

The Olive Branch

April 30, 2025

Accent on Worship

Vicar Natalie Wussler

Since I was a child, I've always loved Peter. He's messy and bumbling and doubtful, but he's also full of faith and passionate and loves Jesus. He's the rock of the church, but he makes missteps throughout his entire time following Jesus. He's an honest and raw example of what it looks like to follow Jesus, and one that we can relate to in our own walks with Christ.

Today, Peter is probably still feeling deep shame from denying Jesus three times. He's met the Risen Christ, but he doesn't quite know what that means yet. So he goes back to what he knows for some sense of normalcy – fishing. And that doesn't even go well for him. Peter must feel truly lost and confused about how he can move forward and about what his identity is anymore.

But then Jesus shows up. He offers Peter and all the disciples forgiveness and helps Peter come back to himself. This threefold “do you love me?” gives Peter the opportunity to proclaim his love for Jesus and remember what his true purpose is – to go out into the world and take loving care of all Jesus' lambs. Jesus reminds Peter of what he is called to and commissions him to faithfully serve for the rest of his days. No matter how far Peter strayed, Jesus offers him the grace and forgiveness he needs to continue down this path of new life.

This journey following Christ has its ups and downs. In some moments, we may feel like we're on the mountaintop, so close to Christ and confident in how much we are loved and have the capacity to love. Some moments, we're in the depths of doubt and fear. Some days we wait on the Risen Christ to show up and wonder whether we'll ever feel close to Christ again. And for all these moments, Christ is never too far away to offer love and grace. To remind us that we are beloved and called. To commission us to the loving service of all people. Peter's story reminds us that we are never too far gone, that we have never strayed too much for Christ to find us and reorient us on the path of life. Thank God for all the ways Peter messes up and all the ways Jesus calls him back to this path of love.



Sunday Readings

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter, year C

Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter, year C

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, April 30

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
7:00 pm Y2 / Y3 Confirmation

Thursday, May 1

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

Friday, May 2

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, May 3

- 9:00 am Gardening Day
3:00 pm Early Music Minnesota Chamber Concert

Sunday, May 4 - Third Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Godly Play / Adult Forum / Youth Conversation
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed 70th birthday celebration for David Engen

Monday, May 5

- 7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting
7:00 pm Vicar Committee meeting
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, May 6

- Noon Bible Study

It's a Party - You're Invited!

Please join David Engen and Greg Murphy in the Undercroft after the second liturgy **this Sunday, May 4**, to celebrate David's 70th birthday.

All are invited!

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 May 10, you can join in learning about Eileen Blair, author and wife of George Orwell, as we discuss *Wifedom, Mrs. Orwell's Invisible Life* by Anna Funder. We'll start the summer with *The Bell and The Lake* by Lars Mytting as we once again explore Norwegian life.

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](#).

It's Garden Time!

It's time for us all to get out the gloves, hand tools, rakes, shovels and knee pads so that we can care for our grounds and gardens. The work includes planting, weeding, trimming, mowing, and tending the flower beds around the church as well as the plantings and pollinator garden in the south parking lot.

Our first Saturday gardening day is scheduled for May 3, 9:00 - 11:00 am. Subsequent workdays are every two weeks. The schedule for the year is:

May 3 - Initial Clean Up Day

May 10 - start of every two-week schedule, 9:00 am - 11:00 am.

May 24

June 7, 21

July 5, 19

August 2, 16, 30

September 13, 27

October 11, 25

If you can join us on any of the workdays, bring your own tools if you have them. If not, we do have some hand tools, rakes, and shovels. And if 9:00 am - 11:00 am doesn't work for your schedule, feel free to come earlier, later, or on another day.

Contact Carol Martinson (612-708-9849) or Elaine Halbardier (763-639-7702) if you have questions.

The Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, May 29

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome.

**Summer Worship
Schedule begins on
Sunday, May 25**

From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, Mount Olive celebrates ONE Sunday Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Godly Play Themes for This Week

This Sunday, Godly Play 1 will join Jesus on the Road to Emmaus while Circle 2 will look ahead to the Mystery of Pentecost.

Students are also preparing to share their talents for the annual Mothers' Day recital on May 11.

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



Upcoming Adult Forums

April 27 & May 4 - One of our most popular guest speakers will again present at the adult forum for these 2 weeks. In the first session, Professor Earl Schwartz will speak on the prophet Amos, leading to a conversation about the narrative in chapter 7. Then, in the second session, he will link that confrontation between priest and prophet with Jesus' actions on the Temple Mount prior to his arrest. He has used this for some time in lectures as a professor at Hamline University, and he is looking forward to presenting this connection to the Mount Olive community.

Please plan to attend at 9:30 on both Sundays.

May 11 - Annual Mother's Day Recital, presented by the youth of Mount Olive.

May 18 - "Funding Forward," presented by Vicar Natalie Wussler. More information to follow.

"Chaconnes and Other Hits"

Early Music Minnesota Chamber Concert

Saturday, May 3, 3:00 pm - Mount Olive Lutheran Church

Early Music Minnesota's third chamber concert finds "grounds" for celebration, lament, and even folly with La Bergamasca, La Folia, and more patterns of dance and song so captivating they've lived on and been reborn for hundreds of years. Disclaimer: these celebrated oldies and historic earworms may inspire spontaneous toe-tapping and extemporaneous humming!

The concert is FREE for the Mount Olive community - and all are invited.

Fun fact to know and tell: Early Music Minnesota is home to the largest for-rent harpsichord collection in the Midwest, allowing for the use of well-maintained high-quality instruments throughout the community including regular use with the Lyra Baroque Orchestra, Bach Society of Minnesota, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

May Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Minnesota Council of Churches*

Minnesota Council of Churches seeks to “build strong communities that are made up of meaningful relationships and guided by our deepest values. They seek to partner organizations and individuals in living out faith in their communities. They do this through refugee services programs, social justice work, justice advocacy work, and fostering interfaith connections. In addition, through their Respectful Conversations program, they facilitate respectful conversations between people of varying backgrounds and train others to lead those conversations.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partners 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 the Minnesota Council of Churches, please visit their website at www.mnchurches.org.

Oscar-Winning Film on the West Bank in Occupied Palestine Now Streaming

The Oscar-winning documentary, *No Other Land*, is now streaming in the US for the very first time. Because the film provides important background for two of Mount Olive's global projects, **Bright Stars of Bethlehem** and **Augusta Victoria Hospital** in Jerusalem, members and friends of the congregation may wish to access it online at the link below. (Warning: The film depicts scenes of violence and captures rough language by those filmed.)

Link: <https://supportmasaferyatta.com/notherland>.

"This powerful film follows a Palestinian journalist and co-director Basel Adra and his hometown of Masafer Yatta, a rural community where Israel has been violently forcing Palestinian families out of their homes for decades. Basel began filming as a teenager – capturing Israel's violent attacks on his neighbors, his home, and his family. This isn't just a story about the past. It documents an ongoing struggle – for dignity, for land, and for survival.

Watch *No Other Land* and share it with your family and friends. All proceeds go directly to support the people of Masafer Yatta. Palestinian stories matter – and they need to be heard.

National Lutheran Choir Spring Concert

[Spring Concert: Healing for our Future](#)

Join the National Lutheran Choir for their spring concert, *Healing for our Future*, an honest yet hopeful exploration of the impact of gun violence on school communities. Presented alongside Cantus, St. Michael-Albertville High School Concert Choir, and Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir, this finale of our season seeks to unite communities in fostering healing, reducing harm, and building a safer future.

This concert will be held at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, this **Sunday, May 4, at 4pm**. Tickets at NLCA.com.

Congregational Life Updates

Thank You

Thanks to all who donated salads and bread and/or helped with serving and clean up for this past Sunday's Congregational meeting. A new tradition may have been born!

Family Camping Trip on Hiatus

For a variety of reasons, this year's Family Camping trip is cancelled. However, there are several electric and non-electric camp sites reserved at William O'Brien State Park near Stillwater for the weekend of July 25-27. If you would like one - or more - of those sites for your own family that weekend, please call or email Lora at conglife@mountolivechurch.org, or 612/850-5562. Cost for the weekend for an electric site is \$78 or \$58 for a non-electric site. The sites will be released back to the park on June 1.

Save The Date!

The third annual Mount Olive All-church picnic will be held on Sunday, July 13, again at Minnehaha Park Wabun Picnic Area. Burgers provided. Bring a dish to share.

A Partnership Trip to the Holy Land

At the congregational meeting Sunday, the Global Ministry Committee presented the possibility of a partnership trip to Bright Stars of Bethlehem and Augusta Victoria Hospital for this fall.

If you would like to learn more, please download, print, and complete [this interest form](#) and return it to the church office, or email global@mountolive.org.

Copies of the interest form are also available on the kiosk in the West Assembly Area at church.

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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*Minnesota Council of Churches***