The mission of the conference on liturgy is to provide a forum for both ordained and lay persons to grow in their understanding of public worship. Specifically, the conference seeks to:

- Lift up theological topics that are the basis of Christian liturgy,
- Provide edification for ordained and lay persons on various aspects of public worship, including:
  - liturgical prayer,
  - the song of the people,
  - the roles of the ministers of the liturgy, both lay and ordained,
  - the art of ritual movement,
  - proclaiming scripture using a variety of media, and proclaiming the Word through sacramental acts.
- Inspire creative thought and practice to use in various denominational settings.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church is a congregation with a passion for liturgy and music. In this conference, we seek to gather people from every aspect of the church’s ministries so that the vitality of our worship might grow across the church. We warmly invite your participation.

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**Friday, January 7, 2011**

7:30 P.M.  Hymn Festival: “Rise, Heart”
   Commentary by Susan Palo Cherwien
   Mount Olive Cantorei
   David Cherwien, Organist and Director

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**Saturday, January 8, 2011**

8:30 A.M.  Registration
9:00–9:45  Morning Prayer
9:45–10:30  Plenary I: Thomas Long
10:30–11:00  BREAK
11:00–12:00  Special Interest Sessions I
   1. Further conversation with Thomas Long
   2. “The Mission and Ministry of Hospice Care” – Nancy Gelle
12:00–1:00  LUNCH: Mount Olive Undercroft
1:00–1:45  Plenary II: Thomas Long
1:45–2:15  Question-and-Answer Session with our presenters
2:30–3:30  Special Interest Sessions II
   1. Further conversation with Thomas Long
   2. “The Mission and Ministry of Hospice Care” – Nancy Gelle
   3. Bach’s Funeral Cantata: The Actus Tragicus (Gottes Zeit) – Arthur Halbardier
4:00 P.M.  Evening Prayer

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**Sunday, January 9, 2011:**

The Baptism of Our Lord

8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.  Holy Eucharist
   Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Thomas Long

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The time of death, the time preceding death, and the time following death is **holy time**. How does the church embrace this time and those directly involved as **holy**? This conference will focus on how congregations can enact the rituals that surround the dying and death of a Christian with “simplicity and majesty” (the words of Pope John XXIII, uttered on his own deathbed), so that the Gospel’s promises are kept in the forefront of all that happens. The conference begins on Friday evening, January 7, at 7:30 p.m. with a hymn festival, “Rise, Heart.” Leadership will be provided by Mount Olive Cantor David Cherwien, the Mount Olive Cantorei, and author and poet Susan Palo Cherwien. On Saturday, January 8, keynote speaker Thomas Long will discuss the Christian rituals surrounding death, specifically, the funeral. Participants will be invited to choose two workshops which will explore the topic further. Nancy Gelle, manager of the Park Nicollet Hospice program, will present a workshop on the mission and ministry of Hospice care. Arthur Halbardier, retired church musician and pastor, will offer a session on Bach’s Funeral Cantata, The Actus Tragicus (Gottes Zeit): a session devoted to hearing the music and exploring the profound gospel message of Cantata 106, a unique work of J.S. Bach.

**Speakers**

**The Rev. Dr. Thomas Long** is the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, and the author or editor of 14 books on preaching and worship. He is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He is the chair of the Day 1 Advisory Board, comprised of leading preachers, scholars, and other leaders. Dr. Long received his BA and M.Div. from Erskine Seminary and his Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1980. He began his career as a preacher at McElroy Presbyterian Church near Atlanta, GA and since that time has taught at a number of seminaries, including Princeton, Columbia, and Candler. In 1996, Dr. Long was named one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English-speaking world by Baylor University. He was ordained by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and currently his ordination is held by the PCUSA. The Rev. Dr. Long will offer two plenary addresses Saturday on the conference topic, and will preach at both Eucharist services on Sunday, the Baptism of Our Lord.

**David Cherwien** serves as Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, and Music Director for the National Lutheran Choir. Dr. Cherwien continues the tradition of hymn festivals begun at Mount Olive through the ministry of his predecessor Paul Manz, and travels extensively bringing them to many parts of the country. He has numerous church music and choral publications with several publishers including Augsburg Fortress, MorningStar, Concordia Publishing House, Lorenz, and others. Under his leadership, the National Lutheran Choir has grown in acclaim and was awarded the Margaret Hills Award for Choral Excellence by Chorus America in June of 2007. Dr. Cherwien will offer one workshop on the topic “Music for the Funeral: A New Paradigm – Who is the Audience? The Deceased or God?”

**Arthur Halbardier** is a retired pastor who served ELCA congregations in Missouri and Illinois. Prior to ordination, he was an organist and choral director for churches in New York City and Chicago. Rev. Halbardier did graduate study at Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music, and received his Master of Music degree from Northwestern University. At Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago his interest in theology and music were combined in his Master of Divinity thesis, “Johann Sebastian Bach as Theologian: An Historical-Critical Analysis of His Clavierübung Part III, and Symbolicum Nicenum from His Hohe Messe h-moll.” Rev. Halbardier will offer one workshop on the topic, The “Actus Tragicus” (Gottes Zeit); a session devoted to hearing the music and exploring the profound gospel message of Cantata 106, a unique work of J.S. Bach.

**Nancy Gelle**, BSN, RN is a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, and is manager of the Park Nicollet Hospice program. In her presentation, she will describe the philosophy and options of hospice care as a way of dying with simplicity and dignity. Ms. Gelle will present this workshop at the morning and afternoon special interest sessions.