

The Olive Branch

June 4, 2025

Accent on Worship

Vicar Natalie Wussler

Pentecost is here!

Pentecost is one of my favorite of the major festival days in the Christian calendar—of course I love Christmas and Easter, but Pentecost, to me, is the most empowering day in the church calendar. Because Pentecost is the day where we are given the power to go out and do the ministry Jesus commissioned to his disciples and to us on Ascension Day. The waiting in that room in Jerusalem is over, and we're ready to go out into the world to proclaim Jesus' ministry of love and healing to the world.

And that's...a daunting task. We're reminded of just how much healing this world needs every time we look at our phones or interact with the news, even for just one minute. We're reminded of all that needs to be done and all that thwarts the love and mercy we are called to be in this world.

But Pentecost is the day that we receive the Holy Spirit. One of my favorite verses comes from Romans 8:11, a few verses before our reading from Romans. It's comforted me when I look at the mountain of things ahead of me—doing these last two months of my vicarage here. Well, getting married in 10 days (by the time you're reading this), moving across the country, graduating from seminary, and continuing to be a presence of hope and peace in the world. Throughout other stressful times in my life, I've leaned on the wisdom of this verse to remind myself of who I am; and it says: "If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through God's Spirit that dwells in you."

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Sunday Readings

June 8, 2025

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34,35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-27

June 15, 2025

The Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

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

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

That's Pentecost. The Spirit that broke death and sin's power over us, the Spirit that opened the grave, is the one that lives within us and empowers us to go out into the world. We're not doing this alone—we've got the Spirit within ourselves, AND we have the Spirit in each other. God has equipped us with everything we need to be sent out into the world. That's who we are. That's who we will always be.

Thanks be to God.

- Vicar Natalie Wussler

Eighteenth Annual Bach Tage at Mount Olive: This Weekend!

Mount Olive's annual Bach Tage is a unique opportunity to acquire new skills for rehearsing and performing the music of J.S. Bach, to gain insights into music, theology, and liturgical praxis, and to share the joy of singing some of the greatest music of all time. Participants spend the weekend immersed in a Bach cantata, preparing and rehearsing a cantata from chorus to chorale, then performing Bach's glorious music during Evening Prayer on Sunday.

Bach Tage once again features conductor Kathy Saltzman Romey, this year leading orchestra and chorus in a study and performance of Bach's ebullient Pentecost cantata *Wer mich liebet, der wird mein Wort halten*, Vespers entrance music by Johann Pachelbel, and other works by Michael Praetorius and Johann Heinrich Schein.

New this year, The Mirandola Ensemble joins Bach Tage in residency for the weekend. This Minneapolis-based professional choral ensemble dedicated to promoting the highest standards of choral music and the aesthetics of the Renaissance will offer musical leadership at Saturday's Vigil of Pentecost and Sunday's Evening Prayer at 4:00 p.m.

All are welcome to both events!

Vigil of Pentecost
Saturday, June 7
4:00 pm

Bach Tage Vespers
Sunday, June 8
4:00 pm

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, June 4

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

Thursday, June 5

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

Friday, June 6

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, June 7

- All day Bach Täge
9:00 am Gardening Day
4:00 pm *Vigil of Pentecost*

Sunday, June 8 - Day of Pentecost

- 10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by reception for Andrew Stoebig, Interim Choir Director
4:00 pm *Bach Täge Vespers*

Monday, June 9

- 6:00 pm Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, June 10

- 9:00 am Diaper Depot staff meeting
Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, June 11

- 10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, June 12

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

Friday, June 13

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, June 14

- 10:00 am Book Discussion group

Sunday, June 15 - The Holy Trinity

- 10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by Graduate Recognition

Monday, June 16

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

Tuesday, June 17

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

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](#).

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): Graduate name, the school they are graduating 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!



By the grace of God,
the approval of the Saint Paul Area Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America, and the call of the people,

Lauren Joy Mildahl

will be ordained into the
Ministry of Word & Sacrament,
having been called as a pastor to
St. Mark Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, MN.

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
6:30pm
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
3930 Rahn Rd, Eagan, MN

The color of the day is red. Clergy and candidates are invited to vest and process. A dessert reception will follow.

Watch online at www.youtube.com/@mountcalvaryeagan

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

Lutheran Social Service

Lutheran Social Service is a broad-based social service organization that operates more than 20 different programs throughout the state of Minnesota. The services provided by LSS include housing, financial services, counseling, senior care programs, refugee resettlement, disaster recovery, and services for those with disabilities. LSS has been serving as the lead agency for the resettlement of the Afghan family Mount Olive has been sponsoring with the coordination of our Global Ministry Committee.

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 Lutheran Social Service, please visit their website at www.lssmn.org.

Paper Bags Needed!

The Diaper Depot is in dire need of paper bags! If you have some that you can share with Mount Olive Neighborhood Ministries, please bring them to church the next time you come. You can leave them in the coat room.

Save The Date – Annual All-Church picnic

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.

Our Next Vicar

Luther Seminary has assigned Erik Nelson to be our next vicar, for the year 2025-2026. Vicar Wussler's last Sunday is August 3, and Vicar Nelson will begin with us on August 12.

Erik is a graduate of University of Northwestern-St. Paul, and is a student at Luther Seminary.

***Olive Branch* Summer Publication**

During the summer months, *The Olive Branch* is published every *other* week. Information for the next issue is due in to the church office **by Monday, June 16**, for publication on Wednesday, June 18.

A Note of Thanks

A big thank you to all of you who attended my birthday celebration on May 4. Your well-wishes mean so much to me. My experience at Mount Olive is one filled with love, acceptance, encouragement and authentic celebration of God's grace and love of all people. Thank you for being that presence in my life and the lives of all who enter our doors. A special thank you to those who gave to Neighborhood Ministry. Know that your gifts bless the lives of so many people you're unlikely to know or meet, but who are intensely grateful for what we offer them.

- Dave Engen

Attention Children's and Youth Choirs and Families!

Children and Youth Choir members invite their family members (parents, siblings, grandparents, and loved ones) to join them in a Family Choir for Pentecost. Join the singers for 5:30pm dinner in the Undercroft on Wednesday, June 4, followed by rehearsal for all from 6:00-6:45pm, also in the Undercroft. We will prepare *Come, Holy Spirit* as a Gospel Processional and *Wind Song* as an anthem. Plan to meet in the choir room to warm-up and rehearse on Sunday, June 8, at 9:15 am and lead worship together at the 10:00am Pentecost liturgy. Surely, the Holy Spirit is at work in us!

Our Going Out and Our Coming In

Staff Vacation Schedules

Pastor Crippen will be on vacation June 19-25, June 30-July 7; and August 28-September 2

Jim Bargmann will be on vacation June 2-8; June 16-20; and August 6-11

Cha Posz will be on vacation June 6-15

Vicar Natalie Wussler will be out of the office June 11-16.

Vestry Meeting Summary 4/14/25

New Business

- Approved Cantor location expenses from Foundation funds
- Line of Credit –
 - approved for one year by the vestry, to help keep restricted accounts separate
 - there will be monthly reports
- Cantor requests
 - Additional work approval – He will continue to teach a senior student he’s been working with
 - Communication plan –
 - Immediately in the Olive Branch about accepting the new cantor & when he begins – August 4
 - Website & social media
 - Work on a plan to share this information with the larger community – press release
- Nominees for Finance Committee to work with Vestry Treasurer - accepted
 - Paul Sunquist
 - Kat Campbell
 - Adam Krueger
 - Rachel Organist
- Nominating Committee updates – Slate of candidates
 - Cynthia Prosek – President
 - Matt McCuen – Vice President
 - Ted Thompson – Treasurer
 - Secretary – open
- Letter from the Foundation – gift spent on Peterson window
- Congregational Meeting
 - Plan for the set up – goes through Lora Dundek
 - Plan to live stream meeting
 - Agenda
 - Vote of Vestry reorganization
 - Pastor Crippen on how we work together (re:organization of Vestry)
 - Vote on Ballot - Vestry candidates and slate of officers
 - Foundation report
 - Treasurer recap 2024 and mortgage
 - Neighborhood Ministry – a day a life of who walks in
 - Global Ministry - partnership trip in 2025
 - Cantor Update

Staff Reports

- Pastor - preparing resolutions for Synod
- Vicar – last day will be August 3rd
- Neighbor Ministry – very busy, working with many people who are or may be impacted by current federal changes. People particularly grateful for bus passes and for new laws for providing MN drivers licenses for immigrants.

Committee Reports

- Finance – People continue to give to the Debt Reduction fund (Boldly Into the Future) – very helpful
- Global Ministry –

- Common Hope (supporting students and families in Guatemala) – we’re a faith partner with them
 - Partnership trip – they need our tourism, fall of 2025
 - Property
 - May 3 clean up 9 – 11
 - Then every other Saturday
 - Worship
 - Holy Week
 - Registration for Bach Tage is open
 - Youth and Family
 - Talk about service opportunities, especially food issues
-

Vestry Meeting Summary for May 12, 2025

New Business

- Reflections on Synod Assembly
 - Greg and Erica who represented Mount Olive appreciated the overall theme of the Assembly, observing that the resolutions reflected a lot of good debate and that immigration was a significant topic
 - Pastor Crippen, who serves as Chari of the synod’s Reference and counsel Committee, discussed some of the topics that were in consideration at the Assembly.
- New Committee Transitions and Budgets
 - Vestry agreed that the directors of the new committees, from the restructuring, should work with Adam Krueger about their respective budgets and bring the results of those discussions to the Semi-Annual congregations meeting in October, 2025.
- Foundation Request – Worship Committee
 - Cantorei and the Children’s Choir need new albs. The ones for the Cantorei are 50 years old
 - Vestry supports purchasing new albs and discussed several possible sources of paying for the cost, which is estimated at between \$12,000 – \$15,000.
- Upcoming Dates
 - Vestry hosting Coffee Hour on June 8, the last Sunday for Interim Cantorei Director Andrew Stoebig
 - Vestry hosting Coffee Hour on July 27, the last Sunday for Interim Organist Bob Farlee
 - Installation of New Vestry members on June 29
 - Onboarding of new Vestry members at June 9 Vestry meeting
- Treasurer’s Report
 - Request to have \$1,300 allocated from the business administration budget of the general fund for the Line of Credit Document Prep fee
 - Request that Mount Olive open a new checking account with Trustone Financial Credit Union for cash deposits, since Thrivent Financial Credit Union is becoming a bank
 - The topic of reserves for the dedicated accounts will be brought to the Finance Committee and then they’ll come up with a recommendation to bring to the Vestry

Staff Reports

- Pastor Crippen
 - Al Bipes has agreed to serve as Director of Neighborhood Ministry. His term will last through June 2026
 - Confirmation classes are nearing the end and thanked Vicar Wussler for teaching one of the classes this year
 - Discussed potential plans for the installation of Cantor Schwandt, his first Sunday will be August 10
 - Erik Nelson will be the next vicar at Mount Olive, beginning August 12
 - Vicar Natalie Wussler’s last Sunday will be August 3
 - Pastor will likely take some vacation time in July, before Cantor Schwandt arrives

- Vicar Wussler
 - Speaking at Adult Forum Sunday, May 18
 - Preaching on Ascension Day, May 29
 - She's enjoyed teaching the confirmation students

Committee Reports

- Written committee reports were submitted

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Summer Sunday Eucharist: 10 am

Contact Us:

Phone: 612/827-5919

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor - *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Organist - *Robert Farlee*

Interim Choir Director - *Andrew Stoebig*

Vicar - *Natalie Wussler*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry - *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant - *Cha Posz*

Sexton - *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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- **Vigil of Pentecost: Saturday, June 7, 4:00 pm**
- **Bach Tage Vespers: Sunday, June 8, 4:00 pm**
- **Paper Bags Needed!**
- **Former Vicar Lauren Mildahl's Ordination Invitation**
- **Graduate Recognition : June 15**