



The Olive Branch

October 8, 2025

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

While I realize there is no rule about what we are to write in this space, I think it appropriate to warn you that I am about to take a detour from my normal pattern of writing some thoughts about our Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

The phrase "lex orandi, lex credendi" has been circulating in my brain for a few weeks

now. I thought it may be worth it to work through those thoughts, put them in some kind of coherent order, and share them with you.

I first became aware of this phrase in college in one of our classes on worship and liturgy. The phrase and the concepts behind it were originally written down by the 5th century writer Prosper of Aquitaine. How's that for an obscure church leader reference?

But the history of this phrase is not what makes it important and certainly not what has been in my brain. This Latin phrase literally translated means "the law of praying, the law of believing."

As it was taught to me, the concepts here are not linear but they play off of one another in a kind of circular fashion. How we pray, worship, and practice our liturgy informs what and how we believe - and by extension, how we live out our faith. And what and how we believe affects our prayer, our worship, and our liturgy.

There are many places this concept can be applied - our music, our choices of language, the order of our worship, the connections to the historical practices of the church - all things we hold dear at Mount Olive and all of which inform what and how we believe.

But there is one particular action, commonplace in our liturgical practice, that brought this phrase to mind. It is how we reverence. While a symbolic action for sure, our reverencing affects how we see our God, how we see ourselves, and how we see one another and vice versa. *continued on page 2*

Sunday Readings

October 12, 2025

*Eighteenth Sunday
after Pentecost, Lect. 28 C*

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Psalms 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

October 19, 2025

*Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost, Lect. 29 C*

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

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

Oktoberfest!

Join us for Oktoberfest before the Congregation Meeting on October 26!

We will serve brats, hot dogs, German potato salad, sauerkraut, and bars, as well as beer and non-alcoholic beverages. Anyone who is willing to make a pan of bars or a batch of potato salad, please email Tricia Van Ee at hospitality@mountolivechurch.org or text/email to 612-749-0144.

We will also happily accept volunteers for clean-up!

Third Annual Lefse Making Extravaganza!

Do you love lefse? Ever wondered how to make it? Now's your chance to learn-or-share your expertise with a beginner.

We'll meet in the Undercroft Saturday, November 8, from 9:00am-1:00pm.

Bring your prepared potatoes, quart size storage bags, extra flour, and any equipment you have.

Any questions can be directed to Marsha Johnson at 763-843-7024. Or email mejohanson56@yahoo.com. Please use [this Signup Genius link](#) to register. Limit of 15 people.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

At the beginning and end of each liturgy, and sometimes at other points too, it is a powerful thing to watch nearly every head turn to face the cross and bow. We physically put ourselves in a posture of humility before our God. And this is no small thing. I believe this physical act, repeated over and over again, shapes our belief about our God. There is honor there. There is humility. There is a willingness to learn and grow and be shaped by that very God. *Lex orandi, lex credendi.*

But this is not the only time we reverence. Those of us who serve in the Chancel area will often reverence toward one another when handing off a physical object used in our worship to another not only as a recognition of the holiness of the object, but the holiness of the person before us. But I see you, dear friends, lowering your heads to one another too. It happens in the hallways, in the kitchen, in our office spaces, but most notably, when we share God's peace with one another. A little bow of the head when reaching out for a handshake, a wave, or a hug. And here too, we recognize the *Imago Dei* in each other. We honor one another with the motion, but that motion both informs and shapes our belief in the intrinsic value of the other. *Lex orandi, lex credendi.*

Let us continue to allow our prayer, our worship, our liturgy, to shape how we believe and our belief to shape our prayer, our worship, our liturgy. *Lex orandi, lex credendi.* Because it is a beautiful thing.

- *Jim Bargmann*

Calendar

Wednesday, October 8

- 5:30 pm Children's Choir Supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Y3 Confirmation
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, October 9

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, October 10

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, October 11

- 9:00 am Gardening Day
10:00 am Book Discussion Group

Sunday, October 12 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Godly Play / Youth Discussion / Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
12:30 pm Y1 Confirmation

Monday, October 13

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)
7:00 pm Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, October 14

- Noon Bible Study

Names of the Departed Saints Invited

As a part of our All Saints liturgy on Sunday, Nov. 2, worshippers are invited to submit the names of loved ones close to them who have died in the past year, since last All Saints Sunday, who weren't members of Mount Olive. (Members of the parish who have died are always named.)

For those who attend worship in the coming weeks, a book is located at the entrance to the nave where you can write these names. You may also contact the church office with the names. These other names submitted will be included in the prayers of intercession.

Please keep this to just those who have died this past year, so we can have a more manageable list.

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study meets weekly in person in the East Assembly Room. For those who are unable to come in person, the Bible Study is held 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 The October 11 meeting two books have been chosen-- related but not the same: a reread of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain, and the new take on the story, *James*, by Percival Everett. The November selection is *The Mighty Red* by Minnesota's own Louise Erdrich.

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

October Adult Forums

- October 12** Katie Dillon, Executive Director of Align Minneapolis, one of our Neighborhood Ministry Community Partners, will provide a hyper-local focus on issues of housing and homelessness. She will share data regarding homelessness in our state and Hennepin County, but more importantly, she will share a little of what homelessness is like for individuals and families. And in the spirit of giving us something to do, she will share more information about what actions Minneapolis and Hennepin County are taking in response to homelessness, as well as the role of faith communities in this work.
- October 19** Annual Budget Preview meeting – a great opportunity to learn and ask questions about our proposed budget for 2026.
- October 26** The Godly Play circles will join with the Children's Choir to share with the Adult Forum their love of learning and singing about God's great love.

Theological Discussion Group Resumes November 2

Mount Olive's Theological Discussion Group disbanded around the time of the Covid pandemic. It will resume on Sunday, Nov. 2, in the Library after the second liturgy.

We will read chapters 1-5 of *All Things Flee Thee for Thou Fleeest Me,* by The Rev. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy, a priest of the Eastern Rite (Byzantine) Melkite Catholic Church. Formerly a U.S. Marine pilot, lawyer, and university educator, McCarthy is the founder and the original director of The Program for the Study and Practice of Nonviolent Conflict Resolution at the University of Notre Dame. He is also founder of Pax Christi USA.

Several decades ago, McCarthy presented a conference on Christian nonviolence at Lutheran Social Service for clergy and church workers while simultaneously leading a retreat at RC St. Paul seminary. He has conducted retreats and conferences throughout the world and was nominated for the Nobel Prize for his life's work for genuine peace.

The book is available through Amazon in paperback for a little over \$15. We will read the first five chapters. Contact Al Bostelmann if you are unable to purchase the book.

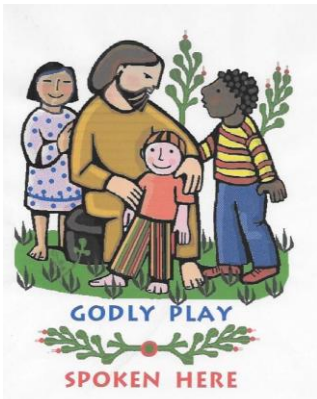
Rest in Peace

Our sister, Marcia Burow, has died, and we commend her to the eternal love of the Triune God. Marcia and her husband Dan were longtime members of Mount Olive and recently joined Family of God Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Park, which is very close to their home and where their son, Paul, is pastor.

Funeral services for Marcia will be held on Thursday, October 16, at 11:00 a.m. at Family of God Lutheran Church, 8625 Zane Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443.

We believe that interment will be in the Mount Olive Columbarium, and we will notify you as soon as interment arrangements have been confirmed.

With hope and confidence in Christ's victory over death, we hold the Burow family in our prayers.



Godly Play

First, **Save the Date!** On October 26, the Godly Play circles will join with the Children's Choir to share with the Adult Forum our love of learning and singing about God's great love.

This Sunday, both circles will be wondering about The Ten Best Ways, the Ten Commandments, and how God

gave us those ways to help us live a full life.

All children ages 3-Grade 1 are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 2-5 are welcome to Circle Two.

Budget Preview Meeting

Sunday, October 19

9:30 am

This is a great opportunity to learn and ask questions about our proposed budget for 2026.

Come and learn to play the recorder at Mount Olive!

We'll meet twice a month on the **1st and 3rd Monday evenings at 6:30 pm starting October 6**, for 60 minutes a session. Our goal is to (1) have fun while learning or reviewing basic fingerings and reading music; (2) learn soprano-C and/or alto-F fingerings; (3) eventually play a few tunes as part of worship.

Requirements: a decent, 3-piece plastic or wood, *non-dollar store*, soprano or alto recorder; a pocket folder for music, fingering charts, etc.; and purchase a \$20-25 "how-to" book after 4 weeks.

Questions? Tap me sometime, call/text/email me
Elizabeth P. Spang, MFA: cell 239-410-4622
traverso4me@comcast.net

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting

***Sunday, October 26,
following the second liturgy.***

The primary purpose of this meeting will be to approve a budget for 2026.

All voting members of Mount Olive are encouraged to attend.

Children's Choir "Informance" at Adult Forum on October 26

For part of the Adult Forum on Sunday, October 26, the Mount Olive Children's Choir (grades 1-4) will give an "informance." Rather than perform for those in attendance, our young singers and their director, Mari Espeland, will engage you in discovering the Why? What? and How? of Children's Choir. Please join us to participate in activities we include in our rehearsals and learn the steps we take to prepare for worship leadership. We look forward to singing and learning with you.

October Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month *Central Lutheran Restoration Center*

The Restoration Center at Central Lutheran provides a drop-in center for people in and around downtown Minneapolis experiencing homelessness and poverty. The Restoration Center provides emergency rental assistance, meals, free-use computers, and a place for people to gather for community and support. Their Free Store provides clothing and household goods in a store-like environment and a partnership with Augsburg University provides free, low barrier health care to all.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, 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 the Central Lutheran Restoration Center please visit their website at www.centralmpls.org/community/restorationcenter.

Counters Needed

Calling all Introverts – Counters needed!

The Stewardship team is growing! We are looking for several members to join in the service of counting our weekly offerings. It is fun, simple, and is a scheduled commitment every three or four weeks. Counters work in teams of 3, at a time that works either after Sunday eucharist or another time early in the week at night or afternoons. You don't have to be an introvert at all, but comfort using an adding machine and detail orientation is helpful.

Roles:

Lead Counter (2 needed): comfortable entering values into an Excel spreadsheet template and e-mailing a report at the end of the counting session. Scans checks through our new check-reading machine to ensure the deposit is made immediately.

Counters (3 needed): conducting a manual tally of cash and checks, using an adding machine. Time commitment – 60-90 minutes per counting session, every 3-4 weeks.

Training for these positions will be provided. A computer is provided, the counting takes place in the counter's/Treasurer's office on the lower level.

If you are looking for a nice way to do something in service to our church community, we welcome you. Please contact Kat Campbell Johnson or Consuelo Gutierrez Crosby with questions and to volunteer. Kat: Katdcampbell@gmail.com or 763-464-7692; Consuelo: suelomatt@gmail.com or 651-366-9370.

Wine and Cheese Fundraising Event for Neighborhood Ministry: October 25, 7:00 PM.

A fun event with your Mount Olive friends
and for a great cause.

A \$35 per person minimum donation is requested
(all donations over \$25 are deductible). Payment will be
received at the event.



RSVP is required by October 22, and seating is limited - so register now!

[Use this Sign Up Genius link](#) or call the church office to register.

Funds raised at this event will benefit what we call our direct service programs in Mount Olive Neighborhood Ministry - discount bus cards, laundry vouchers, vouchers to help people obtain state IDs and driver's licenses, and assistance in ordering birth certificates - all things that assist our neighbors afford daily life and support their ability to work, go to school, and attend medical appointments, and more. But over and above those things, when people come to Mount Olive for assistance, we have the opportunity to connect with them - to hear their stories, get to know them, build relationships, and show care and love in a world where that is sometimes lacking. So please come have fun. Enjoy good wine and cheese. And support the powerful and important work of our Neighborhood Ministry programs.

A Note from Mike Rader and Kenneth Lovan

Dear Mount Olive Members,

Forty-four years ago, I (Mike) moved to Minneapolis. After visiting a few churches, I arrived at Mount Olive. The minute I entered I knew this was my home church. Little did I know I was also entering a time of unrest for the congregation; a time that took years of recovery.

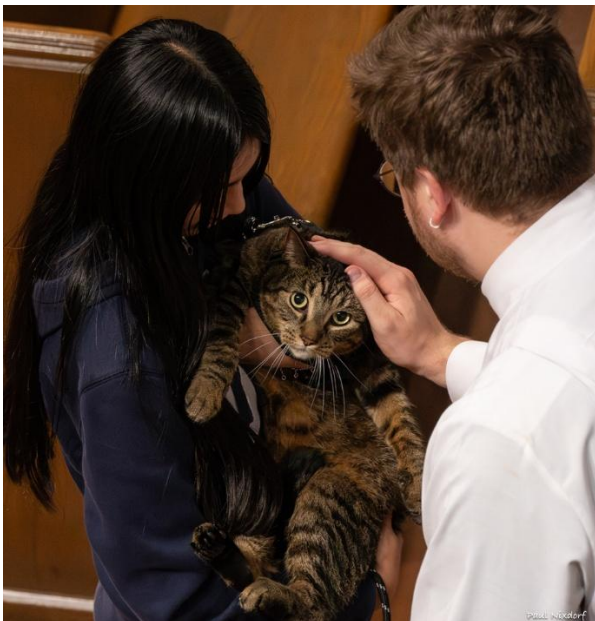
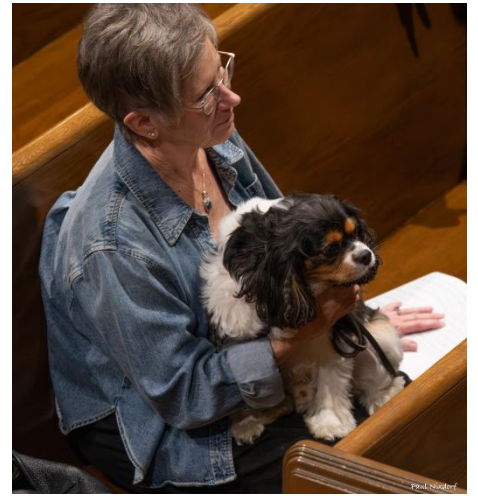
The last couple years we have been thinking of moving to Florida due to our love of ocean, swimming, biking, and the great outdoors. One of our top moving hesitations was leaving Mount Olive. However, since we are not getting any younger, we stopped thinking and we took action. The entire endeavor happened quickly. We immediately found the place we liked, while our Minnesota place sold the day after it was listed, with the buyer wanting possession ASAP.

It was bittersweet saying goodbye to Mount Olive, and all its wonderful people. Bitter because it will be missed, but sweet because the Spirit moved the church to such a wonderful, vibrant place of worship. God's blessings, and the faith of the congregation, overcame the challenges of my first introduction 44 years ago.

The song we used to sing in my church in the Ozarks holds true to Mount Olive. "There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place." We wish you God's continued blessings, and the "Sweet Spirit" of Mount Olive.

The Olive Branch

Photos from the Blessing of Animals



The Olive Branch



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8 & 10:45 am

Contact Us:

Phone: 612/827-5919

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *Daniel Schwandt*

Vicar – *Erik Nelson*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
Jim Bargmann

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *Jose Moroch*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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