

The Olive Branch

August 16, 2017

Accent on Worship

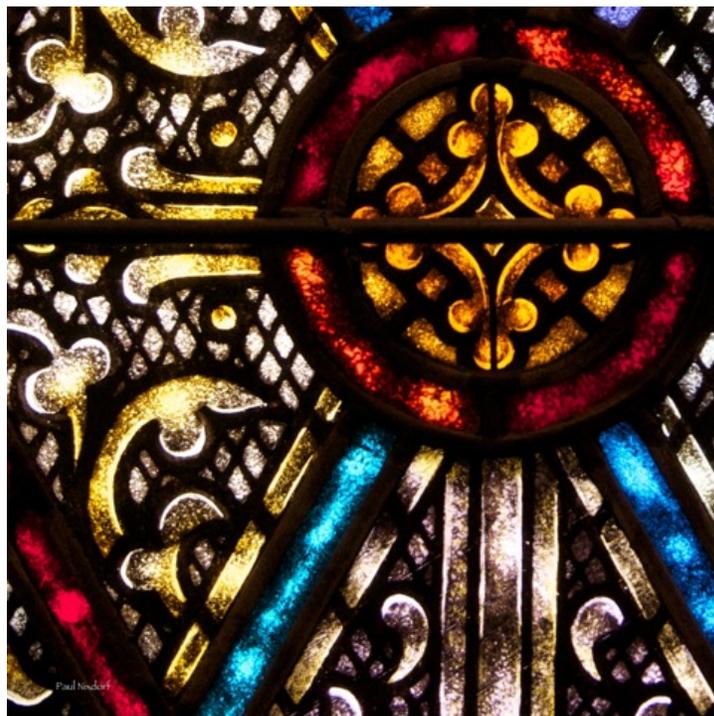
Anna Scott

Last week was a week of good conversations. Conversations with people coming in for assistance, with my husband, sister, brother, a few friends, our Pastor, our former Vicar - one after another I was able to sit with people in different sections of my life and have deep, meaningful moments of vulnerability. Some of these conversations centered on a hurt or conflict that was going on in their lives. Things like depression, violence, infertility, and relationship issues are not usually what I get jazzed to discuss, but lately I've been focusing on the difficult task of walking deeper in the weeds with my loved ones, asking the questions I don't know how to ask, and saying the words that I'm not sure I can say. Though initially uncomfortable, I feel emboldened by what I'm witnessing happen around me.

What I'm hearing, seeing, reading, and discussing is a message that displays that people are desperately yearning for safe space to be vulnerable and known. Places that social media, and surface level conversations aren't reaching in to. Places that churches and faith leaders try to navigate to, but loneliness, fear, and shame try to cover up. When I see white men marching around with Confederate flags and torches, desperately clinging to a past that is not theirs and a future they can't control, I see the ragged, bleeding edges of souls that do not understand their own worth beyond what an eye can see. And it makes me sad. It makes my skin tingle in a frustrating mixture of sympathy and shame and hope and confusion. It makes me sad that knowing and loving one another is such a seemingly dangerous task. This week reminded me of the words Archbishop Desmond Tutu explaining the concept of "Ubuntu."

"Ubuntu [...] speaks of the very essence of being human... It is to say, "My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours." We belong in a bundle of life. We say, "A person is a person through other persons." [...] A person with ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes

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Sunday Readings

August 20, 2017
11th Sunday after
Pentecost (20 A)

Isaiah 56:1. 6-8

Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

August 27, 2017
12th Sunday after
Pentecost (21 A)

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

Summer Worship

**Holy Eucharist is
celebrated each
summer Sunday
morning at
9:30 a.m.**

Parking Help Available!

The parking situation at Mount Olive will be challenging for the next weeks and months with the installation of the geothermal wells in the parking lot. The Congregational Life Committee is offering a parking service on Sundays for persons for whom parking in the remote lot or on the street and walking back to church may be an issue.

If you feel you might benefit from this service, please contact Larry Duncan or Art Halbardier for assistance.

Could you help With This?

The Congregational Life Committee is in need of a few people who could help park cars before worship and be available after church to retrieve the car.

If you can help, please contact please contact Larry Duncan or Art Halbardier.

Fall Frolic - For the Fun of It!

All are invited to take part in a joyful, intergenerational church party on Saturday, September 16, from 4:30 - 9:00 PM.

Get to know your church family a bit better, meet new people, bring a friend along and show off the beautiful community we all love!

There will be a meal provided, activities for all ages, time for informal conversation and hobnobbing.

Young people, seniors, singles, families, and couples are all expected, and will find new ways to engage with one another and with the world outside our walls as we together live more deeply into our vocation to love one another, as Christ has loved us.

Save the date and plan to come, be fed, find refreshment, learn, and grow with your fellow church folk.



Book Discussion

For the September 9 meeting, they will read *The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah, and for October 14, *The Snow Child*, by Eowyn Ivey.

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the West Assembly area. All readers welcome!

Summer *Olive Branch* Publication

During the months of June-August, *The Olive Branch* is published every **other** week. This schedule begins with this issue.

The next *Olive Branch* will be the final summer issue, and will be published on Wednesday, August 30. ***The deadline for information for that issue is Monday, August 28.*** Regular weekly publication resumes on September 6.

Calendar

Wednesday, August 16

9:00 am Staff Meeting
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, August 19

9:00 am AMICUS / Men of Rafiki
11-2 Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal

Sunday, August 20 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
1:00 pm Nurturing Fellowship

Tuesday, August 22

Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

Wednesday, August 23

9:00 am Staff Meeting
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, August 26

9:00 am AMICUS / Men of Rafiki
9am-1 pm Altar Guild chancel cleaning

Sunday, August 27 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship

Tuesday, August 29

Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

Gene Hennig Memorial Bethania Kids Benefit

Tickets are now on sale for the Gene Hennig Memorial Bethania Kids Benefit, which will be held on Friday, October 13, 2017, 6 pm to 12 am, at the James J. Hill Library in downtown St. Paul.

All proceeds go to Bethania Kids, the non-profit organization Gene co-founded in 1987 to aid disadvantaged children in South India. This event will be a meaningful celebration of Gene's life and a celebration of the nonprofit he worked hard to build for nearly 30 years.

The Hennig family would love to see you there! Tickets and event details are available at www.ghhbkb.preclickbid.com.

Deviled Egg Plates Needed

Mount Olive Hospitality is looking for some donated deviled egg plates to use for receptions.

If you have one (or more!) that you no longer use and would be willing to donate, please contact Tom Olsen at 952-929-9781.

Welcome Our New Vicar

We welcome Jessica Christy to Mount Olive this week as our new vicar.

Jessica will be formally introduced in a future Olive Branch, but all are invited to make her welcome in these first weeks.

Please wear your nametags for the next few weeks. This will help Jessica begin to put names with faces.

Identifying Racism: a workshop

What is racism, really? Often people think of big, obvious examples, like racial slurs, the KKK or Nazis, racial hate crimes, or not hiring someone because of the color of their skin. But thinking about what racism IS and IS NOT is much more complicated than that.

Consider signing up for a YWCA educational opportunity that explores the four levels of racism and how they stand alone and intersect with each other, and gain knowledge of how racism plays a role in everyday interactions, decisions, policies, procedures and laws within the U.S.

This is an awareness level workshop and the Mount Olive Race Equity Group will reimburse the cost to attend this workshop.

Date: Thursday, September 14, 2017

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Location: YWCA Downtown - 1130 Nicollet Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55403 (in the Board Room)

Cost: \$10 (\$5 for YWCA Members)

RSVP by Thursday, September 7, 2017

You can sign up here <https://donate.ywcampls.org/minneapolis/events/workshop-racism-101/e112559>.

For questions about the Mount Olive Race Group or this workshop, please contact Larry Duncan at congregationallife@mountolivechurch.org or Samantha at neighborhoodministries@mountolivechurch.org.

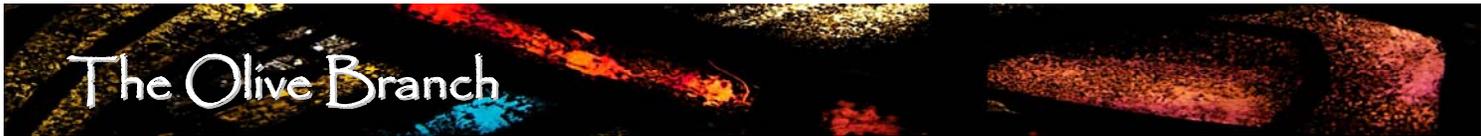
Sunday Liturgy: Songs of the Ordinary

Several have asked: “What happened to the Bach Sanctus?” I love hearing questions like that. As one young worshipper said, in a very matter-of-fact way, “We pay attention.” I thank God for that.

We are in the season we call “ordinary time.” This is a non-festival time of the liturgical year where we focus on growing. A simpler liturgy reflects that, being less festive and more simple (not to be confused with “simplistic”). We changed from the Bach because it’s important that communities not get too deeply mired in ruts they can’t get out of. However, Mount Olive has very few (if any) of these ruts, and we continue to explore new settings of the ordinary of the liturgy without neglecting our memory bank refreshing.

In response to the feedback, we will return to the Bach Sanctus and Kedrov Lord’s Prayer until the fall schedule of two services resumes. As always, I’m grateful for feedback, and I will continue to explore new possibilities for settings of these weekly songs for our discovery in the future years.

- Cantor Cherwien



Church Library News

A July 15, 2017 article in the Star Tribune's BOOKS section tells about 78 year old Germaine Gustafson who, in January of 1967, started a journal keeping track of all the books she had read throughout the years, a listing that now totals 6,708. This article also mentions another 8 people who have also kept track of the number and title of the books they have read and each shared a very unique approach regarding the method used in their filing endeavors, though none had been doing so as long as the first lady cited.

The reason this article caught my eye is because perhaps 3 or 4 years ago, a lady came into our church library one Sunday morning, and during our conversation, she said she was a visitor to our church from another state and amongst other complimentary things about our church music, etc., she said she was pleased to see that we also had an active church library ministry. Next, she related in some detail that she had been a reader all her life and that she had been keeping track of the titles of all the books she had read over the past 35 years of her life. I remember commenting back that I admired someone with that kind of discipline! And then further, to myself, I was saying -- "Now why didn't I think of that long ago?"

The next question is, are there other parishioners (or friends) of Mount Olive who have been doing the very same thing for years and we just don't know about it? Why not let me know, along with your statistics, and perhaps this kind of information can be shared with the congregation at a later date. I do know that we need to bestow kudos to Sherman Shand, who, since 2002, has kept a record of all the books read and discussed by our Mount Olive Book Group (not only by titles but by authors and also a year list each book was reviewed) which is quite a marvelous listing of worthy books indeed!

Especially helpful to parents comes a recent listing from *Imagination Soup: Books for Kids*, which emphasizes these "21 Reasons to Read" --

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| ~To Escape | ~To Imagine | ~To Travel |
| ~To Understand | ~To Connect | ~To Dream |
| ~To Laugh | ~To Learn | ~To Know |
| ~To Compare | ~To Discover | ~To Meet |
| ~To Emphasize | ~To Build Vocabulary | ~To Deepen |
| ~To Relax | ~To Think | ~To Adventure |
| ~To Focus | ~To Motivate | ~To Write |

How are your "gratitude journals" coming along (as suggested in my last library article)? Again, perhaps it is my age, but mine is literally bursting at the seams! For one example, Praise God for my memories!

- Leanna Kloempken

News From the Neighborhood

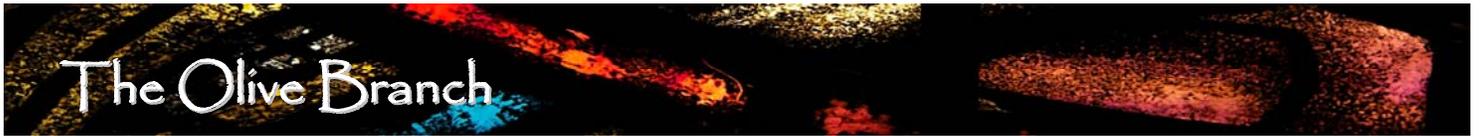
Saturday, August 5 was a lively, full day of service and sharing with our neighbors. The downstairs was buzzing with families searching for low and no cost clothing for back to school, getting information from Hennepin County, or getting diapers from the Diaper Depot. The line for school supplies made its way down the upstairs hallway, running parallel with the line of folks gathered for the community meal which was served from the upstairs kitchen due to the current construction. It was a beautiful, bubbling showcase of the life we are surrounded by and the opportunity we have to serve one another in need and in abundance. Thank you to everyone who made this possible: those who give financially, those who plan and prepare meals, those who shop and set-up, those who package or take down and clean up. It takes so many hands and hearts to extend so far into our neighborhood and to receive the rich blessing of knowing our neighbor.



Top left: Crowded hallways with lots of activity!

Top right: Thrifty shoppers at the Bargain Box

Bottom left: Giving away backpacks for kids headed back to school



Summer of '17

New Security System

After several months of no system and, fortunately, no incidents, Mount Olive will be again secured later this week. The new system is very easy to operate.

There is a touch pad at the glass door facing Chicago Ave. and each of the doors facing the alley. The alarm can be armed and disarmed at any of them.

The system will be operational this coming Thursday, August 17. If you have a door key checked out, we will send you an email with the pass code on Thursday. If you do not receive an email with the code, please call the church office any time after Thursday. The new code will not be written on the wall, nor will it be the street address. *Praemonitus praemunitus*; forewarned is forearmed! Get the password.



Valet Parking!

It will be at least 8-10 weeks before the Mount Olive parking lot is available again. The Minnesota Workforce Center is a great alternative for most. If the walk from Lake Street is difficult for you, however, don't let that keep you from coming to church!

If that's your situation, pull up to the Parish House door on Chicago Avenue. Beginning next Sunday, several volunteer "valets" will be available. The "valet" will park and lock your car, and return your key to you. After worship, let that person know when you're ready to leave and he or she will retrieve your car for you.

If you are providing transportation for someone, drop your passenger off at the door and park yourself if possible. Please leave the small North parking lot for those who need it most.

Construction Work Continues

Since the last installment two weeks ago, asbestos abatement is now almost complete; old ductwork, pipes and ceilings have been removed from the undercroft. Radiators are removed from the nave. Both the old boilers have been taken out, as is the huge ventilator that served the undercroft. Few ever saw the old ventilator; those who did may wonder how the workers ever got the monster out through that tiny trap door!

Outside, pipes for the geothermal system are now in place beneath 31st street - an amazing operation. Alongside them is also a water line and a conduit for electrical service. A good water supply was necessary to drill the geothermal wells.



The geothermal well drilling will have begun before you read this, and be well underway by next Sunday. It will take 2-3 weeks to drill all 48 wells. There are always a few surprises when remodeling. It's amazing to see how solidly this old building was constructed.



Updates on construction appear almost daily on <http://moboldstep.blogspot.com>. You can access the blog through the new church website, www.mountolivechurch.org.

News Flash: Solar Panels, at Last!!

In June, Innovative Power Systems (IPS) had set installation of the solar electrical system for July 25. Then a week or so before the big day, IPS informed us of a delay in assembling the financing for our project. It would likely be September before financing would be in place and installation could begin.

But what if the financing could not be arranged by September? If the September goal was not met, our Made in Minnesota solar incentive award from 2016 would be in real jeopardy. We would lose the award if the system is not installed and operational by the end of 2017.

Late in July, a proposal to the Mount Olive Lutheran Church Foundation was prepared, asking the Foundation to consider financing for the project. In place of an outside investment group, the Foundation would become the congregation's funding source for the project.

Here's the wonderful news: The Foundation board met in early August. The Foundation has agreed to lend the congregation \$71,845, the full purchase price of the system plus ten years of Operation and Maintenance. The loan will be at 0% for 12 years!

The Foundation will be repaid by the Made in Minnesota Award plus some of the church's energy savings from the solar system, so there will be no additional burden on the church budget.

Obviously, this is an incredibly generous action by the Foundation. For a number of years, the Foundation will not realize any growth of those funds lent to the church. But, they are pleased to support the congregation in this additional way, over and above their annual gift. Their commitment to the future of Mount Olive and the witness this project represents is strong.

Let's make sure the Foundation board members know how grateful we are!

Save the Date

Holly Near and John McCutcheon will be together for a concert on September 23rd at 7:00 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 9185 Lexington Avenue North, Circle Pines, MN. The concert is a benefit for the health work we support in Chile through ELCA missionary Karen Anderson and Educación Popular en Salud (EPES)/ Action for Health in the Americas (AHA). EPES is celebrating 35 years of working for justice and dignity in health, working with women in Chilean shanty towns. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door and can be purchased online at epes35brownpapertickets.com, or directly from Judy Hinck.

Bread for the World Sunday September 3

It is fitting that we begin our fall education hour by taking action to speak for those who are hungry. From Bread for the World:

"In 2017 we are raising our collective voice to ask Congress to make funding decisions that put our country and the world on track to end hunger by 2030. Your messages to Congress will push legislators to make funding decisions that will support vital anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs and policies.

The Trump administration's newest proposed budget for fiscal year 2018 includes deep cuts to domestic and international programs that serve poor and hungry people. The White House has sent Congress a list of programs to cut. The budget proposes:

- More than \$1.7 trillion in cuts to safety-net programs including SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), Medicaid, and refundable tax credits for low-income working families.
- More than \$190 billion in cuts to SNAP itself, impacting millions of senior citizens, working families, and unemployed Americans.
- Eliminating funding for Food for Peace, which funds emergency food aid and development programs.

These budget cuts would make it nearly impossible to end hunger and extreme poverty. You can make an impact. Tell Congress to reject these cuts."



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Accent on Worship,

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from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed, or treated as if they were less than who they are."

We can all be people with Ubuntu - people that know and trust our full identity in Christ and therefore have nothing to fear, but an abundance to give. We can be open, willing to walk in vulnerability with one another, asking the sticky questions that lead to a richer understanding of one another, because we are all a bundle of life together already.

- Anna Scott

Sing With the Cantorei

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 6, 7:00 pm

Another form of serving as "assisting minister" is through singing with the choir. Assisting Ministers assist the assembly each week in our Eucharist by leading the congregational song (rehearsing if needed), as well as offer an anthem. It is an important role, and a wonderful way to connect with a community within our community! Rehearsals are a rewarding kind of work, and although this may be a secret, we have fun at them as well.

Preparations for the next "season" for Cantorei are underway. If you have been thinking about singing, it's time to act. We do not hold auditions, and we understand if you have the need to be elsewhere now and then. In addition to the regular liturgical schedule for the Cantorei, this fall includes some exciting experiences: a Luther Hymn Festival at Mount Olive on October 8, and a city-wide Reformation Festival at Central Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 28. There are around 300 singers signed up for that group! We also lead in the Advent Procession Service on December 3.

All you need to do is come on September 6. The choir room is in the lower level just below the Chapel Lounge. We'll provide you with what you need. Maybe you know someone else who's thinking about it as well, and you can encourage them to join you.

Children's Choir Begins Wednesday, Sept. 13

Supper at 5:30, Rehearsal from 6:00-6:45

This group also serves as assisting ministers, preparing several leadership parts for each liturgy they assist in. Rehearsals are each Wednesday (except Thanksgiving Eve) from 9/13 through November (no rehearsals in December). They will participate in the 10:45 Eucharist approximately twice this fall.

This group learns the music for these liturgies, as well as many general things related to worship. It is open to grades 2 and up. Grade 2 is not a fast and hard line - sometimes younger can work. We do some reading, but this is reinforced by repetition games so reading is not critical to including the youngest.

Contact Cantor Cherwien if you think your child will be joining us! We will need to know numbers for the meal.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 9:30 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Jessica Christy*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Anna Scott*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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