

# The Olive Branch

May 14, 2025

## Accent on Worship

*Robert Farlee*

### *In Praise of Psalms*

What place do the psalms have in our worship? They form a whole book of the Bible, but they aren't read as a lesson. In fact, they are usually sung – and appropriately so, because that's what they were designed for. And Mount Olive worshippers sing them beautifully! But because, in the eucharist, they function as a response to the first reading, we may not always give them the attention they deserve. I've been noticing in this Eastertide, though, how joyful those sacred songs have been, how they lift my spirits even higher.

Take three recent ones, for example. On May 4, we sang Psalm 30, which begins, "I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up." (By the way, any time you see that word spelled with all capital letters, it stands for the sacred name of God, YHWH, which by ancient tradition Jews do not speak,

substituting Adonai in Hebrew; in English, we use LORD.) It continues, "You restored my life as I was going down to the grave.... You have turned my wailing into dancing.... Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing." You can feel the joy bursting forth, and we share in it with our own heart's song!

This past Sunday, the lectionary specified the most beloved of all the psalms, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want." Little needs to be said about this psalm, except to note how deeply it speaks of trust. I recently heard Prof. Frederick Niedner of Valparaiso University point out that in the original text of the last verse, God's goodness and mercy are not just following us, they are literally hounding us, refusing to let us get away.

And next Sunday, our psalm will be number 148, in which the entire cosmos, all things seen and unseen, are called to praise the name of the LORD. Note the specificity: shining stars, sea monsters, fruit trees ... and us! In the psalms, we join our voices with believers of all times and places, with all of creation. What a blessing!

- Robert Farlee



## Sunday Readings

**May 18, 2025**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter, year C*

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

**May 25, 2025**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter, year C*

**SUMMER WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE BEGINS**

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

John 14:23-29

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, May 14

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
- 5:30 pm Education Committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Y2 / Y3 Confirmation

### Thursday, May 15

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

### Friday, May 16

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Sunday, May 18 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
- 9:30 am Adults Forum/Godly Play/Youth Conversation
- 10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed coffee and conversation

### Monday, May 19

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

### Tuesday, May 20

- Noon Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting
- 6:00 pm Feminine Divine Study group

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## 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](mailto: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](#).

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## Book Discussion

We'll start the summer on June 14 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](mailto:gregmurphy@gmail.com)

## Godly Play Themes for This Week

Join us for our Victory Parade as we close our Godly Play year.  
All children will meet in the West Assembly Room at 9:30.  
Be on time to get in on the parade!!!



## Upcoming Adult Forums

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.mnchurches.org).

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## ***Olive Branch* Summer Publication**

During the summer months, *The Olive Branch* is published every *other* week. The next issue, May 21, will be the last weekly issue until after Labor Day. Information for that issue is due in to the church office by Monday, May 19.

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## **Bethlehem Lutheran Church Music Series presents ... A Hymn Festival with David Cherwien, Organist, and the Bethlehem Chorale *This Sunday, May 18, 2025 – 4:00 pm***

As a renowned church organist, conductor, and composer, David Cherwien, brings creativity to hymns of various traditions and styles. He has won national acclaim as a leader of congregational song with hymn festivals that transport us to an encounter with the sublime. Join the choir of voices to sing some of the church’s beloved hymnody.

A pre-concert conversation, moderated by Steve Staruch, will be held at 3:30 pm. All are invited, as space allows. This concert is free and open to the public.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN

## New Vestry Committees and New Vestry Members

At the April 27 Congregational meeting, a change in the bylaws regarding Vestry reorganization of Mount Olive's Constitution was approved. A slate of officers and directors was also approved.

This means that the following Officers and Vestry Directors and their new committees are established:

President: Cynthia Prosek  
Vice President: Matt McCuen  
Secretary: Jan Harbaugh  
Treasurer: Ted Thompson

Directors:  
Community Well-Being: Erica  
Johnsen-Buss  
Hospitality: Tricia Van Ee Molbert  
Justice Ministry: Candy Husemoller  
Shared Ministry: Lora Dundek

## Making Melody to the Lord: A Festival of Song

*Sunday, June 1, 4:00 PM*

*Christ Church Lutheran*

*3244 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

In the tradition of the Festschrift (“festival writing”) – a volume of writings by various authors presented as a tribute to an influential scholar and mentor, this Festgesang (“festival singing”), in the year of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, celebrates the many contributions to Christian liturgical and musical life of Christ Church Lutheran’s former Cantor, Robert Buckley Farlee (who, as you know, is currently serving as Interim Organist at Mount Olive).

Sing and listen as a festival choir, nationally renowned musicians, and assembly come together to lift up the joy of making music in community. Reception to follow. This event is free and open to the public.

## 2025 Graduates – Who Are They?

As we come to the completion of the school year, the Mount Olive community would like to take time to recognize the accomplishments of our graduates (high school, college, grad school, etc.) and celebrate the next steps of their journey.

Our Graduate Recognition will take place on Sunday, June 15, as they will be named in prayer at the morning Eucharist and greeted at the coffee hour after the Eucharist. If your Mount Olive graduate graduates this spring, please email the following information to Cha in the Mount Olive office ([welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org)): Graduate name, the school they graduated from, any special recognitions or honors, and what they are planning to do next, whether that be job, more education, or something else.

Please invite them to be here on June 15!

## 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](http://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.*

### **In This Issue:**

- **Accent on Worship – Interim Organist Robert Farlee**
- **Summer Worship Schedule begins May 25 – One Sunday Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.**
- **New Vestry Committees and New Vestry Members**
- **Partnership Trip to the Holy Land: Interested?**
- **LSS Emergency Refugee Housing – Funds Needed!**
- **Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month:  
*Minnesota Council of Churches***