

The Olive Branch

March 11, 2020

A publication of Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota



Accent on Worship

Interim Cantor Chad Fothergill

Each year on Ash Wednesday, we are invited “to the discipline of Lent,” a season of “self-examination and repentance,” and of “prayer and fasting” (*ELW Leaders Desk Edition*, p. 617). In the weeks before his sabbatical began, Cantor Cherwien and I agreed to continue Mount Olive’s practice of chanting *ELW Setting Five* without accompaniment, a more austere and disciplined musical diet – from the Greek *diaita*, or “a way of life” – that is also reflected by the absence of preludes on Sundays and of postludes on Wednesdays. Sunday’s postludes, all of which are settings of the chant-based chorale *KYRIE, GOTT VATER* (ELW 409) by J. S. Bach, compliment the plainsong Kyrie we sing during the entrance liturgy.

Across these first several days of our collective Lenten journey, you may have also noticed that we’ve taken to chanting additional portions of the Wednesday midweek liturgies without accompaniment, among them the *Agnus Dei* (ELW 194), *Hymn of Light* (in a setting borrowed from the Episcopal hymnal), and *Magnificat* (ELW 234). Psalm antiphons, too, remain buried with our “alleluias” for a season.

These musical abstentions and silences are not intended to make Lent sound sullen and gloomy. Rather, they offer space for focus, allowing us to stock our voices, minds, and hearts with images that will be brought into relief around the font at the Vigil of Easter. And lest we forget, God meets Elijah at Horeb not in rushing wind, trembling earth, blazing fire, or trumpet blasts, but in the “sound of sheer silence” (1 Kings 19:12). Perhaps in these silences, we can ponder some the questions asked of Jesus by those who encounter him in our Lenten gospels: How can these things be? Where do you get that living water?

The disciplined focus invited by unaccompanied singing also assists me, a newcomer, in learning more about Mount

Sunday Readings

March 15, 2020

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

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Olive's collective voice—its way of breathing, of adapting, of attending to punctuation, of its shape and grain. I am well aware of the strong, vital tradition of music and congregational singing here: it is not an accessory or accoutrement, but an integral part of proclamation, prayer, and praise. This has been stewarded by faithful and gifted cantors whose worship leadership, compositions, hymn festivals, workshops, and essays have blessed the work of many musicians, myself included. I am grateful for them, for your generous welcome and hospitality, and for these weeks of worshipping, learning, and serving together.

- Chad Fothergill

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

The forum on March 15 will explore Bach's amazing skill for wrapping theology with his marvelous music.

March 22: "The Human Christology of the Gospel of Mark," presented by Deacon Charles A. Bobertz, professor of New Testament, Patristics and Homiletics at St. John's School of Theology Seminary in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Mark's gospel is intended to provide a new understanding of reality for its readers and hearers: Humanity and creation have been redeemed as a new humanity and a new creation. He advances this understanding through his treatment of the ritual experience of the Lord's Supper. Including Gentiles, slaves, and women in the ritual meal, the setting becomes a new Jerusalem which provides a social and spatial location for the location of the Body of Christ.

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.

Bottles and Cups

We are amassing a larger and larger collection of reusable cups and water bottles at church. If you are missing one (or even if you don't know you are missing one), please take a minute to check on the ledge outside the large window of the church office to see if one of those which has been left at church is yours!

Cantor's Sabbatical Blog

Follow Cantor David Cherwien as he blogs his way through his sabbatical:

www.dcofmsp.blogspot.com/

Calendar

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
6:00 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 14

10:00 am Book Discussion Group

Sunday, March 15 ~~3~~ - Third Sunday in Lent

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

Monday, March 16

4-6 pm National Lutheran Choir Board meeting
6:30 pm Synod Racial Justice Liaison gathering
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, March 17

Noon Bible Study
4-8 pm Diaper Depot
6:30 pm ReconcilingWorks committee meeting
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, March 18

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!

Paschal Garden

Volunteers will be on hand on Sundays March 22, March 29, and April 5 before, between, and following the liturgies to receive your donations to purchase Easter flowers for this year's Paschal Garden.

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>.

Walk and Pray with the Labyrinth this Lent

A labyrinth has found a home in the Mount Olive Undercroft from now until Easter. The labyrinth is for individual prayer and meditation, and available anytime the church is open. The best times to enjoy the experience are when the lower level is quiet and unoccupied.

There is information on display near the labyrinth with suggestions of ways to pray on the labyrinth. And, of course, there are dozens of articles about using the labyrinth on the internet. Small markers have been placed at various points on the path with scripture selections and suggestions for reflection as you walk. At the center is a place to pause, sitting or standing for prayer before completing your walk.

The labyrinth is on loan from the generous folks at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. So, slip out of your shoes and step forward in prayer this Lent, joining the millions from prior centuries who have found this aid to prayer a richly rewarding practice. Blessings on your journey!



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).

From ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response

“Early (last) Tuesday morning, a powerful tornado ripped through Nashville and other parts of Tennessee, leaving destruction in its wake. The tornado was part of a series of severe storms. At least 24 people have been killed, homes and other buildings have been destroyed, and thousands of people are without electricity. The worship space for St. John’s Lutheran Church of Nashville, an ELCA congregation, was crushed by the tornado. Lutheran Disaster Response is working with those in the impacted area – including the ELCA Southeastern Synod, Inspiritus (formerly known as Lutheran Services of Georgia and Lutheran Services in Tennessee) and local congregations – to respond with immediate relief. Given the extent of the destruction, recovery is expected to take years. We plan to accompany the synod and Inspiritus to address survivors’ needs over the long haul.”

Along with a donation from your Mission Committee, your gifts through your blue envelopes or through checks to Mount Olive clearly marked “*Tornado Response*” will be directed and used 100% for tornado recovery in Tennessee.

Bethania Kids Support

At our Taste of India--Redux you generously donated over \$600 for the year-long sponsorship of a child in one of the Bethania residence homes. Thank you! In addition the Mission Committee is able to send over \$700 remaining from its Taste of...event budget.

Thanks again to the many cooks who made this wonderful feast possible.

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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