



The Olive Branch

September 25, 2026

Sunday Readings

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

October 4, 2026
Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost,
Lect. 26 A

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

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

Accent on Worship

Pastor Crippen

Completed

"Make my joy complete," Paul says in our second reading for this Sunday. Now, we know the following words from Philippians 2 so well. Paul calls his people to share the same mind and the same heart as Christ's mind and heart, Christ's humbling of himself and giving himself in love even to death.

But what shone for me this week is "make my joy complete." Paul is eager for his beloved Philippians to share Christ's mind and heart because it will fill him with joy to see it. To know that these amazing friends of his were living as Christ, sharing Christ's heart would delight his heart.

This is a wonder to consider. That seeing someone else live as Christ would fill us to the brim with joy. That the life in Christ we are called to live delights others when they see it, know it.

Jesus promised this very thing. In John 15, he says, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

Ponder that with me. Ponder that your joy will be complete when you see others living in Christ's love. That's how potent this community of Christ is that you're a part of. When others live into their discipleship, you are filled with joy. What if you leaned into that hope?



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.

Music and Fine Arts Series Begins – Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, October 9, 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!

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.

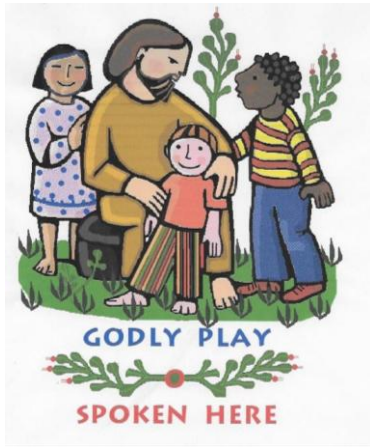


In Nepal, Corus operates as Lutheran World Relief and is responding through its established presence and local partnerships. Teams have been deployed to Rasuwa and Nuwakot to assess needs, coordinate with local authorities and humanitarian partners, and help deliver essential assistance to affected communities. 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".

Save the Date: 4th Annual Lefse Baking

Mark your calendars for the 4th annual lefse baking event on **Saturday, November 7**. 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.



Godly Play

This Sunday, Godly Play Circle One will hear about The Great Family - the sacred story of Abraham and Sarah and God's promise that explores identity and belonging.

Godly Play Circle Two will explore the story of Adam-Eve and how they "fell apart" from God and each other.

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

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

Upcoming Sunday Adult Forum Topics

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."

October 4 The Life and Organ Works of David N. Johnson

Cantor Daniel Schwandt will share his doctoral research project, the life and organ works of David N. Johnson.

Organist, pedagogue, and composer David N. Johnson created an extensive body of organ and church music and influenced twentieth-century organ pedagogy through his teaching and writing. As an organist, he excelled at improvisation, inspiring audiences with his varied and engaging programming. As a composer, he focused on creating music for musicians of limited skill and provided organists of all abilities with music of craft and aesthetic worth. Working during an era of significant change and artistic experimentation, Johnson also sought to bring various experimental compositional practices to church music. The motivation for his life's work came from a spiritual imperative to bring music to ordinary people. By elevating their spiritual and musical experiences, he sought to open them to even higher artistic possibilities.

October 11 Working for the Public Good: Lutheran Ethics and Modern Social Democracy

Les Weber Jr., a former Vicar at Mount Olive in 1971, will return to discuss his recent book "Working for the Public Good: Lutheran Ethics and Modern Social Democracy"

In this book, Weber demonstrates that despite historical critiques of quietism, European Lutherans developed a social ethics in the centuries following the Reformation that brought about fundamental systemic and structural changes in social services, law, education, health care, the formation of states and nations, and public morality. Those changes eventually led to the development of the welfare state. In so doing, Weber challenges interpretations by scholars, such as the German Lutheran theologian Ernst Troeltsch, who argued that Lutheran theology created a church operating at a remove from society's pressing questions.



MONARCA Democracy Defense Training at Mount Olive

Tuesday, September 29, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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:

- Threats we are facing
- Actions we can take, now, up to the election, and beyond
- Organizing 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.

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



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](#)

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:

- 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 25

The Olive Branch Publication

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

Saturday, September 26

Sunday, September 27 – *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 26 A*

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]

9:30 a.m. Youth Conversation Group [Undercroft Youth Space]

10:20 a.m. Cantorei warm-up [Manz Choir Room]

10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by coffee and fellowship

Monday, September 28

5:30 p.m. Family Music [Zoom]

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

Tuesday, September 29 – *St. Michael and All Angels*

10:00 a.m. Personnel Committee Meeting [Schroedel Library]

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

6:00 p.m. MONARCA Democracy Defense Training [Undercroft or East Assembly]

Wednesday, September 30 – *St. Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420*

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 [Undercroft]

6:00 p.m. Children & Youth Choirs Rehearsal [Circle 3 Room & South Transept]

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, October 1

9:00 a.m. Interfaith Power & Light Meeting [location TBD]

9:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer* [Columbarium Transept of the Nave]

11:00 a.m. Central Conference [location TBD]

7:00 p.m. Shared Ministry Committee Meeting [East Assembly]

7:00 p.m. Vicar Committee Meeting [Schroedel Library]

7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous [Undercroft]

Friday, October 2

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 October 2 issue is **1:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 30.**