



The Olive Branch

September 13, 2023

Sunday Readings

September 17, 2023
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Lect. 24 A
 Genesis 50:15-21
 Psalm 103:1-13
 Romans 14:1-12
 Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, 2023
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Lect. 25 A
 Jonah 3:10 – 4:11
 Psalm 145:1-8
 Philippians 1:21-30
 Matthew 20:1-16

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

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

Our first reading for this upcoming Sunday concludes the Biblical recounting of the long story of Jacob’s children, in particular his second youngest, Joseph. A familiar story to many, I won’t use space here to recount the interactions between these brothers, but if you would like to read about the proceeding events for more context, their recounting can be found in the later chapters of Genesis. The story of the formation of Jacob’s family is told beginning in Genesis 29. The story of Joseph’s interactions with his brothers, his sale into slavery, and life in Egypt can be found in Genesis 37 and 39-50.

That being said, I have always found Joseph’s words in Genesis 50:19-20 powerful. “But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.”

Passages like this are often misinterpreted, I suspect in an attempt to make a more strident point, and that’s a shame. There is no need to make of this any more than is already there. The word “intended,” used twice in the NRSV here I think is a good choice, the original Hebrew word being somewhat of a passive verb. God did not cause Joseph’s hardships at the hands of his brothers nor his struggles with imprisonment in Egypt to further some divine purpose. Many in the history of Christianity have attempted to paint a picture of a God who acts just that way in the lives of their people. Those are not the actions of a loving God who desires the best for their beloved children. But “Intended,” defined by Merriam-Webster as “expected to be such in the future” feels loving, caring, parental while at the same time reflecting the foreknowledge that is God’s alone and foreign to humankind.

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Joseph, while certainly flawed in his own right, like all of us, had been gifted with many incredible abilities through his upbringing, his experiences, and certainly God's own work. God would have certainly expected Joseph to use those God given gifts, experiences, and more to bring about good. And the difficult parts of Joseph's life, while not caused by God himself, added to who Joseph was, brought about growth, and put him in a context where he was able to bring about great things, as he said, to "preserve a numerous people" - indeed save a whole nation from a great famine.

Now, I invite you to reread what I have written, and maybe even portions of Joseph's story, and put yourself in Joseph's place. While the specific circumstances may be different, can you see yourself here? I can. And that perhaps is why I find myself so drawn to the story and Joseph's words.

- Jim Bargmann

Holy Cross Day

Thursday, September 14

Holy Eucharist at

7:00 p.m.

All are welcome

Needed!

Folks to serve for Sunday morning coffee hours starting September 10. Training (and even treats!) can be provided. No volunteers means no coffee, so please consider joining this ministry to your Mount Olive siblings.

Sign up near the coffee serving area, or [email Lora Dundek](mailto:Lora.Dundek) for more information.

Ride Needed from the Richfield Area

Transportation help is needed on Sunday mornings for Melba Smrcka, long-time member who turned 105 years old last Sunday. She is mobile, and walks to and from the car. Coming to church is one of the few times Melba gets out of her house, so this is an important ministry! She lives on 12th Avenue and 72nd Street.

If you can help, even if only a Sunday each month, that would be great!

Email conglife@mountolivechurch.org to help, or for more information.

Calendar

Wednesday, September 13

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, September 14 - Holy Cross Day

- 7:00 pm *Holy Eucharist for Holy Cross Day*
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, September 15

- 4:00 pm Walk for Hope at Bde Maka Ska
7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, September 16

- 9:00 am Gardening Day
9:00 am Foundation Board meeting
9:00 am Vestry Retreat

Sunday, September 17 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed coffee and conversation
9:30 am Godly Play and Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed coffee and conversation

Monday, September 18

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

Tuesday, September 19

- Noon Bible Study
6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Comm. meeting

Wednesday, September 20

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Wear Your Name Tags!

As is customary for us when a new Vicar arrives, we ask that everyone use their nametags for at least the next several weeks, to help Vicar Lauren get to know us all a little faster.

If your nametag is missing or damaged, contact the church office and a new one will be prepared for you.

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](#).

September Adult Forums

September 17 and 24: "Listening for God: Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith," presented by Mount Olive member, Paula Carlson.

Contemporary American literature offers compelling opportunities to explore the religious themes and respond to the religious characters that authors present in their work. In these two Forum sessions, we'll focus on two pieces. On September 17, we'll discuss "Christmas 1967," from *Mr. Ives' Christmas*, by Oscar Hijuelos and on September 24, Chapter 6 of *While I Was Gone*, by Sue Miller.

Paula Carlson retired as president of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa in 2019. Her previous positions include serving as vice president for mission at St. Olaf College and Director of the Wendt Center and associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Dubuque. She has taught in the English departments at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame; Yale University; and the University of Dubuque.

Paula is a graduate of St. Olaf College and holds an M.A., an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University.

In her research, Dr. Carlson has focused on 14th century English poetry, including works by Geoffrey Chaucer, William Langland, and the Pearl-poet, as well as on contemporary American literature with a special emphasis on literature and religion. Dr. Carlson is the co-contributing editor of *Listening for God: Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith*, a four-volume series of books and resources published by Augsburg Fortress Press (1994-2003).

On Earth As In Heaven: Thursday-Friday Bible Study Begins Sept. 21/22

We have not had an evening Bible study since our return from COVID separation, and it's time to start up again! This time we'll offer it twice, Thursday evening and Friday noon, to reach as many schedule opportunities as we can.

This first series will be five sessions led by Pr. Crippen and will consider our salvation, trying to understand the beautiful riches and grace of Jesus' proclamation of the reign of God. Is our chief hope of salvation – living in God's reign – for this life or the next, or if it's both, how does that affect how we teach and believe and live? Included will be a look at the reign of God as Jesus taught it and at Paul's communities and their struggles with it. The study begins on Sept. 21, and will end on Oct. 27. Thursday night will meet from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and there will be our usual light supper when we begin. If anyone wishes to provide the first meal, please let Pr. Crippen know. Fridays will meet at noon, the same session as the night before, and you're welcome to bring a lunch along for the conversation.

All are welcome to this study opportunity!

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.



The Wall Came a-Tumbling Down. Again.

Yes, once again the retaining wall on the corner of Chicago and 31st has suffered damage from errant vehicles --- but it also once again saved the church building from even more serious damage. Fortunately, the sprinkler system was not damaged when it was hit late afternoon on September 2nd, but the old blocks did not fare well on impact. Most fortunate of all is that there were no pedestrians on the corner when two vehicles collided and ended up on the sidewalk.

The Property Committee is working on finding replacement blocks and a repair plan. Watch for developments.

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, September 16, at 9:00 am to work on the gardens and grounds. 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>.

If you would like to join the team, but don't want to create an individual page, please register for a spot through [Eventbrite](#) AND tell Lisa Ruff you would like to be on the team ([email](#) or text 651-307-2933).



The event will be **this 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.

“Year B” of The Feminine Divine

I hope you will consider joining me and other Mount Olive sisters, brothers, and siblings for a joy-filled engagement with the Feminine Divine. I am deeply grateful to the members of the “Year A” Feminine Divine 2022-23 group, who significantly enriched my experience of this community, and my life! Others asked if they could join or if I was offering it again in the future, so we will see if there is enough interest for Year B. Please join us as you are interested and moved by the Spirit! You no more need Year A to participate in Year B than you do for the lectionary. 😊

This year, Year B, we will consider and contemplate the Feminine Divine as She manifests as Woman Wisdom in the Hebrew Scripture / Old Testament, as Shekinah (the Spirit of God that dwells within), and ChristoSophia from our tradition’s roots, alongside the Christian mystics. We will likely use three or so texts; scholarships are available. We will prepare individually and meet as a group to engage with the texts and ideas intellectually, and also emotionally and spiritually.

More information will be available as a handout in adult education, but for now, meeting dates for 2023-2024 are all Thursdays 5:30-7:30 p.m.

October 5, 2023	February 29, 2024
November 9, 2023	April 11, 2024
December 7, 2023	May 9, 2024
January 11, 2024	May 30, 2024
February 8, 2024	June 20, 2024

- Teresa Rothausen

Announcing the Music and Fine Arts 2023-2024 Series

- Sunday, October 15, 2023, 4 pm: Ruth McKenzie and Friends. “Kalevala Favorites,” American folk songs that tell stories.
- Sunday, December 3, 2023, 4 pm: Advent Procession Service. A service of lessons and carols in the time of waiting.
- Sunday, January 28, 2024, 4 pm: Music for Trumpet and Organ. Charles Lazarus and Cantor David Cherwien team up for an eclectic program, including a reprise of “American Nomad’ by Steve Heizig.
- Sunday, February 18, 2024, 4 pm: Lent Procession Service. A service of lessons and carols as we enter the season of Lent.
- Sunday, April 14, 2024, 4 pm: Choral Concert: Angelica Encore Choral Ensemble, Nancy Grundal, conductor. An eclectic program of music about the earth.
- Saturday, Sunday, June 1,2, 2024- Seventeenth Annual Bach-tage. Sing with the choir as it learns a cantata, then presents it in Evening Prayer on Sunday afternoon. Guest conductor: Kathy Romey.



Watch for information about supporting Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts!

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.

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.

Align Mpls Fundraiser

Our partner organization, Align Mpls, will hold 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, and 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.

September Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: Simpson Housing

Simpson Housing is a multifaceted organization, providing an emergency shelter, single adult supportive housing, and family supportive housing across the Twin Cities metro area. They provide along with developmental and educational services for children of families in their family shelter program and "work across the metro area partnering with landlords and developers to find sustainable housing for families and individuals." In addition, Simpson operates the Adult Shelter Connect program for Hennepin County, providing a single point of contact for those seeking shelter throughout the county.

In 2020, Simpson began the process of raising funds to rebuild their shelter and office building to become the Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments. "Plans for the [new] five-story facility include two floors of permanent supportive housing (42 efficiency units), two floors of emergency shelter (70 beds), a commercial kitchen capable of serving 100 people, a 24-hour front desk, and offices and clinic space...". Earlier this year, they temporarily relocated their shelter operations to the former Zion Lutheran Church building. They are in the final phase of their fundraising campaign and groundbreaking is planned for Fall 2023.

For more information about Simpson Housing, please visit their website at www.simpsonhousing.org.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists:

8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

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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.*

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