



The Olive Branch

June 19, 2019

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

New-Old Words, A Second Time

As we did last year, in this season after Pentecost (through Christ the King Sunday),

Mount Olive will be using the lectionary's alternate track of First Readings (with paired psalm) for our Eucharist. In the three year Revised Common Lectionary, which Mount Olive has used since 1992, and which we share with Christians of many denominations around the world, there are two sets of First Readings for the period of Ordinary Time following Pentecost.

The first set, the one we're accustomed to using, is a set of readings from the Hebrew Scriptures that the Consultation on Common Texts (the framers of the lectionary) chose for a connection with the appointed Gospel of the day. Lutherans, Catholics, and Episcopalians in the planning process all asked for this "complementary" option. However, the lectionary also includes a "semi-continuous" set of readings for these Sundays, with accompanying psalm. For the First Reading, this lectionary year, year C, includes stories of the prophets Elijah and Elisha, and readings from the prophets Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Habakkuk, and Haggai. In these same months we're already accustomed to a semi-continuous track for the Second Reading.

This summer we'll meet consecutive readings from Galatians, Colossians, and Hebrews, and in the fall Philemon, 1 and 2 Timothy, and 2 Thessalonians. These are the same as we've heard each year C. The Gospel readings for this season are also the same as usual, and are semi-continuous in a way, progressing through Luke's Gospel.

Last summer and fall this was a rich addition to our worship together and Worship Committee has decided to continue this track for this year C, and next year, A, before returning to the complementary track. Using these readings adds a great deal of Scripture we otherwise never hear in worship. Rather than using the Hebrew Scriptures as aids to the Gospel reading, this set presents the story of Israel alongside the story of Christ, in its own right. Many more women of the Bible show up in our worship using this set, and many stories familiar from Sunday School and other study also will appear for the first time.

I hope that we once more will find it refreshing to hear these old words anew, and an opportunity for the Spirit's guiding us in new ways.

Sunday Readings

June 23, 2019

2nd Sunday after Pentecost
12C

1 Kings 19:1-4 [5-7] 8-15a
Psalm 42 and 43
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 30, 2019

3rd Sunday after Pentecost
13C

2 Kings 2:1-2. 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2,11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

Help Needed for Twin Cities Pride

Mount Olive will again partner with Minneapolis Downtown churches to hand out welcoming brochures at the Twin Cities Pride festival on Saturday and Sunday, June 22-23, in Loring Park. This is a great opportunity for us to let our LGBTQ brothers and sisters know that we welcome them into this community of faith.

The Downtown churches booth is looking for volunteers to staff the booth in two hour shifts between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, and between noon and 4 p.m. on Sunday. In addition, they are asking for help with set-up beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, and for take-down at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

If you are available to help, please let the church office, Lora Dundek or Andrew Andersen know.

Thanks!

Adult Forum on Sunday, July 14, following the 10:00 liturgy and coffee:

"Eucharistic Commitments To Justice and Peace"

In this adult forum, Mount Olive friend, Dr. Samuel Torvend of Pacific Lutheran University, will discuss early Lutheran commitments to economic justice and contemporary commitments to environmental sustainability that flow from the Holy Communion.

Samuel Torvend is Professor of the History of Christianity at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington, and the author of *Luther and the Hungry Poor* (Fortress) and *Still Hungry At the Feast: Eucharistic Justice in the Midst of Affliction* (Liturgical Press).

Welcome the Vicar!

The coffee and fellowship time following Sunday Eucharist on **June 30** will be a welcome reception for our new vicar, Bristol Reading, and her husband Michael. Hosted by the Vicar Committee, this will be a chance to meet and mingle with Bristol, and a chance to give her a special welcome to Mount Olive. (Note: this is a date change from a previous announcement.)

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 July 13 meeting, they will read, *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd, and for the August 10 meeting they will read *Clock Dance*, by Anne Tyler.

New Members to be Received

Mount Olive will receive new members on Sunday, July 21. If you are interested in joining, please speak with Pr. Crippen, Vicar Reading, or contact the church office.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, June 19

10:00 am Staff Meeting

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, June 23 - Second Sunday after Pentecost, 12C

10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*

11:30 am Coffee and conversation

Monday, June 24

9am-1pm Summer ACTS

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, June 25

9am-1pm Summer ACTS

Noon Bible Study

4-6 pm Diaper Depot open

Wednesday, June 26

9am-1pm Summer ACTS

1:30 pm Staff Meeting

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, June 27

9am-1pm Summer ACTS

7:00 pm Housing Task Force meeting

Friday, June 28

7:00 pm Recovery & Wellness Support group

Saturday, June 29

9:30 am Grounds Maintenance

11:00 am Narcotics Anonymous speaker event

Sunday, June 30 - Third Sunday after Pentecost, 13C

10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*

11:30 am Coffee and conversation

Monday, July 1

9am-1pm Summer ACTS

7:00 pm LOL Board meeting

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, July 2

9am-1pm Summer ACTS

Noon Bible Study

4-6 pm Diaper Depot open

7:00 pm Missions Committee

Wednesday, July 3

9am-1pm Summer ACTS

1:30 pm Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sign Up to Serve Summer Coffee Hour!

Coffee hosts are needed to serve coffee and refreshments following our summer liturgies. If you are willing to take a turn, please sign up on the chart provided in the East Assembly Room. Summer is a great low-pressure time to serve for the first time - it's easy!

Not sure about all that is involved? Contact Larry Duncan, who will be happy to see that you receive a tutorial.

Olive Branch Publication Schedule

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

This is the last weekly issue until after Labor Day.

The next issue will be published on Wed., June 19. **The deadline for information for that issue is Monday, July 1.**

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.

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.

Why Our Nigerian Partnership is so Important

Recently the Mount Olive Mission Committee hosted a gathering of the ELCA churches in the Minneapolis Area Synod who are all partners with the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria. It was an evening of learning, inspiration and commitment to further work together. In the same week we read an article in *Sojourners* magazine entitled "Christianity's Future Lies in Africa" which stated: "According to the Pew Center, if demography is destiny, then Christianity's future lies in Africa. By 2060, a plurality of Christians - more than four-in-ten - will call sub-Saharan Africa home, up from 26% in 2015. In 1910 there were 2 million Christians in Africa. Today there are 650 million ... The explosive growth of the Church across Africa represents a trend that far too few Christians in the West fully understand and that will likely reshape and over time transform the face of Christianity globally."

The author goes on to state: "Despite my hopefulness, it's important not to gloss over or ignore the significant challenges facing both the African church and continent. The continent has become the epicenter in the fight against extreme poverty and inequality, housing over half of the world's people who are living in the quicksand of extreme poverty. Conflict, corruption, illicit financial flows, gender-based violence, exploitation, the impacts of climate change, among other challenges, have long stunted Africa's growth and suffocated human flourishing. Evangelical churches across Africa continue to be heavily influenced by various forms of the prosperity gospel ... Less than 20 percent of pastors have received seminary training, which poses both a challenge and an opportunity."

Our partnership with Bronnum Seminary will challenge all of us, here and in Nigeria, to grow in faith and understanding. It is an exciting partnership. Stay tuned. You can access the whole Sojourner's article at <https://sojo.net/articles/christianitys-future-lies-africa>.

The Time Has Come . .



As the snow finally melted in late April, it became apparent the conditions of "change and decay all around I see. . ." on the north side of the Parish House had advanced significantly over the winter.

The lower part of the north and east walls spend most of the winter buried in snow; but of course the building warms the snowdrifts from the inside, snow melts against the brick, water finds its way into the bricks and joints

The pace of deterioration accelerated rapidly over the past two years - caused by lots of snow accumulation extending into the spring, the accumulation of access points for water. The pictures indicate that the condition of the lower four feet of the walls has gone from "concerned" to "critical."

Mortar will be replaced throughout, several hundred bricks will be replaced, and the iron sill of at least one of the basement windows must be replaced.

Three bids were solicited by Property Committee, and the A.J. Spanjers company has been selected.

Vestry has approved funding from the 2019 gift of **The Mount Olive Lutheran Church Foundation**. Thanks to this great resource, this urgent work can proceed without additional debt or delay.

There may be some inconvenience in the north lot this summer. We shall do our best to keep this as minor as possible.

New Dalmatics, Thanks to Mike Edwins

Mike Edwins has graciously donated three dalmatics for use in our liturgies. The dalmatic is the colored over-garment worn by the assisting minister in our liturgies (and by the deacon in the Anglican and Catholic traditions.) Some years ago Mike donated several chasubles (the colored over-garment the presider wears), and the matching chalice veils for the altar. Now we have matching dalmatics for them, in white, green, and purple. Nearly all our vestment sets now have both a chasuble and a dalmatic. Many thanks to Mike for this gift! The white dalmatic was worn last Sunday, Holy Trinity, and the green one will make its debut this Sunday as we begin our Ordinary Time part of the Church Year.

Weeds for Sale, Pick Your Own!

In order to keep our church grounds looking fresh and tidy, it takes work to keep the lawn cut, weeds pulled, and bushes trimmed. This spring our loyal group of volunteers picked up trash, weeded, mulched, and trimmed everything in sight.

Now it is summer maintenance time.

Please join us on any of the following dates between 9:30-11:30 am, or feel free to stop by at any time and pull a weed or two.

June 29

July 6, 20

August 3, 17, 31

BYOT (Bring your own tools.) Trash bags, water, and snacks provided.

If you have questions reach out to Andrew Andersen, Brenda Bartz, or Carol Martinson

From our Climate Justice Partner--Take Action Now!

The next president of the United States must be prepared to address global warming as the crisis it is, and take bolder, faster action than ever before. But the media is still ignoring the issue, giving cover to politicians who refuse to acknowledge the urgency. We need to put climate solutions on the national political stage. One powerful way to do that is through a presidential primary debate dedicated to the issue. Holding a climate-centered debate would highlight the climate crisis at a time when more people than ever are tuned in to national politics – and force candidates to explain their positions so that voters can judge whether their actions would meet the scale of the crisis. That's why IPL is partnering with a dozen other groups on this important action.

On June 6, Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Tom Perez said the party won't host an official climate debate or allow candidates to participate in unofficial debates. In the primary season, unless the DNC prioritizes the issue, we know that news networks and other debate host organizations won't ask more than one or two token debate questions on climate change. We have to demand that the climate issue leads.

As people of faith and conscience we are deeply concerned about the impact climate change is having on our world and on the most vulnerable members of our society. We must know how the world's most powerful leader would address the world's most urgent crisis.

[Sign now and we will deliver your signature directly to the DNC headquarters.](#)

Faithfully,

Susan Stephenson, Executive Director

Interfaith Power and Light

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

**Summer Sunday Eucharist:
10:00 a.m.**

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Bristol Reading*

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in
Christ congregation.*

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