



# The Olive Branch

July 30, 2025

## Sunday Readings

**August 3, 2025**

*Eighth Sunday after  
Pentecost, Lect. 18 C*

Eccl. 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

**August 10, 2025**

*Ninth Sunday after  
Pentecost, Lect. 19 C*

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

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

## Accent on Worship

*Vicar Natalie Summerville*

*"Seeing that I must leave it to my successor."*

Between all the Teacher's claims about what is vanity (or "meaningless" as many of us are used to hearing), we see that the Teacher is vexed by questions of their legacy. They're lamenting that they had to work and toil. That they have to let go of their legacy and hand over all they've worked for to the next generation. And on top of all that, they're worried all they ever did—and all humans ever do—is vanity.

Ecclesiastes...light summer reading, am I right?

When I think about the word "legacy," a few things come to mind. Most often, I think about Lin Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton*. During that famous duel between Burr and Hamilton, as the bullet is careening toward him, Hamilton has this revelation: "Legacy! What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see." This line captures the Teacher's (and our own) worries about legacies so well. It's unnerving to wonder what will be said of us when we're no longer in rooms to speak for ourselves, what we will leave behind after this life is over, and what will the next generation do with it.

How do we make sure we leave something good behind? How do we make sure it lasts?

Jesus seems to know the answer, as he so often does.

For Jesus, our legacy matters only as much as we've cared for people; poured out ourselves in love and service of others. When God speaks to the rich fool, God asks this one question: "And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"

*continued on page 2*

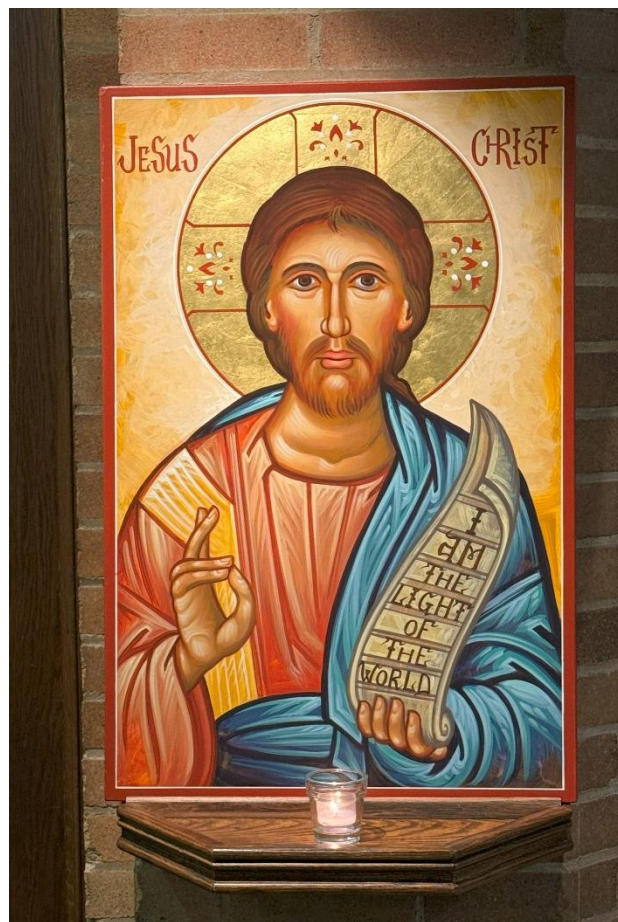
## Blessing of a new icon

On Sunday an icon of Christ the Light of the World was blessed for our worship. This is now the fifth large icon given to Mount Olive in memory of loved ones. Christ the Light of the World was written by Orthodox iconographer Nicholas Papas and given to the glory of God in memory of Nancy and Gary Crippen, Pr. Crippen's parents, by Pr. Joseph and Mary Crippen, in thanksgiving for the grace and light they were in the world and in the lives of so many.

The other icons are of four of the six major feasts of the Church. The Ascension icon, written by local iconographer Nicholas Markell, was given to the glory of God and in memory of Dorothy Heisley, Pr. Heisley's mother, by Pr. William Heisley and is a permanent part of the columbarium. It was blessed on the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, May 17, 2007. The icon of the Incarnation, written by Nicholas Markell, was given by Adam Krueger and Thomas Fenner to the glory of God, in memory of Harriett Krueger, Adam's mother, and in thanksgiving for the love and acceptance of their Mount Olive family. It was blessed Christmas Eve, 2013. The

icon of the Resurrection (the Harrowing of Hades), written by Nicholas Papas, was given by several generations of the Bipes family to the glory of God and in memory of Dorothy and Gordon Bipes, parents of Darrell, John, David, Alvin, Janet, and Joann, and was blessed on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 3, 2016. The icon of Pentecost (a Coptic icon called "Descent of the Holy Spirit"), written by Nicholas Markell, was given to the glory of God and in memory of Alfred E. Krueger, Adam's father, by Alfred's children, grandchildren, and their families in thanksgiving for his life and faithful Christian witness. It was blessed on the Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 18, 2017. In addition to these, we have a replica of the large cross with an icon of Christ before which St. Francis of Assisi was praying when he received Christ's commission to rebuild the Church. The original hangs in the Basilica of St. Clare in Assisi, Italy. Our replica was donated many years ago by an unknown donor.

Each of the five movable icons (all but the Ascension) has assigned seasons of the year where it is on the shelf near the lectern and helps focus our worship and devotion on those days. To God be the glory for these gifts.



# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, July 30

10:00 am Staff meeting

### Thursday, July 31

9:30 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, August 1

7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, August 2

9:00 am Gardening Day

### Sunday, August 3 - Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed by Farewell reception for Vicar Natalie Summerville

### Monday, August 4

7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting

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

### Tuesday, August 5

Noon Bible Study

### Wednesday, August 6

10:00 am Staff meeting

### Thursday, August 7

9:30 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm MIRAC meeting

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, August 8

7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, August 9

9:00 am Gardening Day

10:00 am Book Discussion Group

### Sunday, August 10 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, followed welcome reception for Cantor Daniel Schwandt & Emily Bird

### Monday, August 11

7:00 pm Vestry meeting

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

### Tuesday, August 12

Noon Bible Study

## ***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, August 11**, for publication on Wednesday, August 13.

## **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 August 9, we will discuss, *The Covenant of Water*, by Abraham Verghese.

For September 13, the group will consider another by an author they have appreciated before, James McBride. The book is *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, and is set in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

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](#).

## **Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1***

At the end of our lives, or even at the end of our time in a certain place, the only legacy that matters, says Jesus, is how much we've loved and served our neighbors, the lives we've touched and the ways we've inspired others to love and serve as well. That's all that matters in the end. And we can place our worries in the hands of the one we've been hidden with, trusting that as our legacy will be connected to the greatest legacy of love the world has ever known, that when we die or leave, the love and care we've poured out wherever we are goes beyond anything we could do with our own temporary lives.

That's the only legacy we'll ever need.

- *Vicar Natalie Summerville*

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## **A Note of Thanks**

On behalf of our Afghan friends, the mentor team working most closely with them, and your Global Ministry Committee, we wish to convey heartfelt thanks to members and friends of Mount Olive for the generous outpouring of emotional support and emergency funds in response to the large bill they recently received from Hennepin County – the result of a county administrative error. The family works very hard to be responsible members of the community and without your generosity, this would have been a significant financial setback for them; not something they need when already dealing with the undue stress around immigration these days.

So, from all of us, a HUGE thank you! Thank you for responding to this need so quickly (allowing a 25% reduction in the repayment amount). Thank you for creating a bit of a cash reserve against future needs that may arise. Thank you for once again taking the admonition of scripture to "welcome the stranger with love and kindness" and turning it into action as you did when they first arrived in our midst. They feel so blessed to be part of our community and look forward to showing similar love and kindness to others as they are able.

With gratitude,

*Connie, Judy, Lisa, Adam, and our Afghan friends*

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## **Hurry. Don't Hurry. Library Displays Are Closing and Opening**

This Sunday, August 3, is your last chance to see the display "Our Vicars--Where Are They Now?" We asked former vicars to tell us where they are and what they're doing. We also asked them to tell one thing they'll always remember from their time with us. Many reported more than "one thing," and some of those memories are funny, though some likely weren't at the time. A new display – "Celebrating the Hymn Writers Among Us!" -- opens August 10 and closes January 25, 2026.

- *Library Committee*

## 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 there will be a lot of celebrations and thanksgivings!

- ◇ **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 Dan and his wife, Emily Bird, 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.

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## August Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Simpson Housing*

Simpson Housing is a multifaceted organization, providing an emergency shelter, single adult supportive housing, and family supportive housing across the Twin Cities metro area. They provide developmental and educational services for children of families in their family shelter program and “work across the metro area partnering with landlords and developers to find sustainable housing for families and individuals.” In addition, Simpson operates the Adult Shelter Connect program for Hennepin County, providing a single point of contact for those seeking shelter throughout the county.

In 2020, Simpson began the process of raising funds to rebuild their shelter and office building to become the Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments. “Plans for the [new] five-story facility include two floors of permanent supportive housing, two floors of emergency shelter, a commercial kitchen, a 24-hour front desk, and offices and clinic space...”. They broke ground on this new facility earlier this year. For more information about Simpson Housing, please visit their website at [www.simpsonhousing.org](http://www.simpsonhousing.org).

# The Olive Branch



## Thank you, Mount Olive!

It was such a joy to see so many of you at my Ordination last month! I only wish I had had more time to catch up. Thank you so much for your love and support during my year as vicar. I cherish you all as siblings in Christ and as some of my favorite people. Hoping we'll see each other again soon!

Blessings,  
*Pastor (wow!) Lauren*

# The Olive Branch

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](http://www.mountolivechurch.org)

**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.*

## **Wear Your Nametags!**

As we will have new staff among us in the coming weeks, it would be most helpful if we could wear our nametags for the first few weeks they are here, so that they can learn names and faces.

If you have lost your nametag or need a new one, please contact the church office and we will get a replacement for you.

**The Feast of  
St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord**

**Friday, August 15**

**Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm**

*All are welcome.*