

# The Olive Branch

December 20, 2017

## Accent on Worship

### *Bishop Eaton's 2017 Christmas Message*

I was driving to work one day thinking about my schedule – the meetings I needed to attend, reports I needed to finish, preparations for upcoming travel, email, phone calls, and making a grocery list in my head so that I could pick up what I needed for supper on the way home from work. All of a sudden, I found myself pulling into the parking garage at the Lutheran Center. I had driven the 9 miles to work and had no idea how I got there. I didn't remember the traffic lights, the turns, the scenery – nothing. I had been so absorbed in what was coming up that I was completely oblivious to the present.

I think this experience is not unique to me. We set part of our lives on autopilot and set the planning, list-making, what-if scheduling part on overdrive. Now, planning is a good and necessary thing. One ought to be aware of what is coming up and what needs to be done, but I found that I was so driven by the contingencies and possibilities that I was everywhere all of the time, and, therefore, not anywhere at all.

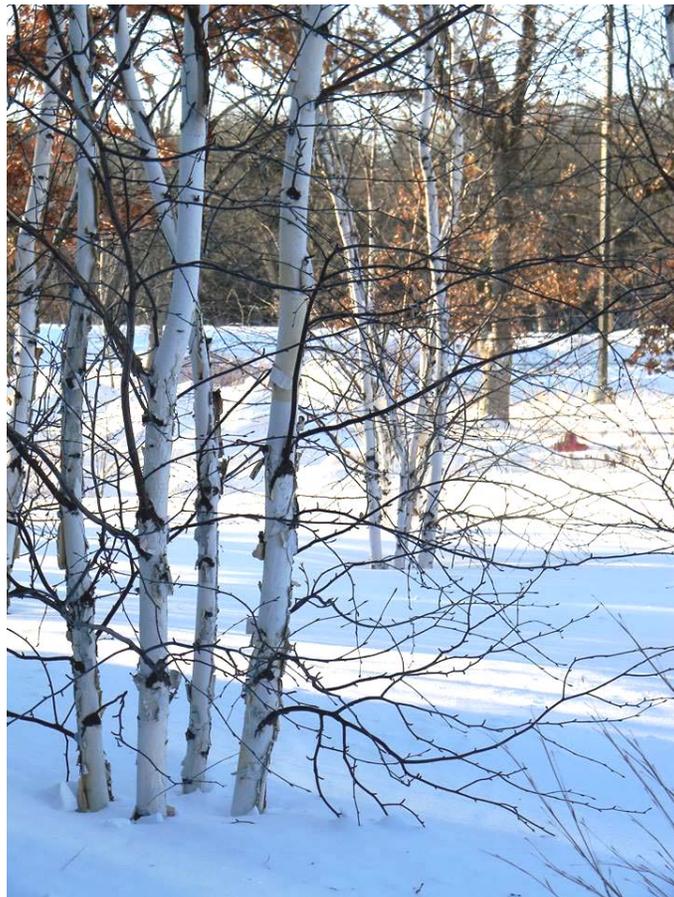
I asked my spiritual director about this, and she recommended that I meditate on these four words: "Just this. Just now." It's a simple discipline but not an easy one. It can alleviate all that anticipatory stress but only if we are willing to be still.

Here we are in Advent. This season doesn't exist in secular culture where everything is barreling toward Christmas. No time to wait, no time to notice, no time to be present. Not this. Not now. All of a sudden, we will find ourselves on the day after Christmas not knowing how we got there.

Advent is a holy season, a season that bids us to be present, to be still. So much is evoked in this season – hope, longing, and the bittersweet awareness that the world is beautiful and broken. Consider all of these things. Sit with them. Pray with them. Be aware of this time of great promise that comes, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, when night is longest. Come, Lord Jesus.

Wait for the Lord. Disengage the autopilot. Notice. Just this. Just now. Blessed Advent and merry Christmas, dear church!

*The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



## Sunday Readings

### **December 24, 2017 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

### **December 31, 2017 First Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-30



## Sunday's Adult Forum

There will be no Adult Forum on Sundays, December 24 and 31.

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## Transitions Support Group to Meet Saturday, January 6, 2018

This group will hold its next get together at the home of Grace Wiechman at 10:00 am on Saturday, January 6.

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

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## Christmas Carry-In Breakfast

Celebrate the Feast of the Nativity, Monday, December 25, with a carry-in breakfast preceding the liturgy.

Bring a favorite Christmas food and enjoy a time of conversation with fellow Mount Olive worshipers from 9:00 to 9:45.

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## Olive Branch Publication Schedule

There is no *Olive Branch* published during the week between Christmas and New Year. Regular weekly publication resumes with the January 3, 2018 issue. Information for that issue is due on Tuesday, January 2 (one day later than usual, due to the New Years holiday).

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## Watch for the Birds

As we wait and watch for Christ's Advent and dwelling among us, watch the bare birches in the sanctuary for signs of hope: "Thus says God: I will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and set it out...On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it, that it may bring forth boughs and bear fruit... and birds of every kind will nest under it. They will find shelter in the shade of its branches. (Ezekiel 17:23)

## Book Discussion

For January 13 meeting, the Book Discussion Group will read the *Regeneration Trilogy* by Pat Barker. The three novels in the series are: *Regeneration*, *The Eye in the Door*, and *The Ghost Road*. For February 10, they will read *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*, by Edgar Allan Poe.

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!

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## 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!



# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, December 20

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm *Midweek Advent Vespers*
- 7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal
- 8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Thursday, December 21

- 6:00 pm Bible Study (final for this series)

### Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
- 9:30 am No Education hour this day
- 10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
- 9:30 pm *Christmas Choral Prelude*
- 10:00 pm *Christmas Eve Eucharist*

### Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

- 9:30 am Christmas Carry-in Breakfast
- 10:00 am *Christmas Day Eucharist*
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Tuesday, December 26

NO Bible Study or Diaper Depot this day



- A volunteer or two are needed videotape the sermon one Sunday every 4-6 weeks. Can be done for either liturgy. Training and all equipment are provided. Call Paul at 612-296-0055 for more information.

## *Christmas and Epiphany Worship at Mount Olive*

### **Sunday, December 24, 2017: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

### **Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24, 2017**

Choral Prelude at 9:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Eucharist at 10:00 p.m.

### **Christmas Day: Monday, December 25, 2017**

Festival Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

*(Christmas Carry-in Brunch at 9:30 a.m.)*

### **The Name of Jesus: Monday, January 1, 2018**

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

### **The Epiphany of Our Lord: Saturday, January 6, 2018**

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

### **The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 7, 2018**

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.



## Our Saviour's Housing Update

Thanks to all who have provided prizes for bingo game winners in past months. Hans Tisberger will no longer be hosting this activity, but a new volunteer is being sought!

Mount Olive will continue to host a meal for the 40 adults at Our Saviour's Housing on the second Sunday of each month. See the sign up sheet in the East Assembly Room if you would like to help with this important ministry.

## Summer of '17... Still With Us

No new title for this update having been brought forward this past fortnight, we're stuck with the old one. There's something to be said for continuity, of course; however, we can't continue this into the new year. Can we? Don't think caps promptly.

Heat is on at last, and working well. Tweaking of the system continues as well, and will for months to come.

The Community Meal moved back to the Undercroft Saturday December 16, and children shared the space that day decorating Christmas cookies. Undercroft is still a work "in process," however. On Monday, December 11, Vestry reviewed the construction budget, and the news is very good. We will finish this phase of work considerably under budget. As a result, Vestry approved a proposal to use some of the savings for painting and new lighting in the Undercroft.

So, beginning this week, painters will begin giving the whole downstairs a fresh new look. All the old lighting will also be replaced with modern LED fixtures and controls. The painters will also work in all four of the stairwells, patching walls and giving everything a fresh new coat of paint.

Look forward to a grand reopening, dedication, and tour of the downstairs in early January, including - yes - our amazing new high-tech boiler room.



## JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><b>1 – The Name of Jesus /</b> New Years' Day</p> <p>Church Offices closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Noon – Bible Study</p> <p>4-6 pm – Diaper Depot</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Children's Choir supper 6 pm – Children's Choir 7:00 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11 am – 1 pm Central Conference gathering</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6-12 pm – N.A social event</p>	<p><b>6 – Epiphany of Our Lord</b></p> <p>9:30 am - Confirmation 11:00 – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 1-3 pm – Prayer Shawl group meets at Blue Ox Coffee Co.</p> <p><b>7pm – Epiphany Eucharist</b></p>
<p><b>7 - Baptism of Our Lord</b></p> <p>FOOD COLLECTION</p> <p>8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist\ Noon – Theological Discussion</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 pm – Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Noon – Bible Study</p> <p>4-6 pm – Diaper Depot</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10 am – Staff Mtng.</p> <p>5:30 pm – Children's Choir supper 6 pm – Children's Choir 7:00 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10 am –Book Discussion</p>
<p><b>14 – Second Sunday after Epiphany</b></p> <p>8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist</p> <p>4 pm – MFA Piano/Voice Recital followed by reception</p> <p>6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour's Dinner</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 pm – ReconcilingWorks committee meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot</p> <p>7 pm – NLC rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10 am – Staff Mtng.</p> <p>5:30 pm – Children's Choir supper 6 pm – Children's Choir 7:00 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 am – Confirmation</p> <p>11:00 – Diaper Depot open</p> <p>Noon – Community Meal</p>
<p><b>21 – Third Sunday after Epiphany</b></p> <p>8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Noon – Bible Study</p> <p>4-6 pm – Diaper Depot 7 pm – NLC rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10 am – Staff Mtng. 1-3 – CoAM Advisory 5:30 pm – Children's Choir supper 6 pm – Children's Choir 7:00 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p><b>28 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b></p> <p>8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot</p> <p>7 pm – NLC rehearsal 7 pm – Internship Committee</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Children's Choir supper 6 pm – Children's Choir 6 pm – Internship Committee 7:00 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.</p>			



## News From the Neighborhood

### Angel Tree partnering with Pillsbury House + Theater

Pillsbury's social workers have referred families in serious need this season and we've connected with them to ease their burden and show them a blessing. Read their stories and pick an ornament (or two!) to provide real hope for these neighbors. Gifts include essentials like rent and gas cards to family outings and a tree.

Kytonia has three children 9, 7, and 5 years old. Her 7 year old daughter is battling cancer which demands almost daily treatment, meaning Kytonia is unable to work and must care for her sick child along with her others as well.

Ebony and her partner Quintin have two kids ages 5 and 2 and another girl on the way. Recently homeless this summer, Ebony is fighting to stay in her housing after Quintin fractured his vertebrae at work and she is only able to manage part time work.

If you're able, please pick an ornament with a request from either of these families and fulfill it by Sunday Dec 31. They are both needing help with rent, so if giving a cash/check donation, please either  
1) use an offering envelope and designate it to "Angel tree;" 2) Slide it under my door in an envelope!  
3) You can give cash or check to the fair trade sale and ask for it to go to "Angel Tree."

Thank you for your prayers for these families and for your generosity.

More information about each program can be found in the West Assembly area or contact Anna Scott or a member of the Neighborhood Ministries Committee



A black and white photograph of a woman holding a piece of paper with the words "I'M NOT FOR SALE" written on it in large, bold, capital letters. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a crowd of people.

**A CALL TO ACTION!**

**Cherish All Children Super Bowl "Kick-off"**  
Saturday, January 13, 2018. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Lutheran Social Service, 1605 Eustis St., Saint Paul

Come join us to learn how the faith community can support service providers working to curb sex trafficking around the Super Bowl and beyond!

Hear from Sgt. Grant Snyder about how the law enforcement community works with service providers 365 days a year to end sex trafficking, and specific Super Bowl efforts. Then experts from The Link, Breaking Free, and Streetworks will share how the faith community can support them – with specific volunteer needs to support Super Bowl efforts.

You've asked, "What can we do?" Here's one way to get started: [Register Here](#) for this free event, and make a difference in our communities!

Questions? Email [info@cherishchildren.org](mailto:info@cherishchildren.org) or contact Joy McElroy 651-207-3357.

## 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](http://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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