



The Olive Branch

August 30, 2023

Sunday Readings

September 3, 2023

14th Sunday after Pentecost
Lect. 22 A

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalms 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

September 10, 2023

15th Sunday after Pentecost
Lect. 23 A

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:10-20

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

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Word of God, Word of Life

You may have noticed that we're reading the Scriptures in liturgy from a binder instead of a book. Since August 6, we've been using the updated version of NRSV, with emendations, that Augsburg Fortress is publishing, not yet printed in a book.

A history of the use of the New Revised Standard Version (1989) and the background and rationale of this new update and the emendations [can be read in this document](#) from Augsburg Fortress. The texts we're using are based on the 2021 update of the NRSV, along with emendations made by Lutheran scholars Gail Ramshaw and Gordon Lathrop.

The Worship Committee decided to use these versions of the texts to ever more clearly speak God's Word into our worship. Translation is always a matter of interpretation, both of the original language and the new one, as much art as science. A poet in English might use a word with multiple connotations, making the poem rich and beautiful. If you speak English. Translators have to pick one of the multiple connotations and that shapes the way the poem is perceived. So, as English changes, new translations of Scripture need to be prepared. Our language for humanity, for God, for differing kinds of people, for the very reign of God on earth and in heaven, is fluid and changing. These readings are biblically accurate and also inclusively and expansively proclaim God's love so people today can hear it and be blessed.

Ultimately, we long to hear God's voice speak to us and call us to life and hope for us and for the creation. It is our hope that these readings will more deeply bring God's Word into our worship and bless all who gather here.

Align Mpls Fundraiser

Our partner organization, Align Mpls, is holding a fundraising event, "An Afternoon at the Mansion," on **Sunday, October 8, from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm.**

Align member organization, The Dignity Center, itself a part of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, does its work out of the former Walker family mansion located on the property of HUMC and that actual mansion will serve as the site for this fun event with snacks, mocktails, lawn games, tours, and opportunities to hear about the work of Align Mpls.

For now, save this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Ticket information will be available soon.

And finally, a request.... As an Align member congregation, Mount Olive is involved in the planning of this event.... We have been asked to assist with providing desserts for this event. If you are able to prepare a dessert of some kind, please email Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann at neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org.

Midtown Community Solar Garden Needs Subscribers

Our mission partner, MN Interfaith Power and Light, is signing up people for a NEW Community Solar Garden that will be built on the rooftop of Abbott Northwestern Hospital. You can be a renter or a homeowner. The Mohammadi family has already signed up!

Do you pay an Xcel Energy bill?
Do you live in South Minneapolis?
Are you no income to middle income?

If you answered yes to these questions, you may be eligible to become a member of the cooperatively-run **Midtown Community Solar Garden** – a great way to lower your electric bill and reduce your energy footprint!

[Click here](#) to sign up or learn more or reach out to MNIPL organizer [Joshua Lewis](#) with questions.

The Olive Branch Summer Publication

During the summer months, *The Olive Branch* is published every other week.

Deadline for the next issue is **Monday, September 11.**

Weekly publication resumes with the next issue.

Travel-sized Toiletries Collection

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

If you are traveling and receive unused toiletries from hotels, resorts, etc., please consider donating them here at Mount Olive.

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 30

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, August 31

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, September 1

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, September 2

Sunday, September 3 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed coffee and conversation

Monday, September 4

Labor Day holiday - church offices closed

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

Tuesday, September 5

Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, September 6

10:00 am Staff meeting

7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsals resume

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!

Happy Birthday, Dear Melba!

Our dear sister in Christ, Melba Smrcka, will be 105 years old **this Sunday, September 3**. Melba has great difficulty with her vision, so reading cards is difficult for her, but if you see her at church this Sunday, stop and wish her a happy birthday personally!

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](#).

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.

Introducing Our New Vicar

Hello! I’m Lauren Mildahl (she/her), the fifty-fourth vicar at Mount Olive and I am so grateful for the warm and wonderful welcome I’ve already received!

I am *technically* a Minnesota-native, since I was born in Rochester, but I grew up in Houston, Texas (though I don’t have the accent!). I came back to Minnesota to attend Carleton College (class of 2011), where I majored in English with a concentration in European Studies. Afterwards, I attended the University of Pittsburgh to earn a Masters in Library and Information Science, focusing on school librarianship. I worked as a librarian for 8 years, most recently at Scott Highlands Middle School in Apple Valley, and I really loved it. Two years ago I left that job (a little reluctantly) because I felt called to Luther Seminary and to ordination with the ELCA (Saint Paul Area Synod).

I live with my husband of four years, Andrew, and his mom, Cathy, in our house in Apple Valley, along with our three cats Link, Darcy, and Yuna. Andrew is a computer engineer and works remotely for GitHub, a software development platform. Cathy is retired from a long and varied career that included running restaurants, selling antiques, and interior design.

As you can probably guess, I love to read and talk about books. If you aren’t sure what to ask me, just ask what I’ve been reading lately! I also love playing board games and exploring Dakota County by bicycle. I love listening to the Beatles and to podcasts about conspiracy theories. My favorite liturgical season is Lent and my favorite theologian (at the moment) is Julian of Norwich. I’m so grateful to be welcomed into this community and I look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit will bear fruit through this relationship in Christ!

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 choir mates, 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.

Maui Wildfire Relief

Mount Olive's Global Ministry committee has made a donation to the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response to help those impacted by the wildfires on the Hawaiian island of Maui. You can also make a personal donation. Gifts to "[U.S. Wildfires](#)" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. They will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

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.

Walk for Hope

Common Hope in Guatemala is one of Mount Olive's supported global ministries. Walk For Hope is a fund-raising walk that will raise funds and awareness for critical services such as preventative health screenings, dental clinics, and wellness education so that students in Guatemala can stay in school and earn their diploma.

Register to join Mount Olive's Walk For Hope Team or support the team through a donation! <https://give.commonhope.org/team/520326>



The event will be **Friday, September 15** at Bde Maka Ska in Minneapolis from **4-7 pm**. Participants can register for one of three start times for either a 5k run or a casual walk around the lake. Afterward, enjoy food trucks, entertainment, vendor booths, and a short program in celebration of your support and the funds raised for Common Hope's healthcare program.

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Julia Adams; Anne Bartz; Elizabeth Beissel; Brad Holt; Leanna Kloempken; Steve Lenius; Carla Manuel; Jude Mostek; Rhoda Nelson; Renee Ollikain; Jerry Ostlund; Russ Pearson; Mike Rader; Robin Rayfield; Pariann Schenk; Rodney Schrank; Don 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.

At the death of: Joe Beissel

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

Phone: 612/827-5919

Fax: 612/827-4557

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.*

In This Issue

- **Accent on Worship – Pastor Joseph Crippen**
- **Children’s Choir Begins Soon!**
- **Bread for the World Offering of Letters: Sept. 3**
- **Midtown Community Solar Garden Seeks Members**
- **Introducing Our New Vicar**
- **Donations Needed for Wildfire Relief**
- **Walk for Hope: Friday, September 15.**