



# The Olive Branch

August 19, 2020

**Sunday Readings** A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

August 30, 2020  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Lectionary 22 A  
Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

*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 *Pastor Joseph Crippen*

### *Mighty Fortress??*

Jesus gave Simon a new nickname, “Rock,” “Peter,” because of his declaring out loud that Jesus is God’s Messiah, God’s Son. We hear this story on Sunday. But Jesus follows up with this promise: “On this ‘rock’ I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”

Here’s the question: is this Rock a Mighty Fortress or a Force of Love? We tend to think of the image of the Church built on a rock as a fortress that cannot be defeated by the “gates of Hades,” as Jesus says. Batten down the hatches (to switch to a nautical metaphor), hold the fort, evil can’t defeat us.

But Jesus says that the “gates of Hades” cannot prevail against this rock. Gates are fixed, solid, entrances. Surely he’s saying that the Church will carry the message of God’s grace in Christ to the very gates of hell and those gates will crumble before such Love!

Think of it: immediately after this confession, Jesus calls the disciples to lose their lives as he will, to love in such a way that sacrifices everything for the sake of the other, for the sake of the world. This is the Force of Love that the gates of hell cannot withstand.

Let us encourage one another with these words, as we daily engage a world filled with the powers of evil. On the move, shaped in Christ’s vulnerable love, no powers can withstand such a Church! Jesus has said so.

## 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](mailto:lhdundek@usfamily.net), or call her at 651/645-6636.

## Mount Olive in the News

A nice little piece mentioning Mount Olive's geothermal project is included in the current issue of *Living Lutheran* ("Congregations Go Green," p. 24), for your interest. Here's a link: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2020/08/congregations-go-green/>

## Farewell to Vicar Bristol



Photo by Louise Lystig Fritchie

Mount Olive said thank you and goodbye to Vicar Bristol Reading this past Sunday. A line of cars, guided by members of the Vicar Committee and others, came through the church's main parking lot. Folks in each car had time to talk with the volunteers, as well as Pastor Crippen, followed by Bristol and her husband, Michael.

## Book Discussion

The Mount Olive Book group will be meeting virtually on the second Saturday of each month until we can meet again in person.

On Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m., we will meet online to discuss the book *My Grandmother Told Me to Tell You She's Sorry*, by Fredrik Backman. The October book (October 10) will be *Arrowsmith*, by Sinclair Lewis.

We will be using Google Meet platform. You do not need to download anything on your computer in order to join - just click on the link below. If you prefer, you may join by phone.

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/846736957>

You can also dial in using your phone:

United States (Toll Free):

1-877-309-2073

United States: +1 (646) 749-3129

Access Code: 846-736-957



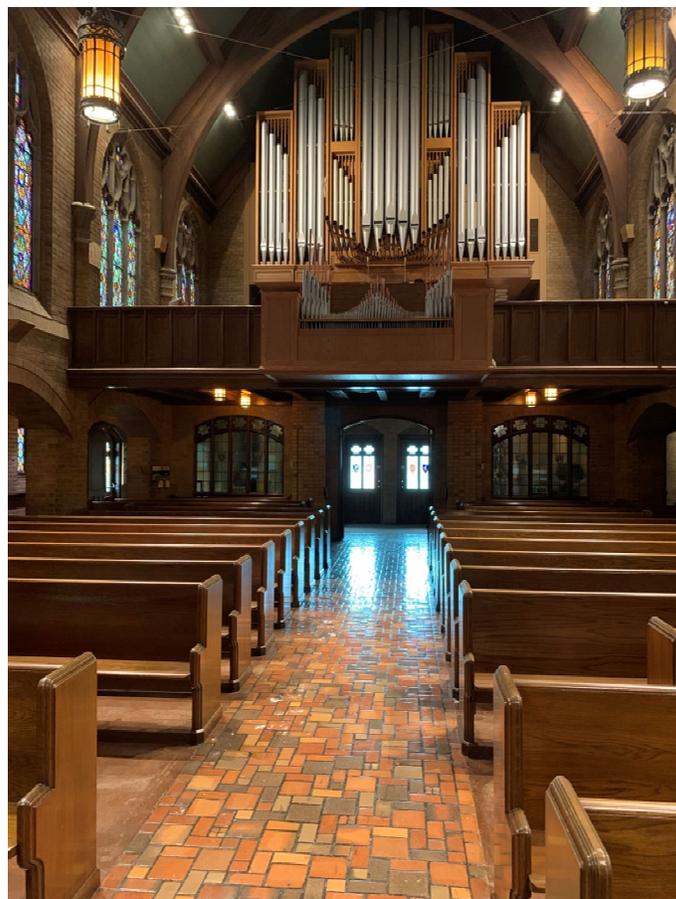
## The Great Reveal – Mount Olive Pew Refinishing Project Complete

Thanks to the generosity of one of our members, the pews in the Nave have been cleaned, stained, and polished to their original luster. Painting contractor Dara Everson ([darapaints@gmail.com](mailto:darapaints@gmail.com); 612-202-2652, in case you are looking to have some work done!) did the work over four weeks and has given Mount Olive a beautiful gift.

Thanks to the work of the many volunteers who covered all the floor surfaces, wrapped pillars, put coverings across the chancel, over the organ and other delicate surfaces and equipment, the only work that remains at this point is a bit of dusting and general cleaning.

The pictures show what the Nave looked like during the process, and the finished look after all coverings were removed.

It is waiting for our return.



## 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*

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!

## Happy Birthday, Dear Carolyn!

Longtime Mount Olive member Carolyn Mowery's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is coming up on August 28! Sadly, we will not be able to hold a celebration here at church for her – but you can help to make her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday a happy one indeed! Drop a birthday card in the mail (825 Summit Ave. #1012, Minneapolis, MN 55403), or give her a call (612-825-7482) to wish her well.

## 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](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>

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## 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

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.*

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