

Volume LVI
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April 2018



Messenger

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

7301 N 28 Ave Omaha, NE 68112 402.455.8700 MountOliveOmaha.com



There is something better coming ...

This season of Easter is a special time for Christians to celebrate the ultimate reason for our hope: Christ is risen, and invites us to rise with him to new life.

Easter is an invitation to try again with God's help to break that addiction we had given up all hope of ever breaking. There's something better coming ...

- Easter is a chance to work at renewing the marriage we had given up all hope of ever saving. There's something better coming ...
- Easter is an opportunity to reach out to our neighbors who, in our busyness, we neglect. There's something better coming ...
- Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming ...
- Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming ...
- Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming ...
- Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." There's something better coming.

—Homiletics

Have you heard the story about the woman who asked to be buried with a fork in her hand? As the story goes, a Christian woman with a terminal illness asked her family to put a fork in her hand when her body was lying in state in an open casket. Of course, her family questioned this unusual request. She explained, "I remember with joy all the times at a church dinner or family picnic when someone would say, 'Clear away your plates but keep your fork!' 'Keep your fork' meant it was dessert time—the best was yet to come," she said. "When people ask why I'm holding that fork, tell them that I died knowing "THE BEST IS YET TO COME!"

That is our Easter faith. We bury our Christian family members and friends with a very firm conviction. We contemplate our own death with hope and confidence. We dare to face death and eternity knowing that, in Christ, the best is yet to be for God's people.

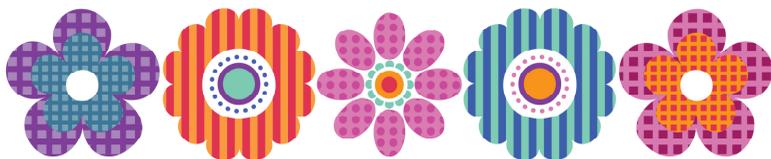
The heart of our Easter confession is the Apostles' Creed phrase—"the resurrection of the body." The resurrected Christ is the "the firstfruits of those who have died" (*1 Corinthians 15:20*). As Christ died, was buried, and rose again, so shall we His people. Jesus received a new resurrection body in which He appeared to the first disciples and other witnesses. Philippians 3:12 reminds us that we will also receive a glorious new body that resembles Christ's own. As our bodies age, as we have aches and pains in places we used to ignore and certain body parts don't even seem to work, the promise of whole body replacement sounds better and better.



Yes, the best is yet to come. Dessert will soon be served, if you will. Now we still have work to do in the vocations where God has placed us. But the time will come that our earthly work will be over. When that hour arrives, we commit ourselves body and soul into God's hands and die in peace and anticipation. We will next eat at the Lord's heavenly banquet in a new resurrected body! We will find ourselves in the company of all of the Lord's faithful ones over the centuries. We will see our Savior with our own eyes!

Our annual celebration of our Lord's resurrection makes us contemplate our own future. No wonder we shout our alleluias with such enthusiasm on Easter Day. And that Easter celebration continues for fifty days in our Sunday gatherings as God's people. Because Jesus suffered and died for us, and then was raised to life again on the third day, THE BEST IS YET TO COME for us as well.

—Rev. Roland A Jank, Jr.



In Ministry With God's People

We remember in prayer

...**Dixie Gerhart, Mary Hogue, Rod & Karen Lorang, Emily Standley, Pearl Wiley and Max Williams.**

...**Doug Pollock** and his family as their mourn the loss of his father, **James Pollock.**

...**Pearl Wiley** and her family as their mourn the loss of her son, **Ron Wiley.**

...our youth confirmation class - **Kailyn Townsend** and **Isabella Wegner.**

...our congregational effectiveness in bringing the Gospel to the hurting of our community.

...**Emily Standley** as she transitions to a work release program in Lincoln, NE.

Church Spring Cleaning

On Saturday, April 7, 9:00 to noon, join us for spring cleaning at church.

All ages and skill levels are needed to make small repairs, organize and do some deep cleaning to our church building. If you have noticed an area that needs attention or have questions, please talk to **Jill Clausen** or **Roger Perrigo.**

Spring Clean Your Closet

Project Hope is in need of your gently-used career clothing for a Career Clothing Event on April 26. Items needed are career pieces or suits for women (skirts, pants, jackets, blouses) in all sizes, men's suits, men's shirts and ties, interview-appropriate shoes in all sizes for men and women, unopened pantyhose and new black socks.

Project Hope's goal is to provide a free complete outfit for every client who needs one. You can either take your items to Project Hope (6201 North 60th Street) or contact them for pick-up.

Interested in attending summer camp this year? Now is the time to sign up. Camps are available at various times with various themes. Individual camps are available for kids first to ninth grade as well as family camp where your whole family can participate. Visit www.campluther.org for prices and dates. If you would like to register, contact **Kristi Townsend.**

Douglas County Homestead Exemption Program

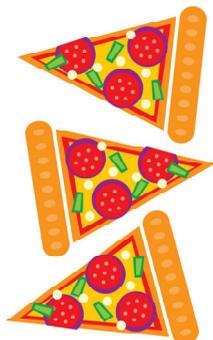
Certain homeowners might be eligible for a full or partial exemption on property taxes through the Homestead Exemption program. Eligibility is determined by household income and the valuation of the property. You must still own and live in your home.

Potential Homestead Exemption applicants must meet at least one of the following:

- Persons 65 years or age, or older, before January 1
- Persons with certain permanent physical disabilities
- Persons with certain developmental disabilities
- 100% service-connected disabled veterans and their widow(er)s
- Widow(er)s of qualified veterans, who have remarried after 57 years of age

For more information, contact Douglas County Assessor/ Register of Deeds office at their website www.dchomestead.org, by email homestead@douglascounty-ne.gov or by phone at 402-444-7060, option 2.

The monthly *Very Merry Unbirthday* luncheon will be on Wednesday, April 11. We are eating at La Casa Pizza & Pasta at 4432 Leavenworth St. It's legendary! Let's meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m. and carpool. Please RSVP to **Barb Stacy** at 402-453-7049 or **Bonnie White** at 402-676-7334.



OUR MISSIONARIES ABROAD

Mount Olive is helping to support two missionaries and their families who live abroad. We remember them periodically in our public prayer. We ask that you continue to support them financially with your regular gifts. Information about their work is shared on the north hall bulletin board and in our Sunday worship. May it serve as an encouragement for your continued interest and support. For the year 2018 our missionaries abroad are:

Julie Lutz
12 Wiltshire Rd
Kowloon Tong, Kowloon
Hong Kong
julie.lutz@lcmsintl.org

**Rev. David & Mrs.
Barbara Bush**
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
Attn: Amy Schaefer
St. Louis, MO 63122
david.bush@lcmsintl.org

Please join us on Tuesday, April 10th, for Mount Olive's Book Club. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the home of **Bonnie White. Jill Clausen** will provide dessert. We will be discussing *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Kruger.

The novel is set in the summer of 1961 in New Bremen, Minnesota. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were at the ready at Halderson's Drug Store soda counter, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a summer in which death assumed many forms. When tragedy unexpectedly comes to call on his family, which includes his Meth-

odist minister father, his passionate, artistic mother, Juilliard-bound older sister, and wise-beyond-his years kid brother, Frank finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal. On the surface, *Ordinary Grace* is the story of the murder of a beautiful young woman, a beloved daughter and sister. At heart, it's the story of what that tragedy does to a boy, his family, and ultimately the fabric of the small town in which he lives. Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, it is a moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that

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Please join your fellow Mount Olive movie buffs on Friday night, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. We will be showing the movie *Mamma Mia!* I hope the Friday Nite Flixers are ready for this because it is going to be . . . a . . . SING-A-Long! Come and join your fellow Mount Olivers as we fracture some ABBA songs

It's going to be different; I think it's going to be fun so why not check it out?

This 2008 movie stars Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan and Colin Firth. The movie runs 108 minutes. 20-year-old Sophie is preparing to marry at her mother's hotel on a Greek island. She has a carefree life, a loving fiancée, and great friends. She is only missing one thing: a father. By reading her mother's diary

she discovers there are three possibilities. Sophie secretly

invites all three men to the wedding in a desperate bid to discover which of them is her father. But not all goes according to plan. Now, old loves are re-kindled, new loves are formed, and Sophie risks everything to discover the true identity of her father.

Popcorn and movie candy will be provided.

—**Dixie Gerhart** (402-602-3252)





Thank You

Thank you to **Kathy Mansfield, Sharon McDonald, Barb Stacy and Bonnie White** for helping with the March Messenger.

Thank you to **Barb Stacy** for taking the finished newsletter to the downtown post office.

A special thank you to **Rich Wismont** who takes care of all of the church's recyclables.

Thank you to **Rosalie Soodsma** for weekly lending a hand in the church office.

- Teresa Kuti

Many Thanks!

Many thanks to **Ron Hurt** for putting in all of the hard work landscaping around the church and getting everything ready for Spring.

Mt. Olive Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call **Kristi Townsend** at 402-457-9611 or by email at townsend.kristi@gmail.com

Important!

Emily Standley has been moved to a work release program in Lincoln, NE. As soon as we have an updated Lincoln address, we will make it available. Please do not send mail to her at the York, NE address as it will not be forwarded.

THANK YOU!!

We recently had a toilet leak in the men's bathroom that was making quite a disaster in the basement. Many thanks to **Paul and Jill Clausen** for cleaning up a major mess! Thanks to **Jerry Zulfer** for coming down at a moment's notice and lending a hand. As well as to **Roger Perrigo** who not only lended a hand but was available for the plumbers after hours call. Thank you **Roger** for also coming back the next day to make sure the repairs were being handled properly.

For Kids

Don't forget about the Little Lutheran Bags that the COSMO/LWML group has put together for children ages 2-5 to use during worship. They can be found on the hooks under the mailboxes (across from the restrooms). After service, please return the items to the bag (except for the coloring sheets) and leave in the pew or hand to an usher.

Many thanks to **Jill Clausen** for equipping the area with a book rack with great children's books. There is quite a selection that kids can choose from to take into worship.



Little Free Pantry of Mount Olive



We have an ongoing collection for our "Little Free Pantry." This small cabinet with non-perishable food items, paper goods, and other items sits outside of Mount Olive. It is accessible 24 hours per day to anyone. The pantry has made a huge impact to the hungry in our neighborhood. It is emptied most days. Please consider putting a couple extra items in your grocery cart for donation.

You can place your items inside the marked cabinet that is in the old nursery room right behind the doorway.

- applesauce
- baby food
- baked beans
- bean soup
- beef stew
- bran cereals
- bread
- bread and muffin mixes
- canned and dried beans
- canned chili
- canned chicken
- canned tomato products
- canned tuna or salmon
- canned fruit/vegetables
- cold & hot cereal/oatmeal
- dried fruit
- dry noodles and pasta
- evaporated milk
- flour
- fruit juice
- graham crackers
- granola bars
- honey
- infant cereal and formula
- instant breakfast drinks
- jelly and jam
- macaroni and cheese
- mayonnaise
- noodle mixes
- pancake mix
- peanut butter
- popcorn
- powdered milk
- rice and rice mixes
- salad dressings
- shelf-stable milk
- sugar
- syrup
- whole grain crackers
- vegetable oil
- vegetable soup
- vegetable juice

Everyday Habits to Safeguard Your Identity

- **Shred statements and applications you get in the mail that you don't want to keep**, including credit card applications, insurance forms, financial statements, health forms, billing statements for utilities, phone service, etc.
- **Cut up expired credit and debit cards**, cutting through the numbers.
- **Protect your Social Security number, all account numbers and your passwords**. Don't carry these numbers in your wallet. Give out your Social Security number only if absolutely necessary, and offer to provide another type of personal identifier, if possible.
- **Secure your personal documents at home**, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having work done in your house.
- **Minimize the personal information you print on checks**. You don't need to include your Social Security number, phone or driver's license number.
- **Monitor your bank and credit card transactions for unauthorized transactions**. Crooks with your account number generally start with small transactions to see if you'll notice.
- **Pay attention to your billing cycles**. If bills do not arrive on time, follow up with your creditors.
- **Don't create obvious passwords**, such as your birth date, child's name or birth date, mother's maiden name or the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- **If you conduct business online, use your own computer**. A public computer is less secure.
- **Never respond to emails requesting to "verify" your personal information and identifiers**. Your bank, credit card company, online payment system, the IRS—none of these types of organizations will call or e-mail asking for your confidential information. They already have it.
- **Never use e-mail to communicate sensitive personal information** such as your user name, password, Social Security number or credit card number.
- **Don't use your PDA or cell phone to store credit card numbers or other financial information**.
- **Don't store passwords, tax returns or other financial information on your computer hard drive**.
- **Back up your computer data and store it away from your computer**.
- **Keep your computer system and browser software up to date**, and set to the highest security level you can tolerate.
- **Check your credit report at least once/year**. There is only one source authorized to give you ONE FREE annual credit

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Orphan Grain Train Fish Boil



All are welcome to the Omaha LWML Tri-Zone Rally from noon until 2:00 p.m., Sunday, April 15, for a “*Good Old-Fashioned Orphan Grain Train Fish Boil.*” St. Mark Lutheran Church at 1821 N. 90th St. is hosting this free-will offering event for the whole family. The speaker will be Susie Leffer.

Orphan Grain Train will be collecting five-gallon buckets, quilts, cleaning supplies such as comet, ajax, windex, scrub brushes, paper towels, sos pads, disposable shop towels, gloves, and pine-sol. You are also welcome to make a cash donation as an in-kind offering.

Many thanks to all who donated Easter lilies for the chancel.

EASTER LILIES

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| • Marilyn Beig | Ruth Benish |
| • Amber Brown & family | Becky Day |
| • Marge Eastman | Dustin & Mary Hogue |
| • Becky Hurt | Ron & Annette Hurt |
| • Randy & Joan Johnson | Liz Matson |
| • Dawn Payne | Frank Sabatka |
| • Rosalie Soodsma | Gloria Sorensen |
| • Barb Stacy | Frank & Yo Tierney |
| • Michael Wegner | Cindy Wheeler |
| • Bonnie White | Max & Linda Williams |

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 seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

We will meet May 8 at the home of **Jill Clausen** before we break for the summer. Any questions, ask **Jill Clausen** at 402-650-5692 or **Bonnie White** at 402-496-7682.

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file disclosure/year from each of the three consumer credit reporting companies: Call 877-322-8228 or visit www.annualcreditreport.com.

- **If your ID or credit cards are lost or stolen**, immediately notify your credit providers by phone and then notify each of the three credit bureaus to request a “Fraud Alert” be placed on your file. Placing this alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures before they open new accounts in your name or make changes to your existing accounts. Posting a Fraud Alert will also make it difficult for you to

open instant credit, so be sure to read all information before engaging a Fraud Alert. It also entitles you to free copies of your credit report. When reviewing your credit report, look for inquiries from companies you have not contacted, accounts you did not open, and debts on your accounts that you can’t explain. Close any accounts that have been tampered with or established fraudulently.

www.equifax.com 800-525-62585

www.experian.com 888-EXPERIAN (397-3742)

www.transunion.com 800-680-7289