

DECEMBER 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

DECEMBER 4

GABRIEL VISITS MARY
Luke 1:26-38

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Cieslik

DECEMBER 11

**AN ANGEL VISITS
JOSEPH**
Matthew 1:18-25

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Dixon

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Lose

DECEMBER 18

**THE ANGELS AND THE
SHEPHERDS
CHRISTMAS COMMUNION**
Luke 2:8-15

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Hammersten

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Freeman

DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE
Luke 2:1-14

M 2-10pm

SERMON Pastor Lose

W 2-6pm

SERMON Pastor Dixon

*Livestream at mtolivet.org on
the hour from 2-10pm.*

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY
John 1:1-18

*Communion offered at 9:30am
Only.*

M 10am ONLY

SERMON Pastor MacLean

W 10am ONLY

SERMON Pastor Kalland

DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Matthew 28:20b

M 7pm

SERMON Pastor Kalland

JANUARY 1

**NEW CREATION
NEW YEARS DAY**
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

*Communion offered at 9:30am
Only.*

M 10am ONLY

SERMON Pastor Freeman

W 10am ONLY

SERMON Pastor Cieslik

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

M 12noon

Angels Then and Now

Some years ago, a Washington Post reporter watched as a street musician played his violin in one of the city subway stations. The violinist played for an hour, and while more than 1000 commuters passed by him, none stopped to listen to the music. Perhaps that's not surprising, as commuters are often in a hurry and street musicians are not uncommon at subway stops. But this was no ordinary street musician. It was Joshua Bell, famed concert violinist, repeating a program he'd given at the Boston Philharmonic a week earlier in a sold-out concert where the "cheap seats" went for \$100. More than a thousand people passed by... and none stopped to listen.

It's hard to imagine hearing one of the world's great violinists and not even noticing. Or is it? How many other things of wonder and delight do we miss because we're too busy, or don't expect to be amazed, or just aren't paying attention. According to the Bible, one of the things of wonder and delight we may miss is angels. Perhaps that's because we think of angels as having wings and playing harps, per a cultural imagination shaped more by Hallmark than Scripture. According to the biblical writers, however, angels make themselves known less by their appearance than by what they do: serve as messengers from God. For this reason, we should always be alert to the possibility that angels are all around us. As the author of the Letter to the Hebrews urges, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrew 13:1-2).

This Advent, we are exploring biblical stories that help us detect angels in our midst and prepare us to serve as God's messengers for others. In the Advent devotions, we look at 21 stories that record the presence of angels, noting that they variously offer words of comfort, warning, or good news, always for the sake of encouraging God's children. On Sundays, we read four stories within the Christmas narratives of the Gospels of Luke and Matthew in order to be more likely to recognize, and serve as, God's messengers.

The story Luke shares is probably the more familiar of the two, featuring the angel Gabriel as he announces first to Zechariah and then to Mary the miraculous birth of children: John the Baptist to old Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth, and Jesus to young Mary. An angel also appears later in the story, announcing the good news

of Christ's birth to the lowly shepherds and urging them to attend the child and is then joined by a company of angels. One element of Luke's story that seems especially important during days marked by cultural divisions at home and wars abroad is the heart of the angelic song: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." The tight grammatical construction suggests that these are not two independent statements but that they are causally linked, even inter-related. That is, God shows God's glory by offering peace to God's children. Or even, we glorify God to the degree that we manifest and work for peace among all. The angels in Luke's Christmas story invite us not only to long for peace but also to work for peace because we know this is what God desires for all people.

Matthew's briefer story offers additional insight. In his account, an angel appears to Joseph and encourages him to take pregnant Mary as his wife. Interestingly, the angel is not named. And when a significant character goes unnamed in a biblical story, the author is often inviting those listening to the story an opportunity to identify with that character. In this case, we might wonder how we might offer words of comfort and courage to those around us and in this way serve as God's messenger.

The coming weeks are among my favorite of the year, filled with all the preparations we make to celebrate Christmas at church and with our families and friends. Among the blessed busy-ness of the season, I hope you take time to slow down and make room to notice angels and, even to serve as one to others. It's easier than you think: you just have to look for those bringing God's word of peace and goodwill and, when you have an opportunity, to share that message with others in word and deed.

Blessed Advent and Christmas!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

CENTENNIAL SUNDAY

As part of concluding our interrupted Centennial Celebration, we will celebrate over a century of ministry at Mount Olivet on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023!** With Mount Olivet's rich history of music, service, education, growth, inspiration, and loyalty—God's work has been shown in and through our congregation in so many ways. Join us in celebrating all that Mount Olivet was, is, and will become in the future.



FRIENDS FOREVER CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Sunday, December 18, 12:30-2:30pm, The Minikahda Club, \$70/person

Get in the holiday spirit and spend some time with the Friends Forever Group at the annual Christmas Brunch at The Minikahda Club! There will be a buffet for brunch with something for everyone and musical entertainment by our new principal organist, Jordan Buchholtz. It will be a great time for fellowship and musical entertainment, and we hope you can make it! Cash Bar available. Please register at mtolivet.org by December 10.

SAVE THE DATE! MOCW LADIES NIGHT

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, West Campus

Save the Date for Ladies Night at the West Campus. Meta Herrick Carlson, a pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church an author of "Ordinary Blessings," will be our speaker! More details to come in the January *Messenger*.

LIFE & GROWTH

OCT 11 - NOV 14

BAPTISMS

Owen David Bonnema
son of Barbara and Zack
William Rolf Carver
son of Emily and Todd
Nora Lee Dunsmore
daughter of Rachael and Jamie
Harrison Wayne Foreman
son of Aubree and Aaron
Edwin Matthew Kucharski
son of Jenna and Matthew
Tatum Lee Lundquist
daughter of Meredith and Thomas
Harry Mong IV
son of Samantha and Harry
Archie Robert Norland
son of Ranae and Grant
Theodore David Nystrom
son of Vicki and Reed
Charles Christopher Oman
son of Laura and David
Jack Leroy Pence
son of Stacy and Tyler
Darcie Palmer Rich
daughter of Sophie and Andrew
Genevieve Doris Rich
daughter of Sophie and Andrew
Reynold James Rowley
son of Alissa and Coby
Caroline Della Schuster
daughter of Riley and Shane
Patrick Joseph Talbot
son of Laura and Nick
Grace Anne VanDerBosch
daughter of Maria and Corey
Aubrey Elaine VanDerBosch
daughter of Eva and Chris
Ethan Harvey Wray
son of Sarah and Connor
Wesley James Zenisek
son of Ali and Jeffrey

WEDDINGS

Libby Aritt & Sam Fotland,
October 15
Lindsay Hendrickson & David
Erdall, October 21

DEATHS

June Ackerman, 1941–2022
Sandra K. Bloomquist,
1947–2022
Beverly J. Booth, 1942–2022
Joan A. Carlson, 1938–2022
Midge Gonsior, 1937–2022
Jack Hosford, 1944–2022
Jacquelyn B. Kempainen,
1930–2022
Roland D. Rasmussen, 1920–2022
Donald Riplinger, 1928–2022
Robert Spande, 1946–2022

DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND

DECEMBER 2022

- 1 Galatians 6:9, Doing Good
- 2 Colossians 1:27, The Hope Of Glory
- 3 Jeremiah 33:3, Great And Unsearchable Things
- 4 Colossians 3:15, The Peace Of Christ
- 5 Romans 1:20, God's Unsearchable Things
- 6 Isaiah 43:3, Because I Love You
- 7 1 Corinthians 15:56, The Sting Of Death
- 8 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Christ's Compelling Love
- 9 Psalm 56:3, When I Am Afraid
- 10 Romans 13:6, God's Servants
- 11 Matthew 11:28, Weary And Burdened
- 12 Psalm 139:23-24, The Everlasting Way
- 13 Romans 5:6, For The Ungodly
- 14 Isaiah 49:15-26, On The Palms Of My Hands
- 15 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, To Remind You
- 16 Romans 14:5, In Their Own Mind
- 17 Deuteronomy 6:6-7, When You Lie Down And When You Get Up
- 18 1 Corinthians 15:21, Death And Resurrection
- 19 1 John 3:18, Love In Actions And Truth
- 20 1 Samuel 2:2, No One Like The Lord
- 21 Colossians 3:13, Forgive One Another
- 22 Proverbs 10:20, Righteous And Wicked
- 23 James 1:13, Quick To Listen, Slow To Speak
- 24 Matthew 1:21, He Will Save His People From Their Sins
- 25 Luke 2:6-7, She Gave Birth
- 26 Luke 2:20, Glorifying And Praising God
- 27 2 Samuel 22:32, Who Is God?
- 28 James 5:16, Pray For Each Other
- 29 Proverbs 22:6, Train Children
- 30 1 John 5:15, God Hears
- 31 Habakkuk 3:19, The Lord Is My Strength

DEVOTION

The year is coming to an end and what a year it has been, full of ups and downs. As you look back on your year and take personal inventory, how has it been for you? Are there things that need to be different next year?

As I reflect on my year, I've found Portia Nelson's poem "Autobiography in 5 Chapters" helpful.

Chapter 1: I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I

am lost... I am helpless. It isn't my fault. It takes me forever to find a way out.

Chapter 2: I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again. I can't believe I am in the same place. But it isn't my fault. It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter 3: I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk I see it is there. I still fall in... it's a habit. My eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out immediately.

Chapter 4: I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.

Chapter 5: I walk down another street.

As you reflect on your year and the deep holes you've crossed, remember that the gift of God's love for us in Christ Jesus gives us hope and courage to face each day. God walks with us. Jesus said in John 10:10 that He came that we may have life and have it abundantly. May the gift of the Christ child continue to comfort and strengthen you. Have a blessed Christmas and New Year. — PASTOR KALLAND



Lutefisk Dinner!



Tickets at mtolivet.org
or via above QR code

Fri, Dec 2, 2022, 3pm-7pm

Serve and Share Christmas Cheer

Christmas For All



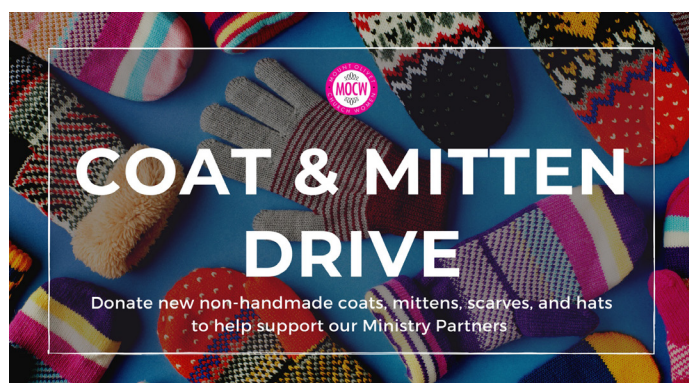
CHRISTMAS FOR ALL STORE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 11AM-2:30PM, WEST CAMPUS

If you are interested in volunteering at our Christmas for All event, which benefits Mount Olivet ministry partners Love INC, Redeemer Lutheran Church, and Southside Family Nurturing Center, please visit mtolivet.org to sign-up. If you have questions, please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

ADVENT CALENDAR & DEVOTIONAL

We are thrilled to offer our Advent Calendar online at mtolivet.org again! There will be 24 days filled with holiday items that prepare us for this festive, sacred, and joy-filled season. The calendar begins on Thursday, December 1, through Saturday, December 24. This year's Advent Devotional is written by Senior Pastor, David Lose, and is available for pick up at the Mpls and West Campuses. Sign up to receive the devotional via email at mtolivet.org/christmas.



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. Warm your heart and someone's hands and feet by donating items for those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267. The MOCW thank you for your heartfelt donations.



POINSETTIA CHANCEL GARDEN

ORDER THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

During this special time of year, please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by donating a poinsettia to beautify our sanctuaries during the holiday season. A list of the donors and those remembered or honored will be included in the bulletin on Christmas Day. Minimum donation is \$35 per poinsettia. Donate by visiting mtolivet.org/poinsettia or by contacting Jody Barbee 952.767.1501 or jbarbee@mtolivet.org.

Christmas Traditions

MESSIAH SING-A-LONG

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

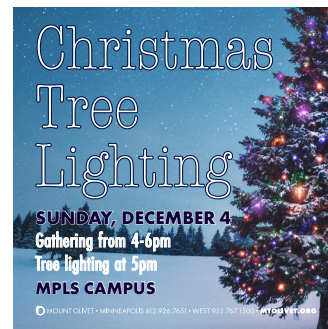
Grab your Christmas sweater and choir friends to join Mount Olivet for a fun and casual community sing-a-long of Handel's *Messiah*! This festive forty-five-minute sing-a-long is sure to invigorate your Christmas spirit with great music, comradery, and performances by Mount Olivet's fantastic soloists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



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, snacks, an opportunity to purchase Christmas trees and wreaths from Troop 110, and even Santa and reindeer will be available for pictures!



Christmas Offering Match

Thanks to the generosity of several Mount Olivet households, we are able to match all Christmas and end-of-the-year gifts again this year! That means that each dollar you give to Mount Olivet beyond your pledge as a Christmas or end-of-the-year gift will be matched dollar for dollar.

Your gifts will support Mount Olivet's General Fund (that supports all of our ministries), including the weekly Community Meals, other Community Outreach partners, the Capital Campaign, Cathedral of the Pines Camp, and the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center. Thank you for your support! — PASTOR LOSE

WAYS TO GIVE

Christmas Offering Envelope: Mailed to you in December.

Online: With your credit card or bank information by using the QR Code to the right or visiting onrealm.org/mtolivet/-/form/give/Christmas.

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

For Questions About Other Ways to Give: Contact Tyler Hauser in our Development Office, at thauser@mtolivethomes.org or 612.821.3151.

UKRAINE UPDATE

Last spring, Mount Olivet contributed more than \$80,000 to Lutheran World Relief to aid refugees both living in and displaced from Ukraine. Since then, Lutheran World Relief, working with international partners and Ukrainian congregations and agencies, has increased its financial commitment from \$7-12M to deliver medical aid, provide cash for necessities to refugees, prevent exploitation of displaced persons, and provide essential mental health support to a nation in turmoil. If you want to support this effort, you can always contribute to Mount Olivet, designating your gift for Lutheran World Relief or Ukraine. You can also contribute directly at lwr.org, and *from December 1-25, all gifts made directly to Lutheran World Relief to support Ukraine will be matched dollar for dollar.* Thank you for your generosity and for your support of the people of Ukraine and all those seeking to aid them in this time of crisis and need.

SCAN TO GIVE





SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 (CHRISTMAS COMMUNION)

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

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. Claffin, 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.

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 julieg@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2208.

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 julieg@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2208. If transportation is needed or if you are able to provide a ride to one of our homebound members, please contact Julie Goodman.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: SING, CHOIRS OF ANGELS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 3 & 5PM, 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. Come be surrounded by the beauty of choral and instrumental Christmas music, and join in the singing of beloved seasonal hymns that proclaim Christ's birth. These concerts are open to the entire community, free of charge, and one hour in length. Invite friends and loved ones to join you for these concerts either in person or by watching online at mtolivet.org. Leave with the peace of Christ glowing inside you, ready to approach the season with the joy and wonder that comes with the celebration of Christ's birth!



CHRISTMAS EVE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

2-9PM & 10PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, MPLS CAMPUS

*1pm: Special Christmas Eve Instrumental Concert**

2-4pm: Cathedral Choir and Orchestra

5 & 6pm: Instrumental Solo and Vocal Duet with Orchestra

7-9pm: Senior Choir and Orchestra

10pm: Candlelight service with Senior Choir and Orchestra

**Thanks to the generous donation of a Mount Olivet family we are pleased to offer this special musical program.*

2-5PM & 6PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, WEST CAMPUS

2 & 3pm: Cathedral Choir, String Quartet, and Harp

4 & 5pm: Senior Choir, String Quartet, and Harp

6pm: Candlelight service with Senior Choir, String Quartet, and Harp

Join in the celebration of the birth of Jesus by worshipping in-person at either campus or online on the hour from 2-10pm. These joyous services will include an inspirational sermon and the reading of the beloved Christmas scripture interspersed with numerous congregational Christmas carols. Choirs of all ages, special duets, and solos, all accompanied by orchestra, will provide beautiful music to enhance the importance of this meaningful evening. The final candlelight service of the evening ends with the singing of *Silent Night* as the congregation lights individual candles and shares the light of Christ with each other.

CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10AM, MPLS & WEST CAMPUSES

Join us on Christmas morning for a peaceful and beautiful Christmas Day worship service. The morning will be filled with cherished Christmas hymns with sermons from Pastor MacLean (Mpls) and Pastor Kalland (West). Special harp and piano solos will fill the sanctuary with lovely music celebrating Christ's birth.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

7PM WORSHIP SERVICE, MPLS CAMPUS

Come and participate in a long standing and meaningful worship service of Holy Communion. Be strengthened with the Blessed Sacrament and words of encouragement and hope, as well as the musical offerings of two talented singers. A special invitation to those working programs of recovery. After the service, come to the Fellowship Hall for coffee, cookies, and friendship.



Youth Staff Favorite Cookies

The Youth staff wants to share their favorite Christmas Cookies with you! The recipes to these beloved Christmas cookies are available at mtolivet.org/youth. We hope they will fill your kitchen with joy and warmth this season!



**GEOFF
ARENSON**



**ANGIE
ST. DENNIS**



**MACEY
OLIVER**



**ANNA
HERD**



**JULIA
JALLO**



**SAM
SANDA**



**KATIE
RIDLER**

GEOFF ARENSON:

ANGIE ST. DENNIS:

MACEY OLIVER:

ANNA HERD:

JULIA JALLO:

SAM SANDA:

KATIE RIDLER:



*Can you Guess whose
favorite cookie is whose?*

**ALMOND MELT
COOKIES**



**CHOCOLATE
COVERED
PEANUT
BUTTER RITZ
COOKIES**



**PEANUT
BUTTER
BLOSSOMS**



**PEANUT
BUTTER
COOKIES**



**CHRISTMAS
CHOCOLATE
CHIP**



**WHITE
CHOCOLATE
CRANBERRY
COOKIES**



**CHRISTMAS
WREATHS**





2022: A Year of Renewed Hospitality

Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center is a ministry of hospitality. We join God's wide welcome of all—a welcome that nurtures guests' wellbeing through inspiring programs, beautiful land, nourishing food, and comforting accommodations and amenities. Just as God receives us into a space not our own, i.e., into relationship with God, so we welcome and receive guests with openness, warmth, and care. This past year we welcomed over 280 groups and 5,600 guests. Over 100 of these groups and personal retreats visited us for their first time. And some were quite unique, for example, 70 martial arts instructors, 45 women tree climbers, 80 college-aged mission workers, and 18 people who “Pedal & Roll for Parkinson’s.” In addition to this, we sponsored a number of events: midweek summer worship services and nature talks; outdoor concerts and stargazing; Nature Camp and Family Days Away in partnership with the Children & Family Ministries team; Day Lenten and Day Advent Journeys; Mother’s Day worship and brunch; Women’s Weekend; Crafty Ladies Retreat; seasonal volunteer days; and, online workshops. We partnered with others inside and outside the Mount Olivet system in offering a trauma retreat and a grief retreat, both aimed at welcoming people to experience God’s healing.

At Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, we often ask the questions: How can this building or this lounge invite people to rest, collaborate, or reconnect with themselves? How do the prairie, woods, and marsh beckon people home to God, to themselves, to their vocations? Our discernment led to updated and remodeled indoor spaces, such as the main lounge, pool area, and hotel-style rooms in the Ruth Cornell House. Outside we added a natural playscape, a Gagaball pit, and a new retaining wall and wildflower garden. Relaxing near our 20+ wildflower gardens, guests are invited to trust God’s care for them. As Jesus said, “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry.”

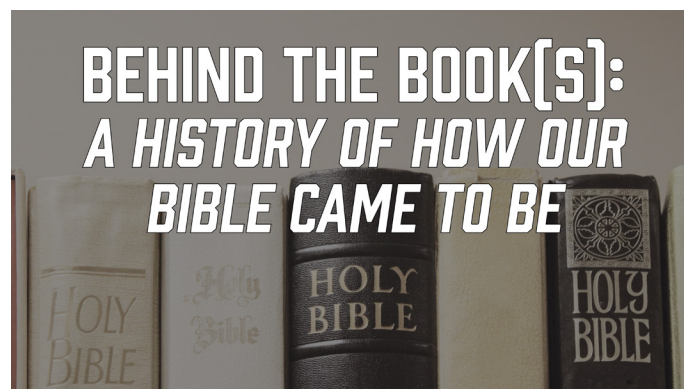
REV. DR. THERESA LATINI, *Executive Director of the Conference & Retreat Center*

WOMEN’S WEEKEND: RESTING AS RESISTANCE

Friday, January 27 through
Sunday, January 29,
Conference & Retreat Center

Drawing from the provocative book *Rest is Resistance* by the “Nap Bishop” aka Tricia Hersey, we will explore together the necessity of rest for our personal and communal wellbeing. We will learn new ways to set healthy boundaries, ways to slow down when our to-do lists seem never-ending, and ways to rest in God’s embrace in the midst of life’s ups and downs. If you’re exhausted, weary, or discouraged, you will have opportunities to be renewed by spending time walking in the woods, relaxing in the whirlpool, scheduling a massage (extra cost), or taking a much-needed nap. Led by Pastor Hammersten, Pastor Freeman, and Retreat Center Director Rev. Theresa Latini.

The weekend will begin with dinner on Friday and culminate with brunch on Sunday. Arrive on Friday afternoon and enjoy the pool, whirlpool, sauna, and beautiful lounges and grounds at the Conference & Retreat Center. Register at mtolivet.org for single occupancy, double occupancy (roommate required), dorm occupancy, or as a commuter. The commuter rate includes meals and all presentations, Friday evening through Sunday brunch.



EAST OF EDEN: COVENANT, LAW & COMMUNITY

Are you ever curious how it is that God hopes for us to live in the world with each other? Do you know and remember the 10 commandments? In January, we'll dive into the continued relationship between God, people, and each other in examining the covenants or agreements and promises God makes even amid the reality of our own sin and mistrust. We'll look at the giving of the law, especially the 10 commandments, and see how they operate as a gift to a people who belong to God, both as guidance and instruction for how to honor relationship with God and also in relationship to each other. We'll see how the basis of the relationship continues to be God's faithfulness to the people and how despite the failures and false hopes and desires of the people, God refuses to give up. It's a huge essential part of the faithful life and you won't want to miss out! Join us in-person and/or via video!

PASTOR RUUD

UPCOMING CLASSES:

DECEMBER 6: Missing the Mark: *Sin* with Pastor Lose

JANUARY 3: East of Eden: *Covenant, Law, and Community* with Pastor Ruud

FEBRUARY 7: God con Carne: *Incarnation* with Pastor Lose

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

In this winter's session of Word with the Pastors we'll take a look "behind" the scriptures to examine and discuss what, when, and who it was that determined the Bible to become...well...the Bible. For instance, what and who determined which books made it in? Which writings, if any, were left out, and why? We'll also take a tour of different English translations. Why are there so many? What's the difference? And we'll examine key historical moments including the importance of Martin Luther and the Reformation in telling the great story of the book.

JANUARY 18/19: *What's In?* with Pastor Lose

How did we end up with the books contained in our Bible?

JANUARY 25/26: *What's Out?* with Pastor Cieslik

How did we end up with the books contained in our Bible?

FEBRUARY 1/2: *A Translation Tour* with Pastor Ruud

What's the difference between different translations and how do I choose one that's right for me?

FEBRUARY 8/9: *Gutenberg and the Reformation* with Pastor Dixon

What impact did the printing press have on Luther's reforms? (Hint: The Reformation probably wouldn't have happened without it!)

This four-week series runs 10:30-11:30am Wednesdays at Mpls and Thursdays at West or via emailed pre-recorded videos.

**REGISTER FOR ALL ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT [MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION](https://mtolivet.org/education) OR
CONTACT KATIE STEVENSON AT [KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG](mailto:katies@mtolivet.org) OR 612.767.2232.**

GINGERBREAD KIT PICK UP

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

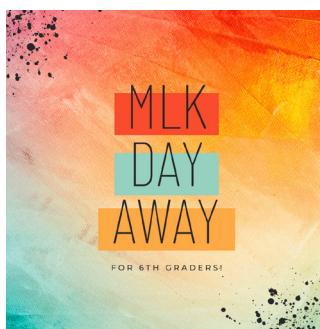
A favorite holiday tradition returns! Take-Home Gingerbread kits will be ready for pick up at the Community Christmas Tree Lighting Event. Kits include a gingerbread house, decorations, extra frosting, and a few games for the whole family to enjoy! We encourage you to purchase kits ahead of time at mtolivet.org – 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.



MLK DAY AWAY FOR 6TH GRADERS!

Monday, January 16, 8:30am-4:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$45

Hey, K-6th graders! We have a great day planned for you and your friends! Spend the day at the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center by sledding, swimming, playing games, and more! Drop off and pick up is at the Minneapolis Campus at Door 4 (James Avenue). Please bring outdoor gear and a swim suit and towel. Cost includes transportation, lunch, snacks and activities! Contact Amy Porthan at amyp@mtolivet.org or Kristin Olson at kolson@mtolivet.org for more information. Register at mtolivet.org.



WINTER BABYGARTEN

Thursdays, January, 12 through February 16, 10-11am, Mpls Campus

We will play, read, and sing at this weekly faith-based hour-long class developed by a children's librarian and early childhood specialist. Babygarten focuses on reading, rhyming, and activities. It is more than a playgroup or storytime- Babygarten provides pre-literacy skills for children in a faith-based environment. Amy Porthan, early childhood educator and Mount Olivet Faith Formation Coordinator, will guide parents with activities and discussion on how to include God and faith with their child. Contact Amy Porthan with questions at amyp@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2285. Register today at mtolivet.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 4: Sunday School Classes in session
 Sunday, December 11: All Children's Choirs Sing – during regular class times
 Sunday, December 18: No Sunday School
 Sunday, December 25: No Sunday School
 Sunday, January 1: No Sunday School
 Sunday School Classes Resume on Sunday, January 8, 2023



SUMMER 2023 REGISTRATION OPENS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16!

We'll have 8 weeks of day camps available based at the Minneapolis Campus, and NEW for this summer, day camps based at the West Campus AND mini-camps (2-3 days) for middle schoolers! The full summer calendar, week to week theme details, and more information will be available online on January 1, 2023, as well as featured in the January Messenger. We can't wait for another summer of fun with your child(ren)!



2023 YOUTH CAMPING SCHEDULE ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED BY GRADE AS OF SEP 1, 2023

GRADES 3, 4 & 5

Week 1: Su, 7/9 – Th, 7/13

Week 2: Sa, 8/5 – W, 8/9

GRADES 5, 6 & 7

Week 1: F, 7/21 – W, 7/26

GRADES 6, 7 & 8

Week 1: Su, 6/25 – F, 6/30

Week 2: W, 7/5 – Su, 7/9

Week 3: W, 7/26 – M, 7/31

9TH GRADE

CONFIRMATION CAMP

(MOUNT OLIVET

MEMBERS ONLY)

Week 1: Su, 7/16 – F, 7/21

Week 2: M, 7/31 – Sa, 8/5

GRADES 11, 12, &

GRADUATES

Summer Starter: Su, 6/18 – Th, 6/22

GRADE 10

10th Grade Starter: Th, 6/22 – Su, 6/25

GRADES 10, 11, & 12

Hi-League Retreat: W, 8/9 – Su, 8/13

SUNDAY MORNING DONATION DRIVES

Sunday, December 18, 8:30-11 am, Mpls & West Campuses

We are working closely with our community partners to determine what their immediate high-needs are. Watch for updates on specific items we will be collecting for the current month, and to which community partner we will be donating. Drop-off will be in the parking lot on your way in to church. The Mpls Campus donations will benefit VEAP and Agate Housing & Services (formerly St. Stephen's). High need items are laundry soap, hand warmers, infant formula and non-perishable food items. Donations at the West Campus will benefit Love INC and Bountiful Baskets. High-need items are gas cards, full-size personal care items and non-perishable food items. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our community partners.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS

Tuesday, December 20, 12noon, Mpls Campus, \$10

Young in Heart & Friends invites you to join us for this year's holiday event of music, food, and fellowship. Share in the holiday spirit with December's entertainment of Tara Brueske & Jeff Brueske. A sister and brother duo, Tara and Jeff perform vocal harmonies, piano and double bass arrangements, bringing life to timeless music from 1940s and 50s, enjoyed by audiences of all ages. Register by December 16, online, or by contacting Tricia Asuncion at 612.767.2210, tasuncion@mtolivet.org.

FELTED GNOME MAKING CLASS

Tuesday, December 6, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus

Create a cute decorative gnome out of wool roving. Learn to use felting needles, core wool, and colorful felt batting to create a little gnome to keep or give as a gift. Give your holidays a special handmade touch! Recommended for ages 12 and up, this class does utilize sharp needles for construction. Register by 12/1 at mtolivet.org.

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.

FLYING SOLO CURLING

Saturday, January 21, 3-6pm, Frogtown Curling Club, \$45

Join us for a curling clinic, where you will learn the rules and sportsmanship of curling. There is a brief classroom style instruction to learn the terminology, basic strategy, and general information, followed by on ice instruction on the form and techniques of throwing stones and sweeping. The remaining time is yours to scrimmage or practice. Instructors will remain on the ice for tips and advice. Register at mtolivet.org by January 16.

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Christmas Eve

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

MPLS 2-10pm **WEST 2-6pm**