

The Olive Branch

March 15, 2023

Sunday Readings

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

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

Accent on Worship

Vicar Mollie Hamre

Daylight savings occurred this past Sunday leaving me feeling drained and tired Monday morning. I could not help but smirk as I read the text for this week from Ephesians 5:14 with Paul quoting:

"Sleeper, awake!

*Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."*

As the sun begins to shine longer and longer, we reflect on our Lenten journeys. On my drive, I had realized that I had adapted to the sun being out on my morning commute. But this morning, the sun was just rising on my way in, reminding me of the beautiful sunrises I have been missing. While some days this waking from sleep may feel like sleepily getting out of bed, moving, and seeing the sun quietly appear, it is also a physical reminder that each morning Christ calls to us through the sunlight coming on the horizon. We awake with hope of snow thawing and being greeted by the sun's warmth. The reminder that we are approaching Spring as well as Christ's dying and rising.

At the beginning of Ephesians, Paul writes: "Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light," Ephesians 5:8. We have passed the mid-point of Lent and I wonder about the ways

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

I am beginning to thaw. The ways I am emotionally defrosting from the harsh winter storms, loosening the barriers that I carry, and opening up to those around me. Paul tells us: “you *are* light.” What does that mean for you in our last weeks of Lent and going forward? What are your hopes for the coming of Spring? And where does our Triune God call you amidst them?

Awake children of God and see the sun, Christ shines on you.

- Vicar Mollie Hamre

In Case You Missed It....

John Crippen’s two-part Adult Forum presentation on Native Dakota homelands is now available on YouTube. To find them, go to our YouTube page, (Mount Olive Lutheran Church Minneapolis), or click on the links below.

Part 1 - <https://youtu.be/nPI7VzZBbjw>

Part 2 - <https://youtu.be/c0hSZvxTFOk>

Upcoming Celebrations

There will be a farewell celebration for Pr. Hoffman after second liturgy on March 26. During Adult Forum that day, Pr. Hoffman will talk with us about his three months here at Mount Olive. Plan to take a moment after church to thank Pastor Hoffman for his work among us and to wish him well.

Easter Vigil and festive reception, Saturday, April 7, 8:30 p.m.

Easter Carry-In Brunch: On Easter morning, we will celebrate ONE liturgy at 10 a.m., preceded by a carry-in brunch at 9. Bring your favorite breakfast food to share!

Coffee Hosts Needed!

Sign up to host coffee hour in the coming weeks – we are seriously undersubscribed at the moment. Training is provided, if needed, and help with preparing the coffee and cleaning up is also provided.

It’s easy – why not take a turn?

Calendar

Wednesday, March 15

- 9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*
1:00 pm Soup Luncheon
1:00 pm ALIGN Mpls. meeting
5:30 pm Children's & Youth Choirs Supper
6:00 pm Children's & Youth Choirs rehearsals
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Lenten Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, March 16

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, March 17

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

Sunday, March 19 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 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
4:00 pm MFA Event: Billy McLaughlin and members of Simple Gifts

Monday, March 20

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online) for kids aged birth-kindergarten+caregiver

Tuesday, March 21

- Noon Bible Study
6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Comm.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in Lent

Holy Eucharist at Noon,
followed by Soup Luncheon

Vespers at 7:00 pm,
preceded by Soup Supper at 6 pm

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 April 15 meeting, postponed one week because of Easter, the group will read *The Bohemian Flats*, by Mary Relindes Ellis. For the May 13 meeting they will read *Stoner*, by John Williams.

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](#).



**This Sunday, March 19
4:00 pm**

Billy McLaughlin with Members of Simple Gifts

Billy McLaughlin is recognized as an innovative performer and composer who embraces the advantages of acoustic guitar amplification, unorthodox techniques, and altered tunings while celebrating a gift for melody.

His enormous yet fluid acoustic guitar tone has carried him around the world to Billboard's Top 10 chart and most recently through a devastating medical disorder called focal dystonia. McLaughlin has had to relearn the guitar lefthanded and is in the early stages of what might be described as "one of the great musical comeback stories of all time." His story is the subject of an award-winning documentary film, "Changing Keys: Billy McLaughlin and the Mysteries of Dystonia."

Keeping Us Safe!



You will see white receptacles like these throughout the building now- in the nave, the hallways, Chapel Lounge, Godly Play rooms. These are "Tamper-Proof Receptacles," designed to prevent accidental contact with 110 volt electricity by the unsuspecting, especially children. One cannot insert a metal object into the "hot" side of the receptacle which is blocked. It will only allow entry by a two or three prong plug.



Here is Jose, hard at work!

Upcoming Education Topics

March 19: *"J. S. Bach: A Musical Theologian,"* presented by Mount Olive member, Art Halbardier. Luther's friend, Johann Walther, wrote, "Music and theology are the gift of God. God has finely clothed music in the outer-garment of theology." Three centuries later, Johann Sebastian Bach pursued a mirror reflection of Walther's idea: "Theology finely clothed in the outer-garment of music." Though Bach never wrote a book or scholarly essay about theology, his theology and deep faith were the foundation of his marvelous religious compositions.

(This presentation was originally scheduled for Adult Forum on March 15, 2020. That weekend the Covid outbreak forced the cancellation of in-person gathering for worship and education for the following 15 months. At last, its time has come!)

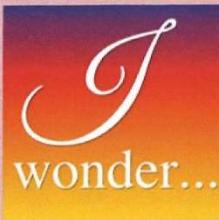
March 26: *"With Fresh Eyes,"* presented by Interim Pastor Paul E. Hoffman.

Pastor Hoffman will offer an adult education reflection -- *With Fresh Eyes* -- on his last day with us here at Mount Olive. During this time together, he will share with us the observations about our ministry at Mount Olive. Woven around passages of Scripture, these reflections will be offered as a gift for us to take forward after spending these three months together. *Love one another deeply from the heart...* (I Peter 1:22)

Not Sitting Very Pretty in the West Assembly

Have you noticed that the 15-year-old sofas in the West Assembly area are showing wear and tear? Two of our members have offered to purchase one of the sofas needed, but there is an opportunity for others to donate funds to purchase a second one so we have matching items. If you can assist please note on your check that the amount is for the "West Assembly sofa fund."

Any amount is greatly appreciated.



GODLY PLAY

This Coming Week, We Will Wonder:

Circle One: Jesus & Zaccheus
Circle Two: Faces of Easter 5

I wonder what conversations you will have at home!

Please note that we hold Godly Play every Sunday at 9:30am!
(There will be no Godly Play on April 2 & 9, 2023.)

Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter at Mount Olive

Monday-Wednesday, April 3-5: Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week

+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave,
near the columbarium

Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday

+ Holy Eucharist, Noon
+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 7: Good Friday

+ Stations of the Cross, Noon
+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

Saturday, April 8: Holy Saturday

+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception

Sunday, April 9: The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day

+ ONE Festival Holy Eucharist at 10 am (note schedule!)
Carry-in Brunch before the Eucharist, beginning at 9:00 am.
(bring a dish to share!)



Many Thanks to All

Many thanks to all who made our Taste of Afghanistan a success. We learned much from Naser (from the Afghan Cultural Society) and Anita during the education hour, and then we got to meet and party with the whole family (Mustafa, Anita, Milad and children).



Anita gave her nod of approval to our thirty cooks who took her recipes and made a wonderful Afghan feast. We have more to learn and more to share with this gracious family.

If you would like to join our work in any way, please send an email to <mailto:global@mountolivechurch.org>. And if you would like to contribute to the Mount Olive Afghan Family fund, you may do so with a clearly marked blue envelope or check.

March Neighborhood Ministries Partners of the Month: *Sabathani Community Center and Community Emergency Service*

In March, we highlight two of our partners that work on issues of food insecurity in our south Minneapolis community as a part of the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, a state-wide initiative intended to bring together “organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals” to raise awareness about the issue of food insecurity and support for local food programs.

“**Sabathani Community Center** is one of Minnesota’s oldest African American-founded nonprofits... [and] helps equip approximately 32,000 South Minneapolis residents annually” though their food shelf, clothes closet, seniors programs, workforce initiatives, support for school-age children, and more.

Community Emergency Service or CES, works to alleviate hunger and food insecurity through an on-site food shelf, food delivery programs, a partnership with Meals on Wheels, and it’s unique Ani-Meals program, providing food for pets and service animals.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partners 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.

In addition, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items in the cart located in the West Assembly to be divided between our two food shelf partners. However, for those who are able, we strongly encourage monetary donations. Because our food shelf partners have access discounts and bulk purchase opportunities not available to regular consumers, monetary donations to our partners allows them to purchase much more food for the same cost.

For more information about the work of the Sabathani Community Center, please visit their website at sabathani.org. For more information about CES, please visit cesmn.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

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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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