

# The Olive Branch

January 8, 2020

## Sunday Readings

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

January 12, 2020  
Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

January 19, 2020  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

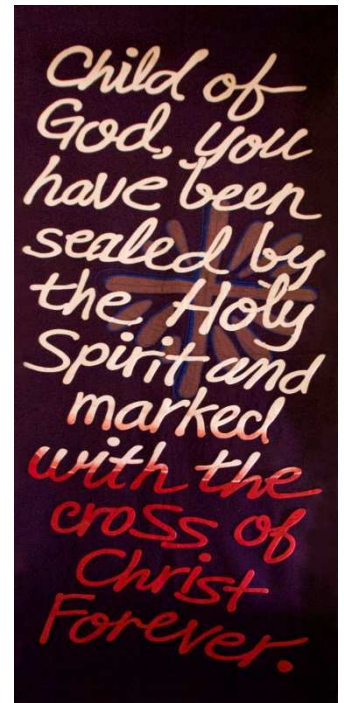
Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
I Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

## Accent on Worship

*Jim Bargmann*

This Sunday, we observe the Baptism of our Lord in our liturgies. In this celebration, we have not only the opportunity to remember the powerful events surrounding Jesus' baptism, but to reflect on our own.

The picture [to the right] is a picture of the Baptism banner that hung over the Baptismal font in my home church for the majority of my formative years. Through most of elementary school, junior high and high school, I read these words upon entering our sanctuary for worship, music practices, and more.



Since my father was the designer and maker of the majority of the banners for my home church, when they remodeled the sanctuary, the church staff offered the banners they were no longer planning to use to our family. So this banner now hangs in our home, near a small bowl of water where Nathan, Elizabeth, and I can "remember our baptism daily" (Luther).

"Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

With oil and the sign of the cross and these words, we bless the newly baptized. But for Nathan, Elizabeth, and I, these words are an ever-present reminder of who we are and whose we are. We know with confidence that God's claim - God's very sign - God's mark - is on us and we are God's.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

It is a great joy to know this when there are things to celebrate. And, perhaps even more so, it is an especially great comfort when things are not going well. We can say in full confidence, sometimes in joy, and sometimes through tears, "I am God's! I am baptized!"

But reflection on one's baptism isn't only an internal, personal thing. There is an outwardness in this blessing, too. We can speak these words, "Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever" over one another too. It is both a celebration and a great comfort to be reminded of who we are - a member of God's family.

And one final thought. Reflecting on these words of blessing need not limit us to seeing only those who have been baptized as important in God's kingdom. While we may not state that someone who has not been baptized has been marked with the cross of Christ, they are indeed important to God through God's own creative work. God made all in God's own image and by virtue of this creation, the entirety of the human family is important and valuable to God.

This week, I would encourage you to reflect on Jesus' baptism, celebrate your own place as a child of God, and bless others by recognizing who we all are in God's kingdom.

- Jim Bargmann

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## New Members to be Received

New members will be received into membership at Mount Olive at the 10:45 liturgy on February 16. If you are interested in becoming a member of this faith community, please contact Pr. Crippen or Vicar Reading.

## 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.

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## Book Discussion

On January 11, the Book Discussion Group will discuss, *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!

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## EcoFaith Network "Power-Up"

Members of ELCA congregations the Minneapolis Area Synod will gather to engage in conversation around creation care, identify common environmental issues to galvanize around, and move forward with collective, concrete action.

Saturday, February 8, 2020

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Site: TBD

Contact Vicar Reading if interested in attending

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, January 8

10:00 am Staff meeting

*No Choir rehearsals this evening.*

7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Saturday, January 11

9:00 am Foundation Board meeting

10:00 am Book Discussion

4:00 pm *Watson / Kaliher wedding*

### Sunday, January 12 - Baptism of Our Lord

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, January 13

7:00 pm Vestry meeting

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Tuesday, January 14

Noon Bible Study

4-8 pm Diaper Depot

7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

### Wednesday, January 15

10:00 am Staff meeting

5:30 pm Children's Choir supper

6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals

7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation

7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

## An Invitation

Mary Rose Watson and David Kaliher will be united in marriage at Mount Olive on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

The congregation is invited to join them for this service of praise and blessing.

## A Note of Thanks

Thank you, thank you!

Many thanks to the people of Mount Olive for the very generous Christmas gifts we received, and for all your kindness and support throughout the year! You are Christ to us in so many ways, and we are deeply grateful for you in our lives. Blessings and peace to you all in this new year in God's care!

*- The staff of Mount Olive: Jim Bargmann, David Cherwien, Joseph Crippen, Cha Posz, Bristol Reading, and James Wilkes*

## Upcoming Adult Forums

**January 12:** "The Pietist Impulse in Christianity,": part 1 of a 2-part series presented by Christian T. Collins Winn

Post-Reformation Protestantism was faced with two dynamics: institutionalization and continued reform. In the context of Germany and Scandinavia, the reforming impulse arose especially from the Pietist movement, which was an eclectic and ecumenical movement of surprising vitality. Join us as we discuss some of the key figures and developments in Pietism to see what can be of use for today.

Christian T. Collins Winn is Associate Professor of Theology and Chair of the Theology Department at the Global Center for Advanced Research College, Dublin. From 2005 to 2018 he was Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Bethel University, St. Paul. He is the author of ten books, including *Reclaiming Pietism: Reclaiming an Evangelical Tradition*.

**January 19:** "The Pietistic Impulse," part 2

**January 26:** "Seeing Gender Diversity in Scripture," presented by Austen Hartke

Have you ever heard someone say that the Bible condemns transgender people? Have you ever wondered if it's true? Let's journey through scripture, taking a look at some of those verses, and digging into the stories of some of scripture's gender non-conformers.

Austen Hartke is the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*, a book on theology and personal narratives published by Westminster John Knox Press in 2018. Austen is a graduate of Luther Seminary's Master of Arts program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies, and is the winner of the 2014 John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing from the same institution. Austen is a 2019 Bush Foundation Fellow, and is currently researching the use of online ministry as support for gender-expansive Christians. As a transgender person of faith, Austen's greatest passion is helping other trans and gender-non-conforming people see themselves in scripture.

## Ordination of Meagan McLaughlin

*Saturday, January 18, 2020, 3:00 p.m.*

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,  
2730 E. 31<sup>st</sup> St., Mpls.*

By the grace of God and the call of God's people, I have been called to serve the community of Christ Lutheran Church in Webster Groves, MO, as their next Pastor!

I am so grateful to all of you who have walked, and continue to walk this journey with me.

Please join us for my Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in Minneapolis, before Karen and I move south to start our next adventure!

You are invited for a light lunch after the service.

In lieu of gifts, I invite you to contribute to Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM), a multi-faceted ministry supporting the witness of ELCA LGBTQIA+ rostered ministers and seminarians, or Lutheran Social Services.

- Meagan McLaughlin

## Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: Our Saviour's Housing, a program of Our Saviour's Community Services

Tamara Patton, Volunteer Coordinator, will be at Mount Olive on Sunday, January 12, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., for you to meet her and ask any questions you might have about the work of Our Saviour's Housing.

**Who They Are:** Our Saviour's Housing is a community of hope for those who need a home. They seek to eliminate homelessness by providing shelter, support, and a chance to start over.

**What They Provide:** At the most basic: Shelter. Community. Hope.

Our Saviour's provides dignified shelter and supportive resources, as well as transitional and permanent supportive housing.

But what happens at Our Saviour's is about more than just a roof overhead. One of the most difficult parts about being homeless is being cut off from community – being seen not as a person but as “the homeless.”

They provide a space for over 600 residents throughout the year to feel welcomed, safe, and encouraged. They address the needs of the whole person because each piece of a person's life influences the others. In this atmosphere, residents thrive. Residents find community and a chance to contribute. Residents learn to hope again.

### **Support for Our Saviour's Housing:**

As one of our Partners of the Month, Mount Olive provides financial support to Our Saviour's through our budget and has committed to providing dinner at the shelter once a month. Mount Olive also supports Our Saviour's by providing gifts for their Christmas Wish List program. If you are interested in doing more either individually or as a family, here are some of their specific needs.

### **Volunteer Needs:** <https://oscs-mn.org/osh-volunteer-opportunities/>

Dinner Providers are always the biggest need. Our Saviour's is planning for 2020 and already have around 100 dinners that need to be provided for shelter residents. Volunteer dinner groups purchase, prepare, and serve a nutritious meal to 44 residents at the emergency shelter every night of the year.

In addition, they are looking for Evening Shelter Aides. As a Shelter Aid, a person would help provide hospitality and hope to 40 homeless adults by assisting staff in keeping the shelter running smoothly during its busiest hours.

They are also in need of Daytime Project Volunteers who are reliable, compassionate, friendly, self-directed, and flexible to assist staff with a variety of tasks to help keep the shelter comfortable and running smoothly.

### **Financial Needs:**

Our Saviour's is always in need of funding to appropriately staff our shelter so that residents are well cared for as well as for extending open hours at the shelter to care for residents during periods of extreme cold such as last year's polar vortex.

If you are interested in supporting Our Saviour's financially, above and beyond what Mount Olive provides through its budget, you can use your blue Special Mission Offering envelope to do so.

## 2020 Climate Justice Action Tips

*From Green Faith--Interfaith Partners in Action for the Earth*

It can be hard to have a conversation with the people you love about subjects like religion (too personal!) and climate change (too political!). But there is evidence that we are not talking enough about it, and in fact may be afraid to, thinking that our family members or friends are more doubtful or hesitant to talk about climate change than they really are. Start out right and talk with family and friends about climate justice in 2020.

Here are 12 tips that can help you have a climate conversation that brings you closer together rather than driving family members apart.

**Share why you care.** Talk about how your faith calls you to love the earth and all the people on it. Share a favorite story from your religious texts.

**Share your feelings.** Talking about the climate crisis elicits difficult feelings. For some folks, the topic is too big and too far into the future to think about and so they turn away and try to ignore it. Many have anxiety, fear, even shame for not doing more. Most of us have all of the above. Share what's coming up for you and make space for your family members to share how they are doing.

**Connect with family memories.** For example, ask about the special places in their lives, or in your shared family past - and how climate change will affect these places. Sites showing how much hotter someone's home town has become since they were born can also be very interesting to share.

**Connect with family interests.** Talk with your sister who loves to garden about how the seasons have changed in her lifetime. Mention to your NASCAR-loving uncle that the Pocono Raceway has been totally solar-powered for almost a decade. Having a beer with your father before dinner? Even the beer supply is affected by climate change!

**Stories -- not facts -- move people.** What stories about climate change have broken your heart or given you hope? I'm inspired by the thousands of people of faith and spirit across the globe who are turning towards each other and creating GreenFaith Circles, communities of care and resilience.

**Focus on solutions and the beauty of people coming together.** Neighbors are helping neighbors who are losing their homes to wildfires and flooding. Renewable energy is spreading rapidly and creating jobs. Children who get to breathe cleaner air are having fewer asthma attacks - including the children in your family. Together, we can create a better future.

**Share how your faith and values help you face this problem.** I'm a Presbyterian minister and my faith reminds me that God is always doing the impossible through us. Our beliefs give us strength to come together in the face of great adversity.

**Know your family!** Some of your cousins might be interested when a climate change conversation is focused on issues of security and safety. Pointing out how the American military perceives climate change as a major risk might be interesting to them.

**Avoid potentially contentious language.** Consider avoiding words such as crisis, emergency, movement, and revolution with family members. Sometimes it's best to talk simply about the 'climate changing'.

**Listen more than you talk.** Don't lecture, ask non-leading questions, and seek to collaborate. Don't argue!

Remember - climate change is hard to talk about. People you love may get frustrated or upset by the conversation. Acknowledge how hard this issue is and that you believe it's important to face it directly.

**Be patient and kind.** You are not going to convince someone in just one conversation but it might open a door for many more.

## JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 – Name of Jesus</b>  Church Offices closed  <b>10:00 am - Holy Eucharist</b>	2	3	4  11:00 – Diaper Depot  Noon – Community Meal  1-3 pm – Prayer Shawl group meets at Blue Ox Coffee Co.
5 <b>FOOD COLLECTION</b> 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist\ Noon – Theological Discussion	6- <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i>  <b>7 pm – Epiphany Eucharist</b>  7 pm – LOL Board 7 pm – N.A.	7  Noon – Bible Study  4-6 pm – Diaper Depot 7 pm – Missions Committee 7pm – NLC rehearsal	8 10 am – Staff Mtng.  <i>NO Choirs this evening</i>  7 pm – Y2 Confirmation  8 pm – N.A.	9	10	11 9 am – Foundation Board mtng.  10 am –Book Discussion  4 pm – Watson/Kaliher wedding
12 – <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>  8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist  6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Dinner	13  7 pm – Vestry Meeting  7 pm – N.A.	14 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot  7pm – Housing Task Force mtng.  7 pm – NLC rehearsal	15 10 am – Staff Mtng.  5:30 pm – Children’s Choir supper 6 pm – Children’s Choir 7:00 pm – Cantorei  8 pm – N.A.	16	17	18  11:00 – Diaper Depot  Noon – Community Meal
19 – <i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i>  8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist  12:45 pm – Y4 Confirmation	20  6:30 pm – Reconciling Works committee meeting  7 pm – N.A.	21 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot  7 pm – NLC rehearsal	22 10 am – Staff Mtng.  5:30 pm – Children’s Choir supper 6 pm – Children’s Choir 7 pm – Y2 Confirmation 7:00 pm – Cantorei  8 pm – N.A.	23	24	25
26 – <i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i>  8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist	27  4pm – National Lutheran Choir Board  7 pm – Worship Committee 7 pm – Vicar Committee 7 pm – N.A.	28 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot  7 pm – NLC rehearsal	29 10 am – Staff Mtng.  5:30 pm – Children’s Choir supper 6 pm – Children’s Choir 7 pm – Y2 Confirmation 7:00 pm – Cantorei  8 pm – N.A.	30	31	



## Christmas in India

Our children are happy to have found the love of Christ and celebrate Christmas with programs, songs and dance. Each ministry site has different ways to show the love of God. As India is primarily a Hindu country, there is no school break or public celebration, but celebrations abound at the Bethania Kids properties!

### Nativity

These preschoolers at Nathanael Care Center In Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, act out the nativity.



### Three Kings

Here we have a couple of the three kings bringing gifts. This shot is also at Dayavu home.



### Tour of Love

Our Tour of Love held in the fall went through many states, to many churches and was very successful. Josphine, our guest from India, was away from her home and family for six weeks. She did a beautiful job of speaking and sharing the stories of many of Bethania Kids most needy children and how they came to be in our care. Thank you Josephine for a job well done!!



Thank you so much for sharing in our mission and vision for our children. We could not help our Bethania Kids without you. May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## 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](http://www.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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