



The Olive Branch

August 14, 2024

Accent on Worship
Jim Bargmann

Sunday Readings

August 18, 2024

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 20 B

Proverbs 9:1-6

Psalm 34:9-14

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

August 25, 2024

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 21 B

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

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

“You are what you eat.” This common phrase has often been used in a negative context, with judgement, urging the eating of foods considered healthier and forgoing foods deemed less healthy. Certainly, some foods and drinks are not great for our well-being, especially when it comes to lab-created chemicals and when consumed in excess.

But can we reclaim this phrase in a positive sense, first literally and secondly, spiritually?

The reality is this phrase is true. Our bodies are designed to take the food and drink we consume and, through the complex chemical system called metabolism, use them to nourish our bodies. Although in some cases, food and drink are outright consumed by our bodies, used for making energy which is then expended, some biological processes utilize food and drink to literally make our bodies. Some of what we consume is turned to fats and acids and sent to our brain, enabling thoughts, ideas, imagination, creativity and indeed survival. Some is used to build muscle. And some is used for the healing of injury, literally creating new skin, muscle, tendon, bone, blood, from our food and drink.

So when Jesus teaches that we are to eat of his flesh and drink of his blood - that he is the bread of life, we can consider these words in more than simply a symbolic sense. Although still a mystery how this works (recognizing that God’s ways of working are mysterious to us is a good thing), this collision of the spiritual and the scientific is profound. We are taught repeatedly in Scripture that we are the very body of Jesus in the world, making God’s love a reality in every encounter with another member of God’s creation. Indeed, we are what we eat. We eat bread and wine, body and blood, and in so doing, we become more of Jesus each and every time, making God’s love tangible, touchable, hearable - real - to those we meet.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, August 14

10:00 am Staff meeting

5:30 pm Library Committee meeting

Thursday, August 15 - Mary, Mother of Our Lord

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, August 16

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, August 18 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, August 19

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

Tuesday, August 20

Noon Bible Study

6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting

Wednesday, August 21

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, August 22

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, August 23

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, August 24

9:00 am Gardening Day

Sunday, August 25 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Noon All-Church Picnic at Wabun Picnic Area, Minnehaha Falls

Monday, August 26

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

Tuesday, August 27

Noon Bible Study

***Olive Branch* Summer Publication**

During the summer months, *The Olive Branch* is published every **other** week. The next issue will be published August 28. Information for that issue is due in to the church office by Monday, August 26.

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 September 14 the Book Club 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. Each book does stand alone). The choice for the October 12 session is *Love in the Time of Cholera*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the Library, 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](#).

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.

The visit to B'Dote/Fort Snelling which was postponed from June 9 has been cancelled due to flooding in the area.

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.

Youth/Family After Church Playground Updates

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.



The Minneapolis Area Synod invites you to a Festive Service of Holy Communion and the Installation of

The Reverend Jen Nagel

as Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Saturday, September 21, 10:30 a.m.

Central Lutheran Church
333 South 12th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota



A light reception will follow the service.

All are welcome to join us for a festival choir.
Rehearsal will be at 9:00 a.m. on September 21.

Clergy are invited to vest and process.
The color of the day is red.

Spanish and ASL interpretation will be provided
and the service will be livestreamed.

Find service details, livestream link, and choir sign-up at the synod website (mpls-synod.org) or by scanning this QR code.



2024-25 Feminine Divine Spiritual Study Group Forming Now

Year C: Women of the Jesus Movement and the Divine
Facilitated by Teresa Rothausen, Ph.D.

We invite you to join in a series of conversations and prayerful discernment related to the Feminine Divine. This study group will meet once a month on the third Tuesday, 6-8 PM, starting on September 17. You do not need to have attended the study group in Year A or B to participate this year - all are welcome!

In Year C we will focus on excavating real women who led the Jesus Movement out from under layers of patriarchal interpretations of them. Using historical evidence and imagination informed by marginalized women's lives today, we will let their voices enrich our experience of the Triune God. We will use several texts as well as spiritual practices; scholarships for materials are available.

Attention, Worship Assistants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for Quarter 4 (October - December) will be published in September. Please send any scheduling preferences (especially for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) or dates you will be unavailable to me by **Friday, August 23**.

Please let me know if you have questions. If you would like to know more about the servant roles, you can also contact worship@mountolivechurch.org

Thank you.

- Greg Murphy
gregRmurphy@gmail.com

Watch Remarks from Cantor Cherwien's Farewell Reception

A recording of the after-dinner program with music-making and remarks from members of Cantorei, Pastor Joseph Crippen, and Retired Cantor David Cherwien is now available. While it won't be published publicly on our YouTube channel, you can go directly to the video using this link: <https://youtu.be/xB86G9-avv0>.

August Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Simpson Housing*

Simpson Housing is a multifaceted organization, providing an emergency shelter, single adult supportive housing, and family supportive housing across the Twin Cities metro area. They provide developmental and educational services for children of families in their family shelter program and “work across the metro area partnering with landlords and developers to find sustainable housing for families and individuals.” In addition, Simpson operates the Adult Shelter Connect program for Hennepin County, providing a single point of contact for those seeking shelter throughout the county.

In 2020, Simpson began the process of raising funds to rebuild their shelter and office building to become the Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments. “Plans for the [new] five-story facility include two floors of permanent supportive housing, two floors of emergency shelter, a commercial kitchen, a 24-hour front desk, and offices and clinic space...”. They broke ground on this new facility earlier this year. For more information about Simpson Housing, please visit their website at www.simpsonhousing.org .

Welcome Yasamin!

Yasamin has arrived safely in Minnesota! Our congregation sponsored her to come here from Afghanistan and join Milad. The journey to get her legally out of Afghanistan and into the USA was long and difficult but finally she is with us.

Milad and Yasamin are now married and planning to rent an apartment very soon. They are in need of any and everything a couple needs to set up a household. If you have items in your home or can get a few from a friend or are able to assist with moving them in, please contact Carolyn farmermcgregor@comcast.net or George Heider gcheider@comcast.net . They are the co-leaders

of the new team of members being formed to assist Yasamin and Milad. Yasamin will need help signing up for English classes, someone to drive her there and back, help her find a job (she has 2 years of college and is interested in economics and would love to work at a bank). If you have extra tickets to a game, museum or cultural event, they would enjoy going with you!

The newlyweds will be at the August 25 all-church picnic. Be sure to introduce yourself to them and notice how good her English is already!



GATHER IN SOLIDARITY FOR BRIGHT STARS OF BETHLEHEM'S



featuring world-changer Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb

**Saturday, September 7th | Dinner begins at 5 P.M.
Gala begins at 7 P.M.**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 S. Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403**

Bright Stars of Bethlehem Gala

Bright Stars of Bethlehem is one of Mount Olive's supported Global Ministry partners. You are invited to hear Palestinian educator and peace advocate the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb at the **Saturday, Sept. 7** Bright Stars of Bethlehem Solidarity gathering and annual fundraiser at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 S. Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis.

Palestinian dinner at 5 p.m., followed by a special in-person briefing from Mitri at 5:30 p.m. The fundraiser program starts at 7:00 p.m. [Register here by Aug. 28](#). There is also a virtual event at 7:00. [Register here for the virtual](#) option.

Raise your voice to ease U.S. and global hunger!

It's a Mount Olive tradition. On the Sunday before Labor Day – September 1 this year – we write letters to our U.S. senators and representatives, urging them to support legislation that would reduce hunger and poverty in the United States and abroad. The "farm bill," passed about every five years, embraces many farm-and food-related matters, including funding for the domestic Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the global Food for Peace program.

The 2018 farm bill technically expired in 2023. Partisan bickering has slowed action on 2024 bills now before Congress, which include proposals to make significant cuts to both SNAP and Food for Peace. The ELCA says there's some hope that the Senate will pass a bipartisan farm bill after the November election. Minnesota's two senators and perhaps your representative have been supportive of these important domestic and global food programs, but it never hurts to thank them and urge them to reach across the aisles to find bipartisan agreement.

Join us in the Chapel Lounge September 1!

– *Your Global Ministry Committee*

Gift from the Diaper Bank of Minnesota

On Monday, July 29, we received a significant gift from the Diaper Bank of Minnesota - 39,000 diapers to support the continuing work of our Diaper Depot!

Lisa Ruff, Elaine Halbardier, Jim Bargmann, Lynn and Rob Ruff, along with a rented cargo van, collected the diapers from the Diaper Bank warehouse in Saint Paul and delivered them to Mount Olive.

This gift will supply the diapers needed by the Diaper Depot through the rest of 2024 and amounts to approximately \$9600 worth of diapers.

We hope this growing relationship between Mount Olive and the Diaper Bank of Minnesota could lead to the Diaper Depot being welcomed into full partnership with the Diaper Bank in 2025 and beyond, a decision that will be made sometime in the fall of this year.



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

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Organist – *Robert Buckley Farlee*

Interim Choir Director – *Andrew Stoebig*

Vicar – *Natalie Wussler*

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 – Jim Bargmann**
- **Congregational Life Updates**
- **Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month**
- **Welcome, Yasamine!**
- **Bright Stars of Bethlehem Gala: Saturday, Sept. 7**
- **Diaper Depot Receives Gift from Diaper Bank of Minnesota**