teacher for what you have generously given me. Especially since we have been physically apart, I have cherished notes and messages from you all. Thank you to everyone who has ever shared a meal with me or welcomed me as a visitor in your home or hospital room: you have helped me realize my love of pastoral care. Thank you to the Vicar Committee for always being willing to offer listening ears and sound advice.

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Accent on Worship, *continued from p. 1*

And of course, a huge thank you to James, Cha, David, and Jim for being wonderful colleagues and companions, and especially to Joseph, who has been a wise teacher, an affirming mentor, and a faithful friend. The last few months have been challenging in so many ways, and we've had to learn a lot as a team and rely on each other. Through everything, the people of Mount Olive have shown so much of God's grace to me this past year.

Many of you have asked what's next for me. Michael and I are staying in the Twin Cities for now. We own our home in St. Louis Park, and Michael is thriving in his job as a lead consultant on the enterprise risk team at Target. I am now eligible to be ordained to my first call, although that process may take some months because of my geographic restriction. Please pray for us as we enter a season of waiting and discernment. I know that, eventually, you will all be able to gather again for worship in the nave, and I look forward to joining you some day. I give thanks to God for all of you!

- Vicar Bristol Reading



Photo: It will always be a really special memory for me to have preached Christmas morning at Mount Olive with my whole family there to celebrate!

Farewell to Vicar Reading This Sunday!

Vicar Bristol Reading's time with us is sadly coming to a close, and her last day with us will be August 16.

Due to the pandemic, we still can't gather together in-person, and we grieve that we won't be able to say farewell as we love to do. However, we can do some things. We will still pray her Farewell and Godspeed at the liturgy on August 16, though pre-recorded of course.

We are gathering up greetings to share with Bristol, as if we were passing a card around. All of you are invited to post greetings to Bristol online, on what is called a "Kudoboard" card, which will then be delivered to her on August 16. Written greetings, even photos and videos if you have them, can be shared with her. Go to this link, [Bristol's kudoboard](#), to post your greeting. You can go back and edit after you post, and other things, so if you have questions, check the FAQ page for Kudoboard or play around with the menu when you're there. This could be a deeply meaningful gift for her, if we can all share our thoughts and feelings and thanks and prayers for her as she leaves us. Deadline for submission is **Saturday, August 15**, as the delivery will come to her the next day.

Also, on Sunday, August 16, from noon to 1 p.m., we will have a drive-through opportunity to greet Bristol. People won't get out of their cars, but she'll be there to greet people as they drive past in the parking lot. A TWIG with directions will go out before the weekend.

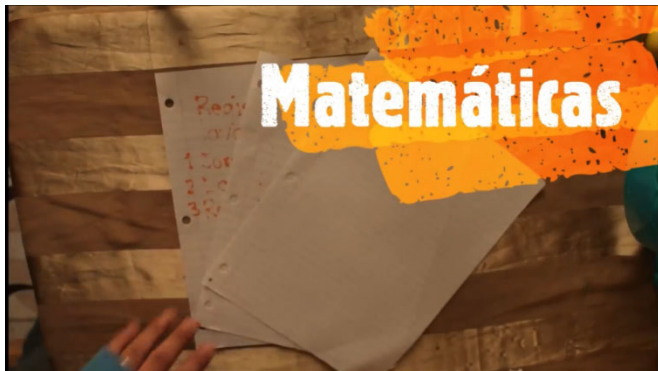
God has blessed us richly with this gifted servant of Christ, and this has been a grace-filled year she has given us. Let's make sure we let her know this!

Mission Partner News--Common Hope

“Education is the heart of Common Hope and has been for over 30 years. So, while Guatemala’s public education system works to pivot fast, Common Hope is working to sustain educational health among students. The Common Hope Team stepped in and created a **SPARK!** Beginning in March, the education staff started thinking about how they could help learning from home. As they started to develop a strategy to help students keep engaged in learning, there was much to consider – What was the best way to reach them? What tools were available in their homes? What would keep students engaged and busy; develop their critical thinking skills, and continue building foundational skills in math and reading? The answer they created? *Chispudos* aka “Sparks” in English!

Chispudos is exciting and engaging! This new program is a series of regular videos delivered via Facebook to connect over 1,000 Common Hope students to learning. Preschool through sixth graders have access to new videos every day and the content ranges from academic to artistic to health and hygiene to emotion management and vary by age range. Students and parents are encouraged to participate in the learning and send videos or pictures with the content. At the end of every week, Chispudos publishes a Newscast and gives a special shout out to the top 10 families that participated that week. **750 members are taking part!**

Perhaps the silver-lining to the Covid-19 pandemic is being witness to individuals, families, and entire communities quickly adapting and innovating to the new normal. Common Hope is no exception.” We thank God for mission partners who bring hope in a time of despair.



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!

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!

Did You Adopt-A-Drain During the Love Made Visible Challenge?

"First, we'd just like to say thanks for doing your part in helping to keep our local waterways cleaner and healthier. You, along with 7,000+ other storm drain adopters, have adopted over 12,000 drains and helped to keep over 200,000 pounds of debris out of our lakes, rivers and streams. Keep up the amazing work!

But we have more work to do. Please help us build our capacity to do it by recruiting a friend (or two) to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood. We've found that people are most receptive to hearing about the program from their friends and neighbors – aka YOU! With our largest community outreach effort being canceled this year (The Minnesota State Fair) we are hoping our passionate volunteers can help us spread the word.

For each new adopter that names you as their referrer when they sign up between now and Labor Day (9/7/2020), both you and the new adopter will receive a free Adopt-a-Drain tote bag – perfect for showing off your dedication to the environment (while supplies last). They can find adoptable storm drains near them and sign up in just a few minutes by visiting our website.

Again, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the Adopt a Storm Drain effort. We couldn't do it without you!"

Sincerely,
The Adopt-a-Drain Team

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>

Looking for Employment?

Mayflower Community Congregational Church in south Minneapolis provides a site that provides information on positions open in not-for-profit or other organizations. Here's the link:

<https://www.mayflowermpls.org/2020/07/16/mayflower-job-network/>

Also, if you know of positions that are open, the link provides a way to have those positions listed on the site.

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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