



# The Olive Branch

January 3, 2024

**Accent on Worship**  
*Jim Bargmann*

## Sunday Readings

**January 7, 2024**

*The Baptism of Our Lord,  
year B*

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

**January 14, 2024**

*Second Sunday after Epiphany  
year B*

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

*Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.*

*- Isaiah 60:1*

The first reading assigned for the Feast of Epiphany begins with a verse that contains far more than its 17 words might initially indicate. One of my favorite Scripture passages from very early in my life, there's so much here.

Perhaps part of the power here for me is that very first line. Immediately, upon reading those words, my mind pictures a sunrise. With very little doubt, a sunrise is my favorite visual phenomenon. The early glow of the sky announces the appearing sun, the soft bright orange of the sun's refracted light, the spreading glow though the sky, and then the effects of the beautiful, tinted light as it strikes any object in its path.

It is perhaps that last effect that seems most applicable to this passage of Scripture.

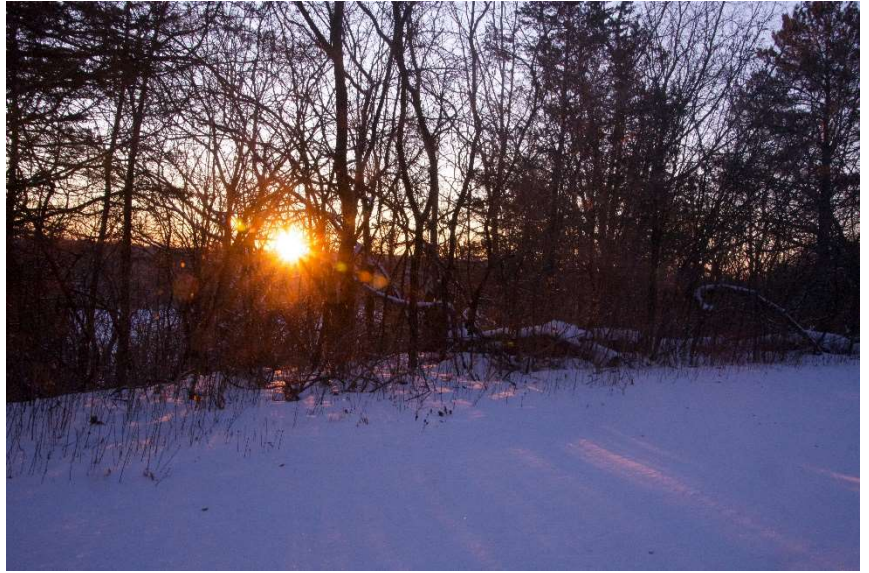
Isaiah commands us to shine because the very glory (something marked by beauty or resplendence, a distinguished quality or asset) of God has risen upon us. It is not our responsibility to shine on our own - that is something we are incapable of. But God's own glory, God's love, God's power, God's wisdom, shines upon

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

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us. And like objects in the path of a sunrise, we reflect that light back, spreading and magnifying the beauty of God himself. Further considering a sunrise, objects struck by the light of the rising sun do not cease to be what they are; rather, their existing characteristics are intensified, glorified if you will, by the warm light of the sun. So it is with us. Our qualities, our gifts, our abilities, our talents, reflect God's characteristics in their own unique way, making our world a more beautiful place.



So arise, shine, dear friends. It is God's very glory that you and I reflect to all those around us.

- *Jim Bargmann*

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## **Cookies, Bars, and Treats: January 7**

This Sunday, January 7, the late coffee hour will appreciate your extra baking efforts and/or your purchase power.

Bring your extra holiday treats for coffee hour after the second liturgy! Carol Austermann and Margaret Bostelmann will gladly host!

## Calendar

### Wednesday, December 20

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 21

6:00 p.m. Bible Study  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, December 22

7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Sunday, December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

**10:00 am** *Holy Eucharist, Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
**4:00 pm** *Christmas Eve Eucharist*  
**9:30 pm** *Christmas Eve Choral Prelude*  
**10:00 pm** *Christmas Eve Eucharist*

### Monday, December 25

**10:00 pm** *Christmas Day Festival Eucharist*  
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

### Tuesday, December 26

Noon Bible Study (Zoom only)

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## Thank you, thank you!

Many thanks to the people of Mount Olive for the generous Christmas gifts we received, and for all your kindness and support throughout the year! You are Christ to us in so many ways, and we are deeply grateful for you in our lives.

Blessings and peace to you all in this new year in God's care!

– The staff of Mount Olive: Jim Bargmann, David Cherwien, Joseph Crippen, Lauren Mildahl, and Cha Posz.

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## 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 their January 13 meeting, the Book Discussion Group will read *Lost Colony: The Hennepin Island Murders*, by Mount Olive member Steve Berg. For the February 10 meeting they will read *Of Human Bondage*, by W. Somerset Maugham.

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](#).



## Genre-jumping Trumpet & Organ Recital at Mount Olive

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts presents  
*American Nomad* and *The Modern Hymn Project*

The magnificent Schlicker pipe organ at Mount Olive will get a different kind of workout on **Sunday, January 28 at 4:00 pm**. Instead of a classical concert, Mount Olive will host two outstanding Minnesota musicians to present *American Nomad* and *The Modern Hymn Project*. Mount Olive Cantor David Cherwien teams up with acclaimed Minnesota Orchestra trumpeter Charles Lazarus for an evening of exciting and virtuosic music making. At the center of the genre-jumping performance will be the performance of *American Nomad*, a classical/jazz hybrid concerto for trumpet written by Emmy Award-winning composer, Steve Heitzeg. The program will include selections from Lazarus's latest recording of modern takes on hymns and spirituals along with classical favorites. For more information about *American Nomad* and *The Modern Hymn Project*, visit [www.AdventBrevard.org](http://www.AdventBrevard.org).



Juilliard trained Charles Lazarus is a respected orchestral soloist, composer and bandleader. "There are very few classical trumpet concertos that incorporate jazz improvisation as an integral part of the work," said Lazarus. "American Nomad melds cool jazz and a contemporary cinematic flair. I hear it as a hipster's coast to coast journey that captures elements of many American musical styles."

Organist, composer, conductor and clinician, David Cherwien is delighted to be artistically stretched. "In addition to piano improvisation, I am doing a couple of organ pieces: In Dir ist Freude, by Bach, and my own "Prelude and Toccata on 'Of the Father's Love Begotten,'" said Cherwien. "We have been having much fun preparing this program - it's quite different and probably the most diverse program I've ever participated in!"

[Check out American Nomad on YouTube](#) - Charles Lazarus and the Minnesota Orchestra: .

## 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, which in the last year has served a vital role in providing housing for those experiencing homelessness who have recently been released from the hospital. In addition, they provide 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](mailto:ech914@comcast.net).

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## Ordination of Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero

Former Mount Olive member, Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, will be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada next Saturday, January 13, 2024, 3:00 pm PST.

Kyle's ordination will take place at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. He has been called to serve in his current professorship at Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP at: <https://smlc.live/kylersvp>  
The service will be livestreamed on that day: <https://smlc.live/kylelivestream>

## The Celebration Continues!

**The Epiphany of Our Lord: This Saturday, January 6, 2024**

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

**The Baptism of Our Lord: This Sunday, January 7, 2024**

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

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### Upcoming Adult Forums

**This Sunday, January 7:** “All things Ordinary: The Primary Canticles of the Liturgy,” presented by Cantor Cherwien

What are they? Why do we sing them? What is their “place” among the things that we sing each week? When do we sing them (seasonal application)? What sources do we have for them (where do they come from)? These include the Kyrie, Hymn of Praise, Gospel Acclamation, The Great Thanksgiving (with Sanctus), Lamb of God, Nunc Dimittis.

This will be a discussion more along the practical lines, with some historical side information.

**January 14 & 21:** “The Presence of Your Absence is Everywhere: The Feminine Divine in Our Tradition,” presented by Teresa Rothausen

This two-week presentation will provide deeper understanding of the need for a balanced perception of God and a panel of the Feminine Divine class participants sharing their insights and realizations.

**January 28:** Johan Baumeister, Minneapolis Area Synod Congregational Organizer for Climate Justice will address the critical need for all churches to recognize and respond to the ways climate change is impacting God’s creation, especially considering how the greatest polluters are impacting smaller undeveloped nations who contribute little to the problem.

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## 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**

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Web: [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://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.*

### **In This Issue:**

- **Accent on Worship – Jim Bargmann**
- **The Epiphany of Our Lord: This Saturday, Jan. 6**  
**Epiphany Eucharist at 7 pm**
- **Bring your Christmas Goodies for late coffee hour**  
**This Sunday**
- **A Note of Thanks from the Mount Olive Staff**
- **Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month:**  
**Our Saviour's Community Services**
- **MFA Presents a Trumpet and Organ Recital,**  
**January 28, 4 pm**