



The Olive Branch

November 19, 2025

Accent on Worship
Pastor Joseph Crippen

Sunday Readings

November 23, 2025
Reign of Christ, year C
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent, year A
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Sunday we celebrate the festival of the Reign of Christ, the last Sunday of the Church Year. We proclaim to all the world that Christ is our Sovereign, that we live in the reign and rule of the Living One who has conquered death and gives life to us and to the world.

This festival is relatively new. We're just at the 100th anniversary of its beginning in 1925. Think about what was happening then: Hitler was on the rise, Mussolini was already on the throne. The Great Depression was in the future, but economic and national tensions were already growing, and would lead to devastating times for the world. Into this world environment, Pope Pius XI introduced this festival.

It seems to me that our times are eerily similar to the times of this festival's origins.

So our celebration in these days of No Kings rallies once again recalls us to this truth: we already have a true King who reigns from the cross. A true Ruler whose love overcomes all evil and suffering, even death, a God who offers everything of God's life out of love for us and all people. In Christ's rule and reign we can even find hope for our future, hope for our nation, hope for our neighbors as more and more are shaped by that self-giving love, more and more live in this reign. In joy we now follow this Ruler on the path of life and healing for us and for all God's children.

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

Calendar

Wednesday, November 19

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, November 20

9:30 am Morning Prayer
7:00 pm Palestine travel group meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, November 21

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, November 23 – The Reign of Christ

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

Monday, November 24

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

Tuesday, November 25

Noon Bible Study

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.

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

On December 13 the group will consider Barbara Kingsolver's latest, *Demon Copperhead*. This will be the fifth Kingsolver book the group has read. On January 10, the group will consider an author new to the group, Niall Williams, as they read *Time of the Child*.

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. 23, 30, and Dec. 7 Pastor Crippen will lead a 3-part series on Mary Magdalene.

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts 2025–2026

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts returns this month with a new season! Join us on **Sunday, November 30, 4:00 p.m.** for the Advent Procession, a liturgy of lessons & carols to welcome the season of wonder.

Later in the season, experience the papercut art of Aaron Silver, the dynamic musicality of Ukrainian pianist Bohdan Tataryn, and a hymn festival led by our own Cantor, Pastor, and Cantorei! See mountolivechurch.org/music/music-fine-arts-series for details.

Your support has sustained our Music & Fine Arts series for over three decades. Music & Fine Arts is separate from the congregational budget and relies on direct, over-and-above contributions to maintain programming. As we continue to welcome our new Cantor this year, please consider contributing to Music & Fine Arts to provide for this season. Committee members will be present in the west assembly room to receive contributions on Sunday mornings through November 30. You may also [make a contribution online](#), in the offering plate (be sure to mark it MFA), or at the church office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Attention Worship Assistants!

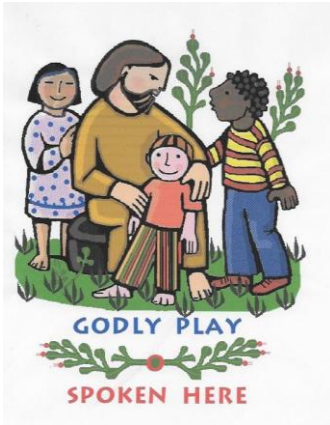
The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for **2026 Quarter 1 (January - March, + Holy Week)** will be published in December. Holy Week will be March 29-April 5.

Please send any scheduling preferences or dates you will be unavailable to me by **this Friday, November 21.**

Please let me know any questions you have.

Thank you.

- Greg Murphy gregRmurphy@gmail.com



Godly Play

As we get closer to an Advent with only a couple of Godly Play weeks, both circles begin now to prepare their hearts and minds for Jesus coming to us. Both circles will hear about how Mary shows the way.

Note: There will not be Godly Play on November 30, Thanksgiving weekend. All children ages 3-Grade 1 are welcome

to Circle One, and children in grades 2-5 are welcome to Circle Two.

Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild is hosting a chancel-cleaning event on Saturday, November 22, beginning at 9:00 a.m. until about noon. Come when you can; stay for as long as you like.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede (bgaede13 [at] [gmail.com](mailto:bgaede13@gmail.com)).

Neighborhood Ministry Greeter Needed

As we further refine the work of our Neighborhood Ministry Hosts, it has become apparent that we need to add a role to our team. We are looking for a person or several people who have availability to serve with us on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. A person serving in this role will answer the doorbell and register our guests when they arrive. Work with technology is important, but if you feel comfortable using an iPad or similar tablet, your skills will serve you well.

Please contact Jim Bargmann, neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org if you are interested.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist Thursday, Nov. 27 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome.

The offering received at the Thanksgiving Eucharist will be donated the Community Emergency Services and Sabathani food shelves.

It's a Cookie Bake!

Christmas cookie decorating will take place after the second service on December 7 in the downstairs kitchen. While this has traditionally been a yearly Youth and Family event, anyone who is interested in decorating (or tasting) cookies is welcome!

The Shared Ministry committee invites all of you to share with the congregation your thoughts on what it means to live in a faith community where we freely offer our resources of money, time, and expertise. If you'd like to participate in this occasional column, please contact Lora Dundek at shared@mountolivechurch.org, or call her at 612/850-5562.

Finding New and Better Words

As you may know, Joseph Crippen, our pastor, hopes we will stop using the words *giving* and *volunteering* when talking or writing about Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Why? Because we're a *family*, or, if you prefer, a *community*, and in strong, healthy, happy families/communities we don't much use words like those, though we may often use them in other contexts.

We know, of course, that "all happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way," Tolstoy's opening of his novel *Anna Karenina*. The phrase is generally taken to mean that family or community happiness depends on a set of necessary characteristics: open, honest communication; mutual support, shared values, forgiveness, etc. Families lacking some of those traits risk falling into unhappiness. We can quibble with Tolstoy's sentence as too clever and too pat, and I do. But he makes us think about what makes for happy and unhappy families.



I'm a member of Mount Olive's new Shared Ministry Committee (I said yes, but I *didn't* volunteer!) It's led by Director Lora Dundek, and other members are Adam Krueger, Paul Nixdorf, Ted Thompson, Kat Campbell-Johnson, and Alan Wicks. My comments here are solely mine, so don't blame them.

Nothing profound here, but this is how I'm thinking about Mount Olive as family. I'm a (passive) member of the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Society, chiefly for their quarterly magazine, and we're Minnesota Orchestra subscribers. I'm not the NPRHS, and I'm not the Minnesota Orchestra. I *am* Mount Olive Lutheran Church, as are my brothers and sisters in Christ who worship with me in person or via our livestream and are passionate about our ministry and mission locally, in the U.S., and globally.

When our Caller ID says Arthur Halbardier, I figure it's another opportunity to keep me out of trouble and probably involves sandpaper, stain, and varnish. But I don't volunteer; I follow orders and . . . am grateful I can do it.

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Finding New and Better Words, *continued*

Some of us pledge at this time of year, while more of us wait until the new year to think about what dollars we can add to our Mount Olive family coffers in 2026. Let's be creative and find words other than donate and give.

When we first started thinking about Pastor Crippen's idea, it occurred to me that we could steal an idea from the Peanuts comic strip, replacing Lucy's "Psychiatric Help 5¢" booth with a table in the parish house and a sign: I DON'T GIVE AND I DON'T VOLUNTEER. TALK TO ME. We could do that if there's demand. Meanwhile, all of us on the committee would be happy to talk to you.

- Donn McLellan

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts

ADVENT PROCESSION

Sunday, November 30, 4:00 p.m.

All are welcome.

Being the Light in the Darkness:

Oh Palestine! The trip there with the Mount Olive group was a memorable experience. We were greeted on the streets of Bethlehem by Palestinians with "Welcome," and "Thanks for visiting us." I have not been greeted that way in any of the numerous countries I have visited.

One phrase I heard was, "If you cannot see beyond the darkness, you must be the light." From these hospitable people I learned how they suffer under extreme oppression, with 20-foot cement walls (think Iron Curtain) surrounding them and innumerable check points restricting their movement, in a land where Christians, Jews, and Muslims have lived side-by-side for more than a thousand years, and yet many harbor no malice toward their oppressors. They just want to live their lives in peace.

They taught lessons of hope, love, and determination and became an inspiration and example of Christ-like love.

- Gene Janssen



Above: The sunrise on our second day at the Sea of Galilee.

Left: The Mount Olive group in front of Dar Al Kalima University in Bethlehem.



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 supports 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.

National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival

The NLC Christmas Festival is quickly approaching, and we look forward to seeing you there! The National Lutheran Choir is proud to present *Come, Dwell With Us* this December at the beautiful Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis.

Alongside instrumentalists, the NLC Children's Music Ensemble, and Brian Newhouse as Narrator, this Christmas Festival will be a perfect addition to your holiday season. This festival concert will include works by Jocelyn Hagen, Gwyneth Walker, Rosephanye Powell, Pavel Chesnokov, Mark Butler and many more!

Friday, December 12th | 4:30pm

Saturday, December 13th | 1:30pm

Saturday, December 13th | 8:00pm

[Click here for tickets!](#)

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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