



The Olive Branch

May 20, 2026

Sunday Readings

May 24, 2026

*Day of Pentecost,
year A*

Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Acts 2:1-21
John 7:37-39

May 31, 2026

*The Holy Trinity,
year A*

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

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

Accent on Worship

Cantor Daniel Schwandt

On Sequences

Pull up a chair for a little liturgical history. A Sequence Hymn (or simply, Sequence) is a medieval liturgical hymn that originally followed the Alleluia sung before the gospel reading. It became a regular part of the Roman liturgy in the 11th and 12th centuries. These hymns developed out of elaborate melodic endings of the alleluias; poets later added texts, and an entire body of liturgical repertoire was born. Sequences were written for nearly every feast in the Roman rite. The reforms of the Council of Trent in 1570 reduced the number of official sequences to just four: the sequences for Easter (*Victimae paschali laudes*), Pentecost (*Veni, Sancte Spiritus*), Corpus Christi (*Lauda Sion*), and All Souls (*Dies Irae*).

On Easter Day this year, the choir sang *Victimae paschali laudes* (Christians, to the Paschal Victim) with elaborate organ interludes before the Gospel Acclamation, and as a book-end to the Easter Season, we will sing the traditional sequence for Pentecost, *Veni Sancte Spiritus* (Come, Holy Spirit) this Sunday. The sequence for Easter is notable to Lutherans because it served as the basis for two beloved Easter chorales, “Christ Is Arisen” and “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands.” The Pentecost sequence is less familiar to Lutherans (it has never appeared in a Lutheran hymnal as far as I know). We will sing it in a translation made by Susan Palo Cherwien, who worked to reflect the unique rhyming and linguistic structure of the original Latin. The first

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

two lines of each stanza rhyme, and each stanza's last line rhymes with the last line of each successive stanza. A difficult feat for a translator! The musical structure of the hymn reflects classic sequence hymn form, where the melody is a series of five different (yet related) melodies, each sung twice. The melody we'll sing on Sunday is a rhythmic version of the traditional chant tune. It's a lot harder to describe than to actually do...so come wearing your red, and sing an ancient hymn of praise to the Holy Spirit with us!

- Cantor Daniel Schwandt

Summer Schedule Begins This Sunday!

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.

An Invitation from the Thompson family

The Mount Olive congregation has played such an important role in Rose's life, so we wish to extend an open invitation to celebrate her graduation from Richfield High School. Please join us for an open house on **Saturday, May 30, from 1:00 - 4:00** at 7040 Lyndale Ave S., Richfield.

We hope to see you there.

- Ted & Amy Thompson

2026 Graduates – Who Are They?

As we come to the completion of the school year, the Mount Olive community would like to take time to recognize the accomplishments of our graduates (high school, college, grad school, etc.) and celebrate the next steps of their journey.

Our Graduate Recognition will take place on **Sunday, June 7**, and they will be named in prayer at the morning Eucharist and greeted at the coffee hour after the Eucharist. If your Mount Olive graduate graduates this spring, please email the following information to Cha in the Mount Olive office (welcome@mountolivechurch.org): Graduate name, the school they are graduating from, any special recognitions or honors, and what they are planning to do next, whether that be job, more education, or something else.

Please invite them to be here on June 7!

Calendar

Wednesday, May 20

9:00 am Staff meeting
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, May 21

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

Friday, May 22

7:00 pm Recovery group

Saturday, May 23

7:00 pm *Vigil of Pentecost*

Sunday, May 24 - Day of Pentecost, year A

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS

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

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day holiday

Church offices closed

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

Tuesday, May 26

Noon Bible Study
7:00 pm Choir group

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 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](#).

Choir School News

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.

How we (or at least a few of us) think about our financial giving to Mount Olive

Your Shared Ministry Committee asked some members, representing at least a modicum of diversity, to write a few sentences describing *how they think about their financial giving in support of Mount Olive and its ministries*. Promising anonymity and ruling out dollar amounts, we said we would share some of the thoughts and ideas we might get. You won't be surprised to learn that we got almost no immediate responses. But in-person and email reminders resulted in some interesting ideas and experiences. Let's face it: most of us choose to be private about our monetary giving to Mount Olive, allowing exceptions for counters and a few others who really need to know. We think the responses below are evidence that we *can* share thoughts and experiences about giving without compromising our financial privacy. The committee welcomes your ideas, suggestions, and questions (sharedministry@mountolivechurch.org).

Giving helps me to live gratefully

"When I think about my financial giving to Mount Olive, I start with myself: what kind of person do I strive to be. I want gratitude in my life—for all the people, events, and things in my life. I have been blessed, and giving helps me to live gratefully. But I also give because I support what Mount Olive and its partners do to share the gospel in word, music, and deeds. I have come to treasure what Mount Olive has become in my life, and I give to ensure it continues to be that kind of place for others."

These two primary reasons for giving have love in common

"Whatever I give to and through Mount Olive, I give for two reasons. First, in support of one of the most meaningful communities in my life. Second, in service to those God calls us to serve—the orphan, the 'stranger,' and our beloved neighbors who have been disadvantaged by societal systems. These two primary reasons for giving have *love* in common: I love this community, I am loved here, and we love together supporting those in need. I have been able to share different mixes of resources at different times—time, expertise, energy, presence, money—and find what I can give is graciously taken in without fanfare as part of what a family does together—which is part of Mount Olive's gift back to me."

I want to make a difference

"I see my giving to the church in two forms: service and monetary. On one hand, I am offering my ability to serve as an acolyte, lector, videographer, and member of committees. On the other hand, I each Sunday give money to support my church and its local and global ministries and mission—because I want to help make a difference, even in places and situations where I can't directly offer or use my skills."

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Time is what we all have in limited amounts

“We give of our time, talents, and resources, including money. Of these, time is what we all have in limited amounts. Using the talents God has given us and spending time using those talents for the church might be the most meaningful thing we can do. ‘We just do what needs to be done,’ as Garrison Keillor said, but we have the advantage of strengthening relationships by working alongside others. Money is still important, of course. One of the things that becomes more apparent when getting older is that we are simply stewards of everything we have. Being wise stewards means using those resources as effectively as possible. I support various good causes, but the parish to which I belong is one of the most important places to support.”

It’s my ‘family’ and our ‘house of worship’

“I have always considered regular giving—every-other-week deductions from my bank account—part of my responsibility to the Mount Olive family. It’s my ‘family’ and our ‘house of worship.’ There are regular bills that require regular payments. I make regular and ‘appropriate’ contributions to the Sunday morning coffee basket. Appropriate? I know how much a hot coffee and pastry will cost at a drive-through. Why should it be less at church? Then there are those special things that pop up, and I feel a need to offer support. . . . At our recent semi-annual meeting we learned that we’re experiencing a financial shortfall, as usual. What would happen, I wonder, if we had the necessary conversations to understand and determine that we *can* eliminate those shortfalls. I think we could do it if we wanted to. At that meeting there was also the good news that in only a few months our immediate and extended family contributed the equivalent of 10% of our annual budget to feed and shelter our neighbors!”

The work and ministry done at and by Mount Olive makes a difference

“I grew up in a family that lived and breathed stewardship on a daily basis. I was witness to the countless hours my parents devoted to a new Lutheran church in my hometown. They saw their pledged gifts make a difference in the work of the congregation. With my dad as a teacher and my mom not working, they gave what they could, then stretched a little further. My sisters and I were witness to long-lasting friendships, a sense of community and purpose, in an energetic church home and countless other blessings as a family. As a young adult I was not making a lot of money, but pledged what I could, supplementing my financial gifts with volunteerism within whatever church I was attending. I have made giving to Mount Olive a priority in my charitable giving each year. The work and ministry done at and by Mount Olive makes a difference in its neighborhood and, indeed, around the world. I give to spread the love of Christ in these troubled days.”

Greeters at Parish House Door

We are looking for folks who would like to serve occasionally on Sunday mornings as a greeter at the Parish House door. Ideally, a greeter would sit near the Parish House entrance to welcome folks as they enter, starting around 30 minutes prior to the worship service. If you are interested in serving this way, please sign up at the link: <https://forms.gle/DvX8dEob7KjHuNPy6>

When we have a pool of folks who are willing to serve, we will contact you with more details. Questions? Please email Tricia at hospitality@mountolivechurch.org.

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

Vigil of Pentecost
This Saturday, May 23
7:00 p.m.
All are welcome.

Bach Tage 2026 Events

Saturday, June 6, 4:00 pm

Early Music Minnesota will present "Conversations in Counterpoint"

Works by Gabrieli, Barrière, and Vivaldi

Rebecca Humphrey, cello and viola da gamba

Tulio Rondón, cello

Marc Levine, violín

Tami Morse, harpsichord

Saturday, June 7, 4:00 pm

Evening Prayer, with J. S. Bach's *Es ist dir gesagt, Mensch, was gut ist* (BWV 45), and J. C. Bach's *Herr nun lässest du deinen Diener*.

Alyssa Anderson, alto

Nicholas Chalmers, tenor

Erik Krohg, bass

Bach Tage Orchestra and Chorus, Marin Jacobson, conductor

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG SINGERS: NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

About the [National Lutheran Children's Choir](#)

The National Lutheran Children's Choir is a place where young singers ages 7-14* grow musically in a supportive environment. Using sacred choral music as a foundation, singers develop healthy vocal technique, music literacy, and ensemble skills while building confidence and growing in community. No prior experience is required – students are met where they are and guided forward with care and intention.

**on or before September 10, 2026*

Rehearsals (Starting September 2026)

Sundays, 4:30–6:00 PM - [Immanuel Lutheran Church \(Snelling Ave\), St. Paul](#)

Vocal Assessments (Not an audition)

All singers participate in a short, welcoming assessment so we can get to know how they engage with music. There is nothing to prepare, and the environment is relaxed and encouraging.

Upcoming dates:

Thursday, May 28 (4:30–6:30 PM)

Sunday, May 31 (2:00–4:00 PM)

Location: [Normandale Lutheran Church \(Edina\)](#)

(Additional August dates will be announced; all assessments are by appointment.)

Register for a vocal assessment here: [LINK](#)

Learn More / Sign Up

Families can learn more and register for a vocal assessment here:

www.nlca.com/childrens-choir



Update on Mount Olive's Columbarium

Due to rising costs associated with our Columbarium Niches, effective July 1, 2026, the cost of purchasing a niche will be increased to \$1,200. If you have been thinking about purchasing a niche, now would be a good time to do it before the price increases. Applications are available in the tract rack outside of the narthex or in the church office. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Crippen, Carol Peterson or Bob Wick and we will be happy to help you.

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.

Life is Better in a Garden

And life in that garden is now possible since we just turned over the calendar pages to May. Thanks to Leanna Kloempken for this perspective.

“After the puzzles and historical facts booklets galore, I am convinced we are cheeriest now because - Life is better in a Garden!”

Come and join other Mount Olive members who are experiencing the joy of our gardens.

The crew meets every two weeks on Saturday mornings at 9:00 am. The dates are:

May 30

June 13, 27

July 11, 25

August 8, 22

September 5, 19

October 3, 17, and 31 - fall cleanup and winter prep



The Mount Olive Art Collection

During the last 15 years the fine art collection at Mount Olive, managed by the Music and Fine Arts Committee, has been continually expanding. From the paintings, sculptures, and fine art prints on display in the Chapel Lounge, East and West Assembly areas, and hallways to the exquisite icons that are a part of our liturgies, we are blessed with a great art collection built on a mission of enhancing the word of God. Moving forward please pay attention to articles and announcements regarding our collection and updates about new additions, featured works, guest artists and exhibitions, and ways for you to be a part of the operations of our collection.

You may have noticed that last Sunday the exhibit of artist Aaron Silver has been replaced with works from our permanent collection. Moving and hanging all of the art involved is a massive project requiring extreme care of expensive art, planning for display space, deploying and managing the hanging system, and adjusting the display lighting. Our Mount Olive team, consisting of Andrew Anderson, Matt Anderson, Larry Duncan and Jerry Duncan and myself, Paul Nixdorf, put our artworks back on the walls. Bringing the artworks up from our storage area, measuring, adjusting, spacing, and leveling each piece all totaled took hours to complete and involved bloodshed! A very special THANK YOU to all who completed this careful work.

Featured Art

Two new artworks are currently on display. Please check out these fine works and watch for upcoming featured works from our collection.

1. On the south wall of the West Assembly hangs a three-piece work by the artist Mats Dahlberg (b. 2001). Mats is the child of Mari Espeland, our children's choir director. The triptych (Last Supper, Crucifixion, Resurrection) was created in 2019 for a solo show that Mats had at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. The Crucifixion was part of our Stations of the Cross during Lent. This triptych is on loan from the Espeland-Dahlberg family.



2. In the north alcove in the Chapel Lounge is a beautiful carved wood sculpture by Gary L. Crippen, Pastor Crippen's father. It's made of walnut. Inspired by the two halves of the knot, he combines the Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end, what Jesus claims himself to be in Revelation 22) with Paul's confident trust in Christ in all circumstances, no matter what happens, in Philippians 1:21: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 10:00 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

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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