



The Olive Branch

May 9, 2018

Accent on Worship

Vicar *Jessica Christy*

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

“Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

“Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?”

In Luke-Acts, Jesus’ followers face a series of “why” questions with seemingly obvious answers after the resurrection. They’re looking for Jesus in a tomb because they believe he is buried there. They are frightened when they see Jesus because they think he’s a ghost. They’re looking up toward heaven because that’s where Jesus just ascended, and they’re still trying to make sense of what they’ve seen. If the disciples were to answer these questions, their responses might reasonably end with a “duh.” The real question is why Jesus and the angels pose these queries that shouldn’t even need to be asked.

But perhaps the questions that we think don’t even need to be asked are the questions that we most need to hear. The answers to the questions in Luke-Acts only seem obvious because the people hearing them aren’t seeing the whole picture yet. The fact that God, or messengers from God, can even ask them breaks open a new world of possibilities that their listeners had never even considered. Instead of demanding answers, they provoke more questions in response. Why shouldn’t we look for Jesus among the dead? Why shouldn’t we be afraid? Where else should we be looking, if not to heaven? These are the kinds of questions that can lead the disciples to the truth of the gospel.

What are the questions that God is asking of you this week? What assumptions are you being invited to challenge? What are the truths that might not be so obvious as you originally thought? The letter to the Ephesians promises that the more we know God, the more we will be filled with a spirit of wisdom and revelation that opens the eyes of our hearts. Because of our relationship with God, we have the ability to understand the world with new, faith-filled eyes that see beneath the surface of things. We can see life where others see death, hope where others see fear and Christ’s presence where others see only absence.

Sometimes, that starts with a question.

Sunday Readings

May 13, 2018

Seventh Sunday
of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

I John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

May 20, 2018

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Pentecost Reading of Acts 2 In Many Languages

For a number of years, it has been our tradition at Mount Olive to hear a portion of the Pentecost reading from Acts 2:1-21 read simultaneously in various languages. Some of you have either participated in this joint reading in the past, or are knowledgeable enough in a foreign language that you might be willing to participate.

I would like to invite anyone who can read aloud in another language to participate in this corporate reading on Sunday, May 20, 2018. We need readers for both the 8:00 and 10:45 liturgies. Please contact Susan Cherwien via email at susan.cherwien@gmail.com if you would be willing to participate or if you have questions. Instructions will be sent to all participants, so have no fear!

- Susan Cherwien

Olive Branch Publication Schedule

During the summer months of June, July, and August, *The Olive Branch* is published *every other week*.

Due to vacation schedules, etc., the last weekly issue until fall will be published on May 23.

Attention Mount Olive Worship Assistants

The Servant Schedule for the third quarter of 2018 (July - September) will be published at the beginning of June 2018.

The deadline for submitting requests to me is May 10, 2018. Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com.

Thanks!

- Peggy Hoelt

Mother's Day Recital This Sunday

The annual Mother's Day recital offered annually by our younger ones will be this Sunday, May 13, at 9:30 am.

Plan now to come to see and hear our talented kids!

Book Discussion

The Book Discussion Group has moved discussion of their next books, *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, and *The Meursault Investigation* by Kamel Daoud to their May meeting on May 12. For the June 9 meeting, they'll read *The Spire*, by William Golding.

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!

Thursday Evening Study

"Beloved, God's Chosen?" is the title of the Thursday evening Bible study that began on Apr. 12. Pr. Crippen is leading this 6-week study that hopes to look at Scripture with fresh eyes on the questions of salvation: what is God doing in salvation? What does it mean for us? What does God think about us? What happens at the cross? How and why and when does God forgive our sins? This Bible study meets in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday evenings, through May 24, and all are welcome.

As always, there will be a light supper preceding the study each week.

Calendar

Wednesday, May 9

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, May 10 - Ascension of Our Lord

- 7:00 pm Ascension Eucharist

Friday, May 11

- 7:00 pm Recovery & Wellness Support Group

Saturday, May 12

- 9:30 am Confirmation
10:00 am Book Discussion group
11:00 am Transitions Support Group

Sunday, May 13 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee & conversation
9:30 am Mother's Day Recital
10:45 am Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee & conversation
6:45 pm Mount Olive serves Our Saviour's meal

Monday, May 14

- 7:00 pm Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, May 8

- Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

June Book Study of James H. Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*

For three Sundays in June, David Engen will lead a book study of the late James H. Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, a book connecting the continuing oppression and suffering of African Americans with Christ's crucifixion.

The study will take place on June 10, 17, and 24, after the 10:00 liturgy and coffee hour. A number of copies have been ordered from Orbis Books and will be available for purchase though the church office on weekdays and in the West Commons on Sundays.

For more information, contact Susan Cherwien at susan.cherwien@gmail.com.

Christ Church Lutheran to Hold Debut Recital for New Organ

The inaugural recital on the new Christ Church Lutheran pipe organ will be performed by internationally acclaimed organist Gregory Peterson. The recital will take place at 2:00 pm on Sunday, May 20, in the church sanctuary, a National Historic Landmark designed by influential architect Eliel Saarinen in 1949.

The recital is free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception.

Christ Church Lutheran is located in the Longfellow neighborhood at 3244 34th Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

The new organ was designed and built by Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Lake City, Iowa. This new organ, their Opus 95, also displays Dobson's expertise in using the best from the pipe organ tradition while being tailored to the needs of this particular building and community.

**The Ascension
of Our Lord
Thursday, May 10
(tomorrow!)
Holy Eucharist
at 7:00 pm
All are welcome.**

Transitions Support Group Next Meeting: Saturday, May 12, 2018

This group will hold its next get together at 11:00 - noon, in the Library at Mount Olive this Saturday, May 12. Please note day and time change!

For more information, please contact Cathy Bosworth 612-708-1144, marcat8447@yahoo.com or Heather Halen 612-822-0953, hjoyhalen@hotmail.com.

Keep us in the Loop!

Do you have a new address? Phone Number? Email Address? Please let us know so that we have current contact information for you.

Help us to help you stay informed and in contact with each other.

The Church Cantatas of J. S. Bach

April 10 @ 6:30 pm - May 15 @ 8:30 pm

John Setterlund and Paul Westermeyer, Chaplain and Dean of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, will lead six Tuesday night sessions, April 10 through May 15, 6:30-8:30, about Bach Cantatas, at The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Victoria and D in Roseville (3115 Victoria St. N., Roseville, MN 55113).

Specific cantatas, Bach's life, faith, theology, the worship of the church where he worked, and Bach today will be discussed. (Bach's Cantata 100 will be part of the Word portion of the 9:00 A. M. Eucharist, just as in Bach's Leipzig, on Sunday, May 13, at The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. All are welcome.

There is a one-time \$20.00 registration fee which covers all six sessions. Register in the church office with Rachel Wright at rwright@lcrelca.org or 651.484.1292.

Vigil of Pentecost Saturday, May 19, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Save The Date!

On Sunday, July 22, there will be a special tour of the Minnesota State Capitol specifically for Mount Olive members.

Led by John Marty and Lora Dundek, the tour will offer special access to Capitol spaces, and information on the history, art, and architecture of this Minnesota gem.

More information will be available in June. For questions, call or email Lora Dundek.

News From the Neighborhood

Update from Longer Table Lending

Longer Table Lending is a new ministry of Mount Olive being created to respond to the needs of our members and neighbors to fulfill our vision of the church within the world. Here is our guiding statement that propels us in this work;

STATEMENT OF VISION FOR LONGER TABLE LENDING

To offer a no interest loan program that provides an alternative to payday and abusive lending practices for individuals and families in a financial hardship who have the ability to repay.

This mission statement flows from the Mount Olive Mission Statement "In the presence of God. Being the presence of God." Because "the grace of the Triune God has been made known in the cross and resurrection of Christ ... our lives are lived in worship and service both in and out of the building we know as Mount Olive. As we embody the love of Christ we "find abundant life and fulfillment in engaging the world ... Our daily lives and service are our worship."

We see our whole neighborhood as our community and the face of Christ in every person of that community. Because we are abundantly blessed here at Mount Olive, we respond to the predatory lending and financial hardship within our community by building a longer table rather than a higher fence.



Spring Clean-Up Thanks

Thank you to our Saturday morning cleaning crew who found some trash treasures and helped spruce up our surrounding blocks on Saturday, May 5.

Enjoy walks in your neighborhood? Bring along a bag and grab any litter you can - a little love goes a long way!

Twelfth Annual Bach Tage

Just before Easter, the Postal Service delivered your brochure describing the Twelfth Annual Bach Tage at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, June 2-3, 2018.

- Perhaps it's on your desk in a stack of "things to get around to."
- Heaven forbid, you threw it away! But, even so all is not lost. Extra brochures are available at church.
- If you still have the brochure, send in the registration promptly.
- If you have lost the brochure, you can view and print out a copy at the Mount Olive website, read about the performers, and get a registration form, all at Mount Olive's website: www.mountolivechurch.org. Follow the links on the home page.
- We will mail music to registrants in the next few days, so please register as soon as possible.

We hope you will be with us at Bach Tage, June 2 and 3.
Further information can be obtained by calling Mount Olive Lutheran Church at (612) 827-5919.

Property Committee News

Our new geothermal system is working well. The coldest month in our heating year was January, colder than last year by about 9% in terms of heating needs. Comparing January 2017 on the old boilers to January 2018 on our new geothermal system shows some great results.

If we still had the old system, we would have used 4,521 therms of natural gas. Instead, we only used 2,271 therms, so we cut our gas consumption almost in half. (Remember, we still heat the parish house with gas.) That's 26.4 tons of carbon dioxide that did not go up our chimney and into the atmosphere that month!

Instead of burning that 2,250 therms of gas to produce the 225 million BTUs of heat we needed, we used about 9,600 kWh of electricity (= 32.7 million BTUs) to pump 192 million BTUs of heat out of the ground under our parking lot and into the church.

Are we saving money? Yes. Again in January, the gas bill was almost \$1,500 less than we would have expected on the old system. Our electric bill was about \$1,100 higher (electricity is more expensive per BTU than gas). That's a net savings of about \$400 for January.

We are still adjusting the system and have no experience yet on the air conditioning side so we will have a better picture as time goes on, but for now, this is all good news. Our utility bills are lower and we have substantially reduced our carbon footprint!

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.*

Summer Worship Time Changes to Ten

The Vestry has approved the Worship Committee's recommendation to move the summer Sunday Eucharist time to 10:00 a.m. for this year. The summer schedule runs from Memorial Day weekend, Sunday, May 27, through Labor Day weekend, Sunday, Sept. 2. This change is part of a broader conversation about our Sunday Eucharist times. With geothermal air conditioning in the nave, one of the reasons for a single summer liturgy, high heat later in the morning, is changed. But we also have heard from some of our older members that the 9:30 a.m. time is a little too early for them to be able to get here, so this temporary change seemed wise.

This spring, Worship Committee had a long discussion about whether we might keep our two service schedule for the whole year, or if there were other reasons for one liturgy during the summer, and what would be a good time for that single liturgy. The committee is working on a way to get a sense of what the congregation feels about the question, so watch for opportunities for feedback. In the meantime, all are welcome to reach Rob Ruff, director of the Worship Committee, at worship@mountolivechurch.org, with any thoughts.