

# The Olive Branch

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

May 18, 2022



## Sunday Readings

**Sunday, May 22**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22 - 22:5

John 14:23-29

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**Sunday, May 29**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14,

16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

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

## Accent on Worship

*Vicar Andrea Bonneville*

In Acts 16, we meet Lydia, a dealer of purple cloth, on the sabbath day outside the gate of the city by the river. Paul and company went to the river because it was a place of prayer. They meet Lydia and the women who gathered there.

Luke writes that the Lord opened Lydia's heart to listen eagerly to Paul and then she and her household were baptized. The story ends with Lydia inviting them into her home. There is a lot of speculation about Lydia's identity, but one common descriptor of Lydia is that she was the leader of one of the first house churches in Philippi.

Lydia was a woman who found support in a community of women. There was something about her leadership and love that helped her sustain and support a community, a community that would eventually host Paul and companions on their journey.

Lydia is an example of one person within our church's history who lived as she was. With the Holy Spirit's work in her life, she was able to transform her community and be a cornerstone where people experienced God's transforming love. Her marginalized identity did not stop the Spirit from working within her, but rather her identity made her uniquely qualified to serve the community that she was in. A woman in the cloth making business supporting other women, likely widows and children.

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## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Wed., May 18**

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

**Thurs., May 19**

7 pm – Narcotics Anonymous

**Fri., May 20**

7 pm – Recovery Group

**Sat., May 21**

10 am – Music & Fine Arts  
Committee meeting

**Sun., May 22****Sixth Sunday of Easter**

8 am – Holy Eucharist

10:45 am – Holy Eucharist

(livestreamed)

**Tues., May 24**

Noon – Bible Study

**Wed., May 25**

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

**Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1***

We only get to glimpse into Lydia's life for a few sentences before the focus shifts away from her and her community. But one of the many things Lydia teaches us is that hospitality is at the center of sustaining a Christian community. Hospitality that goes outside the gates and hospitality that invites people in.

What does your identity make you uniquely qualified to do? And how is the Holy Spirit working within you?

- Vicar Andrea Bonneville



*Icon of St. Lydia, the Seller of Purple*

**Youth v. Gov -- The Movie**

From our friends at MNIPL:

“**YOUTH v. GOV** is the story of the *Juliana v. The United States of America* constitutional lawsuit and the 21 American youth, ages 14 to 25, who are taking on the world's most powerful government. Since 2015, the legal non-profit Our Children's Trust, has been representing these youth in their landmark case against the U.S. government for violating their constitutional rights to life, liberty, personal safety, and property through their willful actions in creating the climate crisis they will inherit.” Here's your chance to see these young people in action: <https://www.youthvgovfilm.com> It is inspiring!

## Partner of the Month

Our May Partner of the Month is the **Minnesota Council of Churches**.

“The Minnesota Council of Churches consists of 27 members representing the regional governing and administrative bodies of Historic Black, Mainline Protestant, Peace Church, and Greek Orthodox judicatories.” The Council works to build relations between its member churches and other faith communities. In addition, they coordinate a vibrant refugee resettlement program and work for advocacy at all levels of government for issues of importance to the member churches. While there is much that happens behind the scenes at Minnesota Council of Churches, they are most known for their “Blessed Ramadan” lawn signs and cooperative Iftar dinners, bringing people of differing faiths together for important celebrations and conversation.

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.

For more information about the Minnesota Council of Churches and their work, please visit [www.mnchurches.org](http://www.mnchurches.org).

## Neighborhood Cookouts

We are planning three neighborhood cookouts this summer - simply a relaxing time for the Mount Olive community to gather with our neighbors around food.

Plan to join us for lunch, beginning shortly after Liturgy (around 11:15 am or so), on June 12, July 24, and August 21. If you are able to help with set up, clean up, or want to grill, please contact Jim Bargmann, [neighborhood@mountoliverchurch.org](mailto:neighborhood@mountoliverchurch.org).

## Book Discussion

The Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am at church. All readers are welcome! On June 11, they will discuss *Little Fires Everywhere*, by Celeste Ng. On July 9, they will discuss *The Unseen*, by Roy Jacobsen.

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**Summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, May 29. During the summer (from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend), Mount Olive celebrates ONE Sunday liturgy, beginning at 10:00 a.m.**

## A Picnic!

Several Mount Olive members joined five members of the Afghan Family\* we are sponsoring to observe Eid Al-fitr, the traditional celebrations to mark the end of Ramadan. A month-long observance featuring fasting, prayer, and study, Ramadan is considered one of the five spiritual pillars of Islam, and is celebrated by Muslims around the world. At its conclusion, there are three days of gathering with family and friends, feasting, and presenting gifts. This time is called Eid.

The family prepared all the food and served a grand feast at Minnehaha Falls Park. In Afghanistan, they would have celebrated with their family, but the mother observed that “[Mount Olive] is their family now!” While the little boy played at the playground and the baby slept in the stroller, the adults enjoyed delicious food and got to hear the family members thank us in their newly acquired English.

*\*We are unable to share the family members' names and must block out their faces in order to protect their safety.*



## Global Ministry update: hunger and war call us to action

Many of us are concerned about hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity in the U.S. and around the world. A mid-April memorandum from our partner Bread for the World warns it could get even worse – and spotlights proposed and existing policies that need continued citizen advocacy.

The **Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act**, which could improve the lives of tens of millions of women and children around the globe, was passed in the House of Representatives just a few days ago. It's a safe bet that Minnesota's two senators will support the Senate version of the bill – but it never hurts to remind them of our support and thanks.

The **war in Ukraine** is a humanitarian disaster in that country and Europe, but also could lead to the worst global hunger crisis of this century, because Ukraine and Russia have been providing more than a quarter of the world's exported wheat. Bread for the World earlier asked the Biden administration to help provide **international food and other humanitarian aid** to Afghanistan and now is urging the administration to do the same for Ukraine, Ethiopia, Yemen, and some other countries.

Bread for the World also is asking its member churches to again support reauthorization of the **Global Food Security Act** and to extend or make permanent the **Child Tax Credit**. The latter significantly reduced the rate of severe food insecurity for children in the United States.

Mount Olive, like many U.S. congregations, has traditionally conducted its [Bread for the World](#) "Offering of Letters" in the fall. But messages to [senators and representatives](#) – whether handwritten letters, emails, or phone calls – can be effective throughout the year.

**Bread for the World**, started in 1974, is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. **Mount Olive's supported started:** ca. 1995. **Our annual support:** \$1,000, **for perspective:** Our Global Ministry gifts to 11 organizations in 2021 totaled: \$30,224

## 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](#).

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**Ascension  
Of Our Lord  
Thursday, May 26  
Holy Eucharist at  
7:00 p.m.**

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**Vigil of Pentecost  
Saturday, June 4  
5:30 p.m.**

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*All are welcome.*

## What a Difference a Week Makes!

A week ago the tulips were just starting to open. This week they are in full bloom and adding a colorful greeting to all who pass by 31<sup>st</sup> and Chicago.

Our gardens around the church and the pollinator garden in the south parking lot also have a fresh spring look thanks to a dozen of our faithful garden volunteers who spent Saturday morning trimming, cleaning, and raking up the remnants of last summer and winter. We are recycling the sand from the parking lot for next winter's icy sidewalks and creating mulch with the dried pollinators and grasses. We also saved the seed heads for future planting in areas that need a bit extra.

But there is always more room for volunteers who like to garden. We will be starting our bi-weekly working sessions on Saturday, May 28. Please join us when you can and of course stop by anytime and pull a weed or two as you encounter them.

Please reach out to Carol Martinson at [property@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:property@mountolivechurch.org), or at 612-708-9849 with questions or to get involved.





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**Church Staff**

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Sexton – [Jose Moracho](#)

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