



# The Olive Branch

October 11, 2023

## Sunday Readings

**October 15, 2023**

*20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lect. 28 A*

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

**October 22, 2023**

*21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lect. 29 A*

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

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

## Accent on Worship

*Vicar Lauren Mildahl*

Last spring, I took a wonderful class at Luther called “Ancient Erotics,” which was primarily a deep dive into the the book of Philippians, which turns out to be full of allusions to Ancient Greek erotic love poetry! That may seem strange, but it was actually really powerful to read the letter through that lens because it brings out a new and powerful dimension of Christ’s love for us. You can’t ever think about the Christ Hymn in Chapter 2 the same way again once you learn how “emptying himself” is a reference to Christ’s guts literally melting away because of the overwhelming love and passion he felt for us!

That class has been often on my mind as we’ve been on a whirlwind trip through Philippians over the last few weeks in the lectionary. Since this Sunday will be our last week in the letter, I’d like to take some time to nerd out a little bit about my favorite epistle. To that end, I want to draw your attention not only to the erotic references, but to the two women Paul addresses in chapter four: Euodia and Syntyche.

This is their only appearance in the New Testament and we know precious little about them. And, unfortunately, the majority of commentators have been quick to paint them with a negative brush. Since Paul urges them to “be of the same mind in the Lord,” centuries of (male) interpreters have assumed that they must have been in the middle of some dispute. Basically something along the lines of, “Oh, you know women, always bickering – that must have been the problem.”

*Continued on page 2*

## Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

But the professor of my class (David Fredrickson) convinced me that this has been a very unfair misreading. Not only do ancient Greek epistles often encourage people to do what they have in fact been doing, but Paul uses a remarkable verb to describe these two co-laborers: *sunathleo*. This is usually translated as “struggle together” or “work together with,” but those translations miss the metaphor. You may notice that the “athleo” part of that verb looks a lot like our word athlete. No coincidence! This was a word used to describe participating in athletic competitions, which were strictly male at the time. The fact that Paul used this word to describe these women might have been jarring to his readers and shows the deep respect he had for them and the faith he had in their ministry prowess.

Euodia and Syntyche have had a bad reputation for a long time, but I hope you might hear their names this week with fresh ears and be inspired by their faithfulness and work for the gospel. And I will end by recommending Dr. Fredrickson’s book *Eros and The Christ: Longing and Envy in Paul’s Christology* if you want to learn more!

- Vicar Lauren Mildahl

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## Coming Events!

**Octoberfest! Sunday, October 29, after second Liturgy.**

Come to the semi-annual meeting and stay for Octoberfest! Call the office to sign up to provide food and/or help with set up or clean up, or use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3tz7h6yj>.

**Lefse making! Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Undercroft**

Come join in to make this Norwegian Christmas treat, even if you’ve never made it before! Use the sign-up at <https://tinyurl.com/bdhcrhxz>, or call the church office to sign up. This event is limited to 12 people.

**Family Movie Event! Sunday, November 12, 2 p.m. in the Chapel Lounge**

Enjoy some popcorn and watch “Book of Life.” This is a film appropriate for kids aged 6-12, rated PG. The movie is free of charge, but a freewill donation will be received to cover the cost of the license.

**Minneapolis Institute of Arts Tour! Sunday, November 12, 2:30 p.m.**

Join Bill Wilson, friend of Mount Olive and MIA docent, for a tour of MIA’s collection that highlights those works in which the artist has used space to cause us to look in awe and wonder. The tour is free, but a donation to MIA is encouraged. Limited to 20 people. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/3edphyrk>, or call the church office.

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## Calendar

### Wednesday, October 11

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, October 12

6:00 pm Bible Study  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, October 13

Noon Bible Study  
7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, October 14

9:00 am Gardening Day

### Sunday, October 15 - Twentieth 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  
4:00 pm MFA Event: Ruth McKenzie & Friends

### Monday, October 16

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

### Tuesday, October 17

Noon Bible Study

### Wednesday, October 18

10:00 am Staff meeting  
**NO Children's Choirs this evening**  
7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

## Early Music Minnesota: Ensemble in Residence at Mount Olive

Early Music Minnesota, (formerly The "Baroque Room") begins a new residency at Mount Olive this month, with a chamber concert exploring 18th century German and Italian music, featuring Tulio Rondón on **Saturday, October 21 at 3:00 pm**. The following week, a Harpsichord recital by Jeffrey Grossman will be offered on **Saturday, October 28, also at 3:00 pm**.

Mount Olive is invited to attend these concerts free of charge! Just mention that you are from the Mount Olive community at ticketing, and you will be admitted.

For more information, visit [www.earlymusicmn.org](http://www.earlymusicmn.org)

## 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 the December 9 meeting, they will discuss *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee.

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 smart phone, [click here](#).

## Our Life Together

### Save the Date

**Sunday, November 12, 2:30 p.m.:** Minneapolis Institute of Arts tour, led by Bill Wilson, friend of Mount Olive and MIA docent. This tour will focus on items in the MIA collection that showcase how artists use interior space that often causes us to look in awe and wonder. Included will be both large pieces and small chapel and private art. The tour is free, but a donation to MIA is encouraged.

## Congregation Meeting to be Held October 29

The semi-annual Congregation Meeting of Mount Olive congregation will be held on **Sunday, October 29, following the second liturgy.**

The primary purpose of this meeting is to approve a budget for 2024.

All voting members are encouraged to attend. Plan to stay after the meeting for Oktoberfest!

## *On Earth As In Heaven: Thursday-Friday Bible Study Returns!* (Zoom, too)

After a week away, the Bible study “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, returns Thursday and Friday.

This third session we’ll begin with Jesus’ proclamation of God’s reign at the start of his ministry and how that played out going forward in the Gospels. Thursday night is from 6:00 p.m. to about 7:30 p.m., and will include our usual light supper when we begin. **If anyone is able to bring supper this Thursday, please let Pr. Crippen know.** For Friday, which meets from 12:00 noon to about 1:30 p.m., 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.

## Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts presents *Ruth McKenzie and Friends* *Sunday, October 15, 4:00 pm*

Ruth McKenzie, Jim Anton, and Dean Magraw met twenty-five years ago while working on Ruth’s theatrical concert inspired by a Finnish rune called *Kalevala: Dream of the Salmon Maiden*. Since then, they have been musical friends and collaborators.

On October 15 at 4:00 pm, they will present a concert of Kalevala favorites, American folk songs that tell stories as powerful as a Finnish rune, and instrumentalists that will delight and move your heart.

A reception will follow the concert.



## “Year B” of *The Feminine Divine*

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 the 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.

Please contact me to let me know of your interest! I facilitate the group and can be reached at [teresa@wiserwilderleadership.com](mailto:teresa@wiserwilderleadership.com) or text/call me at 612-275-7468 and feel free to leave a message. You may also contact David Engen, Mount Olive Director for Education, at [education@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:education@mountolivechurch.org).

- Teresa Rothausen

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## Upcoming Adult Forums

**October 15:** As is done every year, the vestry will present the Mount Olive budget proposal for the coming year. This will give you the opportunity to learn more regarding the financial needs in order to fulfill our mission.

**October 22 and 29:** The Rev. Dr. William Russell will present a 2-part series on the historical and theological impact of The Smalcald Articles. The Smalcald Articles or Schmalkald Articles, are a summary of Lutheran doctrine, written by Martin Luther in 1537 for a meeting of the Schmalkaldic League in preparation for an intended ecumenical Council of the Church. Dr. Russell has focused his study on the importance of this document in the formation of Lutheran theology.

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## Names of the Departed Saints Invited

As a part of our All Saints liturgy on Sunday, Nov. 5, worshippers are invited to submit the names of loved ones close to them who have died in the past year, since last All Saints Sunday, who weren’t members of Mount Olive. (Members of the parish who have died are always named.)

For those who attend worship in the coming weeks, a book is located at the entrance to the nave where you can write these names. You may also contact the church office with the names. These other names submitted will be included in the prayers of intercession.

Please keep this to just those who have died this past year, so we can have a more manageable list.

## October Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month:

### *Central Lutheran Restoration Center*

Central Lutheran Restoration center is an integral part of the ministry at our sister congregation. The Restoration Center provides a welcoming place for people experiencing homelessness and economic insecurity. Those who come to the Restoration Center find a place of hospitality and welcome where they can find emergency rental assistance, employment services, clothing, meals, free-use computers, and basic health care services.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month though a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute 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 Central Lutheran Restoration Center, please visit their website at <https://www.centralmpls.org/community/restorationcenter>

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## Youth Justice Conversations: The Next Step

On August 27, a number of our teens and pre-teens gathered with members of the Neighborhood Ministry Committee for a conversation about justice - racial justice, climate justice, economic justice, gender focused justice, justice for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and more.

It's now time to take the next step. Any young person aged 11 to 18 is invited to join in the next steps of this conversation: How will we take the ideas and passions shared in August and start putting them into action? That conversation will take place **on Sunday, December 10, at 12:30 pm**. Mark your calendars and plan to be there.

All those who participated in the August 27 event - AND those who were not able to make it to the August event but would like to join in the conversation are invited.

Lunch will be provided and for dessert, you are invited to bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies for a cookie exchange and tasting.

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## The National Lutheran Choir Begins a New Season

Join the NLC for the inaugural season with new artistic director, Jennaya Robison! The season will begin with All Saints concerts (Nov. 3rd and 5th), where we will commemorate those who have passed as well as celebrate the new life of those who have been born.

### *All Saints: New Life*

November 3, 2023 - 7:30 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (St. Paul, MN)

November 5, 2023 - 4:00 pm at Normandale Lutheran Church (Edina, MN)

## 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](http://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**
- **MFA First Event of the New Season: Ruth McKenzie & Friends, This Sunday, October 15, 4 pm**
- **Congregation Meeting: Sunday, October 29, noon**
- **Oktoberfest! Sunday, October 29, following the Congregation Meeting**
- **Coffee Hour Hosts Still Needed!**
- **Ensemble in Residence: Early Music Minnesota**