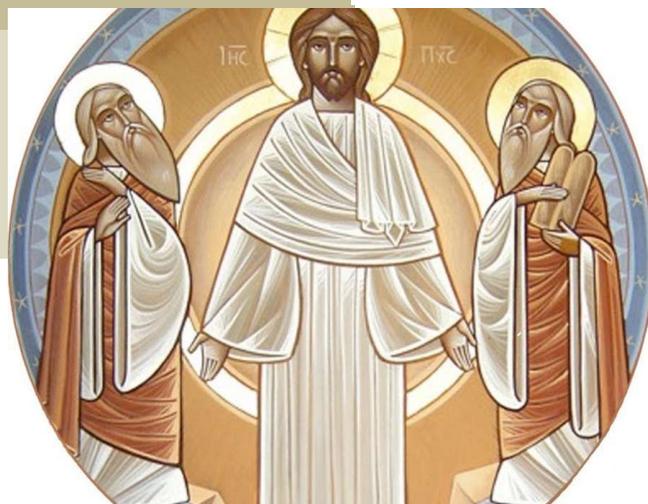


The Olive Branch



IN THIS ISSUE:

Accent on Worship	1
Worship Packets Available	2
Stewardship Information	3
Building Our Home	4
Bible Studies Links	5
Virtual Coffee Hour	6
In Our Prayers	7

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, February 14 *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Sunday, February 21 *First Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 9-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

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

Our God comes and does not keep silence. Have we been listening?

On the Presentation of the Lord, I briefly shared about my amateur bird watching days with my grandparents. My grandparents were the first people to teach me about the songs of the birds. Birds have been a source of joy and divine presence for me since my childhood.

Yet as a young child it took me a while to get the hang of birdwatching. When I would hear a bird singing, I would frantically search for the location of the bird. My grandpa would calmly say to me, “just wait and listen” and soon my body would calm. He would tell me, “identify with your ears first” and I would listen to really hear the song.

If I could identify the bird with my ears first, then I was more likely to be able to find it either gathering seeds, perched near the trunk of a tree, or hiding deep within a pine or cedar. Listening to the song gave me context for where to look with my eyes.

When reading the Psalm for this week, I kept focusing in on verse three, “Our God will come and will not keep silence; with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.” (Psalm 50:3).

Our God comes and does not keep silence. God is breaking into our midst to show us God’s mercy, justice, and steadfast love. God is working all around us to transform the world. These bold statements can become overwhelming to us. Where? When? How? we ask.

But as my amateur bird watching days and my grandpa taught me, sometimes we won’t be able to identify the devouring fire and wind around us as God. Yet, if we find a way to calm our bodies and listen, we will hear God acting in our world and calling us beloved.

- *Vicar Andrea*

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., Feb. 10

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

Saturday, Feb. 13

10 am – Book Discussion

Sun., Feb. 14

Transfiguration of Our Lord

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

Mon., Feb. 15

6:30 pm – Worship Committee

Tues., Feb. 16

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., Feb. 17

Ash Wednesday

10 am – Staff meeting
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation
No Children’s Choir this evening
6:45 pm – Y3 Confirmation

Worship Materials Packets

When Christ's people gather to worship, it is a multi-sensory experience. We use our blessed bodies and all five of our senses in encountering God: singing, praying, listening, kneeling, touching. We feel the drops of baptismal water on our faces, we hear the singing of our neighbors, we see the beauty of icons, the light of candles, we smell the incense, we taste the bread and wine. Much of that multi-sensory experience is hard, if not impossible, to transmit through the worship videos that the Mount Olive staff and ministers are so carefully and beautifully constructing for the use of the community each week. And so the Worship Committee has decided to assemble and make available packets of liturgy materials to aid parishioners in at-home worship, especially for the upcoming holy days of the Presentation and the Transfiguration, for Shrovetide, Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent. Among the materials included in the packets will be candles, incense, ashes, and recipes, as well as multi-age activities related to the liturgies.

The packets are available for pick-up in the chapel lounge at church. If you would like to receive a packet but cannot get to the church to pick one up, please notify Dan Hellerich at worship@mountolivechurch.org, and a time will be arranged to drop one off to you.

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts Presents ...

... the women's ensemble “Lumina,” in a live-streamed concert performed at Mount Olive on **February 21, 2021 at 4:00 pm.**

In a program, entitled “The Veil and the Thorn,” Lumina explores mystery, beauty, and hope in music spanning centuries, creating a richly diverse program for Lent. From Byzantine chant by Kassia, one of the first known female composers, to well-loved pieces by Bach and Vaughan Williams, to newer works by living and local composers, these radiant voices will help illuminate even our darkest days.

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

Don't miss it! Go to the following YouTube link on February 21 at 4:00 p.m.: https://youtu.be/DLm4AHm0_10. You can also click the link on the home page of Mount Olive’s website: www.mountolivechurch.org. The link will not become live until the time of the concert.

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.

Words for the Journey: Lenten Fellowship

On Wednesday evenings during Lent (Feb. 24 – Mar. 24) from 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=QkprQ0I5bnVWWUhtNEdGaWxnTjJzQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 2664 7181

Passcode: 031492

Join Zoom Meeting via Phone: Dial 1 312 626 6799

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

Building Our Home



This week's question and answer: **What is Supportive Housing?**

Building Our Home seeks to build housing in two defined categories - supportive and affordable. This week and next, we will provide the actual definitions of those terms.

The best and most succinct definition we have found comes from the Minnesota Housing, a department of our State government.

“Supportive housing, in its broadest definition, is affordable housing linked with social services tailored to the needs of the population being housed. The goal of supportive housing is to provide affordable housing with access to an array of services designed to foster housing stability and improve health and quality of life for the population to be served... Supportive housing is available to individuals and families with multiple barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing, including those who are homeless and those with mental illness, substance abuse disorders and other disabilities.”

The services provided in many supportive housing communities, including those built by our partner organizations, include mental health counseling, substance abuse supports, employment counseling, financial literacy programs, and more.

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.

Taste of Take-Out is This Week, February 7-14



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

This is the week to try new take-out, to support Lutheran World Relief (LWR), and to learn about its work in four countries. Each February the missions committee hosts a “Taste of (one of our mission partners)”. This year we virtually celebrate and support the work of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in fighting Covid-19 around the world and at the same time support our immigrant neighbor restaurateurs.

We hope that you are having fun, learning, and giving—all at the same time. (But if this week just doesn’t work for you, please feel free to participate another week—and let us know.) On Sunday Sheri Nelson and her mom Rhoda were the first to send their participation review. Sheri said, “I picked up take-out from Byblos Lebanese Grill [now on the restaurant map]...and I dropped food off for Mom at the entrance to the retirement home where she lives. We had stuffed grape leaves and baba ghanooi for appetizers, and chicken kabobs with rice pilaf and house salad...it was delicious.”

Daily TWIGs will help your family appreciate what our partnership with LWR can mean for families around the world. Here’s an idea from LWR when we told them about our plan: Let the restaurants know about our celebration and how they are a part of it. If you let us know what restaurants you visited, we will send a note to them thanking them for being a part of our community.

You can contribute to Lutheran World Relief and designate your contribution in any one of three easy ways.

1. Go to the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) website: <http://bit.ly/LWR-Donate> When you donate make sure to note “Taste of Take-Out” in the comment section. LWR was very excited to hear about our event, and they will track our on-line contributions if you note that you are participating in “Taste of Take-Out”.
2. Use your regular blue missions envelope for your Mount Olive contribution and note “Taste of Take-Out” on the front of the envelope and on your check memo before mailing it to Mount Olive.
3. Use Mount Olive’s on-line donation button on our website: <http://bit.ly/MtO-Donate> and designate your donation for “Missions”. All mission contributions received between February 7-21 will be contributed to Lutheran World Relief.

And then don’t forget to take a picture or video of your celebration so that we can all share in the fun. Send your photos and videos to missions@mountolivechurch.org and we’ll pass them along.

To see all of the recommended the restaurants on a map, check out this link courtesy of Missions committee member Mark Pipkorn. <http://bit.ly/Taste-of-Take-Out>



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

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>

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Evelyn Royce; Julia Adams; Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; Christine Walberg; James Wilkes; 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; *Sara Brunette*, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; *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; *Ann Clark*, friend 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; *Ellen Katsoulis*, friend of Carol Martinson; *Jan McCuen*, mother of Matt McCuen; *Martha Johnson*, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; *Janet Freeburg*, friend of Lisa Nordeen; *James Hagen*, son-in-law of George & Marlys Oelfke; *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; *Kathryn Glick*, aunt/godmother of Kathy Thurston; *Steve Swanson*, friends 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; *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.

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

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 Chernvien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)



Transfiguration is a 1604-1605 oil on canvas painting of the Gospel episode the Transfiguration of Jesus by Peter Paul Rubens, now in the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nancy.