



The Olive Branch

August 28, 2024

Accent on Worship

*Robert Farlee,
Interim Organist*

Sunday Readings

September 1, 2024

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 22 B

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Psalm 15

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-23

September 8, 2024

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 23 B

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

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

We live in edgy times. Most of us, me included, are trying to lead calm, productive lives, but it can be hard to relax into such an existence. Our nation is as deeply divided as it has ever been; our world is beset by crises everywhere we look, and the paths toward solutions are complicated and uncertain. This isn't news, nor is it new. Unfortunately, it is the normal stuff of human existence. The difference today, I think, is mostly that our current media and social media are ever-present, spotlighting and amplifying every little thing that divides while downplaying our commonalities.

The gospel readings for last Sunday and next demonstrate that divisions have always been present. Last Sunday we heard of a conversation, apparently only hours after Jesus had miraculously fed thousands, ending with some of his own followers becoming so upset by his self-revelation that they turned away from Christ's path. Next Sunday we will hear Jesus call respected religious leaders "hypocrites" after they condemn him for being too permissive. In each case, there were serious issues involved, but people who were perhaps too caught up in emotion lost sight of what is central, what is held in common, what is good – with harmful consequences.

Here's where my meditation may take an unexpected turn. I'm still new to this congregation, though it has been familiar to me for decades. And though I appreciate much about Mount Olive, if I had to name one thing that attracted me here, it is the hymn singing. Obviously, as a leader of song, I'm glad when worshipers respond and sing. But it's more than that. In the self-forgetful lifting of our voices in song, we are pushing aside the edginess of daily life, the judging, the fearfulness. As a gathered assembly, we are with one voice opening ourselves to sheer worship of God, reveling in the good news given us through Christ. As one who is prone to overthinking things, that is a weekly miracle for which I give profound thanks.

Special Congregation Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the congregation on **Sunday, September 15**, following the second liturgy.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect a seven-member Call Committee to search for our next Cantor.

All voting members are encouraged to attend.

Send nominations of committee candidates to vsecretary@mountolivechurch.org.

As in Rome . . . – Thursday-Friday Bible Study Begins Sept. 12/13

Paul's letter to the Romans has deep richness and gift for us, and Pr. Crippen will spend our first six-week Bible study of the year looking at this letter – flesh and spirit, Torah and Gospel, life in Christ. But what Paul lays out for the Roman believers is intertwined with his vision – given him by Christ – of the body of Christ lived in this world, a multi-cultural, diverse community joined by the love of God in Christ. So we'll also get to Galatia, Corinth, Philippi, and elsewhere in this conversation.

As in the past couple years, the class is offered twice, Thursday evening and Friday noon, to reach as many schedule opportunities as possible. The study begins on Sept. 12/13, and will end on Oct. 17/18. Thursday night will meet from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and there will be our usual light supper when we begin. If anyone wishes to provide the first meal, please let Pr. Crippen know. Fridays will meet at noon, the same session as the night before, and you're welcome to bring a lunch along for the conversation.

[Both Thursday and Friday will also be available on Zoom at this link.](#)

All are welcome to this study opportunity!

Holy Cross Day

Saturday, September 14

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome.

Calendar

Wednesday, August 28

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, August 29

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, August 30 - Church offices closed

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, September 1 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

11:30 am BFW Campaign of Letters

Monday, September 2 - Labor Day; church offices closed

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

Tuesday, September 3

Noon Bible Study

5:30 pm Lutheran Volunteer Corps Reception

Wednesday, September 4

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, September 5

6:00 pm Vicar Committee meeting (offsite)

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, September 6

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, September 7

9:00 am Gardening Day

6:37 pm Saint Paul Saints Game starts

Sunday, September 8 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

9:30 am Adults Forum / Godly Play

10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, September 9

5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)

7:00 pm Vestry meeting

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

Tuesday, September 10

Noon Bible Study

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](#).

Vestry Meeting Summary 8/12/24

New Business

- Call Committee for Cantor: Mount Olive has had 80 years of a called Cantor so vestry decided to continue this process for our next Cantor. Recommendation to send out request for nominations for Cantor Call Committee. Motion to call special congregation meeting on September 15th to elect 7 members for the call committee.
- Extend Early Music Minnesota's residency at Mount Olive by 3 years – through June 2027
- Dates for Octoberfest and October Annual meeting – Oct. 27
- Budget Preview Forum will be on October 20 during the Adult Education hour between liturgies
- Charles Lazarus performing his Merry and Bright concert on Sunday, December 15 – there will be a sign up, more information will be coming

Pastor's Report

Natalie Wussler will begin as our new Vicar on Tuesday, August 13.

Jim Bargmann

- 39,000 diapers gift from this month worth over \$9,000 from Minnesota Diaper Bank, a non-profit organization which gets surplus or overstock diapers which they redistribute to organizations.
- Neighborhood Ministry host team – several members from the congregation as part of this team

Congregational Life

- Camping went well – no rain, although predicted
- David's celebration – cost for the morning reception was donated
- Dinner was served for 187 people plus people those who were working
- donations for his celebration paid for the events and the art print gift for David

Education committee

Committee members were approved by the Vestry

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.

Write to fight domestic and global hunger!

Please join us following Sunday's liturgy for Mount Olive's annual offering of letters, encouraging our U.S. senators and representatives to support a bill that continues – and doesn't cut – food aid that's essential to millions of people in the U.S. and abroad.

In the version currently before the U.S. House it's called the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, but over the years it's commonly known as the Farm Bill. Renewed and revised about every five years (it technically expired in 2023), it embraces a myriad of agriculture-related programs that include crop insurance, "reference prices" that can trigger subsidies, forestry, conservation, energy, and more. We value and respect our nation's farmers, some of them perhaps our relatives, but we are especially concerned about the Farm Bill's funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and international food aid. Bread for the World says the version of the bill now before the House "would increase domestic food insecurity and prevent millions of people globally from receiving critical humanitarian nutrition assistance."

After Sunday's liturgy, grab something to eat and drink, then join us in the Chapel Lounge. We'll provide sheets with background information, pens, paper, envelopes, and postage. We all have the same two senators. If you're unsure about [your congressional district](#), we'll help you look it up. Whatever you write, make the message your own!

Can I send e-messages from home? Yes, but you'll find that you're required to jump through several hoops before you're allowed to write your message. You must provide an address that shows you're a constituent. On the plus side, using copy/paste you can send the *same* message to your representative and two senators (trust us, they're *not* comparing letters!). Download [contact information](#) for Minnesota's senators and representatives or pick up a copy on Sunday.

- Your Global Ministry Committee

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

<https://mn.gov/portal/government/federal/minnesota-delegation.jsp>

Congregational Life Updates

Many thanks to those who helped make the third annual All-Church picnic a success. Special shout-out to Steve Manuel, Pr. Crippen, and Al Bipes for the very, very hot work of grilling! About 80 people enjoyed a good meal and good conversation.

Help Wanted: Mount Olive will play host to a pastor from Leipzig, Pr. Christoph Reichl, between **Friday, September 20 and Friday, October 12**. We are looking for folks who can assist with transportation for him as he visits various sites around the Minneapolis Area Synod. If you're able to help, even for just one day or part of a day, please contact Lora at lhdundek@usfamily.net. Note: Pr. Reichl speaks excellent English.

Take Me Out to the (Saints) Game, **Saturday, September 7**. CHS Field. We have a block of infield seats reserved. Cost: \$25 plus parking.* [Click here to sign up](#).

*Confidential financial assistance for Mount Olive activities is available. Speak with Pr. Crippen or Vicar Wussler.

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.



**GATHER IN SOLIDARITY FOR
BRIGHT STARS OF BETHLEHEM'S**

20 YEARS OF HOPE
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



Global Ministries in Action Right Here

WELCOME, MILAD AND YASAMIN!

Good news: Yasamin has arrived! She and her new husband, Milad, will be moving into their new apartment next week, soon after Labor Day.

At this point, the Resettlement Team is focused on equipping Milad and Yasamin with the essentials for their new living space. This is a matter of some urgency. We would welcome gifts of cash (via checks made out to Mount Olive Lutheran Church) by September 1, with which we can take them shopping. Gifts can be placed in the offering plate in envelopes designating them for Milad and Yasamin or mailed to the church office. At a later point we will solicit in-kind gifts, such as furniture and furnishings, but for now our focus is on small-ticket household essentials (which still add up fast).

Thank you for your engagement with "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me"!

- George and Carolyn Heider
Coordinators of Afghani Resettlement Team 2.0

Meet... and Support ... The Lift Garage

The Lift Garage is a non-profit auto repair service offering low-cost and mobile auto repairs for all Minnesotans. They are located in south Minneapolis on Lake Street.

The Lift Garage is actually a new Neighborhood Ministry Partner, so you will have a chance to learn more about them next month. But for now, simply an invitation: The Lift Garage is holding their fall fundraiser at Arbeiter Brewing on Monday, September 16 from 5 to 8 pm. If you would like to join Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann at this event, a link to purchase tickets is below. Your ticket will grant you admission to the event and includes food from Habanero Tacos Grill and a beverage from Arbeiter Brewery. A silent auction is also a part of this event. You will receive information about how to participate in the silent auction when you purchase your ticket. The registration deadline is August 30.

Please plan to attend and support our partner in their work.

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.

Please contact Teresa at tjrothausen@gmail.com to join the group or call her with any questions.

Mount Olive's Choir School Begins a New Season

Musical interactions with our faith begin even before a child can talk. Families with children between birth and Kindergarten are invited to join **Family Music on Zoom each Monday from 5:30-6:00 pm beginning September 16**. A caregiver; whether parent, grandparent, nanny, or another loving adult, participates actively to model and engage our youngest children in singing, playing, dancing, and praying from the comfort of your home. Our hope is that the songs, prayers, and Bible stories become part of your Christian faith practice at home. Mari Espeland will lead these sessions using "God, My Family, and Me" in the *God's Children Sing* curriculum from [Musikgarten](#). Please contact Mari at mari.mt.olive@gmail.com with questions and to enroll your child and receive the Zoom link and the family materials kit.

Children's Choir (1st -4th graders led by Mari Espeland) and Youth Choir (5th graders and older led by Rebekah Schulz) begins on Wednesday, September 11 at 5:30 with dinner in the undercroft. Quick eaters will have adult-supervised, though self-directed activities until rehearsal, which runs from 6:00-6:45 pm.

The new year of singing and learning in God's love will have some familiar plans and some new opportunities. Youth and Children's Choirs will sing at eight liturgies this year, including Christmas and Easter. Choir School singers will join with their families, especially their grown-ups, to create a one-time family choir on Pentecost! An intergenerational choir will help us to observe an important holy day that falls outside of the school year.

Also new this year is an opportunity to join with children and youth choirs from other Twin Cities churches for a Choir Festival at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church on Saturday, March 15, 2025. Save the date! What an inspiring way for our singers to experience singing in a large choir with a centering theme of "Love One Another." The 2:00 pm festival worship service that concludes the day is free and open to the public. Rebekah, Mari, and all our singers hope many Mount Olive folks will attend.

Please email Mari at mari.mt.olive@gmail.com or Rebekah at deutschgirl@gmail.com with questions or to enroll your child in Mount Olive's Choir School. We are excited to sing and pray with Mount Olive's children and youth this year!

Olive Branch Regular Weekly Publication Resumes

This is the last summer issue of *The Olive Branch*. Weekly publication resumes with the next issue, which will be published on September 11. Information for that issue is due in to the church office by Monday, September 9.

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 – Robert Farlee, Interim Organist**
- **Bread for the World Offering of Letters: This Sunday!**
- **Congregational Life Updates**
- **Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month**
- **Bright Stars of Bethlehem Gala: Saturday, Sept. 7**
- **New Choir School Season Begins September 11**
- **August Vestry Meeting Summary**