



# The Olive Branch

July 17, 2024

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

## Sunday Readings

**July 21, 2024**

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

*Lect. 16 B*

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**July 28, 2024**

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

*Lect. 17 B*

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

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

### *No more division?*

Paul gives a breathtaking promise in the portion of Ephesians we'll hear this Sunday. "Christ is our peace; in his flesh Christ has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us . . . that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of two, thus making peace."

Paul is talking about the beautiful vision Christ gave him that both Jews and non-Jews could be one together in Christ, a vision he tried to instill in his congregations around the Mediterranean basin, but one that struggled to take flight even then.

But what if – even in these terribly polarized times – this vision isn't a false hope? Could Christ break down the hostilities between peoples in this country, between peoples in the wars raging around the world? We can scoff that it's a pipedream, unrealistic. But can we humans argue that we have any idea what we're doing, given the state of things?

Most of the polarizing, hostility, and division in our country and world seems far too entrenched and complex for you or for me even to know what we could do. But Paul says it's a God-sized problem, and God at the cross has already begun dealing with it. What if we trusted that, prayed for that? It would mean we pray that our own hostilities toward others be broken down, that we ourselves be led to peace with whomever it is we see as enemy. That will be hard. But is there any other way to end the violence and hate dominating our world?

God changing hearts, starting with yours and mine, seems the only way that can possibly bring healing and hope. Paul thinks so, too. What if we learned to trust Christ in this?

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, July 17

10:00 am Staff meeting

### Thursday, July 18

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, July 19

7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Sunday, July 21 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### Monday, July 22

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

### Tuesday, July 23

Noon Bible Study

### Wednesday, July 24

10:00 am Staff meeting

2:00 pm *Funeral Eucharist: Renee Ollikain*

4:30 pm Library Committee meeting

### Thursday, July 25

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, July 26

7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, July 27

9:00 am Gardening Day

### Sunday, July 28 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

11:30 am Festive reception for Cantor Cherwien

5:00 pm Pre-dinner reception

6:00 pm Celebratory dinner (reservations required) and program (see page 4 for details)

### Monday, July 29

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

### Tuesday, July 30

Noon Bible Study

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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 July 31.

Information for that issue is due in to the church office by Monday, July 29.

## **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](#).

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## **Book Discussion**

On August 10, they will discuss *The Children's Blizzard* by David Laskin (this is a non-fiction book, although there is a novel with the same title). For September 14, they will take up two novels in the Ingrid Borrøy series by Ray Jacobsen, *White Shadow* and *Eyes of the Rigel*. (Note: The Book Club has read the first installment, *Unseen*, and we agreed that these next two are short enough to be read as a pair.)

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the East Assembly Room, usually on the second Saturday of the month. 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](#).

## Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: Every Meal

Every Meal coordinates the delivery of food to families struggling with food insecurity through partnership schools throughout Minnesota, providing food for weekends and holiday breaks when children no longer have access to free meals at school.

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 Every Meal, please visit their website at [www.everymeal.org](http://www.everymeal.org).

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## Congregational Life Updates

**The all-church picnic** will be held on Sunday, August 25, after worship. No sign-up needed. Just show up with a dish to share and your wonderful self. Minnehaha Park Wabun picnic is the site, close to the Veteran's Home, and the splash pad and playground. More information to follow.

**The visit to B'Dote/Fort Snelling** which was postponed from June 9 will now be held on Saturday, August 17, at 9 a.m. More information and a sign-up will be coming soon.

**Take Me Out to The Ball Game!** Join your Mount Olive friends for a night with the St. Paul Saints! Saturday evening, September 7, CHS Stadium in downtown St. Paul, Cost: \$26/ticket for reserved infield seating, plus parking (carpool if you can!). Remember that Pr. Crippen has funds to help if the cost is prohibitive for you.

More details and signup information will follow in a couple of weeks. Thanks to Judy Johnson for organizing this Congregational Life activity.

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## Youth/Family After Church Playground Updates

**July 21:** We plan to meet at Assembly Union Park in St. Paul around noon. Address is 875 Mount Curve Blvd, St Paul, MN 55116. Feel free to get lunch on the way and meet at the playground area.

**August 25:** We will plan to attend the Mount Olive annual picnic at Wabun Picnic Area in Minnehaha Falls Park. Address is 4655 46th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406 There is both a playground and a splash pad so bring swimming suits if interested. This is typically a potluck. Please watch for additional information in *The Olive Branch* or Congregational Life emails.

Feel free to get in touch with questions at [youthfamily@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:youthfamily@mountolivechurch.org).

## Gift and Party for Cantor Cherwien

The Celebration of Cantor Cherwien's ministry at Mount Olive will be held on Sunday, July 28. Two events are planned:

1. After morning liturgy, all are invited to a special coffee hour with a presentation of a gift from the congregation.
2. That evening, the congregation is invited to join in a meal and program, beginning at 5 p.m. with light appetizers upstairs and a 6:30 p.m. dinner in the Undercroft.

There is no cost for participating in any of these events, but **if you would like to attend the evening dinner, you must register**. In-person registration will be available on July 7, 14, and 21 (Sunday mornings), and on-line registration will begin on Sunday, July 7 and be open on Sundays - or by calling the church office - through July 21. [To sign up online, click here.](#)

**Again, registration is required for the evening dinner, so that we have an accurate count for serving!**

**Please also note that we still need help for the celebration events. Please sign up to help at the following link:** <https://tinyurl.com/y9cts39n>

If you would like to donate to the gift and celebration for David, you may do so by sending your donation to the church office, or by placing the donation in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please clearly mark the donation for the Cantor Cherwien celebration.

For questions, contact Lora at [lhdundek@usfamily.net](mailto:lhdundek@usfamily.net), or 651-645-6636.

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## Vestry names interim staff for Cantor transition

The Vestry is pleased to announce who will lead us in worship as we begin our search for the next cantor of Mount Olive. There will be two positions. Serving as interim organist will be Robert Buckley Farlee, and serving as interim Cantorei director will be Andrew Stoebig. Together, they will be roughly 3/4 of the cantor position. Both are members of Mount Olive. Bob was the long-time cantor at Christ Church Lutheran in south Minneapolis and is retired. Andrew is a musicologist working on his Ph.D. and has studied choral conducting with Kathy Romey at the University of Minnesota. Both have substituted for Cantor Cherwien several times in recent years, at the organ and with the choir respectively.

Bob will begin playing at liturgies on the feast day of St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord (Aug. 15), and Andrew will begin his duties Aug. 1. Reid Peterson will be substitute organist on Aug. 4 and 11.

We are grateful to God for providing these gifted servants to lead us during this time of transition!



## Global Ministries News

Through the Missionary Sponsorship Program of the ELCA, Mount Olive has long supported the Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson in Southern Africa and Karen Anderson in Chile through the 4% of total giving allocated to Global Ministries. Philip has retired and Karen will be retiring soon. We thank them both for their many years of service.

The Global Ministry committee will begin discussing the 2025 budget. We will be prayerfully considering our current partners using specific criteria. We will also consider beginning a relationship with someone new in the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship Program.

If you have any feedback for the Global Ministry committee, please contact Lisa Ruff by July 31 at [global@mountolivechurg.org](mailto:global@mountolivechurg.org), or 651-307-2933.

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## An Update on Our Afghan Family

Special announcement: Yasamin, the fiancée of Milad Mohammadi (the brother of Anita), is arriving in Minneapolis this week! They are already Halal married over a zoom call with their parents and the Imam in Kabal.

A few years ago, our Vestry approved sponsoring her to join the family our congregation assisted starting in 2021.

Long story short, she has received her visa and passport after winning the lottery and traveling with her brother to Islamabad, Pakistan for the interview at the USA embassy.

The Global Ministry Committee is forming a welcome team of members to mentor Yasamin and Milad as they settle into married life, find an apartment and fill it with furniture and kitchen supplies, get signed up for English classes, etc. Judy Hinck has even volunteered to teach her how to drive a car, as she did with Anita this past year!

If you feel called to befriend our new neighbor or assist in any way to welcome her, please contact Connie Marty or Lisa Ruff at [global@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:global@mountolivechurch.org). Please pray for her safe arrival as she travels alone to a foreign country for the first time in her life.

## Library News

Thanks to all who helped us celebrate the re-opening of the Louise Schroedel Memorial Library on Sunday, July 7th! Come check it out the next time you are in the building! The library is located in the northeast corner of the parish house, next to the cantor's office.

We hope you will see many ways we have been hard at work to revitalize the space: rearranging the space, getting new furniture and new technology, and updating the collection. We hope these changes will better allow the library to support the ministries of the church, including education and hospitality.

We also encourage you to check out our digital catalog (<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/molibrary>)! We haven't quite finished adding all of the collection, but there are over 500 titles to browse and more will be added soon, including many brand new titles! We hope to continue to expand these resources, especially the children's section in collaboration with the Youth and Family committee.

We know that there are many people who are eager to support our work by donating books to the collection. **Please do not bring books to us** until you have spoken to the library committee.

Here is some useful information to know about the library:

- Hours: Sunday mornings during coffee hour, or by appointment
- Check Out Policies: Three books at a time, checked out for three weeks.
- Contact: [library@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:library@mountolivechurch.org).
- Committee Members: Greg Murphy, Donn and Bonnie McLellan, Peggy Hoeft, Paula Carlson and David Engen



And finally, a big thank you to all those that helped us with this project: Brian Jacobs, Brooke Roegge, Lora Dundek, the entire property committee, especially Art Halbardier, Steve Manuel, Brent Rivard, Mark Pipkorn and Carol Martinson, Tom Schattauer, Pastor Crippen, and Jim Bargmann, and many, many others.

And of course, we want to express our deepest gratitude to Leanna Kloempken for her years of service and without whom we wouldn't have such a wonderful collection at all!

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

**Summer Sunday Eucharist:  
10:00 a.m.**

### **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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