



The Olive Branch

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

SUNDAY READINGS

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

Sunday, March 13

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Luke 13:31-35

*Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke? - Isaiah 58:6 (the First Reading for Ash
Wednesday)*

A traditional fast, as likely understood in Isaiah's time as well as ours, involves a "particular act of abstinence" (Saint Augustine). It often involves a giving up of food or food of a particular type for a period of time to allow a focus on the spiritual. Often, again, in Isaiah's time as well as ours, the "giving up" was a personal, individual action, even if a whole community agreed to observe the same fast at the same time.

I am struck by the reframing of fasting offered by God through the pen of the prophet here.

In one aspect, there is a taking up of certain action - loose the bonds of injustice, undo the thongs of the yoke, let the oppressed go free - and elsewhere in this reading - share your bread with the hungry, bring the homeless poor into your house, cover the naked, offer your food to the hungry, satisfy the needs of the afflicted. These are all actions to take up - rather than things from which we would abstain. That in itself is a significant refraining of fasting. To take up an action befitting of God's call and particular gifting in your life is not often what we associate with a fast. These are good and positive things. But also more of a individual nature, even if a group or community were to choose to take up such actions together. *(continued on page 2)*

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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)***Thurs., March 3**

7 pm – Narcotics Anonymous

Fri., March 4

7pm – Recovery Group

Sat., March 5

1-3 pm – Prayer Shawl Group

Sun., March 6**Transfiguration of Our Lord****8 am – Holy Eucharist****10:45 am – Holy Eucharist***(livestreamed)*

2:30 pm – Cantorei rehearsal

4 pm – Lent Procession**Mon., March 7**

7 pm – Vicar Committee

Tues., March 8

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., March 9**Ash Wednesday**

9 am – Staff meeting

Noon – Midweek Lenten**Eucharist**

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

7 pm – Lenten Vespers

7:30 pm – Cantorei rehearsal

Sunday Morning Schedule - REVISED

There are **two worship services each Sunday morning, at 8 a.m. and 10:45 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*

But looking at this from yet another perspective, there is an act of abstinence here too. Not an individual act of abstinence, but a communal one. What if, as a community, we were to abstain from injustice? What if we were to give up oppression of the other? What if we were to abstain, as a community, from letting people go hungry or without clothing or without homes? Could there be a call here to a community fast? What actions would need to take place to make that happen?

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 2 (TODAY!)

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>

Sunday Worship Schedule

Beginning THIS Sunday, 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.*

TRUST Spring Market and Craft Fair Fundraiser

This Saturday, March 5, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, 5760 Portland Ave. S.,

Minneapolis

Food, Crafts, Kid's Games, and Fun!

Lent Procession Service

This Sunday, 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.

Help with Live Streaming

We are in need of a couple more volunteers to run the live stream during worship. You'll need to be comfortable using technology, but most importantly, able to follow along with the order of service and switch cameras in anticipation of what's happening next.

What you'll do as a live streamer: Get situated at the computer in the south gallery and start the live stream a minute or two before the prelude begins. Follow along with the service, and when we come to a transition point (e.g. a reader walks to the lectern, or a hymn is about to begin), you press a couple buttons to switch to the right camera, move camera positions, and/or display overlay slides with music on them.

Training sessions & written directions are available. And an experienced streamer will sit by you and assist you for your first services. With the addition of a couple more volunteers, each of us would be scheduled once per month or so.

How to get involved:

Contact Dan via email at worship@mountolivechurch.org or by phone at 612-600-6982 with any questions.

If you're interested, feel free to visit with any of us after second liturgy to see how it all works in the south transept gallery.

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.

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.](#)

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

Community Emergency Services and Sabathani Community Center

Both of these organizations work to alleviate hunger and food insecurity in our south Minneapolis community and beyond. They work to do this through food shelf locations, food delivery programs, pet food programs, and a relationship with Meals on Wheels.

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 offering envelopes or 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.

In addition to financial contributions, Mount Olive will collect donations of non-perishable food in support of the MN Food Share March Campaign. Please leave all donations in the shopping cart located in the West Assembly area.

Some of the most needed items include:

*Dry lentils
black-eyed peas
Great Northern and black beans
fish sauce
Jasmine rice
cooking oils
jars of pasta sauce
diced tomatoes
honey
pork & beans
baked beans
canned tuna, sardines, and chicken
ground coffee
snack crackers
peanut butter
canned ravioli
and canned chili*

For more information about our partners of the month, please visit www.cesmn.org and www.sabathani.org.

Commitments to Capital Appeal Near \$950,000

As of mid-February, gifts and pledges to the *Boldly into the Future* capital appeal totaled \$934,000 – a sum that will enable Mount Olive to substantially reduce its \$1.6 million loan over the next three years. The loan enabled the congregation in 2017 to invest in geothermal energy, honor our sacred responsibility to care for the Earth, and make other building improvements.

Already, with gifts given since the appeal began in August, the church has paid down its loan by more than \$300,000.

Commitments to the Boldly into the Future appeal to date include:

- \$567,000 in three-year pledges
- \$127,000 in gifts given that were not part a pledge
- \$200,000 in funds pledged upon the congregation’s match of Mount Olive Foundation’s and Vestry’s combined funding challenge
- \$40,000 in funds designated by the Vestry from Mount Olive’s 2021 operating surplus.

“I am thankful for, and humbled, by the generosity of all who have contributed,” said Chandler Molbert, chair of the Boldly into the Future Steering Committee. “We still have a way to go to retire our debt, and we will continue to welcome gifts and pledges and pursue fund-raising opportunities. But we very much celebrate and appreciate the congregation’s enthusiastic participation and continued support for paying off our mortgage.”



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; Russ Pearson; John Salveson; Pariann Schenk; John Wall; James Wilkes; the family of Jake & Dannielle Lerum, relatives 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 and Marna Dahlgren, daughter-in-law and friend of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; David Yoblick, brother-in-law of Lora & Allen Dundek; Mattisyn, friend of Kat Campbell Johnson; Kristin Eklund-Johnson, Greg Eklund, Ryan Snelling, daughter, son, and friend of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Aimee Engebretson; Joyce Schoenfield, sister of Marilyn Gebauer; 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; Hilde Dobberpuhl, sister of Eunice Hafemeister and aunt of Linda Hafemeister; Cat Robinette, friend of Emily Hellerich; Maribeth, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Kevin Lyndsley, former Mount Olive member; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linquist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Brad Krider, friend of Rachel Meuret; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Sigrid Johnson, friend of Doug & Jean Parish and Donna & Mike Wolsted; Sue Smith, Steve Swanson, and Mary Peterson friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Vince DeLusia, friend of Cynthia Prosek; Jolie Melana Meshbesh, friend 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; Julius Underwood, grandson of James Wilkes; Judy Bonnes, Tommie and Susie Hunter, Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

Prayers of thanksgiving at the birth of a son, Isaac John, son of Martha and Ian O'Neill, grandson of Pr. Joseph and Mary Crippen, and great grandson of Marge and Don Shifflet.

For those in hospice care: 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: 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.



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Lutheran Church in America*

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Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Bargmann](#)

Sexton – [Jose Moracho](#)

In This Issue

- Accent on Worship – Jim Bargmann
- Sign Up for Ash Wednesday Eucharists
- Sunday Eucharists return to 8 & 10:45 am beginning the First Sunday in Lent, March 6 (THIS Sunday!)
- Lent Procession: This Sunday, 4 pm
- Looking for Livestreaming Volunteers
- Boldly into the Future Update