



The Olive Branch

September 18, 2019

Accent on Worship

Vicar Bristol Reading

I love that Mount Olive includes in each week's intercessory prayers those who are commemorating their baptismal anniversaries. Martin Luther wrote,

"If, then, the holy sacrament of baptism is a matter so great, gracious, and full of comfort, we should diligently see to it that we ceaselessly, joyfully, and from the heart thank, praise, and honor God for it... The whole world was, and still is, full of baptism and the grace of God."¹ This week actually marks the 34th anniversary of my own baptism – thanks be to God! – so I'm sharing some ways that I remember the gift of my baptism. Maybe these practices will nourish your spirit, too.

- *Making the sign of the cross*

This is one of the simplest and oldest prayers. When I make the sign of the cross, I remind myself that I was baptized in the name of the Triune God, and that I am "sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever," as we say in our baptismal liturgy.

- *Wearing an alb*

Traditional Christian practice was that baptismal candidates would shed their old clothes before their baptisms and put on neutral, unadorned robes (albs) afterwards to symbolize the new people we become through baptism. Every time I lead worship I put on a baptismal garment, reminding me that we are all beloved children of God, and that we can always be made new again in Christ.

- *Declaring my baptismal identity*

Luther suggested that when we experience temptation, anxiety, or inadequacy, we can cling to the comforting promise of God's grace and forgiveness by declaring "I am baptized!" It is freeing to know we are irrevocably loved!

- *Enjoying the water*

Baptism reminds us of the sacredness of the created world and our own bodies. Being on (or in!) lakes, streams, or oceans reminds me that God's spirit moves in mysterious and powerful ways, like waves and wind, and that God works through the ordinary things of the world – water, bread, wine, even something as ordinary as me.

¹ "The Holy and Blessed Sacrament of Baptism," 1519.

Sunday Readings

September 22, 2019

15th Sunday after Pentecost
25C

Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1

Psalm 79:1-9

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

September 29, 2019

St. Michael and All Angels

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3

Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22

Revelation 12:7-12

Luke 10:17-20

Upcoming Adult Forums

See brochures in the Chapel Lounge for detailed information about these forums.

- **September 22** – “A Book, a Writer, and a Pageant,” presented by Donn McLellan
- **September 29** - ELCA Statement on “Faith, Sexism, and Justice,” presented by Vicar Bristol Reading
- **October 6/13** – “Romans: A Backward Glance,” (2-part series) presented by Pastor Joseph Crippen

Fighting Poverty with Diplomas in Guatemala with Common Hope

Did you know Mount Olive Lutheran Church is a Common Hope Faith Community Partner? Common Hope is a Minnesota founded non-profit who for over 30 years has partnered with children and families in Guatemala to help students gain a high school diploma and families break the cycle of poverty through education, health care, housing, and family development. In a country where the national high school graduation rate is just 18.6% and over half the population lives in poverty, families are facing many challenges to reach the goals they have for a better future. Common Hope strives to be a bridge to the resources and services to overcome these challenges, and it's working! Common Hope students are graduating at three to four times the national average.

Sponsoring a student is an opportunity to help a child in Guatemala achieve their education goals and create a better future for their family. As a sponsor, you are the much-needed cheerleader and motivator for a student working towards their high school diploma. Mount Olive members sponsor six students in Guatemala!

September is Sponsorpalooza, a time of year where Common Hope celebrates its sponsors and partners and shares how to Be The Hope for students in Guatemala. **Sponsorpalooza is extra special as Common Hope has an angel sponsor who will match the first month's donation of any new sponsors who sign up in September. What a great time to sponsor!**

[Click here](#) to hear from Edwin, who is a former graduate of Common Hope's program. He shares his personal journey and how Common Hope, and his Sponsors, helped him achieve his dreams.

If you are interested in learning more about Common Hope and how to Be The Hope for students and families in Guatemala, please check out www.commonhope.org or follow Common Hope on [Facebook](#)/[Instagram](#)/[Twitter](#). There will also be information available across from the Chapel Lounge on September 22 and 29 between liturgies. Current Mount Olive sponsors will be there to answer questions.

Thank you for your partnership with Common Hope. You are truly helping to make hope a reality in Guatemala.

¡Muchas Gracias!

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, September 18

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

Thursday, September 19

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, September 21

- 11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal
3-8 pm Youth & Families Jeremiah Project event

Sunday, September 22 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 25C

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am Holy Eucharist
12:45 pm Y4 Confirmation

Monday, September 23

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, September 24

- Noon Bible Study
4-6 pm Diaper Depot open

***Krisis* of Faith? Thursday Bible Study Begins Sept. 21**

John's Gospel has perplexing questions about judgment and grace. Sometimes it seems as if God's grace in Christ is for all; other times it seems to have an exclusive turn. The Greek word *krisis* means "judgment," and that word and related forms occurs throughout John. In the first Thursday Bible study series of this year Pr. Crippen will lead an exploration of what judgment and grace means in John.

The study begins this Thursday, Sept. 19, (tomorrow!) and will end on Oct. 24. Meeting in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., there will be the usual light supper when we begin. If anyone wishes to provide the first meal, please let Pr. Crippen know.

All are welcome to this study opportunity!

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts New Series

The 2019-20 series has been set and once again includes quite a variety of musical/ artistic experiences - something for everyone!

A committee representative will be in the Narthex to receive pledges and donations for the next 2 Sundays, September 22 and 29, before and after the morning Eucharist.

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!

On October 12 the group will discuss Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, and on November 9 they will discuss *There There*, by Tommy Orange.

Welcome to Mount Olive's Newest Members!

Received into membership at the second liturgy last Sunday, Sept. 15 were: Kay George, Bryant Beck, Jim & Judy Johnson, and James Wilkes.

Thanks, also, to those who prepared and served brunch, set up tables, took photos and provided flowers: Andrew Anderson, Lora & Allen Dundek, Candy Husemoller & Jon Siess, Harry & Jeanette Eklund, Johnny Vegesna & Paul Nixdorf, and Naomi Peterson.

Please welcome our newest members when you get a chance!

Global Climate Strike September 20, 11:30am - 2:00pm

For the last year young people have been staging school strikes on climate change around the world, including in Minnesota. On Friday, September 20, at the request of our youth, people of all ages and around the world will be walking out of our workplaces and homes to demand action on climate change.

The day will begin at St. Paul College at 11:30, with a march to the State Capitol lawn for a rally. To change everything, we need everyone joining together to stop "business as usual" and demand that our leaders take action. This will kick off a week of climate action all over the world. Mount Olive is a Partner congregation with MN Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL) who is joining many organizations to plan events throughout Minnesota. MNIPL's mission statement is: "Work to build the interfaith climate movement in Minnesota by empowering faith communities across the state to take action that is authentic, effective, and energizing in their context."

Plan to take the day off if you can and invite a friend! You don't want to miss this powerful day! If you need a ride or would like to carpool, contact Judy Hinck at 612-824-4918.

Visit the Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light website at mnipl.org for more details on the week of action!

The National Lutheran Choir All Saints Concerts

The centerpiece of the National Lutheran Choir's 16th annual All Saints concert is the timeless and colossal Requiem by W.A. Mozart. In keeping with the tradition of this concert, a reverent musical event will provide the backdrop to remember, by name, those who have died. Performed with chorus, orchestra and soloists.

- Saturday, November 2, 7:30pm - Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata, MN
- Sunday, November 3, 4:00pm - St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN

Tickets: Adults and Seniors \$42 | Students and Children FREE | Discounts available for groups of 10 or more.
For tickets and additional information, go to NLCA.com or call (612) 722-2301.

Children's Choir, Youth Choir begin September 18th – This Week! **5:30 p.m. supper; 6:00-6:45 p.m. rehearsal**

The Children and Youth Choirs kick back into operation tonight, Wednesday, September 18. The goal for these choirs is to help our young folks learn about music and singing, and how to be participants in the music of our liturgies. They learn leadership parts and congregational parts, as well as anthems. The Children's Choir (K-3rd grade) learns through activities and visuals, and the Youth Choir (grades 3 to high school) mostly learn through reading sheet music.

All are welcome, let Cantor Cherwien know.

Welcome Back to Mari Espeland (Director of the Children's Choir). Mari teaches music at St. Paul Academy School, has led children's choirs in several churches, and has also sung in the National Lutheran Choir.

Community Solar Garden – Last Chance to Subscribe!

The Missions Committee wants to make sure you are aware that MN Interfaith Power & Light and Cooperative Energy Futures are wrapping up the subscription process for the Ramp A community solar garden. That means this is your last chance to subscribe to a cooperatively-owned community solar garden!

Whether you are a renter or homeowner and regardless of credit score, as long as you are an Xcel customer, you are eligible to subscribe. This program allows you to save money on your monthly electric bill, while supporting an equitable and accessible solar industry. To learn more or take the next steps, email solar@mnipl.org.

Organ Recital: Sunday, October 6, 7:00 pm

An organ recital will be offered by Jacqueline Magnuson on Sunday, October 6, at 7:00 pm. Jacqueline is a Masters in Church Music candidate from Concordia University, Mequon, WI, and is also currently studying with Cantor Cherwien. She will be playing works by Bach, Buxtehude, Howells, Durufle, Cherwien, and Vierne.

The recital is free and open to the public. All are welcome.

Blessing of Animals Sunday, Oct. 6, 3:00 p.m.

For many years, Mount Olive has celebrated the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4) with a liturgy giving thanks for and blessing the animals and creatures God has made. We sing Francis' hymn of praise for the creation, read Scripture, pray for animals and those who care for them, and any who bring pets to the liturgy bring them forward for a blessing. We've always done it on the actual day, in the evening, but this year, in hopes of making it easier for families who find a 7:00 p.m. weeknight liturgy a challenge for their schedule, we've moved the Blessing liturgy to the next Sunday, Oct. 6, at 3:00 p.m. That gives time for people to go home, eat, and bring back their beloved friends. All are welcome!

News From the Neighborhood

Diaper Depot Help Needed

We are looking to expand our volunteer corps for the Diaper Depot.

We are one of a very few organizations that provide young families with low-cost diapers for their little ones. As word has spread, we have seen a significant increase in the number of families we serve.

With this increase, the number of diapers we need to process on a weekly basis has increased significantly, and the need for more workers is apparent.

There are two ways you can be of service in the Diaper Depot.

First, we are looking for volunteers to pack diapers. Our current volunteers often pack diapers on Tuesdays during the day, either before or after noon Bible study.

Second, we are looking for more people to work the hours the Diaper Depot is open, 4:00 to 6:00 pm on Tuesdays and on the first and third Saturdays (the same weeks as the Community Meal), 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Volunteers working the Diaper Depot will help our clients by packing up the needed diapers, checking out their purchases, and registering new clients.

For both roles, training would be provided and volunteer will be put on a rotating schedule with other volunteers. Time commitment is flexible - volunteers could serve once a week or once a month or any amount of time in between.

Anyone interested should contact Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry, Jim Bargmann at neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org.

Powderhorn Porchfest Music Festival: Saturday, September 21

Volunteers Needed!

The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association is one of our key partners in Neighborhood Ministry, working with us to advocate for a stronger, safer, more secure neighborhood for all who call this part of South Minneapolis home.

Throughout the year, they plan several major arts events for our community. Powderhorn Porchfest, a "day-long.... family-friendly showcase of amazing local musicians who contribute to the eclectic and welcoming vibe Powderhorn is known for," is one of those events. Over 2,000 people from around the Twin Cities are expected to attend and Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association is asking Mount Olive members volunteer as Peace Officers. These volunteers will assist with crowd control and monitor access to the festival along the bordering streets.

They are looking for volunteers to cover three-hour shifts on the day of the event, 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, and 8:30 pm - 11:30 pm. This last shift will also help with clean up.

Event Details

Date: Saturday, September 21

Time: 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Location: 3200 - 3400 blocks along 17th Avenue South

All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt and will enjoy the music when they don't have other responsibilities. Please contact Jim Bargmann, neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org to volunteer.

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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