



The Olive Branch

September 11, 2026

Sunday Readings

September 13, 2026
*Sixteenth Sunday after
Pentecost, Lect. 24 A*

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:[1-7]8-13
Romans 14:1-12 (13)
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20, 2026
*Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost,
Lect. 24 A*

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

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

Accent on Worship

Cantor Schwandt

Liturgy for Autumn

After a summer of familiar liturgical music by Bach, Nicolai Kedrov, Regina Fryxell, and Ronald Nelson via ELW Setting Four, we move forward with a mix of familiar and new music.

On the familiar side, our sung acclamations at the Great Thanksgiving will include the Sanctus from Richard Proulx's A Community Mass. This setting is widely known across denominations and was composed sixty years ago when Proulx was musician at the Church of the Holy Childhood in St. Paul. It appears in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, but sadly, the rest of the mass setting is not included.

To welcome the gospel reading, we will sing an Alleluia from the ecumenical monastic community of Taizé. Composed by Jacques Berthier in 1983, it is known simply as Alleluia No. 7. We will also return to a chanted setting of the Kyrie from the Roman Missal that we learned last year. This ancient melody is sung throughout the world and is widely known by our Roman Catholic siblings.

Music new to Mount Olive (as far as I can tell) will include the Agnus Dei from Proulx's A Community Mass and a setting of the Gloria by English-Canadian composer John Lee.

Setting the lengthy text of the Gloria can be difficult. Lee's 1970 setting from his Congregational Mass uses a simple repeated chant formula meant to be sung antiphonally. Antiphonal singing, the practice of two groups singing back and forth, has examples in nearly every genre of singing across human time and culture. Liturgical alternation (which we regularly do at Mount Olive) is used in psalm singing, hymns, and canticles.

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As we learn this new setting, we will explore different methods of antiphonal singing – between choir and assembly, between sections of seating, and between soloist and assembly. Learning a new setting of a long text like the Gloria is never easy, but after doing it for a season, I hope it will settle into our musical bones. I invite you to keep an open mind as we learn this!

The Gift of Pianos

Earlier this spring, Mount Olive was the recipient of two well-loved instruments that will enrich our community. The old piano from the chapel lounge, which had a hard time holding tuning and was in need of repair, was replaced by the beautiful, beloved home piano of Marge and Don Shifflet. Mary Crippen relates a little history of the instrument:

Their Kawai upright studio piano was purchased in 1971 from Schmitt Music when the Shifflets lived in Burnsville. Marge taught piano lessons on it for many years until she started teaching elementary music full time within the Burnsville school district. It provided helpful income early on, and then many more years of singing around it with family and friends. She loved the piano because of its bright, steady tone in the upper ranges, and rich and deep tone in the lower ranges. She took great care of it, always keeping it tuned as it moved with them from Burnsville to Hayward, WI, and finally to Edina in 2018. When they made their recent move to Orchard Path (Presbyterian Homes in Apple Valley) in February, they decided to gift it to Mount Olive, hoping it would continue to be used and enjoyed by the Mount Olive family.

In the undercroft, Andrew and Sarah Stoebig gifted us their family Everett piano for use in the Choir School and for other undercroft events. Andrew relates the history of the instrument:

“Ruth and Gunnar Johnson (of blessed memory) were members of the congregation I grew up in, Beautiful Savior in Plymouth. Gunnar owned a tree farm and would graciously supply our family with our Christmas trees each year. Sometime in my elementary- or middle-school years, they generously gave me their piano, as their children who played had long grown up and moved out. It was my practice instrument for many years, so I’m glad – and I know Gunnar and Ruth would be glad – to know it’s now a practice instrument for our young people on Wednesday nights.”

We give thanks for these generous gifts and pray that their usefulness and enjoyment by Mount Olive continues for many years. Thank you!

- Daniel

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: Simpson Housing



Simpson Housing is a multifaceted organization, providing an emergency shelter, single adult supportive housing, and family supportive housing across the Twin Cities metro area. They provide developmental and educational services for children of families in their family shelter program and “work across the metro area partnering with landlords and developers to find sustainable housing for families and individuals.” In addition, Simpson operates the Adult Shelter Connect program for Hennepin County, providing a single point of contact for those seeking shelter throughout the county.

This year, Simpson dedicated their new building, Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments. This new five-story facility includes emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, food service spaces, community rooms, offices and clinic space.

For more information about Simpson, please visit their website at www.simpsonhousing.org.

Protect Your Belongings

There was a recent theft of personal property during coffee hour, which serves as a stark reminder for all to keep an eye on your belongings. While we strive to maintain a warm, welcoming environment, we also need to be realistic — these things can and do happen. Please keep purses, wallets, phones, keys, and other valuables with you or within sight at all times.

We're all in this together — if you notice anything unusual don't hesitate to speak up.

Music and Fine Arts Series Begins – Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, October 9th, 7:00 p.m., Jonathan Ryan Organ Recital

Jonathan Ryan, an internationally acclaimed organist and winner of numerous prizes in organ performance, will perform music of Flor Peeters, J. S. Bach, Robert Schumann, Calvin Hampton, and Paul Manz on Mount Olive's legendary Schlicker organ. Ryan is currently director of music and organist at Christ Church Cranbrook (Episcopal), Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Eastman School of Music and has performed around the world. His most recent recital appearance brought him to the restored organ of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris earlier this summer. Tell your friends!

Learn About and Support Our Partner Beacon Interfaith Housing

Beacon Interfaith, one of our Neighborhood Ministry Partner Organizations, does absolutely phenomenal work in developing affordable and supportive housing along with the advocacy work needed to make these projects happen. Beacon is also one of the lead organizations in the effort to add a constitutional amendment for housing to the Minnesota State Constitution, an effort in which Mount Olive is involved.

Their primary fundraising and educational event called Light the Way Home is happening on **Tuesday, September 15** from noon to 1:00 pm at the Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center.

Mount Olive is sponsoring a table at this event, and I would be honored if you would join me. We have nine open seats. Please email me by September 3 at neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org if you are interested in attending.

Please know that this is both a fundraiser and educational event - so while there will be a time for attendees to donate, it is not expected of you - there will be great value in your presence even if you are not able to donate.

- Jim Bargmann, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry

Neighborhood Food Drive

Thanks to all who contribute to the [Neighborhood Support Fund](#)! We continue to need support supplying formula requested by families on our list from DHH Church. Thanks to those who've donated so far! If you prefer to donate specific items for the Neighborhood Food Drive, there's a box in the coat room at church labeled 'Baby Formula' or you can order online (Target, Walmart, Amazon, etc.) and have it delivered to Mount Olive.

These formulas are typically requested by the families on our weekly list:

- Infant Enfamil Gentlease or Target's Gentle Premium Powder
- Infant Similac Total Care 360 or Target's Advantage Premium Powder
- Toddler Nestle Nido Kinder 1+ Powder or Enfamil Premium Toddler Powder

Annual Bipes Family Hymn Sing

Join us for a hymn sing at the Bipes family gathering after the second liturgy **this Sunday, September 13**. We'll meet with Cantor Schwandt in the balcony and nave after coffee (about 12:15). We simply call out favorite hymns and how we'd like them sung — it's a delightful blend of a long family tradition and Mount Olive's Hymn Festival. All are welcome!

Sunday Adult Forums

Sunday Adult Forums resume **this Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Chapel Lounge. Read on to see what's coming in September.

September 13 Let the Children (and Youth) Come: An Intergenerational Conversation

This first forum of the season begins in conversation and deep listening about children and families in worship. How are children and families active in our assembly? What engages the hearts and minds of the youngest in our midst? What additional support and welcome might the community offer?

Parents of children currently at Mount Olive as well as parents of children now grown up are especially invited to join in this guided conversation and discernment about our shared life of faith. And so are our youth! We'll begin at 9:35 a.m. or so to allow for Godly Play to begin. Children not yet in Godly Play are welcome to join us, too!

September 20 Lutheran World Relief

The Rev. Brian Scott will provide an overview and updates on Lutheran World Relief's recent work. Lutheran World Relief operates in East and West Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the United States, helping some of the world's poorest communities build the resilience they need to thrive.

September 27 Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel

Presented by Maddi Froiland, Program Director for ELCA's mission Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel.

"Sumud is the ELCA's response to occupation and injustice in Palestine and Israel. The ELCA is committed to accompaniment, advocacy and awareness-raising with partners in the Holy Land and in the U.S. The growing Sumud network works with bishops and synods to empower ELCA communities in this call.

Sumud, Arabic for 'steadfastness,' is used by Palestinian theologians to describe nonviolent resistance to occupation through advocacy, education, social work and faith-rooted presence. Our partners in this work include the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), the only Lutheran church in the Middle East, whose ministries in education, health care, justice and leadership are vital to Palestinian society. We practice accompaniment with this Arabic-speaking community of faithful Lutherans, whom we rely on as our primary lens for understanding the realities in Palestine and Israel."

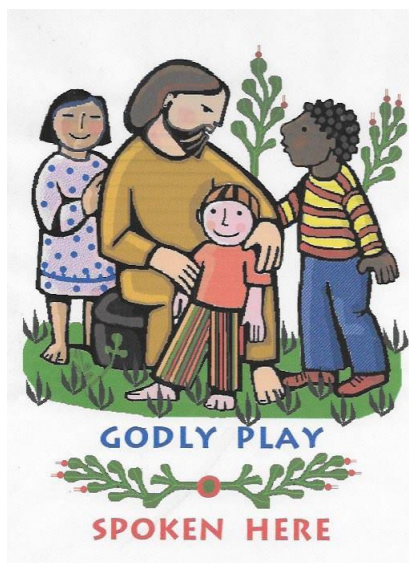
Welcome to Mount Olive's Choir School

Musical interactions with our faith begin even before a child can talk. Families with children between birth and Kindergarten are invited to join Family Music on Zoom each Monday from **5:30-6:00 pm beginning September 21**. A caregiver; whether parent, grandparent, nanny, or another loving adult, participates actively to model and engage our youngest children in singing, playing, dancing, and praying from the comfort of your home. Our hope is that the songs, prayers, and Bible stories become part of your Christian faith practice at home. Mari Espeland will lead these sessions using "Friends in God's World" in the God's Children Sing curriculum from Musikgarten. Please contact Mari at mari.mt.olive@gmail.com with questions and to enroll your child and receive the Zoom link and the family materials kit.

Children's Choir (1st-4th graders led by Mari Espeland) and Youth Choir (5th graders and older led by Rebekah Schulz) begin on **Wednesday, September 16 at 5:30** with dinner in the undercroft. Quick eaters will have adult supervised, though self-directed activities until rehearsal, which runs from 6:00-6:45 pm.

The new year of singing and learning in God's love will have some familiar plans and some new opportunities. Youth and Children's Choirs will sing together at five liturgies this year, including Christmas and Transfiguration. The choirs will sing separately at an additional four liturgies and during the time of gathering each Sunday in Lent. Watch for more information about our singers creating visual art during Lent. Choir School singers will join with their families, especially their grown-ups, to create a one-time family choir on Holy Trinity Sunday! Our intergenerational choir experiment over the last two years has become a source of energy and joy!

Please email Mari at mari.mt.olive@gmail.com or Rebekah at bekah.mt.olive@gmail.com with questions or to enroll your child in Mount Olive's Choir School. Mari and Rebekah are excited to sing and pray with Mount Olive's children and youth this year!

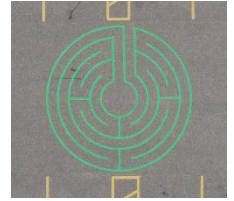


Welcome to Godly Play and a Special Note to Parents

This Sunday we welcome all children ages 3-5th grade to join a Godly Play Circle downstairs. Miss Patsy will be at the hall down from the elevator to welcome you and you will hear of God's great love for all of creation. Down the other hall Mr. Chandler will welcome 2nd-5th graders as they begin a year of deepening their knowledge and considering how God's love changes their lives. Parents, after you drop off your child, head back upstairs for Let the Children (and Youth) Come: An Intergenerational Conversation. This first adult forum of the season begins in conversation and deep listening about children and families in worship. We hope that you can come and share your insights!

Blessing the Path: Join Our Labyrinth Dedication

Join us on Saturday, September 19 at 11:00 a.m. as we dedicate the labyrinth in our parking lot. This brief ceremony will offer thanks for all who helped create it and bless all who walk its path. All are welcome.



Altar Flowers

Sponsoring Sunday altar flowers is an ongoing opportunity above and beyond our regular tithes and offerings both to beautify our worship and to bring some lovely bouquets home for the week. Up until now, Sundays without sponsors have been offset by undated gifts toward flowers as well as the general fund. Beginning Sunday, September 20, we will discontinue this practice as a means of conserving our resources. Any Sunday not sponsored by the preceding Monday will no longer enjoy altar flowers.

Anyone may sign up to sponsor altar flowers on the chart located outside the church office. Bouquets are currently \$50 each, \$100 for both. Consider signing up with others as a means of defraying the cost. Envelopes and instructions are available on the chart. Every gift makes our shared life of faith all the more beautiful!

Undated gifts toward flowers are certainly still most welcome; contact Worship Committee Chair Andrew Stoebig for clarification.

New Library Display: “Getting the Word Out”

Mount Olive’s Louise Schroedel Memorial Library has a new display: “Getting the Word Out,” a history of the congregation’s newsletters – the Messenger, the Angelus, and the Olive Branch. We hope most viewers will find the exhibit interesting and maybe even funny here and there. You’re not likely to shed tears, though one panel suggests it could happen. The display extends to the tall, round table next to the display case. On the middle of the table, you’ll find copies of first issues of the three newsletters that you can pick up and read. On the edge of the table are four duplicates of panels in the case; pick them up for easier reading. Thanks to Louise Lystig Fritchie for the photograph of office administrator Amy Thompson. Amy, Ted, Rose, and Charlie have worshiped with us for a good number of years, and we’re delighted to have Amy in this important position. The display runs through March 7.

This Land Was Made for You and Me

The ELCA's global ministry partner, Educación Popular En Salud (EPES – Popular Education for Health), is making an impact in Oklahoma. Here is an excerpt from a [Living Lutheran online article by Maxine Lowy](#) titled “This Land Was Made for You and Me.”

“In an area that some say hasn't always been welcoming to all, an immigrant pastor's mission with the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod's only Latino congregation is making important inroads in bringing people together. The key tools in this effort have come from a country 5,000 miles to the south.

Earlier in Alvaro Nova's ministry he had a nagging feeling that much more could be done – even if he wasn't sure how to go about it. The answer came nine years ago in the form of an ELCA scholarship to participate in the International Training Course on Popular Education for Health offered by the Educación Popular En Salud (EPES, Popular Education for Health) Foundation in Santiago, Chile.

“That experience with EPES literally changed my vision,” Nova said. “It gave me the tools to develop the ministry I had dreamed about my whole life. I learned that if we are united and bring to the table all the knowledge each of us has, we can transform our communities – and EPES has shown me how to live my faith in practice.”



Alvaro Nova, pastor of Comunidad de Esperanza in Tulsa, OK is pictured with Karen Anderson, retired missionary and founder of the Educación Popular En Salud (EPES).

Organ Concert at Zion Lutheran Hopkins

"The Organ Reimagined"

Enjoy a wonderful concert by Award Winning concert organist Celina Kobetitsch in celebration of 50 years of Zion's Van Daalen pipe organ.

Come and hear this exciting and creative concert on September 13 at 3:00 p.m.; Zion Lutheran Church, 241 5th Ave N Hopkins.



Support Needed for Congregation Member

A member of our congregation is currently in need of support. He is facing a 4-week series of treatments for a medical condition that will make him unable to drive for the duration of treatments. He will need rides to his Monday, Wednesday, and Friday treatments, and a 6-hour period of companionship after each of those treatments. In addition, he will benefit from having people who will be in touch with him on the other days of the week to offer rides for groceries and other needs, and just to provide opportunities for social interaction like coffee dates, walks, meals out, etc.

He lives in south Minneapolis, and his treatments will be at Fairview Riverside Hospital on Riverside Avenue. We don't have specific treatment dates yet, but it is likely the treatments will occupy the whole month of September.

If you think you are able to help in any way, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/MObrother> and indicate your willingness help. This is not a binding commitment - just a gauge of who might be able to help. For questions, contact Lora Dundek at (612) 850-5562, or lhdundek@icloud.com.

Thank you!



Indigenous students at an Indian boarding school in Minnesota around 1900. Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society.

Every Child Matters Orange Shirt Day – Wednesday, September 30, 2026

The Justice Ministry encourages the Mount Olive congregation to strive for awareness of the challenges faced by our neighbors and friends who are members of historically disadvantaged groups. Because the neighborhood in which our church is situated includes a high population of Native Americans, the Justice Ministry considers issues of indigenous justice to be among its five key priorities.

Orange Shirt Day is a National Day of Remembrance for Indian boarding school survivors. Starting in the 19th Century, the U.S. and Canadian governments and various church groups established residential (boarding) schools for Indigenous children with the goal of assimilating them into mainstream society, at the expense of losing their identity as distinct peoples with their own cultures and languages. Residential schools were also the sites of horrific abuses against these children, and even under the best conditions the residents were poorly supported and often subsisted with inadequate nutrition, clothing, heating, and medical care.

Observance of Orange Shirt Day is simple, just wear an orange shirt and be prepared to discuss the background of the day's observance. In addition, the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, headquartered on Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis, not far from Mount Olive, is sponsoring a Day of Remembrance event at Powderhorn Park on Wednesday, September 30. Activities include a film screening and panel discussion focused on the legacy of the federal Indian boarding school system and a candlelight vigil and remembrance walk, with the full agenda still being developed. Further information can be found at the [event's website](#).

Additional information about the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and Orange Shirt Day can be found at the following websites.

- [Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#).
- [Orange Shirt Society](#)
- [Background on the Indian residential school system and Orange Shirt Day](#)
- [Canadian government's official website for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#)

MONARCA Democracy Defense Training at Mount Olive

MONARCA will bring its Democracy Defense Training to Mount Olive on **Tuesday, September 29, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** Read on to learn more about this training and how to register.

From MONARCA:

We have lived through the largest federal immigration operation in US history. We have been tried, tested, and we have shown the world that we, the people, still have the power we need to defend and expand our American democracy. Our elections on November 3rd are an essential part of that defense. Election integrity is under unprecedented attack. People in the highest levels of government have called to [nationalize elections](#), tried to [seize voter rolls](#) from our state officials, and threatened [federal agents at polling places](#).

Join MONARCA and your neighbors for our new Democracy Defense training. Together, we will build a broad network to defend our democracy, using every lever we can to ensure we have safe, free, and fair elections, and that our votes are counted. In this training, you will learn more about:

- The threats we are facing
- The actions we can take, now, up to the election, and beyond
- How to organize locally to build democracy defense networks, building on what we already have
- Next steps to stay engaged with the work

The training focuses on local organizing, including an intentional planning period to work alongside your neighbors. If you are coming from outside the area, we are excited to see you, and we think you'll get the most from the event if you can attend with 2-3 people from your neighborhood, as well as connect with us afterwards to plan a training for your area.

We, the people, will defend our democracy from sliding further into authoritarian rule. Together, we will create a participatory, multicultural democracy that values every voice, and where all people live with dignity.

Registration:

To register, visit [Monarca Democracy defense training 9/29 at Mt. Olive](#). The location initially indicates the Powderhorn neighborhood. Mount Olive and our address is shared after you register. This is open to our neighbors, so if you're interested in attending, please sign up to help us track how many people will attend. There are a limited number of spaces available.

- Justice Committee

Noon Bible Study Link

The Noon Bible Study meets Tuesdays 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 Noon Bible study will be the same every week. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).



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:

- September 19
- October 3, 17, and 31 - fall cleanup and winter prep

Book Discussion

As we move into the fall we will read *Winter in the Blood* by James Welch for our **September 12** gathering. It is set at Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana. An October book has been chosen as well, *Lost Horizon* by James Hilton.

Everyone is invited to join when-ever 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](#).

Calendar

Friday, September 11

The Olive Branch Publication
7:00 p.m. Recovery Group [Undercroft]

Saturday, September 12

10:00 a.m. Book Discussion Group [Schroedel Library]
10:00 a.m. Hospitality Committee Meeting [East Assembly]

Sunday, September 13 – *Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost, Lect. 21 A* *St. John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407*

8:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
9:30 a.m. Education Hour [Chapel Lounge]
10:45 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship

Monday, September 14 – *Holy Cross Day*

7:00 p.m. *Holy Eucharist, Holy Cross Day*
7:00 p.m. Monday Night WAVE (N.A. group) [Undercroft]

Tuesday, September 15

12:00 p.m. Bible Study [East Assembly]
5:00 p.m. Neighborhood Ministry Committee Meeting [Schroedel Library]

Wednesday, September 16 – *St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258*

10:00 a.m. Staff meeting [Schroedel Library]
1:00 p.m. *The Olive Branch* submissions due
7:00 p.m. Cantorei Rehearsal [Manz Choir Room]

Thursday, September 17 – *St. Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179*

9:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer* [Columbarium transept of the Nave]
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting [Schroedel Library]
7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous [Undercroft]

Friday, September 18 – *Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961* *The Olive Branch* is published

7:00 p.m. Recovery Group [Undercroft]

The Olive Branch **Publication** **Schedule**

The Olive Branch is published every week on Friday.

The submission deadline for the September 18 issue is **1:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 16.**