

The Olive Branch

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

April 20, 2022



Sunday Readings

Sunday, April 24

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

Sunday, May 1

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

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

Accent on Worship

Bishop's 2022 Easter Message

I know that my Redeemer lives

This Easter, many of us will be able to gather in person for glorious celebrations of our Lord's resurrection. But the first Easter was in a cemetery, surrounded by tombstones. The women and then the men disciples came to see what had happened to their Lord. They expected to find a dead body, but instead they found God's defiant answer to death.

As St. Paul writes in Corinthians, "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Oh, death, where is your victory? Oh, death, where is your sting?"

I know now that we're entering the third year of this pandemic, and we see the signs of stress and incivility, even the signs of war and disease in Ethiopia and Sudan, in Europe. It might seem like death still has sway, but we can declare confidently on this Easter and all times what Job said, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh, I shall see God."

Centuries ago, the Russian Orthodox developed this beautiful poem, the Kontakion of the Departed. It's often used at gravesites:

"Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind, and we are mortal, formed of the earth and to the earth shall we return. For so you did ordain when you created a thing. You are dust and to dust you shall return. All of us go down to the dust. Yet even at the grave we make our song. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

Blessed Easter, dear church.

*The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., April 20

10 am – Staff meeting

5:30 pm – Childrens Choir

(via Zoom)

7:30 pm – NO Cantorei rehearsal

Thurs., April 21

7 pm – Narcotics Anonymous

Thurs., April 22

7 pm – Recovery Group

Sun., April 24**Second Sunday of Easter****8 am – Holy Eucharist****10:45 am – Holy Eucharist***(livestreamed)*

Noon – Congregation Meeting

Tues., April 26

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., April 27

10 am – Staff meeting

5:30 pm – Childrens Choir

(via Zoom)

7:30 pm – Cantorei rehearsal

Congregation Meeting to be Held April 24

The April semi-annual Congregation Meeting for 2022 will be held **this Sunday, April 24th at 12:30 pm**, immediately following the second liturgy.

The meeting will be held in the Undercroft with the option of also attending online via Zoom. Please plan to attend either in person or online to discuss and vote on the election of Vestry Officers and Directors, Constitution and Bylaw change proposals, and other important updates.

The Mount Olive Foundation and Congregational Life Committee will host a luncheon immediately following the Congregational Meeting.

Additional information, including specific agenda and instructions for accessing the meeting online were sent out earlier this week.

Climate Advocacy Action

Join with our partners at Interfaith Power and Light and members of your Missions Committee.

Senator Tina Smith has been a champion for federal climate action, especially on the Build Back Better Act. If the \$555 billion in climate provisions passes, it would be the largest-ever federal investment in clean energy!

Join hundreds of Minnesotans of faith and conscience for a [statewide virtual meeting](#) with Senator Smith on Tuesday, April 26, from 11:15-12:15. We will thank the Senator for her leadership and urge her to keep pushing the U.S. Senate to get this strong climate policy across the finish line.

We have invited a few representative congregations to share their climate stories during the meeting. Afterward, we intend to flood Senator Smith and her staff with all of the stories that were shared in the chat.

Be part of this important meeting and give testimony to the values and commitment you and your community bring to caring for the earth. Every person on the call helps build our powerful climate message to Senator Smith!

[Register today!](#)

Neighborhood Ministry Partnership

Highlight: Align Mpls

Since late 2019, Mount Olive has been a part of an organization called Align Mpls. This month, we are highlighting their work and some ways we as Mount Olive can partner with our fellow Align congregations.

“Align Minneapolis is an interfaith collaboration of 17 Minneapolis churches, synagogues, and mosques and people with lived experiences working together to address homelessness and poverty.” Along with the other congregations of Align, we “[focus] on shifting from an immediate needs approach to long term solutions through a combination of education, advocacy, and action.” Together, we are “committed to engage the community around us to address homelessness. Through learning, volunteer opportunities, community partnerships, community organizing, and development of effective strategies and programs.”

One of the unique aspects of Align Mpls is our cooperative work not only on our larger organizational goals mentioned above, but our support of each individual congregation in our direct service programs. Align Mpls congregations frequently hold diaper drives in support of Mount Olive’s Diaper Depot. Likewise, we have the opportunity to support the work of our partner congregations and the work of Align as a whole.

One of the ways the work of Align as a whole and the work of its individual congregations is shared is through a quarterly Campaign Guide. If you would like to read the entire campaign guide, including some valuable educational information, tools for advocacy, and opportunities to support our partner congregations, please visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4dh58mcs>

And, to highlight one particular project...

Sofas and Tables and Chairs...Oh MY! Furniture Drive

May 14th, 9:00 am to Noon
at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
511 Groveland Ave, Minneapolis

Donations of gently used furniture will be accepted and will then be given to guests of Align MPLS outreach ministries to assist in furnishing new apartments in a dignified and safe manner.

If you have furniture to donate, you can bring it to Hennepin any time between 9 am and Noon on May 14. No beds, appliances, large desks or construction materials are needed at this time.

Book Discussion

The Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am at church. All readers are welcome! 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.

Easter Paschal Garden Contributors

Thanks to all who contributed to the fund for Easter flowers to beautify our Easter worship this year: Mark & Linda Pipkorn; Carol Martinson; Memos Katsoulis, in memory of Ellen Katsoulis; Rob & Lynn Ruff; Larry Duncan, in memory of his parents, Annetta & Thomas Duncan; Heather Halen; Don Luther; Dennis Bidwell; John Bjork; and Mary Rose and Dave Kaliher.

The Earth Sings Beauty

Sunday, May 1, 4pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN

The National Lutheran Choir's 2022 Spring Concert featuring the world premiere of *Lament of the Earth*, with music by Steve Heitzeg and libretto by Susan Palo Cherwien.

Winner of the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award, this new work delves into the symbiotic relationship between humanity and the natural world, bringing us all closer to the living being on which we live.

Featuring acclaimed mezzo-soprano Clara Osowski and the Minnesota Boychoir.

For tickets and additional information, visit www.nlca.com, or call the NLC office at 612-722-2301.

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](#).

Palm Plants Available

The palm plants used for Holy Week services are available at church, on a first come, first served basis.

If you would like one, they are free for the taking until they are gone. Help yourself!

Neighborhood Ministries Partners of the Month: Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association and Lake Street Council

April is another month where we have chosen to feature two organizations with connected and related missions.

The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association works to enhance the lives of residents in our neighborhood through special events like the Powderhorn Park Art Fair. In addition, they communicate with and advocate for neighborhood residents on issues like housing, economic equity, safety, and security. The Powderhorn Park neighborhood is bordered by Lake Street on the north, Chicago Avenue on the west, 38th Street on the south, and Cedar Avenue on the east, putting Mount Olive right in the northwest corner of our neighborhood home.

The Lake Street Council serves and advocates for the Lake Street business community, working to ensure diversity and prosperity for all businesses, small and large, operating in the corridor. They do this through community events, clean energy retrofit projects, strategic planning, employee recruitment, and more. They have been and continue to be instrumental in helping businesses recover from the effects of the pandemic and the 2020 civil unrest.



Two Outings with the Afghan Family

On the last two Fridays Susan (Snow) and I (Patsy Holtmeier) went on two outings with the mother and her children.

Our first outing was to the Children's Museum. The son, (age 3 years), loved his time there. For 3 hours he was engaged with self-directed activities. We were impressed with his interest and attention as he navigated everything available to him in a sophisticated sort of 3-year-old way. Susan said, "He's going to make it." I agree.

Our second outing was quite different. Susan and I intended to have a few hours alone with the mother, get to know each other better and practice conversational English with her. Since she had shared with us her love of flowers, we planned a trip to the flower show at the Galleria.

When I got to her house, the men had left so the mother and I had to take the two children and the two infant seats down to the car and somehow get the infant seats installed. That wasn't easy. 45 minutes later we all left for the Galleria where we met Susan. The three-year old had two close calls at the Galleria. The first was a minor fall into some flowers. The other was a giant lavender bear that almost fell over because he was poking at it. The bear was rescued by a Bachmann's guard. (But then, whoever heard of a giant lavender bear anyway? Maybe he was right to poke it!) The second outing wasn't what we had imagined.

She is a wonderful mother. Susan and I are thankful for blessings we did not know would come through the mentor program. Onward to other adventures.



Getting to Know Our Newest Members: *Sarah Estes*

“Hello, my name is Sarah Estes and I'm excited to be here at Mount Olive! I'm pictured here with my partner, Andrew Stoebig, who has been a member for several years. I grew up Catholic and for the last 3 or so years, that wasn't fulfilling me anymore. A few months after Andrew came into my life, he asked if he could share Mount Olive with me. Because this was during COVID, we watched services Sunday evening from the comfort of the couch. This past fall, I was able to come here in person for the first time and it felt comfortable. We are most often at the 8 a.m. service. I am currently involved in the “bar baking” effort. At some point, I could see myself becoming a lector as well.

A little about me- Andrew and I currently live in Saint Paul with our dog, Milo. I have a Bachelors degree in Human Development and Family Studies from UW-Stout and a Masters in School Counseling from St. Cloud State. I work full time as a High School Counselor. I have a couple side hustles as well- judging high school speech competitions in the winter and proctoring the ACT on national test dates. In my free time, I enjoy being in the kitchen, traveling, listening to Broadway musical soundtracks, crafting with my Cricut, and reading.”

Diaper Depot Update

This week, we mark the one-year anniversary of the launch of our new Diaper Depot delivery model! And with that anniversary, we also find ourselves celebrating the growth of that program. We are serving more and more families with this important service. With that growth comes the need for more delivery drivers. Would you consider joining us in this work?

Currently, there are four of us driving diaper delivery routes. Ideally, I would like to add 2 or 3 more delivery drivers to our diaper depot program. This would lighten the load on our current drivers and allow us to better serve those in our community. Our existing drivers pick up diapers at Mount Olive and then deliver in neighborhoods close to where they live - offering them the opportunity to connect with families in their communities. We can use drivers in any part of the metro area, but in particular, we would like to add at least driver in the south suburbs (Bloomington, Richfield, Burnsville) and another one or two in the north-northeast suburbs (Fridley, Columbia Heights, New Brighton, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center).

Currently, we deliver diapers on Wednesday afternoons, but there is some flexibility in that schedule. Please email me at neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org if you are interested in joining us in this powerful and unique program.

- Jim Bargmann



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](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Sexton – [Jose Moracho](#)

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