



The Olive Branch

November 1, 2023

Sunday Readings

November 4, 2023

All Saints Sunday

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

November 11, 2023

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary 32

Amos 5:18-24

Psalms 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

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

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

This All Saints Day, I find myself once again contemplating a seemingly odd juxtaposition.

Juxtaposition: from the Latin, *iuxtā*, meaning next to or near, and the French, *pose*, to place.

All Saints Day, when we “[celebrate] the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ” (Joseph Crippen, Focus on the Season for All Saints Sunday), is also my son Nathan’s birthday. A day when we traditionally celebrate and remember those who have died is a day of celebrating birth in our family.

An odd juxtaposition, perhaps, but not uncommon in our practices and beliefs as a faith community.

A person, often a baby, but not always, will traditionally be dressed in a white gown or other white clothing on their baptism day. We cover the coffin or urn of someone who has passed on with a pall - a white cloth. Both have the same symbolism - representing the cleansing work of the Spirit through Jesus’ death and resurrection referenced in this week’s First Reading from Revelation.

Often, our funeral liturgies include the rite of Asperges, when we are sprinkled (splashed?) with water from an ever-green branch as remembrance of our baptism.

Each Sunday in the Great Thanksgiving, we hear some form of the phrase, “with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven” and similarly, this phrase in the Eucharistic Prayer, “with your saints and holy ones of all times and places.”

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So an odd but not uncommon juxtaposition in our life of faith. And an oh-so-powerful one at that. On All Saints Day, we celebrate both beginnings and endings, all at the same time - not only in our family, but all together as a family of faith. Because our births, both biologically and though Baptism by the work of the Holy Spirit, and our deaths, our transition into fully realizing the reign of God, are part of the grand arch of life in God's great love for all creation.

In this celebration, this observance, as with many in our life of faith, placing seemingly contradictory things near one another can make our understanding of both all the richer and more meaningful.

- Jim Bargmann



Adult Forum: November 5 & 12

Sung, Spoken, and Lived: On Liturgy and Life

The church has put together according to holy orders . . . services of various kind and esteems them to be understood by all the faithful as the highest harmony of earthly life and not only to be sung and spoken but to be lived. – Wilhelm Loehe (1859)

All the singing and speaking of our worship together, all the movement and gestures around the central things of word (scripture and proclamation) and sacrament (baptismal bath and holy meal) make up a ritual symbol of our life before the triune God, our life with one another (church), and our life in the world. These forum sessions will explore the connections of liturgy and life in the things that we do at worship.

Session 1 (Nov. 5)

Making Sense of the Basic Pattern of Worship: Gathering, Word, Meal, Sending

Session 2 (Nov. 12)

Making Sense of our Bodies at Worship: The Sign of the Cross

Presenter: Thomas ("Tom") Schattauer

For over thirty years Tom taught liturgy and directed chapel programs, first at Yale Divinity School and Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, Connecticut, then at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. He is a pastor in the ELCA and has served congregations in Indiana and Connecticut. Now in retirement, Tom enjoys living in Minneapolis and being part of the worshipping community at Mount Olive.

Calendar

Wednesday, November 1

- 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, November 2

- 7:00 pm Native Justice Group meeting
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, November 3

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, November 4

- 9:00 am Lefse-making

Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Sunday

- 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

Monday, November 6

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

Tuesday, November 7

- Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, November 8

- 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

Oktoberfest Thanks

Well over 100 people attended the Congregation Meeting and then enjoyed brats, beer, and all the fixings! Thanks to Steve, Julie, and Eric Manuel (and all the cooks) for a great meal. Shout outs go to folks who set-up and cleaned up, did childcare during the meeting, and put on a great event. Thank you all!

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](#).

Attention Sunday Servants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for 1st Quarter 2024 (Jan-March) will be published at the beginning of December. Please send any updates regarding scheduling preferences or conflicts to me by Friday, November 17.

For example, if you prefer the early or late services, or like to serve for certain holidays or other special services, please let me know.

- Greg Murphy:
gregmurphy@gmail.com

Altar Guild Chancel Cleaning

The Altar Guild is hosting a chancel-cleaning event on Saturday, November 18, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Please join our crew – for an hour, for the morning. The more hands, the faster we'll finish! Come help prepare our worship space for Advent and Christmas.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede:
bethgaede@comcast.com .

Conspiracy vs. The Bible: Monday/Thursday Bible Study Begins This Week

Next month, Vicar Mildahl will lead a six-session Bible Study looking closely at common elements of modern American conspiracy theories that are drawn from a Christian worldview, such as the Devil, the end times, Jewish people, and Christian nationalism. We'll be comparing the conspiracy theory versions of these ideas with what the Bible actually says and discussing how faithful believers ought to respond and speak the truth in love.

Two identical sessions will be offered each week starting Monday, November 6: Mondays at noon (note the change, not Fridays) and Thursdays at 6pm. You are welcome to join in person or via Zoom. Monday participants, feel free to bring your lunch. Thursday nights will include a light supper. Contact vicar@mountolivechurch.org if you have any questions!

Names of the Departed Saints Invited: Last Call

As a part of our All Saints liturgy this 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.)

Names can still be submitted (until Friday) by contacting the church office.

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

Telling the Story of Care for God's Creation

Storytelling is an ancient art that has defined humanity for our entire history. Digital tools – like the smartphones so many of us carry every day – can give our stories new reach or help us to frame them in new ways. Stories root us in the power that we have, in the power that we share, and in the power that we build together. Which is why the EcoFaith Network of the Minneapolis Area Synod is hosting **Storying EcoFaith** on:

Saturday, November 11; 8:30 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m.

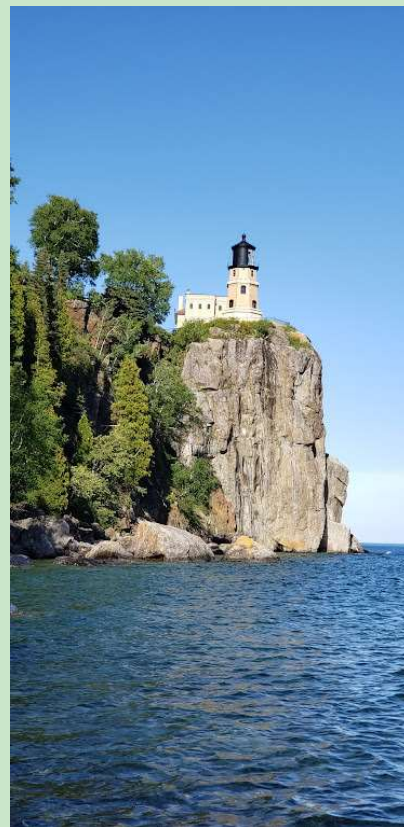
[Immanuel Lutheran Church](#), 16515 Luther Way, Eden Prairie

This workshop, led by **[Professor Mary Hess](#)** of Luther Seminary, will equip you to voice, craft, and digitize your stories. With skilled technical coaching available to any who need it, participants only need a story and a smartphone (or tablet, laptop, etc.) and a willingness to learn. Your story – if you choose – will also provide a valuable contribution to Mary's sabbatical research project on storytelling about Earth and creation care.

You can expect a day of storytelling exercises, time to record the audio portion of your story, the opportunity to play with putting meaningful images in sequence with your audio story, a place to publish your digital story online if and when you choose to do so, and more.

Fellowship, worship, refreshments, and lunch will also be a part of your workshop experience.

[Register](#)



New Members to be Received November 12

New Members will be received into Mount Olive congregation on Sunday, November 12. If you are interested in becoming a member of Mount Olive, please reach out to Eric Manuel at evangelism@mountolivechurch.org by November 7.

November Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month:

Restorative Justice Community Action

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) provides a community-based alternative to criminal prosecution with the mission of fostering individual growth while strengthening communities through restorative justice practices. With a restorative and race equity lens, RJCA leverages the voice of community to transform the criminal legal system, public safety, and eliminate racial disparities. The indigenous roots of restorative justice focus on transformation of people, relationships, and community. In honoring these roots, RJCA humanizes conflict and supports community in finding shared solutions.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through 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 Restorative Justice Community Action, please visit their website at www.rjca-inc.org or contact Cynthia Prosek, RJCA Executive Director and Mount Olive Member.

The National Lutheran Choir Begins a New Season This Week

Join the NLC for the inaugural season with new artistic director, Jennaya Robison! The season will begin with All Saints concerts on Nov. 3 and Nov. 5, 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)

Coming Events

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.

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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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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