

The Olive Branch

February 27, 2019

Accent on Worship *Cantor David Cherwien*

Here we go

I don't know about you, but I'm ready for Lent. There have been some years where it seems we're gathering for Ash Wednesday

the week after taking the Christmas tree down. Not this year. And I'm ready to focus on something other than snow.

This Sunday is one of transitions. Transfiguration Sunday for Lutherans is the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Perhaps you are familiar with the story for Transfiguration – Jesus, Peter, John and James went up on “the mountain to pray”. Then Jesus’ appearance changed and his clothes became dazzling white, and an Moses and Elijah appear, talking to him”. It is from here that Jesus and the disciples go to Jerusalem.

There is a lot of mystery to this day's narrative for me. And I suspect there are things in this story we might not recognize. What were Jesus, Moses and Elijah talking about? Why Moses and Elijah? Then there's the matter of the “dwellings” that Peter offered to make for the three. Why the glowing? And then, the voice of God which we heard about at the Baptism of Jesus: “This is my Son, my beloved, listen to him!” There is much to explore in this narrative.

But the day does mark a transition. The Wednesday following (March 6) is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent.

Then, what can we make of the season of Lent? Many communities of faith make Lent an extended Holy Week. Requiems are performed. It's observed as a “sad” or sullen time. Perhaps that's meaningful for some.

For us Lutherans, it isn't intended to be such. Hopefully, we use this time to re-evaluate what it means to be a baptized child of God. How does being baptized call us to live differently? How does it call us to respond to the world around us – making us counter-cultural? While some may think this is introspective season, perhaps it's more an invitation to review our extro-spection – how do we regard those with which we come into contact? How do we respond to what goes on in our culture outside of these walls? How do we re-evaluate our priorities?

Perhaps it means something like this. In Lent, maybe we learn to adjust our possessions to re-define what we really need. Perhaps 5 outfits instead of 10. Or maybe cleaning our closets and giving away things is an exercise for adjusting our priorities. Could be that it means finding out if we can live on less income, giving more away. Perhaps it means an extra phone call each week to someone who is lonely. Not as much giving something up as adjusting our sense of what is enough, re-defining abundance, or not even being about ourselves as much as increasing our compassion for those around us.

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Sunday Readings

March 3, 2019

**Transfiguration of
Our Lord**

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

1 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

Luke 9:28-43a

March 10, 2019

First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13a



Implicit Bias Learning at Mount Olive

Adult Forum on the topic of implicit bias will be presented 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."

Then, **on Saturday, March 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, 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,"** 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.

We 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.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

We add services on Wednesdays during Lent. Why? It's hard work re-evaluating our lives like that – these times for prayer provide an island for re-focus in the middle of our time away from Church (so to speak) between Sundays. A way of saying "Oh Yeah – that's I'm all about". Extra prayer, extra proclamation, extra expression through song, getting together with thos in the same journey and challenges with us, there is tremendous strength building in these gatherings. Rather than "forcing" yourself to come, consider how committing to add coming to a midweek service to your Lent journey can be of tremendous help in your re-commitment.

Then at the Easter Vigil, we again say "I renounce them!" and "We will!" – and we are again sprinkled with water – as a way of renewing our baptismal promise and commitment. Ideally, it will be something we've actually been thinking about and working on for five weeks.

Try it all on. I'm ready. Are you?

- Cantor David Cherwien

Taste of Nigeria Thank You

Many thanks to over thirty cooks who tried their hand at Nigerian cooking and shared their results. Thanks also to those who braved the weather to learn and celebrate our new relationship with Bronnum Seminary in Nigeria. Although we were not able to Skype directly with our Nigerian friends yesterday, we look forward to the time when we will share song, worship and prayer. Dr. Bitrus and his family extend warm greetings and ask your prayers for Nigeria as they complete their national elections.

Sunday Adult Forums

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).

Sunday, March 10: "Implicit Bias and Microinequities," presented by Anne Phibbs, PhD, Strategic Diversity Initiatives

We cannot move toward true equity in our workplaces, organizations and personal relationships until we address historical and institutional inequality. In order to address the myriad ways that certain people are marginalized based on social identities such as race, gender, disability, religion, class, and sexual orientation, every one of us needs to understand our own identities, how we all demonstrate bias that is often unconscious, and how we are capable of moving toward equity.

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.

Lent Begins in One Week!

Ash Wednesday - March 6

Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome.

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 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

Friday, March 1

- 6:00 pm N.A. social event

Saturday, March 2

- 11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal
1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group meets at Blackeye Roasting Co.

Sunday, March 3 - Transfiguration of Our Lord

- 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 Theological Discussion group

Monday, March 4

- 7:00 pm Special Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous
7:00 pm LOL Board meeting

Tuesday, March 5

- Noon Bible Study
4-6 pm Diaper Depot open
6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
7:00 pm Missions Committee meeting
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, March 6 - Ash Wednesday

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
Noon *Ash Wednesday Eucharist*
7:00 pm *Ash Wednesday Eucharist*
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous
8:30 pm Cantorei extra rehearsal

Adult Forum Presentations On YouTube

The recent two-part adult forum series presented by Earl Schwartz, "The Book of Isaiah's," is now available on YouTube at the following links:

Part 1: Feb. 10, 2019

<https://youtu.be/ED4kh8qNIGg>

Part 2: Feb. 17, 2019

https://youtu.be/_raocIq4vyo

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!

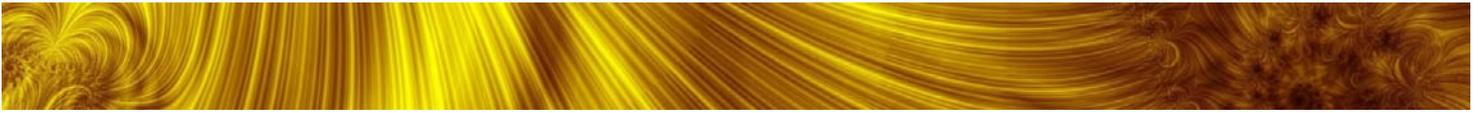
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

All are invited to join the Mount Olive Youth and Families committee at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Mount Olive on March 5. We'll be serving pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee, and togetherness.

We start serving at 6pm and look forward to seeing you there.

Music and Fine Arts' Lent Procession Sunday, March 10, 4:00 pm

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



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, Soil Moisture: <https://climate.nasa.gov/quizzes/soilmoisture-quiz/>

An Evening with Lutheran Summer Music (LSM)

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is hosting an event at Mount Olive on Sunday, March 24, at 4:00pm, that will feature a recital of alumni, past & current faculty, and staff members. Following the recital, there will be the Service of Evening Prayer replicating a typical evening during the summer program. This event is open to everyone, so please invite guests!

This event is designed to help spread the word about the transformational power of this faith-based music academy for high school students. Please join LSM Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Friends for a wonderful evening of music, prayer, and fellowship. A reception will follow the evening's activities.

Please reach out to Mount Olive Member, Dietrich Jessen, by email at dietrich@dwjessen.com or by phone at 952-666-9759 with any questions. For more information about LSM, visit online them online at www.lsmacademy.org.

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is the nation's premiere faith-based music academy for high school students. In addition to advanced musical instruction and numerous performance opportunities, LSM students form an intentional community, living together for four weeks on a Lutheran college campus. Since 1981, this unique and immersive program has guided the lives of young musicians, who credit LSM as the starting place for their future careers and vocations.

EPES (Popular Education for Health) Expands Training

Health workers, church workers, community leaders and advocates from Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, United States, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Chile participated in the 10th International Training course for education health workers. Global Mission of the ELCA provided key support that made the program possible and sent four of their staff members and five African health workers. In its 10 years, 187 people from 25 countries have participated in the International Training that imparts the principles and techniques of participatory and community strategies for health. The women and men who spent eleven intense days at the school learned how to form community health promotion groups, worked with local organizations to address health issues, explored the role of churches in the struggles for the right to health and reflected about factors that ensure a sustainable future.

EPES is one of the global missions that Mount Olive supports.

News From the Neighborhood

Anna Scott

March is Minnesota Food Share Month

During the week at Mount Olive, we commonly have neighbors coming in to see if we have food. Thanks to many of you, we often do have some pantry items or ready-to-eat options that we can offer to people to tide them over. The grocery cart in the coat room keeps re-filling with food as does the corner of hygiene supplies. This is a small but meaningful way that we can provide needed and appreciated items for those in a hardship situation, but we also recommend our partners at Community Emergency Services to provide the rest.

March is Minnesota Foodshare Month and CES is asking for our support. They want to gather a total of 40,000 pounds of food and raise \$125,000 during March. We can help! Bring food pantry items or hygiene supplies to drop off in our grocery cart and/or give a financial gift to help CES make purchases.

*Items suggested: Cooking oils, sugar and flour, toilet paper, hygiene products (deodorant, toothbrushes and paste), canned chicken, tuna & chili.

Nearly one in ten Minnesotans experience food insecurity (*US Dept. of Agriculture*) 13.8% of children in Minnesota are food insecure (*Feeding America*). Food security is "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle." Food insecurity means access to adequate food is inconsistent and limited by a lack of money and other resources through the year. Food insecure households report their diets to be of reduced quality, variety, or desirability and/or experience disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

Highlight Reel from Anna

Over the years I've collected a colorful, powerful array of memories. Here are a couple of my favorites.



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.*

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