

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST,  
AND TO DUST  
YOU SHALL RETURN.”



GENESIS 3:19

## The Olive Branch

February 14, 2024

### Sunday Readings

**February 18, 2024**

*First Sunday in Lent, year B*

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

**February 25, 2024**

*Second Sunday in Lent, year B  
year B*

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

### Accent on Worship

*Jim Bargmann*

In the Gospel reading for this upcoming Sunday, we hear a very short recounting of Jesus' being driven into the wilderness where he was tested by Satan. Matthew and Luke both record much more detail about Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness and much has been written about the specifics and nature of Satan's testing of Jesus. What stands out to me in my reading of these verses is not the testing itself but what Jesus does following the wilderness experience. All three accounts tell us Jesus then went to Galilee to share the good news about the closeness and reality of God's reign. I do not think it too much of a stretch to say that Jesus' experience with testing informed his ministry. Following experiences that offered Jesus wealth, power, and glory, he went on to share God's love with people who had no wealth, very little power, and certainly not glory or status. Jesus' deep, personal experiences with being offered these things gave him the ability to minister to those who likely faced daily longing for those very same things. And he could offer an alternative. A better way. The way of God.

Daily, I continue to explore how my experiences shape how I minister alongside others. I think it no coincidence that I care deeply for those who struggle to afford housing. I have been there in my life. And so God leads me, within a community of people who share the same desire, to work to eradicate the worry about having a place to live from the lives of those I meet.

*continued on page 2*

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

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

I have experienced the brokenness of divorce. Daily I meet people struggling with the effects of family brokenness. I have known what it feels like to struggle with knowing where I fit, feeling alone even when surrounded by people. And I find myself able to offer a sympathetic ear when someone, with tears on their cheeks, shares how very alone they feel much of the time.

Have you found this to be true in your life as well? Do you find that the very experiences you have had or continue to have are the very ways you connect to others? Perhaps this is part of the way of God's reign. That the Spirit of God in her wisdom brings healing to our lives so that we have the opportunity not to simply bring healing in some generic way, but that we have the opportunity to bring healing in some very specific ways. Those areas in which we have struggled give us the beautiful opportunity to make God's love a reality in the lives of others who share the same struggles. I pray for God's continued healing for me - and for you. And that we would continue to be presented with ways we can be vessels of God's healing for others.

- Jim Bargmann

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## **Looking for Soup Makers**

If you are interested in helping with the soup and bread for one of the Wednesday Lenten Soup Meals, please sign up on the chart provided in the East Assembly Room. Typically, about 25-35 guests attend the midday meal that is served at about 1:00 pm, following the noon Eucharist. The evening meal runs between 10-15 guests and is served at 6 pm, prior to Evening Vespers. All meals are served in the East Assembly Room.

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## **Receiving Ashes on Ash Wednesday – a change**

There are two times a year where we kneel at the altar rail: Ash Wednesday, when we receive ashes on our foreheads; and Maundy Thursday, when we receive absolution individually.

The Worship Committee has been concerned about the challenges for some of our people to climb those stairs each time, and has decided to move the kneeling to the bottom step for both of these liturgies. (A similar move was done last year with the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday.) There will be acolytes to help any who need it, and the kneeling cushions will be across that first step. The hope is that this will enable more to participate, and also remove anxiety about navigating those steps for some. As always, those who do not kneel for health reasons will still have the choice not to kneel here.

## Calendar

### Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday

9:00 am Staff meeting

Noon *Ash Wednesday Eucharist*

*No choir rehearsals this evening*

7:00 pm *Ash Wednesday Eucharist*

### Thursday, February 15

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, February 16

7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Sunday, February 18 – The First Sunday in Lent

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

9:30 am Adult Forum and Godly Play

10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

4:00 pm *MFA Event: Lent Procession*

### Monday, February 19

*No Family Music Time this evening*

7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

### Tuesday, February 20

Noon Bible Study

6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting

## Attention Sunday Servants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2024 (April-June) will be published at the beginning of March. Please send any updates regarding scheduling preferences or conflicts to me by **this Friday, February 16**.

For example, if you prefer assisting with the early or late services, or like to serve for specific holidays or other services, please let me know. Thanks!

- Greg Murphy ([gregmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:gregmurphy@gmail.com))

## 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 March 9 meeting, the Book Discussion group will read *Tom Lake*, by Ann Patchett. For their April 13 meeting, they will read *Mr. Ives' Christmas*, by Oscar Hijuelos.

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](#).

## Attention Children's Choirs

A note from Laurie Richardson Johnson who will be making art with our choristers on Wednesday evenings during Lent, February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20:

### *The Land of Dreams, Songs, and Stories for Hidden Alleluia*

We have now said goodbye to *Alleluia* for the Lenten season. Last Sunday, the children recessed out of the sanctuary with the *Alleluia* banner, snaked through the corridors of the church, down stairways, descending even farther until the *Alleluia* banner reached the geothermal basement. There, in the dark, *Alleluia* will stay throughout Lent until Easter Sunday.

What is it like to wait and stay by oneself in the dark? In the quiet? Is *Alleluia* lonely? Afraid? Bored? Frustrated? How would you feel? For five Wednesdays during choir time, we will be answering these questions with our imaginations and our art—the painting and building of *The Land of Dreams, Songs, and Stories for Hidden Alleluia*. Each chorister will be making their own three-dimensional offering (dreams, songs, stories) to our special hidden land. We'll put them all together as a secret gift to *Alleluia* as *Alleluia* waits to be claimed and brought into the light and new life of Easter. This art work will be an offering for our Mt. Olive community too. Perhaps we can help one another during times when we might feel that hope is hard to find.

*The Land of Dreams, Songs, and Stories for Hidden Alleluia* is about listening to the voice who knows us best, and sharing sparks of hope, joy, light, and glimpses of the new life to come.

Choristers, please wear comfortable clothes, bring a paint shirt, and your crackling imaginations. See you soon!

**Lent Begins Today.**

**Ash Wednesday, February 14**

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

*All are welcome.*

## 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>.

## Upcoming Adult Forums

**February 18 & 25:** “White and Delightful: Christian Missionaries and Cultural Chaos in Dakota Indigenous Communities, 1833-1863.”

This two-part series will provide an overview of the ways in which Christian missionaries likely hastened the cultural destruction of Dakota peoples in Minnesota and contributed to the tragic U.S. Dakota War of 1862. Discussion of how Mount Olive members might respond to the call for justice for our Indigenous neighbors will be part of the presentation.

## Lent Procession

**This Sunday, February 18  
4:00 pm**

A service of lessons and carols for Lent.

*All are welcome.*

## Congregational Life Updates

**Save the Date: Movie Night.** Join your Mount Olive friends for movie on **Friday, February 23, at 7 p.m.** Hopefully, we'll be able to access *The Holdovers*, nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Acting category. Popcorn and beverages provided.

**Prayer Chain:** Congregational Life would like to re-energize the Prayer Chain. This group of folks commits to regularly praying for those folks on our prayer list and also responding quickly to prayer needs identified by the staff. If you're interested in joining "The Chain," email [conglife@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org).

**Coffee, coffee, coffee:** The coffee hour sign up list is pretty empty. Please sign up to bring some goodies and serve them, or if you aren't able to serve, bring some goodies anyway. There is generally someone available to help serve and make coffee. Thanks!

## Lenten Pilgrimage

The Stations of the Cross are a long-standing Christian tradition in the West. Dating from the thirteenth century and promulgated by Franciscans, this devotional practice emerged as a way of visiting the sacred sites of Christ's Passion when travel to the Holy Land wasn't possible. Here at Mount Olive, we've celebrated a Stations of the Cross liturgy at noon on Good Friday for many years.

This year, visual representations of our nine stations will accompany us in the nave throughout Lent. They come from different artists of varying backgrounds and eras representing the richness of Christian thought and practice. Embracing our assembly, these pieces wrap us in the mystery of our salvation. They call us to the wonder of Christ's passion and to solidarity with all victims of violence and oppression.

When you have a moment, you might take this art in — one piece at a time or by walking the Way of the Cross in prayer, the Way that leads through Death to Life.

### 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.*

## Taste of Palestine and Israel Recap

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Taste of Palestine and Israel this past Sunday. It was a wonderful day of listening, learning and sharing. More information will be coming with a summary of our speakers' presentation and their book recommendations. We do not have the presentation recorded as our speakers did not wish to be videotaped. To learn more about our supported partners in the Middle East, use these links: [Bright Stars of Bethlehem](#), [Lutheran World Federation](#).

Many thanks to the Global Ministry committee, the helpers and the cooks. Recipe packets are available next to the display case.

### Thanks to those who prepared the meal:

Carolyn and George Heider	Kay Else
David and Carolyn Hellerich	Jan and Larry Crosby
Sarah and Andrew Stoebig	Amy Thompson
Connie and Rod Olson	Patsy Holtmeier
Marge Shifflet	Wes Huisinga
Donna Wolsted	Peg Hoeft
Marsha Johnson	Rebekah Wold
Margaret Bostelmann	Adam Krueger
Carol Austermann	Mary Crippen
Jenny and Andrew Beilke	Linda Pipkorn
Gretchen and Kat Campbell-Johnson	Candy Husemoller
Consuelo Crosby	Hannah Rivard
	Warren Peterson and Gary Nack

### And thanks to all the helpers!

Amy Thompson  
Jan Harbaugh  
Mary Crippen  
Kay Else  
Mark Ruff  
Walter Hinck  
Linda Pipkorn  
Bonnie McLellan  
Louise Lystig-Fritch

### Global Ministry Committee members:

Allen Heggen  
Brad Holt  
Connie Marty  
Donn McLellan  
Judy Hinck  
Lisa Ruff  
Mark Pipkorn

*(over for photos)*



# The Olive Branch





## 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

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.*

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