



The Olive Branch

September 17, 2025

Accent on Worship

Vicar Erik Nelson

"In our era, the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action." This quote gives us an insight into one of the saints we commemorate this week, Dag Hammarskjöld. Dag is remembered on September 18, the anniversary of his death in 1961.

Sunday Readings

September 21, 2025

*St. Matthew,
Apostle and Evangelist*

Ezekiel 2:8 – 3:11

Psalm 119:33-40

Ephesians 2:4-10

Matthew 9:9-13

September 28, 2025

*Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost*

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

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

Dag Hammarskjöld was born into an influential Swedish family. His father served as Prime Minister of Sweden during the First World War. Hammarskjöld studied law and economics at Sweden's top universities. Influenced by Albert Schweitzer, he developed an ethic of universal charity. He joined the Swedish civil service, working at different times in the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 1953, Hammarskjöld was unexpectedly elected as the second Secretary General of the United Nations. His term saw the end of the Korean War, difficulties in the Middle East, and the Suez Canal crisis. His final years were absorbed by the situation in the Congo. Belgian colonization had been brutal in the Congo, and the new country was left unprepared for independence. A civil war broke out immediately. After months of tireless work, a hopeful future was on the horizon. On his way to negotiations, his plane crashed. Later investigations showed that the plane crash had likely been intentional, and Hammarskjöld had been assassinated. He was honored with a state funeral in Sweden and the Congolese delegate to the UN declared him a "martyr of peace."

Two years after his death, his private spiritual life became public in the release of *Markings*, a compilation of his spiritual reflections. Hammarskjöld was deeply touched by the mystics of the Christian tradition, especially Meister Eckhart and Thomas à Kempis.

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Calendar

Wednesday, September 17

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

Thursday, September 18

- 9:30 am Morning Prayer
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, September 19

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, September 20

- 9:00 am Gardening Day

Sunday, September 21 – St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee and conversation
9:15 am Adult Forum (NOTE EARLY START TIME!)
9:30 am Godly Play / Youth Discussion
10:45 am Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee and conversation
12:15 pm Palestine Trip lunch meeting

Monday, September 22

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

Tuesday, September 23

- 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 The October 11 meeting two books have been 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. The November selection is *The Night Red* by Minnesota's own Louise Erdrich.

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](#).

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

St. John of the Cross helped him understand the "dark night of the soul." He came back to the mystics again and again, who helped him maintain a fellowship with God.

Hammar skjöld was someone who took the Lutheran teachings on vocation seriously. He was a man of integrity who lived out his deep faith through his service as Secretary General.

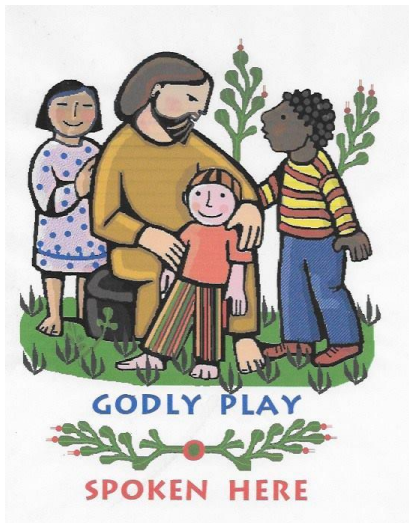
As we remember Hammar skjöld this week, may we live lives like his, in friendship with God and service to our neighbors.

- Vicar Erik Nelson

September Adult Forums

September 21 On Sunday, September 21, the Adult Forum will begin 15 minutes early at 9:15. Get there early, grab your coffee, and settle in to hear from Tracie Ortman and Linda Edens of Bright Stars of Bethlehem. Nineteen Mount Olive members and friends will be traveling to support our ministry partner Bright Stars, and this is your chance to hear about their work and challenges. We begin early so that these folks might also encourage another south Minneapolis church to join in this partnership.

**September 28/
October 5** Cantor Daniel Schwandt will lead a 2-part series on Lutherans and the Psalms.



Godly Play

First, **Save the Date:** on October 26, the Godly Play circles will join with the Children's Choir to share with the Adult Forum our love of learning and singing about God's great love.

This Sunday Circle 1 will be introduced to the Great Family while Circle 2 will consider again God's declaration that Creation is very good.

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

Come and learn to play the recorder at Mount Olive!

We'll meet twice a month (Monday? Tuesday? Wednesday?) for 90 minutes a session. Our goal is to (1) have fun while learning or reviewing basic fingerings and reading music; (2) learn soprano-C and/or alto-F fingerings; (3) eventually play a few tunes as part of worship But. No. Klieg. Lights!! LOL

Requirements: a decent, 3-piece plastic or wood, *non-dollar store*, soprano or alto recorder; a pocket folder for music, fingering charts, etc.; and purchase a \$20-25 "how-to" book after 4 weeks.

Interested? Tap me sometime, call/text/email me with questions.

Elizabeth P. Spang, MFA cell 239-410-4622 traverso4me@comcast.net

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 East Assembly Room 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 East Assembly Room. 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.

Presiding Bishop Installation - Saturday October 4, 2 pm

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the next ELCA presiding bishop at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix on July 30, 2025. He will begin this role on October 1, 2025, and will be installed on Saturday, October 4 in Minneapolis, at Central Lutheran Church.

The presiding bishop installation is open to the public, and tickets are not required. Doors open at 1 p.m. Central Time, and worship begins at 2 p.m. A public reception to greet the new presiding bishop will be held at Central Lutheran following the installation. Complimentary parking will be available at the Central Lutheran parking facility.

For more information, [visit the ELCA website](#).

Disaster Relief: Earthquakes in Afghanistan



The Mount Olive Global Ministry Committee has approved a \$2000 donation from the Global Ministry undesignated offerings for the relief effort following the earthquakes in Afghanistan. The devastation from three earthquakes that struck eastern Afghanistan last week is enormous. Entire villages have been reduced to rubble, there are thousands injured, and the high death toll is rising.

Because many organizations are unable to work in Afghanistan, the committee chose to donate through Doctors without Borders. Their emergency team has already reached the provinces of Nangarhar and Laghman. They are delivering vital emergency trauma care supplies to two of the main hospitals and are coordinating with local authorities to assess how they can provide medical support.

If you would like to make a personal donation, you can give through this [link](#) or give via check through Mount Olive by designating your gift for **"Afghanistan earthquake relief."**

September Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month *The Lift Garage*

The Lift Garage is a non-profit auto repair service providing low-cost car repairs for income eligible Minnesotans from their shop on Lake Street or through their mobile repair van. Founded in 2013 by a social worker turned mechanic, The Lift Garage is a vital and unique neighborhood resource, providing necessary repairs so members of our community have the means to get to work, to medical appointments, to transport their kids to school, and more.

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 Lift Garage please visit their website at www.theliftgarage.org.

Support STAND!

Common Hope in Guatemala is one of Mount Olive's Global ministry partners. They work with families in Guatemala to fight inequality through education, health care, housing, and family support. The students they work with face incredible challenges – but with the right support, they're graduating, dreaming big, and building new futures.



STAND stands for Scholars Taking Action for New Dreams. It's a campaign to raise the resources and relationships students need to succeed. In Guatemala, many young people drop out of school early because of financial hardship or lack of access. STAND is about changing that story. With the help of sponsors and donors, students are receiving academic scholarships, emotional and social support, and the encouragement to keep going, even when the odds are against them. The STAND campaign's goals are to raise \$50,000 for student scholarships, find 50 new student sponsors, and welcome 50 new monthly donors. You can learn more or make a gift here:

<https://www.commonhope.org/stand>

You're invited to a gathering with Archbishop Filibus

Archbishop Musa Panti Filibus, of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, is visiting Minnesota in September and October. His visit coincides with the Minneapolis Area Synod's Bishop's Theological Conference, the Conference of Bishop's meeting, and the installation of Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry. The LCCN and MAS have been Companion Synods for over 110 years. To "companion" means to show up, to listen, to show compassion, to advocate, and to accompany.

The Synod invites you, with other MAS congregations, to "companion" Archbishop Musa Filibus and the LCCN. Archbishop Musa will bring updates about the LCCN, the Lutheran University in Nigeria, current joys and challenges, respond to your questions, and be in conversation. The event is on **Thursday, October 2; 2-3:30 p.m.** at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church. [Please "yes" RSVP here](#) so we know how many to expect.

Upcoming Neighborhood Ministry Educational Event

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.

A Mount Olive Wine and Cheese Tasting Fundraising Event

Supporting Mount Olive
Neighborhood Ministry

**Saturday, October 25, 2025
7:00 PM in the Undercroft**

Taste a variety of fine wines paired with flavorful cheeses.
Professionally led and narrated.

This event will support the expanding Neighborhood Ministry programs.

\$35.00 per person *minimum* donation
(All donations in excess of \$25.00 are deductible)

Payment will be due at the event.
Seating is limited, so register now.

RSVP required
[Use this Sign Up Genius link:](#)

or

Call the church office 612-827-5919

Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, October 22.

Support Needed for Direct Service Critical Needs Programs

Neighborhood Ministry Programs Continue to Serve Our Community—How You Can Help

Mount Olive Welcomes Neighbors in Need

Every Tuesday and Thursday, volunteers greet our neighbors at the Parish House entrance of Mount Olive, offering more than just a warm welcome – they provide hope, encouragement, and critical assistance. On average during the first six months of 2025, we met between 250 and 400 individuals per month, who were facing urgent needs.

How the People of God at Mount Olive Made a Difference

In the first six months of 2025, our program distributed an average of \$2,500 per month – \$5 and \$10 at a time – to help with essentials like bus passes, laundry vouchers, and other immediate necessities. Beyond financial support, we have also assisted our neighbors in securing a Minnesota State IDs and licenses, and, through collaboration with Align Minneapolis, we have helped those in need of rental assistance.

Our team works closely with mission partners, referring individuals to additional resources at the Basilica, Central Lutheran, and other organizations.

Volunteers Make It Possible

Thanks to our volunteers, neighbors not only get help with their immediate needs but also enjoy friendly conversation, simple refreshments, and a listening ear. Many leave feeling encouraged, sometimes receiving a word of prayer or thoughtful guidance. Our volunteers are the backbone of this ministry, and we are grateful for their compassion and dedication.

Why Your Support Matters

The need in our community continues to grow, and so does our commitment to meeting it. We know that in urban neighborhoods like ours, these critical needs are going to increase given the current stress on social service agencies. For the last four weeks we have needed to tell our neighbors that we had nothing to offer. Immediately our neighbors stopped showing up. When they came, they received a few dollars of assistance. We had an opportunity to offer so much more. When we are not able to offer any assistance, finding it becomes their priority, and we lose the opportunity to serve them on a deeper level. Neighborhood Ministry also recognizes that Mount Olive does not have the resources alone to meet this growing need. You will hear more in the next six months about how we plan to address these needs and how you can help.

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How You Can Help

- **Participate:**
 - Plan to attend the Wine and Cheese Tasting event on October 25th. This event has been planned not only as a fun way to get together, but proceeds raised will benefit the direct service programs of Mount Olive Neighborhood Ministry.
 - Stop by on a Tuesday or Thursday. Bring a plate of snacks and stop by church and visit with the volunteers and any guests you find.
 - Send Jim Bargmann a note and say, "I have a free day next week, anything I could help with?"
- **Donate:** Financial contributions designated "Care Fund" on the memo line of a check, using your pink contribution envelope, or making a donation to Neighborhood Ministry - Financial Assistance will go to support this work. Here is how a donation breaks down:
 - \$15 is one commercial-sized load of clothing washed and dried, so a small family has clean clothes for work or school.
 - \$50 is fifty rides to work, the doctor, pharmacy, or grocery store.
 - \$125 takes care of about half of the people we have typically seen on a given day.
- **Become a Neighborhood Ministry Host or Emergency Rental Assistance Intake Volunteer:** Join our team of six on Tuesdays and Thursdays to welcome and assist our neighbors. We can always use more.
- **Spread the Word:** Share information about our program with friends and family who might be interested in supporting our mission.

If you would like to donate, volunteer, or learn more, please contact:

Jim Bargmann (651) 470-3848 or neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org

Al Bipes (952) 210-2415 or neighmin@mountolivechurch.org

Together, we make a profound impact on our community, one neighbor at a time.



Pastor Dan Adolphson and the delivery of diapers.

Thank You

Thank you to our friends at First Christian Church - Disciples of Christ in the uptown area. Mount Olive and First Christian have a close relationship because of our shared membership in Align Minneapolis. In the month of August, their congregation, coordinated by Pastor Dan Adolphson and Align Minneapolis Steering Committee member Karen Kandik, held a diaper drive for the Mount Olive Diaper Depot.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5, 2:00 pm

Bring your pets to this annual service of blessing!

All are welcome.

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

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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