



The Olive Branch

March 4, 2020

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Accent on Worship *Pastor Joseph Crippen*

By night?

This Sunday John tells us that Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. To ask questions of him.

We can only speculate why he came at night. Did he slink in through a garden gate, hoping no one could see him? Was he really busy that day and night was the only time he could come?

We tend to assume it's the former reality. Nicodemus, like his friend, Joseph of Arimathea, was a leader of the Jewish people, one of the authorities. A Pharisee, a member of the ruling council the Sanhedrin, Nicodemus had status, respect.

And he knew that many of his fellow leaders were strongly set against Jesus. It seems that Nicodemus had a more open mind, wanted to probe Jesus' authority, where he came from, how he was who he was. But he came at night. Perhaps because he wasn't quite ready to openly admit he was interested in Jesus. To risk being criticized by his friends, or worse, made an enemy.

In my 50s, I adopted Joseph of Arimathea as my patron saint. My parents weren't clear between themselves if I was named for the patriarch of the Hebrew Bible or for the husband of Mary. Instead of either, I am deeply drawn to the third Joseph, perhaps for the same reason I'm speculating about Nicodemus. Joseph is also described as a "secret" follower of Jesus, out of his fear of his colleagues.

But here's the truth: Nicodemus and Joseph finally stepped out of the shadows. They outed themselves as Jesus people, claiming his body for burial and taking the risk, even before Pilate, of being publicly known and shamed and even threatened as Jesus' disciples.

They remind me of my privilege, and how accustomed I am to having people think well of me. And they call to me: don't keep your discipleship hidden in the night, sneaking around so people can't tell. Trust the Spirit. Be bold. Let others see you are a follower of Jesus.

Somehow, though Sunday we will only see Nicodemus in the night, he and Joseph are compelling voices calling me to let go of my status and concern of what others think, and simply be. Be the Christ God has called me to be, openly. Risk things.

I wonder if their voices are ones that compel you, too.

Sunday Readings

March 8, 2020

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 15, 2020

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Wednesdays during Lent
Holy Eucharist at noon,
followed by a soup luncheon
Evening Prayer at 7 pm,
preceded by a soup supper at 6 pm.

Upcoming Adult Forums

March 8: *To be announced*

March 15: "Bach: A Musical Theologian," presented by Arthur Halbardier

Luther's friend, Johann Walther, wrote, "Music and theology are the gift of God. God has finely clothed music in the outer-garment of theology."

Bach pursued a mirror reflection of that idea: "Theology finely clothed in the outer-garment of music." Though he never wrote a book or scholarly essay about theology, theology lives inside much of his music. Our forum on March 15 will explore Bach's amazing skill for wrapping theology with his marvelous music.

Communion Bread Now Gluten-free

Beginning this Sunday, March 1, the bread used for Holy Communion at Mount Olive will be gluten-free. The bakers who usually bake the bread will use a gluten-free recipe from the chapel at Valparaiso University. It is gluten-free, dairy-free, and nut-free, but not vegan. It is baked, although with care, in non-gluten-free kitchens. See the West Commons kiosk for the recipe.

Lenten Devotional

Susan Cherwien has updated and revised the Lenten devotional from the last time we were in Year A of the lectionary, the year of Matthew. The devotional contains brief rites of Morning and Evening Prayer with daily reflections, prayers, and practices based on the week's pericopes (assigned scripture readings). It is available in print form in various locations around Mount Olive, as well as in blog form at www.journeyintolent2020.blogspot.com beginning today, Ash Wednesday.

Walking the Lenten Journey

It is time to walk our Lenten journey together. This Lenten season there will be a 20'x20' canvas labyrinth in the church Undercroft for you to walk as you meditate, pray, practice your spiritual discipline and focus the mind through these days of Lent.

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to experience the labyrinth discipline, to enjoy a time of peace, quiet and reflection.

The labyrinth will be at Mount Olive until Good Friday, April 10.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, March 4

9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*
1:00 pm Soup Luncheon
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Comm. meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
6:00 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Lenten Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, March 7

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

Sunday, March 8 - Second Sunday in Lent

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*
12:45 pm Y1 Confirmation
6:45 pm Mount Olive serves Our Saviour's meal

Monday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 10

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

Wednesday, March 11

9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*
1:00 pm Soup Luncheon
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
6:30 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Lenten Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Book Discussion

On March 14, the Book Discussion group will discuss, *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. For April 11, they will read *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry*, by Fredrik Backman.

This group meets every second Saturday of the month at 10:00 am. All readers welcome!

Sign Up, Sign Up for Coffee!

Coffee hosts are needed to serve after both liturgies in the coming weeks and months. Love coffee hour? Take a turn and sign up to serve! It's fairly simple and training is available, if needed.

If YOU can help by filling a slot or two, please sign up on the chart in the East Assembly Room.

Theological Discussion

The next meeting of the Theological Discussion Group will be on Sunday, April 5, after second service, in the library.

We will continue discussion of *Nature Reborn*, by H. Paul Santmire.

Neighborhood Happenings

Powderhorn Art & Soul: March 23, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00 pm; Pillsbury House and Theatre, 3501 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis

Powderhorn Art & Soul will feature a silent art auction, live music, and local artisan foods. Proceeds support general operating expenses that help PPNA gather, mobilize, and build a vibrant Powderhorn community. For more information or for tickets visit

<https://tinyurl.com/ue6qtpc>

Art 4 Shelter 2020: May 13, 2020; The Fillmore, 525 North 5th Street, Minneapolis
Create Art. Buy Art. Give Shelter.

Simpson Housing Services is now accepting artwork for Art 4 Shelter 2020. Registration for the event will follow soon. Please visit this website to review submission guidelines or download a submission form: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7zphll>

Tutors Needed!

After School Program with ACE in the City

ACE in the City will be kicking off their after-school programming with students on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm.

They are looking for fun, energetic and encouraging volunteers to jump in and make this program as successful for our students as possible.

Please email Bekah, our Program Coordinator, for more details on how to get involved, bekah.simpson@aceinthecity.org.

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: March 2020

Who They Are

The Sabathani Community Center has worked to create a focal point for community identity, empowerment and social change. Sabathani seeks to be a place where residents can gather in a welcoming environment, fellowship, build community, conduct business and receive programs and services that would move people forward. The food shelf program, the recipient of most of our support and our referrals, is only one facet of their work.

Since its origin, Community Emergency Service (CES) has provided high-quality direct service to people in need. Through direct aid relief, advocacy, referral, guidance and prayer support, if desired, CES seeks to strengthen families and individuals. The goal of CES is to move them beyond crisis to financial stability, as well as emotional health, personal growth and spiritual depth.

What They Provide

Sabathani Community Center runs a Family Resource Services program that provides basic needs including food, clothing, income tax assistance, limited cash assistance, back-to-school supplies, seasonal garden plots, and furniture. They also provide an after-school and summer academic enrichment and youth development program, a health resource center, and through the Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative, they work to reduce health disparities in the African American and Latino communities.

Community Emergency Service (CES) offers the traditional non-perishable food offerings of most food shelves, but is also able to offer fresh and frozen foods. They provide a home delivery program, foods specific to immigrants from east Africa, and Ani-Meals, a pet food program primarily for the homebound. In addition, they coordinate a large Meals on Wheels program.

Support Our Partners

Financial and Volunteer Needs

Specific information about how to support either of our partners through donations or by volunteering can be found on their web sites:

www.cesmn.org

www.sabathani.org

Every Church a Peace Church March Potluck and Meeting

Monday, March 16, 2020 - 6:30 pm Potluck - 7:00 pm Presentation

St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419

The speaker for this meeting will be Representative Ilhan Omar. Her topic is "How My Muslim Faith Has Influenced My Activism."

Ilhan Omar was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2016. In 2018, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, marking a number of historic electoral firsts: she is the first Somali American, the first naturalized citizen from Africa, and the first non-white woman elected from Minnesota. She is also one of the first two Muslim women (along with Rashida Tlaib of Michigan) to serve in Congress.

Omar is a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and has advocated for a living wage, affordable housing, universal healthcare, student loan debt forgiveness, the protection of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and abolishing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).



920 East Lake Street | Hours:
Minneapolis, MN 55407 | Mon-Sat 10am-6pm
612-965-8581 | Sun 11am-6pm

The Art Shoppe at Midtown Global Market:
A collaborative featuring Minnesota art



www.theartshoppemgm.com @theartshoppemgm
theartshoppemgm@gmail.com www.facebook.com/mgmartshoppe

Mondays
10% off everything

The Art Shoppe

Where is it? What is it? How is Mount Olive connected? Why shop there?

Several years ago, A Minnesota Without Poverty came to Mount Olive with a plan to support local artists, knowing several who were exceptional at their craft, but had no retail location for sales. Could Mount Olive help pay rent? A space was found at the Midtown Global Market on Lake Street, on block away. While the space took shape, the artists wrote

a mission statement, developed a marketing strategy, and took counsel from successful retail shops. They gave it a name: The Art Shoppe. Volunteers from Mount Olive helped and in nine months, the shop could pay the rent required.

Now, after many years of operation, ninety artists and countless creative ideas, the shop will re-create itself. The grids that define the space will be moved and new display areas will evolve.

Come and visit The Art Shoppe and talk with the artists you support! More information soon.

- Carol Austermann

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*

Interim Cantor - *Chad Fothergill*

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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