

NOVEMBER 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**

9, 10, 11am

HOLY COMMUNION
8:30 & 11:45am

NURSERY
9, 10, 11am

NOVEMBER 6

**THE CALL OF MOSES
AND THE BURNING
BUSH**

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Exodus 3:1-15

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Freeman

NOVEMBER 13

**JACOB WRESTLES WITH
THE LORD**

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Genesis 32:22-30

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor MacLean

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Dixon

NOVEMBER 20

**RECOMMISSIONING OF
PETER**

John 21:1-19

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Kalland

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Hammersten

THANKSGIVING EARLY

M 7pm

NOVEMBER 23

THANKSGIVING EVE

M 6pm

SERMON Pastor Cieslik

W 6pm

SERMON Pastor Dixon

NOVEMBER 27

**GABRIEL VISITS
ZACHARIAH**

Luke 1:5-20

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Ruud

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor MacLean

WEDNESDAYS

HOLY COMMUNION

The first Wednesday of each month at the Mpls campus at 12noon, a brief in-person Holy Communion service will be offered. No registration required.

COVER PHOTO

Wonderful Mount Olivet Volunteers serving at a traditional sit down Stewardship Dinner.

The People God Created Us To Be

There is a passage in Matthew's Gospel that vexed me for a number of years. It comes in the middle of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and reads, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). It's the "be perfect" part that I stumbled over. It always felt kind of impossible. God perfect? Of course. Me? Not so much. But then I discovered that the word translated as "perfect" is "*telos*," a Greek word that means "to reach one's intended purpose." Which makes that verse mean something quite different: "Be the person you were created to be, just as God is who God is supposed to be." That feels like an apt description of the Christian life, growing into – *becoming* – the person God created us to be.

In November, we focus on the third word that makes up Mount Olivet's mission statement: *becoming*. We are invited to become the people God created us to be, the people God wants us to be, and the people that God's world needs us to be. With the hope of helping us reach our own *telos*, we will read together several biblical stories in Sunday worship that describe four significant persons in the biblical story – Jeremiah, Moses, Jacob, and Peter – who are each invited to become far more than they'd ever imagined possible. As we enter into their stories, we can expect to meet – and be challenged and supported by – the same God who drew them into lives of meaning and consequence.

Worship is one experience that helps us become the people God wants us to be, but certainly not the only. We grow in our faith through our service to others, and November brings several opportunities to demonstrate our concern for our neighbors through our Christmas for All donation drive, Thanksgiving food drive, and the start of our MOCW Coat and Mitten Drive (pg. 6). We are also more likely to live into our potential as we deepen our relationships with each other, whether through the laughter and fellowship we might share together at the Holiday Boutique or Holiday Market (pg. 7) or by sharing each other's burdens with the help of our upcoming grief retreat (pg. 10). And we can deepen our sense of God's hopes for us through Bible study and learning in settings like our Living the Message class – you can join anytime and participate in-person or online! (pg. 11) – and our Day Advent Journey (pg. 10).

Two final notes as we contemplate how we can become the people God created us to be. First, most of our growth comes through our interactions and experiences with others. For example, while we can certainly study Scripture alone, we regularly find it more engaging, meaningful, and fun to do so with others. That's why St. Paul's metaphor of the church as "the body of Christ" is so compelling: we come together as individual members woven together into something larger, a community that celebrates together when things go well, rallies together when things are challenging, and supports each other through thick and thin. As we share ourselves with others – in fellowship, learning, service, and worship – we grow in ways simply not possible alone.

Second, it's important to be patient with ourselves – and each other! – on this journey to becoming the people and congregation God hopes us to be. Martin Luther, who accomplished incredible things but also struggled with major shortcomings and setbacks, put it beautifully when describing the Christian life not as a static state but an active endeavor, trusting that beyond all of our efforts stands God's promise to draw us to the purpose and *telos* for which God created us. As Luther writes, "This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified."

At Mount Olivet, we are indeed a people who believe the good news, who belong to each other and our communities, and who are committed to becoming the people and church God created us to be. I look forward to continuing that journey with you, anchored by the sure promises of Christ our Lord.



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

PLANNING AHEAD FOR 2023

As Mount Olivet members, you know we prioritize worship services that are both dynamic and traditional, excellent music, exceptional youth ministry, and commitment to the community. Mount Olivet Lutheran Church has served the Twin Cities for over a century through its two campuses in Minneapolis and Victoria, and six affiliated ministries. As we wrap up another year of when we returned to church, grew as a congregation, and shared our blessings generously, we now have an opportunity to look ahead at 2023 and prioritize and plan for an upcoming year at church. Your church has much planned for you and it is a future filled with hope.

CENTENNIAL SUNDAY

January 22, 2023, Mpls & West Campuses

Join us as we worship together and celebrate our Centennial once more with commissioned musical pieces and look back at all the ways we gathered together to mark this historic moment.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9, 2023, Mpls & West Campuses

Join us for a joyful worship service celebrating the risen Christ! We hear God's word and join in song with the choirs and brass in proclaiming that "Christ has risen indeed!"

MOUNT OLIVET GALA

Thursday May 4, 2023, Oak Ridge Country Club

This event is a celebration of you being a part of Mount Olivet. This event supports Mount Olivet's Affiliate Ministries through donations, funding particular needs identified by our Affiliates, and includes a silent auction.

HI-ER LEAGUE (AGES 18-22) THANKSGIVING WORSHIP & PIZZA

Wednesday, November 23, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus

We've missed you and want to see you! Join us for worship at 6pm, followed by a pizza party in the Youth Center!

HEALING IN GRIEF

Begins Wednesday, December 7, 3-4:30pm, West Campus, \$100 for 8 sessions

Begins Thursday, December 8, 6:30-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$100 for 8 sessions

This educational support group offers support, compassion, and understanding to aid in the healing process as you navigate your experience of grief. Various topics will be discussed, including aspects of healthy mourning, practices for healing, and mindfully moving forward. Attending all sessions is important and it is recommended to allow yourself at least a few weeks after a death before attending this group. The group will become closed after the second meeting and will meet at the following above locations for eight weeks. Register at mtolivet.org.

LIFE & GROWTH

SEP 13 - OCT 10

BAPTISMS

Solvi Elizabeth Chottepanda
daughter of Sarah and Kushal
Aoife Louis Cockriel
daughter of Allison and Ken
Hazel Jean Ferry
daughter of Laura and Kane
Colten Ronald Franklin
son of Allison and Austen
Paige Kalland Graves
daughter of Maren and Mike
Hazel Marie Hallman
daughter of Katie and Milton
Arthur Thomas Huepenbecker
son of Kirsten and Thomas
Charlotte Jane Justin
daughter of Stacy and Adam
Juliette Jane Koranda
daughter of Nicole and Brad
Natalie Kate Koranda
daughter of Nicole and Brad
Reese Gabrielle Koranda
daughter of Nicole and Brad
Bianca Elizabeth Lindahl
daughter of Susan and Peter
Lennox John Lindahl
son of Susan and Peter
Portia Davina Lindahl
daughter of Susan and Peter
Rory River Merkel
son of Mollie and Jesse
Sophia Grace Mielke
daughter of Chelsea and Jonathan
Brecken Honey Schmid
son of Marin and Michael
Jack William Smith
son of Jessica and Justin
Soren Michael Thompson
son of Courtney and Theo
Chloe Elizabeth Titus
daughter of Michelle and Ryan

WEDDINGS

Taylor Decker & Craig Parker,
October 1
Grace Wronski & Joshua
Bourassa, *October 8*

DEATHS

Ardy C. Dorsey, 1933 – 2022
Joan H. Jacobson, 1935 – 2022
Robin R. Johnson, 1956 – 2022
Karl O. Knutson, 1922 – 2022
Marshall V. Lewis, 1943 – 2022
Jean A. Sorenson, 1952 – 2022



DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND
NOVEMBER 2022

- 1 Philippians 4:6-7, The Peace O God
- 2 Isaiah 25:1, Wonderful Things
- 3 1 John 4:19, God First Loved Us
- 4 Galatians 3:28, All One In Christ Jesus
- 5 Isaiah 1:16, Stop Doing Wrong
- 6 Matthew 19-20, Treasures In Heaven
- 7 2 Philippians 2:14-6a, Children Of God
- 8 Isaiah 1:17, Do Right, Seek Justice
- 9 Romans 13:10, The Fulfillment Of The Law
- 10 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, Patient, Kind
- 11 Psalm 33:5, Unfailing Love
- 12 John 13:35, Love One Another
- 13 Ephesians 6:12, Our Struggle
- 14 Philippians 2:3, Humility
- 15 Psalm 97:10 Hate Evil
- 16 1 Corinthians 13:1, Without Love
- 17 Romans 15:13, Overflow With Hope
- 18 Psalm 59:16, Refuge In Times Of Trouble
- 19 1 Corinthians 13:3, I Gain Nothing
- 20 Ephesians 6:10, Strong In The Lord
- 21 Exodus 23:25, Worship
- 22 James 1:6, Beliefs And Doubts
- 23 2 Thessalonians 1:3, Growing Faith
- 24 Psalm 18:1-2, In Whom I Take Refuge
- 25 Luke 6:45, What's In Your Heart?
- 26 Proverbs 8:35, Find Life
- 27 Romans 8:35, Who Will Separate Us From God's Love
- 28 Isaiah 55:9, Higher Ways And Thoughts
- 29 Colossians 3:12, Holy And Dearly Loved
- 30 Isaiah 40:31, Hope In The Lord

DEVOTION

"Giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." – Ephesians 5:20

I find these words from the apostle Paul to be difficult. Is it really possible to give thanks for everything that comes to us in life? Is it appropriate to give thanks for some of life's sorrows and tragedies? It would be quite different if we were asked to give thanks for every good thing in our lives, wouldn't it?

We can all admit that we take far too much good for granted, that we allow our wants to become confused with our needs, and that we generally fail to appreciate the prosperity we enjoy in comparison to so many others around the world.

For those of us who have been touched by the greatness of God's love, in our times of difficulty we may pause to question God on why these times occur. Last night I had a text conversation with a woman I've known since 6th grade. Her cousin, a member of Mount Olivet, had just died of cancer. She was basically struggling with how a loving God could allow this to happen? So is the Apostle Paul hopelessly naive in asking us to give thanks in all circumstances?

Well, Paul certainly experienced profound life sorrows. No one is exempt. To give thanks in the face of that sorrow is not naive, but a profound statement of faith in one whose eternal commitment to our well-being is certain. We stand humbled before all we do not understand, but rooted nevertheless in our sureness that beyond our knowing lies God's great wisdom in ordering our lives and our world.

— PASTOR MACLEAN



Mount Olivet offers a tremendous number of worship services, fellowship groups, service opportunities, and educational events and programs. Exploring the possibility of joining Mount Olivet is as easy as contacting Carol Nault, our Director of Membership. She can answer your questions and help you explore how Mount Olivet can enrich your faith. Attend a very informative new member orientation and find out what it means to be a member of this amazing congregation! Meet the pastors, some of the staff, members of the Board of Life and Growth and connect with other people who will be joining Mount Olivet. The next orientation is:

Sunday, November 6, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus

New Members will be recognized during the worship service on Sunday, November 13. To learn more or to register, please contact Carol Nault, at caroln@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2204.

Happy Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING EARLY DINNER & SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 6PM DINNER, 7PM WORSHIP, MPLS CAMPUS

Celebrate Thanksgiving a little early by joining us for a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings followed by a worship service led by Pastor Dixon and our Hi-Leaguers with music from the Cathedral Choir. Dinner is \$15 per person, with advance registration required online at mtolivet.org by 11/14.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 6PM, MPLS & WEST CAMPUSES

Pastor Cieslik (Mpls Campus) and Pastor Dixon (West Campus) will be preaching the Cathedral and Senior Choirs will provide special music. Nursery is available at both campuses. Following the service, stay for cookies and fellowship. Join us!



MOCW COAT & MITTEN DRIVE

THROUGH 12/15

Donate new non-handmade mittens, hats, scarves, warm boots, and coats of all sizes for those who are experiencing homelessness. Donations can be dropped off at either campus.



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

11/20, 8:30-11AM

Support our ministry partners in their hunger initiatives by bringing non-perishable food items to both campuses.



CHRISTMAS FOR ALL

11/20 & 11/27, 8:30-11AM & 11/30, 5-7PM

Donate a new, unwrapped gift in the \$5-\$40 range for one of our Community Partners. *More details available on page 9.*



THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Gifts may be given using the envelope in the Thanksgiving mailing, online at mtolivet.org, or by contacting Tricia Lerohl-Morgan at 612.767.2255 or tricial@mtolivet.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS



MOCW HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE & HOLIDAY MARKET

Saturday, November 5, 9am-2pm, Mpls Campus

Saturday, November 12, 9am-2pm, West Campus

Join us for the MOCW Holiday Boutique and Holiday Market featuring fine art, crafts, pottery, jewelry, home decor, culinary gifts, "Dala House" kids-only shopping, and more! For questions about the Boutique, contact Sandy Remes at mtolivetboutique@gmail.com. For questions about the Market, contact Teresa Elsbernd or Deb Kind at westholidaymarket@gmail.com.

MOUNT OLIVET ART CLASSES

BEGINNER PISSARRO PAINTING CLASS

Tuesday, November 8, 6-7:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$35

In this class you will learn to paint in the style of Camille Pissarro. You will learn a bit of history of Pissarro as you follow step-by-step instructions to create his "Snow Effect at Eragny Road." An 8 x 10 inch canvas and all supplies needed are included. Adults and mature children of all artistic abilities are invited to join this wonderful class! Register at mtolivet.org by November 3.

LINOCUT HOLIDAY PRINTMAKING CLASS

Tuesday, November 15, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$45

Linocut is a printmaking technique in which you carve a design into a sheet of linoleum using a variety of specialized tools. Learn how to design, carve, and create multiple prints of your image. You will print five cards and take your piece to print more at home. Give your holidays a special handmade touch! Register at mtolivet.org by November 10.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS

Tuesday, November 15, 12noon, Mpls Campus, \$10

Young in Heart & Friends invites you to join us for great music, food, community service opportunities and upcoming events information. November's entertainment is Debbie and Tom Schreyer who play the banjo and string bass. Debbie is in the American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame and has played banjo across America and internationally. Tom's musical background includes leading roles in multiple musicals including The Guthrie Theater's, *A Christmas Carol*. This will be an amazing event to hear. Bring a friend to share in the experience. Register by November 11 at mtolivet.org, or by contacting Tricia Asuncion at 612.767.2210 or tasuncion@mtolivet.org.

FLYING SOLO

Sunday, November 20, 6pm, Mpls Campus, \$15

Come to the Thanksgiving Early Dinner followed by youth-led worship at the Mpls Campus. Dinner is at 6pm with worship following at 7pm. Look for the table with the purple balloon! Register at mtolivet.org.

MOHA BUTTER BRAIDS

Mount Olivet Homes Auxiliary will be selling Butter Braids for your Thanksgiving and Christmas enjoyment! Sales will be taken online at mtolivet.org, with pickup scheduled between services on the Sunday mornings listed above at the Mpls Campus. If you have any questions please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

THANKSGIVING BUTTER BRAID SALES

Orders taken through November 7. Pick up on Sunday, November 20, 9-11 am, Mpls Campus

CHRISTMAS BUTTER BRAID SALES

Orders taken November 8 through November 28. Pick up on Sunday, December 11, 9-11 am, Mpls Campus

Angels

THEN AND NOW

Angels hold a special place in our Christmas celebrations, as they are often found decorating front yards (and church parking lots!), lending their shape to the tastiest of Christmas cookies, decorating trees as an ornament or tree-topper, and adorning our cards and wrapping paper. They hold a special place in the Christmas story as well, visiting Zechariah (John the Baptist's dad), Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. But have you ever wondered where these celestial visitors come from and what their purpose is in the biblical story? We get our word "angel" from a Greek word, *Angelos*, which means "messenger." And that's what angels do – they bring a message to people from God. Which means, as we'll discover this Advent, that there are still angels around us... and we might even be one of them!

WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAYS, 9, 10, & 11AM, MPLS & WEST CAMPUSES

November 27, December 4, December 11, and December 18

December 11: At the 9 & 10am services our Sunday School Choirs will be singing in worship and at the 11am service a Christmas special Pop-up Choir for 20s & 30s will be singing! For more information about the Pop-Up Choir see page 9.

CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

2-6pm, West Campus

2-10pm, Mpls Campus

CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10am, Mpls & West Campuses

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:30PM, WEST CAMPUS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 6:30PM, MPLS CAMPUS

This service features a time of healing and reflection with peaceful harp music, a vocal soloist, and a time to light a candle in memory of your loved one. If you would like the first and last name of your loved one read during the service, please visit mtolivet.org to register or contact Julie Goodman at 612.767.2208 or julieg@mtolivet.org.

CHRISTMAS HOMEBOUND COMMUNION SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 11AM-1PM, MPLS CAMPUS

A service of Holy Communion, followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall for our homebound members and family. Please join us for this special time of food and fellowship. To register for this event contact Julie Goodman at 612.767.2208 or julieg@mtolivet.org. If transportation is needed or if you are able to provide a ride to one of our homebound members, please contact Julie Goodman.



MOCW LUTEFISK DINNER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 3-7PM, MPLS CAMPUS

Join us for the 92nd Lutefisk Dinner. Everyone is invited to an all-you-can-eat buffet of lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, rutabagas, boiled potatoes, pickled beets, and butter or white sauce! **Advance ticket sales are requested at mtolivet.org.** \$25 adults, \$5 kids 12 and under. Questions? Contact the church office at 612.926.7651.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Heather Goudy at heathergoudy@hotmail.com.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 3 & 5PM, & LIVESTREAMED, MPLS CAMPUS

These beautiful concerts, presented by Mount Olivet Choirs, are a special holiday experience that will provide both the sights and sounds of the Christmas season.

Advent begins November 27!

CHRISTMAS FOR ALL DROP OFF

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 20 & 27, 8:30-11AM & WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 5-7PM

Please bring new, unwrapped gifts for all ages in a \$5-\$40 range to either campus for our Christmas for All store, which benefits Mount Olivet ministry partners Love INC, Redeemer Lutheran Church, and Southside Family Nurturing Center. A list of suggested items is available online. Visit mtolivet.org to sign-up to volunteer. If you have questions, please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.



MESSIAH SING-A-LONG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 3PM REHEARSAL, 3:45PM PERFORMANCE, MPLS CAMPUS

Grab your Christmas sweater and choir friends to join Mount Olivet for a fun and casual community sing-a-long of Handel's *Messiah*! This festive forty-five-minute sing-a-long is sure to invigorate your Christmas spirit with great music, comradery, and performances by Mount Olivet's fantastic soloists and musicians.

TRIVIA

In what European capital city did *Messiah* have its premiere performance?

Answer: Dublin, Ireland in 1742.

The first section of *Messiah* is called the "Christmas Portion" because it focuses on the birth of Jesus Christ.

What are the focuses of the other three sections? **Answer: His death, Resurrection, and Ascension.**

The entire text in *Messiah* comes from 14 different Biblical books in the King James Version. What book is quoted the most?

Answer: Isaiah with 21 verses.

Over three hours in performance, how many days did it take for Handel to compose his *Messiah*?

Answer: 18 days between July and August of 1741

On what religious holiday did the newspapers report George F. Handel's death?

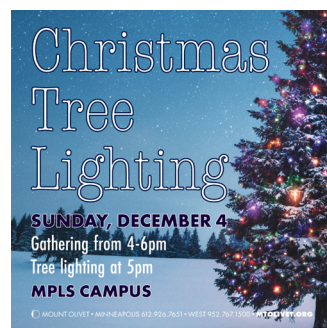
Answer: Good Friday 1759, but he actually died on Saturday.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 4-6PM GATHERING, 5PM TREE LIGHTING, MPLS CAMPUS ON JAMES AVE

Join us as we light the Mount Olivet Christmas Tree on 50th and James Ave in Mpls! We will gather around our tree, share a song, and light up our small corner of south Minneapolis with grateful anticipation of the Savior and light of the world. There will be music, food, an opportunity to purchase Christmas trees and wreaths, and even Santa and reindeer will be available for pictures!



POP-UP CHOIR FOR 20s & 30s

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 10AM REHEARSAL, 11AM SING IN WORSHIP

WILD MIND BREWERY FOLLOWING SERVICE

Maybe you sang in Cathedral Choir. Maybe you just like to sing. Maybe you are just curious about Mount Olivet. Or, you have some deep Mount Olivet roots and haven't been back to church for a few years. Come join Dr. Claflin, your friends, or make some new friends by singing in the pop-up choir for 20s and 30s and then join us at Wild Mind Brewery following.

DAY ADVENT JOURNEY

Tuesday, November 29, 9:30am-3pm, Conference & Retreat Center

This Day Advent Journey explores the presence of angels throughout the Bible. Join Pastor Cieslik and the Conference & Retreat Center staff (the Revs. Theresa Latini, Jeremy Bork, and Annie Langseth) in wondering together: Do we believe in angels? Do we belong with them? Do we become like them when we die? Expect to have your image of angels changed and your heart opened anew to God's mystery and creativity as we examine weird angels in the Bible and sing about angels in Advent hymns. We will have a special session on Nature in Advent with Dan Kahl as well.

Cost is \$20 for lunch and program. Register at least 24 hours in advance at mtolivetretreat.org/events.

Bus transportation is available for \$10 from West (8:30am), 7500 York (8:30am), and Mpls Campus (9am). To register for the bus, choose your bus stop location (West Campus, 7500 York, or Mpls Campus) in the "Additional Items" section of the registration.

Please note that a minimum of 10 people is required for each bus. Therefore, bus reservation is required 72 hours in advance. If bus service has to be cancelled, a 48-hour notice will be given.

Growing Through Grief

Saturday, November 5, 9am-4pm, Held at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center and co-sponsored with Grace Hospice, Mount Olivet Congregational Care team, and the Counseling Service.

It's not too late to sign up! Whether you are grieving the death of a loved one, severed relationships, the loss of dreams, or more, this day retreat will provide an opportunity for you to grow and heal. Visit mtolivetretreat.org for more information and registration.



Crafty Ladies Retreat

Friday, November 18 through Sunday, November 20, Conference & Retreat Center

Experienced and beginner crafters are invited to Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center for an annual weekend of uninterrupted crafting! We are particularly happy to announce that we are returning

to the pre-pandemic pattern of two overnights, six meals, and use of all amenities for this retreat. We now have a commuter option for those who prefer not to spend the night. Meet other crafters, enjoy home-cooked meals from our kitchen, and relax and unwind for a weekend of self-guided creativity and connection! More details and registration at mtolivetretreat.org by Friday, November 11.



SAVE THE DATE!

WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Friday, January 27 through Sunday, January 29



Book Discussions Evening & Daytime Options

Come and enjoy a lively discussion of a new book every month—the same book will be discussed at both the evening and daytime discussions. New members are always welcome! Please register to receive more information. You can join in for one discussion – or all! Please contact Katie Stevenson at katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232 if you have questions.

UPCOMING BOOKS:

NOVEMBER: *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead

DECEMBER: *Four Seasons in Rome* by Anthony Doerr

JANUARY: *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson

DAYTIME DISCUSSIONS: 10-11:30am the second Tuesday of the month; Mpls

EVENING DISCUSSIONS: 7-8:30pm the second Wednesday of the month; Mpls

Pray Without Ceasing

It's not too late to join some of your Mount Olivet pastors in tackling, discussing, and learning about prayer. Sign up now and you can catch up with the October videos on *What Is Prayer?* and *Prayer & the Community Spirit* and/or attend the November classes.

NOVEMBER 2/3:

Prayers My Grandmother Taught Me with Pastor Kalland

NOVEMBER 9/10: *How Should We Pray?* with Pastor Freeman

This "Word with Your Pastors" series centered on prayer runs 10:30-11:30am Wednesdays at Mpls and Thursdays at West or via emailed pre-recorded videos. Register at mtolivet.org/education.



MISSING THE MARK: THE TRUTH ABOUT "SIN"

In my experience, "sin" is one of the most familiar and, simultaneously, misunderstood words in the Christian faith. In this session, we'll dig into one of the most iconic passages of Scripture – the account of Adam and Eve's "fall" in Genesis 3 – and discover that it, too, is both familiar and often misunderstood. A deeper, closer reading of this story, as well as candid reflection on our own experience of life in a fallen world, will help us understand and reclaim the word "sin" in our individual and congregational life.

In particular, embracing a more biblical view of sin turns out to be less about guilt and shame and more about being honest with ourselves and each other, leaning into a repentance born of hope, and being open to hear God's redemptive word of grace and forgiveness. I hope you can join us in December, either in person or via the recorded session (or both!), as understanding and reclaiming that little three-letter word "sin" can be instructive, interesting, and remarkably hopeful!

PASTOR LOSE

UPCOMING CLASSES:

NOVEMBER 1: Original Blessing: *Creation* at West in the Rehearsal Hall

DECEMBER 6: Missing the Mark: *Sin* at Mpls in 207

These classes are part of the "Living the Message" series taught by Pastor Lose and Pastor Ruud the first Tuesday of each month through May (6:30-7:30pm), or via monthly emailed videos. All are welcome at any time.

Register at mtolivet.org/education.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

To register for these events or learn more about these offerings, please contact Geoff Arenson, Director of Youth Ministry, geoffa@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2212.



CHANCEL CHOIR GUSTAVUS RETREAT

NOVEMBER 4-5

The Chancel Choir will be having a fun overnight at Gustavus Adolphus College. We will have a camp dance, play games, practice in Christ Chapel, and shop in the Bookmark!



HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AND HOLIDAY MARKET

NOVEMBER 5, 9AM-2PM, MPLS CAMPUS

NOVEMBER 12, 9AM-2PM, WEST CAMPUS

Come support our Cathedral Choir and Youth Programs at the Holiday Boutique & Holiday Market. Our Youth operate our table at these events. This year we are offering: Livia's Seasoning Salts, See's Holiday Candy, and a special apparel item designed by our students in the youth program!



THANKSGIVING EARLY

NOVEMBER 20, 7-8pm,

Mpls Campus.

This service is so special because of the leaders from our West and Mpls Hi-League Board who put it all together!



HI-LEAGUE SCHEDULE

11/6 7-8:30pm. Hi-League Sharegroups

11/13 7-9pm. Skateville

11/30 5-7pm. Christmas For All Shopping



CONFIRMATION REMINDERS!

There will be no Confirmation on Wednesday, November 23 or Sunday, November 27. Please go to one of our Thanksgiving Worship Services.



FOOD DRIVE

NOVEMBER 20

Looking for some service hours? Our Sunday Serve option for this month is the Thanksgiving Food Drive. To sign up, please contact Anna Herd at aherd@mtolivet.org!



CHRISTMAS FOR ALL

NOVEMBER 20 OR 30

Please bring an unwrapped gift to large group Confirmation. These gifts will be donated to our Christmas for All Store.



OUR FAVORITE THANKSGIVING EVENTS

ADOPT-A-GRANDPARENT THANKSGIVING SERVICE

To start this off, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Sydney Campo. I have been involved with Mount Olivet since preschool. One of the many things I enjoy doing through church is volunteering. I especially liked taking part in Adopt-a-Grandparent. Adopt-a-Grandparent, or AGP, was one of the best experiences that I've ever had with volunteering. AGP is an incredible way to show acts of kindness. One thing that I love about AGP is the social aspect of it. You grow closer with those from Mount Olivet and get to know the residents of the Mount Olivet Home. One of my favorite events was the Thanksgiving Service that we do at the Home in the Chapel. It's youth-led and last year, I got to be a scripture reader. In conclusion, I am so happy that I got to experience AGP, and I'd highly encourage others to do it. — **Sydney Campo, AGP alumni, 9th Grader at Benilde-St. Margaret's**



THANKSGIVING EARLY

Our Thanksgiving Early Worship Service will take place on November 20 from 7-8pm at the Mpls Campus. This service is so special because of the leaders from our Mpls and West Hi-League Board who put it all together!

More details about this service can be found on page 6.

INTRODUCING THIS YEAR'S SPEAKERS:



Sophie Goudy is a senior at Edina High School. At church she is a Section Leader for Cathedral Choir, a Mount Olivet Youth Board Officer at Mpls, and often visits the homeless shelter when she has the opportunity. Sophie is one of the Captains for the Varsity Gymnastics team at Edina. She also is a gymnasts coach for 3rd-6th graders.



Karianna Lien is a senior at Minnetonka. She is a Varsity Tennis Captain and is involved in student government and other clubs around her school. At church she is the Vice President of the Mount Olivet Youth Board at West! She also sings in the Cathedral Choir and is a member of our Mount Olivet Leadership Team.



Oliver Bastian is a senior at Benilde-St. Margaret's. At church he participates in Circle of Friends, sings in the Cathedral Choir, and is on the Mount Olivet Youth Board at Mpls. Outside of church, he enjoys playing pick-up sports with his friends, playing cards with his grandparents, and running around Lake Harriet.

THANKSGIVING TURKEY BINGO!

Friday, November 18, 6-9pm, Mpls Campus, Free!

All 4th – 6th graders are invited to join the Children and Family Ministry team for a night of Turkey-themed BINGO and a holiday movie! Prizes, popcorn, and candy bars will make this a night you won't want to miss! Invite your friends, and register at mtolivet.org! Contact Amy Porthan, 612.767.2285 or amyp@mtolivet.org with questions!



GINGERBREAD KIT PICK UP

Sunday, December 4, 4-6pm, Mpls Campus, \$15

A favorite holiday tradition returns on December 4! Take-Home Gingerbread kits will be ready for pick up at the Community Christmas Tree Lighting Event. Kits include a gingerbread house, decorations, extra frosting, and a few games for the whole family to enjoy! We encourage you to purchase kits ahead of time online at mtolivet.org – a few additional kits will be available for purchase at the event! Contact Katy Michaletz at kmichaletz@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2245 with questions.

BIBLE PRESENTATION RECAP

4th graders and their families had a wonderful gathering at each campus as Pastor Lose taught us about the Bible. At the conclusion of each class, Bibles were presented to 4th graders. If your 4th grader was unable to attend the class and presentation, Bibles are available in Sunday School at each campus.

MUSIKGARTEN

Do you have a young child in your life who LOVES music? Consider early childhood group music classes as an invaluable tool for the growth and development for your child, as well as a weekly time of fun and bonding! Every child is born with an aptitude for music. Early childhood is an opportune time to develop this potential in an active, joyful, and developmentally appropriate way. Musikgarten classes have been offered at Mount Olivet for the youngest members of our church since the 1990's, with hundreds of babies, toddlers and preschoolers taking part with their parents and caregivers!

The Musikgarten curriculum is a holistic program. It develops the whole child not only musically but emotionally, physically, socially, and cognitively as well. In Musikgarten classes we nurture music aptitude by engaging children and their caregivers through singing and movement activities which help tune the ear, refine the voice, and develop a rhythmic body through which music can be expressed.

What can you expect to see and hear in a Musikgarten class? Children ages birth-3 years of age singing, dancing with colorful scarves, echoing rhythm patterns (our ba-ba's!), doing focused listening exercises, finding and keeping a steady beat with rhythm sticks and making music with shakers and jingles!

Our class time is educational, fun, nurturing and purposeful...we'd love to have you join us for our next session that begins January 17 through April 28! Register at mtolivet.org. Questions? Contact Colleen Roess at colleenr@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2258.



CONNECTIONS, BLESSINGS & ACTIONS

Like many of us today, our lives are filled with far too much work, far too many obligations, and far too much distraction. As much as we try to fight these forces, we must admit most days a victory feels like we just held our ground. For our family, the one counterbalance to all of this occurs on Sunday mornings, when we walk into Mount Olivet. The two of us and our boys feel a sense of calm, a sense of peace, and a sense of true community washing over us.

This is not new, as Mount Olivet has been creating meaningful connections and feeding our family for years. Whether it has been volunteering with Hi-League, serving on the Board of Life and Growth, attending Bible Studies, or now with our young boys attending Sunday School, singing in the youth choirs and attending Cathedral of the Pines. Mount Olivet is our true community—a community that has met us where we are in our various life stages, and has repeatedly found ways to feed and strengthen our souls.

As Jesus has reminded us in the Gospel of Luke: to whom much is given, much is required. We spend many family dinners talking about this passage and what it means and requires from each of us. It has been a very helpful tool for our family to reflect on all the blessings we have received from God and regroup us in what matters in life. We talk about not only what is required of us, but what actions our blessings inspire within us. And while this plays out differently for each of our family members, the one spot where we all align is in giving back generously to Mount Olivet, through both our time and our financial resources.

We ask you all to consider joining in our tradition over your next family meal and take turns sharing the bountiful blessings you receive from God and in what ways you can say thank you by giving back. — Kai and Carolyn Sakstrup



HOW TO GIVE

Thank you to all who have made your 2023 pledge or giving plan! If you still need to do so, please return your pledge card or go online to mtolivet.org/stewardship today! Thank you!

Reminder for Scheduled Givers: If you make scheduled gifts using Realm, please make sure your gifts match what you pledged for 2023, along with updating any necessary financial information like credit card expiration dates. Making a pledge either online or via a pledge card does NOT update your scheduled gifts. Thank you for taking this extra step!

Questions? Tricia Lerohl-Morgan at 612.767.225 or tricial@mtolivet.org.

THANKS FOR COMING TO STEWARDSHIP!

SO GOOD TO PAUSE, GIVE THANKS, AND CELEBRATE THE START OF A NEW CHURCH YEAR!



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THANKSGIVING

Eve Worship

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

6pm

MPLS Pastor Cieslik

WEST Pastor Dixon