

The Olive Branch

October 30, 2026

Sunday Readings

November 1, 2026
All Saints Day
Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 8, 2026
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost,
Lect. 32 A
Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

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

Accent on Worship — Jim Bargmann

"The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended" ELW 569, stanzas 2, 3, and 4
Text by John Ellerton

We thank you that your Church, unsleeping
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world a watch is keeping,
And never rests by day or night.

As to each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the song of praise away.

The sun, here having set, is waking
Your children under western skies,
And hour by hour, as day is breaking,
Fresh hymns of thankful praise arise.

The text of this hymn, particularly these middle three stanzas, stands as a milepost in my faith development. I remember distinctly singing this hymn at my home congregation in Colorado when I was either 10 or 11 years old. Most likely this was not the first time we had sung this hymn and it certainly was not the last. But at this particular point in my life, it connected in a way that has stuck with me ever since.

The image here opened my eyes, my mind, my heart to the universal nature of the Church in profound ways. The idea of God's children awaking to the rising sun, beginning the day with prayer, and connecting that to the scientific reality of the earth's rotation creating an effectual perpetual sunrise was life changing for me. Prayer and praise never end when we see the reality of the church universal.

Continued on page 2.

Accent on Worship, continued from page 1

And this weekend's celebration of All Saints Day further broadens our view of the Church universal to include those who now fully experience the reign of God and have continued in that never ending praise and prayer. A Church universal that we are a part of now and forever.



Former Vicar Nelson to be Ordained October 31

Our vicar from last year, Erik Nelson, has received a call to Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Rochester, Minnesota. (It will be easy for him to remember the name!)

Erik will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA this Saturday, October 31, at 11:00 a.m. in a Eucharist at Mount Olive, with Bishop Regina Hassanally of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod presiding. All are welcome, and clergy are invited to vest in red if they wish to process with the others. Refreshments will be served following the liturgy.

Thanks be to God for this new pastor for our church, and for the gift that Erik will be to the people of Rochester!

Names of the Departed Saints Invited

As part of our All Saints liturgy this Sunday, November 1, worshippers are invited to submit the names of loved ones who have died in the past year, since last All Saints Sunday, who were not members of Mount Olive. Members of the parish who have died are always named.

Contact the church office with the names by **4:00 p.m. Friday, October 30** to include them in the prayers of intercession. Please keep this to just those who have died this past year, so we can have a more manageable list.



Time to Fall Back!

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night. Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, returning us to Standard Time.

If you forget and happen to find yourself at church an hour early, you'll have plenty of time to attend the Adult Forum!

Requiem Premiere

For 25 years, composer and Mount Olive member, Robert Farlee, had a project dear to his heart that he would turn to whenever he had a rare period of free time. It was a Requiem, a piece written in memory of loved ones who had died. While the traditional Requiem is a liturgical setting with a Latin text, this one was in English, and its text was a compilation of traditional, biblical, and original poetry. The poet and compiler was our congregation's dear (and still mourned) Susan Palo Cherwien.

In retirement, Farlee finally had the time to focus on completing the seven-movement piece, titled "From Death, the Rising: A Requiem." It will be premiered this Sunday, All Saints Day, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time / 10:00 a.m. Central Time in worship at the Duke University Chapel. (The Requiem itself lasts about 30 minutes.) Bob and his wife Jane will be in attendance (as will Susan's husband David), but those who are farther away can still hear the piece via YouTube. On or after Sunday morning, go to youtube.com, type "Duke Chapel Services" in the search box, and look for "Sunday Morning Worship Service – 11/1/2026." That will take you to the streamed service, either live or recorded.

Request for This Sunday's Adult Forum – Women of the Cloth



Do you have a prayer shawl or a handmade quilt that holds spiritual meaning for you? This week's Adult Forum will celebrate three fiber artists in the book of Acts who used their skill and artistry to support their Christian communities in many ways. To help us explore our connection with them, attendees who own a special fiber-crafted item (made by knitting, crochet, quilting, embroidery, weaving, dyeing, etc.) are invited to bring an example that is connected with their personal faith to display during the forum. Whether you made the item yourself or received it as a gift, anything made from yarn, thread, or fabric would fit right in, from a christening dress to an embroidered Bible bookmark or pieced wedding quilt. Please email Vicar Emily to make sure we provide enough space: vicar@mountolivechurch.org.



Gardening Day at Mount Olive

Due to the ordination service for Erik Nelson this Saturday, October 31, we will not be doing the final fall clean up. Instead, we will gather on Saturday, November 7, 9:00 am to put everything to bed for the winter.

See you on November 7 as your schedule allows.

Fall Pledge Drive: *Connected in Faith, Serving Together*

At the semi-annual meeting on October 25, the congregation adopted the 2027 budget as proposed by the Vestry. The 2027 budget adopted at the congregational meeting last week pays our excellent staff an equitable wage and covers a significant increase in our health and benefit costs, supports needed maintenance and repair on our building, and preserves the 12% tithe on our giving. However, our giving, while generous, has not kept up with our higher costs. So, we are all being asked to consider several options:

1. If you have been regular givers to the church, please consider at least a *5% increase* in your annual giving. This is the minimum needed to meet the budget for 2027. If you are able to give more, please do. The Vestry understands that not everyone will be able to increase by 5%, so those who have some "cushion" in their finances can help to augment the amount that others without that cushion can provide. We all sail in the Mount Olive ship together!
2. If you are not a regular giver, please consider sharing from your financial resources as you are able. Small, regular gifts are very important! For example, giving $1 per week throughout the year will purchase enough diapers to keep a family supplied for at least a month. That's a great gift to that family. Two dollars per week doubles that!
3. Regular giver or not, consider giving only to the general budget rather than designated funds. This means that instead of donating specifically to "Neighborhood Ministry," that money could simply go to the general budget, which in turn will provide support to all the ways in which Neighborhood Ministry cares for those around the church. Jim Bargmann, Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministries, spoke in support of donations to the general budget rather than to specific designated funds during the semi-annual meeting.
4. If you make one or two larger gifts during the year, consider making them early in the year and/or during the summer. We often experience cash flow difficulties in the first part of the year and then again in the summer, when giving tends to be low. Our "fixed costs" (salaries, benefits, and utility bills) don't go down. This can force us to use our line of credit to pay bills during these periods, and that incurs interest expense. If we can create a more even distribution of funding, we can avoid that expense.



We are currently conducting a pledge campaign entitled *Connected in Faith. Serving Together* to get commitments from all of us to share abundantly with our resources in 2027. If you didn't pick up a pledge card at the annual meeting, you'll receive one in the mail. If you've lost yours, more are available on the circular display in the West Assembly Room. Please complete the card and return it at the in-gathering of pledges during the liturgies on November 15. Thank you for your generosity!

The Shared Ministry Committee

Treasurer Update

At the October 25 Congregation Meeting, the voting members approved a budget for 2027. This budget forecasts total expenses for 2027 at approximately $916,000, representing a 2% increase over our 2026 year-end forecast. During the robust discussion, the congregation was presented with data showing that 80% of our expenses are classified as "fixed costs" tied to staffing and property. 12% continues to be reserved for our tithe, supporting the synod, neighborhood ministry, and global ministry equally. The final 8% of our budget is discretionary and has been trimmed to what is feasible. With income projections based on current giving patterns, I forecast a deficit of $30k by the end of 2027.



While we have few available tools to reduce our expenses, our income is not set in stone. Elsewhere in this issue, Lora Dundek writes about our pledge campaign, *Connected in Faith, Serving Together*, which illustrates the many ways that you can make a difference.

-Matt Krueger-McCuen, Treasurer

Choir School News

Family Music (children birth to kindergarten with a caregiver) will meet in person on **Sunday, November 8** from 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in Godly Play room 3. If your young child does not attend Godly Play yet, please join us! We will sing, pray, dance, and play together celebrating our friendship in God's World. If you are new to Family Music this would be a lovely time to meet other families and consider joining us for Monday Zoom classes. Contact Mari at mari.mt.olive@gmail.com if you have questions.

All our singers are now fitted with robes, no small feat for growing children and youth! All the Choir School singers and families send a big thank you to Linda Pipkorn for lovingly fitting, sewing, and cleaning our choir robes.

Can You Help a Fellow Member with Tech Issues?

The proliferation of technology like smart phones, tablets, and computers can be a blessing. For some, it can be a challenge to keep up with the changes, sort out difficulties that emerge, and handle problems.

From time to time there are members who could use someone with patience and skills to sit down with them and troubleshoot some problem or issue that they're having with tech. We have one such member now, but there will be others.

If you've got the ability and interest to offer a little time to a sibling in this congregation, please let Pr. Crippen know. He'll keep a short list for when someone asks for help. And if you can help someone right now, please say so, as he's looking for a connector for a member.

4th Annual Lefse Bake!



The 4th annual lefse baking event will take place on **Saturday, November 7**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Undercroft.

Please bring your prepared potatoes and any equipment you may have as well as quart size storage bags and extra flour. We'll finish up by 1pm.

Contact Marsha Johnson to RSVP or ask any questions at mejohnson56@yahoo.com or 763-843-7024.

Where, Oh Where Can They Be???



Two moving carts belonging to Mount Olive like the one in the photo have been missing for several weeks. Thorough searches of the building have been conducted to no avail.

They are missed by all those who use them on a regular basis. If you have knowledge of where they may be hiding at the church, please let Office Administrator Amy know their whereabouts by phone or email.

If you have borrowed them for a project at home and just not gotten around to returning them, this is encouragement to do so as soon as possible.

To Remember is to Begin - A Concert of Remembrance.

Join the National Lutheran Choir under Artistic Director Jennaya Robison for To Remember is to Begin: A Concert of Remembrance at St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church in Plymouth and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi.

Featuring Leonard Bernstein's beloved Chichester Psalms, the concert also includes works by composers Hyo-Won Woo, Kim Andre Arnesen, Paul Christiansen, Edgar Bainton, Undine Smith Moore, and Kyle Pederson.

Audience members are invited to remember and celebrate the saints in their own lives by submitting the names of loved ones, both newly born and recently passed, to be incorporated into the concert.

Dates & Location:
7:30 p.m. - Friday**, October 30** at St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minnesota
4:00 p.m. - Sunday, **November 1** at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, Minnesota
*Livestream available at NLCA.com

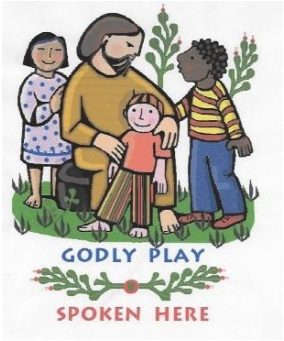
Tickets at NLCA.com.
Groups of 10 or more receive discounted tickets. Call 612-722-2301 for info on group rates.

Footsteps of Paul Trip

Some folks who traveled to Palestine last year are planning a trip to Greece and Turkey next September and would like to invite you along. This is not a church sponsored trip, but rather a group of people who simply like to learn and experience more.

Sami Khoury, the wonderful guide who led us through Palestine and Israel is offering this trip through his travel agency and will be our guide. The trip is planned for September 13-22, 2027 and includes three a three-day cruise to visit some of the significant islands. The travel brochure at https://sacredtravelpaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/STP-097-Tour-Brochure-Mt.-Olive-Friends-Greece-2027-Final.pdf provides more information including the registration page.

It looks to be a wonderful trip, but registration is limited. If you have questions please contact either Judy Hinck (judyhinck@gmail.com) or Jim Johnson(jimjudyjake@comcast.net).



Godly Play

A big thank you to all of the children and adults who wrote and drew messages of encouragement last Sunday to our friends in Guatemala. We all know how important encouragement can be when we are trying to do something difficult!

This Sunday, students will be back in their regular circles. Circle 1 will be hearing about both the tent and the temple, the sacred spaces for the People of God. Circle 2 will think about what it means to listen to God as they hear about young Samuel.

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

Upcoming Sunday Adult Forum Topics

November 1
Women of the Cloth: Female Fiber Artists in the Book of Acts
Presented by Vicar Emily Hagen. This forum draws on the book of Acts to celebrate three women whose textile work helped share the Gospel message and contributed to the well-being of their early Christian communities in both material and spiritual ways. It also lifts up several ways that fiber arts continue to help us care for one another, profess our beliefs expressively, and deepen our devotional lives. (Includes interactive and fiber arts display elements.)

November 8, 15, 22
Diverse Streams, Diverse Voices
In the history of the Church, there are streams and voices of Christ's followers that have different approaches and different understandings of faith and of God from those we know so well in the Western Church. Building from work by theologian Justo L. Gonzalez, Pr. Crippen will lead a series exploring some of those voices and streams and how they might enrich our own faith and trust in God's love for the world in Christ.

Vote!

The following is an excerpt from ELCA Bishop Jen Nagel's July 21, 2026 blog titled "Robust Civic Engagement."

> "Catholic priest and former Notre Dame University President Theodore Hesburgh calls voting a 'civic sacrament,' a sacred responsibility where we shape our communities and act for the common good. In our baptism, we commit to care for others and the world God made, and to work for justice and peace.
>
> Jesus commanded his followers to love our neighbors by feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, visiting the sick and imprisoned (Matthew 25), and raising up the voices of those who are marginalized and oppressed. As Lutheran Christians, we believe that robust civic engagement—including voting—is a part of our baptismal vocation. In fact, we believe that God has called us to ensure that everyone benefits from the good that government can be in our communities.
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> So, cheers to the first-time voters, to the children who learn the practice of going to the polls and are eager to vote when they turn 18. Yes, to the election judges, poll chaplains, and all those who give rides and flex to support others who seek to cast a ballot. Praise God, for civil servants.
>
> As we observe the 250th anniversary of the founding of this nation, I am standing with clergy leaders from across the country, across religious traditions, and across racial lines to uphold free and fair elections. In our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are blessed by the guidance of our newest (2025) social statement called Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All. It's a gem and full of guidance as we seek to live faithfully in these challenging times."

Remember, if possible vote early and encourage others to do the same!
Check out this Minnesota Voting Information Portal to learn about:

- Polling place location (where you vote on Election Day)
- What's on your ballot
- Your precincts and districts

Early voting at:
Bethel Lutheran Church
4120 17th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55407
Get directions

Hours:
Friday, October 30, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 31 & Sunday, November 1, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Monday, November 2, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: Central Lutheran Restoration Center

The Restoration Center at Central Lutheran provides a drop-in center for people in and around downtown Minneapolis experiencing homelessness and economic insecurity. They provide emergency rental assistance, meals, free-use computers, and a place for people to gather for community and support. Their Free Store provides clothing and household goods in a store-like environment and a partnership with Augsburg University provides free, low barrier healthcare.

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 Central Lutheran Restoration Center please visit their website at www.centralmpls.org/community/restorationcenter.

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.**

Book Discussion

On **November 14** the book *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levy will be discussed. This is a chance to think about what it really means to "see someone." Then on December 12 the group will return to an author that we've appreciated before, Colson Whitehead, and his book *Crook Manifesto.*

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, October 30 - St. James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62
The Olive Branch is published
7:00 p.m. Recovery Group [Undercroft]
Saturday, October 31 – Reformation Day
11:00 a.m. ***Holy Eucharist, Ordination of Erik Nelson***
Sunday, November 1 –All Saints Day
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 [Youth Space]
10:15 a.m. Youth Choir Warm-up
10:20 a.m. Cantorei warm-up [Manz Choir Room]
10:45 a.m. ***Holy Eucharist***
12:15 p.m. Theological Discussion Group [Schroedel Library]
12:30 p.m. Y4 Confirmation [Youth Room]
Monday November 2-
5:30 p.m. Family Music [Zoom]
7:00 p.m. Global Ministry Meeting [Schroedel Library]
7:00 p.m. Monday Night WAVE [Undercroft]
Tuesday, November 3 – St. Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639
12:00 p.m. Bible Study [East Assembly]
5:00 p.m. Indigenous Discussion Group [Schroedel Library]
Wednesday, November 4
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting [Schroedel Library]
1:00 p.m. The Olive Branch Submission Deadline
5:30 p.m. Children & Youth Choirs Dinner [Undercroft]
6:00 p.m. Children & Youth Choirs Rehearsal [Circle 3 Room & South Transept]
7:00 p.m. Cantorei Rehearsal [Manz Choir Room]
7:00 p.m. Y2 Confirmation [Schroedel Library]
Thursday, November 5
9:30 a.m. ***Morning Prayer*** [Columbarium Transept of the Nave]
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, November 6
- *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 November 6 issue is **1:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 4**.