

Mount Olive Lutheran Church



15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 13, 2020

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**A Reconciling in
Christ Community**

2830 18th Avenue NW
Rochester, Minnesota 55901



Mount Olive is a welcoming and inclusive congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), serving our neighbors in Rochester, Minnesota.

*Our core identity is lived out in four ways:
Worship, Service, Education, and Fellowship.*

Mount Olive's Welcome Statement:

"We trust that God calls Mount Olive Lutheran Church to a ministry of reconciliation. We embrace as a gift the diversity of our neighborhood and the world, and we extend God's hospitality by welcoming, hearing, and treasuring: All gender identities and sexual orientations, all races and ethnicities, all ages and abilities, all economic statuses and education levels, all faith journeys and personal histories. As Christ welcomes all, we too welcome the full inclusion of all people into the life, ministry, and sacraments of Mount Olive, joining in a journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect."

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Praying for Time"

Olivia Hafeman, piano

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen



GATHERING HYMN

"God is Here!"

ELW #626

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Jesus Loves Me"

Mount Olive Children

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Psalm 103 - "How Great"

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan



WORD

15th Sunday of Pentecost

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21 (NRSV)

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

Pastor Luke Hollander

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

ELW #605



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive." "Words by Rosamond E Herklots © 1969 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727717. All rights reserved.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

L: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share words of God's peace with one another.

MEAL**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

P: Let us pray:

C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.



Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

Gathered at the Lord's table, and around our own, we remember with thanksgiving that In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your love and teach us to pray.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

[Share the bread with one another, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you."

Share the wine with one another saying, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."]

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,



into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Kyrie"

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the

u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that

this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain



DISMISSAL

- P: Go in peace. Forgive one another.
- C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Welcome, Worship Guests!

Thank you for joining us in online worship today. You are always welcome. You may also visit our website, www.molive.org, to learn about other ways you can be part of life at Mount Olive in this "exilic" time. Online classes, devotions, and suggestions for support and service are available to you as well. God's peace be yours.



Worship Participants

Preaching	Rev. Luke Hollander
Presiding Minister	Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson
Organist	Deacon Travis Beck
Psalmist	Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Assisting Minister	Anya Liedtke-Quick
Lector	Emily Kuehl
Special Music	Olivia Hafeman



Congregational prayers for healing and comfort ...

- ◆ Mount Olive members and friends who are ill, grieving, or recovering from surgery.
- ◆ Those sick, recovering, anxious, homebound, or grieving because of COVID 19.
- ◆ All those affected by fires, especially those who have lost their homes and loved ones.
- ◆ Students, teachers, school staff, and parents, as they begin another school year under difficult circumstances.
- ◆ All homebound members

We pray that God's generous welcome might be known to all people, especially our companions in ministry in Kijota, Tanzania and Bogota, Colombia. May God's welcome come to them and through them, that all might be blessed.

Pastor Luke Ordained and Installed on September 4

Pastor Luke Hollander was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and installed as Associate Pastor of Children, Youth and Family at Mount Olive on Friday, September 4.



Participants included Bishop Hassanally, Pastor Glenn, and members of Luke and Pastor Lisa's family. The YouTube video of this service is available on the Mount Olive YouTube Channel. Go to www.molive.org for the link and to the Mount Olive Facebook page for more photos of the day.



In-Person Meetings Resume

In-person meetings for small groups have resumed at Mount Olive following a number of guidelines for COVID-19 safety. Groups of under 15 are allowed to meet indoors, socially distanced while wearing masks in either the Gathering Area or Fellowship Hall. Prior to meeting, participants answer self screening questions and following the meeting, there is a sanitizing procedure for groups to follow. All meetings must be pre-scheduled on the Mount Olive calendar. Contact the Mount Olive office for further information— 507-288-1580.

God's work. Our hands. Sept. 12-20

This year, "God's work. Our hands." is more than just one day of service. For 2020, we have expanded to

NINE days in which you can serve with **MANY** differ-

ent projects: Donate items or funds, perform acts of service in the community, and/or complete hands on projects at home. Please refer to the flyer sent with this week's bulletin for an outline of all the details.

On Sunday, **September 13**, please stop by the church between **2-4 pm** to pick up or drop off items/projects/funds and receive an ice cream treat from Mount Olive staff members. We're looking forward to seeing you; **please stop by to say "Hi"!**

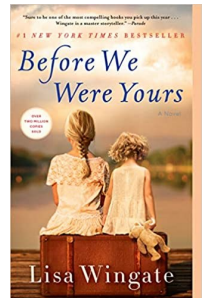
This is a great opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Please note that the church will be open for you to drop off or pick up items Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturdays, Sept. 12 and 19 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Monday Book Group (FSU) Meets September 14

On Monday, **September 14**, 6:30 pm, the Monday Book Group will gather on Zoom to discuss ***Before We Were Yours*** by Lisa Wingate. Billed as one of the most compelling books of the year, this is "A poignant, engrossing tale about sibling love and the toll of secrets."—*People* If you would like to be added to the email list or receive the Zoom invitation for September, contact Jodi Schoer at mjschoer@charter.net.



Book Study on Racism with Pastor Glenn Begins September 16

Beginning this Wednesday, September 16, Pastor Glenn will be leading a study on the topic which all of us need to learn more about – racism in America. In the aftermath of George Floyd's death, people across the globe have been asking questions like "What exactly *is* racism?" "Where is it found?" and "How am I involved?". Pastor Glenn will be diving into these questions and many others using a new resource called ***Dialogues on Race***. This is a resource especially well-suited for those for whom these questions are rather new. Reserve your copy of the study book (\$10) by emailing Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org or by calling the church office, 507-288-1580. This study will be held via Zoom, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, **September 16 – November 11**. All are welcome.

Online Sunday School Begins!

Online Sunday School including music, Bible stories, reflections, activities and/or crafts begins on Sunday September 13! Watch for the YouTube links available each week on Mount Olive's YouTube channel. The links will also be shared on the church website and Facebook page. Lessons are targeted for both preschoolers and children kindergarten through 6th grade. Pastor Luke **would like for you to get involved in them too!** If you would like to help by recording a song, story, or an activity/craft, please contact Pastor Luke— luke@molive.org.

Tailgate Worship is coming Sunday, September 27 at 11:00 am.

Bundle up, grab your lawn chairs, coolers, and grills, and head over to Mount Olive parking lot on Sunday, 9/27 at 11:00 am to enjoy outdoor worship together. If you like, you can wear your colors! (Go Vikes! Boo Pack!) We will have an informal worship service that will include "tupperware communion", which means you bring your own bread/cracker and wine/juice. Following worship, everyone is invited to hang out at distance and enjoy your own food and beverages, while having fellowship together. See you there.



Bach Society Mini Concert at Mount Olive

The Bach Society of Minnesota will be having "Mini Mobile Concerts" in Rochester on Friday, **September 18**. They will stop at Mount Olive at 2:00 pm and present a short outdoor concert by Julie Johnson on flute with mostly Bach repertoire. Attendees will be invited to sit socially distanced, wearing masks and may even stay in their cars to listen. Bach Society is known for presenting it's Christmas Oratorio at Mount Olive the last few years.

Thank you to all who filled out our recent survey!

We had a very good response and now we have a good idea of what kind of things will be most helpful going forward. Some highlights: Nearly everyone said that online worship is working for them. Seven out of ten said they were using Pastor Glenn's daily devotionals. Over half said they would attend an outdoor worship offering. Many people indicated their support for ongoing collections of items for neighborhood schools, Lutheran World Relief, and other mission partners. You will be receiving a copy of your own COVID Survival Manual in the mail soon.

Women's Small Groups Begin Fall Schedule

Six women's small groups, also known as circles, meet monthly for fellowship and a study from *Gather Magazine*. Some groups will meet via Zoom and some will meet in person, socially distanced. Meeting times vary and include: Tuesday or Friday mornings, Tuesday afternoon, and Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Contact Regina Seabrook, Mount Olive Women of the ELCA President, with any questions or if you are interested in joining a small group - rseabroo@gmail.com.



Next Sunday's Readings:

Jonah 3:10--4:11

God's concern for the city of Nineveh

Psalms 145:1-8

The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Philippians 1:21-30

Standing firm in the gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the vineyard workers

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