



The Olive Branch

August 27, 2025

Sunday Readings

August 31, 2025

*Twelfth Sunday after
Pentecost, Lect. 22 C*

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalms 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 7, 2025

*Thirteenth Sunday after
Pentecost, Lect. 23 C*

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

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

Accent on Worship

Cantor Daniel Schwandt

In the second reading for Sunday, September 7, St. Paul's words to Philemon resonate well with my thoughts this past month at Mount Olive:

"I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you." (NRSVue)

I want to thank all of you for the incredible welcome Emily and I have received from the Mount Olive community. We felt your embrace in the joyous installation liturgy and reception. We have been lifted up by the strength of arms and hands that have unloaded boxes and prepared office space. We have heard words of grace in each handshake and conversation as we've begun to learn your stories. We have been nourished by shared meals and generous shelter provided in our time of housing transition. But mostly, we have delighted in joining you in liturgy and song, celebrating the transforming love of God for the sake of the world.

As I begin my service to you as your Cantor, I invite you to join me in singing the songs of our faith: of prayer, praise, and proclamation; of lament, story, and thanksgiving. Together let us share in the same love that brought St. Paul joy and encouragement, the same love that refreshes and energizes us for the days ahead in this partnership of faith. Thanks be to God.

Two Neighborhood Ministry Educational Events

Please mark your calendars and join us.

Align Minneapolis, of which Mount Olive is a member, holds several educational events throughout the year. Any members of the Mount Olive community interested in our work with our neighbors, especially those experiencing economic and housing insecurity, are invited to attend.

Wednesday, September 10, 1:00-2:30 pm at Saint Olaf Church, 215 South 8th Street, Minneapolis
Leaders from the multiple Align Congregations who have direct service assistance programs, including Mount Olive, will share information about the resources and programs they offer to the community.

Wednesday, November 12, 12:00-1:30 pm at Mount Olive

Training for volunteer leaders and staff on harm reduction and the use of Narcan/Naloxone. This training has been one of the most requested over the last number of months. Any volunteer or staff person who has contact with the public should plan to attend. Lunch will be provided.

New Display in the Library

The new display in Mount Olive's Louise Schroedel Memorial Library is "Celebrating the Hymn Writers Among Us." It highlights hymns and liturgical music created by nine people in the broader Mount Olive community and published in the two books we now use in worship: the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and the blue *All Creation Sings* (2020). "Broader" here means we include not only members and staff, but also some interim or visiting musicians.

The idea for the exhibit was born early in 2024 when a member had a *je ne sais quoi* good feeling when he realized we were singing a hymn composed by a guy in his pew (some weeks later that hymn writer, Robert Farlee, left the pew for the organ bench, where he was our interim organist for a year). That good feeling that we're among hymn writers has been experienced by *many* worshipers at Mount Olive over many years.

For the display we've enlarged the bottom-of-the page type showing authors of text and music, tune names, copyright information, and meter. At the bottom of the display case is a facsimile of Paul Manz's manuscript for his best-known work, "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come," which usually hangs in the choir room, and a handwritten copy of Susan Palo Cherwien's "O Blessed Spring," loaned by Elaine and Art Halbardier.

On the round table to the right of the display case are three plastic frames you can pick up to read: Short biographies of our hymn writers; an index that combines the indices in ELW and ACS, but only for our nine hymn writers; and easier-to-read copies of the framed works at the bottom of the case.

The display runs through January 25, 2026.

Donn McLellan

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, August 27

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, August 28

9:30 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, August 29

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, August 30

9:00 am Gardening Day

Sunday, August 31 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, September 1 - Labor Day holiday

(church offices closed)

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

Tuesday, September 2

Noon Bible Study

7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting

Wednesday, September 3

10:00 am Staff meeting

5:00 pm Lutheran Volunteer Corps reception

7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, September 4

9:30 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, September 5

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, September 6

9:00 am Gardening Day

Sunday, September 7 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed coffee and conversation

9:30 am Godly Play / Adult Forum

10:45 am Holy Eucharist, followed coffee and conversation

Monday, September 8

7:00 pm Vestry meeting

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

Tuesday, September 9

Noon Bible Study

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](#).

Book Discussion

For September 13, the group will consider another by an author they have appreciated before, James McBride. The book is *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, and is set in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Then for October 11, two books were chosen -- related but not the same: a reread of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain, and the new take on the story, *James*, by Percival Everett.

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the Library, usually on the second Saturday of each 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](#).

September Adult Forums

- September 7** The Adult Forum Committee will introduce the Adult Forum Year, Group Discussions, and greet the new Cantor and Vicar.
- September 14** Vestry Committee Directors will introduce themselves and outline the work of their committees.
- September 21** The Global Ministry Committee welcomes guests Tracie Ortman and Linda Edens, who will discuss the work of our Global Ministry Partner, Bright Stars of Bethlehem.
- September 28/
October 5** Cantor Daniel Schwandt will lead a 2-part series on Lutherans and the Psalms
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August Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Simpson Housing*

Simpson Housing is a multifaceted organization, providing an emergency shelter, single adult supportive housing, and family supportive housing across the Twin Cities metro area. They provide developmental and educational services for children of families in their family shelter program and “work across the metro area partnering with landlords and developers to find sustainable housing for families and individuals.” In addition, Simpson operates the Adult Shelter Connect program for Hennepin County, providing a single point of contact for those seeking shelter throughout the county.

In 2020, Simpson began the process of raising funds to rebuild their shelter and office building to become the Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments. “Plans for the [new] five-story facility include two floors of permanent supportive housing, two floors of emergency shelter, a commercial kitchen, a 24-hour front desk, and offices and clinic space...”. They broke ground on this new facility on June 12, 2024. For more information about Simpson Housing, please visit their website at www.simpsonhousing.org.

Summer Sunday Liturgy Schedule Ends This Weekend!

This Sunday, August 31, is the LAST week of Summer Schedule!

Beginning next Sunday, September 7, we return to two Eucharists every Sunday morning, at 8:00 and 10:45 a.m., with education for all ages between the services at 9:30 a.m.

This schedule runs weekly until Memorial Day weekend, 2026.

September/October Book Discussions

There is no Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

The Global Ministries Committee is sponsoring a trip to the Holy Land for November 3-12, 2025, entitled, "Walking with Our Palestinian Partners." The purpose is not so much site-seeing as accompaniment (a.k.a. a "ministry of presence") for our partners there, Dar al-Kalima University College in Bethlehem and Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. Spaces remain for travelers. If you are interested, contact Judy Hinck (judyhinck@gmail.com), but do so quickly: our trip coordinator must make commitments on airline tickets on September 1.

Whether or not you plan to participate in the trip, all members of Mount Olive are cordially invited to join two evenings of preparatory book discussions, to be led by our tour director, Prof. George Heider. The first will be held on Monday, September 22, at 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the church library and will deal with two shorter books by the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb: *Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible Through Palestinian Eyes* (Orbis, 2014) and *Decolonizing Palestine: The Land, The People, The Bible* (Orbis, 2023). Dr. Raheb is the founder and president of Dar al-Kalima University and is the most published Palestinian commentator on the issues facing his people. The second discussion will be held on Monday, October 20, also at 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the church library. Our focus that evening will be on the Rev. Munther Isaac's *Christ in the Rubble: Faith, the Bible, and the Genocide in Gaza* (Eerdmans, 2025). Pastor Isaac succeeded Dr. Raheb as pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and is increasingly noted as a spokesman for Palestinians.

So what is meant by "There is no Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?" Come to the discussions and see. But here's the heart of the matter: what is going on in the Holy Land today in no way resembles a contest between two remotely equal forces. Rather, it is a matter of dispossession, exile, and death meted out by one group on another. At least, that is the Palestinian perspective, which we intend to unpack in our discussions.

By all means, join us. If you are going on the trip, this is essential preparation. If you're not, this is essential information. The only prerequisite that we ask is that you read the books before coming.

Olive Branch Publication Resumes Weekly Schedule

This is the final summer issue of *The Olive Branch* for 2025. Weekly publication returns with the next issue, which will be published on September 10. Information for that issue is due in to the church office by **Monday, September 8**, and then every Monday going forward.

Welcome to Mount Olive's Choir School

Musical interactions with our faith begin even before a child can talk. Families with children between birth and Kindergarten are invited to join **Family Music on Zoom each Monday from 5:30-6:00 pm beginning September 15**. A caregiver; whether parent, grandparent, nanny, or another loving adult, participates actively to model and engage our youngest children in singing, playing, dancing, and praying from the comfort of your home. Our hope is that the songs, prayers, and Bible stories become part of your Christian faith practice at home. Mari Espeland will lead these sessions using "God's Wonderful World" in the *God's Children Sing* curriculum from [Musikgarten](http://Musikgarten.com). Please contact Mari at mari.mt.olive@gmail.com with questions and to enroll your child and receive the Zoom link and the family materials kit.

Children's Choir (1st-4th graders led by Mari Espeland) and Youth Choir (5th graders and older led by Rebekah Schulz) begin on Wednesday, September 10 at 5:30 with dinner in the undercroft. Quick eaters will have adult supervised, though self-directed activities until rehearsal, which runs from 6:00-6:45 pm.

The new year of singing and learning in God's love will have some familiar plans and some new opportunities. Youth and Children's Choirs will sing together at four liturgies this year, including Christmas and Transfiguration. The choirs will sing separately at an additional seven liturgies. Choir School singers will join with their families, especially their grown-ups, to create a one-time family choir on Holy Trinity Sunday! An intergenerational choir will help us to observe a holy day that falls outside of the school year.

Mount Olive's Choir School will join with children and youth choirs from other Twin Cities churches for a Choir Festival at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church on Saturday, February 28, 2026. Save the date! What an inspiring way for our singers to experience singing in a large choir with a centering theme of "Abounding in Hope". The 3:00 pm festival worship service that concludes the day is free and open to the public. Rebekah, Mari, and all our singers hope many Mount Olive folks will attend.

Please email Mari at mari.mt.olive@gmail.com or Rebekah at bekah.mt.olive@gmail.com with questions or to enroll your child in Mount Olive's Choir School. We are excited to sing and pray with Mount Olive's children and youth this year!

New Members to be Received September 14

Mount Olive will receive new members at the late liturgy on Sunday, September 14. If you are interested in joining, please contact Director of Hospitality, Tricia Van Ee, at hospitality@mountolivechurch.org.

The joys of an older, beautiful, one-of-a-kind building ---

As you may have noticed, there seems to be a lot of repair and construction activity underway at Mount Olive this summer.

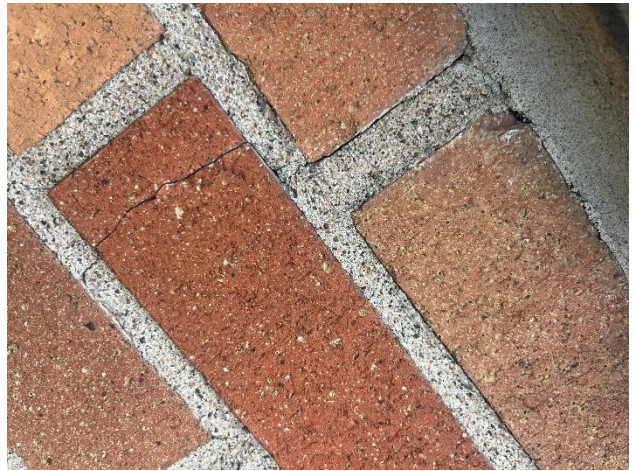
These projects are complete or will be within the next 30 days:

- Repair of the exterior brick and mortar on the southwest corner of the building caused by a leak in the gutter system.
- Recaulking of the large stained-glass window on the west side of the choir loft – damage caused by the leakage above.
- Removal and repair of two cracks in a stained-glass window on the south side of the chancel.
- Brick and mortar repair on the west side of the west assembly to repair a leak that is seeping down the wall.
- Striping of parking lots.
- Fixing the hardware on the door referred to as the coat room door.

The costs for these projects total just over \$16,500.

- Repair of the irrigation pipe that runs under 31st street. It was cut by the crew doing work on 31st street for Verizon. Fortunately, it did NOT damage the geothermal pipes that run under 31st street! But it did require that more sidewalks be removed to verify that there was no damage. Sidewalk to be repaired by the vendor.

No cost to Mount Olive for this work!



Work that is urgent and currently being scoped and scheduled as funding is secured.

- Exterior southeast door is badly damaged due to weathering and has become difficult to secure properly.
In the last month we had unwanted visitors enter the undercroft and kitchen area. Nothing was damaged, but they did leave it in disarray.

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- Plan is to replace this door with another original exterior door that is located at the bottom of the steps from the upper-level kitchen. This door would be refinished and moved to the southeast corner. A new door with a clear glass window would then be put in its place.
- Adding an alarm, alarm keypad, and access control reader to the southeast door, so that it is the same as all other exterior doors used for access.

Projected cost for this project (doors and security upgrade) is \$11,500.

- Installing UV protective film on the West Assembly and East Assembly exterior windows to ensure that the valuable artwork we have in these areas is not degraded by the sun.

Cost is just under \$2,200.



If you have any questions about these projects, contact Property Director, Carol Martinson.

Can't Go on the Palestine Trip But Want to Support?

You can help support change by joining us on Saturday, Sept. 13 for the Bright Stars of Bethlehem *Hope Abounds* 6th Annual Virtual Fundraising Gala! We will go on a virtual trip to Palestine by sharing student stories, hearing from featured guest Rick Steves, and getting updates from the University President, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb.

Watch Parties across the country are engaging congregations and friends as we strive to raise awareness and support for Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. Although the Gaza campus was destroyed early in the war, students there and in Bethlehem are pursuing their education despite unimaginable challenges.

Our watch party is at **Edina Community Lutheran Church**, 4113 W. 54th Street, Edina, MN 55424. Members of the Mount Olive travel team will attend. Doors open at 6 p.m. CDT for Palestinian appetizers, a short film by a DAK student, and conversation. The virtual Gala, 7 to 8 p.m.; evening concludes by 8:30 p.m. Free parking is available in lots on both the east and west side of the building and on the street. **RSVP** to Kathy Showalter Fiscus at kshowalter@planscapepartners.com or 612-599-4593 **by Wednesday, Sept. 10.**

Individuals can also participate in the virtual Gala from home by registering with Bright Stars online at brightstarsbethlehem.org/gala.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Summer Sunday Eucharist: 10 am

Contact Us:

Phone: 612/827-5919

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *Daniel Schwandt*

Vicar – *Erik Nelson*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
Jim Bargmann

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *Jose Moroch*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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