

The Olive Branch

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

May 25, 2022



Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 29

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14,

16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

Sunday, June 5

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17 [25-27]

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

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

Permit me a little departure from my normal pattern for these Accent on Worship articles. This week, it is a wonderful little phrase in the Prayer of the Day that caught my attention, and so there lies my focus for this week.

Here is the entirety of that prayer:

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The phrase that caught my attention? "...form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise..."

The concept of "God's will" is a complex one, made even more complex by some seriously poor and unbiblical teaching about God's will over the 2000 or so year history of the Christian Church. While I believe striving toward God's will is a worthy pursuit, I do not know that it needs to be or should be an agonizing activity. And while God is certainly concerned, as our dear parent, about the things that concern us, I do not know that the choice of which car to purchase, which shirt to wear, or our hairstyle, are matters of which we

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., May 25

10 am – Staff meeting

Thurs., May 26*Ascension of Our Lord***7 pm – Ascension Eucharist**

7 pm – Narcotics Anonymous

Fri., May 27

7 pm – Recovery Group

Sat., May 28

9 am – Gardening Day

Sun., May 29*Seventh Sunday of Easter***Summer Schedule Begins****10:00 am – Holy Eucharist***(livestreamed)***Mon., May 30 – Memorial Day***Church offices closed***Tues., May 31**

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., June 1

10 am – Staff meeting

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

should be concerned about “God’s will.” I do not know either, that God’s will is entirely difficult for us to know. Scripture itself, indeed, even in this week’s Gospel reading, gives us multiple passages telling us about what God wants of their children.

I have also grown uncomfortable with the concept that we have to fight against our own will to pursue God’s will. And this concept, perhaps, forms the central thought of this article and the reason this prayer caught my attention. I have come to believe that knowing God’s will is not so much one of knowledge, but of desire. That knowing (and yes, doing) God’s will is a matter of our minds being formed by the Holy Spirit into one will - the very will of God. Or said another way, that our will - our desires - our passions - our wants - become the very will - desires - passions - wants - of God. That they become one and the same. And in that sameness, we find ourselves wanting what God wants and there is no longer a my will versus God’s will because they have become one and the same by the power of the Spirit. And how does that come about? Through the reading and hearing and singing and studying of God’s Word; through prayer; through conversation with trusted siblings in faith, through eating and drinking at God’s table.

I pray that God would form our minds into God’s own will. “Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found.”

- Jim Bargmann

The Olive Branch Summer Publication Schedule

With this issue, *The Olive Branch* begins summer schedule, and will be published every OTHER week.

The next issue will be published on June 8, with all information for that issue due on **Monday, June 6.**

Partner of the Month

Our May Partner of the Month is the **Minnesota Council of Churches**.

“The Minnesota Council of Churches consists of 27 members representing the regional governing and administrative bodies of Historic Black, Mainline Protestant, Peace Church, and Greek Orthodox judicatories.” The Council works to build relations between its member churches and other faith communities. In addition, they coordinate a vibrant refugee resettlement program and work for advocacy at all levels of government for issues of importance to the member churches. While there is much that happens behind the scenes at Minnesota Council of Churches, they are most known for their “Blessed Ramadan” lawn signs and cooperative Iftar dinners, bringing people of differing faiths together for important celebrations and conversation.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute over and above our budgeted amount to those partners doing work in their areas of passion and concern. You can do this using your offering envelopes or our online giving system. All additional contributions to our partner of the month will be distributed to the partner for the month in which the contribution is received.

For more information about the Minnesota Council of Churches and their work, please visit www.mnchurches.org.

Neighborhood Cookouts

We are planning three neighborhood cookouts this summer - simply a relaxing time for the Mount Olive community to gather with our neighbors around food.

Plan to join us for lunch, beginning shortly after Liturgy (around 11:15 am or so), on June 12, July 24, and August 21. If you are able to help with set up, clean up, or want to grill, please contact Jim Bargmann, neighborhood@mountoliverchurch.org.

Book Discussion

The Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am at church. All readers are welcome! On June 11, they will discuss *Little Fires Everywhere*, by Celeste Ng. On July 9, they will discuss *The Unseen*, by Roy Jacobsen.

Summer worship schedule begins this Sunday, May 29. During the summer (from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend), Mount Olive celebrates ONE Sunday liturgy, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Everyday Activities

Adam Krueger took the men in the Afghan family* to the ethnic grocery store for supplies and was impressed by the variety of foods, spices, and teas. On the shopping list were candy-coated fennel seeds, used like an after-dinner “mint” to aid digestion. They looked for dried herbs such as cilantro, mint, and coriander.

Everyone agreed that they’d pass on the goat stomach, even though it was on sale, but lamb’s liver was added to the shopping cart.



Adam and Margaret Bostelmann also spent a morning with the children on a walk to a Minneapolis City Park. Watching a bobcat and backhoe work on a construction site was a big thrill for the little boy. The swings in the park are a favorite pastime for all. Claudia Beck and Jerry Duncan also took the kids to the park this past week, and Atticus Beck and the children happily played with building/construction toys. Normal children, doing normal children things, thanks to a refugee resettlement program and the countless hours of volunteer hours being put in by Mount Olive’s intrepid mentors.

*For the security of the family, we are unable to reveal their names or show their faces in photos.



Hope in Action--Learn More About our Support in Palestine

On Sunday, June 5, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, co-founder of Bright Stars of Bethlehem and founder of dar al-Kalima University, will be in town to share an update of this ministry, one of Mount Olive's Global Ministry partners.

You are invited to these events, and members of the Global Ministry committee will be attending as well. At 12:00 noon Rev. Rehab will lead a Global Mission Forum at Central Lutheran Church downtown, speaking on what is next for the university. At 2:30 that afternoon he will present a public lecture at Westminster Presbyterian Church (1200 S. Marquette Ave) entitled "The next Generation of Creative leaders in Palestine: The Power of Arts & Education." The responding panel will include local arts and education leaders. Works by Palestinian artists will be featured at the public lecture. Rev. Rahib's latest book is entitled *The Politics of Persecution*, and one will soon be available in our church library.

Join us!

Pentecost Reading of Acts 2 in Many Languages

For a number of years, it has been our tradition at Mount Olive to hear a portion of the Pentecost reading from Acts 2:1-21 read simultaneously in various languages. Some of you have either participated in this joint reading in the past, or are knowledgeable enough in a foreign language that you might be willing to participate this year.

Anyone who can read aloud in another language is invited to participate in this corporate reading at the morning liturgy on Sunday, June 6, 2022. Please contact the church office if you would be willing to participate and we will be in touch soon.

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](#).

**Ascension
Of Our Lord
Thursday, May 26
Holy Eucharist at
7:00 p.m.**

**Vigil of Pentecost
Saturday, June 4,
5:30 p.m.**

All are welcome.



BACH · TAGE
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN
MINNEAPOLIS

Bach TAGE Events Open to the Public!

Saturday, June 4, 4:00 pm

Trios!

A program of trios, featuring baroque flutist David Ross, soprano Heather Cogswell, violinist Marc Levine, harpsichordist Tami Morse, cellist Charles Asch, and organist David Cherwien.

Sunday, June 5, 4:00 pm

Evening Prayer, with Bach Cantata #78, *Jesu der du meine Seele*, and Johann Pachelbel's setting of *Magnificat*.

Understanding the Meaning of Juneteenth

In his sermon on May 15, Pastor Crippen delivered a message that invited us to look again at the meaning of Peter's vision as found in Acts 11. The challenge of God's vision to Peter and the heart of Pastor's sermon was this: We must examine ourselves for how we have limited what it means to be part of the family of God. Are we - intentionally or not - causing others to question if they belong? This challenge continues to be the question Mount Olive is asking itself.

As part of this journey, we will be learning about a federal holiday that came into official existence a year ago, but one which has been celebrated in the African American community for over 150 years. On June 12, 2021, President Biden signed into law Senate Bill 475 (S.475) making "Juneteenth" a federal holiday. Known as this country's "second Independence Day" to our black brothers and sisters, the holiday celebrates the freedom of enslaved people in the United States at the end of the Civil War.

On June 12, a special adult forum will be held following 10:00 a.m. worship where we will explore the meaning of this holiday as to its origins and importance to the black community. We will also look at this holiday from the perspective of liberation and Mount Olive's working for justice for all people. Resources will be provided where local events are being held to honor this remarkable and long-overlooked day of celebration. We hope you will join us for coffee and conversation.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

Fax: 612-827-4557

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Bargmann](#)

Sexton – [Jose Moracho](#)

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