

# The Olive Branch

November 27, 2024



## Sunday Readings

**December 1, 2024**

*First Sunday in Advent,  
year C*

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

**December 8, 2024**

*Second Sunday in Advent,  
year C*

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

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

## Accent on Worship *Pastor Joseph Crippen*

*To you*

In case we're not tired of it yet, there's more apocalyptic imagery in our readings this Sunday. Distress and fainting from fear, along with promises that God will come and bring redemption. We'll need to consider those words on Sunday.

But for today, how about living into Sunday's psalm? Psalm 25 begins, "To you, O God, I lift up my soul." No apocalypse, just trust. If you sing this psalm this week, you'll be asking God to "lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. Show me your ways and teach me your paths."

This is a good Advent prayer. As we enter into a new Church Year, and begin a season of anticipation, of "already-but-not-yet," a season that always begins with apocalyptic readings, asking God to teach us paths to walk could be a place of peace in which to live.

Listen, it's a tough world, and getting tougher for many. The apocalyptic readings, with promises of God's salvation, are relevant. Helpful, even. But for our daily walk, for coping with today and leaving tomorrow to fend for itself, for centering our hearts in the love of God, singing a prayer asking God to teach and guide us in God's ways could be a huge blessing.

Because, as the psalm says, "all God's paths are steadfast love and faithfulness." I'd surely love to walk in those paths, with God's love encouraging and supporting. If you would, too, let's pray this psalm together this week as we give thanks on Thursday and all days, and as we face an uncertain and frightening world. It is God in whom we trust, we'll pray. And that's enough to go on for today.

## Adult Forums Through November

**December 1:** "What Are We Waiting For?: The Now and Not Yet Meanings and Purpose of Advent," presented by David Engen.

**December 8:** "A Constitutional Amendment for Housing?" presented by Jim Bargmann

**December 15:** St. Lucia Day breakfast, no forum

**December 22:** TBA

## Godly Play This Week

**Special note:** Godly Play will not be meeting on December 1, Thanksgiving weekend. We will continue on our Advent journey on the second Sunday of Advent, December 8, waiting and hoping. Advent will continue on December 15 and then on December 22, we will have our special celebration.

All children ages 3-kindergarten are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 1-5 are welcome to Circle Two.



## Occasional Ride Needed to Worship

A Mount Olive member has had to give up her car and would like to request an occasional ride to Worship. She lives on University Avenue between Hwy. 280 and the University of Minnesota. Please let Lora Dundek know if you'd be occasionally willing to pick her up for Sunday worship (and other occasional services such as Thanksgiving and Christmas) and bring her home.

Lora's contact information is: 651/645-6636, or [lhdundek@usfamily.net](mailto:lhdundek@usfamily.net).

## Advent Devotional, Week 1

[Click here for the Advent Devotional for December 1-7.](#)

For those who receive The Olive Branch in the mail, this week's devotional is enclosed.

**Thanksgiving Day  
Eucharist**  
*Thursday, November 28  
10:00 a.m.*

The offering received at the Thanksgiving Eucharist will be donated Community Emergency Services and Sabathani food shelves.

**Music & Fine Arts  
Advent Procession**  
*This Sunday, December 1  
4:00 pm*

All are invited to this annual service of lessons and carols for Advent.

## Calendar

### Wednesday, November 27

No Children's Choir Supper rehearsals,  
Confirmation or Cantorei this evening

### Thursday, November 28 - Thanksgiving Day

10 am *Thanksgiving Day Eucharist*

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, November 29

*Church offices closed*

7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, November 30

9:00 am Altar Guild Chancel cleaning

### Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

9:30 am Adult Forum

10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

4:00 pm *Advent Procession*

### Monday, December 2

Noon Bible Study

5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)

7:00 pm Vicar Committee meeting

7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting

7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

### Tuesday, December 3

Noon Bible Study

## Gifts That Give

Mark your calendars for the Gifts that Give sale, hosted by the Global Ministry committee. The sale will be in the West Assembly Area between and after the liturgies on **Dec. 8 and 15**.

There will be fair trade handcrafts and chocolate from SERRV International and items from Guatemala from our ministry partner, Common Hope. We will also have Giving Tree ornaments that represent a gift supporting one of Mount Olive's ministry partners.



## 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

On December 14, the book group will consider *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks, an author the group seems to return to almost as much as it does books by Louise Erdrich. The book choice for January 11 is *Kindred* by Octavia Butler.

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](#).

## Attention Worship Assistants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for 2025 Quarter 1 (January - March) will be published in December. Please send any scheduling preferences or dates you will be unavailable to me by **this Friday, November 22.**

Please let me know any questions you have. Thank you.

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

## He Qi Exhibit

The current He Qi art exhibit will be on display at Mount Olive through Thanksgiving.

Please enjoy the exhibit this final week and if you want to see more of He Qi's work please check out his website: [heqiart.com](http://heqiart.com).

## Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild is hosting a chancel-cleaning event **this Saturday, November 30, beginning at 9:00 a.m.** until about noon. Come when you can; stay for as long as you like.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede ([bgaede13@gmail.com](mailto:bgaede13@gmail.com)).

## Midweek Advent Vespers

Midweek Evening Prayer will be prayed each Wednesday evening during Advent (Dec. 4, 11, and 18), at 7:00 pm.

All are welcome.

## National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival

### [Healing: of the Nations](#)

Join the National Lutheran Choir at the beautiful Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis for the Christmas Festival tradition. This year's program, *Healing: of the Nations*, seeks to bring a beacon of hope to all who open their hearts and listen. Concerts will be held on December 13 & 14. Tickets and additional information available at [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com).

## Mental Health and the Bible: A Six-Week Study

What does the Bible say about our mental health and mental wellbeing? How does God interact with various people as they go through challenges in their minds and their hearts?

During this 6-week study we will take a closer look at the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament to uncover God's love and care for those struggling with their mental wellbeing. We'll discuss ways the Bible has been used in conversations about mental health and discover ways God shows up in our own journeys with our mental wellbeing.

Vicar Natalie Wussler leads this study which meets **Mondays at noon and Thursdays at 6:00.** [Join in person in the library or virtually using this link.](#)

**Next week, Bible Study will meet in the West Assembly Area on Thursday** (On Monday, Dec. 2, they will meet in the Library). Monday, Dec. 2, at noon and Thursday, Dec. 5, at 6 for our final week of the 6-week study.

## 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.

## Bright Stars of Bethlehem

Join Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb and Bright Stars of Bethlehem this Giving Tuesday, December 3rd, at 12 P.M. CST on Zoom for our virtual event, "Serving at the Upper Room: Palestinian Hospitality at its Best."

During this event, you will hear about the Hospitality Educational Center Restaurant project, which creates opportunities for culinary students in Palestine. This project aims to become a tourist destination, offering a stunning 360-degree view of the Holy Land from one of the highest points in Bethlehem, making the Center a landmark in the city. Mount Olive recently contributed to the repairs of this beautiful dome after an Israeli military attack on Sept. 16.

Register at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6425164312?pwd=Zm9kdUJhR0pRbU14ZmZkdDZlcjBzPT09>





## Thanks!

Thanks to Marcia Johnson and Linda Pipkorn for organizing the second annual Lefse Baking event on November 16. A good “floury” time was had, even by the non-Norwegian participants!



## Scandinavian Coffee Hour December 15

Calling all Scandinavian/Nordic friends and family!

Do you have a homemade or purchased holiday treat you would be able to share? Does it have a special story you can tell?

[Go to sign up genius](#) for easy ways to help and contribute that Sunday. Please bring your treats to serve at both coffee hours to the upstairs kitchen. Join us that day for lefse, herring, fruit soup, krumkake, rommegrot and more!

Please review the available slots and click on the button to sign up. Feel free to bring as many items as you wish. If you want to bring more than one of any item (i.e., two jars of lingonberry preserves), simply sign up in two "Lingonberry" slots. Thank you!

Questions? Linda Pipkorn email address: [Lpipkorn@Samarasys.com](mailto:Lpipkorn@Samarasys.com) or call her at 612.729.2179.

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South  
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*

Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ  
congregation.*

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- **Advent Devotional: December 1 – 7**
- **Gifts That Give – Fair Trade Sale, Dec. 8 & 15**
- **Help Needed: A Ride to Church**