



# The Olive Branch

November 8, 2023

## Sunday Readings

**November 12, 2023**

*24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lectionary 32 A*

Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

**November 19, 2023**

*25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lectionary 33 A*

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm 90:1-12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

*In the  
presence of God.  
Being the  
presence of God.*

## Accent on Worship

*Pastor Joseph Crippen*

*Where's the help?*

Starting Nov. 12, we hear Jesus' three great parables from Matthew 25 on three successive Sundays.

The parables of the ten young women (some wise and some foolish), the three trusted servants (some wise and some foolish), and the parable of the return of the King (who has some wise and foolish servants) can often cause us anxiety because of the dire ending.

Much can be said about all three. For now, here's a question to ask: Where was the help? Why didn't the five so-called wise young women share oil with their foolish, unprepared friends? Why didn't the two servants who trusted their master and invested their talents help the frightened one who buried his? And clearly the servants who didn't care for their king wanted to. They didn't realize caring for those who were hungry, thirsty, naked, strangers, sick, or imprisoned was caring for the king. The others didn't, but they still cared for those. What if they'd helped their fellow servants to see this was a path of healing?

Maybe Jesus doesn't mean to have us wonder that. But his parables are meant to open our minds and imaginations to seeing God's reign in new, transforming ways. And I can't help but think all three of these would have turned out differently if the people were in community together, helping each other.

Maybe you are the difference with your neighbor who is struggling, you're the help that turns the whole thing around. How will you know if you don't try?

## New Members to be Received This Sunday, November 12

New Members will be received into Mount Olive congregation this Sunday, November 12. If you are interested in becoming a member of Mount Olive with this group, please reach out to Eric Manuel at [evangelism@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:evangelism@mountolivechurch.org) by TODAY, November 8.

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## Adult Forums for November

### *Sung, Spoken, and Lived: On Liturgy and Life*

**November 12:** "Making Sense of our Bodies at Worship: The Sign of the Cross," part 2 of a 2-part series, presented by Thomas Schattauer.

*The church has put together according to holy orders . . . services of various kind and esteems them to be understood by all the faithful as the highest harmony of earthly life and not only to be sung and spoken but to be lived. – Wilhelm Loehe (1859)*

All the singing and speaking of our worship together, all the movement and gestures around the central things of word (scripture and proclamation) and sacrament (baptismal bath and holy meal) make up a ritual symbol of our life before the triune God, our life with one another (church), and our life in the world. These forum sessions will explore the connections of liturgy and life in the things that we do at worship.

For over thirty years Tom taught liturgy and directed chapel programs, first at Yale Divinity School and Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, Connecticut, then at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. He is a pastor in the ELCA and has served congregations in Indiana and Connecticut. Now in retirement, Tom enjoys living in Minneapolis and being part of the worshipping community at Mount Olive.

**November 19:** "Medieval Woman Mystics," presented by Vicar Lauren Mildahl.

A quick introduction of mysticism and a tour of Vicar Mildahl's favorite medieval mystics (Hildegard of Bingen, Mechthild of Magdeburg, Julian of Norwich, Catherine of Siena, and Teresa of Avila) with some brief biographies and samples of their words or writings.

**November 26:** "My favorite parts of the Bible that aren't in the Lectionary," presented by Vicar Lauren Mildahl

Starting with a quick introduction to the Revised Common Lectionary and then presenting a top ten list (if she has that many!) of parts of the Bible that have been especially meaningful or important to her, but which we don't ever hear on a Sunday morning in the Revised Common Lectionary.

## Calendar

### Wednesday, November 8

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
- 5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
- 6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
- 7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation
- 7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

### Thursday, November 2

- 7:00 pm Native Justice Group meeting
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, November 3

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, November 4

- 9:00 am Lefse-making

### Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Sunday

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation
- 9:30 am Education for all ages (Godly Play, Adult Forum)
- 10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation

### Monday, November 6

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online)
- 7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Vicar Committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A. group)

### Tuesday, November 7

- Noon Bible Study

### Wednesday, November 8

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
- 5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
- 6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
- 7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation
- 7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

**Thanksgiving Day Eucharist**  
**Thursday, November 23**  
**10:00 a.m.**

*All are welcome.*

## **Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link**

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the **East Assembly Room**. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

## **Book Discussion**

Book Discussion group will skip their October session to leave more time to read Fyodor Dostoevsky's great novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, which they will discuss on November 11. For the December 9 meeting, they will discuss *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee.

The group has been using Zoom to provide remote access to the sessions. If you would like to participate in the group, you can either attend the monthly sessions which meet at the church in person or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smart phone, [click here](#).

## Attention Sunday Servants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for 1st Quarter 2024 (Jan-March) will be published at the beginning of December. Please send any updates regarding scheduling preferences or conflicts to me by Friday, November 17.

For example, if you prefer the early or late services, or like to serve for certain holidays or other special services, please let me know.

- Greg Murphy:  
[gregmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:gregmurphy@gmail.com)

## Altar Guild Chancel Cleaning

The Altar Guild is hosting a chancel-cleaning event on Saturday, November 18, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Please join our crew – for an hour, for the morning. The more hands, the faster we'll finish! Come help prepare our worship space for Advent and Christmas.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede:  
[bethgaede@comcast.com](mailto:bethgaede@comcast.com) .

## Conspiracy vs. The Bible: Monday/Thursday Bible Study Continues

This month, Vicar Mildahl is leading a six-session Bible Study looking closely at common elements of modern American conspiracy theories that are drawn from a Christian worldview, such as the Devil, the end times, Jewish people, and Christian nationalism. We'll be comparing the conspiracy theory versions of these ideas with what the Bible actually says and discussing how faithful believers ought to respond and speak the truth in love.

Two identical sessions are offered each week: Mondays at noon (note the change, not Fridays) and Thursdays at 6pm. You are welcome to join in person or via Zoom. Monday participants, feel free to bring your lunch. Thursday nights will include a light supper. Contact [vicar@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:vicar@mountolivechurch.org) if you have any questions!

[Click here](#) to join the Zoom meeting for either the Monday or Thursday sessions.

## Events This Sunday!

***Family Movie Event: Sunday, November 12, 2 p.m. in the Chapel Lounge***

Enjoy some popcorn and watch "Book of Life." This is a film appropriate for kids aged 6-12, rated PG. The movie is free of charge, but a freewill donation will be received to cover the cost of the license.

***Minneapolis Institute of Arts Tour! Sunday, November 12, 2:30 p.m.***

Join Bill Wilson, friend of Mount Olive and MIA docent, for a tour of MIA's collection that highlights those works in which the artist has used space to cause us to look in awe and wonder. The tour is free, but a donation to MIA is encouraged. Limited to 20 people. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/3edphyrk> , or call the church office.



## Telling the Story of Care for God's Creation

Storytelling is an ancient art that has defined humanity for our entire history. Digital tools – like the smartphones so many of us carry every day – can give our stories new reach or help us to frame them in new ways. Stories root us in the power that we have, in the power that we share, and in the power that we build together. Which is why the EcoFaith Network of the Minneapolis Area Synod is hosting **Storying EcoFaith** on:

**Saturday, November 11; 8:30 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m.**

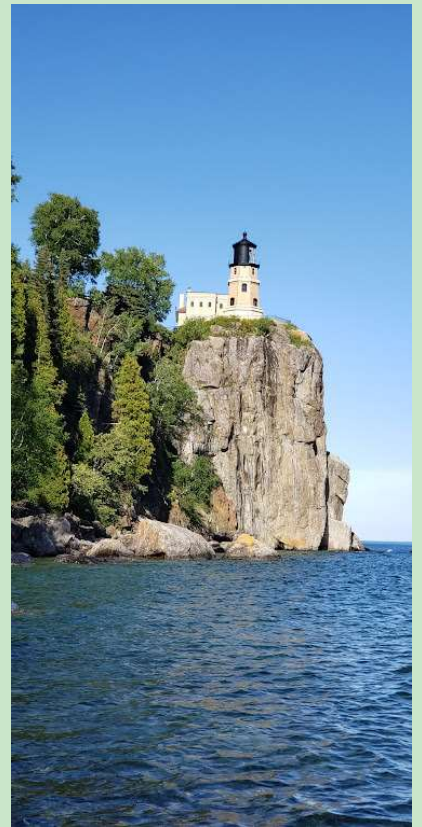
**[Immanuel Lutheran Church](#), 16515 Luther Way, Eden Prairie**

This workshop, led by [Professor Mary Hess](#) of Luther Seminary, will equip you to voice, craft, and digitize your stories. With skilled technical coaching available to any who need it, participants only need a story and a smartphone (or tablet, laptop, etc.) and a willingness to learn. Your story – if you choose – will also provide a valuable contribution to Mary's sabbatical research project on storytelling about Earth and creation care.

You can expect a day of storytelling exercises, time to record the audio portion of your story, the opportunity to play with putting meaningful images in sequence with your audio story, a place to publish your digital story online if and when you choose to do so, and more.

Fellowship, worship, refreshments, and lunch will also be a part of your workshop experience.

[Register](#)



## November Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month

### *Restorative Justice Community Action*

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) provides a community-based alternative to criminal prosecution with the mission of fostering individual growth while strengthening communities through restorative justice practices. With a restorative and race equity lens, RJCA leverages the voice of community to transform the criminal legal system, public safety, and eliminate racial disparities. The indigenous roots of restorative justice focus on transformation of people, relationships, and community. In honoring these roots, RJCA humanizes conflict and supports community in finding shared solutions.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute over and above our budgeted amount to those partners doing work in their areas of passion and concern. You can do this using your offering envelopes or our online giving system. All additional contributions to our partner of the month will be distributed to the partner for the month in which the contribution is received.

For more information about Restorative Justice Community Action, please visit their website at [www.rjca-inc.org](http://www.rjca-inc.org) or contact Cynthia Prosek, RJCA Executive Director and Mount Olive Member.

## A Note of Thanks

Many thanks to Marsha Johnson and Linda Pipkorn for hosting a great Lefse-making gathering this past weekend. They boiled 45 pounds of potatoes!



## *In Our Prayers*

**Please pray throughout the week for the following persons:** Julia Adams; Anne Bartz; Elizabeth Beissel; Linda & Brad Holt; Leanna Kloempken; Kathy Kruger; Steve Lenius; Carla Manuel; Jude Mostek; Rhoda Nelson; Renee Ollikain; Jerry Ostlund; Russ Pearson; Mike Rader; Robin Rayfield; Pariann Schenk; Rodney Schrank; David & Shirley Tabis; James Wilkes; Rhonda Fish, friend of Andrew Andersen; Cassandra Thompson, friend of Al Bostelmann; Sara Brunette, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Mattisyn, friend of Kat Campbell Johnson; Marilyn Volker, sister of Allen Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Jon Jrocki, friend of David Engen; Joyce Schoenfield, sister of Marilyn Gebauer; Bill Irwin and Dennis Fisher, brothers-in-law of John Gidmark; Joe & Brenda Patnaude, friends of Tom Graves & Ginny Agresti; Quentin Hamilton, friend of Judy Hinck; Ethan Holtmeier, grandson of Patsy & John Holtmeier; Steve Horsfield, friend of Mount Olive; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; the Klapushynski family (of Ukraine), friends of Jim & Judy Johnson; Ann Richards, friend of Carol Martinson; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Stan & Darlene Nelson, parents of Brad Nelson; Gordon Norheim, brother of JoAnn Norheim; Tim Gaudineer, relative of George & Marlys Oelfke; Jennie Kobylinski, niece of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Olive Oelfke, infant great-granddaughter of George & Marlys Oelfke; Fred Prosek and family, relatives of Cynthia Prosek; Jolie Melana Meshbesh, friend of Robin Rayfield; John Seboldt, brother of Gayle & Ken Schulz; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Pat McCabe, friend of Melissa Stone; Elaine Thurston, mother of Kathy Thurston; Keith Van Ee, father of Tricia Van Ee Molbert; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Eileen Weiss, mother-in-law of John Wall; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; Conrad Kunz, friend of Eric Zander (*and Dennis Bidwell*); Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

**In hospice care:** Mary Lee.

### ***About our prayer list ...***

*If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers. Contact the church office with any updates.*

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

### **Sunday Eucharists:**

**8:00 & 10:45 am**

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 612/827-5919

Fax: 612/827-4557

Web: [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org)

### **Staff**

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Lauren Mildahl*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach  
and Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ  
congregation.*

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