

The Olive Branch

May 7, 2025

Accent on Worship *Pastor Joseph Crippen*

Tunics and clothes

As I was looking at the readings for next Sunday, something beautiful struck me and I knew what I wanted to write for this Accent. Then I looked at what I did three years ago and it was exactly what I wanted to say now. But it's still pulling on my heart, so forgive me if I share it again, but edited.

In the First Reading from Acts next Sunday, Luke tells the story of Simon Peter raising Tabitha (also known by the Greek version of her name, Dorcas) from the dead. That's supposedly the point of the story.

But this is the moment of beauty I see: "All the widows stood beside Peter, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas

had made while she was with them." "Here's the evidence of the kind of person she was," they seemed to say. "This was our beloved sister and what she did for us."

It's likely not going to be things we're aware of doing that people remember. Dorcas sounds like my grandmother, a terrific seamstress. She probably made things for people all the time and didn't think it was that big of a deal. But it was to them.

That's the blessing of living as Christ. Be kind. Be generous. Be loving. Don't worry about your legacy. Dorcas probably didn't. But when you are kind and generous and loving to those you are with you'll leave behind many blessings they will fondly recall long afterward. Even if they're not the things you thought were worth the most. The love of Christ you share with others is always what makes the difference. And they'll remember.



Sunday Readings

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter, year C

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter, year C

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

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Calendar

Wednesday, May 7

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

Thursday, May 8

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

Friday, May 9

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, May 10

- 9:00 am Gardening Day
10:00 am Book Discussion group

Sunday, May 11 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Mother's Day recital
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed coffee and conversation

Monday, May 12

- 7:00 pm Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, May 13

- Noon Bible Study

Pentecost Reading of Acts 2 in Many Languages

For a number of years, it has been our tradition at Mount Olive to hear a portion of the Pentecost reading from Acts 2:1-21 read simultaneously in various languages.

Some of you have either participated in this joint reading in the past or are knowledgeable enough in a foreign language that you might be willing to participate this year. Anyone who can read aloud in another language is invited to participate in this corporate reading at the morning liturgy on Sunday, June 8.

If you are interested in participating this year, please contact Andrew Stoebig (worship@mountolivechurch.org).

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](#).

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota Emergency Refugee Housing

Following a period of transition, LSS has realigned their remaining staff in Refugee Services to continue supporting recent arrivals. In March, the LSS Refugee Resettlement team identified 26 families in the Twin Cities metro area and 19 families in the St. Cloud area who needed immediate help to solve a housing crisis.



Your Global Ministry Committee approved a \$2000 donation from the Global Ministry undesignated offerings to help care for these new neighbors. They are almost at their goal of the \$110,000 needed to resolve this crisis. If you would like to

make a personal donation, Checks can be sent to: Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, 2485 Como Ave., Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55108. Please write "refugee housing needs" in the memo line.

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

Beginning Memorial Day weekend (May 25) through Labor Day weekend (Sept. 7), Mount Olive will celebrate ONE Sunday Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Attention Sunday Servants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for 2025 Quarter 3 (July-September) will be published in June. Please send any scheduling preferences or dates you will be unavailable to me by Friday, May 23.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have.

Thank you -

- Greg Murphy gregmurphy@gmail.com

Godly Play Themes for This Week

On Sunday we will all join upstairs for the Mothers' Day recital. Those children in choir know that they need to meet early. The rest of us will meet at 9:30 upstairs. Many thanks to all of our young people who will share their music, talents, and song.

This is a wonderful Mount Olive tradition.



Upcoming Adult Forums

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

May 18 - "Funding Forward," presented by Vicar Natalie Wussler.

What is God already doing? How do we take part in it? The landscape of the church is changing, so our understanding of stewardship is also changing. Join Vicar Natalie Wussler in a conversation about stewardship based on Grace Duddy Pomroy's new book *Funding Forward: A Pathway to More Sustainable Models for Ministry*.

A Partnership Trip to the Holy Land

At the congregational meeting on Sunday, April 27, 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.

Congregational Life Updates

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.

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 to live 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 supports 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 volunteer 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 – Note Updated link!

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.

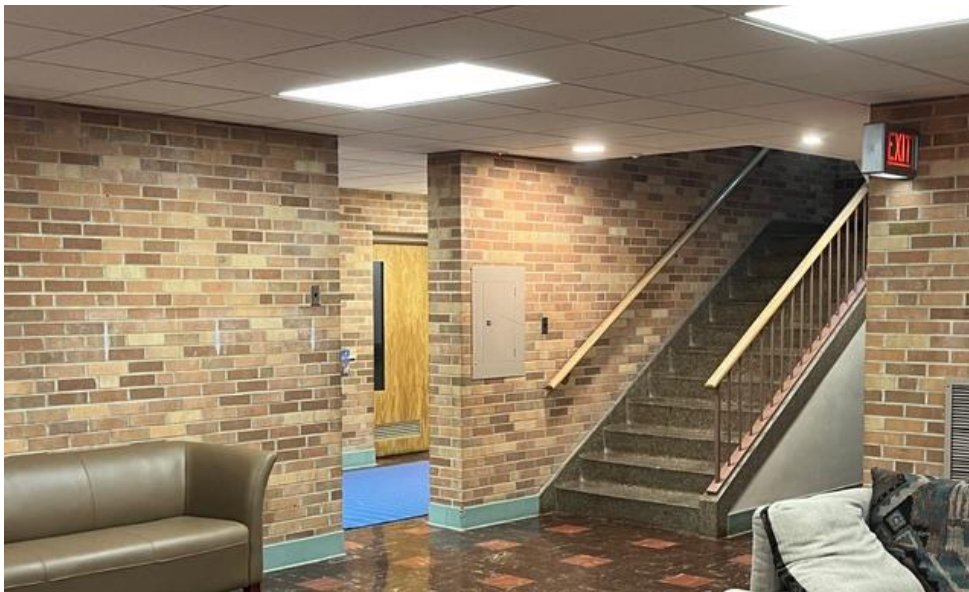
NOTE: Streaming access to "No Other Land" will expire this Thursday, May 8 – that's tomorrow!
If you want to see this film, ACT NOW!

The Olive Branch

Have You Noticed?

There are new energy efficient lights and new ceiling tiles in the Undercroft hallways. The lights were free (\$1700 value) as part of an energy conservation program through Minnesota Center for Energy and Environment and a Minneapolis Green Share application. It is expected that the new fixtures will save us close to \$700 per year in energy costs.

The work to install all of the fixtures and new ceiling panels was coordinated and supervised by **Mark Pipkorn** and his able crew, **grandchildren John and Lenore Regan, Walt Hinck, Brent Rivard and Jim Johnson**. Thanks to them for this wonderful improvement to our building.



URGENT: Share your ministry stories with Congress to help stop cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and clean energy programs

A Crucial Moment

Over the next roughly two weeks, Congress is considering budget proposals with drastic cuts and new barriers in programs that serve vulnerable neighbors and protect God's creation including: SNAP, [Medicaid](#), clean energy programs, and many other supports for neighbors at home and abroad. Lawmakers are putting vital programs at risk to pay for massive tax cuts. Congress is deciding on these budget proposals right now.

Make a Difference: Share Community Impact Stories

As constituents and faith leaders who witness the daily impacts of these programs in our communities, your voices matter to the lawmakers making these decisions.

[Click this Google Form link](#) to share quotes, stories, and images from your ministries and/or congregations. Help policymakers see how SNAP, Medicaid, and clean energy programs make a difference in the lives of your neighbors and communities.

[Share Your Impact Story Here](#)

Your Stories Will Be Delivered to Congress

ELCA Witness in Society staff in Washington, DC will collect all the faith leader testimonials we receive and share them with lawmakers' offices directly over the next week, ahead of anticipated committee votes. We will then follow your stories up by meeting with these offices to emphasize the importance of these issues to ELCA members. Your voice reminds lawmakers that budgets are moral

Passionate and Want to Go Deeper?

If you want to do as much as you can, consider these additional action steps:

Write to Your Local Newspaper: Consider submitting a Letter to the Editor (LTE) in your local paper or news outlet expressing concerns about these potential cuts. [This LTE Guide](#) provides templates and instructions to make it easy and effective.

Attend a Rally: For those far from D.C., search on the internet to see if a local group is hosting a rally you could attend.

Inform Yourself: Read the additional information below and do your own research on these issues. Understanding the specifics makes you a more effective advocate for your neighbors and for preservation of creation.

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URGENT: Share your ministry stories with Congress to help stop cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and clean energy programs

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Additional Information on the Federal Budget

Congressional committees are scheduled to begin markups—i.e. debating, amending, and rewriting proposed legislation ahead of Congressional votes—the week of May 5th, with a possible House floor vote as soon as the week of May 19th. While specific details remain limited, several proposals are being discussed including reductions to:

- **SNAP Hunger Assistance:** Many proposals being discussed would dramatically reduce current and/or future food assistance for many families including: requiring beneficiaries to submit paperwork multiple times per year, adding additional work requirements for older individuals, parents of young children, and/or the disabled and not tying nutrition funding increases to scientific guidance on healthy diets.
- **Medicaid Funding:** Proposals to increase state cost-sharing requirements, reduce expanded Medicaid, or potentially limit healthcare access on certain demographics. ([Read more here](#)).
- **Environmental Programs:** Possible elimination of clean energy incentives and reductions to conservation initiatives.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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*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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