



The Olive Branch

November 6, 2019

Accent on Worship *Cantor David Cherwien*

What happenswhen

In November, we have more conversations about death than most times of the year. Indeed, in the northern

hemisphere nature is “dying” around us, we begin the month with All Saints remembrances, and each week the lessons speak of “end” times.

In this Sunday’s lesson, Sadducees ask Jesus questions about what happens “in heaven” – specifically with marital issues when someone has been married more than once. “Who’s the spouse in heaven?” While it may seem like a silly line of inquiry, I suspect we all have similar kinds of questions about what happens when we die. One of our saints, Elmer Jaster, when close to death said, “Let’s see what this is all about” with a fearless sense of curiosity, yet trust.

Questions like - Where is heaven? What is heaven? What exactly happens at the point of death? Is there a physical resurrection of the body? What will we “look like? Do we “sleep” until a particular point? Will we “see” people we knew there?

We’ve learned a lot of language and phrases that attempt to give words for what we don’t know, like “fell asleep in the Lord.” But that’s precisely the thing I’m intrigued by: we really DON’T know exactly. It’s mystery. We say we have “the hope” that we will be awakened by Jesus. We say we live in “the promise” of the Resurrection – of life that never ends – just moves to a different form without the body and its frailty.

For me right now, I think an aspect of the Resurrection is teaching us we can live without fear. Fear of death is one of our most basic instincts – mostly related to protection – the “fight or flight” reflex is a powerful part of our brain. But take away fear of dying, and we can learn to live differently. We learn more about what true abundance is, and live compassionate lives. We can live with child-like wonder. We can live with deep gratitude for each breath. We can live for others. We can live without a lust to acquire things that we can’t take with us. We can live with knowing our relationships can be savored and enjoyed. We don’t have to fear darkness because there’s nothing to be afraid of since the basic thing we fear (not living) can’t be taken away. God is already with us (as opposed to us “leaving to be with God.”) We just don’t understand “what that’s going to look like” when we leave our physical bodies. *Continued on page 2*

Sunday Readings

November 10, 2019

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b – 2:9

Psalms 145:1-5, 17-21

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

November 17, 2019

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25

Isaiah 12:2-6

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

We know our time will come to move on, we just don't know when. Two friends of mine passed away this past year. My age. Both suddenly, almost without any warning. A part of me just says – "So, I wonder how that's going for them?" And as the anthem posed last Sunday, "Do they call to mind their own people as we do them?" Who knows? (They do now...)

Seems like a good call for us to savor. Enjoy. Care. Share. Let go, and simply sing the song "Alleluia." Hmm. What if we knew each encounter, each liturgy was our last? Maybe we should treat them all that way.

What is Special to You About Mount Olive?

Our work as congregation and vestry is to tend and cultivate what is special about Mount Olive by creating a budget that allows us to thrive and flourish. This past Sunday we approved our 2020 budget. We have made a commitment as a congregation to live fully in Christ and our budget embodies that. Join us in sustaining what is special about our community by making a pledge on Stewardship Sunday, November 17, 2019.

Pledge cards will be in the mail soon. Pledging is engaging in the life of Mount Olive to carry out our shared commitment to living a life in Christ through our fellowship, ministry, and stewardship together. In the spirit of Pastor Crippen's reflection on being "free in Christ," I invite you to intentionally and prayerfully consider what it means to be "free in Christ" as financial stewards. It is through our intentionality in how we apply our gifts and talents, that we can make an impact in the lives of others through our life together.

~ *Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby, Director of Stewardship*

About Sunday's Adult Forum

The ELCA's newest social statement, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice" addresses the sin of patriarchy and offers guidelines for how the church is working toward gender justice within its own institutions and the wider society. Vicar Bristol Reading will provide a review of the statement's main themes and a more detailed look at some of the ELCA's specific commitments to action.

You can read "Faith, Sexism, and Justice" [here](#).

Blessing of Travelers

During the second liturgy this Sunday, Nov. 10, Brad and Karin Holt will receive our prayers for safety, health, and fruitful encounters on their journey to Nigeria. They will be gone for two weeks, visiting Bronnum Lutheran Seminary, Demsa Medical Center, Headquarters of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, and the Theological College of Northern Nigeria, where Karin grew up until age 6, and where Brad taught.

Calendar

Wednesday, November 6

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

Thursday, November 7

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, November 9

- 10:00 am Book Discussion group
1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group meets at Blackeye Roasting

Sunday, November 10 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, November 11

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

Tuesday, November 12

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

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Thursday, November 28, 10:00 a.m.

Bring non-perishable food items to help re-stock local food shelves. Monetary donations are especially welcome (for every \$1 donated, food shelf personnel are able to buy about \$9 worth of food!)

As has been our custom for a number of years, the entire offering received at the Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day will be divided between Sabbathani Community Center and Community Emergency Services food shelves.

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 November 9, they will discuss *There There*, by Tommy Orange. On December 14, they will discuss *If Beale Street Could Talk*, by James Baldwin.

“The Word for Those Who Worry”

Thursday Evening Bible Study Begins November 7, 6 pm

Vicar Bristol Reading will lead a 6-week series on “The Word for Those Who Worry.” Scripture contains frequent encouragement to “be not afraid.” But many faithful Christians still experience anxiety, doubt, and fear frequently. This study will examine familiar biblical passages from a new angle to see how they might be a spiritual resource for us in the midst of worrying times. This Thursday (tomorrow!), we’ll start with a focus on Paul’s exhortation in Philippians: “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (4:6).

Upcoming Adult Forums

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

- **November 10** - ELCA Statement on "Faith, Sexism, and Justice," part 2 - Vicar Bristol Reading
- **November 17 and 24** - "From Biblical Narrative and Law to Halakhah and Aggadah," a 2-part series presented by Nina Samuels and Earl Schwartz

Attention Mount Olive Worship Assistants!

The Servant Schedule for the first quarter of 2020 (January - March) will be published at the beginning of December 2019. The deadline for submitting requests is November 8, 2019. Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com.

Keeping Up with India Visitors

On November 5, nine travelers from Mount Olive will fly off to visit Bethania Kids ministry in India. Prayers for an enriching journey were held in worship on last Sunday morning. Follow their journey on their blog at: <https://bethaniajourney.blogspot.com>.

Here's Lora Dundek's pre-trip reflections from the blog:

India has been on my "bucket list" for 10 years now - ever since my friend, Mark Spitzack, travelled there and came back to tell of how visiting Bethania changed his life. I have heard this from others - that travel in India is a life-changing experience. I pray that it is so for me.

Bethania Kids is a life-changing organization. Women and children who may otherwise perish, either physically or emotionally, or both, are given an opportunity, not only to survive, but to thrive. Mount Olive has been participating in that ministry for more than a generation, and as a Christian, I am called to support the work. Now I have an opportunity to actually witness the work, and when I return, to bear witness to that work to all of Mount Olive. God has blessed me so richly in my life, and God again blesses me with a life experience that will change me. When the nine of us return - all changed - we hope, by extension, to change all of you and further engage you in Christ's ministry of life with others around the world.

Me La Amargates Tú Chamber Ensemble to Perform at Mount Olive

Sunday, November 17, 2019 - 4:00 pm

Me La Amargates Tú is one of the leading Sephardic music ensembles in the world. Prize winners of the International Jewish Music Competition in Amsterdam, the group's members hail from five different countries, joined by shared musical traditions and research of Sephardic music, as well as Spanish music from the Medieval and Renaissance periods. A reception will follow the concert.

Learn more about Me La Amargates Tú at www.mlaf.org.

Movin', Movin' . . . Why?

Perhaps you noticed the waste and recycling bins in the North Lot this weekend? Why were they moved?

- a. Someone thought the North Parking Lot needed redecorating?
- b. The brown bins contrast nicely with the yellow garage behind?
- c. The bins are soft plastic, and will cushion the collision with the yellow steel bollards when racing competitors to the last remaining parking spot at 40+ mph?
- d. None of the above.



OK, enough foolishness. Here are the real reasons:

The heavier than normal snow in recent years (climate change, perhaps?) made the alley impassable in the winter for a huge truck. This location will help them service us.

And, frequently, the big brown bins in the alley behind the Parish House have offered visual cover for various undesirable activities (use your imagination), Clearing that area will create safer conditions for us, and for our neighbors across the alley.

Bells for Peace

The local Veterans for Peace chapter is again proclaiming bell ringing on Armistice Day, November 11. Minneapolis Council of Churches also supports this effort.

“The Armistice of 1918 ended the horrendous slaughter of World War 1, called “the war to end all wars.” When the Armistice was signed, exuberant joy broke out around the world. For many years bells rang 11 times at that 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Then it slowly faded away especially in the U.S.

Now we ring bells again, many bells, many places, 11 times at that sacred moment. With a moment of silence we remember the civilians and soldiers killed in every country and we commit to work and pray for peace until this assault on the Will of the Creator of us all is finally over.”

We will ring a handbell 11 times next Monday, November 11, at 11 a.m. in front of the sanctuary. Mount Olive members are invited to join at this time.

“Let not your bells be melted into weapons. Ring out a mighty worldwide adherence to love your enemies as yourself.”

Our Saviour's Housing's New Program

The OSH Transitional Housing Program Manager is going to begin teaching a cooking class for the eight women in the program. Her vision is to teach them how to prepare meals with ingredients that can be found in the food shelf and fit within their budgets. She would love for every woman to also have a basic cooking set to bring to every class which includes:

- 1 - 8x8 Pyrex casserole baking dish
- 1 set of measuring cups
- 1 set of measuring spoons
- 1 whisk
- 1 spatula
- 1 small/medium cutting board (not wood)
- 1 kitchen knife (for cutting vegetables and meat)
- 1 medium-sized mixing bowl (plastic)
- 1 - 8-inch non-stick skillet
- 1 tote bag to place their cooking items in when they come to the main office for the class

It would be great to have 8 of these cooking sets donated. Can you help? The class will begin when we have enough of these sets.

Elaine Halbardier will prepare a sample kit to showcase what they are looking for. If you are able to provide a whole kit, please do - if only one or two pieces, that is also helpful - workers in the Neighborhood Ministry program will assemble individual pieces into kits for Our Saviour's.

Advent Luncheon for Seniors to be Held Wednesday, December 4

Attention Seniors (65 and over)! Soon, you should receive your invitation to the annual Advent Luncheon for Seniors.

If you are age 65 or over and do not receive your invitation, it's likely because we do not have your birthdate (or correct birthdate) on file. If that's the case, please call the church office and let us know so that we can update your membership information. All members of the Mount Olive Community age 65 and over are cordially invited!

If you plan to come, please RSVP to the church office to let us know: phone - 612-827-5919, or email - welcome@mountolivechurch.org.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24:

Christmas Eve Eucharist at 5:00 pm

Choral prelude at 9:30 pm

Christmas Eve Eucharist at 10:00 pm

Christmas Day, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Eucharist at 10:00 am

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

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.*

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Cantor David Cherwien**
- **Stewardship Sunday, November 17**
- **Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, Nov. 28, 10:00 am**
- **Seniors Advent Luncheon to be Held December 4**
- **Thursday Evening Bible Study Resumes Tomorrow**
- **MFA Event Nov. 17, 4 pm: Me La Amargates Tú**