

The Olive Branch

February 21, 2018

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

Gratitude for three things

I began the Adult Forum this past Sunday (which I led) by identifying three things from the services that gave me cause for gratitude. I'll share them here too.

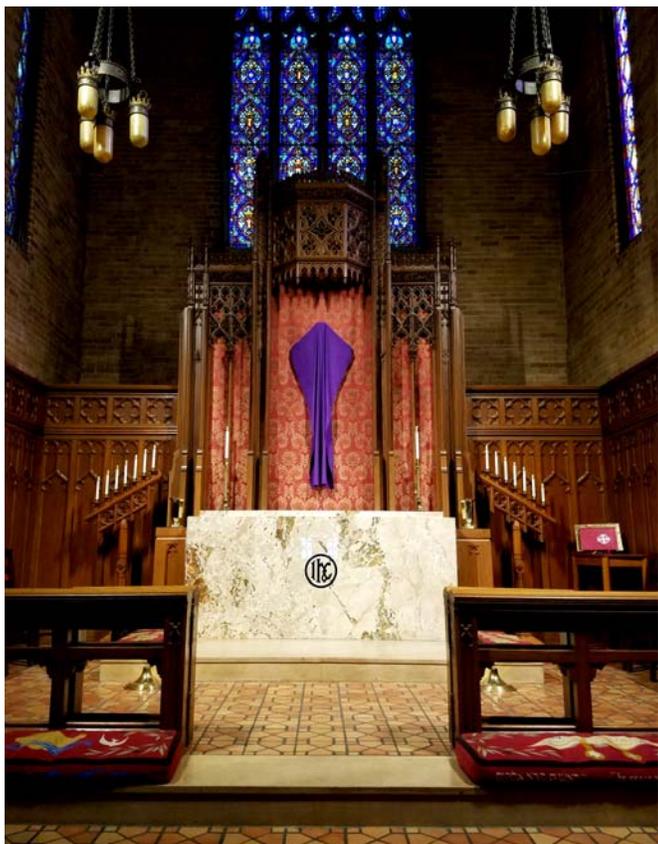
1. In both services last Sunday, the assembly included a large group of folks not usually here but who were here because of extended family activities. As I saw them, I thought to myself, "Please let them witness vibrancy and meaningfulness" (as opposed to witnessing apathy) – especially with the singing. I thought of the days of Rock Band playing, when

every evening began with that stretch of time when we began playing yet no one was on the dance floor. We waited for that moment when a brave couple would get up and start. Usually the floor filled up right away and stayed that way for the rest of the evening. We called that "someone breaking the ice" Singing can be like that – when some folks, even those who think they don't sing very well (God might not agree) sing out, it gives permission for everyone to join in without fear. That happened last Sunday– at both liturgies - even 8:00! For that, I was grateful.

2. We have children – in both services! As I listened to the sounds made by their wonderful sense of their world (both joy and pain), I smiled. There was a time when there were no such sounds and no children in our midst. They complete us. They are not the church of tomorrow, they are a vital part of the church of today. I'm grateful for parents who bring them, because the children are soaking in what is going on whether it looks like they are or not. It's no easy stretch of time for parents –their own ability to enter fully into the service changes during this time. You've got our support, and we love that they are a part of us!

3. When practicing on Saturday, the Swell shades on the organ quit working. This organ has been so reliable that it's rare when something doesn't work right. Downstairs was David Molvik (an organ technician and Mount Olive member) working on something else. I mentioned it to him, and up he came and started analyzing the problem. I had to leave but when I arrived Sunday morning it was fixed.

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Sunday Readings

February 25, 2018

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

March 4, 2018

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

I Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Sunday Adult Forum

This Sunday, February 25: "What Can a Table Tell Us About Jesus's World?" – presented by Professor Earl Schwartz

In these two sessions we explore nine references in the Synoptic Gospels to Jesus being hungry or participating in a meal, references which draw us both in around tables, and out into the larger social, cultural, political and physical environment in which Jesus lived.

Earl Schwartz is Assistant Professor of Social Justice, Religion, and Middle Eastern Studies at Hamline University, St. Paul, and has directed the College of Liberal Arts interdisciplinary program in social justice since its inception in 1999.

Next Sunday, March 4: "What Can a Table Tell Us About Jesus's World?" – part 2 of a 2-part series presented by Professor Earl Schwartz

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

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.

Lenten Devotional Booklet Available

The Grain of Wheat: A Lenten Journey for 2018, the Year of Mark, by Susan Palo Cherwien, is a Lenten devotional guide which is available for use this Lenten season. Hard copies of the booklet are available at church, near the coat room. It is also available as a daily blog online at www.grainofwheat2018.blogspot.com.

Book Discussion

For their March 10 meeting, the Discussion Group will read *Tender at the Bone*, by Ruth Reichl. On April 14, two books: *The Stranger* by Albert Camus and *The Meursault Investigation* by Kamel Daoud.

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!

Calendar

Wednesday, February 21

9:00 am Staff Meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*
1:00 pm Soup Luncheon
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Lenten Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, February 24

11:00 am Cantorei rehearsal
1:30 pm *Funeral Eucharist: Maury Anderson*

Sunday, February 25 - Second Sunday in Lent

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, February 26

7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 20

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

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Normally churches have to wait a couple of weeks for such a repair. I am grateful for David and his willingness to fix and tune immediately!

What all three of these things help us remember is this: God brings a variety of people and their particular gifts together here. Some here for a long time, some for the first time. Some young, some with more life experience. Some able to fix things, some who help pay for others with the appropriate expertise. Some who help us sing, some who help us pray. Some who need us to sing for them as they grieve. We are all equal in God's eyes, all loved equally by God. What a gift.

May we all feel gratitude.

- Cantor David Cherwien

Wednesdays in Lent

- ✘ **Holy Eucharist at Noon, followed by soup luncheon**
- ✘ **Evening Prayer at 7 pm, preceded by soup supper at 6 pm.**

Healthcare Directives Workshop Postponed

The date of the Healthcare Directives Workshop will be changed and a new date announced soon.

As February 24 is also the date of Maury Anderson's funeral, it has been decided another date will be set for the workshop.

Please watch for a future announcement.

Pastor's Day Off

Pastor Crippen is changing his day off from Fridays to Mondays, effective Monday, February 26.

This means the Vicar's day off will change from Mondays to Fridays during that same week.

News From the Neighborhood

Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach and Ministry

Severe Weather Team - can you help?

The Hennepin County Office for Ending Homelessness has asked Mount Olive if we would be willing to create a system to be a place that those experiencing homelessness could come to in the case of severe weather.

Too hot or too cold conditions are dangerous for people to be exposed to, and due to the shelters being closed during the day, they are looking for safe spaces that are open and willing to create space for them. Because of the particular location of Mount Olive and our reputation as a helping church, we would be well suited for this, but need a team to help organize and serve on days of extreme weather. They would set up an area, serve some coffee or lemonade, or set up an activity for people passing the time.

If you think you could be one of those people, please contact Anna S: 612-827-5919 or by email to neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org to learn more. Thank you!

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.

Every Church a Peace Church March Potluck

The bi-monthly potluck meeting of Every Church a Peace Church will be held on Monday, March 19, 6:30 pm at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church (4537 3rd Ave., Minneapolis). All are welcome to come for support, networking, delicious food and an outstanding program.

The March program is a presentation by Ms. Leah Jaslow, Donor Services and Engagement Assistant at the American Refugee Committee. Her presentation, "The Refugee Crisis: Putting Refugees First," will cover the current refugee crisis (the worst since WWII) and how the American Refugee Committee is using a human-centered design approach to help refugees survive conflict and rebuild lives of dignity, health, security, and self-sufficiency.

Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) - Free Tour – "Stories of the Faithful," led by Bill Wilson, Mia Docent

Please join us for the tour "Stories of the Faithful" at the Minneapolis Institute of Art on Saturday, March 24, at 10:30 am. The 60-minute tour includes works centered on the lives of Jesus and John the Baptist. We need a minimum of 8 people to arrange the tour, and the maximum number is 15. The group will lunch at Christos following the tour to continue conversation on the works viewed. The tour and admission to the museum are free, although Mia always welcomes donations. If you wish to attend, please contact Susan Cherwien at susan.cherwien@gmail.com by February 24 to reserve a place. Please include a contact phone number in your email, and whether you are also interested in lunch. If more than 15 people are interested, Bill has expressed a willingness to schedule a second tour.



THE CONCORDIA CHOIR
René Clausen, Conductor

CONCERT

Saturday, Feb. 24
7:30 p.m.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
7401 County Road 101
Maple Grove, Minn.

*Tickets available at
ConcordiaTickets.com,
800-838-3006 or at the door*

RENÉ CLAUSEN
Conductor

STAGERIGHT
The Concordia Choir performs on StageRight Choral Roofs.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE
Moorhead, Minnesota
TheConcordiaChoir.org

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Minnesota FoodShare



March is Minnesota FoodShare Month!

*Help Squash Hunger!
Donate to the Minnesota FoodShare
March Campaign for
Community Emergency Service (CES)*

*Hunger fact: 1 in 10 Minnesotans, or more than 500,000 state residents, are food insecure on a regular basis. That is more people than attended Minnesota Vikings home games in the 2015 regular season.

Throughout the month of March, Mount Olive will be collecting food, hygiene items, and monetary gifts to help our neighbors who face hunger. Boxes will be out in the main assembly areas from March 5 - March 26. Consider bringing items such as;

FOOD

Cooking Oil, Flour, Sugar, Beef stew, Chili, Canned meat, Canned fruit, Canned/bagged pasta meals, Canned tomatoes, Coffee in small bags, Jelly, jam, 100% fruit juice

HYGIENE

Toothbrush/paste, Bar soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Shaving cream, Razors, Feminine products, Adult diapers (men's & women's), Toilet paper, laundry soap, Dishwashing soap

* Please don't give expired items or use this opportunity to clean out your cupboards :)

Can you help bring our collected items to Community Emergency Services? Please contact Anna S. to help haul over our stash and get a tour of CES!

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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