

# The Messenger

April 2021

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH · ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA · 507-288-1580 · MOLIVE.ORG

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## When Will We Worship Together (Indoors) Again?

This question is on all our minds these days. How exciting it is to know that even now, anticipation is building as we consider when we can once again gather indoors together for worship. Yet, as we consider this question, we also are mindful that the decisions we make affect so many people, including those who now count on online worship each week, as well as our staff who work so hard behind the scenes to make everything happen. The upshot is, we need to keep *everyone* in mind who is affected by our decision to worship in-person indoors once again. Here's who we must keep in mind:

- People who are vaccinated and/or ready to resume normal worship. For those of us in this camp, any delays are hard because we are so tired of being apart and we long to be together again, singing and sharing together.
- People who for many reasons are not yet ready to return. For those of us in this camp, delays are welcome because we would hate to have to choose between our desire to return to worship and our confidence that it is safe.
- People who will never be able to join in-person worship. We who are homebound and others from across the globe who now regularly worship with Mount Olive online are hoping that a return to in-person worship won't leave us behind.
- People who have recently recovered from COVID. Believe it or not, we have had four positive cases of corona virus in the Mount Olive community *in the last month*. Having experienced how debilitating this virus is, we are advocating caution.
- Mount Olive staff members. Those of us on staff have been working for weeks to get online worship ready for Holy Week and Easter. We can't just throw away all those preparations and retool in an instant, and we need time to think about how best to go forward. We need to consider all the new possibilities that online worship have brought to us, sort through them, and come up with a plan for going forward. Believe me, *we are excited* about a return to in-person worship, but we want to do it well.

As you can see, we must consider many things and keep in mind many people as we decide when the time is right to return to worship. Needless to say the virus/vaccine situation is fluid and things can change quickly. Please know we will communicate with you regularly as to any plans we have going forward. Meanwhile, we encourage you to continue to invite friends and family to join us online and at Tailgate Worship whenever you can.

Be well,  
Pastor Glenn



## Mount Olive Endowment Fund News

In March the Endowment Fund Committee met to review our mission statement and goals and recommend changes to benefit the long-term health of the fund. In reviewing our mission statement we were reminded that one of our roles is to teach members about the Fund and encourage gifts to the Fund. To that end we want to you to remember that the Fund has four main foci for support:

- Education (this includes our Seminary Scholarship Fund that was recently tapped to support Miriam Hanson in her seminary studies)
- Local Community Outreach (this could include Family Promise, Good Earth Village, or any number of other local partners)
- Global Outreach (this includes our support of students at Hull High School in Kijota, Tanzania, and the Lutheran Bible Institute at Kiomboi)
- Mount Olive Initiatives (this could include Olive Branch or other outreach).

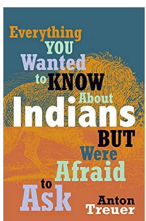
Undesignated Memorial Gifts automatically are put into the Endowment Fund, so if you'd like to make a gift in memory of someone special, please consider one of the four foci for your gift. For further questions, please reach out to Pastor Glenn or Endowment Committee Chairperson, Don Halley—[DonaldRHalley@gmail.com](mailto:DonaldRHalley@gmail.com).

## COVID-19 Guidance for In-Person Meetings

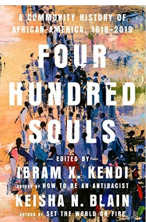
We have expanded the number of people allowed at in-person meetings at Mount Olive to 20. All of the usual safety guidelines are still in place. The guidelines are available on the church website, [www.molive.org](http://www.molive.org), or by contacting the office. Meetings must be scheduled ahead of time with church staff. Wearing masks, practicing social distance and using hand sanitizer/washing hands frequently are required.

## Suggested Reading List:

As part of Mount Olive's commitment to racial justice, we will continue to offer book suggestions in each month's *Messenger*. If you would be willing to provide a 2-3 sentence book summary/recommendation of a book that impacted you surrounding the topic of race, please share it with Nancy Britson at [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org). Following are suggestions from people in the Mount Olive Community for April:



***Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians But Were Afraid to Ask*** by Anton Treuer. Treuer (pronounced troy-er) is Professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University. He grew up mostly on or near the Leech Lake Reservation, experiencing overt racial discrimination. He writes that Indians are often imagined, but infrequently understood. With this book, he "offers a critical first step to comfortably dispel erroneous imaginings and develop deeper understandings." - *Don Halley*

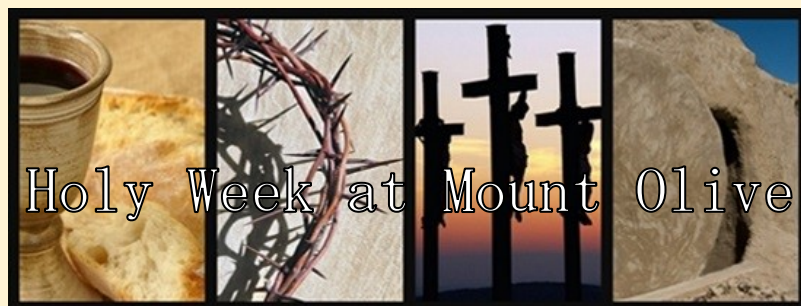


***Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*** by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. Did you know a boat with kidnapped Angolans reached North America before the Mayflower? The history we learn often leaves out stories of the African community in America. *Four Hundred Souls* covers 400 years of American history from 1619 until the present. 90 different African American authors contribute to this amazing book. Chapters are short, easy to read and cover a key event over each 5 year period. This is a great book to learn about the history of our country from a non-white perspective.

**Children's books which address racism in a variety of ways:** (Click on the titles in the pdf version to open video links to a story telling for each book) [Amazing Grace](#) by Mary Hoffman, [Last Stop on Market Street](#) by Matt De La Peña, [Kamala and Maya's Big Idea](#) by Meena Harris, [Same Difference](#) by Calida Rawles, [Under My Hijab](#) by Hena Khan, [I Am Enough](#) by Grace Byers, and [Just Ask](#) by Sonia Sotomayor. -*Four Hundred Souls and children's titles from Carole Joyce.*

## Maundy Thursday

Virtual worship on Maundy Thursday will be centered around your evening meal, so plan to watch the service as you eat. Our interactive liturgy will begin with the sermon. Then it will guide you through the ritual of eating supper on this night, from washing your hands, to setting the table, to eating while reflecting on Jesus' meal with the disciples, to clearing the table when the meal is finished. You'll need a candle and some bread and wine/juice for communion as well.



## Good Friday

Good Friday worship will be a virtual Tenebrae service. Tenebrae, meaning "darkness," is a service marked by the gradual extinguishing of candles. As we hear the story of Jesus' passion retold on this night by Mount Olive high schoolers, we'll extinguish candles, one by one, and invite you to do the same at home as the service progresses.

## Easter Vigil

For Easter Vigil this year we invite you once again to a brief online service followed by a night of prayer. We recommend watching the service at sunset on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (7:40 pm) and encourage you to sign-up to pray at some point in the night. As a community we will keep vigil as we wait for the sun to rise on Easter morning.

The night is divided into 30-minute time slots and covers seven themes that are found in the traditional Easter Vigil readings. Reflection pages will be provided for each theme that include a Bible story, prayer prompts, and links to music online. You can sign up for as many time slots as you wish, and it is okay to have more than one person signed-up at any given time. You are also invited to share the sign up information as widely as you like. If you'd like to participate, sign up at the following link, contact [lisa@molive.org](mailto:lisa@molive.org), or call the church office – 507-288-1580.

[www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A5A92AA1FB6-easter](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A5A92AA1FB6-easter)

## Easter Sunday

Easter is here! Join us on Sunday, April 4 for Online Festival Worship with Holy Communion as we celebrate the risen Christ. We intend to pull out all of the bells and whistles – including the Glory Bells, Mount Olive Brass, and Choir!

If you'd like to worship with us in person, we will have an **Easter Tailgate Worship** in the parking lot at 11:00 am. You stay in your car and listen on the FM radio, while musicians and pastors lead from the Fellowship Hall window area or outdoors if the weather permits. Everyone brings their own communion supplies, and copies of the song sheets are available or can be accessed online. Weather permitting, the Mount Olive Brass will be there too. There will be an egg hunt for the kiddos following the service. (See details on page 5.)

The service links will be shared on the website, on Facebook, and Mount Olive's YouTube Channel- [www.youtube.com/channel/UCqQHpLrP-lcwjKD0lwiGwdA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqQHpLrP-lcwjKD0lwiGwdA)

## Tailgate Worship April 18

Join us again for Tailgate Worship at 11:00 am on Sunday, April 18 in the Mount Olive parking lot. Bring your bread or cracker and wine or juice for communion.

## Great Three Days Bulletin

If you would like a printed bulletin for the Holy Week services, and are not already on the bulletin mailing list, copies will be available to pick up at church beginning Monday, March 29. An email with a pdf attached will also be sent that week.

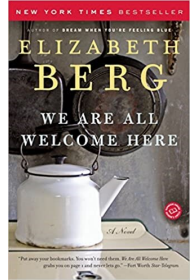


## Men's Fishing Retreat

Do you enjoy fishing? Do you need an excuse to get away, be outside, and enjoy fellowship with other men? If yes to any of these questions, you are invited to join Pastor Luke and Pastor Glenn on Saturday, **April 17** at Good Earth Village for trout fishing opener. We will gather at 8:30 am for devotions before hitting the streams. We'll fry up the trout for a late lunch, enjoy a nice camp fire, and finish with some more devotions led by Pastor Luke. Those wishing to fish before or after devotions are invited to do so. Make sure you have your fishing license and gear and join us for what is sure to be a great time together! Please RSVP to [luke@molive.org](mailto:luke@molive.org) by April 11 so we can plan food for you.

## Monday Book Group

The **Monday Book Group** gathers monthly to discuss a wide variety of literature. They will meet again via Zoom **April 12** at 6:30 pm. This month's selection is ***We are All Welcome Here*** by Elizabeth Berg. This novel features three women, each struggling against overwhelming odds during the summer of 1964 in Tupelo, Mississippi. Despite the hate and adversity thrust upon them, each of the women will find her own path to independence, understanding, and peace. If you would like to be added to the email list or receive the Zoom invitation for March, contact Jodi Schoer at [mjschoer@charter.net](mailto:mjschoer@charter.net).

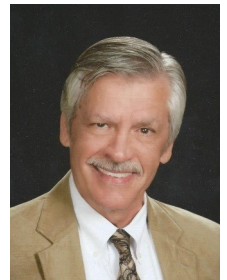


## Ripe Olives Save the Date

The "Ripe Olives", Mount Olives senior citizen's group, will take a break for the month of April and will gather again on Friday, **May 14**, at 9:30 am. Watch for more information to come in the May newsletter!

## Family Service Rochester Offers Online Programs for Seniors

Mount Olive member Loren Else will lead the following programs in April. Participation is easy! Use your computer or smart phone, or borrow the technology and internet access for FREE from Family Service Rochester. A coach to assist you with set-up will be provided. To register for any of these events, email [jglynn@familyservicerochester.org](mailto:jglynn@familyservicerochester.org) or ask for Jackie at 507-287-2010.



**April 7** – 1 pm- Alaska Statehood-Loren's family lived in Anchorage, Alaska, from 1957-1961. His father worked at a federal territorial jail.

**April 14** – 1 pm – Federal Medical Center– Loren is retired from a 36-year career in corrections. He worked in three different prisons and traveled to prisons all over the country for several years.

**April 21** – 1 pm – Diary of a WWII Sailor on the USS Portland-Loren's father-in-law served on the heavy cruiser USS Portland. His ship was involved in a great deal of action. For a period of that time, he kept a diary.

**April 28** – 1 pm - The Story of Hartley Robey- This is a Minnesota soldier who died in WWI; the American Legion in Sandstone, Minn. is named after Robey. This is the story of his father who traveled to Europe to find his son's body and bring it home.

## Women of the ELCA News



The Spring Meeting for all women of the congregation will be **May 3rd** at 6:30 pm.

Please save this date and watch for more information to come. The meeting will include a speaker and election of officers for the coming year. We are still seeking a candidate for Vice President. Please contact Regina Seabrook, Mount Olive Women of the ELCA President, if you would be interested in serving as Vice President. She would be happy to answer any questions you may have- [rseabroo@gmail.com](mailto:rseabroo@gmail.com).

**The Women of the ELCA Study Leader's Meeting with Pastor Glenn is Tuesday, April 6 at 5:30 pm on Zoom. You'll need your April copy of Gather Magazine. Zoom ID: 853 9855 7199 Passcode: 399944**

## Children, Youth and Family Updates

### Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny is coming to Mount Olive this Easter! Following Tailgate Worship, which is at 11:00 am on Sunday, April 4, kids and youth are invited to participate in an Easter egg hunt outside at Mount Olive. Come join us for worship, then let the kiddos have some fun searching for eggs filled with candy, stickers and more! The youngest kiddos, 5 and under, will get a head start before we let the older kids loose. We will encourage appropriate social distancing and masking.



### Prayer-a-thon Fundraiser

On April 24, Mount Olive youth and friends will be praying all day for our church, our community and our world! For 24 hours straight, youth attending our trip to Colorado will participate in a Prayer-a-thon in efforts to cover the costs of two 15-passenger vans and gas (approximately \$4,000). We are asking for you to consider donating \$1, \$2, \$5 or even \$10/hour of prayer to help cover our travel expenses. You can give online or you can send or drop off cash/checks at the church. Please indicate your donation is for the Youth Trip. Reach out to Pastor Luke with any questions or support.

### Sunday School

During April, Sunday School will continue to be online. We hope families will continue reading favorite Bible stories and that we can bring some music back as well! Additionally, as the weather improves we can begin considering outdoor fellowship opportunities. Is there something you would like to see? Maybe you would like your kid's Sunday School class to attend a parking lot worship together, and you could stick around for some fellowship afterwards. Maybe we could get together and make some sidewalk chalk art together? Please reach out to Pastor Luke if you have any thoughts/suggestions or if there is a way he can help you organize and lead something.

### Confirmation

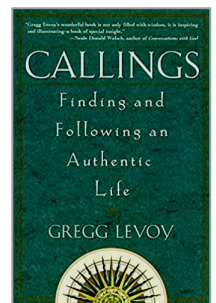
Confirmation will continue meeting every other week on Wednesdays April 7 and 21, 7:00 -8:00 pm, at the church. Additionally, we will have our Sunday Confirmation Retreat on April 18, 1:00 -4:00 pm, at the church. Weather permitting we will be able to do some of this outside!

### High School Fellowship

Mount Olive high school youth and friends are invited to continue meeting every other Wednesday for fellowship. This will be Wednesdays April 14 and 28, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. We will continue to stay social distanced and masked, and will get outside when we can.

### Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU) April 6

Faith Seeking Understanding book group will gather for their last meeting of this program year on Tuesday, **April 6** at 6:30 pm. This month's book selection is ***Callings: Finding and Following an Authentic Life*** by Gregg Levoy. How do we know if we're following our true callings? Drawing on the hard-won wisdom and powerful stories of people who have followed their own calls, Gregg Levoy shows us the many ways to translate a calling into action. All are welcome to attend. The Zoom Meeting ID: 883 1860 1767 Please contact Pastor Lisa with any questions—[lisa@molive.org](mailto:lisa@molive.org).



### Pub Theology

Pub Theology continues to meet weekly on Mondays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, on Zoom and has been enjoying this time of connection with each other. Weekly topics, announcements, and the link to our Zoom gathering continue to be posted at [rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com](http://rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com). You'd be welcome to join us!

## “We Have Seen” – Women’s Easter Morning Gathering at the Zoom Tomb

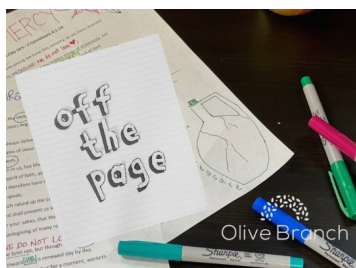
*Before the sun comes up on Easter morning we will gather, as women, to marvel at the empty tomb and witness to what it means for us to see the Risen One.* Building on the success of last year’s event, Pastor Lisa is partnering once again with Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis to host an early morning Easter gathering at the ‘Zoom Tomb’. All women from Mount Olive and Olive Branch are invited to participate alongside others from various denominations across the world. Sunday, **April 4, 2021, 5:45 – 6:45 am.**



For more information or to register, follow this link: <https://zoomtomb2021.eventbrite.com>

## Artist’s Studio

April is the last month to attend the Olive Branch Artist’s Studio before we take a break for the summer. Join us for workshops or open studio time on Monday evenings, 6:30—8:00 pm, to work on anything you’d like. We have many art supplies available, so you don’t even need to bring anything along! See the Events page on the Olive Branch website ([www.olivebranchcommunity.org/get-involved](http://www.olivebranchcommunity.org/get-involved)) for more information and to sign up.



## Off The Page: Sunday afternoons

Olive Branch does Bible study a little differently than some. It’s a text immersion where we engage our creative sides to open our hearts and minds to hearing something new, different and personal. We’ve had great attendance from across 4 countries at our weekday sessions. Now we’re seeing what happens when it’s held on a Sunday! Visitors are most welcome, and no experience with the Bible or art is needed or expected.

**Dates:** Sundays, April 11, 17, and 25, 2021

**Time:** 2:30 – 4:00 pm

**Text:** Ephesians

**Register via Eventbrite:** <https://ephesiansotp.eventbrite.com>



## Psalm Prayer update

Every Sunday at 4:30 pm, join Richard Bruxvoort Colligan for 30 minutes of song, reflection and prayer orbiting a psalm. Where? The Olive Branch Community YouTube channel. If you like quiet meditation, this might be for you. All the past sessions are archived, so enjoy them anytime. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPRunOmryq5TCrOsrXm50tw>

## Family Promise Resumes Hosting Homeless Families

Family promise wants to thank all of you who donated money and meals! We are happy to report that the first family has graduated from the new day center—called The Northstar. Meals are still needed, and starting April 1st a new idea—kitchen connections—is beginning.

A few days a week we are asking for ingredients and a recipe to be dropped off for the families. Please see the Signup Genius link for more information and to sign up: [Family Promise: 913 Master SignUp \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

Please contact Erin Sinnwell, Mount Olive member and Family Promise Board President with any questions: [etracy515@hotmail.com](mailto:etracy515@hotmail.com) or 507-990-6079.



## Bolder Options Seeks Mentors

Did you know that one of the highest rated mentoring programs in the state of Minnesota is located in Mount Olive Lutheran Church? It's true, Bolder Options has had an office in Mount Olive since 2016. We cannot say how much we appreciate all that this congregation has done to help us achieve our mission. Since opening an office in Rochester in 2010, we have served over 250 youth and families. This wouldn't be possible without the support of our wonderful volunteers and community partners.



2020 was a difficult year for everyone and Bolder Options was not immune. We were able to continue programming but had to switch between a hybrid model and distance mentoring. We are excited that we will soon be able to do more in-person activities, especially with spring and sunshine around the corner. 2021 has brought new challenges but we are optimistic we can overcome these. Our mentor recruitment is quite a bit down because of the pandemic and unfortunately youth referrals are way up. Because of this, **we need more mentors**.

We are looking for some special people (age 21+) who care about this community's young people and want to make a difference. As a Bolder Options mentor you will introduce your mentee to a variety of activities. If you like to hangout at a coffee shop, play sports or visit state parks, you will make a great mentor! Mentors spend a couple hours a week in a mix of one on one activities with their youth and group events put on by Bolder Options staff. You will not be doing it alone - our staff will be there to support you from day 1. At the end of your year together, you will attend a graduation ceremony in which all of your achievements will be celebrated! Mentoring is one of the most effective ways to give back, and we promise you will get more out of it than you will put in!

If you are interested in learning more or would like to sign up to become a mentor, visit- [www.bolderoptions.org/be-a-mentor](http://www.bolderoptions.org/be-a-mentor) or contact Scott- [scott.robinson@bolderoptions.org](mailto:scott.robinson@bolderoptions.org). Feel free to reach out with any questions, we are just down the hall in room 14.



## Mount Olive Quilters

The Mount Olive quilters have resumed meeting weekly in the Fellowship Hall, socially distanced while wearing masks. They meet Thursday mornings at 9:00 am. If you are interested in joining them, please contact Donna Grever at 507-206-4605. Kits of fabric for sewing quilts at home are also available for pick up in the Gathering Area cupboard. The cupboard also contains a bin for fabric donations. The quilters welcome donations of clean, cotton fabric measuring at least 12" x 12" in size.

## Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will meet on **April 13** at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall, socially distanced and wearing masks. Yarn, needles, patterns, and guidance are supplied; please contact Vickie Kubly if you would like to join the group—507-282-7696. If you would like to request a prayer shawl for someone who is experiencing illness, loss, or a difficult time, please contact Vickie, or you may call the church office at 507-288-1580.

## Dorothy Day Hospitality House Update

Dorothy Day Hospitality House has resumed serving meals to their guests. Mount Olive provides the evening meal on the first Friday of each month. The next open date is May 7. If you would be willing to drop off a meal or order pizza to serve approximately 14 people at 6:00 pm, please contact Jene Bodensteiner, Dorothy Day House volunteer coordinator for Mount Olive- [jbode6@icloud.com](mailto:jbode6@icloud.com).





## Palm Sunday Worship March 28—Online and Tailgate Options

On Palm Sunday, March 28, we'll gather for Tailgate Worship at 11:00 am. We will gather in the parking lot, and (weather permitting) invite everyone to get out of their cars, take a palm branch and join in procession at the opening of worship led by Oliver the Donkey. All ages can participate as we walk and sing "Glory, Laud, and Honor" to our Lord on this festive day. Worshippers



tune in to the service on their FM radio stations. Remember to bring some bread/cracker and wine/juice for Holy Communion with will be part of the morning worship. As the weather warms, we'll enjoy these opportunities to get together.



We will offer online Palm Sunday worship on Mount Olive's YouTube Channel- [www.youtube.com/channel/UCqQHPLrP-lcwjKDOLwIGwdA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqQHPLrP-lcwjKDOLwIGwdA)

## Prayers and Prayer Chain Update

As you have watched our online worship services, you may have noticed that we are including prayers for Mount Olive members and friends in a more general way and not including the specific names. This is due to privacy concerns since the service is now broadcast widely on YouTube. Rest assured, however, that people in need of prayer are still being remembered by the prayer chain members and the Mount Olive staff. Prayers requests are sent along to the Prayer Chain as they are received by the prayer chain coordinator, Kim Ignatius, and also sent out before weekend services. If you have a prayer request and would like the prayer chain to be in prayer for you or someone you love, or if you would like to join the prayer chain as one who prays, please contact Kim at: 507-271-6087 or [ignati-us.kimberlie@charter.net](mailto:ignati-us.kimberlie@charter.net) or contact a Mount Olive staff member using the contact information below.

### Mount Olive's Welcome Statement:

*"We trust that God calls Mount Olive Lutheran Church to a ministry of reconciliation. We embrace as a gift the diversity of our neighborhood and the world, and we extend God's hospitality by welcoming, hearing, and treasuring:*

*All gender identities and sexual orientations*

*All races and ethnicities*

*All ages and abilities*

*All economic statuses and education levels*

*All faith journeys and personal histories*

*As Christ welcomes all, we too welcome the full inclusion of all people into the life, ministry, and sacraments of Mount Olive, joining in a journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect."*



### Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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A Reconciling in  
Christ Community

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