



The Olive  
Branch  
June 5, 2024

**Accent on Worship**  
*Pastor Joseph Crippen*

**Sunday Readings**

**June 9, 2024**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
**Lect. 10 B**  
Genesis 3:8-15  
Psalm 130  
2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

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**June 16, 2024**  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
**Lect. 11 B**  
Ezekiel 17:22-24  
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15  
2 Corinthians 5:6-17  
Mark 4:26-34

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

*Out of his mind?*

Jesus’ family thought he was out of his mind, Mark says this Sunday. It’s possible that we sometimes agree with them. At this point in Mark, Jesus has cast out demons, done many healings. But he’s also offered forgiveness, as if he had God’s authority. He’s claimed authority over God’s Sabbath command. He’s spent time with publicly outcast people. Wait till he starts talking about taking up crosses and following him to the cross.

It does seem that, like Jesus’ family, sometimes we’d like to get him to stop talking and come inside, before the neighbors think we’re crazy like he is. If he could just stop calling us to vulnerable and sacrificial love and stop asking us to forgive utterly as God forgives. Maybe stop asking us to welcome people we find objectionable, too. If he could just politely be our friend and not ask anything hard of us . . .

But you are beloved of God, part of the family, Jesus says. Our whole hope in this life and world is based on God being out of God’s mind – forgiving when we don’t deserve it, offering life when we reject God’s love. Everything challenging about what Jesus says and does is a lifeline of hope for us and for the world. So maybe Jesus is a little “out there.” Thanks be to God for that!

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, June 5

10:00 am Staff meeting

### Thursday, June 6

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, June 7

7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, June 8

10:00 am Funeral Visitation

11:00 am *Funeral Eucharist: Naomi Peterson*

### Sunday, June 9 - Third Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

3:00 pm Funeral Visitation

4:00 pm *Funeral Eucharist: Anne Bartz*

### Monday, June 10

7:00 pm Vestry meeting

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

### Tuesday, June 11

11:00 am HYMN FESTIVAL for the Association of Episcopal Church Musicians

Noon Bible Study

### Wednesday, June 12

10:00 am Staff meeting

### Thursday, June 13

5:30 pm Feminine Divine Study group

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, June 14

7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, June 15

9:00 am Gardening Day

10:00 am Book Discussion Group (rescheduled)

10:00 am Death Café meeting

### Sunday, June 16 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

### Monday, June 17

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

### Tuesday, June 18

Noon Bible Study

6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting

## 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

On June 15 (please note change of date due to a funeral) they will discuss *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks, and on July 13, *I am not Sydney Poitier*, by Percival Everett.

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](#).

## A Hymn Festival!

Mount Olive Cantor David Cherwien will lead a hymn festival for the annual conference of the Association of Episcopal Church Musicians on Tuesday, June 11, at 11:00 a.m. here at Mount Olive. Reflections were curated and will be read by Teresa Rothausen.

This event is free and open to the public! If you are free for a midday hymn festival, bring your voice and come on along!

## Death Cafe - Still Interested?

A meeting is planned for Saturday, June 15 at Mount Olive, at 10:00 a.m. The Book Discussion group meets at this time as well so the church will be open. Come for coffee/tea and cake and good discussion around multiple topics related to death. This is not a support or counseling group. Discussion is wide-open to individual thoughts, concerns and could include topics such as near-death experiences, writing your obituary, caring for a dying family member or friend, assisted suicide, how to plan a funeral, finances etc.

If you have questions or the date does not work for you, please contact Marilyn Gebauer at [marilyn.gebauer@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.gebauer@gmail.com) or phone: 612-306-8872.

## Desk Available

With help from many members, we're updating Mount Olive's Louise Schroedel Memorial Library. The "grand reopening" is July 7. We've reconfigured and are reusing all the shelving and have a single item that needs a new home--the former checkout desk (we'll have a new checkout system!). The desk is four feet wide, two feet deep, and is a couple inches higher than most kitchen tables. If you're part of our worshiping community and think you can use it, or if you know someone who can, contact Donn McLellan at ([skjakcomm@outlook.com](mailto:skjakcomm@outlook.com)).



## Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

### *Lutheran Social Services*

Lutheran Social Services is a broad-based social service organization that operates more than 20 different programs throughout the state of Minnesota. The services provided by LSS include housing, financial services, counseling, senior care programs, refugee resettlement, disaster recovery, and services for those with disabilities. LSS has been serving as the lead agency for the resettlement of the Afghan family Mount Olive has been sponsoring with the coordination of our Global Ministry Committee.

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.

For more information about the work of Lutheran Social Services, please visit their website at [www.lssmn.org](http://www.lssmn.org).

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## *Olive Branch* Summer Publication

During the summer months, we publish the newsletter every *other* week. The next issue will be published June 19. Information for that issue is due in to the church office by Monday, June 17.

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## Congregational Life Updates

Due to the funeral of Anne Bartz on June 9, the visit to B'Dote/Fort Snelling has been rescheduled to **Saturday, August 17** at 9 a.m. More information will follow.

### Congregational Dates to remember:

**July 19-21:** Family Camping Trip to Nerstrand Big Woods State Park (Sign-up available soon)

**July 28:** Cantor Cherwien's last day celebrations

**August 17:** Visit B'Dote/Fort Snelling

**August 25:** All-Church Picnic at Minnehaha Park, after worship.

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## June Adult Education

Cody Sanders was very well received when he presented before Easter on the care of our dead as well as options for interment. He will be back to present twice in June, this time on Gender Identity and recognizing sacred wisdom in the LGBTQIA+ community.

This forum will take place in the Chapel Lounge at 11:30 AM. A light lunch of sandwiches and salads will be served.

**June 23 - Beyond Affirmation: LGBTQIA2S+ Lives as Sources of Sacred Wisdom:** Many churches have practiced affirmation for LGBTQIA2S+ people for many years now. But what exists beyond affirmation? This forum will help orient our focus with a posture of compassionate curiosity to ask what we can learn from queer and trans lives that would benefit the whole church. What stories need to be told of queer and trans faithfulness, community, love, and courage that we all need to hear? What lessons have LGBTQIA2S+ people learned at the margins of many communities that we would all do well to learn? Beyond "affirmation," we have the potential to learn from queer and trans lives as sources of sacred wisdom, to reincorporate parts of the larger church's story from which we have been cut off, and to celebrate the gifts that LGBTQIA2S+ people have been and continue to be for the church and the wider world.

The Rev. Cody J. Sanders, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Congregational & Community Care Leadership at Luther Seminary. His books include, *Queer Lessons for Churches on the Straight and Narrow* (translated into Japanese and Swahili), *Microaggressions in Ministry* (with Angela Yarber, translated into Japanese), *A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth*, and *Christianity, LGBTQ Suicide, and the Souls of Queer Folk* (subject of the 2024 Biopsychosocial-Spiritual Research Conference at Loma Linda University in April of this year). He lives with his partner, also named Cody, in Saint Paul.

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## Gift and Party for Cantor Cherwien

The Vestry is planning a dinner reception for Cantor Cherwien as part of our farewell, and is also planning a gift from the congregation. If anyone would like to donate to these efforts, simply mark your check or offering as "Cantor Cherwien farewell." Thank you!

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## India: Bethania Kids steps up women's empowerment programs

Bethania Kids reports that its Bethania Foundation India started eight women's empowerment programs in the last nine years and plans to add more soon. You might be thinking, "Wait, isn't Bethania supposed to be all about kids?!" It was and is. Its leaders from the start have recognized that infants and children need mothers, other caregivers, and teachers who have essential skills and resources, including money. As President Steve Zorn writes in the spring 2024 issue of Bethania's Seeds on the Wind newsletter, "We created women's empowerment programs because when women thrive, so do their children!"

Bethania's empowerment programs traditionally taught tailoring and embroidery skills to enable women to earn some money for their families. In a new women's empowerment program now starting at Shalom Home, at Batlagundi, local experts will introduce a new skill each month. A college professor will offer career guidance, a family counselor will teach drug awareness, a policewoman will teach women's safety. A new practical—and very popular—computer training program starts with the basics of typing in Tamil and English, then expands to accounting, photo editing, book editing, graphic design, and other skills. Some recent graduates of that program now have good-paying jobs, and others have entered college or other higher education.

Bethania Kids was started in 1987 by members of two American families with missionary roots in India, the Granners and Hennigs, the latter longtime members of Mount Olive. The first Bethania site, at Kannivadi, in southeast India, became home to nine students. Now Bethania serves nearly a thousand children, women, and families at fifteen sites in India. It's one of eleven ministries Mount Olive supports through the Global Ministry committee.



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## Attention Bookworms!

Please note! Due to scheduling conflicts with a funeral, the June Book Discussion Group will meet one week later than usual, on the THIRD Saturday, **June 15**, at the usual time of 10:00 a.m.

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## 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](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.*

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