

The Olive Branch



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SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, January 17

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalms 139:1-6; 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 24

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalms 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:13-20

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

Vicar Andrea Bonneville

Samuel's Call

Begin with reading 1 Samuel 3:1-20.

Samuel's call to ministry is risky and it is bold.

Samuel is sleeping in the temple where he works. Suddenly he hears a voice calling his name. He mistakenly assumes that this is the voice of his boss, Eli. Eager to provide care for his boss, he goes to his side but is turned away—Eli did not call him. Then Samuel is called again and he returns to Eli's side. Eli informs him that he did not call him and tells him that if the voice calls out again to respond with "speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."

So Samuel lays back down and soon he hears the voice calling out again and proclaims, "speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."

God speaks to Samuel, but it probably isn't a message Samuel wants to hear. God's message to Samuel is a message of judgement against Eli because Eli and his family have abused their positions of power and oppressed vulnerable people in their community.

This message shakes Samuel and it keeps him awake all night long. In the morning, Eli calls for Samuel and asks him what he heard. Samuel was hesitant to share the vision.

Imagine how difficult it must have been to be in Samuel's shoes and to hear about the judgement that is going to happen to someone you care about. Eli is a mentor to Samuel.

Yet, Samuel boldly proclaims what he heard from God and speaks God's truth to power.

We learn from Samuel that speaking truth to power includes speaking truth to the power that has nurtured us. Speaking truth to power includes speaking truth to the people whom we love. Speaking truth to power includes speaking truth that challenges our very own ways of operating in society.

Accent on Worship, continued on page 2

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., Jan. 13

10 am – Staff meeting
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation
6:30 pm – Y3 Confirmation

Sun., Jan. 17

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

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

Tues., Jan 19

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., Jan. 20

10 am – Staff meeting
5:30 pm – Children's Choir

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

We also learn from Eli. For if we are in positions of power and privilege, we like Eli also must be willing to listen to how God is speaking to us through our community. Eli was open to hearing the truth, even if it was not the message he wanted to hear.

Just one week ago when the insurrection took place at our Capital, we were reminded again of our calling to speak to truth to power for the sake of our world and our neighbors. We must be bold and we must take risks. We must also listen.

Samuel's call story emphasizes how God is calling us now.

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-20 again and ask yourself: How will I listen? How will I speak?

- *Vicar Andrea*

Common Hope Giving Tree



Thanks to all the Mount Olive members and friends who gave to our Mount Olive Giving Tree for Common Hope in Guatemala-\$846! If you would still like to donate, you can do so at

<https://give.commonhope.org/give/57529/#!/donation/checkout>

Check out this thank you video Common Hope made for us!

<https://video214.com/play/A0hqxAy0PYVUeeo2TRAawQ/s/dark>

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.

Devotional Booklets Available

The newest edition of *Christ in Our Home* (January-March 2021) have arrived in the church office and have been mailed to all who requested them last time.

If you would like this devotional booklet mailed to you, please contact the church office and we will send one out.

Staying in Touch

Are you moving? Have you recently moved?

Don't forget to share your updated contact information (address, phone number, email) with the church office.

During this time when we don't have the opportunity to see or speak with each other in person, it's more important than ever for your friends to be able to reach you.

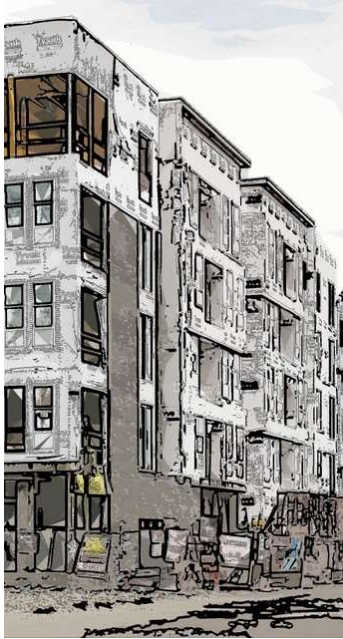
The church directory has been updated online and in paper format. If you would like an updated directory mailed to you, contact the church office. Likewise, if you are having trouble accessing the online directory, call the church office and we will help to get you connected.

Children's Choir to "ReZOOM" January 20

Mari Espeland will be resuming choir time on Zoom on Wednesday, January 20, from 5:30 to 6:00. They will continue each week until the end of April.

The program is for 3-year-olds up to second grade. Participants from last fall will automatically receive the email with links for joining these sessions. For those who wish to join in, contact Cantor Cherwien.

Building Our Home



Building Our Home is an initiative of Mount Olive, building on the work of our Housing Task Force, that seeks to build our home, the Twin Cities, as we literally build homes for the most vulnerable in our community. Partnering with three non-profit developers, Building Our Home will leverage the resources of congregations, individuals, and community organizations to build over 2100 units of affordable and supportive housing.

The Initiative

Though the work of our housing task force, Mount Olive has existing relationships with three non-profit affordable housing developers, Beacon Interfaith, Aeon, and Alliance Housing. Each of these organizations has a list of in-progress projects awaiting funding. Private donations and money from the State of Minnesota through bonding are two of the most significant sources of funding for affordable housing.

The total funding goal for Building Our Home is 21.3 million dollars. Though our Neighborhood Ministry leadership, Mount Olive is seeking partnerships with its Twin Cities sister congregations of the Evangelical Church of America, along with other faith communities, organizations, and individuals.

In addition to opportunities to participate financially, there will be opportunities for members to participate in advocacy work with our elected leaders.

The Ask

For you, Mount Olive family, there are two primary ways for you to get involved in Building Our Home.

First, financially. We have set a goal of finding 26,000 individuals, representing the active membership of our 252 Twin Cities ELCA sister congregations, to donate to this effort. With this number of participants, we would reach our goal with a donation of \$338 per person. Over the next year, are you able to contribute \$338 per person in your family? If so, you can go to the Mount Olive web site and on the donation page, we have set up a dedicated account for Building Our Home. If you prefer to send a physical check, your offering envelope pack contains a special pink Neighborhood Ministry Offering envelope. If you use this envelope, and mark the Housing Support line, your donation will go toward this effort. If you are not able to contribute this amount, consider an amount that works for you - even \$1 or \$10 or \$20. Many hands make light work of a large goal.

Second, talk to others about this effort. Many in the Twin Cities have expressed concern about the lack of affordable housing for our most vulnerable. We are looking for support from individuals, businesses, really anyone who has a passion for helping ensure others have safe, affordable housing.

Housing is one key piece in helping address many of our society's most pressing issues from racial inequality to economic insecurity to violence and crime prevention. This initiative will have a big impact on the availability of affordable housing in our home.

Final, Final Bible Study in Session Tomorrow Evening

The final session of the Thursday Bible study series on Romans is this week on **Thursday, Jan.147**. The time of the study is 6:00 p.m., and should last about 90 minutes. The last session needed to be split into two for content, so this will be the true final session of this study.

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 is 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>



Fair Trade Sale

Thanks to all who purchased gifts at the Missions Committee's Virtual Fair Trade Sale. We were able to provide the Bethania Kids' Shalom Home with plates, bowl, glasses and utensils with the proceeds from your purchases! If you would still like to donate to Bethania Kids and provide furnishings for this home for 48 girls in India, you can do so at <https://bethaniakids.org/donate/furnish-the-new-shalom-home/>

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 (9-9:30 for the kids' room)**. 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 three 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

Cupcakes & Cookies - Kids' room

9:00-9:30 a.m.

<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.

On February 13, they will discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, and on March 13, *Never Let Me Go*, by Kazuo Ishiguro.

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

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Julia Adams; James Wilkes; Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Kandi Jo Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; Christine Walberg; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; *Jodi Royce*, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; *Kjell Thompson*; relative of Nancy Anderson; *Danna Nelson, Jacques*, friends of Jim Bargmann; *Tom McCarr*, friend of Keith Bartz; *Arthur Kaemmer*, friend of David Bryce; *Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling*, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; *Lela Frazier*, sister of Irene Campbell; *Klarrisa Ramirez*, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; *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; *Lynn Kernkamp*, friend of Peggy Hoeft; *Tami Huisinga*, relative of Wes Huisinga; *Craig Cunningham*, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; *Donald Johnson*, father of Nicholas Johnson; *Bob Adamson*, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; *Nicole Sanders, Ann Clark, James Alexander, and Susan Douglass*, daughter, friends and relative of Mary Rose Kaliher; *Danielle Pitzen*, friend of Ellen Kormanik; *Barbara Dahl*, sister of Carla Manuel; *Dani Olson, Harper Linquist, 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 Austad*, sister of Jerry Ostlund; *Jay Heffern*, friend of Gary Pagel; *Jerry Baack and Todd Erickson*, friends of Jean & Doug Parish; *Steve Swanson*, friend of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; *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 Alvis*, niece 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 Wiechman*, son of Grace Wiechman; *Kianna Crump*, niece of James Wilkes; *Patrick Clark, Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Annie Hose-Ryan, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Marcia Van Gorden*, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; *Anne-Marie Lundberg*, cousin of Eric Zander; *Judy Bonnes and family, Tommie and Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson*, friends of Mount Olive.

At the death of: *Doug Erhard*, nephew of Evelyn Royce.

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 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 Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

