

The Olive Branch

January 18, 2024



Sunday Readings

January 22, 2023
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29, 2023
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

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

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

Ordinary Time

We are in another “green” stretch of liturgical time: Ordinary Time. This stretch is often called “Sundays OF Epiphany” when in fact, they are “Sundays AFTER Epiphany.”

Yet, there is indeed an “epiphany” nature to these weeks. Similar to Advent here in the northern hemisphere, this season seems connected to nature as the light is increasing (thankfully). A dictionary definition of the word “epiphany” says, “a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience.” During these weeks the lectionary includes narratives about some of these occurrences which illuminate (a word used intentionally) who Jesus is, and what we are to do with that recognition: follow, illuminate, be salt, etc.

Liturgically, we don’t identify this season as either festival, nor penitential. Therefore, the liturgy is to be “ordinary,” although one could easily argue that every liturgy is quite extraordinary, especially here - don’t you think? What that tends to mean for us is we do not include incense, we do not process down the aisle to read the Gospel, etc. But we do sing the Gloria with the angels each week as we live in the wake of the nativity cycle. We also sing Simeon’s song “Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace” in response to recognizing Jesus for who he is. This is important to keep in our memory banks so that when we truly need it, like when our wits aren’t so strong, it’s there deep in our souls.

It is our season of responding to our call to recognize Jesus, and to in turn, set everything aside and follow. What does that mean for you?



Additional Live Streamers Needed

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, follow along with the liturgy and switch cameras in anticipation of what's happening next. It is important work, giving those who can not be with us in person the ability to join us in worship.

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 liturgy, 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 correct 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 liturgies. With the addition of a couple more volunteers, each of us will be scheduled once per month.

How to get involved:

- Contact Dan at worship@mountolivechurch.org or 612-600-6982 with any questions and if you're interested.
- Visit with any current streamer after liturgy to see how it all works in the South Gallery.

Parking Reminder!

Don't forget that on Sunday mornings, additional parking is available at the Career Force Center, at the southwest corner of Lake Street and Chicago (behind the building). It is almost as close as parking in the south lot and it is closer than much of the on-street parking in the area.

The recent snowstorm has left area streets very narrow and street parking is difficult right now. Please don't hesitate to park at the Career Force Center on Sunday mornings.



Calendar

Wednesday, January 18

- 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, January 19

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, January 20

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

Sunday, January 22 - 3rd 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

Tuesday, January 24

- Noon Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Feminine Divine study group

Sign Up to Host Coffee Hour!

The Sunday morning coffee sign up is pretty empty! Please consider providing treats for coffee hour. Remember that Jose makes the coffee and does the dishes. Mentoring is available if you need it. Nothing fancy is needed. (Who doesn't love Oreos?)

If you can help, please sign up on the chart in the East Assembly Room. There are lots of available slots!

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 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!

Contact Information for Interim Pastor Paul Hoffman

email: paulhoffman56@gmail.com

Cell: 206.972.9995



The Olive Branch

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.

Sign Up for Altar Flowers

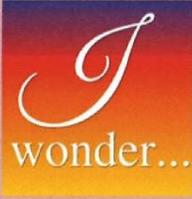
To be clear, I have zero formal responsibility for the lovely flowers immediately to the left and right of the altar at Mount Olive. But when Bonnie does altar guild cleanup following second liturgy, I usually arrange to hand off the flowers to the sponsoring family. If the worship folder doesn't seem to show sponsors, I double check by looking at the signup sheet by the office. I offer unsponsored flowers to members or visitors, who usually seem happily surprised.

When I checked the signup sheet last Sunday, I saw a sea of blank spaces in the early months of 2023--not an unusual situation, I'm told--and vowed to sign us up! No sponsors doesn't mean no flowers; the church has a standing order. But let's populate the signup sheet with more sponsor names!

- Donn McLellan



Education Themes for This Week



**GODLY
PLAY**

This Coming Week, We Will Wonder:

Circle One: Parable of the Great Pearl
Circle Two: Parable of the Good Samaritan

I wonder what conversations you will have at home!

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

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

January 22: *“Daily Dying and Rising,”* part 2 of a 2-part series, led by Interim Pastor Paul Hoffman. Beginning with Romans 6 and working through Luther’s understanding of what it means to be “born again,” Paul will lead the conversation about how each day is an opportunity for both baptismal formation and baptismal living for Jesus’ disciples in the world. For 18 years, Pastor Hoffman led the ministry of the Adult Catechumenate at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle. During that time, the congregation reached into the community in an intentional way to offer the gift of baptism to those in Seattle who had never had the opportunity to become a part of the body of Christ. Paul’s book, *Faith Forming Faith*, is a great primer to this ministry, and a wonderful way to learn to know him a bit better as he comes to lead among us. Copies of the book are available in the church office.

January 29: *“Christian Nationalism: What is it and Why Now?,”* presented by David Engen. Christian Nationalism is front and center in the political turmoil which seems to define our national conversation today. David Engen will present the ideologies at the center of this political movement and how it runs counter to what defines the Christian faith. We will look at it considering scripture, Luther, and contemporary writers – those supporting it and those in opposition.



January Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: *Our Saviour's Community Services*

Our Saviour's Community Services, a non-profit founded by our sister congregation, operates a shelter for adults experiencing homelessness, transitional housing for women who have experienced domestic abuse, and permanent supportive housing for men and women who live with a mental illness, physical disability, and/or substance use disorders. In addition, Mount Olive volunteers provide meals at the Our Saviour's shelter once a month.

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 Our Saviour's work, please visit their website at <https://oscs-mn.org>. For more information about the teams from Mount Olive serving meals at the shelter, contact Elaine Halbardier at ech914@comcast.net.

Worship Servant Schedule

For over a decade, Peggy Hoefft has organized the quarterly worship servants schedule. We're so thankful for her gift of time and talent in this work for so long. And we're thankful to Greg Murphy, who Peggy is training and transitioning into this role.

Reminders for worship servants:

- Keep an eye out in *The Olive Branch* in February/March (and ahead of each quarter) to see how you should share your availability with Greg as he plans April-June 2023.
- If your availability changes, and you cannot serve for a liturgy you have been assigned, please contact your fellow worship servants to arrange a substitute (or someone to trade dates with). Notify the church office of the servant change as soon as possible, and Cha will update the schedule and upcoming worship folders when it's early enough.

Thank you to all who volunteer in many and various roles before, during, and after each of our liturgies. And thank you again, Peggy!



The Olive Branch

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Jim Harbaugh; Julia Adams; Cathy Bosworth; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Brad Holt; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Steve Lenius; Carla Manuel; Jude Mostek; Rhoda Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Russ Pearson; Robin Rayfield; Pariann Schenk; Brenda Turner, John Wall; James Wilkes; Rhonda Fish, friend of Andrew Andersen; Randy Stiegmann and Gerry Coleman, stepfather and friend of Jim Bargmann; Cassandra Thompson, friend of Al Bostelmann; 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; Marilyn Volker, sister of Allen Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Jon Jrocki, friend of David Engen; Joyce Schoenfield, sister of Marilyn Gebauer; Yvonne McCool, sister of Victor Gebauer; Joe & Brenda Patnaude, friends of Tom Graves & Ginny Agresti; Philip, husband of Bjorn Gustafson; 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; Gina and Laura, aunts of Vicar Mollie Hamre; Cat Robinette, friend of Emily Hellerich; Quentin Hamilton, friend of Judy Hinck; Ethan Holtmeier, grandson of Patsy & John Holtmeier; Steve Horsfield, friend of Mount Olive; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Michael Uthe and Marcy Reaves, friends of Mary Rose Kaliher; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Brad Krider, friend of Rachel Meurett; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Sandy Nelson, daughter of Rhoda Nelson and sister of Sherry Nelson; Stan & Darlene Nelson, parents of Brad Nelson; Tim Gaudineer, relative of George & Marlys Oelfke; Jennie Kobylinski, niece of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Chris Hoff, cousin of Cynthia Prosek; Jolie Melana Meshbesh, friend of Robin Rayfield; John Seboldt, brother of Gayle & Ken Schulz; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Greta Sterner, daughter of Martha Sterner and sister of Kate; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone;

Keith Van Ee, father of Tricia Van Ee Molbert; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Carol Ann Wall and Rachel Wall, wife and daughter of John Wall; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; Pat Faunce, friend of Eric Zander; Barbara C. Johnson, friend of Mount Olive.

In hospice care: Leila Froehlich; Carolyn Mowery.

At the death of: Carol Schulz, sister-in-law of Gayle & Ken Schulz.

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.