



## Sunday Readings

December 9, 2018  
Second Sunday of  
Advent

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

December 16, 2018  
Third Sunday of Advent

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

# The Olive Branch

December 5, 2018

## Accent on Worship

*Pastor Joseph Crippen*

### *In time*

“In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas . . . .” Sunday’s Gospel starts a little strangely, as Luke anchors the story in a very specific way. 28-29 C.E. was the fifteenth year of Tiberius’ reign, and that, along with all these other regional rulers, is how Luke precisely marks the time when John the Baptist appeared on the world’s stage.

This is really important to Luke. He began his Gospel by telling his dear reader that he intends to write an “orderly account” of what took place. Sunday’s opening of chapter 3 isn’t the only place Luke pauses to put historical context around the events of the coming of Messiah into the world.

This is also really important to us. John prepared the world for the coming of God’s Anointed, declaring that the desert needed to be made safe, hills and valleys leveled, because God was coming into the very life of the creation, into the life of the world. Luke’s historical anchors are more than helpful to researchers. In his “orderly account,” Luke declares that God has come into this world in truth. Actually. For real. So much so that we can even place God’s Incarnation into a specific historic context.

This gives strength to our hope. In concrete, real, historic time, God came to be among us in Christ Jesus. Luke says this is not an illusion. It is real. In real time. And from this moment in time when God entered our existence, all time now counts and flows.

And now in this day, 2018, we know the same truth: God has come to be with us, has entered our real time. At the right time. And so there is hope for life and healing for all things.

## Sunday Adult Forums

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

*Sunday, December 16, 2018:* "the Divine Dance," part 3 of a 3-part series presented by Pr. Crippen

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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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## Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

December 5, 12, and 19

7:00 pm

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## Mount Olive Christmas Cards

Christmas cards with beautiful photos of Mount Olive are available for purchase during the month of December at the gift sale which follows each liturgy.

Check them out!

## 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.

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## Are You Watching For the Birds in the Advent Birch Branches?

"This is what the Holy One says: 'I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it...On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a noble cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it, finding shelter in the shade of its branches.'"

(Ezekiel 17:22-23)

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, December 5

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
Noon Advent Seniors' Luncheon  
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee 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

### Friday, December 7

- 6:00 pm N.A. First Friday social event  
7:00 pm Shane Claiborn event

### Saturday, December 8

- 10:00 am Book Discussion Group

### Sunday, December 9 - Second 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  
6:45 pm Mount Olive serves Our Saviour's meal

### Monday, December 10

- 7:00 pm Vestry meeting  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Tuesday, December 11

- Noon Bible Study  
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

### Wednesday, December 12

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
Noon Advent Seniors' Luncheon  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal  
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

## 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.

## 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.

## Fair Trade Sale

The Missions Committee will continue to host the 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. Watch this video to learn more about SERRV and its artisans.

[https://youtu.be/S4L\\_jkPZbCg](https://youtu.be/S4L_jkPZbCg)

The handcrafted fair trade items will be available for purchase after both services on December 9 and 16. Fair trade coffee, chocolate and cocoa from Equal Exchange will also be available. This is not a fund-raiser, just an opportunity to buy good products for a good cause.

## News from the Neighborhood

### *The ~ Christmas ~ Edition!*

#### LAST WEEK TO FULFILL GIFT REQUESTS



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 **this Sunday, 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: 4-5pm.

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.

## 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!

## Thanks to the cleaning crew!

Wow! What a great turnout for the altar guild's cleaning project on Saturday! Many thanks to Margaret Bostelmann, Karen Cherwien, John Crippen, Matt Crosby, Katherine Hanson, Beth and Neil Hering, Peggy Hoeft, Bonnie McLellan, Joy and Stephanie Obadiaru, Steve Pranschke, and Beth Gaede. This crew cleaned our chancel, transepts, and narthex, and polished the brass candelabra, torches, and fittings in preparation for our Advent and Christmas liturgies.

Special thanks to Tim Lindholm, T.J. Schnabel, and Steve Pranschke for the many hours they spent treating the chancel paneling and furnishings, pulpit, and lectern with Liquid Gold. This was a huge undertaking, and the results are impressive.

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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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## 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.

## Christmas and Epiphany Worship at Mount Olive

**Christmas Eve: Monday, December 24, 2018**

Christmas Eve Eucharist at 5:00 p.m.

Choral Prelude at 9:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Eucharist at 10:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25, 2018**

Festival Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

*(Christmas Carry-in Brunch at 9:30 a.m.)*

**First Sunday of Christmas: December 30, 2018**

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

**The Name of Jesus: Tuesday, January 1, 2019**

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

**The Epiphany of Our Lord: Sunday, January 6, 2019**

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

**The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 13, 2019**

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

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## Upcoming Local Music Events of Interest

**National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival: "Mysterious Birth"** *(see information on page 5)*

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

Basilica of Saint Mary, 88 N. 17th St., Mpls., MN

**Concordia University/St. Paul: "The Promise Fulfilled"**

Friday, December 7, 7:30 pm; Saturday, December 8, 4:30 pm; Sunday, December 9, 3:00 pm

Buetow Music Center Auditorium, Concordia University, St. Paul, MN

**Tower Hill Brass Sextet**

Saturday, December 8, 3:00 pm

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4120 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Mpls.

**Exultate Christmas Festival Concerts**

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7:30 pm, at Church of the Annunciation, Mpls.

Sunday, December 9, 3:00 pm, at First Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights

Saturday, December 15, 7:30 pm, at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church, St. Paul

Sunday, December 16, 4:30 pm, at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, Mpls.

# 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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