



The Olive Branch

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, April 11

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1 –2:2

John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 18

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

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.

Accent on Worship

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." John 20: 22-23

Peace be with you.

These four words are an essential part of our Christian life together. When we gather and while we are still at a distance, we share the peace of Christ with each other. But what does it mean to share the peace? I had a Sunday school teacher growing up who taught me “sharing the peace is to forgive and release.” It was a way for us to remember this action in our liturgy, but I always wondered about the release.

Desmond Tutu, in his book, *The Book of Forgiving*, shares the insight “when we forgive, we take back control of our own fate and our feelings. We come our own liberators. We don’t forgive to help the other person. We don’t forgive others. We forgive ourselves. Forgiveness, in other words, is the best for our self-interest. (16)”

Tutu’s work on forgiveness has been formative for the way that I understand forgiveness as the center of our Christian identity. It isn’t just an action we do for others, but forgiveness is an action that we do for ourselves. It isn’t simple and most of the time it isn’t very satisfying, but living our daily lives grounded in Christ’s forgiveness releases us from the power of sin and evil in our lives.

Without offering and receiving forgiveness, we retain the weight of sin in our lives and in our world and we get weighted down. Christ’s death on the cross and resurrection liberates us and invites us into the power of forgiveness so that we may offer and receive forgiveness in our daily lives. This releases us to follow the Holy Spirit’s lead in our lives to forgive, serve, and love all of creation.

We share Christ’s love as we find ways in our daily lives to share the peace by forgiving and releasing. Holding onto the hope found in Christ who is our everlasting presence of peace.

Peace,
Andrea

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., April 7

11 am – Staff meeting
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation
5:30 pm – Children’s Choir

Sat., April 10

10 am – Book Discussion

Sun., April 11

Second Sunday of Easter

7 am – Worship at a Distance
9 & 11 am – Virtual
Coffee Hour

Monday, April 12

7:00 pm – Vestry meeting

Tues., April 13

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., April 14

11 am – Staff meeting
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation
5:30 pm – Children’s Choir
6:30 pm – Y# Confirmation

Bach-Tage Returns!

Unfortunately, Bach-Tage 2021 must come to you virtually (again ☹️!), but we are doing our best to make this year an exciting and meaningful time. We hope you will be there.

Bach-Tage will be released on www.mountolivechurch.org on Saturday, June 5, including:

A Bach recital with members of the Bach-Tage orchestra and organist David Cherwien;

Art Halbardier's audio/visual presentation on Cantata 85,
Ich bin ein guter Hirt;

Discussions of the music with Kathy Romey and several of our musicians. Also, Kathy will interview oboists Stanley King and Ellen Rider. Stanley and Ellen decided to retire from performing during the pandemic, but have agreed to return for one more performance with us. Stanley has been with Bach-Tage since our first year, 2007.

Performance by Bach-Tage vocal soloists and orchestra of Cantata 85, and a portion of Cantata 21, the first cantata sung at Bach-Tage in 2007.

Watch your email for more information. Music including music to download will soon be available so you can prepare and participate. Look for this on the Bach-Tage link at www.mountolivechurch.org.



BACH · TAGE
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN
MINNEAPOLIS

Leading with Love: Toward 100% Clean Energy

The EcoFaith Network of our ELCA-Minneapolis Synod is joining with the 100% Campaign to bring Minnesotans together – people just like you – who believe we need an equitable clean energy future for everyone in our state. Both organizations are grounded in the idea that “to change everything, we need everyone.”

Tomorrow, April 8 from 2-3 p.m., our EcoFaith Network will host an event to meet with the 100% Campaign as they describe where we are at in the legislative session with the policy. (You may remember that you signed a petition at church pre-pandemic to encourage this effort.) You will have a chance to write to your legislators and send them right along, or at least get all of the information that you need to write those letters or editorials later.

Let's all take action to make 100% clean energy a reality for Minnesota.

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!

COVID Vaccine Resources

March, 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.

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. Though 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 starting 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>



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

Fax: 612-827-4557

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

In This Issue:

- Accent on Worship – Vicar Andrea Bonneville
- COVID-19 Resources
- Easter Virtual Coffee Hour
- MFA Event: The OK Factor, April 18, 4:00 pm
- Book Discussion and Bible Study Links