

The Olive Branch

April 24, 2024

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

What is to prevent me?

The beautiful story we hear next Sunday of Philip and the eunuch from Ethiopia is filled with wonders. Here we see that very early the first believers were looking into their Scriptures and seeing connections to Jesus, his suffering, death, and resurrection. We assume those connections, but they were found and learned (and some even taught by Jesus) in those days after Easter and Pentecost.

But the lovely center of this story is this Jewish person who is an exceedingly important official in the court of the Candace, queen of Ethiopia, but who is marginalized within his faith community because he is a eunuch. His surgical alteration made him an outsider among the Jewish people.

Yet he makes a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship, like a good Jewish person, and on his way back encounters both Isaiah and Philip. And his questions about the suffering servant in Isaiah, with Philip's assurance that it meant Jesus, lead him to this one question: what is to prevent me from being baptized? Even though I'm not fully acceptable among the chosen people of God, might I be baptized into the Christian community? Am I worthy?

Thanks be to God for Philip, who leaps to the occasion. There is no one outside of God's love. And nothing to prevent anyone from being washed in the waters of God's grace and welcomed into the community. Let's always keep our eyes open for those on the margins, those rejected, and welcome all with open arms in the love of Christ.

In Jesus' name,

Sunday Readings

April 28, 2024

*Fifth Sunday of Easter,
year B*

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

May 5, 2024

*Sixth Sunday of Easter,
year B*

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

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

**The Ascension of Our Lord
Thursday, May 9
Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm**

All are welcome.

Mollie Hamre to be Ordained May 11

Mollie Hamre, our vicar last year (2022-2023), has received a call to serve as associate pastor at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake. She will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., at Shepherd of the Lake. The Mount Olive community are all invited to share this day with the Church and with Mollie. Shepherd of the Lake is located at 3611 N Berens Rd NW, Prior Lake, MN 55379. All are invited to wear red in celebration, and clergy who attend are invited to vest. The service will be streamed online at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3kapvfsv>.

Coffee Hosts Needed: Step up and take a turn!

The list of coffee hosts is grossly undersubscribed! If you usually enjoy a quick cuppa after liturgy, this is a great opportunity to take a turn at serving so that others can enjoy it, too!

Signing up is easy – just add your name to the date you wish to serve. The sign-up chart is located next to the serving window in the East Assembly Room.

If you have any questions about what hosting Sunday Coffee entails, contact Lora Dundek at conglife@mountolivechurch.org. She will be happy to walk you through it!

Early Music Minnesota Chamber Concert

Saturday, May 4, 3:00 PM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

A concert of trio sonatas by Leclair, Corelli, and more!

Discover the link between two Baroque giants in our concert featuring LeClair and Corelli. LeClair's intricate *Dieuxième Récréation de musique* pays homage to Corelli's influence, its vibrant violin interplay echoing Corelli's spirit. Corelli's *Opus 2, Number XII*, resonates with timeless beauty, illustrating the bridge from Corelli's legacy to LeClair's innovation. Also included will be music by Marais and de La Guerre.

Join us for an experience where the musical connection between LeClair and Corelli comes alive. Featuring Louella Alatiit, violin.

Tickets for the Mount Olive community are free of charge.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, April 24

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper and year-end party
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation

Thursday, April 25

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, April 26

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, April 27

- 9am-Noon ALIGN Furniture+ Drive

Sunday, April 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:30 am Godly Play / Adult Forum
10:45 am Holy Eucharist
Noon Semi-Annual CONGREGATION MEETING

Monday, April 29

- Noon Bible Study (Book of Amos)
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, April 30

- Noon Bible Study
6:00 pm Bible Study (Book of Amos)

Congregation Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the Mount Olive congregation will be held on **Sunday, April 28, following the second liturgy**. The primary purpose of this meeting is to elect leaders to the Vestry. All voting members are encouraged to attend! Childcare will be available during the meeting.

Adult Forums on YouTube

Please note that the recordings of several Adult Forum presentations from 2023 and 2024 have recently been uploaded to the Mount Olive YouTube channel. You can find them in the "Adult Forum Presentations from Mount Olive Lutheran Church Minneapolis" playlist.

<https://www.youtube.com/@MountOliveMinneapolis/playlists>

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 April 13 meeting, the Book Discussion group will read *Mr. Ives' Christmas*, by Oscar Hijuelos, and for May 11 they will read *Everything Sad is Untrue*, by Daniel Nayeri.

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 Quarter 3 (July - September) will be published at the beginning of June. Please send any scheduling preferences or dates you will be unavailable to serve to me by **Friday, May 10**.

Please let me know if you have questions or if you would like to know more about the servant roles.

Thank you -
Greg Murphy
gregRmurphy@gmail.com

Six-Week Bible Study on the Book of Amos

"The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?"

In April and May, Vicar Mildahl is leading a six-session Bible Study exploring the poetic and prophetic Book of Amos. Two identical sessions are offered each week: **Mondays at noon** and **Tuesdays at 6pm**. You are welcome to join either session in person or via Zoom. Tuesday nights will include a light supper (feel free to bring your own lunch on Mondays).

Contact vicar@mountolivechurch.org if you have any questions!

Schedule:

April 8/9 - Amos and the Bible	May 6/7 - Chapters 7-9
April 15/16 - Chapters 1-3	May 13/14 - Amos and Sundays
(Skip April 22/23)	May 20/21 - Amos in the World
April 29/30 - Chapters 4-6	

[Click here](#) to join any session via Zoom.

Pentecost Reading of Acts 2 in Many Languages

For a number of years, it has been our tradition at Mount Olive to hear a portion of the Pentecost reading from Acts 2:1-21 read simultaneously in various languages.

Some of you have either participated in this joint reading in the past or are knowledgeable enough in a foreign language that you might be willing to participate this year. Anyone who can read aloud in another language is invited to participate in this corporate reading at the morning liturgy on Sunday, May 19, 2024.

Please contact the church office if you would be willing to participate and we will be in touch soon.

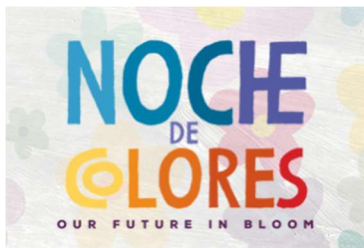
This Week's Adult Forum

April 28: "Two Banks of the Same River: Why Indigenous Rights & Climate Justice Are Intertwined," presented by Johan Baumeister, Congregational Organizer for Climate Justice for the Minneapolis Area Synod. This will be a conversation about the EcoFaith Network of the Minneapolis Area Synod and our collective efforts on climate justice. We'll focus especially on the connections between the history of energy systems and Native peoples in Minnesota. We'll connect the ELCA's social statements to the present and discuss opportunities to chart a just future.



Global Kid Connections

Mount Olive's supported partner, Common Hope, recognizes that education is one of the largest hurdles standing between the children of Guatemala and a higher quality of life. One of the ways they help children reach the goal of graduation is through sponsorship. With the support of a sponsor, a child and their family have access to Common Hope's multi-faceted programs.



With the financial support of an anonymous donor from Mount Olive, our youth and children have been able to sponsor 4 children in Guatemala. Each Godly Play Circle and both confirmation groups are establishing relationships with



Hoshea, Leticia, René, and Alison by exchanging pictures and writing letters. They recently learned more about Guatemala and Common Hope through a visit from Belle Alvarez, Common Hope staff.

To learn more about Common Hope, visit commonhope.org. You can also attend [Noche de Colores](#), the annual fundraising event on May 9. Ticket sales end Wednesday, April 22.

Save the Dates!

June 9: Visit to B'Dote (on the grounds of Historic Fort Snelling and Fort Snelling State Park). Gather after worship for lunch and a brief introduction to the history of this area and then visit the sites which are so significant in the life of our Dakotah and other Native neighbors. More information and sign-up coming in mid-May.

July 19-21: Mount Olive Family Camping at Nerstrand/Big Woods State Park. More information and sign-up available in early June.

July 28: All-Church picnic at Minnehaha Park.

April Neighborhood Ministry Partners of the Month:

Lake Street Council and Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association

The Lake Street Council is a non-profit organization built to support the diverse community of residents and businesses that call Lake Street home. Lake Street Council does this through programs that support entrepreneurs starting new businesses and grants to help existing businesses thrive. They also work to beautify the streetscape, engage local businesses in policy work that affects the corridor, and encourage new development that aligns with goals of the street and community. For more information, please visit lakestreetcouncil.org.

The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association enhances our neighborhood through special events, community-based publications, and advocacy on issues such as housing, economic equity, safety, and security. For more information, please visit www.ppna.org.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partners this month, we also volunteer in support of their work. On top of those financial and labor contributions, we encourage any member who wishes to donate 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.

ALIGN Furniture+ Drive

Mount Olive will host the Align Minneapolis Furniture and Household Items Drive in our parking lot on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 am to noon. We will be able to accept clothing, housewares, home décor, kitchenware, lamps, couches, tables, futons, chairs, love seats, recliners, bookcases, dressers, and the like. All donations will go to the Saint Vincent dePaul store just north of Lake Street.

While the Saint Vincent dePaul store is a thrift store, they make a significant number of vouchers available to community residents to shop for needed household goods for free, greatly benefiting our neighbors. Please bring your donations and share the information about this drive with others!

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

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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- **Eucharist for The Ascension of Our Lord: Thursday,
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- **Gardening Season Begins**
- **April Adult Forums**
- **ALIGN Furniture and Household Items Drive: April 27**