



The Olive Branch

October 9, 2019

Accent on Worship *Cantor David Cherwien*

Praise

The Gospel lesson from Luke this Sunday is the story of ten lepers approaching Jesus to have mercy on them. Jesus tells them to

show themselves to the priests. When they did they were made clean. One of them (a Samaritan) turns back and thanks Jesus. Jesus' response is to ask, "Where are the other nine? Were none of them found to return and give praise to God?" Then he proclaims to the one who had come back, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

There are several interesting things about this story. Why send them back to the priests? Did the priests have a role in the apathy of the nine? Why point out the one who returns as a foreigner? It says that all ten were "made clean," but Jesus says to the one returnee, "Your faith has made you well." Is there a difference between "being clean" and "being well"?

The obvious lesson here is to live lives of gratitude - giving God endless praise, because there is so much for which to be thankful. The entrance hymn this coming Sunday will give us the song with which to express that praise together, "Oh, That I had a Thousand Voices" (ELW 833). In this text by Johann Mentzer (1658-1734) we join all of creation in singing God's praise. In one of its most picturesque stanzas, the "forest leaves ... dance for joy in the summer air ... which live to show forth praise alone." I've had fun creating improvisations for that particular stanza over the years.

It's a good thing that this hymn is one that this community enjoys singing, and has for a long time. It's also a special hymn for me personally, as I worked with it extensively when I attended school in Berlin. There are seven stanzas (of the original 15) in the German hymnal, and only 5 in our current hymnal (ELW). In Berlin there was a rule, "Never the same thing twice for any two stanzas." We'd have to play the melody with the left hand, the pedal (with the feet), with the melody solo'd out, and then sets of historic forms: Toccata, Trio, Bicinium, Fantasia, Fugue, etc. I had worked up a full set of variations based on those 7 stanzas - including a large fugue (most of which I've forgotten). I really grew attached to the hymn after that.

This Sunday points out one of the important roles the Entrance Rite has. Perhaps each week's liturgy opening is a re-enactment of this Sunday's Gospel. We "turn back" from our busy day-to-day lives, assemble here as a community to do what the one leper made clean did: "turned back, praising God with a loud voice."

Of course, I kind of like the "loud" thing ...

- Cantor Cherwien

Sunday Readings

October 13, 2019

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalm 66:1-12

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

October 20, 2019

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm 119:97-104

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

Luke 18:1-8

Upcoming Adult Forums

See brochures in the Chapel Lounge for detailed information about these forums.

- **October 6/13** - "Romans: A Backward Glance," (2-part series) presented by Pastor Joseph Crippen
- **October 20** - "Eucharistic Commitments to Justice and Peace," presented by Dr. Samuel Torvend of Pacific Lutheran University
- **October 27** - "Masterpiece of Sacred Music: Mozart's *Requiem*," presented by Art Halbardier

Prayer Vigil

On Thursday, October 10, Mount Olive Lutheran Church will hold a prayer vigil from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in to pray for our nation; for a restoration of dignity, decency, respect, and justice.

All are welcome. Come and go as your schedule allows.

There will not be a formal program for our prayer time, nor a designated leader. Everyone will be welcome to pray as she or he desires, and although we are a Christian congregation and the vigil will take place in our sanctuary, people of all faiths are welcome to pray with us.

Members of Mount Olive will be available to pray with anyone who would like a companion in their vigil. Come, and invite your friends.

You Are Invited ... and Needed ...

... to share the Lord's supper with our Mount Olive brothers and sisters who are unable to join the table when we gather for worship on Sunday mornings.

Just now more people are finding a need for Home Communion. More communion ministers are needed to fulfill these requests. Have you considered participating in this ministry, and if not, would you?

Ministers (servers) commit to at least one Sunday a month, and serve up to two homes per month. It requires:

- some training (will be provided);
- contacting the person/family receiving to confirm date, time & location;
- communicating with the Sacristan of the day to assure a communion kit is prepared and pastor is notified;
- stepping forward at the end of the service to receive the consecrated kit and for the sending of the Sacrament from the congregation;
- visiting the recipient, communing the individual and others wishing to participate. A brief order of service is provided;
- making a brief on-line note, documenting the date communion was given. If you don't use a computer, someone else can do it for you.

Please give prayerful consideration to this ministry and contact the pastor, the church office, or Marilyn Gebauer, currently the scheduling co-coordinator. Contact the pastor and church office at: 612-827-5919 or welcome@mountolivechurch.org. You can reach Marilyn at 612-306-8872 or gebauevm@bitstream.net.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, October 9

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, October 10

- 6:00 pm Bible Study
6-8:30 pm Prayer Vigil

Friday, October 11

- Noon National Lutheran Choir committee meeting
5:00 pm Wedding rehearsal (Wade/Pfau)
7:00 pm Recovery & Wellness Support Group

Saturday, October 12

- 10:00 am Book Discussion Group
Noon Wedding (Wade/Pfau)
11am-1pm Diaper Depot open

Sunday, October 13 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am Holy Eucharist
12:45 pm Y1 Confirmation
6:45 pm Mount Olive serves Our Saviour's meal

Monday, October 14

- 6:00 pm Vestry meeting (Note time change!)
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, October 15

- Noon Bible Study
4-6 pm Diaper Depot open

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!

On October 12 the group will discuss Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, and on November 9 they will discuss *There There*, by Tommy Orange.

Forging Common Ground for Justice

Our mission partner Karen Anderson in Chile and EPES/ Action for Health in the Americas are featured in the September edition of Living Lutheran. Check it out:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/09/forging-common-ground-for-justice/>

As Karen shared with us this summer, their health education training model is now internationally recognized and sought after.

Third Quarter Contribution Statements

Third quarter statements are prepared and ready to be picked up at church. They are on a small table next to the coat room.

Take a moment to review your statement, and if you have any questions about it, please contact the church office.

Statements not picked up will be mailed after October 20.

Bethlehem Besieged

Following her presentation at the Adult Forum, Jo Lucas gave us a copy of Mitri Raheb's short book *Bethlehem Besieged, Stories of Hope in Times of Trouble*. The book is now in our library, giving you the chance to learn the history behind Bright Stars of Bethlehem, our newest mission partner. The work began at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and has now expanded into the Diyar Consortium. The Consortium includes the k-12 Dar al-Kalima School, the Dar al-Kalima University College, the Health and Wellness Center, International Center of Bethlehem, Guesthouse, and the dining room and art galleries. All of these programs are designed to bring hope to the Palestine and Christian population while working for a life of peace between Palestinians and Israelis. As Dr. Raheb concludes, "Holding to a hopeful vision in the context of war gives hope a new meaning. It is no longer something we see but rather something we practice, something we live, something we advocate, something we plant."

Krisis of Faith? Thursday Bible Study Continues

John's Gospel has perplexing questions about judgment and grace. Sometimes it seems as if God's grace in Christ is for all; other times it seems to have an exclusive turn. The Greek word *krisis* means "judgment," and that word and related forms occurs throughout John. In the first Thursday Bible study series of this year Pr. Crippen will lead an exploration of what judgment and grace means in John.

The study runs through Oct. 24. Meeting in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., there will be the usual light supper when we begin.

All are welcome to this study opportunity!

Adult Forum Follow Up

Thanks to all who came to Sunday's adult forum led by Vicar Reading addressing the ELCA's new Social Statement: "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Call to Action." If you'd like to read the Statement or learn more about it, you can visit:

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice> . We'll also have some

copies of the short version of the Statement available in the Chapel Lounge this week.

In order to continue the questions and lively discussion that followed Vicar Reading's forum this past Sunday, she has agreed to lead a "Part II" of her forum on Sunday, November 10, at 9:30 a.m.

Let's keep the conversation going!

Budget Preview Meeting Sunday, October 20 Noon

Bring your questions and comments about the proposed budget for 2020.

Schedule Your New Photo Directory Photo Session Now!

Does your Mount Olive picture directory photo need updating? Perhaps you've added a child or two (or more?) to your family since your last photo. Are the young children in your last photo now in high school? Maybe you just want a more recent picture. Whatever the reason, this is your chance to have a new, updated photo taken for the pictorial directory!

You may schedule your photo shoot in three different ways.

- 1.) Online, follow the link to choose an appointment time.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4AA9A828A2F94-photo>
- 2.) On Sunday morning, check for the sign-up desk in the hallway outside the Chapel Lounge. Please have your calendar with you, and be ready with two or three possible times. Someone will be there with a computer to get you signed up for a time slot.
- 3.) If you are unable to schedule your appointment electronically and unable to sign up at the desk on Sunday mornings, call the church office and Cha will help you sign up.

The following are the general times available:

Saturday, Oct. 12, Noon to 4 PM
Monday, Oct 14, 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Tuesday, Oct 15, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Thursday, Oct 17, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Saturday Oct. 19, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tuesday, Oct 22, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Thursday, Oct 24, 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Friday, Oct 25, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

If you are unable to make any of those times work, please contact Paul Nixdorf directly to arrange an alternate time. Paul's contact info is pnx@paulnixdorf.com, or 612-296-0055.

If you would rather submit your own photo for the directory, here are the requirements. The photo must be in jpeg format, high resolution. Please email the photo to the church office (welcome@mountolivechurch.org) and include the names of all the people in the photo, in order as they appear.



Godly Play

"Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play."

All children are invited to join a circle each Sunday at 9:30. Here are the stories the children will be hearing next week:

Circle 1: The Ten Best Ways

Circle 2: Moses

Circle 3: Jacob

Letter From EPES in Chile

Dear Friends,

We are facing a perfect financial storm at EPES. We know that with the growth of extreme right-wing governments throughout the Americas, including Chile, many justice-oriented, community-based groups are facing major financial challenges. We are among them. We have lost almost 40% of our funding because of the combination of changing government priorities and Chile's deceptively rosy economic performance.

Because you are long-time friends and supporters of EPES, we wanted to tell you what is happening and ask for your help.

In 2017, Chileans elected a right-wing government whose priorities in health no longer include work like ours. The Community Health Agent initiative that we developed for the Ministry of Health was defunded and all the people in charge of this program were fired. EPES lost 30% of its' funding when this program was cut. Also in 2017, Chile joined the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), the exclusive club of the world's more developed economies (with little regard for how the wealth is distributed within each country). As a result, many international organizations can no longer provide funds to Chile. For EPES, this change resulted in our losing \$100,000 in funding from Tobacco Free Kids.

As we celebrate 37 years of work to defend and promote health, dignity and human rights, we are proud to share some impacts that we never could have imagined when we started EPES. We have so many wonderful programs and have remained a beacon of hope for many. In the spirit of justice and solidarity, we invite you to help us now.

Mount Olive members, your Missions Committee will be considering an extra gift in response to this need. If you would like to join us, you may mark your blue envelope or check EPES/AHA. Karen Anderson and EPES have 37 years of experience and health program development that must not be lost.

Manz Tage 2019: October 25-26

Co-sponsored by Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts and the Mount Olive Foundation, Manz Tage is a two-day celebration of the life and ministry of Paul O. Manz (1919-2009), who served as Cantor at Mount Olive from 1946-1983. His ministry was internationally known and extremely influential to church music. This conference explores how his ministry continues to inform us as singing people of God.

- *Friday, Oct. 25, 7:30 pm* - Organ Recital by John Schwandt, followed by a reception hosted by the Mount Olive Foundation
- *Saturday, Oct. 26, 8:30 am-Noon* - Plenary address and workshops

A complete schedule of events is available [here](#).

This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Mount Olive Foundation's Annual Gift

A few months ago, Mount Olive Lutheran Church Foundation presented to the Church a check for \$49,620.00, which was our FY2018 annual gift to the congregation. For the ninth consecutive year, the Foundation's gift represents another record amount: \$4,968 more than last year's sum. The Foundation also has crossed the half-million dollar threshold, with gifts to the Church now totaling \$517,310.92—the majority since 2002.

Given the discussion between the Foundation's Board and the Vestry, the latter has requested that the funds be used for currently identified projects and the remainder for items identified during the coming year. Again, the Foundation's Board hopes its current and future funds will be used for items not currently in the Church's approved budget. Within this new framework, the Foundation's Board of Directors recommended that its gift be apportioned as follows:

Neighborhood Ministries (Sulzbach Fund)	\$ 978
2019 Manz 100 th Birthday Celebration (Manz Fund)	\$ 1,963
Stained Glass Repair/Replacement (Peterson Fund)	\$ 351
"Bold Step Forward" Campaign Payment (2 nd of 3)	\$ 20,000
Remainder for future use	<u>\$ 26,328</u>
Total Gift	\$ 49,620

We are pleased and privileged to foster Mount Olive's mission in many and various ways. Every year, we see how prudently the Foundation's gifts are used and how broadly they benefit the congregation. For all of you who support the Foundation through current and future gifts and commitments, thank you for all that you do to make this such a wonderful church!

Keith Bartz, President
Mount Olive Foundation

Soul Searching

At both our local Minneapolis Synod Assembly and the national ELCA Assembly resolutions were passed calling for Lutheran congregations to do "Soul Searching on 18+ years of unending wars" and Christian participation in these wars..

To help facilitate the Soul Searching process, Bishop Ann Svennungsen appointed a local task force to develop means to reach a 'Soul Searching' goal within our Minneapolis Area congregations.

The task force developed this exercise. In it three committee members describe the three positions that Lutherans believe a Christian can take when it comes to participating in war:

1. Selective Conscientious Objection to some wars.
2. Serving in Conscience
3. Conscientious Objection

Mt. Olive was selected as one of three congregations to try out this exercise for possible wider use in the Church

We request you to take a copy of this tool and respond to the questions on the back.

We will discuss your response and any questions you might have at several times and venues:

1. In the Mt. O library following the second service today
2. Tuesday, 10/15 at 7 pm at 3655 45th Av South, in Minneapolis
3. Wednesday 10/15 7 pm at 3655 45th Ave South, Minneapolis
4. Mt. O library next Sunday following the 2nd service
5. At a more,convent time and venue that 3 or more people request

We encourage Mt. Olive military veterans (as well as active) to part of the discussion

Scenes from Blessing of Animals, October 6



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

**Summer Sunday Eucharist:
8:00 & 10:45 a.m.**

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Bristol Reading*

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in
Christ congregation.*

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