



## Accent on Worship

*Vicar Andrea Bonneville*

“What were you arguing about on the way?”  
Jesus asks them.  
But they didn’t know what to say.

When reading our Gospel reading for this week, I kept getting stuck on Jesus’ question. What were they arguing about? The context suggest that it was about who is the greatest, but what does that mean? Which one comprehended Jesus’ teaching

the best? Or who gave away the most bread during the feeding? Or who had the most self-awareness? Or who had to give up the most to be a disciple?

Tune into any part of your life and I am sure you will hear the arguments. Suggesting that for us to be seen as humans we have to own and buy expensive things, stretch ourselves as thin as we possibly can, listen to every self-help podcast, and show off how much we sacrifice in our lives to prove that we are carrying for someone other than ourselves. Just thinking about the pressure that is placed on us to preform and perfect is exhausting.

And it is the pressures to perform and perfect that put us at odds with each other suggesting to us that we have to prove something about ourselves in order to be loved and valued in this world. And that in order to prove ourselves we have to put people down for the sake of showing our success in order to find validation.

But as James explores with us this week most of the things that put us in arguments and at odds with each other come from the cravings of the world, not from the God. Rather, God draws us near to teach us and guide us in this world to show us what love and grace and justice look like.

As James writes, “The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace” (James 3:17-18).

So be gentle with yourselves and with your neighbors. Keep focus on the love and grace we find in Christ. And continue sowing for justice and peace.

### SUNDAY READINGS

**Sunday, September 19**

*17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost,*

*Lect. 25 B*

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm 54

James 3:13—4:3; 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

**Sunday, September 26**

*18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost,*

*Lect. 26 B*

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Psalm 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

### Sunday Worship

9:00 am – Eucharist

11:00 am – Eucharist

(Livestreamed)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Wed., September 15**

10 am – Staff meeting  
7:30 pm – Cantorei  
rehearsal

**Thurs., September 16**

7 pm – Narcotics  
Anonymous

**Sat., September 18**

11am – Boldly into the  
Future information  
meeting

**Sun., September 19*****Pentecost 16***

**9 am – Holy Eucharist**,  
with Reception of New  
members

10:15 am – Family Music  
Time

**11 am – Holy Eucharist****Mon., September 20**

6:30 pm – Worship  
committee meeting

**Tues., September 21**

Noon – Bible Study

## Sunday Morning Schedule

There are **two worship services on Sunday morning, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** To be able to continue COVID-related safety measures, we ask the following:

During this time, we will continue to request R.S.V.P responses for each worship in order to allow for physical distancing in the sanctuary. We will continue to require that you wear a well-fitting mask that covers your nose and **mouth**. Please do not move the pew ropes, to help with social distancing, and **please** leave the short pews for those with wheelchairs. This is especially important to protect those who are not vaccinated, including children. Coffee hour has been temporarily suspended.

The link to RSVP for worship is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/mountolive> . This link will be live each Wednesday for the following Sunday.

## Calling All Members!

The usher corps is in great need of additional people to serve at our doors and in our sanctuary.

Due to the comings and goings of many of our tenured ushers, we are seeking any member, new or veteran, to serve on the usher corps. Duties have currently changed to accommodate our response to Covid-19, but they overall stay the same in the way we welcome our members and guests.

If you think you could give up your pew once every few weeks and be ready to greet, collect offering, and direct the communion traffic flow, you would be a prime candidate! This job is also really great for families, engaging all individuals while carrying out the necessary tasks.

If you would be interested in this position or if you have any questions about it, please contact Brian Jacobs at 612-251-5942 with a call or text. He will be happy to train anyone interested and would quite possibly have you fill in this coming 4th quarter for some of the people who are unable to be with us. Otherwise, you would be scheduled in the first quarter of next year. The number of times serving per quarter ranges anywhere from two to four times and may involve evening and weekday services, depending on the season.

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

## Missions Committee News

### Join Relief Efforts

Your Missions Committee is designating \$1,000 each from your mission funds for disaster relief in Haiti and Afghanistan. If you would like to join you may do so by following the links below or by designating a specially marked check or blue mission envelope (Haiti--ELCA or Afghanistan--LIRS). We are supporting Haiti through the ELCA Disaster Relief Response: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response> and the Afghanistan refugees through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services: <https://www.lirs.org>.

### Common Hope Keeps Kids Moving Forward

It is getting toward the end of the school year in Guatemala, and our partners at Common Hope have some good news to report. Executive Director Sheri Blindt just returned from her first visit to Guatemala in 16 months, and here's what she has to report: ***“Less than 10% of Common Hope's students left school at the end of 2020.*** And, while preliminary estimates say as many as three times that number of students in Guatemala have or will drop out of school in 2021 - Common Hope students are bucking that trend. I applaud the efforts of our social workers and educational support teams in their success - and praise the students, themselves, for their perseverance, parents for their continued commitment to education, and sponsors for their unwavering support. I cannot emphasize enough the power of Common Hope's programs during this pandemic. ***The children and families we serve have access to much deeper resources as they navigate this pandemic because of you.***”



## Join Us Saturday Via Zoom: *Boldly into the Future* Information Session

Join us on Zoom this Saturday (Sept. 18) at 11 a.m. for an information session on the *Boldly into the Future* capital appeal — and come with your questions.

Use this link to log in: <https://tinyurl.com/am7s555h> .

In addition, information on the appeal and a pledge sheet are available on the Mount Olive web site at <https://www.mountolivechurch.org/community/boldly-into-the-future-a-capital-appeal/> under Quick Links.

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## A Friendly Reminder on Seating

Please note that the four cut-out pews on the aisle in the nave are reserved for those in wheelchairs and those who may accompany them.

Seating is a little trickier with the social distancing ropes in the nave, but there is room for everyone (don't forget the transept galleries!). Please be mindful of the seat you choose and leave the spots right next to the cut-out open for those who may accompany people in a wheelchair.

Thanks.

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## Did you know?

Large print copies of the Sunday bulletin, including the liturgy and hymns for the day, are available for you at worship?

Please speak with an Usher if you would like to use one.

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## Worship Hosts Needed!

As you know, we are now checking in before each worship service. It would be great to have a few people who are willing to sit with those lists before every worship service, help people check off their names on the lists and make sure everyone gets a worship folder. This is especially helpful for guests. If you can do that on an occasional Sunday, please contact the church office (612/827-5915, [welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org)) or Lora Dundek (651/645-6636, [lhdundek@usfamily.net](mailto:lhdundek@usfamily.net)). The primary requirements are that you are able to get to church about 30 minutes ahead of the worship service to which you're assigned and stay near the lists for 5-10 minutes into the service to help latecomers. We'd welcome your help!

## Book Discussion

The Mount Olive Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 am. They have resumed meeting at church.

For the October 9 meeting, the book will be *The Darling*, by Russell Banks.

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## Tuesday Noon Bible Study: New Link!

**Since Tuesday, June 22, the Tuesday Noon Bible Study has been meeting in person again**, in the West Lounge. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well. Please note that we are no longer using GoToMeeting.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will continue to be the same every week.

To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).



## Building Our Home

It's an exciting time as we enter the next phase of Building Our Home, happening concurrently with our continued fundraising efforts. There is advocacy work that needs to be done on behalf of some of these projects. This work can take multiple forms and is happening in communities across the Twin Cities. Are you able to make phone calls to elected officials? What about writing letters? Do you feel comfortable talking with your neighbors about issues facing your community - either by phone, text or in-person? These are just some of the ways we can do some much needed advocacy work on behalf of affordable housing projects in the Twin Cities. If you are interested in learning more, please send Jim Bargmann an email at [neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org) to learn more.

Along with this new push for advocacy work, the fundraising continues.

We continue to be amazed by the generosity of the Mount Olive community in support of our efforts to make more affordable and supportive housing available in our Twin Cities community. We have made great progress, but still have more to raise. While we know we are just launching a new capital campaign, we believe strongly that we can do both of these great things at the same time. If you have not contributed to this effort, please consider a donation to Building Our Home. We are asking each active member to contribute \$338 - believing that many small contributions can make a big goal possible.

Behind the scenes, we continue to work on establishing partnerships with other Twin Cities congregations. Many are working through their own decision-making processes as they consider joining us in this project. And Jim Bargmann continues making presentations (both in person and by Zoom) to staff members, church councils, Vestry groups and more on a regular basis.

### 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.





Mari Espeland, Children's  
Choirs Director

## Children's Choir update

Please join Mari in the Undercroft on Sunday, September 19 at 10:15 am for Family Music Time. Children ages 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders with their grown-ups will sing, dance, and play together as a one-time in-person introduction to our "God's Children Sing" curriculum for this year. (Siblings on either side of the choir age range are welcome---it's **family** music.) All will be masked and distanced by family pod. Remember the proverb from Zimbabwe, "If you can walk, you can dance. If you can talk, you can sing." And, I would like to add, if you are a babe in arms, you are absorbing all the singing and dancing! All participation will be welcomed with an open heart.

Zoom Choir for children in 4-year-Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will begin on Wednesday, September 22 from 5:30-6:00 pm. (Younger siblings are welcome to join us. Please make a plan that works for your family.) This year we will explore the "God's Children Sing" curriculum entitled "Friends of Jesus." Bible stories will include Jesus Blesses the Children, The Good Samaritan, Jesus Visits Mary and Martha, Jesus Calls the First Disciples, The Beatitudes, and The Parable of the Mustard Seed. Through singing, movement (large motor traveling movement and small motor finger plays and stationary beat keeping), playing small hand-held instruments, and prayer; the children and I make a musical Christian community. I know it sounds impossible when described in print. With our faith, children, and music in the mix, most things are miraculously possible, even on Zoom.

The family materials for "Friends of Jesus" include one CD and/or music download per family and an individual kit of eggs shakes, jingle taps, and movement scarf for each child. Materials are provided and will be available for pick up in the Undercroft on September 19. Arrangements can be made if you need the materials delivered to your home. Please contact Mari at [mari.mt.olive@gmail.com](mailto:mari.mt.olive@gmail.com).

As singing is such a bio-aerosol intense activity, when the children are vaccinated, we will launch a new in-person Wednesday schedule that includes two choir groups and our singers in Grades 3 and up.

*"If you can  
walk,  
you can dance.*

*If you can talk,  
you can sing."*

## In Our Prayers

**Please pray throughout the week for the following persons:** Julia Adams; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Susan Cherwien; Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Carla Manuel; Carolyn Mowery; Rhoda Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Evelyn Royce; John Salveson; Pariann Schenk; James Wilkes; *Adalyn Lerum*, 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; *Lela Frazier*, sister of Irene Campbell; *Klarrisa Ramirez*, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; *Greg Eklund, Ryan Snelling*, son and friend of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; *Susan Bary*, friend of Judy Graves; *David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr.*, father and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; *Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong)*, friend of Eunice Hafemeister; *Tami Huisinga*, relative of Wes Huisinga; *Craig Cunningham*, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; *Bob Adamson*, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; *Roger Bradford*, friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; *Barbara Dahl*, sister of Carla Manuel; *Dani Olson, Harper Linquist, Steve Camper*, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; *Jan McCuen*, mother of Matt McCuen; *Brenda Frankman*, friend of Rachel Meurette; *Martha Johnson*, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; *Kathleen Austad*, sister of Jerry Ostlund; *Sue Smith, Steve Swanson, and Mary Peterson* friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; *Vince DeLusia*, friend of Cynthia Prosek; *Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesher Hasler, 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; *David Duran*, friend of *Kevin Vazquez, Andrew Wiechman*, son of Grace Wiechman; *Judy Bonnes, Tommie and Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson*, friends of Mount Olive.

**At the death of:** *Robert Crumpton, Jr.*, friend of Mary Rose Watson; *Delores Gutierrez*, mother of Consuelo Crosby.

**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: *Ross Chambers*, nephew of Berta & Bob Wick; *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.*



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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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