

The Olive Branch



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SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, September 20

Exodus 16:2-15
 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
 Philippians 1:21-30
 Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, September 27

Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
 Philippians 2:1-13
 Matthew 21:23-32

At this time, all worship services 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

Living is Christ

Complaints abound in our readings for next Sunday. Seven times in only 14 verses of Exodus the writer specifically names the complaining of God’s people. Freed by the God of their ancestors from oppressive bondage, now they’re in the wilderness and hungry. And they complain. But a God who can free a whole people from slavery can abundantly feed them, and does, with manna poured from heaven.

Jesus tells a parable about a generous vineyard owner and complaining workers. Everyone gets paid the same, and those who worked all day, compared to a couple hours, aren’t happy. But again, abundance is here: everyone, everyone, gets a full day’s pay and is able to feed their families that night.

Sandwiched in between the complaining is Paul, writing to his beloved Philippians. And it’s a breath of fresh air. For Paul, living is Christ, and a blessing. And dying – a real possibility as he is in prison – would be a gain, joining Christ’s resurrection life. Paul rests in God’s abundant love in Christ, trusts in that love, lives in that love. Sees his Philippian friends with eyes filled with that love. He even calls suffering for Christ a privilege because he participates in that love.

So here’s the question: is it really that simple? That in the face of the immense challenges and fears and problems of our times, God’s abundance is always there if only we look for it? That, in fact, our trust in an abundant and loving God might make whatever our circumstances are, however hard, endurable? Because God’s always ready with manna, wages, life, whatever is needed, for everyone?

Paul surely believes so, and so do I.

*In the presence
of God.
Being the presence
of God.*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., Sept 16

10 am – Staff meeting

Thur., Sept. 17

9:30 am – Time in the Nave

Fri., Sept. 18

9 am – Food Distribution

Sun., Sept. 20

9 am – Virtual Coffee Hour

Tues., Sept. 22

Noon – Bible Study

2:30 pm – Time in the Nave

Wed., Sept 23

10 am – Staff meeting

Hunger in the Time of COVID-19



The ELCA invites all interested people to an online benefit for ELCA World Hunger. Hosts will include the guidebook author and travel TV host Rick Steven as well as Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Northwest

Washington Synod Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee. On Thursday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. you can join these leaders as they explore Hunger in the Time of Covid 19. This Zoom event has a goal of raising \$250,000 to confront hunger. You should register on-line by Tuesday, September 22. The link is provided at the end of this article.

During this global pandemic, hunger is increasing at an alarming rate, domestically and internationally. At this event, participants will

learn about the unique ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. The hosts will also discuss the ongoing root causes of hunger and poverty addressed in Rick Steves' recent special Hunger and Hope: Lessons From Ethiopia and Guatemala. And you will hear from ELCA World Hunger partners on the front lines of the current hunger crisis, who will tell you firsthand how your gifts make a difference.

For more information or to register, [click here](#).

Virtual Coffee Hour

Join fellow Mount Olive friends and members for an hour of physically-distanced socializing! There will be weekly video chat meetings using Google Meet every Sunday from 9-10 am. You can join by video on a smartphone or computer, or you can join by phone to participate in the informal conversations. Last week, it was wonderful to see familiar faces, catch up with each other, and get to know Vicar Bonneville. There will be five meeting rooms (for now), and you can feel free to move between them to mingle with others as you'd like. The meeting links are below (the names of the snacks are just for fun-- join whichever one you'd like), and more instructions about how to join will come out later this week in a TWIG.

Coffee / Tea *

<https://meet.google.com/snm-zssf-dni> (US) +1 407-545-7381 / PIN: 641 572 935#

Summer Sausage & Cheese*

<https://meet.google.com/act-expn-hat> (US) +1 402-509-7747 / PIN: 151 809 692#

Cupcakes & Cookies *

<https://meet.google.com/vcp-nyof-fzz> (US) +1 216-930-8951 / PIN: 766 845 823#

Fruit Tray

<https://meet.google.com/fdj-kzbn-qhf> (US) +1 929-324-2312 / PIN: 990 071 513#

Asparagus Rolls

<https://meet.google.com/yse-towb-ivk> (US) +1 650-667-2726 / PIN: 362 246 694#

* indicates rooms hosted by those who can offer extra help to participants

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. 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 our site 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.

Children's Choirs News: Last Chance to Sign Up

Starts September 30!

Children's Choir Director, Mari Espeland, is working on a virtual experience for children from 4-year-old pre-school through second grade. Not only will we meet via Zoom, we will also explore a curriculum created by Musikgarten called "Friends in God's World." Weaving together music, movement, and Christian faith, "Friends in God's World" focuses on stories from the Old Testament. Songs, prayers, poems, and Bible stories will be part of our choir time and also included on a recording (CD or digital download) provided for family use throughout the week. Tenets from

Dalcroze, Kodály, Orff, and Montessori pedagogies are incorporated into the curriculum, which keep the sessions active and child-centered.

"The spontaneity, creativity, and openness of childhood allow the child to experience God intuitively in relationships with others and with the natural world they encounter. Through these relationships, the child grows in knowledge of God and the child's faith grows as it is experienced with significant adults and in the Christian community." (from "Friends in God's World" introductory material).

Although the Children's Choir will not be preparing to sing in liturgy in the literal sense, we will continue to grow in faith through music and movement. Staying connected to our church family is especially important at this time. A weekly Children's Choir Zoom is one way we can be church during a pandemic and continue to sing God's praise in our homes.

Contact Cantor Cherwien for more information or to sign up. **Deadline is September 19** (in order to get materials in time).

Thursday Bible Study Begins Sept. 24!

"How Can I Keep From Grieving"

In the first Thursday Bible study series of this year Vicar Bonneville will lead a conversation about how we experience and witness to grief happening all around us. Throughout the Bible, we hear narratives of individuals and communities who are grieving or have experienced grief. How do we connect with these narratives? What do these narratives tell us about our own grief and our collective grief? How is God communicating to us and with us? How are we communicating with God? Although individual story sharing may be an aspect of our conversation, this study is intended to look deeply at grief as a communal emotion and experience. Pastoral care is always available for continued conversation and support.

The study begins Thursday, Sept. 24, meeting through Go-To Meetings from 6:00 - 7:30PM. Come as you are.

Thursday Night Bible Study link:

By computer/tablet: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/342516141>
By phone: 1 877 309 2073
Access Code for phone: 342-516-141.

Neighborhood Ministry Update

Jim Bargmann

Our Friday Food & Supply Distribution for Two More Weeks.... Then Something New

For two more Fridays, we will distribute cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, personal care items, diapers, and of course, food to between 100-120 people representing around 80 households.

Volunteers Needed

We can always use more volunteers help set up, assist our neighbors in getting what they need, and clean up. The more we have, the lighter the work for all. To sign up, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y5yx7j6a>

We 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

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

1. Buy whatever you would like to donate and bring it to Mount Olive between 8:00 - 9:00 am on Fridays.
2. 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: <http://tgt.gifts/MountOliveLutheranGroceries>

The Something New

The small leadership team for our Friday Food and Supply Distribution has decided that we cannot safely operate this program once weather prevents us from being able to hold the distribution in the parking lot, and with that in mind, we have decided **our last day will be September 25**. Our neighborhood partner food shelves, CES and Sabathani have both confirmed that they feel they will be able to support the neighbors we have been serving at their operations.

However, neither has a program for household cleaning supplies and personal care items. Beginning on Thursday, October 8, at 9:00 am, we will launch a new program to distribute a limited selection of household cleaning supplies and personal care items from our front door. We will continue this program for the foreseeable future, every THURSDAY morning. We will still need volunteers and donations for this new program, just less than before. The volunteer sign up and Target wish list will be updated to reflect the new schedule and product needs.

Advocacy Work

In an important time for governmental policy and leadership, the Mount Olive Neighborhood Committee is renewing its advocacy work on behalf of issues that align with our work in our community including but certainly not limited to racial justice, criminal justice reform, housing, and food security. Kathy Kruger is currently working on multiple advocacy issues related to housing with our neighborhood ministry partner, Align MPLS. If you are interested in joining her, the team meets once a month. Contact Kathy (kathleenkruger13@yahoo.com) for more information.

Currently, they are advocating for a new women's shelter project in north Minneapolis, an important and needed addition to that community. Unfortunately, Hennepin County has pulled out of the project that we were initially advocating for (see page 6) and so our advocacy work has changed somewhat.

Walk for Hope

All are invited to join the Mount Olive Missions Committee as they raise funds for our Common Hope partners. Pastor Joseph Crippen is representing us as he walks for Hope. Pastor Crippen and 25 other Mount Olive members and friends visited the Common Hope sites and returned filled with admiration for the work that they do. Many Mount Olive members individually sponsor Common Hope children. The virtual walk is on September 20.

Visit and support Pastor Crippen at <https://give.commonhope.org/fundraiser/2874013>. If you'd like to walk yourself and seek support from your friends and family, visit <https://give.commonhope.org/event/virtual-walk-for-hope/e269434>.

Book Discussion Group

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

The October book (October 10, 10 am) will be *Arrowsmith*, by Sinclair Lewis, and the November 14 book is *A Separate Peace*, by John Knowles.

We will use the 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.

To join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone, visit:

<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

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>

Christ in Our Home Available

The new copies of the devotional book, *Christ in Our Home* (October – December) have arrived in the church office.

If you would like one mailed to your home, please contact the church office either by email to welcome@mountolivechurch.org, or by calling the church office at 612-827-5919. We have plenty to share. Please specify if you need a large print edition, otherwise we will just mail the small booklet.

It's a ... Drain!

Congratulations to Steve and Sandra Pranschke, who recently adopted "Happy," the drain at 73rd and Garfield Ave. S!

Volunteer 15 minutes, twice a month, for cleaner waterways and healthier communities. Storm drains flow directly to local lakes, rivers, and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt a Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution.

For information about how YOU can adopt a drain, visit <https://adopt-a-drain.org/>.

Women of Color Need Shelter

A shelter for women of color is hanging in the balance. Your phone call or email can make a really big difference in this happening.

- In 2019, Hennepin County decided that it needed to establish an emergency shelter for women of color and identified an unused facility in the Willard-Hay neighborhood for that purpose, and secured funding for its renovation.
- Some members of the community surrounding the unused facility felt that a youth center was a more appropriate use for the building, and strongly opposed the proposal. This caused Hennepin County to abandon its plans for the facility.
- Remind Hennepin County of its stated commitment to expand its emergency shelter strategy by opening several small-scale culturally specific, 24/7 shelters.
- Women in need of emergency shelter, especially those of color are still being re-victimized by their insecure situations on the streets.

Please consider contacting to the Hennepin County Commissioner representing your area via email or phone about this issue.

Talking Points

- Women without shelter are especially vulnerable on our streets.
- Minneapolis needs more shelters in response to our exploding housing crisis.
- Currently, the city's shelter system cannot house all the women needing shelter.
- Minneapolis needs a culturally specific shelter for women of color.
- Winter is coming; no one should be left on the streets to survive the elements.

To find contact information for your Hennepin County Commissioner, use this link:
<https://www.hennepin.us/your-government/leadership/find-commissioner>



Join in Responding

Your Missions Committee committed additional funds as we faithfully respond to needs around the world, and we invite you to join us. We sent additional funds to Lutheran Disaster Response (<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/>) after the Iowa derecho storm, and we know that the needs are even greater now with hurricane and fire relief. Through our partners at Lutheran World Relief (<https://lwr.org>) we sent aid to Beirut families following the disastrous harbor explosion. We trust these organizations and encourage you to help.

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Victor Gebauer; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Kandi Jo Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; John Wall; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; *Jodi Royce*, daughter of Dan & Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; *Kjell Thompson*; *Reba Zumberge*, relatives of Nancy Anderson; *Danna Nelson, Jacques*, friends of Jim Bargmann; *Tom McCarr*, friend of Keith Bartz; *Arthur Kaemmer*, friend of David Bryce; *Nancy Stelling*, friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; *Lela Frazier*, sister of Irene Campbell; *Klarrisa Ramirez*, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; *Logan Bushaw*, friend of Allan & Lora Dundek; *Greg Eklund*, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; *Susan Bary*, friend of Judy Graves; *Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr.*, parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; *Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong)*, friend of Eunice Hafemeister; *Tami Huisinga*, relative of Wes Huisinga; *Craig Cunningham*, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; *Asber Strong*, friend of Gene Janssen; *Donald Johnson*, father of Nicholas Johnson; *Nicole Sanders and Ann Clark*, daughter and friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; *Danielle Pitzgen*, friend of Ellen Kormanik; *Barbara Dahl*, sister of Carla Manuel; *Dani Olson, Harper Linguist, Steve Camper*, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; *Jan McCuen*, mother of Matt McCuen; *Martha Johnson*, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; *Janet Freeburg*, friend of Lisa Nordeen; *Michael Waechter*, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; *Kathleen Anstad*, sister of Jerry Ostlund; *Jay Heffern*, friend of Gary Pagel; *Todd Erickson*, friend of Jean & Doug Parish; *Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesher Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams*, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; *Leila Jeffers*, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; *Scott Kingman*, father of Anna Scott; *Miranda and Nathan Alvis*, niece and nephew of Tim Sneer; *Carrie*, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; *Norlene Bateman*, aunt of Ted Thompson; *Jennifer Kobylinski*, cousin of Kathy Thurston; *David Duran*, friend of *Kevin Vazquez*; *Andrew Weichman, Levi Boswell*, son and nephew of Grace Wiechman; *BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, Julius Underwood and LaTrell Wilkes, and Lonnell Wilkes, Kianna Crump*, son, nephews, grandson, brother and niece of James Wilkes; *Patrick Clark, Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Annie Hose-Ryan, Trisha Niemi-Haapaja, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Marcia Van Gorden*, friends of

Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; *Anne-Marie Lundberg*, cousin of Eric Zander; *Judy Bonnes, Jan Harper* (spouse of former Mount Olive vicar, the late Jean Hay); *Tommie and Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson*, friends of Mount Olive.

- **In hospice care:** Dan Adams.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system** here and around the world who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: *Solveig & Philip*, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and *Tyson Crosby*, relative of the Crosby family. (*Italics indicates non-member friends of Mount Olive.*)

About our prayer list ...

*If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers.
Contact the church office with any updates.*



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

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Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernvien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

Prayer Times (for individuals) in the Nave begin next week

These have been hard times for many, and in our congregation, missing coming into church, the silence, the peace, with the windows and carvings and the beauty that has led us deeper into God's presence, has been a huge absence. We can't worship together in our nave yet, but starting next week the nave will be opened at set times for a limited number of people to come and pray, meditate, contemplate.

Starting September 15, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the nave will be opened for personal prayer time. There will be a limit of 10 people permitted in there at a time, and a host in the narthex will welcome and guide all through the COVID plan Mount Olive has established.

Please enter through the narthex doors only, and, except for use of the bathrooms, please stay out of the rest of the building, to ensure safety of all. Everyone who comes will be asked to answer a list of health questions – the usual that you may have encountered in other places. All will be required to say that you haven't had a recent fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell, etc., and sign in. (If mobility prevents you from entering via the narthex, please contact the church office and you'll be able to come through the north door and the elevator. All COVID protocols still apply.)

All will be required to wear masks securely covering both the mouth and the nose, and keep at least 10 feet apart from anyone else in the nave.

Going forward, the narthex doors will be opened on Tuesdays from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. and on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., starting with Tuesday, September 15. Times and availability can be adjusted as need seems to arise.

Healthy hosts will be needed to sit in the narthex for these times and ensure that those who come follow Mount Olive's COVID plan. If you'd be willing to host, please contact Tom Olsen, who is going to be keeping a schedule.