



# The Olive Branch

April 22, 2026

## Sunday Readings

**April 26, 2026**  
*Fourth Sunday of  
 Easter, year A*  
 Acts 2:42-47  
 Psalm 23  
 1 Peter 2:19-25  
 John 10:1-10

**May 3, 2026**  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter,  
 year A*  
 Acts 7:55-60  
 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
 1 Peter 2:2-10  
 John 14:1-14

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

## Accent on Worship

*Cantor Daniel Schwandt*

### *The Good Gate*

In this Sunday's gospel reading, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, describes himself as the "gate for the sheep... whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture." This metaphor illustrates that a gate is not merely a barrier that keeps danger out and security within; rather, it serves as an entryway that enables people to move freely and safely between spaces. This freedom is an essential character of our life in Christ.

A friend who serves as a pastor in St. Paul observes that one of the defining characteristics of Lutheran theological identity is not simply our understanding of grace, but rather, freedom. God's grace frees us in Christ. The "Good Gate" grants us the freedom to come and go, to engage with the world in all its complexity, messiness, and beauty, and to actively participate in its redemption. This message is truly good news from the Good Shepherd.

During the Easter season, the "gate" in our worship space – the baptismal font – is moved to the forefront, along with the paschal candle, which symbolizes the risen Christ. This visual arrangement serves as a reminder of the central role that baptism plays in our shared identity and the entrance to our life together in Eucharistic fellowship.

We begin our liturgy with a thanksgiving for baptism, and we embody it through the joyful encounter with sprinkled water.

*continued on page 2*

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

This Sunday, we will welcome new members into the Body of Christ through baptism at this same place in the liturgy. The entrance rite becomes a liturgy of beginning for all who are joined to the Body of Christ. Through this sacrament, all are invited to freely come and hear the word of God, join in prayer for the life of the world, share in the body and blood of Christ who gave his life for us, and be sent forth in peace to serve others.

- Cantor Daniel Schwandt

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## Upcoming Adult Forums

**April 26/May 3** – Pastor Crippen will lead a 2-part presentation on discipleship.

**May 10** – Spring Recital, presented by the young people of Mount Olive.

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## Promise Cards and Letters

Thanks to those of you who have submitted Promise Cards and Letters. It's been a joy to read about your willingness to support Mount Olive's ministries through sharing financial resources and time and skills. If you've filled out the card and/or the back of the letter and don't know what to do with it, here are two suggestions. You can put it into the collection plate on Sunday morning (in a plain envelope if you wish), or mail it or drop it in the office. What you choose to share financially will not be distributed, but if you're willing to share your time and talents, the appropriate Vestry member will be in contact with you.

Thanks!

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## Taste of Palestine Donations

On February 8, we learned more about Mount Olive's Global Ministry partners, Bright Stars of Bethlehem and Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. Our Mount Olive travelers who recently went on a partnership trip presented the adult forum. After the liturgy, we gathered for a meal of typical food from Palestine, using recipes from Dar al-Kalima University's culinary education program. Thanks to all who planned, presented, cooked, and helped in the kitchen.

The Mount Olive Global Ministry committee was able to make donations to these partners from the free will offering, the *Taste of* budget line item, and the proceeds from the Gifts that Give sale. Bright Stars of Bethlehem and Augusta Victoria Hospital will each receive \$1500. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

## Calendar

### Wednesday, April 22

- 9:00 am Staff meeting  
5:30 pm Children's Choir year-end party  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal  
7:00 pm Y3 Confirmation

### Thursday, April 23

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*  
7:00 pm Shared Ministry Committee meeting  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, April 24

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

### Sunday, April 26 - Fourth Sunday of Easter, year A

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation  
9:30 am Godly Play/Youth Discussion/Adult Forum  
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist, with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism*, followed by coffee and conversation  
3:00 pm MFA: Singing the Art of Aaron Silver, part 2

### Monday, April 27

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

### Tuesday, April 28

- Noon Bible Study  
6:00 pm Indigenous Justice meeting  
7:00 pm Choir group

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## Dining Out for Life

Please plan to dine out for the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual "Dining Out For Life" event. Go out for a meal at one of the participating restaurants and a portion (or in some cases 100%) of profits go to the Aliveness Project to battle AIDS.

Visit to [www.diningoutforlifemn.org](http://www.diningoutforlifemn.org) for a list of participating restaurants.

## 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](#).

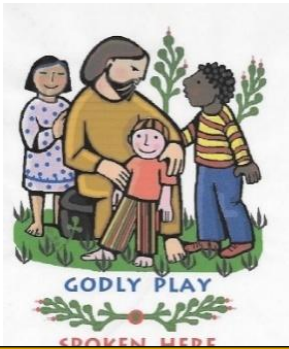
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## Book Discussion

For our May 9th gathering we are reading *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith on the 25th anniversary of her first and "stunning" novel set in England. For our June reading we will move back to the United States for *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf, a story of four generations set in Colorado.

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](#).

# The Olive Branch



## Godly Play This Week

This Sunday, Godly Play 1 will revisit the Road to Emmaus that was the Gospel this past Sunday, while Godly Play 2 will wonder about Saul, the apostle who changed his name.

All children ages 3-Grade 1 are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 2-5 are welcome to Circle Two.

## April Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Lake Street Council*

The Lake Street Council is a non-profit organization built to support the diverse community of residents and businesses that call Lake Street home. They do this through a variety of programs that support entrepreneurs starting new businesses, grant programs to help existing businesses thrive, work to beautify the streetscape, and engage local businesses in policy work that affects the corridor. The Lake Street Council has been instrumental in helping local businesses, many of them family and BIPOC owned, recover from the civil unrest of 2020, giving out 5.5 million dollars in grants to over 300 businesses.

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 the Lake Street Council, please visit their website at [lakestreetcouncil.org](http://lakestreetcouncil.org).

## Singing the Art of Aaron Silver (rescheduled) This Sunday

The Aaron Silver exhibit will remain in place through the end of April.

The art/music event that was cancelled due to the snowstorm has been rescheduled for **this Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m.**

Please take some time to enjoy the exhibit and if you are interested in purchasing any of the artworks there is information on the table in the exhibit or contact Paul Nixdorf at [pn@paulnixdorf.com](mailto:pn@paulnixdorf.com) or call/text 612-296-0055.



# For Such a Time as This

*a hymn festival*

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Led by the Mount Olive Cantorei,  
Cantor Daniel Schwandt,  
and Pastor Joseph Crippen,  
singing and reflections explore  
our shared baptismal vocation  
in responding to the uncertain  
times in which we live.



**MOUNT OLIVE**  
A LUTHERAN CHURCH

3045 Chicago Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
612-827-5919  
[www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org)

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

*presented by Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts*

## **Rooted and Rising: Celebrating 40 Years of The National Lutheran Choir**

Join the National Lutheran Choir under Artistic Director Jennaya Robison for *Rooted and Rising: Celebrating 40 Years of the National Lutheran Choir*. This grand finale of the 40th anniversary season features collaboration with the renowned St. Olaf Choir led by Anton Armstrong and guest organist David Cherwien, former NLC Artistic Director.

The program features works by J.S. Bach, F. Melius Christiansen, Larry Fleming, David Cherwien, Earlene Rentz, and Jennaya Robison. A community ensemble of NLC alumni singers will join for the concert's conclusion.

### **Date & Location:**

2:00pm, Saturday, May 2, 2026

Central Lutheran Church, 333 S. 12th Street, Minneapolis 55404

Tickets at [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com).

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## **It's Spring and Garden Time!**

If you have a green thumb or just like to hang out in a garden with fellow gardeners, the season for tending our Mount Olive gardens is here.

Please join us on any of the following dates from 9:00 am - 11:00 am, or drop by to weed or trim when your schedule allows.

May 2 - Initial spring cleanup

May 9 - Plant flowers around the church sign and west entrance

### Weed and trim days every two weeks:

May 16, 30

June 13, 27

July 11, 25

August 8, 22

September 5, 19

October 3

October 17, 31 - fall cleanup and winter prep

Bring your own garden tools if you have them. Some tools available if needed.

If you have any questions reach out to Carol Martinson at [property@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:property@mountolivechurch.org) or 612-708-9849.

# Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

**Sunday Eucharists: 8 & 10:45 am**

## **Contact Us**

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: [mountolivechurch.org](http://mountolivechurch.org)

## **Staff**

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *Daniel Schwandt*

Vicar – *Erik Nelson*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –  
*Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ  
congregation.*

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## **In This Issue:**

- **Accent on Worship – Cantor Daniel Schwandt**
- **Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: Lake Street Council**
- **Singing the Art of Aaron Silver Reschedule for April 26**
- **Gardening Season Resumes**
- **Promise Cards and Letters Follow-up**
- **MFA Hymn Festival – Sunday, May 3, 4 pm**