

The Olive Branch



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Accent on Worship

Vicar Andrea Bonneville

Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me to Mount Olive! I am so thankful to be a part of this community, even if this year will look different for all of us. It has been a joy to meet some of you and I rejoice each time I am able to meet someone new or see a familiar face.

One of my greatest joys in ministry is meeting people and getting to walk this journey of faith alongside others.

Because we are not worshipping in person, meeting and greeting each other is challenging.

I have been thinking of creative ways I can connect with you. To start, I am going to hold **virtual office hours on Wednesdays from 12pm – 1pm (see gotomeeting link below) for the month of October, starting today.** Feel free to stop by to introduce yourself and join in conversation! If this time doesn't work for you or you just can't imagine spending one more minute looking at a computer screen, I would love to chat on the phone or connect through email. Have a different idea? I would love to hear from you.

I am holding each of you in my prayers echoing Paul's writing to the Philippians:

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. - Philippians 1:3-5

Peace to you this day and always,

Andrea

Link to Vicar's GoToMeeting Office Hours

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/117705421>

You can also dial in using your phone.

(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

United States: +1 (571) 317-3116

One-touch: tel:+15713173116,,117705421#

Access Code: 117-705-421

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, October 11

Exodus 32:1-14
 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
 Philippians 4:1-9
 Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 18

Exodus 33:12-23
 Psalm 99
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
 Matthew 22:15-22

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.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., Oct. 7

10 am – Staff meeting
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation
5:30 pm – Children's Choir
6:30 pm – Y3 Confirmation

Thur., Oct. 8

9:00 am – Supplies
Distribution
9:30 am – Time in the Nave
6 pm – Thursday Bible Study

Sat., Oct. 10

10 am – Book Discussion

Sun., Oct. 11

7 am – Worship at a Distance
9 am – Virtual Coffee Hour

Mon., Oct. 12

7 pm – Vestry Meeting

Tues., Oct. 13

Noon – Bible Study
2:30 pm – Time in the Nave

Wed., Oct. 14

10 am – Staff meeting
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation
5:30 pm – Children's Choir
6:30 pm – Y3 Confirmation

Music and Fine Arts Event: Livestreamed on YouTube

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts: Pandemic-tide Edition!

Sunday October 25, 4:00 pm: Organ Recital, livestream on the Mount Olive YouTube Channel: Catherine Rodland, Organist (St Olaf College), playing the 55-rank Schlicker Organ at Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

Mount Olive's Music and Fine Arts series will still happen! No, we cannot gather here to hear/see it live yet, but you can see and hear it from your home through Mount Olive's YouTube Channel. The program will include:

Praeludium in F Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel
Settings of *Ein Fest Burg* - various composers
Bach Prelude and Fugue in Eb (St. Anne)
Mendelssohn *Sonata III* (all)
Two Spiritual Settings by Adolphus
Hailstork, *Deep River*, *Great Day*
Scherzo and Finale of Vierne's *Sixth
Symphony for Organ 6*

Mark your calendars, create your at-home reception for yourself to sit down and enjoy during the program!

Watch for additional program offerings in February and April - whether live or livestream, they're on!

February 7, 2021: Lumina (women's ensemble)

April 18, 2021: OK Factor



*Blessing of Animals in the time of COVID-19,
October 4, 2020, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.*

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.

Thursday Bible Study Continues

"How Can I Keep From Grieving"

In the first Thursday Bible study series of this year Vicar Bonneville is leading 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 continues through Oct. 29, meeting through GoToMeeting 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.

Book of Saints

During the weeks leading up to All Saints' Sunday, it has been our practice at Mount Olive to place in the narthex a Book of Saints, a book in which to inscribe the names of those who have died in the year since last All Saints' who are not a part of the Mount Olive community. (Those from the Mount Olive community are always remembered and named in the liturgy of All Saints.) These names are then included in the Prayer of the Church on All Saints', remembered aloud by the Assisting Minister. If you wish to have a name inscribed in the book for this year, please contact Susan Cherwien at susan.cherwien@gmail.com or 952-239-0701, by October 25, 2020.

Semi-Annual Meeting

The October semi-annual Congregation Meeting for 2020 will be held virtually during the morning of **Sunday, October 25**. The primary agenda item will be discussion of Mount Olive's 2021 budget.

Additional information, including specific agenda, budget materials, and instructions for accessing the meeting online will be sent out closer to the time of the meeting. Please plan to attend to hear and join in the discussion.

Neighborhood Ministry News

Jim Bargmann

Thursday Supplies Distribution

Beginning on October 8 (yes, a Thursday!) we will launch a new way to provide some of the most needed items to our community - laundry soap, cleaning supplies, and personal care items.

The volunteer sign up and donation list at Target will have been updated to reflect this change. Yes, we still need you!

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>

Donations Needed

If you are able to donate 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 Thursdays.
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>

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.

Prayer Times (for individuals) in the Nave

On Tuesdays (2:30-5:30 pm) and Thursdays (9:30 am-12:30 pm), the nave is opened for personal prayer time. There is 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 north and south narthex doors only (main doors facing Chicago are being repaired), 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 are 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 are 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.

Times and availability of the nave can be adjusted as need seems to arise.

Healthy hosts are 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.

Fall Garden Work Day – October 17, 2020

Come one, come all – with your garden gloves, rakes, shovels, hand and power tools on Saturday, October 17th, 9:00 am – Noon.

It's time to get all of our gardens ready for winter. We are using the naturalist approach for our gardens versus cut everything back in the fall approach and that means:

- Letting the long grasses and most of the perennials stay as is for the winter. Adds interest to the landscape and is better for pollinators. Trim back in spring.
- Cutting back anything that interferes with sidewalks or parking spots.
- For any leaves that need to be raked, we will put the leaves in the big parking lot garden as insulation and mulch.

The tasks at hand generally do not require specific gardening knowledge, just the willingness to help and maybe use some power tools. They include:

- Weeding in front of the church sign and along the front of the church. (This would also be a wonderful place to plant a group of spring bulbs to draw attention to our sign and add color.)
- Trimming of spirea on the south side of church. (Power trimmer would probably be best for this since they need quite a bit of trimming.)
- Cutting back the grape vines that are growing into the neighbor's tree and fence on the south side of the property. (Major power tool project.)
- Cut back/rake up the hosta plants and leaves around the church.
- Weed the north edge of the north parking lot.
- Hostas/lily of the valley on north parking lot need to be thinned out. Could be done now or in spring. (Major giveaway of plants can follow.)

Please join the fun for an hour, two hours, or more as you are able on the 17th.

Thank you from the Property Committee.

If you have questions, please contact Carol Martinson at Property@mountolivechurch.org, or at 612-708-9849.



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>

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. It has been wonderful to see familiar faces, catch up with each other, and get to know Vicar Bonneville.

There will be four meeting rooms, 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 detailed 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/vep-nyof-fzz>
(US) +1 216-930-8951 / PIN: 766 845 823#

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

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

Smart Salting Training

Winter is around the corner bringing ice and snow with it. As individuals and churches use salt to keep our walk ways safe and clear of ice, it is important to note the cost of salt to the environment around us. It only takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute five gallons of water; properly salting is one way we can protect the lakes and streams that surround us. Check out this informative video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYm1aTn_AgE&ab_channel=EdinaTV) to learn why “more isn’t always better” and how much salt to use for 20 feet of a typical pathway.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is offering free online Smart Salting Trainings for individuals and organizations preparing for the winter months. There are trainings for managers, maintenance staff of properties, and private residents alike. Check out the options available and the calendar of upcoming dates this link: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/smart-salting-training> .

Remember, more isn’t always better!

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 GoToMeeting platform. Just click on the link below. If you prefer, you may join by phone.

Join the discussion from your computer, tablet or smartphone:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/998208989>

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679
United States: +1 (571) 317-3116

Access Code: 998-208-989



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Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

Lighting Candles for All Saints

In the week before All Saints Day there will be three opportunities to come to the church and light a candle in memory of a loved one, since we still aren't gathering for in-person worship. During the usual weekday times the nave is open for prayer, on **Tuesday, October 27 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**, and on **Thursday, October 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, a sacristan will be vested and in the chancel to assist in lighting a candle, as is our normal Sunday practice for All Saints.

In addition, **the church will be open Sunday morning, All Saints Day, Nov. 1, from 9:00 a.m. to noon**, should you wish to come and light a candle for a loved one that day, and pray in the church.

The Mount Olive COVID plan applies. Please sign in in the narthex, be symptom-free, and wear a mask securely covering your mouth and nose. Someone will be there to assist you. We will keep a limit of 15 people in the nave at a time, and please keep 10 feet distance from others.

For information on submitting names of loved ones who have died this past year for the All Saints prayers, see p. 1.