

FEBRUARY 2022

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 Julie Goodman at julieg@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2208.

SUNDAYS

DIAL-IN VIA PHONE
833.775.1238
11am

**WATCH THE MPLS
WORSHIP SERVICE AT
MTOLIVET.ORG**
11am

HOLY COMMUNION
8:30 & 11:45am

NURSERY
9, 10, & 11am

FEBRUARY 6

**"THE KINGDOM OF
GOD IS LIKE. . ." JESUS
PARABLES**
Mark 4:1-12, 30-34

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud

FEBRUARY 13

**JESUS HEALS A
MAN POSSESSED BY
DEMONS**
Mark 5:1-20

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland

FEBRUARY 20

**JESUS HEALS TWO
WOMEN**
Mark 5:21-43

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman

FEBRUARY 27

**REJECTION, CALLING,
AND MISSION& CAMP
SUNDAY**
Mark 6:1-13

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten

HOLY COMMUNION
First Wednesday of the month

M 12noon

**GOING GOD'S WAY VIDEOS WILL CONTINUE TO BE
AVAILABLE AT MTOLIVET.ORG!**

COVER PHOTO

The winged lion, symbol of St. Mark, on the Town Hall Building of Venice, Italy. Mark is the patron saint of Venice and his remains are held in the Basilica of St. Mark.

Humility, Surprise, and Gratitude in the Gospel of Mark

“Humility” is a word that I am admittedly ambivalent about. I know that we’re supposed to be humble, but if you ever feel like you are, then suddenly you’re not being very, well, humble! But in reading through the Gospel of Mark, I discovered a more helpful way to think about humility and how it can be such an important part of our faith.

I think many of us tend to think of humility as “not thinking too highly of yourself.” And maybe that’s a part of it but, as it turns out, a small part. Rather, humility is made up of three parts. The first is to recognize that you have needs and are not all-sufficient. In several of the stories we’ll hear on Sundays in February, we encounter characters who know their need and can therefore approach Jesus for help. From a person who is possessed (February 13) to a man whose daughter is ill (February 20), the Gospels are littered with people who ask Jesus to help precisely because they know their needs. None of us can get through this world without help, all of us need others, and asking for assistance is a big part of what it is to be humble... and human!

Second, being humble is recognizing that you’re part of something larger than yourself. It’s not so much that humility requires you to think less of yourself, but to keep yourself and what you can offer in perspective in relation to the larger good. In the readings on February 27, we’ll notice a sharp contrast between Jesus and his disciples and the folks of his hometown. Whereas Jesus sends out his disciples two-by-two to participate in God’s in-breaking kingdom, his neighbors take offense at this preaching. The disciples have been invited into something much larger – proclaiming the good news of God’s coming kingdom – and both know they can’t do this alone and that this mission is larger than any of their individual wants or needs. Jesus’ former neighbors, by contrast, can only see what he offers in terms of how it affects them and fail to see their connection to each other or to God’s mission.

Third, humility is the ability to be surprised. Mark’s Gospel – the earliest and shortest of the four gospels – is marked again and again by the element of surprise. The disciples are surprised that Jesus calls them, people who are sick are surprised Jesus takes the time to

heal them, onlookers are surprised at the power and authority with which Jesus teaches. And in their surprise, many of the people Jesus encounters are invited to re-think their assumptions, reconsider their views about God and each other, and grow into new learning and deeper faith. About the only ones not surprised are those who reject Jesus because they are convinced they already know how God operates and so end up putting to death God’s chosen Messiah.

Perhaps the greatest surprise in Mark’s Gospel is that God doesn’t come to earth to save God’s people in the strength of a military king but instead in the vulnerability of a man who ends up suffering and dying on the cross. Peter struggles with that, the religious authorities are offended by that, even a Roman centurion has his breath taken away when he realizes the person he helped execute is actually God’s Son! Being surprised, as it turns out, is not just essential to humility, but to being a disciple at all, as God regularly surprises us with how much God loves us.

And speaking of surprises... one of the most surprising elements of this kind of humility is that, in the end, those who know they are in need, know they are a part of something larger than themselves, and are willing to be surprised, lead so much richer and more meaningful lives. Because all of this leads one to a place of gratitude, and gratitude never fails to lift your spirits, encourage your best efforts, and equip you to make a difference in the world.

Mark’s Gospel is not just short – you could actually read it in a single sitting! – but also very much to-the-point, often sounding more like the evening news than a detailed biography. Why? Because Mark has a message that is as urgent and timely now as when he first put pen to paper – or, more likely stylus to scroll! – nearly two thousand years ago: in Jesus, God has come to redeem God’s people through the surprising and redemptive power of unconditional and sacrificial love. I can’t wait for us to hear this message once again!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

VOTE TO CALL A NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR THE REVEREND BENJAMIN M. CIESLIK

Sunday, February 6, will be an important day for Mount Olivet, and all of our members are encouraged to come to our special congregational meeting at the Minneapolis Campus at 12noon to vote on the Call Committee's recommendation.

On Tuesday, January 11, at a special Congregation Council meeting, the Congregation Council received the Call Committee's unanimous recommendation to call the Reverend Benjamin M. Cieslik to serve as an Associate Pastor at Mount Olivet.

Pastor Cieslik brings 12 years of pastoral experience to Mount Olivet, having served at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the Twin Cities since 2010. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College and Luther Seminary. Pending a successful congregational vote, Pastor Cieslik will oversee our digital outreach initiatives, will take primary responsibility for our Young Adult ministry, and will focus on expanding our community engagement. He will start his role at Mount Olivet on or about April 10. *More information about Pastor Cieslik is available at mtolivet.org/news-and-updates*



WELCOME STEPHANIE!

The Pastoral Care team is happy to welcome Stephanie McGinty to the team. Stephanie and her husband, Brian have been active members of Mount Olivet for many years. They live in Plymouth and have 2 adult children, Jane and Patrick. Stephanie is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College. She retired from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in 2021 after 31 years of service. Stephanie will be involved in our Older Adult Ministry programming and events, which include: Young in Heart luncheons, educational events, Friends Connect programs and special worship services. Stephanie has a servant heart and is a great addition to our team. Next time you are at one of these events or at the church, please introduce yourself!

LIFE & GROWTH

DEC 14 - JAN 12

BAPTISMS

Paige Katherine Brutlag

daughter of Taylor and Bryan

Theo Joseph Brutlag

son of Taylor and Bryan

Jackson Michael Cook

son of Michelle and Michael

Charlotte Mary Davis

daughter of Laura and Logan

Aidan Oliver DeBeck

son of Heidi and Charles

Louis Maxwell Engelsma

son of Allison and Brad

Lily Grace Lind

daughter of Jessica and Anthony

Thomas Lockwood Perillo

son of Grace and Michael

WEDDINGS

Renae Walker & Robert Fransen,

February 8

DEATHS

Edward E. Crosby

1933 - 2022

Michael J. Danielson

1963 - 2021

Marjorie K. Doughten

1917 - 2022

John T. Gill

1952 - 2022

Grant Hallberg

1925 - 2021

Carol A. Huempfner

1940 - 2021

Marian A. Ludford

1937 - 2022

Sylvia Myren

1922 - 2021

John Nilsen

1931 - 2021

Sue Ann Stuart

1943 - 2021

Shirley A. Wold

1938 - 2021



DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND
FEBRUARY 2022

- 1 Psalm 119:111, The Joy Of My Heart
- 2 Proverbs 15:33, Humility Before Honor
- 3 Psalm 42:11, Put Your Hope In God
- 4 Deuteronomy 10:12-13, For Our Own Good
- 5 Titus 2:1, Proper Teaching
- 6 1 John 2:15, Don't Love The World
- 7 Psalm 63:1, Longing For The Lord
- 8 James 3:16, Where Do You Find Disorder
- 9 Romans 2:1, Judging Others
- 10 Psalm 150:6, Everything That Has Breath
- 11 Psalm 84:10, Doorkeeper In The House Of God
- 12 1 Chronicles 16:11, Seek God's Face Always
- 13 James 1:5, Ask God
- 14 Daniel 4:37, God Is Right And Just
- 15 Proverbs 15:4, Soothing Or Perverse Tongue
- 16 Psalm 51:1-2, Have Mercy On Me, O God
- 17 1 Corinthians 10:23, Not Everything Is Beneficial
- 18 James 4:4, Enmity
- 19 Romans 1:16, The Power Of God
- 20 Romans 10:4, The End Of The Law
- 21 Galatians 6:10, As We Have Opportunity
- 22 Galatians 5:6, Faith Through Love
- 23 1 Peter 3:8, Love, Compassion, Humility
- 24 1 Timothy 6:6, Godliness And Contentment
- 25 John 8:31-32, Truth Will Set You Free
- 26 Psalm 119:2, Keep And Seek
- 27 John 16:33, In Christ We Have Peace
- 28 Proverbs 19:22, Unfailing Love

DEVOTION

On Christmas Day 2021, NASA launched an Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana in South America carrying remarkable cargo--the James Webb Space Telescope. Assuming all has gone to plan, the Webb Telescope will have traveled roughly 1,000,000 miles from Earth to assume its position in orbit around the Sun by the end of January. This monumental project has a miraculous objective. The telescope will observe the oldest stars and galaxies in our universe. In other words, we will be able to look back through time (more than 13 billion years!) to the first light that pierced the darkness. What an amazing scientific achievement this would be.



Science is a method for acquiring and organizing knowledge through observation and experimentation. It seeks objective truth, which it judges according to standards like verifiability and repeatability. It answers questions like what, where, when, and how. But in most cases, science is not concerned with questions like who and why. As all of humanity peers back into the origins of the universe, let those of us who worship God remember why it came into being. As science helps us to observe with ever greater detail the majesty of creation, let us stand in ever greater awe before the one whom we believe is responsible.

"Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. And God saw that the light was good." Genesis 1:3-4
— PASTOR DIXON

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK Q & A

Q: WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT FOR ME TO KNOW ABOUT MARK'S GOSPEL?

A: It's the earliest Gospel written, around 70AD. (In fact, Matthew and Luke base much of their later gospels on Mark.) It's also the shortest Gospel — Matthew and Luke are each almost twice as long — and it moves really quickly. "Immediately" is a big word in Mark.

Q: WHAT SHOULD I LISTEN FOR WHEN WE HEAR THE STORIES FROM MARK ON SUNDAY MORNINGS?

A: Mark has been called "the master of surprise" because things are often not what they appear. Those who should know who Jesus is often don't, including the disciples. Those who shouldn't know Jesus do, including demons. Jesus surprises — and sometimes angers — people by his choices of who to hang out with. Even the centurion who oversees his crucifixion is surprised when he realizes who Jesus really is. And the end of the story has surprised pretty much everyone for close to two thousand years. So... expect the unexpected!

Q: WHY IS MARK'S SYMBOL A WINGED LION?

A: All four gospels have a symbol based on a passage in Revelation described four winged creatures: a lion, a bull, a man, and an eagle. Mark begins his Gospel by describing John the Baptist with a quotation of Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight!'" That opening cry reminded early church leaders of the roar of a lion and so that's Mark's symbol.

Listen!

LENT 2022

"Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'"

— Mark 9:2-3, 7

Sometimes, particularly when life is difficult, it can be hard to detect God's presence. Yet we have been promised that God is always with us, sustaining and strengthening us for lives of meaning and purpose. This Lent, we look forward to sharpening our listening skills together so that we can listen for God's presence in our lives and listen to what God is saying to us. Join us!

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 2

COMMUNION SERVICES

The Transfiguration Mark 9: 2-8

Mpls Campus: 7am, 12noon, 5 & 7pm (Youth-led)

Streaming services at mtolivet.org at 5 & 7pm.

West Campus: 5 & 7pm (Youth-led)

DAY LENTEN JOURNEY: THE HOLY IN-BETWEEN

**TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 10AM-3PM,
CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER,
\$20.**

Begin Lent this year by reflecting on its often-neglected last day, Holy Saturday. Squeezed between Good Friday (the crucifixion and death of Jesus) and Easter Sunday (the day of Jesus' resurrection and appearance to his disciples) Holy Saturday is the day when God is silent. When the disciples feel bewilderment and despair. When one chapter has come to a crushing end and the next has not yet begun. It is a painful, in-between day that, upon reflection, teaches us to wait upon God in between all forms of life and death. Join Pastors Freeman and Ruud, Retreat Center Director Rev. Theresa Latini, and Program Director Rev. Jeremy Bork for a day of exploring the history, art, liturgy, and meaning of this day as it shapes our journey through Lent this year. Register at mtolivetretreat.org/events.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Listening can happen in lots of ways. On Sundays, we will hear stories about Jesus that invite new ways of listening. Pay attention to the variety of characters with whom Jesus interacts, as he both teaches them about listening and learns from them.

MARCH 6: Mark 6:30-44 – *Feeding the Five Thousand*

MARCH 13: Mark 7:24-37 – *Jesus Astounds... and is Astounded*

MARCH 20: Mark 8:27-38 – *Peter's Confession, Rebuke, & Taking Up Your Cross*

MARCH 27: Mark 9:14-27 – *I Believe, Help My Unbelief*

APRIL 3: Mark 9:33-37, 10:17-27 – *Power and Wealth Redefined*

PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 10: Mark 11:1-11 – *The Triumphal Entry*

DIGITAL LENTEN CALENDAR

This year's Digital Lenten Calendar will center around "40 days of listening," using spiritual practices in action to reflect and grow in your faith.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Explore the Passion of St. Mark this Lent. Copies at church beginning Sunday, February 20. Daily emails will be sent to subscribers.

WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS

**12 NOON AT THE MPLS CAMPUS &
STREAMING AT MTOLIVET.ORG**

Spiritual practices are the means by which Christians have sharpened their hearing for millennia. We look forward to delving into the individual and communal dimensions of prayer, Bible study, service, reflection, and worship, and we can't wait to see the impact it has on our congregational life!

MIDWEEK SCHEDULE:

MARCH 9: Prayer

MARCH 16: Bible Study

MARCH 23: Service

MARCH 30: Reflection

APRIL 6: Worship (*Communion Service*)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

MARCH 6: Food Drive: Please bring non-perishable food items between services at both campuses on Sunday, March 6.

THROUGH APRIL 1: Please join us in donating, assembling, and delivering Easter baskets and food to show God's hope and coming light this Easter season to families identified through our Community Partners. Please drop off NEW items and cash donations to either campus, marking all items "Angel Gifts" through April 1. Help assemble the Baskets on Saturday, April 9 at both campuses. More information at mtolivet.org.



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

It's not too late to join your pastors for a deeper look at the Gospel of Mark, our Sunday scriptures this winter. Come for the February sessions (Wednesdays at Mpls; Thursdays at West; Both 10:30-11:30am) and catch up with the video from the first session. Or sign up for only videos - your choice! Register at mtolivet.org/education or by contacting Katie Stevenson at katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232

Mark: The Gospel as the Evening News with Pastor Ruud (Jan 26/27)

Bookends of Revelation & Fulfillment in Mark with Pastor Kalland (Feb 2/3)

Healings in Mark: "Your Faith Has Set You Free" with Pastors Freeman and Hammersten (Feb 9/10)

The Hidden Kingdom: The Parables of Jesus in Mark with Pastor Dixon (Feb 16/17)

How Did Paul's Legacy Continue?

Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus

Of the thirteen letters in the New Testament considered the "Pauline Epistles," seven are universally accepted as composed by the Apostle Paul himself. Six, however, have indications in style, theology, language, content, and/or structure which suggest they were either written by associates of Paul or perhaps even written by admirers of Paul using his name even after his death. At face value, while this may seem strange or even fraudulent to many of us today, the practice of using a pseudonym is still present in many forms today. Authors Mark Twain and George Orwell and the contemporary street artist Banksy are all modern examples of people whose works are presented under pseudonyms.



Why may these authors of letters which became scripture have used Paul's name? Perhaps the writers wished to honor him, capitalize upon his reputation, address new issues in the churches from the standpoint of Paul's notoriety, and/or remain anonymous behind Paul's name given the threat of persecution.

In any case, the letters generally address ongoing situations, discernments, clarifications, and witness in early Christian communities, and they became important documents of faithful learning, encouragement, and instruction in faith well beyond the communities for which they were penned.

The March Living the Message class will focus on these six letters considering the communities and situations for whom they were written and how they continue to inform and inspire Christian faith and Christian communities today. Join Pastor Lose and me in continuing to learn *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the New Testament!*

PASTOR RUUD

FEBRUARY 1 (MPLS CAMPUS): *Why Is Paul Such a Big Deal? Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon* with Pastor Lose

MARCH 1 (WEST CAMPUS): *How Did Paul's Legacy Continue? Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus* with Pastor Ruud

Both 6:30-7pm or via video

Participate via in-person presentations and/or emailed videos. Previous videos available at mtolivet.org/education. Register at mtolivet.org/education or by contacting Katie Stevenson at katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232.



Living and Listening in the In-Between

Next month at the Conference & Retreat Center we begin Lent with a day of fellowship, food, reflection, and worship. Our annual Day Lenten Retreat will focus on an often neglected day in the church calendar: Holy Saturday. Couched between Good Friday (when Jesus died) and Easter Sunday (when Jesus rose to new life) is a silent day that scripture says little about. Yet it is also a day that we reference every time we recite this phrase in the Apostle's Creed: he descended to the dead/Hell. I've long been drawn to this day and its meaning for our lives. Perhaps that sounds morose! Or maybe (I hope) not.

On Holy Saturday Jesus is dead. When he is buried, it's not pretend. He's gone. Silent. Alone. Reduced to nothing more than a cadaver. "Hell" isn't a place he visits (with devils and pitchforks) as much as it is a condition he endures. It's beyond our understanding, but whatever this means, it is agonizing. It's the loss of joy, strength, vitality, and connection. The Light of God is snuffed out. The Word of God is dead, and his disciples have no words to say. It is an awful in-between day.

While none of us experience what Jesus experienced on Holy Saturday, most (if not all) of us know something about living in between life and death, hope and despair, safety and harm, health and illness, fullness and emptiness, trust and fear. Holy Saturday helps us give voice to our loss, anxiety, and trauma. It encourages us to sit with one another in whatever darkness and powerlessness we feel. And it gives us the courage to ask the question, "Where is God?," and to wait for the answer, "Right here. Now. With us."

We hope you'll join us in our Day Lenten Retreat, so that we might journey through these in-between days together, listening and waiting for God to break through every form of death we encounter in the world in order to bring us life again and again.

DR. THERESA LATINI, *Executive Director of the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center*

FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY MADE? VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Tuesday March 15, 6:30-8:30pm, via Zoom

The Virtual Workshop series "Living Well, Leading Well" returns Tuesday, March 15, at 6:30pm on Zoom with Anna Madsen. Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen serves as a freelance theologian in Two Harbors, Minnesota. Through OMG: Center for Theological Conversation (omgcenter.com) she writes articles, books, and blogs; consults congregations and individuals; and presents on matters related to the intersection of theology, faith, and life. She also hosts The Spent Dandelion Theological Retreat Center (spentdandelion.com), where rostered leaders and laity can stay in the studio apartment overlooking the forest to retreat, reflect, and renew by way of conversation with Anna, making use of her library, or simply taking in all the beauty that is Minnesota's North Shore. In 2004, an accident killed her husband and gave her son, Karl, a traumatic brain injury. That unwelcomed event entered Anna, Karl, and her daughter Else into many new worlds, not least of all the new world of life with a loved one with disabilities. Join Anna in this first workshop to hear more about her theological and personal journey and to explore the psalmist's audacious claim of being "fearfully and wonderfully made." Cost is \$20. Register at mtolivetretreat.org/events.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church is one of the few churches in America that provides professional, ethical, licensed counseling services to aid church and community members in dealing with the tensions, pressures and stresses of daily life. Our services help people work through their concerns in a supportive setting that is open to those of all faith perspectives and walks of life. Our therapists include Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, and a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. We offer therapy for adults, children, adolescents, couples and families. A variety of support and educational groups are offered as well. We offer both in-person and secure telehealth sessions.

To schedule an appointment, register for a group, or gain more information, please contact Molly Pach at 612.927.7335, ext. 10, or mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org.



Just Who Do We Think We Are?

Do you ever beat yourself up for ‘dropping the ball’ or not performing as you had hoped? Welcome to the human race! It’s easy to feel like we have failed, or to feel guilty for whatever we did or didn’t do, and then of course replay over and over, what we wish we had done or said. As therapists we are privy to many such honest stories involving self-condemnation and regret, often unrealistically so. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many opportunities for having to ‘pivot’ and respond on the fly in the way we think best. This of course provides many opportunities for second- (and third and fourth) guessing ourselves. Some of these guilt-producing ‘shoulda-coulda-woulda’ situations are minor, and some loom much larger for us.

‘Getting stuck’ on this guilt for a while may actually serve us a purpose. It helps us safely park for a while in a place where we perhaps can believe in and fantasize about a reality of ‘alternative narratives’ where we are more powerful than we really are; maybe even able to transform circumstances. Ask any super-hero buff, this is quite compelling! One grief therapist writes that “Guilt helps to distract us from fully embracing the pain and sorrow of a difficult situation. Guilt is a form of protest against realities beyond our comprehension and our ability to change them.” (Theile, 2021, Family Therapy.)

Hopefully, perhaps through talking with others who respond appropriately and kindly, we are eventually able to see that we are actually NOT higher power beings who have the power to dictate circumstances as we wish. It’s actually a little egotistical to think so! Eventual forgiveness for ourselves is necessary; and acceptance that we were not as powerful as we thought we ‘should’ be and able to perform miracles if only we had tried harder, or had done or been more. We are actually regular humans, and can benefit from accepting our limitations and all that we are unable to control. So go ahead, indulge in beating yourself up a little. Then eventually extend yourself kindness, and consider checking in with the people that help you to do so. You are a beautiful human and are doing your best in difficult situations. Carry on!

SHANNON HIMANGO, MA, LMFT, Mount Olivet Counseling Service

SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS



GOD'S KIDS SING! JUNE 13 - 17 K-6TH GRADE

GKS! is centered on singing, playing instruments, learning movement to Bible verses, choreography to upbeat songs, and all kinds of art projects. Classes are taught by professional educators and include an engaged group of High School counselors who love our GKS! campers! Come and be a part of the 2022 GKS!



SUMMERTIME PLAYERS! JULY 18 - 22 6TH-9TH GRADE

STP! is a music-based day camp specifically designed for this special middle school age group. Days are action-packed with team games, singing and dancing to pop and musical theatre songs, and afternoon field trips. STP! is the perfect place to make new friends, and to bond with the Youth and Music staff of MO!

Visit mtolivet.org/summer-camps to learn more about all Summer Day Camp options and to register. If you have questions, please contact Kristin Olson, kolson@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2246.

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS

Each Day Camp is \$225/session and includes snacks, a t-shirt, activities, and field trips. Camps run from 8:30am-4:30pm, with early drop off (7:30am) and extended day (until 5:30pm) options.

AGES 4 - 2ND GRADE HALF DAY OPTIONS

Vacation Bible School at Mpls Campus

M 6/20 – Th 6/23 \$50

Vacation Bible School at West Campus

M 6/27 – Th 6/30 \$50

KINDERGARTEN - 6TH GRADE FULL DAY OPTIONS

God's Kids Sing!

M 6/13 – F 6/17 \$225

Vacation Bible School Day Camp

M 6/20 – Th 6/24 \$225

Cooking Week

M 6/27 – F 7/1 \$225

Drop in Days

W 7/6 – F 7/8, daily rate of \$45

Super Summer

M 7/11 – F 7/15 \$225

Nature Camp

M 7/18 – F 7/22 \$225

Imagination Creation

M 7/25 – F 7/29 \$225

Bugging Out

M 8/1 – F 8/5 \$225

Drop in Days

M 8/22 – F 8/26, daily rate \$45

Drop in Days

M 8/29 – Th 9/1, daily rate \$45

6TH - 9TH GRADE

Summertime Players!

M 7/18 – F 7/22 \$225



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



6TH GRADE FIRST COMMUNION

6th graders and their families are invited to celebrate First Communion at Mount Olivet on **Sundays, March 6 at the Mpls Campus, or Sunday, March 13 at the West Campus**. If you were unable to attend one of the in-person First Communion classes – please join us online on **Tuesday, February 22 from 6-7pm**. Register at mtolivet.org for more information! We are looking forward to celebrating this important faith milestone with you. Please contact Katy Michaletz, kmichaletz@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2245, with any questions.



MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL

We'd love to partner with you for your child's early education! The Mount Olivet Preschool offers flexible programming options, highly qualified and caring staff, and engaging classroom spaces for children ages 3yrs+. Please contact Preschool Director, Alyssa Hill, ahill@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2216, for tour information and availability.



CFM ZOOM BINGO!

Sunday, February 13, 7-8pm, via Zoom

Get your loved ones together and join the Children & Family Ministry team for a few rounds of virtual Bingo! Wear your favorite Valentine's Day colors or accessories as we play for great prizes! Register at mtolivet.org and we'll send you the Bingo Card to print out and Zoom link! Questions? Contact Amy Porthan, amyp@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2285.



MOUNT OLIVET SUMMER PROGRAMS

Registration is open! We have expanded our summer day camp options and have a little something for everyone! Your child and their friends will enjoy a variety of theme-based day camps, action-packed field trips, music and movement, games and crafts, and lots of laughs and fun with counselors. Join us for a day a week...or all summer! Register at mtolivet.org. If you have questions, please contact Kristin Olson, Children's Camp Coordinator, kolson@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2246.

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES SUNDAY WORSHIP & RALLY – JOIN US!

Sunday, February 27

Worship at Mpls & West Campuses

Rally following the 11 am service at the Mpls Campus

Hello! My name is Kristi Youngdahl and I am the Director at Cathedral of the Pines! On Sunday February 27, we will be celebrating Cathedral of the Pines Camp with two opportunities. Together we will enjoy a traditional COP chapel service at each of our Sunday morning services at both the Mpls and West Campuses. Following the 11am service at the Mpls Campus, we will hold a camp rally. This will be an opportunity for campers to meet with their camp friends, see some of the counselors from last year, and spend time with the 2022 camp staff! If you have never been to camp, it's a chance to learn more about COP. I will meet with parents to answer any questions along with Kris Ericksen, the Camp Coordinator; Heidi Youngdahl, the Camp Nurse; and Maddie Lipkin, our Head Cook. We will be available for any questions regarding registration, health concerns, and food challenges while at camp. We will serve a camp-style lunch, be entertained by our counselors, enjoy some skits, songs, and end with a slide show of camp.

I believe that a summer camp experience is more important than ever! Children need a safe space to experience independence, learn about teamwork, and to try new things. They need to have face-to-face conversations, use their creativity, have time for free play, run, laugh, and engage with others. Children need to be in a space that is electronic-free! Again, I say, to be electronic-free! Both campers and counselors! Camp is a time to enjoy the great outdoors including swimming in Lake Caribou, stargazing at night, smelling the fresh North Shore air, and enjoying the beautiful forest.

To me the most important thing about Cathedral of the Pines is the relationships! Camp is a place to meet new friends, to strengthen old friendships, and to feel a sense of belonging. It is a safe space to ask questions, to engage in meaningful conversations, and to listen to others' faith stories. It allows us to be wherever we are on our faith journey and to strengthen our relationship with God.

Please encourage any 2nd-8th grader you know to sign up for Cathedral of the Pines Camp. It is a wonderful place to spend time in the summer!

I am looking forward to another wonderful summer at Cathedral of the Pines! Please contact me with questions you may have at kristiy@mtolivet.org or 612.840.6520.

KRISTI YOUNGDAHL, *Director of Cathedral of the Pines Camp*

There are scholarships available for Mount Olivet members.



2022 YOUTH CAMPING SCHEDULE ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED BY GRADE AS OF SEP 1, 2022

GRADES 3, 4, & 5

Week 1: Sa, 7/23 – W 7/27

Week 2: Sa, 8/6 – W 8/10

GRADES 5, 6, & 7

Week 1: M 7/18 – Sa 7/23

GRADES 6, 7, & 8

Week 1: Su 6/26 – F 7/1

Week 2: Tu 7/5 – Su 7/10

Week 3: W 7/27 – M 8/1

9TH GRADE

CONFIRMATION CAMP (MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS ONLY)

Week 1: Su 7/10 – F 7/15

Week 2: M 8/1 – Sa 8/6

GRADES 11, 12, & GRADUATES

Summer Starter: Su 6/19 – Th 6/23

GRADE 10

10th Grade Starter: Th 6/23 – Su 6/26

GRADES 10, 11, & 12

Hi-League Retreat: W 8/10 – Su 8/14



UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

Registration and more information available at mtolivet.org/events.

GREET & GIVE DONATION DRIVES

Monday, February 7, 4-6pm, Mpls Campus & Monday, February 21, 4-6pm, West Campus

We will be hosting another Greet and Give Drive in February, with food donations going to VEAP and supplies going to Simpson Housing Services. On the top of Simpson's most-needed items list are: paper towels, toilet paper, travel-size personal care items, new twin-size sheet sets, and new bed pillows. Donations accepted at the West campus will go to Bountiful Baskets and Love INC. The most-needed items for LoveINC are: new sheet sets and blankets (twin, full and queen sizes – NO flannel), new towels, and full-size personal care items.

NEW! ADULT/CHILD PAINTING CLASSES

Monday, February 14, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$50 & Friday, March 4, 10am-12noon, Mpls Campus, \$50

These classes are a fun collaboration for you and your child (6yrs+) to paint together. No experience is needed; this class is about spending quality time with your child and having fun. Each person is provided a 16x20 canvas, acrylic paints, and all the supplies needed to create their own masterpiece. The instructor will lead you step-by-step through the painting.

YOUNG IN HEART

Wednesday, February 23, 12noon, Mpls Campus

Plan to attend the Young in Heart luncheon where Pastor Terry Morehouse will share thoughts about his new book, "Shalom – Our Search for Peace in a Troubled World." Cost: \$9, and a donation to Pastor Scott's ministry is welcome. Please register no later than February 18 at mtolivet.org, or by contacting Ann LaBree at 612.767.2288 or annl@mtolivet.org.

FLYING SOLO SLEIGH RIDE & S'MORES

Sunday, February 27, 3-5:15pm, 550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover, \$12

Join Flying Solo for a Sleigh Ride at Bunker Park Stable in Andover! Feel free to bring a blanket and a warm drink for the ride! Stay for a campfire with s'mores and hot chocolate afterward! Register at mtolivet.org.

THE FIRST YEARS WITHOUT THEM

Wednesdays, March 2 through May 11, 3-4:30pm, via Zoom, \$125, Mount Olivet Counseling Service

Come find healing in the first years following the death of a loved one. Sara Watne, MA, LPCC, leads this support group which utilizes contemplative practices, poetry, film clips and discussion to encourage participants along their path of mourning and reconciliation. To register for a group or to 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.

NEW! ADULT WATERCOLOR PAINTING CLASS

Thursday, March 3, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$35

Paint a beautiful watercolor painting in this two hour class. Step-by-step instructions and discussion on the techniques used in the painting, such as wet on wet and wet on dry are included as we work together in this class. This is a great way to learn to paint in watercolors even if you have no experience. All supplies are provided.

13TH MOTORHEADS @ LE CHATEAU

Tuesday, March 22, Arrive at the West Campus between 5:30pm and 7pm (shuttles run continuously until 9pm), Cost: \$10 paid by 3/20, \$15 at the door, \$5 for youth 18 and under.

Join fellow Motorheads for this fun gathering at the Herreid home (Le Chateau). Enjoy delicious food, cool cars, interesting displays, devotions, and more! Register at mtolivet.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY

To register for these events or learn more about these offerings, please contact Geoff Arenson geoffa@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2212; Anna Herd aherd@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2279; Angie St.Dennis angelas@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2244; Macey Oliver moliver@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2237; Julia Jallo jjallo@mtolivet.org, 952.767.1502; or Katie Ridler kridler@mtolivet.org.



8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION PICTURES

FEBRUARY 9 & 16
5-7pm, both campuses. We will provide the white confirmation robe for each picture.



JHA SNOW TUBING

FEBRUARY 19 10:30am-2pm
Join the JHA Youth Staff for Snow Tubing at Buck Hill! There will be transportation from both the West and Mpls Campuses.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

AGP is an intergenerational program that connects our Confirmation Students with residents at Mount Olivet Careview Homes. Contact Anna Herd if you are interested in joining.



CAMP SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Come to church and experience a Cathedral of the Pines Chapel Service! Join us to relive camp memories and look forward to this summer!



YOUTH-LED ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2
7pm, both campuses. Cathedral Choir singing.



CONFIRMATION

REMINDER!
No Confirmation Sunday, February 27!



HI-LEAGUE

2/6: COP Lodge Games
2/20: Buck Hill Snowtubing
2/27: Camp Sunday



7TH GRADE RETREATS

MPLS CAMPUS
Friday, 2/4 - Saturday, 2/5 from 4:45pm-10:30am



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Circle of Friends is a social-based program that partners adolescents with and without disabilities from Mount Olivet and the neighboring communities. We meet on Monday nights from 6:30-8:15pm throughout the school year from October to May. Circle of Friends is a program like no other in the cities simply designed to make connections between high school students from different backgrounds. The main goal of the program is to create an environment where everyone feels safe, welcome and respected, where we aim to build friendships that last a lifetime.

Each Monday we meet at church and do a variety of activities such as pumpkin carving, bingo, etc. We also, travel off-site to places like Grand Slam, the mall and Skateville! The activities are so much fun in and of themselves, however, the part of COF that really makes my week is seeing friendships being formed before my eyes. Every time we meet, there is a palpable energy of excitement and kindness as the high schoolers greet each other and chat about their lives and the night's activity. Seeing the high schoolers laughing and learning about one another makes every Monday so special to me and I feel so grateful to be a part of it.

— MACEY OLIVER,
Coordinator of Senior High Youth, Mpls Campus

JOIN US FOR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS!

We will be having an overnight retreat at the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center Friday, February 18, to Saturday, February 19. This has been quite a memorable event for everyone in the past and we're so excited to bring it back in 2022! We will hang out, play games, go swimming, and have a great time. The details of the event are below:

- We will bus as a group from the Mpls Campus to the Mount Olivet Conference Retreat Center. The bus will leave at 5:30pm on Friday and return at 11am on Saturday. Please make sure you have transportation lined up for drop off and pick up at church.
- Participants and Hi-Leaguers will be staying in dorm-style rooms. Please be sure to bring a sleeping bag/bedding and pillow.
- The cost of this event is \$30 per person, which includes lodging, meals and snacks, and transportation.

Please contact Macey Oliver, moliver@mtolivet.org if you have any questions!

— MACEY OLIVER, Coordinator of Senior High Youth, Mpls Campus



I have been a part of Circle of Friends for three years, and it has quickly become one of the best parts of my week. I joined my sophomore year to have another extracurricular and be with my friends, but Circle has become so much more to me. I have had amazing experiences through volunteering, and Circle has allowed me to meet people from all over the Twin Cities. We do all sorts of different activities with our partners, and I look forward to every Monday. Circle of Friends is a great start to the week and knowing I have something to do every Monday that I enjoy is comforting. Even when I am busy or stressed about school, I know that I can go to Circle and hang out with many great people to get my mind off of daily life. When Circle of Friends starts each year, I can't wait to go to all the events and meet new people. Some of my favorite events were Comedy Sports, bingo, and the Zoo Mobile. Circle of Friends is a great way to get more involved at Mount Olivet and has allowed me to become closer with my friends and meet new people.

— JULIA DUCHATEAU, Senior at Edina High School



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Listen!
LENT 2022

"Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'"

— Mark 9:2-3, 7