



# The Olive Branch

## SUNDAY READINGS

**Sunday, January 16**  
*Second Sunday after*  
*Epiphany*

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

**Sunday, January 23**  
*Third Sunday after*  
*Epiphany*

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

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

## Accent on Worship

*Vicar Andrea Bonneville*

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

Paul reminds us of our interconnectedness through and with the Triune God. When I initially read our second reading for the week, I was really drawn to the word “activate.” But the more I think about it, activate seems like a heavy word in a time when we are needing to slow down again and live with extra caution as we experience another wave of COVID-19. Doing the mundane tasks like going to the grocery store, or the enjoyable tasks like meeting friends for dinner is again taking a significant amount of mental and emotional energy and many of us are exhausted.

The “normal” thing to do is fight through the exhaustion. Work our bodies till they can’t take it anymore, give more of our energy and time than we have. But we have learned over the past two years that this “normal” activity is neither sustainable nor healthy. There are times when we need to rest and find Sabbath to restore our heart and mind and spirit. And I’ve come to trust that the same God who activates our lives for service also invites us to rest and renew our spirits.

Finding rest in the midst of chaos is one of the most powerful things that we can do for ourselves and each other. When one member of the body rests, it can bring healing and restoration to the entire body. Paul doesn’t mention that resting is a spiritual gift per se, but he does include gifts of healing.

Healing that will restore our spirits so that we can continue on our journey proclaiming and embodying God’s justice and love for all of creation, which is the activity that will bring hope and transformation.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Wed., January 12**

10 am – Staff meeting  
 5:30 pm - Children's Choir  
 (on Zoom)  
 6 pm –Neighborhood  
 Ministries Comm. Mtng.  
 NO Cantorei rehearsal

**Thurs., January 13**

7 pm – Narcotics  
 Anonymous

**Fri., January 14**

7pm – Recovery Group

**Sun., January 16**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after  
 Epiphany*  
*9 am – Holy Eucharist*  
*11 am – Holy Eucharist*  
*(livestreamed)*

**Tues., January 18**

Noon – Bible Study

**Wed., January 19**

10 am – Staff meeting  
 5:30 pm - Children's Choir  
 (on Zoom)  
 NO Cantorei rehearsal

## Sunday Morning Schedule

There are **two worship services each 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. You no longer need to check your name off before proceeding to worship. 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. 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.

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## An Important Opportunity from Our Climate Justice Partner

A new year brings fresh opportunities for climate advocacy! The 2022 session of the Minnesota Legislature starts at the end of this month, and **statewide precinct caucuses take place on February 1.**

MNIPL (Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light) is here to help people of faith and conscience be prepared. **Get ready to let our elected leaders know that Minnesotans like you want bold climate action in 2022 and beyond.**

**Caucus for Climate Training --Tuesday, January 18, from 6:30-8:30 pm - Online.** Do you want to help push your party and elected leaders to act for climate? Go caucus! This non-partisan training will explain how caucuses work and how to engage in the process and advocate for climate action at the state level. Co-sponsored by MNIPL and our partners at the 100% Campaign. [Click to RSVP.](#)

## Constitution and Bylaws Review

The Mount Olive Vestry has authorized a process to review the constitution and by-laws of the congregation, with any resultant changes to be authorized at a legally called meeting of the voting members in 2022.

The following persons have been appointed to begin this process: Gretchen Campbell-Johnson, Pastor Crippen, Lora Dundek, George Ferguson, Tricia Van Ee, Marty Melang, John Bjork, and Karen Mohrlant. If you have suggested changes to the constitution/by-laws which this group could consider, please submit those in writing to any member of the committee, or email your comments to Gretchen Campbell-Johnson at [president@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:president@mountolivechurch.org).

To obtain a copy of the constitution/by-laws, please call or email the church office.

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## A Note of Thanks

I wish to extend my heart felt thank you for many things, but especially the deeply meaningful series of events for the Visitation, Funeral Eucharist and burial for Susan. Everything went as well as I could hope, and many, many of you worked very hard and put in a lot of time to facilitate that. I am so grateful to God to be a part of this congregation who so willingly does things the way we do. I have heard from so many who were touched by these events and your hospitality. While normally it is difficult for me to come up with a plan, then trust it to others to pull them off, that was not the case – you did so perfectly.

Since our discovery of her cancer last April, many of you had asked me how I was doing. Each time I would say something like “The time will come for that, but right now her needs are first.” That time is indeed here now. I am doing as well as can be expected – losing a life partner of 41 years is no easy reset. Memories are indeed many, grief process long and complicated. With God’s and your help, I will be fine. This time in sabbatical is without a doubt helpful in both the time of intense caring for her, and now in caring for myself. I’m taking my own breath, arranging what needs to be arranged, settling what needs to be settled, and getting used to an emptier house. When I return in March, I’ll be in a better place to resume my work but will ask for patience then as well.

For now, please accept my thanks for all that you did, and continue to do. For the many, many of you who sent cards, while I would love to respond to every one of you as Susan did at the onset, there are just too many. Please accept this as my expression of gratitude. I read each one carefully and find them so helpful and touching.

Thanks be to God, and thanks be to you. I definitely feel that we are in this together.

- Cantor Cherwien

## Making a Home. Being the presence of God

Take a moment, wherever you are sitting or standing in your home or apartment. See your rugs, your furniture, the pictures on your walls, the small things on shelves and tabletops that make this place you live your HOME!

Soon we will be helping an Afghan family settle in our community. They left most of their possessions and so much more behind. There is no way for us to replace all of those losses, but we can create a warm and comfortable place which can become their "home" in their new city. **And YOU can help!** You have been reading regular Afghan Resettlement updates from Connie Marty in *The Olive Branch* and elsewhere. Today we are lifting up some additional opportunities for you to participate in this mission we have accepted as the people of Mount Olive:

**Shop!!** from our recently established Target Gift Registry. Here is the link: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/dmountolivefamily2022>

(When you add an item from the registry to your cart, click on the "shipping" option, even though the zip code may appear to be incorrect. When you are ready to complete your purchase, be sure to click on the "registry mailing address" in the shipping address options). You can also make a **monetary donation** to help with other resettlement expenses. Send it by mail or place in the offering at worship. Mark your gift "**Afghan Resettlement.**"

If you have lightly used **household items** to donate, sign-up on the **NESTING** sheet in the West Assembly Room area, or email [ech914@comcast.net](mailto:ech914@comcast.net)

If you are able to help with moving in, when that day arrives, please sign up on the **Moving Day** sheet in the West Assembly Room area.

We will want to give the apartment assigned to our family a thorough cleaning - that's Mount Olive hospitality! Let us know if you are willing to help out. Add your name on the **Clean-Up** sheet in the West Assembly Room.

We have a wonderful opportunity to be the presence of God for a family, to offer them love and assistance. **Step up. Be part of this wonderful gift to some who will be making their new home with us.**

## 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.

On February 12, they will discuss *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson.

## Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the West Lounge. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well.

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

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

## Afghan Resettlement—Waiting for a Family

### UPDATE #5—A Special Skill Needed



Our paperwork has been submitted, and now we wait and prepare. And as we wait we are learning from another congregation who recently welcomed a family. They suggested that we ask for **a volunteer who will specifically help the family with techie connections**: how to sign up for service; how to get an email account; how to get the proper phone accounts—and all of those other things that this writer (Judy) doesn't know how to do. Of course, we don't know what level of skill our family will bring to the table, but we'd like to have a volunteer prepared to step in. And perhaps most of this can be done through remote conversations. Is that you? If so, please email or call Connie at the contact listed below.

**If you wish to donate to this effort, mark your gift as Afghan Resettlement.**

We anticipate that our family will arrive in early January. Email Connie Marty at [Conniejmarty@gmail.com](mailto:Conniejmarty@gmail.com) or at [missions@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:missions@mountolivechurch.org). Or call Connie at 651-468-1632 or Judy Hinck at 612-812-7342.

## Thank you!!

A big thank you to the many who helped to decorate the Chrismon Trees on December 21, and take down the trees and greens on January 7:

*Andrew Anderson, Carol Martinson, Mike Rader, Katherine Hanson, Margaret Gohman, Carol Austermann, Dave Hellerich, Al Bipes, Julie Nerheim, Mark Spitzack, Jim, Nathan, and Elizabeth Bargmann, Donn and Bonnie McLellan, Larry Skene, Gary Pagel, Steve Griffin, and Steve and Eric Manuel.*

## Are You a Thrivent Member? You Have an Opportunity to Support Our Afghan Family!

Thrivent Financial offers “Action Team Grants” to anyone who has a Thrivent membership. This could be a life insurance policy or mutual fund, or any of several other options. Thrivent encourages volunteerism of its members, and this is a fantastic opportunity for additional support for the Afghan Family we’ll be sponsoring.

A Thrivent member can apply for two different grants a year, each of which is worth \$250. After your application is approved, they send you a debit card to use to purchase the items in your grant application. You keep the receipts and report back on the website how your project went, including pictures.

They also send a resource kit including stickers, a banner, and up to 20 t-shirts. (Always get the shirts. Even if you don't want them, leftovers can be donated to homeless shelters.)

Members apply online through this website: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-action-teams.html>

One caveat, however, is that Thrivent approves only one grant per project. So, several people cannot apply for a project named “Sponsoring an Afghan Family.” However, there can be several different projects for sponsoring the family if we coordinate the grant applications to make sure they are all for different things.

Here are just some of the many possibilities:

- Food for their pantry before they arrive
- Winter clothes for the family
- Household goods for the family
- English language learner books
- School supplies for the children
- Groceries after they arrive
- Bus passes

Carolyn Hellerich has volunteered to help coordinate the grant applications. If you have any questions, or would like to apply for a grant, please contact Carolyn at 612-900-7098 or [carolyn@hellerich.com](mailto:carolyn@hellerich.com). If you have an idea for a grant, or need an idea for one, but aren't sure which team it would support, contact Connie Marty at 651-468-1632 or [Conniejmarty@gmail.com](mailto:Conniejmarty@gmail.com) and she can put you in touch with the right team leader.

The Congregational Engagement group working to support our Afghan refugee family would like to connect with someone who has lived in Afghanistan. If you or someone you know has had this experience, please call Lora Dundek (651/645-6636) or email her at [lhdundek@usfamily.net](mailto:lhdundek@usfamily.net). Thanks!

## In Our Prayers

**Please pray throughout the week for the following persons:** Julia Adams; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Carla Manuel; Carolyn Mowery; Rhoda Nelson; George Oelfke; Jerry Ostlund; Robin Rayfield; John Salvesson; Pariann Schenk; John Wall; James Wilkes; Adalyn Lerum, relative of Nancy Anderson; Danna Nelson, Gerry Coleman, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Cassandra Thompson, friend of Al Bostelmann; Scott Spooner, son of Cathy Bosworth; Sara Brunette, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Mattisyn, friend of Kat Campbell Johnson; Kristin Eklund-Johnson, Greg Eklund, Ryan Snelling, daughter, son, and friend of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Juls and Nel Clausen, friends of Darrell & Mary Golnitz; Joe & Brenda Patnaude, friends of Tom Graves & Ginny Agresti; 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; Norma Pera and Hilde Dobberpuhl, sisters of Eunice Hafemeister and aunts of Linda Hafemeister; Cat Robinette, friend of Emily Hellerich; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Bob Adamson, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linguist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Brenda Frankman, friend of Rachel Meuret; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Dn. Steven Arnold, friend of Andrew Stoebig; Sue Smith, Steve Swanson, and Mary Peterson friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Vince DeLusia, friend of Cynthia Prosek; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbeshier 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; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; Rachel Wilkes, former wife of James Wilkes; Judy Bonnes, Tommie and Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

**For those in hospice care:** Berta Wick; Evelyn Royce.

**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.

### 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*

### Contact Us

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### Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Interim Cantor – [Dietrich Jessen](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Bargmann](#)

Sexton – José Morocho

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## Another Note of Thanks

Many thanks to all those people who helped transform our sanctuary from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany!

Whether you provided balsam trees, wreaths, garlands, put them up, or took them down, positioned birds in the birch trees, kept the advent wreath fresh, placed Chrismons on the trees, arranged poinsettias, set up candles in the aisles and in the sconces, untangled ribbons and strings of lights, brought hay for the manger, hung the Moravian Epiphany star.

For all of these things and many others, we are thankful that your gifts and hard work glorify God and brought more beauty into our space of worship during these seasons.

Thank you.