



# The Olive Branch

## Accent on Worship

*Vicar Andrea Bonneville*

*Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. (Luke 9:28-29, NRSV)*

What/who have you been praying for?

Perhaps you've been praying for a friend or family member who is ill or grieving, for peace and justice among nations and within our own communities, for healthcare workers and first responders, for the Afghan refugee family we are welcoming and supporting, for the healing of creation and favorable weather for all creatures.

In our Gospel reading for this week, Jesus takes Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray, and while Jesus is praying transformation begins to happen. Luke writes about Jesus' physical appearance changing and in this changing the disciples see he is the incarnation of the Triune God.

But we don't know if anything is being transformed within Jesus. But how would we? It isn't easy to know what transformation is happening within the heart and mind of a friend. I suspect that there is significant transformation happening within Jesus and it all begins with prayer.

Jesus' focus on prayer throughout his ministry show us that prayer, being in communion and conversation with the Triune God, will transform our lives, our community, and our world. Prayer transforms our hearts and it transforms our lives so that other people can experience God's love and grace through our lives.

### SUNDAY READINGS

**Sunday, February 27**

*Transfiguration  
of Our Lord*

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

Luke 9:28-43a

**Sunday, March 6**

*First Sunday in Lent*

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

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

*(continued on page 2)*

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Wed., February 23**

10 am – Staff meeting  
 5:30 pm - Children's Choir  
 (on Zoom)  
 6 pm – Y3 Confirmation  
 7:30 pm – Cantorei  
 rehearsal

**Thurs., February 24**

7 pm – Narcotics  
 Anonymous

**Fri., February 25**

7pm – Recovery Group

**Sun., February 27*****Transfiguration of Our Lord***

**9 am – Holy Eucharist**  
**11 am – Holy Eucharist**

*(livestreamed)*

12:30 pm – Y4  
 Confirmation

**Tues., March 1**

Noon – Bible Study  
 7 pm – Missions  
 Committee meeting

**Wed., March 2*****Ash Wednesday***

9 am – Staff meeting

***Noon – Ash Wednesday Eucharist***

5:30 pm - Children's Choir  
 (on Zoom)

***Noon – Ash Wednesday Eucharist***

*(No Cantorei rehearsal this evening)*

## 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.

## Accent on Worship, *continued from page 12*

Prayer asks the Triune God to act in our world and it keeps our hearts and minds focused on the actions that we need to take as we embody God's image and work for justice, peace, and healing.

Prayer will transform our lives so that all may see God's glory reflected in the world through who we are and who we are becoming.

- Vicar Andrea Bonneville

**Families, children present at this Sunday's second service (Sun., Feb. 27, 11 a.m.) will help Mount Olive "bury" the Alleluia banner for another Lenten season.**

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chandler Molbert at [vpres@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:vpres@mountolivechurch.org).**

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 2

**Holy Eucharist at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**

Sign up using these links:

Noon Liturgy: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/Noonash>

7:00 pm Liturgy: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/Ashevening>

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## Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

**Walk-In Counseling Center** provides “free, easily accessible mental health counseling to people with urgent needs and few service options.” Counselors work with people struggling with depression, anxiety, chemical dependency, domestic violence, and many other emotional and interpersonal concerns. Walk-In Counseling is an active and vital part of our neighborhood, operating out of a beautifully converted house at 24<sup>th</sup> and Chicago. Through the pandemic, Walk-In has continued to provide their vital services through electronic means, protecting both the physical and mental health of their clients and staff.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute over and above our budgeted amount to those partners doing work in their areas of passion and concern. You can do this using your pink offering envelopes or through our online giving system. All additional contributions to our partner of the month will be distributed to the partner for the month in which the contribution is received.

For more information about Walk-In Counseling, visit <https://walkin.org>.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

Beginning the First Sunday in Lent, March 6, 2022,  
Sunday liturgies will begin at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Also, remember that Daylight Savings time  
begins on March 13.

## Lent Procession Service

March 6, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts will present Lent Procession, a contemplative service of lessons and carols for Lent.

Designed as an opportunity to withdraw from the busyness of life; a time to sing, pray, listen, smell – a time to fully enter into the season of Lent, renewing our lives as children of God.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

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## Benefit Concert

*with the Uptown Brass and David Cherwien*

This Sunday, February 27, 3:00 pm  
Saint Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church  
17205 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN

The Uptown Brass from the Minnesota Orchestra and renowned organist David Cherwien will present an eclectic and virtuosic program featuring songs of joy from all around the world.

This concert is in partnership with Circle Rock Concerts for Community, with proceeds supporting Mental Health Connect. Mental Health Connect provides resources, support, and education to improve access to mental health services. Vicki Elliott, Executive Director of Mental Health Connect, will be on hand to offer a few words about this important ministry.

The concert is free and open to the public – no tickets required. A free-will offering will be received, with a suggested donation of \$20 per person.

The Uptown Brass features Douglas Carlsen, trumpet; Charles Lazarus, trumpet; Michael Gast, horn; R. Douglas Wright, trombone; and Steven Campbell, tuba.

## Book Discussion

The Mount Olive Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at church.

On March 12, they will discuss *Moby Dick*, by Herman Melville. On April 9, they will read *The Moon and Sixpence*, by William Somerset Maugham.

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## 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.](#)

## Meeting Our Afghan Family

Terrific news! The Mentor Team in our Circle of Welcome finally had an opportunity last week to meet with the Afghan family that Mount Olive is supporting as part of Lutheran Social Services' refugee resettlement program. To respect and protect the family's privacy and security, the team can't share details about them. But they can share the family's experiences since coming to the US.



The situation was scary as they left Afghanistan, and very trying as they didn't have enough food. They ended up on a military base in New Jersey before finally coming to Minnesota. The mentors haven't learned much more about their journey, but hopefully will as their relationship with the family continues to grow.

Even with their limited English, the family was able to express how incredibly thankful they are for everything their Mount Olive family has done to support them. They feel so happy to be here and are really looking forward to getting to know us, the area, and move into their new life.

Just as Mount Olive has welcomed them into our family, they've welcomed the mentors into theirs. The idea of "family" is universal in so many ways. The Afghan family has shown the mentors hospitality, offering tea, nuts, juice, and treats during their first meeting, and cooking meals for, and sharing with, the mentors since. The mentors play with the children and have taken the family to get things needed for living in Minnesota (e.g., snow boots for the adults).

The family has shared photos of the family they left behind and have asked about the mentors' families. Just like we do when we open our hearts to new family and friends. As we continue to pray for this Afghan family and our relationship with them:

*"O God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your image. Look with compassion on the whole human family; protect all who we love; unite us in service and love; and free us from fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen."*



## Missions update

**ABOUT:** Bethania Kids, founded in 1987, serves impoverished children, women, and families in India. Its key founders included Mount Olive's Hennig family. Bethania's fifteen sites include four residential homes (two for girls, two for boys), nine day- and after-school care centers, and two centers for differently-abled children. "Empowerment" programs at six locations teach women skills that enable them to help support their families.

**MOUNT OLIVE'S SUPPORT STARTED:** ca. 1990

**OUR CURRENT ANNUAL SUPPORT:** \$4,500

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.bethaniakids.org>

**FOR PERSPECTIVE:** Our missions gifts to eleven organizations in 2021 totaled \$23,500 (we gave an additional \$7,500 for disaster/COVID relief, Afghan resettlement, and a new Lutheran university in Nigeria).



**WHAT'S NEW?** The completion of a new and permanent home for Bethania's **Shalom Home for Girls** at Batlagundu, was celebrated January 20, with a ribbon cutting, speeches, dancing, music, and food. Some Bethania leaders spoke from distant locations via electronic media, including board president Kate Hennig Teece. Shalom's forty-five residents, ranging in age from four to eighteen and many of them orphans, had been living at a temporary and rented location at Kodaikanal, forty miles from Batlagundu. The girls and staff were expected to move to the new building in February.



## 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 Barymann](#)

Sexton – [Jose Moracho](#)

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