

The Olive Branch

September 28, 2022

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

Sunday Readings

October 2, 2022

17th Sunday after

Pentecost, Lect. 27 C

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Psalm 37:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

October 9, 2022

18th Sunday after

Pentecost, Lect. 28 C

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

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

We're trying on new clothes

The Church (in general, not just Mount Olive) has tossed around some phrases in the past 20 to 30 years that have intrigued me. Words like "traditional" and "contemporary" to name a couple. Which are we in our assemblies here? Of course, my answer is "both." I believe the intent of those words was to describe instrumentation rather than any reference to time or era providing the music. I also believe those phrases mostly pointed to music as in "Praise Band" instead of "Organ and Choir," although sometimes "contemporary" implied "Turtle-necks and Khakis" instead of Albs, Chasubles, and Dalmatics, or rather, "informal" instead of "formal." We have that too. We have "Ordinary Time." But we also have penitential times, and we have festival seasons. Many churches are including a greater variety of instruments, depending on what a particular song needs to be most effective. We can admit (own?) that we rely heavily on the huge variety capable in the pipe organ – perhaps effective with singing as it produces tone the same way the human voice does – air vibrating through a tube.

Rather than nit-pick at which phrase (traditional or contemporary) is favored, more appropriate, or effective, I'd like to argue how important both are.

Lutheranism has always drawn from a wide net of sources over time and space for our singing repertoire. Perhaps a surprise to some of you, this is true for more than Lutherans. Many things we sing pre-date Martin Luther and the 16th century by quite a bit. Perhaps even before the time of Christ. The Church has always adopted and adapted. And it has created, adding the best of the best to the mainstream of music carried forward beyond any individual spot in history and/or place along with its cultures, and understanding of God.

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September Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

Simpson Housing

Simpson Housing is a multifaceted organization, providing an emergency shelter, single adult supportive housing, and family supportive housing across the Twin Cities metro area. They provide along with developmental and educational services for children of families in their family shelter program and “work across the metro area partnering with landlords and developers to find sustainable housing for families and individuals.” In addition, Simpson operates the Adult Shelter Connect program for the City of Minneapolis, providing a single point of contact for those seeking shelter in the city.

In 2020, Simpson began the process of raising funds to rebuild their shelter and office building to become the Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments. “Plans for the [new] five-story facility include two floors of permanent supportive housing (42 efficiency units), two floors of emergency shelter (70 beds), a commercial kitchen capable of serving 100 people, a 24-hour front desk, and offices and clinic space...”. They expect to begin construction in late 2022 or early 2023.

For more information about Simpson Housing, please visit their website at www.simpsonhousing.org.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Our hymnals become documentaries of where we are in this process. They embody the best of the best from perhaps all of times the people of God have sung, and the best of the best from all sorts of places on earth – even if the music making process is quite different. Each hymnal process sifts and carries things forward, or discards. If something is prematurely discarded, you can bet the church will ensure it gets restored to the repertoire.

Supplemental hymnals are important in that process! They are a chance to try on new clothes, so to speak. Often included are brand new creations – contemporary contributions – gifts for the future from our time and place! We all try them on. Some fit, some do not. Some fit many contexts, some only a few. It is important, however, that we keep trying things. We don’t take precious time on texts and music that don’t say much or can’t contribute to any sort of depth, but sometimes that depth isn’t obvious either.

Discernment is indeed important – part of what we are all called to insist upon. We are lucky here in that there are many who can read music as we go through this process with our new supplement *All Creation Sings*. We try new things on and can evaluate them on criterion other than if they were too hard to sing at first. (Often things that are challenging at first can be longer lasting...). For those who read music – thank you for your help. For those who don’t – thank you for your leaning on those who do and withholding judgment until you have more input.

I think we’re finding some good fits, don’t you?

- Cantor David Cherwien

Calendar

Wednesday, September 28

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
- 6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
- 7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, September 29

- 11:00 am *Funeral Eucharist: Kristin (Eklund) Johnson*
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, September 30

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

Saturday, October 1

- 9:00 am Gardening Work Day

~~9:00 am — Neighborhood Ministries meeting~~

~~Noon — Community Meal~~

~~1:00 pm — Prayer Shawl group meets at Blue Ox~~

~~Sunday, October 2 3– 17th Sunday after Pentecost~~

~~8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation~~

~~9:30 am Education hour for all ages~~

~~10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation~~

~~2:00 pm *Blessing the Animals*~~

Monday, October 3

- 7:00 pm Vicar Committee

~~5:00 pm — Jobs After School~~

~~Saturday, February 23~~

~~10:00 am — Confirmation~~

~~Sunday, February 24 — Second Sunday in Lent~~

Missing Someone?

It's a frequent joke among church-going people that we like to sit in the same area of the church every Sunday - and sometimes in the same pew. So it wouldn't be unusual for us to notice that someone is missing from our area/pew - or from Coffee Hour - on Sunday morning. Perhaps we wonder where that person is - are they ill? Are they traveling? What is it that's keeping them from joining us for worship on Sunday morning? If you notice that someone from our Mount Olive community is missing, please feel empowered to reach out to them through a call, an email, or letter. If you need contact information, you can call the church office. Of course, some of us are shy Lutherans, and we'd prefer that someone else make that contact. That's okay - just call the office or email conglife@mountolivechurch.org, and someone will reach out.

We are all the eyes and ears of the congregation, and the staff and the leadership depends on you to keep us informed of those who might otherwise fall through the cracks. Thanks!

Looking for Housing

Might you have a room and a private bathroom in a non-smoking home to share with a female student from Milwaukee who will be interning in the Twin Cities from October to April? She is completing her degree in Music Therapy and needs a place to live. She has her own transportation, can live with dogs, but has a "slight" allergy to cats. She needs a place that would be easily accessible to the west suburbs. A kitchen or kitchenette would be a bonus, but not necessary. She is able to pay up to \$400/month in rent. She describes herself as clean and organized, and someone who "keeps to [herself]."

If you can assist this young woman, please contact the church office, or email Lora at <mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org>. Thanks!

Adult Education

Upcoming Sunday Adult Forums (9:30 am in the Chapel Lounge)

Oct. 2: *Being a Faithful Voter* - Your Global Ministry Committee will lead a discussion about what it might mean to be a faithful voter this fall. We will be using the guide offered by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, and we hope to have responses to our questions from representative, senator, and governor candidates. We will focus on four issues: climate justice, immigration policy, racial justice, and health care.

Oct. 9: *The Impact of Grief & Loss* - The experience of grief and loss affects us in a comprehensive manner. Our bodies, minds, and spirits are all changed by the experience. And not all losses are as obvious as others. Thomas Ellis, a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist at Crocus Hill Counseling Center in St. Paul will be our presenter. He is the author of *This Thing Called Grief* and has presented to many area congregations on the topic of grief and loss.

Adult Education Opportunity:

Readings and Conversations about the Feminine Divine

Join us for a series of nine monthly conversations on the Feminine Divine beginning Tues., Oct. 25. The time will be mutually determined once we know who is interested. As the basis for our conversations, we will read selections from two texts, then gather once a month for two hours; the first hour to discuss the readings and the second hour to explore how God's spirit is moving us in response to them.

All who identify as men, women or non-binary are most welcome.

The books we will use are:

She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse, by Elizabeth Johnson

Transformative Lutheran Theologies: Feminist, Womanist, and Mujerista Perspectives, edited by Mary Streufert

The texts run just under \$50 total. **Scholarships are available if purchasing the texts is a hardship.** We encourage you to ask for one if the cost prevents you from being part of this event.

Currently the meeting dates are:


Fall: October 25; November 22; December 20

Winter: January 24; February 21; March (TBD)

Spring: April 18; May 23; June 20

Our discussion leader is Teresa Rothausen. Teresa has been attending Mount Olive for many years and holds a Ph.D. in human resources / industrial relations from the University of Minnesota, a B.A. with honors in economics from St. Olaf College, and a C.P.A. She is certified in diversity, equity, and inclusion by The MultiCultural Institute in Washington D.C., holds a graduate certificate in spiritual direction from St. Catherine University, where she is a candidate for the M.A. in Theology (expected December 2022), and did post-doctoral work on spiritual development in leaders at Harvard Divinity School, where she is an MDiv candidate.

If you are interested, please respond by September 30 at teresa@wiserwilderleadership.com. This will give us the necessary time to acquire books and complete the first reading by October 25.



GODLY PLAY

This Coming Week, Our Circles Will Wonder About:

The Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9)
Circle One (preK-1st grade)

The Second Creation: Falling Apart (Gen 2:3-3:24)
Circle Two (2nd grade & up)

I wonder what conversations you will have at home about these stories!

Please note that we hold Godly Play every Sunday at 9:30am!
(Note: There will be no Godly Play on November 27, 2022.)

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 2
2:00 pm

Bring your pets for this annual service of blessing.
All are welcome.

Concert to Honor Refugees

“The Stranger,” a large scale choral and orchestral work intended to raise awareness about the plight of refugees around the world, will have its US premiere on Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16 at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul. The Minneapolis-based Together In Hope Choir premiered the work composed by Kim André Arnesen at Olavsfest in Trondheim, Norway, in July.

The Stranger was commissioned by the Together In Hope Project. The text was inspired by work done by UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) that confirmed all major faith traditions throughout the world share a common ethic of protection, hospitality, and respect for the stranger. More than 100 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes, the highest level of displacement on record. Mount Olive, along with other churches, has stepped up to help care for these people and welcome them as family.

Together In Hope Project set an ambitious goal to have 50% of the audiences (both Saturday and Sunday) represented by newcomers in the community – that’s about 1,000 underwritten tickets across both performances. Community organizations working with refugees and immigrants here in Minneapolis-St. Paul are coordinating distribution of these guest tickets.

Members of Mount Olive are invited to buy tickets at ordway.org and support Together In Hope Project as they bring attention to the plight of refugees around the world through music. These concerts aim to create a welcome space where we can be in community and share a powerful message of “Welcome!”

U.S. Premiere of *THE STRANGER*

Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 PM

Sun., Oct 16, 3:30 PM

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets - <https://ordway.org/events/together-in-hope-project-the-stranger>

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts Presents Consortium Carissimi

Sunday, October 16, 2022 - 4:00 pm

This program will be the secular music of Dowland and Gesualdo. The Consortium is an early music ensemble with ten singers and lutes, theorbos, baroque guitars, baroque harp and viola de basse, and lirone. Led by director Garrick Comeaux.

This event will coincide with the Twin Cities Early Music Festival 2022. Don't miss it!

A reception will follow.

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.](#)

Book Discussion

For its October 8 meeting, the Book Discussion group will read the trilogy *The Forsyte Saga*, by John Galsworthy, and on November 12 they will read *Matrix*, by Lauren Groff. The Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am at church. All readers are welcome!

Mark Your Calendars for these October Activities!

- **Sunday, October 2, 2:00 pm** - Blessing of Animals
- **Sunday, Oct. 16, 9:30 a.m.** - Proposed (for 2023) Budget Review Meeting
- **Sunday, Oct. 16, 4:00 pm** - Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts presents Consortium Carissimi
- **Sunday, October 30, Noon** - Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting: (followed by luncheon)

Treats Needed for Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

We in need of folks to sign up to supply treats for Sunday morning coffee hour after worship. You don't have to make coffee - our wonderful Sexton, Jose, does that and he even washes the dishes afterwards! What's needed are treats - and store-bought cookies are just fine! It doesn't need to be fancy! Your job would be to bring the treats, arrange them on our platters/plates, and put them out for people to take.

Look for the sign-up near the coffee line in the East Assembly Room, or call the office to get your name and date in. Questions? Contact Lora at conglife@mountolivechurch.org.

New Volunteer Roles in Neighborhood Ministry

We are expanding our volunteer corps within Neighborhood Ministry to better match the needs of the community at this time. Please read through the following brief descriptions and see if you might be interested in serving in any of these roles. Necessary training will, of course, be provided.

Call Assistant

The Call Assistant is a work-from-home volunteer role. Our new phone system allows many remote work options that can even include volunteers. This person or people would sign up for blocks of time that work within each person's schedule. During these blocks of time, volunteers would take calls from neighbors looking for assistance and screen those calls for the type of assistance needed. These volunteers would be trained to meet some basic needs over the phone and will be able to schedule appointments with Jim for more complex needs. Volunteers interested in this role should have a smart phone and computer and feel comfortable with the basic operations of both. If you feel comfortable shopping online and using an online calendar, you have the necessary skills for this role. Volunteers would use their own equipment, but because of the technology available in our new phone system, only the Mount Olive phone number would be available to neighbors looking for assistance, ensuring the privacy of volunteers serving in this role.

Rental Assistance Intake Volunteer

Though our membership in the Align Minneapolis collaborative, Mount Olive can help to provide rental payment assistance to neighbors who have fallen behind on their rent and thereby, work to keep people housed despite financial difficulty. A rental assistance intake volunteer would work with applicants in completing applications and copying documentation. This role would involve signing up for blocks of time at Mount Olive on either Tuesdays or Thursdays, but times are flexible and can accommodate individual schedules.

Food Donation Assistant

While Mount Olive does not have its own food program, we maintain a strategic partnership with Community Emergency Service (CES), one of our neighborhood food programs. As a service to members and friends of Mount Olive, we occasionally collect non-perishable food at our location. Over the course of time, those donations build up and need to be transported to CES. The Food Donation Assistant would do just that - come to Mount Olive, collect any food donations, and transport them to CES twice a month. Food can be picked up from Mount Olive on Sunday mornings or any weekday between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm, however, donations must be dropped off at CES weekdays between 9:00 am and noon. Within those guidelines, however, volunteers in this role can choose their own schedule.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities, please contact Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann at neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org. Simply sending an email will not commit you to anything other than a conversation at this point!

Update: Our Afghan Family Friends

A year has now past since our friends left their home in Afghanistan, a year of terror and triumph, fear and family, new friends and new homes, to say nothing of a new language and new jobs. This family has made amazing progress in our country, and they all have big goals that they hope to accomplish here. They are looking forward to sharing their food and culture with you all at the **Taste of Afghanistan, February 12, 2023.**

Until then, here are a few updates. Everyone loves their new home, and all are amazed at our park system. Both men are working at the airport in food delivery. They like their jobs, travel by bike and train (many thanks for bike and helmet donations), and are working to understand all of the ins and outs of American insurance and job benefits. They will continue their English language learning in the evenings. Anita is restarting her ELS, and hopes to begin medical training here in the next few months, with returning to her work as a midwife as her long-term goal. Mahdi is loving Head Start (I saw him leading his class down the sidewalk to the park when I was driving by. He was smiling from ear to ear.) It is hoped that little Efat will be able to begin the program for infants at the same school soon. All are a joy to be with, and they would like to get to know more of our church family. We hope to organize a time for Anita to meet some Mount Olive young moms.

Next big goal--driving licenses and saving to buy a used car. The men have their permits and are practicing their driving. Anita takes her test next week. **If you have a lead on a good used car for them to purchase**, please drop a note to global@mountolive.org.

Concern for their families in Afghanistan weighs heavily on their hearts. They send money as they can; they know the situation is dire, both for their families' health and safety. While they talk with family regularly, the worry is pervasive in every moment of this family's life. The family is now working with immigration lawyers as they know that they need a more secure status soon. **Thank you to all who petitioned for the Afghan Adjustment Act.** Please keep up the pressure.

Our mentor team has closed its relationship with Lutheran Social Service, and the family will do so soon when their grant through LSS expires. Our mentor team will continue to support and encourage this family. It is a time of great concern and great hopefulness.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists: 8 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

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Staff

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Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Mollie Hamre*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
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Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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