

# The Olive Branch

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Accent on Worship 1
- Lumina Stream Available 2
- Lenten Fellowship 3
- Building Our Home 4
- Bible Studies Links 5
- Virtual Coffee Hour 6
- In Our Prayers 7

**SUNDAY READINGS**

**Sunday, February 28**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
 Psalm 22:23-31  
 Romans 4:13-25  
 Mark 8:31-38

**Sunday, March 7**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**  
 Exodus 20:1-17  
 Psalm 19  
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
 John 2:13-22

*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.*

## Accent on Worship

***Pastor Joseph Crippen***

***Hoping against hope***

“No distrust made Abraham waver concerning the promise of God,” Paul says in our reading from Romans for Sunday. How can Paul claim that? Abraham never doubted that a child would come, even though he was a century old and his wife only a few years doubted he would receive the land promised him, even though at his death he owned only a burial cave?

No, we can safely disregard Abraham’s perfect faith as the hyperbole of Paul’s passionate argument. Scripture itself shows Abraham’s more realistic, human faith and doubt. Paul seems to know this himself, as we also will hear Sunday: “Hoping against hope,” Abraham believed, Paul says. Yes. That’s more encouraging. And true.

With so much that frightens and confuses in our world, so much that seems beyond our ability to repair, so much that is uncertain, we do not need to admire forebears in faith that never doubted, never wavered. They are no help to us. But if they hoped against hope? Yes, we know what that’s like. Trusting God’s healing of this world even though we have yet to see God’s fulfillment of that promises? Yes, that’s our daily truth.

As we wait for God’s coming in our world, aiding us in our attempts to be faithful and work for God’s justice, we wait with the same hope as Abraham, sharing the same faith and doubt he had, and trusting that the God who was faithful so many thousands of years ago remains faithful and will do what is promised.

We hope against hope. And Abraham surely understands and approves.

In the name of Jesus,




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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Wed., Feb. 24**

10 am – Staff meeting  
Noon – Lenten Fellowship  
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation  
5:30 pm – Children’s Choir  
6:45 pm – Y3 Confirmation  
Noon – Lenten Fellowship

**Sun., Feb. 28*****Second Sunday in Lent***

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

**Tues., Mar. 2**

Noon – Bible Study

**Wed., Mar. 3**

10 am – Staff meeting  
Noon – Lenten Fellowship  
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation  
5:30 pm – Children’s Choir  
6:45 pm – Y3 Confirmation  
Noon – Lenten Fellowship

## Lumina Concert to be Available Until March 21

If you could not watch last Sunday’s concert by Lumina, “The Veil and the Thorn,” it will be available for viewing at your convenience until March 21.

Lumina’s performers for this concert were Angela Grundstad, soprano, Clara Osowski, mezzo-soprano, and Linda Kachelmeier, alto and Artistic Director. Also performing with them was special guest, Laura Sewell, cello.

The concert can be accessed by visiting Mount Olive’s YouTube channel at [https://youtu.be/DLm4AHm0\\_10](https://youtu.be/DLm4AHm0_10). You can also click the link on the home page of Mount Olive’s website: [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org).

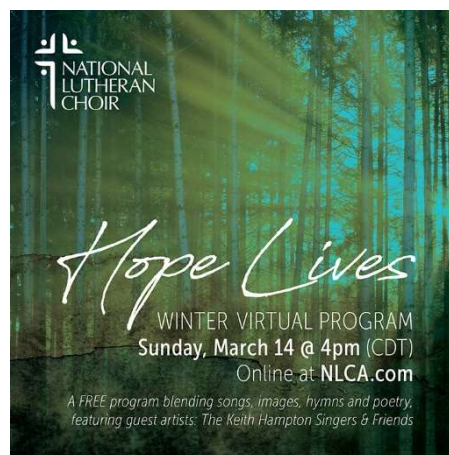
## NLC Virtual Hymn Festival: Hope Lives!

Join the National Lutheran Choir and guest artists, the Keith Hampton Singers, for a FREE virtual program blending spoken reflections, songs and familiar hymns of joy and hope with new music that speaks to our present time, inviting all people of faith to sing in joy *together!*

**Sunday, March 14 @ 4pm (Central Daylight Time) @ [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)



## 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.

## Words for the Journey: Midweek Lenten Fellowship

On Wednesday afternoons or/and evenings during Lent (Feb. 24 – Mar. 24) from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. or/and 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., all are invited to gather online via Zoom to spend time in community and in reflection. Each week, Vicar Bonneville will introduce a word for reflection and provide a centering scripture reading. The time will begin in large group format and then break out into smaller groups for continued discussion/reflection and check-in with others as a way to be in community during this time.

Participate in this meeting via Zoom using this information. Either click the link, type in the meeting ID and passcode, or dial in by phone typing and typing in the meeting ID and passcode.

Join Zoom Meeting via Computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87426647181?pwd=QkprQ0I5bnVWUUhNEdGaWxnTjlzQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 2664 7181 Passcode: 031492

Join Zoom Meeting via Phone - Dial: 1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 874 2664 7181 Passcode: 031492

Note: If you are new to Zoom, contact Vicar Bonneville ([vicar@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:vicar@mountolivechurch.org)) and she will help you set it up.

## Christ In Our Home

The next quarter (April - June, 2021) of the *Christ In Our Home* devotional booklet have arrived in the church office.

They have been mailed to all who have previously requested them.

If you have previously request-ed a copy of this devotional booklet and have not yet received it, or if you haven't requested one before and would like one sent to you, please call the church office and we will be happy to send one to you.

## Building Our Home



This week's question and answer: **Who are our partners in this effort? Part One of Three.**

Building Our Home is an effort in cooperation with three non-profit housing developers, Beacon Interfaith, Aeon, and Alliance Housing. Over the next three weeks, this space will highlight one of those three organizations.

This week, Beacon Interfaith. Beacon Interfaith is a collaborative made up of over 100 congregations of various faiths working together to achieve great things. Beacon, as a collaborative organization, seeks to create new homes, sustain stable homes, shelter families, and change systems through advocacy work. They do all this under the vision that all people have the right to a home. The collaborative has developed 19 affordable and supportive housing properties throughout the Twin Cities with 4 more in progress, established family shelters within hosting congregations, and worked to change policy at the state and local level around housing and shelter.

For more information, you are invited to visit their web site at: <https://www.beaconinterfaith.org>

As a part of the work done by the Mount Olive Housing Task force, members of Mount Olive had the opportunity (pre-pandemic) to tour Nicollet Square, a Beacon developed property, focused on providing housing and supportive services to formerly homeless young people.

### The Initiative

Working with three non-profit affordable housing developers, Beacon Interfaith, Aeon, and Alliance Housing, Mount Olive is working to build over 2100 units of affordable and supportive housing with a funding goal of 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.

### The Ask

If you are able, we are asking for your support in two ways.

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.

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.



## 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](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

**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.

For March 13, they will read *Never Let Me Go*, by Kazuo Ishiguro, and for April 10 the book is *The Good Lord Bird*, by James McBride.

They 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

## Regular link to the Tuesday Noon Bible Study

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>



## 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](http://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](#)

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### **In This Issue:**

- Accent on Worship – Pastor Joseph Crippen
- Lumina Concert Stream Available
- Building Our Home Update
- Lenten Online Fellowship: Wednesdays in Lent
- Books Discussion and Bible Study Links