

The Olive Branch

November 15, 2017

Accent on Worship

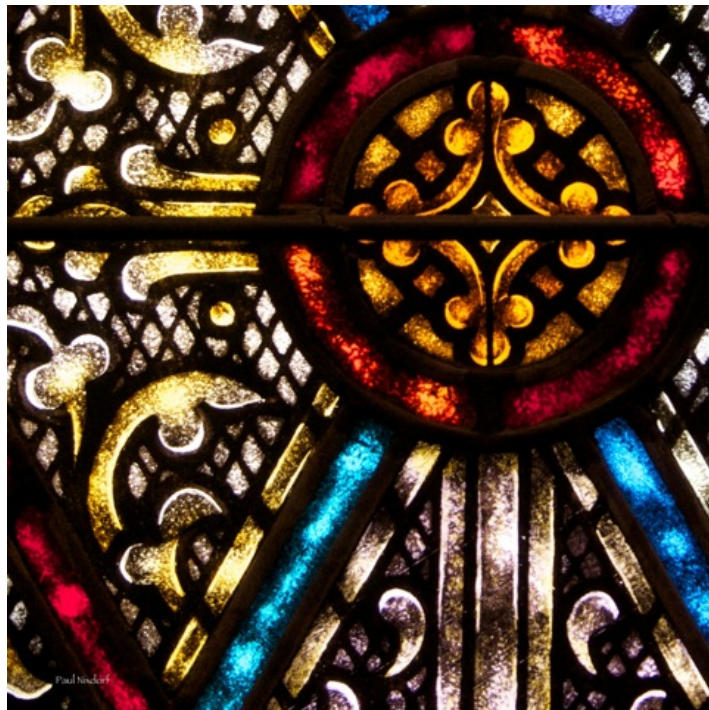
Vicar Jessica Christy

This week marks three months since I arrived at Mount Olive. I feel like I just started, but quarter of my time here has already flown by. It's a startling reminder of how swiftly our days pass. Before I know it, this season of my life will be over.

Psalm 90 is a meditation on how brief human lives must seem to God. Our days pass by quickly to us - but how much more fleeting they appear in comparison to God's eternity! For God, the psalmist says, a millennium passes like a single night's watch. What could our few decades on this earth mean in the face of that kind of time? People live and die as quickly as a blade of grass grows and fades. God is forever, but we are dust. I like to think that, if the psalmist lived today, he'd add another stanza wrestling with what we now understand about the vastness of the universe. Our cosmos is incomprehensibly vast, and we are but specks on a tiny, fragile planet. How could God care for us when we are so small?

This could be cause for despair, for concluding that nothing about our lives matters, but that's not how the psalmist sees it. We aren't so many indifferent mayflies in God's sight. No, we have a compassionate God who knows and loves us. God shows us love and favor, and God is angered by our sins. This immense, eternal God is intimately involved in our fleeting lives, moved by our joys, our failures, and our prayers. God has taught, protected, guided us through the ages, and we know that God is with us now. It might sometimes be hard for us to understand how, but the entire Biblical witness proclaims that we matter to God.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a wise heart," the psalmist prays. Our days pass quickly, but God can teach us how to make them into something good. There is wisdom in noticing the time as it passes, in striving to make the most of the years that we have. But when the time feels too short, we don't have to feel guilty or anxious about not doing enough, because we know that we are held by God's infinite, eternal love.



Sunday Readings

November 19, 2017

**24th Sunday after
Pentecost**

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 26, 2017

Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday's Adult Forum

Sundays, November 12, 19, 26: "Where Our Heart Is," a 3-part series presented by Pastor Crippen.

This series is an exploration of capitalism, the Market as god, and life in Christ, with Jesus' admonition in mind: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

New Member Welcome

Mount Olive will welcome new members (or associate members) into membership on **Sunday, December 10, at the 10:45 liturgy**. A welcome brunch for the whole congregation will follow the service at 12:15 pm.

If you would like to be included in this new member group, or if you know someone who would like an invitation to join, please contact Cha at the church office (welcome@mountolivechurch.org or 612/827-5919) or speak with Pastor Crippen. Thanks!

Music & Fine Arts' Advent Procession Service

Sunday, December 3, 2017 - 4:00 pm

Mark the season with a solemn procession and a series of lessons and carols for Advent. Candles, incense, and beautiful music help draw all into this season of hope in the darkest time of the year. All are welcome.

Advent Luncheon for Seniors to be Held Wednesday, December 6

Attention Seniors (65 and over)! Be on the lookout for your invitation to the annual Advent Luncheon for Seniors. The invitations for this fun annual event will soon be in the mail!

If you are age 65 or over and have not received your invitation, it's likely because we do not have your birthdate (or correct birthdate) on file. If that's the case, please call the church office and let us know so that we can update your membership information. All members of the Mount Olive Community age 65 and over are cordially invited!

Book Discussion

For the December 9 meeting, the Book Discussion Group will read *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston.

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!

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

**Thursday, Nov. 23,
10:00 a.m.**

Bring non-perishable food items to help re-stock local food shelves. Monetary donations are especially welcome (for every \$1 donated, food shelf personnel are able to buy about \$9 worth of food!)

As has been our custom for a number of years, the entire offering received at the Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day will be divided between Sabbathani Community Center and Community Emergency Services food shelves.

Calendar

Wednesday, November 15

- 10:00 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, November 16

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, November 18

- 9:30 am Confirmation
11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal

Sunday, November 19 - 24th 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, November 20

- 4-6 pm National Lutheran Choir Board meeting
6:30 pm ReconcilingWorks committee meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, November 21

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

Every Church a Peace Church

The next regular bimonthly potluck supper meeting will be on Monday, November 20, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 4537 3rd Ave. S.*; in Minneapolis. (*access to parking lot), 612-823-8205 (<http://www.stjoan.com>)

The speaker for this forum will be Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer. His presentation is entitled "The Politics of Economic (In)Security."

This meeting is sponsored by the Twin Cities Peace Campaign, WAMM End War Committee, Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27, and St. Joan of Arc / WAMM Peacemakers.

Storytelling for Survivors: Exile, Empire, and the Shape of Scripture

The second Thursday Bible study series of this year begins on Nov. 16, and will meet in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Vicar Christy will lead this exploration of texts related to the Babylonian Exile (597-539 B.C.E.), with an emphasis on understanding the writers as survivors making sense of crises.

How did the experience of conquest and displacement shape how the ancient faith community told its story, and how do the questions they asked about God still live with us today? Over the five weeks, we will read selections from Kings, various prophets, the Psalms, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Esther.

We begin at 6 pm with a light supper. Please contact Vicar Christy if you are willing to provide a light supper for our first session.

Sharing Chibok Diaries

As we continue to pray for Naomi Bitrus' classmates still in captivity in Nigeria, another of her classmates who was released earlier (and another Naomi as well) is sharing a diary of her experiences. It makes for powerful reading. We encourage you to check it out at

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-41570252> .

Also keep Brad Holt in your prayers as he journeys in Nigeria to visit and share with pastors from the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria. We are one body in Christ.

National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival: “No Room?”

This cherished annual event creates a holy experience for audiences in the awe-inspiring Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. In 2017, the birth of Christ as a refugee story is more poignant and relevant than ever. In this time of unwelcome, discord, and deepening division, is there room for Christ to be born today?

Friday, December 8, 4:30 & 8:00pm

Saturday, December 9, 8:00pm

Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Tickets are available by calling Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006, or order online at NLCA.com.

Notes of Thanks

Many thanks to the folks who helped clean our sanctuary and narthex this past Saturday: Steve Berg, Beth Gaede, Victor Gebauer, Eunice Haefmeister, Katherine Hanson, Neil Hering, Peg Hoeft, Tim Lindholm, Bonnie McLellan, Steve Pranschke, and Timm Schnabel. Your hard work is much appreciated!

Thanks also to everyone who helped make our Reformation 500 commemoration potluck so successful. It's always risky to thank individuals, in case you leave someone out, but there are some folks who deserve special thanks:

- The food and beverage crew, including Gail Nielsen, Carla Manuel, Kat and Gretchen Campbell Johnson and many other worker bees!
- All the Mount Olive folks who brought great food to share!
- Andrew Andersen and Sexton James Wilkes for set-up and logistics support
- David Molvik for patching together a sound system
- The Martin Luther Readers' Theatre presenters: David Engen, Dan and Emily Hellerich, Lora Dundek, Austin Crosby, Sedona Crosby, Audrey Crippen, Joe Kane, Mark Spitzack, Dwight Penas, and Jim Bargmann.
- Everyone who joined the set-up and clean-up crew.

It was a fun event!

News from the Neighborhood

Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministries & Outreach

Give Thanks. Give Food. Give Care. Give.

As we approach Thanksgiving and the winter season, it is time to collect food and goods for our neighbors in need. Here is what would be helpful for our partners at Sabathani, CES, and our own use here:

- Non-perishable food items such as; canned fruit, canned meats, pasta, rice, oil, flour, sugar, fruit juice, stew, peanut butter & jelly.
 - Prepackaged, single serve soups and meals like ramen, boxed meals, and stews which can go to folks on the street and can be warmed in microwaves.
 - Hygiene supplies such as; socks, razors, feminine products, toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes/toothpaste, dish and laundry soap.
- Cash goes the farthest for food shelves! Donations can be marked "Thanksgiving" on blue envelopes. All donations will be brought forward at the service on Thanksgiving Day and brought to our partners the following week. Thank you for your care for our neighbors!

Cold Weather Gear

Stay warm and keep others cozy! Neighborhood Ministries is collecting coats, hats, scarves, and mittens to be given away during Community Meals this winter. Please drop new or gently used donations in the box by the coat area. Thank you!

Update From Brad Holt in Nigeria

I have actually seen some of the Chibok girls! Monday afternoon I visited the American University of Nigeria, where over 100 of them are now enrolled. I was not able to speak to them. They are under extreme security to protect them.

I had a very fruitful discussion with the leaders of the Bronnum Lutheran Seminary concerning possible partnership between our congregation and the seminary. This has already been discussed at length in our Missions Committee, and is yet to be approved by the Nigerian archbishop and the American bishop.

Last Sunday I preached at wonderful service that lasted 4 hours and 17 minutes. The offering alone took 30 minutes! Many were outside looking in the windows. There were a dozen pastors, a dozen catechists, and three bishops present.

I hope to return on November 20. Thank you again for your thoughts and prayers.

- Brad

The Olive Branch



The big machine is the fresh air unit on the Parish House roof. This exchanges inside stale air for healthy outside air. Electrician Tony is trying to figure out where all those mysterious wires need to go (he really knows; he was just looking very serious for the camera.).



The large tank truck is filled with deionized water and glycol. The other truck has all the pumps and valves. Together, they are giving the geothermal wells their final fill. The guys operating them are taking great pains to make sure there is not one air bubble in the system!

Since we're in deep Reformation mode this year, we shall now pose the Small Catechism question - What does this mean for us? It means there should be one extra thing to celebrate on Thanksgiving Day - HEAT IN THE CHURCH!

But probably not this coming Sunday. There are still details being cleaned up. Plus starting up this complicated system is more than just flipping a switch. Actually, a computer does all of the switch-flipping to make sure that happens in the right order.

Please know that everyone on the job is working as hard and fast as possible to get the system done for us. Perspective: the projected schedule for the HVAC work was 20 weeks/five months. They will actually have it up and running five weeks early. Moral: it could be so, so much worse!

There's been so much emphasis on the heating/cooling system in these reports, here's something different. The Parish House entry is being fabricated now, and all the equipment for monitoring and operating the door is ordered. Christmas was a hoped-for goal for completion. Now it's looking more like Ground Hog's Day - Woops! Presentation of Our Lord. As always, thank you for being so patient!

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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