

# The Olive Branch

## Accent on Worship

*Jim Bargmann*

Often our lectionary, the prescribed set of Scripture readings we use each week at Mount Olive, along with many of our siblings in faith throughout the world, gives us little surprises. This is one of those weeks.

We find ourselves nearing the end of our Lenten journey for this year. This week, our first reading, from Isaiah 43, overlaps significantly with the reading chosen for the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany. Of course, to get to seven Sundays after Epiphany is a little rare (we did not do so this past year), there is still a little gift here.

Reflecting on the meaning of these two church year seasons and the overlapping sections of Isaiah 43, I found a gift this week, in particular, verses 18 and 19: "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

As Pastor Crippen wrote in the Focus on the Season for Ash Wednesday, the season of Lent marks, "a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection...What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness."

The word epiphany means manifestation or revealing, and though the season, we reflect upon and celebrate God's revealing of God's work among God's people.

Both of these seasons celebrate and point toward God doing a new thing. In Epiphany, we have just come out of celebrating God doing a new thing by becoming human and living among us and then being revealed as the

*(continued on page 2)*



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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Wed., March 30**

9 am – Staff meeting

**Noon – Midweek Eucharist**

5:30 pm - Children's Choir (on Zoom)

**7:00 pm – Lenten Vespers**

7:45 pm – Cantorei rehearsal

**Thurs., March 31**

7 pm – Narcotics Anonymous

**Fri., April 1**

12-2 pm – LSS Alumni luncheon

7pm – Recovery Group

**Sat., April 2**

1-3 pm – Prayer Shawl Group

**Sun., April 3****Fifth Sunday in Lent****8 am – Holy Eucharist,**

followed by coffee &amp; fellowship

**10:45 am – Holy Eucharist***(livestreamed)*, followed by coffee & fellowship**Tues., April 5**

Noon – Bible Study

**Wed., April 6**

9 am – Staff meeting

**Noon – Midweek Eucharist**

1 pm – Soup Luncheon

5:30 pm - Children's Choir  
(on Zoom)

6:00 pm – Soup Supper

**7:00 pm – Lenten Vespers**

7:45 pm – Cantorei rehearsal

## Happy Birthday, Leila!

Leila Froehlich was born April 5, 1922. She was very small. She was a preemie. Her first bed was a shoebox, placed on the open oven door to keep her warm. The pastor was called. He came to the house and baptized Leila the day after she was born. She was not expected to live.

But live she did! This April 5<sup>th</sup> she will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

When Leila moved to Minneapolis as a young woman, she joined Mount Olive. That was 1948. She has been a member here ever since. That is 74 years!

Leila loves this place and its people. She also loves receiving cards. So, if you are inclined to send her a birthday greeting (it will bring a smile to her face) you may send it to:

Leila Froehlich  
5300 Woodhill Rd, #CSI  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Leila!

## Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Savior of all. In Lent, we journey through repentance and fasting toward God doing a new thing in Christ's death and resurrection, the very act that makes Jesus the Savior of all.

But God's action doesn't stop there. It continues in each and every one of us. Where do you find yourself needing God to do a new thing? Do you need former things to be forgotten? What needs to spring forth in your or in your world? In what ways are you watching for God to make a way in the wilderness or rivers in a desert? God has a pattern of doing a new things. It was a new thing to become one of us, and a new thing to give up this life and then rise again. And God continues to do new things in the very real here and now.

- Jim Bargmann

## Join in Supporting Our Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine

Your Missions Committee has given \$2,500 of Mount Olive's mission tithes to the ELCA Disaster Response earmarked for the disaster through which our brothers and sisters are living. Here is what will be done with our funds: "Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water, and hygiene kits."

You may join the effort by giving through the link provided or by donating through your blue envelope, marking your donation "For Ukraine," and we will forward your gift on to ELCA Disaster Response. We will forward any gifts received to the ELCA over and above our \$2,500 donation. *ELCA Disaster Response will match up to \$50,000 in donations*

[Your gifts will support Ukrainians and others. Gifts to "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used in full \(100%\) to assist those affected by the crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries.](#)

Our prayers abound for the loss and devastation experienced in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

### Book Discussion – Note Update!

**Due to a conflict the Mount Olive Book Group will not meet in April.** They will resume as follows:

On May 14, they will discuss *The Moon and Sixpence*, by W. Somerset Maugham. On June 11, they will discuss *Little Fires Everywhere*, by Celeste Ng. On July 9, they will discuss *The Unseen*, by Roy Jacobsen.

### SUNDAY READINGS

**Sunday, April 3**  
*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
 Isaiah 43:16-21  
 Psalm 126  
 Philippians 3:4b-14  
 John 12:1-8

**Sunday, April 10**  
*Sunday of the Passion*  
*Palm Sunday*  
 Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 31:9-16  
 Philippians 2:5-11  
 Luke 24:14 – 23:56

### Paschal Garden

Donations are currently being received for this year's Easter Paschal Garden.

If you would like to donate to flowers for Easter, please be sure your contribution is clearly designated for this purpose. Gifts can be given any time between now and Easter.

Contributors may take a flower home following the second Easter liturgy.

## You CAN Do This, and it Matters!

A spouse, parent, family member, or friend dies. The funeral liturgy we celebrate, and the hospitality that the community of Mount Olive offers to the grieving family and friends afterward is the beginning of healing time after time.

The team that provides the hospitality after the liturgy needs some help for these times. It is our tradition to provide a lunch or other gathering after the liturgy, a time for fellowship, conversation, and consolation. The team needs a few additional bakers who can bake a pan or two of "bars" of your choice (variety is good!).

Will you help? Please email me at ech914@comcast.net, or call me at 763-639-7702, or contact the church office with your YES!

Thanks in advance!

- Elaine Halbardier

### Funeral Arrangements for LeRoy & Charlotte Erlandson

A funeral Eucharist for our brother and sister in Christ, LeRoy and Charlotte Erlandson, will be held at Mount Olive on Saturday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m., followed by a light luncheon.

LeRoy and Charlotte both died earlier in the pandemic, and their family wanted to wait until it was at least somewhat safe to gather for their funeral.

*Rest eternal grant them, O God,  
and let perpetual light shine on them.  
May LeRoy, Charlotte, and all the blessed dead,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace.*

### Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the West Lounge. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well.

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

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

### Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild will be gathering to clean our chancel on Saturday, April 2, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please join our crew – for an hour, for the morning. The more hands, the faster we'll finish! Come help prepare our worship space for Holy Week and Easter.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede –

[bethgaede@comcast.com](mailto:bethgaede@comcast.com).

## Welcome to Our Newest Members!



Mount Olive welcomed our five newest members on March 27. More information about them will be published soon. L-R: Sarah Estes, Tom Schattauer, Paula Carlson, Rebekah Wold, Harrison Defries.

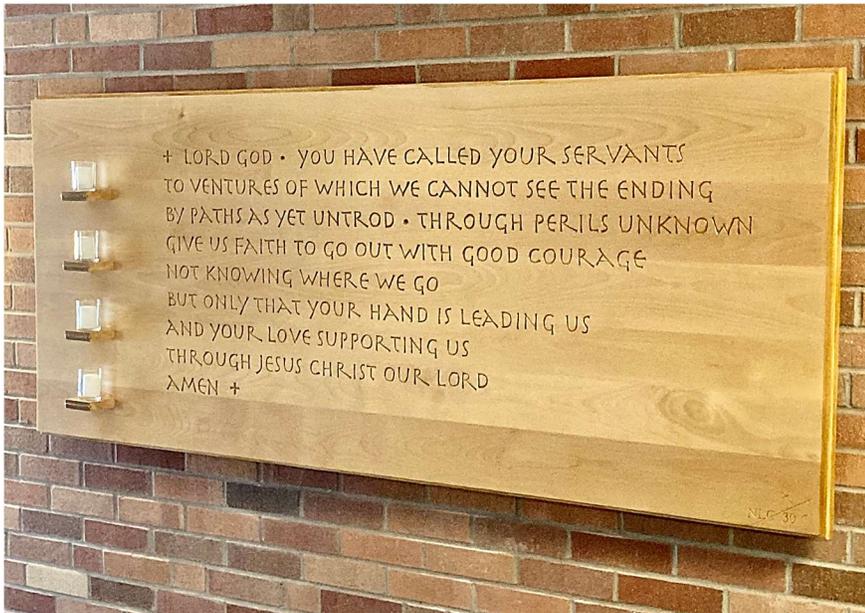


### First Meeting with Mount Olive Mentors *Claudia Beck's observations*

“Our [first] meeting was great. The family was so welcoming ... Hospitality is clearly important to them, so they furnished us all with tea, nuts, treats, and juice. They are so incredibly thankful for everything the church has done to support them. They feel so happy here and are really looking forward to getting to know us. We have time set aside to go grocery shopping, get winter clothing and sign up for English classes. They understand some English as long as we speak slowly and not in paragraphs.” Claudia’s sons Atticus and Elliot have made friends with the children in the family.

Note: We are not allowed to share names, pictures, or details about the family at this time. Many of us have assumed that Lutheran Social Services (the resettlement agency with whom we are working) was concerned about family members in Afghanistan being identified through the personal information about this family. That is a concern, but the larger fear is much closer to home. Some Afghan families have been threatened by Minnesotans who are opposed to the Afghan resettlement. Not everyone is pleased to welcome these new neighbors. We need to be aware of this, speak out against such prejudice, and do all that we can to help the family that we are hosting to feel safe and welcomed.

## Welcome to a New Addition



This beautiful woodcarving now hangs in the stairwell of the Parish House. The work was created by Timothy Sheie, woodcarver and long-time singer in The National Lutheran Choir, for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the choir. The choir has now donated the piece to Mount Olive.

The text is a familiar collect from Evening Prayer (ELW, p. 317). The author is probably Eric Milner-White; it was first published eighty years ago in the book *Daily Prayer*, compiled by Milner-White and George Wallace Briggs

(London: Oxford University Press, p.14). It became part of our Lutheran tradition with publication of *Service Book and Hymnal* in 1958 where it appears on page 231 as 96: "Prayer for Guidance."

The panel is made of solid maple and weighs approximately 60 pounds. And, if you're curious as to how it was hung in this challenging spot, here is Sexton Jose Morocho hard at work.

Thank Jose for this and the many other wonderful things he is doing in the care for our building.



### Easter Vigil Reception – It's Back!

We are bringing back our Easter Vigil Reception this year! The reception will be an extension of our Easter joy and be held upstairs in the Chapel Lounge and East Assembly Room area immediately following our 8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 16.

All are welcome!



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Lutheran Church in America*

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**Church Staff**

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Bargmann](#)

Sexton – [Jose Morochó](#)

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## **Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter at Mount Olive**

**Sunday, April 10: *Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday***

+ Holy Eucharist, 8 & 10:45 am

**Mon.-Wed., April 11-13: *Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week***

+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave,  
near the columbarium

**Thursday, April 14: *Maundy Thursday***

+ Holy Eucharist, Noon

+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

**Friday, April 15: *Good Friday***

+ Stations of the Cross, Noon

+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

**Saturday, April 16: *Holy Saturday***

+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception

**Sunday, April 17: *The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day***

+ Festival Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:45 am