



The Olive Branch

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, May 9 *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

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

Sunday, May 16 *Seventh Sunday of Easter*

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

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

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. – John 15:12

Jesus' commandment to love one another is once again a central theme in our lectionary readings for this Sunday. As much as it is a commandment and central to our identity of Christians, it is also an invitation as we discern what it means to be neighbors to and for each other.

There is no doubt in mind that each of us have been challenged to love at times when it has been hard to extend love and grace. Maybe it was easier to just look the other way? Or maybe our cup was full and we didn't feel like we had any-thing left to offer? Or maybe we were having a bad day?

I've often felt guilt when I haven't loved the way Jesus commands, but I have to remind myself that I am also constantly in need of the Triune God's unconditional love and grace that has been poured out for each and every one of us.

One way that I have stayed grounded in God's love, grace, and healing over the past two months has been through participating in the online community, Healing Our City*. It is a time of daily prayer and reflection that has helped to ground me in God's love and my calling to enact God's love in our community through my daily actions.

What are things that ground you? Things in your daily life that remind you of God's love for you and our calling to extend love to all of our neighbors? If you struggling to think of something, know that God's encompassing love holds you and guides you.

We will continue to follow Jesus' commandment and invitation to love, together.

*You can learn more about Healing Our City at <https://www.healingourcity.org/>. Daily prayer and reflections will continue at 8AM until May 26th and all previous reflections can be found archived on their website. If you are like me and not necessarily a morning person, you can view each daily reflection later in the day on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/healingourcity>.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., May 5

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

Sat. May 8

9 am – Gardening Day
10 am – Book Discussion

Sun., May 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Mon., May 10

7 pm – Vestry meeting

Tues., May 11

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., May 12

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

Did You Know?

Our Saviour's Shelter will reopen on May 24 after being closed for over a year?

The Shelter's homeless ministry continued, offsite to safer facilities during the pandemic, but now . . .

The Shelter has been remodeled providing a safe home for guests and volunteers?

Before COVID, Mount Olive committed to provide a monthly dinner for the residents.

CAN WE HELP AGAIN?

The dinner ministry has been re-visioned to make it easier for volunteers and safe for all. Is this a way you, your friends, or your family can bring Christ's love to the men and women at Our Saviour's Shelter?

Looking for teams to prepare and/or pack and distribute ONE of those meals in the next 12 months. If your answer to the question above is "yes," or even "maybe," please text or email me to get more information.

Call or text: 763-639-7702; Email: ech914@comcast.net

- Elaine Halbardier

Gardening Inspiration from Chile

“In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EPES Foundation (our mission partner in Chile with missionary Karen Anderson) initiated a project with community health promoters and nutrition teams to cultivate home gardens. In five months, the women transformed the patios and balconies of their homes into small vegetable gardens. The enthusiasm for what was learned and harvested during the months of strict quarantine was so great that the women decided to create a community garden at the end of that year. The Auco community center in the Oscar Bonilla neighborhood of El Bosque, where the David Werner health team has met for more than 25 years, was chosen as the place for the community garden.

“In this video, the women share their experiences related to creating the garden, highlighting the satisfaction of growing their own food, connecting with nature, promoting community participation in health and food sovereignty, and contributing to the environment by reducing organic waste. In addition, they report how this collective learning process has helped them to better face the pandemic, strengthening ties between women, sowing hope and cultivating solidarity.”

Check it out. You'll find yourself smiling and rejoicing in our partnership.

Link for Video: Sowing hope, cultivating solidarity

<https://youtu.be/V0jFGwMe8CI>

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.

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 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.

Garden Days

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, 612-708-9849 or Elaine Halbardier, ech914@comcast.net, 763-639-7702.

Attention Mount Olive Worship Assistants!

It has been one year since I have written to you about the Servant Schedule. Finally, we can have real hope for a return to in-person worship. What that will look like is not yet known, but we hope and we plan.

The schedule for the third quarter of 2021 (July - September) will be published at the beginning of June 2021. The deadline for submitting requests is May 14, 2021. Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com.

- Peggy Hoefl

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.

You can join our team officially (you don't have to fundraise on your own and you get a t-shirt) or you can just show up to walk together on May 16. Everyone is invited to donate through Mount Olive's team page.

Our team goal is to raise \$3,456 which will enable Common Hope to provide an entire year of programming to 3 Common Hope students. In 2021, this includes homework help through educational coaching, distance learning tools, health care, and much more. Help students continue on their path toward graduation.

Our team page: <http://give.commonhope.org/MountOliveWalk2021>



Tulip Watch





Building Our Home

The series highlighting some of the specific properties that will be funded in part by the Building Our Home initiative continues this week. 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.

Lydia Apartments were originally build Beacon Interfaith in 2003, providing 40 units of much needed affordable and supportive housing to the Stevens Neighborhood of south Minneapolis. Now, they are moving forward with doubling the size of Lydia Apartments by adding a six story addition to the north side of the existing building. Lydia Apartments currently house people with a history of homelessness and mental health challenges, and that will not change with the expansion. Lydia provides on-site services and case management for all residents, epitomizing the best of supportive housing. This expansion is a part of the Building Our Home initiative.

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. 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

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.

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; *Martha Boomgaarten*, sister of Jack Kruger; *Danielle Pitzgen*, 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 Aunstad*, sister of Jerry Ostlund; *Jay Heffern*, friend of Gary Pagel; *Sue Smith and Steve Swanson*, friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; *Vince DeLusia*, friend 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.

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](#)

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