

OCTOBER 2020

BELIEVING, BELONGING, BECOMING

MOUNT OLIVET
MESSENGER



mtolivet.org



M MPLS CAMPUS

5025 Knox Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612.926.7651

W WEST CAMPUS

7150 Rolling Acres Rd
Victoria, MN 55386
952.767.1500

If you would like to receive a large print copy of the Messenger, please contact Andrea Brown at andreaab@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2209.

SUNDAYS

When Mount Olivet resumes in-person worship, our Sunday schedule is as follows:

- M** 9, 10, 11am, & 12noon
- W** 9, 10, & 11am

Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service; Nursery 9, 10, 11am; Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am; Watch the Mpls worship service at mtolivet.org at 11am.

WEDNESDAYS

OPEN PRAYER TIME

- M W** 10am-12noon

Each Wednesday morning our sanctuaries will be opened for personal prayer time, reflection, and meditation. Enjoy a peaceful time to pray in the beauty of the sanctuaries with an opportunity to light a candle and listen to soft music. All social distancing and sanitization best practices will be in place.

OCTOBER 4

ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING & MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY

1 Samuel 8:1-19

Watch the worship service at mtolivet.org. Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

SERMON Pastor Dixon

OCTOBER 25

DAVID AND GOLIATH & REFORMATION SUNDAY

1 Samuel 17:1-11, 41-49

Watch the worship service at mtolivet.org. Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

SERMON Pastor Lose

OCTOBER 11

SAUL CHOSEN TO BE KING

1 Samuel 9:1-2, 15-17, 10:1a

Watch the worship service at mtolivet.org. Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

SERMON Pastor Ruud

OCTOBER 18

THE STORY OF RUTH & CENTENNIAL SUNDAY

Ruth 1:1-17

Watch the worship service at mtolivet.org. Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

SERMON Pastor Hammersten

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

GOING GOD'S WAY

Check out Mount Olivet's new online worship for kids, *Going God's Way* starting this month. We will spend time with our pastors, hear the weekly Bible story, sing, move and pray together. See you there! Available at mtolivet.org

It may seem like a long time ago, but a year ago at this time, we explored the story of God leading the people of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt to freedom. The year before that we immersed ourselves in Genesis and the story of creation, sin, and the covenant made with Abraham. This year, we continue our journey through the Old Testament by engaging the stories of Israel's greatest Kings, Saul, David, and Solomon. These stories are comprised of equal measures of triumph, tragedy, heartbreak and political intrigue, but woven throughout all of them is the constant theme of God's steadfast love for and commitment to God's people. And that is a message we've never needed more!

OCTOBER 4. As Israel grows more established, they feel the pressure to be more like other nations and have a king, but in asserting their independence, they risk their faithful dependence on God.

OCTOBER 11. Saul, Israel's first king, conforms to what Israel expected a king should be. He is a warrior who is handsome and strong and able to offer the protection they desire. Over time, these same attributes will lead Saul to confirm the Lord's predictions and increasingly act like a tyrant over the people God charged him to protect.

OCTOBER 18. There are very few stories of women in the Bible, and so when they appear, we're invited to give particularly close attention. The story of Ruth, King David's great-grandmother, tells of the way God works through an immigrant whose courage and faithfulness impact Israel for centuries to come.

OCTOBER 25. The story of David and Goliath is one of the best known of the Old Testament and still has much to teach us today about how trust in the Lord is foundational to finding the courage to surmount any challenge.

Mount Olivet: A Place of Hope, Help, and Healing

"I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine." –Romans 1:11

St. Paul's letter to the Church in Rome reminds us that this is not the first time Christians have had to encourage each other from a distance. In fact, we would not have any of Paul's letters – which make up almost a third of the New Testament – were it not for the fact that Paul was regularly separated from the congregations to which he ministered. This separation was not easy. And yet his powerful ministry to and with these early congregations continued, and their endurance witnessed to the power of the Holy Spirit.

All of which helps me answer an understandable question as, from time to time, well-intentioned folks will ask, "When will Mount Olivet open again?" Inspired by Paul and the early Christian communities to whom we are indebted, my immediate reply is, "We never closed!" Of course, I know these inquiries are about in-person Sunday worship, but it's important to remind each other that we're called to be God's Church seven days a week, not just on Sundays. And in that regard, we have never been busier!

Our outreach and service to the community has never been stronger, as we continue to share more than 7000 meals a month with those struggling to keep food on their tables. We also continue to collect, donate, and distribute thousands of pounds of canned goods, diapers, and other necessities each month to those in greatest need. Virtual attendance via our online services is larger than at any point in Mount Olivet's history. Classes and opportunities for faith enrichment for all ages abound. We are extending care to members of our church and larger community in new and creative ways. Times of private prayer and reflection on Wednesdays at both campuses continue to be a meaningful opportunity. We gather outdoors safely for Motorheads events, Retreat Center activities, and our annual Pumpkin Patch, and we are allowing small groups to gather indoors with all necessary precautions. We continue to receive new members and to grow as a congregation. And... we set an all-time Mount Olivet record for the number of meatball meals served on a single night at one of our recent Stewardship Pick Up & Pledge Meatball

dinners! Yes, Mount Olivet is alive and well and open for business 24/7!

Not being able to gather on Sundays in-person is hard. Very hard. And I can promise you that no one longs to resume our Sunday gatherings more than your pastors, no one wants to lead our choirs down the aisles of our beautiful sanctuaries more than our choir directors, and no one wants to look out from the pulpit and see your smiling faces more than I do. And we will do that once we feel confident that we are not creating undue risk for our members, our staff, or the larger community. As Scripture reminds us again and again, we do not exist for ourselves, but for the world and, as our Lord taught us, the most important commandment is to love God by loving our neighbor.

At every point of challenge and adversity in its 100-year history, Mount Olivet has risen to the occasion, confronted and overcome every challenge, and striven always to be a place of hope, help, and healing. Those three words have never been more central to our mission. And when I look around, I am constantly inspired by the efforts of our members and staff to offer hope through sharing the Gospel in worship, written devotions, and Bible-study and fellowship groups; to provide help through our community outreach and our ongoing ministries of pastoral care; and to support healing through our Counseling Service and Conference and Retreat Center. The 101st year of Mount Olivet's history has been unexpectedly difficult with challenges both personal and communal and forcing us to be apart from each other for a longer period of time than any of us imagined. But, as with the Apostle Paul and Christians throughout history, and strengthened and supported by the Holy Spirit, we will continue to be a place of hope, help, and healing and thereby invite people to believe the good news, belong to a servant congregation, and become the persons God desires them to be in Christ!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



COLUMBARIUM DIAGRAM FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
Faith, Grace, Love (middle), Hope & Mercy

MOUNT OLIVET COLUMBARIUM CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED

Mount Olivet Church was blessed with a family who had a vision and then generously donated funds to build a columbarium for our church. This dream has become a reality over the last 12 months and was completed in late August. A columbarium is a final resting place for ashes or cremains of our loved ones. Nestled at the south end of the building at the West Campus overlooking Schutz Lake, our columbarium is a beautiful outdoor structure with five separate units which will hold the cremains. Each structure has individual “Niches” that hold up to two urns per niche. A family or person is able to choose the location and spot of their niche. The columbaria are individually named Faith, Grace, Hope, Love and Mercy. The price for a Niche is \$3500 for placement of two urns and \$2500 for placement of a single urn. If you would like additional information, please email columbarium@mtolivet.org or call Jonna Bundul, Funeral Coordinator, at 612.767.2257 and additional information and material will be mailed to you.

MOUNT OLIVET HAPPENINGS!

We’d like to provide you an update on some of the beloved Mount Olivet events that normally occur during October and November!

The **Cathedral Choir Pumpkin Patch** will be held, October 12 through October 30, with daily hours of 10am to 6pm. We are asking pumpkin patch goers and shoppers to wear a mask. In addition, the **Party at the Patch** will be held on Saturday, 10/24 from 10am-12noon. We hope you and your family are able to join us! The **Community Meals** on Tuesdays and Thursday starting at 5:15pm, at the Mpls campus, will continue through the fall and winter months. We are grateful to provide this opportunity to those families in need. Our **Greet & Give Drive** will also start back up in October, but with a few changes! The first Monday (10/5) will be at the Mpls Campus, and the third Monday (10/19) will be held at the West Campus. Both campuses will be collecting donations from 4-6pm on their perspective days. An updated list of donation items can be found at mtolivet.org. More details about November events and details will be available in the *November Messenger*.

The in-person **Mount Olivet Homes Auxiliary Gala**, the **MOCW Holiday Boutique**, and **MOCW Holiday Market** will not be hosted this fall.

LIFE & GROWTH

AUG 18 -SEPT 16

BAPTISMS

Jackson Christopher Czarniak
son of Stephanie and Matthew

McKenna Jane Heise
daughter of Kristy and Jesse

Parker Lynn Heise
daughter of Kristy and Jesse

George Andrew Houghton
son of Jill and Andrew

Sophia Lea Nystrom
daughter of Vicki and Reed

Matilda Katinka Van Dyke
daughter of Susan and Matthew

WEDDINGS

Fran Dolan & Philip Williams, August 22

Madeleine Gamble & Zachary Slama, August 22

Allison Olsen & Nathaniel Champion, August 27

DEATHS

Janyce M. Anderson
1935 – 2020

Jordan D. Benesh
1941 - 2020

R. Lee Brown
1930 - 2020

Charlotte M. Burns
1926 – 2020

Susan Bucknam
1933 – 2020

Sylvester J. Feld
1931 - 2020

Virginia E. Johnson
1937 - 2020

Donna L. Langer
1928 – 2020

Allen L. Teasley
1933 – 2020

Jack M. Willhite
1931 – 2020

DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND OCTOBER 2020

- 1 James 1:12, Get Rid and Humbly Accept
- 2 Psalm 9:10, Never Forsaken
- 3 2 Corinthians 12:10, When Weak Then Strong
- 4 Revelation 5:13, Praise and Honor and Glory
- 5 Psalm 27:14, Wait
- 6 Romans 8:38-39, Nothing Separates Us From God's Love
- 7 Philippians 2:5, Same Mindset As Christ
- 8 Proverbs 16:8, Righteousness, Injustice
- 9 1 Corinthians 10:13, God Is Faithful
- 10 Isaiah 55:8, Different Thoughts and Ways
- 11 Ecclesiastes 4:12, Cord of Three Strands
- 12 1 Corinthians 2:9, For Those Who Love God
- 13 Romans 15:15, Endurance and Encouragement
- 14 Psalm 18:35-36, Your Saving Help
- 15 Exodus 20:12, Commandment With A Promise
- 16 Romans 5:5, God's Love Poured Into Our Hearts
- 17 Proverbs 17:22, Good Medicine
- 18 Isaiah 40:8, Endures Forever
- 19 James 1:12, Persevere Under Trial
- 20 Proverbs 14:5, Honest Witness
- 21 2 Thessalonians 3:16, Peace In All Times
- 22 Matthew 5:10, Blessed Are Those
- 23 Psalm 118:6, I Will Not Be Afraid
- 24 1 Kings 8:57, Never Leave Nor Forsake
- 25 Matthew 6:12, As We Have Been
- 26 Psalm 16:11, Path Of Life
- 27 Mark 8:36, What Good Is It?
- 28 John 14:18, God Comes To Us
- 29 Psalm 37:23, Firm Steps
- 30 John 8:36, Free Indeed
- 31 2 Corinthians 9:11, Through Your Generosity

PASTOR TERRY MOREHOUSE RETIRES FROM MOUNT OLIVET'S RADIO MINISTRY

After nearly 27 dedicated years, Pastor Terry Morehouse has concluded his work on the radio ministry at Mount Olivet which he began in 1994. We are so grateful to him for his many years of service in this meaningful outreach ministry.

After officially retiring from his Pastoral responsibilities in 2003, Pastor Morehouse continued to serve each week creating the *Faith Alive* program. He has written, recorded, and produced 1378 Faith Alive broadcasts, the 20-minute radio programs that aired after the 11:00 service on WDGY 740 every Sunday morning.

Pastor Morehouse's deep biblical and practical wisdom, accessible writing style, and confident and reassuring voice were hallmarks of a program that has been a beloved part of the spiritual lives of many in our congregation and beyond. Beginning each program with, "Good morning, Fellow Travelers," Pastor Morehouse enriched the spiritual lives of so many through his biblical insight and keen storytelling skills, and he never failed to offer listeners "bread for the journey."



In addition to his service at Mount Olivet, Pastor Morehouse authored two books, *Fellow Travelers: Reflections on the Church Year* (2001) and *The Road Goes On: Reflections on the Life of Faith* (2005). Both books showcase Pastor Morehouse's pastoral instincts and skills as a storyteller.

We are so appreciative of Pastor Morehouse and his many years of dedicated service to the radio ministry broadcast. Mount Olivet has been blessed by Pastor Morehouse's gifts and we wish him well in his retirement.

PHOTO ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

Pastor Terry Morehouse, Senior Pastor David Lose, and Pastor Dennis Johnson

STEWARDSHIP 2021 THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have made your 2021 pledge to Mount Olivet and its ministries! If you have not yet done so, please return your completed pledge card or pledge online today at mtolivet.org/pledging.

Questions? Tricia Lerohl-Morgan in Finance: 612-767-2255 or tricial@mtolivet.org

THANK YOU!



HOW'S YOUR SURGE CAPACITY, PARENTS?

Two weeks before the start of school, I read an article titled, “Your Surge Capacity is Depleted—It’s Why You Feel Awful” by Tara Haelle. Then I read it again and shared it widely. More than one person responded, “This is me. This is where I am right now.”

It’s a provocative term, surge capacity, given that our weekly news has been littered with reports of COVID surges in different places and demographics for seven months now. It’s been a long haul. Psychologists describe surge capacity as “a collection of adaptive systems—mental and physical—that humans draw on for short-term survival in acutely stressful situations, such as natural disasters. But natural disasters occur over a short period, even if recovery is long. Pandemics are different—the disaster itself stretches out indefinitely.”

At a time when we feel depleted, our kids have started distance or hybrid learning. Most of us still work full-time. The ability to plan and create a manageable schedule ahead of time—at least for this mother of a first grader—was nonexistent as administrators and teachers scrambled to adjust again to a new reality with fewer resources than needed.

It’s not surprising, then, if we feel weary and off-kilter, if we cannot focus and lose our patience with our kids, partners, and others. It is easy to judge ourselves as inadequate in these moments. Truth is: we are living through a global pandemic, an economic recession, fractured communal bonds, civil unrest, and a near constant need to re-order our personal and professional lives.

Haelle shares a helpful list of ideas for increasing our surge capacity. Many of them can be summed up as “be kind to yourself.” Jesus said, “Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.” We often forget that last piece. So, hold yourselves gently, parents. Speak kindly to yourselves. Find 5 minutes to breathe deeply and 10-minutes to meditate and pray. Call a friend. Go for a walk. And, perhaps most importantly, let yourself grieve what’s been lost before you move to that next item on your to-do list. God’s got you and your family, no matter what.

REV. DR. THERESA LATINI, *Executive Director of Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center and a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).*

Musikgarten

Choose one day/time from the following: Tuesdays 10:30-11 am; Tuesdays 6-6:30pm; Wednesdays 10-10:30am; Thursdays 11-11:30am, \$90 per child; 50% sibling discount offered

Musikgarten classes are a fun-filled early childhood music experience for ages birth-5. Develop a strong musical bond with your child while singing, dancing, listening, rocking, and playing simple instruments. Our virtual classes will have a live Zoom option as well as a recorded class you can do at your leisure. Visit mtolivet.org to register or contact Colleen Roess at 612.767.2258 or colleenr@mtolivet.org.

CHILDREN & FAMILY EVENTS AND GROUPS

VISIT MTOLIVET.ORG TO REGISTER & GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS AND GROUPS



Parents of elementary aged children, we invite you to drop in as you can to a virtual parent support group led by Jessica Smith, MA, LMFT. Each session will feature a chosen topic and time for questions and conversation. We look forward to supporting each other in this challenging season of parenting.



ADULT MINISTRY CLASSES & EVENTS

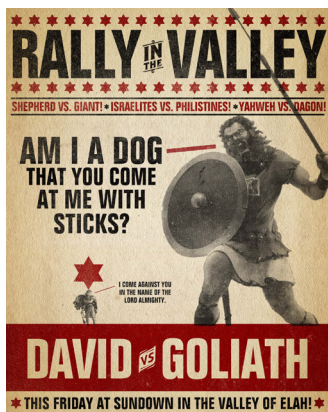
RALLY IN THE VALLEY - A STUDY OF KING DAVID

Four-week series with your pastors beginning 10/20; videos emailed to participants

King David, along with Moses, is perhaps the most significant figure in the Old Testament. When most of us think of David, we likely think of some of the iconic stories about him—his heroic defeat of Goliath or his infamous relationship with Bathsheba.

Or perhaps we think of Michelangelo's famous sculpture of him or a favorite Psalm ascribed to him. Even knowing these things, we probably don't realize just how important he was to Israel or, for that matter, to the church. David was regarded not only as Israel's greatest king, but also as the one from whose line the Messiah would be descended. Each of the New Testament gospels makes it clear that Jesus is "the son of David" as well as being the Son of God.

Join us this fall as we take a closer look at David and appreciate more fully his significance in both the Old and New Testaments. We will explore David's life and legacy across four weeks, in the first gaining some background to this famous character and in the next three delving more deeply into the Sunday bible story about David. Registration available at mtolivet.org/education.



CALLING ALL QUESTIONERS!

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE (BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK...)

Pretty much everyone has questions about the Bible. And not just questions like, "what does this mean?" but deeper, more searching questions like, "Is this true?" But, somewhere along the line, we've been taught not to ask those questions. Or even that such questions are unfaithful.

Throughout the Church's long history, some of the most important insights have come from some really big questions. St. Augustine had a very hard time believing stories like Jonah and the whale and wondered who in the world believed this book? Martin Luther wondered whether he could ever worship, let alone have faith in, the God that Scripture described?

Augustine, Luther, and so many others, were willing to ask some HUGE questions about the Bible. And that's what we're going to do this year at Mount Olivet: ask some really big questions we've probably all thought about but maybe were afraid to ask, and see if we can come up with some equally good answers. Join us. It will be, I believe, both encouraging and thought-provoking to wrestle with these questions together and... it might just give new insight into the Bible, God, and your life in this world!

— PASTOR LOSE & PASTOR RUUD

In October we tackle the question, "What is the Bible, Anyway?" Filled with narratives, poetry, religious instructions, genealogies, and law of all kinds, it's hard to imagine a more diverse set of books gathered together into a single "library." Exploring the nature of the Bible will help us read it with great confidence and enjoyment. Join us for a time of faithful questioning and growth!

This monthly year-long class is the **Living the Message Bible Study**. If you are already in a Living the Message small group, you will automatically be sent the video and questions the first Tuesday of the month. If you are new, please register at mtolivet.org/education.

ZOOM BOOK DISCUSSION ~ LOVE IS THE WAY

Tuesday, 10/27, 7-8pm, via Zoom.

Bishop Michael Curry captivated the world with his message of hope and love at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's royal wedding in 2018. In his new book, *Love is the Way*, Bishop Curry expands on this message. Drawing on his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, this book leads us to discover the gifts which inspire the way of love and bring forth hope, even when times are discouraging and dim. Please join **PASTOR FREEMAN** as we explore this book and seek to live the way of love even more tangibly in our lives today. Registration available at mtolivet.org/education.

12TH MOTORHEADS' FALL ROAD TOUR

Sunday, 10/4, 1-3pm.

We will meet at the Lunds & Byerlys parking lot (6228 Penn Ave S, Richfield) and drive along The Great River Road on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi to the village of Stockholm! No registration needed. Questions: Contact Pastor Kalland at kurtk@mtolivet.org.

Tending to Ambiguous Losses in Uncertain Times

Thursday, 11/12, 6:30-8:30pm, via Zoom, \$20 per person, sponsored by the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center.

Ambiguous losses are perhaps the most challenging kind of loss. When someone or something is physically absent yet psychologically present, or physically present yet psychologically absent, it's hard to find clarity, it's hard to make decisions, and it's hard to grieve. The physical, emotional, economic, and relational uncertainty resulting from the current pandemic further complicates ambiguous losses. In this workshop, we'll discuss the nature of ambiguous loss and ways to deepen our resilience in these uncertain times. Led by Carla Dahl, Professor of Congregational and Community Care at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Register at mtolivet.org.

Crafty Ladies Weekend

3pm Friday, 11/20 through 1pm Sunday, 11/21, Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, private, single overnight room: \$25.

Experienced and beginner crafters are invited for a weekend of uninterrupted crafting. We provide the beautiful space and you bring your craft projects! The retreat is self-directed – the weekend is your own! Work on your crafting, meet other crafters, enjoy home cooked meals from our kitchen, and relax and unwind with a peaceful walk in the woods or a dip in the whirlpool. It will be a weekend of full of self-care and creativity with an emphasis on safety and health. Social distancing guidelines will be in place and each crafter will have at least 6-feet of working space. The wearing of masks is mandatory. Register at mtolivet.org.



MOUNT OLIVET CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER FALL VOLUNTEER DAY Saturday, 10/24, 9am-3pm.
SAVE THE DATE: DAY ADVENT JOURNEY (VIRTUAL AND INTERACTIVE) Tuesday, 12/1.

BUILDING RESILIENCE

BY KAREN PIEPER, MA, LPC, MOUNT OLIVET COUNSELING SERVICE

Being emotionally resilient means experiencing stress, processing your negative emotions, and moving on with your life with confidence and purpose. Cultivating resilience is especially challenging in 2020 for most of us. Here are some practices that may help you develop your resilience:

1. **Journaling.** As if you were confiding in a close friend, journaling can help you sort out your feelings and gain perspective on your situation. Writing our feelings down can help us solve problems and develop strategies for the next time we face a similar challenge.
2. **Self-Compassion.** Offering ourselves self-compassion is about being kinder to ourselves and not judging ourselves harshly. It may seem counter-intuitive but offering ourselves self-compassion will reduce perfectionism and lessen our negative feelings about ourselves and others.
3. **Gratitude.** Try listing 4-5 things you are grateful for either in the morning or before you go to bed. Either way, practicing gratitude will help our brains release serotonin and dopamine, which help us feel more contentment and joy. It helps us and others if we thank them for their accomplishments and kindness.
4. **Hope.** Cultivating hope can feel particularly challenging. Hope can help you be optimistic about events and feelings not realized yet. Hope can give us a sense that all things happen for a reason and to be patient.

Please feel free to call the Mount Olivet Counseling Service at (612) 927-7335 and schedule an appointment to talk with a counselor about building your resilience.

BLOOD DRIVE 16YRS & UP

TUESDAY, 10/20-WEST
WEDNESDAY, 10/21 -MPLS

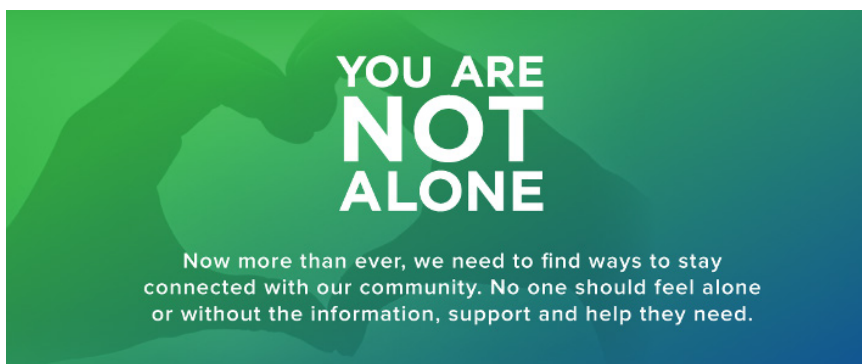
2pm-7pm at both locations.
Parking Lots both locations.
North parking lot at
West. West parking lot at
Minneapolis

We will hold blood drives this October at both campuses. These drives will be facilitated/managed by Memorial Blood Centers. Donations will be collected in their free standing "bloodmobiles" in our parking lots. Social distancing will be observed, and masks will be required in and outside of the mobile during the drive.

Why not celebrate Halloween this year by donating a pint for your community? Memorial Blood Centers will be holding blood mobile drives at both of our campuses this October. They will be taking necessary, additional steps to keep donors and staff safe during this time, including screening on arrival, physical distancing and mask requirements.

To schedule visit mbc.org or call 1.888.448.3253 or contact Sarah Prescher, Parish Nurse at sprescher@mtolivet.org 612.767.2235 to get set up!

Please consider a donation and encourage others to do the same! See you there!



Each year, millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental health condition. However, mental illness affects everyone directly or indirectly through family, friends or coworkers.

The Mount Olivet Mental Health Task Force provides educational events and resources throughout the year to reduce stigma and promote learning for our members of the congregation and the greater community.

In 1990, Congress officially established National Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW). This year, it will be recognized the week of October 4-10, 2020. Throughout this week, across the country, virtual community education events will be held to raise awareness and provide resources and hope for children and adults with mental illnesses and their families.

Although mental health conditions are important to discuss year-round, highlighting them during Mental Illness Awareness Week provides a dedicated time for mental health advocates across the country to come together as one unified voice.

The theme of this year's Mental Illness Awareness Week is, "What People with Mental Illness Want You to Know." Throughout the week, organizations like NAMI will be raising the voices of those with lived experience to talk about some of the conditions and symptoms that are most misunderstood (see NAMI information below).

In addition, these are some related events:

- Tuesday Oct. 6: National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding
- Thursday Oct. 8: National Depression Screening Day
- Saturday Oct. 10: World Mental Health Day
- Saturday Oct. 10: NAMI Walks National Day of Hope

If you, or someone you know wants to learn more about what you can do or are seeking help for you or a loved one, visit these websites or call for more information:

NAMI – NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

651.645.2948; Toll free: 1.888.NAMI.Helps (1.888.626.4435) or namimn.org

MENTAL HEALTH MINNESOTA

800.862.1799 or mentalhealthmn.org/support/community-resources/statewide-mental-health-resources

FOR COUNSELING SERVICES: MOUNT OLIVET COUNSELING

SERVICES 612.927.7335 or mtolivet.org/counseling

FRIENDS CONNECT

During this time of physical distancing, some of us may be experiencing increased feelings of loneliness or isolation. If you would like to receive a friendly phone call from a volunteer or know someone who would like to receive a call, please leave a message with the individual's name and number at 612.767.2210 and we will be happy to coordinate. Be advised this is a call of friendship, by a volunteer.



CALLED TO SERVE

*Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison,
and did not take care of you?" Then Jesus will answer them,
"Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." Matthew 25:44*

Since its inception over a hundred years ago, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church has had a deep commitment to serving those in need and making a difference in the lives of others. Whether it's through our own internal organizations or through community partners, serving others has been an integral part of Mount Olivet's DNA.

The scripture above comes in the last teaching discourse in Matthew. It follows a number of parables—many about being ready for Christ's return. A thief in the night. Foolish bridesmaids who are unprepared. Servants given trust over small things while the master is away. Apocalyptic stories about judgment and being prepared.

I must confess that some of these parables make me a little uncomfortable. As a child I felt that my pastor made me painfully aware of my sinful nature, my imperfections, and how I fell short. I even left the church for a while in college and it took me years to see God as loving and forgiving rather than judging and full of wrath. However, I still struggle all the time about not being up to snuff with my religious disciplines. Am I praying enough? Is my faith in Jesus sufficiently fervent? Can I do away with any doubts or questions about God?

What a relief when Jesus tells me in this text that I had best look elsewhere—beyond my religiosity—when it comes to assessing my life. The confession of faith God looks for is not so much what I say, but what I do: how I live with others in community. That raises its own challenges, of course. The critical question—and this is not easy—seems to be whether or not all my relationships—personal, social, economic, political—reflect God's hope for the human family.

Theologian N.T. Wright in his book, *Surprised by Hope*, notes that the continuous talk about the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew's gospel is not about a place/Heaven, but about something else entirely—God's sovereign rule breaking through into the earthly realm. In Matthew 25, Jesus singles out those who treated others with compassion, who served those who were in need.

of our lives?" Rather the question should be, "What am I supposed to be doing right now?" How is Jesus making a difference in my life? Jesus says that when we treat the most vulnerable among us with love and respect, we are doing that to him. It doesn't say it's as if we were doing it to him, but, simply, we are doing it to him.

"When did we see you?" the righteous ask Jesus. He answers, "Look into the eyes of someone hungry, and you will see me. Look into the face of someone who's poor, and you will see me. Look into the eyes of someone suffering and you will be looking into my eyes." Suddenly here in Matthew's gospel Jesus becomes the prodigal, the leper, the one beaten and left by the side of the road. Jesus becomes the thirsty woman at the well, the meek inheriting the earth, the paralyzed man, the blind beggar, the woman whose bleeding will not stop, the little children wanting to be loved.

Over 500 years ago, St. Teresa of Avila wrote this timeless blessing; I invite you to be as empowered by it as I am: "*Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which Christ is to bless all people now.*"

I invite you to learn more about our community partners and to be a part of the historical tradition of service through Mount Olivet. Contact me or Laurie Hancer, Coordinator of Service and Volunteers, for more information and to get involved.

May we all continue to serve, knowing that Jesus waits at the end of each of our stories. In Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. Christ is our center that does not change. He is the One who holds all things together.

Believe it. Trust it. And Live it!

PASTOR MACLEAN, *Pastoral Advisor to Community Concern, Service & Outreach*

So maybe the question shouldn't be, "What happens at the end

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

LOVE, INC (LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST)

Mission: Mobilizing Churches in Carver County to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ. loveincecc.org

Mount Olivet Impact: Mount Olivet provides personal care products to Love, INC's through ongoing contributions at the West campus. Families who are clients of Love, INC receive food and gifts from Christmas for All and Easter Angel Gifts drives. *"Meeting clients has been a rewarding and often emotional experience for me. We have shared our faith and hugs and, once in a while, tears. These people are always so grateful and appreciative for the things we so often take for granted."* ~ Sonya Lund

CES (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICE)

Mission: Providing food and essential items to clients in South Minneapolis. cesmn.org/food-program

The Neighborhood Food Shelf is open to residents in need of supplemental food. Guests can visit the food shelf once a month. CES piloted an innovative approach to providing a selection of groceries to homebound clients.

Mount Olivet Impact: Mount Olivet, along with Russell and Rhoda Lund and Augustana Lutheran Church, were founders of Community Emergency Service over 50 years ago. CES is a recipient of our church-wide food drives in the spring and fall. We also have several members who volunteer individually at CES. *"Our volunteer work at CES fills a desire in our hearts to be useful to individuals and a community in need. We both grew up on farms and never knew what being hungry meant. We let the people we serve know they are loved, and they are cared for."* ~ Richard and Faith Wisland

BOUNTIFUL BASKETS

Mission: A network for healthy foods and fun!

Healthy fun with food! Enrich your life one healthy meal at a time with simple everyday recipes, connect with your Bountiful Baskets Community, and inspire each other with how you use your Bountiful Basket! bountifulbaskets.org

Mount Olivet Impact: Families in Carver County benefit from our Mount Olivet food drives.

ST. STEPHEN'S HUMAN SERVICES

Mission: We envision a community in which housing instability is rare, brief and non-recurring, ending homelessness as we know it. ststephensmpls.org.

Mount Olivet Impact: Community Outreach, Pastoral Care and the Youth departments teamed up to host weekly essential items drives at both campuses. The Mount Olivet culinary staff has catered weekly meals to shelters operated by St. Stephen's.

VEAP: VOLUNTEERS ENLISTED TO ASSIST PEOPLE

Mission: VEAP provides basic needs including access to healthy foods, social services, housing stability and supportive services. veap.org

Mount Olivet Impact: VEAP is a recipient of our church-wide food drives. Our Children and Family and Young Adults have volunteered to collect personal care products. We also have several members who volunteer individually or in teams at VEAP. *"While food is a central part of what VEAP is about, it is not the only thing. VEAP's professional social workers screen for other needs, as well. Many of their clients are our neighbors, some on the front lines in hospitals, clinics, and care facilities. Our communities would be much poorer without VEAP and the safety net it provides."* ~ Tom Swan

In addition to the other items listed in the Mount Olivet Impact sections, all of these community partners listed above were recipients of supplies from the summer 2020 weekly Greet & Gives, essential item donation drives hosted by Community Outreach, Pastoral Care, and the Youth department.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS... ...CONTINUED!

LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS

Mission: To provide healthy meals to Minnesotans in areas where need is greatest.

Vision: We are always guided by our vision that all people, regardless of socioeconomic, cultural, religious, or ethnic background, deserve to meet their basic needs for food, dignity and respect. loavesandfishesmn.org

Mount Olivet Impact: Mount Olivet now hosts two drive-through community meals per week, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. On average we are now serving 1400+ free meals per week. *"We know the names and situations of many of our guests. Our amazing kitchen staff, pastoral care team, and pastors work hard to make these guests feel welcome. I thank God for the difference we make in their lives. And I give thanks for the generous donations (including some of the guests) that support this ministry."* ~ Sally McNamee, Director of Culinary Services

DIGNITY CENTER - AN INTERFAITH OUTREACH OF HENNEPIN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Dignity Center is operating with the support of a network of community and faith-based organizations; providing direct service ministry with which community partners become involved; offering social service and ministry students a place to learn and grow; and welcoming and supporting people living in poverty on their path to stability. haumc.org/dignity

Mount Olivet Impact: Mount Olivet members volunteer as counselors and legal advisors to help clients find needed resources. *"A few years ago when I spoke to Katie Marxhausen about Dignity Center, I felt a warm emotional sensation come over me. I was reminded not too long before by Pastor Kalland that this was the Holy Spirit tapping me on the shoulder. Dignity Center is a unique relationship-focused program helping people experiencing homelessness to achieve stability by providing structure, support, and resources such as housing, transportation, and job training. Volunteering here is where I need to be."* ~ Margene Reno

SOUTHWEST MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is a community-based service that provides fresh, nutritious meals delivered directly to the homes of seniors and individuals with disabilities throughout the Twin Cities. In addition to regularly providing healthy foods, caring volunteers provide social connection that helps meal recipients remain living independently in their own homes. meals-on-wheels.com

Mount Olivet Impact: Mount Olivet volunteers deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with other needs.

URBAN VENTURES

Mission: Urban Ventures works alongside 70 local partners to address opportunity gaps in academics, nutrition, physical activity, parenting resources, and more—all with the overarching goal to prepare and send every youth in our neighborhood to college or postsecondary education. urbanventures.org

Mount Olivet Impact: Mount Olivet has partnered with Urban Ventures' Urban Farm in our summer food drive. As of March 2019, Mount Olivet serves City Java Coffee, a ministry of Urban Ventures that helps to empower inner-city kids with opportunities that would otherwise not be available to them. Mount Olivet is continuing to explore new ways to partner with Urban Ventures (see September Messenger).

SIMPSON HOUSING

Mission: To house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness. simpsonhousing.org

Mount Olivet Impact: Mount Olivet regularly hosts meals once or twice a month at the Simpson Shelter on 28th St and 1st Ave. Member volunteers serve meals prepared by our culinary staff.

THANK YOU, PASTOR SCOTT!

When envisioning service to our community through Mount Olivet Church, many long-time parishioners see the same person: Pastor Linton Scott. This is for good reason! Pastor Scott has lovingly served our greater community for 52 years, joining the Mount Olivet staff in 1968. His inner-city On-Call Ministry of making personal connections, ministering and delivering essential items of food, clothing and household necessities to those who are in greatest need has been non-stop since he started. “The poor community is divided,” Scott says. “Some poor can help themselves, others need someone to help them. I work with those people.”

Pastor Scott is very aware of his surroundings, and admits that the communities he services are very unstable. It is not uncommon for him to drive by police cars with their lights on, or the yellow tape of a crime scene. It is for this reason he is most thankful for the Mount Olivet van he uses for his deliveries: it has large windows on all sides. Also prominent on the van is a cross, which Pastor Scott says brings the residents peace. The surroundings do not deter him from entering to deliver what is needed, and more importantly, making personal connections with the recipients. These connections are crucial to the success of the ministry. “Once you get to know people, you know what’s going on in the area. They want to talk, we pray together. I have done weddings, baptisms and funerals because of the connections I make with the community.”

“You have to know people,” Scott continues. “Once you meet the people, you don’t forget what they need.” On the evening I met to chat with Pastor Scott, he had made a special trip in to church to pick up and deliver a meal for one person, a woman who he knew to be unable to leave her apartment. He regularly utilizes the meals from Loaves and Fishes for larger drop-offs, but that night was personalized. It is that personal attention and willingness to make time for others that has grown the On-Call Ministry to what it is today.

Though Pastor Scott’s wife, Audrey, handles most of the phone calls, On-Call Ministry relies mostly on the many dedicated volunteers through Mount Olivet who sort, repair, clean and help deliver the items donated at church. “The Mount Olivet people are my lookout people,” Pastor Scott claims. “They let me know what we have, and also when there are specific needs. They really take care of things.”

Another personal connection is Pastor Scott’s Flight Unlimited program. As a licensed pilot, he welcomes interested youth – around 60 per year – to the Crystal airport, where he teaches them how to fly, as well as many basic life-lessons and basic hygiene, once again stressing the strength of personal connections.

Although many things have changed in these past months of a pandemic and civil unrest, the needs of On-Call Ministry have remained consistent, though the pace of gathering and distributing has slowed. The most needed items are still household items, sheets, furniture, hygiene items and food. “Poor people don’t have the capacity to store anything – they only take what they need.”

I did venture to ask Pastor Scott how long he planned to continue actively working. “As long as God provides,” he said. “We all work in God’s time. He got me started, and he will let me know when to finish.” When I asked him what one message he most wanted people to hear, it was, “God always takes care of his people – always! You’re never alone. He will look out for you always!” Thanks Be for Pastor Scott’s positive attitude, energy, and years of personalized ministry!

LAURIE HANCER, *Coordinator of Service & Volunteers*
lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267



PHOTO

Pastor Scott and his current delivery van with window, which has evolved from his first pick-up truck 52 years ago!

UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY



OCT 2

HI-LEAGUE AT MOUNT OLIVET CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

6:30-9pm. Join your High School Youth Staff at the Retreat Center for a stargazing event! Limit to 12 students. No transportation provided.



OCT 10

HI-LEAGUE AT MOUNT OLIVET CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

11am. Meet at the Retreat Center for nature time, meditation, lunch and time to connect with your church friends!



OCT 12 - 30

CATHEDRAL CHOIR PUMPKIN PATCH

Volunteer at the Pumpkin Patch! Open daily from 10am-6pm! Masks are required for shoppers and volunteers!



OCT 15

MEA DAY AWAY (8TH GRADERS!)

9am-12noon. This event is only for 8th grade Junior High Alive kids. Masks are required and limit of 20 students. Visit the mtolivet.org for more information.



MONDAYS

FALL YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS

via Zoom. This fall AGP, COF, and MO United will be meeting once a month. AGP 10/5, 11/2, and 12/7 COF 10/12, 11/9, and 12/14 MO UNITED 10/19, 11/16, and 12/14



TUESDAYS

AFTER SCHOOL HI-LEAGUE GROUP

4-5pm. We will meet at Church, Coffee Shops, or parks for highs & lows, a devotion and to catch up!



WEDNESDAYS

CONFIRMATION

Virtual Confirmation begins on Wednesday, October 7! Please contact Angie St.Dennis if you have questions 612.767.2244 or angelas@mtolivet.org.



QUESTIONS?

REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE & QUESTIONS

If you have questions or need assistance registering for these events, please contact Geoff Arenson at 612.767.2212 or geoffa@mtolivet.org.



Pumpkin Patch Announcement

Our Mount Olivet Staff & Mount Olivet Youth are so excited to offer our Pumpkin Patch this year! 2020 will mark the 10th Anniversary! Since March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been hard to gather safely. This summer all I could think about was the possibility that maybe the Pumpkin Patch could actually happen. This summer as I was communicating with our growers the one thought that we continued to talk about was that pumpkin carving with your family would be one of the activities in the fall that would be safe, fun, and bring people some joy during this tough time.

When our Camp Director, Kristi Youngdahl, started the Mount Olivet Pumpkin Patch ten years ago, many of us on the Youth Staff were giving her a hard time about how funny this idea sounded. I don't know why we thought it would not work but we definitely went into that first season a bit reluctant. During that first season it only took us one day at the patch to realize the brilliance in the idea. The Pumpkin Patch brings people together – it brings the community together! I have found myself becoming overjoyed and proud that our Pumpkin Patch can be a place of love and community during what has been a very hard year.

Mount Olivet's Pumpkin Patch is a fundraiser for our High School Cathedral Choir. The volunteers working at the Pumpkin Patch are our High School students who love choir! **The Pumpkin Patch will be open rain or shine from Monday, October 12, through Friday, October 30. The Pumpkin Patch is located at 50th Street & James Avenue and is open daily from 10am–6pm. Please wear a mask if you plan to attend!**

— Geoff Arenson, Director of Youth Ministry

Service Project Update

One of my favorite things about fall is the hustle and bustle of getting back into a normal busy routine. Everything is new and exciting, and it just feels so good to be back! We as a Youth Staff are excited to get back to a church schedule- which of course includes service projects! While they might not be as often as they were last year, we feel it is important to keep these projects and relationships moving forward as much as possible. This year all service projects will be meeting once a month on Monday evenings.

Our Hi-Leaguers offerings are Circle of Friends (COF) and MO United. COF is a social based program that partners teenagers with special needs with Minneapolis Hi-Leaguers. MO United brings West Hi-Leaguers and Mount Olivet Rolling Acres residents together for community and relationship building activities. For 7th and 8th Graders we have Adopt-a-Grandparent (AGP). We connect with the residents of the Mount Olivet Home to form friendships and enjoy one another's company.

This year we are getting creative with our programming and hope you choose to be involved! We will be having themed zoom meetings, projects that connect to our different populations, and opportunities for growth. For more information about COF contact Annie Moynihan amoynihn@mtolivet.org, for MO United or AGP contact Anna St.Dennis astdennis@mtolivet.org.

— Anna St.Dennis, Coordinator of Junior High



PHOTO LEFT TO RIGHT

Geoff Arenson, Annie Moynihan, Anna St.Dennis, and Angie St.Dennis

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MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

PUMPKIN PATCH

October 12 -30

1700 W 50th Street, Mpls

Open Daily from 10am – 6pm