



The Olive Branch

April 19, 2023

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

It is a privilege to write on our Gospel lesson for this upcoming week. A passage we often title “the walk to Emmaus” is a story I can read over and over again and find something new with each reading.

Much has been said and written about this passage, much of it raising questions and offering conjecture. How and why did Jesus keep himself from being recognized by the two companions? Who were these two - Cleopas is named, but what about their companion? Some have hypothesized that the unnamed companion was female, perhaps even a spouse, but the reality is we don't know. Typically detailed Luke is silent on the matter. What of Jesus' question, feigning ignorance of the events of the past week? As someone with a background in education, this one I can understand! Educators frequently ask questions of students to which they certainly know the answer, helping to guide the learners into self-realization rather than lecture, which often leads to a higher level of understanding and retention. But I digress. And what of Jesus' interpretation of the passages of Scripture about himself, reduced for us to one simple sentence, one verse? How much would I love to know the content of that conversation!

I will share this: one significant thing I took from this passage many years ago is the image of walking with Jesus in conversation. This image has shaped my own prayer life in more profound ways than nearly any other teaching and I would welcome conversation about this at any point.

But this week, I find myself drawn to verse 32, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

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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!

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

How many of you share this experience? How many of you have been in liturgy and felt an overwhelming sense of God's presence - a burning in your heart? Perhaps while singing a hymn or hearing a sermon or chanting the words of a psalm. Or maybe you felt it when approached by someone seeking help? Or while reading scripture during a moment of quiet devotion? Or while conversing with God in prayer? These I have come to recognize as the work of the Spirit. I think it very intentional that for all the things Luke could have told us about this encounter, he did include this detail. I believe this is not all that uncommon of an experience.

Dear friends, please trust the Spirit's work. Know that she knows what she is doing! Perhaps she is offering encouragement in a dark time. Perhaps she is offering a new insight into scripture and its connection to your life. Perhaps she is leading you to something new, a calling to action even. Along with prayer, time in scripture, conversation with trusted, faithful companions, we can trust this burning, trust the work of the Spirit, just as it seems Cleopas and their companion did along the road.

- Jim Bargmann

Picnic Time!

The second annual all-church picnic will be on Sunday, July 30, at Minnehaha Park.

If you're interested in helping with the planning and logistics of this fun event, please contact Lora at

conglife@mountolivechurch.org .

Sunday Readings

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

April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

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 19

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
 5:30 pm Childrens Choirs supper
 6:00 pm Children's Choirs rehearsals
 7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, April 20

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, April 21

- 5-9 pm Godly Play Training

Saturday, April 22

- 8 am-5 pm Godly Play Training

Sunday, April 23 - Third Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
 9:30 am Education Hour for all ages
 10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
 12:30 pm Y1 Confirmation
 1-6 pm Godly Play Training
 2:00 pm MIA Tour of Native American Art

Monday, April 24

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online, for kids aged birth-kindergarten+caregiver)

Tuesday, April 25

- 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.

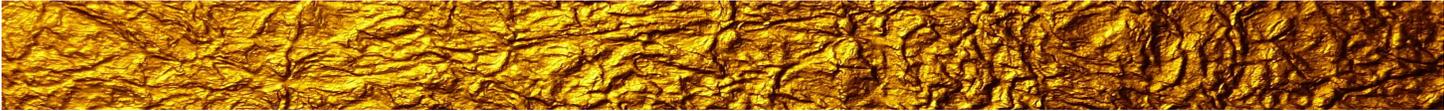
The Mount Olive book group has been meeting once a month for 20 years, usually on the second Saturday from 10am to noon. While the book selections are predominately novels, they are not always so. Lately the group has been using Zoom to provide remote access to the sessions. If you would like to participate 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.](#)

Spring Cleaning for our Gardens

A gardens Clean-Up Day will be held at Mount Olive on **Saturday, May 6, from 9 am - Noon.**

There is plenty of yard and garden work to do, and many hands will help to accomplish this timely work as our flowers and plants are starting to come up.

Come for an hour or two - or for the morning - to help beautify our grounds.



Upcoming Education Topics

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.

April 30: - Vicar Mollie Hamre; topic to be announced

This Coming Week, We Will Wonder:

Circle One: The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
Circle Two: Jesus & the 12

I wonder what conversations you will have at home!

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

(On May 14, 2023, there will be no Godly Play. Instead, the Mother's Day Recital will be held in the Chapel Lounge.)

Congregational Life Reminders

Native American Art Tour, This Sunday, April 21

Join your Mount Olive family for a docent-led tour of Native American art at MIA **this 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.

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) or Lora Dundek (conglife@mountolivechurch.org). Be aware that they may be shared publicly, without names included.

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.

Synod Assembly Worship

A Festive All-Synod Worship Service will be held 7:00 p.m., Friday, April 28. Bishop Ann Svennungsen will preach and Dr. Phillip Schoultz, associate artistic director of VocalEssence and cantor at Westwood Lutheran, will lead the music for worship, as well as conduct the Synod-Wide Volunteer Choir. [Click here to sign-up for the volunteer choir](#).

A light reception will follow the worship service, which will be held at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 13600 Technology Drive, Eden Prairie.

Calling All Younger Performers!

The annual Mother's Day Recital will be May 14. Any younger performers interested, contact Cantor Cherwien! We welcome anything you are learning - piano, any instrument, singing, dance, perhaps even storytelling!

Easter Paschal Garden

Thanks to all who helped to provide flowers to beautify our Easter liturgy. The following are those we know about:

Heather Halen & Don Luther, Joyce & Jeff Brown, Lora & Allen Dundek, Tricia Van Ee & Chandler Molbert, Kristine Carlson & Morris Wee, Rachel Meurett, Marilyn & Victor Gebauer, Janet & Larry Crosby, Carol Austermann, Linda & Mark Pipkorn, Lynn & Rob Ruff, and Andrew Andersen.

Church Camping Trip

Love to camp? Several campsites have been reserved for August 11-13 at Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, about an hour south of Mount Olive. Watch for more information soon.

Songs Are Seeds: An Earth Day Benefit Concert

Please join our MNIPL partners for Songs Are Seeds: An Earth Day Benefit Concert! Together we will celebrate our movement and affirm our shared commitment to the work of climate justice. Come for the sweetness of connection, the joy of good music, and the pleasure of yummy food and beverages.

Meet in person at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis, 3400 Dupont, or join online from wherever you may be. Doors open at 2:30 and the program begins at 3:00. All are welcome! Invite your family, friends, comrades, colleagues, lovers, buddies, co-conspirators, and movement makers. We enthusiastically encourage you to bring children and babies.

Your financial gift directly supports MNIPL's climate justice work, so please choose a ticket level that is meaningful, generous, and accessible. [BUY TICKETS HERE.](#)



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

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Web: 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.*

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 . 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 .