The Olive Branch

May 27, 2026

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

Are we good?

This is a question I have been struggling with as I read the readings for this upcoming Sunday of the Holy Trinity, specifically our reading from Genesis 1 and 2.

Repeatedly, God proclaims creation good - six times in this Sunday's reading - and then a "everything that had been made" is declared not only good, but very good.

But many groups within Christianity have adopted a belief that this proclaimed goodness, inherent in us and all creation because of the One who made us, was lost. Writing on this very passage, Martin Luther goes so far as to say, "All these good things have, for the most part been lost though sin, and we, who have kept hardly a shadow of that realm, are today like a corpse of that first human being." But many groups within Christianity have adopted a belief that this proclaimed goodness, inherent in us and all creation because of the One who made us, was lost. Writing on this very passage, Martin Luther goes so far to say, "All these good things have, for the most part been lost though sin, and we, who have kept hardly a shadow of that realm, are today like a corpse of that first human being."

I admit I struggle with this teaching when considering the very thing we celebrate this upcoming Sunday - the reality and nature of our Triune God. From my readings, I understand Luther to be one who would say that any goodness in humanity comes as a result of our salvation and is by virtue of the work of the Spirit. But why would we need to separate the Trinity from our own existence in this way?

Lutherans for centuries have focused on the redeeming work of Jesus and God's work in delivering us from sin and death. In this community, we rightfully recognize the powerful work of the Spirit, bringing wisdom, comfort, guidance, and working in us the gifts needed for service within the reign of God. But just the same, I would argue that there is still an inherent goodness in all creation,

continued on page 2

Sunday Readings

May 31, 2026
The Holy Trinity, year A
Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 7, 2026
Second Sunday after Pentecost, year A
Hosea 5:15—6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

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

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

including humanity, by virtue of the very One who made us and all things, a goodness that is redeemed and restored by the work of Jesus and magnified by the work of the Spirit.

This Trinity, can we perhaps work for a restoration of not only a deeper understanding of the Trinity as a reality of who God is, but also an understanding of how the reality of the Trinity is a reflection of who we are, created "in the image of God?"

- Jim Bargmann

2026 Graduates – Who Are They?

As we come to the completion of the school year, the Mount Olive community would like to take time to recognize the accomplishments of our graduates (high school, college, grad school, etc.) and celebrate the next steps of their journey.

Our Graduate Recognition will take place on **Sunday, June 7**, and they will be named in prayer at the morning Eucharist and greeted at the coffee hour after the Eucharist. If your Mount Olive graduate graduates this spring, please email the following information to Cha in the Mount Olive office (welcome@mountolivechurch.org): graduate name, the school they are graduating from, any special recognitions or honors, and what they are planning to do next, whether that be job, more education, or something else.

Please invite them to be here on June 7!

CaringBridge Site

Allen Heggen's family has asked that we share his CaringBridge website with the Mount Olive community. This is the most efficient way for them to keep everyone apprised of his condition and to share a message with him.
Click here for Allen's CaringBridge page.

Calendar

Wednesday, May 27
9:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Family Choir supper
6:00 pm Family Choir rehearsal
Thursday, May 28
9:30 am ***Morning Prayer***
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous
Friday, May 29
7:00 pm Recovery group
Saturday, May 30
9:00 am Gardening Day
Sunday, May 31 – The Holy Trinity, year A
9:15 am Family Choir warm-up
10:00 am ***Holy Eucharist,*** followed by coffee and conversation
Monday, June 1
6:30 pm Recorder group
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)
Tuesday, June 2
7:00 pm Choir group

Choir School News

Choir School singers and their families (siblings, parents, grandparents, baptismal sponsors, etc.) are warmly welcomed to our Family Choir. We will eat dinner and rehearse just once on **Wednesday, May 27, 5:30 meal and 6:00-6:45 rehearsal.** We will sing for the 10:00 am liturgy on Sunday, May 31, Holy Trinity Sunday.

Please contact Mari mari.mt.olive@gmail.com if you have questions or would like a preview of the music we will be singing.

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

For our June reading we will move back to the United States for *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf, a story of four generations set in Colorado.

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.**

Greeters at Parish House Door

We are looking for folks who would like to serve occasionally on Sunday mornings as a greeter at the Parish House door. Ideally, a greeter would sit near the Parish House entrance to welcome folks as they enter, starting around 30 minutes prior to the worship service. If you are interested in serving this way, please sign up at the link: https://forms.gle/DvX8dEob7KjHuNPy6

When we have a pool of folks who are willing to serve, we will contact you with more details. Questions? Please email Tricia at hospitality@mountolivechurch.org.

An Invitation from the Thompson family

The Mount Olive congregation has played such an important role in Rose's life, so we wish to extend an open invitation to celebrate her graduation from Richfield High School. Please join us for an open house **this Saturday, May 30, from 1:00 - 4:00,** at 7040 Lyndale Ave S., Richfield.

We hope to see you there.

- Ted & Amy Thompson

Bach Tage 2026 Events

Saturday, June 6, 4:00 pm
Early Music Minnesota will present "Conversations in Counterpoint"
Works by Gabrieli, Barrière, and Vivaldi

Rebecca Humphrey, cello and viola da gamba
Tulio Rondón, cello
Marc Levine, violín
Tami Morse, harpsichord

Sunday, June 7, 4:00 pm
Evening Prayer, with J. S. Bach's *Es ist dir gesagt, Mensch, was gut ist* (BWV 45), and J. C. Bach's *Herr nun lässest du deinen Diener*.

Alyssa Anderson, alto
Nicholas Chalmers, tenor
Erik Krohg, bass
Bach Tage Orchestra and Chorus, Marin Jacobson, conductor

BACH · TAGE
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN
MINNEAPOLIS

Update on Mount Olive's Columbarium

Due to rising costs associated with our Columbarium Niches, effective July 1, 2026, the cost of purchasing a niche will be increased to $1,200. If you have been thinking about purchasing a niche, now would be a good time to do it before the price increases. Applications are available in the tract rack outside of the narthex or in the church office. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Crippen, Carol Peterson or Bob Wick and we will be happy to help you.

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 .

Gardening Days at Mount Olive

Come and join other Mount Olive members who are experiencing the joy of our gardens!

The crew meets every two weeks on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for weeding and yard maintenance. The dates are:

May 30
June 13, 27
July 11, 25
August 8, 22
September 5, 19
October 3, 17, and 31 - fall cleanup and winter prep

Celebrate with me - Change of venue!

As most of you know, I plan to retire at the end of June. What a joy it's been to work with you all of these years!

To mark this occasion, I've asked that there be no big farewell or reception or anything at church. Instead, I have planned an informal gathering on **Sunday afternoon, June 28, from 12:30-3 pm at Forgotten Star Brewing in Fridley**, and you are all invited to stop by, grab a beverage if you like, and celebrate with me - an open house sort of thing. (This gathering was originally planned at Bauhaus BrewLabs, but Bauhaus just decided to close up shop for good on that day, necessitating an alternative plan).

Forgotten Star is located at 38 Northern Stacks Drive in Fridley. There is plenty of parking, an outdoor patio, and a food truck if you're hungry.

I know it's a busy weekend for lots of folks but stop by if you can! If you can't, no worries. I'm not planning to be a stranger.

- Cha Posz

Red Cross Blood Drive at St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Lutheran Church (4842 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis) is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, June 15, from Noon-6:00 pm.

If you can help, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter StJohnsLutheran to schedule an appointment.

Our Going Out and Our Coming In

Staff Vacation Schedules

Pastor Crippen will be on vacation June 27-July 22
Jim Bargmann will be on vacation June 8-15, July 3-10, and July 17-24
Cha Posz will be on vacation June 5-14 (her last day in the office will be June 26)

Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Eucharist: 10:00 am

Contact Us
Phone: 612-827-5919
On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff
Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*
Cantor – *Daniel Schwandt*
Vicar – *Erik Nelson*
Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*
Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Jim Bargmann**
- **2026 Graduates – Who Are They?**
- **Bach Tage 2026 events**
- **Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: Minnesota Council of Churches**
- **Columbarium Update**
- **June Partner of the Month: Lutheran Social Service**
- **Summer Gardening Schedule**