



## Sunday Readings

December 23, 2018

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

December 30, 2018

**First Sunday of  
Christmas**

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

# The Olive Branch

December 19, 2018

## Accent on Worship

### *Bishop Eaton's 2018 Christmas Greeting*

Christmas comes at a descending time. The old year is coming to an end, the new year is not yet here. It is too late to accomplish goals set on the previous New Year's Day, and just enough time to realize that whatever shape or state you are in will be the shape or state in which you end the year. There is a hefty dose of "what-might-have-been."

In the Northern Hemisphere the trees are bare, fields are barren, birds have migrated, animals are hibernating, the days are short and the nights are long. The earth's colors are muted, and when there is snow the world becomes silent. Sometimes during these short days and long nights I find myself thinking about the brevity of life. This conflicts with my tendency to believe that the possibility of self-improvement and renewal is limitless: there is always another day, more time, another chance.

I remember watching our first child as she slept in her cradle, thinking about the future before her and, at the same time, the reality that there would be an end. The Ash Wednesday declaration, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," became more pointed and more poignant. The cradle-to-grave progression is our path; the inevitable decline of our strength. "As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more" (Psalm 103:15).

Maybe this is why the Christmas season can be so fraught. Of course, there is anticipation and celebration, but there is also pressure and stress. Perhaps we are trying to greet the Lord's birth with our best efforts (when I was a girl, Christmas preparations were not complete until the silver was polished, and that job fell to me), but desperation can creep into the urgency to get Christmas right, to hold back the night. "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." (ELW, 279).

*continued on page 2*

## Sunday Adult Forums

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

*Sunday, December 30, 2018:* No forum this day.

---

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

This is freight that Christmas can't carry when Christmas depends on us.

But Christmas also comes at an opportune time. God did not come to us that first Christmas when we were at the top of our game or when the world was perfect. Even the circumstances of Jesus' birth were a sharp reminder that all was not well – forced migration to Bethlehem, no room for the young family, born in a stall. Emmanuel – God with us – came to us and comes to us precisely at the time when our need is greatest. Our attempts to bring about perfection actually get in the way of receiving the gift. When we try to fit into an unrealistic ideal of who we ought to be instead of welcoming God into our real self, no matter how messy, then what is left on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas? Fatigue, certainly, but also the dull acceptance that life moves from cradle to grave.

On Christmas, God has reversed the cradle to grave progression. The angel announced to the shepherds: "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: for to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Here is the new reality. Here is the truth. Our lives are not a meaningless trudge from cradle to grave, but a joyful journey – true and lasting joy – from grave to cradle. All our brokenness and death meet life and healing and hope in the child in the manger. His cradle defeats the grave. We are loved. We are alive. Now we are free to greet this holy season.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

- *The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## 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.

---

## 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.

---

## Olive Branch Publication Schedule

There is no Olive Branch newsletter published during the week between Christmas and New Year.

Deadline for information for the next issue is Monday, December 31.

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, December 19

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

### Saturday, December 22

- 10:30 am Extra Cantorei rehearsal

### Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 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 24

- 5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Eucharist*  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous  
9:30 pm *Choral Prelude*  
10:00 pm *Christmas Eve Eucharist*

### Tuesday, December 25

- 9:00 am Christmas Carry-In Breakfast  
10:00 am *Christmas Day Eucharist*

### Wednesday, December 26

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
*No choir rehearsals this evening*  
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

## 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.

## RIC Worship Service

This annual service will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019, 4:30 pm, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (700 S. Snelling Ave. in St. Paul). All are invited to come together with the other 42 Reconciling in Christ congregations for this annual worship service.

## 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)



## F.A.Q.'s, or things you may be wondering about . . .

Recently was asked, "**When will we put the paddle fans back up in the nave?**" Well, actually never. They've been replaced, but one can hardly blame anyone for not noticing. Hidden away high behind two of the trusses are two "anti-stratification units."



They're not big, and it's really dark up there. Since, they're so hard to see, here's a picture of what to look for. →

These are very efficient circulators that disperse the warm air that accumulates at the ceiling. They run 24 hours a day to keep the church at an even temperature. They are part of the whole HVAC system. Can you find them!



So, why is there still a fan above the organ pipes? It's never on? Answer: because it's right above the organ pipes, and removing it is not a job for the faint of heart! It will require a very large ladder and a very brave individual. Someday, perhaps.



**Thought about the stained glass recently?** When the beautiful wood tracery around the glass was removed, it proved to be in very poor condition. So, our good friends from St. Paul Fabricating (woodworkers for the columbarium) were contacted. Along with Gaytee-Palmer stained glass, they came up with an improved plan. The stained glass will be sealed between pieces of clear glass for insulation, and set in new wooden tracery. Except for the thicker glass, they will look exactly like the originals, but weather-tight. No need to screw sheets of glass on the inside or outside to keep the cold out. Thanks for your patience with this project. We're on the path to getting it done, and the two doors will be beautiful for the next 90 years or so!

*Property Committee*

## Thanks!

Thanks so much to all who donated to our two Christmas projects this year. Over \$2000 worth of toys, winter clothes, kitchenware and kids' items were donated through the Target website registry, along with many gift cards for groceries and other household necessities. These items were gratefully received by Lutheran Social Services to support recent refugee families and Ace in the City to provide a great "shopping" experience for parents as they chose gifts for their children. In addition, we socked away a few hats and mittens for our annual warm clothing drive. You have helped Mount Olive share Christ's love in the world and living "In the presence of God, being the presence of God" in the world.

## 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.

---

## TRUST News

**TRUST's Annual Martin Luther King Celebration** will be held on Sunday, January 20, at 5 p.m., at Living Spirit United Methodist Church, 4501 Bloomington Avenue. Please join us for fellowship and music. A soup and sandwich supper will follow the service. A free will offering will be received.

**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 – or volunteers – that can do any of the following jobs: 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.

## Race, Religion, Response: An Evening with Jim Wallis

**Saturday, January 12, 7 p.m.**

*Hennepin Avenue United*

*Methodist Church,*

*511 Groveland Ave.,*

*Minneapolis.*

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](#).



# The Olive Branch



The Mount Olive Confirmation kids, their siblings and parents volunteered with The Sheridan Story. Did you know that more than 200,000 children in Minnesota live with food insecurity? The Sheridan Story works to combat hunger in our community by filling the gaps to food access that children face: primarily weekends and summers.

Mount Olive Neighborhood Ministries partners with The Sheridan Story by sponsoring weekend meals and supporting Jefferson Community School programs. Our 10 volunteers, together with about 50 other volunteers, packed 3,894 bags of food which will provide 14,927 meals for Latinx families in the Twin Cities.



# 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.*

## **In This Issue:**

- **Accent on Worship – Bishop Elizabeth Eaton’s 2018 Christmas Greeting**
- **Additional Christmas Eve Eucharist Added – 5:00 pm**
- **Christmas Carry-In Breakfast: Christmas Day, 9:00 am**
- **Property Committee Update**
- ***O Magnum Mysterium*: New Art in the Chapel Lounge**
- **Confirmation Students Participate in Sheridan Story Packing Event**
- **Race, Religion, Response: An Evening with Jim Wallis (Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Minneapolis) Saturday, January 12**



## “O Magnum Mysterium”

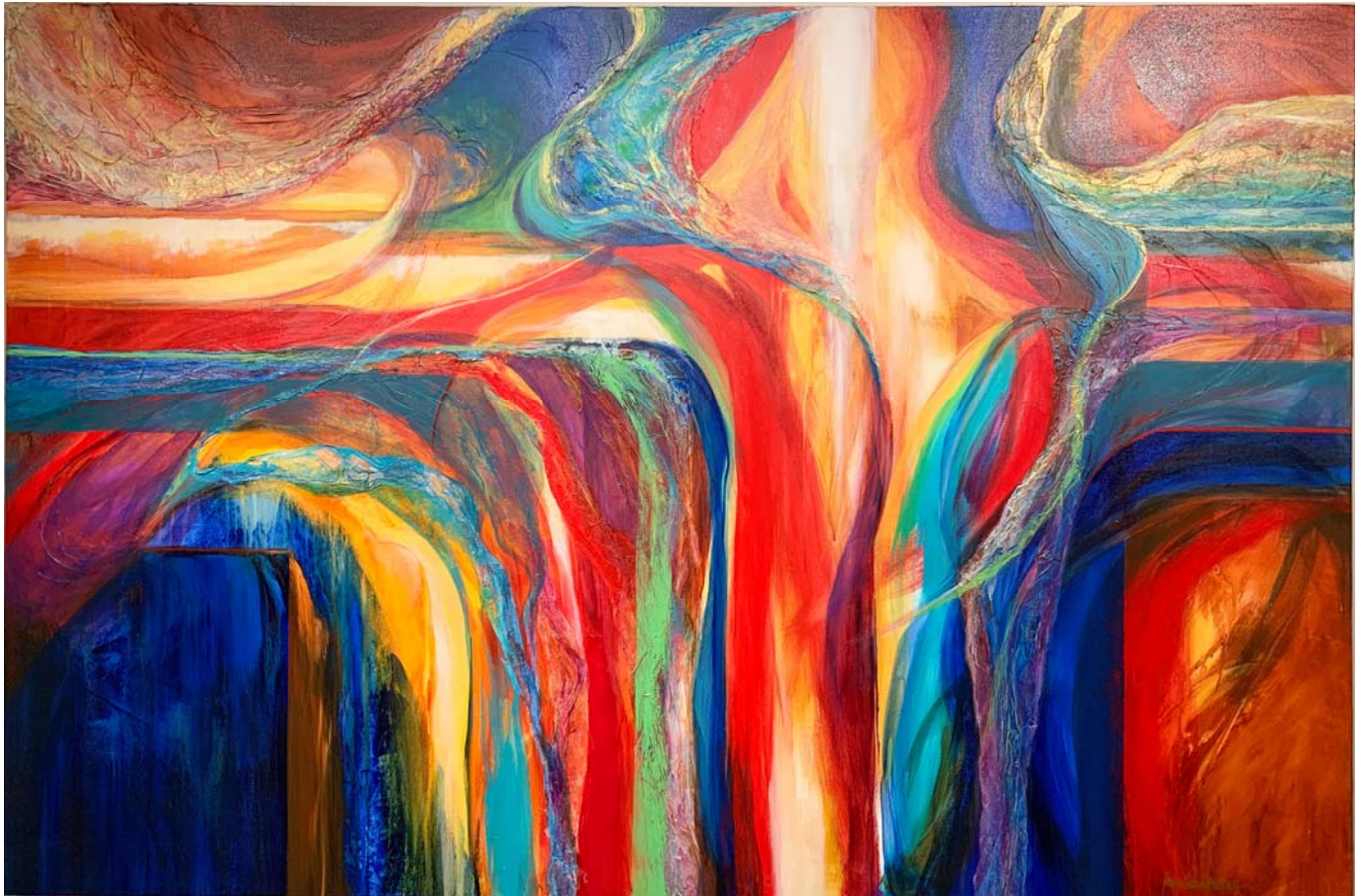
### Artwork by Robyn Sand Anderson on Display at Mount Olive

During the remainder of the Mount Olive’s advent and during the Christmas and Epiphany season we will have a beautiful art piece on loan from the artist Robyn Sand Anderson.

Robyn is an artist from southwest Minnesota. We became aware of her work through the National Lutheran Choir’s use of her artworks which they are incorporating into each of their concerts during the 2018-19 season. “O Magnum Mysterium” was featured on the cover of the NLC’s recent Christmas Festival program.

Robyn’s current works come out of her response to listening to classical choral music. If you go to Robyn’s website: <http://www.robysandanderson.com>, under the “Interpreting Music with Color” tab, you can view “O Magnum Mysterium” and other images and click on a recording of the choral music that inspired that particular artwork.

We are planning a more extensive exhibition of Robyn’s works to be on display at Mount Olive this coming April and May.





## JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1 – Name of Jesus</b>  Church Offices closed  <b>10:00 am - Holy Eucharist</b>	2  10 am – Staff Mtng.  7:00 pm – Cantorei  8 pm – N.A.	3	4  6-12 pm – N.A social event	5  9 am – Confirmation 11:00 – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 1-3 pm – Prayer Shawl group meets at Blue Ox Coffee Co.
6 - Epiphany of Our Lord  FOOD COLLECTION 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist\ Noon – Theological Discussion	7  7 pm – N.A.	8  Noon – Bible Study  4-6 pm – Diaper Depot  7pm – NLC rehearsal	9  10 am – Staff Mtng.  7:00 pm – Cantorei  8 pm – N.A.	10	11  7pm – Recovery & Wellness Support Group	12  9 am - Confirmation 10 am –Book Discussion
13 – Baptism of Our Lord  8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist  6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Dinner	14  7 pm – Vestry Meeting  7 pm – N.A.	15  Noon – Bible Study  4-6 pm – Diaper Depot  7 pm – NLC rehearsal	16  10 am – Staff Mtng.  5:30 pm – Children’s Choir supper  6 pm – Children’s Choir  7:00 pm – Cantorei  8 pm – N.A.	17	18	19  11:00 – Diaper Depot open  Noon – Community Meal
20 – Second Sunday after Epiphany  8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist	21  6:30 pm – Reconciling Works committee meeting  7 pm – N.A.	22  Noon – Bible Study  4-6 pm – Diaper Depot  7 pm – NLC rehearsal	23  10 am – Staff Mtng.  5:30 pm – Children’s Choir supper  6 pm – Children’s Choir  7:00 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	24	25  7pm – Recovery & Wellness Support Group	26
27 – Third Sunday after Epiphany  8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist  4pm – MFA Event: Monica Czausz, organist	28  7 pm – Worship Committee  7 pm – N.A.	29  Noon – Bible Study  4-6 pm – Diaper Depot  7 pm – NLC rehearsal	30  10 am – Staff Mtng.  5:30 pm – Children’s Choir supper  6 pm – Children’s Choir  7:00 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	31		