



The Olive Branch

October 3, 2018

Accent on Worship *Pastor Joseph Crippen*

Sunday Readings

October 7, 2018
20th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

October 14, 2018
21st Sunday after Pentecost

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

"This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" (John 6:60)

That's what we heard some disciples say in August, when Jesus challenged his hearers with hard sayings about eating and drinking his body and blood.

We might feel the same way in the next few weeks. We're in a stretch now of some very hard sayings of Jesus, starting with last week's graphic imagery, continuing with his teaching on divorce this week, and then several other challenging words to come. Someone mused on Sunday, after liturgy, "why do you think the Spirit inspired such words like that?" It's a good question.

But there's another question worth considering. Why did the early Church leave hard sayings of Jesus in the Gospel? They easily could have been cut out, and yet Mark includes them, and Matthew and Luke for the most part also hand them on to their readers. The Church kept these three Gospels as truth worthy of hearing often and being rooted in the hearts of believers.

The answer lies in Jesus' intention to call people back into relationship with God, to draw all people to God. The world is a complicated, broken, hurtful place for many, and if Jesus wants to

help us navigate a path of life in this world, he's going to have to be honest. Issues we'd rather ignore, he lifts up. Changes we'd rather not make, he urges us to consider how important they are. Truths about ourselves or the world we'd rather pretend weren't true, he insists on our hearing.

So we listen. Sometimes we wince. Sometimes we just are confused. The wisdom of our forebears is to stay engaged with the voice of Christ, whether it's simple or challenging, and let the Spirit teach and guide. The light will shine at some point, that we are promised.

We might prefer a less difficult Jesus. But if we hope to find the abundant life in God and in this world that he promises, it's far better that he tells us the truth. Then we can find the path to life.



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(Limited) Skilled Workers, Lend Me Your Ears

Actually, you can keep your ears, but please pay attention.

We have an outdoor painting and caulking project that should be done before winter. Property Committee is hoping for some warm days in October to tend to this, And HELP IS NEEDED.

Skill required: ability to operate a paintbrush, roller, or caulking gun for a few hours.

If willing to pitch in, make your fine character known by sending a quick message to property@mountolivechurch.org, or phone the church office. Then we will watch the weather for a warm Saturday morning to get this done. Materials, tools, supervision, and abundant displays of gratitude will be provided.

- Art Halbardier, Property Director

Save the Date!

*National Lutheran Choir All Saints Concert
"Dark Night of the Soul"*

Friday, November 2, 7:30 pm

St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN

Sunday, November 4, 4:00 pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN

Tickets: Adult \$30 | Senior \$28 | Students and Children FREE

For additional information, call the offices of the National Lutheran Choir at 612-722-2301, or visit www.nlca.com.

Opportunity to Host German Visitors

Twelve to fourteen German people from the Lutheran Churches in Leipzig, Germany will visit the Twin Cities from October 5-15. They are members of the church council from the churches of Pr. Helge Voigt, a friend of Mount Olive. The planning group assisting them for this trip is in need of assistance from area churches. We need people to host 1-2 people for their stay, and/or provide transportation, and/or have them in your home for a meal or an afternoon or evening entertainment. Many of them speak some English, but if you speak even a little German, that will be helpful, but not required. If you can provide hospitality for this group of our neighbors from across the globe, please contact Lora Dundek at 651/645-6636 or email her at lhdundek@usfamily.net. Any help you can give will be appreciated!

Book Discussion

The Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am. Here is the schedule of upcoming books:
For October 13: *Purple Hibiscus*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- For November 10: *The Portrait of a Lady*, by Henry James.

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Calendar

Wednesday, October 3

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, October 4

- 5:45 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Blessing of Animals

Friday, October 5

- 7:00 pm N.A. First Friday social event

Saturday, October 6

- 9:30 am CPR/AED Training
10:30 am Voter Registration event
11am-1pm Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal
1-3 pm Prayer Shawl Group meets at Blackeye Roasting Co.

Sunday, October 7 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist**, followed by coffee & conversation
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee & conversation
Noon Theological Discussion Group
4:00 pm MFA Event: Music for Trumpet and Organ

Monday, October 8

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

Tuesday, October 9

- 11:00 am Lutheran Organizations Luncheon
Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, October 10

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Coffee Hosts Needed

Enjoy Sunday coffee hour? Sure you do – everyone does! A good coffee hour doesn't happen without coffee hour hosts, and right now we need volunteers to host coffee hour. Take a turn!

Sign up on the chart in the East Assembly Room. Carla Manuel is happy to answer any questions about procedure that you may have or provide any training you may need.

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Thurs., October 4 (tomorrow!)

Blessing of Animals at 7:00 p.m.

*Bring your pets to this
annual service of blessing!*



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News From the Neighborhood

Let's support Lake Street's

Immigrant & Refugee Owned Businesses

This **Friday, October 5**, everyone is invited to support Lake Street's immigrant and refugee-owned businesses with your pocketbook and sharing your adventures on social media with the **#MyLakeStreetDay** hashtag!

Go out for lunch with your co-workers, pick up some groceries, or swap out your big box purchase for a trip to Lake Street.

Afterward join us for a cozy fall bonfire, live music from local band **Nick's Cousins**, Somali tea, atole, tres leches cake, and cardamon buns at Plaza Centenario.

Ace in the City - Capturing Joy Benefit

Our partners at Ace in the City are celebrating 10 years of ministry in the Powderhorn Park area and Mount Olive wants to wish them well and support them in the years to come. Consider joining a table of other Mount Olive members to hear about their great work and look for ways to work together. Dinner is free. Please follow the link to register and request to sit at Anna Scott's table. Questions? Call Anna 612-827-5919, or email neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org. Registration deadline is November 1st!

This event will be held on Thursday, November 15, 5:00-8:00pm at At Aria, 105 North 1st Street, in Minneapolis.

Cocktail hour (cash bar) and appetizer buffet, 5-6pm.

Dinner served at 6:15 pm, followed by program, which concludes at 8pm.

Link to register: <https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/?e=16586>



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Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts' First Event of the New Season

This Sunday, October 7, 4:00 pm

Music for Trumpet and Organ

Charles Lazarus, Trumpet and David Cherwien, Organ

All are invited to this delightful program of music offered by Minnesota Orchestra's trumpeter extraordinaire, Charles Lazarus, with an eclectic program of music by Handel, Purcell, J. S. Bach, and an arrangement of "American Nomad" (Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra) for trumpet and organ by Steve Heitzeg.

Charles Lazarus is one of the area's great treasures with an amazing palette of stylistic abilities, offering sell-out performances with the Minnesota Orchestra and his own Jazz Ensemble.

A reception will follow the concert.

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 have scheduled this class for this Saturday, October 6, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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. The costs of this training are being covered by Mount Olive.

The Shape of Discipleship: Thursday Bible Study Continues

The first Thursday Bible study series of this year continues through November 1. (We may need to tweak the time on Oct. 4 to be able to celebrate St. Francis and to bless animals at 7:00 p.m., but we'll discuss that together.) Meeting in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Pr. Crippen is leading a study on the spiritual disciplines, classic patterns of life that have shaped Christians for centuries. **Please note there will be no class on October 11.** As usual, there will be a light supper when we begin. All are welcome to this study opportunity!

Thanks to the cleaning crew!

Many thanks to Beth Gaede, Katherine Hanson, JoEllen Kloehn, Bonnie McLellan, Timmms Lindholm and Schnabel, Steve Pranschke, Cynthia Prosek. They cleaned the chancel, transepts, narthex, and sacristies, and polished the pews and brass candelabra and fittings. It was a lot of work, but the big crew finished in good time.

Bold Step Forward . . . The Bottom Line

Have you enjoyed the comfortable temperatures at worship this summer, the strong attendance, the robust singing, not sticking to the pews when it's time to stand?

Have you appreciated not having to struggle to hear the sermon over the roar of fans, motorcycles, and buses? Are you delighted to see the canopy in place, the new door, the parking lot, the lovely surroundings of the Undercroft?

But, of course, this has a cost. **It's time to look at the inevitable, dreaded "Bottom Line."**

For those who enjoy data, this article is for you. Others may feel painful pressure building above the eyes reading the following. Please endure; in the end, it's really pretty good news.

In the beginning . . . summer of 2017, we signed a not-to-exceed contract for **\$2,073,566**, to drill geothermal wells, install new heating and cooling systems, and restore the parking lot torn up drilling geothermal wells. Remember that figure: **\$2,073,566**.

Important Note: The contract did not include the canopy, the new Parish House door, or the sidewalk repairs and improvements. They were estimated to add about \$120,000 to the price.

Over the past year, **Change Orders added \$185,297.97** to the contract. About 70% of that was for 1) the above-mentioned canopy, door, sidewalks, etc... plus 2) the remedial reworking of the heat pump installation behind the organ which was unbearably noisy as originally designed.

Other change orders covered surprises: excavating and disposing of asbestos and lead contaminated soil from three old house foundations under the south parking lot, extensive asbestos abatement inside the building, and relocating the main gas service to the church - you remember eight Sundays last fall with cold water only?

And a few nice additions were approved: new lighting, redecorating, and painting the Undercroft and stairwells, a new high-efficiency water heater, and the recent landscaping along Chicago Avenue. But, **we captured some significant savings** also through efficiencies and problem solving.

Treasurer Chad King has now received the final bill for construction. After this is paid, the **contract will be closed with a \$128,740.41 credit**. So, what does this mean for us?

Total Change Orders added 184,297.97

Minus Credit to Contract - 128,740.41

It means the original contract was exceeded by only \$56,827.56, which includes the canopy, the new door, sidewalks, all the remedial work behind the organ, and other change orders.

But, that's not the whole story. **We have also received \$30,606.14 in energy rebates** for the HVAC equipment and installation, plus a **\$10,000 settlement** from the engineers who provided the faulty design for the west balcony which had to be done over. A total of **\$40,606.14 in non-budgeted credits**.

Net added to the contract \$56,827.56

Minus Non-budgeted credits - 40,606.14

So, (drum roll please), **The Bottom Line for all the additions**, the canopy, front entry, door with all its electronics, sidewalks and landscaping, and the remedial work in the west balcony is **\$16,221.42. Total expended: \$2,089,787.42.**

Altogether, pretty good news. But of course it's still a BIG NUMBER. We will need to discuss what this means at length as we consider the 2019 budget and our personal stewardship this fall. And we must pray for guidance and inspiration as we continue our **Bold Step Forward**.

- Art Halbardier, Property Director

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

**Summer Sunday Eucharist:
8:00 and 10:45 a.m.**

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

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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- CPR/AED Training to Be Held This Saturday
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- A Bold Step Forward: Crunching the Numbers
- Beat the Rush! Sign Up to Host Coffee NOW!