



The Olive Branch

October 15, 2025

Accent on Worship

Vicar Erik Nelson

Teresa of Avila is a surprising person for the ELCA to commemorate, and yet we do, today, October 15. Teresa is remembered as a saint of the Counter Reformation, a movement in the Roman Catholic Church that rooted out corruption and promoted spiritual life while also pushing back against the progress of the Protestant Reformers. It would be easy for a church like the ELCA

Sunday Readings

October 19, 2025

*Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost, Lect. 29 C*

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 121

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

Luke 18:1-8

October 26, 2025

Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

to totally write off Teresa. Or we might try to whitewash her to make her fit within our own understandings of spirituality and piety. Instead, I think it's important for us to listen to her seriously and earnestly wrestle with her writings and legacy. As we're so close to Reformation Day, it can become easy for us to stand on our Mighty Fortress and declare Lutheranism to be the One True Church. Encountering saints of the Counter Reformation on our Calendar is an opportunity to slow down and open our hearts.

Like our beloved Martin, Teresa had a deep love of scripture. Like Martin, Teresa had a reforming fire that burned inside her, a desire that people's lives would be changed by the living and active word of God. Teresa was also known for her vibrant visions and mystical experiences. Imagining what wisdom she might share with Mount Olive, I think she would invite us into deeper love of scripture and more vibrant lives of prayer.

One technique that Teresa might encourage us to explore is the *lectio divina*. This deep engagement with scripture helps us to hear what God might be saying to us through the text. Teresa encouraged her sisters to spend time reflecting on the Lord's Prayer, through *lectio divina*. Like Mount Olive, Teresa had an appreciation for forms of worship and devotional practices that hold the mystery of God. I think she'd encourage us to continue making room for silence and mystery.

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

Oktoberfest!

Join us for Oktoberfest before the Congregation Meeting on October 26!

The Hospitality Committee invites you to join us for Oktoberfest in conjunction with the Congregational Meeting on October 26! We will be serving brats, hot dogs, German potato salad, sauerkraut, and bars. Vegetarian options will be available. Anyone who is willing to make a pan of bars or a batch of potato salad, or volunteer to help serve or clean up, please sign up at the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544A8AF2DAAF8C07-59558053-oktoberfest>

Danke schön! Thank you!

- Tricia Van Ee Molbert, Director of Hospitality

Third Annual Lefse Making Extravaganza – DATE CHANGE!

Do you love lefse? Ever wondered how to make it? Now's your chance to learn-or-share your expertise with a beginner.

We'll meet in the Undercroft Saturday, December 6, from 9:00am-1:00pm.

Bring your prepared potatoes, quart size storage bags, extra flour, and any equipment you have.

Any questions can be directed to Marsha Johnson at 763-843-7024. Or email mejohanson56@yahoo.com. Please use [this Signup Genius link](#) to register. Limit of 15 people.

Smile, you're on camera

In the coming weeks and months, Mount Olive's website will be undergoing an upgrade. As part of this, we'll be filming for a new introductory video on **Sunday, November 2** at the **10:45 a.m.** Eucharist. Filming will be discreet and will not disrupt our liturgy. Please plan accordingly.

Align to Learn

Harm Reduction and the Use of Narcan
Wednesday, November 12, 12:00 to 1:30 pm
Mount Olive Lutheran Church

Every two months, our partner Align Minneapolis, hosts an educational event for volunteers serving in the ministries of their 19 congregations.

Next month, Mount Olive will host this event and together, we will have a chance to learn about harm reduction and the use of Narcan (sometimes also called Naloxone) in the case of suspected overdose. This has been a frequently-requested topic among the volunteers at many Align congregations, including Mount Olive.

Anyone interested in learning these vital skills is welcome to attend - regardless of whether you actively volunteer within our Neighborhood Ministry programs or not.

There is no cost for this event - it is paid for by Align Minneapolis - but donations to cover honoraria for the trainers can be accepted.

Calendar

Wednesday, October 15

- 5:30 pm Children's Choir Supper
No Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, October 16

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

Friday, October 17

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, October 18

- 10:30 am Music & Fine Arts Committee meeting

Sunday, October 19 – Nineteenth 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

Monday, October 20

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)
6:30 pm Recorder group
7:00 pm Palestine Book Study group
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, October 21

- Noon Bible Study
6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministry Committee meeting
6:30 pm Feminine Divine Group

Names of the Departed Saints Invited

As a part of our All Saints liturgy on Sunday, Nov. 2, worshippers are invited to submit the names of loved ones close to them who have died in the past year, since last All Saints Sunday, who weren't members of Mount Olive. (Members of the parish who have died are always named.)

For those who attend worship in the coming weeks, a book is located at the entrance to the nave where you can write these names. You may also contact the church office with the names. These other names submitted will be included in the prayers of intercession.

Please keep this to just those who have died this past year, so we can have a more manageable list.

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](#).

October Adult Forums

- Oct. 19** Annual Budget Preview meeting – a great opportunity to learn and ask questions about our proposed budget for 2026.
- Oct. 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.
- Nov. 2 & 9** "Women and Divine Calling in Hebrew Scriptures," a 2-part series presented by Earl Schwartz. In this series we explore biblical texts in which a woman is referred to as a prophet, a wise woman, and/or a judge-chieftain. These passages suggest broader cultural horizons among ancient Israelites than is often assumed, while presenting many questions, including: Do these inspired and inspiring women represent a moral voice and vision associated primarily with women? If so, how might we understand this quality in light of other gender-related aspects of evolving Israelite culture, and our own?

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.

Hope for Home

An Open House Fundraiser for Align Minneapolis

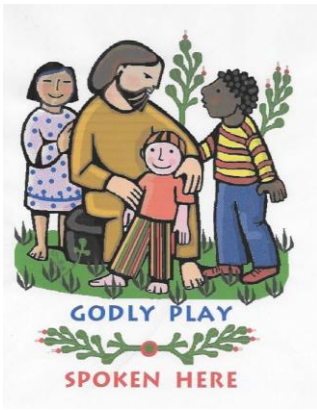
Thursday, November 20, 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis

Learn more about how Align Minneapolis serves our community while enjoying the company of like-minded individuals wanting to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Appetizers, small dessert items, and other refreshments will be served.

No registration required; come and go as you please, stay as long as you are able.



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 week the circles will hear very different stories. Circle 1 will hear about The Ark and the Tent while Circle 2 will

hear the story of Ruth's journey and witness.

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

This 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 **1st and 3rd 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

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. Childcare will be provided.

Children's Choir "Informance" at Adult Forum on October 26

For part of the Adult Forum on Sunday, October 26, the Mount Olive Children's Choir (grades 1-4) will give an "informance." Rather than perform for those in attendance, our young singers and their director, Mari Espeland, will engage you in discovering the Why? What? and How? of Children's Choir. Please join us to participate in activities we include in our rehearsals and learn the steps we take to prepare for worship leadership. We look forward to singing and learning with you.

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.centralmpls.org/community/restorationcenter.

Wine and Cheese Fundraising Event for Neighborhood Ministry: October 25, 7:00 PM.

Only one more week to sign up.

Help support Neighborhood Ministries while enjoying an evening with your Mount Olive friends and family!

This will be a fun event with your Mount Olive friends and for a great cause.

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.

Funds raised at this event will benefit what we call our direct service programs in Mount Olive Neighborhood Ministry - discount bus cards, laundry vouchers, vouchers to help people obtain state IDs and driver's licenses, and assistance in ordering birth certificates - all things that assist our neighbors afford daily life and support their ability to work, go to school, and attend medical appointments, and more. But over and above those things, when people come to Mount Olive for assistance, we have the opportunity to connect with them - to hear their stories, get to know them, build relationships, and show care and love in a world where that is sometimes lacking. So please come have fun. Enjoy good wine and cheese. And support the powerful and important work of our Neighborhood Ministry programs.

Meal Train!

Harrison and Rebekah Wold Defries are expecting a baby girl! A meal train has been set up for them and members of Mount Olive are invited to sign up to support them if you are able. The meal train start date for them is 10/20. Thanks for any support you can provide!

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/gz4ole>

A Message from Our Palestinian Partner

"This renewed ceasefire must be understood as the beginning, not the end, of a larger process. Today, 15 U.S. journalists visited Dar al-Kalima University, highlighting the importance of understanding the human realities behind headlines and policies. Likewise, proposed frameworks, like the current 20-point plan, can be a starting point — but they must be centered on Palestinian priorities, not framed around concessions Palestinians are forced to make. True peace requires respect for self-determination, justice, and human rights in Gaza, the West Bank, and throughout Palestine. As Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb has often stated: *'The Bible says blessed are the peacemakers, not the peace sayers. So we need less peace talkers and more peace doers.'*

Hope here is not passive; it is revolutionary. It is the force that sustains communities, strengthens resilience, and continues to light a path toward justice and freedom. **As the global community bears witness, this ceasefire must be more than a temporary pause. It is an opportunity to amplify Palestinian voices, to continue education and advocacy, and to honor the courage and perseverance of communities across Gaza and the West Bank."**

Justice Committee Seeks Your Input

Mount Olive's new Justice Committee is looking for ideas, input and resources from the congregation. We'd like to have you stop in for a meeting this Sunday, Oct. 19, after the second liturgy. We'll be meeting in the Library. If you can't make that time, please email your ideas and/or resources to justice@mountolivechurch.org.

The three main areas of focus for the Justice committee that we will begin with include: Climate Justice, Indigenous Rights and History, and Racial Awareness.

Thank you,

- Candy Husemoller, Director of the Justice Committee Ministry

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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