

The Olive Branch

November 20, 2024



Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Your will be done

The festival of the Reign of Christ is a relatively new one for the Western Church, only about a hundred years old, having begun in 1925. Consider what was happening then: Hitler was on the horizon, Mussolini was already on the throne. The Great Depression was still to come, but tensions of economic and national crises were already tightening. Devastating times for a world still wounded by a brutal global war were coming.

Into this world reality, Pope Pius XI introduced this festival, which has since been adopted and shared by most mainline Western Christian bodies. In a world of dictators and tyrants and an uncertain and frightening future, many Christians take this time to recognize a higher authority for our lives and discipleship. "Your kingdom come, your will be done," we pray.

So what would it mean for you every day to consider Christ the ruler of your life? If the reign of God for which we pray, the "kingdom," happens when God's will is done, as Jesus' prayer suggests, is this a reason for hope? When we serve God instead of _____ (fill in the blank)? When we see the face of Christ in all who hunger and thirst, lack clothing and shelter, are sick or imprisoned, are strangers in a strange land, and begin to serve them, love them, as Christ?

Our forebears in faith would say yes. It is when we serve Christ in our neighbors and enemies that we find not only hope but the light that shines in all shadows of evil and brings healing and life.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph Crippen".

Sunday Readings

November 24, 2024

Reign of Christ, B

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

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

Adult Forums Through November

November 24 - Update from the Mount Olive Foundation.

December 1: "What Are We Waiting For?: The Now and Not Yet Meanings and Purpose of Advent," presented by David Engen.

December 8: "A Constitutional Amendment for Housing?" presented by Jim Bargmann

December 15: St. Lucia Day breakfast, no forum

December 22: TBA

Godly Play This Week

Special Note: Because Godly

Play won't be meeting on

December 1, Thanksgiving

Weekend, AND the first

Sunday of Advent, both circles will

journey this coming Sunday, waiting and hoping with a special Advent secret. Be sure to be there for all of the

Advent Sundays!

Circle One will begin by considering how the prophets show the way. Circle Two will hear about Mary, the mother of Jesus. Advent Circles will continue on December 8 and 15, and then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, the circles will join for a special celebration.

All children ages 3-kindergarten are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 1-5 are welcome to Circle Two.



GODLY PLAY

Advent Devotional

Over the next four weeks, each edition of *The Olive Branch* will include devotional writings submitted by several members of our congregation. Each of their submissions are based on their reflections on the scripture assigned to that day of Advent. Look for the first week next week.

We hope you find these beneficial as you prepare for the coming of Jesus in the season of Christmas and as He comes to us every day throughout the year.

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

On December 14, the book group will consider *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks, an author the group seems to return to almost as much as it does books by Louise Erdrich. The book choice for January 11 is *Kindred* by Octavia Butler.

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the library, usually on the second Saturday of the month. 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 smartphone, [click here](#).

Calendar

Wednesday, November 20

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir Supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
7:00 pm Y2/Y3 Confirmation

Thursday, November 21

- 5-9 pm RJCA Healing Village Project
6:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, November 22

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, November 24 - Reign of Christ

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Godly Play/ Adult Forum/ Youth Conversation
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist, with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism*, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, November 25

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

Tuesday, November 26

- Noon Bible Study

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist Thursday, November 28 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome.

The offering received at the Thanksgiving Eucharist will be donated the Community Emergency Services and Sabathani food shelves.

Attention Worship Assistants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for 2025 Quarter 1 (January - March) will be published in December. Please send any scheduling preferences or dates you will be unavailable to me by **this Friday, November 22**.

Please let me know any questions you have. Thank you.

- Greg Murphy
gregRmurphy@gmail.com

He Qi Exhibit

The current He Qi art exhibit will be on display at Mount Olive through Thanksgiving.

Please enjoy the exhibit this final week and if you want to see more of He Qi's work please check out his website: heqiart.com.

Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild is hosting a chancel-cleaning event on **Saturday, November 30, beginning at 9:00 a.m.** until about noon. Come when you can; stay for as long as you like.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede (bgaede13@gmail.com).

Music & Fine Arts Advent Procession

Sunday, December 1, 4:00 pm

All are invited to this annual service of lessons and carols for Advent.

Mental Health and the Bible: A Six-Week Study

What does the Bible say about our mental health and mental wellbeing? How does God interact with various people as they go through challenges in their minds and their hearts?

During this 6-week study we will take a closer look at the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament to uncover God's love and care for those struggling with their mental wellbeing. We'll discuss ways the Bible has been used in conversations about mental health and discover ways God shows up in our own journeys with our mental wellbeing.

Vicar Natalie Wussler leads this study which meets **Mondays at noon and Thursdays at 6:00**. [Join in person in the library or virtually using this link.](#)

Next week, Bible Study will only be offered on Monday November 25th. Bible Study will be offered on Monday, Dec. 2, at noon and Thursday, Dec. 5, at 6 for our final week of the 6-week study.

Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan is dire with nearly 70 percent of the population in need of humanitarian assistance. More than 6 million people are facing crisis-level food insecurity due to the cumulative effects of more than a decade of violent conflict which has also destroyed livelihoods. The country is among the worst globally on key health performance indicators. Devastating flooding, political instability and COVID-19 have exacerbated the crises, threatening lives and preventing access to basic services.

Your Global Ministry Committee has approved a \$2000 donation to Lutheran World Relief from the Global Ministry undesignated offerings for the relief effort. If you would like to make a personal donation, you can give through this [link](#) or give via check through Mount Olive by designating your gift for "Sudan relief".



November Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month

Restorative Justice Community Action

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) provides a community-based alternative to criminal prosecution with the mission of fostering individual growth while strengthening communities through restorative justice practices. With a restorative and race equity lens, RJCA leverages the voice of community to transform the criminal legal system, public safety, and eliminate racial disparities. The indigenous roots of restorative justice focus on transformation of people, relationships, and community. In honoring these roots, RJCA humanizes conflict and supports community in finding shared solutions.

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 Restorative Justice Community Action, please visit their website at www.rjca-inc.org or contact Cynthia Prosek, RJCA Executive Director and Mount Olive Member.

The Joy of Mary and the Season

Mari Espeland, who directs the youngest of Mount Olive's children's choirs, sings in the local community treble choir, Bella Lumina. Mari would like to invite all to Bella Lumina's upcoming concert, "The Joy of Mary and the Season" on December 6, at 7:30 pm, and December 7, at 3:30 pm at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Hopkins.



Bella
Lumina

spreading light, hope & joy
through song

John Rutter's *Dancing Day* song cycle accompanied by harp will be featured. Music for the Advent and Christmas seasons for treble voices, some pieces accompanied by violin or handbells, will also be included. Tickets can be purchased at the door. All are welcome.

For more information about Bella Lumina, visit bellaluminachoir.org/

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Organist – *Robert Farlee*

Interim Choir Director – *Andrew Stoebig*

Vicar – *Natalie Wussler*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
Jim Bargmann

Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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- **National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival**
- **MFA Advent Procession: December 1, 4:00 pm**
- **Bright Stars of Bethlehem Giving Tuesday Event**