



The Olive Branch

October 22, 2025

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Be Stilled

Our psalm for Reformation Sunday is 46, and it's noisy. Mountains fall into the sea, waters foam, nations rage, kingdoms are shaken. This constant refrain accents the noise: "The LORD of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our stronghold." No matter the confusion and clamor of the world, God is our refuge and strength, our help in trouble.

Sunday Readings

October 26, 2025

Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

November 2, 2025

All Saints Sunday, year C

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31

Yet near the end of the psalm God's voice speaks: "Be still, then, and know that I am God." In the midst of chaos and noise, God quietly says, "Be still a moment. Know I am God."

The Church cannot continue be re-formed, our congregation re-formed, the world re-formed, each of us re-formed, if we cannot find the stillness to hear God. When you slow down, turn off the outside influences (news, TV, social media, podcasts, music, you name it) for a moment, when you sit quietly and ask God to calm your frantic heart and racing mind, God's voice can speak instead of all the other voices that compete in your mind and heart. In that stillness there will be moments you are aware of your breathing, of the silence. Moments you hear God saying, "I'm God, you're not. Let me still you, quiet you." And you can hear God's hope and grace.

We likely never find a permanent place of stillness in the chaos of life. But when we open ourselves to God's presence we receive moments that clarify, calm, give us refuge. We are re-formed, made new again, and sent back into the chaos different, better able to live and not be overwhelmed.

*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.

Filming in Worship

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 22

- 5:30 pm Children's Choir Supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, October 23

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

Friday, October 24

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, October 25

Sunday, October 26 – Reformation Sunday

- 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 Oktoberfest
Noon **Congregation Meeting**

Monday, October 27

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

Tuesday, October 28

- 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 November meeting, the 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](#).

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.

October Adult Forums

- 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 Fleeest 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

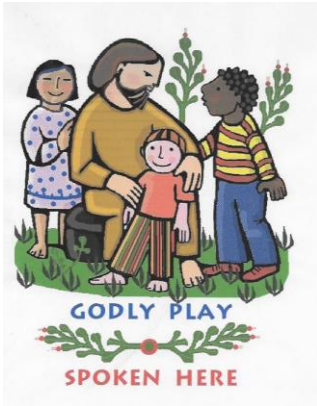
Thursday, November 20, 4:00 to 7:00 pm

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

This Sunday, October 26, both of 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.

Meal Train!

Harrison and Rebekah Wold Defries are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Juniper Lyn!

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 was 10/20. Thanks for any support you can provide!

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

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.centrlmpls.org/community/restorationcenter.

Wine and Cheese Fundraising Event for Neighborhood Ministry: This Saturday, October 25, 7:00 PM. *Today is the Last Day 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 today, 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.

Help Our Children Hear God's Love

Godly Play has been the young-child Christian education model that Mount Olive has used for over a decade now. The curriculum is modeled on Montessori educational principles where children experience a story from the bible and then pursue their own work after the story; either interacting with the story materials or using the available art supplies to create something.

Mount Olive has had a dedicated group of volunteers that have been working as storytellers and doorkeepers and sharing the stories from the bible with Mount Olive's children. The group of volunteers for Godly Play has been shrinking these last few years as people are transitioning to other roles at Mount Olive.

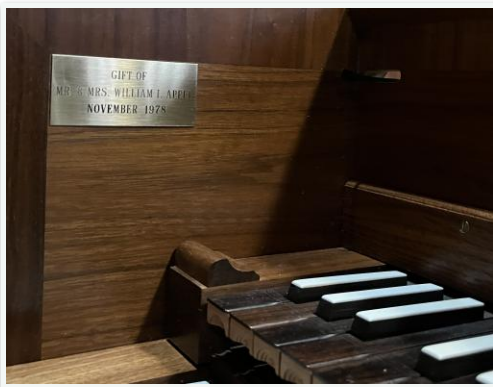
Mount Olive needs a new group of volunteers to take the Godly Play training and be storytellers and doorkeepers. The success of this program is dependent on new member-volunteers to be part of Godly Play. This Sunday our Godly Play Circles will be sharing a story with everyone. Join us and consider how you might be a part of this program. We need you.

Mount Olive Harpsichord Ready to Play Again

In 1978, Mount Olive and Cantor Paul Manz welcomed a large new harpsichord built by Peter Tkach of Saint Louis, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. William Apell. After a number of years of use in worship and concerts, the harpsichord experienced considerable damage to the elaborate veneer finish, the soundboard and key action. The harpsichord has not been heard for many years.

After a long summer of restoration, the harpsichord is again ready to serve in worship. On Reformation Sunday, Cantor Schwandt will present a Trio Sonata (BWV 525) by Bach for harpsichord and string ensemble.

Restoration this summer included removing many sections of damaged veneer and carefully fitting and finishing new pieces to match the original. The instrument was cleaned, the soundboard repaired and a number of strings replaced. Voicing and regulating has begun to restore the original sound.



The restoration work was coordinated by Art Halbardier with much assistance from Walter Hinck, Elaine Halbardier, and Mike Knutson. Look forward to seeing and hearing the harpsichord this Sunday, October 26.

National Lutheran Choir All Saints Concert: “Lead Me Home - A Concert of Remembrance”

Join the National Lutheran Choir at Normandale Lutheran Church for their performance of Lead Me Home: A Concert of Remembrance. Under Artistic Director Jennaya Robison, this journey of remembrance and hope honors the beauty and fragility of life while offering a glimpse of the eternal home that awaits.

Through music and movement, in collaboration with dance artist Eve Schulte, this concert explores the thin places between heaven and earth. The program features Thomas LaVoy's O Great Beyond (with texts by Rabindranath Tagore), and Stephen Paulus' beloved The Road Home. Additional selections by Minnesota composers Linda Kachelmeier and Marí Esabel Valverde celebrate the connections that bind us across life and death.

Audience members are invited to celebrate the saints in their own lives by submitting the names of loved ones, both newly born and recently passed, to be incorporated into the concert.

Dates & Location:

7:30pm - Thursday, October 30 @ Christ Chapel - Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter (*in collaboration with Brandon Dean and the Gustavus Choir*)

7pm - Saturday, November 1 @ Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina

***4pm - Sunday, November 2 @ St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi**

**Livestream available at NLCA.com*

Tickets at NLCA.com.

Groups of 10 or more receive discounted tickets. Call 612-722-2301 for info on group rates.

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

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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