

MAY 2021

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.

MAY 2

THE SURPRISE GUEST

Luke 24:13-35

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

M 9, 11am
SERMON Pastor MacLean

W 9, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon

MAY 9

SURPRISED BY FAITH

Luke 24:36-42

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

M 9, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud

W 9, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose

MAY 16

THE SURPRISE MISSION

Luke 24:43-53

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

M 9, 11am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten

W 9, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland

MAY 23

THE SURPRISE GIFT

Acts 2:1-15, 22-24, 33

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

M 9, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman

W 9, 11am
SERMON Pastor MacLean

MAY 30

THE SURPRISED DISCIPLE

John 20:19-31

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

M 9, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland

W 9, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon

LAKE HARRIET

BANDSHELL 10am

SERMON Pastor Lose

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

The first Wednesday of each month, a short in-person communion service will be offered. No registration required.

Faithful Waiting

It's a strange time. After more than a year of loss and uncertainty, it feels like we're nearly out of the woods, but we also know that could change quickly. And so we're in-between what has been and what will be. At church, we have felt the loss, hope, and waiting most keenly around worship. After 54 painful Sundays of not gathering in our sanctuaries, we resumed in-person worship on Palm Sunday. It's good to be back in our sanctuaries yet, absent singing and hugs and still sitting at a distance from each other, it's also not the same. We're grateful for how far we've come, but also still waiting for things to get back to normal.

According to St. Luke – who provides the primary Gospel readings for most of the Sundays in May – the days after Easter were a strange time for Jesus' first disciples as well. Jesus had been raised, but did not stay with them for long. He promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit had not yet come. They were eager to take the good news of resurrection hope into the world and were also afraid of what the authorities might do to them. The disciples experienced a strange, in-between, time of waiting as well. As I've been reading these stories, I've been learning how, not just to navigate, but also to flourish as an individual and a congregation. Three things in particular have stood out.

1. *Waiting is not the same as doing nothing.* Both the last chapter of The Gospel of Luke and the first chapter of The Acts of the Apostles (which Luke also wrote) describe the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost. During that time, Luke shares that the disciples a) worshipped together regularly, b) chose another disciple to replace Judas, c) and prepared for the coming of the Spirit. At Mount Olivet, we have not been idle across this past year either. We have given our sanctuaries a thorough refurbishing by installing new lighting, cameras, and sound equipment; cleaning the pews and woodwork; and, at the Minneapolis campus, repairing and restoring our beautiful stained glass windows. We have transformed our wonderful part-time preschool into a full-day, year-round preschool launching this fall that we believe will well serve our communities and provide an important way to introduce more young families to all that Mount Olivet offers. We have invited our staff into Cultural Intelligence training to help us be more welcoming to people from

diverse backgrounds. And have updated the website at our Retreat Center and discovered manifold ways to be better connected. We have, in short, been practicing a kind of "active waiting."

2. *Waiting is hard, but it can teach greater dependence on God's grace.* This may be the hardest of the lessons. Like many of you, I'm used to making decisions, ordering my life as I think best, and moving forward toward goals with confidence. Events like the pandemic remind us just how vulnerable we are, that we're not nearly as much in control of our lives as we'd like to think, and that we are continually and constantly dependent on God for... everything! St. Luke writes that, during their in-between time, the disciples "constantly devoted themselves to prayer." Many of us have found ourselves praying more this past year. And whatever we may be praying for – strength, patience, an end to the pandemic – part of what we gained, I believe, was a deeper sense of our dependence on God and an important reminder that God is trustworthy and faithful.

3. *Waiting, even struggling, doesn't preclude gratitude.* I am struck by Luke sharing that, after Jesus ascends to heaven and before the Holy Spirit comes, the disciples "returned to Jerusalem with great joy and they were continually blessing and giving thanks to God" (24:52-53). It's a helpful reminder that, although the disciples faced uncertain and dangerous days ahead, they focused on all for which they could be grateful. Gratitude is always available, and as we give thanks – even for the smallest of blessings – we are often blessed in return with deeper faith, greater hope, and an abundance of courage.

Yes, in-between times of waiting are hard. It was true for Jesus' first disciples, and it is true for Jesus' disciples at Mount Olivet today. But waiting can also be faithful, put to good use as we watch, wait, and actively prepare for what new thing God is doing for us, with us, in us, and through us. I can't wait to see what that will be!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



JUNE 1

13TH MOTORHEADS @ MTKA DRIVE-IN

6pm, 4656 Shoreline Drive, Spring Park. All car enthusiasts are invited to this classic 50s-style restaurant that features carhops, burgers, and cool cars.



JULY 12

JUST-FOR-FUN GOLF SCRAMBLE

Island View Golf Club, Waconia. Cost is \$85 per person and includes golf, electric cart, driving range, box lunch, and prizes! Register at mtolivet.org by July 5.



THIS SUMMER

VOLUNTEER AT MOUNT OLIVET HOME & CAREVIEW! (AGES 15+)

Please consider donating your time, energy and love to our amazing residents! Contact Laurie Hancer, at lhancer@mtolivethomes.org or 612.821.3232.

LIFE & GROWTH

MAR 17 - APR 16

BAPTISMS

Samuel Steven Christenson
son of Stefanie and Steven
Riley Sue Dittrich
daughter of Caty and Alex
Bode Griffy Jans
son of Lexie and Jeremiah
Jeremiah Thomas Jans
Colin Christopher Kawaters
son of Jennie and Christopher
Charlie Kirk Kawaters
son of Jennie and Christopher
Ren Tshajkoob Tcheutsing
son of Kelsey and Stephen
Adrian Andrew Thurik
Rollwagen
son of Ashley and Carlton
Eleanor K Wepppler
daughter of Laura and Adam

DEATHS

Paul E. Bardal
1941 - 2021
Lois M. Danberg
1925 - 2021
David G. Hanson
1934 - 2021
Claire Hinrichs
1925 - 2021
Nancy R. Isaacson
1947 - 2021
George J. Kotsonas
1934 - 2021
Carolyn F. Johnson
1928 - 2021
Orin E. Larson
1935 - 2021
George F. Martin
1942 - 2021



DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND
MAY 2021

- 1 Psalm 116:1-2, As Long as I Live
- 2 Colossians 4:5-6, Be Wise
- 3 Micah 6:8, What Does The Lord Require
- 4 Psalm 86:5, Abounding In Love
- 5 1 Peter 5:8, Alert And Sober
- 6 Matthew 6:26, More Valuable
- 7 Psalm 37:5-6, Commit And Trust
- 8 1 John 1:9, Confess
- 9 Philippians 4:8, Whatever Is...
- 10 Psalm 118:24, Rejoice Today
- 11 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Encourage One Another
- 12 James 3:18, Sow Peace
- 13 Psalm 139:13-14, Wonderfully Made
- 14 Luke 24:50-51, Blessed Them
- 15 James 1:12, The Lord Promised
- 16 Psalm 25:8-9, Instructs, Guides, Teaches
- 17 Proverbs 4:23, Guard Your Heart
- 18 Romans 8:38-39, Nothing
- 19 Isaiah 55:8, Not Our Thoughts Or Ways
- 20 Psalm 103:13, Compassion
- 21 2 Corinthians 4:18, On What Is Unseen
- 22 1 John 5:13, Have Eternal Life
- 23 Psalm 119:105, Lamp And Light
- 24 Acts 2:1-2, Wind From Heaven
- 25 Luke 11:13, How Much More?
- 26 Psalm 27:1, Whom Shall I Fear?
- 27 1 Peter 1:3, A Living Hope
- 28 2 Timothy 1:7, Power, Love And Self-Discipline
- 29 Proverbs 15:22, Many Wise Advisers
- 30 Hebrews 13:8, Yesterday, Today And Tomorrow
- 31 Psalm 8:4 Mindful Of Us

DEVOTION

Do you ever walk through a doorway and into another room and wonder...? “Now what in the world am looking for?” Usually that happens to me when I’m going into the garage. My brother calls that “Threshold Disease,” – while walking through a threshold of a door from one room to another it wipes clean your brain’s memory hard drive. He is joking of course.

Do you ever have difficulty remembering things? Ever forget things? One of my friends shared this at a meeting awhile back...”I’m long on forgetting and short on remembering.” That can be all of us at times.

Years before she died, my mom’s memory left her. Dementia, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s have a way of doing that. I remember the day she forgot who I was. When I left her room I went out into the hall, sat down and cried. An angel of mercy showed up, Mom’s nurse. She put a hand on my shoulder and said, “She may no longer know you are but you know who she is.”

God remembers who we are. Jesus’ last words in the Matthew 28:20 comfort us, **“Remember, I am with you always.”** How long is always? Forever.

In addition to remembering, God forgets, too. It says in Hebrews 8 that God forgets our past. God has forgiven all of the low-down, mean things we have done; all our past sins are completely wiped away in Jesus’ death and resurrection. God remembers them no more. Forever.

Our memory may fade, it may even completely leave us. Thanks be to God that His love, grace, and forgiveness will never leave us, whether we remember it or not. — PASTOR KALLAND



Lake Harriet
Bandshell Worship
10am, Sunday, May 30, 2021
SERMON BY PASTOR LOSE



Grateful: 2020-2021 in Review

What a year to begin my journey as Adult Education Coordinator! To be perfectly honest, it was both challenging *and* exciting to pivot to online class offerings. I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many of you better via the world of Zoom, emails, and phone calls. And I look forward to next fall when we (fingers-crossed) resume in-person classes.

HOWEVER! Please know that online offerings will not be going anywhere! Bible study registrations increased threefold+ over the past year which tells me that people appreciate the convenience of watching the videos and studying the Bible when it works best for you. (Not to mention the comfort-factor of watching Pastor Ruud explain what it means to be a Lutheran or Pastor Lose talk about the really hard parts of the Bible while in your pajamas on your favorite couch!)

So please know that we've got you ALL in mind as Pastors Lose, Ruud, and I plan for future opportunities to learn from our pastors and to discuss God's word and how it works in our lives. Our goals for classes are to:

- Gather in-person at church and in small group settings,
- Offer online videos, Zooms and the like,
- Combine both options to make adult education work for all!

How exactly? Excellent question! We're thinking and planning and dreaming right now. What I do know for sure is that I've heard from so many whose faith lives (mine included!) have been exponentially expanded this year by delving into more Bible questions (Living the Message), studying what the Evangelist Matthew wrote (both through the Gospel of Matthew class and worship), and so much more... and our goal is to continue offering adult education opportunities like these that reach more and more people.

Thanks to all who dove deeper into God's story—our story!—this year. I invite all Mount Olivet members and friends to join in. All are welcome! (Reminder: all of the 2020-2021 video offerings are available anytime at mtolivet.org/education.)

More information about summer and fall offerings coming soon! I look forward to continuing to learn and grow in God's word with you all!

KATIE STEVENSON, *Adult Education Coordinator*



EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE* BUT

WERE AFRAID TO ASK...

Q&A WITH PASTORS LOSE & RUUD

What a year we've had exploring the Bible with you all! Pastor Ruud and I have had so much fun digging into what we think are some of the most common and most important questions about the Bible. From the beginning, we've often said that the mark of good Bible study isn't simply how many questions it answers, but how many new ones it raises, and so we've regularly asked you to share some of the questions that have occurred to you. And you've delivered! :) So for our final scheduled presentation this year, we've grouped a number of your questions together and will try to dig into them together in what we hope will be a lively, informative, fun, and faithful exploration of the book of life we call the Bible. Join us! — PASTOR LOSE

MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP & PICNIC

**Sunday, May 9, 2021,
Worship begins at 10am**

Join us for a Mother's Day worship service and picnic as we reimagine our annual Mother's Day Brunch with an emphasis on safety for all. Pastor Kurt Kalland and Rev. Theresa Latini, Executive Director of Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, will lead a beautiful worship service in the chapel with special music from Linda Berger, piano. After worship, enjoy a delicious meal prepared by our kitchen. Gather and eat your meal at outside tables and chairs, spread a blanket out on the grass, or sit in our large dining room as you celebrate the special moms in your life. A trip to the Conference & Retreat Center is not complete without a family walk through the woods, prairie, and marsh!

\$15 per person or \$50 family max.

Indoor worship capacity is limited!

Register at mtolivet.org.

SPRING PLANTING DAY

**Saturday, May 15, 2021,
9am**

Volunteers of all ages are asked to lend a hand for our Spring Planting Day. Join us as we ready the grounds for spring and summer by planting flowers, wood chipping the trails, and helping with other seasonal projects. When the work is done, it is time for some fun! Enjoy a delicious meal from our kitchen, have a swim in the pool, or explore the trails. Thank you for helping us care for God's creation! Register at mtolivet.org.



A Summer of Music & Worship

The beauty of the Conference & Retreat Center is inspiring and uplifting in every season, but there is something special about summers spent on our grounds. The warm winds blow through the prairie grasses and flowerbeds display a rainbow of colorful blooms. The dense forest cools you on an afternoon walk and the sun shines brightly through the windowed walls of the chapel.

We invite you to experience the joy of summer with us this year! Our beloved Midweek Summer Worship is back and in-person this year. Join us on Wednesday evenings from June 30-August 4 for warm fellowship, delicious food, nature talks, and inspirational worship.

We are excited to bring you live music throughout the summer too! Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy our outdoor concert series, starting on June 4 with Tangled Blue, a Minneapolis based group, featuring ELCA pastor-musicians Joel and Aimee Pakan and specializing in upbeat, engaging songs.

For more details and to register for Midweek Summer Worship and the Outdoor Concert Series visit mtolivet.org.

Healing Collective Trauma

Saturday, May 22, 9-11 am, \$20.

Join us for the final virtual workshop of our "Living Well, Leading Well" series. As we cope with the mounting losses, anxieties and uncertainties of our current pandemic, many of us feel like we are losing our footing. Having some awareness of trauma and its impact on our personal, intergenerational, and collective lives can increase our self-understanding and compassion. Join us in exploring concrete psychological and spiritual tools for increasing resilience and finding hope and joy in the midst of pain. Led by Rev. Dr. Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, Professor of Pastoral Theology Emerita at Princeton Theological Seminary and author of an award-winning book, *Bearing the Unbearable: Trauma, Gospel and Pastoral Care*. Register at mtolivet.org.

Returning to “Normal” Life after the Pandemic: Sorting out Questions and Concerns

Over the past year, most people have learned how to properly socially distance and wear a mask while in public and avoid large gatherings and crowds. With the possibility of getting vaccinated and Covid-19 restrictions lessening, people will soon appear and function in society with others. But although it may sound like a relief at first, going from pandemic life to a return to pre-pandemic normalcy may be difficult. Returning to normalcy may not come as quickly as expected.

For example, people who have some social anxiety may be worried about how to go back and face their anxiety-provoking situations again. It may have been a relief to avoid activities with difficult family members, unpleasant co-worker situations, peer pressure at school, and so forth. And for others without social anxiety, some activities were simply just simpler to sidestep for a year.

The fact is, some people are ready to go back to pre-pandemic life and some are more cautious. You might have questions like, “Will I remember how to have social skills?” or “Will I be comfortable without a mask?” or “Can I feel safe with a crowd?” You have to determine your own comfort with going back to pre-pandemic life. It is vital to recognize what works for you and what you need, and not feel pushed into something which may be uncomfortable for you.

It’s important to reach out to people to discuss and sort some of these questions out. You may need help, and that is okay. You can talk to trusted members of your social support network. Another option is to contact the Mount Olivet Counseling Service and make an appointment to discuss your concerns with a therapist. We can help you determine your own comfort levels and move forward confidently into “normal” life.

KAREN PIEPER, MA, LPC, Mount Olivet Counseling Services



WE’RE HERE TO HELP

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church is one of the few churches in America which provides professional, ethical, licensed counseling services to aid church as well as community members, in dealing with the tensions, pressures, and stresses of daily life. Our services help people work through their problems through the use of psychotherapy and/or medication in a supportive setting that is open to those of all faith perspectives. Our therapists include Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, and a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. We offer therapy for adults, older children, adolescents, couples and families. A variety of therapy groups are offered as well. We are currently offering secure telehealth services via video or telephone, due to COVID-19.

To schedule an appointment or gain more information about Mount Olivet Counseling Service, please contact Molly Pach at 612.927.7335 ext. 10, or by email at mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org



MILITARY SERVICE

If you or a family member are currently serving in the military, we would love to know. Please contact Andrea Brown in our Pastoral Care Department at 612.767.2209 or andreab@mtolivet.org

NEW BABY?

Share the news! If you or a family member are welcoming a new addition to your family, we want to know. Please call or email Andrea Brown at andreab@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2209.

MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT'S VIRTUAL BREAKFAST OF HOPE

Thursday, May 20, 2021, 8:30-9:30am, \$25

Are you living the life you want? Learn how to live your life intentionally with nationally known speakers Kelli Nielsen and Joe Davis. Join us for Mental Health Connect's 3rd Annual Virtual Breakfast of Hope!

Kelli Nielsen, The Grief Guru, will speak on "Advancing Through Adversity." Kelli is a prominent author, consultant, and teacher. Kelli will discuss how to navigate through adversity in a productive way.

Joe Davis, Artist and Educator, will speak on "The Healing Community and Vulnerability."

Joe is the Founder and Director of the multimedia production company, The New Renaissance, and co-creator of JUSTmove, racial justice education through art.

You will learn more about what Mental Health Connect is doing in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas for people with Mental Health concerns, and leave with resources to help you, your friends and loved ones. Register at mtolivet.org.

CELEBRATING SEVEN YEARS OF CARING!

Did you know Mount Olivet, in partnership with Cassia, has their own faith-based, nonprofit, Medicare Certified hospice organization named Grace Hospice?

This summer Grace Hospice will celebrate seven years as a highly rated, Twin Cities community based hospice program. Having grown immensely since 2014, Grace has cared for over 2,300 patients and their loved ones. Providing care wherever someone calls home, whether that be a private home, nursing home, assisted living, memory care or group home setting. Staff and volunteers provide care with heart, passion and calling. Grace Hospice believes this time is sacred and should be treated with the utmost dignity and respect.

The term "hospice" can often be associated with a stigma, as there are various myths about hospice. Many believe hospice is a 'place' or is only for those with few days left on this earth. In reality, hospice is specialized care for those with a life limiting illness, provided wherever a person calls home and delivered through medical, personal, emotional and spiritual care services. Individuals are proven to live almost a month longer on hospice as compared to traditional care. Hospice is a choice and it's your right to interview organizations to find the program that best fits you and your family.

Have questions? Please contact Kelsey at klitietje@gracecaring.org or 651.219.0046.

KELSEY TIETJE, LSW, MBA, Hospice Liaison Lead

NURSE'S NOTE

You can help stop the pandemic by getting a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you! Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is one of the best ways to protect yourself and everyone around you. The more people who get vaccinated against COVID-19, the better it is for us all. By stopping the spread of COVID-19, we can keep businesses, schools, and other venues (like churches!) open. Please get the first vaccine that becomes available to you.

You should still follow public health recommendations after getting vaccinated for now. We are still learning how the vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. We know these vaccines are good at preventing people from getting sick, but we don't have enough information yet to say whether someone who was vaccinated may still spread the disease to others if they get infected with COVID-19. It may take one or two doses to be fully vaccinated, depending on the brand of vaccine. After your final COVID-19 vaccine dose, it takes about two weeks for your body to build up protection. It is important to continue to follow all public health guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19 even after you are fully vaccinated. This includes wearing a mask, staying 6-feet from others, and washing your hands when out in public spaces, or interacting with people from multiple households who are not vaccinated. Continue to follow guidance at your workplace, school, and other settings as well. Together, we can end this pandemic!

SARAH PRESCHER, Registered Nurse

UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY

To register for these events, please contact Anna Herd aherd@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2279, Annie Moynihan amoynihn@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2211, or Julia Jallo jjallo@mtolivet.org, 952.767.1502.



HI-LEAGUE

5/12: Wednesday Night Church, *Mpls Campus* 7-8pm.
5/19: Wednesday Night Church, *West Campus*, 7-8pm.
5/23: Last Hi-League of 2020-2021 School year, *Mpls Campus*, 7-8pm.



JHA

5/7: PARKING LOT PARTY 7pm hosted at Mpls! We are so thankful for all your flexibility during a hard year. This party is to celebrate a weird but great year of JHA!



BACCALAUREATE

5/16: 12noon, Mpls Campus
5/23: 12noon, West Campus
We are looking forward to celebrating our 2021 Mount Olivet Graduates! There will be a service and time for fellowship.



AGP

5/3: AGP CELEBRATION 4:45-5:45pm.
We will be meeting in the 1700 Parking Lot to celebrate another great year of AGP!



COF

5/10: END OF THE YEAR PARTY 6-7pm, *via Zoom*. A celebration to end our year together! Additional details to come via email.



MO UNITED

5/18: END OF YEAR PARTY 6-7pm. We will be meeting via Zoom to celebrate all the fun moments we had in MO United this year!



COP

Make sure to sign up for COP this Summer! We are so excited to be together once again, in our most favorite place!



SUMMER!

We are so excited to hang with you this summer! Whether it's at COP, counseling Day Camps, our events, or meeting up for a chat. We are here for you!

THANK YOU SENIORS!

As a Youth Staff we want to say congratulations to each of you in the graduating class of 2021. As you look back and reflect on your years growing up at Mount Olivet Church we hope you created fond memories, met good people and realized that God is with you through both your high times and your low times. As you start the next chapter of your life, take some time to remember back and reminisce on some of those special people and special memories. Think back to a Sunday School or Confirmation teacher that taught you more about God and Jesus and made the Bible come to life. Think back to a fun JHA lockout with friends and all the laughter and crazy moments that come when you pull an all-nighter! Think back on singing on a Cathedral Choir Trip and looking out at the congregation realizing you truly were spreading God's love through song to everyone in attendance. Think back on a friendship you made with your partner in Adopt-a-Grandparent, Circle of Friends or MO United. Think back on a time a Pastor, Youth Leader, or church friend had just the right words to comfort you in your sadness. Think back to a quiet moment of solitude at Cathedral of the Pines Camp. Those special people and places make a real difference in our life and we want you to know we are thankful for your commitment to attending, volunteering and loving your church and faith.

Always know that Mount Olivet Church and Cathedral of the Pines Camp are your place and will be for the rest of your life. We are so proud of each of you and we will talk to you all soon!

— The Mount Olivet Youth Staff

MEET JULIA JALLO

Hi everyone! My name is Julia Jallo and I am the new Youth Coordinator at the West Campus! For those of you who do not know me, here's a little bit about me! I grew up going to Mount Olivet, graduated from Hopkins High School in 2016, and finished my degree in December of 2020 from the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse. I was also on camp staff in 2019 and will be one of Kristi's assistants this upcoming summer. First off, Mount Olivet is and always has been a place of comfort, of good spirits, and contentment. Growing up, it was where I escaped the stress, the pressure, and heaviness life brought on. But more than anything, it was a place where I created strong, healthy relationships with friends and the community around me, with my faith, and most importantly with myself. The impact Mount Olivet has had on my life have been immense in shaping who I am today, and that is a big reason why I accepted this position. I want everyone coming through the doors of Mount Olivet to have that same opportunity. I hope to influence their lives and support them in their faith and their relationships. During these hard times, I know the impacts of COVID-19 have made being a kid, being a teenager, and even an adult, extremely difficult. As the youth coordinator I feel prepared and ready to be a support system, a mentor, and positive influence on the youth, and also on the Mount Olivet community. I am beyond excited to get started, and to hopefully see you all in person very soon!

— Julia Jallo, Coordinator of Senior & Junior High Youth, West Campus



SO MANY NAME TAGS

The trash can in my room is covered in name tags! I unintentionally started a name tag collection, on my trash can, as a reminders of the good times at my favorite place, Mount Olivet. I first started collecting name tags in 8th grade, around the time I started to appreciate my church community. The first layer are Adopt-A-Grandparent name tags, the first service opportunity I was involved in. The more recent name tags are from Circle of Friends, which I have been involved in since 9th grade. Prominently on the top, I secured the magnetic, official Mount Olivet name tag I received for helping with Sunday School. To me, the quality of this name tag represents the commitment I made to my faith and my church. It's the most permanent one of my collection, similar to the permanence of my faith and the relationships I've built at Mount Olivet. In addition to all of MY name tags, I have some of my friends' tags, a few of my dad's, and a couple stickers from the pumpkin patch! I can't wait to be back at church and add more name tags to my collection!



SUMMER PROGRAMS WITH CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Register online for a session of Day Camp or Vacation Bible School – we have missed you and would love to be part of your summer plans. We are collaborating with the God's Kids Sing staff and will have music and movement and lots of familiar faces at all of our camp options this summer.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 28-30, Mpls Campus, 8:30am-12noon, Take Home VBS: FREE; In-Person VBS: \$40/camper

We're bringing Vacation Bible School to you in **two** ways this summer! We'll have a take-home VBS option available for pick-up in early June (details to come) and we invite preschoolers (age 4) through 2nd graders to participate in-person for a 3-day VBS camp.

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMP

Camp will be daily 8:30am-4:30pm and offered at the Mpls Campus.

1st - 4th Graders: June 14-18

1st - 4th Graders: July 12-16

3rd - 6th Graders: July 26-30

Cost is \$175 per camper per week.

Spend a week with us - we have missed you! We'll have a little bit of everything during day camp: games, music, theme days, outdoor activities, in-house field trips, arts/crafts, devotions, and more! Campers and counselors will be in pods for the week and we'll be outdoors as much as possible.

Register at mtolivet.org.

COUNSELORS NEEDED!

We have an action packed and fun summer ahead and Hi-Leaguers, we need your help! If you're interested in counseling this summer for a session of Day Camp or Vacation Bible School, please contact Amy Porthan with questions. Our Counselor training will be in-person at the Mpls Campus on Saturday, June 12 from 11:30am-12:30pm with Amy Porthan!

MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL

MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN! We're pleased to announce that the Mount Olivet Preschool will be using ProCare software to make online registration and preschool billing logistics easy and convenient for parents! This new web-based software will encompass registration, online tuition payments, and access to receipts/tax documents. Please use the link online to create your account/register. Please contact Katy Michaletz with any questions, kmichaletz@mtolivet.org or 612-767-2245.

MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL - JOIN OUR TEAM! We're in the process of hiring highly qualified teachers for the re-opening of the preschool this fall. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Katy Michaletz, kmichaletz@mtolivet.org for more hiring information.



2021 CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP!

We are so excited to welcome campers, staff and volunteers back to Cathedral of the Pines for the Summer of 2021! While plans are evolving with the changing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, here are a few important pieces of information you should know to prepare yourself or your child for this summer at COP.

- All campers, counselors, workstaff and volunteers will be required to test negative within 72 hours of their arrival at Cathedral of the Pines.
- We highly encourage all participants age 16 and over to get a vaccination as soon as they are able.
- At this time we are accepting registrations for 2/3 camper capacity for each session. We will evaluate as the summer goes along and will add more spots as needed as the numbers and CDC and MDH guidelines allow.
- Parents of all campers, counselors and workstaff must be available to pick their child up in the event that they develop symptoms during their time at camp.
- At this time, following the guidance of the American Camping Association and CDC, visitors will not be allowed at Cathedral of the Pines for the summer of 2021.
- If you have questions, please contact Kris Ericksen by email at krise@mtolivet.org or by phone at 612-767-2207.
- We will continue to update information on the website.

We look forward to an awesome summer at Cathedral of the Pines! See you at camp!

2021 CAMP SCHEDULE

5/28 - 5/31: Opening Weekend Volunteers

6/3 - 6/6: Hi-er League Weekend

6/14 - 6/19: Family Work Week

6/20 - 6/24: Summer Starter (11/12/Graduates)

6/24 - 6/27: 2020 Confirmation Class (10th Graders)

6/27 - 7/2: 5th, 6th & 7th Grades

7/6 - 7/9: 2021 Graduate Retreat

7/9 - 7/14: Confirmation 1

7/14 - 7/19: 6th, 7th & 8th Grades

7/19 - 7/23: 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades

7/23 - 7/28: 6th, 7th & 8th Grades

7/28 - 8/2: Confirmation 2

8/2 - 8/7: 6th, 7th & 8th Grades

8/7 - 8/11: 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades

8/11 - 8/15: Hi League Retreat (Grades 10/11/12)

8/19 - 8/22: Family Camp

8/26 - 8/29: Thursday/MO Friends (Members only)

Senior Weekend, Young Marrieds, and Fall Weekend Camp are still to be determined.



JOIN US FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

If you haven't had a chance to attend one of our in-person worship services, we wanted to provide you with our protocol for how we are keeping you safe coming back into our sanctuaries for worship. As we do so, your safety, and the safety of others, will continue to be our priority! Below is an outline of the steps and procedures Mount Olivet will follow with the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health.

- Worship services are at 9am and 11am at both campuses.
- Registration is required for contact tracing and numbers.
- Registration for the current week's worship opens Monday mornings at 9am.
- Registration is available online, or by calling Nancy Nelson at 612.767.2264
- There will be 200 worshipers per service at the Mpls Campus and 100 worshipers per service at the West Campus.
- Doors 1 and 2 at both campuses will be open 30 minutes before worship and the prelude will begin 15 minutes prior to worship.
- Please enter and exit the building through doors 1 and 2 (by the main sanctuary outside our parking lot).
- You will be welcomed by a staff members, and check-in with them before entering the sanctuaries.
- All worshipers are required to wear a mask.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the check-in tables.
- There are no bulletins, no singing, and no offering taken during the service
- Please honor social distancing practices and remain six feet apart from other people.
- Reserved spaces are marked at both campuses.
- After worship Mount Olivet staff dismisses the congregation by rows, starting with the back working towards the front of the sanctuary. We request that you please exit the building following worship.
- There are staff members available at each worship service to offer guidance to attendees.

As a reminder, if you are not feeling well, have an underlying health condition or live with someone who does, please stay home and worship with us online. We understand you cannot and should not participate on Sundays. And, as we've learned so often over the last year, all of these plans are subject to change depending on the circumstances and in light of what we learn.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE

West Campus Sanctuary Seating, Mpls Campus Sanctuary Seating, Amanda Jenkins escorting members to an open seat at the Mpls Campus, Geoff Arenson checking-in a family at the West Campus.



What's Next?

Q&A with the Senior Pastor

WE'VE BEEN BACK AT WORSHIP FOR ABOUT A MONTH NOW. HOW'S IT GOING?

It's been wonderful to be able to worship in our sanctuaries again. Seeing people in the pews, worshipping together, hearing the organ, greeting folks as they come in and as they leave, has all been tremendous. It's different, and not yet back to normal, but we've been able to take this important step forward in a way that honors our commitment to care for the health of our members, staff, and community and that feels really good.

MANY OF US HAVE ENJOYED THE RECORDED WORSHIP, WILL THAT CONTINUE? AND DO YOU WORRY PEOPLE MIGHT PREFER THAT TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP?

I'm incredibly proud of, and grateful for, the hard work of our staff to keep our folks connected with their church, and one of the clear successes has been the consistent quality of worship. It's not the same as being together, but it's been a wonderful way to get through this challenging time. We plan to continue recording worship to put online until things are back to normal. And by "normal," I mean until we see our choirs processing and can sing during worship again. At that time, we'll switch back to live-streaming one or more of the services and posting a recording of that for people who missed Sunday. We've learned a lot this year, so our live-streamed services will be enhanced for a better worship experience, but I also believe that nothing substitutes for being together in-person. I don't think too many people will make a decision about coming to church based on whether there's a live-stream, but if they are away on a Sunday or live out of town, the live-stream is fantastic way to worship and stay connected.

IT'S BEEN A HARD YEAR, BUT MOUNT OLIVET SEEMS TO BE COMING OUT OF IT PRETTY WELL.

It's been a very hard year, with so much loss and isolation. But the staff and congregation of Mount Olivet have proven to be incredibly resilient. And amid the challenges, some pretty amazing things have happened, including the tenfold growth of our outreach to the communities we serve through our Community Meals and Greet & Give Donation Drives, nearly tripling the number of people involved in adult education, doubling the average number of folks engaging in worship, and creating new resources for our children and families like Going God's Way, and more.

WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU LEARNED?

Not seeing people face-to-face has absolutely been the hardest part of the last year. But it taught us to reach out, connect with, and engage with folks in so many new ways. Our Living the Message Bible Study is a great example. We have nearly 600 Mount Olivet members engaged in Bible study, viewing a recorded presentation and then connecting with each other to discuss it by Zoom. Some of those folks are Mount Olivet members living across the country while others are completely new to Mount Olivet. We have, in a relatively short time, built a third – digital – campus that will serve our members for years to come. And while we're super excited to get back to lots of familiar things – fellowship groups, in-person confirmation and Hi-League, singing together on Sunday mornings – there are also a number of things that are here to stay.

HOW ARE THE CHURCH'S FINANCES? Right now, we're in a pretty good place. We had several very generous year-end gifts that in turn spurred others to be generous, we received a federal PPP loan that was forgiven, and early on we made some difficult but necessary decisions to re-align our staffing to match our current programming and reduce our budget. All of those things contributed to our ending the year in a stable position. But absent any of those, things could have been different. So we will continue to be dependent on God's grace and the generosity of our members to move into a post-pandemic future with confidence.

SPEAKING OF POST-PANDEMIC, WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT?

Right now, I can't wait to get up to Cathedral of the Pines! Not having Camp last year was one of the most difficult decisions we made to keep everyone safe, and being back at COP this summer will be incredibly meaningful and important for all of us. I'm also really excited about re-opening our Preschool, particularly as we've expanded it into an all-day, five-day-a-week, year-round program that we believe will meet the needs of more families and introduce them to all that Mount Olivet has to offer. And I just can't wait to see our Cathedral and Senior Choirs marching down the aisle surrounded by pews filled with our members. There's a lot to look forward to, and a lot for which to be grateful!



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5025 KNOX AVENUE SOUTH • MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55419-1095

PERIODICALS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN

Mount Olivet Messenger

USPS 365-500

Published monthly by
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
5025 Knox Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419-1095

Periodicals postage paid at
St. Paul, MN

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to
Mount Olivet Messenger
5025 Knox Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419-1095



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