

The Olive Branch



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SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Sunday

Revelation 7:9-17
 Psalm 34:1-10, 22
 1 John 3:1-3
 Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, November 8

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
 Psalm 78:1-7
 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 Matthew 25:1-13

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

Together

The writer to the Hebrews says that we are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses,” and therefore we can run “with perseverance” the race that is set before us. (Hebrews 12:1) This promise is not part of the assigned readings for All Saints Sunday, but speaks a great hope for us as we approach that holy day in our current times.

We begin our All Saints liturgy with a solemn prelude where we light candles for our loved ones who have died. (This week you have a chance to light candles on Thursday morning and on Sunday morning, in the nave, some of which will be filmed for the worship video. See the last page of *The Olive Branch* for more information.) After this, we pray three prayers at the font (which will also be filmed this week for our worship): a prayer for those saints of old (like those in Hebrews 11, the cloud of which the writer is speaking), a prayer for those saints of our community who have died in this past year since last All Saints, and a prayer for those who have been washed in Baptism’s waters this year.

All of these are our cloud of witnesses. In Christ, you belong to a great Body that extends to the past, lives in the present, and exists in the future, for all times are one to the Triune God. It matters not that we cannot gather to worship in person this All Saints Day, hard as that is to consider. It matters not because all times and all places are gathered up in the life of the Triune God that is yours, ours.

This cloud of all saints, past, present, future, surround and encourage us as we run the race we have set before us. Like the recipients of the letter to the Hebrews, we are in difficult, challenging times, and look for encouragement in our individual journeys of faith and encouragement as we journey together as Christ’s community here.

For this Sunday, let this be your encouragement: you are not alone, you are surrounded by Christ through these saints of old, of today, of tomorrow. And, as Hebrews reminds, our eyes are set on Christ as we journey forward, surrounded by this Body of Christ. So we know where we’re headed, too.

That’s very good news indeed.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., Oct. 28

10 am – Staff meeting
5:00 pm – Y2 Confirmation
5:30 pm – Children's Choir
6:30 pm – Y3 Confirmation

Thur., Oct. 29

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

Sun., Nov. 1

7 am – Worship at a Distance
9 am – Time in the Nave
9 am – Virtual Coffee Hour

Tues., Nov. 3

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

Wed., Nov. 4

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

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.

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.

Incense for All Saints – Pick it up!

Sticks of frankincense are available for any who wish to take them and light them for their All Saints worship.

If you come to church during regular office hours, Monday-Friday, 8am-3pm, use the canopy entrance facing Chicago Ave., can confirm that you are free of COVID symptoms, etc., and wear a mask, you can pick up a stick of incense on the ledge outside the church office, right at the top of the stairs.

Stewardship News

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.

VOTE!

By now you should have received a paper ballot (for non- email users) or an email link to use to cast your vote on approving the Mount Olive 2021 budget.

If you haven't already voted, please do so as soon as possible. Voting closes on November 2.

Thanks!

A Light in the Darkness

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." ~John 1:5

This year has provided plenty of time for reflection. For me light has been something that has been part of that reflection. Light as in a source that illuminates but also as in lightheartedness, hope and joy. I must admit I have not done as much of bringing light to others as perhaps I could and should have. That is what made me think about this opportunity. How can we share our stories to bring a sense of joy and light to members of our community. I hope you will join us in sharing how you have been a light in this world or how maybe others have shined a light in your life. If anything, it brings our families, friends and Mount Olive community close together in reflection and sharing.

Reflection & Family Conversation - John 1:1-18

Share your stories here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y66qk284>

You can also call Consuelo if you do not have electronic access.

Light, Peace & Hope!
Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby
Stewardship Director



Neighborhood Weekly Distribution

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, happening on Thursday mornings, reflects the realities of serving our neighbors safely in a time of a pandemic and imminent colder and wetter weather. Volunteers should arrive at 8:30 am; we will distribute supplies from 9 to 10 am, and then clean up. We are typically done by 10:30 am. 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.

Real Life Theology: Paul helps the Romans – Thursday Bible Study New Session Begins Nov. 5

Paul's letter to the Romans is some of the most sublime theological writing in Scripture. But Romans is also a letter, like all of Paul's other letters, written to real people in the midst of real problems in life. Using Scot McKnight's book "Reading Romans Backwards: A Gospel of Peace in the Midst of Empire," as a starting point, Pr. Crippen will lead the next Thursday Bible study series on this beautiful letter. We'll consider how Paul's beautiful theology applies not only to the lives of his Roman churches but to ours. We'll seek what light their lives (and struggles with empire and societal turmoil) might shine on ours, and how Paul's word to them also speaks to our situation.

This second Thursday Bible study series of this year begins on Thursday, Nov. 5, and will end on Dec. 17. We'll take Thanksgiving Day off, of course. The time of the study is 6:00 p.m., and should last about 90 minutes. (One exception: due to another meeting conflict for Pr. Crippen on Nov. 12, we'll start that night's session at 7:15 p.m., and try to finish before 8:30 p.m.)

The link to join the meeting on your computer or tablet is:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/342516141>

It's also possible to join by phone – please consider it if you aren't comfortable with video chats. The phone number (just call it at the time of the meeting) is 1 877 309 2073. When you call in, you'll be asked for an access code. It is: 342-516-141.

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://tinyurl.com/y4qs46v5>

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://tinyurl.com/y274v5rs>

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I am overwhelmed and filled with gratitude at the recognition you all did last Sunday (and before) for my tenth anniversary as pastor of Mount Olive. It was a complete surprise, which is surprising in itself, and a tremendous blessing. Thank you to all – so many! – who wrote a message on the online Kudoboard: I will go back to those notes often and I cherish them! Thank you to all who contributed photos for the picture book Lora Dundek assembled: again, this will be a gift I will return to and enjoy often.

It has been and continues to be a privilege to serve as your pastor. I am so grateful to you all for your kindness and support, and to God who has called me to be with you. Thank you!

- Pr. Joseph Crippen

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 and catch up with each other.

There will be four meeting rooms, now with one room dedicated for the youngest of the Mount Olive family - "Cupcakes & Cookies"! 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). If you join with a computer, you don't need to install anything or have an account, but if you'd like to join on a phone or tablet, you will need to install the Google Meet app and log in with a Google account. If you have questions about how to join feel free to call Katie Krueger at 419-344-2727 or email katherinerkrueger@gmail.com.

Coffee / Tea

<https://meet.google.com/snm-zssf-dni>

(US) +1 407-545-7381 / PIN: 641 572 935#

Meeting code: snm-zssf-dni

Summer Sausage & Cheese

<https://meet.google.com/act-expn-hat>

(US) +1 402-509-7747 / PIN: 151 809 692#

Meeting code: act-expn-hat

Fruit Tray

<https://meet.google.com/fdj-kzbn-qhf>

(US) +1 929-324-2312 / PIN: 990 071 513#

Meeting code: fdj-kzbn-qhf

Cupcakes & Cookies - Kids' room

<https://meet.google.com/vep-nyof-fzz>

(US) +1 216-930-8951 / PIN: 766 845 823#

Meeting code: vep-nyof-fzz

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://tinyurl.com/y4knn7o3>

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

Ready for Winter and then Spring

Thanks to a loyal group of garden volunteers on October 17, there was trimming, cutting, digging, pulling, and planting to get Mount Olive's gardens ready for winter and then spring. This work included planting 500 red tulip bulbs in front of the church sign on the corner of 31st and Chicago.

And with the change in the weather this week it was perfect timing to get the cleanup and planting done. Next spring we will be thinning and sorting hostas and lilies of the valley. We will have 'help yourself to free plants' notice when that work begins.

As for the pollinator garden in the south parking lot, the plants were left to help feed the birds this winter and will be cut back and trimmed in the spring.



An Update on Neighborhood Ministry

Jim Bargmann

I realized as I was updating my information for the Olive Branch that it had been a few weeks at least since I offered a comprehensive update on what has been happening in Neighborhood Ministry.

Partners of the Month

I have maintained regular contact with our neighborhood partners through the time of the pandemic. You will notice that we continually pray for our partners as a part of our community worship. Most have reopened, offering services in modified form, and as needs arise, I continue to refer people to our partners for services not offered by Mount Olive.

Diaper Depot

Diaper Depot continues to operate in the delivery model that was developed in April. Each week, I receive diaper orders by text, purchase the needed supply, and then deliver diapers to individual homes on Wednesday afternoons. About half of those we serve now participated in our program before the pandemic and half are new to the program since April.

Bus Cards

At the beginning of the pandemic, there was no need for bus cards since MetroTransit was offering free rides to everyone. Last month, we restarted our discount bus card program at Mount Olive. Now, if a person needing a bus card is able, I can take the required information from them by text and mail a card to their home. If someone comes to Mount Olive in need of a card, I meet them outside the building, take a photo of the required documentation, register the card from my office, sanitize the card, and then take the card back to the requesting guest wearing gloves and mask.

Financial Assistance

We have continued to provide financial assistance for things like rent and utilities when we can pay either electronically or through the mail. Requests are taken by text and processed each week.

I have transitioned all but the most urgent rent assistance requests to our partner Align MPLS. The amount of money they can pay out is significantly higher than what we are able to do on our own, and since we are an intake congregation (meaning I can take the application myself), I can walk through the whole application with our guests, assemble the required documents on their behalf, and then submit for approval, all in the same conversation, either by phone or text.

Laundry Vouchers

Chicago Lake Laundry reopened in the first week of October and this program, too, has restarted. As with the our bus card program, I take the required documentation by text or other electronic means, print the voucher, and then either mail it or deliver it to the requestor in a safe manner.

Keeping All Saints in the Home

Susan Palo Chernien

In the Western Church, All Saints Day on November 1, All Souls Day on November 2, and All Saints Sunday (first Sunday in November) are all days to remember those who have gone before us, known and unknown, great pillars of the church, and also family and friends. Originally celebrated in the church in the month of May, the celebration of the blessed dead on All Saints was moved to November 1 by Pope Gregory III (ca. 731-741).

There are many ways to keep this festival in the home, from various traditions:

The French place chrysanthemum wreaths on the graves of loved ones.

In Guatemala, kites are flown, to be a "link" between the worlds of the living and the dead.

In England and Ireland, traditional "soul cakes" were baked - a spiced soft cookie with a cross of currants on top. To hear Peter, Paul and Mary sing about soul cakes (who tie the song to Christmas...), go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4NjrBcn0PA>. For a recipe, go to:

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=15536354>.

In many Nordic and Eastern European countries, candles are placed on the graves of the remembered dead.

One could place pictures of departed friends and relatives somewhere in the home with votives in front of them. The following prayer from the funeral liturgy could be said: "Most Holy God, we remember before you today_____. We thank you for giving *her/him/them* to us to know and love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen"

For more activities and recipes, go to fullhomelydivinity.org, an Anglican website, and click on "Customs and Traditions."

Music & Fine Arts Organ Recital Available on YouTube

Did you miss the Music & Fine Arts-sponsored Organ Recital by Catherine Rodland last Sunday?

You can still watch it on Mount Olive's YouTube channel here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4zstdvd>.

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.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

Fax: 612-827-4557

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

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.