



# The Olive Branch

February 15, 2024

## Sunday Readings

**February 19, 2023**

*Transfiguration  
of Our Lord*

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

**February 26, 2023**

*First Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

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

## Accent on Worship

*Cantor David Cherwien*

We're on the verge.

This Sunday marks a transition – from the nativity cycle into a liturgical season which says, “So, what are you going to DO with this birth of Christ in you?”

Our lectionary places Transfiguration Sunday at this transition. It's the narrative of Christ on the Mountain Peak, with disciples Peter, James, and John. There was a vision of Jesus glowing mystically, and the appearance of Moses and Elijah talking with him. It's also one of two accounts where the “heavens” proclaim “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased” (the first of those being at the Baptism of Jesus). Following this scene, they then went down from the mountain to face the crucifixion.

We, too, come down off the mountain to enter the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday next week. It most likely isn't for our conviction/crucifixion, but perhaps a death of sorts. A death which precedes new life. We remember that we are dust, but that death is not the end, but rather a beginning, giving way to a new life.

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

Lent is not just a long remembrance of Jesus's death on the cross as it is the death of our old selves giving birth to new life as Baptized people of God – in whom God is well pleased. Lent is a time for us to reflect about what that means to live in the world as baptized people, and Lent is a time to prepare: getting ready to say “I do” when we re-affirm our being Baptized in the Great Vigil of Easter. Lent is a time for us to say, “How am I doing in that regard?” It is definitely a time for us to look inward, in order to guide our outward living. What is truly important? Where can I grow? How can I help? What can I let go of? (Quite a bit, I suspect if we really looked hard).

Maybe you decide to give up watermelon these five weeks as a path to growing in being of Christ. But it might also help to reflect, pray, gather with others in the same process for support and prayer (midweek liturgy). Our Sunday liturgies become starker, as we fast in several ways. Our praise word, “Alleluia,” is removed as a fast from celebrations, for example. We use the Great Thanksgiving from setting 5, which is mostly unaccompanied. Everything is a little more subdued, simpler. This will not only allow more introspection; it also will increase the intensity of our Resurrection celebrations.

The invitation is there: enter this time with some intentionality. Reflect on what it means to be a baptized child of God, and at the Vigil of Easter, when asked, respond with an informed and intentional: “I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.”

- Cantor David Cherwien

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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 1:** Adult AND Pediatric CPR/AED/First Aid training.

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

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

### 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).



# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, February 15

- 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 16

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, February 17

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

### Sunday, February 19 - Transfiguration of Our Lord

- 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
- 12:30 pm Y4 Confirmation

### Monday, February 20

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online)

### Tuesday, February 21

- Noon Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Comm. mt.
- 6:30 pm Feminine Divine Study group

## Lent Begins.

*Ash Wednesday*  
*February 22*

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

*All are welcome.*

## 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 March 11 meeting, they will read *These Precious Days*, by Ann Patchett, and for April 15, *The Bohemian Flats*, by Mary Relindes Ellis.

The Mount Olive book group has been meeting once a month for 20 years, usually on the second Saturday from 10am to noon. While the book selections are predominately novels, they are not always so. Lately the group has been using Zoom to provide remote access to the sessions. If you would like to participate in the group, you can either attend the monthly sessions which meet at the church or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here.](#)

The names of the books for the two upcoming sessions are published in *The Olive Branch*, along with instructions for joining via Zoom. If you would like a list of the books the group has read, make a request at the church office along with your email address.



## Call for Palms! One More Sunday

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 following the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday (February 21) to make ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday services on February 22.

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## Give Now to Earthquake Relief

At its last meeting, the Mount Olive Global Ministry team committed \$3,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response to be designated for earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria. The need is simply overwhelming, and we are moved to action and prayer.

Please join us. Either use the link (in blue) below or give to Mount Olive with a blue envelope, marking the check and envelope for Earthquake Relief.

Lutheran Disaster Response will earmark your gifts specifically for Middle East disaster relief. In ministry together, Global Ministry Committee.

[ELCA Middle East Disaster Relief](#)

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## 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)



## Upcoming Education Topics

**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.

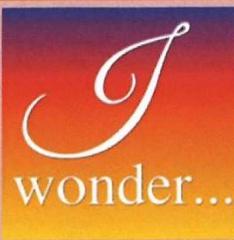
- **February 26:** We will look at how another church addressed the issue of land acknowledgement and our relationship with the Native people. A facilitated discussion about initial ideas Mount Olive might be interested in pursuing will follow along with a conversation as to speakers who could help us 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



# GODLY PLAY

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This Coming Week, We Will Wonder:

Circle One: Parable of the Sower  
Circle Two: Parable of Parables

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

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

## Soup and Bread Makers Needed for Lent

Sign up to cook and serve a pot of soup for Wednesdays in Lent. Two meals are served: the first after the noon liturgy (about 25 people), and one prior to Evening Prayer (about 15 people). You may choose to provide soup and bread for both meals on a Wednesday, or just one meal.

For more information, contact Lora at [conglife@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org), or 651/645-6636. A sign-up sheet is located next to the coffee serving window.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 21 – 6:00 pm

All are invited to come to this fun gathering – a last hurrah before we begin the 40 days of Lent! In a brief rite following the Pancake Supper, we will gather outside to burn palm branches from last year’s Palm Sunday services. These ashes will be used to mark our foreheads the following day, Ash Wednesday.

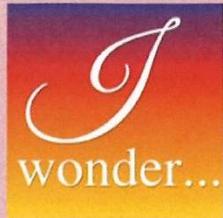


**Families, children present at this Sunday's second service (Sun., Feb. 19, 10:45 a.m.) will help Mount Olive "bury" the Alleluia banner for another Lenten season.**

## 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.



# GODLY PLAY

## **Opportunities for Youth and Adults to Serve our Youngest Faithful!**

Mount Olive will host trainings with Rev. Suzanne Burke for youth and adults to learn how to shepherd and wonder along with our young ones. We have a core of dedicated storytellers and doorpersons who serve and they would love some more colleagues to join their ranks! See below for two opportunities to join this deep and joyful ministry team:

### **Doorperson Training: (3 contact hours): Sunday, March 5: 1-4pm**

The doorperson greets the children by name at the door, and serves as a quiet and gentle presence throughout the Godly Play session. This is a quick and easy training that will be sure to get you hooked on Godly Play! (lunch will be provided)

### **Core Training to be a Storyteller: (18 contact hours)**

Over the course of three days (minimum 18 contact hours), participants experience all aspects of the Godly Play method and begin to become fluent in the Godly Play core stories and fundamental practices. Additionally, Godly Play's guiding Theology of Childhood is introduced, so participants become more deeply connected to their work. Core training follows an action/reflection model of learning with a mixture of trainer-led presentations and participant storytelling presentations. Core training plenary presentations cover: the Spirituality of the Child, Setting up a Godly Play Environment and Supporting the Circle of Children.

**Friday, April 21: 4:30-9:30pm (dinner provided)**

**Saturday, April 22: 8:30am-6pm (meals provided)**

**Sunday, April 23: 1-6pm (lunch provided)**

Mount Olive will pay the registration costs for any from our congregation who wish to register. [Click here for the full training flyer.](#)

Can't attend the training but still want to be involved? Donate a meal (or two!) for the workshop attendees!

Contact Bekah Schulz to help or with any questions about Godly Play or these training sessions: [deutschgirl@gmail.com](mailto:deutschgirl@gmail.com) or by phone, 651-399-2990.



# The Olive Branch

*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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## **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>.

## **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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- **Congregational Life Happenings**
- **Soup Makers Needed for Lenten Lunches and Suppers**
- **Book Discussion Group: Now Available by Zoom**
- **February Partner of the Month: Walk-In Counseling Center**
- **Upcoming Education Themes for Children and Adults**
- **MFA Lent Procession: Feb. 26., 4 pm**