

The Olive Branch

December 6, 2023



Sunday Readings

December 10, 2023

*Second Sunday in Advent,
year B*

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 17, 2023

*Third Sunday in Advent,
year B*

Isaiah 64:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

Accent on Worship *Pastor Joseph Crippen*

Religious and spiritual

There's something important Advent can teach us about religion. The word comes from Latin, and the Romans used the term as we do, in the same contexts. But its etymological root, "religio," is curious. The word "ligio" gave us "ligament" in English; it's a word of connection, linkage. Ligaments join muscles and bones and help them work together. "Re-ligio," religion, in its deepest sense, is "reconnecting," "relinking." Religion links us together. Links us with God.

Religion can and has been corrupted by human beings of nearly every culture and faith to become a system which tries to control the divine, or control people, or any number of evil things. There's a reason people today often say they're "spiritual, not religious."

But what if we claim that deeper root? One of Advent's central hopes is that God *has* come, *is* coming, and *will continue to come* and be with us. What if religion was our life of connection to God's coming and our connection to each other? Our prayer, our liturgy, our song, our proclamation of God's Word, all "re-ligament" us to God's coming into this world and our lives together.

That's a spirituality worth praying for this Advent, a "re-ligamenting," a true religion connecting us with the Triune God and each other in the saving and healing life God is bringing to this world.

Mount Olive Youth and Family Christmas Party

Date/time: Sunday, December 17, 2023, after church 12:30-3:00

Location: Downstairs kitchen area at Mount Olive

What to bring: A potluck item to share for lunch with other families.

We plan to stay after church to have lunch and to bake and decorate cookies. Feel free to come for any time period that works for your family after church until approximately 3:00. Hope to see you there!

National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival This Weekend

New Hope: Finding light in unexpected places

In Person Concerts at the Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis

Friday, December 8 - 4:30pm

Saturday, December 9 - 1:30pm and 8:00pm

Call the NLC office at 612-722-2301 for information.

Livestream

Saturday, December 9th - 1:30pm CT Free to all | Visit [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com) to watch!

Update on Sexton Responsibilities

The Property Committee has worked to ensure that the duties of the sexton role are covered as we head into the snow season. At this point we have two contractors who will be providing basic cleaning and snow removal services.

Cleaning Services

Q-Pro Cleaning, LLC provides 25 hours of cleaning services per week. They have been in business for 20 years and do work for multiple organizations. Lizardo Quito, owner of Q-Pro Cleaning has assigned his staff person, Elizabeth, to Mount Olive. She is here five days per week and takes care of all the basic cleaning needs. If you see her, please greet her, but know that she has limited English.

Snow Removal

John Rennie, CJ Moving, has been contracted to do the snow removal for six months beginning in November. This team will be doing the north and south parking lots, sidewalks, and steps. John does the same work for Park Avenue Methodist and All God's Children, lives in the neighborhood, and has easy access to our property. When John's team is not doing winter snow removal, they do office furniture moves and installation. If you have any questions or concerns about the cleaning or snow removal, please inform the staff or a Property Committee member.

What's Missing? A Building Keeper Role

In past years before the sexton worked on Sundays Mount Olive had a building keeper role in place. That person ensured that the building was open, closed, and secured on days that there were services. If you would be willing to assist with this role, please contact Carol Martinson via email at Property@mountolivechurch.org or 612-708-9849.

Calendar

Wednesday, December 6

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm *Advent Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, December 7

- 5:30 pm Feminine Divine Study Group
6:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, December 8

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, December 9

- 10:00 am Book Discussion

Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am** *Holy Eucharist*, followed by Scandinavian Coffee Hour
9:30 am Education for all ages (Godly Play, Adult Forum)
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by Scandinavian Coffee Hour
12:30 pm Youth Justice conversation

Monday, December 11

- Noon Bible Study
5:30 pm Family Music Time (online)
7:00 pm Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A. group)

Tuesday, December 12

- Noon Bible Study
6:30 pm Native Justice Committee meeting

Wednesday, December 13

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm *Advent Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Staff Christmas Gifts

As is our tradition, this is the time of year that we gather monetary gifts for our church staff. If you would like to contribute, please either use the offering envelope provided especially for this, or simply note "staff gifts" on your check/envelope and send it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please have the gifts in by December 17.

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 their December 9 meeting, the group will read *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee, and for January 13, they will read *Lost Colony: The Hennepin Island Murders*, by Steve Berg.

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 in person or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smart phone, [click here](#).

Midweek Advent Worship

Midweek Evening Prayer will be prayed each Wednesday evening during Advent (Dec. 6, 13, and 20), at 7:00 pm.

All are welcome.

December Adult Forums

December 3, 10 and 17:
“Credo,” a three-part study presented by Pastor Crippen. This series will look at the way we declare our faith publicly in creeds in worship, how we are bound (or not) to those creeds, and what it means for our worship life and our life in the world. We’ll also consider the three ecumenical creeds that our confessions and constitution claim are our heritage and part of our foundation, at their strengths and weaknesses, and consider their use in our liturgy. Additionally, we’ll explore the growing field of alternate creeds.

There will be no Adult Forum on December 24.

Conspiracy vs. The Bible: Monday/Thursday Bible Study Continues

This month, Vicar Mildahl is leading a six-session Bible Study looking closely at common elements of modern American conspiracy theories that are drawn from a Christian worldview, such as the Devil, the end times, Jewish people, and Christian nationalism. We'll be comparing the conspiracy theory versions of these ideas with what the Bible actually says and discussing how faithful believers ought to respond and speak the truth in love.

Two identical sessions are offered each week: Mondays at noon (note the change, not Fridays) and Thursdays at 6pm. You are welcome to join in person or via Zoom. Monday participants, feel free to bring your lunch. Thursday nights will include a light supper. Contact vicar@mountolivechurch.org if you have any questions!

[Click here](#) to join the Zoom meeting for either the Monday or Thursday sessions.

Scandinavian Coffee Hour This Sunday, December 10

Calling all Scandinavians, Nordics, and friends!

Do you have a holiday treat you would be able to share? Does it have a special story? Please bring your treat to either (or both) coffee hours this Sunday, December 10. Join us for coffee, lefse, herring, krumkake, rosettes, almond cake, sweet soup, rommergrot, and more!

Save the Date!

Friday, December 29, 7:00 p.m.: Grown-Up Movie Night at Mount Olive.

Start your New Year’s celebration with a movie with Mount Olive friends. Movie title to be announced soon.

December Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: Tubman

A statement from the Tubman website powerfully articulates their mission and purpose: "For more than 45 years, Tubman has helped people of all ages, all genders, and all cultural backgrounds struggling with relationship violence, substance abuse, mental health, and other forms of trauma. Throughout the Twin Cities, Tubman provides safe shelter, legal services, counseling, youth programming, and community education. In 2022, we helped about 17,700 people in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties and the surrounding area get the support and information they need to experience safety, hope, and healing."

Tubman has become a vital partner in the work of Mount Olive, working in areas that contrast many of our own programs and providing a valuable referral site for those struggling with relational violence and mental health issues.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute 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 Tubman, please visit their website at www.tubman.org.

Continued Youth Justice Conversation

At the end of August, the Neighborhood Ministry Committee hosted a conversation with younger members of Mount Olive on the topic of justice. We facilitated a conversation with a small group of those in our younger generation about what they would define as justice, what they are currently doing to work for justice, and which aspects of justice work they would like to pursue in the future.

At that gathering, we promised the conversation would continue. All those who were a part of that conversation, along with any other 11-18 year olds, are invited to join us to work on further developing these ideas and making them reality. That conversation will happen on Sunday, December 10, at 12:30 pm. Lunch will be provided.

Christmas Day Coffee

There will be no carry-in brunch for the 10 a.m. Christmas Day liturgy. However, if you would like to make coffee and bring in treats for after the service, you may sign up on the chart next to the coffee window in the East Assembly Room.

Christmas Worship Schedule, with Revised Sundays

This year Christmas Eve lands on the same Sunday as the Fourth Sunday of Advent. For both Sunday, Dec. 24, and Sunday, Dec. 31, we will have a **single liturgy** in the morning, at 10:00 a.m. Our Christmas season schedule remains the same otherwise: Eucharist at 4:00 and 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve, 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day, 10:00 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 1, the Name of Jesus, and Epiphany Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6.

GIFTS THAT GIVE

The Global Ministry Committee is hosting a Gifts that Give sale where you can buy Christmas gifts that also give back. Stop by the west assembly room between or after the liturgies on December 3, 10 and 17. You can use cash, check or credit card.



ADVENT GIVING TREE. Choose an ornament to represent a gift supporting one of Mount Olive's ministry partners. We have ornaments from ELCA Good Gifts, Bethania Kids in India, Common Hope in Guatemala, the Diaper Depot, and Lutheran World Relief.



TRAVELING TIENDA (STORE). Common Hope, one of Mount Olive's sponsored ministries, is bringing a Guatemalan market to us. Support Common Hope's education, health care, housing, and family development programming by purchasing Guatemalan artisan made gifts. This little market has ornaments, toys and beautiful textiles available for purchase.



EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS. Fair trade coffee, cocoa and chocolate, and dates are available for purchase. Equal Exchange builds long term partnerships with small farmers and co-ops around the world to bring economically just and environmentally sound products to consumers.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists:

8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

Fax: 612/827-4557

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Lauren Mildahl*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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