

The Olive Branch

November 13, 2026

Sunday Readings

November 15, 2026
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost,
Lect. 33 A
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, 2026
Reign of Christ,
Lect. 34 A
Ezekiel 34:11-16 [17-19] 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

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

Accent on Worship — Vicar Emily Hagen

Several scripture readings since All Saints' Sunday have focused on time, and especially the unknown time of the "Day of the LORD." This week, Psalm 90 reminds us that God is timeless: beyond all time. As our hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" paraphrases this psalm, "a thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun."

Strangely, time also begins to feel this way for me around this time of year. It's Halloween, and then I blink, and it's New Year's Eve …. and there may be a good reason for this. In *The Scent of Time*, philosopher Byung-Chul Han recalls that unlike our ancestors, for whom each season was bound to particular agricultural tasks that would end as the weather changed, we live in a year-round rhythm of busy-ness. Days and weeks can seem to run together, melting away as they flow by. We have fewer built-in moments to hold still, contemplate, and mark the *end* of one thing and the *beginning* of another. For our minds, everything we have been doing is still carried with us, as if we constantly opened new books without ever closing one. To make meaningful sense of time, we need moments that invite true pause, togetherness, and a memorable sense of presence in the *now*.

This is why our church year, in addition to bringing structure, breadth, and beauty to our worship, is a transformational gift. Through its seasons and festivals, the church year provides the profound blessing of marking the passage of time through observations that happen only once per year. Each week, we remember God's past blessings, notice God's presence among us now, and prepare our hearts for the new creation God promises.

Continued on page 2.

Accent on Worship, continued from page 1.

Each liturgical season marks the end of something and the beginning of something new–a chance to set down what we have been carrying and come to God with newly unburdened hands.

This week, with cooler temperatures finally in the forecast, nature prepares to move us – gently, one hopes – through the wheel of the seasons, and we also stand on the threshold of the Reign of Christ, Thanksgiving, and Advent. May we welcome each coming week as an invitation to pause and contemplate the magnificent gifts of this season.

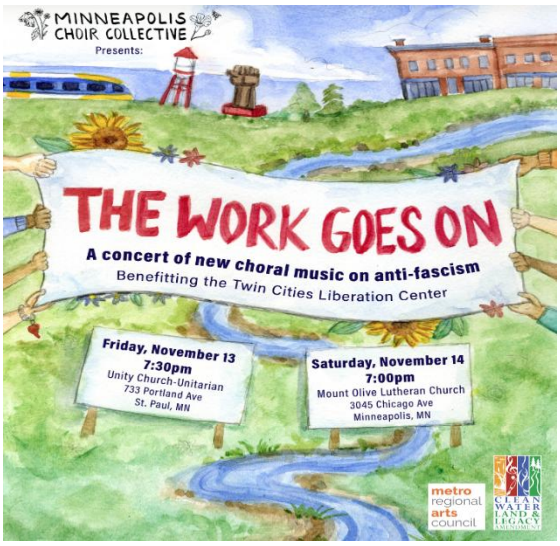
Volunteers needed at Common Hope

We wrote 70 letters! At the Forum on October 25, Mount Olive adults and youth learned about the work of Common Hope in Guatemala. Suntina Spehar, Outreach and Community Engagement Manager, shared information and guided us through writing letters (in Spanish) of encouragement to students in Guatemala.

These letters, and others to and from sponsors, need to be organized and readied for distribution. This can be done individually or with a group at any time between 8 am and 4 pm, during the week of November 16. You can go to the Common Hope office, 1410 Energy Park Dr. #4, St. Paul, for whatever amount of time works for you. If you are interested, please email Suntina to let her know when you can be there. (suntinas@us.commonhope.org)

The Work Goes On

Join Minneapolis Choir Collective (MCC) for an evening of live choral music premiering eight new anti-fascist works. This concert will support the Twin Cities Liberation Center (TCLC). The center is "an educational, and cultural hub" through which they "seek to bring people together to struggle around critical issues we face in our workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods, and build unity across historic lines of division at home and abroad."

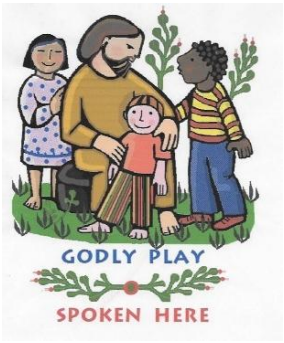


Ticket proceeds will be shared between MCC and TCLC.

Friday, November 13th at 7:30pm - Unity Church-Unitarian
Saturday, November 14th at 7pm - Mount Olive Lutheran



Mount Olive will host two tables at the Wopila meal on November 23. This simple meal is a celebration and thanksgiving for all who attend. If you would like to attend with others from Mount Olive, please contact Lora Dundek (shared@mountolivechurch.org or (612) 850-5562). There is no cost to meal participants, but you may be asked to donate a food item to be used in preparing the meal. Our participation is sponsored by the Indigenous Justice sub-group of Mount Olive's Justice Committee.



Godly Play

This coming Sunday, Godly Play Circle 1 will hear the story of Jonah while it will be Godly Play Circle 2's turn to consider what Exile and Return meant for God's people.

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 Topic

November 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.

Mount Olive Youth Invited to LSM!

Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM) is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school students. Young musicians come together from all over the country to immerse themselves in joyful music-making and build a supportive and welcoming community, living together on a college campus.



During the day, students receive advanced musical instruction through large ensembles (Festival Choir, Band and Orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, and elective classes (such as conducting, composition, church music, jazz band, musical theatre, handbells). In the evenings, students attend recitals, Evening Prayer services, and social events with their friends.

LSM 2027 takes place at St. Olaf College from June 27-July 25 (Full Session) or June 27-July 9 (Half Session) and is open to students who have completed grades 8-12. Priority Enrollment is offered now through December 1 with a $100 discount and first access to financial aid. Standard Enrollment is offered through March 1. Generous financial aid options are available.

- **Info: LSMacademy.org/program**
- **Apply: LSMacademy.org/apply**
- **Questions: admissions@lutheransummermusic.org**

Contact Becca Schulz at bekah.mt.olive@gmail.com for more information.

Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild is hosting a chancel-cleaning event on Saturday, **November 21**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. until about 11:00. Come when you can; stay for as long as you like.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede (bgaede13@gmail.com).

Uff da, Lefse!

Enjoy these photos from the 4th annual Lefse Bake held on November 7.







Attention Worship Assistants: Servant Schedule for Quarter 1, 2027

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for **2027 Quarter 1 (January - March)** will be published in December. Please send any scheduling preferences and dates you will be unavailable to me by **Friday, November 27**. Easter is March 28, so please note any special requests for Holy Week and Easter liturgies Let me know of any questions you may have. Thanks!

- Greg Murphy gregRmurphy@gmail.com

Mount Olive Food Delivery Partnership with DHH

Bringing Food, Relief, Dignity, and Hope to Our Community

Mount Olive is a community partner of the DHH Operation, a neighborhood outreach ministry serving families (many who are Spanish speaking) who are experiencing financial hardship, are isolated, or unable to safely access food and other essential resources.

Through this partnership, we bring groceries directly to families in need. At its heart, this ministry is about supporting our neighbors and reminding them that their community cares.

Our Ongoing Commitment

Mount Olive finishes packing, organizing and then delivering approximately 70 food boxes each week to families throughout the community. Deliveries take place on Thursday afternoons.

We are grateful for the continued support and for everyone who has contributed their time and energy to this important ministry.

Additional Volunteers Are Welcome!

We can always use additional volunteers, particularly delivery drivers. There is no need to make an ongoing commitment. Whether you can help once, occasionally, or regularly – a few hours on a Thursday afternoon can have a lasting impact on others.

Opportunities include:

- Pack: Help prepare food boxes for distribution.
- Deliver: Transport food boxes directly to families in need.

An Invitation to Get Involved

We encourage members of the congregation to consider participating in this meaningful opportunity to serve our neighbors. Together, we are providing essential support, preserving dignity, and offering hope to families throughout our community.

Every volunteer matters, and every delivery makes a difference!

- Candy Husemoller, Director, Justice Ministry Committee
- Jim Johnson, Justice Ministry Committee member
justice@mountolivechurch.org

See the next page for images of volunteers in action.

Mount Olive Food Delivery – Volunteers in Action



Moving boxes from DHH to Mount Olive.



Packing boxes with extra items.



Organizing routes for the drivers.



Loading a car bound for a family in need.

Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: Restorative Justice Community Action

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) provides a community-based alternative to criminal prosecution with the mission of fostering individual growth while strengthening communities through restorative justice practices. With a restorative and race equity lens, RJCA leverages the voice of community to transform the criminal legal system, public safety, and eliminate racial disparities. The indigenous roots of restorative justice focus on transformation of people, relationships, and community. In honoring these roots, RJCA humanizes conflict and supports community in finding shared solutions.

Mount Olive supports each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute 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 Restorative Justice Community Action, please visit their website at www.rjca-inc.org or contact Cynthia Prosek, RJCA Executive Director and Mount Olive Member.

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, November 13
The Olive Branch is published
7:00 p.m. Recovery Group [Undercroft]
Saturday, November 14
9:30 a.m. Foundation Meeting [Zoom]
10:00 a.m. Book Discussion Group [Schroedel Library]
10:00 a.m. Hospitality Committee Meeting [East Assembly]
Sunday, November 15 – *Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect 33 A*
8:00 a.m. ***Holy Eucharist,*** followed by followed by a celebration of the in-gathering of pledges
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum [Chapel Lounge]
9:30 a.m. Community Well-being Committee Meeting [Schroedel Library]
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. Children's Choir Warm-up
10:15 a.m. Cantorei warm-up [Manz Choir Room]
10:45 a.m. ***Holy Eucharist,*** followed by a celebration of the in-gathering of pledges and welcoming of new members
12:30 p.m. Y1 Confirmation [Youth Room]
Monday November 16
5:30 p.m. Family Music [Zoom]
7:00 p.m. Monday Night WAVE [Undercroft]
Tuesday, November 17 – *St. Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231*
12:00 p.m. Bible Study [East Assembly]
5:00 p.m. Neighborhood Ministry Committee Meeting [Schroedel Library]
Wednesday, November 18
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 19
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, November 20
- *The Olive Branch* is published
7:00 p.m. Recovery Group [Undercroft]
3:00 p.m. ***Funeral Eucharist,*** for Rodney Schrank (Visitation one hour prior to the liturgy)

The Olive Branch Publication Schedule

The Olive Branch is published every week on Friday.

The submission deadline for the November 13 issue is **1:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 11**.