



The Olive Branch

April 8, 2026

Sunday Readings

April 12, 2026
*Second Sunday of
Easter, year A*
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 19, 2026
*Third Sunday of Easter,
year A*
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

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

Accent on Worship

Vicar Erik Nelson

This week, on Thursday, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian and martyr.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer lived in Germany in the early twentieth century. He came from an influential aristocratic family and became a pastor in the state church of Germany.

In the years leading up to World War II, Bonhoeffer and his peers struggled against the pro-Nazi forces in the state church, the so-called "Deutsche Christen," or German Christians, who twisted Christian theology to justify their racist and antisemitic ideologies. In 1934, Bonhoeffer and his colleagues split from the state church to create the Confessing Church, in opposition to the Nationalist Christians.

In 1939, he received an offer from Union Theological Seminary in New York City to come work with them. He traveled to New York but returned to Germany after only two weeks, being convinced that he needed to be with his own people to care for them and witness to them in their time of crisis.

Bonhoeffer was connected to the German Resistance through his brother-in-law Hans von Dohnanyi. Bonhoeffer and Dohnanyi both worked as double agents in the Abwehr, a German intelligence agency. Dohnanyi and Bonhoeffer were involved in operations to help German Jews escape to Switzerland.

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Bonhoeffer's role was to pass information to the Allies.

In 1943, he and Dohnanyi were arrested on suspicion that they were spies (as they were). He and his brother-in-law were both executed in April 1945 after documents were discovered confirming the anti-Nazi actions of the Abwehr's double agents.

As we remember Bonhoeffer today, may we follow his example, standing alongside the marginalized and oppressed in our society today. May we, like our brother Dietrich, be willing to risk it all for the Good News of Jesus Christ. And may we all be drawn into closer relationship with Christ through the writings and witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Vicar Erik Nelson

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting April 19

The semi-annual meeting of Mount Olive congregation will be held on **Sunday, April 19, following the second liturgy**. The primary purpose of this meeting is to elect new members to the Vestry. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Adult Forums

April 12 - Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, Professor of Religion at Augsburg University and President of the International Bonhoeffer Society will address the ways that Dietrich Bonhoeffer offers hope in our divided times, including the ways his theology and ethics subvert Christian Nationalism.

April 19 - Rev. Angela Denker will discuss her book "Disciples of White Jesus - The Radicalization of American Boyhood."

April 26/May 3 - Pastor Crippen will lead a 2-part presentation about discipleship.

May 10 - Mother's Day Recital, presented by the young people of Mount Olive.

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Calendar

Wednesday, April 8

- 9:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
NO Cantorei rehearsal this week

Thursday, April 9

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

Friday, April 10

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

Saturday, April 11

- 10:00 am Book Discussion Group

Sunday, April 12 - Second Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*
9:30 am Godly Play/Youth Discussion/Adult Forum
10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*
12:30 pm Y1 Confirmation

Monday, April 13

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

Tuesday, April 14

- Noon Bible Study

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.](#)

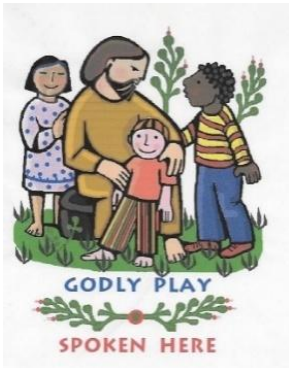
Book Discussion

On April 11, we will get a chance to look at *A Terrible Glory: Custer and the Little Bighorn* by James Donovan, a compelling nonfiction book. For our May gathering we will read *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith on the 25th anniversary of her first and "stunning" novel set in England.

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.](#)



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Godly Play This Week

It's the Easter season!! Godly Play 1 will focus on the resurrection while Godly Play 2 will hear about Jesus and his disciples.

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

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.

Aaron Silver Art Exhibit Update

The Aaron Silver exhibit will remain in place through the end of April.

The art/music event that was cancelled due to the snowstorm has been rescheduled for **Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m.**

Please take some time to enjoy the exhibit and if you are interested in purchasing any of the artworks there is information on the table in the exhibit or contact Paul Nixdorf at pn@paulnixdorf.com or call/text 612-296-0055.

Help us make sure your generosity is appropriately credited

Occasionally, our members make gifts to Mount Olive outside of our usual envelopes and Vanco. These other gifts come to us from financial institutions (trusts, Retirement accounts, stocks or other investments) and some of these are not counted by our offering counters but arrive electronically into our bank. To assure these gifts are credited to you as the source, please notify the Financial Secretary, David T Anderson, (dtaparkave@aol.com) and the Treasurer (treasurer@mountolivechurch.org) that you are initiating such gifts, and the fund(s) to which they should be applied.

Transportation help needed

The community well-being committee is looking for assistance with driving someone to and from church for who lives in the southern/southwestern suburbs. Please email Erica Johnsen Buss at community@mountolivechurch.org if you are interested in helping out and would like more information.

Lilies of Gaza Exhibition

Join Mount Olive's supported Global Ministry partner, Bright Stars of Bethlehem, for the **Lilies of Gaza Art Exhibition** on **Wednesday April 15, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** at Edina Community Lutheran Church, 4113 W 54th St, Minneapolis, MN. Doors open at 6:45 pm.



Dr. Tala Al Raheb, Development Director at Bright Stars, will be speaking about the current situation in Palestine, Dar Al-Kalima's art therapy program, and how art and culture continue to inspire Hope in Palestine. Prints will be available for purchase following the exhibition.

[Register for the free event.](#)



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Photos from Easter Vigil and Easter Day



Enjoy these photos of our Easter celebration which Paul Nixdorf has shared on this page and throughout this issue of *The Olive Branch*.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists: 8 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *Daniel Schwandt*

Vicar – *Erik Nelson*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
Jim Bargmann

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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