



The Olive Branch

February 7, 2018

Accent on Worship

Anna Scott

There is a book idea that I've been contemplating for some time. I would co-write it with my twin sister in honor of our younger sister and the wisdom we've lovingly offered her throughout her years. It would address a whole scheme of life's growing pains and how to get through them as a kind, responsible human being. Things like how to be a good bridesmaid, or what's appropriate during the death of a loved one, and things to say or not say to a friend going through a struggle like infertility, mental illness, or a bad breakup. Not that I have actual good answers for these things, but I've lived through one or two life scenarios and realized that I, like most growing young adults, only have the clarity of hindsight to tell me that I probably could have saved some hardship, some hard feelings, or just brought a deeper level of communion to a relationship that I let slip. The book would be an offering to those who will likely face the same situations and need guidance to do things maybe just a little better.

As I was reading the story of the Transfiguration I was stuck wondering what the disciples must have been thinking as Jesus transformed himself miraculously and has a conversation with past prophets. Something like, "what in the world?!" One of them decides to offer some shelters to these glowing beings, as if timeless spiritual manifestations need to worry about that. Then verse 6 says, "he did not know what to say, they were so frightened." Yes, of course! What could he say? What would you say? These disciples had been following a man who was so utterly fantastic. He could preach, he could heal people and drive out demons. He took the hands of outcast women, and sat with the children, and chastised much of the contemporary practices of the day. Over and over Jesus was revealing who he was and there was no guide book for those around him to react, respond, and improve upon - just Jesus' teachings and his model of being. Through his life, death, and resurrection, the disciples were always playing catch up on Jesus's purpose in the world, frantically trying to take it all in and pass it along to those that would come after.

So eventually they wrote a book. Seems like a common instinct for those who recognize how much there is to learn and how dearly you long for those after you to see truths you couldn't. I may never write my book, but as for the disciples and authors of the Bible, I'm sure glad they got around to it.

Sunday Readings

February 11, 2018
**Transfiguration
Of Our Lord**
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
I Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 18, 2018
First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
I Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

The Olive Branch

Sunday Adult Forum

This Sunday, February 11: "A Taste of India"

In October we celebrated our 30 year history and partnership with Bethania Kids. On February 11 we look forward --to Bethania's plans and the possibility of a Mount Olive partnership trip to India in 2019.

Kate Hennig Teece, Gene Hennig's oldest daughter, will join us during the education hour as we learn about goals and dreams for Bethania Kids ministries in southern India. After the second liturgy we'll move downstairs for an Indian feast and talk together about how we can more effectively partner with Bethania in ministry.

Next Sunday, February 18: "The Church's Song: Always in Reform," presented by Cantor David Cherwien

What are the characteristics of sacred music we call "Lutheran?" This forum will be a look at the church's song from the perspective of a Reformation church - a look at song that is in a constant state of re-forming.

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. This study continues through February 15.

The 90-minute sessions begin at 6:00 p.m. with a light supper. All are welcome.

Lent Procession Service

All are invited to this contemplative service of lessons and carols for Lent on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 4:00 pm. Lent Procession is offered as an opportunity to withdraw from the busyness of life to pray, sing, listen, smell – to fully enter into the season of Lent, a time to renew of our lives as baptized children of God.

Bring Your Palms!

If you have palm branches at home left from last Palm Sunday, please bring them to church this Sunday, Feb. 11. They will be burned on Shrove Tuesday after the Pancake Supper and used for Ash Wednesday Eucharists.

Taste of India – This Sunday!

Each year your Missions Committee sets aside a Sunday to celebrate one of our mission partners. On Sunday we celebrate Bethania Kids in southern India.

See some of those precious kids in the display case. Learn about this 30 year old project and its future goals during education hour as Bethania and Kate Hennig Teece share their story. Share a wonderful meal of food from India cooked by over 40 of our famous Mount Olive cooks. Consider how you want to get involved, from participating in a partnership trip to India in 2019 to supporting a child to learning more about the impact this ministry has had in India for 30 years.

Join the celebration during education hour and at the luncheon following our second liturgy.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, February 7

10:00 am Staff Meeting
Noon Congregational Life Committee 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, February 8

6:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, February 10

9:30 am Confirmation
10:00 am Book Discussion group

Sunday, February 11 - Transfiguration of Our Lord

Taste of India

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 Taste of India meal

Monday, February 12

7:00 pm Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 13

Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open
6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

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 Missions Committee needs to borrow 3-4 deep fryers for Taste of India this Sunday (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.

- Congregational Life NEEDS volunteers to sign up to host coffee hour! The sign up sheet is practically empty! To volunteer, sign up on the sheet posted in the East Assembly Room, where coffee is served on Sundays. Take a turn!

Lent Begins.

*Ash Wednesday,
February 14
Holy Eucharist at
Noon and 7:00 pm*

The Olive Branch

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

All are invited to join the Mount Olive Youth and Families committee at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Mount Olive on February 13. We'll be serving pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee, and togetherness. We start serving at 6pm and look forward to seeing you there.

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 Dulkin, 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.

Reflect, Record & Repent

Join other Lutherans this 2018 Lenten Season! Lutherans Restoring Creation is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA. This is accomplished by cultivating a community of dedicated stewards of the earth and neighbors who proclaim God's promise of hope and healing for all.

Reflect: ecoPreacher Leah D. Schade follow blog for a steady stream of material to challenge and fulfill your soul.

Record: Please save the date and share the following line-up of Connections Calls for all ELCA's "green sheep" to work off each other's strengths:

* Feb. 20 from 8-9pm

* March 15 from 12-1pm

* April 16 from 7-8pm

All times are Eastern - call in to: 888-602-2749 or connect via this link to see a screen share: www.uberconference.com/lrcgreensheep.

Repent: Read powerful essays on what a personal Eco-Reformation is all about. Sign up for a Lenten Carbon Fast. Worship together. More great ideas at: www.letallcreationpriase.org.

Attention Mount Olive Worship Assistants!

The Servant Schedule for the 2nd quarter of 2018 (April- June) will be published at the beginning of March 2018. The deadline for submitting requests to me is February 9, 2018. Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com.

The Olive Branch

News from the Neighborhood

If Not Now, When?

The famous Jewish religious leader, Rabbi Hillel, once asked, "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?" At JRLC's Day on the Hill 2018, hundreds of people of faith will gather to ask themselves, their communities, and their representatives: If we do not work towards social justice now, when?

Join faithful advocates from across the state on March 13, 2018, to reflect on why we make our voices heard, to plan for continues actions in our home communities, and to speak with representatives at the State Capitol.

For more information and to register visit www.JRLC.org or pick up a brochure on the kiosk in the west assembly.

Free Safety Check For Seniors

The HOME Program is providing a no-cost home assessment for seniors 60+ in suburban Hennepin County and Minneapolis. Check for tripping hazards, grab-bars, handrails, smoke detectors, lighting and other safety components. For information call 952-746-4046 or email: home@seniorcommunity.org

HOME also provides housecleaning, minor home repair, and mowing/snow removal services.

Midweek Lenten Worship: Wednesdays, February 21 - March 21

Holy Eucharist at noon, followed by soup luncheon

Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm, preceded by soup supper, beginning at 6 pm

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.

Date Set for Healthcare Refresher Course

The Mount Olive Congregational Care Committee invites you to save Saturday, February 24, 9:00 – 12:00 AM, at Mount Olive, to either take another look at your HealthCare Directive, learn about creating one, or guiding your loved ones toward putting this in place for themselves and their families. The Honoring Choices option as well as the POLST form (a document completed by patient and physician at a point where end of life is close) are topics to be covered.

Other agenda items can and will be added, depending upon requests submitted prior to the workshop. There has been interest in topics such as—

- planning funerals;
- what we as people of faith can take into consideration as we examine the dilemma of MAID (Medical Aid in Dying);
- how to engage hesitant family members in conversation about end of life concerns;
- how we as a community of faith care for and respond to those among us who are facing illness and major life changes.

While not necessary to pre-register, it will be helpful to know if you, your family, or friends plan to participate. Please also share your specific interests by contacting Marilyn Gebauer at: 612-306-8872 or gebauevm@bitstream.net.

- The Mount Olive Congregational Care Committee

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.*

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship: Anna Scott**
- **Bring In Your Palm Branches!**
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Feb. 13, 6 pm**
- **Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14**
Holy Eucharist at Noon and 7:00 pm
- **Thursday Evening Bible Study Continues Through Feb. 15**
- **Health Care Directives Refresher Course: Feb. 24**