

The Olive Branch



December 11, 2019

Sunday Readings

December 15, 2019
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalmody: Luke 1:46b-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

**Advent
Vespers**
*Wednesday
evenings,
Dec. 4, 11, and 18
7:00 pm*

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Accent on Worship

Vicar Bristol Reading

In her *Revelations of Divine Love*, the 14th century mystic Julian of Norwich wrote: "The soul must perform two duties. One is that we reverently marvel. The other is that we humbly endure, ever taking pleasure in God." These two spiritual tasks, "duties" as Julian calls them, are especially relevant during the season of Advent.

Marveling reverently seems especially appropriate during Advent. To marvel is to be filled with wonder and astonishment, to find the amazing in the ordinary. During the Advent season, we are reminded that God's presence is often hidden in unexpected places and God's spirit moves in surprising ways. With Mary we proclaim that God scatters the proud and lifts up the lowly; God fills the hungry with goodness and sends the rich away empty (Luke 1:51-53). We rejoice in the promise of Emmanuel, God-with-us, the divine dwelling among us. In these Advent weeks, we cultivate expectant spirits that we might be attuned to just how marvelous this good news truly is.

Advent is also a time to practice Julian's second soul duty, humble endurance. In our part of the world, Advent comes at the darkest time of year, when the cold presses down and weariness sets in. Grief and loneliness can be especially acute in these times. Schedules are full and stress is high. Sometimes it feels like we need an extra dose of "endurance" to make it through the month of December. Brendan Doyle translates Julian's second duty as saying that "we must gently let go and let be." How might you be gentle with yourself this season? What might you need to let go of in order to make space for rest? Julian reminds us that whatever our circumstances, God is a source of joy, goodness, and pleasure.

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Needed: Winter Accessories

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, jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and warm socks to the designated box in the common area at church.

From our Lutheran World Federation Partners

“Lutheran World Federation’s (LWF) Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in Jerusalem (a Mount Olive Mission partner) has been facing a chronic financial crisis, for many years, due to the extensive delays in payments of bills for patients referred to AVH by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. During the second half of 2019 the crisis entered a critical stage, partly due to the U.S. cuts in funding to the East Jerusalem hospitals in 2017 and 2018 totaling \$50 million. AVH was compelled to curtail its services by taking two measures: 1) halting intake of patients requiring expensive chemotherapy, which led to 2) halting intake of all new patients in October 2019.

An October 30, 2019, agreement between the LWF and Palestinian Authority (PA) addressed the acute crisis. The PA agreed to inject the minimum amount of funds needed to resume AVH operations at near-normal levels. Our advocacy is still very much needed. In order to prevent the PA debt from once again reaching an acute stage where treatment of patients could be interrupted, it is vital that the annual contribution from the European Union continues at the current level. It is also critical that the annual contribution from the U.S. is restored to the level of \$25 million for the East Jerusalem hospitals.

Take action now at the ELCA Action Center. It is important that members of Congress, especially U.S. senators, be asked to urge the Trump Administration to restore funding for AVH and the other hospitals in the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network on a humanitarian basis in order to save lives.”

-Judy Hinck for the Missions Committee

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 pm – Holy Eucharist

9:30 pm - Choral Prelude

10:00 pm – Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 am – Festival Eucharist

“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 6:00 p.m.

Book Discussion

On December 14, the Book Discussion Group 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.

All readers welcome!

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, December 11

10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Youth Choir supper
6:00 pm Youth Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm *Advent Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal
7:35 pm Y2 Confirmation
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, December 12

6:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, December 14

10:00 am Book Discussion group

Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

FAIR TRADE CRAFT SALE - Last Day!

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*
12:45 pm Y4 Confirmation

Monday, December 16

6:30 pm ReconcilingWorks Committee meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, December 17

Noon Bible Study
4-6 pm Diaper Depot open

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.

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.

Your End-of-the-Year Giving

As you consider your end-of-the-year contributions, besides giving to Mount Olive, don't forget that you can offer extra support to our mission partners by using your blue mission envelope or clearly marking your contribution with the mission you would like to support. We will collect those special offerings and send them on to our partners. Mission partners in special need right now include EPES in Chile where unrest and governmental support cut-backs are creating a funding crisis, Lutheran World Federation--Jerusalem where inconsistent funding is limiting medical care at Augusta Victoria Hospital, and Bethania Kids where they have seen a decrease in support from U.S.

Upcoming Adult Forums

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

- **Dec. 15:** Santa Lucia Brunch
- **Dec. 22:** "Season of Waiting: Advent and Christmas Poems," presented by Susan Palo Cherwien

Fair Trade Gift Sale – Final Week!

The Missions Committee will continue to host the fair trade sale for one more Sunday. Purchase beautiful and unique fair trade items made by artisans in developing regions around the world. These items are available from SERRV, a nonprofit fair trade organization whose mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide. Watch this video to learn more about SERRV and its artisans: https://youtu.be/S4L_JkPZbCg

Your last opportunity to purchase these handcrafted fair trade items will be this Sunday, December 15, following both morning liturgies. We also have some items from India, brought back by our Bethania travelers, along with fair trade coffee, chocolate and cocoa from Equal Exchange. This is not a fund-raiser, just an opportunity to buy good products for a good cause.

Theological Discussion Group

The revived Theological Discussion group will discuss *The Civilization of Christianity*, by John L. McKenzie, on Sunday, January 5, after the second liturgy. We will meet in the library.

Few, if any, can equal the brilliance of McKenzie's biblical insights as he helps us develop a perspective about global and political events in light of Jesus' life and teaching.

This very readable book is most likely found online at used book sites and Amazon.com.

Questions? Call Al Bostelmann at 612 722-5957.

Nativity Sets Sought

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.

2019 Contributions

Please note that if you have donations that you wish to be credited for 2019, those gifts need to be in the church office (or postmarked) by January 31, 2019. Thanks!

The Olive Branch

Alternate Gift Giving

Are you looking for something different to do this year for Christmas gifts? The Missions Committee is promoting the idea of alternative gift giving this Christmas. For example, you can buy a \$25 ornament that represents a set of early reader books for a family in Guatemala through Common Hope. We have ornaments to represent gifts from Bethania Kids, Common Hope and the ELCA. We also have catalogues from different charitable organizations that you can use, or you can order from the organizations' websites. Some of these organizations are:

Lutheran World Relief:

<https://lwr.org/giving-category/gifts>

Heifer Project International: <http://www.heifer.org>

Common Hope: <http://commonhopecatalog.myshopify.com/>

Bethania Kids:

<http://bethaniakids.org/creative-giving-catalog/>

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: www.elca.org/goodgifts

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert

The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus works to build community through music. This year they will present their annual holiday concert "Bell Boys" on Friday, December 13, and Saturday, December 14, at 8:00 p.m., with a Sunday matinee on December 15, at 2:00 p.m. All performances are at Ted Mann Concert Hall on the University of Minnesota campus. Members of our community receive a \$5 discount when ordering tickets with the promo code FRIEND at tcgmc.org or by calling the U of M box office at 612-624-2345.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Whether you are experiencing this Advent season as one of wonder and astonishment, one in which you are seeking the strength to endure, or anywhere in between, know that you are already infinitely loved by God. As Julian writes: "God never began to love us. For just as we will be in everlasting joy (all God's creation is destined for this) so also we have always been in God's foreknowledge known and loved from without beginning."

Quotes from Brendan Doyle, Meditations with Julian of Norwich (1983): 78, 88.

- Vicar Bristol Reading

Advent in the Sanctuary: December 22, 9:30 am

We'll gather in the Chapel Lounge, enter the sanctuary in darkness and singing, and hear the Godly Play story of Advent in which the light of Christ comes into the world. Afterwards, we'll share a "feast" together. All people of all ages are invited!

New Memorial Service Location

Plymouth Congregational Church
1900 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis

35th ANNUAL

Minnesota Homeless Memorial MARCH & SERVICE

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 19, 2019

Honoring people who have died while homeless in Minnesota.

All are welcome/Todos son bienvenidos

5:00 pm Vigil and Silent March

Hennepin County Government Center
3rd Ave S & 5th St S, Minneapolis

The march will follow 5th St S westward to Nicollet Ave and proceed south to Plymouth Congregational Church.

6:00 pm Service of Remembrance
Plymouth Congregational Church

7:00 pm Community Meal
In the lower level of
Plymouth Congregational Church



Plymouth
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Thank you to Plymouth Congregational Church for welcoming us.

Shuttles to the March will not be provided at the Kmart parking lot.

Please visit simpsonhousing.org for additional information.

Visit www.simpsonhousing.org for details

#HomelessMemorialMN

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, 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 14, 1:30 p.m. (NEW TIME!) and 8:00 p.m.

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.

Christmas Carry-In Breakfast

Celebrate the Feast of the Nativity, Wednesday, December 25, with a carry-in breakfast preceding the liturgy.

Bring a favorite Christmas food and enjoy a time of conversation with fellow Mount Olive worshipers from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist:

8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

Fax: 612/827-4557

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor - *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor - *David Cherwien*

Vicar - *Bristol Reading*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry -
Jim Bargmann

Administrative Assistant - *Cha Posz*

Interim Sexton - *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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