

The Olive Branch

January 10, 2018

Accent on Worship

Anna Scott

Throughout the month of December, our church family took on the care of two families living in North Minneapolis that were referred to us by the Pillsbury House + Theater on 38th and Chicago. When I contacted the families, I was ushered in to two different circumstances that both sat on the brink of disaster. Kytonia has three children, one of which is being treated for cancer at Children's hospital. She is unable to work because her 7 year old daughter needs continual care. She not only has to care for her daughter, but try and tend to her other kids and not know exactly where the next month's rent will come from. Ebony and her partner Quintin have two young kids and another on the way in April. She is medically supposed to be on bed rest but is pushing herself to try and stay in their housing and get the resources her family needs while Quintin recovers from a fractured vertebrae. Not to whine, but even carrying the weight of this short-term relationship was burdensome to me, a bystander in their lives - I cannot fathom the stress and weight of their real life situation.

Both Kytonia and Ebony were gracious and tenacious - grateful for the help, but on to the next battle to keep their family afloat. The generosity that was shown from the Mount Olive community was beautiful and appreciated. Both families have thanked me profusely, so I want to share that with you. What is difficult to tell you though, is that this was no magic wand. No final fix. On January 2nd the sheriff served Ebony with an eviction despite all of their efforts and their court hearings and support. I was on the phone until 10pm getting them a hotel room, but where would they keep their stuff? What would they do the next day? Kytonia called this weekend to tell me her wallet was taken while giving a woman a ride which she does to make extra cash. Some of the cards and passes we gave her were in the wallet.

This is not a request for more money or gas cards or donations. This is a request for more prayers. More compassion among us to see one another and the enormous battles some are fighting. This is a request for grateful living if you have enough, and humility enough to not need others' lives to look groomed and well-kept and well managed to deserve respect and time and space in society. We will stick with these families and support them the best we are able. We will encourage them and walk alongside them. In our individual lives, let's accept what we change, then work faithfully to improve the lives of those who are striving for a decent life.

Sunday Readings

January 14, 2018
Second Sunday
after Epiphany

I Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
I Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 21, 2018
Third Sunday
after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
I Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Sunday Adult Forum

This Sunday, January 14, 2018: *“Understanding Implicit Bias: Breaking the Cycle,”* presented by Fred Reuning and Raj Setharaju.

Ever since Ferguson, racial justice has been thrust into the forefront of our public consciousness. We have been forced to ask ourselves why racism is still rampant and why we haven't "fixed" it yet. Dr. Raj Setharaju and Fred Reuning will explore the process of understanding implicit biases from a personal and systemic lens.

Fred Reuning is a med tech marketing professional who left from corporate life in 2015. Since then he's been involved in the work of Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) and a member of the Commission on Race and Religion at his local church, Minnetonka United Methodist and the Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference's Commission on Race and Religion.

Dr. Raj Setharaju is an Assistant Professor in the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice at Metropolitan State University. He teaches undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of Victimology, Restorative Justice, and Diversity Matters relating to Law Enforcement and Civic Leadership. Dr. Setharaju has over 20 years of experience in implementing diversity initiatives in universities and the communities surrounding them, providing exclusive growth within the communities he serves.

Next Sunday, January 21, 2018: *“Community and Trinity in Africa”* - Dr. Ibrahim Bitrus

The Trinity is not a mathematical mystery nor is it a model community. Ibrahim Bitrus will present his position that the Trinity is a gift of God's trinitarian communion with us and our world. This gift correlates with and recasts the African understanding of community.

Dr. Ibrahim Bitrus was born and raised in northeast Nigeria. He received his Bachelor's degree and Masters of Theology from the Theological College of Northern Nigeria, followed by his PhD in systematic theology from Luther Seminary. Previously he was a lecturer at the Bronnum Lutheran Seminary in Yola, Nigeria.

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!

“Songs With and Without Words”

*A Recital by Baritone
Chandler Molbert and
Soprano Tricia Van Ee, with
Pianist Jill Dawe
Sunday, January 14, 2018 -
4:00 pm*

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts is pleased to host a delightful afternoon of arias, songs, and piano music featuring local freelance professional singers (and Mount Olive members!) Chandler Molbert and Tricia Van Ee, with pianist Jill Dawe. They will be performing works by Schubert, Vaughan Williams, and Brahms. Also featured will be Mount Olive's recently acquired Steinway piano.

A reception follows in the Chapel Lounge.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, January 10

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, January 13

- 10:00 am Book Discussion group

Sunday, January 14 - Second Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
9:30 am Altar Guild meeting
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
4:00 pm MFA Event: "Songs With and Without Words" (see p. 2), followed by reception
6:45 pm Mount Olive serves Our Saviour's meal

Monday, January 15

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 16

- Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

HELP WANTED!



- 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.

Save the Date!

Get ready for a grand celebration. Your Missions Committee will host **Taste of India** on **Sunday, February 11**.

We will build on what we learned in October about Bethania Kids, celebrate growth and plans, relish wonderful Indian cuisine, and consider how we can expand our partnership with our Indian Christian friends.

**Minneapolis and St Paul Area Synods
2018 Festival RIC Worship**

**Saturday, January 20, 2018
4:30 PM**

**Edina Community Lutheran Church
4113 West 54th Street,
Edina, MN 55424**

**Pastor Joseph Crippen-Preaching
Pastor Jeffrey Sartain-Presiding
Mark Sedio-Organist**

Soup Supper to Follow Worship

Come and join members from all of the local
RIC churches as we celebrate our RIC
welcome and unity.

We Can Do Better Campaign

Throughout January you have the opportunity to join with faith communities throughout the state, adding your name and voice as together we call for our Minnesota Legislature to take a challenge and increase Minnesota's renewable energy to 50% by 2030.

Ten years ago the Legislature adopted landmark legislation with 97 percent bipartisan support to make Minnesota's energy standard 25 percent renewable by 2025. That was great! And we will certainly meet that goal, since we are already at 21%. But we need to, and can, do more. We, together with Governor Dayton, the Minnesota Synod of the ELCA, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL), and many others, call on our Legislature to be a leader in Climate Justice. Everyone in our community can get their name on this petition. Check the petition table in the hallway. **We already have over 60 Mount Olive names on our petition.** Can we get to over 200 before the Legislature convenes in February?

Building Update (formerly "Summer of '17")

Not an inspired new title, certainly, but the old one had to go - what with the turn of the seasons and turn of the calendar.

Yale Center for Climate Connections has just released a feature on Mount Olive. You can hear it at <https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2018/01/church-turns-to-energy-from-underground/>

Yale Climate Connections (YCC) is a nonpartisan, multimedia service providing daily broadcast radio programming and original web-based reporting, commentary, and analysis on the issue of climate change. This week they are circulating Mount Olive's story to their client stations and other media. Their goal (and our hope, as well) is to help others "connect the dots" regarding significant ways their agency, organization (including churches) can make a difference in confronting this very real crisis. **Thanks, YCC, for telling Mount Olive's story!**

Secondly, on a "lighter" topic: Painting of the Undercroft is complete, and relighting with LED fixtures is partially. Replacement for the remaining old fixtures are on order, and will be in by the end of the month. **The lighting in the Undercroft will be on motion sensors** for safety and to avoid lights being left on for hours when the room is unoccupied - wasting electricity.



◀ This is the motion sensor switch. Next to each switch is a sign like this, to remind you how the lights work. ▶
Study carefully: There will be a test!

MOTION SENSOR CONTROLS LIGHTS IN THIS AREA

Do not turn off manually.
Lights will turn off after 5 minutes of no occupancy; turn on when someone enters.

News From the Neighborhood

Volunteers Needed!

Our Sheridan Story partner Jefferson Community School is looking for afterschool teachers for next semester. Afterschool classes are 4:10-5:20pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. If you are interested in teaching an after school class, based on a special hobby or skill contact Steve Schriver (Community Education Coordinator) at Stephan.Schriver@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Bold Hope in the North

Sunday, January 28 - 2:00 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church at Nicollet Mall and 12th Street, Minneapolis

You are invited to an Interfaith Gathering to Celebrate Unity and Shared Purpose January 28, 2018, at 2:00p.m.

In partnership with the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee, this celebration will showcase Minnesota's national leadership in multi-faith dialogue and cooperation, and will raise money to prevent homelessness through the Interfaith Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The celebration will feature music, testimonies from people helped by the Emergency Rental Assistance Program...and a few surprises!



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 or contact Joy McElroy 651-207-3357.

Peace with Justice Forum

Sunday, January 21, 2018 - 12:15-1:30 p.m.

Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

(meeting in the sanctuary)

Lunch is available 11:45 - 12:15 - Free will offering.

(Entrance to the Sanctuary, during the construction period, is via the sanctuary front doors or the south entrance on 3rd Avenue.

Parking is available in the lot/ramp at the rear of the church and validation for parking is available at the Forum).

The speaker for this month's forum will be Don Samuels. His topic is "Reformation or Revolution: What Is the Role of the Church?" Don will describe how the civil rights movement has bogged down since the late 1960's and what churches and other organizations might do to revive it.

Don Samuels is a native of Jamaica who moved to the Twin Cities in 1980 and has lived in North Minneapolis with his wife Sondra for 21 years. Don designed children's toys for 25 years. Along the way, Don earned a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in 2001. He was elected to the Minneapolis City Council in 2003 and served for 11 years. He ran for mayor in 2013. He was elected to the Minneapolis Board of Education in 2015. He currently serves as the CEO of MicroGrants - a Minneapolis non-profit organization whose mission is: "to spur economic self-sufficiency by giving strategic grants to low-income people of potential through partner agencies."

Nerheim Update!



Things at Nerheim are heating up fast! We just put an offer in for a beautiful farm located in Minnetrista, and we have our third youth, and our first bunny! There is a whole lot to do, in a very short period of time, and we'd LOVE your help!

To find out more please find me (Julie Erlandson) after the 8:00 service, email me at Julie@thenerheimproject.org, or call me at 612.990.3566.

If you have no idea what Nerheim is - check out our website at www.thenerheimproject.org!

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!

Sign Up for Altar Flowers

The 2018 Altar Flowers chart is posted near the church office, awaiting your names! Providing Altar Flowers is a great way to remember a loved one or honor a special occasion.

The cost of each bouquet is \$25. You may sign up to provide one bouquet by writing on one line of the sign up, or to provide both bouquets by signing on both lines.

Checks for Altar Flowers may be made payable to the Mount Olive Women, placed in the envelope provided, and submitted to the church office.

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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A Journey Through Judges: Thursday Bible Study

This year’s third Thursday Bible study series begins February 18. It will focus on the exciting, colorful, and violent leaders in the book of Judges, trying to explore the question of where we see God in their stories. Special attention will be paid to the role of women in the book.

The 90-minute sessions begin at 6:00 p.m. with a light supper. Please contact Vicar Christy if you can provide the meal for our first meeting.