

The Olive Branch

November 6, 2026

Sunday Readings

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

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

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

Accent on Worship Cantor Daniel Schwandt

At the 10:45 liturgy this Sunday, we will enjoy two of the Lutheran tradition's greatest musical treasures, the so-called "King and Queen of Chorales." We know them as "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" (Wachet auf), and "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (Wie schön leuchtet). Sunday's gospel reading is the familiar parable of the wise and foolish virgins, which symbolically describes the end times and calls us to keep alert and watchful. Philip Nicolai's music and words bring this story to life.

We will hear "Wake, awake" in a solo sacred concerto setting by North German Baroque composer Franz Tunder (1614–1667). This genre of music combines the expressive Italian concertato (multiple contrasting sections) style and is a precursor to the single-movement chorale cantatas of Dieterich Buxtehude, and later, the large-scale cantatas of Bach. Tunder was Buxtehude's predecessor at the Marienkirche in Lübeck and established the legendary *Abendmusik* evening concerts at the church.

We hear the final stanza of "O Morning Star" combined with the gospel text, "keep on watching for you do not know the hour…," in a similar setting by Andreas Hammerschmidt (1611–1675) for bass soloist and choir. Hammerschmidt was the most significant Saxon composer of sacred music of his time, and, like Tunder and Heinrich Schütz, developed a German Lutheran chorale tradition influenced by Italian forms and styles.

Finally, we will hear the newly installed Flentrop chamber organ in the south transept in an organ concerto by English Baroque composer Henry Burgess, Jr. (1718–1786). Little is known about Burgess, but his six concertos for organ or harpsichord represent the first printed keyboard concertos following Handel's significant Opus 4 organ concertos. He was a London-based keyboardist who worked primarily in theaters and concert halls. We give thanks to Art and Elaine Halbardier for this wonderful new organ and its addition to our musical life at Mount Olive!

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

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.



Gardening Day at Mount Olive

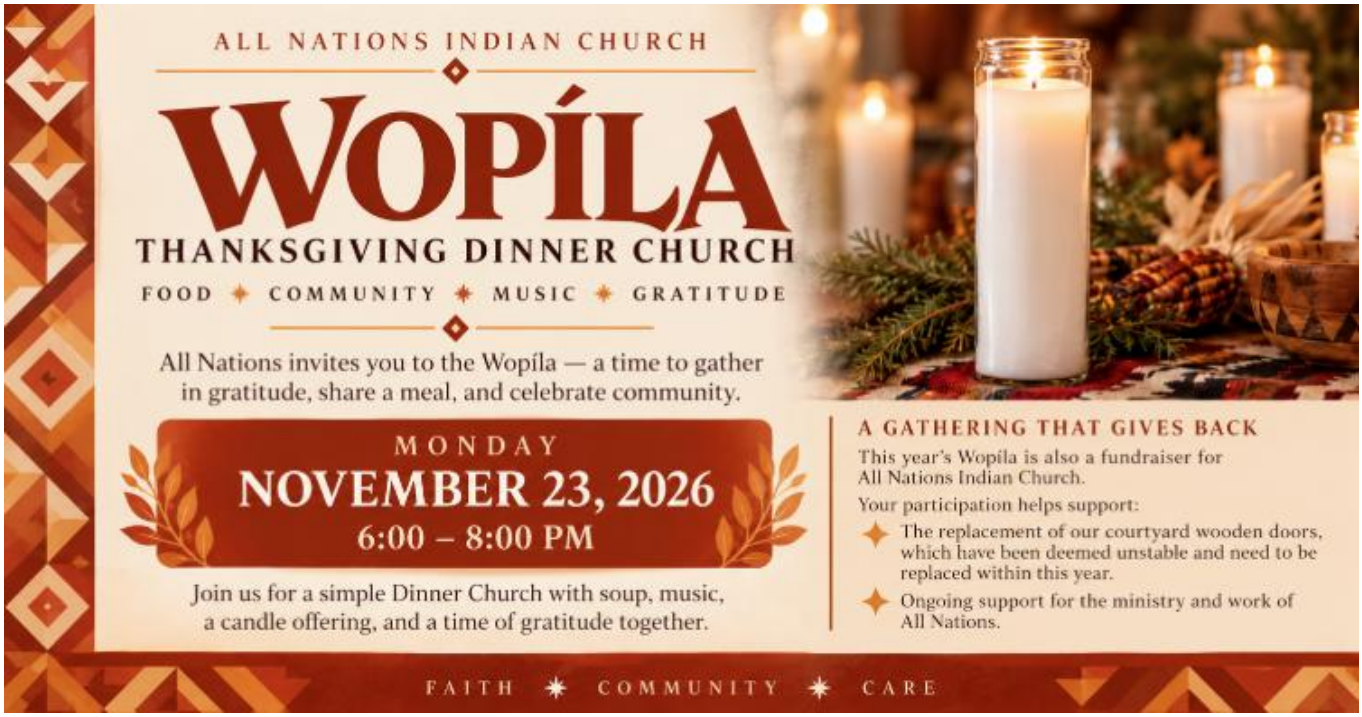
We will gather this Saturday, November 7 at 9:00 am to put everything to bed for the winter.

See you on November 7 as your schedule allows.

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 weeks of November 9th and 16th. 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)



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.

Requiem Premiere

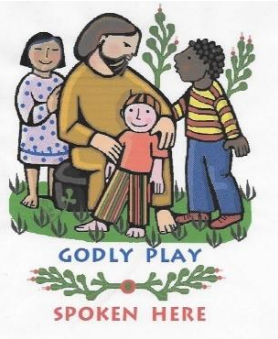
For 25 years, composer and Mount Olive member, Robert Farlee, had a project dear to his heart that he would turn to whenever he had a rare period of free time. It was a Requiem, a piece written in memory of loved ones who had died. While the traditional Requiem is a liturgical setting with a Latin text, 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 was premiered this past Sunday, All Saints Day, in worship at the Duke University Chapel. (The Requiem itself lasts about 30 minutes.) Bob, his wife Jane, and Susan's husband David attended. You can hear the piece via YouTube at youtube.com, type "Duke Chapel Services" in the search box, and look for "Sunday Morning Worship Service – 11/1/2026" to hear the recorded service.

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.



Godly Play

This coming Sunday Circle 1 will hear about Israel's Exile and Return. It was a dramatic time for the Israelites. Circle 2 will hear about the prophet Elijah and the messages from the prophets.

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 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.

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**

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).

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

Where, Oh Where Can They Be??? We're Still Looking!!!



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.

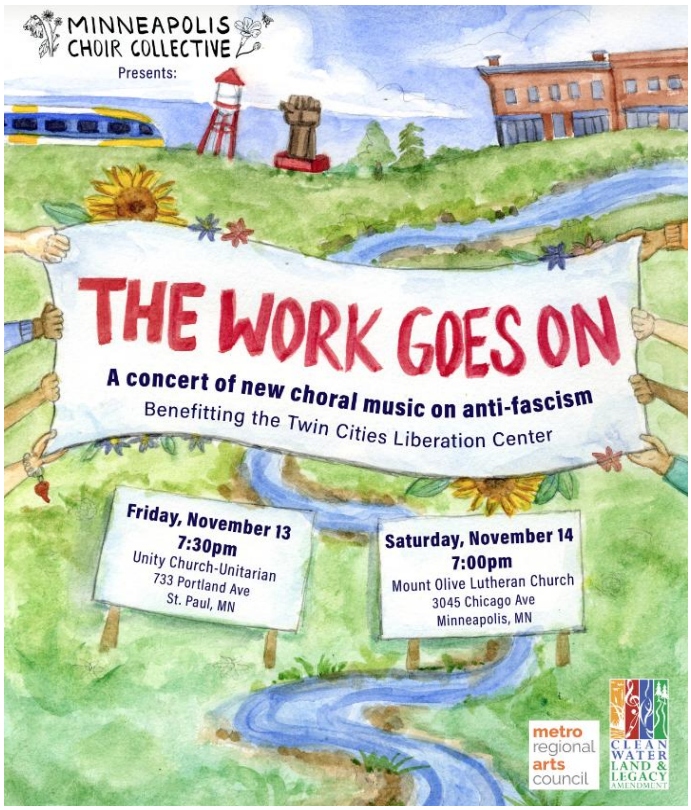
The Work Goes On

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



Scenes from Pr. Erik Nelson's Ordination on October 31







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 6
The Olive Branch is published
7:00 p.m. Recovery Group [Undercroft]
Saturday, November 7
9:00 a.m. 4th Annual Lefse Bake [Undercroft Kitchen]
9:00 a.m. Final Gardening Day for 2026
Sunday, November 8 – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect 32 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 [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***
12:30 p.m. Y1 Confirmation [Youth Room]
Monday November 9-
5:30 p.m. Family Music [Zoom]
7:00 p.m. Monday Night WAVE [Undercroft]
Tuesday, November 10
12:00 p.m. Bible Study [East Assembly]
Wednesday, November 11 – St. Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397; Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855
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 12
9:30 a.m. ***Morning Prayer*** [Columbarium Transept of the Nave]
7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting [East Assembly]
7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous [Undercroft]
Friday, November 13
- *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 13 issue is **1:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 11**.