

# The Olive Branch

April 16, 2025

## Accent on Worship

*Andrew Stoebig*

### *Lingering on the Liturgy: A New Thing?*

The holy days are almost upon us. True, all days are holy, sanctified by God for work and for rest. But next week marks our annual *pascha* – our Christian Passover celebrating Christ's paschal mystery in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As a community, we look forward to these days and these liturgies with great anticipation each year.

This year, you may notice some additions and minor alterations sprinkled throughout our Holy Week and Triduum liturgies. None of these will be new and each is found in the rubrics we've inherited from the Christian Tradition.



## Sunday Readings

**April 20, 2025**

*Resurrection of Our Lord,  
year C*

Isaiah 65:717-25

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12

**April 27, 2025**

*Second Sunday of Easter, year C*

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29

Revelation 4:1-8

John 20:19-31

In bringing such additions forward this year, the Worship Committee seeks to, as Tom Schattauer more eloquently stated in Adult Forum recently, take our inherited forms of worship and reimagine them within our current context.

Different things are neither necessarily good nor bad. They just are. As we experience Holy Week and the Triduum together again, allow yourself to withhold judgement on liturgical differences you notice. Instead, hold space for what is, what you and we experience from moment to moment. Is God doing a new thing? Is Christ drawing you, drawing us, step by step, to the letting go of the things that hold us back, and toward the paschal life of the Triune God?

– Andrew Stoebig, with indebtedness to Tom Schattauer and Pastor Crippen

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, April 16 - Wednesday in Holy Week

9:00 am Staff meeting  
Noon **Daily Prayer**  
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper  
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals  
NO Cantorei rehearsal this evening

### Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

Noon **Maundy Thursday Eucharist**  
7:00 pm **Maundy Thursday Eucharist, with Footwashing**  
7:00 pm MIRAC meeting  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

Noon **Stations of the Cross**  
7:00 pm **Adoration of the Cross**  
7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, April 19 - Holy Saturday

10:00 am Easter Vigil rehearsal  
8:30 pm **Easter Vigil, followed by a festive reception**

### Sunday, April 20 - The Resurrection of Our Lord

9-9:45 am Easter morning Coffee Hour  
10:00 am **Festival Holy Eucharist, with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism**  
No Education Hour this day

### Monday, April 21 - Church offices closed

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

### Tuesday, April 22

Noon Bible Study  
6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting

## Easter Sunday Coffee Hour

Please join us for an early coffee hour BEFORE the 10 a.m. Eucharist this coming Sunday, Easter Day. Coffee and treats will be served between 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. in the Chapel Lounge. There will be no coffee after the Easter morning service. If you are able to help with serving or clean up, just come to the upstairs kitchen on Sunday morning, and you'll be given a job to do!

This coffee hour replaces the carry-in brunch which has been held in the past.

## Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study meets weekly in person in the East Assembly Room. For those who are unable to come in person, the Bible Study is held 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

On May 10, you can join in learning about Eileen Blair, author and wife of George Orwell, as we discuss *Wifedom, Mrs. Orwell's Invisible Life* by Anna Funder. We'll start the summer with *The Bell and The Lake* by Lars Mytting as we once again explore Norwegian life.

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the library, usually on the second Saturday of each month. 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](#).

## Mount Olive votes to call Cantor

At a special congregational meeting on Sunday, April 13, the people of Mount Olive elected Dr. Daniel E. Schwandt to the office of Cantor of Mount Olive, the fourth in our history. The vote was unanimous. We give thanks to God for this servant of the Church whom God has sent to be among us to lead us in worship and song.

Dr. Schwandt has served ELCA congregations and institutions for over 20 years as music director or cantor, has extensive experience in leading worship, playing the organ (including earning the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ Performance from Notre Dame), conducting choirs, composing (with nearly 30 published works), and leading and participating in over 30 hymn festivals.

Dr. Schwandt will begin his service as our Cantor on August 4, 2025.

To God be the glory and praise!

## Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter at Mount Olive

**Monday-Wednesday, April 14-16: Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week**  
+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave, near the columbarium

**Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday**  
+ Holy Eucharist, Noon  
+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

**Friday, April 18: Good Friday**  
+ Stations of the Cross, Noon  
+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

**Saturday, April 19: Holy Saturday**  
+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception

**Sunday, April 20: The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day**  
Easter morning coffee hour, 9-9:45 am  
+ **ONE** Festival Holy Eucharist at 10 am  
(note difference in regular Sunday schedule!)

## Godly Play Themes for This Week

Celebrate Easter! The Alleluia returns, and we shout, "He is risen, Indeed!" NO GODLY PLAY this week. Classes resume next Sunday.

All children ages 3-Grade 1 are welcome to Circle One, and Children in grades 2-5 are welcome to Circle Two.



## Books Needed – One More Sunday!

Hello, people of Mount Olive! My name is Elena Molbert. You may know my parents Tricia and Chandler Molbert. My friends and I are doing a community service project for a school assignment at Justice Page Middle School in Minneapolis, and we need books. We're trying to get a ton of books to fill Little Free Libraries around town, so people who don't have good access to books or libraries can have the joy of reading. Any and all books will be welcome and appreciated.

Beginning last Sunday, March 30, there is a box with a sign on it for those who want to donate books during coffee hour. The box (hopefully filled with books) will be available for your donations until Easter Sunday, April 20.

Thanks for your help with this important effort!

- Elena Molbert

## Upcoming Adult Forums

### NO Adult Forum April 13 and 20 (Passion Sunday and Easter)

**April 27 & May 4** - One of our most popular guest speakers will again present at the adult forum for these 2 weeks. In the first session, Professor Earl Schwartz will speak on the prophet Amos, leading to a conversation about the narrative in chapter 7. Then, in the second session, he will link that confrontation between priest and prophet with Jesus' actions on the Temple Mount prior to his arrest. He has used this for some time in lectures as a professor at Hamline University, and he is looking forward to presenting this connection to the Mount Olive community.

Please plan on joining us at 9:30 on both Sundays

## Dining Out for Life

Please plan to join other Mount Olive members next Thursday, April 21 for the "Dining Out For Life" event. Go out for a meal at one of the participating restaurants and a portion (or in some cases 100%) of profits go to the Aliveness Project to battle AIDS.

Visit to [www.diningoutforlifemn.org](http://www.diningoutforlifemn.org) or a list of participating restaurants.

## 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](http://lakestreetcouncil.org).

## Fish Fry Fellowship

The final Fish Fry for this Lent, at Church of the Annunciation, last Friday, April 11.



## Semi-Annual Congregation meeting

The Semi-Annual meeting of Mount Olive congregation will be held on Sunday, April 27, following the second liturgy. The primary purpose of this meeting is to elect new members to the Vestry. Childcare will be provided during the meeting in the Circle 3 Godly Play/choir room.

All voting members are encouraged to attend!

## Thanks to the cleaning crew!

Many thanks to Jan Harbaugh, Bonnie McLellan, and Beth Gaede, who cleaned our chancel, transepts, and narthex in preparation for our Holy Week and Easter liturgies. We're ready!

## Opportunity for Ministry

Our ministry of sending Baptismal Anniversary cards to members of the congregation is in need of another card writer. This ministry involves sending cards to 5-8 people per month to celebrate their baptismal anniversaries. Cards, envelopes, postage, and ideas for a brief thought to be written in the card are provided by the church. Supplies can be mailed to you if you're unable to pick them up. If you'd be interested in joining this meaningful activity, please contact Lora at [conglife@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org).

Thanks.

## National Lutheran Choir Spring Concert

[Spring Concert: Healing for our Future](#)

Join the National Lutheran Choir for their spring concert, *Healing for our Future*, an honest yet hopeful exploration of the impact of gun violence on school communities. Presented alongside Cantus, St. Michael-Albertville High School Concert Choir, and Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir, this finale of our season seeks to unite communities in fostering healing, reducing harm, and building a safer future.

This concert will be held at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, on Sunday, May 4, at 4pm. Tickets at [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com).

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

### **Sunday Eucharist: 8 & 10:45 am**

#### **Contact Us**

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: [mountolivechurch.org](http://mountolivechurch.org)

#### **Staff**

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Organist – *Robert Farlee*

Interim Choir Director – *Andrew Stoebig*

Vicar – *Natalie Wussler*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –  
*Jim Bargmann*

Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ  
congregation.*

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