

The Olive Branch

January 29, 2020

Sunday Readings

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 2, 2020

Presentation of Our Lord

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 84

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

Please note!

**This Sunday, both Eucharists
will begin in the Chapel
Lounge.**

February 9, 2020

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Matthew 5:13-20

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Every Disease and Every Sickness

Last Sunday our Gospel concluded with this verse: "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people." Jesus the healer of every thing that ails: it's a beautiful dream and hope, but many of God's beloved ones suffer disease and don't get a visible cure. There must have been hundreds, or more, even in Jesus' day, who were in the wrong village at the wrong time, too, who didn't benefit from his healing touch directly.

Yet we still find hope in God's healing grace in our disease and in the suffering of the world. We lift up in prayer those who are ill, not because we expect a miraculous cure (though we're thrilled when it happens), but because we commend them, God's beloved, our beloved, into God's holy arms and love. The presence of God in our suffering is a kept promise given to all, available to all. God's grace and strength and healing hope are yours, always. Even if you're in the wrong village at the wrong time.

I read a book for my book group (a group of pastors) that movingly calls the church to remember mental illness with the same compassion and grace we do all other disease. Titled "Blessed are the Crazy," it's a powerful story filled with richly thought out theology, that quite rightly suggests that mental illness is still the stigma that churches don't name or face.

I commend the book to you all. The author, the Rev. Sarah Griffith Lund, concludes with an appendix offering guidance to congregations who wish to examine their ministry and care for those affected with mental illness, and there are really good suggestions that I wonder if we could explore at Mount Olive. If there were a few passionate people who wanted to meet with me and start talking about how we might begin this conversation here, I'd welcome that. If you don't know if that's you, read the book and see.

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

God in Christ still offers healing to every disease and every sickness, in many and various ways. Can we also learn to love better and more effectively God's beloved in our midst who suffer from invisible diseases that can destroy lives and hope and yet be largely ignored? I believe we must. Let me know if you'd like to help organize this conversation within our community.

In Christ,



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!

MFA Event: Choirs of Angelica Cantanti Children's Choir Concert

February 9, 2020 — 4:00 p.m.

Three of the nine choirs of Angelica Cantanti will offer a program of a variety of music: Con Brio, directed by Michelle Gehrz (grades 2-4); Cantabile, directed by Rachel Lucius (grades 4-6); and the Concert Choir, directed by Beth Egger (grades 6-9).

Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs (ACYC) is an award-winning Twin Cities' children's choir program dedicated to providing high quality choral music education with excellence in performance. Young singers grades 2 through 12 come from across the Twin Cities metro area for weekly rehearsals and regular performances. A reception follows the concert. For more information about Angelica Cantanti, visit

www.angelicacantanti.org .

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 29

- 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, February 1

- 11:00 am Diaper Depot
Noon Community Meal
1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group (Blackeye Roasting)

Sunday, February 2 - Presentation of Our Lord

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

Monday, February 3

- 7:00 pm LOL Board meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 4

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

Wednesday, February 5

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee mtng.
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, and for March 14, *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout.

All readers welcome!

Night Songs

University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis
February 13, 7-8 pm

Gather with us in the darkened sanctuary under stunning projections of the night sky in the rafters. This 60-minute program weaves together music, poetry, and cosmic imagery. This year's program brings in themes of climate justice and human impact on the earth and our surroundings. Featuring music from Hope Choir, a mass choir comprised of local singers and friends, a string quartet from the U, and U of M a cappella group VocalU.

This is a free, family-friendly event. A free-will offering will be collected at the door to benefit Interfaith Power & Light. Seating is provided, but there will also be open space for those who want to bring pillows and blankets to sit/lie on the floor.

Upcoming Adult Forums

February 2: “Welcoming Our Transgender Siblings,” presented by Austen Hartke

While labels like “gay” and “lesbian” are now pretty familiar to most people, words like “nonbinary,” “gender-expansive,” or “agender” can still feel strange and mysterious. Who are our transgender siblings, and how can we create a faith community that loves and affirms them? Come hear more about what we can do, as individuals, and as churches.

February 9: “A Taste of India,” presented by the Mount Olive Missions Committee

The team from Mount Olive who visited Bethania Ministries sites in India share their experiences and insights.

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.

National Lutheran Choir Winter Concert: So Much to Sing About!

We sing because there is so much to sing about, and singing is the deepest way to embody the sacred story we share. We sing hymns of praise, psalms of unity and adoration, laments of sorrow, refrains of joy, and more. Join the National Lutheran Choir and Artistic Director David Cherwien for an eclectic program featuring choral works by Felix Mendelssohn, Ola Gjeilo, and Ralph Vaughan Williams set alongside new arrangements of familiar tunes, including Kenneth Dake's “Sweet Hour of Prayer.” All will be invited to join in the singing of hymns – one of the great treasures of the church.

Sunday, February 16 @ 4pm
St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church
17205 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447

Tickets: Adults and Seniors \$28 | 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

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/>.

A Note of Thanks From a Neighbor

To Everyone at Mount Olive Lutheran Church,

I want to say thanks for being such an impact on my life. I moved to Minneapolis not knowing what direction I was headed. I was afraid and in a whole new world. [I was feeling] some despair [and] I was homeless. I came to your church and met [Art and Elaine Halbardier and] Jim who thru the [resources of Mount Olive] helped with the bus cards, laundry, and food. Also helped me when I subleased a room with rent and utilities. The lunch on the 1st and 3rd Saturday was a weight lifted off me that was a way to stretch my food at home. Through the many blessings you have empowered me. [My] self-esteem has been boosted as well as my faith. I have learned patience and now I have my own place and spiritually, I know God is an awesome God and to never give up. The genuine love and generosity that I received from this dynamic ministry of Mount Olive Lutheran will always have an impact on me. I am forever grateful. As I transitioned from being homeless I want to be a blessing to others.

Love in Advance,
Tania

(With minor edits by Jim Bargmann, notated in brackets [] for the sake of clarity.)

And Another Note of Thanks (from Ace in the City)

I WANTED TO DROP A NOTE FOR THE ENTIRE MT. OLIVE COMMUNITY TO SAY THE BIGGEST THANK YOU POSSIBLE FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DRIVE. SO MANY FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY WERE DEEPLY BLESSED BY YOUR GENEROSITY, AND WE AT ACE WERE OVERWHELMED BY THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVED FROM OUR CHURCH PARTNERS. OUR CHRISTMAS STORE/PARTY WAS A TANGIBLE REMINDER ONCE AGAIN OF WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM AND THE GOOD OF OUR NEIGHBORS. PLEASE SHARE OUR GRATITUDE WITH THE CHURCH.

BETTER TOGETHER,

Matt

Searching for Cupcake Bakers

The reception after the February 9th Music and Fine Arts Concert by the choirs of Angelica Cantanti will feature cupcakes. If you would be willing to bake a batch of cupcakes (usually 18) for this event, please contact Susan Cherwien at susan.cherwien@gmail.com or 952-239-0701. The cupcakes may be decorated for Valentine's Day, if you wish. Many thanks!

Keeping Candlemas in the Home - February 2: The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Candlemas (Candle-Mass), February 2, is a cross-quarter day in the year, halfway between solstice and equinox. In pre-Christian days in Gaelic lands, the day was called Imbolc, and was a day of purification. In France, the day was linked with the emergence of bears from hibernation. As early as the 4th century, the church in Rome celebrated the day as the Purification of Mary, or the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, forty days after his birth (Luke 2:22-38).

Torchlight processions and the blessing of candles became associated with the Presentation, as a sign of Christ's being "the Light of the world". In many places, the Feast of the Presentation was the day when Christmas decorations were taken down, especially the creche, since the day was viewed as the end of the Christmas season. Round crepes resembling the round sun have traditionally been eaten on Candlemas.

In the home, one could arrange a procession with candles and the Joseph, Mary, and Jesus figures from the crèche. Sing Simeon's *Nunc dimittis* ("Now Lord, you let your servant go in peace"), the *Phos hilaron* ("Joyous Light of Glory" from Evening Prayer, "I Want To Walk As a Child of the Light" or a similar hymn. Light all of the candles in the dwelling and bless them with this prayer: *God of Light, whose light entered the world at Creation and through the true Light, Jesus Christ, pour your blessing on these candles that, as they shine their light abroad, so by your goodness the inward light of the Holy Spirit may shine in our souls with the fire of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Book-Pageant-Writer Story is Available

"A Book, a Pageant, and a Writer," my adult-forum presentation this past fall, resulted from my curiosity about a children's book published fifty-nine years ago, *Come and See the Symbols of My Church*, by James S. Kerr. Four children—who were they?—come to our church, Mount Olive, where, accompanied by Pastor Herbert Mueller, they discover Christian symbols. As I was playing detective I discovered a Lutheran pageant, performed in eight cities in 1958 as part of Minnesota's statehood centennial. It was scripted and directed by Kerr, who a couple years later would write the symbols book. Paul Manz, Mount Olive's legendary cantor was—no surprise—director of the "Minnesota Centennial Lutheran Pageant Choir."

A few days ago I created a pdf version of my story that includes the full text and a few of the images. [Download](https://www.mountolivechurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Book-Pageant-Writer-1.pdf) it at <https://www.mountolivechurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Book-Pageant-Writer-1.pdf> to read now or later. Print copies are also available on the kiosk at church.

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 1-3 pm – Prayer Shawl group meets at Blue Ox Coffee Co. 3 pm – Funeral Eucharist: Muriel Jaster
2 – Presentation of Our Lord FOOD COLLECTION 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist Noon – Theological Discussion	3 7 pm – LOL Board 7 pm – N.A.	4 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open 7 pm – Missions Committee 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	5 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Neighborhood Ministries 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Cantorei rehearsal 7 pm – Y2 Confirmation 8 pm – N.A.	6	7	8 10 am – Book Discussion
9 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany TASTE OF INDIA 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist Noon – Taste of India Meal 1 pm – Y1 Confirmation 4 pm – MFA event – Angelica Cantanti 6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Meal	10 7 pm – Vestry meeting 7 pm – N.A.	11 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	12 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Cantorei rehearsal 7 pm – Y2 Confirmation 8 pm – N.A.	13	14	15 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal
16 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist, with Reception of New Members 12:45 pm – Y4 Confirmation	17 6:30 pm – Reconciling Works committee meeting 7 pm – N.A.	18 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open 7 pm – Housing Task Force meeting 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	19 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Cantorei rehearsal 7 pm – Y2 Confirmation 8 pm – N.A.	20	21	22
23 – Transfiguration of Our Lord 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist	24 7 pm – Worship Committee 7 pm – Vicar Committee 7 pm – N.A.	25 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open	26 – Ash Wednesday 9 am – Staff Mtng Noon – Ash Wednesday Eucharist Noon – Ash Wednesday Eucharist <i>No choir rehearsals</i> 8 pm – N.A.	27	28	29

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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Web: 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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