



The Olive Branch

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Accent on Worship

Vicar Andrea Bonneville

Advent

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:3-6, NRSV).

Paul is writing to the Philippians from prison waiting and anticipating what his punishment would be. Trial? Pardon? Death? His future and his ministry were rather uncertain and yet his letter is filled with joy and gratitude for the ways the Philippians have supported his ministry.

Paul's joy and gratitude surprised me given his context but I think he really is experiencing these emotions. Not because he has a master plan to escape this current situation, but because he has confidence in Christ. He writes, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6, NRSV). He hopes, trusts, believes that Christ who led him to this point of his life will also continue to lead him. And that his calling from God to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ will also be the calling of the communities that he has been a part of until the day of Christ's return.

Paul's confidence is exactly the type of confidence that we can seek and pray for this Advent season. That even in the midst of being in communities filled with fear, hatred, and death we

continued on page 5

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., December 1

10 am – Staff meeting
 5:30 pm - Children's
 Choir (on Zoom)
7 pm –Advent Vespers
 7:40 pm – Cantorei

Thurs., December 2

7 pm – Narcotics
 Anonymous

Sat., December 4

10 am – Book Discussion

Sun., December 5

*Second Sunday of
 Advent*

*9 am – Holy Eucharist
 11 am – Holy Eucharist
 (livestreamed)*

Tues., December 7

Noon – Bible Study
 7:00 pm – Missions
 Committee meeting

Wed., December 8

10 am – Staff meeting
 5:30 pm - Children's
 Choir (on Zoom)
7 pm –Advent Vespers
 7:40 pm - Cantorei
 rehearsal

*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.

[Click here to sign up for midweek Advent
 Evening Prayer.](#)

The sign-up for midweek services will be available
 Sunday-Wednesday of each week during Advent.

A Note of Caution

Recently, a member's catalytic converter was stolen from their vehicle while it was parked in our north parking lot (they had carpooled with friends to attend a theater production). While we are glad that members can use our space for this purpose, it is recommended that you use the south parking lot.

The south lot has many things that can assist with deterring crime – better light, and visibility to all motorists, bus riders, and pedestrians. All these things make it more difficult for someone to commit a theft without being seen. The north lot just doesn't have the same advantage.

If you have any issues when using the parking lots, please report them to the church office. It's also always a good idea not to leave any items in plain view in your car while parked in the church lot.

Alternative Gift Giving Advent Tree

The Missions Committee is promoting the idea of alternative gift giving this Christmas. Check out the Advent Trees in the west assembly room. They have ornaments representing gifts from ELCA Good Gifts and Common Hope in Guatemala.

[Advent Giving Tree](#)

1. Select the ornament representing the gift you would like to give.
2. Place payment in the envelope (check or cash).
3. Check off on the envelope which gift you chose.
4. Put the envelope in the black lock box, located behind the long credenza on the right side.

(If you prefer to pay with credit card, Common Hope has that option. Fill out a donation card and place it in the envelope.)



You can also place an order directly with:

Lutheran World Relief

<https://lwr.org/giving-category/gifts>

Heifer Project International

<http://www.heifer.org>

Bethania Kids

<http://bethaniakids.org/creative-giving-catalog/>

ELCA

www.elca.org/goodgifts

Common Hope

<https://commonhopecatalog.myshopify.com/>

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 Gift Sale

The Missions Committee is continuing the tradition of hosting a virtual Fair Trade Sale during Advent. Mount Olive members and friends can use this custom link <https://www.serrv.org/?a=MountOlive21> to buy handmade gifts through SERRV 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. Be sure when you are shopping that you see this orange banner at the top of the page. Keep in mind the shipping delays we are experiencing and be sure to order early! Click the link on the cover page of *The Olive Branch* email (or find a sheet enclosed with hard copy/mailed version of *The Olive Branch*) to see some of the unique items made by artisans in developing regions around the world.

20% of your online order today will be donated to Mount Olive Afghan Resettlement

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 room with envelopes and instructions for payment. If you prefer to order on your own, go to <https://equalexchange.coop/>.

ARTISANS IN DELHI

SERRV partner since 1976

India

Your purchase creates employment for disadvantaged artisans in Delhi, and advocates for literacy, fair wages, and protection of children.





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 **this 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. [Click here for the link to join the session virtually \(online\)](#). 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>.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

wait and anticipate with confidence God who promises to draw near to us, guide us, and show us the salvation of God. Bringing healing to us now, hope to us now, joy to us now and into completion with Christ.

I join in Paul's joy and gratitude giving thanks for all the ways that each of you embody Christ in our world through your love, service, healing, and hope. And I join in Paul's prayer:

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1: 9-11, NRSV).

Sexton Update

As you are aware, our Sexton James Wilkes has been out on disability for the past year. In the interim, a wonderful, small local company has taken care of our basic custodial needs. However, the Vestry has decided that the time has come to hire a full time Sexton once again. Our Sexton position is now posted on the Minneapolis Area Synod website as well as other local church job boards, and interviews are currently being scheduled. We are so thankful for the heart and soul James provided as Sexton and even more thankful that James chose to become a member several years ago, thus remaining within the Mount Olive community.

- Gretchen Campbell-Johnson, congregation president

Celebrating Bristol Reading's Ordination

This 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](#).



Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

Fax: 612-827-4557

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Interim Cantor – [Dietrich Jessen](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Vicar Andrea Bonneville**
- **Advent Vespers: Wednesdays in Advent at 7 pm**
- **Afghan Resettlement: Waiting for a Family**
- **Vicar Bristol Reading Ordination to be held December 4**
- **Alternative Gift Giving Advent Tree**
- **Missions Committee Fair Trade Sale**