



The Olive Branch

February 20, 2019

Accent on Worship

Anna Scott

It occurred to me this morning that this is my final accent on worship as the serving Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach and Ministry. This allowed me a precious time of reflection on how this role, and my personal life, has transformed in the past four and a half years. As for me personally, I got a dog, got married, moved twice, and am about to have my second baby girl. That's a lot of change! Mount Olive has also seen its share of what is new and what is let go of. We have an HVAC system and a solar roof, a fresh parking lot, a whole lively batch of babies in the pews, new partnerships and programs and many that continue to sustain us. When I came on board we were also finishing a beautiful visioning process that drives and shapes how we are in the world – in the presence of God, being the presence of God.

Getting this job was a miraculous answer to prayer. The work, as varied and particular as it is, felt natural and gratifying. Though there was much to learn on the technical, programmatic side of this role, what I have gained moreover is a way to be. I've learned a way to remain humble in my understandings of people's lives and situations. I've honed a way to choose gentleness and generosity, while still asking for the best someone can give for the moment they are in. I've built a network of relationships within the neighborhood that enrich our ability to learn from and engage with one another in small but powerful ways. This is all possible because of the

commitment that Mount Olive chooses to uphold as a church, not just through this job, but through its teachings and its love for one another, known or unknown.

I won't lie, this next transition is a complexity of excitement and sorrow. I will mourn not getting to do this incredible work with amazing people. Still, there is much joy to come for our family and curiosity about what adventures are ahead for us. All that I've learned I get to take with me. I have great confidence that the next Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry will bring about wonderful new skills and perspective that will carry us all even further in to relationship with our neighbors. Likewise, the acts of kindness, Christ-like love, and generosity of spirit that each of you offer through your lives will continue to shine light through the porous walls of this church on 31st and Chicago. For that I am deeply grateful and say thank you.

Sunday Readings

February 24, 2019

**7th Sunday after
Epiphany**

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-
38,42-50
Luke 6:27-38

March 3, 2019

**Transfiguration of
Our Lord**

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
1 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2
Luke 9:28-43a



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 10**, 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 24: Taste of Nigeria

Sunday, March 3: "Welcoming the Neighbor," presented by John Medeiros, a partner with Myers Thompson Medeiros, a Minneapolis-based law firm that represents corporate clients in U.S. immigration matters. He is the author of *Sanctuary and Harboring in Trump's America* (44 Mitchell Hamline Law Review 869 (2018)); *Administration's 'Culture of No' Undermines Immigrant Workers, Employers* (Bench & Bar of Minnesota, November 2018); and *The Rise of the Sanctuary Congregation* (Hennepin Lawyer, May/June 2017).

During Pr. Crippen's Vacation

Emily Stelling will preach Feb. 24. Emily is in her last year of seminary, having done her internship in Slovakia, and is very interested in liturgical worship such as we do at Mount Olive.

Kelly Sandin, vicar here from 2016-2017, will preach on Transfiguration Sunday, March 3.

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.

Sign Up, Sign Up for Coffee!

There is still lots and lots of room for YOU to sign up and take a turn hosting Sunday coffee! If you have any questions about what that entails or how to serve, contact the church office and we will get you connected with someone who will be happy to show you the ropes - it's easy!

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 March 9 meeting, they will read, *Germinal*, by Emile Zola. For the April 12 meeting, *Spirit Car*, by Diane Wilson.

It's Time.

If you have palm branches from last year's Eucharist on Palm/Passion Sunday, please bring them to church and place them in the designated basket in the narthex.

These branches will be burned on Shrove Tuesday and the ashes from the burning will be used at Ash Wednesday Eucharists on March 6.



Calendar

Wednesday, February 20

- 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 22

- 7:00 pm Recovery & Wellness Support group

Sunday, February 24 - Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

TASTE OF NIGERIA

- 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 Taste of Nigeria celebration meal

Monday, February 25

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 26

- Noon Bible Study
- 4-6 pm Diaper Depot open
- 7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, February 27

- 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

Update on Neighborhood Ministry Search

As Anna and Josh Scott prepare for the arrival of child number two, and Anna's time as our Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry nears an end, here is an update on the process.

23 resumes were received, and the search team held five interviews last week. Three have been invited back for second interviews the week of Feb. 25. We hope to have someone hired and able to begin mid-March. Anna is planning on finishing at the end of February. Please pray for our candidates and this process.

Farewell to Anna: On **Sunday, March 10**, after second liturgy, we'll have a traditional Lutheran potluck (Anna's choice!) to say thank you to Anna for her service. Details to come!

Taste of Nigeria – This Sunday

This Sunday, 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.

During Adult Forum, 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.

Following the forum, 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.



Test Your Climate Knowledge

The Missions Committee would like to challenge you on your understanding and knowledge of our beautiful Earth. NASA Global Climate Change web site offers quizzes to help us learn about vital signs of the planet. One quiz each week will be offered here until Earth Day to assist you in growing your stewardship of the Earth and all living things. Click the following link to take this week's quiz, Our Home Planet: <https://climate.nasa.gov/quizzes/home-planet-quiz/>

The Concordia Choir in Concert With The Singers

Hear one of the nation's finest college choirs perform alongside The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 4 pm in the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. Rene' Clausen conducts the 73-voice a cappella choir in several spirituals and hymns plus a stunning set entitled "Our Home – The Earth."

Visit www.TheConcordiaChoir.org today for complete concert information.

EcoFaith Network Offering

Join the Minneapolis Synod EcoFaith Network for a night to learn about ways you and our congregation can implement energy efficient practices in your home and at Mount Olive from a panel of local experts including Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, EnerChange, Community Power, and others! March 12, 7-8:30pm , Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55407. Check it out on their Facebook page and sign up!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1170201466477179/>

Music and Fine Arts' Lent Procession

Sunday, March 6, 4:00 pm

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts cordially invites all to this annual contemplative service of lessons and carols for Lent.

MARCH 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group meets at Blue Ox Coffee Co.
3 – Transfiguration of Our Lord FOOD COLLECTION 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist Noon – Theological Discussion	4 7 pm – Special Vestry mtng. 7 pm – LOL Board 7 pm – N.A.	5 Noon – Bible Study 4:00 pm – Diaper Depot Open 6pm – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7 pm – NLC rehearsal 7 pm – Missions Committee	6 – Ash Wednesday 9 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Ash Wednesday Eucharist <i>No Choir rehearsals</i> 7 pm – Ash Wednesday Eucharist 8 pm – N.A.	7	8 7pm – Recovery & Wellness Support group	9 9:00 – Confirmation 10 am – Book Discussion 10:30 am - Catechism 11 am – N.A. Speaker event
10 – 1st Sunday in Lent 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist Noon – Congregation Potluck 4pm – MFA Lent Procession 6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Dinner	11 7 pm – Vestry mtng 7 pm – N.A.	12 Noon – Bible Study 4:00 pm – Diaper Depot Open 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	13 9 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Midweek Eucharist 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	14	15	16 9:00 – Confirmation 10 am – Forum with Elected officials 10:30 am - Catechism 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal
17 – 2nd Sunday in Lent 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist	18 4-6 pm – NLC Board mtng. 6:30 pm – Reconciling Works Committee meeting 7 pm – N.A.	19 Noon - Bible Study 4:00 pm – Diaper Depot Open 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	20 9 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Midweek Eucharist 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	21	22 7pm – Recovery & Wellness Support group	23 9:00 – Confirmation
24 – 3rd Sunday in Lent 8 & 10:45 – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist 4pm – LSM Program & Vespers 31 – Fourth Sunday in Lent 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist	25 7 pm – N.A.	26 Noon - Bible Study 4:00 pm – Diaper Depot Open	27 9 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Midweek Eucharist 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	28	29	30 9:00 – Confirmation 10:30 am - Catechism 1pm – Community Conversations: Implicit Bias

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 – Anna Scott**
- **Taste of Nigeria – This Sunday!**
- **Update on Search Process for Neighborhood Ministry**
- **Farewell and Thank You to Anna Scott on March 10**
- **Take the Climate Quiz!**
- **Bring In Your Palm Branches**