

The Olive Branch

September 25, 2024

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

Our liturgical calendar gifts us a day to celebrate angels, specifically “Saint Michael and All Angels.” Angels and other spiritual creatures are a difficult topic. The references to these creatures in Scripture are varied and mysterious. The creatures named in scripture as angels are tasked by God to give messages of great importance. They guard, protect, and provide for humans, including Jesus. And we are told they will have a significant role in God’s work when Jesus returns.

Scripture also names other creatures often categorized with angels: cherubim and seraphim. Cherubim seem to be given a guardian task, but in reality we know much more about them from God’s instructions to Moses regarding the construction of the Ark of the Covenant on which two figures in the form of Cherubim were placed. Seraphim are described by Isaiah in his recounting of his vision of God: “...each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.”

In addition to the Prayer of the Day for this Sunday’s lectionary, we will pray one for St. Michael’s day that offers thanks to God for establishing the ministry of angels, states that they have been given the task of contending against the “cosmic forces of evil,” and affirms that they have been directed by God to “help and defend us here on earth.”

All of this being said, what I take from reviewing our scriptural knowledge about angels and other creatures is that we simply do not know a lot. God has chosen to keep many of these things a mystery to us. And surprising as it may sound, that is a good thing. One of the many things I appreciate about our faith community at Mount Olive is that we appreciate, respect, and even love the reality of mystery, especially when it pertains to God. We know what God has revealed to us and we accept what we are not able to know. We may not know all there is to know about the physical form, appearance, or specific role of angels. No matter how mystifying angels can be to us, we do know they serve an important and vital role in God’s reign and are often used by God for our communication with God, for our help, and for our protection.



Sunday Readings

September 29, 2024

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 26 B

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16,
24-29

Psalm 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

October 6, 2024

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 27 B

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

*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 29, Circle One will be hearing about the Tower of Babel, while Circle Two will follow the Great Family.

Special Notice: On October 6, the children and storytellers will share a store with the Adult Forum session. In addition, children's music will also be featured. We hope to see you there!

A New Building Partner

Mount Olive will be providing meeting space to MIRAC (Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee) on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month from 7-9 pm, beginning in October.

MIRAC is an all-volunteer, grassroots, multiracial, and multinational immigrant rights mass-movement organization. MIRAC fights for legalization for all, an end to immigration raids and deportations, an end to all anti-immigrant laws, and full equality in all areas of life.

We are pleased to support them and their work in this small way, so that they can help others in our community.



GODLY PLAY

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 25

- 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 26

- 5-9 pm RJCA Healing Village
6:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous
7:30 pm Cantor Call Committee meeting

Friday, September 27

- Noon Bible Study
7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, September 28

- 9:00 am Gardening Day (every Saturday through Oct.)

Sunday, September 29 - 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

Monday, September 30

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

Tuesday, October 1

- Noon Bible Study

Cantor Call Committee Update

The Call Committee met for the first time last Thursday, Sept. 19. The committee elected Kat Campbell Johnson as the chair, and Peggy Hoeft as the secretary.

The next meeting of the committee is October 3. Regular updates of the work of the committee will be shared in *The Olive Branch*.

Here are the members of the committee:

- *Kat Campbell Johnson*
- *Larry Duncan*
- *Bob Farlee*
- *Peggy Hoeft*
- *Gene Janssen*
- *Bekah Schulz*
- *Tricia Van Ee*
- *Cynthia Prosek, ex-officio*
- *Pastor Crippen, ex-officio*

Reservations Now Available for the Columbarium Second Section

The second section of the Columbarium is now available for reservations. Please see Carol Peterson or Bob Wick if you are interested in purchasing a niche. They will help you with the numbering and provide you with an application.

There are also niches available in the first section if you would prefer that.

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.

Upcoming Adult Forums

September 29 - Updates from our neighborhood partner, Our Saviors Community Services

October 6 - Youth Music and Godly Play

October 13 - Conversation with artist He Qi

Diaper Depot Opportunity

Do you have a couple free hours from time to time and want to support the Diaper Depot Ministry? We are looking for people willing to be substitute drivers when our regular delivery people need to be away.

What is involved?

- Client orders are packed on Tuesdays for delivery on Wednesday.
- Routes are efficiently grouped by specific area of the city; e.g., central, south, western suburbs, northern suburbs, St. Paul, etc.
- An optimized route sheet is printed and available to help plan your stops.
- If no one is home to receive the order when you stop, you leave the order and text the client so they know where you left it.
- A route usually takes about an hour or less from the time you pick up the diapers at Mount Olive until you are back home.

Frequency?

- Substitute drivers would be needed only occasionally when one of our regular delivery people is out of town or other circumstances prevent them from delivering their route.
- Interested in being a regular delivery driver? We can use you, too! Larger routes can be split or shared so someone doesn't have to deliver every week. Note: We try to keep deliveries close to your home area, if possible.

How to get involved?

- Drop an email with your interest, availability, and good contact information to neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org. Jim will compile a list and he or the drivers will reach out to you as needs arise.

As always, thanks for considering serving in this way!

Adam Krueger (the NW suburb delivery guy)

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

Blessing the Animals

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

Bring your pets to this annual service of blessing!



Breaking News from Bright Stars of Bethlehem

Israeli forces attacked Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem on Monday, September 16. As posted on Bright Stars' Facebook page, this attack has once again brought to light the ongoing aggression faced by Palestinian cultural and educational institutions at the hands of Israeli occupation forces.

During the raid, Israeli soldiers targeted the beautiful new glass dome of the University's nearly completed Hospitality Educational Center (HEC), firing bullets that destroyed numerous panes of glass and security cameras while causing panic among students and staff. While no physical injuries were reported, the trauma to students and staff is real and the implications of the attack are deeply concerning. The restaurant, designed to host educational and training programs in the culinary arts, serves as a symbol of cultural resilience and contributes to enhancing the concept and practice of cultural tourism in Palestine. Its presence atop a hill in Bethlehem is also a physical manifestation of that resilience.

Despite the challenges posed by Israeli occupiers, Dar al-Kalima University remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing Palestinian culture and art education. As a testament to that commitment, Mitri Raheb reports that construction continued on Monday following the attack and that new panes of glass have already been ordered and should arrive in a few weeks. The inspiring resilience of Mitri, DAK and the Palestinian people motivates the staff and board of Bright Stars to work even harder to support the mission of DAK."

Your Global Ministry Committee will consider our response. If you wish to donate to Bright Stars of Bethlehem, know that you can do so through your blue envelopes or a check to Mount Olive by marking them especially for Bright Stars. You can also donate at <https://www.brightstarsbethlehem.com/donate>.



Before



After

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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