

The Olive Branch



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SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, October 18

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

Sunday, October 25 Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 46
 Romans 3:19-28
 John 8:31-36

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

Cantor David Cherwien

In spite of singing being an unusual act these days, under normal circumstances, we sing a lot in our liturgies when we gather. More than half the time we are together, we are singing.

The thing is: it is our human need to sing. There is something about singing that comes from deep within, it is a release of vibrations unlocking emotion trapped deep inside. Music has that

ability in general, but when we have even a subconscious need to express, one simple melody, song, or tune can do 100 times more than many more words alone.

So – back to the original question: Are you singing these days? We are in pandemic – the singing we usually do every week together is not happening, unless, of course, we are singing along with our Sunday liturgy online.

Nevertheless, let us all learn from one of my favorite mentors, Alice Parker, who said on singing during COVID:

"I have with me, very much in my mind, the image of a New England farm family 200 or 300 years ago, where there's no electricity, there's no telephone, there's none of our modern devices that take us out of where we are. They really are stuck where they are with the people in their particular pod. We have to go back to learning to be happy singing with the people that are right there—not always needing the accompaniment or the other trained voices, or the great music to hold. That still exists, but what we can do is go back and discover the music that we can make ourselves. Individually we can sing for our own enjoyment, and our own education. We can also sing with the one other person that shares the space with us. Or the family singing with children, as a family, I think, is one of the most important things anybody can do, and we have time for that now—except for the electronic devices if they're always on. We don't do this exploration of sound and making sound ourselves in small groups. We have to get used to being satisfied—not only satisfied but fulfilled by the music that we can make ourselves. Whether it's with voices or instruments, whether it's with toddlers, or primary school kids, or high school kids. There's always a way to make song, but we have to get out of this feeling that we need all this other equipment around us in order to do it. To learn to listen to what goes on when we sing well ourselves."

(Alice Parker, October, 2020)

Amen.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Wed., Oct. 14**
10 am – Staff meeting
No Confirmation
5:30 pm – Children’s Choir
- Thur., Oct. 15**
9:00 am – Supplies
Distribution
9:30 am – Time in the Nave
6 pm – Thursday Bible Study
- Sat., Oct. 17**
9 am – Fall Garden Work Day
- Sun., Oct. 18**
7 am – Worship at a Distance
9 am – Virtual Coffee Hour
- Tues., Oct. 20**
Noon – Bible Study
2:30 pm – Time in the Nave
- Wed., Oct. 21**
10 am – Staff meeting
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation
5:30 pm – Children’s Choir
6:30 pm – Y3 Confirmation

Music and Fine Arts Event to be Livestreamed

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.

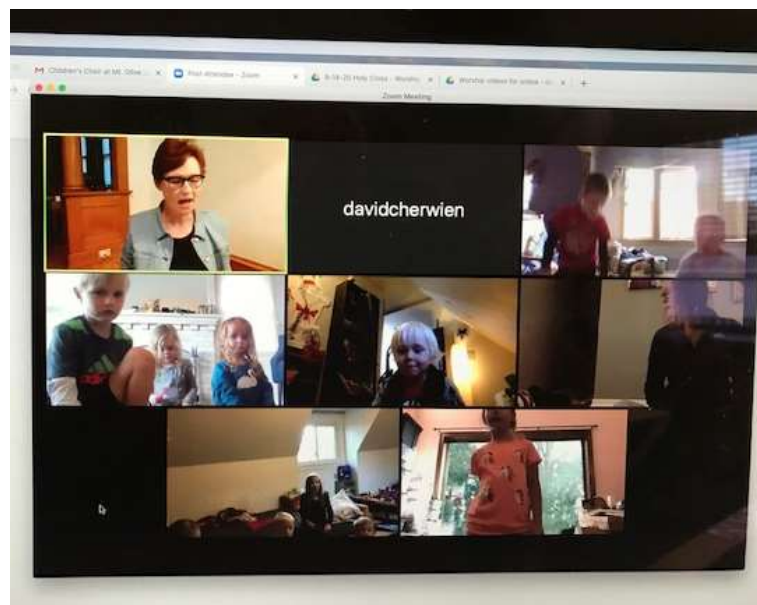
Mount Olive's Music and Fine Arts series will still happen! No, we cannot gather here to hear/see it live yet, but you can see and hear it from your home through Mount Olive's YouTube Channel. The program will include:

- 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!



Mount Olive Children’s Choir continues – virtually!

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.

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 Chervien at susan.chervien@gmail.com or 952-239-0701, by October 25, 2020.

Thursday Bible Study Continues

"How Can I Keep From Grieving"

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.

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

Helping Our Neighbors with Household and Personal Care Supplies

At the beginning of October, we transitioned our food distribution to a household and personal care supply program. This new program reflects the realities of serving our neighbors safely in a time of a pandemic and imminent colder and wetter weather.

We do still need volunteers (though fewer volunteers for this project) - and donations of supplies.

Supplies needed include:

Shampoo	Toothpaste/toothbrushes
Bar soap	All-purpose cleaner
Toilet paper	Feminine hygiene supplies
Laundry soap	Target gift cards
Diapers	

Our volunteer sign up has been updated with our new needs. And the Target shopping list has also been updated to reflect the items we are providing to our neighbors.

Please sign up ... and please continue to donate. If you can't donate online, please consider picking up your donations when you shop and bringing them to the church during office hours (M-F, 8am-3pm).

Volunteer sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/y5yx7j6a>

Donation ordering: <http://tgt.gifts/MountOliveLutheranGroceries>

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 17, 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. And then planting tulip bulbs by the church sign to add color for spring.
- 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](#) 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. using [Check out the options available and the calendar of upcoming dates this link](#).

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 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

Donating Promotional Materials

Do you get requests for donations from many charitable organizations? And if you contribute, they respond with "rewards" such as note pads, greeting cards, ball pens, tote bags, etc.

Often these are things we don't need, but we don't want to throw away. The DAV and other trucks that collect donated items from homes can no longer do so.

A few such things were displayed at the food distribution last Thursday and they seemed to be well received. If you have an accumulation of such items, or even just a few, they can be dropped off at the church. Volunteers and staff will sort and display donations at the time of the Thursday supplies distribution. Your participation is anticipated and appreciated.

Lighting Candles for All Saints

In the weeks 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.

News from TRUST

The Annual TRUST Auction

Listen (<https://vimeo.com/465119170>) to TRUST Board member Mary Corlett, who represents St. John's Episcopal Church, as she shares with her church and the community about the work of TRUST, and invites all to take part in The 2020 Great TRUST Auction on Oct. 24 at 5 p.m. via www.trustinc.org.

Turn your Amazon purchase into a donation to TRUST.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to TRUST via its AmazonSmile program. Simply click on TRUST's unique link (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0965940>) to indicate your support for TRUST.

Spread the word!

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is able to provide meals to anyone over the age of 18 who lacks access to healthy food due to the COVID-19.

Thanks to the CARES Act, anyone who does not qualify for meals through another program is eligible to receive meals from Meals on Wheels at no cost through Dec. 31. To sign up for meals visit <https://meals-on-wheels.com/get-meals/sign-up/>.

Living Lutheran: National Magazine of the ELCA

Today I want to be a cheerleader for *Living Lutheran* (formerly *The Lutheran*), the monthly magazine of the ELCA.

Until well into the last half of the twentieth century denominational magazines were staples in millions of American homes. The magazines provided information and inspiration that helped people feel connected to what we now call regional, national, and global “expressions” of the church. Then circulation of those magazines dropped dramatically, and many no longer exist. Reasons include, but aren’t limited to, money, the internet, and (not Mount Olive!) declining denominational loyalties. Disclosure: I was managing editor of one of the pre-ELCA Lutheran magazines. The folks who edit and write for *LL* are working hard—

mostly from home just now—to give us news, features, and columns that can help us as individuals and congregations become more effective servants of Christ. *Living Lutheran* is available in print, digital, and audio formats, and online it offers additional content. Mount Olive’s geothermal cooling system is featured in “Congregations go green,” in the August issue.

Cha tells me that close to fifty Mount Olive households (including mine) now get the print edition of *LL*, paid for by the congregation, which gets a group rate. That option remains available. I don’t know how many of us at Mount Olive are reading *LL* online, but I’m pretty certain we have an out-of-sight, out-of-mind problem and could use some reminders—but, please, not too many!).

Here’s what you can do. Go to *Living Lutheran*’s website: (<https://www.livinglutheran.org/>).

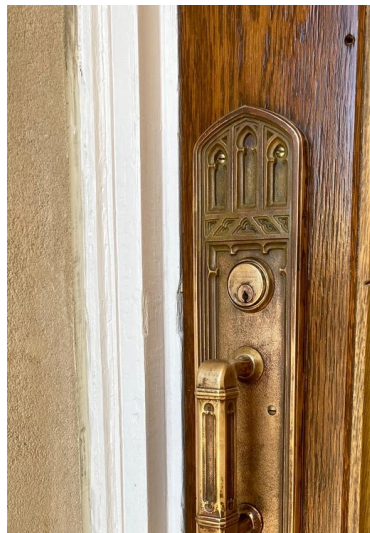
At the bottom of the page you’ll see links to current and past issues of *LL*, which you can read anytime. Go to “subscribe” and sign up for the free LLStories e-digest. Select categories that interest you, and opt to get the digest weekly, every other week, or monthly (alternatively, you could follow *LL* on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn). I’ve recently been trying most of these options; then I’ll settle on what works best for me.

- Donn McLellan

Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates!

In the midst of our separation, we have had the blessing of our pews being refinished, and now, as you can see from these photos, the front doors of the church are newly restored, all in anticipation of the day we will gather together in worship of God.

Many, many thanks to those who worked on this restoration. Art Halbardier stripped the doors to bare wood, and sanded them. Donn McLellan stained the doors and applied three coats of varnish, something he’s really good at! Art also removed about 90 years of accretions from the beautiful bronze hardware and handles, so they now shine! There are a few finishing touches left, but they probably will be completed before winter.





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 Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

National Lutheran Choir All Saints Program

The National Lutheran Choir brings the annual All Saints concert program to virtual audiences on Sunday, November 1, 2020. We come to the 2020 All Saints program saddened by the losses of an extremely difficult year and challenged to remember, persevere, and hope.

With the very breath of so many being silenced by illness and injustice, NLC commissioned artist in residence Paul Rudoi to compose a new setting of the hymn text “Breathe on me, Breath of God.” This work--and the undying yearning to be comforted and changed by the breath of God--forms a through-line for the program.

A core component of the program resides in a set of powerful African American spirituals by composer Moses Hogan and arrangers Marques Garrett and William Dawson. These works have much to teach us about God’s love through hardship and loss. Music by John Tavener and Heinrich Schütz round out this newly curated, virtual program that will feature new performances by NLC singers in physically-distanced settings.

Sunday, November 1, 2020 - 4pm (CST) @ NLCA.com

This online presentation is FREE for all. For a season-long Virtual Subscription to exclusive content (\$10/month), visit www.NLCA.com.