



The Olive Branch

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, February 20

*Seventh Sunday after
Epiphany*

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

Sunday, February 27

*Transfiguration
of Our Lord*

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

Luke 9:28-43a

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

Accent on Worship

Interim Cantor Dietrich Jessen

I do a lot of traveling for work which ultimately leads to time well-spent in our nation's airports. Because of my travel frequency, I usually end up on the Delta complimentary upgrade list and often find myself sitting in premium cabins of the aircraft. Albeit nice, there's an element of humanity that's often missing from that travel experience; usually coupled with stressed travelers, people with significant meeting timelines, and business calls that can't wait. Amid the chaos, however, I usually try and take time to pay attention to those I am traveling with. Everyone is partaking in their own journey; both literally and figuratively. We must notice those around us to take part in the shared humanity that we experience.

Our journey of air travel begins when we enter the bustling airport scene - sometimes even in the dreaded traffic line before even reaching the building doors. Our encounters begin - we see the families being separated (temporarily or permanently) at the car door, often sealed with long hugs, and we enter the craziness of the terminal. We next get to endure the combination of patience testing: checking a bag, waiting in the long security lines, taking our shoes off (ugh!), and then making it to the other end and knowing we must reach our gate on time.

In the midst of this journey we often see those who are tirelessly working to ensure we have an on-time departure, and a safe one, too. These are the people who also have to (sometimes) deliver bad news; delays, cancellations, etc. It's in that moment that the humanity we've been paying attention to can often cause us to squirm. We see people begin to lean into their stress, anxiety, and impatience and take out their grief or anger on those who simply have no control over the situation(s). Maybe it's us that is exhibiting this frustration. Maybe we are simply the witness.

continued on page 2

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., February 16

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

Thurs., February 17

7 pm – Narcotics
 Anonymous

Fri., February 18

7pm – Recovery Group

Sun., February 20

*6th Sunday after
 Epiphany*
9 am – Holy Eucharist
11 am – Holy Eucharist
(livestreamed)

Tues., February 22

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., February 23

10 am – Staff meeting
 5:30 pm - Children's Choir
 (on Zoom)
 6 pm – Y3 Confirmation
 7:30 pm – Cantorei
 rehearsal

Sunday Morning Schedule

There are **two worship services each 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.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 12*

Whatever our role is in that specific moment, we should realize that we are called to something better; something more fruitful and productive. This Sunday, February 20, we will sing "Build a Longer Table." This hymn, new to us at Mount Olive, expresses our travel experience poignantly. In lieu of listing the entire hymn text here, I will share with you Stanza 3:

*Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
 Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
 When we embrace compassion more than fear,
 Christ tears down our fences; all are welcome here!*

In addition to this hymn text, this Sunday's lectionary texts are focused on forgiveness, peace, and love. If there's ever been a Sunday whose entire set of texts apply to us as travelers in the busyness of the world, it's Epiphany 7C. Remember this next time you begin your journey. Maybe somewhere warm? God's blessings.

- *Interim Cantor Dietrich Jessen*

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 2

Holy Eucharist at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Sign up using these links:

Noon Liturgy: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/Noonash>

7:00 pm Liturgy: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/Ashevening>

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

Walk-In Counseling Center provides “free, easily accessible mental health counseling to people with urgent needs and few service options.” Counselors work with people struggling with depression, anxiety, chemical dependency, domestic violence, and many other emotional and interpersonal concerns. Walk-In Counseling is an active and vital part of our neighborhood, operating out of a beautifully converted house at 24th and Chicago. Through the pandemic, Walk-In has continued to provide their vital services through electronic means, protecting both the physical and mental health of their clients and staff.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through 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 pink offering envelopes or through 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.

For more information about Walk-In Counseling, visit <https://walkin.org>.

Sunday Worship Schedule

**Beginning the First Sunday in Lent, March 6, 2022,
Sunday liturgies will begin at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.**

Also, remember that Daylight Savings time
begins on March 13.

The National Lutheran Choir Winter Concert: *Touch the Earth Lightly*

Join the National Lutheran Choir on Sunday, February 20 for a program of music and hymns celebrating creation and the call to be stewards of the earth. The concert will feature guest conductors, Tom Trenney and NLC's tenor section leader, Shaun Halland, alongside artistic director, David Cherwien at the organ.

Sunday, February 20, 4 p.m.

Roseville Lutheran Church
1215 Roselawn Ave. W., Roseville, MN 55113

Tickets may be purchased online at NLCA.com.
Masks and proof of vaccination are required.

Benefit Concert

with the Uptown Brass and David Cherwien

Sunday, February 27, 3:00 pm

Saint Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church
17205 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN

The Uptown Brass from the Minnesota Orchestra and renowned organist David Cherwien will present an eclectic and virtuosic program featuring songs of joy from all around the world.

This concert is in partnership with Circle Rock Concerts for Community, with proceeds supporting Mental Health Connect. Mental Health Connect provides resources, support, and education to improve access to mental health services. Vicki Elliott, Executive Director of Mental Health Connect, will be on hand to offer a few words about this important ministry.

The concert is free and open to the public – no tickets required. A free-will offering will be received, with a suggested donation of \$20 per person.

The Uptown Brass features Douglas Carlsen, trumpet; Charles Lazarus, trumpet; Michael Gast, horn; R. Douglas Wright, trombone; and Steven Campbell, tuba.

Book Discussion

The Mount Olive Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at church.

On March 12, they will discuss *Moby Dick*, by Herman Melville. On April 9, they will read *The Moon and Sixpence*, by William Somerset Maugham.

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](#).

Lent Procession Service

March 1, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts will present Lent Procession, a contemplative service of lessons and carols for Lent.

Designed as an opportunity to withdraw from the busyness of life; a time to sing, pray, listen, smell – a time to fully enter into the season of Lent, renewing our lives as children of God.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Learning About Afghanistan

The people of Afghanistan belong to a variety of ethnic groups, likely due to their location at the crossroads of central Asia. Two groups, however, make up the majority of the population.

Pashto (or Pashtoon) people comprise about 42% of the population of the country. They live primarily in the southern and western part of the country. The most politically influential group for centuries, Pashtuns established the Afghan monarchy, and number among their members the former president of Afghanistan, Hamed Karzhi. Like most of Afghanistan, Pashtuns practice Sunni Islam, and speak Pashto, an Indo-Iranian language.

Tajik people make up about 30% of Afghanistan's population. They are also Sunni Muslims, and live in the northern and central areas of the country, with many of them living in the urban areas. They tend to speak Dari, a type of Persian language. Kahled Hosseini, author of *Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, is from this ethnic group.

Tajiks have aligned themselves with western military forces for many years, fighting the Russians in the 1980s, and helping to push back the primarily Pashto Taliban in alignment with the western allies since 2001.

There has been underlying tension between ethnic Tajiks and ethnic Pashtos for many years.

The **Hazara** people make up about 10% of Afghanistan's population. They are thought to be descendants of Ghengis Khan's followers and have a different facial appearance from many other Afghans. Because of this, and the fact that they are Shia Muslim, they often face racial prejudice.

For more information about this and other topics related to Afghanistan, the following website may be helpful. <https://www.afghan-web.com/people/>



Missions update

ABOUT: Bethania Kids, founded in 1987, serves impoverished children, women, and families in India. Its key founders included Mount Olive's Hennig family. Bethania's fifteen sites include four residential homes (two for girls, two for boys), nine day- and after-school care centers, and two centers for differently-abled children. "Empowerment" programs at six locations teach women skills that enable them to help support their families.

MOUNT OLIVE'S SUPPORT STARTED: ca. 1990

OUR CURRENT ANNUAL SUPPORT: \$4,500

WEBSITE: <http://www.bethaniakids.org>

FOR PERSPECTIVE: Our missions gifts to eleven organizations in 2021 totaled \$23,500 (we gave an additional \$7,500 for disaster/COVID relief, Afghan resettlement, and a new Lutheran university in Nigeria).



WHAT'S NEW? The completion of a new and permanent home for Bethania's **Shalom Home for Girls** at Batlagundu, was celebrated January 20, with a ribbon cutting, speeches, dancing, music, and food. Some Bethania leaders spoke from distant locations via electronic media, including board president Kate Hennig Teece. Shalom's forty-five residents, ranging in age from four to eighteen and many of them orphans, had been living at a temporary and rented location at Kodaikanal, forty miles from Batlagundu. The girls and staff were expected to move to the new building in February.

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following

persons: Julia Adams; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Carla Manuel; Carolyn Mowery; Rhoda Nelson; George Oelfke; Jerry Ostlund; Russ Pearson; John Salveson; Pariann Schenk; John Wall; James Wilkes; the family of Jake & Dannielle Lerum, relatives 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; Mattisyn, friend of Kat Campbell Johnson; Kristin Eklund-Johnson, Greg Eklund, Ryan Snelling, daughter, son, and friend of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Aimee Engebretson; Joyce Schoenfield, sister of Marilyn Gebauer; Juls and Nel Clausen, friends of Darrell & Mary Golnitz; Joe & Brenda Patnaude, friends of Tom Graves & Ginny Agresti; 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 Dobberpuhl, sisters of Eunice Hafemeister and aunts of Linda Hafemeister; Cat Robinette, friend of Emily Hellerich; Maribeth, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Kevin Lyndsley, former Mount Olive member; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linquist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Brad Krider, friend of Rachel Meuret; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; 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; Jolie Melana Meshbesh, friend of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; Julius Underwood, grandson of James Wilkes; Judy Bonnes, Tommie and Susie Hunter, Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

For those in hospice care: Evelyn Royce.

At the death of: Ben Bonneville, grandfather of Vicar Andrea Bonneville.

Of thanksgiving at the birth of a child: a daughter, Annika Joy Beilke, daughter of Andy & Jenny (Brown) Beilke.

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 Bob Wick; Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.

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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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

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Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

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Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Sexton – [Jose Moracho](#)

In This Issue

- Accent on Worship – Interim Cantor Dietrich Jessen
- Sign Up for Ash Wednesday Eucharists
- March is Minnesota FoodShare month
- Missions Update: Bethania Kids
- Sunday Eucharists return to 8 & 10 am beginning March 6