

# The Olive Branch

February 8, 2024



## Sunday Readings

**February 12, 2023**  
*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

**February 19, 2023**  
*Transfiguration of Our Lord*

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

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

## Accent on Worship

*Jim Bargmann*

This past year, I raised what I am convinced was the world's slowest tomato plant. I live in a townhome, so traditional gardening is not a possibility for me, but I enjoy raising some of my own vegetables and herbs in a container garden on my patio. I planted this particular tomato seedling right on time, watered it faithfully, ensured it had warmth and sun though the spring and summer, anxiously anticipating my fresh tomato crop. But no. The plant grew and grew and by all accounts seemed healthy. But no blossoms. Until very late in the growing season. The impending cold of the fall forced me to bring the plant indoors and it took up residence in front of my south facing patio door until November - when I was finally able to enjoy my crop of fresh tomatoes.

In our Second Reading for this coming Sunday, Paul writes, *"What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."* (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).

I love Paul's analogy of ministry to agriculture because it provides a powerful reminder. Like a growing plant, ministry can sometimes be slow. Ministry can sometime involve multiple ministers from a variety of backgrounds. This fact is true in all

*continued on page 2*



## 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, or to volunteer, call or email:

Elaine Halbardier

763-639-7702

[ech914@comcast.net](mailto:ech914@comcast.net)

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## Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

ministry work - but I find to be particularly true when other factors such as addiction, mental health challenges, economic hardships, racism, emotional, physical, or spiritual abuse are a part of the story. These factors, along with many others, can block people from the ability to experience God's love in its fullness and complicate the ability of God's ministers (gardeners?) to make a difference.

In the world of Christian teaching and ministry, thousands of stories are told of God's love being profoundly demonstrated in the lives of the hurting, the homeless, the hungry and the difference that care can make in the lives of others. But I think what is too often left out of those stories is how long those relationships can take to bear fruit. But just like my tomato plant, there is often growth, even if the fruit is slow to come.

Keep loving, keep ministering, fellow gardeners.

- Jim Bargmann



## Calendar

### Wednesday, February 8

- 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 9

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, February 10

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

### Saturday, February 11

- 10:00 am Book Discussion Group

### Sunday, February 12 - 6<sup>th</sup> 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 13

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online)

### Tuesday, February 14

- Noon Bible Study

## 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](#).

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## 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!

## Lent Begins.

*Ash Wednesday  
February 22*

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

*All are welcome.*

## Contact Information for Interim Pastor Paul Hoffman

email: [paulhoffman56@gmail.com](mailto:paulhoffman56@gmail.com)

Cell: 206.972.9995





## 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.

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## 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](mailto:gregRmurphy@gmail.com)

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## 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!

### 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.



## Upcoming Education Topics

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

**February 19 & 26:** A 2-session series led by Mount Olive member and Minnesota historian, John Crippen:

- **February 19:** *"What is Mount Olive's place in Mni Sota Makoce?"* 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:** 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:** *"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 338<sup>th</sup> trip around the sun.

**March 26:** TBA

**April 2 & 9:** No Forum

This Coming Week, We Will Wonder:

**Circle One:** Parable of the Mustard Seed  
**Circle Two:** Parable of the Leaven

*I wonder what conversations you will have at home!*

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



## A Neighborhood Ministry Communication Note

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*

#### **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/4ztnmsp9>

### *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.

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## **It's a BIG WIN - Thank You!**

Thank you to all of you who wrote, called, or signed a petition in the last four years to urge Minnesota to commit to using clean energy. In January our legislature passed and our governor signed the 100% clean energy bill. It took the dogged work of many partners, including our ministry partner Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light. Now, of course, comes the hard part--getting those commitments reflected in the budget bills.

Your advocacy makes a difference! Stay tuned for more on how you can be part of the climate justice solution.





## 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>.

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## Congregational Life Happenings

*Mount Olive life together:*

**March 12:** Taste of Afghanistan. Good food and good friends! Meet our NEW friends: the Afghan family we sponsored last year.

**April 23:** Mount Olive tour of Native American Art at MIA.

**May 21:** Walking tour of Dakota sacred sites.

**Sometime this spring (Date TBD):** Adult AND Pediatric CPR/AED/First Aid training.  
Opportunities to serve:

**Cook a meal with friends, for friends:** get some willing hands together to cook a meal for our neighbors who live at Our Saviour’s shelter down the street. Elaine Halbardier has the details: [ech914@comcast.net](mailto:ech914@comcast.net).

**Coffee hour hosts needed** - mentoring provided. Sign up near the coffee pots!

**Occasional transportation help:** Let Lora know if you can *occasionally* provide a ride to church for one of our church family: [conglife@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org).

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## 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](http://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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