



# The Olive Branch

April 17, 2024

## Accent on Worship

*Cantor David Cherwien*

### *Easter: Spring*

Spring has to be my favorite season. Nature all around us in the Northern Hemisphere is waking up. Trees and shrubs have that slight outline of a brilliant green as buds prepare to open. Perennials are poking through the dead remnants of last year's growth. Bugs, bees, and critters coming out of their winter slumber darkness and, yes, the days finally get longer with more light, and the temperature warms up and we can return to being outside.

Of course, the parallel to the liturgical year is striking and is quite dramatic. Advent began at the darkest and coldest time of the year for us – as if we wait in the deepest and darkest part of us, yearning for warmth, light, and new growth. Christ is born in us like seeds that also yearn for the warmth and light which provide energy so they can grow, springing to life. At Easter, light, warmth, and energy all break out with great joy. We know that the promise is there: there is new life after death, we have nothing to fear. The perennial garden teaches us that: that which seemed dead is not. Quite the contrary – just gathering new strength below in the dark of the soil.

This Sunday is already the Fourth Sunday of Easter (out of Seven). It is also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The Fourth Sunday of Easter is ALWAYS Shepherd Sunday, with the Gospel reading from John 10, although different portions of this narrative are read in each of the three years of the lectionary. Psalm 23 is prayed all three years on Good Shepherd Sunday: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want..."

Do you have a version of Psalm 23 memorized? As the likely best-known Psalm, it would really make sense to memorize it. How far can you get reciting it from memory? If you cannot get through all 6 verses, it's worth the work to set it to

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## Sunday Readings

**April 21, 2024**

*Fourth Sunday of Easter,  
year B*

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

**April 28, 2024**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter,  
year B*

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

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

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

memory. There will be times you need it when you don't expect to. I recall writhing in pain from a back-spasm, trying to recite Psalm 23 as a word of comfort and frankly, distraction. It was tough because there were so many different translations that were floating through my memory. One needs to prevail! It's a great comfort when in pain, sorrow, or despair, that God is there with us, watching over us with love and care.

So as nature wakes up, we too can wake up in joy and comfort that God is with us and watches us:

Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen indeed!

- Cantor David Cherwien

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## Visit to the Dakotah History Museum – Sign up TODAY!

Visit **Hocokata 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 17 (TODAY).** 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. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/hocokatati>

### Museum admission:

General: \$8.00

Senior and K-12 Students: \$5.00

Children under 5: Free

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## Coffee Hosts Needed: Step up and take a turn!

The list of coffee hosts is grossly undersubscribed! If you usually enjoy a quick cuppa after liturgy, this is a great opportunity to take a turn at serving so that others can enjoy it, too!

Signing up is easy – just add your name to the date you wish to serve. The sign-up chart is located next to the serving window in the East Assembly Room.

If you have any questions about what hosting Sunday Coffee entails, contact Lora Dundek at [conglife@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org). She will be happy to walk you through it!

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, April 17

- 10:00 am Staff meeting  
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper  
5:30 pm Library Committee  
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal  
7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation

### Thursday, April 18

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, April 19

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, April 20

- 9:00 am Gardening Day  
9:00 am Library Painting  
9:00 am Meet to go to the Dakotah History Museum

### Sunday, April 21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
9:30 am Godly Play / Adult Forum  
10:45 am Holy Eucharist  
Noon Evangelism Committee luncheon  
12:30 pm Y1 Confirmation

### Monday, April 22

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)  
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

### Tuesday, April 23

- Noon Bible Study

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## 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!

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## 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](#).

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## 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](#).

## Supporting Augusta Victoria Hospital

Using your Taste of Palestine and Israel offerings and our emergency fund, your Global Ministry Committee is sending an additional \$1,000 to support Augusta Victoria Hospital, our partner in Jerusalem. Augusta-Victoria-Hospital is calling for donations to support the additional accommodation cost of patients and staff from Gaza and the West Bank, who cannot return home, and for medical supplies to treat people injured in the conflict. The hospital is offering accommodation for patients who need it, keeping the patients for hemodialysis (kidney treatment), and especially almost all the children and their families from the West Bank who receive hemodialysis in the hospital, to guarantee the continuity of their treatment. Those receiving hemodialysis need a session every other day, and if they miss it, they will die. It's a life-saving treatment. The hospital is also expanding its telehealth oncology program to assist cancer patients in both Gaza and the West Bank. If you wish to further support Augusta Victoria Hospital you may do so with a donation to Mount Olive especially marked for Augusta Victoria or through their website at <https://avh.org/support-us>.

## 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](mailto:vicar@mountolivechurch.org) if you have any questions!

### Schedule:

April 8/9 - Amos and the Bible	May 6/7 - Chapters 7-9
April 15/16 - Chapters 1-3	May 13/14 - Amos and Sundays
(Skip April 22/23)	May 20/21 - Amos in the World
April 29/30 - Chapters 4-6	

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

## 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>

## Adult Forums

**April 21:** “Community, Agency, & Accountability: Centering young people in Restorative Practices,” facilitated by Cynthia Prosek, RJCA Executive Director, and Jena Brune, Youth Program Circle Coordinator.

What changes when we center youth voice in community and decision making? Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) is one of Neighborhood Ministry’s supported programs. RJCA will share what they have been learning, doing, and how they have been growing as they bring youth voice forward in Restorative Practices. They will discuss three of their active youth programs: Community Conference, the Youth Restorative Justice Disposition Program, and the Restorative Practices Youth Leadership Cohort. Learn about ways Mount Olive can continue to engage with and support RJCA.

**April 28:** “Two Banks of the Same River: Why Indigenous Rights & Climate Justice Are Intertwined,” presented by Johan Baumeister, Congregational Organizer for Climate Justice for the Minneapolis Area Synod

Join us for a conversation about the EcoFaith Network of the Minneapolis Area Synod and our collective efforts on climate justice. We'll focus especially on the connections between the history of energy systems and Native peoples in Minnesota. We'll connect the ELCA's social statements to the present and discuss opportunities to chart a just future.

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## Do You Like to Play in the Dirt?

Opportunities available starting Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am – 11:00 am with the Mount Olive garden volunteers.

This happy group who loves to play in the dirt meet every two weeks to plant, weed, mow and trim, and are responsible for making our grounds look so wonderful.

No garden experience or green thumbs required. Tools available if you do not have your own.

Garden Days for this season:

April 20  
May 4, 18  
June 1, 15, 29  
July 13, 27  
August 10, 24  
Sept 7, 21  
Oct 5, 19



Mark your calendar and join us when you need some dirt therapy.

If you have any questions reach out to Carol Martinson at [property@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:property@mountolivechurch.org) or 612-708-9849.

## **April Neighborhood Ministry Partners of the Month:**

### ***Lake Street Council and Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association***

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. For more information, please visit [lakestreetcouncil.org](http://lakestreetcouncil.org).

The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association enhances our neighborhood through special events, community-based publications, and advocacy on issues such as housing, economic equity, safety, and security. For more information, please visit [www.ppna.org](http://www.ppna.org).

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.

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## **Furniture+ Drive**

Mount Olive will host the Align Minneapolis Furniture and Household Items Drive in our parking lot on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 am to noon. We will be able to accept clothing, housewares, home décor, kitchenware, lamps, couches, tables, futons, chairs, love seats, recliners, bookcases, dressers, and the like. All donations will go to the Saint Vincent dePaul store just north of Lake Street.

While the Saint Vincent dePaul store is a thrift store, they make a significant number of vouchers available to community residents to shop for needed household goods for free, greatly benefiting our neighbors. Please bring your donations and share the information about this drive with others!

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## 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](http://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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