



The Olive Branch

May 10, 2023

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

In my preparation and research for writing this article, I ended up going down a rabbit hole and it led to cows and sheep. That in itself is a very strange sentence and hope you will stick with me for a while longer. In our Gospel reading for this upcoming Sunday, John 14:15-21, there is a beautiful word used, specifically in verse 16: Advocate. The original word used by John is *paraklētos*, sometimes also translated as helper or comforter.

This language, this name for the third person of the Trinity we have come to know as the Holy Spirit, is beautiful enough in itself. Advocate, one who comes alongside another to support, defend, plead on one's behalf. Helper. Comforter.

But I couldn't leave it there. While not by any means an expert in languages, I am fascinated by languages, especially etymology, the study of the origins of words. *Paraklētos* is too beautiful a word to leave alone. When taking *paraklētos* to its Latin form, we find the prefix *para* added to the word *kalēō*. *Para* - beside, alongside of, closely related to and *kalēō* - to call, summon, send for, exhort, comfort, console. So our Spirit, given by God, promised by Jesus, has the role of coming alongside to call, summon, comfort, console. That in itself is beautiful. But I promised cows and sheep. And here's where my writing, offers you something beautiful, if not a bit strange and perhaps a bit of a stretch. But I found it powerful and perhaps you will too. Taking *kalēō*, to summon or send for, a bit further, the root here is actually low. Not positionally, but as in the sound made by cows, sheep and many varieties of hooved, ruminant mammals we may or may not associate with a particular Christmas hymn. This sound, a low, is sometimes referred to as a moo,

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

but that is both at the same time too specific to cows and too general of a definition. Many animals make this sound; sheep, goats, cattle, bison, even antelope, are known to low. And this sound has a specific purpose according to researchers. It is the sound made by a parent to gently call a child to come nearer, sometimes for protection, sometimes simply for a tasty bit of food, sometimes simply to be close in a nice part of pasture, "Hey, look what I found - I want to share it with you."

Now, I certainly have no evidence that John meant all this when choosing the word *paraklētos* in reference to the Holy Spirit, but I think it is also not insignificant that he used this very same word five separate times and is the only Biblical author to have done so. Regardless, I think it a beautiful image for the Spirit, a loving parent, coming beside a beloved other, calling them to come over for protection, sustenance, or simply to share something enjoyable.

Thank you for joining me on this word journey. I hope it was as meaningful to you as it was to me.

- Jim Bargmann

Ascension Of Our Lord
Thursday, May 18
Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

Vigil of Pentecost
Saturday, May 27
7:00 p.m.

All are welcome.

Sunday Readings

May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

May 21, 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10,32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 28

Beginning Memorial Day weekend and running through Labor Day weekend, we celebrate ONE Sunday Eucharist, at 10:00 a.m.

The Olive Branch Summer Publication

During June, July, and August, *The Olive Branch* will be published every other week.

Calendar

Wednesday, May 10

10:00 am Staff meeting

7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, May 11

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, May 12

5-9 pm Godly Play Training

Saturday, May 13

9:00 am ALIGN Furniture Distribution

10:00 am Funeral Visitation

11:00 am *Funeral Eucharist: Leila Froehlich*

Sunday, May 14 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

9:30 am Education for all ages

10:45 am *Holy Eucharist, with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism*, followed by coffee and conversation

12:30 pm Y4 Confirmation

Tuesday, May 16

Noon Bible Study

6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministry Committee meeting

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, May 28, 2023. 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 **East Assembly Room** For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well.

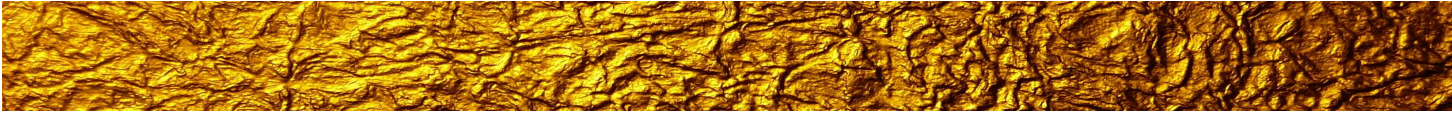
The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

Book Discussion

For its May meeting, the Book Discussion group will read *Stoner*, by John Williams. At the June meeting, they will discuss *The Sentence*, by Louise Erdrich.

The Mount Olive book group has been meeting once a month for 20 years, usually on the second Saturday from 10am to noon.

Lately the group has been using Zoom to provide remote access to the sessions. If you would like to participate in the group, you can either attend the monthly sessions which meet at the church or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).



Upcoming Education Topics

May 14: "There's No Straight Line: Our Lives and the Growth in Faith," presented by Mount Olive member, David Engen.

May 21: Conversation on Adult Forum Topics for 2023-2024.

Looking Ahead: June 18 and 25: "The Priestly Culture as Taught in Hebrew Scriptures," presented by Hamline University Prof. Emeritus Earl Schwartz.

We are once again very privileged to have Earl Schwartz join us in the Chapel Lounge on two Sundays, June 18 and 25, following the 10:00 AM liturgy.

Earl has been with us before and responses to his presentations are always to bring him back as often as possible. This time Earl will present on the "priestly culture" as presented in the Hebrew scripture which he calls "the underlying 'life force' basis of purity, impurity, and sacrifices." He will explain how Israelite versions of these practices, as described in biblical texts, do and do not appear to resemble similar non-Israelite practices, and then, how the prophetic tradition came to re-contextualize this all in distinctly biblical ways.

GODLY PLAY

This coming Sunday, May 14, there will be no Godly Play. Instead, the Mother's Day Recital will be held in the Chapel Lounge.

I wonder what conversations you will still have at home!

*May 21 will be our last Godly Play for the year!
Many thanks to our Storytellers and Doorpersons who so faithfully served among our young people!*

Align Minneapolis Furniture Drive at Mount Olive

Do you have gently used furniture such as tables, chairs, sofas, end tables, lamps, and dressers that could use a new home? Clothing and housewares? If so, you are cordially invited to donate them at the annual Align Minneapolis Furniture Drive on **Saturday, May 13, from 9:00 am to Noon** at Mount Olive in the south parking lot.

Furniture collected will then be given to guests of Align Minneapolis outreach ministries to assist in furnishing new apartments for those residing in our area, many of whom are exiting homelessness.

Questions? Contact Julia Freeman at the Basilica of Saint Mary at (612) 317-3413 or jfreeman@mary.org. If you are unable to attend the furniture drive but would still like to donate, you can call (651) 602-0478 for furniture pick up within a limited area. Please, no beds, large office desks, appliances, or construction materials.

And, if you would like to learn more about the life-changing, dynamic work of Align Minneapolis, visit www.alignmpls.org.



New Members to be Received June 18

New members will be received into the congregation **on Sunday, June 18, at the 10:00 liturgy**. If you are interested in becoming a member of Mount Olive or you have any questions about becoming a member, please speak with Pr. Crippen, Vicar Hamre, Eric Manuel (evangelism@mountolivechurch.org), or call the church office.

Attention Sunday Servants

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for 3rd Quarter 2023 (July - September) will be published at the beginning of June 2023. Please send any requests or questions regarding scheduling conflicts to me by **this Friday, May 12**.

Thanks!

Greg Murphy

gregmurphy@gmail.com

Register for Bach Täge!

Reservations for *Bach-Täge* June 10 & 11 are arriving at the church office daily. In a few days, music will be mailed to all who register, whether you're attending as a full participant or only for the Saturday morning presentation. A downloadable brochure with all of the information you need, including agenda and registration form, can be found [here](#).

Additional questions? Please call (612) 827-5919 or email welcome@mountolivechurch.org.

If you're planning to attend, please get the registration form to the office very soon. Only three weeks away now!!!

Hope to see you at *Bach-Täge*!



BACH · TÄGE
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN
MINNEAPOLIS

Attention Bookworms!

Please note! Due to scheduling conflicts with a funeral and Bach Täge, the May and June Book Discussion Group meetings will be held on the THIRD Saturday during those two months, **on May 20 and June 17**.

May Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Minnesota Council of Churches*

Minnesota Council of Churches seeks to “build strong communities that are made up of meaningful relationships and guided by our deepest values. They seek to partner organizations and individuals in living out faith in their communities. They do this through refugee services programs, social justice work, justice advocacy work, and fostering interfaith connections. In addition, through their Respectful Conversations program, they facilitate respectful conversations between people of varying backgrounds and train others to lead those conversations.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partners this month, we also volunteer in support of their work. On top of those financial and labor contributions, we encourage any member who wishes to donate 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 work of the Minnesota Council of Churches, please visit their website at www.mnchurches.org .

Come One, Come All – It’s Garden Season!

Each year our grounds and gardens are tended by volunteers from our congregation. Not only does this make our property an oasis in the neighborhood, but it gives the volunteers a chance to practice dirt therapy.

The work began with an initial clean-up day on Saturday, May 6, and will continue through October on the first and third Saturdays from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Join us for an hour, a day a month, or on every workday as your schedule allows you to participate.

In addition to cleaning up and tending of the grounds around the church and the pollinator garden in the south parking lot, we will be taking on some special projects this year. Those projects include cleaning up and removal of partially dead bushes and ground cover in the north parking lot and mulching, splitting the lilies and grasses on the south side of the church, and trimming bushes and trees across the property.

Bring your own hand tools if you have them. If not, we have a few extra garden tools available.

If you have questions, reach out to Carol Martinson at property@mountolivechurch.org , or 612-708-9849.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist:

8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

Fax: 612/827-4557

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Mollie Hamre*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Jim Bargmann**
- **Multi-Language Readers Needed for Day of Pentecost**
- **Gardening Season Begins Saturday, May 6**
- **Align Minneapolis Furniture Drive at Mount Olive**
- **New Members to be Received June 18**