



The Olive Branch

July 3, 2024

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

A confluence of recent events have brought back a multitude of memories and emotions for me, much like I

would associate with an anniversary, but in this case, without a specific date on the calendar. These events all occurred over a period of time from the summer of 2013 to the summer of 2015. And I realized in preparing for writing this Accent on Worship that our lectionary seems to have played a role in the recall of the events of this time period - 2015 was also a year in which we were reading from the Year B lessons, like we are now.

Many of you know at least portions of my story. I grew up in our sister church body, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. As a high schooler, through the influence of some great experiences and wonderful mentors, I felt led to a career as a Director of Christian Education - focusing on youth and family ministry - a role in which I served three congregations over the course of 15 or so years. It was after graduation from Concordia-Saint Paul that I began to realize that the progressive corner of my former church body in Colorado in which I grew up was not characteristic of the larger denomination. Yet I stayed, hoping to be a voice of change. It was my first exposure to the tricky business of being a prophetic voice, although then as now, I resisted articulating any call to being a prophet or any claim to that title. And ultimately, as you know, I left that denomination for one that more closely aligns with my long-held beliefs.

It was in that time around 10 years ago, that God used a series of events and people to plant in me a passion for a new kind of ministry - work with those often overlooked by society - those experiencing homelessness, addiction, hunger, poverty, and new immigrants among others.

A number of weeks ago, Pastor Crippen shared a message where he retold the story about a vision seen by his mother. While I have not had a vision like hers, I can share that God came to me in what I can only describe as an audible voice telling me I had a new call to a new people in a new place.

The journey to that new call was anything but easy or smooth. And those are stories I have shared in other times and places and will continue to share. But that's for another time and place.

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Sunday Readings

July 7, 2024

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 14 B

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 14, 2024

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 15 B

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

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

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, July 3

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, July 4 - Independence Day holiday

Church offices closed

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, July 5

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, July 7 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

11:30 am Library Open House and Blessing

Monday, July 8

7:00 pm Vestry meeting

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

Tuesday, July 9

Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, July 10

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, July 11

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, July 12

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, July 13

9:00 am Gardening Day

Sunday, July 14 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

11:30 am Adult Forum (Karen Anderson, missionary)

Monday, July 15

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

Tuesday, July 16

Noon Bible Study

6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting

***Olive Branch* Summer Publication**

During the summer months, we publish the newsletter every *other* week. The next issue will be published July 17. Information for that issue is due in to the church office by Monday, July 15.

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 July 13, the group will discuss *I am not Sidney Poitier*, by Percival Everett. On August 10 the book will be *The Children's Blizzard* by David Laskin (this is a non-fiction book, although there is a novel with the same title).

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

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

What I can say is that this week's readings resonate deeply with me. The language God used to call Ezekiel, where he states, "I heard [God] speaking to me, '...I am sending you...'", echoes my own experience, but for me, it was a call to a specific ministry, not a prophetic message. And Jesus' sending of the twelve and their experiences mirror many of my own - being sent in community with others, encountering places where my ministry was welcomed and others where it was not. Coming into situation after situation where the needed resources were not immediately available but having them provided none-the-less. And seeing God do great things through me and those I have the privilege to serve alongside.

I share my stories of call not to draw attention to myself, but rather in hopes that in reading and hearing more and more stories of how God continues to communicate with us and call us to ministry might illuminate how God is working in you in our shared call to do God's work.

- Jim Bargmann

Library Open House and Blessing – This Sunday, July 7

Please join us after the morning service on Sunday July 7 to see the updates to the Louise Schroedel Memorial Library, and to bless the space for our use. Many thanks to Vicar Mildahl, the Library Committee (Bonnie and Donn McLellan, Paula Carlson, David Engen, and Peggy Hoefft) and others for their work on updating the Library space and collection over the last few months.

We will demonstrate how to use the new online catalog to search the Library collection, and the process for borrowing books.

In the fall, when we return to the two-service schedule, we will have a "Library Host" available on Sunday mornings to assist with checking books in or out, and answering questions. If you would be interested in serving as a Library Host, or have other questions or suggestions, please let us know at library@mountolivechurch.org

- Greg Murphy - Education Committee

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

The Neighborhood Ministry Committee is in the process of reevaluating our relationship with some of our current partners and considering adding new partners to our program who are more reflective of our current ministry needs. Currently, there is no July Partner of the Month for Neighborhood Ministry.

Watch for news about a potentially updated Partner of the Month plan later this month.

Congregational Life Updates

We will need lots of help during the July 28 celebration of Cantor Cherwien's 23 years among us. You may sign up to help by using the online sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/y9cts39n>. We will need people to help with setup on Saturday, July 27, and with preparation, serving, and clean-up for both the morning reception after liturgy, and the evening dinner. Please help as much as you are able. Starting Sunday, you will also be able to sign up in person after liturgy.

The congregational camping trip to Nerstrand/Big Woods is scheduled for the weekend of July 19-21. Join your Mount Olive friends for some time fellowship and the outdoors. For more details, and to sign up, use the link at <https://tinyurl.com/azuc2wtt>.

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 area is the site, close to the Veteran's Home, and the splash pad and playground. More information to follow.

The visit to B'Dote/Fort Snelling which was postponed from June 9 will now be held on Saturday, August 17, at 9 a.m. More information and a sign-up will be coming soon.

Diaper Depot Celebration

First, some background, and then a celebratory word to share.

In 2019, I was introduced to an organization called the Diaper Bank of Minnesota through a visit with another organization doing social service work in south Minneapolis. Knowing that the mission of the Diaper Bank was to supply donated diapers to other non-profits who would distribute those diapers, it seemed this would be an invaluable connection. At that time, I was informed that the Diaper Bank had more organizations requesting diapers than they were currently able to supply and they were not accepting any new partnerships.

Then late last year, Lisa Ruff and I visited Saint Louis Park Emergency Program (STEP), a broad range social service organization that has, among other programs, a diaper distribution program. We visited in hopes of seeing if there were ways our two programs could work together or at least share our knowledge and experiences. It was in that meeting that I was reminded of the Diaper Bank of Minnesota. I contacted them again, discovered they had a new Executive Director, found out they would be redesigning their partnership program, and learned that they would be accepting new partnership applications for 2025. This in itself was great news but not the end of the story.

A couple of months ago, the Diaper Bank of Minnesota contacted me and several other organizations about a special donation of diapers to be distributed to local organizations, regardless of their current partner status. Mount Olive submitted a request for 39,000 diapers, the estimated number we would use for the remainder of 2024. Last week, we found out we were approved for our full request and could pick up our diapers at the end of July! This is great news and worth a prayer of thanks and much celebration. We anticipate applications for the 2025 Diaper Bank partner program to be sent out in the fall of this year - and so we look at this as a new beginning of a possible ongoing relationship with the Diaper Bank of Minnesota even beyond this one-time donation.

- Jim Bargmann, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry

Gift and Party for Cantor Cherwien

The Celebration of Cantor Cherwien's ministry at Mount Olive will be held on Sunday, July 28. Two events are planned:

1. After morning liturgy, all are invited to a special coffee hour with a presentation of a gift from the congregation.
2. That evening, the congregation is invited to join in a meal and program, beginning at 5 p.m. with light appetizers upstairs and a 6:30 p.m. dinner in the Undercroft.

There is no cost for participating in any of these events, but **if you would like to attend the evening dinner, you must register**. In-person registration will be available on July 7, 14, and 21 (Sunday mornings), and on-line registration will begin on Sunday, July 7 and be open through July 21. (The URL for sign up will be announced next week.)

Again, registration is required for the evening dinner, so that we have an accurate count for serving!

Please also note that we still need help for the celebration events. Please sign up to help at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/y9cts39n>

If you would like to donate to the gift and celebration for David, you may do so by sending your donation to the church office, or by placing the donation in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please clearly mark the donation for the Cantor Cherwien celebration.

For questions, contact Lora at lhdundek@usfamily.net, or 651-645-6636.

CommonGood Fund: A Reintroduction

Five years ago the Vestry established a dedicated fund called CommonGood that would help members of Mount Olive who occasionally find themselves struggling to make ends meet. This fund is administered solely by Pr. Crippen and is kept confidential. Over the past five years, a number of members have been helped through this, whether it's a month's medications or groceries to get to the next paycheck, or whatever. We have strong neighborhood ministry at Mount Olive, and a number of ways to help our guests who come to us for help. The pastor's discretionary fund is often used in this way as well. But we felt a fund dedicated to our community helping each other was needed. It's one way we can live as the early Church did in Acts.

This is just a reminder that the fund exists. If you have any need, please contact Pr. Crippen. We need to be able to ask each other for help, and this is a way to do it without having to ask your neighbors in the pew directly. And if you have a little discretionary funding that you're looking to share with someone, please consider a gift to the CommonGood fund.

Vestry Meeting Summary: June 10, 2024

New Business

- Motion by Pastor Crippen to provide partnership support to San Pablo/St. Paul's congregation in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis.
- Talk about potential reorganization of the Vestry. The Youth and Family, Congregational Life, Evangelism and Stewardship committees could be changed into three groups, perhaps including an expansion of Stewardship Director's role. These changes could also provide space to create a new committee to work on issues of justice.
- The Vestry expressed thanks to Chandler Molbert for leading the Vestry as President for two years and being on the Vestry for a total of seven years. He's now stepping down.
- The Vestry also expressed thanks to Vicar Lauren Mildahl for her great work as vicar here this year. There's great appreciation for all of her work, especially her wonderful sermons.

Staff Reports

Pastor Crippen: He thanked both Chandler and Lauren for their work among us.

Cantor Cherwien: He has been doing three hymn fests in the past three weeks. There will be a visiting artist this fall for 2 months and then a musician who will create some music pieces to go along with the art.

Vicar Mildahl: She will preach 3 more times at Mount Olive. This is her last Vestry meeting.. The Library's Grand Re-opening will be held on Sunday, July 7.

Jim Bargmann: There's a possible donation of large amount of diapers. Jim is exploring new partnerships for better welcoming newcomers to our community.

Committee Reports

Neighborhood Ministry: important to tell each other what we need, to help those things happen

Education: Looking for ideas for next year's adult forums

Congregational Life: Working on Cantor Cherwien's farewell on July 28. There will be an enhanced coffee hour that day and an evening meal that night. There will be a sign-up for help, and we will ask for reservations for the dinner, noting that the Undercroft can fit about 240 people. The church picnic will be August 25.

Global Ministry: The committee will be supporting Milan's (part of the Afghan family Mount Olive has been supporting) fiancée, Jasmine, through the process to allow her to soon be with the family here.



Blessing of the new columbarium

Our new phase of the columbarium has been completed, with the woodwork all now added to the structure. We will bless this section of the columbarium this Sunday, July 7, during the liturgy, so we can begin to have it available for use.

Here's a photo of the columbarium, showing the new addition next to the original.

Youth/Family After Church Playground Updates

July 21: We plan to meet at Assembly Union Park in St. Paul around noon. Address is 875 Mount Curve Blvd, St Paul, MN 55116. Feel free to get lunch on the way and meet at the playground area.

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.

Photos of Mount Olive: a visual treat

Ken Fournelle is a local photographer who loves to take photos of sacred spaces. He recently photographed inside our nave and chancel and the results are posted on his website. They're quite lovely. Here's the link: <https://faitharch.myportfolio.com/>. Currently we're the latest photos, so we're at the top, but if we're not, scroll down until you find us.

Other local (and more distant) worship spaces are also included, so the whole website is worth a look. Many thanks to Mr. Fournelle, who does this free of charge, for the beauty of the work.



International popular education course in Chile empowers and unites agents of change.

Different Cultures, Shared Vision

On July 14, we'll have the chance to meet our ELCA missionary partner from EPES (Popular Education in Health) who started this program, **Karen Anderson**. Join in our Forum after worship to learn more and hear what is ahead for this amazing work, even as Karen retires and hands over leadership to her capable team. [Check out the whole article here.](#)

A Note of Thanks

The family of Naomi Peterson would like to thank the people of Mount Olive for their care and all that they did during her recent illness and ultimately her funeral.

It was a beautiful celebration of her life in a place that she loved so much. We are grateful to all who visited her, took her communion, prayed for her, sent her cards, set up, served and participated at her funeral service, and those who helped in all capacities with the lunch.

Her 93 years here grounded her life and she served joyfully and faithfully. She enjoyed the many friendships she had over the years and the many projects she was able to be involved in. It is indeed a very special place.

Gratefully,
-Ross, Carol, Mona and Steve

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

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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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