



The Olive Branch

August 16, 2023

Sunday Readings

August 20, 2023

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 20 A

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:[10-20]21-28

August 27, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 21 A

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

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

Accent on Worship *Cantor David Cherwien*

What do you "GET" to do?

Often when at Saturday evening social gatherings, I am asked: "Do you have to be at church in the morning?" I gleefully respond: "Yes, but I don't 'have' to be there, I 'get' to be there." This is not some clever "this is how everyone should think" response, it's truly how I feel. Church is actually where I want to be. I suspect our assemblies are full of people who feel the same way. Because, with the exception of the paid staff, no one "has" to be here - it is a choice. When the entrance hymn begins, I get the same rush I have felt for the past 22 years - complete awe at the robust singing. Yep, I get to be HERE, and by the sound of the singing, they feel the same way.

I marvel at the extent at which institutions, even churches, go out of their way to make attending as convenient as possible (thankfully not here at Mount Olive). I wonder if at those places the assumption is that people don't really want to be there, or their coming is simply something to endure, or a box to check off of some "really should" set of activities. Some places make the gathering as short and simple as possible so people can get to whatever it is the planners assume they would really rather be doing in the first place. The truth is: any assembly, at pretty much any church, is made up of folks who opted to be there. Starting with that assumption may be more helpful!

Ask an extremely busy person why they would agree to do something in addition to their full schedule, and the response is likely "Because it's really worth the time, and a high value activity." I've found that to be true - people actually do make the time for that which is important, no matter how full their schedule is. *continued on page 2*

Accent on Worship, continued from page 1

Sometimes the Gospel calls us to re-evaluate to some extent what is important, to identify what we “get” to do, and maybe let go of things we feel we “have” to do. Of course, there are things we don’t enjoy doing that are not really optional. I admit that I don’t think to myself “I GET to clean the toilet today!” But for many of our activities, the question can be raised.

One family trudged through snow and traffic for children’s choir on a particular Wednesday. I commented on how sorry I was that it was so hard for them to get here, to which they responded – “It was hard, but it’s worth it for the kids – they want to be here.”

So: what is on your list? What is actually worth going out of your way to be a part of? As we look to September and all that starts up again in our lives, you might find value in re-e-VALUATING where you “get” to be ...

- Cantor Cherwien

Cantorei Resumes Rehearsals

Wednesday, September 6, 7:00-8:45

The adult choir of Mount Olive begins its ‘23-’24 season the first Wednesday of September. Anyone interesting in singing with the choir is welcome! No auditions required. A hand-book, and schedule for September - December is provided.

Contact Cantor Cherwien for more information, or just come!

Welcome, Vicar Mildahl!

This week we welcome our new Vicar, Lauren Mildahl, to Mount Olive.

More to come about her, but in the meantime, feel free to stop in and greet her, invite her to coffee, or just say hi and introduce yourself!

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, August 28.**

Altar Flowers

Thank you to all who purchase flowers to beautify our altar each week!

Reminder: Please remember to take your flowers with you after church!

Vacation Time! Travel-sized Toiletries Collection

We are collecting unused toiletries (from hotels, etc.) for distribution to the homeless.

These items are especially useful for people in uncertain housing situations, as they’re typically small and easily transported. Please bring these small-sized toiletry items to Mount Olive and place them in the designated bins in the coat room for further distribution.

Calendar

Wednesday, August 16

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, August 17

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, August 18

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, August 19

9:00 am Gardening Day

1-3 pm Mandala Stone Art Class

Sunday, August 20 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by Ordination
Anniversary celebration for Mary Dodgson

Monday, August 21

7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A. group)

Tuesday, August 22

Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, August 23

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, August 24

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, August 25

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, August 26

10:00 am Book Discussion Group

Sunday, August 27 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, August 28

7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A. group)

Tuesday, August 29

Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, August 30

10:00 am Staff meeting

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 their September 9 meeting, they will read *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus. They will skip the October session to leave more time to read Fyodor Dostoevsky's great novel *The Brothers Karamazov*, which they will discuss on November 11.

The Mount Olive book regularly 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](#).

Mandala Stone Art Class to be Held at Mount Olive This Saturday, Aug. 19, 1-3 pm

Here is a fun opportunity to tap into your creative spirit and learn the meditative art of mandala stone painting! Absolutely no painting or artistic skill or experience needed, PROMISE! You are sure to be surprised how learning just a few, easy dotting techniques will lead to gorgeous painted stones. Classes are geared for adults, though kids (generally age 10 and up) are definitely welcome.

In this class format, you will be painting the mandala pattern that you'll select from a variety of options available. Paintings will be done on a hand casted 4-inch stone included in class. Through this process, and class instruction, you will learn all the dotting basics, plus tips & tricks, and leave class with the knowledge to make various mandala stone designs on any type of stone.

When: Saturday, August 19, 1-3 pm

Where: Mount Olive

Cost: \$40 per participant for materials and instruction, payable at the class (a limited number of scholarships are available, if needed. Contact the church office).

Who: Anyone can come - this class is open to the public as well.

To register (or with any questions), please email: mandalastoneartclasses@yahoo.com

On the subject line, please note "Mount Olive."

If for any reason you need to cancel, please do so ASAP as there are often waiting lists.



Make a Difference with Bread for the World Offering of Letters, September 3

"Since mid-July, Russia has launched a barrage of attacks on Ukraine's key ports and grain storage facilities. In one instance, destroying 60,000 tons of grain - enough to feed 270,000 people for a year. These attacks follow Moscow's July 17 decision to abandon the Black Sea Grain Initiative, cutting off grain shipments from Ukraine and escalating an already devastating global food crisis. What can you do right now?"

Bread for the World and their supporters are working around the clock to urge Congress to reauthorize the 2023 Farm Bill, which includes critical international aid initiatives and is one of the key ways we can help those facing hunger around the world. Your support is so important right now."

Write letters to your Congress people! Bring your tablet/computer and write online or hand write a snail mail letter as together we work to give the 2023 Farm Bill the final push that is needed. Sample letters will be available.

"The Farm Bill expires on September 30. This legislation governs U.S. and global food policies and programs, including funding for emergency and long-term development nutrition assistance to people in some of the world's most hard-hit places - countries ravaged by conflict, chronic food insecurity, and persistent natural disasters caused by climate change."

Join our annual Offering of Letters, Sunday, September 3 following worship.

Property Committee Updates

Sexton Support Needed

With the resignation of our Sexton, we have a need for volunteers who can assist with light cleaning, building opening/closing, and set up for events until we are able to fill the position. The light cleaning involves emptying trash and recycling, cleaning bathrooms, dusting, vacuuming, and mopping floors.

Set up assistance would be required for special events and involves moving tables and chairs. Opening and closing the building, known as a building keeper in the past, involves ensuring that on Sundays the building is properly opened, secured at the end of the day, and that there is someone in addition to the ushers watching the Parish House and entrances during the service. Training for all the above is available!

If you can help, please contact the office: welcome@mountolivechurch.org, 612-827-5919, or Carol Martinson at property@mountolivechurch.org, or 612-708-9849.

Children's and Youth Choirs 2023-2024

With joy we anticipate Wednesday, September 20, the day that our Children's and Youth Choirs resume rehearsals. Dinner for singers and their families will be provided in the Undercroft from 5:30-6:00 pm. Singers who finish eating with time to spare will have self-directed, yet adult-supervised activities until choir rehearsal from 6:00-6:45 pm.

Children's Choir for first-fourth grade students will be taught by Mari Espeland. Rebekah Schulz will lead 5th grade students and older in our Youth Choir. Mari and Rebekah guide our young singers as they learn to be worship leaders. Singing in ensemble, with emphasis on singing beautifully and listening closely to choirmates, is a gift from God that can only be realized in person. Navigating worship tools, for example the hymnal and bulletin, is also taught, along with liturgical actions. Our time together is at once joyful and serious as we journey together in Christian faith.

Children from birth - Kindergarten, along with a caregiver, are welcome to meet on ZOOM each Monday from 5:30-6:00 pm starting September 25. Our time together will include greeting each child, remembering our Baptisms, the seasons of the Church Year, a Bible story, movement to music, playing hand-held instruments, and prayer. Our hope is that the songs, dances, stories, and prayers will find their way into your home and your faith practice at home. The ZOOM link will be shared with you when you email Cantor Cherwien to enroll your child(ren).

dcherwien@gmail.com .

Please include our Children's and Youth Choirs in your prayers as we begin our new year of singing and learning in God's love.

August Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Every Meal*

Every Meal (formerly Sheridan Story) coordinates the delivery of food to families struggling with food insecurity through partnership schools throughout Minnesota, providing food for weekends, winter breaks, and summer breaks when children no longer have access to free and reduced-cost meals at school. Prior to COVID, Mount Olive volunteers partnered with the staff at Jefferson Community School, distributing food to children every Friday afternoon. The leadership and volunteers connected to Every Meal are currently assessing our future involvement and what that will look like going forward.

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 Every Meal, please visit their website at www.everymeal.org.

Weekend Weather Impact: Hail, Wind, and Rain! (at least there were no loud blowing snowstorms)

Despite wind, rain, and hail over the weekend, Mount Olive had very minimal damage. The most visible damage was to the vegetation including broken branches on the hydrangeas, minor leaf damage on the hostas, and some wear and tear on the calla lilies and begonias.

As a precaution we will be getting the roof inspected to ensure that if there is damage, we can file an insurance claim and begin repairs prior to the winter season.

Garden Help Always Needed!

Join the volunteer garden group this Saturday, August 19, at 9:00 am to work on the gardens and grounds. We still have a bit of mulch to spread in the south parking lot, and there are plenty of weeds that need to be pulled!

All are welcome!

If you have any questions, contact Carol Martinson at property@mountolivechurch.org or 612-708-9849.

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Julia Adams; Anne Bartz; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Brad Holt; Leanna Kloempken; Steve Lenius; Carla Manuel; Jude Mostek; Rhoda Nelson; Renee Ollikain; Jerry Ostlund; Russ Pearson; Robin Rayfield; Pariann Schenk; Rodney Schrank; Marjorie Shifflet; David Tabis; Brenda Turner, James Wilkes; Rhonda Fish, friend of Andrew Andersen; Randy Stiegmann and Gerry Coleman, stepfather and friend of Jim Bargmann; Cassandra Thompson, friend of Al Bostelmann; Sara Brunette, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Mattisyn, friend of Kat Campbell Johnson; Marilyn Volker, sister of Allen Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Jon Jrocki, friend of David Engen; Joyce Schoenfield, sister of Marilyn Gebauer; Bill Irwin and Dennis Fisher, brothers-in-law of John Gidmark; Joe & Brenda Patnaude, friends of Tom Graves & Ginny Agresti; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Jim & Gina, aunt of Vicar Mollie Hamre; Quentin Hamilton, friend of Judy Hinck; Ethan Holtmeier, grandson of Patsy & John Holtmeier; Steve Horsfield, friend of Mount Olive; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; the Klapushynski family (of Ukraine), friends of Jim & Judy Johnson; Michael Uthe, friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; Ann Richards, friend of Carol Martinson; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Stan & Darlene Nelson, parents of Brad Nelson; Tim Gaudineer, relative of George & Marlys Oelfke; Jennie Kobylinski, niece of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Fred Prosek and family, relatives of Cynthia Prosek; Jolie Melana Meshbesh, friend of Robin Rayfield; John Seboldt, brother of Gayle & Ken Schulz; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Greta Sterner, daughter of Martha Sterner and sister of Kate; Pat McCabe, friend of Melissa Stone; Brylee Tabis, granddaughter of David & Shirley Tabis; Keith Van Ee, father of Tricia Van Ee Molbert; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez;

Eileen Weiss, mother-in-law of John Wall; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; Pat Faunce, friend of Eric Zander; Conrad Kunz, friend of Eric Zander (*and Dennis Bidwell*); Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

In hospice care: Mary Lee.

About our prayer list ...

If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers. Contact the church office with any updates.

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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Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Lauren Mildahl*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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