



The Olive Branch

January 15, 2025

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Sunday Readings

January 19, 2025

*Second Sunday after Epiphany,
year C*

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

January 26, 2025

*Third Sunday after Epiphany,
year C*

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

Seeing God Here

Epiphany is the feast day on January 6 when we celebrate the coming of the Magi to worship the child Jesus. The green ordinary time Sundays in January and often February are called “after Epiphany” in our usage. But if you listen carefully to the proper preface we use this season (the seasonal chant that is at the beginning of the celebration of the Meal), you will notice that the Church recognizes three Epiphanies.

“Epiphany” is a manifestation of God, and the Church sees three key early manifestations of God-with-us in Jesus. Wise star-gazers from the East saw a star that revealed God had come to be with us and came to worship the child. The Holy Spirit came in bodily form on Jesus in the Jordan river at his baptism, while the voice of the One Jesus called Father claimed Jesus as a beloved Son. And then, as we will hear Sunday, at a wedding in a town called Cana Jesus first revealed his divine power by a very homely, everyday blessing, helping a couple avoid embarrassment by providing wine from water.

This season reminds us to watch and wait and look for signs of God coming to be with us. The Magi, the people at the baptism, the servants and disciples at the wedding didn’t know they’d see God revealed. They were just open and ready to witness what happened. That’s all we can do, too. Watch for signs of God’s love revealed in your life, in others, be ready to see what God is doing.

And what the third Epiphany this Sunday reminds is perhaps most important: it could be in ordinary, everyday things that God comes to you and me. Keep your eyes open!

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

The Olive Branch

A Christmas Season Honor for Our Missions Partner Bright Stars Dar-al Kalima University

A special day in the Vatican: Pope Francis inaugurating the nativity set designed by the artist Johny Andonia from Dar al-Kalima University.

Mitri Raheb presents this project by Dar al-Kalima University, the Palestinian Embassy at the Holy See, and the Higher Presidential Committee of Churches Affairs. The handwork was done by several craftspeople in Bethlehem. Each of the Figures was done from a single olive tree by Peter Khano, the star from mother of pearl by Piccirillo Center, and the sheep from wool by children with handicaps at L'Arche.

This nativity set with Dar al-Kalima's signature was displayed at the Vatican hall where the pope received all the delegations during the Christmas season.



The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, January 15

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

Thursday, January 16

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*
7:00 pm MIRAC meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, January 17

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, January 19 - Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

Monday, January 20

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, January 21

- Noon Bible Study
6:00 pm Feminine Divine Study Group

Wednesday, January 22

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

Altar Flowers Sign Up Available

The 2025 Altar Flowers calendar is ready and available for your reservation. Many weeks remain open at this time, so be sure to check the poster next to the parish office to find the perfect week for you. If the \$100 cost is holding you back, consider purchasing just one bouquet or going in with a friend or two to help defray the expense. Altar flower sponsors may take the bouquets home following 10:45 Eucharist on Sundays. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study meets weekly in person in the East Assembly Room. For those who are unable to come in person, the Bible Study is held 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

The February 8 selection, *To The Bright Edge of the World* by Eowyn Ivey, will take the discussion to Alaska. In March we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the publication of Minnesota author Kate DiCamillo's award winning young reader's book, *Because of Winn-Dixie*.

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 smart phone, [click here](#).

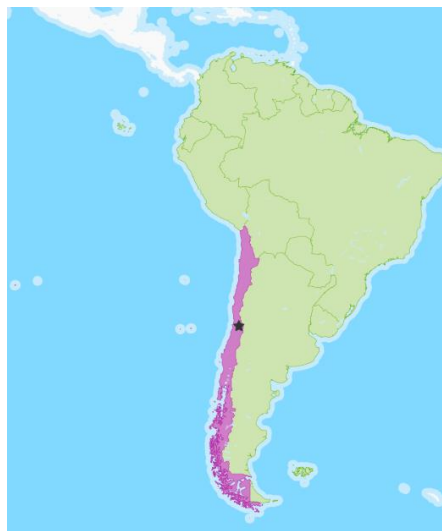
Wildfires in California

Your Global Ministry Committee has approved a \$2000 donation to the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response from the Global Ministry undesignated offerings for the relief effort from the devastating wildfires in California.

Multiple wildfires have broken out across Los Angeles County in California, with tens of thousands of people under evacuation orders. Sparked by dry conditions, strong winds and a limited water supply, these fires have destroyed homes and businesses and have led to injuries and loss of life. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod, Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. They will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities for months and years to come.

Please pray for communities in California impacted by the wildfires. If you would like to make a personal donation, you can give through this [link](#) (be sure to choose Lutheran Disaster Response: U.S. Wildfires from the drop down menu) or give via check through Mount Olive by designating your gift for "ELCA Wildfire Relief."

Taste of Chile



Mark your calendars! **February 23** will be the Taste of Chile.

The Global Ministry committee hosts a "Taste of" event each year, highlighting one of our supported ministries. This year, we will learn more about Educación Popular En Salud (EPES) based in Chile and its North American Counterpart, Action for Health in the Americas (AHA). They support sustainable, community-based public health initiatives that promote the dignity and rights of the poor in Chile. Karen Anderson, a recently retired ELCA missionary who worked with EPES will present our adult forum.

After the second liturgy, we will gather for a meal of typical food from Chile. Please let Lisa Ruff

(global@mountolivechurch.org) know if you are interested in making one of the recipes for the event. We are also looking for people to help with preparing, serving and cleaning up that day.

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.

Upcoming Adult Forums

January 19: Mount Olive's Global Ministry Committee is excited to present Tammy Walhof, who serves as the Director of the Office for Lutheran Advocacy for the State of Minnesota. She will speak primarily about from her 2023 experience as an observer on behalf of the ELCA to COP 28, the International Climate Conference in Dubai. Several months ago, we heard about local initiatives to mitigate the effects of global climate change. We will learn from Tammy as she presents a knowledgeable, informed, and engaging perspective on an issue that concerns us all.

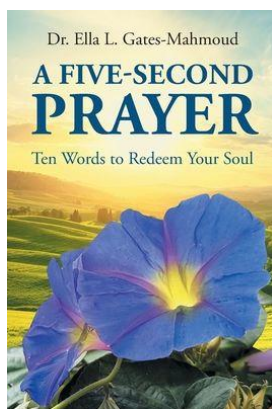
For more information on Lutheran Advocacy in Minnesota, and to meet Tammy Wahlhof, check out <http://Lutheranadvocacymn.org>.

January 26: "Death Doulas and the Bible," presented by Vicar Natalie Wussler
Have you ever heard of a death doula? Come learn about this ancient practice of accompanying the dying and their families, and how it connects to some of our beloved stories in the Bible. Join Vicar Natalie Wussler, a trained death doula, in a reflection on our society's resistance to talk about death and dying and how death doulas are changing the conversation and are walking with patients and families through the end of life.

New liturgical vestment given as a memorial

This Sunday we will begin using a dalmatic in our liturgy that pairs with our current olive silk chasuble. This dalmatic, also made of olive-colored silk, will be worn by our assisting ministers. It is given to Mount Olive's worship by Jan Harbaugh in memory of her husband, the Rev. James Harbaugh. The olive chasuble is also a memorial gift, given 22 years ago by Martha Sterner in memory of her husband, the Rev. Dr. Elmer B. Sterner. We are deeply grateful for these gifts and the way they enhance our worship.

A dalmatic is a garment typically worn by deacons as they assist in the liturgy in Lutheran, Anglican, and Catholic traditions. At Mount Olive, our assisting ministers wear the dalmatic when they serve in that role. Unlike the chasuble, worn by presiders, which is armless, more like a poncho in design, the dalmatic has a more tailored style, with distinct arms. With this dalmatic, we now have a chasuble-dalmatic pair in all the colors and fabrics we use in our worship at Mount Olive.



Book Signing to be Held at Mount Olive

On Sunday, February 9, from 2-4 pm, Mount Olive will host a book signing with Dr. Ella L. Gates-Mahmoud, author of [*A Five Second Prayer: Ten Words to Redeem Your Soul*](#).

All are invited to come and meet the author and also get your copy of this book signed.

Contact Irene Campbell for further information.

Godly Play Themes

For the next weeks during Epiphany the Godly Play circles will consider Jesus' parables.

Circle 1: The Parable of the Great Pearl

Circle 2: The Parable of the Good Shepherd

All children ages 3-Grade 1 are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 2-5 are welcome to Circle Two.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8 & 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.*

In This Issue

- **Accent on Worship – Pastor Joseph Crippen**
- **ELCA Disaster Relief: Wildfires in California**
- **Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: Our Saviour's Community Services**
- **Sign up for Altar Flowers**
- **Mark Your Calendars for Taste of Chile: Feb. 23**