

The Olive Branch

May 8, 2019

Accent on Worship

In the Shepherd's Care

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Our Revised Common Lectionary, which we share with many of our sibling denominations in the West, has centered the seven weeks of Easter on the central image of Christ the Good Shepherd. This actually began for us in the first three-year lectionary Lutherans in this country used, the lectionary in Lutheran Book of Worship, from 1978. For over forty years now the Fourth Sunday of Easter has been Good Shepherd Sunday.

We'll sing Psalm 23, as we do each of the three years. We'll hear a part of John, chapter 10, Jesus' chapter where he calls himself our Shepherd, and the Gate of the sheep, a different part of John 10 each year. And from Revelation this year we'll witness the worship of the Lamb who is paradoxically also the Shepherd, who guides us to the water of life.

I invite you to dwell on this metaphor this week. Contemplate what it means for you to be shepherded by the Triune God through the risen Christ who is with you. If you came to mid-week Lenten worship this year, you know we focused all five weeks on Psalm 23, and parts of John 10, and reflected on how that psalm speaks to all our life in the Shepherd's care. The psalm prayer appointed for this psalm in our worship book is printed below. Let this guide your contemplation and prayer this week, that you may ever remain confident in the loving Shepherd who will never let go of you or let anyone take you out of God's love:

Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, you give us new birth in the waters of baptism, you anoint us with oil, and you nourish us at your table with heavenly food. In your goodness and mercy, dispel the shadows of evil and death, and lead us along safe paths, that we may rest securely in you and dwell in the house of the Lord now and forever, for your name's sake. Amen

In the name of our Good Shepherd,



Sunday Readings

May 12, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

May 19, 2019

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Sunday Adult Forums

Sunday, May 12: Young Peoples' Recital

Sunday, May 19: "Revisiting the Ascension," presented by Dwight Penas

Taking Heart: Ramadan Iftar Open House Meals 2019

From the Minnesota Council of Churches (with an invitation from Jim Bargmann, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry):

Ramadan is the month of the Islamic lunar calendar during which Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset; in 2019 it falls between the dates of May 5 – June 4. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the "five pillars" of Islam, and is performed to learn compassion, self-restraint, and generosity.

Taking Heart Open Houses is a long-running program coordinated by the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) and the Muslim American Society of Minnesota (MAS-MN) to bring Christians and members of other faith communities together with Muslims for food and conversation during Ramadan. Minnesota mosques and Islamic community centers welcome their non-Muslim neighbors for a traditional Iftar, inviting a time of encounter and learning.

Registration is now open so you can sign up for one or more events at: <http://bit.ly/TakingHeartRegister>. These events are free and open to the public.

Note from Jim Bargmann: I am planning to attend the Taking Heart Abubakar As-Sadique on May 25 if you would like to join me, but you are welcome to attend any of the Open House events that work for you.

**The Ascension of Our Lord
Thursday, May 30, 2019
Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm**

All are welcome.

Art Reception This Friday

Meet Artist Robyn Sand Anderson at a gallery reception preceding the Paul Manz Hymn Festival this Friday!

The gallery reception begins at 6:00 PM and will continue up to the beginning of the Hymn Festival at 7:30 PM.

Meet Robyn Anderson and talk about her beautiful exhibit. Robyn will also have greeting cards available for purchase.

Book Discussion

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am in the West Assembly Area. All readers welcome!

For the May 11 meeting they will read, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, by James Joyce. For the June 8 meeting they will read, *A Moveable Feast*, by Ernest Hemingway.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, May 8

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, May 9

- 6:30 pm Nigeria Partnership meeting

Friday, May 10

- 7:30 pm MFA Hymn Festival

Saturday, May 11

- 9:00 am Confirmation
10:00 am Book Discussion group
10:30 am Catechism
11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Narcotics Anonymous speaker event

Sunday, May 12 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Young Peoples' Recital
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
6:45 pm Mount Olive serves Our Saviour's meal

Monday, May 13

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

Tuesday, May 14

- Noon Bible Study
4-6 pm Diaper Depot open
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir auditions

A Note of Thanks

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who had a hand in preparing for, supporting, and leading our many liturgies this past Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter Sunday: those who prepared the altar, those who cleaned and polished, those who helped lead services, those who sang and provided music, those who baked bread, those who greeted and ushered, those who provided and arranged flowers, those who planned and rehearsed, those who veiled crosses, those who embroidered, those who made banners, the children who found the Alleluia banner, those who helped us celebrate with food, and all who gathered to give praise and thanks to God.

Test Your Climate Knowledge

The Missions Committee would like to challenge you on your understanding and knowledge of our beautiful Earth. NASA Global Climate Change web site offers quizzes to help us learn about vital signs of the planet. One quiz each week will be offered here until Earth Day to assist you in growing your stewardship of the Earth and all living things. Click the following link to take this week's quiz, "How's Your Energy Level?"

<https://climate.nasa.gov/quizzes/quiz-energy/>

Every Church A Peace Church - Twin Cities

The next regular bi-monthly potluck supper meeting will be on Monday, May 20, 6:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church (4537 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis - 612-823-8205 - www.stjoan.com).

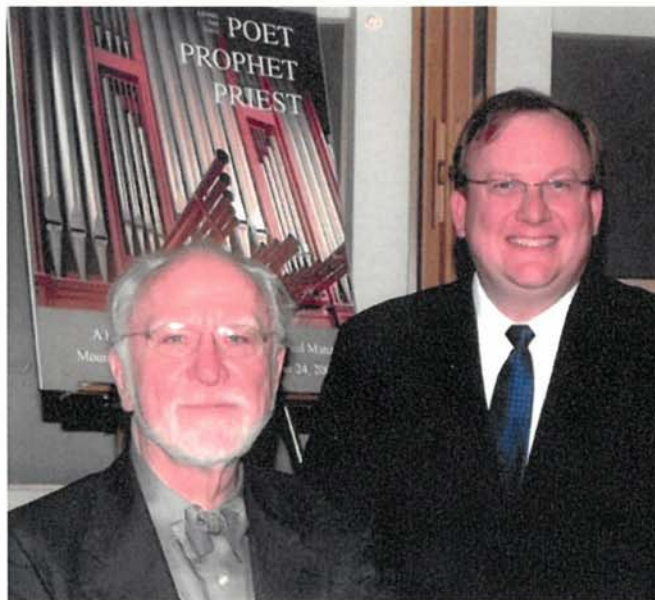
The speaker for this program will be Jack Nelson Pallmeyer. His topic will be "Building a Movement of Movements: Our Role as Peacemakers."

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts
presents

A HYMN FESTIVAL

*MARKING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF
FORMER MOUNT OLIVE CANTOR PAUL MANZ*

Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.



*Following the Hymn Festival will be a festive reception,
with a tribute and toast to Paul Manz,
given by Michael Barone, Minnesota Public Radio.*

Beyond Diversity 101: Micro-inequities, Implicit Bias, and Moving toward Equity
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
April 28, 2019

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, The Ohio State University, kirwaninstitute.osu.edu

Defining Implicit Bias

Also known as implicit social cognition, **implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner.** These biases, which encompass both favorable and unfavorable assessments, are activated involuntarily and without an individual's awareness or intentional control. **Residing deep in the subconscious, these biases are different from known biases that individuals may choose to conceal for the purposes of social and/or political correctness.** Rather, implicit biases are not accessible through introspection.

The implicit associations we harbor in our subconscious cause us to have feelings and attitudes about other people based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity, age, and appearance. **These associations develop over the course of a lifetime beginning at a very early age through exposure to direct and indirect messages.** In addition to early life experiences, the media and news programming are often-cited origins of implicit associations.

A Few Key Characteristics of Implicit Biases

- Implicit biases are **pervasive**. Everyone possesses them, even people with avowed commitments to impartiality such as judges.
- Implicit and explicit biases are **related but distinct mental constructs**. They are not mutually exclusive and may even reinforce each other.
- The implicit associations we hold **do not necessarily align with our declared beliefs** or even reflect stances we would explicitly endorse.
- We generally tend to hold implicit biases that **favor our own ingroup**, though research has shown that we can still hold implicit biases against our ingroup.
- Implicit biases are **malleable**. Our brains are incredibly complex, and the implicit associations that we have formed can be gradually unlearned through a variety of debiasing techniques.

The Kirwan Institute worked with MTV to create an online race, gender, and LGBTQ bias cleanse. It provides daily tasks that will help you de-bias yourself. lookdifferent.org

Project Implicit, Harvard University, implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/research

Project Implicit is a non-profit organization and international collaboration between researchers who are interested in implicit social cognition - thoughts and feelings outside of conscious awareness and control. **The goal of the organization is to educate the public about hidden biases and to provide a "virtual laboratory" for collecting data on the Internet.**

How Can We Challenge Implicit Bias in Ourselves and Our Organizations?

- **Self-reflection & Paying Attention.** Start noticing your own “internal dialogue” about all sorts of things. What assumptions do you make about other people? Are there people you inherently like or trust – or those you don’t like nor trust? Are there people or places that make you nervous or scared? People or places that you think are weird or abnormal or wrong? People or places you judge negatively? Are there people or places that you think are just inherently good or normal or right? Are there behaviors that seem ok when certain people do them but not when others do them? *The goal here is to be as honest as possible with yourself – just to notice how you feel and think.*
- **Analysis & Questioning.** Now ask yourself why you think and feel these things? What are the reasons behind your judgements? Maybe you have a good reason for why you feel the way you do. Or maybe you realize it’s just what you’ve been taught. *This is where you can start to notice patterns and bias.* For example, why do I notice (and care) if women are smiling but not men? Why do I mention someone’s race only when talking about a person of color? Why am I nervous to talk with someone who has an apparent disability? Why does it bother me to see two men kiss?
- **Educate Yourself about Myths and Stereotypes.** Take opportunities to understand what myths and stereotypes exist about different social identities. Recognize that stereotypes can be both broad and specific (all women are overly emotional; black women are always angry), and often *create negative emotional reactions like fear, distrust, pity, disgust, and hatred toward those with marginalized identities.* Also *recognize that the flip side of a negative stereotype is an unearned positive stereotype for those with privileged identities* (men are rational; white men are only appropriately angry).
- **Challenge Your Stereotypical, Biased Thinking – in Your Thoughts and Actions.** *This will be a daily practice.* The steps of paying attention, questioning, and learning are the core components of challenging your own biases. As you get better at these steps, you’ll see a change in your thoughts and your actions. This is lifelong work, so change won’t happen overnight. *It can be helpful to think of this work as the creation of a new lens, through which you view the world and your relation to it. With commitment and effort, you can continue to develop this “inclusion lens,” ensuring that your thoughts and actions become less and less biased.*
- **Organizations can also Commit to Self-reflection, Analysis, and Learning.** *Any organization can undertake a formal or informal audit to look for patterns that may be related to stereotypes and implicit bias.* Every part of an organization, from hiring and promotion to policies and procedures, from supplier diversity to outreach and community engagement, can be viewed through an inclusion lens. The same steps of noticing and awareness, analyzing, and gaining context through education can be applied to all parts of an organization. *As with individuals, this needs to be understood as a critically important, daily practice, that will run for the life of the organization.*

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

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

Contact Us

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On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Coordinator of Neighborhood
Outreach and Ministry – *Jim
Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in
Christ congregation.*

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- **Ramadan Iftar Open House Meals**
- **Ascension of Our Lord: Thursday, May 30**
- **Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter Thanks**