



Sunday Readings

December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-55

The Olive Branch

December 12, 2018

Accent on Worship

Anna Scott

Advent. The time of waiting. With a sense of irony, I am writing this from Charlottesville, VA from my twin sister's kitchen table. I have been here since Friday when she called me to say they are anticipating starting labor soon. Hurriedly and clumsily I flung myself on a plane, leaving my husband and eighteen month old amidst a haphazard plan and an unknown return. That was two and a half days ago and no baby yet, but to add a measure of mystery to the scenario, Virginia is now covered in a foot of snow and all the airports are shut down, anyway. My sister's car was struggling and eventually died on the side of the road while my brother-in-law Steve and I were on route to Richmond to retrieve an abandoned suitcase. They now have one working car, which is a manual transmission I can't drive (of course), and Steve is back to work at the hospital.

Seems like the right time for a baby to arrive, right?! My sister and I sit in this advent moment, embracing the wait, the birth, the emergence of everything to come. Mindful of both the subtleties and the overt similarities between the advent she's experiencing and the one surrounding all of us in the Christian tradition. Through Advent we acknowledge the coming of Christ, and the anticipation of a return. The known and the unknown. I see my sister navigating the unknown right now - hopeful, unsure, patient and impatient, uncomfortable and yet grateful. The only known is that something will happen. Something, at some time soon, will come about. There is only so much preparation that can happen. The rest is a dance of forces beyond control and a willingness to embrace the rhythm.

My sister is pacing around the house like a nesting hen, collapsing boxes, putting lingering gifts and baby items away. The phone is next to me while she's on hold with her clinic about an upcoming appointment. Something, sometime soon, will change. And I will be here to usher in the advent, the fearful unfolding of what has been and what is to come.

Sunday Adult Forums

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

Sunday, December 23, 2018: "Love Is Not Enough – Dr. Joseph Sittler," a 1987 video presentation from the Joseph Sittler Archives

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

Youth Cookie Decorating

Mount Olive Youth & Families will be meeting at 10 am this Saturday morning, Dec. 15, to decorate cookies for the Community Meal, as well as for refreshments for next Sunday.

Please bring your little ones to help decorate cookies! And, if you feel up to it, stay to help with and share the community meal.

LSS Gifts Still Needed!

It's not too late to shop online to support our ministry partners. While the Ace in the City gift drive is over, Lutheran Social Services is still seeking items for three refugee families. In addition, Mount Olive collects warm clothes to help our neighbors this winter. The online registry is still available at Target. Simply go to www.target.com, click on "registries" and search for Mount Olive in the "organizations" tab.

Thanks so much for the generous gifts given so far!

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)

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!

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, December 12

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
7:00 pm *Midweek Advent Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, December 14

- 7:00 pm Recovery & Wellness Support Group

Saturday, December 15

- 11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal

Sunday, December 16 - Third 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

Monday, December 17

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, December 18

- Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

Wednesday, December 19

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
7:00 pm *Midweek Advent Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Staff Christmas Gifts – Last Week

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 **this Sunday, December 16**. Thanks for your generosity.

Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

December 5, 12, and 19

7:00 pm

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 the January 12 meeting they will read *A Gentleman in Moscow*, by Amor Towles, and for February 9, *Middlemarch*, by George Eliot.

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

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

Thank you!

There's been a wonderful response of support for our Ace in the City and LSS refugee services families over the last few weeks. Gifts are now being sorted and will be delivered this week to each organization and then to the families. Ace is hosting a large community party where the parents "shop" for their children while the kids get to play games. Thank you for showing such generosity to these partner organizations and the people they serve. May it bring you joy throughout this season of preparation and celebration.

A Message and Update from the Treasurer

Greetings! As we reach the home stretch of 2018, I wanted to provide a near-final update on where we are year-to-date with the Mount Olive Operating budget.

As you know, the operating budget covers all of the critical expenses that keep the church functioning, including all of the property and utilities, business expenses, salaries for the staff, and program budgets.

We have a very significant operational gap. In an effort to be transparent, I wanted to make sure everyone was aware of where we are as of November 30:

- Operational Giving through November: \$604,191.
- Operational Expenses through November: \$684,737
- **Operational Gap: \$80,546**

A few notes: the operational expenses this year are actually under budget (we spent less than we expected to), although the expenses are slightly up from 2017. Having worked with all of the various directors, I can say that they are doing everything reasonable to keep a tight rein on their expenses and are doing a fantastic job of managing their budgets.

This year has also been a year of very significant giving to **Bold Step Forward**, with over \$330,000 in giving in 2018. We have just closed our line of credit with Mission Investment Fund and have just made our first loan payment during the first week of December. We are in a great position to continue paying that loan down as we move into 2019 thanks to these many gifts.

What we need at this point in time is year-end giving to the operational fund. Many of us make our most substantial gifts at the end of the calendar year, and knowing where we are now, I commit to prayerfully consider my own giving in the coming weeks. I invite you to join me as we continue to live together in fellowship and support of Mount Olive.

I thank you for the privilege of serving as your treasurer, and I wish you a very blessed and joyous Advent and Christmas Season.

- Chad King, Treasurer

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

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.

Advent Hymns Around the World

One of the joys of partnering with the Lutheran World Federation is learning from and listening to our sisters and brothers around the world. Your Missions Committee has a recommendation for your Advent preparations. Each day the Lutheran World Federation is posting an Advent hymn from one of the Federation worshiping communities around the world. This joyful sharing began on December 1 with a large combined Nigerian choir. Join in this celebration: <https://www.lutheranworld.org/advent-hymns> .

Christmas Carry-In Breakfast

Celebrate the Feast of the Nativity, Monday, December 25, with a carry-in breakfast preceding the liturgy.

Bring a favorite Christmas food and enjoy a time of conversation with fellow Mount Olive worshipers from 9:00 to 9:45.



Seniors' Advent Luncheon

It was another great turnout for this year's Seniors' Advent Luncheon last Wednesday, Dec. 5.

A great time was (again) had by all!



Here are a few of those who helped to make this wonderful annual event such a success.

In Our Prayers

• **Please pray throughout the week for the following persons:** George Oelfke; Rhoda Nelson; Bev Shupe; Joe Beissel; Jerry Ostlund; Dennis Bidwell & Eric Zander; Dan Adams; Ro Griesse; Mike Edwins; Evy Essenwein; William Pratley; Mary Lee; Pariann Schenk; *Patrick Zander*, friend of Sue Browender; *Chuck Mead*, relative of Adam Krueger; *David Pettis*, cousin of Mike Edwins; *Lori Beauvais*, mother of Emily Hellerich; Isabella Peterson, granddaughter of Naomi Peterson; *Jim Chaffee* and *Carol Adele Jewett*, friends of John Wall; *Melissa Becker*, friend of Kat & Gretchen Campbell Johnson; *Lilian Anderson*, mother of David Anderson; *Blake Proctor*, friend of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; *Robert Hausman*, friend of Mount Olive; *Steve Camper*, friend of Julie Manuel; *David G. Gutierrez, Sr.*, *Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr.*, father and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; *Julius Underwood and Lonnell Wilkes*, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; *Timothy Roper*, neighbor of Mount Olive; *Andrew Wiechman*, son of Grace Wiechman; *Tami Huisinga*, relative of Wes Huisinga; *Helge Voigt*, friend of Mount Olive; *Clif Ollila*, friend of John Wall; *Peter Everson*, friend of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; *Leila Jeffers*, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; *Danna Nelson*, friend of Jim Bargmann; *Mary & Lloyd Shields*, friends of Beth & Neil Hering; *Aidan Sigel-Bruse*, friend of Cynthia Prosek; *Ellen White*, sister of Allen Dundek; *Cindy Williams*, friend of Robin Rayfield; *Johan Van Parys*, friend of Celia Ellingson & Gary Aamodt; *Danielle Pitzen*, friend of Ellen Kormanik; *Kent Krenz*, brother of JoAnn Sorenson; *Bob McCarthy*, friend of John Wall; *Maynard & Shirley Dorow*, parents of Mary Dorow; *Arthur Kaemmer*, friend of David Bryce; *Ebony and her family*, neighbors of Mount Olive; *Judy Bonnes*, friend of Mount Olive; *Craig Cunningham*, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; *Donald Johnson*, father of Nicholas Johnson; *Jodi Royce*, daughter of Dan & Julia Adams; *Warren Anderson*, friend of John Wall; *Dani Olson and Harper Linqvist*, relatives of Julie Manuel; *David Dobosz*, friend of Mary Rose Watson; *Janet Freeburg*, friend of Lisa Nordeen; *Barbara Dahl*, sister of Carla Manuel; *Rev. Will Healy*, pastor of Park Avenue United Methodist Church; *Patti Betlach*, friend of Kathy Thurston & Dwight Penas; *Greg Eklund*, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; *Patrick Clark*; *Annie Hose-Ryan*; *Brandon Otto*, nephew of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; *Jay Heffern*, friend of

Gary Pagel; *Tom McCarr*, friend of Keith Bartz; *Dolores Gutierrez*, mother of Consuelo Crosby; *Carolyn Devine*, relative of Leif and Karen Johnson; *Barbara Tengwall*, friend of Karen Johnson; *Tim Grant*, relative of Rhoda and Sherry Nelson; *Kjell Thompson*; *Reba Zumberge*, relative of Nancy Anderson; *Truman Jeffers*, father of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; *Norlene Bateman*, aunt of Ted Thompson; *Joshua Nordeen*, nephew of Lisa Nordeen; *Bill Hatten*, friend of Al Bostelmann; *Lela Frazier*, sister of Irene Campbell; *Ella Litfin*, friend of Elisabeth Hunt; *Peter Thompson*, friend of Al Bostelmann and Darlene Engwall; *Renee Rautio*, sister of Amy Reddy; *Barbara C. Johnson*, friend of Mount Olive; *Maureen Degnan*, friend of Erik Gronberg.

• **For Safe Return:** With other churches in the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA, we pray for our companion church in Nigeria, especially for the remaining Nigerian girls kidnapped by Boko Haram, and their families, and for Naomi Bitrus' continued healing as she continues to deal with the trauma and abuse she suffered while captive.

• **For continued grace:** former vicar Matta Ghaly

• **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: *Solveig & Philip*, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and *Tyson Crosby*, relative of the Crosby family. (*Italics indicates non-member friends of Mount Olive.*)

About our prayer list ...
If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers.

Contact the church office with any updates.

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

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.*

Race, Religion, Response: An Evening with Jim Wallis **Saturday, January 12, 7 p.m.**

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Ave. Mpls., 612-871-5303.

Jim Wallis is president and founder of Sojourners in Washington DC, a non-profit faith-based organization, network, and movement whose mission statement calls for “putting faith into action for social justice.” His latest book is *America's Original Sin: White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*. Jim will give keynote presentation and panel discussion for this event.

Tickets (\$40/each and includes a copy of the book) are available now on Hennepin's Facebook page: [HennepinAvenueUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HennepinAvenueUMC).