



The Olive Branch

February 25, 2026

Sunday Readings

March 1, 2026

*Second Sunday in Lent,
year A*

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 8, 2026

*Third Sunday in Lent,
year A*

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

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

Accent on Worship

Cantor Daniel Schwandt

We often hear that Lent is described as a journey. We journey to the waters of baptism at Easter. We journey with Christ in the wilderness of temptation. We journey to the cross and empty tomb. To take a journey usually implies that we go from point A to point B. We leave one thing and go toward another. We embodied that image on the First Sunday in Lent when, with Christians around the world, we prayed the Great Litany in a procession around our nave. Our metaphorical journey praying for the needs of the entire world was not a one-directional journey from A to B. Our ritual journey began at the baptismal font, and at the end of the liturgy, returned to the same place.

This week, we will once again journey to those same waters, gathered by the Holy Spirit, only to start that journey again. The baptismal font is not simply a place we pass by, but is the starting *and* ending point in every journey we take – whether in a Sunday liturgy, the liturgy of our week, or the entirety of our life from baptism to death. In Sunday's gospel, we hear again of Nicodemus and the call to be reborn. He asks, surely we cannot reenter our mother's womb to be born again? Surely, Nicodemus, we do. The font, the womb of the church, is the place we return again and again and again to claim our daily dying to sin, and rising to new life, strengthened for all our earthly journeys and for the final journey to come.

***You are not obligated to complete the work;
Neither are you free to abandon it.*** Pirkei Avot 2:16, The Mishnah

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts would like to commission a new paper cut artwork from Aaron Silver. The above text will be the main theme of the piece along with three strong, deeply rooted olive trees. Olive trees live for centuries because as long as the roots remain the tree will continue to send up new growth.

Our service missions at Mount Olive are also deeply rooted and reflect the above text. Our Neighborhood Ministries, which includes the diaper depot, bus fare, rent support, and other programs will not solve the many poverty issues and concerns of our neighborhood, but we cannot ignore the needs when we can help in any small way. Mount Olive alone cannot make a major impact on world climate justice, either, however we can install climate friendly geothermal heating and cooling, install LED lighting and add solar panels to our roof.

The Palestinian/Jewish struggle is overwhelming. However, a group from Mount Olive recently traveled to Palestine, not to resolve the long-standing problems in that region but to meet some of the Palestinian people and get to know them and let them know that we support them any way we are able.

Please contribute to the fund to complete the new art commission. We need \$1800 for a large, framed artwork. If you would like to be a part of this commission please contact Paul Nixdorf at 612-296-0055, pn@paulnixdorf.com. You can send or leave a check made out to "Mount Olive Lutheran Church" and in the memo include, "Artwork commission, MFA"

Aaron has completed a miniature version of the larger work, it features one olive tree along with the text in both Hebrew and English. Please check the table in the exhibit if you are interested in purchasing one of these miniature works.

Thank you for your consideration in being a part of this commission.

-Paul Nixdorf, Music & Fine Arts Committee member



The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, February 25

- 9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*, followed by
Soup lunch
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Lenten Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, February 26

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

Friday, February 27

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

Sunday, March 1 - Second Sunday in Lent, year A

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed coffee and
conversation
9:30 pm Godly Play/Youth Discussion/Adult
Forum
9:30 am Family Music Time LIVE
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed coffee and
conversation
12:30 pm Theological Discussion

Monday, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

- Noon Bible Study

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in Lent

Holy Eucharist at Noon,
followed by Soup Luncheon

Vespers at 7:00 pm,
preceded by Soup Supper at 6 pm

All are welcome.

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 March 14, the group will revisit a favorite author, reading *Hotel New Hampshire* by John Irving. Then on April 11, we will get a chance to look at *A Terrible Glory: Custer and the Little Bighorn* by James Donovan, a compelling nonfiction book.

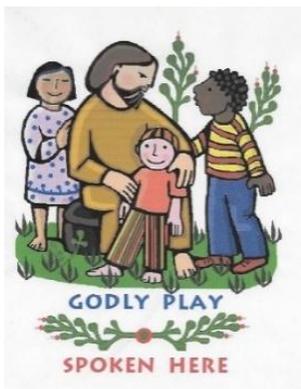
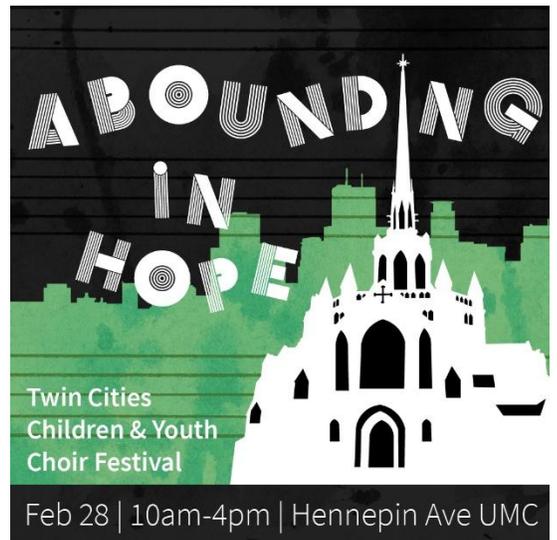
Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the Library, usually on the second Saturday of each month. The group has been using Zoom to provide remote access to the sessions. If you would like to participate in the group, you can either attend the monthly sessions which meet at the church in person or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smart phone, [click here](#).

The Olive Branch

Abounding in Hope Choir Festival

Members of Mount Olive's Children and Youth Choirs will participate in a choir festival for metro-area church choirs hosted by Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church. Jennifer Cadwell will lead the children's choir. Jennifer formerly directed children's choirs at Centennial United Methodist Church in Roseville and currently works with Hennepin Chime. Paolo Debuque will lead the youth choir. Paolo is a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota and most recently directed the Viking Chorus and Chapel Choir at St. Olaf College.

Everyone is welcome to the culminating hymn festival, *Abounding in Hope*, this Saturday, February 28 at 3:00 pm at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Avenue.



Godly Play This Week

This Sunday Circle 1 will hear about Jesus' relationship with Bartimaeus while Circle 2 wonders about the Parable Without Words.

On Wednesdays during Lent, following the children's choir rehearsals, families are invited to join the Lenten Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm.

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

Global Ministry Action Alert

At our Taste of Palestine many of you asked how we/you could better support of Palestinian sisters and brothers. We referenced the ELCA Advocacy effort called Samud. We also spoke of the Israeli settlement expansion efforts which harm Palestians, peace, and justice.



If you would like to learn more and take action, follow the link and contact your representatives as many of the travel team have done: <https://act.elca.org/page/93847/action/1?chain>.

Soup Makers and Servers Needed for Lent

Sign up to cook and serve a pot of soup for Wednesdays in Lent. Two meals are served: the first after the noon liturgy (about 25 people), and one prior to Evening Prayer (about 15 people). You may choose to provide soup and bread for both meals on a Wednesday, or just one meal.

A sign-up sheet is taped to the coffee serving counter in the East Assembly Room, so when you grab your coffee on Sunday morning, take a moment to sign up! Still plenty of openings!

Sunday's Adult Forum

March 1 - "Embodied Faith: Movement and Action in Liturgy," presented by Mount Olive Worship Director, Andrew Stoebig.

A discussion of our kinesthetic faith, beginning with the whys and wherefores of our liturgical patterns and gestures at Mount Olive.

Two upcoming art events with the Artist Aaron Silver

1. Meet the artist

This Sunday, March 1, following the second liturgy at 12:15 PM, Aaron Silver will be available to meet and discuss his art. If you are interested in purchasing any of the artworks this is a great opportunity to meet the artist.

2. Jewish art and music event.

On Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 PM we are going to hold another Jewish music and art event in the Chapel Lounge amongst the exhibit. We had the first music event on January 25, and it was so well received that we are going to hold a second event. The songs are based on Hebrew texts that are a part of the artworks in the exhibit. Please plan on joining us.

Paper Bags Needed!

Mount Olive Neighborhood Ministry is in need of brown paper bags with handles for delivering diapers and other resources.

If you have some you can spare, please leave them in the coat room at church. We will pick them up from there. Thanks!

Way of the Cross

With the return of Lent comes the return of the Way of the Cross. As we began last year, visual representations of the nine Stations of the Cross we observe on Good Friday will surround the assembly in the nave this season. Some pieces are new, others will be familiar from last year. As you have time, take a few moments to ponder each work. Does it inspire consonance or dissonance in you? Why might that be? How might God be speaking in you through this artwork and your reactions to it?

Second Annual Mount Olive Fish Fry Pilgrimage

Back by popular demand, Mount Olive's Second Annual Lenten Fish Fry Pilgrimage begins this Fryday, February 20. The season's schedule is listed below. Check each host church's website for discount pricing, payment options, and other events on offer. Mount Olive folks typically arrive between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. each week. Come join the fishy fun!

Fryday, February 27: [Church of St. Albert the Great](#) 2836 33rd Ave. S., Minneapolis, \$18, 4:30-7:30 p.m. This one is very popular, so plan on arriving with seat mates and waiting for a while.

Fryday, March 6: [Holy Family Catholic Church](#), 5900 W. Lake St., St. Louis Park, \$12, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Fryday, March 13: [Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church](#), 1 Lourdes Pl., Minneapolis, \$15, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Check website for parking info.

Fryday, March 20: [Church of St. Peter](#), 1405 Sibley Memorial Hwy., Mendota, Freewill donation, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Fryday, March 27: [Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church](#) 5426 12th Ave. S., Minneapolis, \$20, 5:00-7:00 p.m. OLP was last year's overall favorite, so don't miss it!



Here is the Mount Olive group at the first Fish Fry (2/20) this year at St Matthew's in St Paul. This coming Friday, please join us at the Church of St. Albert the Great in Minneapolis.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists: 8 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *Daniel Schwandt*

Vicar – *Erik Nelson*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
Jim Bargmann

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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