

The Olive Branch

February 6, 2019



Sunday Readings

February 10, 2019

5th Sunday after

Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

Psalms 138

I Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 17, 2019

6th Sunday after

Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalms 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

Hymns for many traditions and assemblies can be rather perfunctory. Hymns are chosen to fill slots throughout the liturgy, the organ might offer a very brief introduction (perhaps first and last lines) and several stanzas are sung. If the assembly sings, that's enough. When they half mumble, it's rather sad - at least for me. I'm grateful that rarely happens here.

Hymns in our gatherings are quite important. They are an important component to the flow of the entire liturgy. They are a piece of the day's proclamation, they embody our praise and prayer, they unite us and provide us with a way to express what we believe in ways that words alone cannot. The words are even in art-form in their poetry. Metaphors, turns of phrase bear the weight of repeated use and continuous new discoveries of meaning.

For our assemblies, additional things are a part our hymn singing as a way of increasing meaning and vitality. Our use of alternations, for example: high voices (sopranos and altos) and low voices (tenors and basses) alternate the octaves, or choir/all, harmony/unison, sometimes right and left sides, sometimes even in canon.

We also embrace what the organ can add to our hymnody. It is one of the most diverse instruments for congregational singing, and it is no surprise it has been a partner in hymn singing for hundreds of years. It can evoke the fullest majesty, and the mutest prayer. The organ has almost endless "colors" through combinations of sounds.

Its fullness can flex to assist large and small gatherings with one person at the console. The organ is effective in helping unite the assembly in its breath, pulse, and key, as long as those things are clear. And that can be enough.

Yet for us, there are additional things that the organ can illuminate/evoke in our singing. What informs the Cantor in putting these various facets of the organ to work is the hymn and its meaning (the words). For the hymn introduction, for example the most important thing is announcing its meaning, and perhaps a little of "how" are we going to sing it - as a slow and thoughtful melody, as a dance, as a majestic march. Paul Manz taught me to come up with an introduction by reading the text, looking for a word or phrase from any of the stanzas that encapsulates the meaning and then find a way to musically embody it. Use of canon, for example, usually points to the word or concept of "follow". The words "bright shining light" might evoke a sparkly quick bright flourish, the "Spirit descending" might sound like a bird floating quickly yet quietly downward.

(continued on page 5)



Implicit Bias Learning at Mount Olive

In the aftermath of Matta Ghaly's departure as our vicar last October, the congregation and the Vestry, in meetings on Oct. 14 and 8 respectively, committed to finding ways for Mount Olive to learn more about implicit bias and how we learn to see our blind spots and learn new ways of listening and speaking with others. While there were many factors to Matta's leaving, it was clear to many of us that we as a people of God had things we could learn in this area.

There is a three-pronged approach that the Vestry, along with Neighborhood Ministry committee and the Adult Forum planning team, has decided to do.

First, there will be an **Adult Forum on the topic of implicit bias on Sunday, March 3**, between liturgies. Anne Phibbs, PhD, will be presenter. Dr. Phibbs is Founder and President of Strategic Diversity Initiatives and brings over 25 years' experience helping organizations advance their equity, diversity, and inclusion goals. She will speak on the following premise: "in order to address the myriad ways that certain people are marginalized based on social identities such as race, gender, disability, religion, class, sexual orientation, etc., every one of us needs to understand our own identities, how we all demonstrate bias that is often unconscious, and how we are all capable of moving toward equity."

Second, Restorative Justice Community Action (a group that many Mount Olive people have worked with, and who uses our building for a number of their needs) will lead a **workshop called "Community Conversations," on Saturday, March 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** All members of the congregation are invited to attend; it will also be advertised through RJCA, so there will likely be some of our neighbors attending as well. Here's a brief summary of what it will contain: "With the continued tensions and protests around racial inequity in our society reinforced by system designs, it is important to increase the civic dialogue and empower citizens to enact positive change. However, race and implicit bias are often difficult topics to discuss with honesty in our civic spaces. Fight, flight, or freeze emotions such as shame, anger, denial, distrust, and fear often create barriers for real dialogue. When these take over, it impedes our ability to construct equitable solutions together. "Community Conversations" utilizes a restorative justice circle process to explore race and implicit bias in a way that diminishes these responses and opens one up to the opportunity to reflect on the root causes of impulsive reactions."

Third, three members of Mount Olive, Cynthia Prosek, Samantha Pipkorn, and Irene Campbell, recently went through a four-day training in this "circle process" that we will experience in the workshop. They will be looking for and creating opportunities for continuing this conversation at Mount Olive in the months and years to come.

I hope that all members of Mount Olive will consider attending both the forum and the workshop. We always can benefit from deeper learning and listening, and God works through that to bring us to new ways of being Christ together and in the world.

Blessings,
Pr. Crippen



Sunday Adult Forums

Sunday, February 10: "The Book of Isaiah's," part 1 of a 2-part series presented by Earl Schwartz, Assistant Professor of Religion, Hamline University.

Sunday, February 17: "The Book of Isaiah's," part 2 of a 2-part series

Sign Up!

Sign-up sheets are available for Sunday Altar Flowers and also for hosting Sunday Coffee Hour.

If you would like to sign up for Altar Flowers, pick your Sunday(s) and sign up on the chart located on the wall just outside the church office. Please note that altar flowers cost \$25 per bouquet and two bouquets are needed each Sunday. If you wish to provide both bouquets, please sign both lines with your designation for the worship folder. If you wish to provide just one of the bouquets, sign only one line with your designation. **Make checks payable to Mount Olive** and leave them in the church office, or send them in to the office by mail. Please do not place payment for altar flowers in the offering plate.

Volunteers are also needed to sign up to host Sunday coffee hour. The sign-up sheet for that is conveniently located in the East Assembly Room right at the window where coffee is served! If you are new to hosting Sunday coffee and would like to give it a whirl, experienced people can be on hand to help show you the ropes. Bring some light refreshments or goodies to share.

Attention Mount Olive Worship Assistants!

The Servant Schedule for the 2nd quarter of 2019 (April - June) will be published at the beginning of March 2019. The deadline for submitting requests is February 9, 2019. Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com.

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 February 9 meeting, they will read *Middlemarch*, by George Eliot. For March 9, *Germinal*, by Emile Zola.

New Members to be Received This Sunday

Mount Olive will receive new members This Sunday, February 10, at the late liturgy.

If you are interested in joining at that time, please speak with Pr. Crippen or contact the church office TODAY!

New Testament Images

Mount Olive is pleased to host an exhibit of the artworks of Kirsten Malcolm Berry. Twelve of Kirsten's latest works, drawn from New Testament texts, are on display in the Chapel Lounge and West Assembly areas.

To learn more about Kirsten Berry and her artwork please visit her website at: www.kirstenmalcolmberry.com/originals



Calendar

Wednesday, February 6

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

Friday, February 8

- 7:00 pm Recovery & Wellness Support Group

Saturday, February 9

- 10:00 am Music & Fine Arts Committee meeting
- 10:00 am Book Discussion Group
- 10:00 am Mount Olive Foundation Board meeting

Sunday, February 10 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation
- 9:30 am Sunday Church School
- 10:45 am *Holy Eucharist, with Reception of New Members*, followed by coffee & conversation
- 6:45 pm Mount Olive serves Our Saviour's meal

Monday, February 11

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

Tuesday, February 12

- Noon Bible Study
- 4-6 pm Diaper Depot open

Wednesday, February 13

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

Save the Date:

Taste of Nigeria

On February 24 we will celebrate our growing partnership with the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria. Mount Olive is developing a relationship with the LCCN's seminary, Bronnum Seminary in Yola, Nigeria.

On Sunday the 24th we will have a chance to learn more about the LCCN and Bronnum, and since Mount Olive member Brad Holt will be in Yola at the time, we hope to share a live video exchange with Brad, Ibrahim Bitrus, and other members of the community. Also, of course, we will feast Nigerian style at our Taste of Nigeria dinner following our second liturgy.

Plan on a day of celebrating this amazing Lutheran church, one of the largest and fastest growing Lutheran church in the world.

Tactus to Perform at Mount Olive

Tactus is a student-led chamber choir from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. They will present a concert of chamber choral music **this Saturday, Feb. 16, at 7:00 pm** at Mount Olive. On the program is music by Tavener, Pearsall, Nysted, Willan, and more!

The concert is free and open to the public.



Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

For the stanza accompaniment, the texts of each indicate the level of fullness – hopefully as an indication of how fully it can be sung. Soft singing is also possible. Variety is critical, however – there is no forte without piano, and no piano without forte. The text tells which.

The bottom line, however, is not how creative the congregation and/or organist is, or how wonderful the organ itself is. It is simply that people are given voice to sing. The opening paragraph, while negative sounding, says it: if the assembly is able to sing, that is indeed enough. Is the organ absolutely necessary for that? No. And the organ is gaining partners in instrumentation as we expand the cultural and global song of God’s people. But we do cherish the organ as tremendous enhancement to the meaning of what we sing.

For that, I am grateful.

- Cantor David Cherwien

Do You Love Singing Hymns and Carols?

For most of us at Mount Olive, that’s a rhetorical question.

This weekend is a chance to help make another recording with the National Lutheran Choir – this time Christmas Carols. Join those “in the pews” to sing as congregation in this new recording, to be released next fall. We’re singing eleven carols including O Come All ye Faithful (of course with David Wilcock’s descant!), Silent Night, Joy to the World, Once in Royal David’s City, It Came upon the Midnight Clear, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, and more! We’re also recording a recently transcribed arrangement of “On Christmas Night” by Paul Manz (transcribed by yours truly from a tape recording of a Christmas Eve service here in the late 50’s or early 60’s).

This project was launched when I found out that a dear friend of ours, an organist in Seattle (who was also the wife of the pastor with whom I worked there), died from complications of dementia. During the last two years of her life, she listened to Christmas carols and sang along. She wasn’t aware of much else. This prompted me to launch this project – and provide something we all would enjoy (healthy or not). Simple carols most of us probably know from memory, and if not, this could help us learn them from memory – perhaps preparing for when we’ll really need them.

It is a ticketed event, and tickets are available at www.nlca.com or at the door. I would love to have you among us this Sunday!

For tickets or additional information, contact the National Lutheran Choir office at 612.722.2301, or visit NLCA.com.

St Michaels Lutheran Church, Bloomington
Sunday, February 10, 4:00 pm

- Cantor Cherwien



News From the Neighborhood

Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach & Ministry

Chain Reaction Theater presents: What Guys Really Want - Heartfelt Stories About Masculinity

Sunday, February 10, 3:00 p.m.

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Society's narrow definition of masculinity creates a tremendous challenge for boys and men to be their true, authentic selves. Boys and men are inundated with negative messages from the media, movies, music, peers and family, as to how they should act and behave. This production uses heartfelt stories of masculinity from the male perspective to raise awareness and create a conversation about how masculinity is shaped and formed among boys and men...too often in an unhealthy way ... and how we as a community can change that.

Admission is Pay-as-you-can with a suggested ticket price of \$15. Tickets can be purchased online for \$15 at Brown Paper Tickets or at the door by cash, check or credit card.

All seating is general admission.

Save the Date!

Minneapolis Area Synod Tool Kit and Conference Assemblies

Saturday, Feb. 23, beginning at 9 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

A morning of engaging workshops, fellowship, time with Bishop Ann Svennungsen, and conference meetings.

The hour-long Tool Kit workshops are:

- New Strategies for Organizing Mission & Ministry: Effective Church Council Leadership
- Who Lives in My Neighborhood? An Introduction to MissionInSite
- A Small Church Can Make a Big Difference
- Church Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- Ready to Talk About Culture and Race?
- How to Run a Meeting
- Financial Best Practices for Churches
- Five Marks of a Vital Congregation and Two Questions Not to Ask
- Using Story to Invite People into your Congregation
- Better Council Effectiveness Through Relationships
- Good Stewardship: Maximizing the Value of Your Real Estate
- Digital Media 101: Social Media and Websites
- Navigating the Church Human Resources Jungle
- The Skill of Connecting with your Community Through One-to-One Conversations

Both experienced and new church leaders are strongly encouraged to attend!



Together in Hope: A Concert of Hope and Reconciliation

Featuring the Together In Hope Choir with current and former members of the St. Olaf Orchestra

Saturday, February 9, 2019, 8:00pm

The Basilica of Saint Mary

1600 Hennepin Ave Minneapolis, MN 55403

mary.org | 612.333.1381

Doors will open for general seating at 7:15pm

Concert is free of charge

The Together In Hope Choir, an ecumenical, professional-caliber ensemble of 60 voices, brings a message of healing and Christian reconciliation.

Directed by Mark Stover of the University of Michigan and Teri Larson of The Basilica of Saint Mary, the Choir will be accompanied by current and former members of the St. Olaf Orchestra. The performance features the U.S. premiere of *So That the World May Believe: A Motet for Unity and Service* and *Holy Spirit Mass*, by Kim André Arnesen.

The evening will include a shared ecumenical message from Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Bishop Ann Svennungsen.

The Together In Hope Project's mission is to advance healing and reconciliation through the transformative power of music. For more information, visit www.togetherinhopeproject.org.

Drivers Needed for Area Meals on Wheels

TRUST Meals on Wheels, located in the basement of Judson Church at 4101 Harriet Ave. S., is in great need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals Monday through Friday.

Delivery takes just about an hour starting at either 10:45 am or 11:00 am, and starts and ends at Judson Church. Volunteer drivers can either choose to drive a particular route each week, or be a substitute driver and drive when they are available.

Please call 612/822-6040, or email MOWDirector@trustinc.org for more information.

Mount Olivet Presents: Will Steger

February 24 @ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (50th & Knox Ave. S.) invites all to attend this dinner event with Will Steger, a world renowned explorer from Minnesota known for his numerous polar expeditions, deep understanding of the environment and his efforts to raise international awareness of environmental threats.

Will has traveled tens of thousands of miles over 50 years witnessing climate change and leading teams on significant polar expeditions.

A chili dinner will be served, Will Steger's favorite menu. Cost: \$15.

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.*

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Cantor David Cherwien**
- **New Members to Be Received This Sunday**
- **Coming February 24: Taste of Nigeria**
- **Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed!**