

The Olive Branch

February 5, 2020

Sunday Readings

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 9, 2020

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 112:1-9 [10]

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

Matthew 5:[1-12] 13-20

February 16, 2020

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

Isaiah, not alone among the prophets, has some harsh words for the people of Israel. And us.

Isaiah describes some of the worship practices people, their observance of the Sabbath. Isaiah mentions fasting and lying in sackcloth and ashes, two practices described, even prescribed, by God for the ancient nation of Israel. However, Isaiah calls the people out for a number of behaviors that run counter to their worship practices. He asks them about their treatment of their workers, and about quarreling and fighting among those in the community.

The message is clear. Don't attempt to honor me with your words and actions that have the appearance of righteousness when you treat other people so poorly. Worship me with the entirety of your life.

Then Isaiah, speaking on behalf of God, asks a series of questions with an instructional undertone. It seems clear that he is really saying, "this is what you should be doing."

*"Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?"*

*Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"*

(Isaiah 58:6-7)

continued on page 2

Lent Begins Soon!

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

Holy Eucharist at
Noon and 7:00 pm

All are welcome.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

The question for us, as often is the case when we read God's word, is how do I take this instruction? What do I do with this teaching?

Some of Isaiah's instructions are more amorphous. Loose the bonds of injustice. Undo the throng of the yoke. Let the oppressed go free. Others are more specific. Share your bread with the hungry. Bring the poor into your house. Cover the naked.

Is this really what God is asking of us? I would argue the answer is yes, but with a qualification. If we take Scripture as a whole, it is clear that God has called God's people to care for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the naked. That message is repeated time and time again. Scripture also teaches that each child of God has been given certain gifts and abilities with which to serve God and others.

The message from God, through Isaiah, is clear. Worship me with your whole life. Reconcile with one another. Care for others. The how is up to each of us to determine through prayer, through spending time in God's word, through conversation with others struggling with the same questions. Perhaps that does literally mean sharing your bread with the poor. Perhaps it means advocating for more just laws at a city council meeting or the Capitol. Perhaps it does mean opening your home to those who have no home of their own.

Let's continue journeying together and supporting one another as we seek to understand what it means to worship God with our whole lives.

- Jim Bargmann

Searching for Cupcake Bakers

The reception after This Sunday's 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!

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, February 5

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Comm. 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 8

- 10:00 am Book Discussion group

Sunday, February 9 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

TASTE OF INDIA

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*
Noon Taste of India meal
1:00 pm Y1 Confirmation
4:00 pm MFA Event: Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs, followed by reception
6:45 pm Mount Olive serves Our Saviour's meal

Monday, February 10

- 7:00 pm Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 12

- 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

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 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.

February 16: "Affordable Housing and Mount Olive," presented by Jim Bargmann, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministries

There is a shortage of affordable housing in the Twin Cities metro area. Mount Olive has established a housing task force to explore how we can make an impact in on the shortage of housing in our area. This forum will look at the housing shortage in the Twin Cities and share the multiple ways Mount Olive and other church bodies are working to make a positive impact in our community in the area of housing accessibility and affordability.

MFA Event: Choirs of Angelica Cantanti

Children's Choir Concert

This Sunday, 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 Cantini, visit www.angelicacantanti.org.

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:

Walk-In Counseling Center

Gary Schoener, Director of the Institute for Consultation & Training for the Walk-In Counseling Center will be at Mount Olive on Sunday, February 16, from 9:00 to 11:00 am.

Who They Are

Walk-In Counseling Center provides free, easily accessible mental health counseling to people with urgent needs and few service options. Their overarching goal is to help people stabilize during a time of crisis and resolve problems before they become severe.

Walk-In Counseling Center was founded by a group of psychologists in 1969, in response to the unmet need for accessible mental health services in the Twin Cities. They have helped thousands of people address issues of depression, anxiety, chemical abuse/dependency, trauma, domestic violence and a variety of other emotional and interpersonal concerns. Walk-In Counseling Center currently provides services at three locations in Minneapolis and Saint Paul by involving approximately 180 volunteer mental health clinicians each year who provide the services.

Support for Walk-In Counseling Center

As one of our Partners of the Month, Mount Olive provides financial support to the Walk-In Counseling Center through our budget and they have utilized the Mount Olive building for their larger training events and other activities when their building is too small.

If you are interested in doing more either individually or as a family, here are some of their specific needs.

Volunteer Needs

Walk-In's services are quite specialized (requiring masters and doctorate degrees). Anyone who qualifies and is interested in volunteering would be welcome to apply. The application is at walkin.org/volunteering-students.

Lay volunteers work at Walk-In as receptionists and administrative assistants, but right now, those positions are full. However there is always turnover as people's lives change.

In addition, in terms of special projects, they have needs for people who are skilled in building repair and remodeling. We are just beginning to think about a capital campaign for such things and will be seeking help from individuals who have experience in capital campaigns and fundraising.

Financial Needs

Walk-In depends entirely on philanthropic donations to support their work. In 2020 we are seeking \$181,500 in foundation/business/religious gifts, and \$150,000 in individual gifts. Anything towards those goals would be, of course, greatly appreciated.

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



Taste of India This Sunday

All are invited to join the Bethania Kids Partnership Trip Team this Sunday, first at 9:30 during the education hour and then at our south Indian feast after second service. "How was your trip to India?" We'd love to tell you! We want you to meet the beautiful children, see how we got to know them, meet the dedicated staff, and learn about Bethania Kids amazing 33 year history of caring for children and empowering women in southern India. We have so much to share. Join us.

Ushers Needed - Can You Help?

Might you be interested in greeting newcomers and old members alike? Might you enjoy serving in a new capacity? Might you enjoy ushering the members to the Eucharist? Might you be interested in learning the names of members as they come and go? Might you be interested in monitoring the building entrances to ensure security during the services? Might you enjoy carrying the gifts to the altar? If any of these things sound appealing to you, then you might just wish to become a Mount Olive Usher!!

Volunteers are needed! If you can help, please let Brian Jacobs know at 612-251-5942 by text or voice mail, or at brianjac1@aol.com. Currently, there is a need for ushers at both the early and late services as well as special services mid-week at noon and in the evenings. We'd love to welcome you to the usher corps and will be happy to get you trained and ready for the 2nd quarter schedule!

Update on the Kidnapped Nigerian Girls

Since April of 2014 when 276 Chibok schoolgirls were kidnapped in Nigeria, we have been praying for them and particularly for Naomi Bitrus. Each congregation in the Minneapolis Area Synod were asked to pray in particular for one of the girls, and Naomi was the one assigned to us. Naomi was one of the girls rescued in 2017, and we recognized the impact that this trauma had on Naomi and her family, and so we continued to pray for her and the other girls. When Mount Olive member Brad Holt was in Nigeria last fall, he was able to report that Naomi is attending college in a protected site. It seems fitting to now remove this specific petition from our weekly prayer list. 150 of the girls have been accounted for, having either escaped, been rescued, or died. 126 of the girls are still assumed to be held captive. Many others have also suffered from the violence in Nigeria. We urge you to continue to hold these girls and all who suffer from violence in your prayers. The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria is a partner with our own Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA, and Mount Olive is particularly in partnership with Bronnum Seminary in Yola.

Exhibit Opening Reception

Meet the artist, Aaron Silver, this Sunday, February 9, 2020 at the opening art reception from 2:30 - 3:45 PM, prior to the Angelica Cantanti Children's Choir Concert .

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

*Presents an exhibition of the
paper cutting artistry of*

Aaron Silver

February 9 - April 26, 2020



3045 Chicago Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55407
www.mountolivechurch.org

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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