The Olive Branch

June 3, 2026

Sunday Readings

June 7, 2026
Second Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 10 A
Hosea 5:15—6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 14, 2026
Third Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 11 A
Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35—10:23

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

Accent on Worship

Vicar Erik Nelson

A Week of Martyrs

This week, our church has three days when we commemorate martyrs from throughout our history. On Monday, we remember Justin Martyr (165), on Wednesday we remember the Martyrs of Uganda (between 1885 and 1887), and on Friday, we remember Boniface (754).

Justin was killed after he refused to give up his Christian beliefs and return to the Roman system of sacrifices. The Martyrs of Uganda were a group of Catholic and Anglican officials in the king's court who were killed when they refused to give up their faith, even to save their lives and advance to higher positions in the court. Boniface was a missionary bishop in Germany and the Netherlands. He died with a group of new Christians on the morning of Pentecost, when a band of raiders and robbers attacked them. His last words are recorded as, "Cease fighting. Lay down your arms, for we are told in Scripture not to render evil for evil but to overcome evil by good."

We remember these martyrdoms because they remind us of the harsh reality of following Jesus. In a world that celebrates violence and cruelty, Jesus commands us to be gentle and good. The LBW proper, as recorded in the book Festivals and Commemorations by Philip Pfatteicher, says, "Gracious Lord, in every age you have sent men and women who have given their lives for the message of your love. Inspire us with the memory of those martyrs for the Gospel like your servant Justin, whose faithfulness led them in the way of the cross, and give us courage to bear full witness with our lives to your son's victory over sin and death; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

In our era, it is essential that Christians remember that God's kingdom does not come through violence or state edicts. The reign of Christ comes when we share God's message of love, bearing full witness to Christ's victory over sin and death, inviting others into new life through our lives of service and love.

Calling all History Buffs!

The Mount Olive archives are in need of sorting and weeding. Join other history nerds on Saturday, June 13, for some cleaning out, served with coffee/tea and treats. We'll begin at 9 a.m. and work as long as we can. Feel free to join when you can. Questions? Contact Lora at lhdundek@icloud.com, or call all 612/850-5562.

Could you help in one of these ways?

The Hospitality Committee is looking for folks who could commit to one or more of these opportunities to welcome congregants, visitors, and friends to Mount Olive:

1. **Coffee time!** Could you sign up to provide treats for post-worship coffee hour? Store-bought, homemade, sweet, savory – it's up to you! Please sign up for a Sunday at the sign up sheet located near the coffee window in the East Assembly Room.
2. **Welcome new members!** We welcome new members approximately 3 times per year, and it would be great to have a couple of folks on hand to help with the activities of those particular Sundays. If this sounds like a good fit for you, please email Tricia at hospitality@mountolivechurch.org or call or text at 612-749-0144.
3. **Join the committee!** We meet approximately once per month to discuss upcoming activities and make plans around our themes of welcoming, membership, and food (events, coffee time, funerals, etc.). Interested? Please email Tricia at hospitality@mountolivechurch.org or call or text at 612-749-0144.

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 **this 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 this Sunday!

Calendar

Wednesday, June 3
9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon Bible Study **(meeting on Wed. in the summer)**
5:00 pm Neighborhood Ministry Committee meeting
7:00 pm Metro Surge Debriefing

Thursday, June 4
9:30 am ***Morning Prayer***
7:00 pm Shared Ministry Committee meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, June 5
7:00 pm Recovery group

Saturday, June 6
All day Bach Tage
4:00 pm "Conversations in Counterpoint" concert by Early Music Minnesota

Sunday, June 7 – Second Sunday after Pentecost, year A
10:00 am ***Holy Eucharist,*** followed by coffee and conversation
4:00 pm ***Evening Prayer***

Monday, June 8
6:30 pm Recorder group
7:00 pm Vicar Committee meeting
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Wednesday, June 10
9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon Bible Study **(meeting on Wed. in the summer)**

Thursday, June 11
9:30 am ***Morning Prayer***
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, June 12
7:00 pm Recovery group

Saturday, June 13
9:00 am Gardening Day
9:30 am Foundation Board meeting

Sunday, June 14 – Third Sunday after Pentecost, year A
10:00 am ***Holy Eucharist with Reception of New Members,*** followed by New Member reception

Monday, June 15
6:30 pm Recorder group
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, June 16
5:00 pm Neighborhood Ministry Committee meeting
6:30 pm Feminine Divine group

Wednesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Wednesday 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 Wednesday 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.**

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.

CaringBridge Site

Allen Heggen's family has asked that we share his CaringBridge website with the Mount Olive community. This is the most efficient way for them to keep everyone apprised of his condition and to share a message with him.
Click here for Allen's CaringBridge page.

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

Sunday, 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

The Olive Branch Summer Publication Schedule

Beginning with this issue, *The Olive Branch* will be published every other week during the summer months.

The next issue will be published on June 17. Deadline for that issue is Monday, June 15.

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month

Lutheran Social Service

Lutheran Social Service is a broad-based social service organization that operates more than 20 different programs throughout the state of Minnesota. The services provided by LSS include housing, financial services, counseling, senior care programs, refugee resettlement, disaster recovery, and services for those with disabilities. LSS has been serving as the lead agency for the resettlement of the Afghan family Mount Olive has been sponsoring with the coordination of our Global Ministry Committee.

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 Lutheran Social Service, please visit their website at www.lssmn.org .

A Big Day

June 28 is shaping up to be a great day at Mount Olive. There are a couple of celebrations during the Liturgy, (more info will be forthcoming on those), and two celebrations after the Liturgy. During the coffee hour, we will honor Pr. Crippen on the 35th anniversary of his Ordination into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. That afternoon, we will thank Cha Posz for her 25 years of service to Mount Olive (find info about Cha's observance elsewhere in *The Olive Branch.)*

Please plan to join in if you can.

New Members to be Received Sunday, June 14

New members will be received at the morning Eucharist on Sunday, June 14.

If you would like to be welcomed as a new member of Mount Olive on that day, please contact Tricia at hospitality@mountolivechurch.org or the church office at welcome@mountolivechurch.org (612-827-5919).

Celebrate with me - Change of venue!

As most of you know, I plan to retire at the end of June. What a joy it's been to work with you all of these years!

To mark this occasion, I've asked that there be no big farewell or reception or anything at church. Instead, I have planned an informal gathering on **Sunday afternoon, June 28, from 12:30-3 pm at Forgotten Star Brewing in Fridley**, and you are all invited to stop by, grab a beverage if you like, and celebrate with me - an open house sort of thing. (This gathering was originally planned at Bauhaus BrewLabs, but Bauhaus just decided to close up shop for good on that day, necessitating an alternative plan).

Forgotten Star is located at 38 Northern Stacks Drive in Fridley. There is plenty of parking, an outdoor patio, and a food truck if you're hungry.

I know it's a busy weekend for lots of folks but stop by if you can! If you can't, no worries. I'm not planning to be a stranger.

- Cha Posz

Gardening Days at Mount Olive

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 a.m. for weeding and yard maintenance. The dates are:

June 13, 27
July 11, 25
August 8, 22
September 5, 19
October 3, 17, and 31 - fall cleanup and winter prep

Our Going Out and Our Coming In

Staff Vacation Schedules

Pastor Crippen will be on vacation June 29-July 22
Jim Bargmann will be on vacation June 8-15, July 3-10, and July 17-24
Cha Posz will be on vacation June 5-14 (her last day in the office before retirement is June 26)

Mount Olive Art: *The St John's Bible Artworks*

Our art collection includes five artworks that art prints taken from the creation of the St. John's Bible from St John's Abbey in Collegeville MN. The handwritten, illuminated Bible project was started in 1995 and took over 15 years to complete. We also own a seven-volume set of the Study and Trade Edition of the Bible, a gift to Mount Olive from David and Susan Palo Cherwien, in honor of their parents. This set is stored in the niche next to the altar in the Chapel Lounge. We always keep one volume open on the altar to the current Sunday text.

The St John's Bible is a world-famous Biblical endeavor equal in scope to the painting of the Sistine Chapel. There is a museum located at St John's University that is the home of original works from this project. Later this summer we are going to plan a day long bus tour to visit the Abbey and tour the museum. Following the tour we will join the monks for noon prayer in the famous St John's Abbey church. After lunch on campus, we will also visit the pottery and woodworking shop on campus and conclude with a garden tour before returning to Minneapolis. Stay tuned for upcoming details.

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.

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Vicar Erik Nelson**
- **2026 Graduates – Who Are They?**
- **Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: Minnesota Council of Churches**
- **Columbarium Update**
- **June Partner of the Month: Lutheran Social Service**
- **Mount Olive Art: St. John's Bible Artworks**