



# The Olive Branch

April 12, 2023

## Accent on Worship

*Vicar Mollie Hamre*

*"You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence"  
(Acts 2:28).*

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

This week we hear passages about those who witnessed Christ's resurrection, those who doubt it, and those who have hope in it, but did not witness it. Which leaves the question: how do we know if our Triune God is *really* here, risen with us?

A strange reality is, we do not know for sure. That doubt or skepticism will be there—and that is okay. Having proof to show others or declaring that Jesus needs to show himself is not the point of the readings today.

What we do have are life stories, written accounts, and proclamations about our risen Messiah. Life experiences that speak of what happens when we love, forgive, and show compassion to one another. The point is how this impacts the way we live today. These proclamations make known to us the ways that Christ lived, and continues to live within us, so that we may live the same way. Living such a life does not require proof, but hope in our everyday lives, seeking out peace, justice, ways to love the neighbor, and trusting that our Triune God is a part of it. Or as the Gospel says, "that through believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31)

## Congregation Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the Mount Olive congregation will be held on **Sunday, April 30, following the second liturgy**. The primary purpose of this meeting is to elect leaders to the Vestry.

All voting members are encouraged to attend!

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## A Note of Thanks

The Holy Week and Easter observances at Mount Olive were duly observed and celebrated. I feel special thanks should be expressed to those who made the worship and festivities meaningful and enjoyable.

In addition to Pastor Crippen's and Vicar Hamre's thought-provoking messages was the music, so well performed by Cantor Cherwien and the choir, which enhanced my worship experience. I am unable to name and enumerate all those who participated in preparing delicious refreshments, elegantly served.

All deserve our thanks and appreciation.

*-Eunice Hafemeister*

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## Sunday Readings

**April 16, 2023**

*Second Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

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**April 23, 2023**

*Third Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

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## Left Behind

Dishes, bowls, pots, and pans which have been left at church in recent months are on display in the coat room, waiting to be claimed by their owners.

Please take a moment to see if any of the kitchenware which has been left behind at church happens to belong to you!

## Calendar

### Wednesday, April 5

9:00 am Staff meeting

Noon *Daily Prayer*

7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

### Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday

Noon *Maundy Thursday Eucharist*

7:00 pm *Maundy Thursday Eucharist, with Washing of Feet*

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, April 7 - Good Friday

Noon *Stations of the Cross*

7:00 pm *Adoration of the Cross*

7:00 pm Recovery group

### Saturday, April 8

9:00 pm Organ/Trumpet rehearsal

10:00 am Easter Vigil rehearsal

8:30 pm *The Easter Vigil*, followed by a Festive reception

### Sunday, April 9 - Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day

9:00 am Carry-In Easter Brunch

10:00 am *Festival Holy Eucharist*  
NO Education hour this weeks

### Monday, April 10

5:30 pm Family Music Time (online) for kids aged birth-kindergarten+caregiver  
Vestry meeting postponed one week to 4/17

### Tuesday, April 11

Noon Bible Study

## Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the **East Assembly Room** 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.](#)

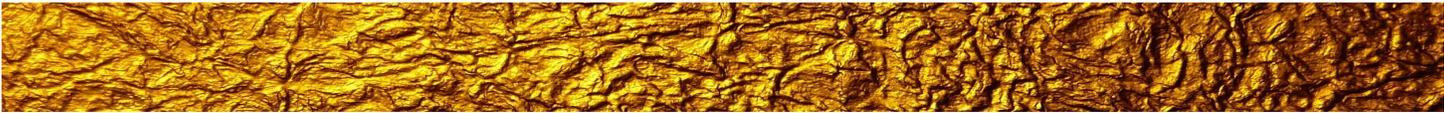
## Book Discussion

For its April 15 meeting, postponed one week because of Easter, the group will read *The Bohemian Flats*, by Mary Relindes Ellis. For the May 13 meeting they will read *Stoner*, by John Williams.

The Mount Olive book group has been meeting once a month for 20 years, usually on the second Saturday from 10am to noon. While the book selections are predominately novels, they are not always so. Lately the group has been using Zoom to provide remote access to the sessions. If you would like to participate in the group, you can either attend the monthly sessions which meet at the church or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here.](#)

## Hosts Needed!

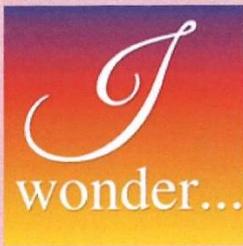
Coffee hour hosts are needed. Mentoring is available. Sign up near the coffee counter in the East Assembly Room.



## Upcoming Education Topics

**April 16** - "Homelessness, Housing, and Mount Olive" - Homelessness and issues related to affordable housing have been in the forefront of many of our minds for months if not years now. More and more, members of our society are starting to recognize housing as foundational to many of the other issues faced by member security, addiction, education, and more. In this Adult forum, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann will facilitate a panel discussion with several members of our community who have experience with homelessness and are doing work in making housing a reality for all.

**April 23** - Cynthia Prosek: "Restorative Justice Community Action" (RJCA) has provided a community-based approach to criminal prosecution with the mission of fostering individual growth while strengthening communities through restorative justice practices. RJCA serves both youth and adults referred by the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and Ramsey County. Rooted in indigenous practices, restorative justice focuses on the transformation of individuals, repair of relationships, and community building while addressing harm in the community. RJCA's program provides a forum for referred participants to be accountable for their actions by meeting with stakeholders (direct victims, supporters, and community members) to address the harm and create a shared solution that repairs the harm to the extent possible. This approach reduces the barriers to a criminal conviction and provides the opportunity for a second chance. It also empowers individuals to broaden their awareness of the impact of harm in communities, make new connections, and contribute to the well-being of their community. Meet with RJCA staff to learn about Restorative Justice practices and how this alternative to traditional punitive responses to behavior increase community safety and well-being.



# GODLY PLAY

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This Coming Week, We Will Wonder:

Circle One: Mystery of Easter (Lenten Puzzle)  
 Circle Two: Faces of Easter 3

*I wonder what conversations you will have at home!*

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Please note that we hold Godly Play every Sunday at 9:30am!

## April Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Lake Street Council*

The Lake Street Council is a non-profit organization built to support the diverse community of residents and businesses that call Lake Street home. They do this through a variety of programs that support entrepreneurs starting new businesses, grant programs to help existing businesses thrive, work to beautify the streetscape, and engage local businesses in policy work that affects the corridor. The Lake Street Council has been instrumental in helping local businesses, many of them family and BIPOC owned, recover from the civil unrest of 2020, giving out 5.5 million dollars in grants to over 300 businesses.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partners this month, we also volunteer in support of their work. On top of those financial and labor contributions, we encourage any member who wishes to donate 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.

For more information about the work of the Lake Street Council, please visit their website at [lakestreetcouncil.org](http://lakestreetcouncil.org).

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## Congregational Life Reminders

### *Native American Art Tour, April 21*

Join your Mount Olive family for a docent-led tour of Native American art at MIA on Sunday, April 21 at 2:30. Cost is \$10 with scholarship money available by speaking with Pr. Crippen. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4AA9A828A2F94-indigenous>, or by calling the office.

*The KudoBoard for Pr. Hoffman* will close by next Sunday. Share with him your thanks and farewell messages at <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/XfrZiULA>.

### *Photos Requested*

If you have any photos of the great Easter celebrations from this past Easter weekend at Mount Olive, please consider sharing them with the church office ([welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org)) or Lora Dundek ([conglife@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org)). Be aware that they may be shared publicly, without names included.



## From our Afghan Friends

We received this message from the Mohammadi/Kheli family last week:

*"Hello everyone good afternoon. I'm glad you are well. I have some good news today. I want to thank your whole team. We bought a car this week. I really appreciate your help. Thank you very much, and today we went by car to pray in the mosque."*

## Align Minneapolis Furniture Drive at Mount Olive

Do you have gently used furniture such as tables, chairs, sofas, end tables, lamps, and dressers that could use a new home? Clothing and housewares? If so, you are cordially invited to donate them at the annual Align Minneapolis Furniture Drive on Saturday, May 13, from 9:00 am to Noon at Mount Olive in the south parking lot.

Furniture collected will then be given to guests of Align Minneapolis outreach ministries to assist in furnishing new apartments for those residing in our area, many of whom are exiting homelessness. Questions? Contact Julia Freeman at the Basilica of Saint Mary at (612) 317-3413 or [jfreeman@mary.org](mailto:jfreeman@mary.org). If you are unable to attend the furniture drive but would still like to donate, you can call (651) 602-0478 for furniture pick up within a limited area.

Please, no beds, large office desks, appliances, or construction materials.

And, if you would like to learn more about the life-changing, dynamic work of Align Minneapolis, visit [www.alignmpls.org](http://www.alignmpls.org).

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

### **Sunday Eucharist:**

**8:00 & 10:45 am**

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 612/827-5919

Fax: 612/827-4557

Web: [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org)

### **Staff**

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Mollie Hamre*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach  
and Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ  
congregation.*

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