



The Olive Branch

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

"[God] will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

- Zephaniah 3:17-18a (NIV)

Have you ever had someone rejoice over you with singing? Nathan and Elizabeth have.

When my children were still babies, I would rock them to bed while playing one of several CDs. Some were calming instrumental, some classical, some hymns. One of my favorite albums included several hymns arranged and recorded in a relaxing, lullaby appropriate style, although that wasn't the intent of the album as a whole. "The King of Love my Shepherd Is," "Be Thou My Vision," and "Fairest Lord Jesus" were sung over drowsy little Bargmann faces many a night. These songs at bedtime, along with the wonderful cuddles, were a joyous time for sure, but they were much more prayer and blessing than they were rejoicing.

But this singing over my sleepy children meant we also had a common language in the words of those songs - something shared between us - that could then become shorthand at other times. It is not an uncommon occurrence for something to happen in our lives worth rejoicing over when one of us will break into song over another. Often, it's only a short, spontaneous phrase that pops out. But what a joy when it happens! And we all know what it means. We are rejoicing together.

That is the image in my mind when I read this line from Zephaniah. God, fully present with us when something good happens, and God spontaneously breaking out in song over the event that has occurred, and yes, us, in a wonderful moment of mutual celebration.

Accent on Worship, continued on page 5

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., December 8

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

Thurs., December 9

7 pm – Narcotics
 Anonymous

Sat., December 11

10 am – Book Discussion
 10 am – NLC Exec.
 Committee meeting

Sun., December 12

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

Mon., December 13

7 pm – Vestry meeting

Tues., December 14

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., December 15

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.

"I was hungry and you gave me food"...

(Matthew 25:35)

Mount Olive volunteers have continued to meet the challenge of providing wholesome meals to the residents of Our Savior's Shelter in this time of Covid. We hope you will consider participating in this ministry in 2022.

Mount Olive provides the Our Savior's meal the second Sunday of each month. It is COVID risk free since you will have no contact with the residents. Here are the dates for 2022: January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11.

Please contact Elaine Halbardier for further information (ech914@comcast.net; 763-639-7702). Elaine will create "teams" based on your preferences for each date.

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/

Stewardship Alternatives

Giving stock or a distribution from your retirement account can be a good way to support Mount Olive and its ministries. If you give stock or funds from your tax-deferred retirement account, please keep the following in mind:

- Your brokerage firm may not divulge your name to us unless you ask them to do so. We may not know whom to thank.
- Generally, brokerages will not indicate the Mount Olive fund or budget to which you would like the gift applied.

Therefore, when you give stock or a retirement distribution to Mount Olive, please contact the Mount Olive Treasurer via email, treasurer@mountolivechurch.org, or leave a message for the Treasurer letting him or her know:

- Who you are
- The amount of your gift
- Where you would like it applied, such as to the Mount Olive operating fund or the Boldly into the Future capital appeal

Thank you.

Fair Trade Gift Sale

The Missions Committee is continuing the tradition hosting a virtual Fair Trade Sale. 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!

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

Fair Trade coffee, cocoa, and chocolate from Equal Exchange is available for purchase on Sunday mornings. It is on the credenza 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 PERU

SERRV partner since 1992

Peru

Your purchase creates a modest but sustainable income for small artisan groups in marginalized areas of Peru, giving them access to training, loans, health care, and school supplies for their children.

Since 1992, SERRV International has partnered with artisans in Peru, providing a long-term trading partnership and interest-free advance payment for our orders. Through sales of their products, artisans can have improved living and working conditions, sustainable employment, and financial advances for raw materials.



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

Susan Cherwien Update

Dear friends/family,

On December 2, upon the recommendation of Susan's Oncologist (with which we agreed), we have ceased treatments, and have entered at-home hospice care. This will allow Susan to be more comfortable, more whole, for the rest of her days without the strain of the chemotherapy and radiation. We don't know how long her body will hold out against its cancerous intrusion, but for now she is at least comfortable and, with the help of medication, mostly pain-free. The predominant symptom is that she is tired and sleeps a lot.

We are so grateful for the love and care shown by so many of you in many and various ways. We also hope you understand that while it is still Susan's intention to respond to each of the cards/gifts she has received, her ability to do so has become impaired. The gratitude, however, is quite strong.

We know that God is indeed with us through all of this. And we trust, as Susan's hymn so perfectly states: "As winters come, as winters must, we breathe our last, return to dust. Still held in Christ, our souls take wing and trust the promise of the spring." (O Blessed Spring, ELW 447). You can find more information on her CaringBridge page at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/susanpalocherwien>

Love to you all from both of us,
- Cantor David Cherwien

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Zephaniah addresses the fact that rejoicing is not always our stature. To "no longer rebuke" implies that rebuking has occurred, and indeed that was a part of the history of the people to which Zephaniah originally spoke and wrote. And it a part of our reality too. This past Sunday, we heard about the importance of God's work in refining, smoothing, and raising up. That is important and necessary and tough.

But there is also much to rejoice in. And God will certainly be there to sing over you, and me, and Nathan and Elizabeth.

- Jim Bargmann

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](#).

Afghan Resettlement—Waiting for a Family

UPDATE: Join one of five teams

On Saturday, December 6, we had a productive meeting with Cate Duin, our Lutheran Social Services resource for our helping an Afghan family resettle in the Twin Cities. (We learned that Cate is the daughter of Robyn Sand Anderson the artist who did the large painting in our Chicago Avenue gathering space and earlier exhibited other pieces in the Chapel/Lounge). Cate said we should recruit five teams. Members and friends who came to the church or participated via Zoom picked a team. Now we're inviting *you* to pick a team that matches your gifts and interest. Connie Marty is coordinating all of our efforts.



1. Mentor Team. This team will have the most direct contact with our family, for instance, going shopping with them, helping them read their mail, helping the kids with homework. This team should have 5–10 members.

2. Nesting Team. This team will collect furniture and household goods, arrange the apartment so the family, when they come to Minnesota, can move from temporary housing (arranged by LSS) to an apartment ready to live in. We already have significant donations. The team will inventory what we have, work to get what we still need, and move everything to the apartment when it is available.

3. Meal Team. This team will use a list provided by LSS to shop for culturally appropriate items to stock the family's pantry. This work can start as soon as the team is formed.

4. Impact Expansion Team. This team will explore how Mount Olive can work with LSS to expand our impact beyond our single family.

5. Community Learning Team. This team will help Mount Olive members learn more about our family's culture, life situation, and how we can encourage diversity in our community. This could, for example, entail forming a book study group or planning on-line learning sessions for us.

Your Missions Committee and Vestry have committed the initial \$3,500, and together we will work to get the additional \$3,000–\$4,000 that's required.

LSS will use these funds to secure housing and assist with the first 2–3 months rent and to serve as case managers for the family. LSS will offer training for the Mentor Team, and others may access the training videos as they wish. This will include cultural competency training.

We anticipate that our family will arrive in early January. It's getting exciting! Join us!

Email Connie Marty at ConnieMarty@gmail.com or at missions@mountolivechurch.org. Or call Connie at 651-468-1632 or Judy Hinck at 612-812-7342.



Capital Appeal Update: Strong Progress to Celebrate; More to Do

Through your generous support, Mount Olive is making significant progress toward paying off nearly \$1.6 million in outstanding debt associated with our 2017 building improvements. There is more to do, but there's also much to celebrate. We are pleased to share the highlights of our *Boldly into the Future* capital appeal to date:

More than \$600,000 has been committed

As of December 3, total gifts and pledges from members and friends of Mount Olive totaled nearly \$510,000. Of that, more than \$128,000 was pledged or given since October 24 when the Mount Olive Foundation and Mount Olive Vestry announced that each would match up to \$100,000 in future gifts or pledges. Thus, with gifts, pledges and a \$100,000 match from the Foundation, more than \$610,000 has been committed to debt reduction.

With gifts given, we've reduced our principal – and the cost of servicing our debt

Funds given since the appeal began in August total more than \$228,000. Of these funds, \$225,000 have been applied to our loan principal. This reduction will save us more than \$50,000 over the remaining 19-year mortgage term.

Our challenge: Raise new gifts and pledges to activate the Vestry's \$100,000 match.

If you have not yet pledged or given to the capital appeal, please consider doing so. Your gift or pledge will help us raise the additional funds (about \$72,000) needed to activate the Vestry's match of \$100,000. Currently, about 22 percent of Mount Olive giving units have pledged or given to the appeal. With broader participation, we have an excellent opportunity to meet or exceed our match goal. When we meet the Vestry's match, overall commitments to the campaign will total \$782,000.

Year-end giving: Please consider a contribution to the capital appeal

As you plan your year-end giving, please add the *Boldly into the Future* capital appeal to your list. Gifts of money, stock, and retirement distributions are welcomed. To ensure that gifts of stock or retirement funds are applied according to your wishes, please contact the Mount Olive Treasurer (treasurer@mountolivechurch.org).

From all of us on the Boldly into the Future Steering Committee, thank you. We are grateful for your generosity and your commitment to Mount Olive and its ministries.

Chandler Molbert (chair)
Lora Dundek
Hannah Rivard
Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby
Gretchen Campbell-Johnson, Vestry President
Joseph Crippen, Pastor

Judy Hinck
Dan Wade
Doug Parish
Dixie Berg

Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: December

Our Neighborhood Ministry Partner for November is an organization called Tubman. The description below is adapted from the Tubman web site and describes their work and mission more eloquently than we ever could.

Safety, hope, and healing are three words that define the heart of Tubman's mission. "For more than 40 years, [Tubman has] worked to advance opportunities for change so that every person can experience safety, hope, and healing."

"Each year, [they] help an estimated 25,000 people in Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties and the surrounding area get the services, support, and information they need after experiencing trauma – including relationship violence, sexual assault and exploitation, trafficking, addiction, mental health issues and more. [They] serve people of all ages and genders and offer a broad continuum of services to help people find the support and information they need.

Today, "Tubman continues the work of our namesake, Harriet Tubman, by leading the way to hope and honoring Harriet's personal motto to 'Keep going.'"

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month though a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, 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 for the month in which the contribution is received.

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.



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](#)

Christmas Worship Schedule

Friday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve – Holy Eucharist at 4 pm and 10 pm

Saturday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day – Holy Eucharist at 10 am

Sunday, Dec. 26, First Sunday of Christmas – Holy Eucharist at 9 & 11 am

Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, The Name of Jesus – Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 2, Second Sunday of Christmas – Holy Eucharist at 9 & 11 am

Thursday, Jan. 6, Epiphany of Our Lord – Holy Eucharist at 7 pm