



3RD LAST SUNDAY

Sunday, November 8, 2020, 8:30 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

1123 Marsh Street, Mankato, MN 56001 | (507) 345-4966 | mtolive@mtolivelutheran.org
Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Adam Pavelchik

Explanation of the Week: *The church year is winding down, and so is the time left for this world. We are in the "end times." In these end times, Christians will see and experience struggles and hardships. The devil, knowing his time is short, will be "working to deceive even the elect, if it were possible" (Matthew 24:24-25). But God desires to work through these challenges for the good of His people, so he offers forewarning and encouragement to those who will face these things. He does "not want us to be uninformed" (1 Thessalonians 4:13), so he offers details in His Word that will help us be prepared for the struggles faced in the end times. God has always offered this encouragement to His people regardless of the struggles they face. As He proclaimed to the Israelites before the Babylonian Captivity: "I will not forget you!" (Isaiah 49:15). Though at times we have forsaken God—He assures us that He will never forsake or abandon us.*

Order of Service, Rite One (p. 41). This order of service, known as the “Bugenhagen Order,” grew out of the Lutheran Reformation. It was provided for use in the churches of Denmark and Norway in 1537 by Johannes Bugenhagen, Martin Luther’s pastor. Minor revisions were made to this service in 1685 and 1889 before it was translated into English for **The Lutheran Hymnary** (1913). The service printed here comes directly from the **Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary** (1996).



I. The Service of Preparation

(We prepare ourselves for worshiping God by acknowledging our unworthiness to stand before Him, and by receiving His forgiveness through absolution (forgiveness). We respond with thanks and joy.)

~Prelude — Preservice music & opportunity for prayer

*(See “Prayers for Worship”
—ELH p. 40)*

~Opening Prayer

(ELH p. 41)

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ’s sake. Amen.

~Hymn 534, vv. 1-3 *The World Is Very Evil*

*1. The world is very evil,
The times are waxing late;
Be sober and keep vigil,
The Judge is at the gate;
The Judge that comes in mercy,
The Judge that comes with might,
To terminate the evil,
To diadem the right.*

*2. Arise, arise, good Christian,
Let right to wrong succeed;
Let penitential sorrow
To heav’nly gladness lead
To light that hath no evening,
That knows no moon nor sun,
The light so new and golden,
The light that is but one.*

*3. Brief life is here our portion;
Brief sorrow, short-lived care;
The life that knows no ending,
The tearless life, is there.
O happy retribution:
Short toil, eternal rest;
For mortals and for sinners
A mansion with the blest!*

~**Confession of Sin** — *Admitting our sinfulness to God*

(ELH p. 41, 1)

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us a true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

~**Kyrie Eleison** – *“Lord, Have Mercy”*

(ELH p. 42)

C: ♪ O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us. O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us. O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us.

~**Absolution** — *God’s declaration of forgiveness*

(ELH p. 43, 1; Mk 16:16, Jn 1:12)

P: Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

~**Collect** — *The congregation’s prayer of the day*

(ELH p. 45; p. 164 #130)

P: O almighty and everlasting God, by Your dear Son You have promised us forgiveness of our sins and deliverance from eternal death: We pray that by Your Holy Spirit You will daily increase our faith in Your grace through Christ, and establish in us the certain hope that we shall not die, but peacefully sleep, and be raised on the last day to eternal life and salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

II. The Service of the Word



(After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thanked God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He now increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the Lessons and especially through the Sermon where God's Word is applied to our lives today.)

~Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 49:12-17 Look, people will come from far away.

Look, some will come from the north and the west,
and some from the land of Sinim.

Shout for joy, O heavens,
and rejoice, O earth.

Let mountains burst forth with shouts of joy,
because the Lord is comforting his people,
and he is showing mercy to his afflicted ones.

But Zion said, "The Lord has abandoned me.
The Lord has forgotten me."

Can a woman forget her nursing child
and not show mercy to the son from her womb?

Even if these women could forget,
I will never forget you.

Look, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.

Your walls are never out of my sight.

Your children are hurrying back.

Those who destroyed and devastated you will depart from you.

~Men's Choir "He Leadeth Me"

(J.S.Bach)

He Leadeth Me; He is my Savior.

In Him, My Lord. I find release.

Befriended now, I live in peace.

Anguish is gone; Night-tide is ending.

The day of grace is now ascending.

Christ, the Lord, hath set me free.

He leadeth me; He is my Savior!

~Holy Gospel Lesson

Matthew 24:15-28 “Therefore when you see the abomination that causes desolation, that was spoken of through the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place— let the reader understand— then those who are in Judea should flee to the mountains. The one on the housetop should not go down to take anything out of his house. The one who is in the field should not return to get his clothes. How terrible it will be for those who are pregnant or are nursing babies in those days! Pray that your flight will not take place in the winter or on a Sabbath. For at that time there will be great distress, unlike any that has happened since the beginning of the world until now, and unlike any that will happen again. If those days were not shortened, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened.

“At that time if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There he is,’ do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive even the elect, if it were possible.

“See, I have told you in advance. So if they tell you, ‘Look! There he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out there, or ‘Look! Here he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. Just as the lightning flashes from the east and shines as far as the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. Wherever the carcass may be, there the vultures will gather.

~Apostles’ Creed — *Confession of faith*

(ELH p. 46)

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. ♪ Amen.

~Hymn 537, vv. 1, 3, 4 Day Of Wrath, O Day Of Mourning

*1. Day of wrath, O day of mourning!
See fulfilled the prophet's warning:
Heav'n and earth in ashes burning.
Wondrous sound the trumpet flingeth,
Through earth's sepulchers it ringeth,
All before the throne it bringeth.
O what fear man's bosom rendeth
When from heav'n the Judge descendeth
On whose sentence all dependeth.*

*3. What shall I, frail man, be pleading,
Who for me be interceding,
When the just are mercy needing?
King of Majesty tremendous,
Who dost free salvation send us,
Fount of pity, then befriend us!
Righteous Judge, for sin's pollution
Grant Thy gift of absolution
Ere the Day of Retribution.*

*4. Faint and weary Thou hast sought me,
On the cross of suffering bought me;
Shall such grace be vainly brought me?
Think, good Jesus, my salvation
Caused Thy wondrous incarnation;
Leave me not to sin's damnation!
Guilty now I pour my moaning,
All my shame with anguish owning:
Hear, O Christ, Thy servant's groaning!*

~Epistle Lesson & Sermon Text

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

~Sermon Message

"A Prayer for Preparation"

- 1. Provide all we need for our faith.*
- 2. Strengthen our love for others.*
- 3. Increase the holiness of our lives.*

~Hymn 535, vv. 1, 4 *Farewell I Gladly Bid Thee*

1. *Farewell I gladly bid thee,
False, evil world, farewell.
Thy life is vain and sinful,
With thee I would not dwell.
I long to be in heaven,
In that untroubled sphere
Where they will be rewarded
Who served their God while here.*

4. *Lord, hide my soul securely
Deep in Thy wounded side;
From ev'ry danger shield me
And to Thy glory guide.
He has been truly blessed
Who reaches heav'n above;
He has found perfect healing
Who rests upon Thy love.*

~Special Prayers & Petitions

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 49; Mt 6:9-13)

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.

~Benediction — *Final blessing for God's people*

(ELH p. 59; Num 6:24-26)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.

~Hymn 525, vv. 3, 5, 6, 7 *I Know Of A Morning, Bright And Fair*

3. *I know of a morning, bright and fair
When tidings of joy shall wake us,
When songs from on high shall fill the air
And God to His glory take us,
When Jesus shall bid us rise from sleep
How joyous that hour of waking!*

6. *Now opens the Father's house above,
The names of the blest are given:
Lord, gather us there; let none we love
Be missed in the joys of heaven.
Vouchsafe Thou us all a place with Thee;
We ask through our dear Redeemer.*

5. *God's Son to our graves then takes His way,
His voice hear all tribes and nations;
The portals are rent that guard our clay,
And moved are the sea's foundations.
He calls out aloud, "Ye dead, come forth!"
In glory we rise to meet Him.*

7. *O Jesus, draw near my dying bed
And take me into Thy keeping
And say when my spirit hence is fled,
"This child is not dead, but sleeping."
And leave me not, Savior, till I rise
To praise Thee in life eternal.*

~Closing Prayer

(ELH p. 59)

P: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

~Postlude

*(See "Prayers for Worship"
—ELH p. 40)*

*Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor John Petersen
Organist: 1st Service: Cassie Johnson
Organist: 2nd Service: John Baumann
Monday Service: Kristin Matzke
Special Music: Men's Choir*

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE:

Sunday: 8:30am, 145/130; 10:45am, 130/91;

Monday: 25/21

SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK:

Greeters: 1st Service: Deb Johnson, Mark & Vivian Smith;

2nd Service: Lois Johnson, Keith Anderson

Offering Counters: Seth Ferkenstad, Joe Meyer

Altar Guild: Carol Petersen, Sherri Bukowski

Weekly Financial Update:

Given Last Week: \$23,435.88 (includes text & on-line giving)

Fiscal Year To Date Deficit (as of 9/30/20): \$20,802.64

Philippians 4:19-20 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Catch Mt. Olive Worship Services Online at www.mtolivelutheran.org

OR

TV on local cable channels 181 (Spectrum) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 11:30 AM.

To give your offering online, go to www.mtolivelutheran.org and click on the link "DONATE ONLINE".

Or TEXT 833-726-3742 along with the amount you wish to donate. Or Mail your offering to the church office.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *November 8, 2020 – November 15, 2020*

Sunday, November 8	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 3:30PM	Divine Service SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service Youth Group Cookout @ Faugstad's Home
Mon., Nov. 9	9:30AM 6:30PM 6:30PM	Area Pastors' Conference @Peace Divine Service Church Council
Tues., Nov. 10	6:30PM 7PM	PTF Executive Committee M.O.M.s Bible Study (Ulrich Home)
Wed, Nov. 11	8:05AM 9AM 4PM	CDS Chapel Bible Study Confirmation Classes
Thurs., Nov. 12	8:30AM 1PM 3PM-7PM	M.O.M.s Bible Study (Peace) M.O.M.s Bible Study (Mt Olive Social Hall) Parent/Teacher Conferences
Fri., Nov. 13		NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conferences
Sat, Nov. 14		
Sunday, November 15	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM	Divine Service with Holy Communion SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service with Holy Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the altar today are given to God's glory by Elli Fisher.

TODAY Youth Event All 7-12 grade students are invited to the Faugstad residence for an outdoor youth event on Sunday, November 8, complete with yard games, a devotion, and a cookout. This event will go on--rain or shine--so plan on meeting in the Mt. Olive parking lot at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, then carpooling to the home of Ben and Ashley Faugstad, 59206 N. Victory Dr., Mankato. Our house is about 1.5 miles east of Menards, the first house on the left after the railroad tracks. Following the provided dinner, youth members will be back to the Mt. Olive parking lot by 6:30 p.m. See you then!

NO M.O.M.s Holiday Pie Bake Sale This Year. Due to Covid, the Moms On a Mission (M.O.M.s) Bible Study group will NOT be having their annual Holiday Pie Sale right before Thanksgiving.

Coffee & treat volunteers: We are looking for more volunteers who are willing to make coffee before our services, pick up treats, and serve them for our Sunday morning Bible Study. If you would like to volunteer please go to the Mount Olive website and click on the link at the bottom of the page titled "Coffee Servers Sign Up". If you have any questions, please contact Sam Barbosa. Email: sambarbosa3@gmail.com or call/text: (507) 382- 4928.

Altar Guild Meeting: Thursday, November 19th @ 7pm in the Social Hall. We are always looking for new members! Please join us if you are interested in learning more about the Altar Guild. Questions? Contact Sharon Madson sdmadson@hickorytech.net or 507-351-4516.

After School Care is looking for any 'Sports Illustrated Kids' magazine. Our current issues are well loved and falling apart. If you have some to share, the kids would appreciate it! Thank you!

Food Drive: Out of gratitude and great love for our Savior we hope you will join us in sharing the abundance we have with those in need. Mt. Olive will be collecting non-perishable food donations for ECHO Food Shelf from **Sunday, November 8 through Sunday, November 22**. Please place your donations in the boxes under the band room window. Then stop in the office for a Mt Olive window sticker for your car (1 per household).

Hebrews 13:16 And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Mt. Olive's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner: Due to the current circumstances, we are NOT planning on hosting a Thanksgiving meal at church this year. However, our Evangelism Committee is working to gather food items to supply Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless youth in the Mankato area. The staff at 'The Reach' shelter has agreed to prepare the food and deliver it to their clients on our behalf. Please look for the sign up sheets in the Narthex. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Blood Drive at Mt Olive Friday, November 27th from 10am-3pm To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit their website at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code MTOLIVEKATO. 1 pint can save 3 lives!

Job Opening: New 2 You is seeking a part-time person to work at the thrift store. We need someone who can work up to 15 hours a week. You would be helping with donations, sorting, pricing, and other duties to maintain the store. This is a great job for retired people or someone looking for a fun, Christian environment to work in. If interested please contact Christine at 507-385-1455 or send an email to New2YouFamilyThrift@gmail.com.



New 2 You Family Thrift Holiday Hours:

Extended Holiday hours during November and December only. New 2 You will be open 9:30 am to 4:00 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to work our two shifts at the register.

9:00 am - 1:00 pm morning shift

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm afternoon shift

Please call New 2 You at 507-385-1455 and talk to Christine or Jen to schedule a time you can help us. As a bonus, we are also celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Month in November. The day our volunteers work they can purchase all items at half price for the month of November. New 2 You donates 75% of proceeds to MVL to support Christian Education, the other 25% is split between the WELS/ELS churches in Mankato, North Mankato & Nicollet. Thank you for considering to give of your time at New 2 You.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

Spirit of MVL Virtual Gala & Auction

The Spirit of MVL Recognition Reception and Gala are combining and going virtual with the fitting theme Together in Spirit. Please join us online on Saturday, November 21, 7-8pm! We'll be honoring the 2020 Spirit of MVL award recipients, John Apitz, Lynn & Dan Hacker, and Fred & Joy Struck; auctioning awesome items; and raising funds for our livestream technology project and the Partnership Fund. Virtual door prizes and the Appeal to the Heart open Thursday, November 19. Register today at www.spiritofmvl.givesmart.com! Contact Kristin Matzke for questions: kmatzke@mvlhs.org or 507-233-8662.

MVL Wreath Sales

The annual Christmas wreath and greenery sales are going digital this year. Visit mvlwreaths.givesmart.com to place your order, or call the MVL office at 507-354-6851. Orders must be placed by Sunday, November 15 in order to pick-up at your church before Thanksgiving. Not only will you get to enjoy the scents of Christmas, but you'll also be helping fund the purchase of new hymnals for students to use in chapel!

MVLHS Director of Mission Advancement Position Open

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School seeks a WELS or ELS male to serve as Director of Mission Advancement. Interested individuals should contact MVL Principal, Dr. Tim Plath, for more information at 507-354-6851 or tplath@mvlhs.org.

ELS Military Monument Project:

As you probably have heard the goal of this project is to construct a beautiful tribute to our veterans on Bethany Lutheran College campus. The monument will serve to honor any and all veterans and ensure that this and future generations will be aware of the cost of the freedoms they enjoy as citizens of our great nation through this God-pleasing vocation of warrior. The ELS Military Monument Committee has established a Veteran's Day 2020 through Memorial Day 2021 Matching Funds Challenge. We invite all donors to double the impact of their offering from Nov. 11, 2020 – May 31, 2021. We already have commitments of a \$32,600 match and expect in the weeks to come that we will be increasing this amount and will announce periodically when the match amount is increased. These donors are challenging us in the ELS and beyond to give to this worthwhile project. Please consider a generous (tax deductible) contribution to be matched dollar for dollar during this designated time period. (While not part of this match offer, we continue to encourage contributions honoring individual veterans with engraved pavers, benches and branch pillars to be part of the site. Ordering information is available on our website: www.els.org/monument).

Donor Recognition:

Donors that donate amounts of \$1000.00 and more, other than Bench and Pillar purchases, will have the opportunity to have their name engraved on the 3-foot by 12-foot monument base. These donors will be recognized in three categories.

Those donating \$1000 to \$4999 will have their name inscribed in the Bronze Donor Level list.

Those donating \$5000 to \$9999 will have their name inscribed in the Silver Donor Level list.

Those donating \$10,000 and above will have their name inscribed in the Gold Donor Level list.



Lutheran Military Support Group AMMO Can Campaign

As Veterans Day approaches, Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is seeking donations in support of our military men, women and their families. LMSG, a partnership of ELS and WELS veterans, is working to grow awareness of and bring Christian support to military members and their families in our congregations and beyond. By placing your gift in the AMMO can located in the narthex, you are supporting the work of local congregations that are ministering to nearby military families, the WELS chaplain program, the MCP (Military Contact Pastor program training and more. Questions? Visit www.lutheranmilitary.org.

THANK YOU for standing shoulder to shoulder with those serving our nation!!



No End in Sight

When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come (Mark 13:7).

They thought it would be the war to end all wars. They told the Soldiers in August of 1914 that they would be home before the leaves fell.

Neither turned out to be true.

By the time that war ended, 20 million were killed and 21 million were wounded.

Then, the children of those Soldiers marched off to the next war— with even more casualties.

Another war followed. Then another one. And the end of wars has not yet come.

There is no end in sight.

That can be a frightening thought. But it should come as no surprise. It merely affirms what Jesus said thousands of years and uncounted wars ago.

War will end when time ends.

We may find ourselves asking, “Why?” Is this God’s way of punishing us? Should we not work to end wars? Should we not pray for that?

We regularly do pray, *“Where there are wars, let there be peace.”*
Is Jesus telling us there will never be peace? Is our prayer useless?

Never! Jesus is the Prince of Peace!

So, why does he tell us that such things as wars must happen?

Because it is true. So that we do not despair. He still rules.

The Bible points to the cause of wars. It asks, *“What causes fights and quarrels among you?”* Then it answers, *“Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you?”* (James 4:1)

Wars fought on blood-soaked battlefields are extensions of the wars fought inside of us.

There is such a thing as evil in this world. Evil always threatens peace, always seeks to harm, always seeks to kill.

Evil must always be resisted, or it will overwhelm and rule.

We need to expect wars to take place until the end of time because evil will be with us until then.

The thought can be depressing—and scary. Until we remember that the Lord of the Nations is in control.

Yet that does not mean that we cannot have times of peace. Our nation has had long years of peace between wars. That has been a special blessing from the Lord of Nations. We must thank him for that and implore him to grant that blessing in days to come.

Wars will continue. But peace is something we can have now.

Peace inside of us. Peace of mind. Peace with God.

Our veterans need to know that. They need to have that peace.

We pray that they might have it.

We strive to share that peace with them.

It is the very best way to thank a Vet.

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).



LUTHERAN MILITARY
SUPPORT GROUP
Shoulder to Shoulder in Service

From the Mt. Olive Deacons:

Dear Mt. Olive Family and Friends: We acknowledge that there are wide differences of opinions concerning COVID19 and that these opinions are constantly changing day by day. We understand that everyone has a different comfort level for gathering together. We appreciate how people's consciences are affected differently as they consider their own personal situations, families, and lives. We also recognize that our members have individual spiritual needs that must be met.

As our church works to meet the challenges before us, we humbly request your continued prayers for our church and school, our church leadership, pastors and teachers; we appeal to your patience and perseverance as we continue to wrestle through these things; and we also ask that you, our members, might approach one another with love, putting the best construction on each other, refraining from trying to judge the hearts of our fellow members for the choices that they are making. Let us instead rejoice that in spite of our differences of opinions, we are still united together by faith in our Savior Jesus Christ.

Moving forward, our intention is to be able to provide opportunities for all of our members to be able to receive the Means of Grace and Worship. With this goal in mind, **we are going to be making some adjustments to our Worship Services, beginning Sunday, November 15th:**

Sunday, 8:30am Service – Face Coverings required (No exemptions please).
Congregational singing of liturgy and hymns. Return to our regular liturgies.
Live-Streamed and archived online for those who remain at home.

Sunday, 10:45am Service – Face Coverings (We ask that those who have a face covering exemption to please attend this service). Singing. Regular liturgical forms.

Monday, 6:30pm Service – (Designed for those who are vulnerable and cautious.)
Face Coverings (no exemptions please). No singing—spoken service.
Abbreviated length.

Please Note:

- **Registration:** At this time, we will **discontinue our online pre-registration**. Instead we will ask that **those who attend our services fill out a “Connect Card”** with name and email/phone and leave it in the offering plate.
- **Communion:** Our practice for **Holy Communion will continue as it has been**. Those who request to take of the Common Cup may do so from the pastor when they come forward. Our Deacons will be continuing to review and discuss our communion distribution process in the coming months.

- **Social Distancing:** We do ask that everyone take special care to maintain appropriate distancing between households. Please **use the pews labeled “1” for the 8:30am Service, and “2” for the 10:45am Service.** Please **follow the direction of the Ushers** who will be working to ensure social distancing. We ask those attending **Monday Services to seat themselves at appropriate distances.**
- **Face Covering Exemptions:** If you have an exemption to wearing a face covering, we invite you to use that exemption. (You can find the exemptions listed in paragraph 8 of EO 20-81 – <https://www.leg.mn.gov/archive/execorders/20-81.pdf>) We do ask that **if you have an exemption, you would attend our 10:45am Sunday Service.** We trust our members to honestly determine for themselves if they qualify for an exemption—we ask our other members to not be judgmental of those who are using an exemption. Executive Order 20-81 does not apply to children under the age of 5. **Children are welcome at all of our Services.**
- **Feeling Ill?** Please stay at home. We would invite those who are sick or have any symptoms to watch our service online.
- **If You Feel Hesitant or Uncomfortable:** If you are struggling to determine which service you would be comfortable to attend, please speak with one of our Pastors. If you desire extra space or would like to leave early, we can make arrangements for you to do this (i.e. we would suggest requesting a seat in our Narthex.). If you do not yet feel as if it is time to return to in-person worship, we do ask that you reach out to our Pastors who want to minister to your needs and share communion individually with you in ways that you find comfortable.

We continue to monitor the situations before us. We want people to feel safe as they come to God’s house. We also want our people to have the comfort of Word and Sacrament in this time of distress—that which keeps us safe from Satan and death. Please consider which service is right for you to attend. Our Pastors and Deacons are also available to you if you have any questions or feedback that you would like to share. Please don’t hesitate to contact them:

William Bukowski: William.Bukowski@bhc.edu

Andy Overn: AndyO@bhc.edu

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In closing, please consider St. Paul's encouragement in Ephesians 4:1-6 *"I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. ² Live with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in the one hope of your calling. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all."*

Thank You!