

The Olive Branch

September 13, 2017

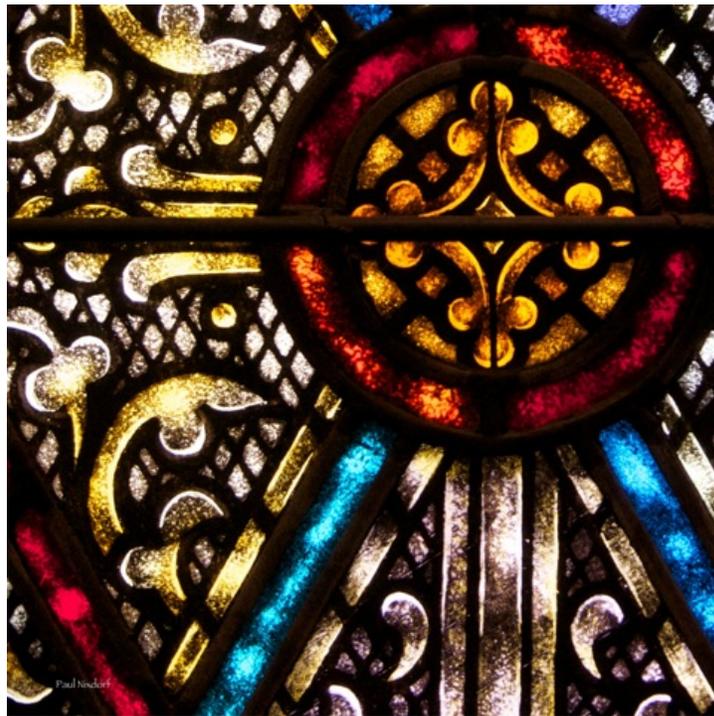
Accent on Worship

Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach and Ministries

As someone who interacts with people in financial turmoil on a daily basis, I am constantly walking in and out of people's shame around money. It's a tricky little beast. Too little money is deemed shameful. Too much money can also be deemed shameful. What we do or don't do with our money can weigh heavily on us, becoming a spiritual manifestation rather than simply a necessity of transactions. For something incredibly personal and private, money is a ubiquitous societal conversation, guiding almost every decision and providing a platform from which judgement, good and bad, may be cast.

Currently, a team from Mount Olive and I have been working to develop a no-interest loan program to provide an alternative to abusive lending options such as payday loans. Research is showing that although payday loans are a terrible option with 300% or more interest, people still find themselves in enough of a bind to utilize them. Whether it's a loss of a job, a medical issue, a car repair, or just not enough money to get the groceries at the end of the month, people need access to cash that is hard to come by. Our hope with this loan program is to create a different option that does not profit off of peoples' problems. Seems simple enough right? But, as I've been talking with Exodus lending, who refinances payday loans, (exodslending.org) and the Mount Olive team, we are constantly wrestling with the complexity of the relationship that humans have with money. Why all the shame? Why do we feel so pressured to hide our struggles? Why is it so hard to keep and so hard to give away?

Through my days serving as the Coordinator of NOM, I have had to develop a certain mantra to try and sort through this messy relationship and be able to open-heartedly serve the people who come to this church seeking assistance. I rely on the idea of "goodwill," trusting their integrity, and leaving any judgement or concern to God. We are able to give resources, but in a small way I believe that we can serve each other more fully by freeing one another from any hint of shame, loss of dignity or sense of judgement around money - however much or little a person has. Our hope with this loan program is to offer people burdened by the weight of worry, fear and shame a safe, kind option that communicates Gods love and their neighbor's goodwill.



Sunday Readings

September 17, 2017

15th Sunday after
Pentecost (24 A)

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, 2017

16th Sunday after
Pentecost (25 A)

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

Holy Cross Day
Thursday, September 14
Holy Eucharist
at 7:00 pm.
A reception will follow.
All are welcome.

Sunday's Adult Forum

9:30 am in the Chapel Lounge

September 17: "From Genesis to Exodus," presented by Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach & Ministry at Mount Olive.

A picture of economic realities in South Minneapolis and the introduction of the new Genesis loan program to lend struggling families a helping hand by creating a safe lending option.

Next Sunday, September 24: "The Minneapolis-Leipzig Connection," presented by The Rev. Morris Wee.

What's going on in the church of Luther 500 years after the Reformation? What can we learn from our German partners? Morris Wee is co-chair of the Minneapolis Area Synod's Leipzig Partnership Team, and he participated in the first clergy exchange program, serving at the Sophia Parish of Leipzig from September 2015 to July 2016.

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 p.m.**

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, and 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.

Mount Olive's New Social Group

The first gathering of the new Mount Olive Social Group will be a trip to Sponsel's Apple Orchard in Jordan, MN, on Friday, Sept. 22. We will meet at Mount Olive at 10:00 a.m. and carpool to the orchard, pick apples, drink cider, and have lunch. All are welcome!

Book Discussion

For the September 9 meeting, the Book Discussion group 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!

From Conflict to Communion

2017 is the first ever joint Lutheran/Catholic commemoration of the Reformation. In preparation for this singular event, the Roman Catholic / Lutheran Joint Commission published the document, "From Conflict to Communion."

On Sundays, October 8, 15, and 22, following the second liturgy, Don Luther will lead a discussion group focused on this document. To register, email Don at luther5708@usfamily.net, or call him at 612-861-4777. In preparation for the gathering, "From Conflict to Communion" can be downloaded for free here: <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-conflict-communion-basis-lutheran-catholic-commemoration-reformation-2017>.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, September 13

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal
6:00 pm Transitions Support Group
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsals resume
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, September 14 - Holy Cross Day

- 7:00 pm *Holy Eucharist*, followed by reception

Saturday, September 16

- 11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal
4:30 pm Fall Frolic

Sunday, September 17 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

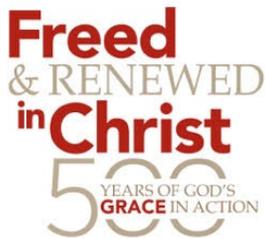
- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship

Monday, September 18

- 6:30 pm ReconcilingWorks Committee meeting

Tuesday, September 19

- Noon Bible Study
1-3 pm CoAM Advisory Committee meeting
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Evangelism Committee meeting



As part of our Reformation 500 observance at Mount Olive, there will be a special book sale offered after both liturgies on Sundays, October 1 and October 8.

Get discounts on several books from Augsburg and Sparkhouse Publishing. Books for both adults and children will be

available. This is not a fundraiser, but we will earn books for our church library.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help set up, sell and take down books, you would be welcome! Contact Lora Dundek with questions.

All You Need Is Love?

Thursday Bible Study Begins Sept. 21

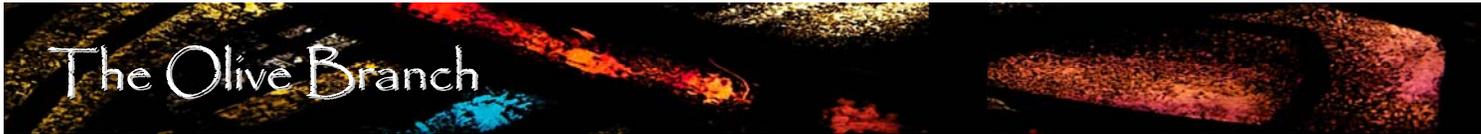
The first Thursday Bible study series of this year begins on Thursday, Sept. 21, skips a week, then continues from Oct. 5 to Nov. 2.

Meeting in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Pr. Crippen will be leading a study on the First Letter of John, titled "All You Need Is Love?"

This treasured epistle is a deep, joyful exploration of the power of God's sacrificial love to reconcile all things, and the desire of God that we share in that love for the sake of the world.

As usual, there will be a light supper when we begin. If anyone wishes to provide the first meal, please let Pr. Crippen know.

All are welcome to this study opportunity!



Summer of '17, continued ...

Before and After Department

Remember this picture? Our old boilers, now departed.



The replacements arrived on Monday. Yes, they look like a new washer and dryer ... and that's about their size. These are our new boilers, soon to be installed!



And, the word is the well drilling in the parking lot is almost done. It may be complete by Friday this week, or beginning of next.



A Message from the Treasurer

- General giving year-to-date is slightly ahead of last year at this time. This is impressive, especially considering the special gifts that many have been making to support the Bold Step Forward Capital Appeal, recent hurricane relief support, as well as other dedicated gifts that support specific missions and ministries of the congregation.
- We have a sizable operational gap. Year-to-date as of August 31, operating expenses have exceeded income by \$94,803. A sizable deficit at this point of the year is not uncommon due to seasonal giving trends; we usually see a significant uptick in giving in the last few months of the year. However, this is a larger gap than we usually see, meaning there will be a larger gap to close in the last four months of 2017.

2017 Income/Expense		
	August	2017 YTD
Income	\$46,900	\$422,263
Expense	\$67,898	\$517,067
% Expenses Funded	69%	82%

News From the Neighborhood

*Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood
Outreach & Ministry*



Get involved: Sheridan Story

You may have heard, but school is starting up again and that means a lot of excitement as kids go back to class.

Mount Olive supports Jefferson Community School on 26th & Hennepin through the Sheridan Story, by packing a bag of food in backpacks for children for the weekend when they don't have access to school-provided meals. Mount Olive has the opportunity to support the work of Sheridan Story and encourage the staff and students at Jefferson through our care and attention to their needs. Here are a few ways to support our partner school:

- ✓ Sponsor a child and provide a weekend meal throughout the school year. Go to <https://app.moonclerk.com/pay/dt4r5ucqxat> to donate through the Mount Olive page. For \$130 you can feed a child and their family a meal for the whole school year!
- ✓ Pack backpacks on Friday afternoons with a team of volunteers. It's simple, hands on, and a great way to interact with the staff and students you are serving.
- ✓ Keep your eyes open for upcoming opportunities to be involved in Jefferson events like
- ✓ providing cakes for a cake walk or manning the booth at a book fair.

Can you help? Have any questions? Contact Anna Scott 612-827-5919 or speak with Elaine Halbardier for more info.

Vets Ministry Roundtable

Healing of Memories Workshops with Veterans

The next meeting of the Vets Ministry Roundtable will be held on Thursday, September 26, from 12:30-2 pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 2315 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis.

Learn about the Healing of Memories workshops from veterans and facilitators Al Bostelmann and Sheila Laughton. This internationally-tested method has helped veterans transform their lives in the aftermath of troubled memories. We'll also discuss the Vietnam War documentary.

This roundtable is for people interested in ministry with veterans and their families.

Lunch will be provided at no charge. To pre-register, email Buddy@ListenToVets.org, or call (612) 871-2967.

Common Hope “Sponsorpalooza”

Common Hope is one of Mount Olive’s supported missions. It is an organization that promotes hope and opportunity in Guatemala, partnering with children, families, and communities in a process of development to improve their lives through education, health care, and housing.

Much of Common Hope’s financial support comes from sponsorship where a child is paired with a sponsor who supports that child’s education financially and develops a relationship with that child and his/her family.

During the month of September, Common Hope has its Sponsorpalooza, with a goal of connecting more than 850 Guatemalan children with sponsors. Every new sponsorship’s first month donations will be matched.

Common Hope will be at Mount Olive on Sunday, September 17, for informal conversation about what sponsorship means for children and families in Guatemala. Seven Mount Olive families are already sponsoring one or more children! Learn more by visiting Common Hope on the web at: <http://www.commonhope.org/sponsorpalooza/>.

Music and Fine Arts 2017-2018 Series

By now everyone should have received the brochure for this exciting series!

In addition to the regular Advent and Lent Procession Services and Bach Tage, the series includes a hymn festival with hymns of Martin Luther, Tricia Van Ee, Mezzo Soprano, and Chandler Molbert, Baritone, and pianist Jill Dowe on the newly acquired Steinway piano will delight us with a voice and piano concert in January. In April, the renowned bell choir from Duluth, “Strikepoint,” will fill the space with ringing!

This series is offered to the community free of charge, supported through donations received from the people of Mount Olive.

There will be a Music and Fine Arts representative in the Narthex the next two Sundays to receive donations and pledges.



- **The Stewardship Committee** is seeking offering Counters on Sundays. Contact Kat Campbell Johnson or Brian Jacobs with questions or to volunteer.
- **The Evangelism Committee** is looking for volunteers to help with the Reformation 500 Book Fair on Sundays, October 1 and 8, following each morning liturgy. Help set up books, take orders and money, take-down set-up. Contact Lora Dundek, lhdundek@usfamily.net or 651/645-6636.
- **Neighborhood Ministries Committee** is looking for volunteers to help serve monthly meals at Our Saviour’s Shelter (2nd Sunday of each month at 6:45 pm). Contact Rod & Connie Olson at olsonrr@gmail.com, or Elaine Halbardier at elaineandart2@comcast.net.

Semi-Annual Meeting Oct. 15: Budget and Bylaws

The Vestry has set Sunday, Oct. 15 as the date of the October semi-annual meeting of the congregation. The meeting will start at 12:15 p.m. On the agenda is the 2018 general budget of the congregation, and recommendations from the Vestry for several bylaw changes.

As usual, there will be a preview meeting a week earlier, Sunday, Oct. 8, after second liturgy, to give people a chance to talk about the budget and these bylaw changes.

Following are the recommended bylaw changes. They are intended to better reflect current congregational practice, and to give more directed guidance to the ministry with youth and their families. If the bylaws are approved Oct. 15, they take effect immediately.

In B4.03 **The Director of Congregational Life**

Replace:

- f. ~~Make every effort to induce members who have been negligent in their attendance at services, in the use of the Sacraments and the financial support of the Congregation to fulfill their responsibilities as members.~~

With:

- f. Make every effort to connect with members who have become or are becoming less active or are worshipping less frequently, to pray for them, and to engage with them in listening for how the Congregation might be of Christly service to them.

In B4.11 **The Director of Youth and Family Ministry** (*add underlined to title*)

The Director of Youth and Family Ministry shall:

Replace:

- a. ~~Promote, project and facilitate the ministry of the Congregation to and by the youth of the Congregation.~~
- b. ~~Design and promote programs of education, fellowship and service for junior high and high school age members of the Congregation.~~

With:

- a. In conjunction with the Pastor, assist and help lead the Congregation in its ministry with the children and youth of the Congregation and their families.
- b. Support, encourage, and assist families of this Congregation in carrying out their role of teaching the faith to their children.
- c. Encourage spiritual growth of the youth and children of the Congregation through Bible study, prayer, music, and Christian service, and assist and encourage families to participate in these activities at home.
- d. Collaborate with the Pastor, the Cantor, and the Director of Education on educational offerings to the children and youth of the Congregation, as well as classes in Christian parenting, faith in the family, and other similar issues; and assist in planning and recruiting leadership of the same.
- e. Collaborate with other Vestry directors to plan and encourage involvement of the youth and children of the Congregation in all aspects of the congregation's ministry.
- f. Plan and coordinate activities for youth with other youth groups outside this Congregation.

The Olive Branch



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"But God has put the body together . . . If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

(1 Corinthians 12:24b, 26)

Dear Friends at Mount Olive Lutheran Church:

We join you in praying for all those affected by devastating Hurricanes.

When disaster strikes, Christians are among the first to roll up their sleeves and open their wallets – and Thrivent Financial members often look for additional opportunities to help those in need. In addition to relief efforts your church might be involved with, Thrivent members and others in your church can help in the following ways:

Donate. Thrivent will match up to \$3 million on individual personal donations to specific disaster relief organizations.*

Lend a hand. Learn how Thrivent members can share time and talent to help with recovery efforts by leading a Thrivent Action Team. Eligible members can also direct Choice Dollars®.

Visit the Disaster Response page on Thrivent.com for details on these opportunities.

As the Christian community comes together to pray for and reach out to those who have been affected by the recent disasters, Thrivent Financial is mobilizing its financial resources and members nationwide to help those in need. Thrivent members and others who are interested in ways to help with the recovery efforts are encouraged to visit www.Thrivent.com to learn more about the organization's \$3 million match on individual personal donations and other ways in which they can help.

We thank you for continuing to keep storm victims in your prayers and support them as you're financially or physically able. Your commitment to living generously is appreciated.



Photo by Lt. Zachary West, 100th MPAD

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8:00 & 10:45 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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