



The Olive Branch

May 6, 2026

Sunday Readings

May 10, 2026

*Sixth Sunday of Easter,
year A*

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

May 17, 2026

*Seventh Sunday of
Easter, year A*

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

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

Accent on Worship

Vicar Erik Nelson

This Friday, May 8, our church commemorates Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church.

This saint was an English anchoress whose real name was unknown. As an anchoress, she was sealed into a cell in the Church of Saint Julian in Norwich, so she's known as Mother Julian. Many details of her life are not known, but her writings, now known as Revelations of Divine Love, are deeply cherished by many Christians today, especially those of the Anglican and Lutheran traditions. For many centuries after her death, her writings were overlooked and existed on the periphery of the tradition. In 1901, one of her manuscripts was transcribed and published with notes by Grace Warrack. Since then, her writings have become much more popular, and awareness of her is much more broad.

Mother Julian lived through times of plague, revolt, and major social upheaval. Her musings on God and various topics of theology have provided comfort and new realizations to Christians for many years. She wrote, "God is nearer to us than our own soul." One of my favorite pieces from her says, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. For there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go."

As we remember Mother Julian, may we follow her example of faith and trust in God. She lived through times of great uncertainty and upheaval.

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

As we live through our own difficult times, we can turn to Julian's reflections for encouragement. Her faith was rooted in a confidence in an active God, a "force of love that holds us fast and will never let us go." That image brings great comfort to us in the midst of uncertainty and change. God loves us deeply, holds us fast, and will never let us go.

- Vicar Erik Nelson

The Ascension of Our Lord
Thursday, May 14
Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.
All are welcome.

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/>

Upcoming Adult Forums

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

May 17 – Updates from the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, presented by Greg Murphy.

Summer Schedule Approaches

Please note: Beginning Memorial Day weekend (Day of Pentecost, May 24), and running through Labor Day weekend (September 6), Mount Olive will celebrate ONE Sunday Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Beginning with the June 3 issue and running through the summer months, *The Olive Branch* will be published every other week.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, May 6

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

Thursday, May 7

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*
7:00 pm Vestry meeting (rescheduled)
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, May 8

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

Saturday, May 9

- 9:00 am Gardening Day
10:00 am Book Discussion group

Sunday, May 10 - Sixth Sunday of Easter, year A

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Mount Olive Youth Spring Recital
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
12:30 pm Y1 Confirmation

Monday, May 11

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

Tuesday, May 12

- Noon Bible Study
7:00 pm Choir group

Attention Worship Assistants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for 2026 Quarter 3 (July - September) will be published in June.

Please send any scheduling preferences and dates you will be unavailable to me by **Friday, May 22**.

Please let me know any questions you have. Thank you -

- Greg Murphy gregRmurphy@gmail.com

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

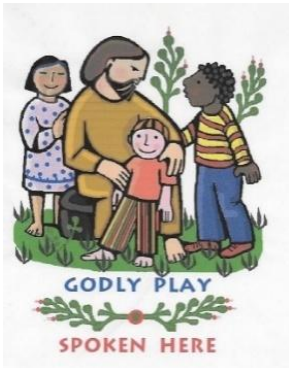
The Tuesday Noon Bible Study meets weekly in person in the East Assembly Room. For those who are unable to come in person, the Bible Study is held over Zoom as well.

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

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

Important notes: Next Sunday, Mothers' Day, we will NOT have Godly Play but will join upstairs for the Spring Recital, which will feature many of our friends. And then on May 17 we will have our last Godly Play session of the season in each circle with a joint feast celebration downstairs.

The following week, May 25, begins our summer schedule with one worship at 10:00 and no Godly Play sessions for the summer.

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.

Adult Forum this 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 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 if you have questions or would like a preview of the music we will be singing.

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).

May Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Minnesota Council of Churches*

Minnesota Council of Churches seeks to “build strong communities that are made up of meaningful relationships and guided by our deepest values. They seek to partner organizations and individuals to live out faith in their communities. They do this through refugee services programs, social justice work, justice advocacy work, and fostering interfaith connections. In addition, through their Respectful Conversations program, they facilitate respectful conversations between people of varying backgrounds and train others to lead those conversations.

Mount Olive supports 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 volunteer 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 Minnesota Council of Churches, please visit their website at www.mnchurches.org.

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 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 or call her at 612-708-9849.



invites you to join us for the panel discussion

ILLUSIONS OF PEACE

CEASEFIRES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AMERICA'S GLOBAL STANDING

PANELISTS



REV. DR. MITRI RAHEB
*Founder and President of
Dar al-Kalima University*



JOANNE CUMMINGS
*Director of Middle East Studies
at Baylor University*



RAMI G. KHOURI
*Distinguished Public Policy
Fellow at the American
University of Beirut*

Each of our panelists proudly serves on the Board of Bright Stars of Bethlehem.

Thursday, May 14th, 2026 | 7:00 P.M.

HOSTED AT

1900 Nicollet Avenue | Minneapolis, Minnesota



REGISTER



Please RSVP using the QR code by Wednesday, May 13th. Free parking will be available in the Plymouth Church parking lot. A free-will offering will be received.

Through its partnership with Dar al-Kalima University, Bright Stars of Bethlehem supports this mission by expanding access to education, funding scholarships, and uplifting the next generation of leaders and creatives.

You're Invited!

All are invited to attend a panel discussion on Thursday, May 14, 7 pm, sponsored by Bright Stars of Bethlehem entitled "Illusions of Peace," featuring Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, Founder and President of Dar al-Kalima University in Palestine.

This panel discussion will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis, and pre-registration is required.

For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/illusionsofpeace>.

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

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On the Web: 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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