

# The Olive Branch

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## SUNDAY READINGS

### Sunday, November 29 First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

### Sunday, December 6 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

*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

### *Advent Midweek liturgy at home*

Under normal circumstances, it is our practice to gather midweek during the seasons of Advent and Lent. This provides us with an opportunity for deeper contemplation and prayer together in these two introspective and preparatory seasons. For liturgy at home use in our pandemic-induced

year of exile, for Advent we offer two forms of observing Advent between Sundays.

1. **An order for prayer in the home.** A brief order of prayer to be used in the home will be provided each week. A simple service of the Word, at the center of this rite are a Scripture reading reflecting the themes of the Sunday of that week, a second reading or poem connected to that Scripture, and an invitation to intercessory prayer. The rite is begun with the lighting of an Advent wreath, or even a simple arrangement of four candles, as the prayer begins. This is suitable for morning or evening prayer, or prayer at the dinner table, and could be used every day during the week if desired.

2. **An audio/video of the ancient prayer office of Compline** (Prayer at the Close of the Day).

This service is the centuries old “bedtime prayer” of the Christian community. It is a 15 minute brief pattern of prayer intended for use just before extinguishing the lights at bedtime. An important dimension to this simple service is in its repetition – the more it is prayed, the more internalized it becomes. This audio/video can be used for prayer once or more each week at the close of your day during Advent. The service will not change during Advent except for an increase of the number of candles lighted on the wreath. The video consists solely of the candles of Mount Olive’s Advent wreath, and the words of the liturgy. Participants may prefer to light the candles of a home Advent wreath rather than viewing it on the video, using only the audio for the prayer office. The more often the service is prayed, you may join in as much as you’d like, or remain a participant through listening alone. For those who might wish to print a copy of the service (with music), a pdf below is provided. Our thanks to singers of the Cantorei for providing this worship aid for Advent. A link to the next week’s Compline liturgy will be sent each Saturday night with the brief order of home prayer, to be available throughout the coming week.

**YouTube link for Compline, week of Advent 1** (this link will be active starting Sunday, November 29): <https://youtu.be/738QhlgrLKY>

[PDF of service for printing](#)



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

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR

##### Wed., Nov. 25

10 am – Staff meeting  
**No Confirmation this day**  
5:30 pm – Children’s Choir  
6:30 pm – Y3 Confirmation

##### Thurs., Nov. 26

**Thanksgiving Day**  
*Church offices closed*

##### Fri., Nov. 27

*Church offices closed*

##### Sun., Nov. 29

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

##### Tues., Dec. 1

Noon – Bible Study

##### Wed., Dec. 2

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

##### Thurs., Dec. 3

6 pm – Thursday Bible Study

## Thanksgiving Offering

For the past number of years, our Thanksgiving Offering has been split evenly between our two food shelf partner organizations, Sabathani Community Center and Community Emergency Service (CES). This year will be no different.

According to Second Harvest Heartland, “before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, 1 in 11 Minnesotans struggled to afford food. Now, 1 in 8 Minnesotans face hunger. [In addition,] stark racial disparities in who is hungry have deepened since the pandemic began. In Minnesota, this means that Black, Latinx, and Indigenous families now experience food insecurity at more than two times the rate of white Minnesotans, with Black Minnesotans facing the worst disparities in consistent access to food.”

Our two food shelf partners are a vital part of a network of food shelves, Meals on Wheels programs, school-based family food organizations, and others that are working to fight hunger in our community.

This year, especially without an in-person opportunity to drop off food, monetary donations are the most useful and go the furthest when put into the hands of our partners. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the work of Mount Olive and our partner organizations.



## 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](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.

## A Light in the Darkness Reflection

*"Gifts of Light: Community, Music and Friendship" ~ Chandler Molbert*

Mount Olive is the first faith community that feels like home to me. It is a congregation open and welcoming to everyone. We live our values the best we can and are always trying to improve. Being a member of Mount Olive makes me a better person; a better husband, father, sibling, son, and friend. I'm not sure in what ways I am a light for others. I hope my joy in being with other people provides light. I hope my love of music provides light. I hope my friendship provides light.

## 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>

If you are unable to click on the link above, try copying and pasting the link in a separate browser tab.

In your email please include:

Your name, your story, and whether you are okay with your name being attributed to your story (Yes, No, okay with sharing but as anonymous). You can also call Consuelo if you do not have electronic access.

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



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## Alternative Gift Giving

The Missions Committee is promoting the idea of alternative gift giving this Christmas. Consider giving a gift from one of these organizations in honor of a loved one. New this year, Mount Olive has its own Common Hope giving tree-online!

<b>Lutheran World Relief</b>	<a href="https://lwr.org/giving-category/gifts">https://lwr.org/giving-category/gifts</a>
<b>Heifer Project International</b>	<a href="http://www.heifer.org">http://www.heifer.org</a>
<b>Bethania Kids</b>	<a href="http://bethaniakids.org/creative-giving-catalog/">http://bethaniakids.org/creative-giving-catalog/</a>
<b>ELCA</b>	<a href="http://www.elca.org/goodgifts">www.elca.org/goodgifts</a>
<b>Common Hope</b>	<a href="http://give.commonhope.org/MountOliveGivingTree">give.commonhope.org/MountOliveGivingTree</a>

### **Mount Olive Lutheran Church is sending HOPE to Guatemala with a Common Hope Giving Tree!**

[Common Hope](#) is working to end generational poverty in Guatemala through a model that utilizes education as the solution. During COVID-19, together, we can meet families' immediate needs and push through this pandemic. Your purchase of a gift from the Common Hope Giving Tree will help Common Hope to continue to provide vital programming for families in Guatemala.

#### **How to participate:**

1. Go to the Common Hope Giving Tree at this link: [give.commonhope.org/MountOliveGivingTree](http://give.commonhope.org/MountOliveGivingTree)
2. Choose your gift(s) and click donate. (You will be able to donate for multiple gifts all at the same time.)
3. Fill out the donation page, selecting the gifts of your choosing.
4. If you wish to have an ornament sent directly to a person besides yourself, check the box to “dedicate my donation” and include their mailing address in the indicated field. Common Hope will send an ornament to this person directly on your behalf.
5. If you do not opt to have the ornament sent to an honoree, you will receive the ornament mailed to your billing address unless otherwise specified.
6. And you're done! You will receive an electronic receipt within minutes to acknowledge your generosity.  
*12/21/2020 is the last day to choose a gift to have an ornament mailed out in 2020. Donations received after 12/18/2020 are not guaranteed to arrive before Christmas.*

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## News From the Art Shoppe

Here is a short list of artists in The Art Shoppe:

- Susan Gainen – prints and cards of whimsical animals
- Carla Brown – necklaces, earrings, precious stones
- Luann Kinzer – scarves and masks
- Kathryn Rosebear – pottery with flora and fauna designs
- Jeff Bergo – wooden bowls and tables
- Kris Hagen – pieced glass objects
- Gayle Ellis, Andrea Martin, Diane May – prints and cards

These nine artists and 60 more will provide you with gifts for others and perhaps for yourself! Soon the Art Shoppe will have an online store.

Come, shop, and support Lake Street!

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## Real Life Theology: Paul helps the Romans – Thursday Bible Study Session Continues

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.

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.

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## Staff Christmas Gifts

As is our tradition, this is the time of year that we gather monetary gifts for our terrific church staff. If you would like to contribute, please either use the offering envelope provided especially for this, or simply note "staff gifts" on your check and send it to the church office. Please have the gifts in by Sunday, December 15.

Thanks for your generosity.

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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://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>

## 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](mailto: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

### 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 December 12 book will be *Out Stealing Horses*, by Per Petterson, and for January 9, 2021. *No Picnic on Mount Kenya*, by Felice Benuzzi.

We are using 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

## National Lutheran Choir Virtual Christmas Festival

The National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival comes to audiences FREE in a virtual, multi-media format on December 11. "The Incarnation: For the Healing of the World" brings music from around the globe announcing the birth of Christ with messages of peace and joy that nothing – not even a pandemic – can take away.

**Friday, December 11, 2020 – 8pm (CST) @ [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com)**

This online presentation is FREE for all. For a Virtual Subscription to exclusive content (\$10/month), visit [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com)

## Keeping Advent in the Home

The season of Advent is a bridge linking the past, present, and future. The church year ends with a looking forward to the fulfillment of all things in the reign of Christ. That future continues into Advent, when we not only remember the coming of Christ in the Child Jesus, but also the coming of Christ in the completion of creation. And there is a third coming, or advent, of Christ that we lift up in these four weeks: the coming of Christ in the Now, in scripture, in communion, in the individual heart. Building on the First Advent Sermon of Bernard of Clairvaux, Martin Luther wrote in a sermon on Psalm 102: "Christ's face is triple: firstly in His first advent when he was made incarnate who as Son of God is the face of the Father...; secondly, in the spiritual advent without which the first is good for nothing - and so one has to recognize his face through faith; thirdly, in the second and last advent when His face will be fully visible." Our task in Advent is to take the path that leads to Christ - in the manger, in the future, in the present world.

Here are a few ways to keep Advent in the home:

- Make an Advent wreath out of evergreens and four blue or white tapers, or by placing four glass votives in a circle on a plate of evergreen cuttings. Light one candle each Sunday in Advent as the season progresses. For short rituals to accompany the lighting of the Advent wreath, go to the website [Full Homely Divinity](#), click on "Customs and Traditions" and go to the left sidebar, "Rediscovering Advent."
- Make a Jesse Tree, honoring the faithful ancestors that prepared the way to the birth of Christ. Take a bare branch or pine bough, and place a symbol of one person on the tree each day, while reading a scripture passage related to that person. (Directions can also be found on the Full Homely Divinity site.)
- Take on a practice of daily praying the prayer offices, to prepare a place in the heart for the coming Christ. This year during Advent, Mount Olive is offering two online opportunities for Daily Prayer. (See separate article.) Abbreviated forms of Morning and Evening prayer are laid out in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for home use. An online daily prayer office can be found at <http://www.missionstclare.com/english/>.
- If you have a crèche with freestanding figures, place the empty stable in a prominent place on Advent I and place Mary and Joseph some distance away; add the animals on Advent II, moving Mary and Joseph closer each week; add the shepherds on Advent III; the manger, on Advent IV. On Christmas Eve, place Mary and Joseph at the manger, and add the Christchild and angels. On Christmas Day, set the three magi some distance away from the stable and move them closer until January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany.
- Try to save Christmas carols for the twelve days of Christmas. There are many beautiful Advent hymns and recordings.

## Fair Trade Sale

The Missions Committee is continuing the tradition hosting a Fair Trade Sale—virtually this year! Mount Olive members and friends can use this custom link: <https://www.serrv.org/?a=MountOlive> to buy handmade gifts through SERV International. By using this special link 20% of all purchases will be donated to the Bethania Foundation in India, one of Mount Olive's long supported missions. The 20% of proceeds from your purchases will be going to help furnish the Shalom Home. This Bethania Kids' home for 48 girls is under construction and will be completed soon (The girls are currently living in a small, rented facility). Our goal is to provide the dining room with plates, bowls, glasses and utensils—50 @ \$5.00 per child = \$250.

The Fair Trade Sale link is active from November 16-December 14. Be sure when you are shopping that you see this orange banner at the top of the page. Orders need to be placed online and can't be retroactively included. Click the link on the cover page of the Olive Branch to see some of the unique items made by artisans in developing regions around the world.

20% of your online order today will be donated to Bethania Foundation

Global food items are also available through SERV. If you prefer the coffee, cocoa, and chocolate of the Equal Exchange program, which we have also had in the past, you can order those items here. <https://equalexchange.coop/>



*Mount Olive members looking at the site last year before construction started.*



*The Shalom Home now under construction.*



**Mount Olive Lutheran Church**  
3045 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

**Contact Us**

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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](#)

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