

NOVEMBER 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.

IN-PERSON HOLY COMMUNION

- M W** 12noon

On the first Wednesday of each month, a short in-person communion service will be offered. Registration is required and seating is limited to 40 persons. Register at mtolivet.org or by calling 612.767.2264.

NOVEMBER 1

GOD CALLS DAVID & ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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

SERMON Pastor Lose

NOVEMBER 8

DAVID AND BATHSHEBA

2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9

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

SERMON Pastor Freeman

NOVEMBER 15

SOLOMON'S WISDOM

1 Kings 3:4-9, (10-15), 16-28

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

SERMON Pastor MacLean

NOVEMBER 22

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

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

SERMON Pastor Dixon

NOVEMBER 26

THANKSGIVING DAY

Watch the Thanksgiving video at mtolivet.org.

NOVEMBER 29

GABRIEL VISITS MARY

Luke 1:26-38

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

SERMON Pastor Kalland

NOVEMBER: THE MONARCHY

In November, we continue our immersion into the stories of Israel's leaders that have been told for 2500 years and still speak to today's issues.

On **November 1**, which is also All Saints Sunday, we hear of God's call of the most unlikely of persons — a young shepherd by the name of David — to be Israel's next king (1 Samuel 16:1-13). David, whose name means "beloved" of God, was Israel's greatest king, but he was also deeply flawed. The story of his abuse power, deceit, and murder take center stage on **November 8** in the story of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9). Solomon, David's heir, is the subject of our next two Sundays. On **November 15**, we hear of Solomon's wisdom (1 Kings 3:4-9, (10-15), 16-28), and on **November 22**, we learn of Solomon's greatest accomplishment, the completion of the Temple of Jerusalem (1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13). **November 29** is the 1st Sunday of Advent, and we'll begin preparing for Christmas by listening to the beloved story of Gabriel's visit to Mary (Luke 1:26-38).

One In Christ

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. –Ephesians 4:4-6

For years, I've closed many of my letters with the words, "Yours in Christ." That's not uncommon among pastors or, for that matter, among Christians more broadly. Sometimes it's just that: a "Christian" way of closing a letter. But, at its best, it represents something deeper, and I'd like to share why I think it's so important for us to remain "in Christ" at a turbulent, fragile, and vital time in our congregation and community.

St. Paul first used the phrase "in Christ" to describe his belief that, because of Jesus' cross and resurrection, everything in his life and the world looked different. His work, his relationships, his beliefs about the future, his source of confidence, his view of death. Everything.

In the cross, God shows us just how far God will go to make sure we know we are loved, accepted, and forgiven. In the resurrection, God demonstrates that God's love is more powerful than hate, that God's light is stronger than darkness, and that God's life triumphs over all things, even death. Taken together, Jesus' cross and resurrection promise that God will never give up on us and that the future is in God's hands.

To capture all this more briefly, Paul used the short-hand phrase "in Christ." And so Paul regularly says things like, "if anyone is *in Christ*, he or she is a new creation" (2 Cor 5:17) and "there is now no condemnation for those who are *in Christ*" (Rom 8:1) and "nothing can separate us from the love of God *in Christ*" (Rom 8:39).

Paul consistently reminded his congregations of their life "in Christ" because he knew from personal experience how hard it can be to remember that God is with us and for us. When things are challenging, frightening, or uncertain, we're likely to look to other sources of strength and comfort, things that, no matter how useful – wealth, positions of influence, worldly power, youthfulness – nevertheless cannot guarantee our future. And so Paul wanted his congregation members to place their confidence in Christ and in Christ alone.

But Paul also knew that challenges to Christian communities come not only in the form of hardship, but also division, and so he regularly reminded his people that, whatever their different experiences, distinct places in society, or differing convictions, they were one community united by a shared mission and faith in Christ. As he writes to the church in Corinth: "Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that...there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose" (1 Cor 1:10).

Just now, we are experiencing a period of significant challenge – global pandemic, economic hardship, social unrest, and more. But perhaps more dangerous to us is the current state of political and social polarization, where too many leaders actually seek to encourage and exploit our sense of being different rather than our commitment to being unified *in Christ*.

This doesn't mean we can't disagree, whether on strategies for combatting the pandemic or how best to work for greater equality. No one has all the answers, and we are better when we bring our distinct gifts and experiences to bear on any given problem. What it means, however, is that when you see another member of Mount Olivet who differs with you on a significant matter, or who voted for a different political candidate, can you still regard him or her as a faithful Christian, beloved of God, and joined to you by a shared commitment to Christ?

Much hangs on how we answer that question, especially as we live through one of the most contentious elections in modern history. If we can't see each other as united in Christ, our ability to fulfill our mission is greatly hampered. But if we can, not only are we stronger as a community, but our witness to Christ is strengthened as well. We will get through these present challenges, beloved people of Mount Olivet, and we will get through them together. For we are one church, sharing one baptism, confessing one faith, united by one Spirit, and bound together through all things in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Yours, always, in Christ,



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT MOUNT OLIVET

EMMANUEL – GOD WITH US, MATTHEW 1:23

Advent marks a time of preparation and waiting for the celebration of the familiar Christmas Story. A time to be hopeful and welcome with joy the gift of the baby Jesus! Our Advent and Christmas season will look different at Mount Olivet like so many things have this year, but we will still be your church. We are adapting and planning worship services that tell the biblical stories and include our beloved Mount Olivet traditions. There will be a calendar full of safe seasonal events, as well as opportunities to serve and give back to our congregation and community. We are excited to share our plans with you over the next few weeks, to tell the Christmas story, and celebrate the season as a faith-filled congregation! Dates and details will be available at mtolivet.org and in the December *Messenger*.

DIGITAL MOUNT OLIVET ADVENT CALENDAR

A Mount Olivet Advent Calendar will be emailed in December. The Advent calendar will be filled with interesting and unknown Christmas trivia, devotions by the Senior Choir, videos, music and more from your Mount Olivet Pastors and Staff.

Sign up at mtolivet.org.

MOUNT OLIVET ADVENT DEVOTION

The Advent Devotions will be written by our beloved Senior Choir, mailed to your home, with additional booklets available at each campus. You can also sign-up to receive these devotions via email at mtolivet.org



MOCW MITTEN DRIVE

DROP OFF INFORMATION

Donate new winter hats, scarves, mittens and gloves at the Greet & Give Drive, Food Drive, and Christmas for All events, as well as during the Open Prayer Time on Wednesdays at both Campuses beginning November 4 through December 16.

LIFE & GROWTH

SEPT 17 - OCT 16

BAPTISMS

Molly Grundleen Macken
daughter of Jennifer and Patrick Crosby Everett Johnson
son of Tani and Tyler
Josephine Marie Metzen
daughter of Alicia and Andrew
Anna Leigh Franzen Weinberger
daughter of Erin and Derek
Henry Arvid Franzen Weinberger
son of Erin and Derek
Annika Ray Lillehei
daughter of Kaila and Jens
Leigh Gray Regan
daughter of Abby and Marc
Claire Maureen Cristan
daughter of Alex and Stewart
Aaron James Anderson
son of Jaime and Luke

WEDDINGS

Amanda Goodman & Joseph Bauer, September 26

DEATHS

Bernice E. Baltzer
1941 - 2020
Joan N. Freathy
1931 - 2020
Mark E. Hegman
1941 - 2020
Jack M. Hiner
1939 - 2020
John S. Najarian
1927 - 2020
Dianne L. Skoy
1948 - 2020
Dianne E. Smith
1939 - 2020
Jane B. Vohs
1947 - 2020

DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND NOVEMBER 2020

- 1 Galatians 6:1, Watch Yourself
- 2 Galatians 6:2, Fulfill The Law of Christ
- 3 Psalm 118:8, Take Refuge
- 4 Malachi 3:10, The Whole Tithe
- 5 1 John 3:21-22, What Pleases God
- 6 Psalm 5:3, Wait Expectantly
- 7 Ephesians 4:3, Bond of Peace
- 8 Ephesians 5:3, God's Holy People
- 9 Psalm 10:12, Do Not Forget the Helpless
- 10 Mark 7:20-23, Within the Heart
- 11 Mark 12:30, Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength
- 12 Proverbs 27:19, Life Reflects the Heart
- 13 Mark 8:34, Follow Me
- 14 Jeremiah 32:17, Nothing Too Hard For God
- 15 Psalm 1:1, Blessed Is The One
- 16 Romans 14:3, God Has Accepted Them
- 17 John 1:1, In The Beginning
- 18 Proverbs 14:23, Hard Work
- 19 1 Peter 5:7, God Cares For You
- 20 Philippians 2:11, Jesus Christ Is Lord
- 21 Psalm 115:1, Love And Faithfulness
- 22 1 John 4:8, God Is Love
- 23 Romans 10:9, You Will Be Saved
- 24 Proverbs 25:28, Self-Control
- 25 Romans 15:17, Accept One Another
- 26 Romans 8:28, According to God's Purpose
- 27 Psalm 25:4, Show Me, Teach Me, Lord
- 28 Deuteronomy 31:6, Never Leave, Never Forsake
- 29 Romans 8:6, Life And Peace
- 30 Psalm 38:9, Open Before The Lord

DEVOTION

"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." —Genesis 3:19

I like playing in the dirt...have ever since I was a little kid. There is something very therapeutic about using our hands, getting dirty. There is something about getting outside and playing in the dirt...smelling the soil, the plants, the flowers...growth.

Dirt or dust is mentioned in the Bible.

God creates Adam out of the dirt of the ground. In Genesis 3:19, **"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."** Maybe that's one of the reason I like dirt.... reminds me I'm God's kid and so are you. We come from God and we are going back to God.

And don't you love the image of Jesus drawing in the dirt in John 8:7, **"Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground."** Ever wonder what he was writing in the dirt?

God never promised us that life would be easy. As you know, it can be dusty and dirty. God did promise to never forsake us and to walk along beside us each and every day. God is with us through each trial, every temptation, and God will always lift us up when we are down.

Thanks for cleaning us up every day, Lord, especially those times when we stumble and fall in the dirt of life, the dirt that isn't so pleasant. Thanks for Your promise. Amen.

— PASTOR KALLAND



CHRISTMAS FOR ALL

Bring a gift to the Minneapolis Campus on Monday, 11/30 from 4-6pm, or to the West Campus on Wednesday, 12/2 from 4-6pm.

EVERYONE is invited to spread Christmas cheer and participate in our 2nd Annual Christmas For All! New this year, we'll be hosting a Christmas for All store for Love, INC clients at the West Campus. Clients will be able to sign up to shop for their family on Sunday, 12/6. Christmas for All donations will also support Christmas stores at Redeemer Lutheran Church and Southside Family Nurturing Center.

GIVE A GIFT

The gifts that are being donated must be new – unwrapped – and in the \$5-\$40 range. A list of gift suggestions for individuals of all ages, including adults, can be found on our website at mtolivet.org.

DONATE

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!

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Help is needed in making phone call reminders to clients, delivering gifts to homebound Love, INC clients, and sorting/delivering donations at the Minneapolis Campus. Please contact Laurie Hancer lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOUNT OLIVET CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER



NOVEMBER 12

TENDING TO AMBIGUOUS LOSSES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

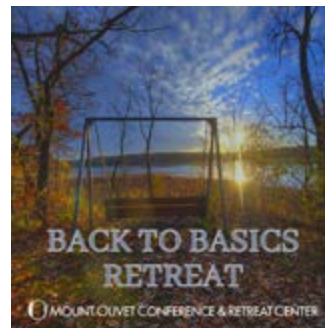
6:30-8:30pm, via Zoom, \$20
Join us for this online class as we discuss the nature of ambiguous loss and ways to deepen our resilience in these uncertain times with guest speaker Carla Dahl. Register at mtolivet.org.



NOVEMBER 20

CRAFTY LADIES WEEKEND

11/20-11/22, \$250
Experienced and beginner crafters are invited to a weekend of full of (socially distant) self-care and creativity. We provide the beautiful space and you bring your craft projects! Register at mtolivet.org.



DECEMBER 11

BACK TO BASICS RETREAT

12/11-12/12, \$145
Find serenity in the natural beauty of the Retreat Center as you continue on your journey of wholeness and wellbeing by cultivating a deeper understanding of the 12 Steps of AA. Register at mtolivet.org.



DECEMBER 19

OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

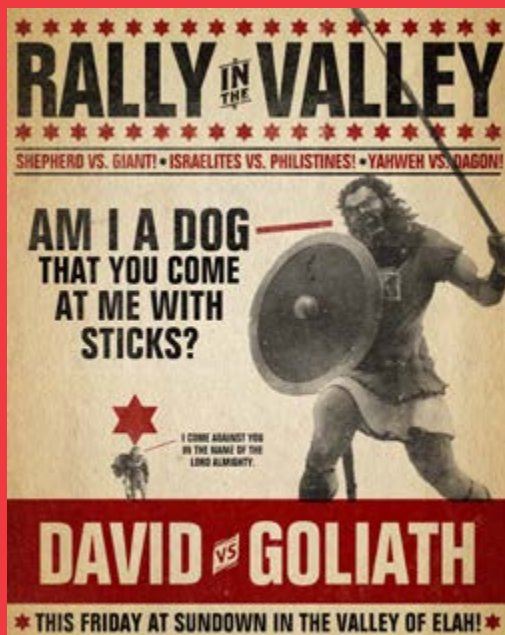
Save the date for a winter evening at the retreat center! Come and celebrate Christmas traditions from near and far! The whole family will love a visit from Sinterklass, making a Tomten craft, and visiting live reindeer! More information coming soon.

DAY ADVENT JOURNEY

ADVENT RITUALS FOR YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Tuesday, 12/1, 9am-12pm, via Zoom, \$10

Begin this holiday season by learning about the rituals and music of Advent. During a mixture of live online presentations and recorded presentations, we will discover the history and meaning of Advent candles, wreaths, calendars, caroling, fasting, and more. Each ritual will be introduced to you by a Mount Olivet pastor or staff member. Pastor David Lose and Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini, Executive Director of the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, will share live sessions on the origins of Advent and practicing Advent at home in a pandemic. Pastor Kurt Kalland will lead us in closing worship. Register at mtolivet.org or via your *Realm* Account.



A STUDY OF KING DAVID

RALLY IN THE VALLEY

There is still time to take a closer look at King David and appreciate more fully his significance in both the Old and New Testaments. Register today and you will be sent the October videos to catch up on at your leisure! Optional Zoom Discussion with Pastor Ruud on 11/17, 7-8pm.
 10/20: *Overview* with Pastor Ruud
 10/27: *David and Goliath* with Pastor MacLean
 11/3: *David's Anointing as King* with Pastor Lose
 11/10: *David and Bathsheba* with Pastor Freeman

JUST MERCY ZOOM DISCUSSION

NOVEMBER 12

7-8pm. Join Pastor Ruud to discuss the award-winning movie, *Just Mercy*, a powerful and true story, that follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson and his history-making battle for justice. This discussion will center on the movie so participants are asked to watch it prior to the discussion. Reading Stevenson's book, *Just Mercy*, and watching the 2012 *Ted Talk* by Bryan Stevenson are also encouraged but not required.



CALLING ALL QUESTIONERS!

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

NOVEMBER QUESTION: IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

Come on, admit it, when you read a story like Jonah and the whale, you kinda wonder what to make of it. Or maybe it's the creation accounts – yes, plural, as there are actually two different ones in Genesis! – or the story of Joshua making the sun stand still to give the Israelites a military advantage, or one of countless other strange and wonderful stories that gets you thinking. And among what you're thinking is – if we dare name it – “can this really be true?” And the minute you admit that question you feel a little guilty.

But I think the question of the Bible's truth is huge... and important... and faithful! I also think that we have a hard time asking it, let alone answering it, because we have a very modern, but also painfully diminished, view of “truth.”

In November's engaging, surprising, and fun edition of “Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Bible,” we'll see if we can enlarge our sense of truth, pay attention to the really important truths of our lives and history, and discover together how God is indeed working through Scripture and the Spirit to draw us into “all truth” (John 16:13).

— PASTOR LOSE

It's not too late to join this year-long monthly series!

Register at mtolivet.org/education. Questions? Contact Katie Stevenson, katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232.

Grateful in Trying Times

In this season of thanksgiving, it is you, our members, who remind us, almost daily to live with hearts of gratitude. The Pastoral Care team has had the pleasure of talking with many of you in the past six months. We've heard these words of gratitude and wanted to be able to share them with you as a reminder of all that is good in this world.

"I thank God every day. I am so blessed."

"How truly lucky I am to live in Minnesota – we have unbelievable health care."

"I pray constantly. I love my church. I love Jesus."

"We're willing to do anything that will help."

"Every day is a good day."

"I have always loved Mount Olivet, but I love Mount Olivet even more – if that is possible."

"I am thankful for whatever I can do to take care of myself."

"Life is full of changes. You move on."

Thanksgiving is a day that many of us will gather with friends and family to eat, share in faith and fellowship, and express gratitude toward one another, as well as gratitude toward God who provides for us all.

Many of us have so much to be thankful for, but do we truly give thanks to God for his many blessings? This time of year is the start of the season of generosity. In all the excitement (or chaos), fun, and festivities may we find time to reflect on all the ways we've each been blessed and give thanks.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. —Psalm 86:12

ANDREA BROWN, Director of Pastoral Care

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY UPDATE

In August, the Pastoral Care Team hosted a drive-through prayer shawl drop off event at both campuses. We are SO grateful to report the members of our Prayer Shawl Ministry delivered an amazing 51 prayer shawls! Their skill and dedication to this important care ministry allows us to continue sharing these special gifts with our members and friends who are in need of support and prayers from their church. Prayer Shawl Ministry members, we are thankful for you! If you'd like more information about Mount Olivet's Prayer Shawl Ministry, contact Sarah Prescher at sprescher@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2235.

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. If there are mental health concerns we would suggest a call to the Mount Olivet Counseling Center 612.927.7335 ext. 10.

NURSE'S NOTE

Hobbies can enhance your creativity, fuel your passions, help you think more clearly and sharpen your focus, says Carol Kauffman, an assistant clinical professor at Harvard Medical School. "When you're really engaged in a hobby you love, you lose your sense of time and enter what's called a flow state, and that restores your mind and energy." One popular hobby, knitting, has been studied and found to have several positive health effects:

- Lowered blood pressure
- Reduced depression/anxiety
- Slowed onset of dementia
- Distraction from chronic pain
- Increased sense of wellbeing
- Reduced loneliness/isolation

I can't imagine a better time for ALL of us to consider a new hobby or rediscover one from the past!

Want to learn more? Visit:
<https://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/01/25/the-health-benefits-of-knitting/>
 or
<https://www.mindbodygreen.com/articles/why-hobbies-are-important-and-how-to-start-one>

**SARAH PRESCHER, RN,
MOUNT OLIVET PARISH
NURSE**



November: A Time for Giving Thanks and Gratitude

November is here. The leaves have turned their beautiful colors, the wind has a crisp, fresh feel to it like it always does, and yet this is a November like no other. During this time in our lives, this very unusual time in our history, it's perhaps been difficult to have any feelings of consistency and familiarity. During this month when our thoughts typically go to being thankful, we may find it more difficult this year to be thankful. To find gratitude. Let's begin with the definition of gratitude. The definition of gratitude is: the quality of being grateful, readiness to show appreciation for, and to return kindness.

When we review 2020 we see that there are many events that can challenge our faith and make it difficult to be grateful or show appreciation and return kindness. From the global pandemic and hundreds of thousands of lives lost, to racial inequity, wildfires and hurricanes, and a bitterly divided country, we may find it increasingly difficult to be grateful. It seems that now more than ever gratitude needs to be in the forefront of all our minds and lives. If we think about what we're grateful for, many of us would have on our lists things like our families, great friends, supportive communities and good health. But can we also be grateful for the lessons and opportunities to see things in a different way these past several months have afforded us?

Though all of us may want to be grateful, it can, in these incredibly taxing times, be daunting. It is, however, necessary for our mental health to find some ways to be grateful. There is research from Harvard Medical School that shows that "after 10 weeks of trials, those who wrote about gratitude were more optimistic and felt better about their lives. Surprisingly, they also exercised more and had fewer visits to physicians than those who focused on sources of aggravation." It is well known in the mental health world that gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships. People feel and express gratitude in multiple ways.

Therefore, we must search each day for something for which to be grateful. Let us use Psalm 118:24 as our guide: "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Here are a few simple things to try to start feeling a little more blissful on a regular

basis from Lynne Goldberg who is a holistic lifestyle coach, certified meditation teacher, and founder of Live Bliss Now:

1. Keep a gratitude journal. Make gratitude a daily habit. Every day, jot down ten great things that happened to you or that you are grateful for.

Keeping your focus on the positive will really make a difference.

2. Practice present moment awareness. The habit of being fully present and not wishing for something in the future or the past—but just being grateful for what is—can really shift your perspective. Catch yourself when that moment escapes you, and gently remind yourself to come back.

3. Think bigger than yourself. Become involved in a cause that is important to you. As you become aware of other people who are less fortunate than you, you will start to feel a deeper appreciation for what you do have.

4. Share the love with your family and friends. Cultivate an appreciation for others and let them know regularly that you are grateful for them and for what they do for you—whether it be helping around the house or always inviting you out for a fun dinner date.

5. Replace complaints with gratitude. When you find yourself focusing on what you believe you're lacking—I wish my car were nicer, my house was bigger, I had more money—replace it with thoughts of what you are thankful for.

Going back to the definition of gratitude it may seem easier for us to be more thankful when it's the Thanksgiving holiday season. Then comes Christmas and it seems that society, in general, becomes more thoughtful and compassionate during this time. Fabulous! However, if there is anything the past six to eight months has shown us, it's how much we live in community and how much we need to be grateful, compassionate and thoughtful to and for one another each and every day.

GAYLE VAUGHAN, MA, LMFT, Mount Olivet Counseling Service



UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY

To register for these events, please contact Geoff Arenson at geoffa@mtolivet.org or at 612.727.2212.



NOVEMBER 2

AGP - PET NIGHT

4:45-5:45pm. We will record little introduction clips with our pets (bring them to the meeting!) to send over to the residents of the Mount Olivet Home.



NOVEMBER 3

HI-LEAGUE AFTER-SCHOOL GROUP

5-5:45pm, West Campus. We'll share highs & lows, do a devotion and catch up with one another!



NOVEMBER 9

COF - VIRTUAL CIRCLE SCAVENGER

6-7pm. We'll be playing a virtual version of Fun Squad's classic game, Circle Scavenger! Start thinking of some of your best jokes!



NOVEMBER 10

HI-LEAGUE AFTER-SCHOOL GROUP

5-5:45pm, Mpls Campus. We'll share highs & lows, do a devotion and catch up with one another!



NOVEMBER 16

MO UNITED - INTROS & SHOW AND TELLS

6-7pm. Bring something to show and tell to our Zoom! Filming clips for a video we'll be creating to send to Rolling Acres to introduce ourselves.



NOVEMBER 17

HI-LEAGUE AFTER-SCHOOL GROUP

5-5:45pm, West Campus. We'll share highs & lows, do a devotion and catch up with one another!



NOVEMBER 24

THANKSGIVING EARLY SERVICE

7-8pm, via Zoom. Read Geoff's article on the next page to learn more about this service.



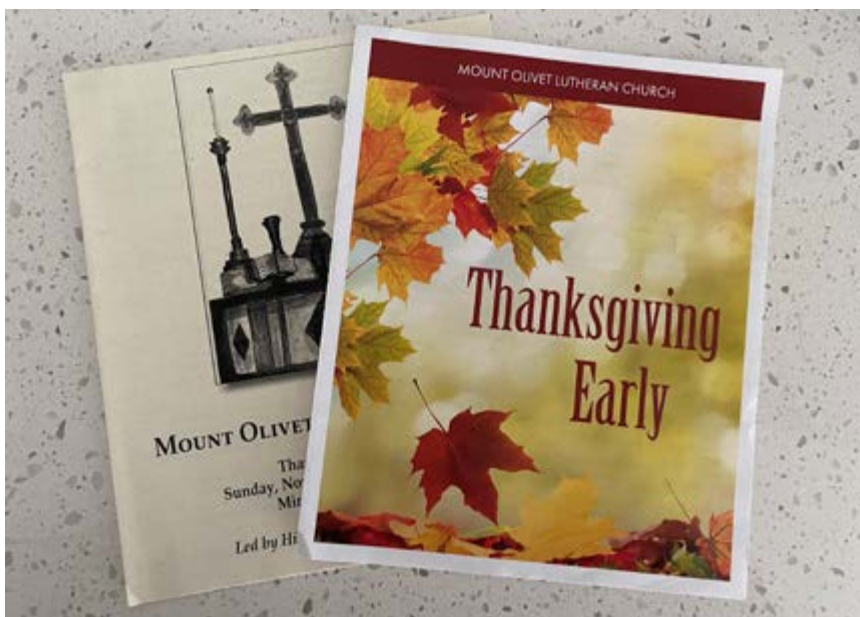
NOVEMBER 25

NO CONFIRMATION CLASS

There will be no confirmation video or Zoom class. We'll see you again on December 2!

THE YOUTH AND OUR GREET & GIVE DRIVE

This summer the Youth Staff and many of our kids had the opportunity to volunteer at the weekly Greet and Gives. In addition to all of the food that was donated, the weekly Greet and Gives brought so many essential supplies for families and individuals who needed them. We were so fortunate to partner with three local organizations: VEAP, St. Stephen's Human Services and Simpson Housing, who were able to distribute those items to people from our community. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Greet and Gives, whether through their time or donations! Moving forward, the Greets and Gives will be continued by the Mount Olivet staff. We will be collecting donations from 4-6pm on the 1st Monday of the month at the Minneapolis Campus, and the 3rd Monday at the West Campus. The Youth Staff will continue our efforts as well by collecting items at all our youth events. —Anna St.Dennis & Annie Moynihan, Youth Staff



Thanksgiving Early Tradition

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."
- Psalm 118:29

During our Youth Programming year there is always one event each month that I look the most forward to and love year after year! During this time of COVID-19 many of those events have not happened or have changed drastically. For me, November brings the events of our Thanksgiving Early Youth Worship Services. Each year I have looked forward to a Thanksgiving Early worship service in our Junior High, Adopt-a-Grandparent program and our High School, Hi-League program! Our Thanksgiving Early service will look different this year in that it will be an online service. What hasn't changed though will be the proud feeling we as a Youth Staff will feel when we experience our Hi-League Students leading us in this online worship experience. Each year our Hi-League Board leads us in prayers, scripture, messages and song at this special service! This year, as a youth group we will watch this service together and take time afterwards to share with each other what our Thanksgiving plans are. We will make this special service available on the Mount Olivet website for every member if you wish to hear from our High School students! So, as we near Thanksgiving, we have so much to be thankful for— special people in our life that have become a part of our Church family— some of those people present with us today, others who might be far away and even some in heaven watching over us. Yes, this is a special holiday to our Mount Olivet Youth. Thanks for the many blessings each person at this church shares with others during this time of Thanksgiving. May each person feel the love that surrounds you by God and the many loving people who call Mount Olivet Church home!

GEOFF ARENSON, *Director of Youth Ministry*

UPCOMING EVENTS CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



NOVEMBER 30 DECEMBER 2

CHRISTMAS FOR ALL

Make the holidays special for others in need! Wish lists, drop off times, and event information can be found on page 5.



DECEMBER 12

GINGERBREAD TAKE HOME BOX!

\$15 per kit. Bring our beloved gingerbread tradition home with you this year! A box full of holiday cheer for your family. Register at mtolivet.org.



THURSDAYS

TALKING WITH KIDS ABOUT RACE, SKIN COLOR & CULTURE

Beginning 11/5, 8-9:30am, via Zoom. Gain understanding on how to parent this important topic with licensed parent educator, Sarah Hardy. Register at mtolivet.org



DATES VARY

OPEN GYM

Mondays/Saturdays at Mpls, Wednesdays/Saturdays at West. Sign up with your quaran-team (up to 12 people) and burn some energy! Reserve your spot at mtolivet.org!

Talking with Kids about Race, Skin Color and Culture

Thursdays, 11/12 through 12/3, 8-9:30am, via Zoom.

Feeling called to discuss race, skin color and diversity with your children, but not sure where to start or how to proceed? You are not alone. The killing of George Floyd and subsequent protests in Minneapolis have overwhelmed hearts and minds (and inboxes) with despair and fright, ideas and urgency. Feeling overwhelmed can turn to paralysis just when we want to speak and take action. But what, and how? Join Parent Educator, **SARAH HARDY**, in a supportive (virtual) place to gain understanding and skills for parenting this important topic and raising kids who uphold the dignity, equality, and value of all people especially those to whom it is being denied.

Visit mtolivet.org to learn more about this class, background information about Sarah Hardy, and to register.

Parenting Group

Designed with parents of elementary students in mind – please join Jessica Smith, LMFT, and fellow parents. Drop in as you can, these groups are free 6-7pm on Thursdays 11/5 and 11/19. Please register for resources/virtual links to group meetings.

11/5 - MANAGING INCREASED CONFLICT AT HOME: Have you been dealing with sibling rivalry, or arguments between parent and child? Has it been difficult to find strategies to make it stop? Please join us for a parent group aimed at helping you learn conflict resolution tools to apply with your child/ren; while providing support, discussion and encouragement.

11/19 - PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN A DIFFERENT WAY: For many families, the holiday season is a time of celebration, connection and fond traditions. As we are facing a very different looking holiday season, many parents might be grieving lost time with loved ones or finding it difficult to set and maintain preferred boundaries with family members. Please join us for a parent group aimed at helping you prepare for the upcoming holiday season while providing support, discussion and encouragement.

OUR FAITH IN MUSIC

Music has always had an important role in our worship services at Mount Olivet. Recently I came across a book of musical quotations, some from scripture, others from poets and composers. Sacred music allows us as a congregation to pray, praise, and give thanks in a powerful and memorable way which enhances our faith journey.

The Church knew what the Psalmist knew: Music praises God. Music is well or better able to praise Him than the building of the church and all its decoration; it is the Church's greatest ornament.

IGOR STRAVINSKY

O clap your hands together, all ye people:
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.

PSALMS 47:1

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing -
My God and King!

GEORGE HERBERT

Psalmody unites those who disagree,
makes friends of those at odds, brings
together those who are out of charity
with one another. Who could retain a
grievance against the man with whom
he had joined in singing before God?

ST. AMBROSE

O come let us sing unto the Lord; let us
make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation.

PSALM 95:1

How greatly did I weep in thy hymns
and canticles, deeply moved by the
voices of thy sweet-speaking church!

ST. AUGUSTINE



Children's Worship Service: *Going God's Way*

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:16

In the waters of baptism, we are joined with Jesus' death and resurrection, and are promised that nothing separates us from God's light, love, and forgiveness – in life here on earth, and in life after death. When baptized, God entrusts us to carry this light, love and forgiveness wherever we go.

This year at Mount Olivet, we are so excited to bring a new faith formation opportunity to children and families called *Going God's Way* intended to help you let your light shine! We hope you have been watching each week as our pastors and staff greet you with a Bible story and different fun video segments. Check these out:

- Faith in Action – a challenge presented to live out our faith!
- Get To Know MO! – learn about our Lutheran traditions.
- God and Me – a meditation moment
- This or That – a timed test for our pastors!
- MO Playlist – time to sing and move!
- Bible Trivia – to test your Bible knowledge!

Each session closes with a sung and signed benediction reminding us that we are God's love and light in this world and that God depends on us to keep *Going God's Way*! We can't wait for you to tune in!

PASTOR FREEMAN

THIS MONTH ON GOING GOD'S WAY

This month we'll be talking about the word **GRATITUDE**. Throughout the month we'll learn about what Gratitude means from Pastor Lose, Pastor Ruud, Pastor MacLean, and Pastor Dixon in a variety of different ways. We'll also have special guests Pastor Kalland, Pastor Hammersten, and Katy and Amy from the Children & Family Ministry Team with us for some of our activity segments! You won't want to miss it. Visit mtolivet.org/going-gods-way to watch!



God Is Good!

Being a parent is hard. When we got married 30 years ago at Mount Olivet, we had no idea how hard, and rewarding, raising a family would be. Mount Olivet has been our constant source of guidance. From the nursery on Sunday mornings, to preschool, first communion and confirmation, the faith formation and strong values that our kids received helped them grow into amazing adults. Not to mention the lifelong friendships that came from Cherub through Cathedral Choir, God's Kids Sing, Summer Time Players, and Cathedral of the Pines.

One of our favorite times was the car ride after they arrived home from COP. Their voices hoarse from days of talking, laughing, and singing, they would share stories of favorite meals, which cabin they were in, new friends that were made, and which pastor they got to know better. Each of our kids will tell you, Mount Olivet is what guided them through the turbulent years of junior high and high school. They were able to be themselves, openly share their faith, find strength in times of sorrow and learn the value of being in service to others.

We are immensely grateful for all of the Mount Olivet ministries, which is why we give. We give back for the gifts we have received and to pay it forward to future generations. Meatballs and rice pudding need to live on! The Stewardship Drive-Thru dinner option this year was fabulous—we packed everyone into the car, filled with our diaper donations, and experienced great joy at seeing our pastors and staff in person. How rewarding it was to have a new way to give back and enjoy a great meal together! God is good!

LISA CARLSON, *Mount Olivet member*



PHOTOS TOP TO BOTTOM

Will Carlson baptism at Careview Chapel in 2002 surrounded by four generations!

John and Lisa Carlson, with two of their children, Maggie and Will

GIFTS TO MOUNT OLIVET

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

WAYS TO GIVE

Give Online: with your credit card or bank information by visiting mtolivet.org/online-giving. Scroll until you see the "Give Online Now" button.

Realm Connect App: login using your Realm username and password and click "Giving"

Text to Give: text "MTOLIVET" to 73256 and follow the instructions provided.

Contact Us: We are here to help! Contact Tricia Lebröl-Morgan in our finance office at 612.767.2255 or by email at tricial@mtolivet.org.

ESTATE PLANNING

THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE YOUR LOVED ONES!

Learn About Wills & Trusts with Estate Planning Attorney

STUART BEAR

Wednesday, 11/18, 10–11:30 am. A well-thought-out estate plan ensures that your wishes are followed. You can also perpetuate your values by leaving a legacy for organizations important to you.

To register, contact Tyler Hauser at thauser@mtolivethomes.org or 612.821.3151 by 11/16.



Giving Thanks

When Jesus' followers were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, they were never the same again. The same is true for you and for me. At our baptism the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us and gives us spiritual gifts and empowers us to serve. We are called to significance as we let the world see the Risen Christ in how we care for one another and our world.

Mount Olivet has a long and outstanding tradition of community outreach – making a difference in the lives of others. One way we can make a difference is to participate in a special Thanksgiving offering to help alleviate hunger. Food is a basic need that affects everything. Hungry kids are less likely to graduate. They get less exercise and exhibit more behavior problems. Hungry parents are stressed parents. They show poor cognitive performance inside and outside of work. Children and adults with poor nutrition get sick more often.



There are three ways to help:

- Donate essential items, especially cold-weather, at our Greet & Give Drives on Monday, November 2, at the Minneapolis campus from 4-6pm or on Monday, November 16, at the West campus from 4-6pm.
- Donate non-perishable food items at the food drive on Sunday, November 22, 10am-12noon at both campuses.
- Contribute a financial offering that will help our hunger initiatives in Hennepin County and Eastern Carver County, as well as support a Mount Olivet sponsored Christmas dinner at a church on Park Ave for folks experiencing homelessness.

Please consider contributing to our Thanksgiving offering. Your generosity will give a helping hand that can make a profound difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ! — **PASTOR MACLEAN**
Gifts may be given using the envelope mailed to you, online at mtolivet.org, or by contacting the finance office at 612.767.2255.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHT: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICE

Community Emergency Service (CES) provides food and essential items to clients in South Minneapolis. Mount Olivet helped found and has been active with CES for over 50 years. CES is a recipient of our church-wide food drives— Greet & Give (Mpls 11/2 & West 11/16), and is one of the recipients of the monetary donations made at Thanksgiving in our hunger appeal (watch for your mailing!). We also have several members who volunteer at CES. Today I share Richard and Faith Wisland's words about why they started volunteering—and why they continue to do so. Please contact me if you are interested in getting involved with CES or any of our other community partners. — **Laurie Hancer, Coordinator of Service & Volunteers**

We first started volunteering at CES by sorting produce and baked goods and organizing the distribution line. The CES staff is very welcoming and makes us feel appreciated and that what we do makes a difference. Richard now serves on the Board of Directors and is Mount Olivet's liaison for CES. CES has seen a significant increase in the number of clients this year: 320 daily Meals on Wheels are provided, 200 food shelf clients receive much needed food each week, and 300 clients who cannot get to the food shelf receive two bags of groceries per month delivered to their homes. Our volunteer work at CES fills a desire in our hearts to be useful to individuals and a community in need.

— **Faith and Richard Wisland, Mount Olivet members**

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? Contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org





**MOUNT OLIVET
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Questions?

Contact Kris Ericksen at kris@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2207