

# The Olive Branch

February 5, 2025

## Accent on Worship

*Vicar Natalie Wussler*

### Sunday Readings

**February 9, 2025**

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

*Lect. 5, year C*

Isaiah 6:1-13

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

**February 16, 2025**

*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

*Lect. 6, year C*

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

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

“They left everything and followed him.” Everything: the boats, the nets, their livelihoods, and their safety. They got out of their boat and followed Jesus. They took a huge risk.

Nowadays, most of us need meticulous cost-counting of a risk before taking a big step – consulting with our loved ones, financially accounting for it, making pro/con lists. If we’re going to get out of our boats – our comfort zones and our status quo—we want to know that it’s worth the risk. We like the safety of our boats, we like the predictability, even if sometimes our boats make us feel empty.

In 2020, I was feeling called away from my own boat, an emerging, yet deeply draining career as a social worker, and into seminary. Even then, I had several long conversations with friends, family, mentors, admissions counselors ... the list goes on. That was a huge risk, maybe one of the riskier moves I’ve made in my life. Losing out on full-time income for four years of school about something I felt called to do but wasn’t even sure I was good at. I almost didn’t get out of my own boat and stayed the course to keep some semblance of stability amidst a global pandemic. I remember all the love, counsel, and support I received from faithful people, all the prayers that were said by me and also on behalf of me. I called out to God for answers, and “[God] answered me; [God] increased my strength of soul” as the Psalmist says. God got me out of my boat, and throughout the last four years, God brought me to the shore.

Risk taking is, well, risky. It’s scary especially in a world that feels so unstable and anxiety provoking. It makes sense that we’d want to stay in our boat, safe, secure, and stable. But this path of Christ we endeavor to follow rarely ends in a boat. Loving our neighbor radically will usually require some risk.

*continued on page 2*

## Accent on Worship, continued from page 1

And that's where God comes in. God is our stability and our strength. God is the one who calls us and the one who fills us. We're not leaving our boats alone. God is always with us, ready to fill us with the holy boldness and bravery we need to do what God has called each of us individually and collectively to do.

Let's lean into Christ today and lean out of our boats, into the sea and onto the shore to follow Christ.

- Vicar Natalie Wussler

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## Our Life Together: Opportunities to Gather

These last few weeks have been difficult for many of us, as we watch events unfold on the national front. One "antidote" to the anxiety and frustration that we feel is to spend time together, both gathered around Word and Sacrament in the sanctuary, and in fun and engaging activities outside worship. Expect to see opportunities for gathering in the coming months. If you have ideas for being together, let Lora know at [conglife@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:conglife@mountolivechurch.org)

### Upcoming events:

#### **Fiber by the Fire, Saturday, February 8, 10:30 am - 2:00 pm**

All fiber lovers are invited to meet fellow fiber arts lovers. Whether you knit, crochet, do needlepoint, or upcycle existing textiles, bring yourself and your friends to our cozy Lounge. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We'll pair you with someone to teach you. A list of needed items is available at [bundlesoflove.org/in-kind-donations](http://bundlesoflove.org/in-kind-donations). Gather with fellow yarn enthusiasts at the \*Women's Club of Minneapolis, 410 Oak Grove, for a time of yarnwork and casual conversation. Mount Olive member Bonnie McLellan would be happy to host you at the fireside. Contact Bonnie if you'd like to attend: [bonniemclellan@me.com](mailto:bonniemclellan@me.com); 952-452-2049, 952-486-2468 (cell)

**Movie Night: Friday, February 21, 7 p.m.** Popcorn and beverages provided. No charge, but a free will offering will be accepted to cover the licensing cost. Title TBD.

**All Church Picnic: Sunday, July 27,** following Worship.

\* corrected name and address from the TWIG which was sent on Feb. 3.

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, February 5

- 10:00 am Staff meeting  
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper  
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals  
7:00 pm Y2 / Y3 Confirmation  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

### Thursday, February 6

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*  
6:00 pm Cantor Call Committee meeting  
7:00 pm MIRAC meeting  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, February 7

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, February 8

- 10:00 am Book Discussion group  
3:00 pm Early Music Minnesota Chamber Music concert

### Sunday, February 9 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation  
9:30 am Adult Forum/Godly Play/  
Youth Conversation  
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation  
2:00 pm Book signing

### Tuesday, February 11

- Noon Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 12

- 10:00 am Staff meeting  
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper  
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals  
7:00 pm Y2 / Y3 Confirmation  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

## Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study meets weekly in person in the East Assembly Room. For those who are unable to come in person, the Bible Study is held 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](#).

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## Book Discussion

The February 8 selection, *To The Bright Edge of the World* by Eowyn Ivey, will take the discussion to Alaska. In March we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Minnesota author Kate DiCamillo's award winning young reader's book, *Because of Winn-Dixie*.

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](#).

## Immigration Raid Response Training

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 6:30-8:30 pm

*Location to be communicated in the near future.*

With no intentional effort on our part and by simply doing the things we have done for years, Mount Olive has become a place where our immigrant neighbors feel comfortable seeking services and finding support. And we are a more beautiful place for it. And we are happy to play a small role in the lives of these marvelous people. But that community is now at risk in a multitude of ways.

Unidos is, in their words, “an intersectional, intergenerational, feminist Latinx led organization committed to social justice” focusing on immigration, education, environmental justice and encouraging participation in all levels of democracy.” They are organizing a Rapid Response Training to support immigrant communities so we might learn how to respond if the promise to deport millions of immigrants, starting in “blue” states like Minnesota, becomes reality.

From Unidos about this event: “While the future is uncertain, we are preparing to act together and shine a light on injustice. Join us for a raid response training to support immigrant communities and join Unidos' rapid response network. Let's ensure no one faces the worst alone.”

Please join Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann at this event and start the process of learning how to support and defend our neighbors and friends.

Register using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4mhf3f49>

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## Second Quarter Servant Schedule

The Servant Schedule for **2025 Quarter 2 (April - June, including Holy Week)** will be published in March. Please send any scheduling preferences or dates you will be unavailable to me **by Friday, February 21.**

Please let me know any questions you have.

Thank you -

- Greg Murphy

[gregRmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:gregRmurphy@gmail.com)

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## Library Display: Our Vicars—Where Are They Now?

Mount Olive has had fifty-five vicars (interns) since 1955. In a new display in the Louise Schroedel Memorial Library, thirty of them respond to our questions, Where are you now and what are you doing? They were also asked to send a picture. The display is a project of the Library Committee, which thanks the many Mount Olive members and friends who helped us find and connect with our vicars.

No need to hurry; the display runs through August 2.

## February Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month:

### *Walk-In Counseling Center*

Walk-In Counseling Center provides “free, easily accessible mental health counseling to people with urgent needs and few service options.” Counselors work with people struggling with depression, anxiety, chemical dependency, domestic violence, and many other emotional and interpersonal concerns.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partner this month, 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 Walk-In Counseling Center, please visit their website at <https://www.walkin.org>.

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## Upcoming Adult Forums

**February:** Paula Carlson will present and invite discussion on James Baldwin’s “Notes of a Native Son” from volume 4. On February 9, the piece will be Tillie Olsen’s “O Yes” from volume 3.

**February 16:** “Funding Forward,” presented by Vicar Natalie Wussler

**February 23:** Taste of Chile; Karen Anderson will lead our forum about the work of EPES.

**March 2 and 9:** “Spiritual First Aid” presented by Rev. Cody Sanders

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## Early Music Minnesota to Present

### “Storms, Gardens, Patience, and Bliss”

*This Saturday, February 8, 3:00 p.m. at Mount Olive Lutheran Church*

Beloved soprano Linh Kauffman joins EMM for a program contemplating hope, longing, and happiness in the works of German composers, Bach, Handel, and Schmelzer. Among the highlights we hear Bach urging *Rejoice, sing, be merry*, and Handel’s *Figlio d’alte speranze*, retelling the tale of Abdalonymus, a lowly gardener who would become king.

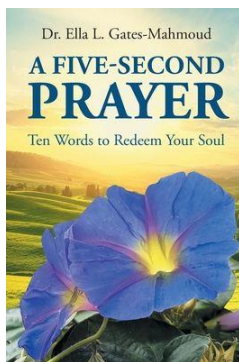
Linh Kauffman, soprano

Marc Levine, violin

Tulio Rondón, cello

Tami Morse, harpsichord

This concert is FREE to the Mount Olive community. Simply let them know you are a part of Mount Olive for admittance. Tickets are also available on the kiosk and in the church office.



## Book Signing to be Held at Mount Olive

This Sunday, February 9, from 2-4 pm, Mount Olive will host a book signing with Dr. Ella L. Gates-Mahmoud, author of [\*A Five Second Prayer: Ten Words to Redeem Your Soul\*](#).

All are invited to come and meet the author and also get your copy of this book signed.

Contact Irene Campbell for further information.

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## Godly Play

This Sunday, Circle 1 will hear about the Parable of the Mustard Seed, and Circle 2 will learn about the Parable of the Sower.

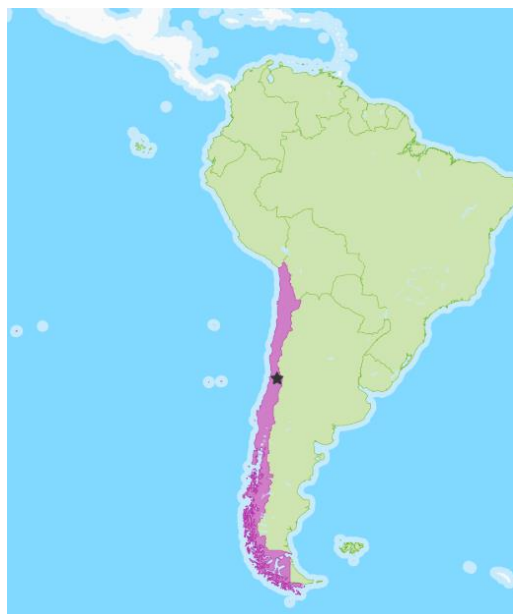
Parents should feel free to take the “At Home” sheets in the Godly Play pockets on the bulletin board to help extend your wondering at home.

All children ages 3-Grade 1 are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 2-5 are welcome to Circle Two.



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## Taste of Chile: February 23



Mark your calendars! **February 23** will be the Taste of Chile.

The Global Ministry committee hosts a “Taste of” event each year, highlighting one of our supported ministries. This year, we will learn more about Educación Popular En Salud (EPES) based in Chile and its North American Counterpart, Action for Health in the Americas (AHA). They support sustainable, community-based public health initiatives that promote the dignity and rights of the poor in Chile. Karen Anderson, a recently retired ELCA missionary who worked with EPES will present our adult forum.

After the second liturgy, we will gather for a meal of typical food from Chile. Please let Lisa Ruff ([global@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:global@mountolivechurch.org)) know if you are interested in making one of the recipes for the event. We are also looking for people to help with preparing, serving and cleaning up that day.

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

### **Sunday Eucharist: 8 & 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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