



The Olive Branch

May 1, 2024

Accent on Worship

Vicar Lauren Mildahl

"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" (Acts 10:47)

On the one hand, Peter's question in Acts is very practical. Aren't we going to accept these Gentiles into our group? Isn't the good news for everybody? Shouldn't everyone be baptized?

But on the other, this question is also beautifully metaphorical: Can anyone withhold the water? Of course not! That's the thing about water, isn't it? It's very hard to hold. Imagine trying to keep water in your cupped hands. Or trying to keep rain from falling on you. Or, to borrow an image we looked at this week in the Amos Bible Study, imagine trying to hold back the waters rolling down in an ever-flowing stream - it's impossible! The water will flow, try as you might to hold it back.

And that is Peter's point. We can't reign in the Holy Spirit, any more than we can hold back water. And if baptism is going to be our symbol for new life in the Spirit, a Spirit that is active and unstoppable and untameable, then we better let the water flow!

Peter's question also dovetails beautifully with the question we heard last week from the Ethiopian eunuch: "What is to prevent me from being baptized?" The eunuch's question addresses our own insecurities, our own apprehension that we can really be brought fully into the body of Christ, just as we are. And Peter's question challenges us to face the ways that we are still tempted to exclude, to shrink the love of God, and to claim ownership over it.

Together, these two questions reveal the many barriers we try to build around access to the divine, for ourselves and for each other, and how the Holy Spirit always floods right over them.

There are still deep divisions in the wider church about the sacrament of baptism - what exactly is happening during

Sunday Readings

May 5, 2024

*Sixth Sunday of Easter,
year B*

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

May 12, 2024

*Seventh Sunday of Easter,
year B*

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

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

continued on page 2

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

baptism? Who is it for? Who should perform it? At what age should baptism be performed? Does it need to be done at all? And I, personally, have been having an ongoing theological crisis over baptism since starting seminary (and, I mean, if you don't have at least one theological crisis during seminary, I don't think you're doing it right...).

Having grown up in a tradition that practiced believer's baptism, the practice is strongly connected, for me, with the idea of repentance, with changing your mind and heart and path, and choosing Jesus, choosing life, instead. It's been difficult for me to embrace a Lutheran understanding of baptism, which is not as much connected to the ideas of choice and repentance, but which is beautifully symbolic of our own powerlessness, our own complete dependence on the grace and mercy of God. And what better picture for that is there than baptism in infancy? Before you are even aware of the grace - it is poured out upon you.

And as I struggle to hold both of these images, both treasured and beautiful in their own ways, Peter's question is weirdly comforting to me. Even as I try to wrangle my opposing theologies and all of my questions about this sacrament, the point is that the spirit is poured out already. Already renewing and growing and comforting and stirring. And, in the end, can anyone withhold the water?

- Vicar Lauren Mildahl

The Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, May 9

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm

All are welcome.

Early Music Minnesota Chamber Concert

Saturday, May 4, 3:00 p.m. at Mount Olive

A concert of trio sonatas by Leclair, Corelli, and more!

Discover the link between two Baroque giants in our concert featuring LeClair and Corelli. LeClair's intricate *Dieuxième Récréation de musique* pays homage to Corelli's influence, its vibrant violin interplay echoing Corelli's spirit. Corelli's *Opus 2, Number XII*, resonates with timeless beauty, illustrating the bridge from Corelli's legacy to LeClair's innovation. Also included will be music by Marais and de La Guerre.

Join us for an experience where the musical connection between LeClair and Corelli comes alive. Featuring Louella Alatiit, violin.

Tickets for the Mount Olive community are free of charge.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, May 1

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
- 4:30 pm Library Committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation

Thursday, May 2

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, May 3

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, May 4

- 9:00 am Gardening Day
- 3:00 pm Early Music Minnesota Chamber Concert

Sunday, May 5 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
- 9:30 am Godly Play / Adult Forum
- 10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, May 6

- Noon Bible Study (Book of Amos)
- 7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, May 7

- Noon Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Bible Study (Book of Amos)

Mollie Hamre to be Ordained May 11

Mollie Hamre, our vicar last year (2022-2023), has received a call to serve as associate pastor at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake. She will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., at Shepherd of the Lake. The Mount Olive community are all invited to share this day with the Church and with Mollie. Shepherd of the Lake is located at 3611 N Berens Rd NW, Prior Lake, MN 55379. All are invited to wear red in celebration, and clergy who attend are invited to vest. The service will be streamed online at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3kapvfvsv> .

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

For their May 11 meeting they will read *Everything Sad is Untrue*, by Daniel Nayeri. For June 8, they will read *Horse*. by Geraldine Brooks

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](#).

Attention, Sunday Servants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for Quarter 3 (July - September) will be published at the beginning of June. Please send any scheduling preferences or dates you will be unavailable to serve to me by **Friday, May 10**.

Please let me know if you have questions or if you would like to know more about the servant roles.

Thank you -
Greg Murphy
gregRmurphy@gmail.com

Six-Week Bible Study on the Book of Amos

"The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?"

In April and May, Vicar Mildahl is leading a six-session Bible Study exploring the poetic and prophetic Book of Amos. Two identical sessions are offered each week: **Mondays at noon** and **Tuesdays at 6pm**. You are welcome to join either session in person or via Zoom. Tuesday nights will include a light supper (feel free to bring your own lunch on Mondays).

Contact vicar@mountolivechurch.org if you have any questions!

Schedule:

April 8/9 - Amos and the Bible	May 6/7 - Chapters 7-9
April 15/16 - Chapters 1-3 (Skip April 22/23)	May 13/14 - Amos and Sundays
April 29/30 - Chapters 4-6	May 20/21 - Amos in the World

[Click here](#) to join any session via Zoom.

Pentecost Reading of Acts 2 in Many Languages

For a number of years, it has been our tradition at Mount Olive to hear a portion of the Pentecost reading from Acts 2:1-21 read simultaneously in various languages.

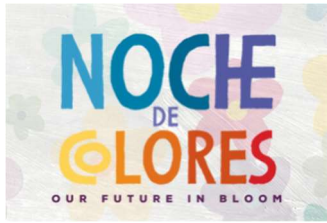
Some of you have either participated in this joint reading in the past or are knowledgeable enough in a foreign language that you might be willing to participate this year. Anyone who can read aloud in another language is invited to participate in this corporate reading at the morning liturgy on Sunday, May 19, 2024.

Please contact the church office if you would be willing to participate and we will be in touch soon.



Global Kid Connections

Mount Olive's supported partner, Common Hope, recognizes that education is one of the largest hurdles standing between the children of Guatemala and a higher quality of life. One of the ways they help children reach the goal of graduation is through sponsorship. With the support of a sponsor, a child and their family have access to Common Hope's multi-faceted programs.



With the financial support of an anonymous donor from Mount Olive, our youth and children have been able to sponsor 4 children in Guatemala. Each Godly Play Circle and both confirmation groups are establishing

relationships with Hoshea, Leticia, René, and Alison by exchanging pictures and writing letters. They recently learned more about Guatemala and Common Hope through a visit from Belle Alvarez, Common Hope staff.



To learn more about Common Hope, visit commonhope.org. You can also attend [Noche de Colores](#), the annual fundraising event on May 9. Ticket sales end Wednesday, April 22.

Save the Dates!

June 9: Visit to B'Dote (on the grounds of Historic Fort Snelling and Fort Snelling State Park). Gather after worship for lunch and a brief introduction to the history of this area and then visit the sites which are so significant in the life of our Dakotah and other Native neighbors. More information and sign-up coming in mid-May.

July 19-21: Mount Olive Family Camping at Nerstrand/Big Woods State Park. More information and sign-up available in early June.

July 28: All-Church picnic at Minnehaha Park.

Align Minneapolis Lunch and Learn

Align Minneapolis holds a series of quarterly educational events for volunteers and leaders on a variety of topics related to housing and homelessness. The May gathering will be hosted by Mount Olive.

You are invited to join us on **Wednesday, May 8 from 1:00-2:30 pm** for a conversation about how people navigate the often complex web of resources as they seek help on their housing journey. If you are someone who is curious about what the process looks like for someone seeking social service support and/or moving out of homelessness, this conversation is for you. Please join us.

Lunch will be provided.

Align Minneapolis is an interfaith coalition of 18 congregations, one of which is Mount Olive, and people with lived experience of homelessness working to address homelessness together.

Louise Schroedel Memorial Library Revitalization Project

The Library Committee and Vicar Lauren Mildahl have been working for the past few months renewing and refreshing the Mount Olive library. Members of the committee are Peggy Hoeft, David Engen, Paula Carlson, and Donn & Bonnie McLellan.

Vision:

This is a small, high-quality library with several special curation foci:

- Timeless Theology
- Children, Young Adults, and Adults
- Items that serve the spiritual, educational, and recreational needs of the congregation
- Support the ministries of the Church, including hospitality

What we're working on:

- Reviewing and renewing the collection
- Setting up an online catalog, and designing a new borrowing and circulation process
- Reconfiguring the room - painting and ordering new furniture and technology (thanks to funding from the Mount Olive Lutheran Church Foundation) to make the space an option for small group meetings.

Please watch for additional details and updates as the project progresses, and feel free to contact me at education@mountolivechurch.org with questions or feedback.

Greg Murphy

Education Committee | Mount Olive Lutheran Church
612-227-0254 | education@mountolivechurch.org



Coffee Hosts Needed: Step up and take a turn!

The list of coffee hosts is grossly undersubscribed! If you usually enjoy a quick cuppa after liturgy, this is a great opportunity to take a turn at serving so that others can enjoy it, too!

Signing up is easy - just add your name to the date you wish to serve. The sign-up chart is located next to the serving window in the East Assembly Room.

If you have any questions about what hosting Sunday Coffee entails, contact Lora Dundek at conglife@mountolivechurch.org. She will be happy to walk you through it!

Hunger in the Farm Bill – Take Action

From our partners at the ELCA: “Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA), chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, announced intentions to introduce legislative text for reauthorizing the Farm Bill [as soon as April](#). This comes after reports of [policy disagreements among lawmakers](#) on how to allocate anti-hunger, conservation and crop investment funding. Congress must pass or temporarily extend a Farm Bill by the end of September before certain programs start to expire.

Why It Matters in the ELCA:

Food programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) accompany the mission of our ministries, food pantries and charitable investments striving for a just world where all are fed. Cuts or newly added barriers to the SNAP program could come at a dire time as food costs continue to climb in many of our communities, and as many of our ministries are over capacity.

What’s Next:

The ELCA Action Center has a current [Action Alert](#) urging lawmakers to preserve funding for SNAP and anti-hunger programs in the Farm Bill. ELCA Witness in Society staff will be meeting with congressional staff ahead of potential House introduction and will be monitoring the legislation.”



BACH · TAGE
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN
MINNEAPOLIS

Register for Bach TAGE: June 1-2, 2024

There's still time to register for the 17th Annual Bach TAGE!

Mount Olive’s annual Bach-Tage is a unique opportunity to acquire new skills for rehearsing and performing the music of Bach, to gain insights into his music and theology, and to share the joy of singing some of the greatest music of all time. Participants spend the weekend immersed in a Bach cantata. Join outstanding professional vocal soloists and instrumentalists in preparing and rehearsing a cantata from chorus to chorale, then performing Bach’s glorious music during Evening Prayer on Sunday.

Bach-Tage once again features conductor Kathy Saltzman Romey, this year leading orchestra and chorus in a study and performance of Bach’s chorale cantata *Nimm von us, Herr, du treuer Gott*, built on the hymn tune *VATER UNSER*, and a setting of the Lord’s Prayer by Heinrich Schütz. Organist David Cherwien presents a Saturday organ recital exploring various settings of the same tune, Luther’s paraphrase of the Lord’s Prayer. Come join the chorus with the Bach-Tage Orchestra and

soloists for an in-depth meditation on a classic chorale melody.

[REGISTER ONLINE HERE](#)

If you are unable to register online, contact Mount Olive at welcome@mountolivechurch.org or call 612-827-5919 for a PDF or paper form.

May Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Minnesota Council of Churches*

Minnesota Council of Churches seeks to “build strong communities that are made up of meaningful relationships and guided by our deepest values. They seek to partner organizations and individuals in living out faith in their communities. They do this through refugee services programs, social justice work, justice advocacy work, and fostering interfaith connections. In addition, through their Respectful Conversations program, they facilitate respectful conversations between people of varying backgrounds and train others to lead those conversations.

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 the Minnesota Council of Churches, please visit their website at www.mnchurches.org.

Upcoming Adult Forums

May 5 - Updates from Pastor Crippen on the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly and election of a new synod bishop

May 12 - Mother's Day children's recital

Vigil of Pentecost **Saturday, May 18** **7:00 p.m.**

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

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.*

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Vicar Lauren Mildahl**
- **Eucharist for The Ascension of Our Lord: Thursday,
May 9, 7:00 pm**
- **Library Revitalization Project**
- **April Adult Forums**
- **Bach Tage: There's Still Time to Register!**
- **Polyglot Reading for Pentecost – Readers Needed!**