



The Olive Branch

October 24, 2018

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Sunday Readings

October 28, 2018

23rd Sunday after

Pentecost /

Reformation Sunday

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalms 34:1-8 [19-22]

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

November 4, 2018

All Saints Sunday

Ruth 1:1-18

Psalms 146

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

A God Who Shows Up

We've been hearing from Job for the last three weeks and again this Sunday. Job hasn't found his way into my preaching yet, but we've heard of the beginning of his suffering, of his plea to have God show up and answer questions. Last week we heard just a part of God's response, and this Sunday we hear Job's answer.

This book is a parable imagining a person of faith dealing with suffering and the presence of God in that suffering. Job's wife tells him to curse God and die. His friends tell him he must be to blame for the horrific things that have happened. Job insists that he's done nothing to deserve this, and all he asks is that God come. That he might make his arguments and have God hear them.

This is the deep grace of this ancient poem. In world which still today tries to assign blame for suffering, either rejects God in the face of suffering or takes God completely off the hook, this story gives another message. The answer is not in the words of God's answer. God takes four chapters to remind Job that he wasn't there when God made all things, from the galaxies to the smallest of creatures, and essentially says it isn't likely Job will be able to understand God's reasons for anything. If you're looking for answers to the

"why" of suffering, this isn't helpful. But Job only wanted to know he wasn't alone. He'd loved and worshipped God all his life, and now in his pain and suffering all he felt was God's absence. And God showed up, having heard Job. That's all Job wanted. As we'll hear Sunday, Job realizes pretty quickly that God's right, Job wouldn't understand reasons for anything. But that's just fine with Job. He knows again he is not alone, that God is with him, and that's all he needs.

Don't let the "happy" ending distract you from this grace. The point of the parable is not that Job gets his wealth back and a new family. The point is: suffering happens, and it doesn't always have a reason or an explanation. But God never abandons you in your suffering. God shows up, even if God can't explain things.

God loves you and shows up. And, like Job, that's all we really need to know.

Sunday Adult Forums

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.

Sunday, November 4, 2018

All Saints Sunday - no forum this day.

Ministry Open House

This 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>.

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.

Lost and Found

Stop at the Lost and Found table in the coatroom to check and see if anything there belongs to you! These items will be available for pickup for a couple of Sundays, then anything left will be donated.

New Members to be Received November 18

Mount Olive will receive new members on Sunday, November 18, at the second liturgy. If you are not a member of Mount Olive and would like to join the congregation at that time, please speak with Pr. Crippen or call/email the church office.

Calendar

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

Thursday, October 25

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Friday, October 26

- 7:00 pm Recovery & Wellness Support group

Saturday, October 27

- 9:00 am Confirmation

Sunday, October 28 - Reformation Sunday

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

Monday, October 29

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, October 30

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

Wednesday, October 31

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
No Children's Choirs this evening
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Keep Us In the Loop!

Are you moving or have you recently moved? Do you have a new phone number or email address?

Please let us know if your contact information changes, so we can keep YOU in the loop!

Simply call or email the church office with your updates. Thanks!

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.

Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate

In addition to enjoying fair trade coffee served on Sunday morning and at other events, Mount Olive members and friends can purchase Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate for their own use. The Mission Committee has five varieties of coffee, hot cocoa mix, baking cocoa and chocolate bars to choose from. Products will be set out on Sunday mornings on the credenza in the meeting area across from the Chapel Lounge. Choose your products, put your payment in the envelope and drop it into the new lock box attached to the credenza by the window. If you would like to purchase products during the week, they are located in the storage closet off the meeting area. This is not a fund raiser, just an opportunity to buy good products for a good cause.

Equal Exchange is a Fair Trade organization that buys directly from small-scale farmer cooperatives, owned and run by the farmers themselves. Because farmer partners are paid above market prices for their crops, they are able to make investments in community projects, educational programs, and technical trainings. These cooperative organizations also help keep rural communities healthy and strong, and keep local cultures vibrant. Equal Exchange is also committed to supporting sustainable farming methods that help green the earth through reforestation, natural resource conservation and organic practices. You can learn more on their [website](#) or by watching this [video](#).

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!

A Note of Thanks

Warm thanks to those people of Mount Olive who assisted with the recent visit of members of Lutheran congregations in Leipzig, Germany. The Germans frequently commented on the wonderful warmth and hospitality that was shown to them here. Special thanks to Gail Nielsen, Tom Olsen, Gene Janssen, Susan Snow, Eunice Hafemeister, Steve and Dixie Berg, Matt, Consuelo, Sedona, and Austin Crosby, Paul and Sharon Odlaug, Allen and Lora Dundek, Margaret and Al Bostlemann, and Eric Manuel. Also, thanks to the Vestry and the Missions Committee for supporting a wonderful welcoming meal, and to Andrew Andersen for preparing it.

Danke an alle!

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.

TRUST News

TRUST Auction

The annual 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.

Trust Builders

Join TRUST Builders! Upcoming work days are on the following Saturdays, November 10 and December 8. We start at 8:30 a.m. and work until about 3 p.m. To sign up, email John Corlett, TRUST Builders Coordinator, at jrcorlett@comcast.net or call him at 612-839-6566 (evenings only). If your church has a TRUST Builders Coordinator, sign up there. Thank you!

Grief Support

South Minneapolis Coalition for Grief Support's FALL Series began on September 27 and runs through December 6. It is held at Richfield United Methodist Church, 5835 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis. Please look for more details in the latest edition of the TRUST Communicator.

TRUST's Chore Program Needs Workers! The program provides household chore and maintenance services to seniors living in South Minneapolis – helping them to continue living safely and independently in their own homes. Currently, TRUST is looking for workers that can do any of the following jobs: yardwork, snow removal, small repairs, and house cleaning. If you are interested, please call the TRUST Chore Program at 612-827-6150.

TRUST Meals on Wheels has openings for new Meals on Wheels clients. If you or a parent, friend, or neighbor is in need of a nutritious, hot daily meal delivered right to the door, call Eleonore at 612-822-6040. If you are outside our area, we will direct you.

TRUST CoAM Grocery Route has openings for new clients. If you have a friend, neighbor, or family member who needs assistance getting groceries, please contact Barb at TRUST.

TRUSTY Salers has estate sales scheduled for every week through November! Visit www.estatesales.net for dates and locations!

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.*

Our Savior's Housing Awarded \$55,000 by Cub Foods

Last week, Our Savior's Housing was awarded the Grand Prize in the Cub Food's 50 Acts of Kindness Competition. Our Savior's housing, which Mount Olive supports, was selected from among 50 other amazing caregiving organizations in the Twin Cities for the grand prize. Cub Foods is celebrating its 50th Anniversary by recognizing the work of not-for-profits in the community. Each of the 50 organizations selected received \$5000. In addition, Our Savior's was awarded the additional \$50,000 grand prize to extend their ministry of shelter, transitional housing, and supported permanent housing.

Mount Olive supports Our Savior's Housing financially, and volunteers have prepared and served a once-a-month dinner to the residents of the shelter for over four years. Our Savior's is a great partner in ministry in our neighborhood. We thank God that their wonderful work has been recognized in this way.

And now, an additional blessing: A longtime supporter of Our Savior's Housing has pledged an additional \$50,000 to create a dollar-for-dollar matching fund. If successful, this would mean a total \$150,000 in new funds to expand Our Savior's ministry to the homeless!

Can you help them fulfill this new matching fund goal? Any gift, large or small, will help this wonderful ministry assist more individuals toward a better life.

Gifts can be made on line at <https://oscs-mn.org/donate-2/>. Select "Our Savior's Housing" from the menu to designate your gift, and write "FOR MATCHING FUND" in the comments line. By mail, send a check to Our Savior's Housing at 2315 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis 55404. Write "FOR MATCHING FUND" on the memo line of your check.