



# Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

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Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Benjamin Springer  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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**Easter 4/Confirmation Sunday – April 30, 2023 – 8:30 & 10:45AM**  
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**Welcome!** In the name of our risen Savior, we welcome you to Mt. Olive and thank you for worshipping with us. If you are a guest, please fill out a **“Get Connected!”** card (on the tables at the back of worship area). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon. **Large Print** copies of the order of service from the ELS Hymnary are available from the usher stand in the back of the sanctuary. **For the Hearing Impaired:** Our facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask an usher for a receiver.

**Explanation of the Week:** *“The mercies of the Lord...are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness!” (Lamentations 3:18-26). As children of God, we trust in Him to provide for our daily physical needs; but we also understand that far greater things are in store for us, and for all those who wait on the Lord. He provides not our daily bread, but also the daily spiritual encouragement that keeps us directed to our future hope of Heaven. We are encouraged to persevere as Jesus also reminds us that the wait is just a little while: “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.” (Jn 16:16-22)*

*This is the faith and hope that our 8th Grade Confirmation Class is publicly professing today on Confirmation Sunday (at our 2nd service). We give our confirmands the opportunity to affirm the faith that they were baptized into, making a solemn vow to remain true to God’s Word throughout their lives. Having been taught the truths of the Christian faith and having demonstrated their knowledge of these truths (at Thursday evening’s Public Examination), they are now ready to receive the Lord’s Supper and to continue on in the church as mature Christian individuals. We keep them and all our young people in our prayers!*



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## I. The Service of Preparation

*(We prepare ourselves for worshiping God by acknowledging our unworthiness to stand before Him, and by receiving His forgiveness through absolution. We respond with thanks and joy.)*

~**Prelude** — *Preservice music & opportunity for prayer*

*(See "Prayers for Worship"  
—ELH p. 40)*

~**Hymn 3** *Come, Let Us with Our Lord Arise*

~**Invocation** — *Calling upon the Triune God*

*(ELH p. 60; Matt. 28:19)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

~**Confession & Absolution** — *Admitting our guilt & receiving God's forgiveness*

*(ELH p. 60, II; Ps 124:8, Ps 32:5)*

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C: ♪ Who made heav'n and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

**C: ♪ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

**C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.**

~Hymn 344, vv. 1, 3 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Again*

~Salutation — *The people's blessing for the Pastor's work*

(ELH p. 66; 2 Tim 4:22)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

~Collect — *The congregation's prayer of the day*

(ELH p. 66; p. 156, #69)

P: Let us pray: Lord God, heavenly Father, of Your fatherly goodness You allow Your children to come under Your chastening rod here on earth, that we might be like Your only-begotten Son in suffering and hereafter in glory: We beseech You, comfort us by Your Holy Spirit in all temptations and afflictions, that we may not fall into despair, but that we may continually trust in Your Son's promise, that our trials will endure but a little while, and will then be followed by eternal joy; that we thus, in patient hope, may overcome all evil, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

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II. The Service of the Word



*(After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thanked God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He now increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the Lessons and especially through the Sermon where God's Word is applied to our lives today.)*

~Old Testament Lesson

(EHV)

**Lamentations 3:18-26** I said, "My endurance has vanished, along with my hope from the LORD." Remember my affliction and my homeless wandering, the wormwood and bitterness. My soul always remembers, and it has sunk within me. Nevertheless, I keep this in my heart. This is the reason I have hope: By the mercies of the LORD we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. My soul says, "The LORD is my portion. Therefore, I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

**~Holy Gospel Lesson**

*(ELH p. 68; EHV)*

P: The Holy Gospel for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter is written in the 16th chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, beginning at the 16<sup>th</sup> verse.

**C: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord!**

**John 16:16-23** “In a little while you are not going to see me anymore, and again in a little while you will see me, because I am going away to the Father.” Therefore some of his disciples asked one another, “What does he mean when he tells us, ‘In a little while you are not going to see me, and again in a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going away to the Father?’” So they kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he’s saying.” Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you trying to determine with one another what I meant by saying, ‘In a little while you are not going to see me, and again in a little while you will see me’? Amen, Amen, I tell you: You will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. A woman giving birth has pain, because her time has come. But when she has delivered the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, because of her joy that a person has been born into the world. “So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. In that day you will not ask me anything. Amen, Amen, I tell you: Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

P: This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**C: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ!**

**~Apostles’ Creed — Confession of faith**

*(ELH p. 68)*

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

**C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.**

~Hymn 226, vv. 1, 4, 8, 9, 10 *By Grace I'm Saved*

~Epistle Lesson & Sermon Text

(EHV)

**1 Peter 1:3-9** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. Through faith you are being protected by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time. Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

~Sermon Theme

*"Your New Life Is Being Tested"*

- 1. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we have a new life to live.*
- 2. As we live it, our new life of faith is sometimes severely tested.*
- 3. But our new life in the risen Savior passes every test.*

~Offering Hymn 246, vv. 1, 5 *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It*

~Offering Prayer

*(We take this time to acknowledge and thank God for moving the hearts of His people to continue to support the mission and work of our church. Our ushers will bring the offering plates forward to the altar and the pastor will offer a prayer of thanks. Please note: You may place any offerings into the plates on the stands at the main aisle entrance to the Sanctuary either before or after the service. Online giving is also available through [mtolivelutheran.org](http://mtolivelutheran.org) or by text message through your smartphone by texting the amount you would like to give to 833-726-3742 (a link will be provided for first-time users to register an account.)*

**~Rite of Confirmation** *(2<sup>nd</sup> Service Only)*

~*Exhortation and Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant*

~*Confirmation Vows*

~*Blessing and Announcement of Confirmation Passage*

~*Welcome and Benediction*

~*Confirmation Prayer*

~**Hymn 385** *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

*Confirmands: vv. 1, 2; Congregation, v. 3*

**~Prayers & Special Petitions**

**~Lord's Prayer**

*(ELH p. 85; Mt 6:9-13)*

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**~Collect**

*(ELH p. 86-87; III)*

P: Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, unto Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above, that Your Word, as becomes it, may not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

**~Benediction** — *Final blessing for God's people*

*(ELH p. 87; Num. 6:24-26)*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.**

**~Hymn 377, vv. 1, 4, 7, 8** *Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me*

~Announcements

~Postlude — Opportunity for prayer & to greet one another

(See "Prayers for Worship"  
—ELH p. 40)

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*Officiant: Pastor John Petersen*

*Preservice Music: Brytyn Barents*

*Organists: 1<sup>st</sup>: John Baumann / 2<sup>nd</sup>: Elisabeth Urtel*

*Confirmation Choir Director: Donna Fosburgh / Accompanist : Mandy Pavelchik*

*Cover Artwork: Don Moldstad (used with permission)*  
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**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:**

**Sunday: 8:30am, 390; 10:45am, 116; Monday:27**

**Sunday Live (8:30am) Online Viewing: 23**  
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**WE THANK THOSE SERVING OUR LORD TODAY:**

**Greeters:** 1<sup>st</sup> Service—Ron & Mary Younge, Steve & Lois Jaeger

2<sup>nd</sup> Service—Peggy Harstad, Joni Bode

**Offering Counters:** Will Holt, Lance Schwartz

**Altar Guild:** Sharon Madson, Heidi Graham, Emily Christensen

**Media Center:** Jerris & Mathias Barents  
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**Weekly Financial Update:**

**Given Last Week:** \$14,673.43

**Line of Credit (LOC) Challenge given last week:** \$25.00

**LOC total as of 4/27/23:** \$16,720.66 (\$3,279.34 still needed to make \$20,000 goal)

**Fiscal Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit) as of 03/31/23:** \$51,779.52

*2 Corinthians 9:8 God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will overflow in every good work.*

Did you know you can give your offering online? Just go to [www.mtolivelutheran.org](http://www.mtolivelutheran.org) and click on the link "donate online".  
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**Mt. Olive Worship Services on TV:**

Mt. Olive services are available on local cable channel 181 (Charter) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10am and Thursdays at 11:30am.  
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**WEEK AT A GLANCE: *April 30, 2023 — May 7, 2023***

<b>Sunday,</b> April 30	8:30AM	Divine Service
	9:40AM	BIC/Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:45AM	Divine Service; <b>Rite of Confirmation</b>
	2PM	Adult Pickleball
	7:30PM	Coed Recreational Volleyball
<b>Monday,</b> May 1	10AM	Veterans' Bible Study
	6:30PM	Divine Worship
	6:30PM	Board of Education
	7PM	Board of Deacons
<b>Tuesday,</b> May 2	9AM	Ladies' Bible Study
	6:30PM	Jesus Cares Ministry
<b>Wednesday,</b> May 3	8:10AM	CDS Chapel
	9AM	Adult Bible Study
	7PM	Adult Choir Practice
	8PM	Art After Dark
<b>Thurs.,</b> May 4		
<b>Fri.,</b> May 5	1PM	Introduction to Hebrew Language Class
<b>Sat.,</b> May 6		Mt. Olive Volunteers at New 2 You
<b>Sunday,</b> May 7		<b>New Member Welcome Sunday</b>
		Adult Choir Sings
	8:30AM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	9:40AM	Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:45AM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion
	2PM	Adult Pickleball
	7:30PM	Coed Recreational Volleyball

**ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School:**

**Flowers on the altar today** are given to God's glory in honor of our confirmands.

**Confirmation Open House:** Pr. Luke & Rachel Ulrich invite all their Mt. Olive family & friends to join them in celebrating Sophia's confirmation at an open house from 2-4pm **today** in the church Social Hall. Please come and join us for some treats!

**After School Care** is collecting toothbrushes for the school children at the Lima school and the Luis Terry jungle school in Peru. The collection goal: 250 toothbrushes. Bring your donations to the school office from now through **May 12**.



**New 2 You Family Thrift – Volunteers Needed!** Mt. Olive provides volunteers at New 2 You on the first Saturday of each month. Our next scheduled date is Saturday, **May 6**. The sign-up sheet is on the narthex table. Please call New 2 You at 507-345-1455 for more details. Thank you!

**Softball Umpires Needed:** Mt. Olive is sponsoring a grade school co-ed softball tournament on Thursday, **May 18**, at Caswell Park. Games will begin at 8:30am and finish around 3:30pm. For more information, contact Mr. Zibrowski by calling the school office at 345-7927 or emailing Mr. Zibrowski at [mrz@mtolivelutheran.org](mailto:mrz@mtolivelutheran.org).

**Camp Indianhead** is looking for three women and five men counselors for this year's summer camp on July 9-14. If you can help, please contact the church office.

### **Minnesota Valley Lutheran Events:**

**MVL's Drama Department** presents the musical *The Music Man!* The performances are Friday, **May 5**, and Saturday, **May 6**, at 7pm; and Sunday, **May 7**, at 2pm at the State Street Theater in New Ulm. Tickets are available for purchase at the door.

### **Upcoming Band and Orchestra Concerts at Bethany Lutheran College:**

**Outdoor Jazz Concerts:** today and Monday, **May 1**, at 5pm. We plan to feature several jazz vocalists and a variety of selections, such as *Mission Impossible*, *Fly Me to the Moon*, *Sway*, *25 or 6 to 4*, *Minnie the Moocher*, and more! These are the final jazz concerts under the direction of Prof. Benjamin Faugstad. This fall, the jazz band will be directed by Mr. Evan Bierer, who has taught private lessons at Bethany since 2018. If the weather is poor, the performances will be moved to Trinity Chapel.

**B-Town Drumline** presents two shows at 4pm and 7pm in the Sigurd Lee Theater on Saturday, **May 6**. This is a fun event for the whole family to enjoy! Not only do 17 drummers take the stage; some bagpipes and accordion music will also be featured.

**Mt. Olive members** donated 35 lb. of food to the ECHO Food Shelf during the month of April. Thank you for your generosity.

**For all other new announcements**, please pick up your copy of the May edition of the *Olive Press* from the narthex table.

### **Mt Olive Lutheran Church Mission Statement**

The mission of Mount Olive Lutheran Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ through God's Word, so that souls are called into and kept in the Christian faith unto eternal life.