



# The Olive Branch

September 24, 2025

## Accent on Worship

*Pastor Joseph Crippen*

### *More than Knowing*

He knew his name. That's the haunting thing about Jesus' strange parable this Sunday of a rich man and a starving man sitting at his doorstep. You can read the parable and understand the main point: this rich man lived in luxury while a fellow child of God starved outside his gates, with only dogs as caregivers. But as the scene moves

to heaven and hell, this rich man calls the starving man by name. By name. He knows his name is Lazarus. The problem isn't that the rich man didn't see the starving man in their lifetime together. The problem is even though he knew him by name he didn't help.

We live this here at Mount Olive. Every week our neighbors come here for help, and volunteers and staff learn their names, their stories. And try to help as much as we can. (There is always more need than there are resources.) It's beautiful that these neighbors become friends, known and named.

But Jesus' parable reminds us that what matters is first seeing beloved siblings, knowing them by name, and also being grace and help if you can. Not stopping where the rich man did. So what if we introduced ourselves to the person carrying a cardboard sign at the roadside, and asked their name? And then helped? Maybe we'd move beyond stereotypes and into seeing beloved siblings.

Both are needed – learn each others' names, and be God's love to each other. That's the way to life in this world, the life God hopes for all.

## Sunday Readings

**September 28, 2025**

*Sixteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost, Lect. 26 C*

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalms 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

**October 5, 2025**

*Seventeenth Sunday  
after Pentecost, Lect. 27 C*

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalms 37:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

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

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, September 24

- 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 25

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

### Friday, September 26

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, September 27

- 9:00 am Gardening Day

### Sunday, September 28 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation  
9:30 am Godly Play / Youth Discussion / Adult Forum  
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation  
12:15 pm Godly Play helpers meeting  
12:30 pm Y4 Confirmation

### Monday, September 29

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

### Tuesday, September 30

- 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 Mighty 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](#).

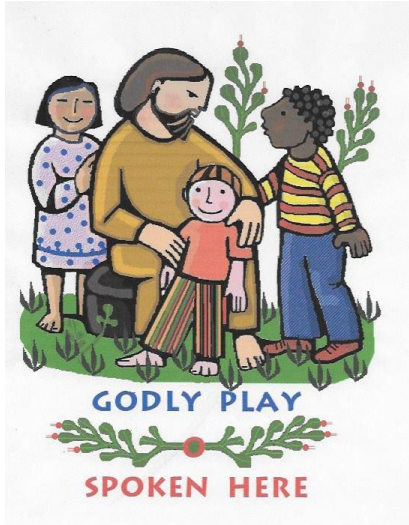
## Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5, 2:00 pm

*Bring your pets to this annual service of blessing!*  
*All are welcome.*

## September Adult Forums

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



## 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.

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

## 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.](#)

## September/October Book Discussions

### *There is no Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

The Global Ministries Committee is sponsoring a trip to the Holy Land 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](mailto: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 was held on Monday, September 22. The second discussion will be held on **Monday, October 20**, from 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.

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## Theological Discussion Group Resumes November 2

Mount Olive's Theological Discussion Group disbanded around the time of the Covid pandemic. It will resume on Sunday, Nov. 2, in the Library after the second liturgy.

We will read chapters 1-5 of *All Things Flee Thee for Thou Fleest Me*, by The Rev. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy, a priest of the Eastern Rite (Byzantine) Melkite Catholic Church. Formerly a U.S. Marine pilot, lawyer, and university educator, McCarthy is the founder and the original director of The Program for the Study and Practice of Nonviolent Conflict Resolution at the University of Notre Dame. He is also founder of Pax Christi USA.

Several decades ago, McCarthy presented a conference on Christian nonviolence at Lutheran Social Service for clergy and church workers while simultaneously leading a retreat at RC St. Paul seminary. He has conducted retreats and conferences throughout the world and was nominated for the Nobel Prize for his life's work for genuine peace.

The book is available through Amazon in paperback for a little over \$15. We will read the first five chapters. Contact Al Bostelmann if you are unable to purchase the book.



## 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 supports 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](http://www.theliftgarage.org).

## Counters Needed – Thank you Mary Rose and Dave Kaliher

Mary Rose and Dave Kaliher have retired from the adding machine, and we thank them both for their gracious service to Mount Olive.

### Calling all Introverts – Counters needed!

The Stewardship team is growing! We are looking for several members to join in the service of counting our weekly offerings. It is fun, simple, and is a scheduled commitment every three or four weeks. Counters work in teams of 3, at a time that works either after Sunday eucharist or another time early in the week at night or afternoons. You don't have to be an introvert at all, but comfort using an adding machine and detail orientation is helpful.

Roles:

**Lead Counter (2 needed):** comfortable entering values into an Excel spreadsheet template, and e-mailing a report at the end of the counting session. Scans checks through our new check-reading machine to ensure the deposit is made immediately.

**Counters (3 needed):** conducting a manual tally of cash and checks, using an adding machine. Time commitment – 60-90 minutes per counting session, every 3-4 weeks.

Training for these positions will be provided. A computer is provided, the counting takes place in the counter's/Treasurer's office on the lower level.

If you are looking for a nice way to do something in service to our church community, we welcome you. Please contact Kat Campbell Johnson or Consuelo Gutierrez Crosby with questions and to volunteer. Kat: [Katdcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:Katdcampbell@gmail.com) or 763-464-7692; Consuelo: [suelomatt@gmail.com](mailto:suelomatt@gmail.com) or 651-366-9370.

## A Mount Olive Wine and Cheese Tasting Neighborhood Ministry Fundraising Event

*Saturday, October 25, 2025, 7:00 p.m.*

Taste a variety of fine wines paired with flavorful cheeses. Professionally led and narrated. This event, held at Mount Olive, will support Mount Olive Neighborhood Ministry.

A \$35 per person minimum donation is requested (all donations over \$25 are deductible). Payment will be received at the event.

RSVP is required by October 22, and seating is limited - so register now!

[Use this Sign Up Genius link](#) or call the church office to register.



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## Visit the “Hymn Writers Among Us” Display

Two things. We're adding *sound* to the hymn writers display in the Louise Schroedel Memorial Library. These are recordings of Mount Olive liturgies, so you might be hearing yourself sing!

Second, the exhibit's title panel says it features hymns and service music from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (red) and *All Creation Sings* (blue), but adds: "Additional works by these writers are available from Augsburg Fortress and other publishers." That's important to know, and our September 14 Holy Cross Day liturgy was a good example.

We sang "O Christ, unto Your Cross We Raise" (2013), tune PORT CHARLOTTE by David Cherwien and text by Susan Palo Cherwien; and "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (1999), tune HEISLEY by Daniel Schwandt and text by John Bowring (1797-1872). The Cherwiens' text and tune was commissioned in 2013 by Lutheran Church of the Cross (LC-MS) in Port Charlotte, Florida, for the dedication of a large 60-foot cross on their property. The new tune for the familiar text "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" was written during Cantor Schwandt's time as Mount Olive's Visiting Musician in 1999 and named for former pastor Bill Heisley. The new melody was written to give this familiar text a different feel and fresh perspective.

- Donn McLellan

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## 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](http://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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