



# The Olive Branch

## SUNDAY READINGS

**Sunday, April 18**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

**Sunday, April 25**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

*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

*Pastor Joseph Crippen*

### *We do not yet know*

It's OK not to know what the future holds, if you know who holds you in the future. That's what the elder of 1 John will say to us this Sunday.

Our leadership is having all sorts of conversations about how to open up as the pandemic eases. What we don't know complicates our conversations. We don't know how quickly we'll reach a vaccination level that means greater safety and fewer restrictions. We don't know if the spiking rates this week will level off as the also-climbing vaccination rates continue their arc. We don't know about when and how children can be vaccinated. We're making our plans fully aware that there are and will be many things unknown.

There always are. The elder says God's love is known by this: we are God's children. But, the elder says, what we don't know is what that will fully look like as we grow into our true identity. We see glimpses of Christ in each other, of divine love, as the Spirit changes us, and also glimpses and moments of what we're growing out of.

But know this, the elder says: you are already God's children. You are held by God whose love broke through the power of death for you and the whole creation. It's OK not to know what the future holds if you know who holds you in the future.

Beloved, you are God's child, now. Held in God's undying love. Being changed into your true identity. Together, we'll find the future, a day a time, in that love that binds us and sends us into the world for healing.

In Jesus' name,

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

#### WEEKLY CALENDAR

##### Wed., April 14

11 am – Staff meeting  
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation  
5:30 pm – Children's Choir  
6:30 pm – Y3 Confirmation

##### Sun., April 18

##### *Second Sunday of Easter*

7 am – Worship at a Distance  
9 & 11 am – Virtual  
Coffee Hour  
4 pm – MFA Event: The OK  
Factor livestream

##### Tues., April 20

Noon – Bible Study

##### Wed., April 21

11 am – Staff meeting  
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation  
5:30 pm – Children's Choir  
6:30 pm – Y3 Confirmation

## Semi-Annual Meeting: April 25 at Noon

The 2021 April semi-annual Congregation Meeting of Mount Olive Congregation will be held on Sunday, April 25, at Noon.

The primary purpose of this meeting will be election of members to the Vestry. Additional agenda items include reports on worship, technological enhancements, debt-reduction, audit, and the usual April Foundation report.

Here is the login information for the Congregation Meeting. The slate of candidates for Vestry follows that.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/971779645>

You can also dial in using your phone. (For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679

One-touch: tel:+18668994679,,971779645#

Access Code: 971-779-645

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/971779645>

#### *Vestry Nominees*

Position/Length of Term	Name	Notes
President – 1 year	Gretchen Campbell-Johnson	1 yr eligibility remaining
Vice President- 1 year	Chandler Molbert*	3 yr eligibility
Secretary – 1 year	Gene Janssen	1 yr eligibility remaining
Treasurer – 1 year	Doug Parish	1 yr eligibility remaining
Education	Katie Krueger	3 year term
Properties	Carol Martinson	3 year term
Youth & Family	Becky Melang*	3 year term

\*New to position and/or Vestry

Please plan to attend to hear and join in the discussion.

## 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](http://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.

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

## 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*).

Visit Mount Olive's homepage this Sunday at 4 pm to hear this concert. The link on the homepage will become live 15 minutes before the concert.

## COVID Vaccine Resources

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 \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov/who-s-getting-vaccinated?/COVID-19-Updates-and-Information)

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 \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov/vaccine-connector?/COVID-19-Updates-and-Information); 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 \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov/minnesota-covid-19-response-coronavirus?/COVID-19-Updates-and-Information)

[COVID-19 Vaccine / COVID-19 Updates and Information - State of Minnesota \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov/covid-19-vaccine?/COVID-19-Updates-and-Information)

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](mailto:Kathryn.thurston@allina.com) or 651-587-9569

Walt Hinck via email or phone: [wahinck@me.com](mailto:wahinck@me.com) or 612-325-3948

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





## Building Our Home

This week launches a series highlighting some of the specific properties that will be funded in part by the Building Our Home initiative. It is hoped that this will make the work more concrete (literally and figuratively).

*Please note, a glossary of some basic terms will be included at the end of this section for each week of this series since there are some terms used in the property descriptions that may not be familiar to all readers. This section will repeat each week.*

**Bimosedaa** is a property being developed by our partner Beacon Interfaith in downtown Minneapolis. Bimosedaa will provide 50 units of supportive housing for adults with mental illness and chemical dependency with a history of homelessness. This property is being developed in partnership with Red Lake Nation as a response to the Wall of Forgotten Natives encampment and Navigation Center. Currently, the public capital and the property have been secured; Beacon is raising private capital and is planning to break ground on this development in Spring of 2021.

### Commonly Used Terms and Abbreviations

**AMI:** Average Median Income; the average amount made by households in a given area; currently, the AMI for the Twin Cities metro area for a family of four is \$103,400 (one earner making \$49.71 per hour). As one example, 30% AMI, often a measure of housing considered to be the most affordable, would be \$31,000 (one earner making \$14.90 per hour), making a three-bedroom apartment affordable at \$806 per month. For comparison, the average rent for a three-bedroom unit in the Twin Cities in 2019 was \$1,624.

**Affordable Housing:** Defined as housing that can be obtained and maintained for 30% or less of a households' monthly income. By definition, housing costs include all costs related to maintaining a home - utilities, trash disposal, insurance, and the like - not just rent or mortgage.

**Supportive Housing:** Affordable, long-term, community-based housing with on-site support services such as employment counseling, addiction recovery support, etc. for people with multiple barriers to getting and keeping housing.

### 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

New! For those who found 9 am to be too early for Sunday coffee hour, adults can join at 9 am OR 11 am (or both!) for at least the remainder of April. There will be weekly video calls using Google Meet from 9-10 am AND 11am-12pm, and 9-9:30 for the kids' room.

Use the same link, below, whether you want to join at 9 or at 11. Join by video on a smartphone or computer, or join by phone only to participate in the informal conversations. The meeting links and phone numbers 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](mailto: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  
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*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

### **Contact Us**

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### **Church Staff**

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernvien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries – [Jim Bargmann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

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