



The Olive Branch

April 11, 2018

Accent on Worship *Vicar Jessica Christy*

A broiled piece of fish. That's how the disciples finally understand the resurrection.

When Jesus first appears among them in Luke's Gospel, they think they're seeing a ghost. It's almost a comical moment – Christ has conquered the grave, but they're convinced he's a spook. He's on Easter, they're seeing Halloween.

But Jesus doesn't chide their confusion and unbelief. Instead, he tells them to see and touch his risen body. People across the centuries have chided Thomas in the Gospel of John for demanding to touch Jesus, but according to Luke, Jesus invites his disciples' inquisitive hands: "Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." But still they don't understand, so he snacks on some fish in front of them, to prove that he is truly risen. After all, ghosts can't eat.

That fish says everything. The risen Christ is a flesh-and-blood human being. His body is physical, still dependent on food to live. He can chew, swallow, and metabolize a meal into the energy he needs to stand among them. He is no vision, no metaphor or memory, no ghost. His body has truly reversed the irreversible process of death and decay and walked out of the tomb. No promise or teaching could convince the disciples this is true; they need to see it in the meal for they can accept its shocking reality. But Jesus gives them the proof they need, and then they believe.

The resurrection is not some complex theological proposition. It's not a literary metaphor. It's not a distant promise that's waiting to be fulfilled. The resurrection is a concrete fact of life, as tangible as a piece of fish sitting on your dinner table.

Accent on Worship, continued on page 2

Sunday Readings

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

April 22, 2018
Fourth Sunday
of Easter
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Due to Saturday's funeral, the Healthcare Directives Refresher Course which was scheduled for this Saturday, April 14, has been cancelled.

Congregational Meeting Set for Sunday, April 29

The Vestry has set the semi-annual Congregation Meeting for Sunday, April 29, following the second liturgy. The agenda will include updates on the Bold Step Forward capital appeal and capital projects, as well as exciting news on the Longer Table lending program which is about to launch.

In addition, the following persons have been recommended for election as leaders of the vestry for the coming year:

President (1 year term): David T Anderson

Vice President (1 year term): Mark Ruff

Secretary (1 year term): Sue Browender

Treasurer (1 year term): Chad King

Directors of:

Education (3 year term): James Bargmann

Property (3 year term): Art Halbardier

Youth (3 year term): Chandler Molbert

All voting members of Mount Olive are encouraged to attend.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

As John Updike writes in his "Seven Stanzas at Easter":

Make no mistake: if he rose at all/It was as His body;/If the cell's dissolution did not reverse, the molecule reknit,/The amino acids rekindle,/The Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,/Each soft spring recurrent;/It was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled eyes of the/Eleven apostles;/It was as His flesh; ours.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,/Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,/Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded/Credulity of earlier ages;/Let us walk through the door.

Christ is risen, truly risen. He is risen indeed!

- Vicar Jessica Christy

Book Discussion

The Book Discussion Group will not meet this Saturday, April 14. They will move discussion of their next books, *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, and *The Meursault Investigation* by Kamel Daoud to their May meeting on May 12. For the June 9 meeting, they'll read *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.

Calendar

Wednesday, April 11

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

Thursday, April 12

- 6:00 pm Bible Study

Friday, April 13

- 7:00 pm Recovery & Wellness support group

Saturday, April 14

- 11:00 am *Funeral Eucharist: Robert Garvey*
(Visitation begins at 10 a.m.)

Sunday, April 15 - Third 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*, followed by coffee & conversation

Monday, April 16

- 6:00 pm ReconcilingWorks committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 17

- Noon Bible Study
- 1-3 pm CoAM Advisory Committee meeting
- 4:00 pm Diaper Depot open
- 7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Earth Day Clean Up

April 21, 9:30 am - Noon

Let's join our neighborhood and show some Springtime love to our streets! On Saturday April 21 from 9:30-12:00, the Powderhorn Park neighborhood is having an Earth Day Clean-up. We will work in teams to do some needed cleaning up around our building.

Mount Olive folks will meet at 9:30 at church and head out to clean up. Bags, some gloves, and good company supplied. Then stick around for the community meal at 12:00 if you can. See you there!

Sunday Adult Forum

• This Sunday, April 15

"God is King: Wrestling with a Metaphor in the Psalms," part one of a two-part series presented by Vicar Jessica Christy.

The language of God's kingship is central to scripture, but it can be a fraught metaphor for the modern church. These two sessions will examine the metaphor's range of meaning within the psalms and its implications for our worship life together.

• Next Sunday, April 22:

"God is King: Wrestling with a Metaphor in the Psalms," part two of a two-part series.

Sunday, April 15: Do Good with Burritos

Join in a fundraiser to support The Sheridan Story (backpack food program). Just come in to the Chipotle at 2600 Hennepin Ave. on Sunday, April 15, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to The Sheridan Story.

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 Hescox.

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.

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.

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 or Heather Halen 612-822-0953, hjoyhalen@hotmail.com.

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 or call Judy Hinck, 612-812-7342.

Palm Plants Available

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

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.



Restorative Justice Community Action Fundraiser

It's time to party! We turned 21 and want you to join us in a night of food, fun, and giving. You will have an opportunity to bid on exciting items including autographed photo of Stefon Diggs,

four one-day tickets to Disney Theme park, a wine tasting for a party of 20 from Total Wine, and tickets to the Minnesota Orchestra and the Timberwolves. Don't forget the fabulous Wine/Beer Raffle!

Besides supporting RJCA through the Silent Auction and raffle, help us raise our goal of \$5,000 in financial contributions, including sustained giving commitments. Each and every dollar helps RJCA to bring people together to make things right, year after year.

For \$40 you can celebrate with us by [getting your tickets now](#):

If you are unable to join us, please [DONATE NOW](#).



Strikepoint Handbell Choir to Play at Mount Olive

Sunday, April 22, 2018 - 4:00 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.

Church Library News

I am pleased to call your attention to a display of new books in our library centered around the project that Connie Marty and her great committee offered to our membership in the past year around the Climate Justice Task Force and Gentle With the Earth emphasis and which have now been made available for your perusal and check-out. Included are the following:

TIME – GLOBAL WARMING (The Causes, The Perils – The Solutions) by Bryan Walsh, et al
CHILDREN OF THE SUN (A History of Humanity's Unappeasable Appetite for Energy) by Alfred W. Crosby

OUT OF GAS (The End of the Age of Oil) by David Goodstein

THE NEW ECONOMY OF NATURE (The Quest to Make Conservation Profitable) by Gretchen C. Daily and Katherine Ellison

THE LAZY ENVIRONMENTALIST (Your Guide to Easy, Stylish, Green Living) by Josh Dorfman

ECO-PRAGMATISM (Making Sensible Environmental Decisions in an Uncertain World) by Daniel A. Farber

BOUNDARIES – (A Casebook in Environmental Ethics) by Christine Gudorf & James Hutchinson

LIVING DOWNSTREAM – (An Ecologist Looks at Cancer & the Environment) by Sandra Steingraber

THE WINDS OF CHANGE - CLIMATE, WEATHER & THE DESTRUCTION OF CIVILIZATION by Eugene Linden

CATCH THE WIND and CATCH THE SUN (Discover Renewables) – both Nautilus Book Awards

A KID'S GUIDE TO HOW TO SAVE THE PLANET by Billy Goodman

GOING GREEN - a Kid's Handbook to Saving the Planet by John Ellington, Julia Hailes, et al

HOPE'S EDGE (The Next Diet for a Small Planet) by Frances M. Leppe & Anna Leppe

THE HIDDEN MESSAGES IN WATER by Masaru Emoto

THE SUSTAINABILITY REVOLUTION (Portrait of a Paradigm) by Andrea R. Edwards

WORLD-CHANGING (a User's Guide for the 21st Century) by Alex Steffen, editor

IN DEFENSE OF FOOD - (an Eater's Manifesto) by Michael Pollan

THE OMNIVORE'S DILEMMA (a Natural History of Four Meals) by Michael Pollan

FOOD, INC - MENDEL TO MONSANTO (The Promise & Perils of the Biotech Harvest) by Peter Pringle

HOME ENERGY PROJECTS - an Energy Conservation Guide for Do-it-Yourselfers - Ark. Energy

Briefly, it is an appropriate time to alert you to three annual celebrations having to do with both libraries and volunteers during the spring. NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK is this very current week - April 8-14. Sponsored by the American Library Association, this year's special theme is "Libraries Lead." CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK for 2018 is April 30-May 6, and the theme for this event is "One World, Many Stories" and this observance is sponsored by the Children's Book Council. Points of Light Foundation sponsors NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK, April 15-21 and the theme which exemplifies this observance is "Volunteers Are the Heart of our Team!"

Thanks to Al Bostelmann who donated another year's subscription to the periodical "SOJOURNERS" which is a popular part of our Periodicals rack. Would someone else like to do the same for THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY, which periodical is up for renewal at this time? Closing this article with an appropriate caption – "One doesn't mind getting caught – with Extra Reading Time!" Happy Spring!

- Leanna Kloempken

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

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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!