



The Olive Branch

February 19, 2025

Accent on Worship

Robert Farlee

Sunday Readings

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Lect. 7, year C

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

March 2, 2025

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-43a

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

Many, many years ago, I was a parent to toddlers, those little people who ask a lot of questions beginning with “How?” and “Why?” That’s what came to mind when I read the Second Reading for next Sunday, which begins, “But someone will ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?’” Where I might suggest they ask their mother, St. Paul goes into a long, complicated bit on how the resurrection of the dead might actually work. (True confession: I may have dared Pastor Crippen to preach on that reading. I don’t expect that to happen.)

Still, this reading, which we rarely get to hear because we rarely get to the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany (a different topic), is interesting, at least to a nerd like me. The TL:DR synopsis is that the body we end up with in heaven may not bear a lot of resemblance to what we have now. (Bear in mind that when Paul wrote this, he hadn’t yet died or been raised, so file this under “educated guess.”) Building off a metaphor of a planted seed that is the body we now have, he points out that that seed first has to die, and then it becomes something quite different from the seed. “It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.” Will I still be left-handed? Will I be my 20-year-old self or the one I am now? Still TBD.

Maybe it’s because I have chalked up a lot of birthdays since my wife and I were raising children, but I’m more interested in this topic than I used to be. And part of the good news is that we are promised there *is* a resurrection of the body, and a life everlasting. The details are yet to be revealed, but the promise? That is reliable, and we get a foretaste every Sunday.

- Robert Farlee

Our Life Together: Opportunities to Gather

These last few weeks have been difficult for many of us, as we watch events unfold on the national front. One “antidote” to the anxiety and frustration that we feel is to spend time together, both gathered around Word and Sacrament in the sanctuary, and in fun and engaging activities outside worship. Expect to see opportunities for gathering in the coming months. If you have ideas for being together, let Lora know at conglife@mountolivechurch.org

Upcoming events:

Movie Night: This Friday, February 21, 7 p.m. at Mount Olive

We’ll watch “Conclave,” a 2025 Academy Award-nominated film about the selection of a new pope, and the drama surrounding that process. Popcorn and soft drinks provided.

No cost, but a freewill offering will be received to cover the cost of the license.

All Church Picnic: Sunday, July 27, following worship.

Homeless Day on the Hill: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Please join Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann at Homeless Day on the Hill, an annual event to raise awareness and work for legislative solutions to homelessness and the full continuum of housing at the Capitol.

Each year, Mount Olive and our partners gather for a rally at Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Saint Paul and then walk to the Capitol for a day of meeting with lawmakers to advocate for our housing related priorities. Registrants will be assigned groups for meeting with lawmakers based on their home legislative districts - so you have the opportunity to meet with your elected leaders in small groups of like-minded individuals who live near you.

The day starts at 9:00 am and ends after your last scheduled lawmaker visit. In past years, that has been around 2:00 pm. **Participants should register by this Friday, Feb. 21.**

Please contact Jim if you have any questions or to let him know if you plan to attend, Use this link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/2re5rjm> .

Second Quarter Servant Schedule

The Servant Schedule for **2025 Quarter 2 (April - June, including Holy Week)** will be published in March. Please send any scheduling preferences or dates you will be unavailable to me **by this Friday, February 21.**

Please let me know any questions you have.

Thank you.

- Greg Murphy

gregRmurphy@gmail.com

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, February 19

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Y2/Y3 Confirmation
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, February 20

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*
5:00 pm Cantor Call Committee Interviews
7:00 pm MIRAC meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, February 21

- 7:00 pm Movie Night
7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, February 22

- 10:00 am Cantor Call Committee Interviews
10:00 am Taste of Chile set up

Sunday, February 23 - Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

TASTE OF CHILE

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Adult Forum/Godly Play/
Youth Conversation
9:30 am Family Music Time in-person gathering
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
Noon Taste of Chile Celebration luncheon

Monday, February 24

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

Tuesday, February 25

- Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, February 26

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

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 8, the group will discuss *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo in celebration of the 25th anniversary of this Minnesota author's award winning. In April, the discussion will travel to Nigeria to consider *Under the Udala Trees* by Chinelo Okparanta.

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the library, usually on the second Saturday of the 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](#).

Mount Olive Family Music Meets In-Person This Sunday

Mount Olive Family Music, our music and faith experience for children from birth through Kindergarten with a caregiver, usually meets on Mondays over Zoom. We sing, pray, dance, and play from the comforts of home, no need to get bundled up and in a car seat for this musical experience. The caregiver-child bond grows through musical connection in a faithful context, with the hope that music and prayers shared will become part of home life.

On Sunday, February 23 from 9:45-10:30 Family Music participants ages birth-35 months are welcome to an in-person session in the Godly Play 3 room on the lower level. We will enjoy familiar songs and activities with the novelty of friends and teacher Mari in person! Children and families new to Mount Olive Family Music are very welcome to join us. We will happily sing, "God loves you!" with you and to you.

January 2025 Vestry Summary

New Business

Treasurer's report

- We are starting the year in the black, thanks to the congregation for stepping up! A full report will be coming out soon from the treasurer. Also, giving has increased over the last year.
- Recommendation that we have a conversation about continuing designation of Foundation money for debt reduction, after our three-year commitment.

Youth space

- Upcoming conversations about the new space for youth to meet

Cantor Call update

- Receiving applications until the end of January
- Conversations about the process

Committee Reports

Congregational Life-

- Discussion about how to support each other given the new political landscape.

Worship-

- New member to this committee - Theresa Rothausen
- Request for \$5000 for this summer's Bach Täge. It's funded from the general budget, Foundation money, and individual registrations.

February Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: *Walk-In Counseling Center*

Walk-In Counseling Center provides “free, easily accessible mental health counseling to people with urgent needs and few service options.” Counselors work with people struggling with depression, anxiety, chemical dependency, domestic violence, and many other emotional and interpersonal concerns.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partner this month, 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 Walk-In Counseling Center, please visit their website at <https://www.walkin.org>.

Upcoming Adult Forums

February 23: Taste of Chile; Karen Anderson will lead our forum about the work of EPES.

March 2 and 9: “Care in Community in an Era of Cruelty” presented by Rev. Cody Sanders “Community” and “justice” are intimately connected in ways we often don't recognize. From the former Surgeon General's health warnings about "our epidemic of loneliness and isolation," to Hannah Arendt's naming of "organized loneliness" as a contributing factor in the rise of totalitarianism, to abolitionist geographer Ruth Wilson Gilmore's notion of “organized abandonment” taking place through the systematic dismantling of structures our communities rely on, to biologist E.O. Wilson's naming of our age the Eremocene (“age of loneliness”) as humans are becoming a lonely species on a planet once lush and vibrant with many species rapidly going extinct.

Loneliness causes harm on individual, communal, political, and ecological scales, causing injuries that have adverse effects on the health of both humans and the wider web of life. In these forums, we will address these concerns of harm alongside the ways that relational and communal practices can increase health and the potential for healing on multiple levels of belonging: to God, to one another in human community, and to the larger ecological web of life.

Godly Play Themes for This Week

Special Note: This Sunday, February 23, both Godly Play circles will meet together as they consider the Parable of the Leaven by making bread with Ms. Patsy.

Each week Patsy Holtmeier makes the bread that both circles use for their weekly feast, and next week we will all learn how that works and why Jesus used that in his parable. We all say, "Thank you," to Patsy for her weekly gift. All children ages 3-Grade 1 are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 2-5 are welcome to Circle Two.



Taste of Chile: This Sunday, February 23



Come to the Taste of Chile on February 23. We will learn more about [Educación Popular En Salud](#) (EPES) based in Chile and its North American Counterpart, [Action for Health in the Americas](#) (AHA). They support sustainable, community-based public health initiatives that promote the dignity and rights of the poor in Chile. Karen Anderson, a recently retired ELCA missionary who worked with EPES, will present our adult forum.

After the second liturgy, we will gather for a meal of delicious Chilean food, including empanadas, a chicken and corn casserole, and yummy cookies called alfajores.



Translation: Health is a right and not a privilege; Fighting for health and dignified life for all.

Bring Out Your Dead Palms!

Do you have palm branches at home left over from last year's Passion Sunday services?

If so, bring them to church and place them in the basket in the narthex. These will be burned on Shrove Tuesday for use in our Ash Wednesday services.

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

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Organist – *Robert Farlee*

Interim Choir Director – *Andrew Stoebig*

Vicar – *Natalie Wussler*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
Jim Bargmann

Sexton – *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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