



## Sunday Readings

December 2, 2018  
First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

December 9, 2018  
Second Sunday of  
Advent

Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

# The Olive Branch

November 28, 2018

## Accent on Worship

*Cantor David Cherwien*

### *Reset button*

I looked up the word "Advent": "Middle English, borrowed from Medieval Latin *adventus*, going back to Latin, "arrival, appearance," from *adven-*, variant stem of *advenire* "to arrive" (from *ad-* AD- + *venire* "to come," going back to Indo-European \**gwem-ie-*) + *-tus*, suffix of action nouns" Some interesting things to ponder there.

The liturgical season we just ended last Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, began with Advent one year ago. These past months we've rehearsed endings and letting go: All Saints, widow's mite, end times, second coming, etc. The season (nature and liturgical) brings the growth season to its end. Even Thanksgiving is connected to an end of sorts - the harvest. Historians have found evidence that humans have observed celebrations and rituals around harvest far

into antiquity. We arrive at this time of year, just after Thanksgiving and Christ the King Sunday, ready for . . . . Ready for what?

This Sunday, at the darkest time of the year, we start over. Our thoughts move to what can be born in us - a new beginning rather than endings. Folks may think of the season of Advent as looking for the Baby Jesus to culminate the season - probably boosted a little by the commercialist power this month holds on our economy. And maybe that's OK, or even enough. It's as if on December 24<sup>th</sup>, some feign surprise at the birth of Christ! "Yea! It happened again!" then put the tree out on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and move on.

But Advent suggests we look inward - deep in our souls, for what is there room to grow? How do we connect with Mary as she makes room for Christ? Or with us is there no room, being filled to the brim with [fill in the blank] - whatever keeps us from making room to bring Christ into us, and into the world. Is it our thirst for "more"? Success? Things? Money? Addictions? Selfishness?

*continued on page 2*

## Sunday Adult Forums

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

*Sunday, December 9, 2018:* Annual St. Lucia Brunch

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## 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 some of the musicians.

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

Advent is a time for us all to step back from the busy-ness of our inner souls to clear the way for something far greater to again be born in us, and then born into the world. Turning the lights out in a completely dark room removes distractions we normally see. Nature does that for us this month. This looking inward is why we add a midweek service during Advent. This is why we begin the season with the Advent Procession Service (we process symbolically as those looking for this inner birth which can free us from our various bonds). It is why we begin using a different setting of Eucharist on Sundays. Then we move forward into all the seasons that follow as a new form of life growing every day in us and in the world. The birth we celebrate at the end of Advent is an inner one, and it's only the beginning. It's far from over.

But for now we wait. For what are you waiting? When the light comes back on, what do we see? What do we help others see? May we all respond as Mary: "With God all things are possible. Let it be with me"

- Cantor David Cherwien

## Music & Fine Arts' Advent Procession Service – This Sunday!

*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 LSS of Southern California, LSS of Northern California and the California synods to respond to these fires. 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.

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### 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

### Saturday, December 1

- 11:00 am Diaper Depot open  
Noon Community Meal  
1-3 pm Prayer Shawl Group meets at Blackeye Roasting

### Sunday, December 2 - First Sunday of Advent

#### FAIR TRADE CRAFT SALE

- 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  
Noon Theological Discussion  
4:00 pm *MFA Event: Advent Procession*

### Monday, December 3

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Tuesday, December 4

- Noon Bible Study  
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

### Wednesday, December 5

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
Noon Advent Seniors' Luncheon  
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper  
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal  
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

## **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.

## **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.

## **Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day**

The Altar Guild is hosting a chancel-cleaning event on Saturday, December 11, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Bring your favorite duster and polishing rags, and help spiff up our worship space for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede ([bethgaede@comcast.com](mailto:bethgaede@comcast.com)).



## News from the Neighborhood

### *The ~ Christmas ~ Edition!*



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.

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## Help with Outreach Gifts Made Easy

Here's an easy way to support the selected outreach efforts of Mount Olive for this Advent Season. A Target charity registry list has been set up for on-line shopping for needed toys and gifts that have been requested. These items will be taken to Ace in the City to help families in need, and Lutheran Social Services to serve newly- arrived refugee families. It's simple!

- Go to [www.target.com](http://www.target.com)
- Click on “Registries and Lists” at the top of the page
- Click on “Search for an Organization”
- Enter “Mount Olive Lutheran Church” in the organization name box and click search.
- Order the items you wish to purchase for the ministries we support and complete your order. On the shipping page, indicate that you would like to send the items to the registry address, and they will be sent directly to Mount Olive.

You can also use the registry terminals in Target stores if you'd rather purchase your gifts in person and bring them in.

For questions, call Lora at 651-645-6636, or email [lhdundek@usfamily.net](mailto:lhdundek@usfamily.net)

Happy Giving!

## 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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## Staff Christmas Gifts

As is our tradition, this is the time of year that we gather monetary gifts for our terrific church staff. If you would like to contribute, please either use the offering envelope provided especially for this, or simply note "staff gifts" on your check and deposit it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or send it to the church office. Please have the gifts in by Sunday, December 16.

Thanks for your generosity.

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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.

## 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., Mpls., MN

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.

## Keeping Advent in the Home

The season of Advent is a bridge linking the past, present, and future. The church year ends with a looking forward to the fulfillment of all things in the reign of Christ. That future continues into Advent, when we not only remember the coming of Christ in the Child Jesus, but also the coming of Christ in the completion of creation. And there is a third coming, or advent, of Christ that we lift up in these four weeks: the coming of Christ in the Now, in scripture, in communion, in the individual heart. Building on the First Advent Sermon of Bernard of Clairvaux, Martin Luther wrote in a sermon on Psalm 102: "Christ's face is triple: firstly in His first advent when he was made incarnate who as Son of God is the face of the Father...; secondly, in the spiritual advent without which the first is good for nothing - and so one has to recognize his face through faith; thirdly, in the second and last advent when His face will be fully visible." Our task in Advent is to take the path that leads to Christ - in the manger, in the future, in the present world.

Here are a few ways to keep Advent in the home:

- Make an Advent wreath out of evergreens and four blue tapers, or by placing four glass votives in a circle on a plate of evergreen cuttings. Light one candle each Sunday in Advent as the season progresses. For short rituals to accompany the lighting of the Advent wreath, go to the website Full Homely Divinity, click on "Customs and Traditions" and go to the left sidebar, "Rediscovering Advent".
- Make a Jesse Tree, honoring the faithful ancestors that prepared the way to the birth of Christ. Put a symbol of one person on the tree each day, while reading a scripture passage related to that person. (Directions can also be found on the Full Homely Divinity site.)
- Take on a practice of daily praying the prayer offices, to prepare a place in the heart for the coming Christ. Abbreviated forms of Morning and Evening prayer are laid out in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for home use. An online daily prayer office can be found at <http://www.missionstclare.com/english/>.
- If you have a creche with freestanding figures, place the empty stable in a prominent place on Advent I and place Mary and Joseph some distance away; add the animals on Advent II, moving Mary and Joseph closer each week; add the shepherds on Advent III; the manger, on Advent IV. On Christmas Eve, place Mary and Joseph at the manger, and add the Christchild and angels. On Christmas Day, set the three magi some distance away from the stable and move them closer until January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany.
- Try to save Christmas carols for the twelve days of Christmas. There are many beautiful Advent hymns and recordings.



## Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who has brought winter items for the encampment and for others facing the cold. Special thanks you to Lora and Allen Dundek and Susan Cherwien for helping sort!

Items will be delivered to camp and to Central Lutheran's Restoration Center.

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## Fair Trade Sale

The Missions Committee is hosting a fair trade sale. Purchase beautiful and unique fair trade items made by artisans in developing regions around the world. These items are available from SERRV, a nonprofit dedicated to fighting global poverty through fair and ethical trade.

These handcrafted items will be available for purchase after both liturgies on December 2, 9, and 16 (cash, check or credit card). See page 7 to view some of the items that will be for sale. Fair trade coffee, chocolate and cocoa from Equal Exchange will also be available. We encourage you to bring your own reusable bag for your purchases. This is not a fund-raiser, just an opportunity to buy good products for a good cause.

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## Alternative Gift Giving

Are you looking for something different to do this year for Christmas gifts? The Missions Committee is promoting the idea of alternative gift giving this Christmas. For example, you can buy a \$10 ornament for school supplies for a child through ELCA Good Gifts. We have ornaments to represent gifts from Bethania Kids, Common Hope and the ELCA. We also have catalogues from different charitable organizations that you can use or you can order from the organizations' websites. Some of these organizations are:

Lutheran World Relief: <https://lwr.org/giving-category/gifts>

Heifer Project International: <http://www.heifer.org>

Common Hope : <http://commonhopecatalog.myshopify.com/>

Bethania Kids: <http://bethaniakids.org/creative-giving-catalog/>

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts)

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## Cultivating Belonging in a World of Wall-Building

Join our partners at ACE in the City for "All City Presents | A Conversation on Cultivating Belonging in a World of Wall-Building," featuring special guest Shane Claiborne. Together we'll create a space where we can listen, be challenged, engage in dialogue with one another, learn from each other and move this important conversation forward.

Go to: [allcitypresents.com](http://allcitypresents.com) for more event information and to register. This is going to be really good so don't pass it up!



## FAIR TRADE SALE: December 2, 9 and 16

Purchase beautiful and unique fair trade items made by artisans in developing regions around the world. These items are available from SERRV, a nonprofit fair trade organization. Below are some of the items that will be for sale.



Savita moved to Mumbai from a village and found work with MarketPlace: Handwork of India. She recently started a new cooperative of women to offer them the same opportunity.

**“I was determined to give my children the education I didn’t have.”**



West Bank red platter \$24



Elephant maze game \$16



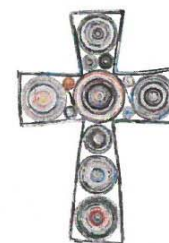
Sled ornament \$10



Bunai scarf \$22



Snowflake lantern \$18



Recycled paper cross \$18



Love buzz coffee \$6.50



Chocolate bars \$3



Candy wrapper basket \$10



## DECEMBER, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 am - Confirmation 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 1-3 pm – Prayer Shawl group meets at Blue Ox Coffee Co.
2 – <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> FOOD COLLECTION FAIR TRADE CRAFT SALE 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist Noon – Theological Discussion <b>4 pm – Advent Procession</b>	3   7 pm – N.A.	4 Noon – Bible Study  4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open  7 pm – Missions Committee	5 10 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Seniors’ Advent Lunch 5:30 – Neighborhood Min. Comm. 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choirs 7 pm – Advent Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	6	7   6 pm – N.A. First Friday  7-9pm – Shane Claiborne event	8 9:00 am - Confirmation  10 am – Book Discussion
9 – <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> FAIR TRADE CRAFT SALE 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist 6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Dinner	10  7 pm – Vestry Meeting  7 pm – N.A.	11 Noon – Bible Study  4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open	12 10 am – Staff Mtng.  7 pm – Advent Evening Prayer  7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	13	14   7 pm – Recovery & Wellness Support group	15  11 am – Diaper Depot open  Noon – Community Meal
16 – <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> FAIR TRADE CRAFT SALE 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist	17  6:30 pm – Reconciling Works Committee meeting  7 pm – N.A.	18 Noon – Bible Study  4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open	19 10 am – Staff Mtng.  7 pm – Advent Evening Prayer  7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	20	21	22
23 – <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 8/10:45 am – Eucharist NO Church School /Adult Ed.	24 - <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5:00 pm – Holy Eucharist 9:30 pm – Choral Prelude 10:00 pm – Holy Eucharist	25 – <b>Christmas Day</b>  9:30 – Carry-in Breakfast 10:00 am – Holy Eucharist	26 10 am – Staff Mtng.  <i>No choirs this evening</i>  8 pm – N.A.	27	28   7 pm – Recovery & Wellness Support group	29
30 8/10:45 am – Eucharist NO Church School /Adult Ed.	31  7 pm – N.A.					

# 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 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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