

# The Olive Branch

## Accent on Worship

*Vicar Andrea Bonneville*

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)*

This weekend I was walking in my neighborhood and reflecting on this part of Paul's letter to the church in Corinth. I wanted to be thinking about the newness of creation; the flowers that will grow, the birds that will return, the sunshine and warm weather that awaits, but my mind was distracted. Distracted by how much trash the melting snow exposed, as if I needed another reminder of the disconnect between humanity and creation.

I was angry and frustrated, and the anger continued to grow, until I turned a corner and saw three neighbors walking up and down the streets gathering trash and attempting to recycle what they could. Their caring actions softened my heart, and my perspective changed. Because it was 60 degrees and I was walking in sandals, I expected my surroundings to be filled with the newness of Spring that my soul craves. But the reality is that the transformation and reconciliation that Spring brings is only just beginning. It is too early to expect the newness of Spring my soul was anticipating, but my neighbors reminded me that we have an active role to play in this transformation.

*(continued on page 2)*



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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Wed., March 23**

9 am – Staff meeting

**Noon – Midweek Eucharist**

5:30 pm - Children's Choir (on Zoom)

**7:00 pm – Lenten Vespers**

7:45 pm – Cantorei rehearsal

**Thurs., March 24**

7 pm – Narcotics Anonymous

**Fri., March 25**

7pm – Recovery Group

**Sun., March 27****Fourth Sunday in Lent****8 am – Holy Eucharist**, followed by coffee & fellowship**10:45 am – Holy Eucharist***(livestreamed)*, followed by coffee & fellowship**Tues., March 29**

Noon – Bible Study

**Wed., March 23**

9 am – Staff meeting

**Noon – Midweek Eucharist**

1 pm – Soup Luncheon

5:30 pm - Children's Choir (on Zoom)

6:00 pm – Soup Supper

**7:00 pm – Lenten Vespers**

7:45 pm – Cantorei rehearsal

## Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts to Present Organist David Hurd

*This Sunday, March 27, 2022 – 4:00 pm*

David Hurd is widely recognized as one of the foremost church musicians and concert organists in the United States, with a long list of awards, prizes, honors, and achievements, and immeasurable expertise in organ performance, improvisation, and composition.

David Hurd is the composer of dozens of hymns, choral works, settings of the liturgy, and organ works published by a number of major houses. From 1998 to 2013 he was music director and organist at Church of the Holy Apostles (Episcopal) in New York City. He is now organist and choirmaster of the famed Church of St. Mary the Virgin at Times Square.

David will play a program of eclectic music with improvisations.

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

The ministry of reconciliation is entrusted to us, Paul writes, and yet sometimes I forget reconciliation is an active task. It takes effort, trust, vulnerability, and patience. It takes us embodying love and care and seeing love and care reflected in neighbors that points us to God's active work of making all things new.

And the truth is that when we see this love and care reflected in others, it transforms us again and again to join in the work to bring forth the new creation, the reign of God in our daily lives, here and now.

- Vicar Andrea Bonneville

## Join in Supporting Our Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine

Your Missions Committee has given \$2,500 of Mount Olive's mission tithes to the ELCA Disaster Response earmarked for the disaster through which our brothers and sisters are living. Here is what will be done with our funds: "Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water, and hygiene kits."

You may join the effort by giving through the link provided or by donating through your blue envelope, marking your donation "For Ukraine," and we will forward your gift on to ELCA Disaster Response. We will forward any gifts received to the ELCA over and above our \$2,500 donation. *ELCA Disaster Response will match up to \$50,000 in donations*

[Your gifts will support Ukrainians and others. Gifts to "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used in full \(100%\) to assist those affected by the crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries.](#)

Our prayers abound for the loss and devastation experienced in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

### SUNDAY READINGS

**Sunday, March 27**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
 Joshua 5:9-12  
 Psalm 32  
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Sunday, April 3**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
 Isaiah 43:16-21  
 Psalm 126  
 Philippians 3:4b-14  
 John 12:1-8

### Paschal Garden

Donations are currently being received for this year's Easter Paschal Garden.

If you would like to donate to flowers for Easter, please be sure your contribution is clearly designated for this purpose. Gifts can be given any time between now and Easter.

Contributors may take a flower home following the second Easter liturgy.

## Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild will be gathering to clean our chancel on Saturday, April 2, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Please join our crew – for an hour, for the morning. The more hands, the faster we'll finish! Come help prepare our worship space for Holy Week and Easter.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede – [bethgaede@comcast.com](mailto:bethgaede@comcast.com).

## Coffee Hour and Midweek Soup and Bread Meals

Mount Olive is moving forward, “in the presence of God and being the presence of God.”

Vestry President Gretchen Campbell-Johnson sent a message to the congregation on March 7 regarding important information about face coverage at Mount Olive. Facemasks are now optional for the vaccinated. The Congregational Life Committee will also return to coffee hour after each Sunday liturgy, starting immediately. Snacks will be added after Easter, with a sign-up sheet in the East Assembly Room.

**Additionally, effective last week**, we have returned to simple meals of soup and bread around our midweek liturgies at 1:00 (following the noon liturgy) and 6:00 pm (before Vespers). Sign up to provide these meals in the East Assembly Room.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the pandemic. We can hope, as joy does await each of us today as we open our eyes to each other. Some who we have not seen in a couple years, we need each other, just as seedlings of joy sprout, the hurdles of our experience have stretched us and these pandemic times have made us stronger. It is a sacrifice we all have made and through it, the light of Christ is ever present. Thanks be to God.

- Larry Duncan, Director of Congregational Life

## Book Discussion

**Due to a conflict the Mount Olive Book Group will not meet in April.** They will resume as follows:

On May 14, they will discuss *The Moon and Sixpence*, by W. Somerset Maugham. On June 11, they will discuss *Little Fires Everywhere*, by Celeste Ng. On July 9, they will discuss *The Unseen*, by Roy Jacobsen.

## Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the West Lounge. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week.

To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

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## Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

### *Community Emergency Services and Sabathani Community Center*

Both of these organizations work to alleviate hunger and food insecurity in our south Minneapolis community and beyond. They work to do this through food shelf locations, food delivery programs, pet food programs, and a relationship with Meals on Wheels.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute over and above our budgeted amount to those partners doing work in their areas of passion and concern. You can do this using your offering envelopes or our online giving system. All additional contributions to our partner of the month will be distributed to the partner for the month in which the contribution is received.

In addition to financial contributions, Mount Olive will collect donations of non-perishable food in support of the MN Food Share March Campaign. Please leave all donations in the shopping cart located in the West Assembly area.

Some of the most needed items include:

*Dry lentils*

*black-eyed peas*

*Great Northern and black beans*

*fish sauce*

*Jasmine rice*

*cooking oils*

*jars of pasta sauce*

*diced tomatoes*

*honey*

*pork & beans*

*baked beans*

*canned tuna, sardines, and chicken*

*ground coffee*

*snack crackers*

*peanut butter*

*canned ravioli*

*and canned chili.*

For more information about our partners of the month, please visit [www.cesmn.org](http://www.cesmn.org) and [www.sabathani.org](http://www.sabathani.org).



## Nowruz Gathering

The spring equinox for Minnesotans means that the cold days are coming to an end, and the warmer days of summer are soon to follow. For the Afghan family sponsored by Mount Olive, these days offer the opportunity to celebrate Nowruz, the New Year festival observed throughout central and western Asia. Not unlike

the New Year holiday that Americans celebrate, it is a time to gather with family, eat traditional foods, and look forward to new beginnings.

The name “Nowruz” is a combination of two Persian words meaning “New Day”. It is an ancient celebration, rooted in Zoroastrian practice. Traditional spring foods such as lamb, spinach (whose green color represents new life), and stewed fruits grace tables laden with food. Even the rice that accompanies these foods is often scented with cardamom and cumin, fragrant spices that symbolize nature’s awakening after a dark winter.

This year, the Alight organization ([wearealight.org](http://wearealight.org)) sponsored a Nowruz gathering for Afghan women, some of whom are new to our community, and others who are well established here. It was a great day of feasting, dancing, talking, and simply making new friends. For the young woman in the family with which we’ve been working, it was the first time she had met other Afghan women since coming to the Twin Cities. Judy Hinck was privileged to accompany her to the festivities and reported that “she was smiling from ear to ear”.





## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

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### Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Bargmann](#)

Sexton – [Jose Moracho](#)

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## Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter at Mount Olive

**Sunday, April 10: *Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday***

+ Holy Eucharist, 8 & 10:45 am

**Mon.-Wed., April 11-13: *Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week***

+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave,  
near the columbarium

**Thursday, April 14: *Maundy Thursday***

+ Holy Eucharist, Noon

+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

**Friday, April 15: *Good Friday***

+ Stations of the Cross, Noon

+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

**Saturday, April 16: *Holy Saturday***

+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception in the Undercroft.

**Sunday, April 17: *The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day***

+ Festival Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:45 am