



The Olive Branch

July 5, 2023

Sunday Readings

July 9, 2023

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 14 A

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16, 2023

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 15 A

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

"At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'" - Matthew 11:25-27

There is a beautiful simplicity to the workings of God's reign.

This past week, we heard about the significance of the seemingly insignificant act of sharing a cup of cold water. This week, Jesus even names it - God chooses to reveal the things about their reign to even infants - yes, literal babies - but also children or any who are considered insignificant by society.

This teaching isn't a new or unfamiliar theme for Jesus. The "blessed are" instructions of what we have come to know as the Beatitudes provide simple instruction about the simplicity of God's reign. Birds, seeds, crops, flowers, water - all these things too provide simple yet deep illustrations of how what the reign of God looks like - both now in its imperfect incompleteness and in its future fulfillment.

There is certainly a wonderful depth to Scripture and its teachings, and all of this is worth studying. Learning about the cultural dynamics at play, original languages, the practice of translation and its effects on our understanding of God's Word

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

are all worthy pursuits that can further illuminate and expand our understanding of Scripture.

But do you know the really fascinating thing about all of these practices - at least from my experience? The more I study and learn about Scripture, my study leads me to strip away my cultural biases, years of historical baggage, and unfortunate misunderstandings - leaving me with a much more simple message of God's love, expressed through Jesus' actions and the work of the Holy Spirit and though the people I meet every day. A beautiful simplicity that may just involve learning about cups of cold water, birds, seeds, flowers, water, and those considered blessed from those sometimes considered unimportant or insignificant.

A beautiful simplicity, for sure.

- Jim Bargmann

Mid-year Financial Update

Through the end of May, Mount Olive has received more than \$311,000 in contributions towards our operating fund, which is 22% more than the contributions we received during the same period in 2022. Our operating fund expenses through the end of May totaled over \$400,000. When we factor in additional income that we received, we have a deficit through May of more than \$82,000. While it is not unusual for us to be running a deficit at this time of year, the size of our current deficit is historically large.

We continue to be blessed with incredible generosity at Mount Olive. Please prayerfully consider whether you can help close this year's gap over the remainder of the year.

The Olive Branch Summer Publication

During the summer months of June, July, and August, *The Olive Branch* is published every other week. Deadline for the next issue is **Monday, July 17.**

Step Up!

- Volunteers are needed to host Sunday coffee following the morning Eucharist. Just sign up on the chart in the East Assembly room - near the coffee! Contact Lora Dundek with questions: <mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org>
- Volunteers are also needed to help with our gardens this summer - first and third Saturdays from 9-11 am (or you can come and pull weeds on your own!) Contact Carol Martinson with any questions you may have: <mailto:property@mountolivechurch.org>

Calendar

Wednesday, July 5

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, July 6

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, July 7

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, July 8

10:00 am Book Discussion Group

Sunday, July 9 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

11:30 am Farewell Reception for Sexton Jose Morocho

Monday, July 10

7:00 pm Vestry meeting

Tuesday, July 11

Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, July 12

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, July 13

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, July 14

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, July 15

9:00 am Gardening Day

Sunday, July 16 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

Tuesday, July 18

Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, July 19

10:00 am Staff meeting

6:00 pm Vicar Committee meeting

A Note from Leanna

Sincere thanks for the nice variety of cards and notes for my recent 90th birthday, and also for the lovely pink roses from my beloved Mount Olive, which came with a personal visit from Pastor Crippen. Feeling very grateful and blessed indeed!

- Leanna Kloempken

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 July 8 meeting, the Book Discussion will read *A Lesson Before Dying*, by Ernest Gaines. And for its August 12 meeting, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, by Anthony Doerr.

The Mount Olive book normally meets on the second Saturday of each month 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 in person or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here.](#)

From the Congregational Life Committee

Upcoming events:

All-church picnic, July 30 after worship, Minnehaha Park. More info will be coming.

Church camping trip, August 11-13 at Nerstrand Big Woods State Park. If you would like to reserve a site, the link is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4AA9A828A2F94-mount2>. Deadline for reservations is Saturday, July 22. Only four electric sites remain available.

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park is just an hour south of Mount Olive. If you would like to join the group just for the day on Saturday, please email conglife@mountolivechurch.org, or call the church office.

Global Ministry: EPES helps immigrants at Chile's northern border

ELCA missionary Karen Anderson, who works with EPES/Popular Education for Health, writes that many people in Chile are experiencing "disappointing and difficult times." One reason is the defeat of a proposed new constitution that would have significantly expanded social rights to health care, education, and social security.

Another is a humanitarian crisis along Chile's northern border with Peru – a crisis that in some ways is a Southern Hemisphere mirror image of what's happening at the U.S.-Mexico border. An estimated half-million immigrants, about one-third of them Venezuelans, have found their way into Chile in the last four years. They include some 180,000 Haitians, who often face both language barriers and prejudice.

The situation at the Chile-Peru border – in the Atacama Desert, where it's winter – is described in [the May issue of EPES's newsletter](#): "Since mid-April, 300 mostly Venezuelan, but also Haitian, Colombian and Ecuadoran, migrants and refugees, with backpacks, infants in strollers, and light bags, have been stranded along the sandy wayside of the highway that cuts through the desert. Chilean military are lined up behind them, Peruvian police ahead of them. They are not allowed to remain in Chile or to enter Peru."

Since early in 2022, both EPES and the ELCA have supported Asamblea de Migrantes y Promigrantes (AMPRO), which helps immigrants in Iquique and Arica, cities in northern Chile. AMPRO provides emergency resources to immigrants, prioritizing women with children.

EPES is one of [ten global ministries](#) supported by Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

Farewell Reception for Jose

We are sorry to announce that our sexton, Jose Morocho, has decided to resign his position. It has been a very difficult decision for him, but he is tired, stretched with two jobs, and wants to spend more time with his kids. Something we obviously want for him! Jose's last day with us will be Sunday, July 9.

We are all sad to see him leave this role at Mount Olive, but grateful that we had him with us for 1.5 years. He was truly a gift to us and a partner in our ministry here.

Jose asked if it would be OK to come back and say hello once in a while. We told him that of course it is, but he would have to use the front door now!

The Property Committee will host a farewell for him during the coffee hour **this Sunday, July 9**. Please come and thank Jose for the wonderful work he has done for Mount Olive.

- Carol Martinson, director of Property

Rite of Confirmation This Sunday

Rose Thompson was ill on the Day of Pentecost, and wasn't able to be confirmed. She will affirm her baptism through the Rite of Confirmation this Sunday, July 9.

Please pray for Rose as she prepares for this day.

Our Going Out and Our Coming In

Staff vacation schedules

Pastor Crippen will be out of the office July 11-15.

Jim Bargmann will be on vacation July 14-21 and August 7-14.

Cantor Cherwien will be attending the annual Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Conference July 3-8, and on vacation July 16-24.

July Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Lutheran Social Services*

Lutheran Social Services is a broad-based social service organization that operates more than 20 different programs throughout the state of Minnesota. The services provided by LSS include housing, financial services, counseling, senior care programs, refugee resettlement, disaster recovery, and services for those with disabilities. LSS has been serving as the lead agency for the resettlement of the Afghan family Mount Olive has been sponsoring through the coordination of our Global Ministries Committee.

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 Lutheran Social Services, please visit their website at www.lssmn.org.

Spirit of Water: A Celebration with Mississippi River **July 15, 9:00 am - 8:00 pm, Hidden Falls Regional Park, St. Paul**

Join The Leadership Center for Social Justice and partners on July 15, 2023, for a celebration with Mississippi River! Come gather to connect, learn, pray, engage, play, celebrate, and honor the spirit of water. This event is co-presented with our partners: Resilient Indigenous Sisters Engaging (R.I.S.E. Coalition), Rights of Mississippi River, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, and Friends of the Mississippi River.

Arrive in the morning at United Campus for education about the importance of water, threats to water, and ways in which we can work to protect water. Then join others at Hidden Falls in the afternoon where there will be a community celebration with speakers, music, information booths, food, art, and play areas for children.

For more information, visit: <https://content.unitedseminary.edu/spirit-of-water-lcsj>
Contact: Stella Pearce at spearce@unitedseminary.edu

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

**Summer Sunday Eucharist:
10:00 am**

Contact Us

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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.*

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