



## Sunday Readings

November 25, 2018

Christ the King

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalms 132:1-12[13-18]

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

# The Olive Branch

November 21, 2018

## Accent on Worship

*Anna Scott*

A long-time friend of mine just had her first baby. This was a hard-won little life, as they had to round and rounds of fertility treatment and eventually IVF to have a successful, miraculous pregnancy and the arrival of their son. He is lovely, a delightfully squishy, wrinkled embodiment of what hope and perseverance and faith can physically produce.

But even this delightful rainbow baby has brought the storm of new parenthood to my friends' life. Multiple times she has called me in a shaky voice, strained with frustration and fear about how to manage newborn life. The immediate changes in demands, in identity, in self-care, in the relationship with a partner are downright debilitating. Those whimsical images of snuggly soft moments of tender care, daydreaming about how much you love this new creation are smashed with a wailing, body-fluid filled hammer.

You need to keep this baby alive, and yourself, and your sanity, and doing all three at once seems impossible. A new parent may wonder "if only I had known how incredibly hard this would be...could I have prepared better?"

As Mark 13:1-8 tells us, the disciples left the temple exclaiming about the magnificent city around them, to which Jesus continues to tell of the destruction of the city, the coming of many trials and sorrows. He told them. He laid it out in quite impressive detail. This is what is to come.

*continued on page 2*

## Sunday Adult Forums

*Sunday, November 25, 2018:* "The Divine Dance," part 1 of a 2-part series presented by Pastor Crippen.

*Sunday, December 2, 2018:* "The Divine Dance," part 2 of a 2-part series presented by Pastor Crippen.

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## Graduate Blessing and Celebration

On Sunday, November 25, Mount Olive will take time at our morning fellowship time to recognize the accomplishments of our 2018 graduates - no matter the level. If you have a graduate in your family, whether it is from high school, college, or with a graduate degree, we would like to celebrate with you.

We will recognize our graduates with a special reception and short time of blessing after the first liturgy.

If you have a graduate in your family, and have not already let us know, please send their name, what school they graduated from, their degree, and any information about plans after graduation to [education@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:education@mountolivechurch.org).

Please plan to come.

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## Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

In some ways, I wonder if those disciples heard Jesus the way that someone lovingly warns a new parent about what is to come. It can be said, but until the feet have touched the fire (all too literally for some disciples), truly ingesting what might be coming your way is close to impossible. Maybe that's a gift in a way. Because if they had really known what hardships were to come, could they have stayed the course? If new parents could truly fathom the shifts their lives were going to take, could they prepare better? Or as humans are we just given the grace to not know yet what will not serve us as we move ahead in faith.

I have assured my friend in many ways that this is a hard season, but not the only one. Things will transition far sooner and faster than she may want eventually. Someday, Lord willing, she too will comfort a friend on the trials and treasures of caring for a newborn having gone through the fire and thrived in faith in herself.

- Anna Scott

## Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

*Thursday, Nov. 22,  
10:00 a.m.*

Bring non-perishable food items to help re-stock local food shelves.

Monetary donations are especially welcome (for every \$1 donated, food shelf personnel are able to buy about \$9 worth of food!)

As has been our custom for a number of years, the entire offering received at the Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day will be divided between Sabbathani Community Center and Community Emergency Services food shelves.

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## Copies of Sermon Available

If you missed Sunday's sermon on the vision Pr. Crippen shared, and you don't have access to the internet (it's on the church website with a video), printed copies are available in the church office, on the cabinet near the door.

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, November 21

10:00 am Staff Meeting  
*No choirs this evening*

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Thursday, November 22 - Thanksgiving Day

10:00 am *Thanksgiving Day Eucharist*

### Saturday, November 23

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

7:00 pm Recovery & Wellness Support Group

### Sunday, November 25 - Christ the King

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation

9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum

10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation

### Monday, November 26

7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Tuesday, November 27

Noon Bible Study

4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

### Wednesday, November 28

10:00 am Staff Meeting

5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper

6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals

7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

## Help Wanted!

### *Fair Trade Sale*

On the first three Sundays of Advent, December 2, 9, and 16, the Missions Committee will sponsor the annual Fair Trade Sale between liturgies and following the second liturgy. We find ourselves in need of extra help. Can you help set up the sale between 8:30 and 9:00? Would you be able to help cashier between 9:00-10:30 or between 12:00-12:45? Perhaps you could help take down the display around 12:45 one of the weeks? If you could help in any of these ways, please speak with Lisa Ruff or Judy Hinck, or email us at [missions@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:missions@mountolivechurch.org).

## Book Discussion

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am in the West Assembly Area. All readers welcome!

For their December 8 meeting, they will read *Believe Me*, by Eddie Izzard. For the January 12 meeting they will read *A Gentleman in Moscow*, by Amor Towles.

## Advent Luncheon for Seniors to be Held Wednesday, December 5

Attention Seniors (65 and over)! By now you should have received your invitation to the annual Advent Luncheon for Seniors.

If you are age 65 or over and have not received your invitation, it's likely because we do not have your birthdate (or correct birthdate) on file. If that's the case, please call the church office and let us know so that we can update your membership information. All members of the Mount Olive Community age 65 and over are cordially invited!

If you plan to come, please call the church office to let us know.

## News from the Neighborhood



### *The Holiday Edition!*

#### *~ Thanksgiving ~*

With our opportunity to celebrate a day dedicated to gratitude, please consider sharing abundance with your community. Here are a few ideas to consider;

\* Bring in perishable (and delicious) foods to donate to our food shelf partner CES. Monetary donations are also appreciated and very impactful. Common pantry items, family-sized hygiene supplies, and paper products are highly sought after. Items can be brought to the grocery cart in the coat room or during the Thanksgiving Day service.

\*Think about your climate impact and plan a “Cool Harvest Low Impact” Thanksgiving dinner. Visit [www.coolharvest.org](http://www.coolharvest.org) for a quiz on what impact your food has and get a cool harvest kit to help make environmentally friendly food choices during the holidays.

#### *~ Christmas ~*

This year, the Neighborhood Ministry Committee will be focusing our support through partner organizations Ace in the City and Lutheran Social Services Refugee Resettlement. Ace serves family and youth in the Powderhorn Park area through relationships, mentoring, tutoring, and community-building activities. Through LSS we hope to encourage new refugee families, sharing in a Christmas spirit of love and welcome through providing needed home and personal items.

Pick an ornament from the tree in the West Assembly area home for either or both Ace and LSS. Fulfill the item listed by Dec 9<sup>th</sup> and deliver back to the tree. Please include the original tag or mark what it is designated for.

Ace in the City hosts a special holiday party Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> and needs helpers! While kids are playing, parents can “shop” for gifts and everyone gets to party.

Set-Up Team: Noon-2PM and Tear-Down Team: 4PM-5PM

If folks are willing to be a part of the Ace team, they can contact [jill.erickson@aceinthecity.org](mailto:jill.erickson@aceinthecity.org) directly.

If you're interested in making deliveries or helping with the Ace in the City party or want more information, contact Samantha Pipkorn at [neighmin@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:neighmin@mountolivechurch.org) or 404-432-9044 or Anna Scott at [neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org) or 612-827-5919.

## Capital Appeal Nears Milestone at the End of November

The work from our Capital Appeal, Bold Step Forward, has been completed, and at the end of November we reach a major milestone: the construction loan will become our mortgage going forward.

Bold Step Forward was conceived as a 3-year fundraising campaign. This means that our fundraising is nearing the halfway point. To date, we have received more than \$750,000 of the \$1.1 million pledged. The balance of the cost of our construction (the new HVAC system which provides air conditioning in the nave, the renewed parking lot, the revisions to the Parish House entrance, and the replacement of sagging organ pipes) will become a 30-year mortgage that has a locked-in favorable rate.

All Bold Step Forward funds received by the end of November will reduce the size of the new mortgage. If you are considering a gift in 2018 toward Bold Step Forward, doing so by the end of November will be very helpful!

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## Treasurer's Update

As of the end of October:

- YTD financial gifts for operations: \$524,411
- YTD operational expenses: \$624,286
- **YTD operational gap: \$99,874**

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## Update Your Electronic Contributions

If you currently contribute to Mount Olive electronically (currently via Vanco Services) and have changed your contribution amount during this pledge season, please contact the church office via email with a written request to update your amounts for 2019.

If you are not currently enrolled in electronic giving but wish to start, call Cha at the church office and she will send you the necessary paperwork to get started.

## Music & Fine Arts' Advent Procession Service

*Sunday, December 2, 2018 - 4 pm*

Mark the season with a solemn procession and a series of lessons and carols for Advent.

Candles, incense, and beautiful music help draw all into this season of hope in the darkest time of the year. All are welcome.

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## Join ELCA Response to Wildfires

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California and the California synods to respond to these fires. As the fires are still raging, they continue to assess the ever-changing situation to determine the best ways to respond. Your gifts will help deliver a robust response to address needs in the devastated communities.

Once again, you are invited to join your Missions Committee in helping those who have experienced another disaster. Please make your blue envelopes or check designation to "Wildfire Response," and your donation will be sent on with that designation to the ELCA Disaster Response Fund.

## Additional Christmas Eve Eucharist Added

In addition to the regular Christmas Worship schedule, this year we will add an additional Eucharist at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve. Both services will be very similar, with the only difference being which choir is singing.

The Christmas schedule is updated as follows:

**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24:**

**Christmas Eve Eucharist at 5:00 pm**

**Choral prelude at 9:30 pm**

**Christmas Eve Eucharist at 10:00 pm**

**Christmas Day, Dec. 25**

**Christmas Day Eucharist at 10:00 am**

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## National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival: "Mysterious Birth"

The sounds of bells, angels, and mystery abound as the National Lutheran Choir captivates with the annual Christmas Festival, December 7 & 8. A family-favorite celebration of the Holidays for more than three decades, the Christmas Festival is the Choir's signature program of poetry, communal singing, and exquisite music over three performances at the awe-inspiring Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis.

Friday, December 7, 4:30pm and 8:00pm

Saturday, December 8, 8:00pm

Basilica of Saint Mary

88 N. 17th St., Minneapolis, MN 55403

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

For tickets and more information, please visit [NLCA.com/18-19season](http://NLCA.com/18-19season) or call (612) 722-2301.

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## TRUST News

**Join TRUST Builders!** There is one more work day in 2018! On 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](mailto: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!

**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 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.

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

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

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: [mountolivechurch.org](http://mountolivechurch.org)

### **Staff**

Pastor - *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor - *David Chervien*

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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