



The Olive Branch

September 20, 2023

Sunday Readings

September 24, 2023

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 25 A

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

October 1, 2023

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 26 A

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

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

Accent on Worship

Vicar Lauren Mildahl

This past Sunday we commemorated one of my favorite medieval mystics: St. Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen (c.1098 - 1179). Despite living a monastic life, she was remarkably accomplished and influential. She composed theological works and preached (the only medieval woman permitted by the pope to do so!). She wrote botanical and medicinal works and was also a prolific composer of beautiful liturgical music. She was also a visual artist, creating thirty-five miniature illustrations to accompany and illuminate her book *Scivias* (“Know the Ways”), a record of twenty-six of her religious visions.

Hildegard experienced visions of what she called “the Shade of Living Light” all her life. She found it difficult to explain these multi-sensory spiritual experiences and she hesitated to share them. But I am so glad she did! *Scivias* has inspired and sustained so many generations of Christians. Including me! One of the visions that has stuck with me is of a woman who Hildegard explains represents the knowledge of God. She describes her this way:

“...so bright and glorious that you cannot look at her face or her garments for the splendor with which she shines. For she is terrible with the terror of the avenging lightning, and gentle with the goodness of the bright sun; ... as the sun cannot be looked at in its burning face or its beautiful clothing of rays. But she is with everyone and in everyone, and so beautiful is her secret that no person can know the sweetness with which she sustains people and spares them in inscrutable mercy.”

continued on page 2

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

I've never experienced a vision like Hildegard's, but my bones know the truth of this. The knowledge of God is beautiful and sweet and terrible. Experiencing God in God's fullness is lightning and gentleness. Like the sun that cannot be looked at. And yet it is in everyone and with everyone. It sustains us and spares us in mercy that is inscrutable.

And how else can we respond to this knowledge, but in the very way that Hildegard proposed in one of her letters: "Be not lax in celebrating. Be not lazy in the festive service of God. Be ablaze with enthusiasm. Let us be an alive, burning offering before the altar of God."

I have been thinking about this line as I've been learning the liturgical practices of this congregation and appreciating the great care and passion that the members bring to their worship. I can imagine this as a refrain for Mount Olive: Be not lax in celebrating! Let us continue to be ablaze with enthusiasm, church of God, every time we catch a glimpse of the Living Light! Thank you, God, for our sister Hildegard!



Library Donations on Hold Until Further Notice

Lately we have found several boxes of books which have been left in or near the church library as a donation.

We appreciate your thinking of the library, but for the time being, we ask you to hold off on such donations until we have a chance to review what is here and determine library needs.

Thank you.

- Dave Engen
Director of Education

Come and Sing!

A second annual Bipes Family hymn sing is planned for **September 24, after the second liturgy**. All of our Mount Olive siblings are welcome and encouraged to please join us back in the nave after a cup of coffee.

As before, if you are able, climb the stairs to the organ loft, gather around David, and sing. If the stairs are a challenge, remain on the main floor. We call out your favorite hymn, note the verses we'd like to sing and enjoy. This year we are giving David the choice to decide if a particular hymn is best suited for the piano, in which case we write it down and save for the end, concluding in the Columbarium around the piano. I hope you can join us.

We will be finished by 1:45 pm, if not before.

Calendar

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

Thursday, September 21

- 6:00 pm Bible Study
7:30 pm Lyra Baroque Ensemble Donors' Event
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, September 22

- Noon Bible Study
7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, September 24 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation
9:30 am Education for all ages (Godly Play, Adult Forum)
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation
2:00 pm *Interment of Michael Brady*

Monday, September 25

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online)
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A. group)

Tuesday, September 26

- Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, September 27

- 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

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.

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

Book Discussion group will skip their October session to leave more time to read Fyodor Dostoevsky's great novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, which they will discuss on November 11. For December 9, they will read *St. Thomas Aquinas*, by G. K. Chesterton.

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](#).

Wear Your Name Tags!

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

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

Altar Flowers

Thanks to all who provide altar flowers for the beautification of our liturgies!

PLEASE take your flowers home with you following the second liturgy! It is such a waste if they sit in the sacristy refrigerator all week and aren't able to be enjoyed by anyone, and sad when we have to throw them out.

Interment Sunday afternoon, 2:00 p.m., Sept. 24

Our brother in Christ, Michael Brady, who died in January of 2022 in California, will be interred in the Mount Olive Columbarium at 2:00 p.m. this Sunday, next to his beloved husband Ed Mikkola. Michael's family will be here and all who wish to come are welcome.

On Earth As In Heaven: Thursday-Friday Bible Study Begins This Week! (Zoom, too)

A five session Bible study led by Pr. Crippen begins this week, with identical sessions on Thursday evening, September 21, at 6:00 p.m. and Friday, September 22, at noon. The topic is "On Earth As In Heaven," a deep look at the reign of God as Jesus proclaimed it and created it, and as Paul and others understood it.

This first session we'll be looking at the classic Law/Gospel categories of Lutheran theology and how their intersection (or conflict?) with Jesus' proclamation might play out, and introduce the themes of the future sessions. Thursday night will include our usual light supper when we begin. For Friday, feel free to bring your lunch along. All are welcome to this study opportunity!

[Click here to join the Zoom meeting for either the Thursday or Friday sessions.](#)

Disaster Relief

Mount Olive's Global Ministry Committee has donated to Lutheran World Relief to help those impacted by the earthquake in Morocco and the flooding in Libya.

[You can also make a personal donation at Lutheran World Relief.](#) LWR works with vulnerable communities when disaster strikes. In the weeks after the disaster, they help to meet people's immediate needs. And in the months and years following, they work with communities to ensure they can rebuild and prepare for future disasters.

Please keep the people of Morocco and Libya in your prayers.

Walk for Hope

Common Hope in Guatemala is one of Mount Olive's supported global ministries. On September 15, we participated in the Walk For Hope, a fundraising walk that raised over \$21,000 to help provide accessible health care for students in Guatemala. Mount Olive's team raised over \$2200!

Thank you for your participation and support.



Update of Sexton Role and Maintenance of Our Building

The Property Committee, with Vestry approval, has selected a professional cleaning company, Q-Pro Cleaning, Inc., to provide basic cleaning services. They began doing work for Mount Olive on Friday, September 15th. The owner Lizardo Quito has been in business for over 20 years and does work for the same property management company as Andrew Andersen. We have agreed to a 90-day trial with check-ins every 30 days.

Q-Pro will be providing 25 hours of cleaning services per week and will initially be scheduled on Sunday, Monday, Friday and Saturdays. This schedule may change but will always include having support on Sundays. The schedule on Sunday will NOT include opening the building or making coffee since we are going to have the Q-Pro staff person start mid-morning and be here into the afternoon to ensure that bathrooms, halls, etc. are being monitored and needs addressed.

Lizardo will be assigning one person to our account. As Q-Pro and his staff learn the building, we will be adjusting the schedule as needed.

What Does this Mean for Members?

- The volunteer bathroom and floor crew is relieved of their duties beginning this weekend.
- Ushers are still needed 30-45 minutes before services to assist with opening the building, watching entries, etc.
- Staff will continue to open/close the building. Property to support if needed.

Next Steps to support the full sexton role:

- Develop a "set up and take down" crew for special events that the staff can call on for support.
- Exploring options for snow removal.

Please advise Carol Martinson or Andrew Andersen if you have any questions.



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 it's 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.

The website for reserving tickets for this event is now live and can be found at <https://www.alignmpls.org/fundraiser>.

And we still need people who are able to make desserts for this event. Ideally, we would have 8-9

more desserts from people at Mount Olive. If you are able to prepare a dessert of some kind, please email Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann at neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org and he can share details with you.

Blessing the Animals

Sunday, October 1, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Bring your pets to this annual service of blessing!

September Neighborhood Ministry 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, the 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.

Announcing Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts - 2023-2024 Series

As a gift to the community, it is our honor and pleasure to offer these musical events, free of charge! All concerts are on Sunday afternoons, at 4:00 pm. We invite you to join us for these unique experiences, each glimpses of beauty.

For full information, please use the QR code or visit the web page at:

www.mountolivechurch.org/music/music-fine-arts-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 Hezig
- **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.

A representative from MFA will be available at church in the coming weeks to receive your contributions to this year’s series.

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

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 – Vicar Lauren Mildahl**
- **Thursday Evening Bible Study Begins This Week with an Added Friday Session**
- **Weekly Ride to Church from Richfield Needed**
- **Announcing MFA 2023-24 Season**
- **Feminine Divine Study Group Reconvenes**
- **Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: Simpson Housing**