



The Olive Branch

October 29, 2025

Accent on Worship

Cantor Daniel Schwandt

The gospel reading for All Saints this year is the familiar passage of blessings and woes: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God...but woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation." The Beatitudes from Matthew's gospel are different in Luke's account; the familiar blessings juxtaposed with parallel "woes." It is the conclusion of Sunday's gospel that has me wondering:

"Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6.27-31)

The so-called "golden rule" which was drilled into us in our youth bears frequent repeating in these fraught times. But what does this laundry list of life instructions have to do with saints?

Our beloved dead who sing with us on the other side of the veil were sinners just like us, and just like us, failed at doing to others as they'd have done to them. Some, quite probably, in spectacularly awful fashion. These words of Jesus ring like convictions of the Law, not necessarily Good News. At best they seem a sort of non sequitur in relationship to our remembering the saints.

Perhaps it is a reminder for us, the living, that the reign of God encompasses all these very real and sometimes mysterious complexities. Life is full of blessing and woe, full of times for being peacemakers and a time for unwillingly participating in systems of oppression. Life also encompasses feelings of deep sorrow for loved ones lost, and for those – if we're honest – we acknowledge are free from the burden of being themselves. We pause, light a candle, say a word of thanks for the bonds of love and the promise of eternal life, and the get about the work of being the baptized saints on this side of heaven: loving God by serving our neighbor, and loving those as we wish to be loved. Let us rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

Sunday Readings

November 2, 2025

All Saints Sunday, year C

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31

November 9, 2025

22nd Sunday after

Pentecost, Lect. 32, year C

Job 19:23-27a

Psalm 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

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

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.

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.

Calendar

Wednesday, October 29

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

Thursday, October 30

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

Friday, October 31

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, November 2 – All Saints 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 coffee and conversation

Monday, November 3

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

Tuesday, November 4

- Noon Bible Study

Names of the Departed Saints Invited

As a part of our All Saints liturgy this 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 this Sunday, a book is located at the entrance to the nave where you can write these names before the service. You may also contact the church office with the names this week. 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 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](#).

Upcoming Adult Forums

- 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?
- Nov. 16** "Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota," presented by Vicar Erik Nelson. Dr. Mark Granquist jokingly refers to the University of Minnesota as the largest Lutheran university in the United States. But what does Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota actually look like? Join Vicar Nelson as he shares his experiences with LCM, as well as some of the opportunities and challenges that LCM faces. Vicar Nelson previously served LCM for three years as their Saint Paul Campus Outreach Intern.

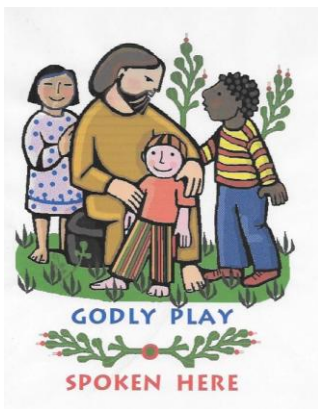
Theological Discussion Group Resumes This Sunday

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.



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.

Sign Up for the Meal Train!

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

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**, 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

Shared Ministry Notes

At the semi-annual meeting of the congregation a few days ago, Pr. Crippen mentioned that most people at Mount Olive do not "pledge" or promise to share a dollar amount with the congregation each year. He's correct. For the current year, (2025), forty-four households filled out a pledge card. That equates to about 25% of the total number of households in the congregation. Mount Olive has not mounted a vigorous pledge drive in recent years, and there is debate among religious circles about whether this practice is effective in helping a congregation meet its budget.

For some people, pledging is an important process that gives voice to their promise of support of our ministries. For others, it seems like a needless or unreasonable exercise. What do you think? If you'd like to share your thoughts about pledging, you can email shared@mountolivechurch.com, or speak to any of the Shared Ministry Committee whose names appear below. We'd like to hear your thoughts!

Lora Dundek, Paul Nixdorf, Donn McLellan, Kat Campbell Johnson, Adam Krueger, Ted Thompson (ex-officio), and Pr. Crippen

November Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month

Restorative Justice Community Action

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) provides a community-based alternative to criminal prosecution with the mission of fostering individual growth while strengthening communities through restorative justice practices. With a restorative and race equity lens, RJCA leverages the voice of community to transform the criminal legal system, public safety, and eliminate racial disparities. The indigenous roots of restorative justice focus on transformation of people, relationships, and community. In honoring these roots, RJCA humanizes conflict and supports community in finding shared solutions.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute 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 Restorative Justice Community Action, please visit their website at www.rjca-inc.org or contact Cynthia Prosek, RJCA Executive Director and Mount Olive Member.

Help Our Children Hear God's Love

Godly Play has been the young-child Christian education model that Mount Olive has used for nearly 2 decades 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. Consider how you might be a part of this program. We need you.

The Olive Branch

Winetasting Thanks

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our first Wine & Cheese tasting event such a success. A special thanks to the many who helped plan and set up for the event. To all who attended, with your generous donations to the Mount Olive Neighborhood Ministry fund we were able to raise over \$3000. It was a fun event, please enjoy the smiles in the photo.



The Olive Branch

Scenes from Oktoberfest!



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 & Locations:

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.

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.*

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Cantor Daniel Schwandt**
- **Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: Restorative Justice Community Action**
- **Scenes from Oktoberfest and Wine Tasting**
- **Godly Play Volunteers Needed**
- **Theological Discussion group resumes this Sunday**