

DEC 2019

MOUNT OLIVET

MESSENGER

Believing, Belonging, Becoming

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12

LOVE *Came Down*

Join Us for Worship

M MINNEAPOLIS CAMPUS
5025 KNOX AVE S
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55419
612.926.7651

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

Sunday Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service (Except 12/22 Holy Communion served during all worship services)
Sunday Morning Nursery 9, 10, 11am; Sunday School & Choir Sunday School 9 & 10am (No Sunday School or Choir Sunday School 12/15, 12/22, or 12/29)

SUN, DEC 1

The First Sunday of Advent

M 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

Sermon: **PASTOR LOSE**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs; Centennial Singers

W 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR KALLAND**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs

WED, DEC 4

Wednesday Worship with Communion & Community Lunch

M 11am — followed by a Community Lunch, \$6, no reservation required

Sermon: **PASTOR MACLEAN**

SAT, DEC 7

Homebound Christmas Communion & Luncheon

M 11am, Pastors: **LOSE, KALLAND, MACLEAN, DIXON**
Music: Carah Hart, soprano

SUN, DEC 8

The Second Sunday of Advent Centennial Celebration Highlight: Music Ministry

M 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

Sermon: **PASTOR LOSE**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs with Justin Stabell, soloist; Chancel Ringers

W 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR DIXON**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs with Greg Dokken, soloist; Chancel Ringers

TUE, DEC 10

Service of Remembrance

M 6:30pm, Sermon: **PASTOR KALLAND**

Music: Justin Staebell, baritone; Emily Gerard, harp

WED, DEC 11

Advent Lessons & Carols with Pastor Lose

M 11am — followed by cookies and coffee in the lounge

THU, DEC 12

Service of Remembrance

W 6:30pm, Sermon: **PASTOR KALLAND**

Music: Justin Staebell, baritone; Emily Gerard, harp

SAT, DEC 14

Children's Christmas Service with Live Nativity

M 10am, Sermon: **PASTOR RUUD**

W 10am, Sermon: **PASTOR FREEMAN**

SUN, DEC 15

The Third Sunday of Advent

M 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

Sermon: **PASTOR RUUD**

Music: Heidi Amundson, violin; Jane Cords-O'Hara, cello; Richard Owen, piano

W 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR LOSE**

Music: Senior Choir

WED, DEC 18

Christmas Lessons & Carols with Pastor Lose

M 11am — followed by cookies and coffee in the lounge

WED, DEC 18

Christmas Early Worship & Dinner

6pm worship featuring the Chancel Choir, 6:30pm dinner (\$10, register at mtolivet.org)

M Sermon: **PASTOR HAMMERSTEN**

W Sermon: **PASTOR RUUD**

SUN, DEC 22

The Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Communion

M 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

Sermon: **PASTOR HAMMERSTEN**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs; Emily Gerard, harp; Julie Johnson, flute

W 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR MACLEAN**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs

WATCH & LISTEN LIVE!

The **M** 11am Sunday morning worship service followed by **PASTOR TERRY MOREHOUSE'S** Faith Alive program is broadcast live at mtolivet.org and at WDG radio 740AM.

TUE, DEC 24

Christmas Eve

Nursery 2, 3, 4pm

M 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11pm

Sermon: **PASTOR LOSE**

Music: Mount Olivet Choirs

Listen live at 2pm on WDG radio 740AM or stream 2-10pm at mtolivet.org.

W 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7pm

Sermon: **PASTOR DIXON**

Music: Mount Olivet Choirs

*A Mount Olivet Christmas Eve worship service is a cherished and wonderful experience for all who attend. Members and visitors alike are welcomed "home" to a Christmas service filled with Word and song. Experience the true meaning of the season through familiar Christmas hymns, inspiring and encouraging preaching and beautiful music sung by choirs of all ages accompanied by full orchestra **M** or strings and harp **W**.*

WED, DEC 25

Christmas Day Communion

M 10am, Sermon: **PASTOR KALLAND**

Music: Emily Gerard, harp

SUN, DEC 29

The First Sunday of Christmas

M 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

Sermon: **PASTOR FREEMAN**

Music: Christmas Hymn sing

W 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR RUUD**

Music: Christmas Hymn sing

TUE, DEC 31

New Year's Eve Worship & Holy Communion

All are welcome to attend, with a special invitation to those working programs of recovery. Potluck following in Fellowship Hall (bring appetizer or dessert to share).

M 7pm, Sermon: **PASTOR KALLAND**

Music: Genevieve Kalland, soprano

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

As you read this, many of us – myself included – will be listening to our favorite Christmas songs. I say “songs” to recognize that while I absolutely love the Christmas carols of the season, I also listen to lots of “holiday songs” that we probably won’t sing in church. In that category, one of my favorites is Andy Williams’ “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year.” You probably remember some of the lyrics:

*It's the most wonderful time of the year,
With the kids jingle belling
And everyone telling you be of good cheer
It's the most wonderful time of the year...
There'll be parties for hosting
Marshmallows for toasting
And caroling out in the snow
There'll be scary ghost stories
And tales of the glories of
Christmases long, long ago*

I love this song because, apart from the line about scary ghost stories (don’t we have another holiday for those?), it so captures the joyous feel of the Christmas season. So much to do. So many people to see. So much fun to have.

Of course, the flip side of “the most wonderful time of the year” is that it can also be “the most stressful time of the year.” Obligations and expectations can come close to overwhelming us.

But they don’t have to. It is possible to celebrate the season, feel again the wonder of God’s love for the world made manifest in Jesus, and be surprised and delighted by the good news the angels announce: “peace on earth and goodwill to all!” In fact, the Advent and Christmas celebrations and activities listed in the rest of the pages of *The Messenger* were all designed for just that purpose: to help you know and live into the peace and favor of God and believe that God loves you more than you can possibly imagine. Everything – absolutely everything! – we do this season has those goals in mind.

Toward inviting you to experience the joy of “the most wonderful time of the year,” allow me to make three suggestions. First, plan what you most want to do in advance. Perhaps it’s the Christmas Early worship service and dinner because you’re traveling this holiday (Wednesday, Dec. 18). Or maybe it’s the Young Adult Caroling event on Tuesday, Dec. 17, or the Ginger Bread House event on Saturday,

Dec. 7 or the Christmas Sing-Along & Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 10. Perhaps serving others will restore your sense of goodwill toward all and so you’ll want to participate in Christmas for All on Dec. 8. Or perhaps the Service of Remembrance (12/10 at Mpls and 12/12 at West) is the moment of quiet reverie and remembrance of a loved one that you need during this season. Take time, look at the plethora of activities and opportunities listed in the following pages, and decide what will help you best capture the spirit of the season.

Second, don’t feel like you have to do everything. And that’s not just at church, but also in your work and school and social lives. Remember to take time to breathe, to spend quiet time with family and friends, to accept the joy of multiple invitations without succumbing to a sense of obligation. Again, planning will help. But also give yourself permission to enjoy some – but not feel compelled to partake of all – that is available.

Third, immerse yourself in the story of Christmas. This year, we’re offering a different lens through which to understand the Christmas story by focusing on the Gospel of John. While Luke’s story of the holy family’s journey to Bethlehem and the attending angels and shepherds is best known to us, John’s focus on God’s incredible immersion into our life through the Incarnation – God becoming human in Jesus – heightens the wonder and mystery of the Christmas story we’ll revel in on Christmas Eve.

You can delve into John’s witness via the Advent Devotions (available in print at church and via daily emails by signing-up at mtolivet.org) and during Sunday worship, as we give our attention to the first eighteen verses of John’s Gospel, perhaps the most important eighteen verses in the Bible for understanding what God was up to in Jesus.

Yes – lots of opportunities! So... plan, breathe, and dive in to the stories of God’s love for you and all the world so that this month may indeed be for you the most wonderful time in the year.

See you in Church!

Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



Life & Growth

OCT 15 - NOV 14

Baptisms

Joelle James Aske, daughter of Amanda and Andrew

Gautam Guruprasad Bandekar, son of Christine and Guru

Jacob Michael Bray, son of Carlene and Michael
Henrietta Maxine Chester, daughter of Kryssa and Thomas

Theodore Chapman Chester, son of Kryssa and Thomas

Andrew Brad Covert Jr., son of Kristin and Andrew
Thomas James Feeney, son of Laura and Rory
Ramona June Frazier, daughter of Margaret and Aaron

Magnus Alan Golz, son of Kimberley and Dustin
Marie Lily Henjum, daughter of Nicole and Christian

James Edward Humphries, son of Sofia and Andrew

Genevieve Rose Johnson, daughter of Heather and Alec

Everly Jean Justin, daughter of Stacy and Adam
Wallace Richard Lindquist, son of Laura and Josh
Owen Peter Lunsford, son of Megan and Jeremy
Samuel Steven Lunsford, son of Megan and Jeremy

Louise Kathryn Newman, daughter of Emma and Dan

Andrew Daniel Ralles, son of Jennifer and Daniel
Hudson Gerhard Schmiel, son of Kaitlyn and Brian

Weddings

Kathryn Egan & James Thorson, November 2
Jody Christenson & Shawn Weeks, November 9

Deaths

Janet K. Ankeny, 1948 – 2019

Jean L. Erckenbrack, 1926 – 2019

Ethel F. Frederickson, 1927 – 2019

Janice C. Geckler, 1947 – 2019

Steven J. Hanson, 1958 – 2019

Randall K. Larson, 1954 – 2019

Noel P. Muller, 1938 – 2019

Rev. Marvin D. Odland, 1925 – 2019

Samuel B. Polikowsky, 1995 – 2019

Louisa H. Richardson, 1928 – 2019

Patricia L. Schumacher, 1945 – 2019

Christopher P. Wells, 1966 – 2019

Patricia J. Winter, 1930 – 2019

Janet H. Wittig, 1930 – 2019

WORSHIP WITH US ON SUNDAYS

We begin our exploration of John's Gospel in December, as across the four Sundays of Advent we will listen to John's "hymn to the Word." You'll notice very quickly that John tells a very different "Christmas story" than do Luke and Matthew. For starters, there's no baby Jesus. And no Mary and Joseph. There's not even a manger. And no shepherds or cute barn animals either. Truth be told, these verses aren't often called a "Christmas story" at all. Rather, they are called the "Prologue," which literally means, "words that come before." So John 1:1-18 is essentially the introduction to the rest of John's Gospel.

What John does do through these few verses is provide the clearest statement of what we call "the Incarnation," the promise that, in Jesus, the eternal and Almighty God took on flesh and blood to become human.

So while John doesn't describe the Incarnation with baby, adoring parents, manger, shepherds and more – he does testify to **why it matters** – because in the baby Jesus, God took on our lot and life that we might live with courage, compassion, and hope! And that's what I call one very important Christmas story. Come to church each Advent Sunday and read the Advent Devotions to learn more. — Pastor Lose

Advent Sundays

● 9, 10, 11am & 12noon • ● 9, 10 & 11am

12/1 First Sunday of Advent ~ *A New Beginning*

12/8 Second Sunday of Advent ~ *John the Witness*

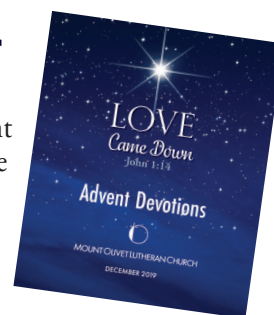
12/15 Third Sunday of Advent ~ *Children of God*

12/22 Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ *The Word Became Flesh*

Christmas Communion Worship Su 12/22, ● 9, 10, 11am, 12pm, ● 9, 10, 11am. The Christmas Communion worship services at Mount Olivet are a special time to come together with family members and friends who are arriving for the holidays. The beautiful reflective services are filled with a meaningful message, lovely seasonal music, and the gorgeous sight of our sanctuaries adorned with trees and poinsettias. It is a perfect time to slow down during the busy season and immerse ourselves in a special communion worship service that expresses the joy and love of Christ's birth.

Get Advent Devotions in Your Email Inbox

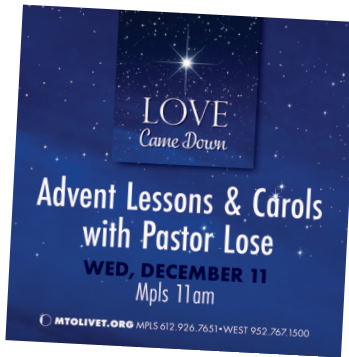
Look for the link to subscribe to Pastor Lose's Advent devotions at mtolivet.org or in the weekly email. The devotional is on the Gospel of John, which begins with a nod to the book of Genesis. "If Genesis tells the story of God's creation, John is sharing the story of God's re-creation. If Genesis tells 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." Printed booklets are also available at both campuses.



WORSHIP WITH US ON WEDNESDAYS

Advent Lessons & Carols

W 12/11 11am, **M** Sanctuary (followed by cookies and coffee in the narthex). Come and join us as we sing together and learn about the Advent Carols of our faith. From a Yiddish folk song tune to a Cameroon hymn, we will explore the wide variety of Advent carols that are in our hymnal. The service is prepared and led by our **SENIOR PASTOR, DAVID LOSE**, and the music staff.



Christmas Lessons & Carols

W 12/18 11am, **M** Sanctuary (followed by cookies and coffee in the narthex). The songs of Christmas come from across the church's history and from around the globe, and each has a story. This year, we will hear and sing carols in their original languages and genres, which is sure to be a treat! The service is prepared and led by our **SENIOR PASTOR, DAVID LOSE**, and the music staff.



Christmas Early

W 12/18, 6pm Worship, 6:30pm Dinner, **M** Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall, **W** Sanctuary & Gronseth Fellowship Hall. Join us for this beautiful Mount Olivet Christmas worship service in Word and song offered early for those who may be traveling for the holidays. The service features the Chancel Treble and Tenore Choirs as the musical leaders of worship. Worship is followed by a \$10 festive turkey dinner. All are welcome! Register at mtolivet.org.



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.



Daily Readings

December 2019

FROM PASTOR KALLAND

- 1 Lamentations 5:19, From Generation to Generation
- 2 1 Samuel 12:24, What God Has Done for You
- 3 Hosea 6:3, The Lord Will Come to Us
- 4 Job 40:1-2, Who Corrects The Lord?
- 5 2 Peter 3:10, Like a Thief
- 6 John 14:26-27, Peace
- 7 John 14:16-17, Spirit of Truth
- 8 Lamentations 3:31, No One Cast Off
- 9 Psalm 119:48-52, Your Promise Preserves My Life
- 10 Psalm 116:1-2, I Love The Lord
- 11 Psalm 46:1, Ever Present Help
- 12 Psalm 9:9, The Lord Is a Refuge
- 13 Psalm 119:76, Unfailing Love
- 14 Psalm 27:1, The Lord Is Light and Salvation
- 15 Joshua 1:9-10, With You Wherever You Go
- 16 1 Corinthians 16:14, All Done In Love
- 17 John 4:8, God Is Love
- 18 John 3:16, God So Loved
- 19 1 Peter 4:8, Love Covers a Multitude
- 20 Colossians 3:14, Above All Put On Love
- 21 John 13:34-35, We Love Because God Loved First
- 22 Proverbs 10:12, Love Covers All Offenses
- 23 1 John 4:7, Love Is From God
- 24 1 John 4:18, No Fear In Love
- 25 Matthew 28:20, I Am With You Always
- 26 Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust In The Lord
- 27 Matthew 6:33, Seek First God's Kingdom
- 28 Psalm 103:2-5, Praise The Lord
- 29 Philippians 4:6-7, The Peace Of God
- 30 Psalm 86:5, You Lord Are Forgiving and God
- 31 Psalm 50:15, Call Upon The Lord

Our Pastors' Favorite Christmas Ornaments

This Advent & Christmas season, we asked our pastors to share thoughts about one of their favorite Christmas ornaments.



Each year my mom bought all five children a Christmas ornament that she placed in our stockings. They were usually from a set — all wooden nativities scenes or all Christmas trees — and yet she also found a way to personalize each one, choosing a theme for each child. One of my sister's ornaments always featured an angel, for instance, while one brother always had a drum. If the ornament didn't have that element, she would find a way to add it. My distinctive feature was always a star.

The Star of David features significantly in the Christmas story and tradition, of course, so whether a colorful paper mâché star from India, or a little drummer boy figurine with a star painted on his jacket, I have several dozen starred ornaments. My favorite is also probably the simplest, a German-made straw star that finds a special place on our tree each year. As I write, I know my mom won't remember buying it, and perhaps not even this Christmas tradition, but it reminds me of her love for each of her children and ours for her, reflections of God's love showered upon us in the infant born on Christmas day. — PASTOR LOSE



How does a guy begin to pick a favorite Christmas tree ornament? There are so many favorites with so many stories behind each one. I love to sit in a dimly lit room late at night gazing at the thousands of lights on the Christmas tree, which look like magical stars as you squint... ah, the memories... there is Mr. Spock sitting behind his station on the bridge. And then of course the Star Ship Enterprise. One or two cigar ornaments. And every year since 1987 we have been getting the official White House Ornament. But my all-time favorite ornament is the Nail. It's the last ornament placed on our tree. The nail reminds us of the sacrifice and love of Christ Jesus on another tree. It reminds us that the true meaning of Christmas comes not only from the birth of the Christ, but in the resurrection. The birth of the child is the birth of forgiveness, new life today, and eternal life for all of our tomorrows. — PASTOR KALLAND



Most everyone in my mom's family tree served the church in some significant way. For nearly 40 years, my great aunt Esther served as a missionary caring for children in an orphanage in Caracas, Venezuela. Every seven years, she would receive sabbatical to come home to rest and renew. We couldn't wait for the Christmas dinners those years to gather 'round the Christmas table and hear stories of this mysterious land far, far, away. One year, there was a huge package under the tree and to my surprise the tag read: *To: Monica, Love: Aunt Esther*. I couldn't wait 'til the

end of the evening to open it! Lo and behold, inside the package was a globe!! To this day, globes bring a flutter to my heart! As we decorate the tree each year, I smile while placing this ornament in honor of Esther, her commitment to God's children, and the love of faraway people she placed on my young and curious heart.

— PASTOR HAMMERSTEN

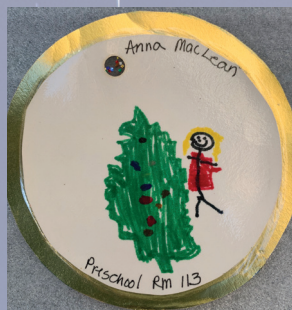


Mount Olivet Centennial Ornament!

There has been a long standing tradition at Mount Olivet to offer a Christmas ornament each year. While there hasn't been a new ornament for several years, as part of our Centennial Celebration we are rekindling a beloved tradition and are pleased to offer this beautiful Christmas ornament to commemorate our 100th year celebration. Pick one up at the Mount Olivet Spirit Store on Sunday in December for \$5.



The many years I worked in downtown Minneapolis, I would often go to Dayton's / Macy's Marketplace in the lower level to grab lunch and bring it back to my desk. During the Christmas season, there was a Christmas shop set up right across the aisle from Marketplace. I would often pass this shop on my way to lunch and admire the decorations. Many of our beautiful ornaments were purchased at this shop over the years. Some tell stories of my children's sports and activities. Some remind me of ornaments from my childhood. Or some were picked out by my children on our annual visit to Santa, the exhibit in the 8th floor auditorium, and the Holidazzle parade. But my favorite ornaments that adorn our tree every year came to us as Christmas gifts... wrapped haphazardly with lots of extra tape and containing something special, like a piece of artwork or painted plaster of Paris hand print. I treasure these gifted ornaments the most because I know the depth of love with which they were given. – PASTOR MACLEAN



One of my favorite ornaments is not owned by me, rather it's a story about an ornament a pastor friend received as a gift. Commonly during the season of Advent churches hear the story of John the Baptist pointing to Jesus' ministry. In a sermon, my pal noted John's character and message is not very fluffy, so-to-speak. It's actually quite abrasive. John's articulation of Jesus calls us and our world into question. Perhaps it even threatens how we formally lived or viewed things. John could be seen as a rough character with a coarse message. Upon preaching the sermon, the next week the pastor showed up to her office to find a handmade ornament gift from one of her parishioners – a John-the-Baptist figurine constructed entirely of sand paper. I think of it every year! – PASTOR RUUD



My favorite ornament was never that beautiful to begin with. It was a little cheesy when I bought it, and Mollie usually hangs it on the back of the tree (yes I've noticed!). I bought it for her the year we got engaged. It depicts Mickey and Minnie Mouse looking at a ring in a shop window. Mickey's got a flop sweat, while Minnie looks pretty eager. This is not representative of our dynamic, or our engagement story, and we're not even huge Disney buffs. It just seemed like a fun, silly gift at the time. In recent years, our two boys have broken Mickey's head clean off. (We reattached it with superglue.) They've also ripped off the string used to hang the ornament. (That was hastily replaced with a twist tie, which inexplicably remains in place.) Far from junking the ornament, these little dings and marks



show its history, and make it precious to me as a reminder of the family born out of the love so cheaply commemorated by this gift all those years ago. – PASTOR DIXON



Perhaps you've heard the old adage, "Whichever way your relationship is going, a tandem will get you there faster!" :) Sedge and I received this ornament the year we were engaged, so we created our wedding's "Save the Date" cards by photo-shopping our heads onto it. From biking away from our wedding together to riding RAGBRAI as a family to organizing church group bike rides to delivering children's books at community parks, the power of the pedal has connected us to fun events and amazing people. We give thanks for precious relationships, the joy of biking, and the

great outdoors every time we put this ornament on the tree!

– PASTOR FREEMAN





Su 12/15 3pm & 5pm, Sanctuary; 3pm concert live streamed at mtolivet.org.

Mark your calendars for Mount Olivet's Annual Christmas Concerts on Sunday, December 15 at 3pm or 5pm. These beautiful and inspirational concerts have become a favorite Christmas event for the congregation and for the community at large. Combined choirs of both campuses, nearly 600 singers, come together to proclaim the joy and wonder of Christ's birth in song! Begin your own celebration of the season and invite those you love to join you in experiencing Mount Olivet's Christmas Concert, "Love Came Down At Christmas" Admission is FREE.

Christmas Carol Competition Winner

Baby Jesus, Softly Sleeping

Part of our celebration of Mount Olivet's Centennial Anniversary this year included hosting a Christmas Carol contest. Given the wonderful music that characterizes our Christmas season and our desire to continue the church's long-standing tradition of supporting the arts, this seemed like a fitting event to sponsor.

In May, our music and worship team posted a description of our hope to inspire a new Christmas carol that draws on the biblical tradition, is melodic and suited for congregational singing, and adds to the repertoire of the church's sacred music. We received 87 submissions from more than 70 composers from around the country and globe, the furthest from a missionary in Kenya. (We were excited that, of the 87, several had been submitted by Mount Olivet members!)

We removed all the names from the submissions so that each piece was judged "blind," solely on its merits. We asked our Director of Music and Worship, Dr. Beverly Claflin, and Principal Organist, Dr. Richard Owen, each to play through all 87 submissions, identify the top dozen, and then compare notes. From this review, we identified four finalists. The judging team – Dr. Claflin, Dr. Owen, and myself – accompanied by some of our music staff, then played and sang all four pieces several times, talking through the merits of the text and tune of each.

We then chose the one we thought well-deserved the honor of being the Centennial Christmas Carol and, when we identified the name of the winner, were delighted to discover that it was composed by Mount Olivet Senior Choir member John Widen! A lifelong member of Mount Olivet, John began singing at age seven and has continued through all our choirs for nearly seven decades.

What we love about John's carol – which will be debuted at the Christmas concert on December 15 and again sung on Sundays, December 22 and 29 – is the simplicity and beauty of both text and tune. Much like a lullaby, it moves quietly from the wonder of the nativity, to the cosmic significance of Jesus' birth, concluding with an invitation to make this Christmas gift our own. We are delighted to award John the honor of winning Mount Olivet's first Christmas Carol contest and grateful that he would offer his gifts to enrich our congregational singing and Christmas celebration! – Pastor Lose

Baby Jesus, Softly Sleeping

*Baby Jesus, softly sleeping, dreaming
dreams I cannot know.*

*Mother Mary, silence keeping,
pond'ring how her child will grow.*

*Joseph guarding at the manger, lost in
wonder at the sight*

*Beasts and angels, kings and shepherds,
bow in worship on that night.*

*Baby Jesus, gently waking,
nestles in his mother's arms.*

*Mother Mary, silence breaking,
prays to keep him from all harm.*

*Beasts and angels, kings and shepherds,
all the world in need of love.*

*Bearing God's own peace and favor,
comes this infant from above.*

*Baby Jesus, keep me near you.
Teach me tenderness and grace.*

*Teach your word so I will hear you
'til I meet you face to face.*

*Guide me down the path you traveled.
Keep me on the narrow way.*

Baby Jesus, I adore you.

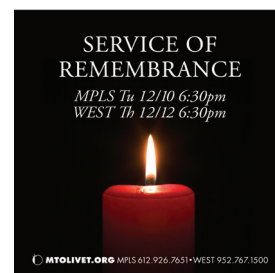
Live within my heart, I pray.

Worship Continues at Mount Olivet

Christmas Homebound Communion & Luncheon *Sa 12/7 11am, M*. 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 SERVE @ HOMEBOUND COMMUNION 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. Register at mtolivet.org

Service of Remembrance *Tu 12/10 6:30pm, M Sanctuary; Th 12/12 6:30pm, W 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 or andreab@mtolivet.org. Please specify if you plan to join us at *M* *W* or both services.



Children's Christmas Service *Sa 12/14 10am, M W Sanctuary.* The newly designed Children's Christmas Service is the perfect worship opportunity for families and children! Come celebrate the birth of Christ by participating and in the telling of the Christmas story and listening to our young singers share the news of Christ's birth in song. **Especially designed for children ages 3 through 8**, the short service is followed by a **LIVE NATIVITY** in the parking lot. The morning is sure to become a favorite Christmas activity for your family! Nursery is provided during the service for little ones by Blossom Circle. All donations for nursery care go to support the children's choir program.

Hi-er League: Christmas Eve Cookies & Worship (18-22yr) *Tu 12/24 10pm Cookies, 11pm worship M Lounge & Main Sanctuary.* Are you home for Christmas Break and need a recharge with old friends but don't want to disrupt family time? Come join Hi-er League for a late night of Christmas cookies and worship. We will meet first for some snacks and then attend the 11 pm candlelight service together. A wonderful opportunity to celebrate Christmas and be in the spirit with friends. Come as you are: all are welcome!

A DAY ADVENT JOURNEY

**At the Conference and Retreat Center -
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 10am-3pm**

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 **PASTOR 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 *W* (8:45am), 7500 York (8:45am) and *M* (9:15am). **RESERVATION REQUIRED.** Please register at mtolivet.org or call 952.469.2175.



MUSIC

We Know Our Faith Because We Sing It!



The Lutheran Church is known for its hymnody and great music. After all, we are the church of Martin Luther who was himself a hymn writer. He gave us congregational singing. We are the church of Bach and a host of other noted composers and hymn writers in every age.

Wherever the Lutheran faith has been planted in the world, hymn writing has flourished. One such writer is immortalized at Mount Olivet with a sculpture by Door 4 of the Minneapolis East Wing: Carolina Sandell Berg, who wrote the text to the much loved hymn “Children of the Heavenly Father” as well as “Day by Day” and “Thy Holy Wings.” Find her on your next visit to church. Take a selfie and post it!

Hymn writing in the United States has proliferated in each decade and continues today. Last spring, Mount Olivet announced a Christmas carol competition in honor of our 100th anniversary. There were 87 submissions, some from international

contestants. The winning carol will debut at the Christmas concerts on December 15.

Choral music has also been a hallmark of Lutheranism. To celebrate this centennial, Mount Olivet has commissioned four anthems. René Clausen, world-renowned composer and conductor of the Concordia Choir, has composed a special arrangement of the beloved hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Emmy Award-winning composer Steve Heitzeg is creating an acapella anthem based on a Dag Hammarskjöld text. John Leavitt, a composer and church musician who has compositions represented in nearly every major music publisher’s catalog, is working on an anthem for our Cathedral Choir. Additionally, nationally acclaimed composer and teacher Mark Patterson is setting to music selected scripture passages for our Chapel Choir. All of these anthems will be a part of the special worship services celebrating our 100th Anniversary on November 15, 2020, at Orchestra Hall.

Rooted in tradition, Mount Olivet's music ministry has been remarkably strong through the years. Today's visitors are awed as they witness over 200 robed, high-school-age singers processing most Sundays at the Minneapolis Campus. "They just keep coming and coming," said a first time-visitor. The amazement continues as congregants listen to singing that inspires and transports the worshipper.

These young singers have been showing up in great numbers for years, as choir is an integral part of our youth program. Choir continually guides, supports, and encourages our kids to sing their faith!

Excellence characterizes our Senior Choir and organ-led worship, which Sunday after Sunday reaches musical heights as hearts open to worship God. One choir member described her experience as "being on a mountain top, holding hands with God."

The musical tradition that began at the Minneapolis campus also has taken hold at the West Campus. Children's choirs were started in 2003, followed quickly by West's Cathedral and Senior Choirs. Mount Olivet currently offers 18 musical ensembles across our two campuses, which serve nearly 800 singers and ringers weekly.

Choirs from both campuses unite for cherished music events, like the annual Christmas concerts attended by thousands. The Cathedral Choir's Lenten tradition of singing Theodore Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ* has been going strong since Edith Norberg introduced it in the 1950s. As one person put it, "If the performance is appreciated by the congregation, it is absolutely loved by those who have sung in it." The number of choir alumni who return year after year is a testimony to the power of singing the story of Christ's passion.

Music instructs and inspires. No wonder Luther wrote, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." Luther could have gone one-step further and said, "When the Word of God is combined with music, it roots in the mind and the heart, and that is as good as it gets." 100 years of praises to our God ... Our voices will continue to be raised in song as long as the Church lives, and the Church will live as long as voices are raised in praise!

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 33 musical rehearsals/session offered each week between the two campuses, and nearly 400 private lesson/band and orchestra sessions offered each week. On a weekly basis 1,500 people are offered a musical experience at Mount Olivet



MUSIC

Mount Olivet's Ministers of Music: Norberg, Berglund and Claflin

Over the years, we have benefited from the musical leadership of Edith Byquist Norberg, Robert Berglund, and Beverly Claflin, each taking the program to greater heights.



Edith Byquist Norberg was regarded as one of the nation's outstanding directors of children's choirs. She began her music career at MacPhail School of Music in Minneapolis, continued at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and studied with many great choral directors in the United States and Europe. In 1949 Pastor Reuben Youngdahl identified Edith as an important musical leader and asked her to join Mount Olivet's staff as the Director of the Senior Choir. With a passion for music, young people and high expectations, she built a program that added the Cathedral Choir, various children's choirs, and the Nightingale Chorus for older singers. Her husband, Edwin, wrote that "...her triumph was like the recurring theme of a great symphony, her spirit and the spirit of her music always echoed a recurring theme, too: Soli Deo Gloriam—To God Alone the Glory!"



Dr. Robert Berglund was a music professor at Bethel College and conductor of the College Choir. Pastor Paul Noren recruited Berglund to Mount Olivet where he served as the Director of Music from 1969 to 1995. He led the Senior Choir on two memorable international tours. Dr. Berglund was a demanding director with a firm belief that the worship of God demanded the best effort. He wrote in *A Philosophy of Church Music*, "A worship service is not a concert time. It is not an hour of entertainment. It is a time of worshipping God in spirit and in truth."

Marge Berglund, his wife, directed the Cathedral Choir for the majority of his time here. With encouragement from Pastor Paul Youngdahl, the Cathedral Choir then began an annual weekend tour singing in churches throughout the United States. The traveling tradition continues as the Cathedral Choir of both campuses head to Kansas City this spring.



First hired in 1989 to direct the Mount Olivet's youth choirs, **Dr. Beverly Claflin** was named Director of Worship and Music in 1995. Based on her desire to develop a music education model, she divided youth choirs into developmental age-appropriate groups. The change quickly doubled music program participation. By expanding the choir program to include pre-school children, 7th & 8th grade boys, and Musikgarten classes serving babies, toddlers, and their caregivers, the music ministry moved further towards the goal of offering a special musical experience to ALL who entered Mount Olivet.

As Dr. Claflin's reputation grew so did the program. During her time, she designed and built the summer creative arts camp God's Kids Sing for elementary aged children, now in its 23rd year, as well as Summertime Players, a performance camp for middle school kids that ran for 16 years. In an effort to support professional musicians with teaching opportunities and offer exceptional private lessons to the congregation and the community, Dr. Claflin began the Mount Olivet School of Music (MOSOM). MOSOM provides music experiences to nearly 400 people each week.

Today Dr. Claflin oversees a program of sixteen choirs and two bell ensembles on both campuses with the belief that our faith is strengthened and enhanced because of the sacred music we learn, sing and hear each week. She brings out the best in students both musically and personally.

Thanks to Jean Davidson and Mary Knutson for gathering information on the personnel, special events, and member experiences of all choirs. Material is also taken from John Widen's work on "Mount Olivet Music's Mount Rushmore."



After Edith Norberg started her position as Minister of Music in January of 1949, Pastor Reuben Youngdahl asked her to start a youth choir. The first rehearsal was held at Cathedral of the Pines in June, which served as the beginning of Cathedral Choir.



"I joined Mount Olivet West Senior Choir in 2005 when my children were young and newly involved in choir themselves. West services had just moved from the Rolling Acres gymnasium to our new church building and it seemed like a great time for us to explore the musical offerings of the church. I am so very glad we did!"

I believe that as we sing the word of God flows from our minds to our hearts. It's been said, 'To sing is to pray twice.' I cherish the opportunity to doubly witness my faith as a member of the choir. I find truth, peace, wisdom, and comfort in the anthems we sing and it is a delight to share this offering with others."

~ Martha Carlson

DID YOU KNOW?

Many Senior Choir members, past and present, have sung in the Mount Olivet choirs for 40 years or more – often beginning in one of the children's choirs. We have numerous families with multiple generations currently singing in the choir program – like the Fuzzey family, including Pam and her grandsons Connor and Nolan, seen here in their Sunday best!



39th MOCW Christmas Brunch *Sa 12/21 10am* **M** Fellowship Hall. 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, non-members, 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 at mtolivet.org by 12/12.



MOHA Butter Braids *Su 12/15 between worship services*, **M** Lower Narthex **W** Narthex. Get your Christmas Butter Braids for all of your holiday entertaining! Butter braids will be sold for \$13 each so stock up for all of your upcoming entertainment needs. Pre-orders of a six-pack of the same flavor are due by 12/5/19 to Jenny Nellis, jnellis@mtolivet.org. All proceeds will benefit the Mount Olivet Homes' Auxiliary affiliates: Mount Olivet Home, Careview Home, Day Services, and Rolling Acres.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Young Marrieds Serve @ Homebound Communion *Sa 12/7 10:45am-1:45pm*, **M** 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. Register at mtolivet.org

Young Adult: Caroling (22-45yrs) *Tu 12/17 6-7pm*, Mount Olivet Home & Carview Home. It's time to don your ugly Christmas sweaters and troll the ancient Yuletide carol! Join us on Tuesday, December 17th for caroling at the Mount Olivet Home and Careview Home. We'll meet inside the front lobby (5517 Lyndale Avenue South) at 6pm, carol for an hour or so. Please register at mtolivet.org.

Hi-er League: Christmas Eve Cookies & Worship (18-22yr) *Tu 12/24 10pm Cookies, 11pm worship* **M** Lounge & Main Sanctuary. Are you home for Christmas Break and need a recharge with old friends but don't want to disrupt family time? Come join Hi-er League for a late night of Christmas cookies and worship. We will meet first for some snacks and then attend the 11 pm candlelight service together. A wonderful opportunity to celebrate Christmas and be in the spirit with friends. Come as you are: all are welcome!

Men's Breakfasts *Tu 7am, The Hilltop Edina; Th 7am, American Legion Chanhassen.* Dec 3/5: **PASTOR RUUD**, Dec 10/12: **MIKE MCCAIN "STORM RESTORATION VS. STORM CHASING"**, Dec 17/19: **PASTOR MACLEAN**, Dec 24/26: **NO BREAKFASTS.**

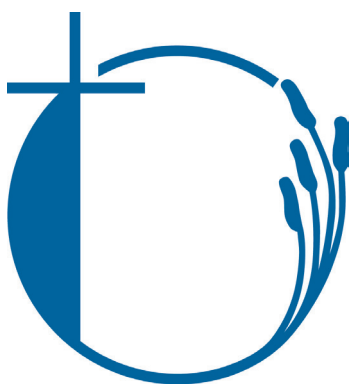
2020 ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

BIBLE STUDIES

Living the Message Pastor's Introduction *Tu 12/3 & 1/7 6-6:45pm* **M** *Choir Rehearsal 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 Dec, we will contemplate John 6:25-59 while asking, *What does it mean that Jesus is the "bread of life"?* In Jan, we focus on John 9:1-41 to answer the question, *Who can see Jesus?* 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 from now through May.

Wednesday/Thursday Word: 1, 2, 3 John *W 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/12, 2/19 10:30am-12noon* (small group 10:30-11am; Pastor presentation 11am-12noon), **M** *Rm 207; Th 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13 10-11:30am* **W** *Rm 228/229*. These epistles are moving, loving, pastoral responses meant to rally the faithful in the churches of Asia Minor who were facing many threats to their existence. These were churches John had tended and encouraged for many years. Now, knowing his own life is fading, he urges his "children" to continue to confess Christ as the Son of God and hold fast to the hope and promise for this life and the life to come that they have been given through Christ's death and resurrection. Join the Mount Olivet Pastors Wednesday in Mpls or Thursday at West for this inspiring study. Register at mtolivet.org. Donations given in class.

Sundays & Tuesdays Together: So That You May Have Life *Su 1/12 through 2/9 10-11:30am*, **W** *Rm 133/134; Tu 1/14 through 2/11 7-8:30pm* **M** *Rm 207*. Come and encounter Jesus in the Gospel of John so that "believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). This five-week class, led by **REV. DR. THERESA LATINI**, Executive Director of Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, will explore the distinct themes in John's depiction of Jesus' origins, his life on earth, death, and resurrection. Special attention will be given to Jesus' relationships with Nicodemus (a religious leader), the Samaritan woman (a foreigner and outcast), Lazarus (a dead friend), Thomas (a skeptical disciple), Mary Magdalene (the first witness to the resurrection), and the unnamed Beloved Disciple. Donation given in class.



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.

PASTORAL CARE EVENTS

Prayer Ministry Meeting

M 12/2 12noon, **M** *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.

Alzheimers Association Dementia Caregiver Information Group

2nd & 4th Th through December (except 12/26) 1:30-2:30pm, **M** *Rm 208*. Please join Marc Kuhnley, trained facilitator through the Alzheimers Association to learn how to be an effective caregiver to your loved one. To register call 612.926.7651.

Young in Heart & Friends (65yrs+)

Tu 12/17 12noon, **M** *Fellowship Hall*. Featuring vocalists **BILLY JOHNSON AND ANGIE GISLASON**. \$9 and donation to Pastor Scott's On Call Ministry. Friends welcome! Register by 12/13: 612.926.7651

Christmas Early

WED, DEC 18

6pm Worship, 6:30pm Dinner
MPLS & WEST



Christmas Early Worship Service

W 12/18 6pm **M** 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.

Family Gingerbread

Event Sa 12/7 4:30-6pm **M**

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 Sing-Along & Dinner

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 5:30-7:30PM

7150 ROLLING ACRES RD, VICTORIA, MN 55386



We invite you to a festive family night at the Mount Olivet Lutheran Church West Campus! Join the Children & Family Team for dinner in Fellowship Hall, a Christmas sing-along in the Sanctuary, and hot chocolate around the bonfire. \$5 per person or \$25 per family. Register at mtolivet.org.

Cathedral Choir Bake Sale

Su 12/8 before and after each worship service **M** Lower Narthex, James Ave. Entrance, and Main Office Entrance **W** Narthex. Support the Cathedral Choir! There will be a variety of baked goods made by our own Cathedral Choir members.

High School & 7th Grade Make Up Confirmation

Su 1/5 through 1/26 10:30-11:15am **M** Youth Office **W** Youth Office. If you are in highschool and would like to get confirmed, or if you have not completed 7th grade confirmation and would like to do so, then please join us for this course taught by our highschool youth staff. The course will end with a special confirmation service, for the highschool students, on Sunday January 26 at 12:40 during our communion service.

JHA - 8th Grade Winter Retreat

12:30pm F 12/27 through 10am Sa 12/28, **M** Youth Center **W** 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 mtolivet.org by 12/25.

Confirmation Schedule

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

SUN 12/1 **M**, SUN 12/15 **M**, WED 12/18 **M** **W**, SUN 12/22 **M**, 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.

Please bring your Christmas for All gifts with you to Confirmation on W, 12/4 or Su, 12/8.

Hi-League Schedule

Sunday Evenings.

12/1 TABLE TALKS **M** **W** 7-8:30pm

12/8 SERVICE NIGHT @ REDEEMER CHRISTMAS STORE **M** 7-8:30pm **W** bus 6:30-9pm).

12/15 MOUNT OLIVET CHRISTMAS CONCERT **M** 3 & 5pm.

12/22 NO HI-LEAGUE.

12/29 NO HI-LEAGUE.

Christmas For All

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8



**MORE INFORMATION
AT [MTOLIVET.ORG/
CENTENNIAL](http://MTOLIVET.ORG/CENTENNIAL)**

Everyone is 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 **M** 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. Suggestions available online at mtolivet.org.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Wednesday, December 4, Mpls & West Campuses

Sunday, December 8, Mpls & West Campuses

Saturday, December 14, Redeemer Lutheran Church to work at the "Christmas Stores."

Monday, December 16 through Thursday, December 19, Southside Family Nurturing Center.

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!

A Christmas for All Story

Christmas is always a time of joy, celebration and for many of us presents! One of the Hi-League events is to go shopping at Target and pick out presents for the Christmas Store. The Christmas Store at Redeemer Church is a place where kids can buy presents for their siblings and parents for only a quarter per present. As an elf (volunteer) we get to help the kids pick out presents. It is really exciting because the kids are so specific and want to pick out the perfect things for their family. It is amazing to see how much they care and are thinking beyond themselves and what they would want. It is also really neat to see how excited they get when they are picking out the wrapping paper and telling other volunteers about what they chose. I would recommend everyone to volunteer because you get to meet people from different walks of life right here in our own city. Along with that, you get to meet other high schoolers from Mount Olivet that are volunteering and you get to become closer with the Youth Staff!

-LIBBY GLIEDEN



CENTENNIAL EVENTS: SAVE THE DATE



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, perseverance and faith are the reason Mount Olivet is preparing to enter its second century.

**FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN**

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.

WAYS TO GIVE

Make a difference at Mount Olivet

Giving to the ministries of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church is very thoughtful and greatly appreciated. **Your generous support makes a difference as Mount Olivet spreads the word of God throughout our congregation and community.** As Christmas approaches, you may want to consider the many ways to give a gift to your church.

We are grateful for cash and checks, which are easy to give. To fulfill your pledge or make a gift using your credit card, please use your Realm account. Since Mount Olivet Church is a 501(c)3 charity you can use your donor-advised fund if you have one established.

Another option is to give appreciated assets like stocks. Perhaps you have stock that has grown in value that you could donate. There can be tax savings. Please contact Deanne Nelson in the finance office at DeanneN@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2280 for more information on stock transfer gifts.

Maybe you qualify to use the Charitable IRA Rollover to make a gift. This method of giving was permanently reinstated by Congress a few years ago. Please contact Mari Carlson, director of development, at mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org or 612.821.3150 to request forms to make your Charitable IRA Rollover gift.

The key qualifications of a Charitable IRA Rollover are:

You must be 70 ½ years or older to use the Charitable IRA Rollover.

- Only traditional IRAs are eligible for gifting.
- Checks from your IRA must be written out to qualified 501(c)(3) charities, which includes the church and its affiliated ministries.
- Donors can also request a direct stock transfer from their plan administrator to a charity.
- Gifts cannot be made to a private foundation or to a donor-advised fund.
- Gifts cannot be used to fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust.
- IRA gifts will not be treated as taxable withdrawals.
- If you have not taken your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), this transfer will count towards your RMD for any given year.
- Any individual may directly transfer up to \$100,000 annually to any 501(c)(3) nonprofit

Since stock transfers and Charitable IRA Rollover gifts can take time to complete, please start the process early. Thank you for your love and support of your church and its many ministries!

This information is not intended as legal advice. Donors should always consult with their legal or tax advisers before making a gift using IRA funds.

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.*



This hymn, written around 325 AD, conveys in words and music what John the Evangelist tries to explain in the opening of his Gospel when he writes that God's eternal and all-powerful Word "became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). John's confession is nothing less than that God in Jesus became one of us, truly and fully, so that we may know that God understands our hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, successes and disappointments. All of it! Moreover, God came in Jesus to share the news of God's love for all the world and to win for us hope in this life and the life to come. Indeed, we should keep silence and in awe-filled fear and trembling both rejoice and respond.

The Christmas offering is one very important way to do both of those things – rejoice in God's great love for us and the world and respond in gratitude in order to share the good news of God's blessings with others. A gift that goes beyond our usual offering – thank you for fulfilling your pledge and capital campaign commitment! – your Christmas offering allows us to finish the year on strong financial footing for all our ministries and reach out in love and mercy to those in our community who are most vulnerable.

At home, your generous Christmas gift enables us to:

- continue our exceptional music programs for all ages,
- create an environment where youth feel loved and accepted and learn the faith,
- take care of our beloved Cathedral of the Pines Camp,
- support our Conference & Retreat Center, and in all these ways
- share the gospel in word and deed through worship, pastoral care, education, radio ministry, and outreach.

Beyond the walls of our church, your Christmas offering enables us to support:

- Community Emergency Service in Minneapolis,
- Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) in Bloomington,
- Love INC (in the name of Christ) in Eastern Carver County,
- Bountiful Basket food pantry in Victoria,
- Simpson Housing in Minneapolis, and more.

Through these partnerships, we extend the promise that God understands us, loves us, blesses us, and saves us. It is a message that is as important now as it was when John wrote nearly two thousand years ago, a message we have been called to share today. Please respond generously this Christmas so we can extend the love of the Christ child to all!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Lose

Look for your Christmas offering mailing or give at mtolivet.org

For details about ways to give, please contact Mari Carlson 612.821.3150 mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org. For questions about your contribution record, please contact Tricia Lerohl 612.767.2255 tricial@mtolivet.org.

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LOVE
Came Down

Christmas Eve
TUE, DEC 24

MPLS 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11pm

WEST 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7pm

 **MTOLIVET.ORG** MPLS 612.926.7651 • WEST 952.767.1500

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**Christmas
For All**



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PAGES 8-9

Music Weekend

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS
SERVICE**

Sat, Dec 14, Mpls & West 10am

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sun, Dec 15, Mpls 3 & 5pm

LOVE
Came Down

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT MOUNT OLIVET