MOUNT OLIVET

MESSENGER

Believing, Belonging, Becoming



Join Us for Worship

M MINNEAPOLIS CAMPUS 5025 KNOX AVE S MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55419

W WEST CAMPUS 7150 ROLLING ACRES RD, VICTORIA, MN 55386 952.767.1500



SUN, NOV 3 Exodus 12:1-14

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON NOV 3 All Saints Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service Sunday School & Choir Sunday School 9 & 10am; Nursery 9, 10, 11am

9, 10, 11am, 12noon Sermon: PASTOR LOSE Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs; Centennial Singers

w 9, 10, 11am Sermon: PASTOR RUUD Music: Senior & Cathedral Choir

SUN, NOV 10

Exodus 14: 5-16. 21-22

New Member Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service Sunday School & Choir Sunday School 9 & 10am; Nursery 9, 10, 11am

9, 10, 11am, 12noon Sermon: PASTOR KALLAND Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs

w 9, 10, 11am Sermon: PASTOR MACLEAN Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs

SUN, NOV 17

Exodus 16:1-15

Centennial Celebration Highlight: Adult Ministry

Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service Sunday School & Choir Sunday School 9 & 10am; Nursery 9, 10, 11am

9, 10, 11am, 12noon Sermon: PASTOR HAMMERSTEN Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs; Centennial Singers

w 9, 10, 11am Sermon: PASTOR RUUD Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs

SUN, NOV 24

Exodus 20:1-17

Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service Sunday School & Choir Sunday School 9 & 10am; Nursery 9, 10, 11am

9, 10, 11am, 12noon Sermon: PASTOR

Music: Chancel, Chapel & Hosanna Choirs

w 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: PASTOR FREEMAN Music: Chancel, Chapel & Hosanna Choirs

SUN, NOV 24 Thanksgiving Early Service

7:15pm, all-congregational service Led by Hi-Leaguers, \$10 dinner at 6pm (Register at mtolivet.org)

THU, NOV 28 Thanksgiving Day

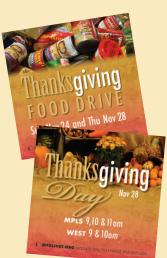
Nursery 9, 10am

9, 10, 11am

Sermon: PASTOR **MACLEAN** Music: Senior, Cathedral, Chancel, Chapel, Hosanna, Alleluia & Cherub Choirs

w 9, 10am Sermon: PASTOR **FREEMAN**

> Music: Senior, Cathedral, Chancel, Chapel, Hosanna, Alleluia & Cherub Choirs



WED, NOV 6

Wednesday Worship & Community Lunch

■ 11 am — followed by a Community Lunch, \$6, no reservation required Message: PASTOR HAMMERSTEN

PRACTICING GRATITUDE

I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through the One who strengthens me. — Philippians 4:11-13

I will confess to being a little awestruck by Paul's confession that he has learned to be content in all situations. And, actually, it's more than content, it's grateful and joyful as well, as the words "rejoice" and 'give thanks" and "gratitude" are scattered throughout this brief letter.

Okay, so let's first offer a little bit of background. When the Apostle Paul came to faith – told in Acts 9, a story we explored this summer – he wanted to share the good news of God's grace far and wide. So began a series of missionary journeys through the ancient world, staying in towns long enough to establish a Christian community and then moving on. After moving on, he would stay in touch with these early congregations by writing them letters, and the verses above come near the end of a letter he wrote to the Christians living in the city of Philippi. After answering some of their questions and giving instructions about what is going on there, Paul invites them to rejoice, to give thanks, and to care for each other. And then he thanks them for the support they have offered him while he has been in prison.

That's right – *prison*! Paul writes about being grateful and rejoicing and being content and having more than he needs...all while he is locked up in a dank cell, separated from his friends and family, and facing trial and the very real possibility of execution. And that's what blows me away.

But Paul doesn't only express his contentment, joy, and gratitude - all while in prison, mind you - he also shares the secret to how he has achieved a peace of mind that regularly escapes me. And it's tucked away in this brief verse: "In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need." Paul learned this. He doesn't say it came naturally or was easy, but rather that he learned it.

And so can we.

Numerous social scientific studies have pointed to the mental, physical, and spiritual benefits of gratitude. Noticing the blessings in our lives and giving thanks for them strengthens our relationships, improves our health and outlook, creates in us a sense of resilience

when things are difficult, and heightens our positive emotions about ourselves, those around us, and the world. Not only this, but recent research has concluded that gratitude can be learned through practice. Sometimes called "gratitude interventions," these practices are not complex. Two of the most powerful are 1) starting each day by naming three things for which you are grateful and 2) writing a note of thanks to someone for what he or she has been to you or done for you.

None of this surprises me. I believe that God actually made us for gratitude. Moreover, I am amazed that opportunities for the kind gratitude that heals and restores and completes us are all around. In our health or with those who are caring for us when we aren't well. In those near and far who have contributed to who we are. In the fellowship we share in our congregation and the people who love and accept us. In both the rain and sunshine – and, now that it's November, snow! – we enjoy. When you open your eyes to look, blessing is all around.

This Thanksgiving, we will follow the Apostle Paul's example by offering our gratitude for all kinds of things we often take for granted: for health and well-being, for a plentiful harvest and peace in our land, for family and friends and a dynamic and faithful congregation, for music and sports and all manner of things that enrich our lives, for democratic government and institutions that afford us a quality of life unknown throughout most of history, and more. Each of these things is worthy of our attention, deserves our notice, and can be sources of the kind of gratitude that restores and strengthens and heals and completes us.

Paul learned to be content, joyful, and grateful in all circumstances, and so can we. By practicing gratitude and, as Paul concludes, in this way learning to believe and trust that we, too, "can do all things through Jesus Christ, the One who strengthens us."

Grateful for your faith and commitment, I look forward to seeing you in Church on Sundays and, this month, for our Thanksgiving services on Thursday, November 28th.

Yours in Christ,

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

Life & Growth

SEPT 17 - OCT 14

Baptisms

Madeline Grace Brockway, daughter of Natalie and Mitchel

Walker James Budd, son of Lillia and Alex Katherine Ann Carver, daughter of Emily and Todd Cody Dan Dworak, son of Amy and Paul Bentley Oliver Hallman, son of Katie and Milton Brooks Jon Iverson, son of Melissa and Jordan Jack Telfer Knutson, son of Kristen and Kyle Isabel Grace Leach, daughter of Shannon and Thomas

Emmett Thomas Leach, son of Shannon and Thomas

Mia Adeline Mader, daughter of Anne and Matthew

Logan Stanley Magnuson, son of Samantha and Luke

Eloise Mary Mezera, daughter of Jillian and Douglas

Lila Jo Mielke, daughter of Chelsea and Jonathan Conrad Grayson Miller, son of Paige and Ira Kai Theodore Nesheim, son of Marie and Ted Kimbra Olivia Pepin, daughter of Darla and Jeff Charlotte Mary Schreier, daughter of Allison and Thomas

Gabriel Robe Simeso, son of Martina and Gada Maari Winter Tallant, daughter of Amy and Sean Max Robert Waldman, son of Breon and Brad Benjamin David Wenkus, son of Kristen and Kyle

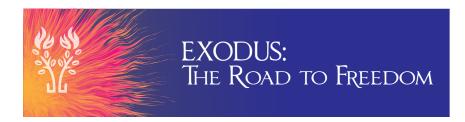
Weddings

Brianna Bloomquist & Samuel Literski, September 21

Jessica Nelson & Aaron Roehl, September 28 Emma Schroeder & Taylor Woulf, October 5 Alexandra Knowles & Nicolai Krum October 12

Deaths

Terence R. Behlmer, 1938 — 2019
Boyd A. Blomberg, Jr., 1942 — 2019
Phyllis R. Gianos, 1921 — 2019
Duane L. Graham, 1938 — 2019
Janette Hensch, 1926 — 2019
Randall K. Larson, 1954 — 2019
Gregory B. Lindwall, 1942 — 2019
Nancy R. Johnson, 1934 — 2019
Joyce A. Martens, 1928 — 2019
Gerda Norval, 1919 — 2019
Diane P. Petersen, 1939 — 2019
Ardis J. Prosser, 1921 — 2019
Patty L. Schumacher, 1945 — 2019
Clayton E. Stelter, 1933 — 2019
Linda J. Westling, 1944 — 2019



In November, we continue the story of God's rescue of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the central story to the Old Testament and heart of the faith in which Jesus was raised.

On **November 3**, All Saints Sunday, we hear the Lord's instructions for celebrating the Passover, instructions followed by faithful Jews for nearly three thousand years up to this present day. This is the central celebration of Judaism. In fact, what we now observe as the Lord's Supper was itself a Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples on the Eve of his crucifixion. The emphasis of this celebration is on remembering God's acts of deliverance, and so it is a perfect and meaningful day on which to remember those Saints in our lives who have passed into the nearer presence of God and give thanks for God's promise of resurrection in Christ.

Who do you want to remember on this day? What other ways is God working to help, save, and comfort us today?

We hear one of the most dramatic stories in Scripture on **November 10**, as God leads the Israelites through the Red Sea. Pursued by the Egyptian army, the Israelites are understandably terrified, until the remember - or, really, are reminded once again! - that they can trust God to save them.

When we are frightened by circumstances in the world or our lives, how can we remind each other of God's promise to care for us always?

On **November 17**, we hear a familiar, if somewhat discouraging, element of the Exodus story, as Israel, faced with a shortage of food, complains that they have been rescued and actually ask to go back to Egypt. But if we're honest, this story is also quite relevant, as we are often tempted to give up on God's promises. Ultimately, in both this story and our lives, God comes through, but in a way that invites the Israelites to regularly trust God anew each day for all that they need.

How might we encourage one other to live with trust and confidence in God's promises each day of our lives?

We hear the story of the Ten Commandments on **November 24**. Interestingly, in Hebrew, the word translated "commandments" is actually "words." Which is actually helpful, as these "Ten Words" aren't just commandments but also the promises, assurance, and guidance of a loving parent given to God's children that they might flourish in their lives together.

And so we might wonder together how and where we see God's laws, guidance, and promises shaping our lives today?

Stewardship 2020

Each and every week, we strive to tell the story of God's ongoing work to redeem and bless God's people through our worship on Sundays and programs and activities throughout the week. All of this is funded by your generous pledges. Thank you to all who have pledged for 2020! If you haven't yet pledged, please do, so that we can continue inviting others onto the road of freedom that is ours in Christ.

DEVOTIONS

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." — 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Last week, a fellow Mount Olivet staff member greeted me at the front door to help as I fumbled with my box of books balancing a cup of coffee. When he dropped the books off at my office, we began talking about the spirit of Mount Olivet and he shared a great statement with me that he really tries to live by. It had four tenets: Love God; Love People; Make a Difference; Be Thankful. What a succinct mission statement for all of us as we seek to follow Christ!

I have a friend who writes, "Thank you, God!" in the memo line of every check that goes out of her house.

God and gratitude go hand-in-hand, and yet sometimes it's hard to give thanks in all circumstances, like the apostle Paul encouraged the first century Christians to do. It was a countercultural thing then, and I believe it's also rather countercultural today, but it is highly transformational.

Renowned theologian Henri Nouwen once said, "The choice for gratitude rarely comes without some real effort. But each time I make it, the next choice is a little easier, a little freer, a little less self-conscious. Because every gift I acknowledge reveals another and another until, finally, even the most normal, obvious and seemingly mundane event or encounter proves to be filled with grace."

Every November in our country, we intentionally give thanks on the fourth Thursday of the month, but giving thanks is a primary way to live out our faith every day. Meister Eckhart said it well when he quipped, "If the only prayer we ever say in our lives is 'Thank You' that will be enough."

Thank you, Mount Olivet, for being you and for spreading Christ's love so abundantly in this world! – PASTOR FREEMAN



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Su 11/24 & Th 11/28 All Worship Services W Parking Lots. In this time of eating plentifully, it is important to remember those that struggle daily to provide food for their families. Please bring non-perishable food items (flour, sugar, cooking oil, canned meat, canned fruit, baked beans, etc) or monetary donations to help out those in need this time of year. Food and monetary donations go to Community Emergency Services W and Bountiful Baskets W.

Daily Readings

November 2019

FROM PASTOR KALLAND

- 1 Exodus 14:13, Lord Brings Deliverance
- Colossians 3:15, Peace and Gratitude
- 3 John 14:27, Peace and Serenity
- 4 Romans 15:13, Joy and Peace
- 5 John 16:33, Take Heart
- 6 Psalm 85:8, Promises Peace
- 7 1 Peter 5:6-8, God Care for You
- 8 2 Thessalonians 3:16, The Lord of Peace
- 9 1 John 2:23, Acknowledge
- 10 Titus 2:11, Grace To All People
- 11 1 Chronicles 16:35, Cry Out
- 12 Colossians 1:13-14, Redemption and Forgiveness
- 13 2 Kings 17:38-39, Do Not Forget and Worship
- 14 Psalm 23:6, Dwell in the House of the Lord
- 15 John 14:2-4, You Know the Way
- 16 Proverbs 15:18, Patience Calms
- 17 Proverbs 29:11, Foolish or Wise?
- 18 Nahum 1:3, Slow to Anger
- 19 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Give Thanks Always
- 20 Jonah 2:9, Comes From the Lord
- 21 Psalm 95:2-3, With Thanksgiving
- 22 2 Corinthians 4:15-16, Do Not Lose Heart
- 23 Ephesians 1:15-16, Remembering You
- 24 1 Timothy 4:4-5, Received With Thanksgiving
- 25 Psalm 7:17, Give Thanks to the Lord
- 26 Isaiah 12:4, Give Praise to the Lord
- 27 Psalm 100:4, Enter with Thanksgiving and Praise
- 28 1 Chronicles 16:34, Love Endures Forever
- 29 Colossians 3:17, Whatever You Do, Give Thanks
- 30 Revelation 14:7, Worship



Thanksgiving Early Worship & Dinner

Su 11/24 dinner 6-7pm Fellowship Hall; 7:15pm worship serivce Sanctuary. Celebrate Thanksgiving early with a traditional turkey dinner followed by a youth-led worship service. Dinner begins at 6:00pm. The service begins at 7:15pm. Tickets for dinner are \$10 per person. Please register at mtolivet.org.

MOHA Butter Braids Available

Su 11/24 between services ... The perfect treat to please your family and guests before Thanksgiving Dinner or the day after is... Butter Braids! You can purchase your Butter Braids for \$13 each or pre-order a six-pack of the same flavor by 11/14 by emailing fellowship@mtolivet.org. All proceeds will benefit the Mount Olivet Homes' Auxiliary affliliates: Mount Olivet Home, Careview Home, Day Services, and Rolling Acres.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Friends Forever: Fall Dinner (55+yrs) Su 11/10 5:30pm

© Fellowship Hall. Alright, all you cool cats, come one, come all to the Friends Forever Fall '50s Dinner! We'll Bop to the tunes of Bob Coates & Friends Band and enjoy a '50s- style dinner from our MO Chefs/Greasers. This night is sure to razz your berries so don't be a square. Register by 11/7 at mtolivet.org. Cost is \$15. □ ⊗

Friends Forever: Christmas Brunch (55+yrs) *Su 12/1 12:15pm cocktails, 1pm brunch, Minikahda Club.* Friends Forever will kick off this Advent season with a Christmas Brunch hosted at the Minikahda Club. Come hear inspiring and delightful music (with carol sing-along as always), be in fun fellowship with friends, and bring an unwrapped toy for the Christmas for All stores, not to mention

happy hour and delicious food! This is a 55+ group. If you are not a member, you might want to be! Register by 11/25. Cost is \$45 per person. $\square \varnothing$

Flying Solo: Minnesota RollerGirls (40-60yrs) *Sa 11/9 7pm, Roy Wilkins Arena.* Flying Solo is hitting the road for Saint Paul to watch the Minnesota RollerGirls compete in their 2nd Bout of the year. Tickets are selling quickly so don't hesitate to register. Join us for a night your won't soon forget! Cost is \$16. Register at mtolivet.org by 11/6.

Young Adult Event (22-45yrs) *Tu 11/19 7-8pm, Modist Brewing, 505 N 3rd St, Minneapolis.* If you find yourself free on Tuesdays this fall join us for 3rd Tuesdays! Come to hang out, get to know each other, and enjoy a brew. **PASTOR RUUD** will be there. Hope you can join us.

Hi-er League: Pizza & Sacred Ground (18- 22yrs) W 11/27 6:30-7:30pm, № Lounge & Main Sanctuary. Come reconnect with your friends at the start of Thanksgiving Break. Join us for pizza and Sacred Ground.

Young Marrieds Serve @ Homebound Communion

Sa 12/7 10:45am-1:45pm, Fellowship Hall. Help us create a meaningful experience for our homebound members during the holidays. We need your help to set tables, serve the luncheon, and/or clean-up. Nursery is available for kids 6 wks-3 years.

Older children are encouraged to help us at the event.

Sign-up at mtolivet.org.

Men's Breakfasts

Tu 7am, The Hilltop Edina; Th 7am, American Legion Chanhassen.

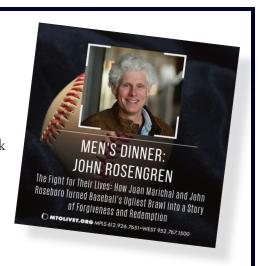
Nov 5/7: pastor ruud Nov 12/14: speaker Nov 19/21: pastor dixon Nov 26/28: no breakfasts



MEN'S DINNER

With Local Writer John Rosengren

Tu 11/5 6:30-8pm Fellowship Hall. Come hear John Rosengren speak about his book: The FIGHT OF THEIR LIVES: HOW JUAN MARICHAL AND JOHN ROSEBORO TURNED BASEBALL'S UGLIEST BRAWL INTO A STORY OF FORGIVENESS AND REDEMPTION. Doors will open at 6pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30 with the presentation by John following. His book will be for sale following the dinner. It is sure to be a night of baseball that you do not want to miss!! Cost is \$15.



MOCW Holiday Boutique

Sa 11/2 9am-2pm Fellowship Hall, Lower Narthex, Gym. In addition to specialties and handmade gifts from our Women's Circles and the Careview gift shop, there will be over 60 local vendors (many NEW vendors to the boutique this year, including Mount Olivet Spirit store featuring Mount Olivet gear, along with Cathedral of the Pines having a booth!), a Bistro-style menu with breakfast served 9-11am and lunch 11-1pm; and the Dala House kids-only shopping with \$5 gifts for parents

and grandparents.
This event is a major fundraiser for Mount Olivet. Come get your Christmas shopping started and know you are giving back to Mount Olivet at the same time!
Questions? Contact the Fellowship Department at fellowship@mtolivet.org.

Evereve Shopping Event - 15% of purchases go back to Mount Olivet

Th 11/21 10am-8pm, Evereve 3914 W 50th St, Edina. The holidays are here and that means we all need a new outfit for all of those holiday parties coming up! Shop at Evereve on 50th & France
Thursday, November 21, for some fun

Thursday, November 21, for some fun new Fashion. At check out, say that you are with Mount Olivet and Evereve will then donate 15% of your total purchase back to church. Join us

from 6:30-8:30pm for Happy Hour shopping with some light nosh. Promotion good all day long, if you are unable to join us for Happy Hour!

90th MOCW Lutefisk Dinner

F 12/6 3pm-7pm Fellowship Hall. Lutefisk will be celebating 90 years! Did you know the dinner was started in a members home in 1929 and now has grown to over 1,400 people attending? Come celebrate this festive, Scandinavian tradition. All members of the congregation and community are invited to an all-you-can-eat buffet of lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, rutabagas, boiled potatoes, pickled beets, and yes of course butter or white sauce! No advance ticket sales, tickets at the door: \$20 adults, \$5 kids 12 and under. There will also be a limited addition 90th year T-shirt for sale.

39th MOCW Christmas Brunch

Sa 12/21 10am

Continuing with our Around the World Christmas theme, we will travel to the Appalachian Mountains this year! Featuring the

TWIN CITIES' BLUEGRASS BAND 'KING

WILKIE'S DREAM. This event is open to men, women, kids, members, nonmembers, friends, and family-all are welcome! \$15 adults, \$6 kids 8 and under. Purchase 8 tickets to reserve a table. All other seating will be first come, first served. Register by 12/12 at mtolivet.org.

BIBLE STUDIES

Living the Message Pastor's Introduction

Tu 11/5 6-6:45pm W Gronseth Fellowship Hall. Whether or not you participate in a Living the Message small group, you are welcome to join us at PASTOR RUUD'S introductions to each month's study. In Nov, we will focus on John 3:1-21 to answer, How is it possible for us to be in relationship with God? In Dec, on John 6:25-59 and ask, What does it mean that Jesus is the "Bread of Life"? These and all our monthly studies will take us deeper into key texts and themes in John, the Gospel on which our Sunday sermons will be based Dec through May. Please come—you'll be glad you did. If you wish to start a new Living the Message group, contact Carol Throntveit (carolt@mtolivet.org).



Wednesday/Thursday Word: Questions God Asks in the Bible—And of Us!

W 11/13 & 11/20 10:30am-12noon (small group 10:30-11am; Pastor presentation 11am-12noon), ™ Rm 207; Th 11/7 & 11/14 10-11:30am ™ Rm 228/229. Where are you? What is this you have done? Do you have reason to be angry? Who do you say that I am? Why are you afraid? Does this offend you? What do you want me to do for you? These are but a very few of the hundreds of questions God asks humans from early in Genesis and throughout Scripture, questions beginning with words like Who? Where? When? Have you? Do you know? As they did when first spoken, these probing questions help us to better understand ourselves, God's character, and the relationship God desires to have with us. Don't miss the last weeks of this fascinating study in which each week a different pastor unwraps one or more of the questions God asks in the Bible. □ 8



A Not-at-All-Boring Luther "Look" Part 2 (Adults)

Th 11/7 & 11/14 7-8:30pm • 482/786. Dr. Mary Jane Haemig easily takes the seemingly boring and turns it into WOW! And that's exactly what you can expect as she opens up two more of Luther's most influential works turning 500 in 2020! Last spring, she unlocked the theological treasures Freedom of a Christian and Treatise on Good Works. This fall, she will delve first into Appeal to the Christian Nobility, in which Luther implores the German princes to work actively for the reform of the church for the sake of the faith. Next, she will explore Babylonian Captivity of the Church, Luther's entreaty to reconsider the sacramental Christian life, which he argues has been distorted for the papacy's own purposes and power. Written in the midst of growing tensions over the authority and power of the papacy, these powerful and pivotal Reformation writings put Luther himself in peril. Make the time to come-you won't be sorry!

LGBTQ Voice and Verse

2nd Tu 6-7pm 208. Join PASTOR RUUD and others for this educational opportunity of communal study in love, support, and continued understanding of all aspects of gender identity and sexual orientation in faithful life together. Through shared experience, discussion, and learning, the gathering seeks to build mutual awareness and insight in this particular reality of faith and life toward honor and love for all.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- **Evening Book Discussion** 2nd W 7-8:30pm, Dibrary. Books: The Red Daughter by John Burnham Schwartz (11/13), Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine: A Novel by Gail Honeyman (12/11).
- **Midday Book Discussion** 3rd Tu 11:30am-1pm, Dooks: Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict (11/18), A Dog called Hope by Jason Morgan (12/16). Bring a bag lunch if you wish; all are welcome to join us!

ONGOING GROUPS

- **Chair Holy Yoga** *M&W* 12:15-1:15pm, *Gym*, *F* 10-11am 228/229. A great physical and spiritual boost to your day that does not require getting down and up from the floor, yet greatly improves balance, strength, and flexibility. Connect, exercise, have fun, and meditate on Jesus' love! Taught by certified instructors. \$5 paid to instructor.
- Learning Swedish Language through Hymns and Songs *M through 11/25*, @ *Rm 482/486*. Have fun learning a bit of Swedish through singing Swedish hymns and folk songs. You will sing in unison (not 4-part harmony) and acapella (without accompaniment). Last year, the group learned more than 20 songs and hymns in only two six- to eight-week sessions! No cost.



Crafty Ladies Retreat F 11/8 3pm through Su 11/10 1pm, Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center. Experienced and beginner crafters are invited to Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center for a weekend of uninterrupted crafting, great food and warm fellowship. The retreat is self-directed – the weekend is your own! Work on your crafting, meet other crafters, and relax and unwind with a peaceful walk in the woods or a dip in the whirlpool. Costs include crafting space with electrical outlet, overnight accommodations, six meals, use of all amenities and tax. Massage sign-up available during registration (additional fee). Cost is \$140 for a dorm room, \$175 for a double room, and \$235 for a single room. □ ♂

A Day Advent Journey Tu 12/3, 10am-3pm, Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory...full of grace and truth. (John 1:1, 14). These verses from John provide great insight into the nature and gift of Christ, who "came down" to live among us. Together with the rest of John's prologue (1:1-18), they create a beautifully wrapped "package" meant to be lovingly unwrapped with hands, heart, and mind. Join PASTORS HAMMERSTEN, PASTOR FREEMAN and Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center Director, REV. THERESA LATINI as we journey together into the special Advent season! Cost is \$20 for lunch and program. Bus transportation is available for \$5 from (8:45am), 7500 York (8:45am) and **(9:15am). RESERVATION REQUIRED.** Register at mtolivet.org or 952,469,2175.

Save the Date! Women's Weekend 2020: Daring to Hope!

4pm F 1/24 through 12pm Su 1/26, Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center. When sorrows swirl around us and loss seems inevitable, when we despair for the future and the only certainty seems uncertainty, God whispers in our hearts, reminding us to dare to hope. Hope cradles us in God's love and promise. Hope reminds us that we are not alone. How, though, do we keep the turbulence in our hearts, and in the world, from drowning out God's whisper? Where do we look to be reminded of God's goodness and lovingkindness? Come explore these questions at the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center with a group of fun, insightful women. Plan to spend time walking in the woods, relaxing in the whirlpool, scheduling a massage (additional cost), or quietly meditating. Led by PASTOR HAMMERSTEN and PASTOR FREEMAN, and Retreat Center Director REV. THERESA LATINI, Register at mtolivet.org.

CENTENNIAL EVENTS: SAVE THE DATES



Anniversary Sunday 1/12/2020 at Both Campuses

Join us on this festive morning, where we will celebrate the anniversary of Mount Olivet's first worship service. In 1920, 19 adults and 14 children worshiped on a cold Sunday in January. Their strength, perserverance and faith are the reason Mount Olivet is preparing to enter its second century.



Feed My Starving Children 3/7/2020 at the West Campus

FMSC is a Christian non-profit organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. Join us for this fun event where adult and youth (6yrs+) volunteers will hand pack meals for malnourished children around the world. With God's help we will work together to end hunger.



A Night Out With Mount Olivet 5/28/2020 at The Hutton House

Come raise a glass to Mount Olivet in celebration of 100 years! Your \$30 ticket gets you in the door, nosh on heavy apps, play some yard games, and take a memorable photo in the photo booth. Cash bar and valet parking will also be available. This is a 21+ event.

ADULT LEARNING

Jesus Loved the Little Children, and Taught the Adults

Mount Olivet adults always have had a myriad of opportunities to learn. Early members relied heavily on their pastors to present meaningful, educational devotions at social gatherings, a tradition our pastors continue today. The church grew, and Mount Olivet expanded learning opportunities through the School of Religion headed by Ruth Erickson. As times changed so did the offerings of the renamed Christian Education Department.

- In the 1960s, **The Bethel Bible Study** offered over 300 members an historical approach to the Old and New Testaments, paying attention to the context in which they were written.
- The Word and Witness curriculum provided adult learning during the late 70s, looking at Bible study as both an exploration of ancient history and a present-day encounter with the living Word of God.
- The Mighty Acts of God began in 1985, after 25 leaders were trained for two years. Working from Robert Marshall's book, Pastor Craig Johnson created educational resources for a 36-session course. Over 800 people enjoyed studying the span of Scripture and the unity in the biblical message under the guidance of Adult Education Director Joyce Pedersen and Pastor Johnson.
- Pastor Kotzer taught the Crossways

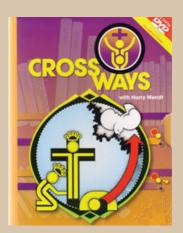
- **International** curriculum, focusing on memorable visuals and graphics to examine the storyline of the Bible and how it remains relevant and applicable to our present-day lives.
- Adult Learning programming expanded under the direction of Andrea Brown and Katie Stevenson, with opportunities ranging from biblical and spiritual studies, to personal growth and special interest topics, to all-congregation events. Carol Throntveit has continued this strong tradition for the past 15 years through programs like the Immaculeé Ilibagiza Fall Speaker Event, Pastor Hogenson's Read Through the Bible challenge, and the churchwide Reformation 500 and Living the Message initiatives.
- In recent years, this area also developed several noteworthy publications, including the *Faith Alive* and *Mount Olivet* magazines, the Stained Glass Window booklet, and many devotionals.

Learning alongside other adults has been a constant throughout Mount Olivet's history, one that nurtures the faith of our members, deepens friendships, and promotes involvement in our vibrant church!

Ruth Erickson leads a learning program in the Fellowship Hall before the era of multi-media presentations and PowerPoint slides.

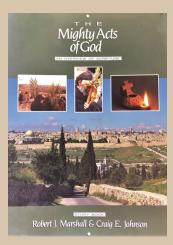


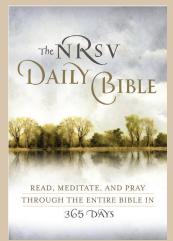
The Bethel Series



A sampling of the many focal points of adult learning studies through the years, from the Bethel Bible study to the Bible at the center of the Read Through the Bible challenge.

CURRICULUM









"We got involved in the Living the Message program 10 years ago to study scripture, but we found much more. Pastor Ruud presents the monthly lesson with a refreshing perspective, and the fellowship we feel with our group is a big reason we keep coming back each year. It's just one of many Adult Learning opportunities where we always see friendly faces.

~ Steve & Barb Gurney



"Our pastors are particularly good at being open to questions, opinions and challenges, and always have a great sense of humor. Learning from different pastors brings us new understanding of the Bible and gives us a chance to get to know them better, too! Adult Learning offers good thinking, good humor, welcoming participation and questions, and time to deepen our faith"

~ Roxann & Jerry Johnson

While today's offerings (like this Career & Calling breakfast) still take advantage of the Fellowship Hall, new large group learning spaces at both campuses are home to many programs. Wherever adult learning happens, there's sure to be excellent speakers, enthusiastic learners, and great conversation.

FELLOWSHIP

Where Two or Three (or More!) Are Gathered, God is with Them

Wilfred Bockelman wrote in Mount Olivet's 75th Anniversary publication: "If the ministry of the Mount Olivet congregation were to be summed up in one word it would be fellowship. Mount Olivet nurtures a relationship with God, but also with fellow members and with the community."



Three days after the first Mount Olivet worship service was held at the Iverson farmhouse in 1920, nine members organized the Ladies Aid Society. A fascinating account of the group's early years details Thimble Bee sewing circles, Food and Fancy Work Sales, box socials, vanilla sales, a Sick Committee, rummage sales, cleaning the church, and donating silverware for church functions. Today over 400 women are active in circles, with15 board members guiding Mount Olivet Church Women programs and events. Ever since the early days of Mount Olivet, women have found ways to promote relationships and nurture their faith.



So have the men. Variations of the Men's Club and Men's Breakfasts have fostered relationships through the years. Male volunteers and pastors have connected for decades while serving the women at the annual Ladies Night, parading into Fellowship Hall wearing white hats, black bow ties, and aprons. Another annual favorite, the All Sportsmen banquet ran from 1951 to 2001. Ticket buyers in the early years were guaranteed first choice tickets for future banquets, a privilege some passed on to the next generation. The evening featured Reuben Youngdahl (and later Paul) refereeing the event with a whistle and conferring awards on local high school athletes. Sports figures such as Sid Hartman, Kirby Puckett, Tom Landry, and Herb Brooks graced the stage as head speakers or panel members, drawing crowds of men.



Fellowship for All – designed to provide something of interest for every member – enjoyed a great run in the 60s. Sunday night Hi-League had not yet been established, so teenagers gathered in the church balcony with friends for a brief service before being dismissed to classes for the whole family. Hot dogs or Sloppy joes brought everyone to Fellowship Hall to continue bonding with old friends and new. Similar family-friendly food, intergenerational worship and fun, and a variety of classes were part of the Fellowship for All revival in the 80s and 90s.

Through the decades, fellowship has been the backbone of Mount Olivet and a key component of why many of our members think of this congregation as "the biggest little church" around.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over the years Fellowship events have featured many interesting, and inspiring speakers. Some of the most famous include Jerry Kill, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, and Susan B. Anthony.



"Thursday Friends is a group where acceptance is given the moment you walk in. It is based on respect, inclusion, faith, laughter and fun. It is one of the most rewarding groups I have ever been a part of. My life would not be nearly as full without this program.

~ Lindsay Yount



Flying Solo • Food Truck Sunday • Friends Forever • Hi-er League • Young Adults #adulting • Motorheads • Just for Fun Golf Scramble • Men's Dinners

- Young Marrieds Mount Olivet Church Women and Circles • Thanksgiving Early and Christmas Early Dinners
- Thursday & Mount Olivet Friends Congregational Tours



"I truly love the warmth and understanding that Willow Circle members show each other. We all go through stages of varying busyness, but no matter what you will always be welcomed and enjoy a great gathering of women.

~ Lisa Boss

fel·low·ship /ˈfelō SHip/

noun

friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests.

Mount Olivet's Fellowship ministry offers our members and non-member friends a place to feel welcomed, inspired, informed, and connected through a variety of large group events. These events provide an opportunity for engagement and a personal connection with others.



"The Men's Breakfast is a habit for me, a very good habit. It's a way for me to touch base with my faith and with good friends. I relish our pastors' Bible studies and our interesting speakers. It's the best way to start my day."

~ Dave Hatzung

DID YOU KNOW?

Eleven groups fall under the Fellowship ministry, which hosts more than 40 events per year. It typically takes 20 to 40 volunteers to put on a Fellowship event.

Fellowship at Mount Olivet is more than good times with great people. It also helps financially support our church and affiliates.

MO Church Women circles and events - like the Holiday Boutique - fundraise on average \$30,000 each year. The Lutefisk Dinner typically brings in \$15,000 annually, along with a distinctive aroma!

Mount Olivet Youth Service Projects (Grades 7-12)

The youth service projects are a huge part of our young people's identity at Mount Olivet Church. Although many of our young people lead very busy lives, they still make time to give back to the community. The main goal of each service project is to allow time for shared memories and moments with all the people involved in the service project. Our youth serve in a variety of ways throughout the school year and make a difference simply by being present and positive! Mount Olivet's youth ministry program centers on Faith, Community, Service & Leadership. Five service projects are highlighted below. Grateful for all who participate!

Sunday Serve

Sunday Serve is a unique program for 8th Grade Leaders at the Minneapolis Campus that teaches students about their community by participating in different service projects for various organizations around the Twin Cities. One Sunday a month we come together, worship at the 9am service, share in a meal, and learn about the populations around us that are facing stressors we may not be personally familiar with. This fall we plan on making tie blankets for Cornerstone MN, pack MATTERboxes for the MATTER organization, and participate in Christmas for All. It is going to be an awesome fall and we look forward to all the projects we have planned!

Circle of Friends

Circle of Friends is a social-based program that partners teenagers of all abilities both with and without special needs from Mount Olivet. These meaningful relationships are fostered by spending time together through a variety of fun activities both here at Mount Olivet and out in the community.

MO United

M.O. United brings Mount Olivet West Hi-Leaguers and Mount Olivet Rolling Acres residents together for community and relationship building activities hosted by Mount Olivet Rolling Acres. M.O. United meets for two, 8-week sessions - Fall and Spring. The fall session is during October and November and the spring session is during February and March. There is one training/informational meeting prior to the fall session in September, however no experience is necessary to be a part of MO United!

Adopt-a-Grandparent

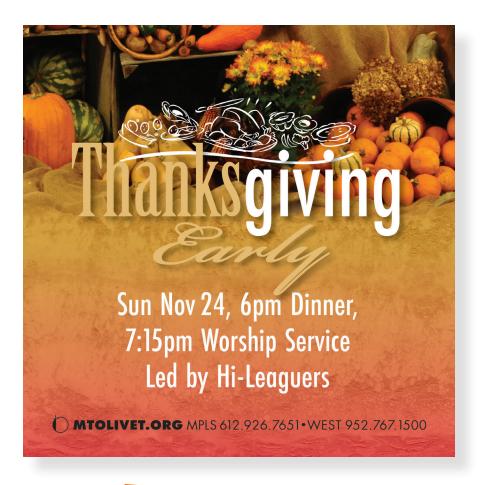
Adopt-a-Grandparent (AGP) meets every other Monday night from October through April. This is an intergenerational service project for Mount Olivet's 7th & 8th grade students. As a junior high group we participate in activities with residents at Mount Olivet Home. After most nights at the Mount Olivet Home we will go as a Junior High group to dinner. This is a great way to become involved at church and participation in AGP.

Hands & Feet

Hands & Feet typically meets on the first Saturday of each month. High School volunteers assist with grocery distribution for residents of Horn Towers in south Minneapolis, a public housing facility predominantly comprised of East African refugees. This is a great opportunity for volunteers to give back and gain a new perspective of their city!







Hi+Leaghe

Sunday Evenings.

11/3 COLLEGE PLANNING NIGHT 7-8:30pm (a); TABLE TALKS (a) 7-8:30pm.

11/10 ROLLER SKATING (M w bus 7-9pm).

11/17 no hi-league.

11/24 thanksgiving early service at MPLS campus

(M 7-8pm w bus 6:30-8:30).

Christmas Early Worship Service

W 12/18 6pm Main Sanctuary W Sanctuary. All Confirmands and their Parents are invited to attend the 6:00pm Christmas Early Worship Service. The Chancel Choir will also be singing at this service. There is no regular Confirmation large or small group this night. Please attend the worship service together as family.

JHA - 8th Grade Winter Retreat

12:30pm F 12/27 through 10am Sa 12/28, **②** Youth Center **③** Narthex. 8th Graders - We have had such a great year with you so far, and we would love to spend some time with you this winter break to shop, swim, worship, see a movie, grab dinner, and reflect on the New Year together! We have an awesome full day planned, followed by a night at the retreat center, and we hope you can join us!! Transportation from both campuses. Cost: \$70. Contact: Tierra Davis, 612.767.2237, tdavis@mtolivet.org. Register by 12/25. □ ♂

Thanksgiving Early Worship Service - All Are Welcome

Su 11/24 7:15pm Main
Sanctuary. All are welcome to
a special Thanksgiving Early
Worship Service on Sunday,
November 24 at 7:15pm at our
Minneapolis Campus. This
special service features our Mount
Olivet High School Board who
will be providing scripture lessons
& our Thanksgiving messages!

Chancel Choir Gustavus Retreat

Confirmation Schedule

There will be **NO** Confirmation classes on the flollowing dates:

WED 11/27 W W

SUN 12/1 M

SUN 12/15 M

WED 12/18 MW

SUN 12/22 M

30N 12/ 22 W

WED 12/25 M W SUN 12/29 M

WED 1/1 M W

Confirmation classes will resume on Sunday 1/5 or Wednesday 1/8.

Cathedral Choir Bake Sale

Su 12/8 before and after each worship service Lower Narthex, James Ave. Enterance, and Main Office Enterance Narthex.

Support the Cathedral Choir!

There will be a variety of baked goods made by our own Cathedral Choir members. Make sure to stop by and buy them before they sell out!

Parents Share Fall Session

W through 11/20 9:30-11am, mm 199. Parents Share, now in its forty-first year, is a gathering of parents, who come together to share their current parenting issues, while also sharing their collective wisdom and experience. Marilyn Sharpe, Mount Olivet member and certified parent educator, facilitates the group. Each session will include one topic identified by the group during the first week and prepared and presented by Marilyn during the first half hour of the last seven sessions. The final hour will be filled with the topics being lived by participants. Nursery provided by Mount Olivet and limited to the first eight children to contact Marilyn Sharpe.

Open Gym is Back!

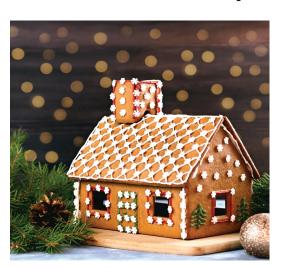
Sa 11/16 9-11am, Gym.

Come run, jump, and play - and get to know our new Nursery

Coordinator, SAM

BALZER as she continues the Open Gym fun! Designed for children ages 1-6 and their parents. \$5/ family at the door.

Children & Family Advent & Christmas Opportunities



Family Gingerbread Event

Sa 12/7 4:30-6pm Fellowship Hall.

Join us for a fun evening celebrating the start of Advent with festive family games, decorating gingerbread houses, and dinner. \$35 includes a gingerbread house, frosting, and dinner for your family. Please bring candy and other decorating options to make your gingerbread house uniquely yours!

Christmas For All

Su 12/8 Both Campuses

All Sunday School and Choir Sunday School Classes will be asked to participate in Christmas For All. Families are asked to contribute a gift and/or volunteer their time, details on page 18 with additional information coming from your CFM team!

Live Nativity at Both Campuses!

Sa 12/14 9am-12noon
Be sure to check out the live
nativity at both campuses after the
Children's Christmas Service on
Saturday, December 14th! There
will be many animals to meet and
we look forward to this being a
fun addition to the morning.



Honor Flight - The Movie, All Are Welcome

M 11/11 2-4pm, **№** 207. Join Grace Hospice & the Pastoral Care Team on Veteran's Day for an afternoon movie to honor our Veterans. Honor Flight is a heartwarming documentary about four living World War II veterans and a Midwest community coming together to give them the trip of lifetime. Volunteers race against the clock to fly thousands of WWII veterans to Washington, DC to see the memorial constructed for them in 2004, nearly 60 years after their epic struggle. Sen. Bob Dole said: "Honor Flight is a remarkable film. Grandparents, parents, and children can all appreciate the stories told in this powerful and moving tribute to WWII Veterans and this country." Register online or by calling Andrea Brown at 612.767.2209.



Young in Heart (65+)

Tu 11/19 12noon, **W** *Fellowship Hall*. Entertainment provided by **DR. DAVID CARLSON**, pianist. \$9 and a donation to Pastor Scott's On Call Ministry. Friends welcome! Register by 11/15: 612.926.7651.

Prayer Ministry Meeting

M 12/2 12noon, **№** Lounge. Members of the Prayer Ministry Team and those interested in becoming part of the Prayer Ministry Team are invited to join us for a Christmas potluck gathering and fellowship. No RSVP needed! Questions? Contact Andrea Brown, 612.767.2209.



Christmas Homebound Communion & Luncheon

Sa 12/7 11am, . For homebound Mount Olivet members, friends, and family. Enjoy stories and carols of the season along with communion and a lunch following. Transportation available upon request. Free. Register: Ann LaBree 612.767.2288 annl@mtolivet.org. YOUNG MARRIEDS (20-45YRS) SERVE AT HOMEBOUND COMMUNION & LUNCHEON 10:15am-1:45pm (3 shifts). Help create a meaningful experience for our homebound members. Nursery available. Older children are encouraged to help. □ 8

Prayer Shawl Ministry MPLS Meeting

M 11/11 10am, Lounge. Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team and those interested in joining are invited to come! No RSVP needed! Questions? Contact Andrea Brown, 612.767.2209.



On Sunday, December 8, EVERYONE is invited to join in the spirit of the season by participating in Mount Olivet's inaugural *Christmas for All*!

All ages are encouraged to participate in this all-congregational service project as we continue to celebrate 100 years of service and generosity through Mount Olivet! You can give a gift, volunteer your time, donate money or all of the above! All gifts and donations will go to Redeemer Lutheran Church & Southside Family Nurturing Center and Love INC w.

GIVE A GIFT

Bring a gift to church on Sunday, December 8. All donations must be new and unwrapped. \$5-\$40 range. Non-violent gifts, please. Gift cards are much appreciated. More suggestions at mtolivet.org.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Volunteers are needed at both campuses on Wednesday, December 4, and Sunday, December 8. Volunteers also needed to work at the "Christmas Stores." For more volunteer specifics and to sign up, visit our website or contact Katie Marxhausen at kmarxhausen@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2219.

DONATE MONEY

If you wish, you can donate money to "Christmas for All" via your Realm account (give to the "Christmas for All" fund) or with checks made payable to Mount Olivet with "Christmas for All" in the memo line. Thank you!

More info at mtolivet.org

Christmas for All!

Join in the Festive Fun of the Season of Giving!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

John is not the Christmas story most of us think of when December rolls around. There is no manger, no mention of angels, no adoring parents or magi, not even a baby! Why, then, are we reading the first verses of John's Gospel this year during Advent? For one simple reason: more than any other Gospel, John records with wonder and awe the central confession of the Christian faith: that in Jesus, born of Mary, God's love comes down from heaven to redeem us and to give us hope to live in the meantime. In fact, the first eighteen verses of John's Gospel were the most influential verses in Scripture in shaping our understanding of the Incarnation, the promise that in Jesus, God "became flesh and dwelt among us," so that we can know and trust that God understands us, loves us, is committed to us, and will save us. And then, having explored John's extraordinary hymn to God's love made tangible in Jesus throughout Advent, we can experience the Christmas story of Luke — complete with the manger, angels, and the baby Jesus! — with new and deeper appreciation on Christmas Eve. So be sure to come to church in Advent, read our special Advent devotions, come to the Christmas concert — with a new Christmas carol commissioned in honor of our Centennial! — participate in our Christmas for All service project, and take advantage of all the other Christmas services and activities as we prepare together to witness God's love come down to us and for us in Jesus the Christ!

Dec 1	First Sunday of Advent "In the Beginning"	∞ 9, 10, 11am, 12noon; ∞ 9, 10, 11am
Dec 3	Day Advent Journey	Conference & Retreat Center 10am-3pm
Dec 4	Wednesday Worship with Communion	■ 11 am community lunch following - \$6
Dec 7	Homebound Christmas Communion	
Dec 8	Second Sunday of Advent "John the Witness"	∞ 9, 10, 11am, 12noon; w 9, 10, 11am
Dec 10	Service of Remembrance	™ 6:30pm
Dec 11	Advent Lessons & Carols with Pastor Lose	™ 11am
Dec 12	Service of Remembrance	w 6:30pm
Dec 14	Children's Christmas Service	™ 10am № 10am
Dec 15	Third Sunday of Advent "Children of God"	∞ 9, 10, 11am, 12noon; w 9, 10, 11am
Dec 15	Christmas Concert	™ 3 & 5pm
Dec 18	Christmas Lessons & Carols with Pastor Lose	■ 11 am lunch following
Dec 18	Christmas Early	∞ w 6pm dinner following
Dec 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent & Communion Sunday "The Word Became Flesh"	∞ 9, 10, 11am, 12noon; ∞ 9, 10, 11am
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	™ 2-11pm, ₩ 2-7pm
Dec 25	Christmas Day	™ 10am
Dec 29	First Sunday of Christmas "John's the Witness"	∞ 9, 10, 11am, 12noon; w 9, 10, 11am
Dec 31	New Year's Eve	™ 7pm
Jan 5	Epiphany Sunday	∞ 9, 10, 11am, 12noon; w 9, 10, 11am
Jan 12	Anniversary Sunday	∞ 9, 10, 11am, 12noon; w 9, 10, 11am
		·

Service of Remembrance

Tu 12/10 6:30pm, Sanctuary; Th 12/12 6:30pm, Sanctuary. This Advent & Christmas Season we encourage you to join us in celebrating the life and memory of your loved ones by attending the candlelit Service of Remembrance. To have the first and last name of your loved one read during the service, please contact Andrea Brown 612.767.2209 andreab@mtolivet. org. Please specify if you plan to join us at wo or both services.

Poinsettia Chancel Garden

Orders through 12/14. During this special time of year, please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia to beautify our sanctuaries from Christmas Eve through New Year's Eve at both campuses. The listing will be in the Su 12/29 bulletin insert. The cost is \$30 per poinsettia. Order at mtolivet.org or by contacting Mary Lindberg at 612.926.7651, MaryL@mtolivet.org.



Get Advent Devotions in Your Email Inbox

Look for the link to subscribe to Pastor Lose's Advent devotions at mtolivet. org or in the weekly email. The devotional is on the Gospel of John, which begins with a nod to the book of Genesis. "If Genesis tells the story of God's creation, John is sharing the story of God's re-creation. If Genesis tells the story of humanity's fall, John tells of its redemption. And if Genesis tries to tell us where we came from, John is telling us where we're going." — Pastor Lose

Printed booklets will also be available at both campuses starting Thanksgiving Day, 11/28.





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