



The Olive Branch

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, April 4

Resurrection of Our Lord

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Acts 10:34-43

Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, April 11

Resurrection of Our Lord

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1 –2:2

John 20:19-31

Accent on Worship

There is a wonderful both-and-ness in Scripture, to Jesus' message, and our life of faith. Can I be so bold to coin that new word? Both-and-ness. This upcoming Sunday, of course, we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. There is a both-and-ness to the resurrection. Is this about our salvation, the forgiveness of sins, and eternal life with God? Or about reconciliation in our relationship with God for the here and now? Yes. Both-and. No "or" needed. There is also a wonderful both-and-ness about the reign of God itself. We see this in our First Reading for this upcoming Sunday. Isaiah 25:6-9 reads:

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And God will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

⁸ Then the LORD God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Is this a depiction of the new heaven and new earth so beautifully described in Revelation 7 and 21? The language is the same. Or is this a description of life in God's reign in the here and now? Yes. Both-and. The wonderful both-and-ness of Scripture and our life in God's reign lives here too.

The struggle of course comes in the tension between how we experience God's reign now and how we will experience that reign when it is fully realized. The same could be said for the resurrection and the forgiveness of sins.

At this time, all worship services and activities are being conducted online, not by gathering, in the interests of the health of our members, our neighborhood, and the world around us.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., March 31

11 am – Staff meeting

Thurs. April 1

Maundy Thursday

Fri., April 2

Good Friday

Sat., April 3

Holy Saturday

Sun., April 4

Resurrection of Our Lord

7 am – Worship at a Distance

9 & 11 am – Virtual

Coffee Hour

Tues., April 6

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., April 7

11 am – Staff meeting

5 pm – Y2 Confirmation

5:30 pm – Children's Choir

Triduum and Easter video schedule

We will be sending videos for the following at home liturgies on these dates. (CDs for Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday were mailed on Monday, March 29, and Easter Vigil and Easter Day CDs will be mailed on Monday, April 5).

All videos will be sent by email (and on the Mount Olive website) at the time listed here.

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 1, at 12:00 p.m.

Good Friday – The Way of the Cross (noon liturgy), Friday, April 2, at 11:00 a.m.

Good Friday – Adoration of the Cross (evening liturgy), Friday, April 2, at 5:00 p.m.

Vigil of Easter – Saturday, April 3, 5:00 p.m.

Resurrection of Our Lord – Sunday, April 4, 7:00 a.m.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

But there doesn't need to be tension, struggle. We can enjoy the both-and-ness. We can live into the resurrection and God's reign now while at the same time looking forward to its full realization in the life to come. You may feel as though you are living under a shroud and now all too well the reality of having tears streaming down your face. Know that God has promised to destroy that shroud and wipe away those tears. You may find yourself living in disgrace over some sin that you just can't seem to overcome. Know that God's forgiveness, won through Jesus' death and resurrection, is for you. Here and now, and in the life to come. Both-and.

And we have a role in making this vision of God's reign a reality. You can be the face of God to another, offering reassurance of the resurrection and forgiveness won. Your hands can be the hands of God wiping away tears on the face of another. And all of this can be done while realizing that the fullness of God's resurrection, forgiveness, and reign has not been fully realized. We can live into the reality of the both-and-ness of the resurrection and the reign of God. Here and now, and in the life to come. Both-and.

- *Jim Bargmann*

Stewardship News

Thank you everyone for your compassion and commitment to Mount Olive. We want to make the process of supporting our church financially easy and convenient for everyone. If you are okay with the delay in the deposit posting to your account, please feel free to continue sending your offering via US mail. If you would like, we have alternative methods for giving that you may want to consider:

• **Bill Pay:** You can set up a regular offering through your bank by calling and talking to someone or by logging in online. You tell your bank how much to send, how often and they will electronically transfer the amount. This service is most often free of charge and already used by many at Mount Olive.

• **Electronic Funds Transfer:** Set up a regular deduction from your bank account through the church's existing account with Vanco Services. Contact the church office to set this up and a form will be mailed or emailed to you. Complete the form and send it back to the church office either by US mail or via email.

• **Mount Olive Website:** You can donate by credit card through the church website. Visit our site www.mountolivechurch.org, go the very bottom of the home page and a "Donate" link is on the left. This method is good for one-time donations rather than recurring donations as the fees charged to Mount Olive per transaction are higher than the other two methods.

Next MFA Event: The OK Factor, April 18, 4:00 pm

The OK Factor's program is a curated mix of our original, folk-inspired compositions influenced by multiple genres, as well as audience favorites such as "Shenandoah," "Here Comes the Sun," and vocal tunes such as Bob Dylan's "You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome." Olivia and Karla share our experiences with these tunes and their creation from the stage as a point of connection with audiences, inviting them to experience the music's vulnerability and hear their own stories reflected in it.

Olivia Diercks and Karla Colahan - cellist and violinist of the new-classical crossover duo, The OK Factor - have one word to describe their musical connection: lucky. The almost telepathic way they respond to one another is palpable to the audiences they capture during performances, as is their spontaneity and joy. Organic and genuine, their original compositions and arrangements feel both comfortingly familiar and uniquely fresh, and have been described as "genre-bending" (Julie Amacher, MPR) and "pure magic" (*Wausau Pilot & Review*).

Watch for further information about this live-streamed concert on April 18!

Happy Birthday, Neil!

In the midst of these troubling times, there are reasons to pause and give thanks. On April 4, Easter Sunday, Neil Hering will celebrate his 80th birthday.

Since we can't be together in person, a card, note, or email will help Neil celebrate this special moment in time.

Take a moment to extend your best wishes to Neil on this milestone.

Thank you,
Beth Hering

(Neil's contact information is in the church directory and also in the online directory at Mount Olive's website.)

Please note:

*Church offices
will be closed this Friday
(Good Friday),
April 2.*

COVID Vaccine Resources

March 26, 2021

We have had a year unlike any other! It was just a year ago that we had to cancel our Holy Week liturgies and celebrations. And now we face this loss once again. But hope is on the horizon with the development and implementation of the COVID vaccines. There are currently three vaccines authorized for emergency use in Minnesota. The supply is still limited so it will take longer than desired before everyone can get the vaccine. The goal for the first, limited doses of COVID-19 vaccine has been to immunize for impact – meaning the vaccine is being offered initially to those at highest risk of getting COVID-19 and those most at risk of severe disease and complications if they get COVID-19. Now that we are nearing the beginning of April most people at highest risk have received at least one dose of the vaccine (health care workers, patients age 65 and older, educators/childcare workers). Recently some locations have started scheduling people ages 16-64 with high-risk health conditions to receive the vaccine. As more people get vaccinated and more vaccine becomes available, more will have their turn to get vaccinated. Minnesota has a plan mapped out that describes who is currently being vaccinated and who will be vaccinated soon. To see the Minnesota Vaccine Timeline follow this link: [Who's Getting Vaccinated? / COVID-19 Updates and Information - State of Minnesota \(mn.gov\)](#)

Most health care systems & providers are providing vaccine clinics/hubs in addition to some statewide community vaccine clinics. Most of us should be able to get scheduled with our primary health care provider or local pharmacy for the vaccine by calling them or scheduling on-line. That's why Minnesota continues to send more doses of COVID-19 vaccine to local health care providers and pharmacies. Most health care systems are reaching out to patients who are in the current risk group eligible for the available vaccines. Given the short supply and the variety of vaccine locations it can be confusing to know where to go or even how to get your questions answered. Included are several links to key sections about the vaccine at the Minnesota Department of Health website that can walk people through how to connect to get a vaccine scheduled if you have not already done so. If you don't have an ability to access these links there is a help line at the state as well. For general questions about COVID-19 resources, call the Minnesota Helpline at **651-297-1304** or **1-800-657-3504** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For general health questions about COVID-19 and vaccines, **press 2 or 3** for the Minnesota Department of Health Public Hotline.

You can also use the Vaccine Connector tool to help access a place to schedule a vaccine. [Vaccine Connector / COVID-19 Updates and Information - State of Minnesota \(mn.gov\)](#); if you need help with this you can also call the Vaccine Connector Hotline at 833-431-2053.

[Minnesota COVID-19 Response \(Coronavirus\) / COVID-19 Updates and Information - State of Minnesota \(mn.gov\)](#)
[COVID-19 Vaccine / COVID-19 Updates and Information - State of Minnesota \(mn.gov\)](#)

If you have difficulty navigating any of this there are some people at Mount Olive willing and available to assist:

Kathy Thurston via email or phone: Kathryn.thurston@allina.com or 651-587-9569

Walt Hinck via email or phone: wahinck@me.com or 612-325-3948

Cha Posz available via church email or phone (appointments): welcome@mountolivechurch.org or 612-827-5919



Building Our Home

This week, I will simply offer an update on where we are at internally - in terms of our own Mount Olive goal. When we launched Building Our Home in October, we invited our sister congregations and other organizations to join us in this effort. We determined that if 26,000 people, the equivalent of the active membership of all the Twin Cities area congregations of the ELCA, were to join us in our work, we could meet our goal with a contribution of \$338 per person. We have a big project with a big goal - \$21.3 million - but many people involved makes light work for all.

Our own internal Mount Olive goal is \$76,050. To date, we have collected contributions totaling \$7,914, or 10.4% of our goal. The graphic below illustrates the progress we have made on this internal, Mount Olive goal. Thank you! For sure, we have more to raise, but this is fantastic progress and we are thankful for your generosity.

After Easter, I hope to give an update on the progress we are making on establishing partnerships with other Twin Cities area congregations and some of the specific projects this initiative will fund.

Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

The Initiative

Working with three non-profit affordable housing developers, Beacon Interfaith, Aeon, and Alliance Housing, Mount Olive is working to build over 2100 units of affordable and supportive housing with a funding goal of 21.3 million dollars. Through our Neighborhood Ministry leadership, Mount Olive is seeking partnerships with its Twin Cities sister congregations of the Evangelical Church of America, along with other faith communities, organizations, and individuals.



Virtual Coffee Hour

Join fellow Mount Olive friends and members for an hour of physically distanced socializing! There will be weekly video chat meetings using Google Meet every Sunday from 9-10 am (9-9:30 for the kids' room), and on Easter Sunday, the same room will open again at 11 am (use the same link, whether you want to join at 9 or at 11). You can join by video on a smartphone or computer, or you can join by phone to participate in the informal conversations. The meeting links are below. If you join with a computer, you don't need to install anything or have an account, but if you'd like to join on a phone or tablet, you will need to install the Google Meet app and log in with a Google account. If you have questions about how to join feel free to call Katie Krueger at 419-344-2727 or email katherinerkrueger@gmail.com.

Coffee & Tea (9-10 a.m. **AND** 11 a.m. -12 noon)

<https://meet.google.com/snm-zssf-dni>

(US) +1 407-545-7381 / PIN: 641 572 935#

Meeting code: snm-zssf-dni

Cupcakes & Cookies - Kids' room (9:00-9:30 a.m.)

<https://meet.google.com/vep-nyof-fzz>

(US) +1 216-930-8951 / PIN: 766 845 823#

Meeting code: vep-nyof-fzz

Book Discussion Group

The Mount Olive Book Discussion group will meet virtually on the second Saturday of each month until we can meet again in person.

For April 10, the book is *The Good Lord Bird*, by James McBride, and for May 8 they will read *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich.

They are using the GoToMeeting platform. Just click on the link below. If you prefer, you may join by phone.

Join the discussion from your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://tinyurl.com/y4knn7o3>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States (Toll Free):
1 866 899 4679

United States: +1 (571) 317-3116

Access Code: 998-208-989

Regular link to the Tuesday Noon Bible Study

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study is the same every week. Copy this text and print it off or keep it on your desk for easy reference each week.

To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4qs46v5>

You can also dial in using your phone:

United States: +1 (646) 749-3112

Access Code: 179-693-565

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://tinyurl.com/y274v5rs>



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Lutheran Church in America*

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Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Bargmann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

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