



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

The Olive Branch

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

I can't see it

Abram (not yet called Abraham) can be forgiven for his concern we'll hear next Sunday. He's been promised that he will have a son, a blessing to him that will create an entire nation. But he's really old, and Sarah's really old. Abram can do the math.

So, he says to the God of the promise, I've got a slave, Eliezer, as my heir; he'll carry on after me. Since this son clearly is not going to come to us, what other thing will you give me?

God's answer is to be patient and wait. God's promises always are fulfilled. Abraham doesn't do well at the waiting and ends up trying to force the promise again, by having a child with Hagar.

I wonder how often we struggle like this? Expect God to be with us and helping us in our journey of life, because we think God has promised it, and then don't experience it or sense it. Doubt that it ever will be so. After all, if you're closing in on 100 years old and your wife is only a decade behind you, it kind of makes sense to think you aren't going to get what God promised.

And yet a child of laughter, Isaac, was born to them. And yet, in spite of evidence that might tell you otherwise, you are beloved to God, and are filled with the Spirit and blessed for the journey of your life. Even if you can't always see how, God's promises are fulfilled. Always.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph Crippen".

WEEKLY CALENDAR***Wed., March 9***

9 am – Staff meeting

Noon – Midweek Eucharist

5:30 pm - Children's Choir (on Zoom)

7:00 pm – Lenten Vespers

7:45 pm – Cantorei rehearsal

Thurs., March 10

7 pm – Narcotics Anonymous

Fri., March 11

7pm – Recovery Group

Sat., March 12

10:00 am – Book Discussion

Sun., March 13***Second Sunday in Lent******8 am – Holy Eucharist******10:45 am – Holy Eucharist***
*(livestreamed)****Mon., March 14***

7 pm – Vestry meeting

Tues., March 15

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., March 916

9 am – Staff meeting

Noon – Midweek Eucharist

5:30 pm - Children's Choir (on Zoom)

7:00 pm – Lenten Vespers

7:45 pm – Cantorei rehearsal

**Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts to Present
Organist David Hurd*****Sunday, March 27, 2022 – 4:00 pm***

David Hurd is widely recognized as one of the foremost church musicians and concert organists in the United States, with a long list of awards, prizes, honors, and achievements, and immeasurable expertise in organ performance, improvisation, and composition.

David Hurd is the composer of dozens of hymns, choral works, settings of the liturgy, and organ works published by a number of major houses. From 1998 to 2013 he was music director and organist at Church of the Holy Apostles (Episcopal) in New York City. He is now organist and choirmaster of the famed Church of St. Mary the Virgin at Times Square.

David will play a program of eclectic music with improvisations.

**Cantor Cherwien to retire from
National Lutheran Choir**

The National Lutheran Choir has announced that David Cherwien will be retiring from his position as Artistic Director in June of 2023. "I wanted to hand the choir off to the next Artistic Director at a time when things are strong; artistically, with the singers, with the board, and with the choir's finances. All those are currently in very good shape for a succession to happen in a way that the choir will carry on and flourish in a new era." He will turn 66 that summer.

There are not plans for David to retire from his position as Cantor at Mount Olive. He will continue here, and hopes to devote more time to some new initiatives here, and devote more time to the growing adult and children's choir, liturgical composition, and organ work.

Important Information about Face Coverings at Mount Olive

Mount Olive takes a step forward by making face coverings **optional** for fully vaccinated and boosted individuals effective Monday, March 7, 2022. We will also be suspending our practice of RSVPs for attending upcoming worship services as well as removing the ropes between pews.

A recently released CDC tool provides a localized assessment for communities to utilize in determining appropriate Covid-19 mitigation measures at the county level. As of last Friday, March 4th, Hennepin, Ramsey and the six surrounding counties reached a "LOW" Covid-19 Community Level status. This "Low" status carries no recommendation for masking by fully vaccinated and boosted individuals.

However, the CDC is still recommending mask wearing for the *unvaccinated, immunocompromised or those at high risk of severe disease regardless of vaccination status.*

This is not to imply that Covid-19 has been eradicated in our community or the world, it has not. Covid-19 will be with us on an endemic level for many years to come. *I strongly encourage those that prefer to maintain a practice of masking to do so without hesitation.* We have all learned the value of masking or staying home as a means of mitigating Covid-19 as well as the more common seasonal bugs.

To learn more about the CDC Community Levels visit [COVID-19 Community Levels | CDC](#)

With deep gratitude and love,

- *Gretchen Campbell-Johnson, Vestry President*

Sunday, March 13
Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, March 20
Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Paschal Garden

Donations are currently being received for this year's Easter Paschal Garden.

If you would like to donate to flowers for Easter, please be sure your contribution is clearly designated for this purpose. Gifts can be given any time between now and Easter.

Contributors may take a flower home following the second Easter liturgy.

New Members to be Received March 27

New members will be received into the congregation on **Sunday, March 27**, at the 10:45 liturgy.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Mount Olive, please speak with Pr. Crippen, Vicar Bonneville, Lora Dundek (evangelism@mountolivechurch.org), or call the church office.

Help with Live Streaming

We are in need of a couple more volunteers to run the live stream during worship. You'll need to be comfortable using technology, but most importantly, able to follow along with the order of service and switch cameras in anticipation of what's happening next.

What you'll do as a live streamer: Get situated at the computer in the south gallery and start the live stream a minute or two before the prelude begins. Follow along with the service, and when we come to a transition point (e.g. a reader walks to the lectern, or a hymn is about to begin), you press a couple buttons to switch to the right camera, move camera positions, and/or display overlay slides with music on them.

Training sessions & written directions are available. And an experienced streamer will sit by you and assist you for your first services. With the addition of a couple more volunteers, each of us would be scheduled once per month or so.

How to get involved:

Contact Dan via email at worship@mountolivechurch.org or by phone at 612-600-6982 with any questions.

If you're interested, feel free to visit with any of us after second liturgy to see how it all works in the south transept gallery.

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](#).

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

Community Emergency Services and Sabathani Community Center

Both of these organizations work to alleviate hunger and food insecurity in our south Minneapolis community and beyond. They work to do this through food shelf locations, food delivery programs, pet food programs, and a relationship with Meals on Wheels.

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.

In addition to financial contributions, Mount Olive will collect donations of non-perishable food in support of the MN Food Share March Campaign. Please leave all donations in the shopping cart located in the West Assembly area.

Some of the most needed items include:

*Dry lentils
black-eyed peas
Great Northern and black beans
fish sauce
Jasmine rice
cooking oils
jars of pasta sauce
diced tomatoes
honey
pork & beans
baked beans
canned tuna, sardines, and chicken
ground coffee
snack crackers
peanut butter
canned ravioli
and canned chili*

For more information about our partners of the month, please visit www.cesmn.org and www.sabathani.org.

Funeral Arrangements for Katie Nixdorf

Dr. Kathryn (Katie) Nixdorf, daughter of Mount Olive member Paul Nixdorf, died suddenly last week. We share the following information for those who have asked about funeral arrangements.

Visitation: Wed., March 9, 4-8 pm
Bradshaw Celebration of Life Center
2800 Curve Crest Blvd., Stillwater, MN

Funeral: Fri., March 11, 12:00 Noon
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi, MN
(Service will be livestreamed)

Paul's & Johnny's current address is:
2 Ocean Ave. #404
Revere, MA 02151

Join in Supporting Our Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine

Your Missions Committee has committed \$2,500 of Mount Olive's mission tithe to the ELCA Disaster Response earmarked for the disaster through which our brothers and sisters are living. Here is what will be done with our funds: "Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water, and hygiene kits."

You may join the effort by giving through the link provided or by donating through your blue envelope, marking your donation "For Ukraine," and we will forward your gift on to ELCA Disaster Response.

[Your gifts will support Ukrainians and others. Gifts to "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used in full \(100%\) to assist those affected by the crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries.](#)

Our prayers abound for the loss and devastation experienced in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.



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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

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Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chervien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Bargmann](#)

Sexton – [Jose Morocbo](#)

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