



# The Olive Branch

May 15, 2024

## Accent on Worship

*Cantor David Cherwien*

### *Set us On Fire With Your Love*

I have a permanent association with Pentecost Sunday.

Pentecost Sunday of 2020 was the weekend of the protests in connection with George Floyd's murder. There were three nights of unrest, fires everywhere. Each morning I got up and looked east from my house (from which I could sometimes see the Midtown Market tower) and I'd see plumes of smoke rising. In addition to feeling for folks and businesses who were losing their places, I worried for our building. Early each of those days, like 7:00 a.m., I hopped into the car to come and see, and to assess if there was anything I could do.

That morning I arrived to find the buildings on the north side of Lake Street and the corner of Lake and Chicago on fire. I met up with then-congregational-president Gretchen Campbell-Johnson and we sobbed. Residents were standing with us in horror as we watched their buildings burn. The streets were full of National Guard officers. Firefighters were there to try to stop the flames, but the buildings were a total loss. It was a surreal morning.

I kept thinking of the imagery of Pentecost Sunday, its lessons, and in the hymnody. The primary image is tongues of fire appearing on apostle's heads. The Gospel Acclamation reads "Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, set them on fire with your love. Alleluia." This is our calling, I thought. Transform the fire of rage into fire of love. This is the work of the Spirit.

Another hymn concludes with its final stanza, "Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace in your strong care all those of every race. Like wind and fire with life among us move, till we are known as Christ's and Christians prove." This hymn is no longer in our hymnal, unfortunately - but was LBW 160, "Filled With the Spirit's Power." So: Yes. Yes. Yes. I love what it says. This Sunday, we are invited to be just that: known as Christ's, spreading love. This is the work of the Spirit.

By the way, our building was fine - thanks to some vigilant neighbors across Chicago Ave. who kept people away. That too, was love.

- Cantor David Cherwien

## Sunday Readings

May 19, 2024

*Day of Pentecost*

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34,35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 26, 2024

*The Holy Trinity*

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

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

## From your Vestry, regarding the Cantor of Mount Olive

As we now know of Cantor David Cherwien's impending retirement, the Vestry wants to keep our community informed as we walk with David and with each other through this transition, and into the next part of the journey on which God is leading us.

The Vestry has set up a small task group to plan and dream and envision our farewell to David, what the celebration will be and look like, and all those details. His last Sunday is July 28, so right now that's likely the day we will have that celebration. Any who wish to help with this should contact Lora Dundek, [conglife@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org).

The Vestry has also set up a small group to discern how we will be led in worship from the organ and choir loft during this transition. Clearly an interim will be needed while we engage in our search for the next cantor. The hope is that an interim will be chosen and announced by late June or early July.

Last, the Vestry has decided to have a call committee elected for the searching and discerning and calling of our next cantor. That process, which culminates in a congregational meeting where the call committee of seven members is elected, will begin in August.

It's not possible to know how long the interim period will last. It will largely depend on the call committee and their process, and how it all flows. But we know in all of this that God is with Mount Olive, with Cantor Cherwien as he moves into this time of retirement, with those who will lead us in our transition, and with the one who will one day come among us as cantor. As more things are known, they will be announced to the congregation.

**Vigil of Pentecost**  
**Saturday, May 18**  
**7:00 pm**  
*All are welcome.*

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, May 15

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

### Thursday, May 16

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, May 17

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, May 18

- 9:00 am Gardening Day  
9:00 pm RJCA Youth Cohort group meeting

### 7:00 pm Vigil of Pentecost

### Sunday, May 19 - Day of Pentecost

- 10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation  
12:30 pm Y1 Confirmation

### Monday, May 20

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

### Tuesday, May 21

- Noon Bible Study  
6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministry Committee meeting  
6:00 pm Bible Study (Book of Amos)

## **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 June 15 (please note change of date due to a funeral) they will discuss *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks, and on July 13, *I am not Sydney Poitier*, by Percival Everett.

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](#).

## 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](mailto: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 this Sunday, May 19, 2024. Please contact the church office by tomorrow (Thursday, May 16) if you wish to participate and we will be in touch.

## Youth and Family Committee Updates:

We have a basement space designated for youth that is currently located to the side of the basement fellowship area with 2 couches that were donated. Youth are welcome to use this as a place to rest and relax in between other activities at church and have already started making use of it! We are planning to add more to the youth space and are requesting contact if you have any of the following donation items. We will take a look at what is offered as a committee to decide if it will fit the needs. Needed: Some kind of flooring (e.g., rug, foam mats), coffee table and/or end tables, gently used bean bag or floor furniture without animal or smoke smell, game options such as foosball table or ping pong table). Please email [youthfamily@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:youthfamily@mountolivechurch.org) or text Erica at 651-216-5983 with any donation items that you would like considered along with a photo of the item if possible.

We are planning to have monthly playground gatherings available during warmer weather. The first will be June 2 after church (approximately 12:00) at Hyland Park, also known as "Chutes and Ladders." The address is 10145 E. Bush Lake Rd. in Bloomington, MN 55438. Mount Olive members/families are welcome to pick up lunch on the way and meet at the park. Adults are responsible for supervision of their own children. Ellen Kormanik will be the Youth/Family committee member present as a contact at this event. Hope to see you there!

## 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.

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## 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](http://www.mnchurches.org).

## Neighborhood Ministry News

### *Powderhorn Art Fair - Volunteers Needed*

The 33rd Annual Powderhorn Art Fair will be happening on August 3 and 4 in Powderhorn Park, bringing together over 150 artists, immersive art installations, food trucks, games, activities, music, and more for two days of fun and art.

Our partners at the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association plan and organize this outstanding community event each year and are asking for volunteers to assist.

Please consider volunteering. I (Jim Bargmann) have done this for several years and it is always a great event and lots of fun to be involved in this way.

To sign up, please visit [www.ppna.org/volunteer](http://www.ppna.org/volunteer).

### *Two-Fold Neighborhood Ministry Request*

At our recent congregational meeting, I had the opportunity to share a number of things happening in Neighborhood Ministry, including our advocacy efforts, the opportunities offered by our direct service programs, our connections with many new arrivals from Central and South America, and our unique diaper program.

At that meeting, I ended my report with a two-fold request.

One, we are looking for people to volunteer in a new role we are calling Neighborhood Ministry Host. People in this role would agree to serve at least one time per month, offering hospitality to people coming to Mount Olive for our direct service programs. Volunteers in this role will also be trained to assist people with bus cards, laundry vouchers, and some of our more basic offerings. Volunteers in this role can serve on their own schedule, any day Monday through Thursday, but Tuesdays and Thursdays are our busiest days and the days we have the most need for volunteer support. Please contact me if you are interested in more information.

Two, because of increased demand and increased costs, we are looking for additional donations to support our diaper program. We are seeking additional support in the amount of \$15,000 to help us through the remainder of 2024. Our diaper program leadership group has been working on a number of plans to reduce costs, solicit donations of diapers, apply for grants, and establish new partnerships. But many of those plans will not be realized until later in 2024 or even into the beginning of 2025, hence the request for additional donations from the Mount Olive community. Any additional donations to our diaper program can be made by simply writing "Diaper Depot" on the memo line of a check, using your pink Neighborhood Ministry envelope, or using the direct Neighborhood Ministry donation link on the Mount Olive website.

- Jim Bargmann, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry



## 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](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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