



The Olive Branch

September 19, 2018

Accent on Worship

Anna Scott

Sunday Readings

September 23, 2018
18th Sunday after
Pentecost

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 30, 2018
19th Sunday after
Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Last Saturday was one of the most rewarding, encouraging mornings I've experienced as a parent thus far in my tiny 16 month-old's life. No, she did not master a new skill or discover a new element of time and space. She was simply a full, contributing member of a large social community that knows her and embraces her and works towards her well-being. She's also a giant goofball, which helps with the charm and endearment.

On such Saturdays we have both the Diaper Depot happening as well as the Community Meal. The downstairs of the building is alive and humming, with delicious smells wafting from the kitchen and chatter through the hallways of friends and the newly acquainted. Families with babies and strollers make their way to the depot, and folks that have been coming to the meal for over a decade take their customary seats until it's time to head in to the neatly-prepared dining hall. And then there is this little blonde kiddo running around and through it all.

Over the many months that she has come along to the meal she's been able to grow more and more comfortable with the people she now recognizes as friends. James turns into a peek-a-boo fiend, Marsha reads her books and walks her around the pictures hanging on the walls, and the kind older man in the hat stops and smiles and says something like "they grow up real fast don't they? Soon she'll be taller than you!"

People seem to turn in to a delightful, childish version of themselves that they can only faintly remember when around kids - silliness, play, optimism, recognizing that a child is the most honest measure of what is good and right. Power, money, prestige mean nothing to a child, only kindness, openness, and love can earn the admiration of the purest of heart.

When Jesus calls the little children to him and asks us to welcome them, it is a reminder to open ourselves to the goodness we all already possess, leaving behind the need for artificial affirmation and vain pursuit power.

Rook was particularly smiley last Saturday, as was I. It is an incredible satisfaction to know your child is growing, leaning farther in to the world around her because she feels safe. These are neighbors and church family. For her, they are the building blocks of becoming a confident, secure person who can see her value within the larger, fuller picture of God's vision within the world.

It's a beautiful lesson that fills my heart as her parent, but also with the gratitude that I, too, a child of God, am still growing, learning, and leaning on this foundation of what it is to be Church.

Sunday Adult Forums

Sundays, September 23 and 30, 2018

“The Eastern Churches: A Deeper Look ,” presented by
Vicar Matta Ghaly

An introduction to the histories, theologies, liturgies, and spiritualities of the Eastern Churches, their contributions to Christianity, and their witness as contemporary communities.

Sunday, October 7, 2018

“The Copts: A People and A Church,” presented by
Vicar Matta Ghaly

An introduction to the history and identity of the Copts, the indigenous people of Egypt, their expressions of Christianity and lived experience as the largest ethno-religious minority in North Africa and Southwest Asia.

CPR/AED Training

The American Red Cross has sent Mount Olive a notice that it is time to certify/re-certify our First Aid and or CPR/AED training. (Anyone who has been trained within the past 2 years can obtain a copy of his/her digital certificate by visiting redcross.org/getcertificate, and enter basic information (first, last names, zip code of the training location and the last day of the class).

We have scheduled this class for Saturday, October 6, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

We are in the process of gathering names of those from Mount Olive who went through the Red Cross CPR/AED training when we first offered it a couple of years ago. If you have received this training before and wish to renew your certification at this time, or if you haven't received the training but wish to receive it now, please contact Larry Duncan at duncanlarry52@gmail.com within the next week. The costs of this training are being covered by Mount Olive.

Opportunity to Host German Visitors

Twelve to fourteen German people from the Lutheran Churches in Leipzig, Germany will visit the Twin Cities from October 5-15. They are members of the church council from the churches of Pr. Helge Voigt, a friend of Mount Olive. The planning group assisting them for this trip is in need of assistance from area churches. We need people to host 1-2 people for their stay, and/or provide transportation, and/or have them in your home for a meal or an afternoon or evening entertainment. Many of them speak some English, but if you speak even a little German, that will be helpful, but not required. If you can provide hospitality for this group of our neighbors from across the globe, please contact Lora Dundek at 651/645-6636 or email her at lhdundek@usfamily.net. Any help you can give will be appreciated!

Book Discussion

The Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am. Here is the schedule of upcoming books:
For October 13: *Purple Hibiscus*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- For November 10: *The Portrait of a Lady*, by Henry James.

Calendar

Wednesday, September 19

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

Thursday, September 20

6:00 pm Bible Study

Sunday, September 23 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation

Monday, September 24

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

Tuesday, September 25

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

Wednesday, September 26

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

Children's Choir News

We're so excited to launch this Children's Choir season! At the moment, we have 8 singers planning on being a part of each of two Children's Choir groups! There are also some additional singers who are "thinking about it" - so there may even be more!

We will welcome Mari Espeland as director of the younger group. I couldn't be happier with this tremendous opportunity for the children of this group! The children will really enjoy working with her, and I'm excited for her to meet all of you and the children! I think she will be communicating directly with you all as well.

- Cantor Cherwien

Book Discussion

The Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am. Here is the schedule of upcoming books:

- **For September 8:** *Moscow Nights*, by Nigel Cliff

For October 13: *Purple Hibiscus*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

- **For November 10:** *The Portrait of a Lady*, by Henry James.

Coffee Hosts Needed

Enjoy Sunday coffee hour? Sure you do - everyone does! A good coffee hour doesn't happen without coffee hour hosts, and right now we need volunteers to host coffee hour. Take a turn!

Sign up on the chart in the East Assembly Room. Carla Manuel is happy to answer any questions about procedure that you may have or provide any training you may need.

News From the Neighborhood

The Sheridan Story

“More than 200,000 children in Minnesota live with food insecurity. Without reliable access to food – such as meal programs at school – the risk of hunger is very real. The Sheridan Story works to combat hunger in our community by filling the gaps to food access that children face: primarily weekends and summers.”

The school year has begun again which means our friends at the Sheridan Story have started creating and packing meals for students at Jefferson Community School on 26th and Lyndale. A team of volunteers goes most Fridays to stuff backpacks with a meal which best reflects the needs and tastes of the family it will feed. As we head in to another year, we want to remind current sponsors to please continue giving generously to provide these meals. If you are interested and able to start sponsoring, or want to make a payment for this year, please visit our table on Sunday Sept 23rd and 30th in the West Assembly area. You can also find more information or sign up to be a part of the backpack filling team! Ask anyone on the Neighborhood Ministries Committee for more info or visit thesheridanstory.org.

To donate through the Mount Olive page, visit:

<https://donate.thesheridanstory.com/give/t190084/#!/donation/checkout>

More good grant news!

Along with receiving Ministry Imagination Grant funds from the Minneapolis Area Synod for work on Longer Table Lending, I also wanted to share that the peer group I am a part of, comprised of community organizers, has also received a \$10,000 grant towards our work to “create meaningful resources that support congregations as they work for just and healthy neighborhoods. Storytelling and faith-community-specific resources.”

For this grant, “we are proposing a ministry enrichment project to create a series of short videos that would be a mechanism for teaching and for telling stories. Some of the videos would focus on widely sharing our stories of how Lutherans are living out the Gospel through community organizing in our neighborhoods. Others would be short teaching modules that would combine pedagogy and examples, serving as a faith-based community resource to accompany the training manual our congregations have been using.”

This opportunity will contribute and advance the good work being done to build a more just, loving world through community organizing principles and I am honored to be a part of the team that wants to make them even more accessible and usable to the congregations that need them!

If you are interested or curious about community organizing, please connect with me! There is a wonderful opportunity in January 2019 to take a deep dive and hone the practical and powerful skills of organizing among faith-based peers.

- Anna Scott

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach and Ministry

Ten Days of Nonviolence Twin Cities: September 21-30

There will be ten days of free events! Do a Google search for "Twin Cities 10 Days of Nonviolence" for details and schedule of events.

Mount Olive members will be participating in these programs:

- **Saturday, 9/22, 9-11 AM:** "Gathering of Nations for Peace; Dedicating Bde Maka Ska," 3700 Thomas Ave. S. Participants will encircle the lake during Native American ceremony.
- **Monday, 9/24, 9 AM - 2PM:** "Healing of Memories Workshop," Pilgrim Lutheran, 1935 St. Clair, St. Paul. Lunch provided. Call Margaret Fell 612 518-6808
- **Wednesday, 9/26, 9 - 11AM:** "Nonviolence: Christianity's Greatest Failure and It's Best Hope," presentation and discussion at the African Development Center, corner of Riverside Ave. and 20th Ave. (near Augsburg U).

Many more free educational, art exhibits, musical events are being offered during these ten days. Check the internet schedule.

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts First Event of the New Season

Sunday, October 7, 4:00 pm

Music for Trumpet and Organ

Charles Lazarus, Trumpet and David Cherwien, Organ

All are invited to this delightful program of music offered by Minnesota Orchestra's trumpeter extraordinaire, Charles Lazarus, with an eclectic program of music by Handel, Purcell, J. S. Bach, and an arrangement of "American Nomad" (Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra) for trumpet and organ by Steve Heitzeg.

Charles Lazarus is one of the area's great treasures with an amazing palette of stylistic abilities, offering sell-out performances with the Minnesota Orchestra and his own Jazz Ensemble.

Mount Olive offers these events to the greater community free of charge and you are invited to be a part of that effort through your financial support. A committee representative will be in the Narthex to receive pledges and donations **this Sunday** before and after Holy Eucharist.

The Shape of Discipleship: Thursday Bible Study Begins Sept. 20

The first Thursday Bible study series of this year begins on Thursday, Sept. 20, and continues until October 25. (We may need to tweak the time on Oct. 4 to be able to celebrate St. Francis and to bless animals at 7:00 p.m., but we'll discuss that together.) Meeting in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Pr. Crippen will lead a study on the spiritual disciplines, classic patterns of life that have shaped Christians for centuries. As usual, there will be a light supper when we begin. If anyone wishes to provide the first meal, please let Pr. Crippen know. All are welcome to this study opportunity!

New Members to be Received Sept. 30

Mount Olive will receive new members on Sunday, September 30, at the 10:45 liturgy. If you are interested in becoming a member of Mount Olive, please speak to Pr. Crippen or contact the church office.

What's Going On Around God's House?

Art Halbardier, Director of Properties

Seems every week something new pops up. This past Sunday, for example . . .



Did we have a “break in”? Are we getting rid of the stained glass? (Not sure I like the look . . .)

Two of the original 1930 entry doors will soon be replaced. They survived almost 90 years of winter snow and summer heat, but the elements have taken their toll. The doors will be replaced with new ones, exact replicas of the originals. The glass has been removed for repairs at the Gaytee-Palmer shop, and will be reinstalled. This project is funded by The Mount Olive Lutheran Church Foundation.

Simultaneously, voila! Less than an “extreme makeover,” but very nice improvement to our front yard. Erosion from the downspout in the corner has been an ongoing problem. The huge evergreens blocked all the light to the basement windows, and made washing the main floor windows a miserable job. The gravel serves as a “rain garden” to let storm water disperse gradually.

Gary Pagel planted hydrangeas and evergreens, with hole-digging assistance by Anna Scott and John Crippen. Nice job.

This is not the larger future design of Bold Step Forward, but is compatible with the overall design for landscaping when that occurs. Meanwhile, sure does upgrade the curb appeal! Thank you, all.



Isn't this lovely? No? It is kind of an eyesore outside the new front entrance. The ash tree was removed by City of Minneapolis last winter. We are on their schedule for a replacement. They will grind out the stump this fall, and plant a new tree in the spring.

The Bold Step Forward projects approved in 2017 are complete. Next week, look for a report on projects and finances as we look to the future.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

**Summer Sunday Eucharist:
8:00 and 10:45 a.m.**

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Matta Ghaly*

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**
- **New Members to be Received September 30**
- **Thursday Evening Bible Study Resumes Sept. 20**
- **Annual Music & Fine Arts Support Drive Under way**
- **Properties Committee Update: Recent Projects**
- **Children's Choir News**