

The Olive Branch

April 23, 2025

Accent on Worship

Presiding Bishop's 2025 Easter Message

In the Gospel story in the last Sunday in Lent, we hear about Jesus visiting with his dear friends, Martha, Mary and Lazarus. This happened just after Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. And Mary was anointing Jesus' feet with pure nard, this incredibly costly, precious substance. And then she dried his feet with her hair.

Nard is a very powerful, pungent substance, and the Gospel says the room was filled with the fragrance. Now I did a little research on nard, and some people would describe the smell as being pungent or earthy, or musty, or musky or like feet. So it was an interesting choice that people had in those days. And they did two things with nard. One, they would use nard to anoint the bodies of the dead to offset the stench of death, which Jesus had only encountered with his friend Lazarus a few days before. And it was also used for kings as a sign of royalty because of the luxury of this whole thing.

Well, Jesus was himself, like us, like the first Adam, an earth creature – pungent and full of life, dense in this sense. And this earth creature was obedient to death, reversing the work of the first Adam, who disobeyed and brought sin into the world. And we've suffered the consequences. The chief consequence is death, separation from God. And now Jesus, the new Adam, the new earth creature, he's anointed, he says to Mary, for his burial and so that he will be using this incredibly pungent substance, while at the same time being very clear that he is, in fact, part of this incarnation, this earth creature. But instead of it being oil put on him to remove the stench of death, it became the anointing of a royal king. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the usual cycle of life and death has been disrupted forever. Jesus' death and resurrection promises new life and brings us new life.

Happy Easter, dear church.

- ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Easter 2025

[Link to video.](#)



Sunday Readings

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

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter, year C

Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, April 23

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper and year end party
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
7:00 pm Y2 / Y3 Confirmation

Thursday, April 24

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, April 25

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, April 27 - Second Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Godly Play / Adult Forum / Youth Conversation
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, April 28

- 7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, April 29

- Noon Bible Study

Semi-Annual Congregation meeting

The April semi-annual meeting of Mount Olive congregation will be held after second liturgy **this Sunday, April 27**. Items on the agenda include a vote on the proposed Vestry restructuring, and the election of officers and directors to the Vestry.

The meeting will start approximately 10 minutes after the end of the second liturgy. Please move to the Undercroft as quickly as you can. Refreshments will be provided, but we want everyone in their seat at the tables before we begin the meeting.

Childcare will be provided during the meeting in the Circle 3 Godly Play/choir room.

All voting members are encouraged to attend!

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](#).

Thanks!

Many thanks to this faithful group of volunteers who worked to provide a fabulous Easter Vigil reception this year!



L-R: Andrew Andersen, Patsy Holtmeier, Gary Nack, Carol Peterson, and Julie Manuel

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.

We are pleased to say that Dr. Schwandt has accepted this call and will arrive in August.

To God be the glory and praise!

Godly Play Themes for This Week

Our Easter celebration continues in our Godly Play circles. Circles 1 will hear about Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene while Circle 2 considers how Jesus and his disciples interacted with each other following Jesus' resurrection.



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

Upcoming Adult Forums

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 to attend at 9:30 on both Sundays

Dining Out for Life

Please plan to join other Mount Olive members **Thursday, April 24** 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 the profits go to the Aliveness Project to battle AIDS.

Visit to www.diningoutforlifemn.org or a list of participating restaurants.

"Chaconnes and Other Hits"

Early Music Minnesota Chamber Concert

Saturday, May 3, 3:00 pm - Mount Olive Lutheran Church

Early Music Minnesota's third chamber concert finds "grounds" for celebration, lament, and even folly with La Bergamasca, La Folia, and more patterns of dance and song so captivating they've lived on and been reborn for hundreds of years. Disclaimer: these celebrated oldies and historic earworms may inspire spontaneous toe-tapping and extemporaneous humming!

The concert is FREE for the Mount Olive community - and all are invited.

Fun fact to know and tell: Early Music Minnesota is home to the largest for-rent harpsichord collection in the Midwest, allowing for the use of well-maintained high-quality instruments throughout the community including regular use with the Lyra Baroque Orchestra, Bach Society of Minnesota, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

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.



Disaster Relief

Earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand

The deadly earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28 has left millions of people in need of humanitarian aid. Your Global Ministry Committee has approved a \$2000 donation from the Global Ministry undesignated offerings for the relief effort.

We encourage you to pray, and if you can, give a donation to Lutheran World Relief. If you prefer, you may give through Mount Olive by designating your gift for "Earthquake Relief." Thanks for whatever you can do to help.

Mount Olive Family Music meets in-person

Mount Olive Family Music, our music and faith experience for children from birth through Kindergarten with a caregiver, usually meets on Mondays over Zoom. We sing, pray, dance, and play from the comforts of home, no need to get bundled up and in a car seat for this musical experience. The caregiver-child bond grows through musical connection in a faithful context, with the hope that music and prayers shared will become part of home life.

Our final session of this program year will be **in-person on Sunday, April 27 from 9:45-10:30** in the Godly Play 3 room on the lower level. The session is tailored to children ages birth-35 months with a caregiver, however, any children not yet participating in Godly Play are welcome to join us. We will celebrate the Easter season and enjoy familiar songs and activities with the novelty of friends and teacher Mari in person! Children and families new to Mount Olive Family Music are very welcome to join us. We will happily sing, "God loves you!" and "Alleluia!" with you and to you.

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.

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.

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

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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