

# The Olive Branch

October 16, 2024

## Accent on Worship

*Vicar Natalie Wussler*

In our gospel reading for this week, Jesus, for a third and final time, predicts his own gruesome death, and, once again, the disciples do not get it. In fact, James and John see this as their perfect opportunity to ask for a promotion amongst Jesus' followers, and the rest of the disciples grow angry at James and John for taking away their chance at advancement among this group. Now I do think it's easy to write off the disciples' actions as power-hungry, ill-informed, and downright silly. But if we put ourselves in their shoes, I think we might be able to empathize with their misguidedness.

These women and men with Jesus have left everything behind, everything they once held true, to follow Jesus, and for the third time now, Jesus has said he will die in a horrible way. Jesus was not only the one whom these people followed, but a friend, and a trusted teacher. Suddenly these people were forced to reckon with all they've known being changed radically again. I think it's out of a fear and a search for security that James and John ask for seats of power next to Jesus. Jesus does give them some certainty, but it's not in the way they expect. He says that they will be baptized with the same baptism as Jesus and they will drink from the same cup Jesus will. They, too, will one day walk the cross-shaped, servant-leadership path that Jesus does. Even though they've misunderstood this message 3 times, Jesus still continues to trust them with his ministry on earth.

The account of the disciples encourages me. They're so human. Their understandings and misunderstandings of Jesus Christ-God's word made flesh standing right in front of them-give me hope that I'm on the right track. In my life of faith, I, too, stumble; I've not always seen the big picture. And yet, God invites me to learn from my stumblings, stand up again, and walk in this cross-shaped path. We are all invited on this path where there is abounding grace and abundant life.



## Sunday Readings

**October 20, 2024**

*22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after*

*Pentecost, Lect. 29 B*

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:(32-34), 35-45

**October 27, 2024**

*23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after*

*Pentecost, Lect. 30 B*

*Reformation Sunday*

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

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

## Godly Play News

Circle One will journey with God's people across the desert. Circle Two heard the story of Moses, and now they will move on to learn about Ruth.

Parent Pages will be available for Circle One families. Check out all of the possible at-home activities. All children ages 3-kindergarten are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 1-5 are welcome to Circle Two.



## Disaster Response:

### *Hurricanes Helene and Milton*

The need is great for those affected by these devastating hurricanes. Your Global Ministry Committee has approved a \$2000 donation from the Global Ministry undesignated offerings for the relief effort.

We encourage you to pray, and if you can, give a donation to [ELCA Disaster Relief](#). If you prefer, you may give through Mount Olive by clearly designating your gift for "Hurricane Relief." Please note: gifts received by the church will be sent all at once, so using the ELCA link will get your gift to its destination much faster. Thanks for whatever you can do to help.

## Congregation Meeting Sunday, October 27, Noon

The primary purpose of this meeting is to approve a budget for 2025.

All voting members are encouraged to attend.

Childcare will be provided.

Plan to stay after the meeting for Oktoberfest!

## 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

The choice for November 9 book club discussion is *The Ski Jumpers: A Novel* by Minnesotan Peter Geye. For the December 14 gathering the selection is *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks, an author the group seems to return to almost as much as it does books by Louise Erdrich. Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the library, usually on the second Saturday of the month. 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](#).

## Calendar

### Wednesday, October 16

- 10:00 am Staff meeting  
**No Confirmation or Children's Choirs**  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

### Thursday, October 17

- 6:00 pm Bible Study (final for this series)  
7:00 pm MIRAC meeting  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, October 18

- Noon Bible Study (final for this series)  
7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, October 19

- 9:00 am Gardening Day (every Saturday through Oct.)  
1-4 pm Art Exhibit Gallery Hours/Q&A with He Qi

### Sunday, October 20 - Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation  
9:30 am Godly Play / Adult Forum (Budget Preview)  
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

### Monday, October 21

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)  
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

### Tuesday, October 22

- Noon Bible Study  
6:00 pm Feminine Divine Study group

## **Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting**

The semi-annual meeting of Mount Olive congregation will be held on **Sunday, October 27, following the second liturgy.**

The primary purpose of this meeting is to approve a budget for 2025.

All voting members are encouraged to attend - and plan to stay for Oktoberfest following the meeting!

## **Budget Preview Meeting**

**This Sunday, October 20,  
9:30 am**

*Bring your questions and  
comments about the  
proposed budget for 2025.*

## **Names of the Departed Saints Invited**

As a part of our All Saints liturgy on Sunday, Nov. 3, worshippers are invited to submit the names of loved ones close to them who have died in the past year, since last All Saints Sunday, who weren't members of Mount Olive. (Members of the parish who have died are always named.)

For those who attend worship in the coming weeks, a book is located at the entrance to the nave where you can write these names. You may also contact the church office with the names. These other names submitted will be included in the prayers of intercession.

Please keep this to just those who have died this past year, so we can have a more manageable list.

## Mount Olive Family Music Together in Person!

Children from birth to 35 months with a caregiver(s) are invited to an in-person session of Family Music **on Sunday, October 27, at 9:45 a.m.** in Godly Play 3 on the lower level.

Sing, pray, dance, and play as we interact with other families. Mari will provide any instruments and props needed. Even if your family has not joined us for a Monday Zoom session, you are welcome to the Sunday session.

Please join us as we continue to explore *God, My Family, and Me* through music and movement. Questions can be directed to Mari Espeland at [mari.mt.olive@gmail.com](mailto:mari.mt.olive@gmail.com).

## October Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month *Central Lutheran Restoration Center*

The Restoration Center at Central Lutheran provides a drop-in center for people in and around downtown Minneapolis experiencing homelessness and poverty. The Restoration Center provides emergency rental assistance, meals, free-use computers, and a place for people to gather for community and support. Their Free Store provides clothing and household goods in a store-like environment and a partnership with Augsburg University provides free, low barrier health care to all.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, we also volunteer in support of their work.

On top of those financial and labor contributions, we encourage any member who wishes to donate 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 the work of the Central Lutheran Restoration Center please visit their website at [www.centralmpls.org/community/restorationcenter](http://www.centralmpls.org/community/restorationcenter).

## National Lutheran Choir All Saints Concert – Healing: Our Legacy

Join the National Lutheran Choir for this meaningful program that honors loved ones lost, celebrates the newly born, and explores the intersection of faith, music, and the legacy we leave for generations to come.

Concerts will be held Nov. 2, at 7:30 pm, in Shoreview and Nov. 3, at 4:00 pm, in Edina.

For tickets and more information, visit [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com)

## Upcoming Adult Forums

**October 20** – Budget Preview meeting

**October 27** – a presentation on Climate Justice, by Julia Nerbonne, Executive Director at Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (see below).

**November 3 & 10** – “Jesus Saves – But How?” a 2-part presentation by Mount Olive member Prof. George Heider.

## Oktoberfest – October 27

Cue the polka music and bring on the brats, beer, and sauerkraut! Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Oktoberfest meal will be held in conjunction with the semi-annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, October 27. We need volunteers for set-up, clean-up, and bringing German Potato Salad and/or dessert. (A recipe for the potato salad can be provided if you need one!).

Click [HERE](#) to sign up. If you don't have internet access, call the church office to sign up.

Thanks!



## October 27 Adult Forum

Catch an update on climate justice action in Minnesota at the October 27 Adult Forum. The Global Ministries committee is hosting Julia Nerbonne, Executive Director at Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light. She will update us on advocacy efforts and opportunities we can take to care for the earth. Also, Cooperative Energy Futures will share updates on the community solar garden being installed on the rooftop of Abbott Northwestern hospital. MNIPL and some Mount Olive members have been involved in making this possible for our neighborhood. You will have the opportunity to learn how to subscribe to this source of energy for your home. Come, listen and learn how you can make a difference.

## Cantor Call Committee Update

On behalf of the Cantor Call Committee, we wanted to thank the entire congregation for entrusting us to lead the process for this unique and infrequent task - selecting and calling a new Cantor for Mount Olive.

The Committee met right after the election, on September 19, where we selected a chairperson, and a recorder/meeting notes-taker. It was wonderful to be in a room together to start mapping out our plans and ideas - all with the best intentions for a role that's steep in historic importance and also personally impactful to our worship life together. We also set out a schedule to meet every 3 weeks for the remainder of 2024.

As a committee, we aligned on the first few phases of the process: Preparation, Communication, and Recruitment. The Preparation phase consists of reviewing past call materials, creating the documents that we want to utilize throughout the call process, such as Cantor role description, mission and vision for the Cantor position, and a ministry profile of our parish so that the applicants have consistent information about us and the expectations. As soon as we have these materials aligned, we can start the Recruitment phase, which is the more public facing step.

We will continue to update the congregation here in *The Olive Branch*, at congregation meetings, and other informal venues. If you have questions or want to provide input, feel free to contact any of the Committee members.

Your support and prayers are most appreciated.

In Peace,

*Cantor Call Committee: Kat Campbell Johnson (chair), Larry Duncan, Bob Farlee, Peggy Hoeft (recorder), Gene Janssen, Bekah Schulz, Tricia Van Ee Molbert, Cynthia Prosek (ex-officio), Pastor Crippen (ex-officio).*



## A Great Weekend!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make our weekend with the artist He Qi such a success.

The “Hymns at an Exhibition” hymn festival was very beautiful and impressive. He Qi and his wife were very impressed.

He Qi’s art will remain on exhibit through Thanksgiving.



# The Olive Branch



## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

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

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: [mountolivechurch.org](http://mountolivechurch.org)

### **Staff**

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Organist – *Robert Farlee*

Interim Choir Director – *Andrew Stoebig*

Vicar – *Natalie Wussler*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –  
*Jim Bargmann*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ  
congregation.*

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