



Sunday Readings

November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

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

The Olive Branch

November 23, 2022

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

It's that week. For a lot of folks it has been a rather full autumn. Many are not used to what used to be a normal pace. It can be exhausting, don't you think? This week marks a change for us.

On Thursday we stop and focus on gratitude. Gatherings abound. Friends and families get together. Families are created through invitations - including those of you who are intentional asking someone who might be alone to join you at your feast. Many businesses are closed. Most are allowed a four-day weekend before re-entering the pace. This day can begin with Feast of bread and wine; the body of Christ gathered together to give thanks to God before heading back to our homes for a different kind of feast and gathering. I've always loved this combination - kind of sets things off right.

At the same time this coming Sunday (November 27) Advent begins. This is the practice of beginning from scratch. In what to we hope? For what are we waiting? What do we REALLY need?

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

So many think of Advent as a time to “Wait for the baby Jesus” – acting almost surprised when December 24th hits – “Look! A baby!!” But one can always understand things as metaphor – we begin as babies – in some regards a clean slate. Advent can be observed as a time to sit in the dark and quietly ponder: “In what ways can I make room for the Christ to be born in me?” The dark and quiet might be necessary to clear our cluttered and busy day-to-day. Only then can we truly prioritize what is important for us, what true need is.

It is our invitation to think through the month of December to be contrary to culture. Perhaps less busy, focused on generosity and helping, and on prayer. But even if busy, we can be reminded of what is truly important.

Advent invites us to that frame of mind as the darkness peaks. The entrance rite is different in the Sunday Eucharist. Why might that be? Enter into THAT. Come to the Advent Procession service, which sets a tone for the month, a month during which we will be surrounded by Christmas all around us the entire month – we can remember how for us, the time can be observed differently. Then go out of your way to be here for Vespers on Wednesday evenings. It is 30 minutes of dark and quiet. Each year I feel like it has to be added to an already busy Wednesday here for musicians, but in fact it is an island of peace and centering in the middle of that busy-ness.

Isn't that the point? Advent: Enter in. Make room. Even in the middle of our busy-ness.

- Cantor David Cherwien

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Thursday, November 24, 10:00 a.m.

Bring non-perishable food items to help re-stock local food shelves. Monetary donations are especially welcome (for every \$1 donated, food shelf personnel are able to buy about \$9 worth of food!)

As has been our custom in recent years, the entire offering received at the Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day will be divided between Sabbathani Community Center and Community Emergency Services food shelves.

Calendar

Wednesday, November 23

No Choir rehearsals this evening

Thursday, November 24 - Thanksgiving Day

Church offices closed

10:00 am *Thanksgiving Eucharist*

Friday, November 25

7:00 pm Recovery group

Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

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

4:00 pm *MFA Event: Advent Procession*

Monday, November 28

5:30 pm Family Music Time

Tuesday, November 29

Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, November 30

10:00 am Staff meeting

5:30 pm Children's Choir supper

6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals

7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal

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 December 10 meeting the Book Discussion group will read, *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*, by Robert Dugoni. For the January 14, 2023 meeting they will read, *Harlem Shuffle*, by Colson Whitehead.

The Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am at church. All readers are welcome!

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts

presents

Advent Procession Service

Sunday, November 27, 2022 – 4:00 pm

Mount Olive Cantorei; David Cherwien, organist and director

Mark the season with a solemn procession and a series of lessons and carols for Advent. Candles, incense, and beautiful music help draw all into this season of hope in the darkest time of the year.

Pick up your dishes!

If you have brought bars or a casserole or any other edible to church recently, you may have left your pan or bowl or platter here!

Please take a moment to look at the table in the coat room and see if your dish is among those recently (or maybe not so recently) left. If so, please take it home with you.

Midweek Advent Vespers

**Wednesday evenings
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21**

7:00 pm

Please Join Me: Beacon Interfaith Congregational Convening

The next Beacon Interfaith Congregational Convening will happen on December 1, at 6:30 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Saint Paul.

Congregational Convenings are a chance for those connected to Beacon member congregations - that includes Mount Olive - to meet together and learn about some very important actions we can take together to encourage our elected leaders to take action on important issues related to homelessness and affordable housing in the Twin Cities.

At this particular gathering, Beacon leaders will share more about their five-year plan and some of the affordable housing projects they are current working on, many of which Mount Olive has been supporting financially and through advocacy efforts. They will also be sharing more about their work on some comprehensive voucher programs, which if implemented, could drastically change the face of affordable housing in the Twin Cities.

From Emily and Kate, the Minneapolis Area Organizers for Beacon: "Beacon leaders worked this summer and fall to build relationships with candidates of both major parties so that we can start 2023 with electeds ready to work for the vision that all people have a home! With election night behind us, it's time to look forward to a legislative session with tremendous potential for investment in our vision that all people have a home."

I would love to have a large contingent of Mount Olive people join me for this event. You all have shown you have a heart for issues related to housing our neighbors - attending events like this is one more way to put that heart into action - and learn about more ways you can help provide housing for those in our communities. To register, please visit <https://www.beaconinterfaith.org/event/congregational-convening/> AND send a quick email to me (neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org) letting me know you are planning to attend.

- Jim Bargmann

November Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: *Restorative Justice Community Action*

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) provides a community-based alternative to criminal prosecution with the mission of fostering individual growth while strengthening communities through restorative justice practices. With a restorative and race equity lens, RJCA leverages the voice of community to transform the criminal legal system, public safety, and eliminate racial disparities. The indigenous roots of restorative justice focus on transformation of people, relationships, and community. In honoring these roots, RJCA humanizes conflict and supports community in finding shared solutions.

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 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.

For more information about Restorative Justice Community Action, please visit their website at www.rjca-inc.org or contact Cynthia Prosek, Executive Director and Mount Olive Member.

Adult Education

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

This Sunday, November 27: No Adult Forum (Thanksgiving weekend)

MIA Guided Tour Postponed

The tour of American Indian art at MIA announced for December 4 has been postponed. Watch for it again in the spring!

Extra Sunday Morning Parking Option

Reminder!

Mount Olive members can park in the WorkForce Center parking lot on weekends.

The lot is located behind the WorkForce Center building on the southwest corner of Lake St. and Chicago Ave.

The National Lutheran Choir's Christmas Festival

Jesus Christ: Yesterday, Today, Forever

In the two thousand years since Jesus' birth, humans in every era have considered what this birth meant for them. Even now, this meaning continues to evolve in our lives. This year's Christmas Festival will draw literature and poetry from the past 20 years of David Cherwien's Christmas programming and its musical embodiment of the Incarnation. Numerous carols, choir music of the season, and a thundering organ will present some of our most beloved selections. As we evolve, one thing has remained the same and will go on forever: Jesus Christ was born and God is with us. Always and forever.

Join us in December to see this Christmas Festival at the magnificent Basilica of Saint Mary!

Live Concerts

Friday, Dec. 9 - 4:30pm and 8pm at The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Saturday, Dec. 10th - 8pm at The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Adults and seniors: \$33 | Students: Pay what you can | 18 and Under: Free

Livestream

Friday, Dec. 9 - 8pm

Free to all | Visit [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com) to watch!

For tickets and more information, visit [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com) or call 612-722-2301.

Diaper Delivery Driver Needed

We are looking for an additional diaper delivery driver to add to our team. Each delivery driver picks up their diapers from Mount Olive, drives them to recipient homes and has the opportunity to connect with some great families in our extended community.

As a delivery driver, you can expect to make 5-7 stops each week. Ideally, we are looking for someone who lives in south Minneapolis or Richfield and has availability to do deliveries on Wednesday afternoons. However, we can be flexible on both of those things.

Please email Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann (neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org) if you are interested or for more information.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists: 8 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Mollie Hamre*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
Jim Bargmann

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

Andrea Receives Call

Former Mount Olive vicar Andrea Bonneville DeNaples has been called as pastor of Braham Lutheran Church, Braham, Minnesota. She will start her ministry there at the end of this month.

Since our bishop is on sabbatical, her ordination will be held after the bishop's return, on **January 15, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**, at Braham Lutheran Church.

Praise God and may she and the congregation be blessed as they begin their journey together!