



The Olive Branch

August 15, 2018

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Never Empty

Mary and I will become empty nesters September 1. I say that with excitement and anticipation. But we're also both starting to realize how much we'll miss. Peter began Minnesota Independence College and Community last weekend, so for the first time he's living apart from us. He'll be home for breaks and for summer, and graduate in three

years. But it's a big change for us and for him. (Prayers are most definitely welcome for his adjusting!) Rachel, two years graduated from Concordia, is moving to her first apartment at the end of the month, and of course the two oldest are married and in their own homes. It's a new day for Mary and me, and for these two great young people. Still: a new day where we're living in different places.

But as we've been listening to Jesus these past weeks, and Paul (in Ephesians), I am reminded that there is really no such thing as an empty nest. Jesus is trying to get the crowds and us to grasp how we belong to each other deeply in Christ. Paul's been saying much the same. This Sunday, Jesus gets deep into incarnation. He speaks of eating his body, and drinking his blood, which had to have been as shocking to his hearers as it is to us when we see it in print like this sentence.

But shocking or not, Jesus is pointing to a life-giving reality: The Incarnate Word of God isn't limited only to Jesus himself. This Word now gives us in simple bread and wine a sign of God's astonishing wonder: if God can be incarnate in everyday bread and wine, not just in Jesus, then God is and can be incarnate in the whole creation. In you. In me. We are what we eat, and in the Eucharist we take in Christ and become Christ.

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Sunday Readings

August 19, 2018

13th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

August 26, 2018

14th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10-11]

22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

*St. Mary, Mother of
Our Lord*

*Wednesday, August 15
Holy Eucharist at 7:00*

James H. Cone Book Study Follow-up August 19 After Liturgy

Since the summer has given a chance to think and ponder, those who attended the June book study of James H. Cone's book *The Cross and The Lynching Tree* will have an opportunity this **Sunday, August 19**, to share thoughts, realizations, and perplexities that have arisen after reading and studying the book.

How are we - often unwittingly - biased against African Americans or other groups? How can we make changes in our attitudes and catch ourselves when we slip into old patterns? How can we work to change society's laws and norms that would address the continuing inequity for African Americans and other minorities in the United States?

A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank the thoughtful people of Mount Olive for the cards, notes of condolence, prayers, and kind words at the death of my mother.

May God bless all that you do. You are held in my heart.

- Donna Neste

CPR/AED Training

The American Red Cross has sent Mount Olive a notice that it is time to certify/re-certify our First Aid and or CPR/AED training. (Anyone who has been trained within the past 2 years can obtain a copy of his/her digital certificate by visiting redcross.org/getcertificate, and enter basic information (first, last names, zip code of the training location and the last day of the class).

We are in the process of gathering names of those from Mount Olive who went through the Red Cross CPR/AED training when we first offered it a couple of years ago. If you have received this training before and wish to renew your certification at this time, or if you haven't received the training but wish to receive it now, please contact Larry Duncan at duncanlarry52@ymail.com within the next week. Larry will set up a date for training and let all participants know. The costs of this training are being covered by Mount Olive.

Attention Mount Olive Worship Assistants!

The Servant Schedule for the 4th quarter of 2018 (October - December) will be published at the beginning of September 2018. The deadline for submitting requests is **tomorrow, August 16, 2018**.

Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com.

Olive Branch Publication Schedule

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

Deadline for information for the August 29 issue is Monday, August 27.

Book Discussion

For the September 8 meeting of the Book Discussion Group, they will read *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

All readers welcome!

Calendar

Wednesday, August 15 – Mary, Mother of Our Lord

10:00 pm Staff Meeting

7:00 pm *Holy Eucharist*

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, August 18

11am-1pm Diaper Depot open

Noon Community Meal

Sunday, August 19 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation

11:45 am Book Study Discussion

Monday, August 20

6:30 pm ReconcilingWorks committee meeting

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, August 21

Noon Bible Study

4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

Wednesday, August 22

10:00 am Staff Meeting

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, August 24

7:00 pm Recovery & Wellness Support group

Sunday, August 26 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am Women's Choir rehearsal

10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation

Monday, August 27

7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting / N. A.

Tuesday, August 28

Noon Bible Study

4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

Getting Ready -- From Bread for the World

We are making progress toward the end of hunger, but we live in challenging times. Our gains are increasingly vulnerable due to the actions and inactions of governing officials.

Our great democracy gives all Americans access to powerful decision makers. Just as Esther in the Old Testament was called to be an advocate with the king of Persia for her threatened people, we are called to speak up with leaders in Congress to protect vital programs for people who struggle with hunger and poverty.

You serve God when you put your faith into practice. And just as Esther fasted and prayed as she prepared for advocacy with the king, the people and churches who participate in Bread for the World's annual Offering of Letters also pray for God's saving presence and direction in our nation's life.

We will join together in our Offering of Letters on Sunday, September 2 following our worship.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

So at our deepest DNA, in the heart of our being, we are one with each other and the whole creation. Even if people don't live with us anymore, move, find new paths, we're not alone. Even if our loved ones grow old and die, still we belong. The nest is never empty, because God, our mother hen, is constantly drawing her chicks together, even if physically the chicks are apart.

This, too, gives me much hope.



It's a (Surprise) Birthday Celebration!

Melba Smrcka will celebrate her 100th birthday this fall! Her family is celebrating with a post-liturgy lunch at Mount Olive, and everyone is invited!

Mark your calendars now: Sunday, September 9, following the second liturgy. In the meantime, don't tell Melba (who is receiving an edited version of *The Olive Branch*).



A Couple of Photos of the Canopy Installation

The new canopy for the Parish House entrance was installed on Wednesday, August 1.

Thanks to Art Halbardier for these photos!



Key Cards NOW Available!

The Parish House Door and the two entry doors from the alley now have electronic locks. If you currently have a key to the doors, you may trade that key for a card (the size of a credit card) which will open any of the doors. The price of the card is your old key, which you may turn in to Cha at the office.

Why is this important? Of course, electronic entrance is more convenient. Plus, when a traditional key is lost, the locks must be re-keyed, and new keys issued to everyone. It's very expensive. Should, heaven forbid, you ever lose your card, all that is needed is deleting that card or fob in the system and issuing a new one.

Stop at the church office with your old key as soon as possible to check out your new card.

Introducing Our New Vicar

Greetings Mount Olive,

Over the past year, I have heard again and again, from area clergy, many of my predecessors and members of the wider Church that Mount Olive excels at loving their vicars, and this is evident to me as I begin my vicariate this week. I am especially honored to serve as your 50th vicar, a number that speaks of your faithfulness in preparing and discipling laborers in the vineyards of God's kingdom. Saint Maximilian Kolbe, whose memory we celebrated on August 14, reminds us that "the Cross is a school of Love," and thus I pray that the Cross of Jesus Christ may guide our year together. I also ask your prayers, that God may grant me attentiveness in my learning, humility in my serving, and steadfastness in my love for you.

I arrive at Mount Olive after a long journey of faith, having grown up in the Orthodox Church and served as a deacon, then crossed the threshold into the Lutheran tradition while studying with Finnish Lutheran theologian Dr. Kirsi Stjerna and pursuing my MA in Systematic Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. I continue to be nurtured by the theology and liturgy of the Eastern Church and the witness of our early mothers and fathers in the faith, with a renewed vision of God's liberating gift of Grace through faith as our Lutheran tradition proclaims. As an academic and a practitioner, I am excited to continue connecting the dots between the two lungs of the Church catholic, and synthesizing patristic and Lutheran theology to inform our personal and collective journeys to God.

I currently live in Minneapolis with my husband, The Rev. Sonny Graves, who pastors the people of New Spirit United Church of Christ in Savage, Minnesota. In addition to my vocation as a spouse, I am also a vowed Brother of the Community of Saint John Cassian (CSJC), a canonical vowed apostolic community under the jurisdiction of our communion partner, the Episcopal Church. I am excited to serve the wider church in a variety of contexts, especially through Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, the LGBTQIA+ PoC Clergy Network, and a new endeavor to form the Twin Cities Liturgy Society.

I look forward to meet each and every one of you, to learn from and serve with you for the sake of God's Church.

- Vicar Matta Ghaly, CSJC.

Mount Olive Cantorei Wants YOU!

Only a few weeks until Cantorei rehearsals resume!

We'll begin this year on September 4 (Wednesday, of course), at 6:30 pm, with a potluck supper, followed by an overview and brief rehearsal to prepare for Sunday the 8th. (We'll be singing Faure's "Cantique de Jean Racine" that day). Bring a dish to share!

Interested in singing in Cantorei this year? Come on along - all are welcome.

- Cantor David Cherwien

EPES in Puerto Rico

One of the things that we love about our partnership with ELCA missionary Karen Anderson in Chile is the collaboration and partnership that she and EPES/ Action for Health in the Americas foster with communities and other organizations. This note was recently received from Karen:

Dear Friends,

The presence of three Puerto Rican women enriched this year's International Training Program (the "Escuela") in January: environmental health education teacher Elda Guadalupe Carrasquillo from Vieques; community leader and health promoter Aida Edward from Loiza; and Puerto Rico University Medical School professor Aurinés Torres-Sánchez. The three helped generate community-based organizations drawing from the EPES popular education for health model.

In a thank-you letter written by Aurines after the International Training, she said: It is in this respect that the EPES Escuela is so important, since this is the time when we most need to invest funds and energy in sustainable projects that will allow us to find more just solutions. The popular education methodology allows us to foster local empowerment from the community bases where the social transformations of dignity are born. It is beautiful to see and feel that solidarity transcends geographic borders, language and culture.

Thank you!

National Night Out!

What a beautiful night to be out and with our neighbors. We had a visit from the fire truck, games, food and hotdogs to share. About 60 neighbors stopped by to chat and eat and have some fun. Hope you also had a great night out in your neighborhood!



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Summer Sunday Eucharist: 10 am

Contact Us

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On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Matta Ghaly*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Anna Scott*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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