

The Olive Branch

May 15, 2019

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

"Trying to figure out what 'on earth as it is in heaven' actually looks like."

- Australian author, speaker, and missiologist Michael Frost

This week's second reading from Revelation 21:1-6 provides one of many Biblical images for what eternal life with God will look like:

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away" (verse 4).

This is a powerful image and a personal favorite.

The trouble is that all too often, we view this as a future reality – a promise to be fulfilled after the return of Jesus and we stop there. This perspective

leaves us to struggle on in this world with our only hope of things getting better resting on a future reality with no defined timeline. We mourn when those we love die. We see others in pain. We cry out at the injustice of racism, the lack of affordable housing, the breakup of families, and the fact that there are still people who don't know where their next meal is coming from. Day by day we face death, mourning, crying, and pain – in our own lives and the lives of others.

And yet we pray, "on earth as it is in heaven."

Could this passage be an answer?

Could the answer to our praying "on earth as it is in heaven" be that we work to make this passage a reality in the here and now? Could it mean that we, acting as the presence of God in the world, wipe the tears from the eyes of those who are crying? Could it mean that we comfort those who mourn? Could it mean that we work to end another's pain by providing food or secure housing? Could the answer to our prayer be that "on earth as it is in heaven" begins with us being God's presence in the lives of those around us?

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Sunday Readings

May 19, 2019

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

May 26, 2019

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

John 14:23-29

Sunday Adult Forums

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.

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 June 8 meeting they will read, *A Moveable Feast*, by Ernest Hemingway. For the July 13 meeting, they will read, *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd.

The Olive Branch: Summer Publication

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

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, May 15

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

Thursday, May 16

- 7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir auditions

Saturday, May 18

- 9:00 am National Lutheran Choir auditions
11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal
1:30 pm Funeral Visitation
2:30 pm *Funeral Eucharist: Beverly Shupe*

Sunday, May 19 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, May 20

- 4:00 pm National Lutheran Choir Board meeting
6:30 pm ReconcilingWorks committee meeting
7:00 pm Vicar Committee / Worship Committee meetings
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, May 21

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

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, "Sea Salt" - <https://climate.nasa.gov/quizzes/quiz-salinity/>

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."

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Certainly, working to make the kingdom of God a reality in the here and now does not mean we negate the importance of God's promise. It does not mean we stop anxiously awaiting Jesus' return. Only then will this passage be fully realized.

But I believe the answer to "what 'on earth as it is in heaven' actually looks like" is easier than we might expect.

- Jim Bargmann

Summer ACTS

Adults, Children, Teaming to Serve

Summer ACTS is our own Mount Olive jobs program for young people, ages 11-14. Participants will team up to learn about important issues in our south Minneapolis community, work together on important service projects, and earn some income.

This year's program will take on a different schedule than in past years. This year, Summer ACTS will be a two-week program, June 24 to July 3 with participants working Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, with a special closing celebration on July 5. Participants will have the option to sign up for either week or both weeks.

Past participants have used their experiences in Summer ACTS on job applications, resumes, and college entrance essays.

For young people wanting to participate...

Any young person wanting to participate should complete the sign up form, either online at

<https://forms.gle/TnbTorwPdZZmHUkBA> - or pick up a paper form from the kiosk in the west assembly area. Sign up deadline is June 13.

For adults - we need you too...

We need people who would be able to shop for food, people to assist preparing lunches, drivers and, most importantly, adults willing to work alongside young people in their learning and service. If you are interested, please contact Jim Bargmann at 612-827-5919 or neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org.

Vigil of Pentecost
Saturday, June 8,
2019
7:00 p.m.

Summer Worship Schedule

Approaches

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, Sunday, May 26, and running through Labor Day weekend, Sunday, September 1, we will celebrate one Sunday Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Implicit Bias Adult Forum Available on YouTube

If you wish to view this forum, it's available at <https://youtu.be/uQINObSWhfA>.



BACH · TAGE
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN
MINNEAPOLIS

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL BACH-TAGE

June 1&2, 2019

Bach - Three Ways

Saturday, June 1 - 4:00 pm

Tami Morse, Tulio Rondón, and David Cherwien perform solo selections for harpsichord, cello, and organ, demonstrating the diversity of Bach's genius.

Evening Prayer with Cantatas 37 and 44

Sunday June 2, 4:00 pm

This year *Bach-Tage* falls in the three days between the Feast of the Ascension and the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

The two cantatas for this year's *Bach-Tage* were composed and performed for these occasions in Leipzig in the year 1724.

Bach Tage Chorus, Orchestra and Soloists

Katby Saltzman Romey, conductor Cantor David Cherwien, organist

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 at the morning liturgy on Sunday, June 9, 2019. 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

2019 Graduates – Who Are They?

As we come to the completion of the school year, the Mount Olive community would like to take time to recognize the accomplishments of our graduates (both high school and college) and celebrate the next steps of their journey. Our Graduate Recognition will take place on Sunday, June 9, following the morning Eucharist. If your Mount Olive graduate graduated this past spring, please email the following information to Cha in the Mount Olive office (welcome@mountolivechurch.org): Graduate name, the school they graduated from, any special recognitions or honors, and what they are planning to do next, whether that be job, more education, or something else.

Please invite them to be here on June 9!

Confirmation at Mount Olive

With last Sunday's blessing of mentors and our three students entering their last year, it seems timely to let you all know the shape of our confirmation program here. It's been a few years since a confirmation, so you may not be familiar with the program.

We have a four year program, starting usually in sixth grade, but sometimes a student will join the class ahead or behind them, to make a fuller number. A new group of three starts their first year this fall. Year 1 is four mini-retreats (three hours each) on the Catechism. Another group of three has finished this first year and will begin year 2 next fall. Year 2 is nearly weekly classes, with memory work and home assignments, studying the Hebrew Scriptures. Year 3 is the same structure, but studying primarily the Gospels – the life, teaching, work, death, and resurrection of Jesus – and concluding with Pentecost. The fourth year, which the three students who were blessed on Sunday begin this fall, is a monthly meeting dealing with Christian faith and life, discussing key Lutheran concepts, and exploring the question of whether the student wishes to affirm their baptism at Pentecost with the Rite of Confirmation. This fourth year also includes at least 8 conversations with mentors. The students choose whom they would like me to ask to be their mentor.

Because we have so many young people coming to Mount Olive now, this fall is the first time in my ministry we'll have three separate groups in this process, which is exciting. Up until now I've done all the teaching, but with the increasing numbers, I'll be bringing the vicars into the program as well, starting this year.

It's been a joy to see the numbers of our young people grow. Depending on what the students each decide, we'll likely have confirmations on Pentecost 2020, and then again 2022 and 2023. It's a delight to work with them through this important time of their lives. Please pray for them all!

- Pr. Crippen

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

Phone: 612-827-5919

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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