



Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

Psalm 34, a portion of which we will chant together on August 22, offers some significant and powerful promises. These promises are reminiscent of other portions of scripture, portions we commonly call the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 through 7), the Beatitudes (part of the Sermon on the Mount, specifically Matthew 5), the Magnificat (Luke 1), and several

other Psalms, among others. One could argue that these promises form somewhat of an undercurrent in Scripture, and I would not disagree.

Personally, I long for the fulfillment of these promises. Perhaps you do too.

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles (verse 17).

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit (verse 18).

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all (verse 19).

Please, Lord.

But I also find myself thinking there is a certain arrogance in thinking these promises are for me. After all, the Psalmist makes it very clear who these promises are intended for - the righteous. Am I that? Are these promises really for me?

And I find myself again comforted by the larger context of God's word to us. It is through Jesus that we are righteous, we are counted among those who are called righteous. It is through Jesus that these promises are indeed for us. And we can anxiously await their fulfillment - in our life today and in the world to come when God's reign is fully realized.

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, August 15

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Isaiah 61:7-11

Psalm 34:1-9

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 1:46-55

Sunday, August 22

13th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 17 B

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

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

Sunday Worship

9:00 am – Eucharist

11:00 am – Eucharist

(Livestreamed)

Boldly into the Future Coffee and Conversation Meetings

- Sunday, Aug. 22, after the 11 a.m. liturgy
- Saturday, Aug. 28, at 11 a.m. at Mount Olive, or
- Sunday, Aug. 29, after the 11 a.m. liturgy

The discussion will cover:

- Our 2017 building improvements and their impact on our mission and our environmental footprint;
- Our current mortgage and how reducing our debt can favorably impact our operating budget and allow us to consider expanding or extending our mission; and
- Creative ways to give.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., August 11

11 am – Staff meeting

Thurs., August 127 pm – Narcotics
Anonymous**Sat., August 14**9 am – Gardening Day
10 am – Book Discussion**Sun., August 15****Mary, Mother of Our Lord**

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

Tues., August 17

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., August 1811 am – Staff meeting
6:30 pm – Orchestra rehearsal**Thurs., August 19**7 pm – Narcotics
Anonymous**Sun., August 22****Pentecost 13**

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

Noon – Boldly into the Future Forum

Tues., August 24

Noon – Bible Study

Sunday Morning Schedule

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. Please do not move the pew ropes, to help with social distancing, and **please** leave the short pews for those with wheelchairs. 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.

Angels Unawares: Cross American Tour

This powerful sculpture will be on display in front of The Basilica of Saint Mary August 1-30, 2021.

The work depicts migrants and refugees from all cultural and racial backgrounds and from all historic periods of time together—shoulder to shoulder on a raft or boat. Within this diverse crowd of people, angel wings are visible in the center, suggesting that within the migrant and refugee is the sacred.

The inspiration for the work arises from Hebrews 13:2, “Be welcoming to strangers, many have entertained angels unawares.”

The *Angels Unawares* sculpture by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz depicts more than 140 refugees. The 3.5-ton, 20-foot-long sculpture, is a gift to The Catholic University of America and currently on a national tour. Through this pilgrimage, people across the country have the opportunity to share in its message of welcome and hope.

Angels Unawares is a second casting of a piece commissioned by Pope Francis and created by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz, who has received broad attention for his Homeless Jesus sculpture. The original casting was installed in St. Peter's Square and unveiled by Pope Francis on Sept. 29, 2019, the 105th observance of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The unveiling and blessing at Catholic University was part of the 2020 observance.

For a schedule of tours, please visit: <https://www.mary.org/who-we-are/art/angels-unawares#.YP7AmOhKg2y>

Keeping Our Brothers and Sisters Housed with Align Minneapolis

In 2019, Mount Olive officially joined an organization called Align Minneapolis, “an interfaith collaboration of 17 Minneapolis churches, synagogues, and mosques and people with lived experiences working together to address homelessness and poverty.”

In under two years, this partnership, this membership, has already born fruit more wonderful and abundant than we could have anticipated.

Though our membership in Align Minneapolis, members and friends of Mount Olive have been able to participate in several webinars on issues related to a proposed statewide Shelter Bill of Rights for those experiencing homelessness, affordable housing initiatives, and work related to fighting on behalf of and alongside those experiencing homelessness.

In addition, our work in our community has benefited greatly from the sharing of congregational resources facilitated by Align Minneapolis. We have been able to partner with other Align congregations who have programs to help with clothing, mentorship, rental deposit assistance, and more. At the same time, Align congregations have supported Mount Olive through donations of diapers, household supplies, and food.

Perhaps most notably, Align Minneapolis provides rental assistance through its ERA (Emergency Rental Assistance) program. Through the shared resources of our 17 congregations, Align Minneapolis is able to pay out between \$4,000-6,000 per week to help keep people in their homes and prevent more people from falling into homelessness. While this kind of program has always been needed and necessary, it has been especially true in the time of an international pandemic that saw significant job loss and numerous individuals and families struggle to pay their rent. As a member of Align, and as an intake congregation, Mount Olive has guided multiple individuals and families through the process of applying and receiving rental assistance, keeping people in their homes and helping them get caught up on rent. The shared resources of our congregations mean we have been able to make a more significant impact than we could have going it alone.

We are thankful for and celebrate our membership in Align Minneapolis and our partnership with the other collaborative congregations.

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.

Volunteers Needed!

Mount Olive has been streaming worship live to our YouTube channel since resuming in-person worship in June. Even though we have computer-controlled cameras, we need someone to control the computer!

What you'll do: There are a few technical things to setup about ten minutes before the prelude begins. We have three cameras, which are all computer controlled and have configured presets for their positions. So, once streaming starts, you simply need to follow along with the service, and at each appropriate transition point, press a couple buttons.

For example, when music needs to be displayed alongside the video, there are preset buttons that advance the slideshow to that hymn slide and switch to the right scene in the streaming software. Another example, when the service begins, cameras are pointing to the organ and the entrance from the narthex for the prelude and entrance hymn respectively. Then, after the entrance hymn, they need to be directed to the lectern and pulpit before the first reading and sermon.

Training & written directions will be available. And, at least for the first service you run, an experienced operator will sit by you and assist you. Ideally, we have a team of five or six, so that each of us would be scheduled once per month or so.

How to get involved: Contact Dan at worship@mountolivechurch.org or 612-600-6982 with any questions and if you're interested.

One Team to Go - Volunteer Counters Needed!

Welcome back returning counters Mary Rose (Watson) Kaliher & John Meyer and new to the team Dave Kaliher!

Looking for a way to be engaged at Mount Olive but have limited time? Stewardship is looking for volunteers to assist with counting (only a couple hours a month). Now that we are back in person, we would like to re-adjust the counting schedule to weekly but are in need of assistance.

Volunteer Needs

- 2 counters to count checks and cash using calculating machine
- 1 data entry person with basic Excel Spreadsheet skills

Time Commitment

- 2-2.5 hours/month - teams create a schedule that works for them

Each team consists of a data entry person and two counters. We would like to rotate with each team counting once a month (doable with 4 teams). Training provided.

Please email stewardship@mountolivechurch.org or call the church office to let us know your interest.

Stewardship Update:

Faith-filled generosity abounds at Mount Olive. We are grateful for the gifts that have been shared this year. Here is an update on what giving has looked like so far this year and what we are projecting for year-end.

Total income through July was \$423,000 just 11% short of budget.

Thanks to several large and unexpected gifts as well as a grant from the State towards our environmental building projects, our offering totaled \$413,000 which is up 10% compared to the first seven months of 2020!

Year-to-date expenses are \$405,000, 12% under budget due to ongoing pandemic impacts, timing of certain expenditures, and staff disability leave.

Mount Olive's year-to-date surplus is approximately \$18,000.

Overall, we are in a good financial position with the full financial impacts of returning to in-person worship yet to be felt. Our giving history has been that we receive the majority of our gifts closer to year end. Barring unforeseen events, we are expecting to end the year in a strong financial position. This would not be possible without you, our Mount Olive community! Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

New Members to be Received September 19

Are you interested in becoming a member of Mount Olive congregation? If so, please plan to participate in a reception of new members at the **11 a.m. liturgy on September 19**, followed by refreshments at noon. Contact the church office or speak to Pastor Crippen or Vicar Bonneville for more information.

Even if you aren't sure about joining, there will be a get-acquainted session in early September, where you can get up close and personal with members of our staff and others to learn more about our ministries, our beliefs, and our values. Watch *The Olive Branch* for details of date and time.

Book Discussion

The Mount Olive Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 am. Beginning with their next meeting on August 14 (this Saturday) they will resume meeting at church. For August 14, the book is *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens, and for the September 11 meeting, the book will be *Main Street*, by Sinclair Lewis.

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](#).

Pr. Laurie Eaton retires

Pastor Laurie Eaton, who has served Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis for the past twelve years (our neighbor seven blocks to the north on Chicago Ave.), is retiring from ordained ministry this Sunday, August 15. Laurie served as vicar at Mount Olive from 2001-2002, and has served as a pastor for 18 years. Thanks be to God for her faithfulness and grace and dedication to serving God's people these many years!

We will add our prayers of thanksgiving to God for her faithful ministry on Sunday to those of Our Saviour's, and if you'd like to send her greetings, here is her address:

Laurie Eaton
1240 Ives Lane
Plymouth, MN 55441

Rest in Peace

Mount Olive friend, Mary Bode, has asked that we share information about the death of former Mount Olive church secretary, Helen Arneson. Helen served Mount Olive from approximately 1947-1957. She has served for the last 20 years as Wedding Coordinator at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul. Her funeral was held yesterday, August 10, at Gloria Dei.

Her obituary is [here](#).

Attention Mount Olive Servants!

The Servant Schedule for the 4th quarter of 2021 (October-December) will be published at the beginning of September 2021. The deadline for submitting requests is August 14, 2021. Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com.

A Friendly Reminder on Seating

Please note that the four cut-out pews on the aisle in the nave are reserved for those in wheelchairs and those who may accompany them.

Seating is a little trickier with the social distancing ropes in the nave, but there is room for everyone (don't forget the transept galleries!). Please be mindful of the seat you choose and leave the spots right next to the cut-out open for those who may accompany people in a wheelchair.

Thanks.



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Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Bargmann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

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