



The Olive Branch

“Being about the Father’s Business...In the Father’s House”

Aug 17, 2014 Edition 32

Symbols of God’s Presence

Things you might see in church that remind you God is in the House:

ALTAR: Structure at the center of the Chancel from which the Lord’s Supper is celebrated; the sacramental focus from which God gives His gifts; the sacrificial focus of the congregation’s worship.

BAPTISMAL FONT: The cylindrical shaped wooden near the front of Chancel area, located in the center of the sanctuary –between the two sides of chairs. Inside the top of the font is a metal bowl that holds the blessed water used for Baptism. The Font may also be located in the narthex or in a room of its own called the baptistery.

CHANCEL: The area at the front of a worship area (or in our case the platform) around the altar. It may also include the area of the baptismal font, lectern and pulpit (In our church that area in front of the pews and extending on one side to the lectern and the other side to the pulpit is called the **TRANSEPT**).

NARTHEX: The narthex is the room or area where people gather just outside the nave (the nave is the main portion of the worship area). This is where ushers usually hand out bulletins and where the pastor might greet people after a service.

PULPIT: Often an enclosed and raised structure from which the pastor stands when delivering a sermon. Preaching from the pulpit reminds everyone that the pastor is God’s representative, speaking God’s Word to the congregations.

LECTERN: A structure similar to but smaller than the pulpit. It is the appropriate place for a pastor or member of the church to read the Bible readings for the worship day.

SANCTUARY: Officially, the sanctuary is the area around the altar in the chancel. It is sometimes separated from the rest of the chancel and the nave by a Communion rail. People often refer to the whole worship area, including both the nave and the chancel as the sanctuary.

SACRISTY: A room near the chancel, where paraments, linens, sacramental vessels and other altar supplies are kept.

VESTRY: A small room where the pastor and his assistants keep their vestments and prepare for worship services. Some churches have one room that serves as both sacristy and vestry. (such is the case in our church)

(source: Lutheranism 101 CPH St. Louis)

Pray For The Persecuted

Every time we turn on the news, or scan our smart phones for the latest information, or get the headlines from the old fashioned (and quickly fading away) local newspaper, the news is dismal, depressing, discouraging, and degenerating.

The world, it seems, is at war. There are conflicts on nearly every continent, and where there is a continent without war there is one brewing. From Africa to Iraq, from the Ukraine to the mountains of Afghanistan, from the Central Americas to Israel and Gaza, the horror of man’s inhumanity to man, being repeated and is increasing at an alarming and increasing rate.

And while all such conflicts are tragic and regrettable, the depth of depravity being exhibited in the persecution of the innocents in the region of the world where our Lord once came to seek and save the lost, is an abomination.

Hundreds of thousands of Christians are being forced from their homes, many are being killed (martyred) for their faith, being forced to renounce their faith or face certain death. Thousands of other religious communities are starving on a mountainside in Afghanistan.

For these and for those around the world who face endless persecution—even death—for nothing more than the desire to worship their faith, let us pray to our God that His mighty hand and His loving peace may extend to them and protect them from the long and cowardly arm of the devil.

Heavenly Father, extend your mercies to all who suffer. Protect them from all evil. Deliver them from the dark shadows of death and give them new hope—hope that flourishes in peace and blossoms in the comfort of your precious love. In your powerful name we pray, Amen.

New WIM’s Training Class

If you would like to be a part of one of the most satisfying parts of being a member of God’s Church, then make sure you sign up on the sheet posted on the Bulletin Board and come to the training classes for the Men and Women In Ministry Program. M&Mins is looking for a few good men and women to join them as they take God’s Word and their loving compassion on the road and visit the shut ins and homebound. To learn more, get with the Pastor! Come on!

THE OLIVE BRANCH

Thought of the Day Aug 17, 2014

EASY ON OTHERS, HARD ON OURSELVES

"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.." (Romans 12:10)

BONHOEFFER

"I told him in no uncertain terms what I thought of people who can be very hard on others and make grand speeches about living dangerously...and then crumple up themselves under the slightest test of endurance.

-Letters and Papers from Prison."

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It is easy to be hard on others and gentle on ourselves. We thus place ourselves in a position of strength and power, and run the risk of downgrading the efforts, value, and personality of the other person.

At the same time, we make ourselves to be better than we in fact are. This approach needs to be reversed. This does not mean that we put other people on pedestals while we downgrade ourselves. Rather, we need to be exacting with ourselves regarding our integrity and motivation, and very generous in ascribing the best of motivations to the actions and efforts of others.

Seize the Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Charles Ringma. Pinion Press

THOUGHT

We should not have expectations of others regarding things that we are not prepared to carry out ourselves.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

One of the simplest ways to get others to behave in a certain way, or to do a certain job, is for oneself to know how to behave and how to do the job in the first place. There are countless examples of leaders and bosses who attain their lofty position by virtue of academic education, but who have little or no practical experience (OJT—On the job training) performing the various works for which they are to responsibly lead a team of employees

To be able to lead; that is to "inspect what you expect" - it is wise to have "been there and done that" before. And inspecting requires first person knowledge of the work. It is, after all, not "Tell and Show" but "Show and Tell."

O Sing to the Lord

What are you waiting for? Last time I checked, the Bulletin Board had a sheet of paper with the heading "SIGN UP SHEET FOR CHOIR 2014-2014" at the top, and a whole bunch of blank spaces below it!

The Choir kicks off its 2014-15 season on September 7th. We can sure use your voice (yes, your voice!). Come on out and join your friends. It will change how you view worship, how you sing,...it will change YOU...for the better! So sign up today. If you don't have a pen, see an elder! Join us this year and help make it the best year yet!

Fill the Water Jug

Did you notice the big water jug sitting on the counter by the kitchen? Do you have any spare change? Look into those pockets, pull out that purse, and reach deep down and grab onto the loose change you have and drop it in the jug. Funds donated to the "Jug" will be used to help those who are in need. Mt. Olive is a great, caring, loving community of Christians. Help us help others, and in the process let others see how they can grow closer to Jesus!

Humor: Food For Thought

* If I can be of any help, you're in more trouble than I thought.

*The balding middle-aged man asked his barber, "Why are you charging me full price for cutting my hair? There's so little of it." "Well, the barber said, "Actually I don't charge for cutting it. You're paying my finder's fee!"

*If you want your spouse to listen and pay strict attention to every word you say.....talk in your sleep!

*Mechanic: I couldn't repair your brakes so I made you horn louder!

Happy Birthday - August Babies

If I left anyone out I apologize, please let me know by leaving a note on my desk. - Denise

Amanda Black	8/4
Jeanette Dixon	8/6
Billy Wilson	8/10
Millie Franck	8/13
Stephanie Megerle	8/13
Andrea Vice	8/22
Eva Gailey	8/31