



# The Olive Branch

April 29, 2026

## Sunday Readings

**May 3, 2026**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter,  
year A*

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

**May 10, 2026**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter,  
year A*

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

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

## Accent on Worship

*Jim Bargmann*

There's a beautiful flow to this week's Psalm, beginning with the first line, naming God as our refuge and then continuing to describe what it means to have a refuge that is God himself - a strong fortress where we find safety... a place where we are led and guided... a place where we are taken out of the traps that are set to confine us.

Thought on refuge number one: when I was in college, I spent a summer working as a camp counselor in Colorado. One afternoon, we were out teaching the campers rock climbing techniques on a small cliff face on the camp property when we noticed a fast-approaching thunderstorm to the west. Even though we were close to the camp buildings, we would not have time to make the hike down the hill before the storm hit. So we led our campers to join us in what was essentially a small, wide archway in the rock, providing us with shelter from the rain and wind. A very real and physical refuge from the storm.

Thought on refuge number 2: I have always worked to ensure our home is a place of refuge, not only for me but also for Nathan and Elizabeth. We work to ensure that we have all we need - food, toiletries, household supplies and more. We work together to keep things picked up and in order so our space can be a place of comfort and relaxation. And we do our very best to ensure the unpleasant things of life - work, homework, conflicts - are dealt with quickly and efficiently, making it possible to enjoy our time together at home. A refuge from the stresses of life.

*continued on page 2*

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

And a brief side-thought... perhaps also a reference to our Gospel reading for this week. If I as a fault-full human can do at least some of this for my family, how much more does it mean knowing God is preparing a place for us?

Thought on refuge number 3: understanding refuge in a literal sense has always been easy for me. Hence the two thoughts above. Actual, physical places of refuge. But understanding refuge in a Spiritual sense has often been somewhat of an enigma for me. An idea out there somewhere. But now having been involved in this place, I have come to understand what it means to have a Spiritual refuge. A place where we can take time out to gather with one another and meet God in song and prayer and readings and water and wine and bread. As it has often been said, especially recently, we expect to meet God in this place and in the presence of one another. And we do. And we find refuge.

- Jim Bargmann

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## Moving Across Borders: Young Adult Journey with Minneapolis Area Synod and Leipzig, Germany

In August 2026, ten young adults from the Minneapolis Area Synod and ten peers from the Leipzig District of the Lutheran Church in Saxony, Germany, will embark on a pilgrimage that promises both profound challenge and deep connection.



Together, they will journey from Leipzig, the cradle of peaceful revolution, to the contemplative embrace of the Taizé community in France, weaving new patterns of faith, friendship, and shared purpose.

Mount Olive supports the Minneapolis Area Synod-Leipzig partnership through prayer and mutual learning opportunities. The Mount Olive Global Ministry committee approved a \$600 donation from the Global Ministry's undesignated offerings to help keep costs low and equitable for the young adults from the Minneapolis Area Synod.

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## Bach Tage 2026: Saturday–Sunday, June 6–7

Mount Olive's annual Bach Tage is a unique opportunity to spend a weekend immersed in a J. S. Bach cantata, preparing and rehearsing from chorus to chorale on Saturday, then performing Bach's glorious music during Evening Prayer on Sunday.

This year's Bach Tage feature *Es ist dir gesagt, Mensch, was gut ist* (BWV 45), based on Micah 6:8. We will also explore the work of J. S. Bach's elder cousin, Johann Christoph Bach, and his setting of the "Nunc dimittis," *Herr, nun lasset du deinen Diener*.

For more information and/or to register, visit <https://mountolivechurch.org/events/bach-tage/>

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, April 29

- 9:00 am Staff meeting  
6:00 pm Website Language meeting  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal  
7:00 pm Y3 Confirmation

### Thursday, April 30

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

### Friday, May 1

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

### Saturday, May 2

- 9:00 am Gardening Day

### Sunday, May 3 - Fifth Sunday of Easter, year A

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation  
9:30 am Godly Play/Youth Discussion/Adult Forum  
9:45 am Family Music Time LIVE  
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist, with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism*, followed by coffee and conversation  
12:30 pm Theological Discussion group  
12:30 pm Justice Committee meeting  
4:00 pm MFA Event: Hymn Festival
- ### Monday, May 4
- 6:30 pm Recorder group  
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)
- ### Tuesday, May 5
- Noon Bible Study  
7:00 pm Choir group

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## Upcoming Adult Forums

**May 3** - Part 2 of a 2-part presentation on discipleship, led by Pastor Crippen.

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

## 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.

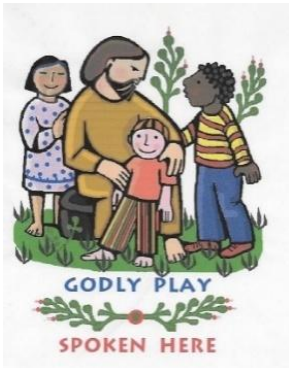
The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

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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](#).



## Godly Play This Week

On May 3 Circle 1 will hear about the disciple Thomas while Circle 2 will jump ahead to think about Pentecost. **Important notes: On May 10, Mothers' Day, we will not have Godly Play but will join upstairs for the Mothers' Day recital which will feature many of our friends. And then on May 17 we will have our last Godly Play session of the season with a joint celebration. The following week, May 25, begins our summer schedule with one worship at 10:00 and no Godly Play sessions for the summer.**

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## Choir School News

Our wonderful year of growing in faith through music is coming to a close. Please note our final special events and join the singing children and youth of Mount Olive.

Family Music (children birth to kindergarten with a caregiver) will meet in person on Sunday, May 3, from 9:45-10:30 in Godly Play Room 3. If your young child does not attend Godly Play yet, please join us! We will sing, pray, dance, and play together to celebrate our year of learning! If you are new to Family Music this would be a lovely time to meet other families and consider joining us in the fall.

Adult Forum on Sunday, May 10, celebrates all the young musicians at Mount Olive. Children and youth who wish to share (sing, dance, play piano or another instrument, or your creative idea) at our Spring Recital are warmly welcome to participate! Please contact Mari at [mari.mt.olive@gmail.com](mailto:mari.mt.olive@gmail.com) so that your name and selection can be added to the program. Singers moving from Children's Choir to Youth Choir will receive hymnals from our church family and both the Children's Choir and the Youth Choir will sing. All are welcome!

Choir School singers and their families (siblings, parents, grandparents, baptismal sponsors, etc.) are warmly welcomed to our Family Choir. We will eat dinner and rehearse just once on Wednesday, May 27, 5:30 meal and 6:00-6:45 rehearsal. We will sing for the 10:00 am liturgy on Sunday, May 31, Holy Trinity Sunday. Please contact Mari [mari.mt.olive@gmail.com](mailto:mari.mt.olive@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like a preview of the music we will be singing.

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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, May 24.

If you are interested in participating this year, please contact Andrew Stoebig ([worship@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:worship@mountolivechurch.org)).



*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](https://www.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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