



The Olive Branch

September 18, 2026

Sunday Readings

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

September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday
after Pentecost,
Lect. 25 A

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

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

Accent on Worship

Vicar Hagen

As flurries of bright-yellow ash leaves anticipate fall's arrival, I find myself working in my vineyard... just like the workers in this week's Gospel text. Naturally, the workers Jesus describes in Matthew 20:1-16 face a more laborious day than I do caring for my arbor of Frontenac grapes. Tedious as they are, my fall pruning and harvesting tasks are quickly done.

But the green beans... they are a different story.

For months now, rain or shine, I have picked beans daily: Seychelles, Kentucky Wonder, Jade, and purple Trionfo Violetto. In July, I can expect a daily basket of firm, emerald pods. By September, though, a bit of resentment creeps in as the beans go dormant. I still spend the same hour picking the same number of rows, and I can end up with just a handful of beans and a couple of mosquito bites to show for my time. The reward doesn't match my effort anymore, and it feels unfair.

Yet this week, Jesus' parable reminds me that the beans are not the point. When his disciples asked about the heavenly reward for their particularly faithful service, Jesus responded with a story about workers who put in very different amounts of labor, but all received the same payment. His response defies our transactional expectations. It reveals that those who labor longest in the field of faith do not need to earn more than those who join the work later, because their reward is not a simple coin. In fact, it is not something earthly or quantifiable at all. God's gracious love does not need to be measured out or prorated for years of service. The last will be first, and the first will be last, but all are welcome at the holy feast.

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Likewise, my ever-growing mountain of green beans is not the true reward for my gardening time, whether I gather a handful or a bushel. My true rewards are pure gifts from God that need not be quantified: the song of cardinals, autumn sunshine, a favorite hymn melody to hum, and time spent with God among the gracefully enfolding leaves...priceless. This week, I pray that the turning of the seasons will also reveal God's abundance in your own life.

- Emily



Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: The Lift Garage

The Lift Garage is a non-profit organization providing low-cost car repairs for income eligible Minnesotans from their shop on Lake Street or through their mobile repair van. Founded in 2013 by a social worker turned mechanic,

The Lift Garage is a vital and unique neighborhood resource, providing necessary repairs so members of our community have the means to get to work, medical appointments, transport their kids to school, and more.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, 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 The Lift Garage please visit their website at www.theliftgarage.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!

Save the Date: 4th Annual Lefse Baking

Mark your calendars for the 4th annual lefse baking event on **Saturday, November 7th**. We will meet in the Undercroft and practice the beloved tradition of lefse making. More details to follow. Contact Marsha Johnson at mejohanson56@yahoo.com or 763-843-7024 with questions.



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.

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

Disaster Relief for Nepal

On August 26, 2026, a devastating flash flood swept through Nepal's Bhote Koshi-Trishuli river system, causing extensive loss of life and widespread damage across Rasuwa, Nuwakot, and surrounding areas. Homes, roads, bridges, hydropower facilities, and other critical infrastructure were damaged or destroyed, leaving communities in urgent need of assistance.



In Nepal, Corus operates as Lutheran World Relief and is responding through its established presence and local partnerships. Teams have been deployed to Rasuwa and Nuwakot to assess needs, coordinate with local authorities and humanitarian partners, and help deliver essential assistance to affected communities. Response efforts include the distribution of hygiene supplies and clothing, as well as support for urgent water, sanitation and shelter needs.

The Mount Olive Global Ministry Committee has approved a \$2,000 donation to Lutheran World Relief from the Global Ministry undesignated offerings for this relief effort. Please keep the people of Nepal 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 "Nepal disaster relief".

Scenes from the Annual Church Picnic

Thank you to everyone who helped organize this year's annual church picnic held at Wabun Park on August 23. It was a delicious and fun event. Please enjoy these photos, courtesy of Jim Johnson.



Upcoming Sunday Adult Forum Topics

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."

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.

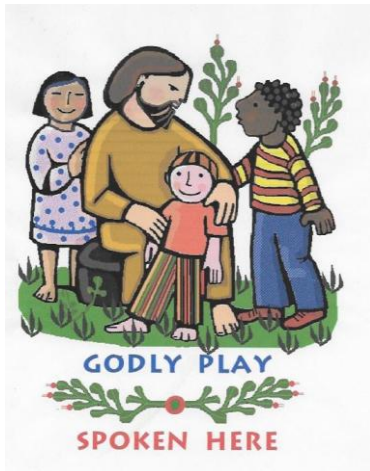
Anyone may sign up to sponsor altar flowers on the chart located outside the church office. Bouquets are currently \$50 each, \$100 for both. Consider signing up with others as a means of defraying the cost. Envelopes and instructions are available on the chart. Every gift makes our shared life of faith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

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

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.

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!



Godly Play

A big thank you to all of the parents who offered their thoughts at the Adult Forum last week. We always know that supporting you is our first job.

This Sunday, Godly Play Circle One will hear the story of Noah and the Ark. Godly Play Circle Two will take a deep look at Creation. Godly Play Two kiddos, don't forget the task that you had and be ready to report back on Sunday!

All children ages 3-Grade 1 are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 2-5 are welcome to Circle Two.

Save the Date:
Annual Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 4, 2:00 p.m.

Bring your pets to this annual service of blessing!
All are welcome.



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 Mount 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

On **October 10**, the discussion will center around James Hilton's *Lost Horizon*. Shangri-La anyone? Then on **November 14**, *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi is on the schedule.

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10:00 a.m. in the Schroedel 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 at the church in person or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smart phone, [click here](#).

Calendar

Friday, September 18

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

Saturday, September 19

9:00 a.m. Gardening Day
11:00 a.m. Labyrinth Dedication

Sunday, September 20 – *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 25 A* – *Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996*

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee and fellowship
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum [Chapel Lounge]
9:30 a.m. Godly Play [Circle 1 and Circle 2 Rooms]
10:20 a.m. Cantorei warm-up [Manz Choir Room]
10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee and fellowship

Monday, September 21 – *St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

7:00 p.m. Monday Night WAVE [Undercroft]

Tuesday, September 22

12:00 p.m. Bible Study [East Assembly]

Wednesday, September 23

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting [Schroedel Library]
1:00 p.m. *The Olive Branch* Submission Deadline
5:30 p.m. Children & Youth Choirs Supper [East Assembly]
6:00 p.m. Children & Youth Choirs Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Adult Forum Group [Schroedel Library]
7:00 p.m. Cantorei Rehearsal [Manz Choir Room]
7:00 p.m. Y2 Confirmation [Schroedel Library]

Thursday, September 24

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer [Columbarium Transept of the Nave]
7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous [Undercroft]

Friday, September 25

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

Saturday, September 26

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.**

Please pray throughout the week for the following: Keith Bartz; Dixie Berg; Leah Crosby and her newborn daughter, Myla Rose; Larry Duncan; Jan Gallagher; Allen Heggen; Neil Hering; Mary Rose Kaliher; Leanna Kloempken; Bob Lee; Tim Lindholm; Margaret Melang; Jude Mostek; Gary Nack; Kandi Jo Nelson; Sherry Nelson; Gail Nielsen; Connie & Rod Olson; Russ Pearson; Elijah Pettis; Robin Rayfield; Pariann Schenk; Rodney Schrank; Mark Spitzack; Shirley Tabis; John Wall; Grace Wiechman; Paul Carlson, friend of David Anderson; Paul Solariski, uncle of Emily Bird; Shelly Clubb, friend of Joyce Brown; Sara Brunette, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; Lawrence Walker & Anne Walker, friends of Irene Campbell; Heather Johnson and Theresa Ryser, relatives of Kat & Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; David Gutierrez, father of Consuelo Crosby; Jack Pogge and Joy McDonald Coltvett, friends of Jan Harbaugh; Mark Holtzen, Tom Cedal, Chuck Dull, and Brian Johnson, cousin and friends of Carolyn & George Heider; Jesus Lopez and Philip Borchardt, friends of Gene Janssen; the Klapushynski family (of Ukraine), friends of Jim & Judy Johnson; Bonnie Beisell and Ken Kaliher, friend and brother of Dave & Mary Rose Kaliher; Mike Ruchie, brother of Kathy Kruger; Ann Richards, friend of Carol Martinson; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Sandy Bryant, Daniel Nelson, and Martha Johnson, sister, brother, and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Stan & Darlene Nelson, parents of Brad Nelson; Chris McCune-Zierath, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Olive Oelfke, great-granddaughter of George & Marlys Oelfke; Linda Penas, relative of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Jan Callison and Bill Newhouse, friend and uncle of Cynthia Prosek; Jolie Melana Meshbesher and Kit Delfino, friends of Robin Rayfield; Linda Darlene Schlude, mother of Jason Schlude and friend of Martin Connell and Greg Terhaar; Aric Sorenson, former member of Mount Olive; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Marijane and Cheryl Ness and Steve Langlie, friends of Eric Zander; Sandra, friend of Mount Olive; Steve Horsfield, friend of Mount Olive.

In hospice care:

David Tabis; Christiane Reichel, friend from Leipzig

About our prayer list ...

If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers. Contact the church office with any updates.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist:

8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Education Hour: 9:30 a.m.

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *Daniel Schwandt*

Vicar – *Emily Hagen*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –
Jim Bargmann

Office Administrator – *Amy Thompson*

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