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Easter Puts Our Hearts at Peace

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews... (John 20:19).

Can you imagine how those disciples must have felt on the evening of that first Easter? The Jewish leaders had already decreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be thrown out of the synagogue. They had already put Jesus to death. Before long, Saul would be going house to house hauling Jesus' followers off to prison. Is it any wonder these believers were huddled behind locked doors? How could they not be thinking, "Man, are we next?"

On top of that fear, imagine the guilt they must have felt. Jesus had pleaded with them to watch and pray so that they would not fall into temptation. So, what did they do? First, they fell asleep; then they ran away. And now Jesus was dead. No chance to apologize. No chance for a re-do. Instead, they were left with feelings of fear and shame.

Can you relate? Maybe there are things weighing on your heart right now. Things you said or did that you can't take back. Things that eat at your soul and weigh on your heart. Or maybe, like those disciples, you are experiencing some fear. What will happen to you? Your family? Your faith, when you are tested? I don't think it's hard to relate to what those first disciples were going through.

But what did Jesus do to address the fears of his disciples, then and now? He appeared to them on Easter evening and said, "Peace be with you." Understand that for Jesus, "Peace be with you," means more than "Hey, how's it going?" With these words, Jesus was actually announcing that the hearts of his disciples could now be at peace. Why? Because Jesus was alive! His resurrection was the proof that God the Father had accepted Jesus' payment for all their sins. There was now nothing that separated these disciples from God. There was no reason for them to feel guilty or afraid.

Isn't the same thing true for you and me? Today, Jesus comes to us through his Word and Sacrament and says, "Peace be with you." With those words, Jesus does not mean simply, "Feel good about yourself." No rather, he's announcing a fact, namely that he's made peace between you, a guilty sinner, and God, a righteous judge. Jesus has satisfied God's need for justice by giving his life on the cross, in your place. Now, God says that you are not guilty in his eyes.

Do you see the impact that God's peace has on your life? Now, no matter what challenge you face in life, no matter what fear you are struggling with, you start from this premise: "Well, at least I know where I stand with God. I may not know everything about what the future holds. I may still face some real trials in life. And things may not always go my way on this side of the grave, but here's what I know: I know that for Jesus' sake, my sins are forgiven. I know that in Christ, my heart is at peace."

Living in the peace of Easter with you,

Pastor Robert Raasch



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Membership Changes

Baptism

- * Levi Mancl, son of John & Allison Mancl, was baptized on March 1, 2024

Wedding

- * Jeremy Lange & Payton Selle were united in marriage on March 23, 2024

Profession of Faith

- * Andrew Buelow (1 child)

Transfer Out

- * Robin Johnson to The CORE, Appleton, WI

Release

- * Anna Nason

Remove

- * Penny Johnson
- * Todd & Julie Lettau, Eric Lettau
- * David & Tricia Nelson, Grace Nelson, Stephen Nelson
- * Harry & Karrie Torbeck

Memorials & Gifts

Forward in Faith 2

\$50 Lucille Mueller in honor of Ellie Zimmer's 100th birthday

\$25 Mark & Carol Schmidt in memory of Vicki Wunderlich

Mount Olive School

\$20 Nancy Wunderlich in memory of Diane Meyer's brother-in-law

Watch for sign-ups in April!!!

Faith in Action VBS

SAVE THE DATE
June 17-21, 9AM-NOON

Share the love



Church Council Report from March 18, 2024 Meeting

Pastors' Report

Pastor Priewe: Easter canvass coming up, prep work under way. Holy week prep.

Pastor Gawel: Pine car derby held, about 30 entries. Seder meal this week.

Pastor Raasch: Digital committee starting up. Will create a plan for increased social media content, increase subscriptions and shares. Dare to Lead is coming up in April. Asia One Team work continuing.

Pastor Zank: Many teacher and pastor vacancies synod-wide with assignment season approaching. COP meetings, and synodical conferences coming up.

Financial Report

Reviewed February 2024 financial report:

- February offerings were \$10,279 higher than budgeted.
- Tuition was \$15,707 lower than budgeted.
- Other income was \$10,813 higher than budgeted.
- Total income was \$5,385 higher than budgeted.
- Total expenses, before FVL/Synod distributions, were \$7,040 lower than budgeted.
- The net income for February, including FVL/Synod distributions of \$31,900 was \$128,944. This compares to a budgeted net income of \$116,519. The result is \$12,425 favorable to budget for the month.

Reviewed YTD (35 weeks ending February 2024) financial report:

- Offerings are \$29,772 higher than budgeted.
- Total income is \$20,737 lower than budgeted.
- Total expenses are \$30,850 lower than budgeted.
- YTD net income is \$82,483, which compares to the budgeted YTD income of \$72,370. The result is \$10,113 favorable to budget.

Forward in Faith 2 cost tracking update—Operations Manager Paul Kolell reported that:

- In the month of February \$18,203 was received in gifts/offerings.
- That \$130,000 from our FIF bank account was put into a US Treasury account.
- At the end of February there was \$183,107 of Forward in Faith funds available. After subtracting a reserve for April and July interest/debt payments of \$45,149, there's \$137,958 available for additional debt payments. These funds will accumulate until Bond D is due in April 2025.

Banking Update:

- Treasurer Tim Weihing informed the group that a Certificate of Deposit (CD) will mature next month. The group will discuss reinvesting the funds into another CD during next month's meeting.

Operations Update:

- Operations Manager Paul Kolell informed the Board that specific budgets for the fiscal 2025 budget are being prepared. An early April target has been set for a preliminary overall fiscal 2025 budget. The preliminary budget will be reviewed during the April and May Board meetings.

Annual Audit:

- Board member Peter Joch informed the board that Clifton, Larson, Allen resubmitted their audit services proposal for a three-year engagement.

New Business

- Call meeting for a vice principal scheduled for next Monday 3/25. Discussed giving the voters the option of calling a vice principal from MLC. David Liebhard and Heidi Schone have received calls.
- Submit budget forms by April 4th. Budget work ongoing.
- Clifton Strengths have been requested for new board members

Announcements

- Next EC meeting – Monday, April 8th at 9am
- Next Church Council meeting – Monday, April 15th at 7pm



What does our Mission Partner do in the 20+ Countries of Latin America?

At the heart of our Latin America mission team lies Academia Cristo. It's threefold mission: to make disciples, train leaders, and guide the planting of new churches wherever Spanish speakers live. Through social media we reach countless individuals eager to engage with sound biblical doctrine.

Central to Academia Cristo's approach is a training program divided into three tiers, each designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective ministry:

- **Self-Study through WhatsApp** (the most common messaging app in Latin America): This foundational tier offers **four self-led video courses** at the Bible information class level. Participants study at their own pace. Completion of these courses is a prerequisite for advancing to higher tiers.
- **Discipleship 1:** Students progress to **13 live online classes** taught by the missionaries. Here students learn to share the gospel right away, with the goal of doctrinal agreement with WELS. This is similar to confirmation class but more intense because many of these students will be leaders of their own groups!
- **Discipleship 2:** Students continue their live online education. At this stage students share the gospel actively in the groups they gather. Missionaries who have taught them **visit them twice each year** to personally get to know and encourage them as they grow and lead their sprouting congregations.

Meet our Mission Partner missionaries live/virtually at the Mission Banquet hosted by Mount Olive Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Tuesday, April 9th at 6:00 PM in the Mount Olive Commons.



On the right: Abe Degner (visiting a student) with Missionaries Nathan & Alyssa Schulte, Jose Carrasco, his wife Flor and his group in Peru.



Church Library News

Adult Nonfiction: *Equipped: The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles*, by Christopher M. Kennedy. Throughout our everyday lives, we Christians face battles of temptation, doubt, and anxiety. But God does not leave us helpless to just absorb the devil's attacks. He's given us the ability to fight back! Written from the viewpoint of a soldier's resource on spiritual warfare, the author offers insights into each piece

of God's armor spoken of in Ephesians 6, 11-18. We learn how to identify spiritual attacks and which piece of armor to deploy. One by one, the author methodically strips away the devil's deceitful masks and replaces them with the blood-bought truth about our wonderful holy armor. When we put on the full armor of God we engage in the good fight of faith, always trusting Christ to lead the charge, resulting in healing understanding, and peace.

Internet Link to the Church Library: Go to www.mountoliveappleton.com, click the "Member's Page" heading found at the top of the homepage. Then within the "Quick Links" section on the right, select "Church Library Access." You will be taken to the church library's website where you can perform a custom search or simply click on "New Materials" to see what's been recently added to the library.

Return all materials to the "Book Return" slot at the check out counter.

Come Check Us Out!!



Spring Mission Dinner

All Mount Olive members and guests are welcome!
Tuesday, April 9th, 6:00 PM, Mount Olive Commons

Speakers: Pastor Dennis & Kerri Kleist

Livestream with Missionaries:

Nathan & Alyssa Schulte, Luke & Rachel Beilke

Quito, Ecuador



Serving: pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, cheesy potatoes, fruit, raw veggies and dessert

Cost: \$7 for adults, \$3 for children

Please sign up in the Atrium.

Hosted by Mount Olive LWMS.

The congregation is invited to our Spring Mission Banquet on April 9 in the Commons. Join us for a light supper at 6:00 pm followed by a mission presentation at 6:30 pm. The cost for the meal is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. We are happy to have Pastor Dennis and Kerri Kleist as our speakers. They will share the excitement of Academia Cristo, our WELS digital mission based in Quito, Ecuador. There will be a live, interactive video visit with missionaries Nathan and Alyssa Schulte and Luke and Rachel Beilke. Missionary Beilke is one of our BAM (Befriend A Mission) pastors. Alyssa and another Academia Cristo missionary in Quito, Matt Behmer, are graduates of Mount Olive Lutheran School. Amazingly, this mission reaches over two million people in South America and beyond to connect them to Jesus through online outreach. The missionaries will explain how people are confirmed, leaders trained and congregations formed. It's a new, unique and effective way of sharing our Savior! We hope to see many of you there. There will be a signup sheet in the atrium. Pre-registration is not required, but encouraged.

We would love to have you join us for the Paperland Circuit LWMS Spring Rally on Saturday, April 20 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 8 S 4th St, Winneconne. The theme for the day is "We Proclaim the Word of Life" and the guest speaker will be Pastor Ryan Kolander, speaking on the Detroit Hispanic Mission. Registration and refreshments from 8:00 – 9:00 am, concluding with a lunch at 12:30 pm. If you are planning to attend the rally, please sign up in the atrium.

The LWMS International Convention is in Sioux Falls, SD, June 27-30, 2024. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other mission-minded Christians from throughout the world. Please go to www.lwms.org for registration information.

Remember to check the LWMS bulletin board in the west hallway of the school for news and updates on LWMS/missions.

Below are LWMS dates for the coming months

- April 9, 2024, 6:00 PM Spring Banquet/Mission Speaker
- April 20, 2024 Paperland Circuit Spring Rally – St Paul's Winneconne
- June 27-30, 2024, International LWMS Convention – Sioux Falls, SD

Thank you, Mount Olive for the continued support and prayers for LWMS and WELS missions.





April 6	Arline Kolander, 87
April 12	Donna Hopp, 75
April 18	Marjorie Barber, 87
April 19	Barbara Luedtke, 77
April 19	John Hoh Sr., 89
April 19	Diane Wilke, 83
April 23	Elaine Heup, 93
April 26	Margaret Kubek, 90
April 26	Del Wolfrath, 89
April 27	Tim Olson, 77
April 29	Ellen Kohl, 88



Mount Olive SCRIP

Did you know that you can earn SCRIP rebates for travel expenses?

Some examples include: Airbnb (5%), Hotels.com (6%), Southwest (4%), Delta (4%), Holiday Inn (9%), Carnival (8%), Disney (3%), Royal Caribbean (13%), Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park, Uber (2.5%) and many others. For a complete list, visit raiserright.com/brand. (Click on Categories and then on Travel.)

SCRIP gift cards are available for sale from 9:00-9:25 AM and 10:00-10:25 AM on Sundays in the church atrium and on Mondays and Fridays from 7:40-8:10 AM and 2:40-3:10 PM in the school office.

Questions? Call 920-739-9194 or email scrip@mountoliveappleton.com.

Coffee Café

The Coffee Cafe sign up for January through April 2024 is available on the [Mount Olive website](#). Please sign up!

Thank you to everyone who has helped out, it is so appreciated!

If you need a refresher or training, please contact Jenni Klemp jklemp31@gmail.com.



	Early 8-10 AM	Late 10 AM-Noon
April 7	Amanda & Layla Smith	Jeff & Sheryl Schultz
April 14	Jody & Todd Ziegler	Scott & Bree Plach
April 21	Cindy Kehl, OPEN	Mike & Louise Kesting
April 28	OPEN	Scott & Bree Plach



Apple Valley Food Pantry The pantry's next collection date is **Saturday, April 13**. The following list of items are needed: canned tomato products (diced, stewed, sauce), spaghetti noodles, egg noodles, pasta noodles, pasta sauce, healthy adult cereals, boxed potato side dishes, canned mandarin oranges and fruit cocktail, canned chilis and stews, dish soap (20 oz or less size), hand soap, and laundry soaps (50 loads or less). Just a reminder that we do not give expired or damaged goods to our recipients. Thank you for your continuing support of the pantry.

2603 W College Ave., Appleton, WI 54914





**Thank you to all who ordered Easter Lilies
to beautify our Altar!**

Chris & Candy Reichelt (2)
 Sharon Hintz
 Chris & Kristin Schumacher family
 John & Rhonda Murphy in memory of
 Rev. John & Rita Murphy
 Pat Paltzer
 Dale & Karen Schmidt
 Rick & Sue Gulbransen
 Jay & Shelley Vanderhoof
 Rick & Donna Raddatz
 Elain Heup
 Paula Heup
 Strey family
 Lucille Mueller
 Kevin & Debbie Gertsch

Dorothy Lee (2)
 Ed, Trudy & Amanda Stern
 Todd & Sue Volkman
 Roger & Bonnie VandenLangenberg
 Don & Donna Mitchell
 Lucille Stensberg in memory of
 Rev. Burton Stensberg
 Jim & Gloria Knoll
 Patty & Dave Schwartz in memory of Pat Pussehl
 Jody & Cara Thelen
 Linda Pintar
 George & Barb Green
 Dennis & Kerri Kleist
 Stan & Brenda Rickert
 Connie Prasher in memory of
 Orvin, Phyllis & Jay Riechmann
 Kent & Char Kiesling
 Steve & Laura Gucinski in memory of
 Steve's parents, Mart & Judy
 Karen Doell in memory of Arlyn Doell
 Ken & Arline Kolander
 Mark & Carol Schmidt

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Click here](#) to go to our website calendar for more details and the most up-to-date information.

March 28-April 1	No School, Easter Break
March 28	Maundy Thursday Services at 10 AM & 6 PM
March 29	Good Friday, Church Office Closed
March 29	Tenebrae Services at 5 & 7 PM
March 31	Easter Sunday Services at 6:30 (w/ Communion), 8, 9:30, 11 AM Easter Brunch, 7-9:30 AM
April 9	LWMS Spring Banquet, 6 PM in the Commons
April 13	Apple Valley Food Pick-up
April 13	Cultivating Connections, 9-11 AM
April 14	Valley Teen Night @ Our Shepherd, Appleton
April 27	Confirmation, 9 AM
May 3 & 4	Mount Olive School Musical, Friday at 7 PM, Saturday at 2 PM
May 23	Last Day of School, 8th Grade Graduation
May 27	Memorial Day, Church Office Closed

