



The Olive Branch

October 17, 2018

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

Sunday Readings

October 21, 2018

**22nd Sunday after
Pentecost**

Job 38:1-7 [34-41]
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

October 28, 2018

Reformation Sunday

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22]
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

The first shall be last

This is a frighteningly competitive world. There is constant pressure to be “the best” or “the biggest”, or my favorite, “most successful”.

Unfortunately, in spite of the rather direct point Jesus makes about this issue in this Sunday’s Gospel, the church in general can get sucked into a competitive, almost commercialist mindset. I’ve even overheard well-meaning colleagues use the sentence: “We worshipped over 500 this past Sunday.” My snarky inner response says, “Well, I don’t know how many attended, but I do know that we only worshipped One (maybe One could be defined as three to squeeze out a slightly higher number).

Statistics over “successful” churches tend to define that on the basis of numbers. That is backed by the frequent question “How big is your church; how many members?” Church musicians can fall into the same mindset. “How many are in your choir?” I’d like to say, “sometimes more than one.” “How many choirs does your church have?” I’d like to say “Well, one, but sometimes we have smaller subgroups that sing together.”

But Jesus tells us we don’t know what we’re asking. (“Who is the greatest?”) We’re stuck on the wrong question.

Yet the era in which we find ourselves, even our economic system says if there is no growth, there is death. We become engrained to simply think that way about everything. Growth gets defined by the bottom line: numbers, and if they are any good, they are increasing.

I hear this lesson from Jesus freeing us from that commercialist pressure. There are other things he directs us to do: share in my baptism. Share in my wine. Be a servant. Die with me. And that last one, death, is the ultimate fear that drives so much of how humanity defines what’s important. Take the fear of death away and what more is there that can be harmful, or being “Lorded over us?”

But we don’t stop there. We must serve. We “get to” serve. Servants don’t worry about the bottom line described above - just that we are called to serve without regard to any gains that may come back to them. That is to say, it could very well be that those we serve will never “join the church” thus adding to our numbers. They may, however, wish to join us in our servanthood. That’s different.

When we assemble for liturgy, we worship as servants of God. God is the point. Not how many are attracted to us. I’ve joked with ushers before starting the prelude, “We’ve reached the Biblical mandate: 2 or 3 have assembled! We’re good!” Musically, 2 or 3 can sing pretty darn well! (Well, singing in four parts may be difficult.) God is praised, the Word is proclaimed, the cup is shared. No matter how many.

And we are sent . . . to serve.

- *Cantor David Cherwien*

Sunday Adult Forums

Sunday, October 21, 2018

“Prayer: The Ultimate Conversation - Dr. Joseph Sittler”
(This is a 1967 video from the Joseph Sittler Archives.)

Sunday, October 28, 2018

“Salvation By Allegiance Alone,” presented by Dwight Penas

In a new and exciting book, biblical scholar Matthew Bates suggests that a better translation for the Greek word usually translated as “faith” (“pistis”) is actually better translated in many contexts as “allegiance.” Without becoming deeply involved in translation issues, we will explore Bates’ argument, tease out its strengths and weaknesses, and evaluate what implications this might have for Lutherans’ living faithfully.

Note: You need not have read the book in order to participate.

Ministry Open House

Sunday, October 28

9:30am to 10:30 am and 12 noon

West Assembly Lounge

Presented by all the ministry areas of the Vestry, attend this Ministry Open House to discover ways to get more involved in Mount Olive Ministries.

Each area will showcase opportunities for serving and participating at Mount Olive, including Missions, Worship, Property, Evangelism, Youth, Education, Neighborhood Ministries, and Congregational Life. Open to all!

Hurricane Relief

As we pray for safety for those experiencing recent hurricanes, we can also join in responding. The ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief fund will direct 100% of your donations to helping those in the affected areas. You can write a check to Mount Olive with Disaster Relief in the memo line, and we will pool the funds along with your Mission Committee's response, or you can donate directly by following this link:

<https://community.elca.org/hurricane-relief?erid=39513345&trid=d39b7f0a-65d9-49c7-8284-77a2e6ab7f65>.

Congregation Meeting

Mount Olive’s semi-annual Congregation Meeting will be **this Sunday, October 21, following the second liturgy.**

The purpose of this meeting is to approve a budget for 2019. All voting members are encouraged to attend!

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.

Coffee Hosts Needed

Enjoy Sunday coffee hour? Sure you do – every-one 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.

Calendar

Wednesday, October 17

- 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, October 18

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, October 20

- 9:30 am Vestry Retreat
- 11:00 am Diaper Depot open
- Noon Community Meal
- 7:30 pm Consortium Carissimi Concert

Sunday, October 21 - 22nd 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
- Noon CONGREGATION MEETING
- 3:00 pm Consortium Carissimi Concert

Monday, October 22

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

Tuesday, October 23

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

Wednesday, October 24

- 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
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News From the Neighborhood

A Minnesota Without Poverty Challenge

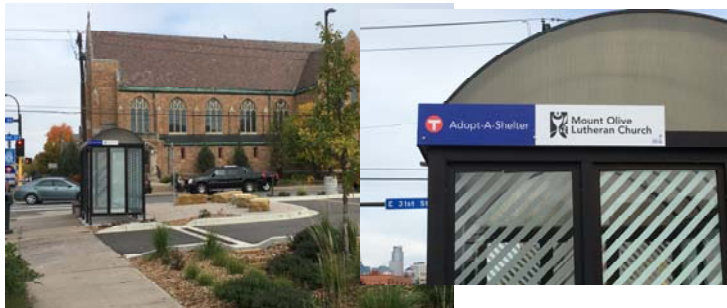
Last Sunday we heard from our friends at A Minnesota Without Poverty about their newest initiative - Think Kids: Think P.I.E. (Promote Investment Early) which strives to close early learning achievements gaps through investment in early learning scholarships and parent coaching. Sign on to their challenge to legislators to support early learning opportunities for 35,000 low-income children and their families. It's very easy and well worth your time! Visit www.earlyedchallenge.org to sign the challenge.

The seasons, they are a changin'

As you've noticed, colder weather is blowing this way and many adults and children in our neighborhood are looking for warm jackets, hats, scarves, and gloves. If you've got any cold-weather gear that could go to use for someone else, please consider bringing it to Mount Olive and hanging it in the coat area by the donation bins. Larger sizes especially needed.

You could also bring items to: The Dignity Center at Hennepin Ave United Methodist Church 425 Groveland Ave. or Central Lutheran Restoration Center, 333 South 12th St.

Have You Noticed?



Mount Olive has officially adopted “our” bus shelter.

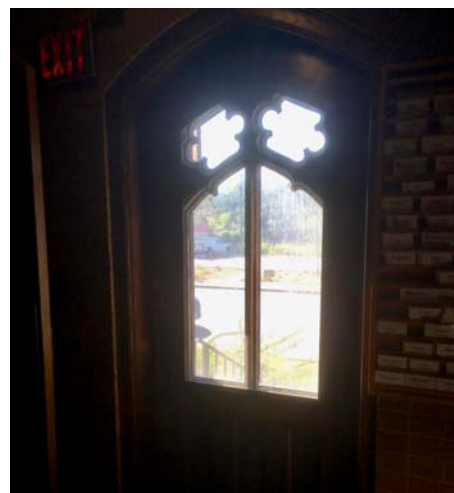
What does this mean? We will keep it clear of litter, and report any damage or other issues to MetroTransit. Thanks to **George Ferguson** for initiating this idea. You may see him out there on Sunday mornings cleaning up the area. Take a moment to say "thanks" to him, personally.

What happened?

Thanks to Mount Olive Foundation, two of our beautiful doors were to be replaced this fall. Weather has taken its toll on them over 98 years. So, stained glass was removed for repair. The doors were built, but then errors were discovered that made them unsatisfactory. Back to the contractor’s drawing boards - literally.

We will have to put up with this look a little longer. In fact, the appearance may get a bit worse for a time. The ornate woodwork that holds the stained glass will be removed for repair before the weather gets really cold.

The doors will remain available for use throughout. Thanks for being patient with this project.



And a New Addition

This one you may not readily appreciate, unless you have had to climb to the Parish House roof . . . particularly in the winter. And the need to do so arises sometimes. There is equipment up there that needs repair and maintenance, as do our 70 solar panels.

Our first winter, we lost many days of solar production because the panels were covered with snow. With this new safe ladder, it will be possible to keep them clear more of the time, without risk of falling.

When complete, the ladder will extend near to the ground. Access to the roof will be controlled with a locked metal gate at the bottom of the safety cage. Huge thanks to **Mark and Tim Pipkorn** for a great job of installing!



Save the Date: Pastor and Cantor lead trip to Oberammergau

Every ten years the people of Oberammergau in Germany put on a live Passion Play, and it returns again in 2020. Cantor Cherwien and Pr. Crippen will be leading a tour of Luther and Bach sites in that year that will begin with a performance of this beloved and famous dramatic presentation. There will be organ playing by our cantor in churches we visit, and we’re also hoping to be able to worship together as a group in several places. Of course the guide will also have much helpful information about the places the tour goes as well. The trip runs from June 20 through July 1, 2020, and brochures detailing the trip are being prepared. So for now, save the date if this looks like something you’d like to come along on!

Companionship with Nigerians

New developments and plans are afoot concerning our relationship with Lutherans in Nigeria, particularly Bronnum Lutheran Seminary. We have considered a variety of ways that we could get acquainted with the community located on campus, students, families, lecturers and staff. This is an opportunity to get to know people who share our faith, but whose culture is different from ours. The Missions Committee would like to grow this relationship with personal knowledge across the world. Because of the new means of electronic communication, we could talk with each other, pray together, sing to one another, and, of course write emails and texts.

Who would like to take up the pleasant work of building the relationship between Mount Olive and the Bronnum Seminary community? We would like to form a team who would lead the congregation in this growing friendship. The members of the team will form individual and group points of contact for Nigerians of similar age and gender. The team will be the communicators of our love for our partners, by taking the time to speak or write, to listen and read. The work should not be overburdening, only occasional, and mostly at the members own time schedule. Please indicate your interest to me or email missions@mountolivechurch.org.

We will have a gathering for information and planning following the second liturgy on Sunday, November 18.

A special opportunity has arisen for personal experience with our partners when Dr. Brad Holt will travel to Nigeria with his daughter Karin for two weeks in mid-January. One or two Mount Olive members could travel with them and be guided by Brad's long experience. We will visit the Theological College of Northern Nigeria (where Brad taught in the 1970s), Bronnum Lutheran Seminary (where Brad taught last November), the headquarters of the LCCN, and the "Big Gathering," the annual event for inspiration which gathers thousands and thousands of members together for singing, Bible Study, and preaching. It is possible that funding can be found for part of the cost of this trip. Please talk to Brad or to me or email missions@mountolivechurch.org by November 1 if you are interested.

- Judy Hinck, Director of Missions

The Shape of Discipleship: Thursday Bible Study Current Series

The Thursday Bible study series then continues through November 1. Meeting in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Pr. Crippen is leading 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. All are welcome to this study opportunity!

Save the Date!

National Lutheran Choir All Saints Concert: "Dark Night of the Soul"

- **Friday, November 2, 7:30 pm**
St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN
- **Sunday, November 4, 4:00 pm**
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN

Tickets: Adult \$33 | Senior \$31
| Students and Children FREE.



Save the Date: TRUST Auction October 26

The Annual Great TRUST Auction will be held on Friday, October 26, 6 p.m., St. Joan of Arc (3rd Ave. S between 45th and 46th). TRUST's biggest fundraiser will include delicious food, a silent and live auction, top-notch entertainment, and more! Ways you can help:

1. Go to the auction! Get tickets in advance to receive a discount. Let's fill the tables!
2. Donate! Consider asking a favorite restaurant or business to donate a gift certificate for the silent auction, or buy a gift certificate. You could also create a themed gift basket for the silent auction. Ideas could include game night, chocolate, coffee, romantic evening, etc.
3. Volunteer! People are always welcome to help on the day of the auction with set up before, kitchen help during, or clean up after the auction. Contact Carolyn at TRUST if you'd like to help or have any questions.



The wonderful singers and instrumentalists of Consortium Carissimi ensemble will perform works of women composers of the early Baroque: Chiara Margarita Cozzolani, Barbara Strozzi, Francesca Caccini, & Isabella Leonarda.

Saturday, October 20 at 7:30pm

Sunday, October 21 at 3:00pm

Both concerts at Mount Olive.

Consortium Carissimi appeared on the Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts Series in 2017, and have asked to return for this special event. This program is not part of our Music and Fine Arts series this year. More information about the program, the musicians, and purchasing tickets is available at the Consortium Carissimi website, <https://consortiumcarissimi.org/magdalene/>

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*

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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