

The Olive Branch

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

Advent

My first year as Church Musician (1981) I composed a little song for the children's choir for the first Sunday of Advent. "Don't be sleeping, watch and pray, Jesus Christ may come today." It had a cute little melody, ironically like a lullaby. Excited about publishing back then (I had just published my first organ book!) I copied it out very neatly and sent it off to a publisher. The rejection letter came pretty quickly. "Sorry" (said the publisher), "I am imagining creating a bunch of young insomniacs afraid to fall asleep with this song." Ah. Right. So, what then is Advent all about? The lessons point pretty clearly to the idea "Keep watch" - but watch ...where?

A Child-like interpretation would be to look to the sky, to see like a giant alien ship coming down in the middle of the night beaming us up one-by-one, if we see it, so don't miss it - don't miss out because you were sleeping! Something like that image is certainly there in the Advent lessons and hymnody ("Wake, Awake") but is it literal?

Another clear message also comes through during Advent - we can/should look in the unexpected places - and discover Christ born in us. In the northern hemisphere, it's dark a lot of our day - darkness brings with it an introspectiveness. It allows us to see the tiniest of light, not unlike how hard it is to see stars in cities - when it's truly dark the stars are stunningly abundant. But it needs to be dark to see them.

continued on page 6

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., November 24

10 am – Staff meeting
 5:30 pm - Children's
 Choir (on Zoom)
 No Cantorei rehearsal
 this evening

Thurs., November 25

Day of Thanksgiving
10 am – Thanksgiving
Day Eucharist

(livestreamed)

7 pm – Narcotics
 Anonymous

Fri., November 26

Church offices closed

Sun., November 28

First Sunday of Advent
9 am – Holy Eucharist
11 am – Holy Eucharist
(livestreamed)

Mon., November 29

7 pm Film Screening –
 “Mission: JOY”

Tues., November 30

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., December 1

10 am – Staff meeting
 5:30 pm - Children's
 Choir (on Zoom)
7 pm –Advent Vespers
 7:30 pm - Cantorei

*In the
 presence of God.
 Being the
 presence of God.*

Sunday Morning Schedule

There are **two worship services on Sunday morning, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** To be able to continue COVID-related safety measures, we ask the following:

During this time, we will continue to request R.S.V.P responses for each worship in order to allow for physical distancing in the sanctuary. You no longer need to check your name off before proceeding to worship. We will continue to require that you wear a well-fitting mask that covers your **nose and mouth**. Please do not move the pew ropes, to help with social distancing, and **please** leave the short pews for those with wheelchairs. Coffee hour has been temporarily suspended.

The link to RSVP for worship is

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/mountolive> .

This link will be live each Wednesday for the following Sunday.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Thursday, November 25, 10:00 a.m.

Bring non-perishable food items to help re-stock local food shelves. Monetary donations are especially welcome (for every \$1 donated, food shelf personnel are able to buy about \$9 worth of food!)

As has been our custom for a number of years, the entire offering received at the Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day will be divided between Sabbathani Community Center and Community Emergency Services food shelves. [Sign up for Thanksgiving worship here.](#)

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts

Advent Procession

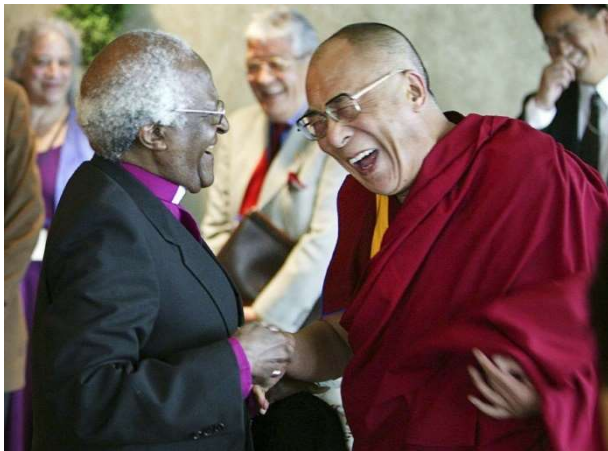
This Sunday, November 28 - 4:00 pm

Mark the season with a solemn procession and a series of lessons and carols for Advent. Candles, incense, and beautiful music help draw all into this season of hope in the darkest time of the year.

RSVP is not required for this event, but COVID protocols of masking and social distancing will be observed.

Thanks to the cleaning crew!

Many thanks to Mary Crippen, Beth Gaede, Katherine Hanson, Walt and Judy Hinck, Peggy Hoeft, Bonnie McLellan, and Lynn Ruff, who cleaned our chancel, transepts, and narthex, and polished the brass candelabra and fittings in preparation for our Advent and Christmas liturgies. Such an efficient crew. Our worship space looks splendid!



“Mission: JOY”

Join Mount Olive members and friends for a viewing of the film “*Mission: JOY*” on **November 29 at 7:00 p.m.** Join in-person in the chapel lounge or connect on-line from your home.

“Deeply moving and laugh-out-loud funny, *Mission: JOY* is a documentary with unprecedented access to the unlikely friendship of two international icons who transcend religion: His Holiness the **Dalai Lama** and **Archbishop Tutu**. In

their final joint mission, these self-described mischievous brothers give a master class in how to create joy in a world that was never easy for them. They offer neuroscience-backed wisdom to help each of us live with more joy, despite circumstances.”

Our partner organization, Interfaith Power & Light network has been offered a unique opportunity to be among the first to share the new film. Join to watch together and then have a few moments to share with each other following the movie.

[Watch the trailer and register here.](#) The film will be available at the November 29 showing at Mount Olive (with popcorn) or for free online viewing at home with family and friends, or anytime between November 19 – Dec 2.

Thank you for all you do to heal the earth and spread joy!

Staff Christmas Gifts

As is our tradition, this is the time of year that we gather monetary gifts for our church staff. If you would like to contribute, please either use the offering envelope provided especially for this, or simply note “staff gifts” on your check/envelope and send it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please have the gifts in by Sunday, December 19.

Thanks for your generosity.



Afghan Resettlement: Waiting for a Family

Advent: Anticipating, Preparing

With the support of the Vestry, your Missions Committee is moving forward with becoming a Circle of Welcome for an Afghan family waiting to resettle to our area. Were you around when Mount Olive helped resettle refugees before? If so, you may remember what a joyous opportunity it was. We are needed again. Once again, we will work with Lutheran Social Services; since then, the process has greatly improved for both the family and for our Circle.

Are you interested in learning more about this opportunity--an opportunity where there are many places to fit in? You could be involved in gathering the needed household items. Or perhaps you'd like to take the family grocery shopping. Do you know of available housing or job possibilities? So many different talents are needed.

Join us for an information session on Saturday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m. You can join this 1.5 hour session in person in the Undercroft (masked) or at home on-line. That is step one. Let's get our questions asked and answered. Then we will put together a team and LSS will train them - Connie Marty has already volunteered to head up this effort. We will prepare what we can while we wait for a family to be assigned. That waiting could last well into the new year, depending on governmental processes.

What a wonderful way for you and your family to observe Advent--preparing and waiting for a family searching for a home. The pictured family is one of those Afghan families who recently settled in St. Paul. We wonder who we will meet. Learn more at

<https://www.lssmn.org/services/refugees/services/refugee-resettlement>.

Communion Distribution and Gluten-free Bread

It has been our practice to celebrate the Eucharist with wafers as our bread on Sundays after Pentecost, and with loaves on feasts and from Advent to Holy Trinity. Beginning this First Sunday of Advent, we will resume this practice with a few changes.

Communion will be distributed in a familiar way: the presider will place a piece of bread in your hand, and you may eat it, then drink from the first chalice, or you may dip it in the second chalice. Please keep your mask on - nose and mouth covered - for as much time as you are able.

The Worship Committee has been looking for ways to be more inviting to those who have allergies or dietary needs. We are excited to have found a locally-owned bakery just a couple blocks from Mount Olive that specializes in gluten-free and lactose-free breads. This bakery will bake loaves that all of us can share as we celebrate Holy Communion.

Fair Trade Alternative Gift Giving

The Missions Committee is continuing the tradition hosting a virtual Fair Trade Sale. Mount Olive members and friends can use this custom link serrv.org?a=MountOlive21 to buy handmade gifts through SERV International. By using this special link 20% of all purchases will be donated to Mount Olive in support of our new Circle of Welcome work, helping to resettle an Afghan family to our area.

The Fair Trade Sale link is active **until December 17**. Orders need to be placed online through our custom link. Keep in mind the shipping delays we are experiencing and be sure to order early!

We will also bring back our Equal Exchange coffee, cocoa, and chocolate. Items will be available on the first three Sunday mornings in December. They will be set out in the west assembly area with prices and where to put payment. If you prefer to order on your own, visit online at <https://equalexchange.coop/>.

In addition, the Missions Committee is promoting alternative gift giving this Christmas. Consider giving a gift from a charitable organization in honor of a loved one. We will have catalogues and ornaments representing the gifts from various organizations available for "shopping" throughout Advent in the west assembly area.

Celebrating Bristol Reading's Ordination

On Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at Mount Olive, the congregation will welcome St. Paul Area Synod Bishop Patricia Lull as she presides at the ordination of former Mount Olive vicar Bristol Reading into the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Bristol has been called to serve as pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in St. Paul. As with our Sunday liturgies, we ask all who wish to attend to RSVP. Here is the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/Bristolordination> . Here is a link to the livestream of the service: <https://youtu.be/qhESYGVKa3M>

We give thanks to Almighty God for setting Bristol apart for this ministry and pray God's rich blessings on her service.

Book Discussion

The Mount Olive Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 am. They have resumed meeting at church.

For December 11, they will read *Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell, and for January 8, 2022, Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the West Lounge. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week.

To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: November

Our Neighborhood Ministry Partner for November is Restorative Justice Community Action.

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) brings residents and victims together with adults and youth who have committed crimes in their area. Together they participate in community conferences, an alternative sentencing option and restorative justice process that strengthens accountability and opens a line of communication between the offender and those harmed. The goal is to seek true restoration, especially in terms of community standing and relationship, for those who have committed crimes and the victims of those crimes.

As a reminder, Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month though a yearly contribution from our budget. However, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute over and above our budgeted amount to those partners doing work in their areas of passion and concern. You can do this using your offering envelopes or our online giving system. All additional contributions to our partner of the month will be distributed to the partner of the month for the month in which the contribution is received.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Quiet may well be another form of darkness – absence of the abundance of sound may well help us hear the tiniest call to let Christ be in us.

Advent is an invitation to “practice” introspective darkness, quietness – so that we can hear and feel the angel whispering in our ear, “Christ is in you.”

Liturgically, we can reflect this. For example, the prelude will be absent during Advent. Omitting it is not related in this case to penitence, but just to ... quiet. When you arrive for liturgy, sit in the quiet to prepare yourself to listen for that small voice that says, “I am with you.” The setting of the liturgy is different – a bit more stark, more silence. Less accompanied. Let it take you somewhere where you can see the smallest light, hear the smallest sound. They’re all the light and the voice of God saying, “I am with you.”

Advent can be much more than “waiting for THE baby – (Jesus on Christmas).” It’s an invitation to be quiet, reduce the distraction, to shut up and notice that Christ has been in us all this time.

- Cantor Cherwien

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Julia Adams; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Susan Cherwien; Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Heather Halen; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Carla Manuel; Carolyn Mowery; Rhoda Nelson; George Oelfke; Jerry Ostlund; Robin Rayfield; Evelyn Royce; John Salveson; Pariann Schenk; John Wall; Berta Wick; James Wilkes; *Adalyn Lerum*, relative of Nancy Anderson; *Danna Nelson*, *Gerry Coleman*, friends of Jim Bargmann; *Tom McCarr*, friend of Keith Bartz; *Cassandra Thompson*, friend of Al Bostelmann; *Scott Spooner*, son of Cathy Bosworth; *Sara Brunette*, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; *Arthur Kaemmer*, friend of David Bryce; *Lela Frazier*, sister of Irene Campbell; *Klarrisa Ramirez*, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; *Kristin Eklund-Johnson*, *Greg Eklund*, *Ryan Snelling*, daughter, son, and friend of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; *David G. Gutierrez, Sr.*, *Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr.*, father and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; *Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong)*, friend of Eunice Hafemeister; *Norma Pera and Hilde Dobberpubl*, sisters of Eunice Hafemeister and aunts of Linda Hafemeister; *Cat Robinette*, friend of Emily Hellerich; *Tami Huisinga*, relative of Wes Huisinga; *Craig Cunningham*, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; *Bob Adamson*, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; *Barbara Dabl*, sister of Carla Manuel; *Dani Olson*, *Harper Linqvist*, *Steve Camper*, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; *Jan McCuen*, mother of Matt McCuen; *Brenda Frankman*, friend of Rachel Meuret; *Martha Johnson*, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; *Kathleen Austad*, sister of Jerry Ostlund; *Kirsty Langfield*, cousin of Gary Pagel; *Dn. Steven Arnold*, friend of Andrew Stoebig; *Sue Smith*, *Steve Swanson*, and *Mary Peterson* friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; *Vince DeLusia*, friend of Cynthia Prosek; *Rudd Rayfield*, *Jolie Mesbeshber Hassler*, *Katehyn Bowden*, *Cindy Williams*, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; *Annette Olson*, friend of Teresa Rothausen; *Leila Jeffers*, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; *Miranda Ahvis*, niece of Tim Sneer; *Carrie*, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; *David Duran*, friend of *Kevin Vazquez*; *Andrew Wiechman*, son of Grace Wiechman; *Rachel Wilkes*, former wife of James Wilkes; *Judy Bonnes*, *Tommie and Susie Hunter*; *Barbara C. Johnson*, friends of Mount Olive.

Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.

Our continual prayers are offered for peace: We pray for all the world's governments, leaders, and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: *Ross Chambers*, nephew of Berta & Bob Wick; *Solveig & Philip*, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and *Tyson Crosby*, relative of the Crosby family. (*Italics indicates non-member friends of Mount Olive.*)

About our prayer list ...

If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers. Contact the church office with any updates.



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Church Staff

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Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Cantor David Cherwien**
- **Thanksgiving Day Eucharist: Thursday, November 25, 10 a.m.**
- **Advent Procession – This Sunday, November 28, 4 p.m.**
- **Movie Screening – “Mission: JOY”**
- **Afghan Resettlement: Waiting for a Family**
- **Vicar Bristol Reading Ordination to be held December 4**