

The Olive Branch

October 4, 2017



Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

What Might Have Been

"It could have been a party." That was a reflection on next Sunday's parable made by someone at our Thursday night Bible study a few years ago. We read the parable out loud, listened in silence for what Jesus might be saying, and she saw a truth I'd never seen in this story. This could have been a party.

The landowner built a vineyard, a wine-press, a watch tower, and rented the land out to farmers who would take the bulk of the produce themselves. The rent was a portion of the harvest, a customary arrangement. But when harvest came, the landlord's representatives were turned away, some beaten, some killed. So he sent his son, hoping for reconciliation, and his son was also killed.

It didn't take Jesus' opponents long to see that he was speaking against them. There are deep parallels in this parable to the story of God coming to be with us in Jesus. But our sister at the Bible study was right: what's so sad about this story is that it could have been a party.

The harvest was in, grapes filling baskets and wagons. The renters were looking forward to the fruits of their labor, literally, and all of this bounty came from land they didn't own. They couldn't have afforded to buy the land, build the vineyard, the wine-press, the tower. But for a percentage of their harvest, they were able to rejoice in the abundance of God's good earth, and work honest work to care for their families.

The bringing in of the grapes, the sharing of the harvest with the owner, this could have been a party. Wine poured, olives and cheese shared, laughter and relief at a successful growing season, joy at the ability to use this land to feed your children, this harvest festival could have been amazing. The owner and tenants could have toasted this successful partnership, rejoiced in this careful stewardship of the earth and its bounty.

"When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parable, they realized he was speaking about them." (Matt. 21:45).

I wonder if we realize the same thing. It could be a party, you know. It really could.

Sunday Readings

October 8, 2017
18th Sunday after
Pentecost (27 A)

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 15, 2017
19th Sunday after
Pentecost (28 A)

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday's Adult Forum

Sunday, October 8: "Hymns of Martin Luther," presented by Dr. Paul Westermeyer.

Martin Luther, though he is often regarded as an iconoclast and the first person to introduce congregational singing into the church (with bar tunes), in fact was deeply indebted to and grateful for the hymnic heritage he received. This forum will be a discussion of some hymns Martin Luther wrote, translated, or adapted, with considerations of their backgrounds.

Paul Westermeyer is Emeritus Professor of Church Music at Luther Seminary in St. Paul where he taught, served as the Cantor, and directed the Master of Sacred Music program.

Next Sunday, October 15: "Bethania Kids," presented by representatives from Bethania Kids.

For 30 years, Bethania Kids has brought wholeness and hope to poor, abandoned, and disabled children in India. For many of those years, Mount Olive Lutheran Church has been partners with Bethania Kids in this ministry. The late Gene Hennig, a founder of Bethania Kids, was a long-time member of Mount Olive. We have continued to support the Bethania Kids children and we are grateful for all at Mount Olive who participate in this important global mission. For more information, see <https://bethaniakids.org/about/>

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Wednesday, October 4 (TODAY!)

Blessing of Animals - 7 pm

Bring your pets for this fun annual service of blessing!

MFA First Event of the New Season

This Sunday, October 8, 2017, 4:00 pm

Hymn Festival: Hymns of Martin Luther

Cantor David Cherwien, Mount Olive Cantorei, Reflections by Susan Palo Cherwien.

As part of the year observing 500 years since the beginning of the Reformation, this hymn festival will include several hymns composed by Martin Luther himself, some still widely sung (such as "A Mighty Fortress"), some not so often ("Even as We Live Each Day"). A reception follows the hymn festival.

Book Discussion

For the October 14 meeting, the Book Discussion Group will read *The Snow Child*, by Eowyn Ivey. For the November 11 meeting, they will read *Anna Karenina*, by Leo Tolstoy.

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the West Assembly area. All readers welcome!

From Conflict to Communion

2017 is the first ever joint Lutheran/Catholic commemoration of the Reformation. In preparation for this singular event, the Roman Catholic / Lutheran Joint Commission published the document, "From Conflict to Communion."

On Sundays, October 8, 15, and 22, following the second liturgy, Don Luther will lead a discussion group focused on this document. To register, email Don at luther5708@usfamily.net, or call him at 612-861-4777. In preparation for the gathering, "From Conflict to Communion" can be downloaded for free here: <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-conflict-communion-basis-lutheran-catholic-commemoration-reformation-2017>.

Calendar

Wednesday, October 4 - Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal
6:00 pm Internship Committee meeting
7:00 pm **Blessing of Animals (Bring your pets!)**
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsals resume
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, October 5

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, October 7

- 9:30 am Confirmation
11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal
1-3 pm Prayer Shawl Group meets at Blackeye Roasting Co.

Sunday, October 8 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am **Holy Eucharist**, followed by coffee and fellowship
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am **Holy Eucharist, with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism**, followed by coffee and fellowship

Monday, October 9

- 7:00 pm Vestry meeting

Tuesday, October 10

- Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

All You Need Is Love?

Thursday Bible Study Continues

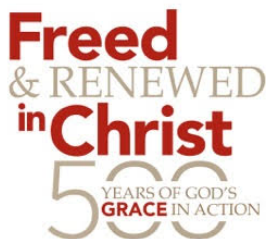
The first Thursday Bible study series of this year continues from Oct. 5 through Nov. 2.

Meeting in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Pr. Crippen is leading a study on the First Letter of John, titled "All You Need Is Love?"

This treasured epistle is a deep, joyful exploration of the power of God's sacrificial love to reconcile all things, and the desire of God that we share in that love for the sake of the world.

As usual, we begin with a light supper at 6 pm.

All are welcome to this study opportunity!



Reformation Bookstore – One More Sunday

As part of our Reformation 500 observance at Mount Olive, a special book sale is being offered after both liturgies on Sundays, October 1 and October 8.

Get discounts on several books from Augsburg and Sparkhouse Publishing.

Books for both adults and children will be available. This is not a fundraiser, but we will earn books for our church library.

Come and shop!

Gene Hennig Memorial Benefit--Get Tickets Now!

While the benefit isn't until October 13, this is the week that planners need a catering count. Do not delay! Call Emily Hennig at 651-210-9289, or log in to <http://ghhbkb.preclickbid.com> to get your tickets. This benefit for Bethania Kids is a great way to honor the 30 years of caring for India's children that Gene and his friends began. Thirty years ago they started by serving 9 orphans. Today, over 1000 kids are served in 4 residential homes, 9 day care and after school centers, 2 rehabilitation centers, and 3 women's empowerment programs, and Mount Olive has been there from the beginning.

Attention Mount Olive Worship Assistants

The Servant Schedule for the 1st quarter of 2018 (January - March) will be published at the beginning of December 2017. The deadline for submitting requests to me is November 1, 2017. Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com. Thanks!

- Peggy Hoefft

Summer of '17: Construction Update

A lovely article about our project appeared in *The Alley* newspaper this past week. There are copies of the paper at church, and next week we will either provide a link to the article or attach it to the newsletter. Worth a read! And (DRUM ROLL, PLEASE!) by the time you read this our solar electric panels will be hard at work.



Xcel Energy technician installing the "net meter," a meter which measures when we sell excess power to Xcel Energy.



These are the inverters that convert the direct current (DC) provided by the sun, to alternating current (AC). Hope that fair skies dominate!

Finally, it's dangerous to make predictions, but the parking lot should be ready for use by the end of this month, and the new entry door for the Parish House is targeted for Christmas.

News from the Neighborhood

Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministries & Outreach

Helping a neighbor at church

Sunday morning is a bustling time in the life of a church, and it's commonly a time when neighbors may come in to see if there is help available for some of their needs. This happens often at Mount Olive, and it's good to know how to serve someone well when they are in need of resources, so here's a few tools you can use:

If they are hungry - feed them.

We usually have food around, and there are cans of soup in a box in the corner by the upstairs kitchen above the grocery cart where food donations go that can be heated up in the microwave right away or taken with. Offer a plastic bag, some utensils (lower drawer on left of the oven), something to drink, napkins. Unless it's obviously labeled otherwise, the food in our building is meant to be shared - please use it as it is needed to serve anyone and everyone without hesitation. *Soup or stew with pop-tops or microwavable meals are helpful to have in donations!

In that same corner in the coatroom on the left side are bins with hygiene supplies (shampoo, soap, razors, toothbrushes, feminine products) Please offer these items and a bag if they need it. Again, it is all meant to be given away. Do not feel that you need to hover or protect anything in these bins. *Things like jackets, t-shirts, socks are also helpful to have from donations.

If they need information about local resources, there are packets of information in the document holder on the right side of the display case. Do they need money? This is your personal decision to make if you'd like to help, but I would recommend being creative with a heart of goodwill. That does not always include giving cash. If Pastor Crippen or I are around we can speak with them as well or give them the church phone number to reach us the following day. As a reference: bus fare is \$2.00-\$2.50.

My hope is to not only help create a welcoming spirit, but also one of open hands and hearts. Everything in this church is meant and designed to serve. Please feel free to use its abundance and resources to do that in whatever way you feel guided.

HELP WANTED!



- **Congregational Life:**
Volunteers are needed to bring treats and serve coffee hour after Sunday liturgies. There is a sign-up sheet in East Assembly Room next to the serving window - sign up this weekend! If you have any questions about serving coffee, contact Carla Manuel, 612-521-3952.
- **Worship Committee:**
The Altar Guild is seeking new volunteers. See page 5 of this *Olive Branch* for complete information.

Semi-Annual Meeting Oct. 15: Budget and Bylaws

The Vestry has set Sunday, Oct. 15 as the date of the October semi-annual meeting of the congregation. The meeting will start at 12:15 p.m. On the agenda is the 2018 general budget of the congregation, and recommendations from the Vestry for several bylaw changes.

As usual, there will be a preview meeting a week earlier, Sunday, Oct. 8, after second liturgy, to give people a chance to talk about the budget and these bylaw changes.

Following are the recommended bylaw changes. They are intended to better reflect current congregational practice, and to give more directed guidance to the ministry with youth and their families. If the bylaws are approved Oct. 15, they take effect immediately.

In B4.03 **The Director of Congregational Life**

Replace:

~~f. Make every effort to induce members who have been negligent in their attendance at services, in the use of the Sacraments and the financial support of the Congregation to fulfill their responsibilities as members.~~

With:

f. Make every effort to connect with members who have become or are becoming less active or are worshipping less frequently, to pray for them, and to engage with them in listening for how the Congregation might be of Christly service to them.

In B4.11 **The Director of Youth and Family Ministry** *(add underlined to title)*

The Director of Youth and Family Ministry shall:

Replace:

~~a. Promote, project and facilitate the ministry of the Congregation to and by the youth of the Congregation.~~

~~b. Design and promote programs of education, fellowship and service for junior high and high school age members of the Congregation.~~

With:

a. In conjunction with the Pastor, assist and help lead the Congregation in its ministry with the children and youth of the Congregation and their families.

b. Support, encourage, and assist families of this Congregation in carrying out their role of teaching the faith to their children.

c. Encourage spiritual growth of the youth and children of the Congregation through Bible study, prayer, music, and Christian service, and assist and encourage families to participate in these activities at home.

d. Collaborate with the Pastor, the Cantor, and the Director of Education on educational offerings to the children and youth of the Congregation, as well as classes in Christian parenting, faith in the family, and other similar issues; and assist in planning and recruiting leadership of the same.

e. Collaborate with other Vestry directors to plan and encourage involvement of the youth and children of the Congregation in all aspects of the congregation's ministry.

f. Plan and coordinate activities for youth with other youth groups outside this Congregation.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Jessica Christy*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Anna Scott*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

Altar Guild Welcomes New Servers

Serving on Mount Olive's Altar Guild – caring for the communion vessels, linens, and flowers that enhance our liturgies – can be a spiritually rewarding extension of worship.

Responsibilities

- Prepare the altar before worship, or clean up and set up between liturgies (when we have two), or clean up afterward.
- Serve with a spouse, partner, or friend; with another Altar Guild member; or alone. You choose.
- Attend quarterly Altar Guild meetings.

Frequency

Each person signs up for the time slot and dates that suit her or his schedule, usually one to three liturgies per month.

Training

Experienced, patient Altar Guild members provide thorough on-the-job training.

Contact

If you're interested in serving, please send a note to welcome@mountolivechurch.org. Or stop in the north sacristy (through the front left door as you face the altar) before or after any liturgy to talk with a current Altar Guild member.