

The Olive Branch

February 1, 2024

Accent on Worship

Vicar Mollie Hamre

Sunday Readings

February 5, 2023

5th Sunday after
Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Psalm 112:1-9

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

[13-16]

Matthew 5:13-20

February 12, 2023

6th Sunday after
Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

*Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
You shall cry for help, and God will say, "Here I am." - Isaiah 58:9*

The reading finds us in Isaiah where people are called out and challenged to do what we are called to: peace, justice, and loving the neighbor. Simple enough to hear. Those are things we strive for each day.

But we see the news and suddenly Isaiah's call feels a lot more complicated when there are shootings, violence and loss in our world. What Isaiah tells about our world is that we are not asked to find a fix, but to be present with all who are oppressed.

*Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke? - Isaiah 58:6*

We, as a community, are to mourn. And cry out. And stay in that grief together to find healing.

Isaiah's words are frustrating to hear when we are already trying to seek out peace, justice and loving the neighbor. It is a vulnerable place when the weight of the world's pain is so heavy. And as much as we want to give a solution, vulnerability is where we find one another—where we find our neighbors and those that are oppressed. That is where we find God saying "Here I am."

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



What is the Answer?

Living in a large city, the reality of people who are homeless is obvious.

"What can I do?"

A growing number of individuals at Mount Olive have found a way to make a difference. And there's room for YOU to be one of them!

Just seven blocks from Mount Olive, Our Saviour's Emergency Services is open 24/7. They feed and shelter 20 homeless men and women who are waiting and hoping for housing. That's 3 meals each day -- plus snacks!!

Those individuals I mentioned above prepare ONE MEAL PER YEAR, one Sunday dinner annually for those residents in Our Saviour's Shelter, and that DOES make a difference. There are spaces in the schedule for a few more volunteers right now. Is this once a year meal something YOU can do?



For information and details, call or email:

Elaine Halbardier

763-639-7702

ech914@comcast.net

Attention, Worship Participants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for second Quarter of 2023 (April-June) will be published at the beginning of March. Please send any requests or questions regarding scheduling conflicts to me by **Friday, February 10**.

Thanks!

- Greg Murphy

gregRmurphy@gmail.com

Call for Palms!

If you have palm branches in your home from last year's Palm Sunday liturgies, please bring them to church and place them in the basket provided in the narthex.

These branches will be burned on Shrove Tuesday (February 21) to make ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday services on February 22.



The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, February 1

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

Thursday, February 2 - Presentation of Our Lord

- 7:00 pm *Holy Eucharist*
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, February 3

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

Sunday, February 5 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
- 9:30 am Education for all ages
- 10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, February 6

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online)
- 6:00 pm Vicar Committee meeting

Tuesday, February 7

- Noon Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the **East Assembly Room** 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 February 11 meeting, the group will discuss *Humboldt's Gift* by Saul Bellow, and for March 11, they will read *These Precious Days*, by Ann Patchett.

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

The Presentation of Our Lord

Thursday, February 2

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome.

Contact Information for Interim Pastor Paul Hoffman

email: paulhoffman56@gmail.com

Cell: 206.972.9995



EcoFaith Summit 2023

The EcoFaith Network of the Minneapolis Area Synod Leadership Team is hosting the MAS EcoFaith Summit 2023 on **February 4th from 10am to 2pm at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.**

The event will bring together lay people, clergy, community partners, and everyone in between from across the synod to learn from one another

about the incredible work already happening in our communities and future opportunities to further efforts of pushing back against the climate crisis. Plus, free lunch! The agenda will include a morning of great speakers from community organizations like Minnesota InterFaith Power & Light, Community Power, Cooperative Energy Futures, and more, lunch, social time, and opportunities to learn how you and your congregational community can take effective climate action. Here's the [link to register](#).



This event is for anyone interested in environmental action, from those who have never been involved before to folks who have made this work their life's passion. Join other Mount Olive members in attending this event.

Taste of Afghanistan: March 12

Please UPDATE your calendars!

We have moved our Taste of Afghanistan one month to March 12 to accommodate some unexpected needs of the Mohammadi family.

On Sunday, March 12 you will have a chance to meet the Afghan family that we have been hosting and learn more about Afghanistan, as well as party well with these new friends who will share their Afghan food and music. During the education hour you will hear directly from family members as well as from the Afghan Cultural Society of Minnesota. Anita is sharing her Afghan menu and recipes, and after the second liturgy we will all taste what both you and she have cooked up.

The family is very excited to share this day with you, and it will be exactly one year since we started this journey together. Join in the fun!



Upcoming Education Topics

February 5: *"What is Palliative Care?"* led by Mount Olive member, Rob Ruff.

February 12: *"Mount Olive Church Foundation: Leaving a Legacy,"* led by Mount Olive member Kat Campbell Johnson.

February 19: *"What is Mount Olive's place in Mni Sota Makoce?"* part 1 of a 2-session series, led by Mount Olive member and Minnesota historian, John Crippen. In this first forum, John will give us a high-level overview of how the Dakota homeland was impacted by American

expansion and statehood development. This is not a deep dive into the Dakota culture. The focus will be on the actions of state/federal/etc. officials and the impact on the Dakota people.

February 26: Part 2 of a 2-session series. In this second session, led by John Crippen, we will look at how another church addressed the issue of land acknowledgement and our relationship with the Native people. A facilitated discussion about initial ideas Mount Olive might be interested in pursuing will follow along with a conversation as to speakers who could help us dig deeper into the topics presented.

March 5: *"The Hymns of Susan Cherwien,"* presented by Cantor David Cherwien

Susan Palo Cherwien was a brilliant presence among us who shared her light and faith in many ways, but especially in the creation of hymns found throughout Evangelical Lutheran Worship and other publications. However, some of Susan's hymns have not been published. David will graciously present some of these hymns, giving us a deeper appreciation of her works of faith.

March 12: *"A Taste of Afghanistan."* Information on this event and the related forum is forthcoming.

March 19: TBA

March 26: *"J. S. Bach: A Musical Theologian,"* presented by Mount Olive member, Art Halbardier.

Johann Sebastian Bach's birthday is March 31, 1685. Art will give us insight into Bach's works and faith as we celebrate JSB's 338th trip around the sun.

April 2 & 9: No Forum

This Coming Week, We Will Wonder:

Circle One: Parable of the Good Shepherd
Circle Two: Parable of the Sower

I wonder what conversations you will have at home!

Please note that we hold Godly Play every Sunday at 9:30am!

Lent Procession Service: Sunday, February 26

4:00 p.m.

Mount Olive Cantorei

David Cherwien, organist and director

Lent Procession is a contemplative service of lessons and carols for Lent. It is 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.



A Neighborhood Ministry Communication Note

Last month, a question was asked of me regarding two events I shared with the Mount Olive Community that were both happening the same afternoon. Essentially, the question was, “how should we decide which to attend?” I responded by stating that the two events differed in their purpose and, if a person were to attend one, they should choose based on what type of event would be the most beneficial to them or where they thought their gifts would be most useful.

In this particular instance one of these two events was educational in nature, and one was focused more on advocacy. I expect this is not the first time something like this will come up. Not only do we have our own internal programs within Neighborhood Ministry for which we will encourage your involvement, but we also communicate opportunities for members of the Mount Olive community to connect to the activities of our partners.

Currently, there are four primary ways in which you can connect to the work done in Neighborhood Ministry: by volunteering, by advocating for issues with elected leaders, through financial support, and by participating in educational events. From this point forward, we plan to indicate the primary purpose of the activities we share with you in hopes that this information will help you make a more informed decision about your involvement.

Please feel free to contact Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann with any questions or feedback.

Neighborhood Ministry Advocacy

Bring It Home, Minnesota House Hearing

Tuesday, February 7, 3:00 pm

The bill that would establish the Minnesota Renter Assist program commonly known as Bring It Home, Minnesota will be heard in the Minnesota House Housing Committee in the State Office Building (100 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Boulevard, Saint Paul) in Room 5. You are invited to attend this hearing, either in-person or online. Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann is planning to attend in-person.

To register, please visit this link, established by one of our housing partners, and one of many sponsors of this program, Beacon Interfaith: <https://tinyurl.com/ywx3vhhc>

To read the bill, please visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ykca8r32>



Neighborhood Ministry Advocacy

Homeless Day on the Hill

Wednesday, March 8, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Please consider joining us for the annual Homeless Day on the Hill, sponsored by Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. We will gather in downtown Saint Paul at Central Presbyterian Church for a rally and introduction to the day, then walk to the Capitol for a series of advocacy events and activities, seeking to raise awareness of what our elected leadership can do to help those struggling with homelessness.

Register by Monday, February 27, using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4ztmnsp9>

Neighborhood Ministry Education

Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, March 15, 1:00-2:30 pm

Save this date and plan to attend. Mount Olive will again host this event, organized by our partner, Align Minneapolis. We will have the opportunity to meet with Steve Horsfield, Executive Director of Simpson Housing. More details will be shared in the near future.

February Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month:

Walk-In Counseling Center

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.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partner this month, we also volunteer in support of their work. On top of those financial and labor contributions, we encourage any member who wishes to donate 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 the work of Walk-In Counseling Center, please visit their website at <https://www.walkin.org>.



Congregational Life Committee Seeks Volunteers

TREATS FOR COFFEE HOUR: Thanks to those who have signed up to provide treats for Sunday Morning Coffee hour. There are still lots of dates and times available. Remember, you don't have to make coffee or do the dishes. Simply provide the treats (store-bought are fine) and help serve them. Mentoring is provided upon request if you've not done this before.

LENT IS COMING SOON: Lenten Wednesday noon and evening soup suppers. Sign up to provide soup and bread for 15-20 people, either after Wednesday noon worship, or at 6 p.m. before Evening Prayer. Sign-up coming soon in the coffee serving area. Starts March 1.

DRIVERS NEEDED: Are you willing to provide an occasional ride to church or other events for someone who is no longer driving or doesn't like to drive in winter or in the evening? Let the office know, or contact Lora Dundek at lhdundek@usfamily.net

CALLING ALL SNOWBIRDS (or anyone else, for that matter!): We have several folks who are pretty much confined to home who would appreciate a card or letter on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Let Lora know if you're willing to do that (lhdundek@usfamily.net). It's a great activity for those who are away for the winter but would still like to stay connected to Mount Olive members.

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, May 21 at 2:00 p.m.: A guided tour of Native Dakota sacred sites, led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs of the Minnesota Council of Churches. More info to come. No charge, but a free will offering would be appreciated. Initial funding provided by the Mount Olive Foundation.



Lent Begins.
Ash Wednesday
February 22

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

All are welcome.

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

Interim Pastor – *Paul E. Hoffman*

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.*

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- **Presentation of Our Lord, Feb. 2: Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm**
- **Mpls. Area Synod Eco Faith Summit, This Saturday, Feb. 4**
- **Get Involved! Volunteers Needed for a Variety of Activities**