

# The Olive Branch

April 4, 2017

## Accent on Worship

*Anna Scott*

On April 3, 1968, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. gave what would be his final speech on the eve of his assassination the following day. Made 50 years ago and named, “the Mountaintop Speech,” it was prophetic, dark, and timeless. He was in Memphis in response to a strike by sanitation workers who were fighting for recognition of a union for better wages and a safer work environment after two workers were recently crushed in a compactor and the city refused to compensate the families. That night, King proclaimed that he had seen the Promised Land. With an eerie foreshadowing of the future he continued, “I may not get there with you. But I want you to know that tonight, we as a people, will get to the Promised Land.”

As I was listening to a news review of his speech, I was struck by relevance and with the Easter story and the current state we continue in as a country and its people. Instead of my words, I’d like us to ponder his, made 50 years ago in Memphis. To read more or hear his entire speech visit the Washington Posts’s Daily 202: MLK’s final speech.

*Excerpts from The Daily 202: MLK’s final speech* by James Hohmann

[If God let him choose any era to live in, King told the crowd he’d pick the second half of the 20th century. “That’s a strange statement,” King said. “The world is all messed up. The nation is sick. Trouble is in the land. ... But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.”]

[“You may not be on strike, but either we go up together or we go down together. Let us develop a kind of dangerous unselfishness,” King said. “Whenever Pharaoh wanted to prolong the period of slavery in Egypt, he had a favorite formula for doing it. ... He kept the slaves fighting among themselves. But whenever the slaves get together, something happens in Pharaoh’s court, and he cannot hold the slaves in slavery. When the slaves get together, that’s the beginning of getting out of slavery.”]

And finally, finding the parallel between the Good Samaritan and the need for unity, King states, “the question should not ‘if I stop to help this man in need what will happen to me, but the question is if I do not stop to help the sanitation worker, what will happen to him?’”

## Sunday Readings

**April 8, 2018**  
**Second Sunday**  
**of Easter**  
 Acts 4:32-35  
 Psalm 133  
 1 John 1:1 – 2:2  
 John 20:19-31

**April 15, 2018**  
**Third Sunday**  
**of Easter**  
 Acts 3:12-19  
 Psalm 4  
 1 John 3:1-7  
 Luke 24:36b-48

## Healthcare Directives Refresher Course

- Date: Saturday, April 14
- Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Place: Mount Olive Lutheran Church
- Presenters: Heather Joy Halen, Kathy Thurston

Topics to be addressed will include review of preparation of Health Care Directives, what POLST is, how to choose a health care agent, how to have the conversation of end-of-life issues with family/friends, and other questions/concerns raised by attendees.

All are welcome and while registration is not necessary, it will be helpful to know in advance how many will be in attendance so enough handouts can be prepared. Let Marilyn Gebauer know your plans. Phone: 612-306-8872, or by email: [gebauevm@bitstream.net](mailto:gebauevm@bitstream.net).

## Upcoming TRUST Activities

- **Life Enrichment Series:** Mondays, April 9-April 30, at Bethel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis
- **Caritas Concert and Dinner:** Saturday, April 21, 5 pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church on Nicollet Ave., Mpls.
- **Tour of Rochester** (Mayowood & Trolley), Thursday, April 19.

For information about any of these events, call TRUST at 612-827-6159, or call Carol Austermann at 612-722-5123.

## New Members to be Received This Sunday, April 8

Mount Olive will receive new members into our life together this coming Sunday, April 8, during the second liturgy. There will be a welcoming lunch in the Undercroft after second liturgy. All are invited! Please come to meet and greet the new folks and share some great fellowship time!

## Book Discussion

For their April 14 meeting, the Book Discussion Group will discuss, two books: *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, and *The Meursault Investigation* by Kamel Daoud. For the May 12 meeting, *The Spire*, by William Golding.

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!

## Thursday Evening Study Returns Apr. 12

"Beloved, God's Chosen?" is the title of the Thursday evening Bible study that begins on Apr. 12. For six weeks Pr. Crippen will lead a study that hopes to look at Scripture with fresh eyes on the questions of salvation: what is God doing in salvation? What does it mean for us? What does God think about us? What happens at the cross? How and why and when does God forgive our sins? This Bible study meets in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday evenings, for six weeks, and all are welcome.

As always, there will be a light supper preceding the study each week. If anyone is willing to provide the first night's meal, please contact Pr. Crippen.

## Calendar

### Wednesday, April 4

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting  
*No Choirs this evening*  
6:00 pm Internship Committee meeting  
7:00 pm Loan committee meeting  
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, April 6

- 6:00 pm N.A. First Friday social event

### Saturday, April 7

- 11:00 am Diaper Depot open  
Noon Community Meal  
1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group meets at Blackeye Roasting

### Sunday, April 8 - Second Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation  
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum  
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist, with Reception of New Members*, followed by coffee & conversation  
  
Noon New Member Luncheon  
Noon Theological Discussion group  
6:45 pm Mount Olive serves Our Saviour's meal

### Monday, April 9

- 11:00 am A Minnesota Without Poverty Committee meeting  
6:00 pm ReconcilingWorks committee meeting  
7:00 pm Vestry meeting  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Tuesday, April 10

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

## Semi Annual Congregation Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of Mount Olive congregation will be held on Sunday, April 29, following the second liturgy.

The primary purpose of this meeting is the election of new members to the Vestry.

All voting members of Mount Olive are encouraged to attend.

## Sunday Adult Forum

- **This Sunday, April 8:**  
"Personal and Liturgical Prayer," presented by Brad Holt.  
Liturgical prayer does not denigrate or exclude personal prayer. Both are healthy; both are spiritual practices that ideally strengthen each other in a dynamic process of Christian growth. The Psalms, for example, include both communal and personal prayer. The two need each other.
- **Next Sunday, April 15:**  
"God is King: Wrestling with a Metaphor in the Psalms," presented by Vicar Jessica Christy.

## Palm Plants Available

Palm plants from our Easter celebration are available for the taking - free of charge! - in the East Assembly Room.

These plants do well in a sunny window or in a shady spot on your patio or deck for the summer. Re-potting to a larger pot will encourage new growth and make watering easier.

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church 2017 Year End Giving Report

Mount Olive's members and friends displayed truly exceptional generosity during 2017. Your monetary gifts enable the church's important work to benefit our congregation, its neighborhood, the Twin Cities, and the world beyond. Thank you for helping to make this a reality.

We thought it would be helpful for members to know how various church sectors benefited from your generosity and helped others.

### Operational (General) Giving

These are the gifts support the regular ministry of the church. The operational budget includes staff salaries, building maintenance, utilities, and program and ministry budgets.

- This past year, our community gave Mount Olive gifts of \$721,231 to support these operational needs.
- This included our annual 12% tithe (over \$80,000) that was used to support global missions, local neighborhood ministries, and the Minneapolis Synod.

### Designated Giving

These gifts support specific projects, ministries, or missions. Unlike operational giving, these funds are used for the purpose specified by the giver. If you have a specific ministry in mind you want to support, you can designate those funds by indicating that ministry/mission in the memo line of your check.

- Bold Step Forward was by far the largest account that received restricted giving funds in 2017 with more than \$750,000 in gifts.
- There was an additional \$24,984 that was designated and given – in excess of out 12% tithe – that supported various ministries, missions, and programs.

### Mount Olive Foundation

- In August 2017, the Foundation made a 12-year, interest-free loan of \$71,845 to the Church which allowed it to complete its solar project and obtain a state grant.
- The Foundation pledged \$60,000 to the "A Bold Step Forward" campaign, payable over three years.
- Gifts to the Mount Olive Foundation in 2017 totaled \$187,847.44 thanks in large part to two bequests totaling \$150,000.
- The Foundation's endowment also increased by \$130,511.49 due to investment appreciation.
- The Foundation's annual gift to the Church, presented on April 23, 2017, was \$40,057.90 – double the amount given five years go and another record. The Vestry chose to use these funds to address 18 separate needs.
- Including the Church's loan repayment commitment, the Foundation's assets totaled \$1,544,048.86 as of December 31, 2017.
- To date, 39 households have included the Mount Olive Foundation in their estate plans.

To learn how you can provide for Mount Olive's future through the Mount Olive Foundation, please speak with Keith Bartz, Victor Gebauer, Kat Campbell Johnson, Reid Peterson, Mark Ruff, or Mike Wolsted.

## **Caring for Creation Sunday, April 15, 5-7 pm Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 5025 Knox Ave. S., Minneapolis**

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church invites the community to attend this dinner event with Paul Douglas, well-known and respected meteorologist with more than 35 years of TV and radio experience in the Twin Cities area. Paul will discuss *Caring for Creation*, a book he co-authored with Pastor Mitch Hescoc.

Connecting the dots between science and faith, Paul will show how Christians can take the lead in caring for God's creation in ways that reflect our beliefs. He will also share ways to nurture and wisely steward the resources God has given us. Cost: \$10. To register, visit [www.mtolivet.org](http://www.mtolivet.org).

## **Pick Up Your Statements**

Contribution statements for the first quarter of 2018 are printed and ready to be picked up at church (near the coatroom).

Please pick yours up soon!

Statements not picked up by April 15 will be mailed.

## **Thanks!**

Thanks to all who donated money to provide flowers for the beautiful Paschal Garden this year: *John Bjork, Stan & JoAnn Sorenson, Kathy Thurston & Dwight Penas, Connie & John Marty, Allen & Lora Dundek, Rob & Lynn Ruff, Larry Duncan, Katherine Hanson, Dennis Bidwell & Eric Zander, George & Marlys Oelfke, Walt & Judy Hinck, Walt Blue, Chandler & Tricia Molbert, Leanna Kloempken, Jim & Marlene Sorenson, Judy Graves, Mary Dodgson, Teresa Rothausen, Ken Siess, Julia & Dan Adams, Carol Austermann, Joseph & Mary Crippen, Allan & Margaret Bostelmann, Donald Johnson, Andrew Andersen, Janet Crosby, Tom Graves & Ginny Agresti, Chuck Gjovig, Marty Hamlin & Cathy Bosworth, Cynthia Prosek, Tom Olsen (in memory of Maury Anderson), Mike Edwins (in memory of grandparents and parents), Jon Siess, Naomi Peterson, Dan & Marcia Burow, Don Luther & Heather Halen, Mary Rose Watson, Patsy Holtmeier, Brian Jacobs, George Ferguson, Donald Clay Johnson, Adam Krueger & Thomas Fenner, Evelyn Royce, Steve Pranschke, Mabel Jackson, Melba Smrcka, Consuelo & Matt, Sedona, and Austin Crosby, Brenda Bartz, Elizabeth & Joe Beissel, David Bryce, The Bipes family, Carol Martinson, and Donn & Bonnie McLellan.*

## **Information Meeting for Bethania Trip to be Held April 22**

Calling all those interested in learning more about traveling to India in 2019 to visit Bethania Kids. Grab a cup of coffee and come to the undercroft for preliminary discussion after second liturgy on Sunday, April 22. Bring your questions, suggestions, concerns, hopes. Would you like more information? Would you like to learn if this trip is for you? Would you like to understand what financial help is available? Would you like input in picking dates? Would you like to understand how both you and Bethania Kids will be changed by such a trip?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, come! We'll plan on meeting for no more than one hour. Feel free to send questions ahead of time to [missions@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:missions@mountolivechurch.org) or call Judy Hinck, 612-812-7342.

## A Note About Communion Ministry at Mount Olive

We are looking to add some new Communion Ministers to our team.

As an extension of Pastor Crippen's ministry, each week Communion Ministers visit members of our Congregation who aren't able to attend a Sunday service because of a short-term recuperation or long term illness. During our visits, we share the Eucharist, creating a connection to our weekly worship.

Each year we make more than 200 visits, and want make sure we meet the needs of congregation members as they arise.

We typically ask Communion Ministers to visit 1-2 members one time per month, and while the visits are typically Sundays, they could be other days.

If you're interested in becoming a part of this rewarding experience or would like more information, please contact Tom Graves and Ginny Agresti at 651-895-0878, or by email at [thgravesmn@msn.com](mailto:thgravesmn@msn.com).

Thank you,  
*Tom Graves and Ginny Agresti*



## Strikepoint Handbell Choir to Play at Mount Olive

**Sunday, April 22, 2018 - 4 pm**

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts will host Strikepoint, a church-based handbell ensemble from Duluth, Minnesota, on Sunday, April 22 at 4:00 pm.

Led by player-coach [Bill Alexander](#), this eleven-member group performs in a directorless ensemble setting. College students and community members have joined with selected

ringers from the five bell choirs at Duluth's First United Methodist Church to provide a consistently high level of musicianship since Strikepoint began in 1984. Strikepointers are often high school students, and sometimes as young as 13.

A reception follows the concert in the Chapel Lounge.

## 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](http://mountolivechurch.org)

### **Staff**

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

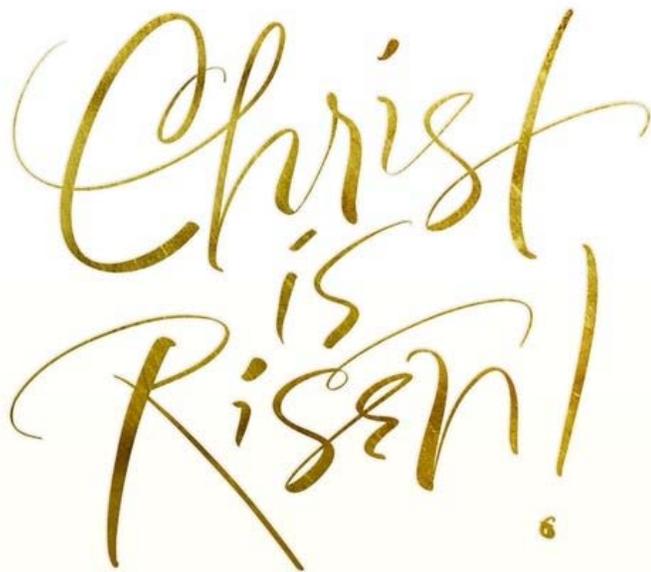
Vicar – *Jessica Christy*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach  
and Ministry – *Anna Scott*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ  
congregation.*



Christ  
is  
Risen!

## **Transitions Support Group Next Meeting: Saturday, May 12, 2018**

This group will hold its next get  
together at 11:00 – noon, in the  
Library at Mount Olive. Please note  
day and time change!

For more information, please  
contact Cathy Bosworth 612-708-1144,  
[marcat8447@yahoo.com](mailto:marcat8447@yahoo.com) or Heather  
Halen 612-822-0953,  
[hjoyhalen@hotmail.com](mailto:hjoyhalen@hotmail.com).

