

The Olive Branch

January 24, 2018

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

About the choirs . . .

The Cantorei and Children's Choirs at Mount Olive are highly cherished and important facets of the worship life. It is no minor thing to agree to be here twice a week, and on many occasions, additional times! The choirs' help in liturgy brings not only vitality to the singing, they can help add vigor to all of the congregational responses and action. The choirs also participate in the proclamation, prayer, and praise through their anthem work. These groups enjoy challenge, value quality, and strive for excellence – asking for the best of their abilities. While the time involved may seem like a lot, the hard work is very rewarding. Many singers report of arriving to rehearsal feeling fatigued from the day only to find themselves heading home energized after rehearsal.

The congregation takes this ministry very seriously and places it among the highest of priorities – enough that a full-time music position is supported even though many churches of similar size chose not to do so.

The singers of the choirs are among those carrying out the role of "Assisting Ministers." Assisting ministers arise from the assembly and are representatives for the entire assembly. When an assembly gathers for worship, the primary musical voice is that of the assembly itself, and the choirs' primary purpose is to help reinforce and enhance the assembly's voice in hymns and liturgical songs. Each choir also provides alternation, and proclamation to the liturgy with its voice alone. To these ends, singers come an additional time to learn music of an approaching liturgy, on behalf of the entire assembly.

Consistent with Mount Olive's practice of worship leaders being vested, the choirs also wear albs, a garment representing baptismal identity. It is also a visual way of doing what is done musically. Wearing the vestment says the singers have become "we" instead of a group of "me's" making the singers all equal and unified visually as well as musically. Vesting also says that what we do together, and this vital role, is indeed important.

There are no auditions or pre-requisites to singing in the choirs. Just come. We provide a schedule, robe, music, and a warm welcome. Come on a Wednesday – that's all you need to do.

- From the newly released "Choir Handbook." Copies are available upon request, and it will be available on the Mount Olive website soon.

Sunday Readings

January 28, 2018

**Fourth Sunday
after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

I Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

February 4, 2018

**Fifth Sunday
after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

I Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Sunday Adult Forum

This Sunday, January 28: "Etty Hillesum: An Introduction" - Nancy JP Anderson

Elie Wiesel, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Anne Frank are familiar authors from the holocaust. Let's meet another, lesser known author: Etty Hillesum. A woman in her late twenties during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, she began keeping daily journals in 1941. By the time she was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in September 1943, she had filled 11 journals with the mundane, as well as the mystery surrounding her developing relationship with "her" God. Enlivening, enlightening, and hopeful, she treats her readers to undeniable internal positivity while her external world shrinks into negativity and despair.

Nancy JP Anderson just completed her Master's Degree in Theology at St. Catherine's University, St. Paul. Her thesis is titled: *The Undercurrent of Music in the Burgeoning Spirituality of Etty Hillesum*.

Next Sunday, February 4: "The Mapping Prejudice Project," presented by Kirsten Delegard

A project of Augsburg University and the University of Minnesota, the Mapping Prejudice Project is working to identify and map racial restrictions buried in historic Minneapolis property deeds. Minneapolis was not always segregated. The maps show how discriminatory deeds helped remake the racial landscape of the city.

Kirsten Delegard is a Scholar-in-Residence at Augsburg University and the director of the Historyopolis Project, which seeks to understand the city's history in order to make wise decisions for its future.

A Journey Through Judges

Thursday Bible Study

This year's third Thursday Bible study series began on January 18, focusing 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. All are welcome.

**The Presentation of
Our Lord
Friday, February 2
*Holy Eucharist at
7:00 pm***

2017 Statements Available Now!

Year-end contribution statements are available for pickup at church (next to the coat room). Take a moment to check it out - if you have any questions about it, please call Cha in the church office.

Those statements not picked up at church by January 28 will be mailed on Jan. 29.

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.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, January 24

- 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

Thursday, January 25

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Sunday, January 28 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

- 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 Celebration Dinner (see p.

Monday, January 29

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 30

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



Our intrepid Vicar, Jessica, took our families and youth ice skating at Loring Park on January 20. It was a warm day with lots of fun!

HELP WANTED!



The Missions Committee needs to borrow 3-4 deep fryers for Taste of India on Feb. 11 (they want the samosas to be fresh and piping hot!). Drop an email to missions@mountolivechurch.org or call Judy Hinck at 612-824-4918 if we could use yours.

Dusting Off Our Nametags ... Literally!

We've spent some time in recent weeks replacing old nametags holders which have become dusty, dirty, and discolored over the years.

It appears that there are several nametags missing from the racks in the narthex. Take a look when you are at church - if your nametag is missing or needs some attention, please contact the church office. We'll be happy to replace or update your nametag!



First Phase of Construction Is Nearly Complete. It's Time to Celebrate!

This Sunday, January 28, you are invited to remain after the second liturgy to dedicate our new HVAC system and other improvements. After a rite of dedication, we will celebrate this first phase with a dinner in our newly refurbished undercroft. Join us for lasagna and salad, for a free-will offering (suggested \$3.00 per

person). There will be an opportunity to look at the state-of-the art system as well. This time of celebration also allows us an opportunity to thank many of our fellow members who have been instrumental in moving this project ahead.

Book Discussion

For the February 10, meeting, the Book Discussion group will read *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*, by Edgar Allan Poe. For March 10, they will read *Tender at the Bone*, by Ruth Reichl.

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!

The National Lutheran Choir to Present "Call to Prayer"

The National Lutheran Choir presents an evening of song from three sacred prayer traditions together with the Augsburg Choir, Hazzan Joanna Dulkan, and New York guest artist Zafer Tawil. Concluding a landmark season dedicated to the art and legacy of the Protestant Reformation, "Call to Prayer" will feature a new commission by Maryland composer Joshua Fishbein entitled "Allahu Echad: God is One."

Saturday, March 3, 7:30 pm

Hoversten Chapel, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN

Sunday, March 4, 4:00 pm

Adath Jeshurun Congregation Synagogue, Minnetonka, MN

For tickets, call Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006 or order online at NLCA.com.

MINISTRY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN 2017



ACTS youth (above) & the Community Meal serving team ready to go (below)

SERVICE IS OUR SPECIALTY:

- ❖ Community Meal served hundreds of neighbors.
- ❖ A team served dinner at Our Saviour's Housing each month.
- ❖ Summer ACTS groups served at multiple sites across the city and the youth involved learned about responsibility and life skills.
- ❖ A dedicated team packed backpacks with food at Jefferson Community School for the Sheridan Story to help end childhood food insecurity.
- ❖ The Diaper Depot served 281 clients with 2,799 packs of diapers.
- ❖ We gave away 100 backpacks with school supplies and offered free and reduced priced clothing for kids going back to school
- ❖ Many individuals brought Meals on Wheels to the elderly.
- ❖ The other ways YOU used your hands and hearts to serve others.

STEWARDSHIP:

- ❖ The Direct Care program helped 275 neighbors with needs such as rent, laundry vouchers, and bus cards, giving away around \$8,165. You gave generously with funds and gifts for the Angel Tree families as well with the giving of \$3,125.00 in one month.

ADVOCACY IS HOW WE SHARE OUR VOICE

- ❖ Mount Olive used its voice to address the problems of sex trafficking in our neighborhood and the need for a faith-based response. We organized and hosted a panel discussion of community experts and coordinated a 4-week prayer vigil across Lake Street. There is more work to be done!
- ❖ A team went to the Capitol during the JRLC Day on the Hill to speak up for families with children, immigrants, and to continue to be a presence for the faith-based coalition working to make Minnesota a better place.



THE MINISTRY CONTINUES IN 2018 – STAY ENGAGED!

Neighborhood Ministries is the action and compassion that reminds us that we're all interconnected as a community – all in the presence of God, with opportunity to be the presence of God. Whether time with families in the Diaper Depot, cleaning up your own block, shoveling for a neighbor, or cooking at a meal at Our Saviour's, every effort made to shine light in the world is work well done. Find a place to share your time, talents, or a place to offer your treasures.

Keep an eye on the Olive Branch, Facebook, or the kiosk in the West Assembly for new learning and service opportunities. See something you want to be involved in? Call or email Anna Scott 612-827-5919 or neighborhood@mountlivechurch.org OR speak with a member of the Neighborhood Ministries Committee for information and to do God's work with your hands.

Minnesota ELCA Bishops Speak About Immigration

Your Missions Committee encourages all in our community to read and share the statement released by all of the Minnesota ELCA bishops regarding immigration. Now is the time to make our voices heard, share our concerns, and speak together.

<http://nwmnsynod.org/a-statement-from-the-elca-synod-bishops-of-minnesota/>

We Can Do Better Campaign

This is the last week to get your name on the list as together we call for our Minnesota Legislature to take a challenge and increase Minnesota's renewable energy to 50% by 2030. To date we have 121 people supporting the challenge. Our goal is to have 200 Mount Olive members and friends of all ages telling the Minnesota Legislature that this is important to us. Together with other ELCA congregations and the many faith communities we work with through Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL), we will deliver these lists to our legislators as they being their 2018 session in February.

Hope for Creation

On Saturday, February 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Dr. Timothy Eberhart will lead a series of workshop sessions that explore how Christians are called to share in the healing of creation. Participants will reflect on the spiritual implications of environmental degradation, examine the relevance of Christian beliefs to an ecological perspective, and explore practical ways people of faith are engaged in mission and justice for the good of the earth. Music performed by singer-songwriter Leslie Ball will ground and uplift our reflections throughout the day.

The registration fee for the workshop is \$15 per person and lunch is included for those who RSVP by February 14, 2018. Registration at the door is possible, with limited lunch availability. Free childcare is available for children age 10 and younger. To learn more and to register, go to: garrett.edu/hopeforcreation. The church is located at 511 Groveland Ave., Minneapolis, 55403.

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!

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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