

JUNE 2021

BELIEVING, BELONGING, BECOMING

MOUNT OLIVET
MESSENGER



mtolivet.org



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W WEST CAMPUS

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

JUNE 6

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM AND PROMISE OF GOD

Genesis 15:1-6

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

M 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Ruud

W 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Freeman

JUNE 13

ABRAHAM AND SARAH WILL CONCEIVE

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-6

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

M 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten

W 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor MacLean

JUNE 20

JACOB WRESTLES WITH AN ANGEL & COMMUNION SUNDAY

Genesis 32:22-31

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

M 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Ruud

JUNE 27

CROSSING THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10-29

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

M 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Dixon

W 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten

COVER PHOTO

Painting of splitting of the Red Sea by Dr. Lidia Kozenitzky

A SUMMER OF FAITH ALIVE POEMS AND PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

Join Pastor Bill MacLean and the Conference & Retreat Center Director, the Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini as they explore the inspiring insights, honest struggles, soaring praise, and earthy wisdom of the Old Testament. With a special emphasis on the book of Psalms, this Faith Alive series will touch on some of the most beautiful and masterful pieces of ancient literature.

You can listen to Faith Alive anytime on the Mount Olivet website – mtolivet.org – under the “Worship Tab” or tune in on Sundays at 11am on WDGY 740AM where it follows the broadcast of our Sunday worship.

SCHEDULE: June: Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini; July: Pastor Bill MacLean; August: Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini

WEDNESDAYS

OPEN PRAYER TIME

M W 11am-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.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP AT MOCRC

More details are available on page 7.



God Makes a Way!

It's been a hard year. To say the least. Pandemic, job loss, grief, uncertainty, social upheaval, inequity, and more. Yes, a hard year. But amid the hardships, moments of grace and wonder and resilience and creativity and gratitude. Or, to put it another way: amid a very hard year, we yet experienced God's presence with us and among us, guiding us, leading us, showing us the way forward. Throughout this year, a single affirmation keeps coming to my mind: "When there is no way, God makes a way."

I first heard that confession at a worship service in Philadelphia. I was bringing greetings from the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia to one of our partner congregations, a historically African American church. If you've ever worshiped in an African American congregation, you may be familiar with the interactive, call-and-response quality of the sermon. Often, the preacher will build to a refrain that both captures the theme of the sermon and invites the participation of the congregation. "It's Friday," the preacher may say, describing the challenges of life in the world, "but Sunday's coming," the congregation responds, proclaiming the Easter promise of resurrection. Or, "God is good," the minister may intone, "all the time," the congregation responds, and then reverses, as the minister says, "All the time," and the congregation affirms, "God is good!"

At this particular service, the preacher surveyed a number of stories across the pages of Scripture where, just when it seemed like there was no cause for hope, God provided a way forward. Which led to his refrain, "When there is no way," with the congregation joining in, "God makes a way." I've since learned that call-and-response refrain is a well-known summary of the biblical promise of God's abiding presence and has been set to music more than once. Many trace its origin to Isaiah's reminder to Israel of the character of their God: "I am the Lord, the Holy One and Creator of Israel, the One who makes a way through the sea and forges a path through the mighty waters" (Is. 43:15-16).

The refrain and confession of faith that "God makes a way" seems to capture so well our experience this past year. Unable to worship together in-person on Sunday mornings, we saw a remarkable increase in engagement with our worship services in a new digital format. Faced with incredible need in our communities, we quickly adapted our sit-down community meal into a grab-and-go lifeline

for thousands. And these are just two of many, many examples of when, facing tremendous challenges, we learned that we follow a God who makes a way and leads us forward.

Which doesn't mean it's always been easy. Along with many others of our congregation this year, I and my siblings were daunted by the prospect of holding a memorial service for our father amid COVID. Social distancing, everyone masked, no singing, and limited only to family and a handful of friends – this was not what any of us wanted or imagined. And yet – and again as so many of our congregation who have lost loved ones this past year discovered – even though there were fewer than 20 of us present, the promise of resurrection was clear, our commendation of him to the Lord confident, and God's presence among us palpable and comforting. God made a way.

To remind us of God's constant support and guidance, and to kindle our courage as we look ahead to continued and faithful ministry in Mount Olivet's 102nd year, on Sundays this summer we will delve into stories across the Scriptures that witness to the God who makes a way. In June, we will explore in narrative order four central stories from the Old Testament: the call of Abraham to a foreign land to become the "father many nations" (June 6); the promise of a son to Abraham and Sarah, unable to conceive across their adult lives and now in their nineties surely too old to imagine doing so (June 13); the scoundrel Jacob's transformative encounter with the Lord when stuck between a rock and a hard place (June 20); and the story Isaiah references, God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt through the impassable Red Sea (June 27).

Yes, it has been a hard year, and yet amid the hardships many of us have been renewed in our faith and grown more appreciative of all Mount Olivet has to offer. So join us – in-person or online – as together we are strengthened by the promise that when there is no way, God makes a way!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



"Indeed, the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any doubled-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

—Hebrews 4:12

Scripture is filled with affirmations about the power of God's Word. Present at Creation, active through the prophets, embodied and extended in the ministry of Jesus, God's Word does things! Yet, all too often, we may have a hard time drawing on the resources of Scripture to equip and strengthen us for life in God's world.

With the hope of inviting deeper and more meaningful engagement with Scripture, your Mount Olivet pastors will make use of the primary way most of us hear the Word of God – in Sunday worship! – and invite us into a deeper dive. Each Wednesday this summer, and following the summer preaching series "God Makes a Way," we'll post a 5-minute conversation between two of the pastors going a little deeper into the biblical story for the upcoming Sunday. We'll ask questions. We'll offer ideas. We'll probably crack a few jokes, and no doubt confess our own befuddlements, all in hopes of inviting you to do the same. Then we'll carry the story together to Sunday and notice how it has taken shape for each of us as a truly living word of faith.

So, look for your email each Wednesday to prime a bit for Sunday's message and take a deeper dive into the Word which, indeed, is living and active and invites us reliably to more abundant life.

Subscribers will receive "The Gospel Unplugged" video email each Wednesday. Pastor Lose or Pastor Ruud will interview one of the upcoming preaching pastors. If you are not yet a subscriber, please visit mtolivet.org and navigate to our Connect @ Mount Olivet page to become one!

LIFE & GROWTH

APR 17 - MAY 14

BAPTISMS

Mika Marlene Anderson
daughter of Isabelle and Maxwell
Berit Julianne Beito
daughter of Sue and Tom
Carson William Foreman
son of Aubree and Aaron
Ashten James Franklin
son of Allison and Austen
Hudson Hayes Maxwell
son of Ashley and Ben
Lachlan John Meeker
son of Hannah and Johnny
Tollef Hendrix Miller
son of Danielle and Eric
Suzette Elizabeth Patil
daughter of Ali and Zach
Carson Thatcher Sime
son of Ashley and Kasey
Finley Nels Skluzacek
son of Jackie and Dennis
Lauren Elizabeth Walcker
daughter of Chelsea and Nathan

WEDDINGS

Whitley Follestad & Michael Hollway, April 24
Melanie Harrison & Anders Johnson, May 8

DEATHS

Laurie M. Balzer, 1929 – 2021
Pamela A. Beckman, 1955 – 2021
Thelma (Tolly) Berger, 1922 – 2021
Grace E. Bergin, 1931 – 2021
Suzanne M. Bruning, 1968 – 2021
Pamela J. Chrissinger, 1945 – 2021
Sue Deppe, 1928 – 2021
Carolyn M. Huble, 1936 – 2021
Carl P. Johnson, 1998 – 2021
Hazel M. Kloster, 1929 – 2021
Jeffrey J. Morken, 1969 – 2021
Elizabeth Reese-Marton, 1930 – 2021
Nelson E. Schmidt, 1944 – 2021
F. Keith Senn, 1935 - 2021
Harlan C. Tronvold, 1932 – 2021
Sylvia J. Wogoman, 1932 – 2021
Gloria J. Wyatt, 1945 – 2021



DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND

JUNE 2021

- 1 Luke 9:24, Save And Lose, Lose And Save
- 2 1 Corinthians 15:22, Alive Again
- 3 Romans 5:7-8, While We Were Still Sinners
- 4 Hebrews 8:6, Better Promises
- 5 Joshua 1:8, Meditate On It Night And Day
- 6 James 1:3, Produces Perseverance
- 7 John 3:17, To Save The World
- 8 Zephaniah 3:17, The Lord Is With You
- 9 Isaiah 43:4, Precious, Honored, Loved
- 10 Matthew 18:15, Just Between The Two Of You
- 11 Ephesians 4:32, Compassionate Forgiveness
- 12 Ecclesiastes 11:15, Cannot Understand
- 13 Romans 12:10, Devoted Honor
- 14 James 1:19, Slow To Speak And Slow To Anger
- 15 Romans 15:2, Build Up Neighbors
- 16 Acts 20:24, The Good News
- 17 Psalm 103:17-18, Everlasting To Everlasting
- 18 Colossians 4:5-6, Full Of Grace And Seasoned With Salt
- 19 Romans 12:12, Joyful, Patient and Faithful
- 20 Hebrews 11:6, Earnestly Seek
- 21 Psalm 20:4, Desire Of Your Heart
- 22 Luke 11:28, Hear And Obey
- 23 John 10:28-30, No One will Snatch Them
- 24 Romans 12:15, Rejoice and Mourn
- 25 Hebrews 6:10, God Is Not Unjust
- 26 Philippians 4:6-7, Transcends All Understanding
- 27 2 Chronicles 7:14, Humble Ourselves
- 28 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Compassion And Comfort
- 29 Psalm 56:3, When Afraid, Trust God
- 30 Psalm 56:4, What Can Mortals Do To Us?

DEVOTION

Walking around Lake of the Isles early this morning, I saw the most beautiful garden filled with tulips. Hundreds of them! A sea of yellow and red and orange. It was so beautiful that I stopped in my tracks, crossed the street, and stared at the beauty of God's creation!

Normally I'd just zip by with a passing glance, but something about this year has made me realize that simply 'zipping by' all that God has given us, is not at all what God intends for us. How about you? When was the last time you actually allowed

yourself the sheer luxury of going for a walk and looking at the beauty that surrounds us? The earth, our neighbors, or those lifelong friends and family that we can so easily take for granted? Are we stopping to smell the proverbial roses?

Thank you God for spring! Spring in so, so many ways. For daffodils and tulips and hosta bursting forth from the earth. For teeny tiny mallards swimming next to their mommas, for forgiveness and second chances. For the healing touch of a loving embrace, and for the life-giving Sunday mornings when we can gather with our church family to worship You.

Are there still clouds on the horizon? Absolutely. Always have been and always will be. But today just for a moment, let's pause and take in all the gifts surrounding us, and look upward and travel onward and not be afraid.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." —Jeremiah 29:11
— PASTOR HAMMERSTEN



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY PASTOR SCOTT & THANK YOU FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT MOUNT OLIVET

Pastor Scott has lovingly served our greater community for more than 50 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." We are grateful for his servant heart and ability to provide and connect with those in need. When asked how long he planned to continue actively working Pastor replied, "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." Thank you, Pastor Scott! Read a full article celebrating Pastor Scott in the 2020 October Messenger, available online and at church.



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.



JUNE 13

RECONNECT WITH FLYING SOLO *After the 11am service, Mpls Campus.* Please join us in the courtyard for coffee and cookies! We are an Adventure, Service and Fellowship group for singles ages 40-60.



JUNE 1 - 30

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE (MPLS) & MARKET (WEST) VENDORS WANTED! If you or someone you know would like to be a vendor, fill out our application at mtolivet.org. Vendors will be notified by August 1 if they are selected.



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.

MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD ASSEMBLY SUMMARY APRIL 23-24, 2021

The assembly, focused on the theme, "Jubilee Reclaimed: Opening the Way." Jubilee is a spiritual practice of retiring debts, restoring what people have lost, and offering a fresh start for all. Karen Johnson, Mary Knutson, and Marilyn Sharpe represented Mount Olivet and offer a summary of key moments that describe the impact of the 135 congregations in the Minneapolis Area Synod on the wellbeing of all of God's family.

- Friday's *Dwelling in the Word* with Rev. Kate Reuer Welton, Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota, focused on Jesus' inaugural address in Luke 4. Following his time in the wilderness, Jesus had clarity of vision about who he was and what he was called to do.
- Dr. Drew Hart, professor of theology at Messiah University and author of *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*, inspired us to deal with white supremacy in the church, to embrace anti-racism and racial justice, and to seek to build the beloved community.
- Saturday's *Dwelling in the Word*, Rev. Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemoe, first Native American woman to be a pastor in the ELCA. Her congregation, All Nations Indian Church, seeks to view and support those without shelter or food, who suffer chemical dependency or sex trafficking as "all my relatives."
- Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University, an update on the pandemic.
- A number of resolutions and memorials gave us the opportunity to raise our voices on living gently, ethically, and respectfully on the earth by encouraging purchasing ethically sourced, safely mined metals, and standing with those who oppose the new Line 3 pipeline.



Outdoor Concert

Tangled Blue

Friday, June 4, 6pm, \$20.

A night of nature, music, and food! Our outdoor concert series kicks off with Tangled Blue, a Minneapolis based group, featuring ELCA pastor-musicians Aimée and Joel Pakan. Their music is a unique sound that incorporates Latin and electronic percussion, acoustic guitars, wind instruments, beautifully matched alto and baritone voices, and stories from their journeys across North America and Europe. Our kitchen will serve delicious flatbread pizzas for dinner. Sit at one of our picnic tables or bring your own blanket or lawn chair and enjoy live music while soaking in the beauty of the Conference & Retreat Center!

Cost includes dinner and concert. Register at mtolivet.org.

SAVE THE DATE for our July concert featuring *Heartfelt* on Saturday, July 31.



Midweek Summer Worship

Journey through the Psalms

Wednesdays from June 30 through August 4

Dinner \$15. Bus Transportation \$10.

Often called the “prayer book of the Bible,” the Psalms teach us to express ourselves fully to a God who listens with compassion. Humble gratitude, soaring praise, anguished lament, bitter outrage, awe-filled wonder, and restored hope: all this, and more, is brought before God in the Psalms. Join the Mount Olivet pastors each Wednesday evening at the Conference & Retreat Center from June 30 through August 4 as they explore some of the Psalms they find most inspiring and resonant with their faith.

Begin each evening with fellowship and delicious food. Learn about the natural world around you and take home tips for enhancing the beauty of your own yard during a nature talk. Then gather together for midweek worship.

Limited bus transportation will be available from the Minneapolis Campus and 7500 York. Due to ongoing safety concerns and COVID-19 protocol, registration, bus reservations, and payment for each midweek worship service should be made at mtolivet.org at least 48 hours in advance.

SCHEDULE: 4:30pm: Bus Leaves 7500 York, 5pm: Bus Leaves Mpls Campus, 5:30-6:30pm: Dinner Served, 6:30-7pm: Nature Talk, 7:15pm: Worship, 8pm: Bus Departs MOCRC

RENEWING CONNECTIONS: A RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Friday, July 23 through Sunday, July 25

Join the Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini, Executive Director of Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, and Rev. Kara Root, pastor of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, for a weekend of renewing your connections to God, friends, and nature. Explore new prayer practices and spiritual journaling, meditate while walking the labyrinth, enjoy a guided nature hike, get creative with arts & crafts, converse at the patio fireplace, relax in the pool, and enjoy much needed rest. Limited registration due to COVID-19. Registration opens Monday, June 7 at mtolivet.org.



MEET YOUR 2021 CATHEDRAL



KRISTI YOUNGDAHL

Hey Gang! I'm Kristi, your Camp Director. A fun fact about me is that my two favorite hobbies are collecting agates and bird watching. I am most looking forward to having people up at camp! And my favorite themed meal is the western dinner.



KRIS ERICKSEN

Hi Campers! I'm Kris, and the summer of 2021 will be my 25th as Camp Coordinator! A fun fact about me is that I will be a first-time Grandma in September & I can hardly wait! I am most looking forward to seeing all your sweet faces at COP this summer — you fill my heart! My favorite Camp hymn is "Precious Lord". See you soon!



GEOFF ARENSEN

Hey everybody, I'm Geoff and I am the Staff Mentor. I enjoy playing basketball and tennis, maybe we can play a game this summer at camp! I am looking forward to taking nature hikes, and of course, singing in chapel. My favorite hymn is *He's Everything to Me* (#92).



HEIDI YOUNGDAHL

Hello everyone, my name is Heidi and I am the Camp Nurse. My fun fact is that I am a twin and I have twins! My favorite 11 o'clock activity at COP is basketball. It is fun to jump in on games of lighting and I am a Baller all around! What I am most looking forward to at COP this summer is the first time that the first bus comes through the gates of COP and see all the smiling faces of the kids get off the bus!



MADY LIPKIN

Hello, my name is Mady and this will be my 6th summer in the kitchen at camp! I can't wait to see everyone's faces again, go to chapel, sit by the bonfire, jump in Lake Caribou, and have that quiet time to pray in the great north woods. My favorite theme meal is western night, but I also love our first dinner of the week together where all the campers are welcomed, and the staff is introduced.



ABIGAIL FISCHER

Hi everyone, my name is Abigail but you can call me Gail. I am Kristi's Assistant this summer at COP. My favorite camp hymn is our camp song! #50- *My God and I*. A fun fact about me is that I'm a kindergarten teacher! I am most looking forward to getting to know the campers, worshipping together in chapel, and daily swims in Lake Caribou!



JULIA JALLO

Hi Friends, I'm Julia and I am one of Kristi's Assistants. A fun fact about me is I played on my high school basketball team with Paige Bueckers! My favorite themed meal is western or 50's dinner! The malts and fries are so good. This summer I am most looking forward to playing softball and basketball.



SOPHIA SPENCE

My name is Sophia and I am the Counselor Mentor. My favorite camp hymn is *He's Everything to Me* (#92) because I love them you can hear Geoff sing "for it has a place in history". A fun fact about me is that I have 2 webbed toes on each foot, but I'm still an average swimmer. I am most looking forward to meeting new kiddos, but also helping counselors create memories with their campers!



JAKE ANDERSON

Hey, I'm Jake and I am in charge of the Outside this summer. My favorite 11 o'clock activity is archery, a fun fact about me is I can move my left ear, and I am most looking forward to counselor workstaff softball this summer.



KENZIE DAHLMEIR

Hi! I'm Kenzie and I am Mrs. Inside. A fun fact about me is that I have a cat who is 24... older than me! I am most looking forward to being able to share and cherish all those COP Camp moments once again! Find me on the upper court during 11 o'clock activity.



LEXI ROBELLO

My name is Lexi and I am Mr. Fun this summer! I am most looking forward to playing all the old games I used to play as a camper. A fun fact about me is my hair is already going gray and my favorite camp song is *The Old Rugged Cross*.

AL OF THE PINES CAMP STAFF!

9



ISABEL ST.DENNIS

Hi! My name is Isabel and I am on the Fun Squad this summer. A fun fact about me is that I have been penguin sliding on a glacier. My favorite themed meal is 50's dinner and I am most looking forward to meeting and building relationships with all the campers!



KATIE RIDLER

My name is Katie and I am on the Waterfront this summer at camp. My favorite 11 o'clock activity is swimming!!! A fun fact about me is that my favorite animal is a penguin. I'm super excited to reconnect with old friends and campers and hang out at beautiful Lake Caribou!



COLE ANDERSON

I'm Cole Anderson and I will be on the Waterfront this summer. My favorite 11 o'clock activity is nature, a fun fact about me is that I have been bungee jumping, and I am most looking forward to being able to see familiar faces and make new friendships at camp.



CLAIRE BORNE

My name is Claire and I am excited to be on the Inside Crew. I am really looking forward to welcoming new campers off the bus each week! My favorite camp hymn is *I Will Not Be Afraid* and a fun fact about me is that I can wiggle my ears.



MACEY OLIVER

Hello, I'm Macey and I will be on the Inside this summer. I am looking forward to being able to look out on the lake during chapel everyday. My favorite themed meal is Halloween and a fun fact about me is that I have never had a cavity.



MICHELLE IWEN

My name is Michelle and I am an Inside Assistant. My favorite themed meal is pirate lunch, I am looking forward to playing softball and working with all the Workstaff, and a fun fact about me is I am a big fan of Taylor Swift.



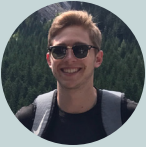
CHARLIE TEIEN

Hey everyone, I'm Charlie and I'm on the Inside Crew! A fun fact about me is I can run a mile in nine minutes. My favorite themed meal is the outdoor picnics and I am most looking forward to meeting new campers and taking advantage of the great outdoors.



JACKSON NELSON

Hello, my name is Jackson and I am on the Outside this summer. A fun fact about me is that I am a black belt in karate. My favorite themed meal is silent lunch, and I'm looking forward to being back in the chapel and being able to see the cross on the other side of Lake Caribou after not being able to see it last summer.



NATE KLEMANN

Hi, my name is Nate and I am on the Outside. My favorite 11 o'clock activity is basketball. I am looking forward to being outside in beautiful Lutsen, and fun fact, I was a third-grade chess club champion!



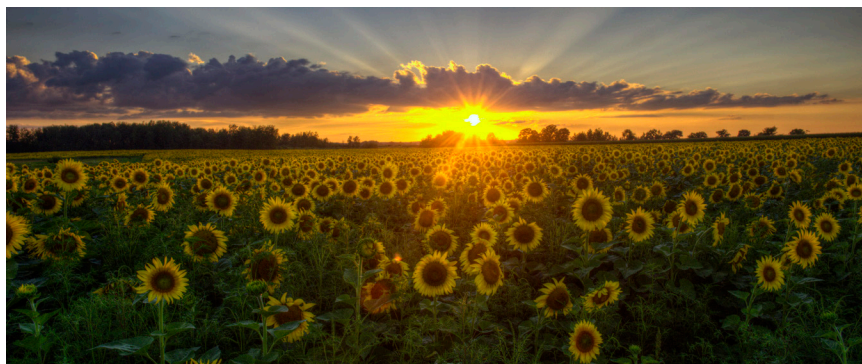
MADDIE BOESEN

Hi everyone! I'm Maddie and I am the Laundry Lady. My favorite camp song is *The Garden Song*, a fun fact about me is I have a radio show, and I am most looking forward to spending time on the North Shore.



KEELY CONROY

Hi, I'm Keely and I am Crafty this summer. A fun fact about me is that I have a twin brother named Brendan. Choosing one favorite 11 o'clock activity is quite difficult... I would go to most of them as a camper. Now I would confidently say crafts! I am looking forward to getting to know the new wonderful people around me and being a part of shared creation and collaboration! Singing in Chapel is one of my favorite parts of camp.



Teenagers, Summer and Chemical Use

Believe it or not, summertime is just around the corner. If you're a parent of teenagers, you should know that according to research by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) teenagers are more likely to try alcohol, cigarettes/vaping, and other drugs for the first time during the summer months.

This may be due to the fact that teenagers typically have more free time, less adult supervision, and less responsibilities during the summer months. This is the perfect time for experimentation with alcohol and drugs. Teenagers also have a number of influences, including peers and social media. With more free time and less adult supervision, it is easy to see how a combination of these factors can influence experimental behavior. While risk factors are always present, the freedoms that summer brings puts teenagers at higher risk.

During the months of June and July, teens are more likely to begin experimenting with alcohol and drugs, specifically cigarettes and marijuana. This points to a need for parents to educate, have conversations about alcohol and drug use and take preventative measures with their teenagers.

The earlier teenagers begin experimenting with alcohol and drugs, the more likely they are to develop more serious substance abuse disorders later in their lives. Research has shown that early chemical use can negatively impact the developing adolescent brain and cause damage that is irreversible. Early alcohol and drug use can also impact physical, emotional, and mental health.

It's never too late to start having dialogue with your teenager(s) about drug and alcohol use. Check out our website at mtolivet.org/counseling for more resources. If you would like to schedule an appointment for parenting support or counseling, please contact our Office Manager Molly at 612-927-7335, ext 10 or mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org.

NIKKI KNUDSON-DALAL, MA, LMFT, LADC, *Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor, Mount Olivet Counseling Service*



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

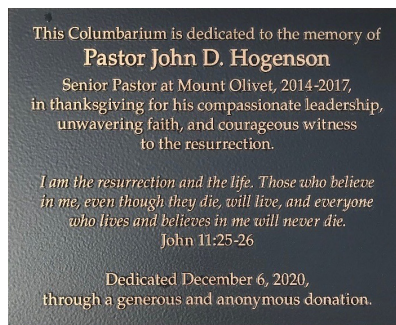
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church is one of the few churches in America which provides professional, ethical, licensed counseling services to aid church as well as community members, in dealing with the tensions, pressures, and stresses of daily life. Our services help people work through their problems through 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



MOUNT OLIVET COLUMBARIUM

As stated on the dedication plaque, "Mount Olivet's Columbarium is dedicated to the memory of Pastor John D. Hogenson... in thanksgiving for his compassionate leadership, unwavering faith, and courageous witness to the resurrection." God is good! As introduced in the October *Messenger*, the Columbarium is located at the West Campus and came to fruition from very generous donors. As of late last year, the Columbarium is complete and ready for use. Many of you have expressed interest in niche space at the Columbarium and we have held numerous inurnment ceremonies for those who have already passed. Sharing space with the Columbarium structures, benches have been added, planters are full with beautiful greenery and flowers, and the landscape area is coming along nicely. It really is a lovely spot to visit, sit and remember a life well lived. If you are interested in Columbarium space for a loved one, or as part of your funeral pre-planning, please contact Jonna Bundul at 612.767.2257, or jonnab@mtolivet.org. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have and help with next steps in purchasing niche space.



EVERY MORNING

When you wake up in the morning, what's the first thing you do? Do you check your phone or listen to the news? It can become habitual. Is it just me or does there seem to be a highlighted underlying current or theme or reporting on hatred and anger? It's easy to fall into hatred and anger. A wise person once told me to everyday "unburden your soul of hatred and anger." Make a list of the things you choose to be angry about or what you choose to hate and give it all to God. It says in Revelation 21:5 that, "God makes all things new." And it says in Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds."

Do you have people in your life who make a difference? People who are a positive influence to you and the rest of the world? Pastor Bud Lindberg was a positive influence in my life. He had been through a great deal in his life and faced each day with the love and joy of Christ. He was real, down to earth and a precious gift from God.

Speaking of renewing our minds, Pastor Lindberg often used the phrase, "Every morning, lean thine arms awhile on the windowsill of heaven and gaze upon thy Lord, then, with the vision in thy heart, turn strong to meet the day."

I wonder what our days would look like if we started each morning gazing upon the windowsill of heaven. I wonder what might happen to hatred and anger if we looked up into the face of Jesus.

You are loved and cherish and precious in God's sight.

PASTOR KALLAND, *Associate Pastor*

PASTORAL CARE RESOURCES

If you or a loved one are hospitalized, please contact Andrea Brown at 612.767.2209 or andreab@mtolivet.org, Julie Goodman 612.767.2208 or julieg@mtolivet.org, or Ann LaBree at 612.767.2288 or annl@mtolivet.org.

If you need to reach a Pastor for emergencies including imminent deaths, hospitalizations, or support after office hours please call the on-call phone at 612.916.9016.

Mount Olivet's Prayer Ministry team provides prayer support to those in need of prayer. To submit a prayer request, please call 612.767.2300 or go to our website mtolivet.org/connect-at-mount-olivet.

MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL: MEET THE DIRECTOR

We'd like to introduce **ALYSSA HILL**, Mount Olivet Preschool Director. Alyssa has been in the field of early childhood education – both in teaching and leadership/administrative roles for over 15 years. Her experiences both in the classroom and in management positions make her an asset to the Mount Olivet Preschool. Alyssa is passionate about creating an excellent early learning environment for young children and their families. She is looking forward to getting to know the Mount Olivet Preschool families, and the larger Mount Olivet community.

Alyssa lives in Apple Valley with her husband and two young children. In her spare time, she loves to read, travel, and spend time with family. Welcome, Alyssa!



REGISTRATION FOR THE MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL IS OPEN!

We invite your family to join the Mount Olivet Preschool this fall! New program options include year-round, full-time, and part-time care for children ages 3-5 years old. We continue in the tradition of high-quality preschool education with added children's music classes, facility improvements to the classroom spaces and playground, a food program, and more!

Please contact Alyssa Hill, Preschool Director, with additional questions and for information on tours, program options and availability.

Our registration process has moved online! This new system allows for easy enrollment and access for parents to view account information, pay tuition online and access account documents at any time.

We look forward to partnering with you in your child's early learning experience!



We're excited to announce that along with the music directors and staff of God's Kid's Sing – our summer camps will feature a "Paint with Jane" art session from Simply Jane/ ArtAble! Campers will learn how to use professional acrylic paint and brushes as well as learn techniques to make their painting "Pop!" Jane will leave us with some coloring designs for mindful creativity throughout the week.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We invite preschoolers (age 4) through 2nd graders to participate in-person for a 3-day VBS camp. Dates are June 28-30 at the Minneapolis Campus from 8:30am-12noon. In-Person VBS (\$45/camper)

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMP

Campers and counselors will be in pods for the week and we'll be outdoors as much as possible. Camp is daily from 8:30am-4:30pm at the Mpls Campus. Cost is \$175 per camper.

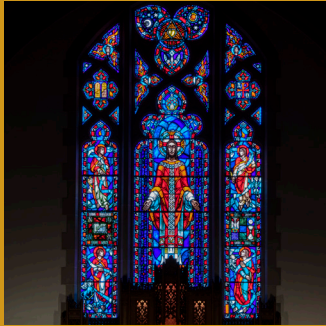
Week 1: 1st-4th Graders - June 14-18

Week 2: 1st-4th Graders - July 12-16

Week 3: 3rd-6th Graders - July 26-30

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 at amyp@mtolivet.org.



GOING GOD'S WAY: GET TO KNOW MO!

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE GET TO KNOW MO! QUESTIONS?

1. What is the name of the window above the Altar at the MPLS Campus?
2. In addition to Jesus, which four Saints are depicted in the window?
3. Which Saint is pictured with an eagle?
4. The four letters around the open Bible (V-D-M-A) represent a Latin phrase that means what?
5. What two sacraments are represented in the window?

To watch the whole Get to Know MO segment about the front window, visit our website and watch the April 11, 2021, video of Going God's Way

Answers:

1. The Window of Invitation
2. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
3. John
4. "The Word of the Lord stands forever."
5. Baptism and Communion

More Than Just Singing

If you were to walk into the rehearsal halls of either campus, you would see two distinct posters that have been used for rehearsals for the Senior Choir and Cathedral Choir throughout the years.

Choir rehearsals are, without a doubt, about learning notes, interpreting text, improving our voices, and working hard at the musical aspects of an anthem. However, our rehearsals also include devotions and prayers. We pray for each other, for our church, for the understanding of our role in worship, and as a practice to strengthen our faith.

Before rehearsals begin, Senior Choir recites The Chorister's Prayer together. The Chorister's Prayer in the above form was first published by the School of English Church Music in 1934 in the Choristers' Pocket Book. This prayer's origins extend back as far as the 4th century. It is powerful to hear the choir speak this prayer together knowing that we are carrying on a tradition which other singers have participated in for many centuries.

Bless, O Lord, us your servants who
minister in your house. Grant that
what we sing with our lips, we may
believe in our hearts, and what we
believe in our hearts, we may show
forth in our lives. We ask this through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Choristers' Prayer

At the end of Cathedral Choir rehearsal we have an open prayer time followed by the reciting of the Lord's Prayer and then Psalm 19: 14. For years, we have used this scripture as a reminder to our Cathedral Choir members and ourselves that what comes out of our mouths and what we ponder in our hearts is something that is important to God. Our role as singing leaders in worship is to not only to sing, but to feel and believe the words that we share weekly through song.

May the words of my mouth
and the meditations of my heart,
be acceptable in Thy sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

DR. BEVERLY CLAFLIN, *Director of Worship and Music*



A BLESSING TO SHARE

When we got married, one of our first decisions together was how much to pledge to Mount Olivet. It was not a matter of IF, but how much, since both of us had been giving to a church our whole lives. We have so many blessings in our lives, and we know that God wants us to share these blessings. We receive much more in return than what we give. In the parable of the master who entrusts his wealth with his servants, Jesus reminds us that: "...to all of those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance" (Matthew 25:29).

We love Mount Olivet and want to make a commitment of pledging. We appreciate the fellowship with other members, and the opportunities to volunteer our time. We love that there are places to go to feel God's love like Cathedral of the Pines and the Conference and Retreat Center. We value the community outreach programs like Pastor Scott's ministry, and our affiliates like Rolling Acres and Mount Olivet Careview/Home.

This past year, it has been even more important for us to share our blessings and we are so grateful for all the ways our church has adapted. What immediately comes to mind are the creative new ways to keep us engaged, for instance, the donation drives with a chance to see the church staff during Greet and Give donation drives, the Loaves and Fishes community meals, and all the new ways to connect through videos online. Most of all, we love our Pastors and staff who provide meaningful Sunday services and Adult Education. Mount Olivet is a place for us to grow educationally and spiritually in our walk with God and we couldn't be more appreciative!

It is a blessing and an honor to share with others what God has shared with us. We encourage you to do likewise. Borrowing from Matthew (hey, it's still fresh in our heads from the past few months!): "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap... yet God feeds them" (Matthew 6:26).

BARB AND STEVE GURNEY, *Mount Olivet members*



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE

Barb and Steve up on the shores of Lake Superior for a camp sing-a-long and at the Minneapolis Campus.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT 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 Lerohl-Morgan in our finance office at 612.767.2255 or by email at tricial@mtolivet.org.*

Donor-Advised Funds & Charitable IRA Rollover: *Contact Mari Carlson, Director of Development, at 612.821.3150 or by email at mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org.*

Stocks: *Contact Deanne Nelson in the finance office at 612.767.2280 or by email at deannen@mtolivet.org.*



GREET & GIVE DONATION DRIVE

Mount Olivet Greet and Give Drives continue in ongoing support of our ministry partners: CES, Bountiful Baskets, Love, INC, VEAP, St. Stephen's Human Services and Simpson Housing.

Staff will be on hand from **4-6pm** to greet and accept your food and essential items donations on the **1st Monday of the month at the Minneapolis Campus and the 3rd Monday of the month at the West Campus.**

Thank you for your continued generosity at our monthly drives! Due to limited storage space and staff to sort items, our Community Partners have streamlined their "urgent needs" lists for the summer months. Along with food items, please concentrate your donations to these specific needs:

MINNEAPOLIS CAMPUS:

- NEW sheet sets, folded and labeled for size
- NEW travel size personal care items
- Diapers/Pull-Ups
- NEW plain colored t-shirts of all sizes
- NEW underwear – all sizes

WEST CAMPUS:

- Full-size personal care products
- Household cleaning supplies
- Laundry and dish soap
- Diapers, Pull-Ups, and baby wipes

Thank you for your generosity in helping our community neighbors face the current challenges.

Experiencing Homelessness: What, Why and How?

As current conditions surrounding COVID-19 in our area continue to improve, many of our Community Partners will soon be welcoming previous and new volunteers to their programs. While making the decision to commit time and love into working with these established agencies, I believe it is important to understand the whole scope of their mission and the clients they serve. Mount Olivet member Margene Reno shares her experience with two of our partner agencies and the clients with whom they work. If you would like more information on any of our Community Partners or affiliated Homes, please contact me, Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

As a new member of Joy Circle a few years ago, I participated in our annual outreach project of serving dinner at Simpson House in Minneapolis. Upon arrival and getting settled into where everything was in the kitchen, I approached a woman to ask about supplies. She looked like she was in charge of the place somehow. She was well dressed and greeted me with a warm smile. When I asked her if she was in charge, she answered "No, I am a participant staying here." I was shocked at this response and mustered a reply, "Okay, thank you and I hope you enjoy our meal this evening."

This event stirred my soul for months afterward. What was this women's story? Why was she here needing Simpson's services? How could I help her more than providing a meal?

About six months later, I was speaking with our Volunteer Coordinator when she mentioned The Dignity Center in Minneapolis. As she described their purpose and mission, 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. This was where I need to be.

What: The Dignity Center – A unique relationship-focused program. We help those experiencing homelessness get back on their feet by providing structure, support, and resources. Participants do the work.

Why: There is a need to support those who are willing and able to work to move themselves out of crisis and homelessness.

How: Mentoring through advocacy both virtually and in person. Financial and volunteer support is provided by fifteen area faith-based organizations, including Mount Olivet. In-kind donations and fundraisers help to provide job training, temporary support to maintain housing, transportation, and other activities to move people out of crisis into stability.

MARGENE RENO, *Mount Olivet member and volunteer*



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