

The Olive Branch

January 15, 2020

Sunday Readings

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

January 19, 2020
2nd Sunday after Epiphany

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

January 26, 2020
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
I Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

Green Returns

What I appreciate about the liturgical year we celebrate is that following a season of festivity like Christmas/Epiphany, about the time we're starting to feel liturgically partied out, we encounter a Green season. Time to trim back to a simpler approach – especially to liturgy (well, as “simple” as we can try to be here at Mount Olive...).

These Sundays between Feast day of the Epiphany (January 6) and Transfiguration Sunday (February 23) mark one of two stretches of Ordinary Time, or green Sundays, the other being the long stretch between Pentecost and Advent. This particular current green season expands and contracts depending on when the Sunday of Resurrection falls. This year Easter Sunday is a bit earlier (April 12), so we have six Sundays out of eight possible.

For the songs of the Ordinary, we will be singing from ELW Setting Four, which we haven't sung in quite a while. In this season, as a part of the entrance rite, following our procession hymn and greeting, we continue the song of the Angels at the Birth of Christ “Gloria”. The Gospel is read from the front, so we sing something simple as the song of praise surrounding its reading (Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go?). The Three Sentences of the Great Thanksgiving (Sursum corda, “the Lord be with you...”) are embodied with the same melody in all ELW settings, dating back to the second century. The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord) is derived from a Gregorian melody which may also be traced to a Hebrew Chant pre-dating the time of Christ. In summer we often sing this same melody in a harmonization by J. S. Bach. Lamb of God is a beautiful melody, which along with the Gloria, was composed by Minneapolis Church Musician, Ronald Nelson. We sing the song of Simeon after distribution, recognizing our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. This also helps us keep this song as a rehearsal for funeral services when it is also sung. Like the melody of the Sanctus, this melody is Plainsong, or chant – connecting us with singing people of God for who knows how many centuries.

(continued on page 2)

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

It is important for us to choose the settings for the ordinary carefully, and then return to them often enough as to help them remain in the memory. There are many very fine settings of these texts (and some not-so-good ones) and we cycle through a number of them over time, sticking with one for an entire liturgical season to thoroughly know it, and keep it in our hearts, ideally without books. I hope they are sung by our youngest, and perhaps also our oldest who may have diminished sight and memory capabilities.

While we might be able to sing from memory, it is still important to open the hymnal to the music, as someone sitting near you may not be familiar with our hymnal and seeing where you are in the book can be helpful to them without needing to ask. A simple visible example can be all that is needed to see. I actually witnessed this very thing last week at a conference – the “modern” Lord’s Prayer was used, and a page number announced. I saw someone hunting in the hymnal section of the book for it. After seeing the people in front of her had their ELW’s opened to a page near the front of the book, she was able to notice the two page numbering systems of the ELW, and found it quickly.

About the time we’re ready to move on to new melodies and liturgical expression, it will be Lent!

- Cantor David Cherwien

Thank You to All Who Helped!

We are delighted that our sexton, James Wilkes, is back at work and, while still dealing with after-effects of his concussion in the accident in December, has good reports that there is no other damage. We are also deeply grateful to all who lent a hand, or a back, or whatever, to help keep the church clean and tidy for the Christmas season and through New Year’s. So, many, many thanks to the following, in no particular order: *Andrew Andersen, Carol Martinson, Steve Manuel, Larry Duncan, Rachel Meurett, Donn McLellan, Mark Kausch, JoEllen Kloehn, Margaret Gohman, John Crippen, Mark Pipkorn, Paul Nixdorf, Elaine Halbardier, Bob Lee, Jim Johnson, Judy Johnson, Walt Hinck.*

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.

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: St. Luke's Lutheran Church 1701 W. Shakopee Road in Bloomington.

Contact Vicar Reading if you are interested in attending.

Visit <https://mpls-synod.org/event/ecofaith-network-power-up-determining-our-collective-path-forward/> for more information.

Calendar

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

Saturday, January 18

- 11:00 am Diaper Depot
Noon Community Meal

Sunday, January 19 ~~3~~ – Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

Monday, January 20

- 6:30 pm ReconcilingWorks committee meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 21

- Noon Bible Study
4-8 pm Diaper Depot
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, January 22

- 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

Attention Electronic Givers!

If your contributions to Mount Olive are handled electronically (via Vanco Services), and you wish to have your offering amount updated for 2020, please send a note to Cha at the church office with your updated amount. It's important that your request is in some sort of written form, in order that proper documentation for the change is on record.

Book Discussion

On February 8, the Book Discussion Group will discuss *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World*, by Andrea Wulf. All readers welcome!

Needed: Winter Accessories

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.

Upcoming Adult Forums

January 19: "The Pietist Impulse in Christianity, part 2 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 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. 31st 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 Ministries Partner of the Month:

Our Saviour's Housing, a program of Our Saviour's Community Services

See complete information about Our Saviour's Housing in the January 8 issue of *The Olive Branch*, posted on the kiosk in the West Assembly Area, or by visiting <https://oscs-mn.org/our-saviours-housing/>.

Augustana Care Center Closing Liturgy January 29

As some may have read in the *StarTribune*, Augustana Care Center, where many Mount Olive members have lived and died, and where others of us have long and strong ties, is being closed after being sold. (Former Mount Olive vicar Erik Doughty is chaplain at the care center.) The closing is only of the skilled nursing care building, not the apartments or other buildings on that campus.

There will be a liturgy for the closing of Augustana Care Center on Wednesday, January 29, at 2:30 p.m. at the care center. Bishop Patricial Lull of the St. Paul Area Synod and Bishop Ann Svennungsen of our Minneapolis Area Synod will participate in this liturgy. All are welcome.

Save the Date: February 9 – Taste of India

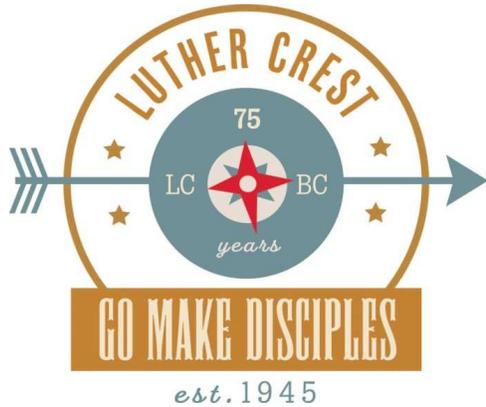
Thanks to the Paul Nixdorf's display talents, you can now get an inside picture of the Bethania Team's recent trip to India. On Sunday, February 9, the team will share what they saw and learned and whom they met. Join them during the education hour and then again as we all share a Taste of India--Redux feast in the Undercroft after the second liturgy. Many of you have already committed to cooking for this celebration--thank you!

A Wedding Invitation

Members and friends of Mount Olive are invited to witness the joyous occasion of the marriage of Kristie Hennig and Ralph Baumgartner on Sunday, Feb. 16. The ceremony will happen as a part of the regular 9:30 am worship service at Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, 105 W. University Ave. in Saint Paul. Parking is available on the north side of the church building, including in the lots owned by the State of Minnesota. All are welcome.

In addition, there is an open house in honor of the newlyweds in the Gathering Space of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. in Saint Paul. Everyone is invited. Ralph and Kristie request that no gifts be given to them, but rather guests to consider giving to Project Minnesota León / Nicaragua, or Seeds of Hope / El Salvador.

Luther Crest Summer Bible Camp



Calling all kids! Join us for summer fun at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria! The goal of Luther Crest Bible Camp is for each participant to grow in his/her understanding, appreciation and knowledge of: God, others, self and creation. Every day is filled with singing, worship, and Bible study as well as swimming, ropes courses, and games. Sedona and Austin have been going to Luther Crest since they were in 2nd grade and want to share and introduce the Bible camp experience with Mount Olive youth. There are options for kids in 2nd

grade through high school. They also have family overnights for those whose children might need an introductory experience to camp. The Crosbys, Thompsons, and Molberts will be at Luther Crest July 26 – 31. You are welcome to join them or sign-up for a different week. Registration is open. There is a \$100 savings if you register before Feb 14. For more information about the camp, ages, and weeks go to <https://www.luthercrest.org/camp.html>.

The Bible verse theme for the summer: “Go Make Disciples.”

Spiritual Direction and Study Group

Long-time friend of Mount Olive, Teresa Rothausen, is considering leading a spiritual direction and study group during February, March, and April at Mount Olive. The group would read parts of the edited volume *Transformative Lutheran Theologies: Feminist, Womanist, and Mujerista Perspectives* (2010; Fortress Press, Minneapolis).

Teresa is a professor at the University of St. Thomas and a Spiritual Director holding a graduate certificate in Spiritual Direction from St. Catherine University. She spent last year studying at Harvard Divinity School. Depending on input from whoever may be interested, the group meetings may be: (a) every other or every 3 weeks, (b) part book discussion, (c) part personal spiritual direction, and (d) part discussing implications for our worship at Mount Olive.

If you are interested in joining this circle, please send an email to Teresa at wiserleadership@gmail.com, indicating your available and preferred days of the week and times of the day for meetings.

Creation Care Triptych

This past week Mount Olive got its turn to display the Creation Care Triptych that was commissioned for the 2019 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly. These panels are traveling throughout the Synod as we share our creation care work together. They were created by the Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts at St. Paul's Lutheran in south Minneapolis. Semilla means "seed" in Spanish, and the center works to plant seeds of hope by teaching and creating public art.

The panel "Feed the World" is our call to end world hunger. The panel "Love the Earth" shows native flowers of Minnesota, which attract pollinators. Under the earth you see the bugs and animals that help create the soil. The middle panel was done by attendees of the assembly. It shows the unity of the church with our Creator, the creation and one another. As we commit to increased creation care work, we hope this art will inspire us all.

- Missions Committee



Scenes From a Cookie Baking

OK, these photos were taken several weeks ago, but until now we haven't had room in *The Olive Branch* for them. We thought you'd enjoy them now, so we include them here! Thanks to Consuelo Crosby for sharing them.



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

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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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