



The Olive Branch

June 18, 2025

Sunday Readings

June 22, 2025
Second Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 12 C
Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 29, 2025
St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles
Acts 12:1-11
Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
John 21:15-19

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

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Back to Normal?

With the horrible violence among us last weekend, on top of so many other acts of violence and hatred perpetrated all the way from the top of our government to the disaffected, bitter, angry men with guns, our world feels anything but normal. Sometimes I wish we could just go back to “normal” again.

But we know “normal” isn’t a good thing for many. In oppressive systems, for those crushed underfoot “normal” is a terrible existence. Those not under oppression delude themselves into thinking “normal” is good. The “MAGA” movement assumes there was a time in America when everything was great for everyone. That’s a dangerous lie. There were and are always people on the outside, hated, abused, killed, oppressed, in this nation. The only way to make this country great is to go forward to a new future where all are treated with respect and grace, where we work to make sure all can be fed and housed and life safely.

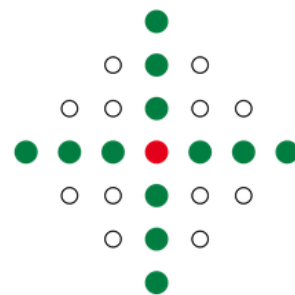
That’s a longer conversation. But here’s our hope. As we gather each week, sometimes deeply needing to grieve and lament, but also sometimes needing to burst out in praise and joy, the Triune God is with us as always. Blesses us with love and grace. Calls us to be God’s image, God’s love, in our world. Empowers us through the Spirit to do just that. “Normal” is never the hope of the Christian path. “I make all things new” is Christ’s promise. That’s what you’re signed up for. That’s what your baptism calls you to be a part of. And therein lies our hope.

Did I Hear You Say Leipzig?

Yes, indeed, you did hear us pray for the Leipzig District of the Lutheran Church of Saxony, and we will continue to do so along with our other Global Ministry partners. The Leipzig District is a partner of the Minneapolis Area Synod along with the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria. The Global Ministry Committee has decided to add the Leipzig District as one of Mount Olive's global partners as we celebrate, support, and learn from our Lutheran sisters and brothers around the world.

Connections with Leipzig Lutherans date back to the "Peace Pilgrimages" led by Pastor Herb Brokering in the 1970s and 80s.

In 2015-2016 Pastor Morrie Wee (now a Mount Olive member) served in Leipzig, while Pastor Helge Voigt served in Minneapolis. Many of us got to know Pastor Voigt and his family, and we grieved with the family when Helge died in 2019. Another pastoral exchange is in the planning stage. A delegation from Leipzig visited in 2018 to learn how Minneapolis congregations are organized and supported when the church is not an official governmental organization. That group visited with Mount Olive's Vestry. The last Partnership Agreement was signed in front of our congregation in 2022 by the MAS Bishop, Anne Svenningson, and her Leipzig counterpart, Sebastian Feydt. We know that we can learn much from the churches in the Leipzig area, especially about how to be "church" in a secular society. So look forward to hearing more about Lutherans in Leipzig, and continue to pray for our siblings in Christ.



Evangelisch-Lutherische
Landeskirche Sachsens

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, June 18

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, June 19

9:30 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm MIRAC meeting

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, June 20

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, June 21

9:00 am Gardening Day

Sunday, June 22 - Second Sunday of Pentecost

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

Monday, June 23

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

Tuesday, June 24

Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, June 25

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, June 26

9:30 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, June 27

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, June 29 - Third Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, with Installation of Vestry, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, June 30

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

Tuesday, July 1

Noon Bible Study

Gardening Day this Saturday – 9 a.m.

If you are available to help with some garden work at church this Saturday, please come!

With all of the recent rain, the weeds are winning!

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study meets weekly in person in the East Assembly Room. For those who are unable to come in person, the Bible Study is held 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, we will gather to discuss *Solito* by Javier Zamora. This is a memoir about a young poet's migration from El Salvador to the United States. And then you might want to get started on our hefty book for August 9, *The Covenant of Water*, by Abraham Verghese.

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the library, usually on the second Saturday of each 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](#).

Many Thanks from the Altar Guild

Among the many servants who lead and support Mount Olive's liturgies are members of the altar guild, who set and clean up the altar for our eucharists.

For decades, the altar guild has worked in a small room ("sacristy") tucked behind the altar that was frankly depressing. Peeling wallpaper, crumbling ceiling plaster, inadequate electrical outlets, awkward storage spaces, cramped (occasionally hazardous) walkways – there was lots not to like.

This past year, however, the sacristy has been transformed into a truly functional and pleasant – even lovely – space thanks to the labors of an entire village.

- Art Halbardier: Project management, cabinet making and installation
- Brian Jacobs: Design and purchasing
- Walt Hinck: Cabinet making and installation
- Mark Pipkorn: Electrical and plumbing
- Jim and Judy Johnson: Flooring installation and painting
- Donn McLellan: Cabinet staining and finishing
- Andrew Andersen and Carol Martinson: Logistics

Generous funding for this project was provided by the Mount Olive Foundation and by Naomi Peterson and family.

Altar guild members are grateful to all who contributed to this effort. Stop by and take a peek!



A custom, extra-deep cabinet accommodates extra-long candles.



Spacious counters and storage cabinets simplify altar guild duties.



Altar linens are easily accessible from pull-out shelves.

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

Lutheran Social Service

Lutheran Social Service is a broad-based social service organization that operates more than 20 different programs throughout the state of Minnesota. The services provided by LSS include housing, financial services, counseling, senior care programs, refugee resettlement, disaster recovery, and services for those with disabilities. LSS has been serving as the lead agency for the resettlement of the Afghan family Mount Olive has been sponsoring with the coordination of our Global Ministry Committee.

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 Lutheran Social Service, please visit their website at www.lssmn.org.

Paper Bags Needed!

The Diaper Depot is in dire need of paper bags! If you have some that you can share with Mount Olive Neighborhood Ministries, please bring them to church the next time you come. You can leave them in the coat room.

Our Next Vicar

Luther Seminary has assigned Erik Nelson to be our next vicar, for the year 2025-2026. Vicar Wussler's last Sunday is August 3, and Vicar Nelson will begin with us on August 12. Erik is a graduate of University of Northwestern-St. Paul, and is a student at Luther Seminary.

***Olive Branch* Summer Publication**

During the summer months, *The Olive Branch* is published every *other* week. Information for the next issue is due in to the church office **by Monday, June 30**, for publication on Wednesday, July 2.

Congregational Life Updates

All-Church Picnic

On **Sunday, July 13**, plan to join the congregation right after worship for the third annual Mount Olive all-church picnic. Again this year we'll be at the Wabun Picnic area near Minnehaha Park, with convenient parking in the Veteran's Home lot. Burgers (beef and veggie) and beverages will be provided, as well as plates and utensils. There's a great children's play area nearby. Plan to join in!

P.S.: If your "dish to share" needs chilling, feel free to put it in the upstairs or downstairs refrigerators at Mount Olive while you attend worship.

Needed: Burger grillers! If you can take a shift grilling burgers, email Lora at conglife@mountolivechurch.org.

Movie Night

The next movie night is on **Friday, July 18 at 7 p.m.**
More info to come.

Our Going Out and Our Coming In

Staff Vacation Schedules

Pastor Crippen will be on vacation June 19-25, June 30-July 17; and August 28-September 2
Jim Bargmann will be on vacation June 16-20; and August 6-11

The Olive Branch

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Summer Sunday Eucharist: 10 am

Contact Us:

Phone: 612/827-5919

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Organist – *Robert Farlee*

Interim Choir Director – *Andrew Stoebig*

Vicar – *Natalie Wussler*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Pastor Joseph Crippen**
- **Scenes from the Sacristy Remodel**
- **Congregational Life Updates – Save the Dates!**
- **Global Missions Note About Leipzig**
- **Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month:
Lutheran Social Service**