



The Olive Branch

June 17, 2026

Sunday Readings

June 21, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 12 A
Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 13 A
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

Accent on Worship

Vicar Erik Nelson

On Sunday, June 21, our church commemorates Onesimos Nesib, a translator and evangelist from Ethiopia.

Onesimos was born around 1855 in western Ethiopia. In 1869, around age 14, he was taken by slavers to Eritrea, where he eventually ended up with a man who freed him and sent him to a Swedish Christian school.

While he was there, he became a Christian. He took the name Onesimos at his baptism, connecting him to the biblical character Onesimus from the Book of Philemon. Onesimus was a slave who Paul asked Philemon to free, calling him “my own heart” and “a beloved brother.” After his baptism, Nesib was sent to seminary in Sweden.

He went back to Eritrea and Ethiopia after seminary with a desire to share his faith with his own people group, the Oromo. Though Christianity came to Ethiopia thousands of years ago, it was largely kept from the Oromo in order to preserve the social hierarchy. Upon his return, Nesib ran into difficulties with priests and governing leaders. Nevertheless, he got to work translating the Bible into the Oromo language. He was greatly assisted by a teenage girl named Aster Ganno, another freed Oromo slave, who helped him with the translation.

As a result of Onesimos and Aster’s work, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus is now the largest Lutheran denomination in the world, with 15 million members. From the beginning, this church has been committed to bringing not only liberation for the soul, but also service to the whole person. Mekane Yesus describes their work as “holistic ministry,” and today they run many healthcare facilities, social ministries, schools, and bible colleges all over the country.

I’m inspired by the way that Mount Olive carries out our own “holistic ministry,” living out our faith through our actions. As we remember Onesimos this weekend, let’s pray for the church in Ethiopia and recommit ourselves to God’s work of freedom and justice.

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

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.

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.

Calendar

Wednesday, June 17

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

Thursday, June 18

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

Friday, June 19

7:00 pm Recovery group
Sunday, June 21 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 12 A
10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, June 22

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

Wednesday, June 24

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

Thursday, June 25

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

Friday, June 26

7:00 pm Recovery group

Saturday, June 27

9:00 am Gardening Day
9:00 am Labyrinth Painting in the parking lot

Sunday, June 28 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 13 A

10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by Ordination Anniversary Celebration for Pr. Crippen
12:30-3 pm Retirement celebration for Cha Posz at Forgotten Star Brewing, Fridley

Monday, June 29

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

Save the Date!

Mount Olive Church Picnic at Minnehaha Falls Wabun shelter C on **Sunday, August 23, after church until 3 pm.**

Details to follow!

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

In July we will leave the U.S. again and travel to India to revisit an author many of us read years ago, Rudyard Kipling. We will consider his book *Kim*. Join us on July 11.

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](#).

June 28 - A Big Day!

Sunday, 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 gathering elsewhere in *The Olive Branch*.)

Please plan to join in if you can.

The Olive Branch Summer Publication Schedule

During the summer months, *The Olive Branch* will be published every other week.

The next issue will be published on July 1. Deadline for that issue is Monday, June 29.

Every Meal - Volunteers Needed

Twice a month Mount Olive participates in the Every Meal program on Thursdays at a south Minneapolis school. This is an important program as it helps fight food insecurity that school-aged children face, especially on the weekends. With Weekend Meal Program, we discreetly place bags full of nutritious and relevant food into the students' backpacks. It is a fun and fulfilling event to take part in, not only because we are helping children have food, especially with all of the cuts to SNAP, but we get to see the joy of the students as they go through the hallways.

Though we do this activity twice a month, this is a 1.5 hour commitment on Thursday mornings, starting at 10:00 am, only once a month. If you are interested in joining this fulfilling effort, please reach out to Jerry Duncan to learn more, or give your name to the church office. We will start up again with the program in the Fall of 2026.

Live Event - Beyond Bethlehem: Where Hope Goes Next

What happens after graduation? Join Bright Stars of Bethlehem for a special live conversation exploring the lives, careers, and impact of graduates from Dar al-Kalima University. Through personal stories and firsthand experiences, you'll hear how education in Bethlehem has empowered graduates to become artists, filmmakers, designers, entrepreneurs, and leaders who are creating change in their communities and beyond.

Hosted by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, this inspiring discussion will feature Dar al-Kalima alumni sharing their journeys from the classroom to the world stage, offering a powerful look at how education, creativity, and opportunity continue to shape lives long after graduation. Discover how hope extends beyond Bethlehem and why investing in education creates a lasting impact for generations to come.

Date: Saturday, June 27, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM CT | 12:00 PM ET | 10:00 AM MT | 9:00 AM PT

Location: Online via Zoom

Registration is free. Donations are welcome and help support future students pursuing their education at Dar al-Kalima University.

Link to register: [BeyondBethlehem – Bright Stars of Bethlehem](#)

Mount Olive at Twin Cities Pride - June 27

Mount Olive will join Grace Lutheran Church in hosting a booth at Twin Cities Pride Festival in Loring Park on Saturday, June 27. The booth will invite Pride attendees to participate in a community art project and will be a fun way for Mount Olive to participate in celebrating Pride and showing love for our community.

1) **Interested in volunteering?** We would like to provide two hosts per two-hour shift (Grace will do the same). You can sign up here! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544A8AF2DAAF8C07-64535796-pride>

2) **T-shirts:** If booth volunteers would like to match our co-hosts, consider purchasing this celebratory t-shirt from Old Lutheran: [This Lutheran Loves You Pride T-Shirt - Full Rainbow - OldLutheran](#). We are a little too late to have our information printed on the back, but we'd love to see folks wearing these shirts! (If you would like one but cannot afford the full cost, contact hospitality@mountolivechurch.org).

3) **We also need fabric for our art project:** the art project involves writing on strips of fabric with permanent markers. If you have suitable fabric in rainbow colors, would you consider donating? Please let us know at hospitality@mountolivechurch.org.

2026 Graduate Recognition

Congratulations to Mount Olive's 2026 graduates, pictured here with their prayer shawls: L: Pr. Crippen, Sedona Crosby, Stephanie Obadiaru, Rose Thompson, (Jim Bargmann, standing in for his son Nathan Bargmann that day, and Vicar Erik Nelson.) R: Nathan Bargmann, present the following Sunday.



Welcome, New Members!

We welcome the following folks who were received into membership on Sunday, June 14!
L-R: Simone Reiss, Brianna Grant, Greg Hemme, John & Katherine O'Brien, and Will Sabol.



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 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 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 July 3-10, and July 17-24

St John's Bible Tour

The creation of the St John's Bible spanned 15 years from 1995 through 2010. It is an amazing story that was coordinated by the monks at St John's Abby and calligraphers and artists from around the world. The finished product is an amazing priceless work of art housed in a climate-controlled vault at St John's University in Collegeville, MN. The subsequent "Heritage" digital reproductions are themselves incredible art pieces worth over a million dollars per copy. Mount Olive owns a "Study and Trade" edition of the Bible and it is a valuable asset that we are proud to have available for our members to see, read and appreciate.

We are planning a full-day bus tour to Collegeville, MN on either Wednesday, July 29, or Wednesday, August 12. There is no fee to view the museum at St John's, our main cost is to pay for the bus coach for our transportation, plus your personal meal and incidental money spent for items in the gift shops. The bus charges decrease as more people share the costs. If we have 30 people the bus cost will be approximately \$55.00 per person, 40 people - \$47.00, and 50 people - \$39.00.

We need to know from you SOON if you are interested in joining us for this exciting bus tour. Please respond to this "interest survey" (by calling or sending an email) and let us know if you are interested and which of the two dates work best for you, or if either will work. **Please respond via an email to the church office at: welcome@mountolivechurch.org or Paul Nixdorf at pn@paulnixdorf.com or call the church office at 612-827-5919, or Paul at 612-296-0055, and let us know which date works best for you or if both will work as well.**

Once we know how many are interested and what date works best we will make a firm commitment. Please invite your friends and family to join.

Please respond by Thursday, June 25.

Thank you and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Paul Nixdorf, organizer



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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