



# The Olive Branch

October 1, 2025

## Accent on Worship

*Cantor Daniel Schwandt*

### Howling Along

Every year on October 4, we celebrate the renewer of the church, Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and creation. Francis had a profound love for all of God's creatures, seeing them not as lesser beings but as part of God's holy family. He preached to the birds, made peace with wolves, and praised God through the beauty of the natural world. His life reminds us that all of creation sings praise to its Creator.

## Sunday Readings

**October 5, 2025**

*Seventeenth Sunday  
after Pentecost, Lect. 27 C*

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

Psalm 37:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

**October 12, 2025**

*Eighteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost, Lect. 28 C*

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

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

For my wife Emily and I, that singing sometimes gets pretty literal. Our beloved 2 ½ year-old miniature schnauzer, Otis, has an endearing habit: he *has* to join in whenever there is singing. We first discovered this when he was only a few months old. Emily was going through an old hard drive from college, and she discovered a recording of her singing Bach (Otis has good taste!) on a recital. As we were enjoying the music, Otis started to appear agitated and looked either curious or confused – we couldn't tell. Next thing we knew, he threw back his head, and a howl burst forth from somewhere deep inside his little body. His ancient wolf pack DNA had been activated. Emily and I turned to each other and laughed in astonishment. We had a special little dog on our hands. Whether it's during Christmas caroling, a birthday song, or just someone humming in the kitchen, Otis is compelled to lift his little voice. Along with numerous dog experts, we don't know why he does it, but he hears us singing and simply *must* be part of it.

It's something more than just a dog trick for friends and family, however. There's something almost holy about his uninhibited need to join in. He doesn't wait for an invitation. He doesn't worry about the melody. He just hears musical joy and adds his own.

As we bless the animals this Sunday afternoon, let us remember that their lives, too, reflect God's goodness. Sometimes they remind us how to live more fully: without fear, without shame, and always ready to sing along with creation.

## Calendar

### Wednesday, October 1

- 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, October 2

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

### Friday, October 3

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, October 4

- 9:00 am Gardening Day

### Sunday, October 5 – Seventeenth 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  
12:30 pm Y4 Confirmation  
2:00 pm *Blessing of the Animals*

### Monday, October 6

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)  
6:30 pm Recorder group (first meeting)  
7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting  
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

### Tuesday, October 7

- 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.*

## October Adult Forums

- October 5** The second of a 2-part series on Lutherans and the Psalms, presented by Cantor Daniel Schwandt.
- October 12** Katie Dillon, Executive Director of Align Minneapolis, one of our Neighborhood Ministry Community Partners, will provide a hyper-local focus on issues of housing and homelessness. She will share data regarding homelessness in our state and Hennepin County, but more importantly, she will share a little of what homelessness is like for individuals and families. She will also review what case management looks like both inside and outside of the shelter system, along with detailing some of the greatest challenges and barriers that people experiencing homelessness face. And in the spirit of giving us something to do, she will share more information about what actions Minneapolis and Hennepin County are taking in response to homelessness, as well as the role of faith communities in this work.
- October 19** Annual Budget Preview meeting – a great opportunity to learn and ask questions about our proposed budget for 2026.
- October 26** The Godly Play circles will join with the Children's Choir to share with the Adult Forum their love of learning and singing about God's great love.
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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.

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## 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 hear about the Exodus, and Circle 2 will learn about the patriarch, Moses.

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

## Budget Preview Meeting

Sunday, October 19  
9:30 am

*This is a great opportunity to learn and ask questions about our proposed budget for 2026.*

## Come and learn to play the recorder at Mount Olive!

We'll meet twice a month on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday evenings at 6:30 pm starting October 6**, for 60 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.

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.

Questions? Tap me sometime, call/text/email me  
Elizabeth P. Spang, MFA cell 239-410-4622  
[traverso4me@comcast.net](mailto:traverso4me@comcast.net)

## 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 be installed this **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., 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.](#)

## Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting

*Sunday, October 26,  
following the second liturgy.*

The primary purpose of this meeting will be to approve a budget for 2026.

All voting members of Mount Olive are encouraged to attend.



## October Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month *Central Lutheran Restoration Center*

The Restoration Center at Central Lutheran provides a drop-in center for people in and around downtown Minneapolis experiencing homelessness and poverty. The Restoration Center provides emergency rental assistance, meals, free-use computers, and a place for people to gather for community and support. Their Free Store provides clothing and household goods in a store-like environment and a partnership with Augsburg University provides free, low barrier health care to all.

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 Central Lutheran Restoration Center please visit their website at [www.centrlmpls.org/community/restorationcenter](http://www.centrlmpls.org/community/restorationcenter).

## Counters Needed

### 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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## **Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival**

Lutheran Summer Music is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school students. Students come together from all over the country to immerse themselves in joyful music-making and build a supportive and welcoming community, living together on a Lutheran college campus. During the day, students receive advanced musical instruction through large ensembles (Festival Choir, Band and Orchestra), chamber music, private lessons with collegiate-level faculty, and elective classes (such as conducting, composition, church music, pipe organ, handbells, jazz ensemble, musical theatre). In the evenings, students attend recitals and evening prayer services, and social events with their friends. LSM 2026 takes place at St. Olaf College in Minnesota from June 21-July 19 (Full Session) or June 21-July 3 (Half Session) and is open to students who have completed grades 8-12. To learn more, go to [LSMacademy.org/program](https://LSMacademy.org/program).

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## **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.

## 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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