



The Olive Branch

March 11, 2026

Sunday Readings

March 15, 2026

*Fourth Sunday in Lent,
year A*

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 22, 2026

*Fifth Sunday in Lent,
year A*

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

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

Accent on Worship

Vicar Erik Nelson

This week, on Tuesday, March 10th, our church commemorates Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth as renewers of society.

Harriet Tubman was born into enslavement in Maryland. Throughout her life, she had vivid dreams and strange visions. That, paired with her Methodist upbringing, gave her the foundation for a life of religious devotion. Her faith in God empowered her throughout her lifetime.

In 1849, she escaped to Pennsylvania, and started her decades-long project of rescuing enslaved people and bringing them to the free North and on to Canada. She received the nickname of "Moses," as she led people out of captivity.

During the Civil War, she served the United States Army as an armed scout and a spy. After the war, she lived in Auburn, New York. In her later years, she worked to promote women's suffrage and was active in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She died in 1913.

Sojourner Truth was born into enslavement in New York. In 1826, she escaped with her infant daughter. Like Tubman, Truth was a Methodist.

In 1844, Truth joined an abolitionist organization that also promoted women's rights, religious tolerance, and pacifism. In 1851, she delivered her famous Ain't I A Woman? speech at the Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio. She was renowned as a speaker for the rights of Black people and women.

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

During the Civil War, she helped recruit Black men to serve in the United States Army. After the war, she fought for freed slaves and Black veterans to receive land grants from the federal government. She continued to fight for women and Black people for the rest of her life. She died in 1883.

As we remember the holy lives of our sisters Harriet and Sojourner, we must also pick up their fight. These women faced danger, disrespect, and cruelty for the sake of their neighbors. They were unflinching in their fight for the rights of marginalized people, especially for women and Black people. If we want to truly honor and remember these women, we must also join them, following Christ by caring for others and the world God made.

- Vicar Erik Nelson

Funeral for Harriet Marty March 28

On Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., Mount Olive will hold the funeral Eucharist for Harriet Marty, widow of Martin Marty and stepmother of John Marty and his siblings. St. Paul Bishop Patricia Lull will preach, and Pastor Crippen and Cantor Schwandt will lead the liturgy. Her obituary can be found [here](#).

New Display in the Library

“Remembering the Altar Guild’s Chancel Kneelers Project” is the new display in Mount Olive’s Louise Schroedel Memorial Library. In 1981, the Altar Guild began a seven-year project to create nine needlework kneelers and two bench cushions for the chancel. They were designed by Marjorie Ford Pohlmann Sethna, a Minneapolis resident who was nationally recognized for her fiber-arts designs. The kneelers and cushions were dedicated on Sunday, March 29, 1987. The list of all the stitchers is lost, but we are trying to reconstruct it from photos and help from some members with long memories.

The display was nearly complete when former cantor Mark Sedio told us a charming story from the project – and we made room for it. If you want to find the story *quickly* – that word is a clue! – look under the two pictures in the introduction in the middle of the display case.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, March 11

- 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, March 12

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

Friday, March 13

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

Saturday, March 14

- 10:00 am Book Discussion group
Noon Funeral Visitation: Beth Hering
1:00 pm *Funeral Eucharist*
Sunday, March 15 - Fourth Sunday in Lent, year A
8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed coffee and
conversation
9:30 pm Godly Play/Youth Discussion/Adult
Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed coffee and
conversation
12:30 pm Y4 Confirmation
3:00 pm Singing the Art of Aaron Silver II

Monday, March 16

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

Tuesday, March 17

- Noon Bible Study
5:00 pm Neighborhood Ministry Committee
meeting
6:30 pm Feminine Divine group

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

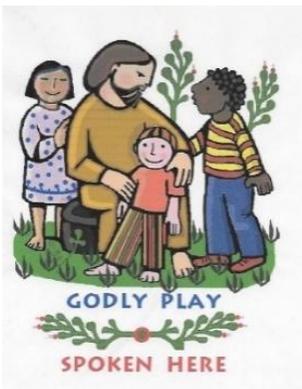
The Tuesday Noon Bible Study meets weekly in person in the East Assembly Room. For those who are unable to come in person, the Bible Study is held over Zoom as well.

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](#).



Godly Play This Week

As we move through Lent, this Sunday Godly Play 1 children will hear about the women who anointed Jesus for burial, while Godly Play 2 will learn more about Jesus' ministry in Galilee.

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.

March Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: *Sabathani Community Center and Community Emergency Services*

In March, we highlight two of our partners that work on issues of food insecurity in our south Minneapolis community as a part of the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, a state-wide initiative intended to bring together “organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals” to raise awareness about the issue of food insecurity and support for local food programs.

“Sabathani Community Center is one of Minnesota’s oldest African American-founded nonprofits... [and] helps equip approximately 32,000 South Minneapolis residents annually” through their food shelf, clothes closet, seniors’ programs, workforce initiatives, support for school-age children, and more.

Community Emergency Service, or CES, works to alleviate hunger and food insecurity through an on-site food shelf, food delivery programs, a partnership with Meals on Wheels, and its unique Ani-Meals program, providing food for pets and service animals.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget. On top of those financial 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.

In addition, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items in the cart located in the West Assembly to be divided between our two food shelf partners. However, for those who are able, we strongly encourage monetary donations. Because our food shelf partners have access discounts and bulk purchase opportunities not available to regular consumers, monetary donations allow our partners to purchase much more food than if we were to purchase the same food through a retail store.

For more information about the work of the Sabathani Community Center, please visit their website at sabathani.org. For more information about CES, please visit cesmn.org.

Soup Maker Needed for One More Lenten Soup Meal

There is one opening left to sign up to cook and serve a pot of soup for Wednesdays in Lent. **March 25 at Noon** is still unsubscribed. We will need soup and bread for approximately 20-25 people.

A sign-up sheet is posted next to the coffee serving counter in the East Assembly Room, take a moment to sign up!

Sunday's Adult Forum: March 15

Board members of the Mount Olive Foundation are excited to share important developments from the past year. The Foundation has revamped its organization structure to include all members of the congregation, make our work more transparent, and provide ever-better support to the varied ministries at Mount Olive.

Easter Carry-In Brunch

Bring your favorite brunch dish to the Easter Carry-In Brunch!

The Brunch will be on Easter Day, April 5, beginning at 9:00 am.

Following the Brunch, we will celebrate a single Eucharist that day, at 10:00 am.

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.

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?

Offering Envelopes

Please remember to contact the church office by **March 13 if you wish to continue to receive offering envelopes**. If you don't wish to receive them, you don't need to do anything - your name will be removed from the mailing list.

The envelope company works on a two-month mailing cycle, so you may have received envelopes recently, even though you no longer want them. You should not receive them on the next cycle.

Second Annual Mount Olive Fish Fry Pilgrimage

Back by popular demand, Mount Olive's Second Annual Lenten Fish Fry Pilgrimage 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, 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!

Mount Olive was out in force last Friday evening for the Fish Fry at Holy Family Catholic Church! Join us **this Fryday, March 13:** Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 1 Lourdes Pl., Minneapolis, \$15, 5-7 pm.





Singing the Art of Aaron Silver – Again!

This Sunday, March 15, at 3:00 pm we are going to hold another Jewish music and art event in the Chapel Lounge within 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.

Wonderful news!!

We have reached our goal for the new art commission from Aaron Silver! Thank you to everyone who contributed toward this project and we will have a big announcement when the new art piece is completed and will be unveiled.

National Lutheran Choir - Sacred Refuge: from Light to Light

Sunday, March 22, 4:00 pm

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN

As we transition from the stillness of winter into the promise of spring, we are invited to seek refuge in song – a sacred space where the soul finds its voice and a place to belong. Opening with movements from Fanny Hensel's *Lobgesang* and Shavon Lloyd's *So Breaks the Sun*, the program traces the arc from winter's stillness to spring's awakening.

Works by Jake Runestad, *Under This Tree* and *Nada te Turbe*, offer reassurance and belonging. At the heart of the program is Aaron McDermid's *From Light to Light*, commissioned by the National Lutheran Choir in 2008, with texts by Susan Palo Cherwien that invite us into stillness and the heartbeat of God.

[Buy tickets here](#)

Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter at Mount Olive

Monday-Wednesday, March 30-April 1: Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week

+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave, near the columbarium

Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday

+ Holy Eucharist, Noon

+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 3: Good Friday

+ Stations of the Cross, Noon

+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

Saturday, April 4: Holy Saturday

+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception

Sunday, April 5: The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day

Easter Carry-In Brunch, 9:00 am

+ ONE Festival Holy Eucharist at 10 am (note change in Sunday schedule!)

Mission Partner Aids Immigrants

A testimony to how our mission partner in Chile--EPES, Popular Education for Health--is working to assist the immigrants in their country:

Haitians are the fourth largest immigrant community in Chile and nearly half of them are women. Not speaking Spanish is their most significant barrier. EPES held its second Spanish Course for Haitian Women, providing transportation, breakfast, and childcare. The women also visited municipal government offices and a community garden, offering the women a chance to build community and cultural knowledge. In the north of Chile EPES is working with others to distribute food and water kits, transportation, migration counselling, and workshops.

Mount Olive Global Ministries partners with EPES and the ELCA to provide these programs. "The EPES team demonstrates an extraordinary ability to build alliances with a wide range of community actors, including local government, higher education institutions, and grassroots organizations--all united by their commitment to defending the human rights of immigrants in Chile, regardless of their nationality or migration status." -Stephen Deal, ELCA representative.

Budget and Sharing Update from the Shared Ministry Committee

The budget month of January ended with a \$15,000 shortfall in revenue from our individual resources to support the work of the congregation. It looks as though February will end in approximately the same way. (Another update will be coming when the numbers are finalized.) The good news is that this is a smaller deficit than the same months in 2025, but it restricts our cash flow. To pay our bills we may need to use our line of credit, which incurs interest costs.

Please remember that as a congregation we voted to increase the budget by about 9% over last year. This puts us in a position of increasing the amount that we share individually, if we are able to do that. Please prayerfully consider how you are able to help.

Thank you!

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists: 8 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

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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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