



The Olive Branch

July 2, 2025

Sunday Readings

July 6, 2025

*Fourth Sunday after
Pentecost, Lect. 14 C*

Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 66:1-9

Galatians 6:1-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13, 2025

*Fifth Sunday after
Pentecost, Lect. 15 C*

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm 25:1-10

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

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

Accent on Worship

Robert Farlee, Interim Organist

Two verses from the second reading for this coming Sunday, July 6, stand out for me. The first is Galatians 6:3, "For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves." When I get indignant with the words and actions of those in Washington who are treating so many humans as dirt while puffing themselves up with imagined authority, I feel like quoting this verse to them, accompanying it with some commentary like, "You are nothing, not even worthy to kiss the feet of [insert whoever they are maligning at the moment]." That would feel really good and it would be true. And it is also true, as we hear a few verses later, that God is not mocked, and we reap whatever we sow. That applies to unjust leaders ... and also to us. The law of God doesn't play favorites but reveals the sins of everyone. We could be quite justified in accusing others, but we also stand accused of our own sins. Without getting too deeply into what has been called "worm theology" (as in, "for such a worm as I"), none of us measure up to what God demands; by the standards of God's law, I am as deeply nothing as those I accuse.

So, while we should indeed stand up for what is right and oppose those who tread on others' rights and reputations, perhaps we should lean more heavily into the preceding verse, Galatians 3:2: "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." *There is the gospel – there is life.* How do we measure up to what the law demands? Not by spitting at others, even those whose actions seem to deserve such contempt, but by loving our fellow humans who are burdened, by taking some of the load off of them and putting it on our own shoulders. We can recognize many who are burdened, and we help them through prayer and tangible support. But here's something I too often forget: those I see as most despicable are also weighed down by burdens. God's law applies to everyone, but so does God's gospel, God's good news. How might we recognize and bear even *their* burdens? And, might such an approach help us all?
Hmmm.

Coming and Going, All Celebrating – It's a Full Month!

Mount Olive has been and will be blessed by faithful servants among us and this summer we're celebrating with a number of them. Some are completing their time among us as staff and others are coming to begin their service. Mark your calendars, because starting July 20 there will be a lot of celebrations and thanksgivings!

- ◇ **July 20** – thanksgiving for *Robert Buckley Farlee's* ministry as interim organist this past year. We'll formally give thanks in our worship service and there will be a coffee hour/reception for him after worship.
- ◇ **August 3** – thanksgiving and farewell to *Vicar Natalie Summerville*. Natalie is completing her year with us as vicar, and this will be her last Sunday. We will wish her farewell and Godspeed during the liturgy and the Vicar Committee will host a reception for her after worship.
- ◇ **August 10** – welcome and installation of our new Cantor, *Daniel E. Schwandt*. Cantor Schwandt will begin his ministry as our fourth cantor on this Sunday and will be installed at the start of the liturgy, and then lead us in our entrance hymn and begin his worship leadership among us. **Prelude:** there will be a festive prelude of about 20 minutes before the liturgy, led by members of Mount Olive and other familiar friends, in honor of Cantor Schwandt and giving thanks for his ministry to come. There will also be a reception for our new cantor after worship.
- ◇ **August 17** – welcome and blessing of our new Vicar, *Erik Nelson*. Vicar Nelson will actually start during the preceding week, but we'll welcome him and commission his Vicar Committee at the liturgy, and yes, there will be a reception to welcome him after the worship.

This is one of the things we do well as a community of faith here, but it's a lot, so please make every effort to come for each of these to surround these faithful people with love and support and thanks.

July Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month

Every Meal

Every Meal seeks to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships. Their primary focus is providing food when children are not in school and lacking the school supplied meals many depend upon. Through their Weekend Meal Program, children in Pre-K through 8th grade experiencing food insecurity receive weekend food bags directly and discreetly in their backpacks at approximately 375 schools across Minnesota. A team of volunteers from Mount Olive, coordinated by Jerry Duncan, deliver meals every other week to students at Sullivan STEAM, a magnet school of the Minneapolis Public School District. We are currently exploring a deeper relationship with Every Meal that may result in more opportunities for Mount Olive volunteers to engage with this great organization.

For more information about Every Meal, please visit their website at www.everymeal.org.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, July 2

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, July 3

9:30 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm MIRAC meeting

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, July 4 - Independence Day holiday, offices closed

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, July 5

9:00 am Gardening Day

Sunday, July 6 - Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, July 7

7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting

7:00 pm Vicar Committee meeting

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

Tuesday, July 8

Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, July 9

10:00 am Staff meeting

Thursday, July 10

9:30 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, July 11

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, July 12

10:00 am Book Discussion group

10:00 am Music & Fine Arts Committee meeting

Sunday, July 13 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed by All Church Picnic at Minnehaha Park (Wabun Picnic Area)

Monday, July 14

7:00 pm Vestry meeting

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

Tuesday, July 15

Noon Bible Study

6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting

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 July 12, we will gather to discuss *Solito* by Javier Zamora. This is a memoir about a young poet's migration from El Salvador to the United States. And then you might want to get started on our hefty book for August 9, *The Covenant of Water*, by Abraham Verghese.

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](#).

Can You Help Our Afghan Friends?

From Adam Krueger, the “bureaucracy” guy on our Afghan family team: “Well, the SNAP program did it again, and I am beyond frustrated. [Our Afghan friends] got a letter this week that the SNAP office did not make updates submitted to them in a timely manner, and the family owes them \$2,385 in overpayment by 30 days from the date of the letter, 6/21/25. Apparently with [her] income (note: [She] is now employed as a phlebotomist at [a local] hospital), they no longer qualify for SNAP benefits, so they need to repay the benefits received since January. I don’t have words for how frustrated I am... If they pay within 30 days they can deduct 25% of the overpayment.”

This is, of course, not something that was in the family's budget and is NOT due to their mistake, but is due to SNAP's error. Can you help? The Afghan fund set up from your previous donations does not have enough to cover this bill, but the Global Ministry Committee does not feel that the family should have to pay for our government's error. We will be accepting donations until July 13 when we will decide how much help we can offer. You may mark your donations for “Afghan Fund” or donate online at the Mount Olive site/Global Ministry/designating “Afghan Fund” in the dropdown ministry list.

Congregational Life Updates

All-Church Picnic

On **Sunday, July 13**, plan to join the congregation right after worship for the third annual Mount Olive all-church picnic. Again this year we'll be at the Wabun Picnic area near Minnehaha Park, with convenient parking in the Veteran's Home lot. Burgers (beef and veggie) and beverages will be provided, as well as plates and utensils. There's a great children's play area nearby. Plan to join in!

P.S.: If your “dish to share” needs chilling, feel free to put it in the upstairs or downstairs refrigerators at Mount Olive while you attend worship.

Needed: Burger grillers! If you can take a shift grilling burgers, email Lora at shared@mountolivechurch.org.

Movie Night

The next movie night is on **Friday, July 18 at 7 p.m.** More info to come.

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, July 14**, for publication on Wednesday, July 16.

Diaper Depot

For the past couple of months, our display case (vitrine, by its official name!) has featured a display about the Diaper Depot. Our leadership team wanted to take this opportunity to highlight that specific ministry in this space as well.

The Diaper Depot began in 2005 when Pastor William Heisley decided to use the occasion of his 60th birthday to collect donations to start a new ministry to young families. At its inception, the Diaper Depot only served Minneapolis residents, offering diapers at approximately half price, operating much like a small store in a converted classroom on the lower level of the Mount Olive building.

In 2019, the decision was made to broaden the service area. This change reflected a philosophical shift in thinking - those in the Mount Olive community come from all over the metro area and so wanted to be able to serve those throughout the metro area. In addition, new ordering and inventory-tracking methods were developed, based on free point-of-sale software that had been recently introduced to the program. At that time, Diaper Depot was operated by one staff person and three volunteers.

During the pandemic shutdown, Diaper Depot started distributing free diapers via order slips on the sidewalk in front of the building, hoping to keep volunteers and program participants safe from what was at the time a very mysterious virus. That method was soon deemed unsustainable and was proving to be unsafe for all involved. It was at that time that a delivery model was developed.

A special phone number was set up for families to request diapers via text message. Families would request diapers on Mondays (one of the previous days Diaper Depot was open for in-person service), orders packed on Wednesday morning, then delivered Wednesday afternoon.

Initially, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann delivered all the diapers - in an attempt work out the logistics of the new program before involving volunteers.

More and more volunteers were added to the program and responsibilities were reallocated, leading to our current staff of one communication specialist, two order packers, five regular delivery drivers, and one substitute driver for a total of nine people regularly serving in this program. These nine people also meet regularly and act as a "steering committee" of sorts for the program, discussing issues, sharing wisdom, and making significant decisions.

Shortly after, the demand for the program increased significantly and to honor the resources of Mount Olive, we needed to implement a waitlist, which increased to its highest level in late 2024 with nearly 170 families.

In 2024, we began a new relationship with the Diaper Bank of Minnesota. Because of a large, one-time grant, they were able to gift Mount Olive with over six months' worth of diapers in August of 2024. Currently, our relationship with Diaper Bank allows us to purchase diapers at a significantly discounted rate through their suppliers. We are hoping to become a full partner with Diaper Bank in the near future, which would enable us to receive free diapers on an ongoing basis. Our ability to expand our relationship with Diaper Bank in this way is depended on their capacity and funding.

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Diaper Depot, *continued from page 5*

We currently serve 115 families with 167 children. Because of natural attrition (babies no longer needing diapers, family finances improving, families moving, or a number of other reasons) along with our Diaper Bank partnership, we have been able to reduce our waitlist to only 21 families.

Considering the big picture, the Diaper Depot works to support equitable economic relationships in our community by gifting families with diapers, easing the financial burden of caring for young children and making those financial resources available for other financial needs. We have heard from families that, when faced with particularly difficult months financially, our program has helped them buy groceries, pay rent, and purchase clothing for their children.

Our program is without limitation, open to all. The only requirement to participate in our diaper program is an address within 10 miles of our south Minneapolis location. That's it. We currently serve families of many ethnic and religious backgrounds, including those in the indigenous, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and immigrant communities, with recent immigrants from various African and South and Central American countries making up the majority of our program participants.

To close, a quote from one of our participants, upon finding out they would be able to begin receiving diapers after having been on the waitlist: *"Yaaay, thank you so much! We really needed this so bad! I struggle getting diapers for them when my only income is MFIP and it's \$862/mo. and \$800 is rent and I still somehow have to pay gas, electric, internet, etc. so we really needed the help with diapers."*

Mount Olive has set aside money in its budget for Diaper Depot, but the need is great, so additional donations are always helpful in helping us meet more needs. If you are able to give above and beyond your contributions to the general fund, please designate any contributions to Diaper Depot, either by using the appropriate special giving envelope, writing "Diaper Depot" on the memo line of check, or designating your electronic contribution to Neighborhood Ministry, then selecting Diaper Depot on our online giving portal.

School Supplies Drive

The [National Pan- Hellenic Council of Minneapolis](#) (Irene Campbell is a member of this organization) is holding a school supplies drive on August 16, from 9am-Noon. We can make a big difference in our community and in the lives of many students by donating school supplies.

Donations can be dropped off at church between July 6 and August 10. A box will be available in the West Assembly Area to receive your school supplies donations.

The Neighborhood Ministry Committee and local students are grateful for your support. Please call Irene Campbell with any questions you may have (612-230-3927).

Funeral Help Requested on July 23

Kitchen help with food preparation, serving, and clean-up is needed on Wednesday, July 23 for Liz Beissel's funeral. If you're available to help anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., let Lora know at shared@mountolivechurch.org, or call her at 612/850-5562.



**Greek
Unity**
WEEKEND

NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL
MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL CHAPTER

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Let's show up and show out for our community and help our students be prepared on the first day of school! Friendly competition between the D9 family. Deltas and Omegas won last year, will bragging rights go to another org?

16 AUGUST
9 AM - NOON

NELLIE STONE ELEMENTARY
807 N 27th Ave, Minneapolis, MN
55411

ST. PAUL CITY SCHOOL
215 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN
55103

FOR MORE INFORMATION
REACH OUT TO YOUR NPHC REP
ALL ARE WELCOME

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Summer Sunday Eucharist: 10 am

Contact Us:

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Staff

Pastor - *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Organist - *Robert Farlee*

Vicar - *Natalie Summerville*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry -
Jim Bargmann

Administrative Assistant - *Cha Posz*

Sexton - *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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