



Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Quiet Place

“Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile.” That’s Jesus’ invitation to his tired disciples, the ones he had send throughout the Galilean villages to proclaim God’s love and even be a part of God’s healing. Exhilarated and encouraged by their work, they were also exhausted from it.

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, July 18

8th Sunday after

Pentecost, Lect. 14 B

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday, July 25

9th Sunday after

Pentecost, Lect. 15 B

2 Kings 442-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

*In the
presence of God.
Being the –
presence of God.–*

What we are called to do as Christ is exhilarating at times, encouraging, too. But it’s also exhausting. Struggling with all the problems of our society and world, along with our own problems of living, and trying to be faithfully Christ in those places, takes a lot out of us. Yet our modern world is noisy. Crowded. Distracting. What would a deserted, quiet place be for you?

For many of us, weekly worship is one of those places. We’re fed by God’s Word and Sacrament, by each other’s grace and presence, by our shared prayer with God and each other, by our singing of God’s praise and of our laments as well. The joy of starting to be back together again is palpable.

But maybe Jesus is also saying, find some space where you can rest and be quiet, apart from others. Contemplating God’s stirring in your life. Listening not to media or radio or podcast but to silence. Reading not tweets or posts but God’s Word. Listening for the still, small voice of the Spirit within you.

I love that Jesus sensed a need in these sent ones to be sent again, but this time sent for time of renewing. Maybe we might take him seriously and find our deserted places away and rest awhile. So we can go out again to serve, renewed and rested and ready.

Sunday Worship

9:00 am – Eucharist

11:00 am – Eucharist

(Livestreamed)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., July 14

11 am – Staff meeting

Sat., July 17

9 am – Gardening Day

Sun., July 18***Pentecost 8***

9 & 11 am – Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee and fellowship

Tues., July 20

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., July 21

11 am – Staff meeting

Sun., July 25***Pentecost 9***

9 & 11 am – Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee and fellowship

Tues., July 27

Noon – Bible Study

Updated Sunday Morning Schedule Until Fall

There are now **two worship services on Sunday morning, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** In addition, the Congregational Life committee will sponsor coffee hour following each service. In order to continue COVID-related safety measures, we ask the following:

During these weeks, we will continue to request R.S.V.P responses for each worship in order to allow for physical distancing in the sanctuary. We will continue to require that you wear a well-fitting mask that covers your nose and mouth. During the coffee hour, please keep your mask on as much as possible when you aren't drinking your coffee. This is especially important to protect those who are not vaccinated, including children. The link to RSVP for worship is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/mountolive>.

This link will be live each Wednesday for the following Sunday.

Upcoming Opportunity

There will be several gatherings over the next several weeks for you to learn more about **Boldly into the Future**, our upcoming capital campaign aimed at paying off the debt that we've incurred to upgrade our building. There will be both in-person and virtual events. Watch for more information in future *Olive Branch* issues.

Do You Need Communion Brought to You?

As we're now worshipping God together in person, we are now celebrating the Eucharist again, and it's time to organize bringing communion to those who can't be with us on Sundays. This has long been a value for our community, that, if possible, we'd bring the Meal from the altar to share with those who couldn't come in person. With livestreaming now our regular Sunday offering, people can worship from home, but receiving Christ's food of life is not something we can stream.

If you are unable to be here for any reason and would like to be on a list to receive Holy Communion at home from one of your siblings here at Mount Olive, please get in touch with Pr. Crippen at the church number or pastor@mountolivechurch.org.

My Neighbors? My Neighborhood?

Some of us live nearby Mount Olive. Others live in St. Paul. Apple Valley. New Brighton. Even Hudson, Wisconsin. Yet we come to Mount Olive's South Minneapolis neighborhood to worship.

Who are my neighbors in need of help? There are people in need where I live. And where I worship as well. How do I choose where to serve? How can represent the love of Jesus to those neighbors God has placed around me?

Diaper Depot, a unique decades-old ministry of Mount Olive, has historically served the neighborhoods close by 31st and Chicago. **Mount Olive Diaper Depot** is unique in that no other church in the Minneapolis area offers a source for low or no cost diapers on this scale.

When the pandemic hit, our building and Diaper Depot was shut down with little notice. But Neighborhood Ministry Coordinator Jim Bargmann quickly recognized the shutdown created a new opportunity. Babies still needed diapers. We had a huge supply of diapers in the Diaper Depot.

So Jim started taking orders when former clients called to ask if they could get diapers. Each Wednesday Jim spent a long day delivering diaper orders, leaving them on the doorstep with the ring of the doorbell. No contact, but a smile and a wave. Sometimes he could include household cleaning supplies if they were requested.



Word spread! Soon diaper requests came from new clients in Richfield, Brooklyn Park, Apple Valley, West St. Paul. Jim's days became impossibly long. Yet the phone continued to ring with more requests.

In recent months, two volunteers have stepped forward to help Jim, one who lives in Minneapolis, delivering to their Minneapolis neighbors, and one in the northern suburbs, delivering in that area. Yet the phone calls continue from people in need. Jesus tells us **their need makes them our neighbors (Luke 10:30-37)**. One or two of them may be your neighbors, from the neighborhood where you live.

Do you see where I'm going with this? Is it possible there are some families nearby you needing help making ends meet in these times? **Could you be the one** to be neighbor to them, taking their order of diapers from church on Sunday to deliver as soon as your schedule allows?

It is possible right now there is someone who lives close by you who needs a neighbor to bring that help to them? **Will you be that neighbor? Please contact Jim Bargmann at (612) 827-5919, or neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org.**

- Elaine Halbardier, on behalf of the Neighborhood Ministry Committee

Are You Moving? Have You Moved?

We know that lots of Olivites are moving or have recently moved!

Thanks to those who have given the church office their updated address and contact information!

If you are moving or have moved and have not dropped us a note with your updated information, please do that as soon as possible. It helps us and our members and friends to stay in touch with one another.



Building Our Home

The series highlighting some of the specific properties that will be funded in part by the Building Our Home initiative continues this week. It is hoped that this will make the work more concrete (literally and figuratively).

Please note, a glossary of some basic terms will be included at the end of this section for each week of this series since there are some terms used in the property descriptions that may not be familiar to all readers. This section will repeat each week.

Our featured property this week is American House. American House is a renovation project led by Beacon Interfaith that will upgrade 70 homes in the lower town area of Saint Paul, making them accessible to residents who require intensive case management services and low barriers to entry. These types of homes have been shown to be the most effective form of housing for people who have experienced repeated or long-term instances of homelessness. American House will serve the most vulnerable in our community.

Commonly Used Terms and Abbreviations

AMI: Average Median Income; the average amount made by households in a given area; currently, the AMI for the Twin Cities metro area for a family of four is \$103,400 (one earner making \$49.71 per hour). As one example, 30% AMI, often a measure of housing considered to be the most affordable, would be \$31,000 (one earner making \$14.90 per hour), making a three-bedroom apartment affordable at \$806 per month. For comparison, the average rent for a three-bedroom unit in the Twin Cities in 2019 was \$1,624.

Affordable Housing: Defined as housing that can be obtained and maintained for 30% or less of a household's monthly income. By definition, housing costs include all costs related to maintaining a home - utilities, trash disposal, insurance, and the like - not just rent or mortgage.

Supportive Housing: Affordable, long-term, community-based housing with on-site support services such as employment counseling, addiction recovery support, etc. for people with multiple barriers to getting and keeping housing.

The Initiative

Working with three non-profit affordable housing developers, Beacon Interfaith, Aeon, and Alliance Housing, Mount Olive is working to build over 2100 units of affordable and supportive housing with a funding goal of 21.3 million dollars. Through our Neighborhood Ministry leadership, Mount Olive is seeking partnerships with its Twin Cities sister congregations of the Evangelical Church of America, along with other faith communities, organizations, and individuals.





Pity the Poor Poster

Standing alone in the main hallway, all Sunday morning. Unnoticed. Ignored.

Lovely people walking by, some with beverages and a cookie in hand. Happy conversations going on to my left, and to my right. As if I did not even exist! Not one person wrote their name in response to my plea.

It's Monday now. I've kept my lonely vigil all night long, for my purpose is vital! To make certain that Lutherans have coffee, tea, and a morsel to munch upon - a small task in the grand scheme of things, but important. And so easy.

We're using compostable products and napkins - friendly to the earth, and no dishes to wash. A good supply of these is available. All one need do is to prepare a few pots of coffee, a cold drink, hot water for tea, and set out a simple treat such as a cookie. Clean up afterward.

A small group of folks have provided for the first two weeks. I stand here to encourage you to give them a break. If you don't have opportunity to visit me during the week, call or email the office to select a time or two.

- *The Poster*



Join Our Synod's Action to Stop the Line 3 Pipeline

At the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod spring convention the following resolution was passed (quoted in part):

"Whereas, Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline would bring tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada, to Superior, Wisconsin, crossing over many water bodies, rivers, and treaty land along the way; and **Whereas**, the pipeline construction violates treaties, the supreme law of the land, and threatens waterways, water quality, and sacred wild rice habitat, causing Anishinaabe Water Protectors to put their lives on the line to stop the Line 3 construction; therefore, be it

Resolved, that in response to the Anishinaabe Water Protectors' invitation and Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen's statement of February 8, 2021, the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in assembly in 2021, supports the statement of Bishop Svennungsen opposing the construction of the Line 3 pipeline; and be it further **Resolved**, that Bishop Svennungsen deliver her statement of February 8, 2021, in opposition to the Line 3 pipeline to the Office of the Governor of the State of Minnesota and, in consultation with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, to the ELCA Advocacy Office in Washington, D.C., and be it finally **Resolved**, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in assembly in 2021, encourage its congregations to become educated about the Line 3 construction."

Opposition to Line 3 is also a key issue for our partners at Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light. On their website at the link provided there is significant information about the harm which this pipeline would cause as well as a simple and effective way to take action. (website: <https://www.mnipl.org/take-action/pipelines/>).

Your Missions Committee and members of the Climate Justice/Care of the Earth Advisory Committee urge you to educate yourself on this issue and take action both to limit the expansion of fossil fuels and to protect our water and lands.

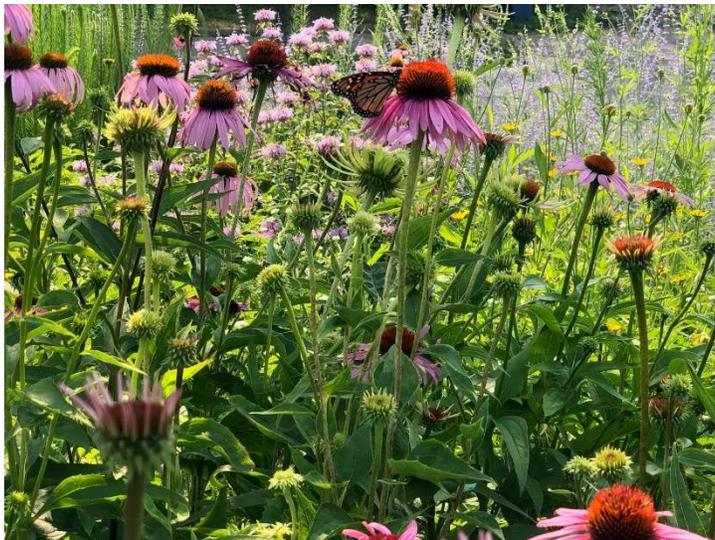
Remember those weeds??

Two years ago, a common refrain about the gardens in the south parking lot was ‘why did we plant weeds?’ It looks terrible!

Well, two years later and a whole lot of work and garden love by dedicated volunteers, we have a beautiful garden where those ‘weeds’ feed the bees and the butterflies.

However, those dedicated gardeners can use more help! If you have an extra 30 minutes or a couple of hours, please join the crew on Saturday mornings between 9:00 and 11:00 am. They also take care of the gardens and flower beds around the church, so there is always work to be done. No special skills needed – just the love of making the church grounds beautiful.

Garden workdays: July 17 and 31; August 14, 28; September 11, 25; October 9.



Tuesday Noon Bible Study: New Link!

Since Tuesday, June 22, the Tuesday Noon Bible Study has been meeting in person again, in the West Lounge. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well. Please note that we are no longer using GoToMeeting.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will continue to be the same every week.

To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

Sign Up for Altar Flowers

Have you been thinking about signing up to sponsor flowers for our Sunday liturgies? It's now easier than ever. Naomi Peterson has posted a flower chart for the remainder of 2021 outside the church office.

You may sponsor both bouquets (\$50 per liturgy), or two donors may share the cost (\$25 each). You may request that a person or event be honored or remembered in that day's worship folder.

If you can't sign the chart in person, you may call Cha in the church office (612-827-5919) to add your name and other information to the chart. Please call Naomi (612-824-2228) with requests for a certain type or color of flower—requests for which there may be an upcharge.

A Little History and a Big Invitation

Late in 2002 the Mount Olive Education Committee established a book group that meets on the second Saturday in the month from 10 to noon at the church. Someone almost always volunteers to bring a snack to pass.

The choice of book to discuss is also made on a volunteer basis. At each session the volunteer book chooser announces the choice for the second upcoming session, so that we always know the choices for the next two sessions. While most selections over the years have been fiction, that is not always the case. In fact, the only rule is that the book be available in paperback. The book group has been meeting remotely like most organizations during the pandemic. **But beginning with the session on August 14 we will again meet at church.**

If you are someone who likes to read and to discuss what you've read, consider joining the group. There are no requirements such as committing to attend a minimum number of sessions. Indeed, some folks only attend occasionally. And you do not need to register in advance of the session. Just show up ready for what is usually a lively discussion.

For our last remote session on July 10, we will discuss Graham Green's *The End of the Affair*. Then for our first session together again at the church on August 14 we will discuss *Where The Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens.

If you'd like to be on the email list for the group, just leave your email address with Cha in the church office and she'll have us add it to our list. One of the perks of being on the email list is that you'll periodically get a list of all the books that the group has read over the last 18 years.



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Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

An opportunity to support area youth

Our South Minneapolis neighbor, Marvin Applewhite*, owner of Blueline Cleaning and Debris removal has a summer initiative to employ and mentor neighborhood youth. His passion is working with them to give them job skills and provide guidance about 'hard work builds character.' By the end of the summer, they will have volunteered and given back to the community in a productive way. Help Marvin to provide positive and helpful things to do for youth in the community!

Marvin has a GoFundMe Site to help raise funds to pay the youth as they clean vacant lots, homeless encampments, streets, cutting grass, cleaning churches, etc. They will be volunteering with a stipend at the end of each week.

Mount Olive was able to take advantage of their work this past weekend as they picked up brush and hauled out old carpet, lumber, and other miscellaneous things that have collected in the building. See photos of their work for us at [Blueline Cleaning and Debris Removal - Home | Facebook](#)

If you are able, consider supporting this program through his GoFundMe site: <https://gofund.me/401d140f>

*(Some of you may know Marvin from his work this past Thanksgiving. He was the sponsor and energy behind the dinner prepared in our kitchen.)