

The Olive Branch

September 18, 2024

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

A Teaching Parish

It's been a month since Vicar Natalie Wussler began with us, so it's a good time to remind ourselves of the nature of this ministry among us. We are a teaching parish which commits itself to welcome a new seminarian each year and to live with them in a relationship of mutual learning and ministry. This is a crucial year for seminarians, as they explore and experience parish ministry in depth in ways they haven't before.

Part of the learning comes from a freedom to try things out, attempt to do ministry, and let the chips fall where they may. They're only here a year, so they can boldly do and not worry about long-term consequences as much. Sometimes things are successful, sometimes they are not. In all cases learning can happen. Our job is to help each vicar in that learning.

So, I encourage all members of the congregation to consider offering Natalie feedback and response to ministry she does. It would be so helpful if, when she teaches or preaches, a number of you would write a simple reflection or feedback about how you received it. Verbal feedback is good, too, but if you take the time to jot a couple things down it's easier to remember. If there are things she does well in any kind of ministry here, or places you see growth could happen, let her know. And ask her to lunch or coffee if you can, just to get to know her better than a few moments on Sunday.

Thank you for your love for our vicars. The more intentional we all are to be faithful siblings as well as compassionate teachers, the better we will serve our call to be a teaching parish for future pastors of this church.



Sunday Readings

September 22, 2024

*18th Sunday after
Pentecost, Lect. 25 B*

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm 54

James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 29, 2024

*St. Michael and
All Angels*

Daniel 10:10-14

Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22

Revelation 12:7-12

Luke 10:17-20

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

Godly Play News

Two Godly Play circles are now in full swing. Thanks to the parents who joined the children for the first session.

All children ages 3-kindergarten are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 1-5 welcome to Circle Two. Two items of note:

- 1) We will work to alert you in *The Olive Branch* about the upcoming lesson and/or events.
- 2) In the folders on the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs are Parent Sheets for the stories told that day. Take one to help you extend the day's story to your own home wondering and conversation.

This Sunday, September 22, Circle One will be hearing about Noah and the Ark while Circle Two will wonder about Creation.



GODLY PLAY

Blessing the Animals

Sunday, October 6, 2024
2:00 p.m.

*Bring your pets to this annual
service of blessing!*

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 October 12 the Book Club will take up *Love in the Time of Cholera*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. The choice for November 9 is *The Ski Jumpers: A Novel by Minnesotan Peter Geye*.

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](#).

Calendar

Wednesday, September 18

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir Supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
7:00 pm Y2/Y3 Confirmation

Thursday, September 19

- 6:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous
7:30 pm Cantor Call Committee meeting

Friday, September 20

- Noon Bible Study
7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, September 21

- 9:00 am Gardening Day
1:00 pm Funeral Visitation: Cha Rendahl
2:00 pm *Funeral Eucharist*

Sunday, September 22 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 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
12:30 pm Resettlement Committee (Library)

Monday, September 23

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

Tuesday, September 24

- Noon Bible Study
6:00 pm Longer Table Lending committee meeting

Cantor Call Committee Elected

At a special meeting of the congregation this past Sunday, the congregation elected a call committee to search for our next cantor.

Here is the committee:

- *Kat Campbell Johnson*
- *Larry Duncan*
- *Bob Farlee*
- *Peggy Hoeft*
- *Gene Janssen*
- *Bekah Schulz*
- *Tricia Van Ee*

In addition, the Vestry has asked *President Cynthia Prosek and Pastor Joseph Crippen* to serve ex-officio.

The committee will meet initially this week to elect a chairperson and to set schedules for meetings.

Expect updates along the way as the committee begins and executes this important work.

Bishop's Installation to be Held This Saturday

All are invited to attend as ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton installs Bishop Jen Nagel as Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod. The service will take place this Saturday, September 21, at 10:30 a.m. at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. A light reception will follow the installation service.

If you go, make sure to enter the Central Lutheran Church parking lot through one of the three open air entrances; do not enter the ramp directly from the street or you will have to pay for parking.

As in Rome . . . – Thursday-Friday Bible Study Continues

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 began 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!

September Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month ***The Lift Garage***

The Lift Garage is a non-profit auto repair service providing low-cost car repairs for income eligible Minnesotans from their shop on Lake Street or through their mobile repair van. Founded in 2013 by a social worker turned mechanic, The Lift Garage is a vital and unique neighborhood resource, providing necessary repairs so members of our community have the means to get to work, to medical appointments, to transport their kids to school, and more.

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 Lift Garage please visit their website at www.theliftgarage.org.



Adult Forum September 22

Please join the Global Ministry Committee at the Adult Forum this Sunday, September 22, to learn about one of our supported ministries, Common Hope in Guatemala. Lisa Ruff will present on Common Hope's work and on how Mount Olive's kids are connecting with kids in Guatemala.

With the financial support of an anonymous donor from Mount Olive, each Godly Play Circle and both confirmation groups have been able to sponsor 4 children in Guatemala, helping them reach their goal of graduating from high school.

Congregational Life Update

Thanks to the crew who assisted with the meal for our congregational meeting on Sunday. Special thanks go to Gary Nack and Warren Peterson for not only putting out all the delicious food, but also for paying for much of it as well! Thanks to Andrew Andersen for managing the serving process, and for members of the Vestry for setting up tables and chairs.

Remember that the semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 27, followed by OKTOBERFEST! Get out your dirndls and recipes for German Potato Salad, and watch for more information!

New Florist

After sixteen years of service to Mount Olive, our florist, The Floral Trunk and Gifts, has chosen to step away from providing us with beautiful floral arrangements for our chancel. Their last Sunday was August 25. We are grateful for all their hard work and beautiful creations for us over the years.

Beginning Sunday, September 1, we have been served by Soderberg's Floral & Gift (3305 E. Lake St., Minneapolis). With this change and the inflation the past few years have brought, our costs have increased. Each bouquet is now \$50 (\$100 for both). No one who has already signed up will be turned away due to this change. For the remainder of the calendar year, however, we ask that those who have signed up to provide altar flowers please consider giving a little more to cover this increase.

As you enjoy the work they bring us each week, be sure to stop by and support Soderberg's as you have the opportunity!

He Qi Exhibit

With this article is the poster that shares the information regarding the upcoming He Qi art exhibit at Mount Olive. We will be able to enjoy the exhibit for two months beginning the end of September through Thanksgiving plus the artist will be in residence at Mount Olive the weekend of October 12/13.

On Saturday October 12, we will host a special gallery opening from noon until 4:00 p.m. when we can come to the exhibit and meet He Qi. Please invite your friends from other churches and especially high school and college art students to come meet a famous working Christian artist.

What is not on the poster is the special opportunity Mount Olive members will have to personally interact with the artist on Sunday morning, October 13. He Qi will be speaking during the adult forum that Sunday at 9:30 a.m., plus he will be available for us to informally chat with him during the coffee hour following the 10:45 a.m. liturgy. The highlight of He Qi's visit will be the Sunday afternoon hymn festival, "Hymns at an Exhibition," lead by He Qi and organist Aaron David Miller. Several artworks will be featured at the hymn festival with commentary by the artist, followed by hymns and improvisations led by Aaron David Miller. A reception will follow the hymn festival.


This promises to be a unique and meaningful event and we hope you will join us and invite your friends and family.

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts presents

The ART of HE QI

an exhibition

SEPTEMBER 29—NOVEMBER 28, 2024



ARTIST HE QI IN RESIDENCE OCTOBER 12/13, 2024

Saturday, October 12:

- 12:00–4:00 p.m.: Special Gallery Hours / Q&A with He Qi

Sunday, October 13:

- 3:00 p.m.: Meet & Greet with He Qi
- 4:00 p.m.: Hymns at an Exhibition, a hymn festival of art and music co-led by He Qi and organist Aaron David Miller. Reception to follow.

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3045 CHICAGO AVE. S., MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407
WWW.MOUNTOLIVECHURCH.ORG

Neighborhood Ministries: A Reflection

David Engen

If you read the novel *Pillars of the Earth*, you become very aware of the function of the cathedral during the Middle Ages. The placement of a cathedral was no accident. Set in the very center of the community, it held a focus not unlike the queen bee of a hive. It was the source of life – physically as well as spiritually – and ministered to the daily needs of the people. Without it, the hive would be lost and needs unmet. While the cathedral tended to so many needs, the people recognized the value of that center point both geographically and in life itself. People went there to be healed, to be fed, to sleep, to seek safety, and to feel nearer to the Divine. During plagues, cathedrals became hospitals filled with the dying and recovering assuming recovery was even possible.

Over time, churches unfortunately ceased operating in such a fashion. Of course, a hospital is a better location for anyone with a life-threatening illness, but the gift and responsibility of being the center of the community with so many needs was all too easily passed off to other agencies of assistance. As our population grew, the distribution of assistance was too complex and too widespread for the town church to be effective.

Today, things have changed again. Depending on the placement of the church, the Body of Christ is still perceived to be a ‘cathedral’, whether or not it’s structure can be defined in such a way. The role of the church – and here I am speaking of Mount Olive – has once again become a central point for healing and help to the larger community.

During a break in my role as a training contractor, I asked Jim Bargmann if he could use any help. When I mentioned this break was coming, Jim asked if I’d like to assist with greeting individuals seeking assistance and performing a kind of triage to determine need and if we would be able to help. My volunteer experience has opened my eyes to the realities of need in our community, and the number of people who come to our door seeking help.

I walked in on a Tuesday morning with my cup of coffee and a book, assuming I would have time between interactions to finish the novel I was working on. After an introduction to the varieties of assistance we distribute – rent, laundry vouchers, documentation completion for drivers’ licenses, bus passes, and simple directions to where someone could go to find what was needed – I sat down to wait.

As soon as my backside hit the chair, the front door rang, and Cha buzzed in the first person. She was a single mother who had been working at a medical clinic. Her daughter had become seriously ill, experiencing repeated seizures which were being kept under control but constant monitoring was needed. Because of this she had to resign in order to take care of her child. Having no supporting family, she had to manage all of the responsibilities to keep things afloat. Her savings were exhausted and now she was behind on rent to the point she’d be evicted if she did not catch up. She kept a façade of composure, though it was quite apparent she was anxious to be there and to ask for what she needed. No matter how understanding I tried to be, it was clear this was difficult for her. MOLC is part of an organization called Align, a consortium of local congregations – Christian, Jewish, and Muslim – who realized the importance of collaboration. Together we can do more than when working in isolation. She completed the forms, and I brought her back to the volunteer from Align who assists with processing the requests every Tuesday.

I turned around from walking her to the volunteer’s location when once again the front door bell rang and I greeted two men whose English skills were minimal. Google Translate came to the rescue and we were able to determine they needed bus passes so they could get to work and home again. Our metro system provides us with blank bus passes to which we add cash. The amount we give them is extended thanks to the Metro Transit agreement to provide rides at a discounted rate in such situations.

Another and another and another came with no break. A grandmother, granddaughter, and her baby arrived. Grandmother had raised her granddaughter because the mother succumbed to cancer. She had raised her granddaughter and now she was helping to raise her great-granddaughter. She lacked resentment. She smiled at her ‘children’ and asked for what was needed.

The list could go on. My coffee had long gone ice cold by the time I was able to sit down. Jim and I were running back and forth, directing or redirecting individuals throughout the day, with Cha answering the bell, asking what was needed, and running down the steps to let in the next party.

I was exhausted by the time I left, not from the constant movement, but from the emotional impact of hearing one story after another of individuals lacking the basics. The final interaction had the greatest impact. A man in a Carhart jacket, probably acquired through some charitable Christmas time effort, came in asking for a bus pass and a laundry voucher – both easily and quickly done. I handed the bus pass and voucher to him, expecting him to say his ‘thank you’ and leave. Instead, he just looked at me, then down at the floor, then back to me and said quite softly, “Um. I’m really hungry. Do you have something for me I could eat?” We had granola bars and lemonade, but it was clear he needed something more substantial given the fatigue and sadness in his voice. I had no idea what to do. I refused to tell him I couldn’t help him. I gave him the small of cash I had on me which brought on a barrage of “thank you, thank you, thank you.”

Why did I write this? To give witness to the importance of who we are in our community and to bring to awareness what happens in the halls of MOLC when most of us are not around to witness the work. There is now a small group of us who assist Jim in his endless and emotionally demanding call to serve the needs of our brothers and sisters who live around and among us. Take time to ask Jim about our Neighborhood Ministries and how we impact the lives of so many. This often-invisible ministry meets some of the most basic needs our human family needs.

David Engen

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Organist – *Robert Farlee*

Interim Choir Director – *Andrew Stoebig*

Vicar – *Natalie Wussler*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
Jim Bargmann

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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