



The Olive Branch

April 3, 2024

Accent on Worship

Vicar Lauren Mildahl

He is risen! Alleluia and thanks be to God!

We made it, friends! As much as I love Lent, it's time for Easter. We have been to the wilderness, drenched in the Spirit of God, and emerged on the other side of the cross and the tomb. Mourning, repentance and discipline – we aren't done with those, but it's time for a dance break in the sun.

And we'll dance in the Easter Season, not to our usual readings from the Hebrew Bible, but instead to the music of the book of Acts. For the next seven Sundays, we'll soak up the stories of our spiritual ancestors, living into the new creation with beloved community, bold proclamation, and the unstoppable Holy Spirit. I invite you to listen!

Listen to how the first believers lived in community: gathering for meals, feeding those in need, having all things in common, welcoming all people in friendship. Friendship was serious business in the ancient world. And in Christ, friendship is abundant, filling the pages of Acts as a sign of the reign of God drawing near.

Listen for the dynamic boldness of the sermons and proclamations made by these early believers, most of whom were poor and uneducated. But through the Holy Spirit they speak like professional orators and articulate persuasively their world-shaking witness of Christ's life, death and resurrection. Their boldness is infectious and hopeful and reminds us how good the good news really is.

Listen for the unstoppable Holy Spirit, who wings her way through all the stories in Acts. There is something inevitable about the stories in this book, something that can't be stopped – even to the last word of the book, “akōlytōs,” which means “without hindrance.” Despite tale after tale of hindrances, of martyrs and prisons and arguments and problems, there is something about life and love in the Spirit that persists, that breaks through every barrier, that can't lose.

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Sunday Readings

April 7, 2024

*Second Sunday of Easter,
year B*

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1 – 2:2

John 20:19-31

April 14, 2024

*Third Sunday of Easter,
year B*

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

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

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Although the lectionary relegates the stories in Acts to just this one corner of our liturgical year, there is so much hope and energy in these pages for us. This Easter season, may we be uplifted in God's beloved community, so that we may proclaim Christ with boldness, in the confidence of the unstoppable Holy Spirit.

- Vicar Lauren Mildahl

Six-Week Bible Study on the Book of Amos

"The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?"

In April and May, Vicar Mildahl is leading a six-session Bible Study exploring the poetic and prophetic Book of Amos. Two identical sessions are offered each week: **Mondays at noon** and **Tuesdays at 6pm**. You are welcome to join either session in person or via Zoom. Tuesday nights will include a light supper (feel free to bring your own lunch on Mondays).

Contact vicar@mountolivechurch.org if you have any questions!

Schedule:

April 8/9 - Amos and the Bible

April 15/16 - Chapters 1-3

(Skip April 22/23)

April 29/30 - Chapters 4-6

May 6/7 - Chapters 7-9

May 13/14 - Amos and Sundays

May 20/21 - Amos in the World

[Click here](#) to join any session via Zoom.

Easter Garden Donors

Many thanks to the following people who provided the flowers which beautified our Easter Eucharist:

Carol Austermann, Bargmann/Stiegmann Family, Jenny Beilke, Joyce Brown, Paula Carlson & Thomas Schattauer, Joseph & Mary Crippen, Consuelo & Matt Crosby, Mary R. Dodgson, Larry Duncan, Lora Dundek, Harry & Jeanette Eklund (in memory of Kristen Johnson and Greg Eklund), David Engen & Greg Murphy, George Ferguson, Linda Hafemeister, Heather Halen & Don Luther, Jan Harbaugh, Judy Hinck, Dave & Mary Rose Kaliher, Katie & Matt Krueger-McCuen, Eric Manuel, Carol Martinson, Linda & Mark Pipkorn, Samantha & Tim Pipkorn, Brent & Hannah Rivard, Teresa Rothausen, Lynn & Rob Ruff, Schulz Family, Andrew & Sarah Stoebig, and Tricia Van Ee Molbert.

Calendar

Wednesday, April 3

10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Library Committee meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals

Thursday, April 4

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, April 5

Noon LSS Alumni luncheon
7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Easter Carry-in Brunch
10:00 am Easter Festival Eucharist

Monday, April 1

5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)
7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, April 2

Noon Bible Study

Congregation Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the Mount Olive congregation will be held on **Sunday, April 28, following the second liturgy**. The primary purpose of this meeting is to elect leaders to the Vestry.

All voting members are encouraged to attend!

Adult Forums on YouTube

Please note that the recordings of several Adult Forum presentations from 2023 and 2024 have recently been uploaded to the Mount Olive YouTube channel. You can find them in the "Adult Forum Presentations from Mount Olive Lutheran Church Minneapolis" Playlist.

<https://www.youtube.com/@MountOliveMinneapolis/playlists>

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 their April 13 meeting, the Book Discussion group will read *Mr. Ives' Christmas*, by Oscar Hijuelos, and for May 11 they will read *Everything Sad is Untrue*, by Daniel Nayeri.

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 in person or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smart phone, [click here](#).

Congregational Life Trip to Hokokata Ti on April 20

Visit Hokokata Ti, the Dakotah history museum near Shakopee. Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m.-approximately 1 p.m. This is a new museum which uses Dakotah voices to tell the story of Dakotah people. It is an excellent way to gain more understanding of our neighbors and those whose traditional homeland we occupy.

We will start with coffee/tea and muffins at Mount Olive to give a brief introduction, then carpool to the museum. This event requires a sign-up, with a deadline of April 13! Use the following link to sign up, or call the church office. There is a limit of 30 participants. The cost of admission is listed below. If cost is a barrier for you, please speak with Pr. Crippen or Vicar Mildahl, who can offer confidential assistance.

Museum admission:

General: \$8.00

Senior and K-12 Students: \$5.00

Children under 5: Free

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/hokokatati>

Children's Choirs Lent/Easter Art Display

Dear Mount Olive Community,

You are invited to stop by the West Assembly gathering area this week to view the Choristers's Lenten/ Easter art project. The Choristers worked hard each Wednesday evening during Lent.

Each chorister has created a portion of the whole that is unique to their voice and personality.

Our working title for our project is: "The Journey of LU." Remember, ****LU**, the banner, was hidden in the dark geothermal center weeks ago, and reappeared on Easter. Come and see what the choristers have created to express the Lenten journey and the new life of Easter. The art will be up through Sunday, April 21.

Reminders

Please do not leave your car parked in the handicapped drop-off area in front of the Parish House! Use this space only for dropping off and picking people up, and then promptly move your car, as others have to use that space as well. Parking is also available on weekends behind the Career Force Center at the corner of Lake St. & Chicago Avenue.

Please do not leave valuables in your coat pockets while you are at church, especially if you hang your coat in the coat room or anywhere else in the church. Keep your valuables with you.

Adult Forums

April 7: "The Wisdom of Awe," presented by David Engen. The University of California - Berkeley has embarked on the study of awe as a critically important experience for humanity. We need experiences which take us out of ourselves and place us at the center of mystery. They go so far as to say the survival of the species depends on the experience of awe. Religion sometimes can focus only on the rational part of human thinking. But what about the aspects of wonder, mystery, and unexplainable? Have we become so rigid in our thinking we refuse to recognize there are some things beyond our comprehension? Is there a way for us to recapture the childlike wonder we once held? How does being open to awe transform our vision, our lives, and strengthens our relationship with God?

April 14: "Demystifying the Work of People of Faith in the Political Process"

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann will lead us through a conversation about how we as people of faith can engage in the political process from grass-roots community organizing through the actual passage of a bill in the Legislature. The conversation will include thoughts about the actual process itself, along with an examination of the ethical and legal issues around communities of faith engaging in politics at all.

Note: This forum will be intentionally paired with an exciting "Part 2." For those interested in further dialog and training around community organizing and advocacy work, please plan to stay after the 10:45 am liturgy that day when Katie Dillon, Executive Director for Align Minneapolis will teach us more about what it means to work for societal change through the political process. Lunch will be provided.

Please note that either of these events will be appropriate for anyone over the age of 12. Young people, even before they reach voting age, can engage in this work in a powerful way and would be welcome and encouraged to attend.

April 21: "Passions and Projects," presented by Cynthia Prosek. More information forthcoming.

April 28: "Wind and Fire: Understanding the Day of Pentecost." More information forthcoming

Death Cafe Follow-up

What is Death Cafe? You may be aware of the sessions held recently during the Educational Hour at Mount Olive, and perhaps not. In brief, this is a gathering of people who come together over coffee and cake to share, conversationally, anything related to death. Since death is not an easy topic to discuss but also one that none of us will escape, it is one that is deeply personal and often put aside until "another day." Perhaps this is of interest to you. I am willing to talk with anyone about their ideas, questions, concerns, and also how to get a small group started either in church or a private home. I have been a part of a Death Cafe group for over 4 years now. The advantages are beyond describing here. If you are interested, please get in touch with me. Phone: 612-306-8872, or email marilyn.gebauer@gmail.com.

- Marilyn Gebauer



**Mount Olive Music
& Fine Arts
Presents Angelica
Encore Choral
Ensemble:
“Lessons in
Nature”
Sunday, April 14 at
4:00 pm**

The Angelica Encore Choral Ensemble is eager to share this powerful music with you. As we are surrounded by beauty every day, we are

reminded about what we learn from the natural world: wonder, reverence, resilience, concern, and gratitude.

Come experience the sound of wolves, water glasses, and beautiful choral anthems about nature and our fragile earth!

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. Lake Street Council does this through programs that support entrepreneurs starting new businesses and grants to help existing businesses thrive. They also work to beautify the streetscape, engage local businesses in policy work that affects the corridor, and encourage new development that aligns with goals of the street and community.

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.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists:

8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Lauren Mildahl*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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