

The Olive Branch

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Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

Hope lives

Have you noticed a difference in people’s moods most recently? This weekend, I walked around Lake of the Isles amongst a pretty large number of others (keeping our distance, of course). Traffic is getting more congested, people just seem to be “out.” And they are happy. Spring has its own way of bringing that about, but it’s more intensely so this year.



SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, March 21
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 28
Sunday of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1—15:47

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.

Another thing I find exciting is all the chatter about vaccinations. More and more people I know are finding the vaccination shot. I even found one myself! It’s not just anecdotal, or distant news. It’s happening – to people we know. Along with that, our ability to widen our face-to-face circle continues to increase.

What all this does is give us hope. There is so much we have been missing, not the least of which is our ability to form an assembly each week (or more) to sing together, to celebrate the Eucharist together, to learn more about God’s Word, to pray together. As a liturgical Cantor, Paul Manz talked about the circle of energy: He presented his creative enticement to the congregation in the hymn prelude, the people got “excited and returned that energy in their singing” which encouraged him to do more, them to sing more, and so on. This does happen when we gather for these things. We literally energize each other.

Yet, I have not been a part of live assembly singing since March 1, 2020 (Lent 1, and the Lent Procession Service). I had no idea that was the last hymn with a live assembly I would be a part of for over a year. I’ve often thought, as one Mount Olive person said it so ably; “We should prepare for, care for, and savor each liturgy we gather for as we would our highly anticipated first, or as if it were our last.”

So the day when we will be able to celebrate our “first” gathering for liturgy is now in the sightline. It WILL happen. Precisely when is difficult to know the way this pandemic has unfolded. But it is getting closer – we do know that.

We are called to be patient. Resuming our gatherings too soon could be very harmful to others. Indeed – yesterday’s headlines were about a new surge in Europe, which is in the midst of another retreat from public gatherings. That could happen on this continent too, which is one of the reasons for the urgency of getting vaccinations.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., Mar. 17

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

Sun., March 21

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Tues., Mar. 23

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., Mar. 24

11 am – Staff meeting
Noon – Lenten Fellowship
5:30 pm – Children’s Choir
7 pm – Lenten Fellowship

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Nevertheless, resuming gathering for worship WILL happen. Hope for that does indeed live. We want be patient to do so that when we do, those who want to can assemble fully: with singing, Eucharist, bowing the Peace of Christ to each other, and so on.

Conversations at Mount Olive have indeed begun about when this might be. The leadership is tackling this question. Having been at some of these meetings, I know you will be hearing more very soon. The precise “when” is such a shifting target, and as most things for us, we want to wait for when we can do it right. We know many of you are hungry for the Eucharist. We know that many miss our singing so much. Please hear this expression of hope: that day WILL come, and until then we must be patient as to not force something prematurely, or equally bad, do it poorly or half-baked.

Meanwhile, I hope you still join me in singing Sundays and midweek virtually. We can still hear God’s Word and pray together as always. We do what we must until we get our new start assembling in a different way. But what a day filled with the Spirit that will be when we can gather in person!

Hang in there. Hope lives.

- *Cantor David Chernien*

Holy Week, Triduum and Easter video schedule

The worship committee and staff have been meeting and talking a great deal about when we can expect to open for in-person worship and will soon send out a longer message about that. But we are approaching Holy Week, and you need to know what will be happening. Because Holy Week, the celebration of the Triduum, and the Easter festival (March 28 – April 4) are the height of our liturgical year, we have decided not to make these days the time when some of us can return while others must wait.

We will be sending videos for the following at home liturgies on these dates. (CDs will be made of all these liturgies and sent to those receiving the Sunday CDs. Let the church office know if you’d like to be added to that list. We hope to get CDs for Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday into the mail by Monday of Holy Week.) Also, palms will be available for distribution, as well as a couple other helps for worshipping in the home during this time. Watch for announcement of that very soon.

All videos will be sent by email (and on the Mount Olive website) at the time listed here.

Sunday of the Passion – Sunday, March 28, at 7:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 1, at 12:00 p.m.

Good Friday – The Way of the Cross (noon liturgy), Friday, April 2, at 11:00 a.m.

Good Friday – Adoration of the Cross (evening liturgy), Friday, April 2, at 5:00 p.m.

Vigil of Easter – Saturday, April 3, 5:00 p.m.

Resurrection of Our Lord – Sunday, April 4, 7:00 a.m.

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.



Former Interim Cantor to be Ordained March 20

William Beckstrand, who served Mount Olive as Interim Cantor for three months during Cantor Cherwien's 2013 sabbatical, will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, March 20, at 1:00 pm.

Bill has received a call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Hovland, Minnesota.

For those who wish to attend virtually, the ordination will be livestreamed via [this link](#). It will also be available on Trinity's website at [this link](#).

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=QkprQ0I5bnVWUhtNEdGZWxhTjZlZQT09>

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) and she will help you set it up.

Diaper Depot Update

While the vast majority of our Neighborhood Ministry programs and initiatives have continued in the pandemic, albeit in modified form, our Diaper Depot program has undergone some significant and profound changes that will likely continue post-pandemic.

When the pandemic first hit, it was clear that our normal way of operating the Diaper Depot, where participants from all over the Twin Cities would come to Mount Olive to purchase subsidized cost diapers, would not be safe for either volunteers or our neighbors. We moved first to a model where participants could request diapers via an order form while standing on the sidewalk and volunteers would bring the diapers up to the requestor outside the building. As we learned more about the transmissibility of COVID-19, we determined that even this amount of contact and exchange of products and money, along with the unpredictability of the weather, made this model unsustainable. We transitioned to a model where participants could text their orders to a dedicated number and diapers could be delivered to program participants' homes. This is the model we currently operate under. Logistically, this model actually works better than our previous way of operating - we no longer have to stock what we expect families will want but rather, we can purchase what is actually needed. In addition, two wonderful side benefits of this model have emerged. First, delivering diapers to family homes gives me an opportunity to see where our people live - to see their homes (at least from the outside) and the neighborhoods in which they live. It has also afforded the opportunity for more conversation, more interaction, than our previous model. Of course, all the interaction is outdoors, masked and socially distant! But, under our previous model, we operated much like a store and interactions were very transactional. Under this new model, interactions, while short, are much warmer, more open, less retail. Second, this model has opened up the option of providing for other needs without the creation of a new program. When other needs, like cleaning supplies, baby formula, food, or even rent help, are made known, one visit can provide for all of those needs, rather than requiring neighbors multiple contacts with multiple agencies.

And, we have realized two other blessings from the pandemic operation of the Diaper Depot. First, the rarity of what we do. While there are a small number of other organizations that help with diapers, the Mount Olive program is the broadest and most accessible to the widest variety of families. Others are limited by geography, background of the families, or age of the children. Currently, Mount Olive does not have any of those restrictions. We serve families from a variety of backgrounds. We are currently providing diapers for children just coming home from the hospital to age 3 and in the midst of toilet training. Our delivery area currently covers an area from Golden Valley in the west to Eagan in the east; from Fridley in the north to Apple Valley in the south.

Second, the generosity of our community has been remarkable. You, our Mount Olive community, have continued to support our work through donations of money, diapers, and household cleaning supplies, for which we are so grateful. Our fellow congregations in the Align Mpls coalition have also recognized what we are doing and have graciously provided donations of diapers, cleaning supplies, and more to support this work that is unique in this interfaith network.

So finally, here is my request: **Can you join me in this work?** Ideally, I would like to add 3 or 4 delivery drivers to our diaper depot program. Currently, we deliver diapers on Wednesday afternoons. Each driver would be given 4 to 5 stops to make. Routes would be preplanned for you and sorted by geography; diaper boxes would be presorted and marked, and training would be provided. Please email me at neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org if you are interested in joining me in this powerful and unique program.

- Jim Bargmann



Building Our Home

This week... an update and a celebration.

As of this week, we have reached 8.4% of our Mount Olive goal for this effort! Thank you to all of you who have generously supported this project so far.

Specifically, we have now received contributions totaling \$6376 with an overall goal of \$76,050 from members and friends of Mount Olive.

Of course, our overall goal is much bigger - \$21.3 million - but we are pursuing significant partnerships with other Twin Cities congregations and organizations.

As we continue to work toward our goal - both as Mount Olive and the larger Building Our Home goal - I would invite you to one, consider a contribution of your own; two, if you have contacts at companies or other area organizations, we welcome contributions from corporate and non-profit sources as well; and three, if you have contacts in area faith communities, talk about Building Our Home with them and give them my contact information.

Together, we can accomplish this big goal and make a real difference in the Twin Cities affordable housing picture.

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. Through 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.



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.

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>

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; Lisa Nordeen; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; 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; *Bob Adamson*, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; *Ann Clark*, friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; *Danielle Pitzzen*, 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; *Michael Waechter*, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; *Kathleen Austad*, sister of Jerry Ostlund; *Jay Heffern*, friend of Gary Pagel; *Kathryn Glick*, aunt/godmother of Kathy Thurston; *Sue Smith and Steve Swanson*, friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; *Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesber Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams*, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; *Leila Jeffers*, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; *Miranda Ahvis*, niece of Tim Sneer; *Carrie*, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; *Peg Boyle*, mother of Amy Thompson; *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.