



# The Olive Branch

## SUNDAY READINGS

**Sunday, May 2**  
***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

**Sunday, May 9**  
***Sixth Sunday of Easter***

Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

*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

*Jim Bargmann*

I will admit to being ridiculously excited that I get to write an Accent on Worship on the week Acts 8:26-40 is one of our chosen readings. For me, this text has both personal and professional significance. For the sake of space, I will not reprint the whole text here, but I urge you to read this passage as an accompaniment to your reading of this article.

Personally, I have experienced the kind of Holy Spirit prompting that led Philip to start off on this walk and begin conversation with this unnamed eunuch. I will not claim to get it right every time, but it is a powerful thing to come to know and recognize the voice of the Spirit saying, “hey - go over there” or “go talk to that person” and then seeing what God will do though that conversation.

Professionally, this story illustrates a wonderful progression that forms a foundation for a significant part of neighborhood ministry.

First, there is the prompting. The writer of Acts attributes the prompting to “an angel of the Lord.” Whether an angel or the Holy Spirit, regardless, it is clear the prompting is coming from God’s own self. Through experiences we are not privileged to know about, Philip has come to recognize this voice. I would argue that the voice of the Spirit is most recognizable when we, first, take time to listen - to be attentive. And along with that, spending regular time in God’s word through reading, prayer, singing, and listening, on our own and in community, helps us to recognize and distinguish God’s voice from others that may enter our thoughts.

Second, there is an action. Philip does what he hears God say. This may sometimes be the most difficult part. It is easy to dismiss what we sense God saying for other priorities on the task list. I’ve been there. But Philip acts, beginning a journey of unknown length. Acts only tells us that the upcoming encounter takes place on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza - which is a significant trip - not that Philip actually

*Accent on Worship, continued on page 6*

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

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR

##### Wed., April 28

11 am – Staff meeting  
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation  
5:30 pm – Children’s Choir  
(final until fall)  
6:45 pm – Y3 Confirmation

##### Sat. May 1

9 am – Spring Clean Up Day  
1 pm – Prayer Shawl Group  
online meeting

##### Sun., May 2

##### *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

7 am – Worship at a Distance  
9 & 11 am – Virtual  
Coffee Hour

##### Tues., May 4

Noon – Bible Study

##### Wed., May 5

11 am – Staff meeting  
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation  
6:00 pm – Vicar Committee  
6:45 pm – Y3 Confirmation

## Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

covers the whole distance. But he goes. And he again listens to the Spirit (this time, the Spirit is attributed with the prompting) and joins an Ethiopian eunuch in his chariot.

I think it worthwhile to at least acknowledge that this person Philip is prompted to visit is somehow a believer and worshipper of the God of the Hebrews - he has made a significant journey to worship this God and is now returning home. However, by the old covenant laws, this person would have been twice excluded from regular fellowship in the Jewish community, once because of ancestry and twice because of his status as a eunuch (Deuteronomy 23:1). He also likely has a much darker complexion than Philip or many others living around Jerusalem. He was likely black. But he was a neighbor (Luke 10) and that is enough.

Third, Philip engages this person in conversation, answering his questions about Scripture, which then prompts a request for baptism. For many, perhaps some of you, if you were to mirror your actions on those of Philip, this may be the most terrifying portion. Please don’t let it be so. The same encouragement I gave above - spending time in Scripture through reading, prayer, singing, and hearing - provides a foundation which the Spirit herself can use in these conversations, inspiring you with the words and actions needed.

I pray that this story can serve for you as a powerful illustration of how God can choose to work in us as we interact with our neighbors on a daily basis. I pray that you will join me in listening for the Spirit’s prompting and be willing to take action, guided by that same Spirit. Sometimes that action might look like giving diapers, a bottle of water, a sandwich, help with a house project, or simply a warm greeting on the sidewalk - but with the Spirit - I pray that it might always be a reflection of God’s love at work in us.

- Jim Bargmann



## 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.

## Bach-Tage Returns!

Unfortunately, Bach-Tage 2021 must come to you virtually (again 🙄!), but we are doing our best to make this year an exciting and meaningful time. We hope you will be there.

Bach-Tage will be released on [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org) on Saturday, June 5, including:

A Bach recital with members of the Bach-Tage orchestra and organist David Cherwien;

Art Halbardier's audio/visual presentation on Cantata 85, *Ich bin ein guter Hirt*.

Discussions of the music with Kathy Romey and several of our musicians. Also, Kathy will interview oboists Stanley King and Ellen Rider. Stanley and Ellen decided to retire from performing during the pandemic, but have agreed to return for one more performance with us. Stanley has been with Bach-Tage since our first year, 2007.

Performance by Bach-Tage vocal soloists and orchestra of Cantata 85, and a portion of Cantata 21, the first cantata sung at Bach-Tage in 2007.

Watch your email for more information. Music including music to download will soon be available so you can prepare and participate. Look for this on the Bach-Tage link at [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org).

## Spring Clean Up and Garden Days Ahead

As the snow has melted and spring growth has begun in our gardens around the church and the south parking lot, it is once again time for a spring clean-up day.

**Spring Clean Up Day, this Sat., May 1 – 9:00 am - Noon**

Bring your gloves, rakes, shovels, trimmers, power tools, and gardening enthusiasm.

Focus will be on trimming last year's pollinator plants in the south parking lot and splitting and replanting overgrown plants around the church - hostas, grasses, and lilies of the valley. Extras available for anyone who wants to take them home for planting.

**Beginning Saturday, May 8, bi-weekly gardening days, 9:00 am**

Become part of an ongoing work group that weeds, trims, and cleans up all garden areas as needed.

If you have any questions reach out to Carol Martinson, [property@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:property@mountolivechurch.org), 612-708-9849 or Elaine Halbardier, [ech914@comcast.net](mailto:ech914@comcast.net), 763-639-7702.



## Walk for Hope!

Join in! [Common Hope](#)'s Walk for Hope. Join the Mount Olive team and walk by yourself or walk together on **Sunday, May 16**.

If you walk by yourself, you can do that anytime by May 16, anywhere for any length. Just let us know how long you plan to walk and when you are going to do it.

If you are interested in walking together with other Mount Olive friends, Pastor Crippen has a 10K route and a shorter route (around 5K) planned on the beautiful trails by his house in Bloomington. We will meet at 1:00 in the park at East Bush Lake Beach. If you are unable to walk but still want to join this gathering, you can meet in the park and cheer on the team.

Join our team or donate to our page and help us spread the word with your friends! Our team page: <http://give.commonhope.org/MountOliveWalk2021>



## OK Factor Concert Available on YouTube

In case you missed the Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts concert by The OK Factor which was livestreamed on Sunday, April 18, the concert will be available on Mount Olive's YouTube channel through May 23.

If you missed it, be sure to check it out by viewing it at your convenience on the web at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g51hhEQLSds>

## News from The Art Shoppe at Midtown Global Market

For many years, each week I entered this shop with excitement. New products were on the shelves and new artists greeted customers. Lake Street Thrived! I enjoyed my work there. Almost ten years have passed since Mount Olive joined A Minnesota Without Poverty and started this project.

The years 2020 and 2021 have brought new challenges to The Art Shoppe. The shop is boarded, as are other Lake Street businesses, but customers still come and customers still shop online. May their business grow in the coming peaceful days.

Saturday, April 17 was my last day working at The Art Shoppe and I am "passing the torch" to others who have talent and enthusiasm to watch a business grow by working there.

May Mount Olive continue its involvement in helping all in our neighborhood.

- Carol Austermann



## Building Our Home

This week launches a series highlighting some of the specific properties that will be funded in part by the Building Our Home initiative. It is hoped that this will make the work more concrete (literally and figuratively).

*Please note, a glossary of some basic terms will be included at the end of this section for each week of this series since there are some terms used in the property descriptions that may not be familiar to all readers. This section will repeat each week.*

This week's featured project has no actual name, fitting for its unique nature. Our partner Alliance has been given a grant of \$1 million to purchase duplexes and four-plexes in Minneapolis and Saint Paul proper. After purchase, Alliance will make any needed repairs and then making these houses available to families at an affordable rate. Any additional money given to this project, like that coming from Building Our Home, will enable the purchase and rehabilitation of more properties, making this project almost infinitely expandable. This project is especially important because it helps to preserve one of the most cost-effective forms of affordable housing - that which already exists and simply needs to be preserved (otherwise referred to as NOAH - Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing).

### Commonly Used Terms and Abbreviations

**AMI:** Average Median Income; the average amount made by households in a given area; currently, the AMI for the Twin Cities metro area for a family of four is \$103,400 (one earner making \$49.71 per hour). As one example, 30% AMI, often a measure of housing considered to be the most affordable, would be \$31,000 (one earner making \$14.90 per hour), making a three-bedroom apartment affordable at \$806 per month. For comparison, the average rent for a three-bedroom unit in the Twin Cities in 2019 was \$1,624.

**Affordable Housing:** Defined as housing that can be obtained and maintained for 30% or less of a households' monthly income. By definition, housing costs include all costs related to maintaining a home - utilities, trash disposal, insurance, and the like - not just rent or mortgage.

**Supportive Housing:** Affordable, long-term, community-based housing with on-site support services such as employment counseling, addiction recovery support, etc. for people with multiple barriers to getting and keeping housing.

### 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.



## Virtual Coffee Hour

New! For those who found 9 am to be too early for Sunday coffee hour, adults can join at 9 am OR 11 am (or both!) for at least the remainder of April. There will be weekly video calls using Google Meet from 9-10 am AND 11am-12pm, and 9-9:30 for the kids' room.

Use the same link, below, whether you want to join at 9 or at 11. Join by video on a smartphone or computer or join by phone only to participate in the informal conversations. The meeting links and phone numbers are below. 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** (9-10 a.m. AND 11 a.m. -12 noon)  
<https://meet.google.com/snm-zssf-dni>  
 (US) +1 407-545-7381 / PIN: 641 572 935#  
 Meeting code: snm-zssf-dni

**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 May 8 they will read *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich, and for June 12, they will read *Our Man in Havana*, by Graham Greene.

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:** Dwight Penas; Don Shifflet; Rhoda Nelson; Susan Cherwien; Julia Adams; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Carla Manuel; Lisa Nordeen; Jerry Ostlund; Evelyn Royce; 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 Pitzgen*, friend of Ellen Kormanik; *Barbara Dahl*, sister of Carla Manuel; *Dani Olson, Harper Linguist, 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; *Sue Smith and Steve Swanson*, friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; *Eileen LaFontaine, and Vince & Janine DeLusia*, friends of Cynthia Prosek; *Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesher Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams*, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; *Leila Jeffers*, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; *Miranda Alvis*, 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;

*Tommie and Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson*, friends of Mount Olive. **At the death of:** *Howard Rand*, former member 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  
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*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 Bargmann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

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