



# The Olive Branch

*Cantor David Cherwien*

## SUNDAY READINGS

**Sunday, April 25**

***Fourth Sunday of Easter***

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

**Sunday, May 2**

***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

*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

### *Memory check*

This coming Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. Every year, in all three series of the New Revised Common Lectionary, it is called “Good Shepherd Sunday” – and while lessons shift slightly from year to year, the psalm is always Psalm 23. “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.”

Here’s my challenge to you this week. Do you have this psalm memorized? If not, can you do so by Sunday?

When writhing in pain with a back muscle in full spasm some time ago, I tried to calm myself and that muscle down by saying Psalm 23. It really covers it all, doesn’t it? Calm amidst troubles, protection, being with us in times of trouble and when walking through dark times. It’s no wonder this is perhaps one of the best known psalms. Yet, I couldn’t do it from memory that afternoon. I kept getting stuck a few sentences in.

Could my difficulty recalling it be that there have been too many different translations at play? Perhaps each modification made by translating-wordsmiths is important for various reasons – but the ever-evolving wording played a disservice on my memory. Each translation no doubt has its particular value. Yet, for me, I figured it’s time to pick one, and learn THAT one – from memory.

We don’t know all the contexts where we will need those comforting words. Rather than add stress (because I was unable to recall it from memory, and for crying out loud, I’m a “professional”!!) to a situation that likely carries its own stress, why not tackle memorizing it before you need it? Pick a translation, memorize it. Check your memory from time to time to keep it up. Some people memorize easily. I do not. But this could really be an important thing to draw from.

I suggest the translation in the ELW, which is modified *Book of Common Prayer*. Among the modifications this version does is downplay male dominated language, and also uses words in use today. This particular translation also comes closest to that which we used for so many years leading up to *ELW* in 2006 that my chances are even higher of memorizing it.

*Accent on Worship, continued on page 6*

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

**WEEKLY CALENDAR****Wed., April 21**

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

**Sun., April 25*****Third Sunday of Easter***

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

**Mon., April 26**

7 pm – Worship Committee

**Tues., April 27**

Noon – Bible Study

**Wed., April 28**

11 am – Staff meeting  
5 pm – Y2 Confirmation  
5:30 pm – Children’s Choir  
(final until fall)  
6:30 pm – Y3 Confirmation

## Semi-Annual Meeting: This Sunday at Noon

The 2021 April semi-annual Congregation Meeting of Mount Olive Congregation will be held this 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*

<b>Position/Length of Term</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Notes</b>
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).

## Spring Clean Up and Garden Days Ahead

As the snow has melted and spring growth has begun in our gardens around the church and the south parking lot, it is once again time for a spring clean-up day.

**Spring Clean Up Day,  
Sat., May 1, – 9:00 am - Noon**

Bring your gloves, rakes, shovels, trimmers, power tools, and gardening enthusiasm.

Focus will be on trimming last year's pollinator plants in the south parking lot and splitting and replanting overgrown plants around the church - hostas, grasses, and lilies of the valley. Extras available for anyone who wants to take them home for planting.

**Beginning Saturday, May 8,  
bi-weekly gardening days,  
9:00 am**

Become part of an ongoing work group that weeds, trims, and cleans up all garden areas as needed.

If you have any questions reach out to Carol Martinson, [property@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:property@mountolivechurch.org), 612-708-9849 or Elaine Halbardier, [ech914@comcast.net](mailto:ech914@comcast.net), 763-639-7702.



## A Note from the Mount Olive COVID Preparedness Team

*“When can we walk through these doors to be with our Mount Olive community again?”*

This is a question that we all have, and it is a question that is being discussed by the Mount Olive COVID group, the people that the Vestry has charged with making decisions and recommendations about our COVID practices since March, 2020. The current committee members are Pr. Crippen, Gretchen Campbell Johnson, Katie Krueger, and Lora Dundek.

There’s a lot to talk about! We are currently determining when it will be safe for small groups, such as Bible study or committee groups to meet. What will the guidelines be for those groups? We’re focusing on the usual safety techniques of masks, social distancing, hand hygiene, and, of course, vaccinations.

What about worship? That’s still an open question, and subject to change based on recommendations of the Minnesota Health Department and the CDC. We would love to gather for worship in late spring or early summer, but there are circumstances, (such as disease surges, more contagious variants, or increased hospitalizations), that could push that further into the summer. The Worship Committee and the COVID committee will be coordinating our efforts around the “when” and “how” of worship.

Watch for more communication soon. In the meantime, here’s how you can help:

- Get vaccinated as soon as you are able (and if you need vaccine information, there are Mount Olive folks that have volunteered to answer your questions about the vaccine and help find a vaccination appointment. See the COVID information page in this issue of The Olive Branch.
- Wear a mask when you’re out and about and stay socially distanced as much as possible.
- Stay home if you feel ill and keep washing your hands thoroughly.

We WILL be spending time together again, and won’t that be wonderful?

### Walk for Hope!

Join in! [Common Hope](#)’s Walk for Hope. Join the Mount Olive team and walk by yourself or walk together on **Sunday, May 16.**

If you walk by yourself, you can do that anytime by May 16, anywhere for any length. Just let us know how long you plan to walk and when you are going to do it.

If you are interested in walking together with other Mount Olive friends, Pastor Crippen has a 10K route and a shorter route (around 5K) planned on the beautiful trails by his house in Bloomington. We will meet at 1:00 in the park at East Bush Lake Beach. If you are unable to walk but still want to join this gathering, you can meet in the park and cheer on the team.

Join our team or donate to our page and help us spread the word with your friends! Our team page: <http://give.commonhope.org/MountOliveWalk2021>

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## 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 \(mn.gov\)](#)

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



## Watch ‘Em Grow!

Last fall the Mount Olive garden crew planted 500 red tulip bulbs that were graciously donated by a member. Now we get to see them come out of the frozen ground and grow in front of our sign reminding our neighbors and members that spring is here! And that Mount Olive is here, dedicated to our neighbors and city.

Enjoy these first photos and watch for updates in upcoming Olive Branch issues.

## Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Perhaps it makes no difference to you which one, or perhaps it does. Maybe for you, going back to King James: “He leadeth me beside still waters, he restoreth my soul” (vs. 2) goes so far back for you that it’s the logical translation for you. Or maybe this contemporary one: “God, my shepherd! I don’t need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from.” (*The Message*, translation by Eugene Peterson). The point is, pick one – memorize it. Some are kind of whacky and much too contextualized. We do need to choose carefully. Shall we test each other when we are back together? When you see someone, say “Psalm 23: Go,” how far can you get?

Good luck. And by the way, remember always – it is indeed God who watches over us and protects us. We do NOT need to worry. A good sentiment to always have at the tip of our tongues. Lately that seems all too frequently needed.

- Cantor David Chernien



## 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.*

**Sound on 76th** will be located in Edina is being developed by Aeon and will house 70 families earning between 30% and 60% AMI. This property will include 8 units set aside for women who have formerly experienced homelessness. The property formerly housed a music studio; the building's name and architectural features will pay homage to the studio's artistic legacy. This property is currently under construction with an estimated completion date of mid-2022.

### 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 May 8 they will read *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich, and for June 12, they will read *Our Man in Havana*, by Graham Greene.

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](http://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](#)

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## OK Factor Concert Still Available

In case you missed the Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts concert by The OK Factor which was livestreamed on Sunday, April 18, the concert will be available on Mount Olive's YouTube channel through May 23.

If you missed it, be sure to check it out by viewing it on the web at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g51hhEQLSds>