The Olive Branch

October 9, 2024

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

"This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?"
(John 6:60)

That's what we heard some disciples say in August, when Jesus challenged his hearers with hard sayings about eating and drinking his body and blood.

We might be feeling the same way. We're in a stretch now of some challenging sayings of Jesus, starting with graphic metaphors about body parts two weeks ago, the teaching on divorce last week, this week's challenges to people with wealth, and other difficult words to come.

It all raises a question: why did the early Church leave hard sayings of Jesus in the Gospel? They easily could have been cut out, and yet Mark includes them, and Matthew and Luke for the most part also hand them on to their readers. The Church kept these three Gospels as truth worthy of hearing often and being rooted in the hearts of believers.

The answer lies in Jesus' intention to call people back into relationship with God, to draw all people to God. The world is a complicated, broken, hurtful place for many, and if Jesus wants to help us navigate a path of life in this world, he's going to have to be honest. Issues we'd rather ignore, he lifts up. Changes we'd rather not make, he urges us to consider how important they are. Truths about ourselves or the world we'd rather pretend weren't true, he insists on our hearing.

So we listen. Sometimes we wince. Sometimes we just are confused. The wisdom of our forebears is to simply stay engaged with the voice of Christ, whether it's simple or challenging, and let the Spirit teach and guide. The light will shine at some point, that we are promised.

We might prefer a less difficult Jesus. But if we hope to find the abundant life in God and in this world that he promises, it's far better that he tells us the truth that leads to that life.

Sunday Readings

October 13, 2024
21st Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 28 B
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

October 20, 2024
22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 29 B
Isaiah 53:4-12
Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:(32-34), 35-45

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

Godly Play News

This coming Sunday: Circle One will hear the story of The Ten Best Ways. Circle Two will begin to hear about the Old Testament mothers and fathers. Thank you to all of the parents and children who helped share Godly Play and Children's Music with our Adult Education friends. Many spoke to us about the importance and focus of both of these programs.

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

Disaster Relief:
Hurricanes Helene and Milton

The need is great!

Please send your donations to ELCA Disaster Relief, or, if you prefer, you may give through Mount Olive by clearly designating your gift for "Hurricane Relief." **Please note:** gifts received by the church will be sent all at once, so using the ELCA link will get your gift to its destination much faster.

Thanks for whatever you can do to help.

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, October 9
10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Library Committee 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, October 10
6:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, October 11
Noon Bible Study
7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, October 12
9:00 am Gardening Day (every Saturday through Oct.)
10:00 am Book Discussion Group
1-4 pm Art Exhibit Gallery Hours/Q&A with He Qi

Sunday, October 13 – Twenty-first 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
3:00 pm MFA Event: Meet the artist: He Q i
4:00 pm MFA Event: "Hymns at an Exhibition"

Monday, October 14
5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)
7:00 pm Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, October 15
Noon Bible Study
6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministry Committee meeting

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of Mount Olive congregation will be held on **Sunday, October 27, following the second liturgy.**

The primary purpose of this meeting is to approve a budget for 2025.

All voting members are encouraged to attend – and plan to stay for Oktoberfest following the meeting!

Budget Preview Meeting

Sunday, October 20, 9:30 am

Bring your questions and comments about the proposed budget for 2025.

Names of the Departed Saints Invited

As a part of our All Saints liturgy on Sunday, Nov. 5, worshippers are invited to submit the names of loved ones close to them who have died in the past year, since last All Saints Sunday, who weren't members of Mount Olive. (Members of the parish who have died are always named.)

For those who attend worship in the coming weeks, a book is located at the entrance to the nave where you can write these names. You may also contact the church office with the names. These other names submitted will be included in the prayers of intercession.

Please keep this to just those who have died this past year, so we can have a more manageable list.

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

Paul's letter to the Romans has deep richness and gift for us, and Pr. Crippen is spending the 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 the usual light supper to begin. 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
Central Lutheran Restoration Center

The Restoration Center at Central Lutheran provides a drop-in center for people in and around downtown Minneapolis experiencing homelessness and poverty. The Restoration Center provides emergency rental assistance, meals, free-use computers, and a place for people to gather for community and support. Their Free Store provides clothing and household goods in a store-like environment and a partnership with Augsburg University provides free, low barrier health care to all.

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 Central Lutheran Restoration Center please visit their website at www.centralmpls.org/community/restorationcenter .

Sunday's Adult Forum

October 13 - Conversation with artist He Qi
October 20 – Budget Preview meeting

Oktoberfest – October 27

Cue the polka music and bring on the brats, beer, and sauerkraut! Our 3rd annual Oktoberfest meal will be held in conjunction with the semi-annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, October 27. We need volunteers for set-up, clean-up, and bringing German Potato Salad and/or dessert. (A recipe for the potato salad can be provided if you need one!).

Click HERE to sign up. If you don't have internet access, call the church office to sign up.

Thanks!

Indian Boarding Schools: Survivor Voices, Our Response
Oct. 13 & 14, at Grace University Lutheran Church and via Zoom

Liz Andress and Jean Stilwell, members of Grace University Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and leaders in the ELCA Truth-Seeking & Truth-Telling Initiative on Indian Boarding Schools, invite you to learn about the impacts of Indian boarding schools on survivors and descendants, grapple with what truth and healing means, and consider how we respond as Christians.

There are two options for this forum:
Sunday, October 13, 11:15am-12:30pm, at Grace, 324 Harvard St. SE, Minneapolis, in the Peace Chapel. (See https://graceattheu.org/contact-us-directions/directions-parking-map/)
OR
Monday, October14, 7:00-8:15pm, on Zoom (Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86069414273?pwd=TxXOuJSRCzuxKOi2GK3VSGmbhY6wnX.1)

Mount Olive Family Music Together in Person!

Children from birth to 35 months with a caregiver(s) are invited to an in-person session of Family Music on Sunday, October 27, at 9:45 a.m. in Godly Play 3 on the lower level.

Sing, pray, dance, and play as we interact with other families. Mari will provide any instruments and props needed. Even if your family has not joined us for a Monday Zoom session, you are welcome to the Sunday session.

Please join us as we continue to explore *God, My Family, and Me* through music and movement. Questions can be directed to Mari Espeland at mari.mt.olive@gmail.com.

He Qi Exhibit and Hymn Festival This Weekend

Saturday: Exhibit opening event with the Artist. Noon – 4:00 pm.

Sunday: Adult Forum with He Qi 9:30 am, Meet the artist at second coffee hour.

Sunday: 4:00 pm, "Hymns at an Exhibition," Hymn festival with organist Aaron David Miller and He Qi, followed by a reception.

Click here to view the *Minnesota Star Tribune* article about the He Qi Exhibit.

Step by Step with Milad and Yasamin

Lawfully Wedded Husband and Wife

We are happy to send an update from our Afghan Resettlement Team 2.0! On 17 September, Milan and Yasamin took a significant step when they, along with Anita and Mustafa (Milad's sister and brother-in-law), and members of our team--Adam Krueger, George and Carolyn Heider, and Samantha Pipkorn--gathered at the Midtown Exchange where the couple were married legally according to the State of Minnesota. They had already been married by an Imam, according to their own faith and religious custom, but with this marriage Yasamin became eligible for inclusion on health insurance, and other things as they arise. It was joyful and heartwarming when, amidst the hubbub of the exchange, the justice of the peace pronounced them husband and wife, a spontaneous cheer and round of sincere applause broke out across the large room full of strangers. The team itself gives a hearty shout-out to Samantha Pipkorn for helping to facilitate the arrangements for the day, and since then helping with details of insurance.

Milan and Yasamin continue to settle in--new routines, new apartment, new places, and experiences. Milad works at the MSP airport but he goes with Yasamin to her English classes each weekday morning. Members of the team visit Yasamin to practice conversational English alongside exploring their new neighborhood, talking about future employment possibilities, learning bus and train routes, and simply extending friendship and presence in a new country. Thanks to generous donors, and the efforts of Elaine Halbardier and Jim Johnson, few things remain on the list of needed and desired items that was published in some time ago.

The team will continue its supportive role accompanying Milad and Yasamin on their journey. We ask you prayers for all of us as this task necessarily changes over time, and while all of us continue to learn, and be enriched by one anothers' cultures.

In service to our Risen Christ,
- *The Afghani Resettlement Team, 2.0.*

Help Needed – for a couple of hours the next three Saturdays!

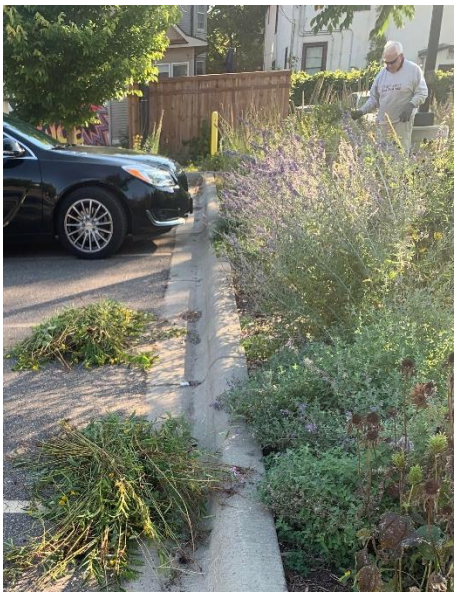
It starts small, but soon becomes a large task to do fall clean up ---

Many of us don't truly understand what it takes to keep a garden healthy and "sort of" weed-free. Whether it is the pollinator garden in our south parking lot, rose bushes on the south entrance, the pots by the west doors, or the plantings around the remainder of the church, it is a dedicated crew that meets on Saturday mornings to take care of our campus.

Pictured from the work last Saturday: Elaine Halbardier, Walt Hinck, and Hank Tressel work to pull, weed, gather and then load up Hank's trailer which he takes to a compost site every week.

To ensure that we are ready for the winter, the garden crew is meeting every Saturday at 9:00 am through the end of October.

Please join us if you are able – we need your help!



Elaine Halbardier, Hank Tressel, and Walt Hick pull piles of debris and weeds from Mount Olive's gardens.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Avenue
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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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