

The Olive Branch

Loving Christ in Worship, Fellowship, Education and Service

June 2024

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Last week (as of the writing of this article) I traveled to Wisconsin to officiate at my oldest first cousin's memorial service. My cousin Nanette suffered so much from her rheumatoid arthritis since the age of 30 until her death at 73. In fact, this disease most definitely shortened her longevity in this life probably by decades. However, Nanette always managed to count her blessings and genuinely appreciate the good times. She showed us all that each day we have a choice to make: to give in or to keep on trucking. Regardless of our circumstances, we can either choose to number our liabilities, or choose to count our blessings and get up to fight on for another day.

My cousin Nanette was also known for her beautiful stained glass artwork, and I think this art form is a wonderful metaphor for her life despite the rheumatic disease that she struggled with. Just as she took fragile broken pieces of glass to make her stained glass art, she faced the debilitating brokenness of her own body to make out of it a beautiful life together with her friends and family.

Interestingly, stained glass has a long and storied history. In fact, colored glass has been produced since ancient times. From the Egyptians to the Phoenicians to the Romans, these ancient civilizations excelled at the manufacture of small colored glass objects. But it was Christian civilization that embraced the stained glass art form in a grand and monumental way.

Evidence of stained-glass windows in churches and monasteries in Great Britain can be found as early as the 7th Century AD. The earliest known reference dates from 675 AD when workmen were imported from France to glaze the windows of the monastery of St. Peter at Monkwearmouth (what a name!) in England. Interestingly, the glass industry established by the Romans in Syria continued during the later Islamic era with major centers of manufacture in cities like Damascus. However, it was the gothic style of Medieval Christendom that elevated (both literally and figuratively) the artistry of stained glass to its historical pinnacle. Gothic Cathedrals are skeletal structures (like dry bones) on the outside, but, with high vaulted ceilings and entire walls of colorful stained glass, they are buildings of heavenly light on the

inside. Their purpose was to uplift the worshipper to be spiritually raptured up toward heaven by the beautiful and enchanting light streaming through the stained glass, reminding them of God's pure Light, the Light of Christ.

You know recently, I saw a gravestone (not my cousin's) that had a symbol etched into it that I was not familiar with. I looked it up, and the symbol is a stylized Thor's Hammer. Now, I'm pretty sure that the deceased person with the Thor's Hammer symbol on his gravestone was not a practitioner of Norse Paganism. I'm fairly certain that it's simply an expression of Scandinavian ethnic pride. And of course, there's nothing inherently wrong with having ethnic self-esteem and pride. However, be that as it may, I must say as a Christian that I would not want my last testimony on my grave marker to be merely a statement of ethnic identity. Having the Light of Christ my Savior in my life surpasses all the earthly distinctions that identify me, and this is what I would want my last testament to be.

As the Apostle Paul writes: *"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ..." (from Philippians 3:3-9).*

At the beginning of the Easter Vigil service each year (as we observed several months ago) when we enter into the darkened church building with our lit handheld candles, we exclaim three times (at the back, middle and front of the church), "The Light of Christ! Thanks be to God!" And the reason we exclaim this three times, dear brothers and sisters, is to emphasize that we have the all-surpassing Light of Christ our Lord! We have the Eternal Light of the grace, faith, hope and love of Jesus the Son of God. So, whether in our life or in our death, why on Earth would we ever uplift any symbol or identity or whatever above the symbols of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord?

"Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!" (hymn #715 of the ELW hymnal).

Together in Christ,
Pastor Tim

Pam's Pearls of Prayer

Scripture of the Month: John 12:46

"I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness."

Thought for the Month

Jesus is the Light of the World. Without His life, death and resurrection, we would all be in the dark. He came to take our sins upon Himself and remove the darkness from our lives. Praise God for His mercy, understanding and love!

Prayer for the Month

Father we thank You for sending Your Son to remove the darkness of sin and death from our lives. May we strive to be worthy of Your mercy. In His name we pray. Amen.

Mt. Olive Preschool Update

It is hard to believe this is our last month of our Academic year! And it has been such a fun celebratory one. We kicked off the month preparing special gifts for our Moms and learning two special songs that we performed for our Moms at our Mothers Day Brunch. We had so much fun and we know our Moms felt so much Love that day. After Mothers Day we learned about Pond Life, we learned about the animals and plants that you can find at a pond and we learned some fun songs about ducks and frogs. We are finishing off the month learning about the Farm as well as finishing all of our end of the year projects for our special Preschool Memory book we are making for our Parents. We will end this month with our Promotion Celebration and Graduation for our Butterflies. It is such a bittersweet goodbye. We sure will miss this amazing group of kids but we know they are ready to take on Kindergarten and beyond!!!! Next month we kick off our Summer Session and we can't wait for all the fun in the sun that summer brings!

Blessings

Mrs. Ashley, Mrs. Amanda, Mrs. Robyn, and Ms. Hannah

THE PARADOX OF THE CROSS IN SECOND CORINTHIANS

We recently concluded our midweek Bible study in the Book of First Samuel, and we're now ready to move on into another biblical book.

We've decided that our next Bible study will be in the Book of Second Corinthians, beginning on Thursday the 6th of June at 6:45 pm.

Our midweek Bible study and prayer group is such a blessing! So come and join us at this weekly get-together centered on God's Word for us within the Holy Scriptures.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. – (Second Corinthians 12:9-10)



Church Choirs Season Finale

Both the Clarion Choir and the Bells of Joy performed on Sunday, May 19th, for their final performances of the season. If you love to sing or would like to play bells, please let Sean Paxton or Angela Zelaya know, and come join either or both choirs this fall.



Community Luncheon

We had our final community luncheon of the season on Wednesday, May 8th. Our last luncheon was a potluck salad bar provided by the women of the church. And of course desserts! This month our musical entertainment was so special for us. The children of the preschool regaled us with the songs they were going to sing to their mothers and grandmothers at their Mother's Day party. What fun!





June 2024

	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30
Assisting Minister	Angela Zelaya & Jan Cody	Carla Szuch	Justin Tagawa	Hilary Singleton	Angela Zelaya
Lector	Larry DeBoer	Larry Hovland	Pam Holden	Jane Peterson	Hilary Singleton
Holy Communion Assistants	Jan Cody Diane Vogelsang	Carla Szuch Jane Peterson	Jennifer Kubela Cindy Cronin-Yoder	Hilary Singleton Kenny Kurtz	Angela Zelaya Diane Vogelsang
Ushers	Jane Peterson	Diane & Larry Vogelsang	Andy Turner	Angela Zelaya	Cindy Cronin-Yoder
Greeter	Larry Vogelsang	Angela Zelaya	Kitty Chambers	Pam Holden	Jennifer Kubela
A/V Attendant	Justin Tagawa	Matthew Kubela	Justin Tagawa	Matthew Kubela	Justin Tagawa

**Mt. Olive Lutheran Church - If you need to change PLEASE arrange it and notify the Office 1-818-248-4253
Flowers: 2 – Holden, 9 – Meeker, 16 – Turner, 23 – Fragos, 30 – Reardon.**

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 <u>Second Sunday after Pentecost</u> Lay-Led Worship 9:30 am	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 <u>Third Sunday after Pentecost</u> Worship 9:30 am The Gideons at Sunday Worship	10 Threads of Hope 9:00 am	11 Sets in Step 6:30 pm	12	13 Bible Study/Prayer Group 6:45 pm	14	15 Breakfast Bible Study at Panera 8:30 am 
16 <u>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Worship 9:30 am Father's Day	17	18 Sets in Step 6:30 pm Church Council 7:00 pm	19	20 Bible Study/Prayer Group 6:45 pm	21	22
23 <u>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Worship 9:30 am Potluck & Annual Meeting following the worship service	24	25 Sets in Step 6:30 pm	26	27 Bible Study/Prayer Group 6:45 pm	28	29 Church Cleanup Day 9:30 am 
30 <u>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Worship 9:30 am		31 Sets in Step 6:30 pm				

**FROM: MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3561 FOOTHILL BLVD.
LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:

DATED MATERIAL – DO NOT HOLD

BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 2 – Spencer Geck | 18 – Kaye Coats |
| 5 – Alma Zelaya | 21 – Mickey Meeker |
| 6 – Joe Cody | 21 – Jerod Plummer |
| 6 – John Cody | 23 – Jeanine Caligiuri |
| 10 – Trevor Geck | 24 – Louanna Kurtz |
| 15 – Todd Meeker | 28 – Wendy Fragosa |

ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 25 – Berni & Larry Hovland | No. 58 |
| 28 – Bill & Vi Reardon | No. 66 |

Upcoming Meetings & Events for June

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 9 – The Gideons at Sunday Worship | 9:30 am |
| 10 – Threads of Hope | 9:00 am |
| 15 – Breakfast Bible Study at Panera | 8:30 am |
| 18 – Church Council | 7:00 pm |
| 26 – Potluck & Annual Meeting | 10:45 am |
| 29 – Church Cleanup Day | 9:30 am |

Poem for Father’s Day

My Earthly Dad


With these three words,
"Dear Heavenly Father,"
I begin my every prayer,
But the man I see
While on bended knee
Is always my earthly dad.
He is the image
Of the Father divine
Reflecting the nature of God,
For his love and care
And the faith he shared
Pointed me to my Father above.

--Mary Fairchild

**Women’s Luncheon
& Silent Auction**

This year’s Women’s Luncheon & Silent Auction was a huge success. We raised over \$1500 for Bundles of Kindness, our charity for this year. The food was outstanding. Larry Hovland provided the quiches and as usual Nanette McIllwain provided many varieties of scrumptious desserts. And to top everything off, we had musical entertainment by one of our favorite performers, Jimmy Villaflor. He’s been our entertainment at our community luncheons for a few years now. He was a big hit!




Happy Father’s Day!
