

The Olive Branch

October 11, 2017



Accent on Worship

Anna Scott

Ten years ago I was in the middle of a study abroad program in Costa Rica. Over three months we would study language, culture, and re-examine our world views and religious ties as they were challenged through field study and cultural immersion. In short, we were young adults thrown into a different, bigger world and needed to learn how to float. The students all came from Christian colleges, primarily white and definitely ignorant of the broader realities that existed near and far from our own life bubbles.

In Costa Rica is where I learned how to first speak Spanish, although my host family lovingly told me, "Anna, you sound good, but we don't know what you're saying." In Nicaragua I lived with a single mother of 5 girls for 5 days in a one room shack and got a glimpse of what faith looks like within the trials of extreme poverty. And what fleas feel like.

In Cuba I was solicited for prostitution but also felt the safest and most free I've ever felt in a big town in the evening. As a group of students and professors, we slowly and abruptly dismantled our prejudices and assumptions, trading naïveté for heart-warming and ego-humbling revelations. Our professors required investigation and explanation rather than simple rote answers that had been handed to us through culture or family. It was the type of experience where one actually learns how to think, rather than what to think.

Now, a decade later, I can see the impact that those months made in my life in large and small ways. I still feel that annoying, pervasive itch to dig deeper, think more broadly, and create more space for different perspectives than mine. I laugh at some of the things I remember saying with confidence, only to be upended and drained through the holes in my reasoning.

Even though it's been many years since I've sat in a classroom, the opportunities available to search and change and be transformed still abound. The opportunities to believe in a bigger, wilder God are as available today as they were then. One thing I learned for sure in Costa Rica is that I still have so much to learn.

Sunday Readings

October 15, 2017

**19th Sunday after
Pentecost (28 A)**

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

October 22, 2017

**20th Sunday after
Pentecost (29 A)**

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday's Adult Forum

Sunday, October 15: "Bethania Kids," presented by representatives from Bethania Kids.

For 30 years, Bethania Kids has brought wholeness and hope to poor, abandoned, and disabled children in India. For many of those years, Mount Olive Lutheran Church has been partners with Bethania Kids in this ministry. The late Gene Hennig, a founder of Bethania Kids, was a long-time member of Mount Olive. We have continued to support the Bethania Kids children and we are grateful for all at Mount Olive who participate in this important global mission. For more information, see <https://bethaniakids.org/about/>

Next Sunday, October 22: "Working for Climate Justice," presented by Michael Lansing and Connie Marty (co-chairs of the Mount Olive Climate Justice advisory committee).

What are green movements doing to address climate change? A look at the broader context for climate justice work, and an opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns, share insights, and affirm steps for moving toward care for the earth.

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting

This Sunday, Oct. 15, 12:15 pm

The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2018 general budget of the congregation, and hear recommendations from the Vestry for several bylaw changes (*see page 7*).

Call for Arch Books

Arch Books are small, children's books that tell stories of the Bible. They are no longer published, but chances are some may be still on bookshelves in your home. If you are looking for a "re-use" of these small treasures, they would be great additions to the BUSY BAGS for young children at Mount Olive. Contact Marilyn Gebauer (612-306-8872) if you care to donate your books.

Book Discussion

For the October 14 meeting, the Book Discussion Group will read *The Snow Child*, by Eowyn Ivey. For the November 11 meeting, they will read *Anna Karenina*, by Leo Tolstoy.

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>.

Calendar

Wednesday, October 11

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsals resume
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, October 12

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, October 14

- 9:30 am Confirmation
10:00 am Book Discussion Group

Sunday, October 15 - 19th 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
Noon Semi-annual Congregation Meeting

Monday, October 16

- 6:30 pm ReconcilingWorks committee meeting

Tuesday, October 17

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

All You Need Is Love?

Thursday Bible Study Continues

The first Thursday Bible study series of this year continues through Nov. 2.

Meeting in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Pr. Crippen is 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, we begin with a light supper at 6 pm.

All are welcome to this study opportunity!

Mount Olive's Bold Step Forward Project In the News

+ From the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*:

<http://m.startribune.com/mpls-mount-olive-lutheran-church-turns-to-the-earth-to-support-the-heavens/450017873/?section=local>

+ From *The Alley* (Phillips Neighborhood newspaper): <http://alleynews.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/october-2017-alley-web.pdf>

Altar Guild Welcomes New Servers

Serving on Mount Olive's Altar Guild – caring for the communion vessels, linens, and flowers that enhance our liturgies – can be a spiritually rewarding extension of worship.

Responsibilities

- Prepare the altar before worship, or clean up and set up between liturgies (when we have two), or clean up afterward.
- Serve with a spouse, partner, or friend; with another Altar Guild member; or alone. You choose.
- Attend quarterly Altar Guild meetings.

Frequency

Each person signs up for the time slot and dates that suit her or his schedule, usually one to three liturgies per month.

Training

Experienced, patient Altar Guild members provide thorough on-the-job training.

Contact

If you're interested in serving, please send a note to welcome@mountolivechurch.org. Or stop in the north sacristy (through the front left door as you face the altar) before or after any liturgy to talk with a current Altar Guild member.

From Lutheran Disaster Response

Thank you for your recent gift to Lutheran Disaster Response. Because of your ongoing giving, survivors of disasters will have renewed hope.

Over the last five weeks, our Church has been able to respond to the unprecedented number of disasters around the globe with efforts including:

- In Texas, where Hurricane Harvey caused destruction, we're hiring a disaster response coordinator to work with our partners and affiliates to connect volunteers and donations to where they're needed most.
- In Cuba, where Hurricane Irma made landfall, we're supporting the distribution of items like cookware, dishes and blankets to help families get back to normal life.
- In Mexico, where three major earthquakes struck within weeks, we're supporting our local partner as they distribute food, water and other basic necessities to those who have lost their homes.
- In Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, where Hurricane Maria left devastation, we're coordinating the delivery of critical items including dry food, generators and solar-powered phones.

Mark your blue envelope gifts "Lutheran Disaster Response" or give online at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/>.

News from the Neighborhood

Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministries & Outreach

Helping a neighbor at church

Sunday morning is a bustling time in the life of a church, and it's commonly a time when neighbors may come in to see if there is help available for some of their needs. This happens often at Mount Olive, and it's good to know how to serve someone well when they are in need of resources, so here's a few tools you can use:

If they are hungry - feed them.

We usually have food around, and there are cans of soup in a box in the corner by the upstairs kitchen above the grocery cart where food donations go that can be heated up in the microwave right away or taken with. Offer a plastic bag, some utensils (lower drawer on left of the oven), something to drink, napkins. Unless it's obviously labeled otherwise, the food in our building is meant to be shared - please use it as it is needed to serve anyone and everyone without hesitation. *Soup or stew with pop-tops or microwavable meals are helpful to have in donations!

In that same corner in the coatroom on the left side are bins with hygiene supplies (shampoo, soap, razors, toothbrushes, feminine products) Please offer these items and a bag if they need it. Again, it is all meant to be given away. Do not feel that you need to hover or protect anything in these bins. *Things like jackets, t-shirts, socks are also helpful to have from donations.

If they need information about local resources, there are packets of information in the document holder on the right side of the display case. Do they need money? This is your personal decision to make if you'd like to help, but I would recommend being creative with a heart of goodwill. That does not always include giving cash. If Pastor Crippen or I are around we can speak with them as well or give them the church phone number to reach us the following day. As a reference: bus fare is \$2.00-\$2.50.

My hope is to not only help create a welcoming spirit, but also one of open hands and hearts. Everything in this church is meant and designed to serve. Please feel free to use its abundance and resources to do that in whatever way you feel guided.

- Anna Scott

HELP WANTED!



- **Congregational Life:**
Volunteers are needed to bring treats and serve coffee hour after Sunday liturgies. There is a sign-up sheet in East Assembly Room next to the serving window - sign up this weekend! If you have any questions about serving coffee, contact Carla Manuel, 612-521-3952.
- **Worship Committee:**
The Altar Guild is seeking new volunteers. See page 5 of this *Olive Branch* for complete information.

Semi-Annual Meeting This Sunday, Oct. 15: Budget and Bylaws

This Sunday, Oct. 15, is 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.

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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Church Library News

In mid-March of this year, one of our articles in *The Olive Branch* listed some of the Reformation 500 books in our library collection, which were on display at that time and ready for your perusal and possible check-out.

During our church's more recent fall emphasis on several happenings regarding the Reformation 500 theme, these books have once again been pulled from the shelves and are on display near the right window inside our library. You are invited to stop in soon to re-acquaint yourselves with our collection!

The shocking and horrible news that has bombarded our lives in the past month or so has left many of us searching for some kind of solace and comfort to somehow strengthen our aching hearts. Perhaps some of you have found your answers but if not, I invite you to come in the library to spend some time perusing our collections especially in the Inspirational and Devotional categories, where there is much to explore. Plus, don't forget the DVDs for adults in our spinning rack. A smaller display across from the check-out desk offers just a sampling of titles you may find helpful, as follows:

THE BOOK OF COMFORT, by Alvin N. Rogness

TRAVELING LIGHT - Releasing the Burden You Were Never Intended to Bear, by Max Lucado

THE TOUCH OF THE EARTH, by Jean Hersey

UNLESS YOU DIE YOUNG, by Gladys Hasty Carroll

CREDO, by William Sloane Coffin

LEADING LIVES THAT MATTER - What we should do and Who we should be, by Mark R. Schwehn and Dorothy Bass, editors

PRAYERS FOR A TIME OF CRISIS, an older but still relevant book, by author Walter Riess

FAMILY TIME STORY DEVOTIONS, by Eldon Weisheit

SAFE IN HIS ARMS - Devotions for the Autumn Years, by H.E. Wisloff

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE CHRISTIAN SOUL - 101 Stories to open the heart and rekindle the Spirit, by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Patty Aubrey and Nancy Mitchell, editors

This past Sunday I came to the church library and found two bags of books waiting as an assumed donation, but without any note of who made the unexpected donation. Before I can even begin to think about considering any of the books so donated, or ones you may be planning to donate, please be sure to include your name, or let me know later of that fact.

Closing this article with a quotation from Raising Readers, who shared a Growing Book by Book post – "If you read to a child 15 minutes a day, by age 5, that will add up to 27,375 minutes or 456 hours or 19 days!" Also a related quotation from Confucius: "No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance."

- Leanna Kloempken

Announcing an Ordination

Christopher Michael Lee will be ordained on Sunday, October 29, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mendota, Illinois, at 4 pm.

Chris married Kirsten Bjork Lee at Mount Olive and attended Mount Olive for five months in 2004 and 2005.

Your prayers and presence are requested. Chris has accepted a call to serve as pastor at First Lutheran Church in Rock Island, Illinois.

Transitions Support Group Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Do you ever think it would be nice to have someone who would just listen to what's going on in your life right now? That's what we do for each other when we meet. Join us on Wednesday, November 1, at 6:00 pm. This is an opportunity to share your particular concerns with others in the Mount Olive community.

Transitions Support Group meets on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 6- 7 pm at Mount Olive in the Library.

For more information, please contact Cathy Bosworth 612-708-1144, marcat8447@yahoo.com, or Heather Halen 612-822-0953, hjoyhalen@hotmail.com.

Clean Energy Forum

On October 24, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light invites us to learn more about what WE can do at a practical level to move Minnesota closer to 100% renewable energy!

We will gather to learn about bipartisan legislation related to clean energy in Minnesota and strategize about what the faith community can do to pass that legislation in 2017! Clergy and congregational leaders alike are invited! There will also be live streaming for those who cannot get to by visiting <https://mnipl.org/>.

This event will be held on Tuesday, October 24, from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm at St. Olaf Catholic Church, 215 8th St. S. in Minneapolis.

This forum is sponsored by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, the Ecofaith Network of the Minneapolis Area and Northeastern Minnesota (ELCA) Synods, ISAIAH, and Lutheran Advocacy Minnesota.

For questions contact Connie Marty at climatejustice@mountolivechurch.org.

Attention Mount Olive Worship Assistants

The Servant Schedule for the 1st quarter of 2018 (January - March) will be published at the beginning of December 2017. The deadline for submitting requests to me is November 1, 2017. Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com. Thanks!

- Peggy Hoefft