



# The Olive Branch

July 3, 2026

## Sunday Readings

**July 5, 2026**

*Sixth Sunday after  
Pentecost, Lect. 14 A*

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**July 12, 2026**

*Seventh Sunday after  
Pentecost, Lect. 15 A*

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9

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

## Accent on Worship

*Cantor Daniel Schwandt*

### **I Say Tomato, You Say *die Tomate*.**

One of the many wonderful things I've inherited as Cantor of Mount Olive is the beloved "summer *Sanctus*" by J. S. Bach and the Nicolai Kedrov setting of the Lord's Prayer. Former Cantor Cherwien shared with me that they originated during a summer when the organ was out of commission for repair, and he wanted something interesting and challenging to sing without accompaniment. They've just sort of "stuck" (which is fine by me!).

As with all music that requires translation from one language to another, adjustments are sometimes needed when adapting to English. Bach's harmonization of a German *Sanctus* melody (based on an old - or perhaps *very* old - chant melody) was composed to fit the German text. When it was arranged to be sung with the English text from the hymnal, Dave had to make some modifications to the rhythm and text underlay. As with two hymn text translators who can come up with entirely different translations of the same text, two musicians can think differently about the subtleties of adapting music to a translation. You may have noticed a couple of minor alterations to the summer *Sanctus*. These changes were made to stay a little closer to Bach's original and to relate it more directly to the version of the melody and text we sing in ELW Setting Four. Most of the changes come in the portion "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord..." One is not more right than the other, just a slight difference in interpretation! Be sure to pay close attention if you've been going only on muscle memory!

## Can 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](mailto: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](mailto:hospitality@mountolivechurch.org) or call or text at 612-749-0144.

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## Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: Every Meal

Every Meal seeks to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships. Their primary focus is providing food when children are not in school and lacking the school supplied meals many depend upon. Through their Weekend Meal Program, children in Pre-K through 8th grade experiencing food insecurity receive weekend food bags directly and discreetly in their backpacks at approximately 375 schools across Minnesota. A team of volunteers from Mount Olive, coordinated by Jerry Duncan, deliver meals every other week to students at Sullivan STEAM, a magnet school of the Minneapolis Public School District.

Please see the note from Jerry on page 4 about opportunities to connect with the Mount Olive team working with Every Meal.

For more information about Every Meal, please visit their website at [www.everymeal.org](http://www.everymeal.org).

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## Calendar

### Friday, July 3

7:00 p.m. Recovery Group

### Sunday, July 5 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 14 A

10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

### Monday, July 6

6:30 p.m. Recorder Group

7:00 p.m. Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

### Wednesday, July 8

10:00 a.m. Staff meeting

Noon Bible Study (**meeting on Wed. in the summer**)

### Thursday, July 9

9:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*

7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, July 10

7:00 p.m. Recovery Group

### Saturday, July 11

9:00 a.m. Gardening Day

10:00 a.m. Book Discussion Group

### Sunday, July 12 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 15 A

10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

### Monday, July 13

7:00 p.m. Vicar Committee Meeting

7:00 p.m. Global Ministry Committee Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

### Wednesday, July 15

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Noon Bible Study (**meeting on Wed. in the summer**)

### Thursday, July 16

9:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*

7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, July 17

7:00 p.m. Recovery 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

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 11th.

Then in August we will hear from Palestinian author Susan Abulhawa in *Mornings in Jenin* as she follows a family through the years in Palestine. Join us on August 8th.

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10:00 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](#).

## ***The Olive Branch* Summer Publication Schedule**

During the summer months, the *Olive Branch* is published every other week.

**NOTE:** Beginning with this issue, the *Olive Branch* will be published on **Fridays**. The new submission deadline is 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The next issue will be Friday, July 17. The submission deadline is **1:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 15**.

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## **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 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.

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## **Two Summer Choir Opportunities!**

Calling all TENORS and BASSES - All who sing Tenor and Bass voice parts are invited to meet in the choir room at 9:00 a.m. to learn a short piece and then sing in the liturgy on Sunday, July 19th. Likewise, all who sing SOPRANO and ALTO are invited to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 16th. All singers welcome!

## **Save the Date**

Mount Olive Church Picnic at Minnehaha Falls Wabun shelter C on  
**Sunday, August 23, after church until 3:00 pm.**

Details to follow!

## 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:

July 11, 25

August 8, 22

September 5, 19

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

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## Our Going Out and Our Coming In

### *Staff Vacation Schedules*

Pastor Crippen is on vacation June 29-July 22.

Jim Bargmann is on vacation July 3-10, and July 17-24.

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## Sacred Space, Singing Space

The north transept has become a little crowded in recent years. Storing our piano and harpsichord in the same space as our columbarium limits the physical space available for internment liturgies, smaller services, and personal prayer. To help alleviate this confinement, the worship and property committees will be undertaking a small renovation project this summer.

Over the course of the next few weeks, the pews and modesty screen will be removed from the south transept and placed in storage. Then, the piano and harpsichord will be moved from the north transept to the south transept. The chairs that were removed from the north transept following the expansion of the columbarium will be restored to both transepts to allow for seating during liturgies and at other times. Additional chairs may be acquired at a later date as need arises.

This project has a few added benefits as well. Nothing will be thrown out, so pew hardware from the south transept can be used to repair and replace ailing parts in the nave. The south transept also offers more flexible space for musicians during liturgies, concerts, and at other times. And everything can be restored if we discern in the future that some or all pews are needed again in the south transept. We may even find other uses for the south transept in the future as we discern God's good and gracious will.

Questions, comments, and other feedback is always welcome. Contact Andrew Stoebig at [worship@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:worship@mountolivechurch.org) or 763-221-5612.

## St John's Bible Tour

Thank you for your interest in this tour. Wednesday, August 12 proved to be the day most people could take part in our day trip to Collegeville, MN to visit the St John's Bible Museum. We still have space on the bus for 8 more people. If you would like to join us on August 12, **please notify Amy at the church office** ([welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org)) or **Paul Nixdorf** ([pn@paulnixdorf.com](mailto:pn@paulnixdorf.com) or 612-296-0055). Watch for more information coming soon with more details.



Blessings,  
Paul Nixdorf

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## A Financial Update

Since our last budget update, there has been a positive response from members and increased income for the congregation. However, even though our spending remains slightly under budget, our giving continues to lag behind expenses, and the budget deficit grew to slightly over \$67,000 dollars for the year through the end of May. Thank you to those of you who have increased your regular sharing, and/or have provided additional gifts. If you have not done so, we ask that you consider increasing your financial commitment to Mount Olive, so that we can continue to pay our staff, keep our building functional and in good condition, and support the ministries that are so important to us.

Options for giving include:

- Place contributions in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. No need for a special envelope, but please make sure your name and address are noted on any contributions.
- Make a one-time or recurring donation via the Vanco link on the church website
- Mail a check to the church office with any special instructions on how you'd like your contribution used. We can split donations into multiple areas of the budget.
- Gifts of stock can be made through our brokerage account. Please inform the Treasurer ([treasurer@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:treasurer@mountolivechurch.org)) or the Bookkeeper ([bookkeeper@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:bookkeeper@mountolivechurch.org)) that such a gift has been made so they can look for it to arrive.

Thank you!  
Lora Dundek, Director of Shared Ministry

## Disaster Relief – Earthquakes in Venezuela



The Mount Olive Global Ministry Committee has approved a \$2000 donation to Lutheran World Relief from the Global Ministry undesignated offerings for the relief effort following the earthquakes in Venezuela. The devastation from two back-to-back earthquakes that struck Venezuela on June 24 is enormous. The earthquakes that have killed many people and many more are missing. They also caused collapsed buildings, damaged infrastructure and power outages. LWR has mobilized response teams to provide emergency aid, like water, medical care, shelter and essential supplies, to our neighbors facing some of the darkest moments of their lives.

Please keep the people of Venezuela and the emergency response teams in your prayers. If you would like to make a personal donation, you can give through this [link](#) or give via check through Mount Olive by designating your gift for “Venezuelan earthquake relief”.

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### Message from Cha Posz

Dear Mount Olive Community -

Thank you so much for your cards, gifts, prayers, and fellowship at my retirement this past weekend. What a joy it's been to serve with all of you for so many years! I can't imagine a better place to have worked for the last almost 25 years. I am so grateful for the many friends I've made, for your support and understanding, for your patience, for all I have learned from you, and for the example of a loving community in Christ that you continue to be.

May God continue to bless you richly.

With Love in Christ,  
Cha Posz

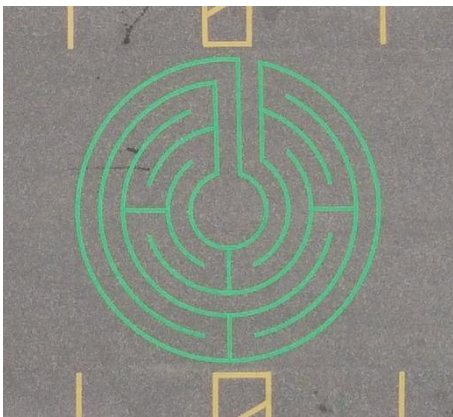
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## A Labyrinth at Mount Olive

We now have a permanent labyrinth on the Mount Olive property, and you are invited to enjoy it at any time. The process to bring a labyrinth to Mount Olive was initiated by Nancy Anderson, supported by the Neighborhood Ministry Committee, and approved by the Vestry. This past weekend, it was painted onto the north side of our south parking lot by a team of volunteers led by local labyrinth artist Lisa Moriarty.



The use of labyrinths as a tool for personal, psychological, and spiritual growth goes back at least 4,000 years. While the design and use of each labyrinth is unique, “the essential features remain the same: a bounded, interior space clearly demarcated and different from the ordinary, exterior area, with a continuous though meandering path to the center and back out again, usually by the same path. [Throughout history and into modern times] a great variety of materials have been used to create labyrinths including stone, tile, grass, sand, earth, carved wood, and painted canvas. There are etched and mosaic labyrinths, finger and stylus labyrinths, and permanent, temporary, and portable walkable labyrinths” (The Labyrinth Society).



Our particular labyrinth is described by Lisa in this way: “a simple heart of Chartres, 6-circuit design.” The original heart of Chartres labyrinth is an 11-circuit design in the Notre Dame de Chartres Cathedral in Chartres, France and was laid as part of the floor in the 1200s. The original is as wide as the nave. It has survived countless wars and uprisings including the French Revolution and both world wars. Lisa and Nancy were there together on retreat in 2008, and Nancy was last there in 2016.

From the very beginning of the process of bringing a labyrinth to Mount Olive, it was conceived as something that would be a gift to those connected to Mount Olive and our community as a whole. Soon, there will be a sign mounted near the labyrinth, providing information about the design and use of this powerful tool and our labyrinth will be listed on The Labyrinth Society website directory, making its presence known in the wider world.

For more information about our labyrinth, its design, and how you might use it in your own personal, psychological, and spiritual growth, please visit with Jim Bargmann or Nancy Anderson or visit The Labyrinth Society website (<https://labyrinthociety.org/>) for information about labyrinths in general.

## More Labyrinth Photos



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## Mount Olive Members at Lutheran Summer Music 2026

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is taking place at Saint Olaf College from June 21 to July 19, and Mount Olive is representing!

Elena Molbert, a rising 10th grader, is attending her first summer at LSM as a student, studying voice, singing in the Festival Concert & Chapel Choirs, and taking other classes such as musicianship and musical theatre. Bekah Schulz (LSM alum '94 & '95) is on staff this summer as the Student Life and Family Liaison and singing in the Chapel Choir. David Cherwien is on the worship and organ staff for his second summer, teaching organ, planning and leading worship, and conducting the Chapel Choir.



The community at LSM worships twice a day, with faculty and student recitals happening most days.



You can be a part of LSM, too! Many events are open to the public and livestreamed. Tickets to events and livestreaming information can be found at <https://www.lsmacademy.org/calendar>.

A little about LSM: Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school students. In addition to advanced musical instruction and numerous performance opportunities, LSM students form an intentional community, living together for four weeks on a Lutheran college campus. Since 1981, this unique and immersive program has guided the lives of thousands of young musicians, many of whom credit LSM as the starting place for their future careers and vocations.

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## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

**Sunday Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.**

### Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

Web: [mountolivechurch.org](http://mountolivechurch.org)

### Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *Daniel Schwandt*

Vicar – *Eric Nelson*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –  
*Jim Bargmann*

Office Administrator – *Amy Thompson*

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