



The Olive Branch

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, January 23

*Third Sunday after
Epiphany*

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

Psalm 19

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, January 30

*Fourth Sunday after
Epiphany*

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

I Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

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

Accent on Worship

Interim Cantor Dietrich Jessen

It's not very often that we get seven Sundays after Epiphany before Transfiguration, yet here we are. Year C in 2022 is giving us that gift, and I think there couldn't be a more fitting time and context for it to occur. We are once again finding ourselves amid a strong wave of this pandemic; cancelling plans we were looking forward to and reviving our practices of socializing in large groups. It's almost as if the calendar knew we would be battenning down the hatches in January of 2022, so it gifted us seven Sundays in the light of Epiphany.

As we gathered for the Epiphany of our Lord on January 6, we shared in the singing of Philipp Nicolai's beloved hymn "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!" (WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET). This hymn started us in this season of light and life, reminding us of the promise given to us in the Christ child. These promises are manifested in a myriad of ways - these ways can be shared together or apart. From gathering in the sanctuary, to hearing the Word of God, and receiving the Eucharist: we are sent out to be the light that shines in the darkness.

It's typical for us to get two to three Sundays after Epiphany before we transition into Lent by way of the Transfiguration. That being said, I am very happy that we get an extra dose of light and life by way of uplifting hymnody, colors, and smell before we endure the 40 days of our Lenten journey.

(continued on page 2)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., January 19

10 am – Staff meeting
 5:30 pm - Children's Choir
 (on Zoom)
 No Cantorei until February

Thurs., January 20

7 pm – Narcotics
 Anonymous

Fri., January 21

7pm – Recovery Group

Sun., January 23

*3^d Sunday after
 Epiphany*
 9 am – *Holy Eucharist*
 11 am – *Holy Eucharist*
 (livestreamed)

Tues., January 18

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., January 25

10 am – Staff meeting
 5:30 pm - Children's Choir
 (on Zoom)
 NO Cantorei rehearsal

Sunday Morning Schedule

There are **two worship services each Sunday morning, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** To be able to continue COVID-related safety measures, we ask the following:

During this time, we will continue to request R.S.V.P. responses for each worship in order to allow for physical distancing in the sanctuary. You no longer need to check your name off before proceeding to worship. We will continue to require that you wear a well-fitting mask that covers your **nose and mouth**. Please do not move the pew ropes, to help with social distancing, and **please** leave the short pews for those with wheelchairs. Coffee hour has been temporarily suspended.

The link to RSVP for worship is

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/mountolive> .

This link will be live each Wednesday for the following Sunday.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

There is something to be said about the correlation between liturgical seasons and the seasons of our life. Right now, I think we all need a little more “light” in our life, our city, our world, and our homes. Let’s live into that celebration – whether you are joining us from your home or are physically in the Nave at 31st & Chicago. We are together and together we cherish the love of God found in the extra days of this season.

*“Lord, when you look on us in love,
 at once there falls from God above
 a ray of purest pleasure.
 Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood
 refresh our souls with heavenly food.
 You are our dearest treasure!
 Let your mercy warm and cheer us!
 Oh, draw near us!
 For you teach us God’s own love
 through you has reached us!”*

-ELW 308, Stanza 3

- Interim Cantor Dietrich Jessen

Sign Up for Altar Flowers

A new chart for 2022 Altar Flowers has been posted next to the church office. It awaits your name and participation. Sign up!

The cost of 2 bouquets is \$50. If you would like to sign up for both bouquets, sign both lines. If you want to sign up for one of the bouquets for \$25, simply sign one line. Use the envelopes provided on the chart to submit your payment to the church office.

Feel free to call the church office if you have any questions.

The Presentation of Our Lord

Wednesday, February 2

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/PresentationEucharist>

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

Not only is Our Saviour's Community Services an independent non-profit started by our sister congregation, but Mount Olive volunteers provide meals at their shelter each month. In addition to the shelter for adults experiencing homelessness, Our Saviour's provides 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.

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 Our Saviour's Community Services, visit <https://oscs-mn.org>.

The Congregational Engagement group working to support our Afghan refugee family would like to connect with someone who has lived in Afghanistan. If you or someone you know has had this experience, please call Lora Dundek (651/645-6636) or email her at lhdundek@usfamily.net. Thanks!

Making a Home. Being the presence of God

Take a moment, wherever you are sitting or standing in your home or apartment. See your rugs, your furniture, the pictures on your walls, the small things on shelves and tabletops that make this place you live your HOME!

We are in the process of helping an Afghan family settle in our community. They left most of their possessions and so much more behind. There is no way for us to replace all of those losses, but we can create a warm and comfortable place which can become their "home" in their new city. **And YOU can help!** You have been reading regular Afghan Resettlement updates from Connie Marty in *The Olive Branch* and elsewhere. Today we are lifting up some additional opportunities for you to participate in this mission we have accepted as the people of Mount Olive:

Shop!! from our recently established Target Gift Registry. Here is the link: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/dmountolivefamily2022>

(When you add an item from the registry to your cart, click on the "shipping" option, even though the zip code may appear to be incorrect. When you are ready to complete your purchase, be sure to click on the "registry mailing address" in the shipping address options). You can also make a **monetary donation** to help with other resettlement expenses. Send it by mail or place in the offering at worship. Mark your gift **"Afghan Resettlement."**

If you have lightly used **household items** to donate, sign-up on the **NESTING** sheet in the West Assembly Room area, or email ech914@comcast.net

If you are able to help with moving in, when that day arrives, please sign up on the **Moving Day** sheet in the West Assembly Room area.

We will want to give the apartment assigned to our family a thorough cleaning - that's Mount Olive hospitality! Let us know if you are willing to help out. Add your name on the **Clean-Up** sheet in the West Assembly Room.

We have a wonderful opportunity to be the presence of God for a family, to offer them love and assistance. **Step up. Be part of this wonderful gift to some who will be making their new home with us.**

Book Discussion

The Mount Olive Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 am. They have resumed meeting at church.

On February 12, they will discuss *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson.

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the West Lounge. 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.](#)

Exciting News about our Afghan Family!

We learned last week from Lutheran Social Service that they have a family ready for us, and the family will be moving in this week. It's a family of five, but LSS has asked us not to give out names or ages. When the family gives us their permission to share that information, we will be able to share more with you.

All of the Circle of Welcome teams have been busy over the past month preparing for their arrival. The Nesting Team and Meal Team will be especially busy this week helping to set up the family's new home and stock its pantry and refrigerator. Thank you to all who have volunteered or donated!

As we look forward to welcoming the family, the Community Engagement and Learning Team invites you to learn a bit about the newcomers' homeland and culture. This is the first in a series of articles, activities, and events on Afghanistan.

Afghanistan Facts:

Total Area (Square Miles): 252,072

Population (2021 estimate): 33,413,000

Percentage of population less than 15 years old: 47.2%

Urban-Rural Population (2020-2021): Urban: 24.4% • Rural: 75.6%

Literacy (Percentage of Population Age 15 And Over Literate - 2015): Male: 52% • Female: 24.2%

Life Expectancy at Birth (2015-2020): Male: 63.8 years • Female: 66.7 years



Are You a Thrivent Member? You Have an Opportunity to Support Our Afghan Family!

Thrivent Financial offers “Action Team Grants” to anyone who has a Thrivent membership. This could be a life insurance policy or mutual fund, or any of several other options. Thrivent encourages volunteerism of its members, and this is a fantastic opportunity for additional support for the Afghan Family we’ll be sponsoring.

A Thrivent member can apply for two different grants a year, each of which is worth \$250. After your application is approved, they send you a debit card to use to purchase the items in your grant application. You keep the receipts and report back on the website how your project went, including pictures.

They also send a resource kit including stickers, a banner, and up to 20 t-shirts. (Always get the shirts. Even if you don't want them, leftovers can be donated to homeless shelters.)

Members apply online through this website: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-action-teams.html>

One caveat, however, is that Thrivent approves only one grant per project. So, several people cannot apply for a project named “Sponsoring an Afghan Family.” However, there can be several different projects for sponsoring the family if we coordinate the grant applications to make sure they are all for different things.

Here are just some of the many possibilities:

- Food for their pantry before they arrive
- Winter clothes for the family
- Household goods for the family
- English language learner books
- School supplies for the children
- Groceries after they arrive
- Bus passes

Carolyn Hellerich has volunteered to help coordinate the grant applications. If you have any questions, or would like to apply for a grant, please contact Carolyn at 612-900-7098 or carolyn@hellerich.com. If you have an idea for a grant, or need an idea for one, but aren’t sure which team it would support, contact Connie Marty at 651-468-1632 or Conniejmarty@gmail.com and she can put you in touch with the right team leader.

Funeral Arrangements for Berta Wick

A funeral Eucharist for our sister, Berta Wick, will be held at Mount Olive Saturday, January 29, at 11:00 a.m. Social distancing will be practiced, masks will be worn throughout, and all attendees are asked to RSVP at this link: [Berta Wick's Funeral](#).

The liturgy will be livestreamed, and a link for that will be sent out on Friday, January 28.

A luncheon will follow after the funeral. For the luncheon, all attendees are asked to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and COVID booster shots are strongly encouraged. Please be prepared to show proof of vaccination before attending the luncheon. Wear your mask at all times except when eating or drinking. All attendees are asked to RSVP at this link: [Berta Wick's Funeral Luncheon](#).

*Rest eternal grant her, O God,
and let perpetual light shine on her.
May Berta and all the blessed dead,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.*

Service Opportunity – Counting Team

The Stewardship team is growing! We are looking for several members to join in the service of counting our weekly offerings. It is fun, simple, and with the addition of a new counting team of 3 people, will we be able to offer a time commitment of one counting session every 4 weeks.

We follow the counting principles of Gratitude, Confidentiality, Problem-solving, and Accuracy to guide our work. We are looking for three roles: a lead counter and two counters for this team.

Lead Counter: comfortable entering values into an excel spreadsheet template and e-mailing a report at the end of the counting session.

Counters: conducting a manual tally of cash and checks, using an adding machine.

Time commitment – 60-90 minutes per counting session, once every 4 weeks, at a time that works for the three-person team and does not have to be on Sunday – can be during the week. Training for these positions will be provided. A computer is provided, the counting takes place in the church basement counter's office.

If you are looking for a nice way to do something in service to our church community, we welcome you. Please contact Kat Campbell Johnson with questions and to volunteer.

katdcampbell@gmail.com or 763-464-7692.

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following

persons: Julia Adams; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Carla Manuel; Carolyn Mowery; Rhoda Nelson; George Oelfke; Jerry Ostlund; Robin Rayfield; John Salvesson; Pariann Schenk; John Wall; James Wilkes; Adalyn Lerum, relative of Nancy Anderson; Danna Nelson, Gerry Coleman, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Cassandra Thompson, friend of Al Bostelmann; Scott Spooner, son of Cathy Bosworth; Sara Brunette, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Mattisyn, friend of Kat Campbell Johnson; Kristin Eklund-Johnson, Greg Eklund, Ryan Snelling, daughter, son, and friend of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Aimee Engebretson; Juls and Nel Clausen, friends of Darrell & Mary Golnitz; Joe & Brenda Patnaude, friends of Tom Graves & Ginny Agresti; David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., father and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Norma Pera, sister of Eunice Hafemeister and aunt of Linda Hafemeister; Cat Robinette, friend of Emily Hellerich; Maribeth, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Bob Adamson, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linquist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Brenda Frankman, friend of Rachel Meurett; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Dn. Steven Arnold, friend of Andrew Stoebig; Sue Smith, Steve Swanson, and Mary Peterson friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Vince DeLusia, friend of Cynthia Prosek; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbeshier Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; Rachel Wilkes, former wife of James Wilkes; Judy Bonnes, Tommie and Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

At the death of: Berta Wick,

For those in hospice care: Evelyn Royce.

Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.

Our continual prayers are offered for peace: We pray for all the world's governments, leaders, and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Ross Chambers, nephew of Berta & Bob Wick; Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.

About our prayer list ...

If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers. Contact the church office with any updates.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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Lutheran Church in America*

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Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Interim Cantor – [Dietrich Jessen](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Bargmann](#)

Sexton – José Morocho

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