

The Olive Branch

January 30, 2018

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Even grasshoppers

Isaiah paints a cosmic picture of the God of Israel in our reading this Sunday. "Have you not known? Have you not heard?" Isaiah says. God sits "above the circle of the earth." The heavens are like God's curtains, stretched out, like God's tent, set up for God's dwelling. There is no one to compare to God, Isaiah says, no one who is God's equal. And if God is this large, this universal, what must the people of this tiny planet be? Well, Isaiah says, we're grasshoppers. We might have chosen ants as tiny representatives of the insect world, but here it's grasshoppers. God is so great, so vast, so eternal, we're just little grasshoppers. And our rulers, princes, leaders? Isaiah says they're like uprooted plants, floating on the wind, transient.

Kind of makes one feel a little insignificant, doesn't it? But here's the astonishing thing about Isaiah's words. After all this majesty, after this sweeping declaration of God's greatness and our nothingness, Isaiah repeats his first words: But "have you not known? Have you not heard?" And then says this: God doesn't faint, or grow weary. God gives power to the faint instead. God gives strength to those with no power. Even young, strong people grow weary, but God will lift them up. All who wait for God will be strengthened, lifted up like eagles on the thermals of the sky, will walk and not faint. Have you not known this, too? Yes, God is above all, greater than all. But even these little grasshoppers of humans on this tiny planet on the edge of the galaxy matter to God. God pays attention to the weak, the faint, the weary, the exhausted. These are the ones God strengthens and lifts up.

We might be insignificant in the big picture of the universe. It's good to remember that. But have you not known? Have you not heard? God loves the insignificant. God gives us significance in a love that death cannot destroy. Those who wait for God's healing, they will find it. That's pretty fantastic news indeed.

In Christ,



Sunday Readings

February 4, 2018

**Fifth Sunday
after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

I Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

February 11, 2018

**Transfiguration
Of Our Lord**

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

I Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Sunday Adult Forum

Note schedule change!

This Sunday, February 4: "The Great Commission, Revisited," presented by Pastor Joseph Crippen and members of the Evangelism Committee

The Great Commission ("Go and make disciples of all nations...") has inspired and confused Christians since given by Christ via the Matthew 28. What does it mean for us? Proselytizing on street corners? Asking people if they've been saved? Or does it mean something deeper, more inspiring, and perhaps even more challenging? Join us for what will be, hopefully, a fresh perspective on these compelling words.

Next Sunday, February 11: "A Taste of India"

In October we celebrated our 30 year history and partnership with Bethania Kids. On February 11 we look forward --to Bethania's plans and the possibility of a Mount Olive partnership trip to India in 2019.

Kate Hennig Teece, Gene Hennig's oldest daughter, will join us during the education hour as we learn about goals and dreams for Bethania Kids ministries in southern India. After the second liturgy we'll move downstairs for an Indian feast and talk together about how we can more effectively partner with Bethania in ministry.

A Journey Through Judges

Thursday Bible Study

This year's third Thursday Bible study series began on January 18, focusing on the exciting, colorful, and violent leaders in the book of Judges, trying to explore the question of where we see God in their stories. Special attention will be paid to the role of women in the book. This study continues through February 15.

The 90-minute sessions begin at 6:00 p.m. with a light supper. All are welcome.

**The Presentation of
Our Lord
Friday, February 2
Holy Eucharist at
7:00 pm**

Save the Date!

Get ready for a grand celebration! Your Missions Committee will host Taste of India on Sunday, February 11.

We will build on what we learned in October about Bethania Kids, celebrate growth and plans, relish wonderful Indian cuisine, and consider how we can expand our partnership with our Indian Christian friends.

Attention Mount Olive Worship Assistants!

The Servant Schedule for the 2nd quarter of 2018 (April- June) will be published at the beginning of March 2018. The deadline for submitting requests to me is February 9, 2018. Please email your requests to peggyrf70@gmail.com.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, January 31

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal
6:00 pm Internship Committee meeting
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, February 1

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Friday, February 2 - Presentation of Our Lord

- 6-12 pm Narcotics Anonymous social event
7:00 pm *Holy Eucharist*

Saturday, February 3

- 9:30 am Confirmation
10-Noon Evangelism Workshop
11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal
1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group meets at Blackeye Roasting

Sunday, February 4 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
Noon Theological Discussion Group

Monday, February 5

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 6

- Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open
7:00 pm Missions Committee meeting
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Reflect, Record & Repent

Join other Lutherans this Lenten Season 2018!

Lutherans Restoring Creation, is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA. This is accomplished by cultivating a community of dedicated stewards of earth and neighbor who proclaim God's promise of hope and healing for all.

Watch for full information about this Lenten project in next week's *Olive Branch*.



The Missions Committee needs to borrow 3-4 deep fryers for Taste of India on Feb. 11 (they want the samosas to be fresh and piping hot!). Drop an email to missions@mountolivechurch.org or call Judy Hinck at 612-824-4918 if we could use yours.

Lent Begins.

Ash Wednesday,
February 14
Holy Eucharist at Noon
and 7:00 pm

Book Discussion

For the February 10, meeting, the Book Discussion group will read *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*, by Edgar Allan Poe. For March 10, they will read *Tender at the Bone*, by Ruth Reichl.

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the West Assembly area. All readers welcome!

The National Lutheran Choir to Present “Call to Prayer”

The National Lutheran Choir presents an evening of song from three sacred prayer traditions together with the Augsburg Choir, Hazzan Joanna Dulkan, and New York guest artist Zafer Tawil. Concluding a landmark season dedicated to the art and legacy of the Protestant Reformation, “Call to Prayer” will feature a new commission by Maryland composer Joshua Fishbein entitled “Allahu Echad: God is One.”

Saturday, March 3, 7:30 pm

Hoversten Chapel, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN

Sunday, March 4, 4:00 pm

Adath Jeshurun Congregation Synagogue, Minnetonka, MN

For tickets, call Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006 or order online at NLCA.com.

From the Church Library

I have a favor to ask of our congregation members – until further notice, please do not bring bags or boxes of used books to donate to our church library. Since the first of the new year, we have already received at least four of these donations, mostly left without identification as to just who left them for us! Secondly, it takes an enormous amount of time to evaluate each book carefully and to determine if even a portion of what you have donated might be useful in our church library ministry setting. We simply have to be very selective, not only because of limited room space, possible duplication, and/or the age and condition of the book or books you have chosen to leave for our use. Also, once we have decided the book or books we can use, there is a ten-step process before that book is ready for display and then shelving in it’s proper category. If we decide not to use the rest, we would be happy to let you know and return these to you for further options.

Another quick reminder for everyone to search their homes for books or other media that belong to our main church library (or the Courtyard library) and that you find bearing our library’s identification stamp and return them soon. This will no doubt give you peace of mind (no fines, no questions) and we will be happy to have some of our missing items back so they can be returned to circulation once again!

I have often written about the Little Free Library movement, not only in our own metropolitan cities but nation-wide, so I was pleased to note an article late last Fall which told of the Little Free Library organization accepting the Women’s National Book Association’s Second Century Award (that means over 200 years!). Their statement thanked all of the stewards who make a difference in their neighbor-hoods every single day, and now that it is Winter, let’s remember to help keep your nearby Little Free Library visible considering the snow conditions in your area, etc.

In closing, here is an always apropos quote from Neil Gaiman: “We adults have an obligation to read aloud to our children. To read them things they enjoy. To read to them stories we are already tired of. To do the voices, to make it interesting, and not to stop reading to them just because they learn to read themselves.”

- Leanna Kloempken

MINISTRY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN 2017



ACTS youth (above) & the Community Meal serving team ready to go (below)

SERVICE IS OUR SPECIALTY:

- ❖ Community Meal served hundreds of neighbors.
- ❖ A team served dinner at Our Saviour's Housing each month.
- ❖ Summer ACTS groups served at multiple sites across the city and the youth involved learned about responsibility and life skills.
- ❖ A dedicated team packed backpacks with food at Jefferson Community School for the Sheridan Story to help end childhood food insecurity.
- ❖ The Diaper Depot served 281 clients with 2,799 packs of diapers.
- ❖ We gave away 100 backpacks with school supplies and offered free and reduced priced clothing for kids going back to school
- ❖ Many individuals brought Meals on Wheels to the elderly.
- ❖ The other ways YOU used your hands and hearts to serve others.

STEWARDSHIP:

- ❖ The Direct Care program helped 275 neighbors with needs such as rent, laundry vouchers, and bus cards, giving away around \$8,165. You gave generously with funds and gifts for the Angel Tree families as well with the giving of \$3,125.00 in one month.

ADVOCACY IS HOW WE SHARE OUR VOICE

- ❖ Mount Olive used its voice to address the problems of sex trafficking in our neighborhood and the need for a faith-based response. We organized and hosted a panel discussion of community experts and coordinated a 4-week prayer vigil across Lake Street. There is more work to be done!
- ❖ A team went to the Capitol during the JRLC Day on the Hill to speak up for families with children, immigrants, and to continue to be a presence for the faith-based coalition working to make Minnesota a better place.



THE MINISTRY CONTINUES IN 2018 – STAY ENGAGED!

Neighborhood Ministries is the action and compassion that reminds us that we're all interconnected as a community – all in the presence of God, with opportunity to be the presence of God. Whether time with families in the Diaper Depot, cleaning up your own block, shoveling for a neighbor, or cooking at a meal at Our Saviour's, every effort made to shine light in the world is work well done. Find a place to share your time, talents, or a place to offer your treasures.

Keep an eye on the Olive Branch, Facebook, or the kiosk in the West Assembly for new learning and service opportunities. See something you want to be involved in? Call or email Anna Scott 612-827-5919 or neighborhood@mountlivechurch.org OR speak with a member of the Neighborhood Ministries Committee for information and to do God's work with your hands.

Minnesota ELCA Bishops Speak About Immigration

Your Missions Committee encourages all in our community to read and share the statement released by all of the Minnesota ELCA bishops regarding immigration. Now is the time to make our voices heard, share our concerns, and speak together.

<http://nwmnsynod.org/a-statement-from-the-elca-synod-bishops-of-minnesota/>

Hope for Creation

On Saturday, February 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Dr. Timothy Eberhart will lead a series of workshop sessions that explore how Christians are called to share in the healing of creation. Participants will reflect on the spiritual implications of environmental degradation, examine the relevance of Christian beliefs to an ecological perspective, and explore practical ways people of faith are engaged in mission and justice for the good of the earth. Music performed by singer-songwriter Leslie Ball will ground and uplift our reflections throughout the day.

The registration fee for the workshop is \$15 per person and lunch is included for those who RSVP by February 14, 2018. Registration at the door is possible, with limited lunch availability. Free childcare is available for children age 10 and younger. To learn more and to register, go to: garrett.edu/hopeforcreation. The church is located at 511 Groveland Ave., Minneapolis, 55403.

Refresher Course to be Offered

In April of 2015 a workshop was offered which explored how we as people of faith approach our deaths and the deaths of our loved ones by specifically addressing the Honoring Choices Health Care Directive. Much lively discussion was generated, and since then, requests have been made to repeat some of the material, and also to go beyond the discussion of Health Care Directives. Topics such as exploring together how we can have difficult conversations with our families, how we plan our funerals, what the ethical and faith considerations might be involved in medical aid in dying (MAID), what the POLST form is, were touched on previously.

Obviously there is much to be discussed related to "end of life" concerns, and many of us find ourselves in different places than we were several years ago. New members have joined the Mount Olive family while others may not have been able to attend the 2015 workshop. Is it time to re-visit the topic, and if so, what questions and concerns might people have? A show of hands at a recent Sunday morning forum indicated there is general interest. If so, a Saturday morning time will be set for a three hour event (with coffee and donuts of course) to address the basics and to field other questions people have.

Please let Marilyn Gebauer know of your interest and what you would like addressed in such a workshop. Meanwhile, watch for a date and agenda soon and contact Marilyn at: 612-306-8872 or gebauevm@bitstream.net to register your interest in such an event.

- *The Mount Olive Congregational Care Committee*

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*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Jessica Christy*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Anna Scott*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship: Pastor Joseph Crippen**
- **Scenes from the Congregation Celebration and Dinner**
- **Thursday Evening Bible Study Continues Through Feb. 15**
- **2017 Neighborhood Ministries Overview**
- **Church Calendar for February 2018**
- **Health Care Directives Refresher Course to be Offered**

FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6 pm – Bible Study	2– Presentation of Our Lord 6 pm – N.A. Social event 7 pm – Holy Eucharist	3 9:30 - Confirmation 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 1-3 pm – Prayer Shawl group meets at Blue Ox Coffee Co.
4 FOOD COLLECTION 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist Noon – Theological Discussion	5 7 pm – N.A.	6 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open 7 pm – Missions Committee 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	7 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Cantorei rehearsal 8 pm – N.A.	8 6 pm – Bible Study	9	10 9:30 - Confirmation 10 am – Book Discussion
11 – Transfiguration of Our Lord TASTE OF INDIA 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist Noon - Taste of India Meal 6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Meal	12 7 pm – Vestry meeting 7 pm – N.A.	13 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open 6 pm – Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper and Burning of Palms 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	14 – Ash Wednesday 9 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Ash Wednesday Eucharist <i>No Choir rehearsals this evening</i> 7 pm – Ash Wednesday Eucharist 8 pm – N.A.	15 6 pm – Bible Study	16	17 9:30 - Confirmation 11 am – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal
18 – First Sunday in Lent 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist 4 pm – Lent Procession	19 7 pm – N.A.	20 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	21 9 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Holy Eucharist 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	22	23	24
25 – Second Sunday in Lent 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Church School /Adult Ed. 10:45 – Eucharist	26 7 pm – Worship Committee 7 pm – N.A.	27 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot Open 7 pm – NLC rehearsal	28 9 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Holy Eucharist 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 6 pm – Internship Comm. meeting 7 pm – Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.			

Scenes from the Celebration Dinner, Jan. 28, 2018



Our first formal dinner and event in our newly redecorated Undercroft.



We started with a blessing ceremony.



*We had members of the design and installation teams joining the event: (L-R)
Art Halbardier, Jake Poeske, Loren Butler, Todd Grover, Dale Forsberg, Bob Timperly, and David Anderson*



If we want nice things there is a cost and David sent the donation basket around the room.



A special thank you to Al and Margaret Bostelmann and Rev. Mike Edwins for loaning beautiful art works to Mount Olive for this occasion.



A very long and heartfelt thank you was given to Art Halbardier for his leadership on this entire project.



The old Boiler Room has been given a new name!!



Following the program and dinner member could take tours of the new facilities and equipment. Pictured here: Dale Forsberg, Carol Peterson, and Sarah (Mueller-Manz) Forsberg.