



The Olive Branch

November 20, 2019

Accent on Worship

Susan Palo Cherwien

The Last Sunday in the Church Year: The Reign of Christ

Sunday Readings

November 24, 2019

The Reign of Christ

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 36-22

Hanging in the Chapel/Lounge at Mount Olive is the large serigraph by John August Swanson, "The Procession."* This silk print portrays a large procession of people embraced by the arms of the church. They walk together in celebration. The stories of the Bible surround them in banners and murals. The life of Christ surrounds them. Music and singing fill the air.

Artist John August Swanson says of the serigraph: "We in our communities of faith are a procession of stories, stories both unique and shared, stories connected to those who have gone before us and those who will come after us. We gather in celebration of and respect for each person's story and in expectation and awe of the story we are becoming together. This is the reality I seek to touch upon in this work." The people appear to be walking out of the church, out into the world. The stars shine overhead. Christ is at the center, riding the donkey - humble and vulnerable - into Jerusalem. This is the vision the church celebrates on the Last Sunday of the Church Year: the vision of the infusing of the Christ into all the stories of God's people - "the awe of the story we are becoming together."

In the Catholic Church this Sunday has been called Christ the King Sunday only since Pope Pius XI instituted it in 1925. Pius XI was

concerned about the rise of nationalism, secularism, communism, and fascism in his time, and wanted to emphasize the need for Christians to give their allegiance to Christ above all. The name Christ the King Sunday was adopted by the Lutheran Church in 1978, at the time the Lutheran Book of Worship was produced.

Recently, Christian churches have become concerned about other implications of the name Christ the King, such as the limiting masculine emphasis of the name, as well as the insidious danger of a sense of Christian triumphalism, even though contradicted by the designated readings. Some of our siblings in other churches have already shifted the name of this Sunday to The Reign of Christ, and the Worship Committee at Mount Olive, in its ongoing examination of and reflection on our liturgical texts and practices, has recommended a shift to that name.

As John August Swanson wrote: "The great procession is a celebration of life and faith where the rich and poor march in unison; the strong carry the weak; and the weak humble the proud; those who know the dance teach those who are just learning; and a child lifts high the banner for all to follow in joy, in peace, in love..." The Reign of Christ is the coming into all lives of the Christ with Five Wounds, beckoning us into the procession with all people, all creation, in peace, in joy, in love.

*To read more about the serigraph, go to <http://www.johnaugustswanson.com/default.cfm/PID=1.2-22.html> . A sheet exploring the work is available in the Chapel Lounge.

Video Call from Nigeria!

On two Sundays this month, we will have the chance to see and hear some of our global companions live on our screen. Since Brad Holt and his daughter, Karin Holt, will be visiting Nigeria for two weeks, they will try to organize a group to sing and greet Mount Olive folks on Sundays November 17 and November 24. All of the adult forums have already been scheduled, so these calls will happen **after the second liturgy during coffee hour**. Cantor Cherwien will lead us as we sing to Nigeria; Judy Hinck will be our coordinator.

This Sunday we will call from Numan, the headquarters of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, from the archbishop's cathedral church. Because of the time differences, a call to Mount Olive at 12:30 pm will originate at 7:30 pm in Nigeria and it will be dark. If we are fortunate, the Archbishop himself will greet us.

Please plan to get your refreshments and sit in the Chapel Lounge to engage in this encounter.

Nativity Sets for Godly Play

Our Godly Play leaders are looking for several nativity sets that are designed for children that can be put in the activity sets the children use each Sunday. If you have one or more nativity sets that are appropriate for children and would like to donate them to Godly Play please contact Paul Nixdorf (612-296-0055, pn@paulnixdorf.com) or the church office (612-827-5919, welcome@mountolivechurch.org) and let them know that you have a set or sets you would like to donate. Godly play would like to have these Nativity sets very soon so they can begin using them.

Winter is Upon Us!

Once again Mount Olive Neighborhood Ministries is collecting warm winter gear for our neighbors in need. These items will be distributed at regular winter Community Meals and also at our winter warming station.

Please bring coats and jackets, hats, scarves, gloves and mitten, and warm socks to the designated box in the common area at church.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, November 20

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

Thursday, November 21

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, November 23

- 1:00 pm Funeral Visitation
2:00 pm *Funeral Eucharist: Nate Babcock*

Sunday, November 24 - The Reign of Christ

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*
Noon Nigeria Calling

Monday, November 25

- 4:00 pm National Lutheran Choir Board meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, November 26

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

Wednesday, November 27

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
No Children's Choir rehearsals
No Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, November 28 - Thanksgiving Day

- 10:00 am *Thanksgiving Eucharist*

Friday, November 29 - church offices closed

“The Word for Those Who Worry”

Thursday Evening Bible Study *Thursday evenings, 6 pm*

Vicar Bristol Reading is leading a 6-week series on “The Word for Those Who Worry.” This study examines familiar biblical passages from a new angle to see how they might be a spiritual resource for us in the midst of worrying times. The study runs through Dec. 19. As always, we begin with a light supper at 6pm.

Adult Forum Video **Now Available on** **YouTube**

“From Biblical Narrative and Law to Halakhah and Aggadah,” a 2-part series presented by Nina Samuels and Earl Schwartz . Part 1 is now available online at <https://youtu.be/JsarHhllxUA>

Upcoming Adult Forums

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

- **November 17 and 24** - "From Biblical Narrative and Law to Halakhah and Aggadah," a 2-part series presented by Nina Samuels and Earl Schwartz

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 December 14, they will discuss *If Beale Street Could Talk*, by James Baldwin, for January 11, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, (the first book in "Lord of the Rings" trilogy by J. R. R. Tolkien), and for February 8, *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World*, by Andrea Wulf.

Staff Christmas Gifts

As is our tradition, this is the time of year that we gather monetary gifts for our terrific church staff. If you would like to contribute, please either use the offering envelope provided especially for this, or simply note "staff gifts" on your check and deposit it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or send it to the church office. Please have the gifts in by **Sunday, December 15**. Thanks for your generosity.

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.

Nativity Sets for our Christmas display

It has been a tradition for the last couple years to display nativity sets that have been loaned or given to Mount Olive during the Christmas Season. If you have a special nativity set that you would be willing to lend to Mount Olive for display, please contact Paul Nixdorf and let him know what you have and when you can deliver the set to the church. The display will be put up on Sunday, December 22, and will remain on display until Sunday, January 5, 2020.

Be sure to clearly mark the boxes containing the nativity sets so we can keep track of the sets and make sure they get returned to you.

If you have a very valuable or rare nativity set and are willing to let us display your set please let me know so that we can display your set in the locked display case.

The Olive Branch

Our Saviour's Housing Meals: How YOU Can Help!

Mount Olive has had a longstanding ministry of providing food for the homeless at Our Saviour's Housing, just a few short blocks north of our church. Every second Sunday of the month we make a nutritious meal, bring it to the shelter, serve it and share the meal with the appreciative residents.

What we need NOW are people to transport the meal from Mount Olive to Our Saviour's Housing at 2219 Chicago Avenue.



What Time? 5:30 to 8:00 pm



Commitment? Second Sunday of the month: Do One Month or More



Who Can Help? Families, Singles, Anyone!

For more information call Connie Olson at 763-544-2381 or olsonrr@gmail.com

National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival: Gloria!

This cherished annual event creates a holy experience for audiences and memories that last a lifetime. This year, the story of the Angel's song "Gloria" is brought to life through an array of poetry, communal singing and exquisite choral music in the unsurpassed beauty of the Basilica of Saint Mary.

Friday, December 13, 4:30pm and 8pm

Saturday, December 14, 1:30pm (NEW TIME!) and 8pm

Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Tickets: Adults and Seniors \$33 | Students and Children FREE | Discounts available for groups of 10 or more!!

For tickets and more information, please visit NLCA.com or call (612) 722-2301.

Theological Discussion Group

The Theological Discussion Group is being revived and will begin meeting again in the library after second liturgy on Jan. 5, 2020.

The assigned reading: "The Civilization of Christianity," by John L. McKenzie, has as its devastating thesis, "there is a deadly irreconcilable opposition between western civilization and Christianity and that one of them must destroy the other."

John L. McKenzie is probably the greatest biblical scholar the last century produced. He was the first priest ever asked to be on the faculty of the U of Chicago Divinity School and they only priest asked to be in the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, eventually becoming its president. His genius will stimulate the brightest among us and the lesser of us will find him quite understandable. You should be able to find this book on Amazon or used book stores. After discussing the book on Jan. 5, we'll negotiate what to read next and decide how often to meet.

Thank You, and No More for Now, Thank You!

When asked to outfit eight residents of Our Savior's Transitional Housing with cooking equipment, individuals at Mount Olive responded with their typical generosity. The first group of eight women are fully outfitted, and half the next group as well!

For now, no more kitchen kits are needed, and storage for them is limited. I'll let you know when the need next arises - it will, since the population in Transitional Housing is always changing.

Angela at Our Savior's sends her amazed and enthusiastic, "THANK YOU." You've made her new initiative with residents a reality.

- Elaine Halbardier

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 4:00 pm (UPDATED!)

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.*

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