

SEPTEMBER 2024

BELIEVING, BELONGING, BECOMING

MOUNT OLIVET
MESSENGER

Everything
IN LOVE

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

SUNDAYS

DIAL-IN VIA PHONE
833.775.1238

10am (9/1)
11am (beginning 9/8)

WATCH THE MPLS
WORSHIP SERVICE AT
MTOLIVET.ORG

9, 10am (9/1)
9, 10, 11am (beginning 9/8)

HOLY COMMUNION

8:30am only (9/1)
8:30 & 11:45am (beginning 9/8)

NURSERY

9, 10am (9/1)
9, 10, 11am (beginning 9/8)

SEPTEMBER 1

THE UNUSUAL
SUSPECTS
MOSES

Exodus 2: 11-12, 15; 3:1-15

M 9, 10am only
SERMON Pastor Freeman
MUSIC Elena Stabile, soprano

W 9, 10am only
SERMON Pastor Kalland
MUSIC Kira Seidel, french horn

SEPTEMBER 8

DO EVERYTHING IN
LOVE

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Cathedral & Senior
Choirs with Brass
Ensemble

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon
MUSIC Cathedral & Senior
Choirs with Brass
Ensemble

SEPTEMBER 15

EXTRAVAGANT LOVE
Luke 7:36-50

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Senior & Cathedral
Choirs
W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Cieslik
MUSIC Senior Choir

9TH GRADE
CONFIRMATION
SERVICE

M 1pm & livestreamed at
mtolivet.org
On Sunday, September 15,
our ninth grade students and
their families will gather for
the Confirmation Service
with special music from the
Cathedral Choir and Brass
Ensemble. It's a significant
moment in the lives of our
young people where they
say yes to the promises that
God made to them in their
baptism. Please hold these
young people and their
families in prayer on this
important day.

SEPTEMBER 22

WHAT THE WORLD
NEEDS NOW

1 John 4:7-12

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman
MUSIC Cathedral & Senior
Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Cathedral & Senior
Choirs

SEPTEMBER 29

SILLY LOVE SONGS

John 21:15-19

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Olson Popp
MUSIC Cathedral & Senior
Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Grangaard
MUSIC Cathedral & Senior
Choirs

PLEASE NOTE

There will be **no** Holy Communion Service on the first
Wednesday of the month at 12noon at the Mpls Campus.

Love

“Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. And let all that you do be done in love.”—1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Every so often, I’ll read a passage from Scripture that, although it was written nearly two thousand years ago, feels like it was intended just for us. The closing words of St. Paul’s letter to his little congregation in Corinth is one of those passages.

If there ever were a time that called for courage, strength, and faith, it feels like that would be today. Whether it is wars abroad or the sharp and at times nasty political divisiveness at home, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed, either throwing our hands up in dismay at the size of the challenges or retreating into our own lives in an attempt to tune out the problems around us.

Christians, however, are called to something different, something more. Because we trust that God loves the world, has redeemed us through Christ, and will bring all things to a good end, we need neither despair nor retreat. Instead, we can continue to struggle for what we believe is right and to work to make the world a better place.

In addition to Paul’s call for courage, strength, and faith, he then says, “and let all that you do be done in love.” At first glance, that may seem like an odd addition, particularly as we live in an age that has greatly romanticized the idea of love. From reality-TV dating programs to the Hallmark channel, it’s easy to think that love is mostly about warm fuzzy feelings and finding your soulmate whatever the cost.

But the kind of love Paul talks about is different, and to depict it, he chooses a Greek word that at the time was rarely used: *agape* (pronounced “ah-gah-pay”). Describing the sacrificial love of parents for their children, *agape* captured the imagination of Christians to describe God’s love for the world displayed especially in the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

This kind of love is not about a particular feeling, but rather a commitment to the well-being of the one loved. And over the early centuries of the church, it is what distinguished Christianity from the other religions and movements around it. In the second century, the Christian monk and theologian Tertullian believed it was just this commitment to love others that was attracting people to the young but growing faith. In the fourth century, the Roman – and actively anti-Christian – Emperor Julian complained that too many people were joining the Church because of Christians’ commitment to love and care for people both in and beyond their faith.

All of which means that Paul was actually *not* adding a fourth word of instruction – “stand firm in the faith, be strong, be courageous, *and also* do everything in love” – but rather was articulating his belief that faith, strength, and courage take shape most fully *when we love others*.

Which is why I think these two verses – the heart of our stewardship campaign this year – seem so important today. In response to division, to prejudice, to hate, to hopelessness, to isolation and more, we are called by our Lord to love one another: both those inside the Church and those outside, both those who look like us and believe like us and those who don’t, both those we agree with and those with whom we disagree. We can do that in so many ways: through our proclamation of God’s love in Sunday worship, certainly, but also through our outreach, through our youth ministry, through hospital visits and care for our elders, through our ministry to those with different abilities, through the Community Meals we share on Thursdays, and through the manifold ways we connect with each other and with those in our community. As we do all of these things and more, we’re not only serving and caring for those around us, we’re also modeling a different way of being in the world and witnessing to God’s great love for *everyone*.

As you contemplate what your giving to Mount Olivet will be this year, I would ask you to reflect on how rare and precious is this community that commits to sharing God’s love in word and deed. I would ask you to think about how our church has surrounded you with love, how it has equipped you to love others, and how it has strived – not perfectly, for sure, but consistently – to witness to God’s love for all. More, I’d ask you to imagine what your life and our community would be *without* Mount Olivet. Then, with all these things in mind, make a commitment to support this church so that we can continue to “stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong, and let all that we do be done in love.”

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

MISSION PARTNERS: UPDATES & OPPORTUNITY

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

You may have read that in July, Russian artillery bombed a children's hospital in Kyiv. As hard as it is to imagine if a bomb struck Children's Hospital in Minneapolis, that's exactly the situation Ukrainians face. Okhmatdyt Hospital is one of Ukraine's largest facilities for children with cancer, treating about 18,000 kids annually. Tragically, at least 22 people were killed and dozens more were injured in Kyiv. With the help of generous donations from Mount Olivet members totaling more than \$30,000, LWR employees – already on the ground in Kyiv – were able to respond immediately after the bombing stopped, offering medical aid, personal care kits, and quilts and blankets made by Lutherans across the country. Lutheran World Relief continues to work in some of the most dangerous places in the world to alleviate the suffering of some of the poorest of God's children. *Our continued support allows LWR to strive toward the goal of eliminating poverty around the globe.*

THEE ALLIANCE – FORGIVING MEDICAL DEBT

The challenge: The US has \$195,000,000,000 of medical debt which contributes to 65% of all personal bankruptcies. The opportunity: Thee Alliance (a coalition of churches) works with RIP Medical Debt to “buy” medical debt for pennies on the dollar and then pays off that debt for families so they don't have to. The outcome (so far!): since we joined Thee Alliance last summer, Mount Olivet members have contributed \$81,990. That has translated into \$6,512,551 of medical debt forgiven which has transformed the lives of 6,764 families! *How much more can we do?*

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fifty-three years ago, Mount Olivet was one of the founding partners of Community Emergency Services (CES) which works on the frontlines of food scarcity to provide food, hope, and compassion to a multi-generational, multi-cultural, low-income clientele in a way that respects their dignity as persons and children of God.

Two recent innovations have garnered deserved attention:

1. Rather than wait in line (sometimes for hours on end), clients can now make reservations using their smartphones of when to pick up their food, saving them significant time that can be used to work and take care of their children.
2. In August, CES, in partnership with Second Harvest Heartland, piloted a new approach to meeting food needs, working with the company that manufactures Amazon Drop-boxes (found in Whole Foods, for instance) to design and construct refrigerated lockers that clients can access 24/7 via QR codes on their phones to pick up food they have requested in advance.



Opportunity and Goal: Mount Olivet has set the goal to cover the cost of building, transporting, and installing the first set of lockers that will serve as a pilot program. That amount is \$38,000. Once CES has demonstrated the success of this innovative approach to combating food scarcity, they, together with partner support, can scale up this project and deploy lockers to various points throughout the Twin Cities, making it easier for folks to get the food they need. *Please help us reach this important goal!*

We continue to support these and other outreach partners, and you can contribute to any of them by making a donation to Mount Olivet and indicating which partner you want to support. Any undesignated gifts will support the whole of our outreach ministry.



LIFE & GROWTH

JUL 14 - AUG 14

BAPTISMS

Alora Lynn Engebretson
daughter of Kelli and Scott
Wrenley Caroline Kosciolk
daughter of Rachel and Blake
Bennett Michael Krueger
son of Krystal and Patrick
Eleanor Elizabeth Nogler
daughter of Brooke
Miles David Obermeyer
son of Lauren and Joel
Jackson Joseph Peterson
son of Joleen and Joseph
Ava Elizabeth Peterson
daughter of Meghan
Grayson William Smith
son of Leah and Phillip
Olivia Jeanne Smith
daughter of Leah and Phillip
Parson John Wertish
son of Tayler and John

WEDDINGS

Bridget Olsen & Shane Gersich,
July 26
Megan Parries & Jack Schultz,
July 27
Megan Kimball & Zachary
Upham, August 8
Britney Hubbard & Andrew
Dietrich, August 10
Keely Murphy & John Krugler,
August 10
Dana Stasieluk & Alex Behrend,
August 10

DEATHS

Lorraine "Ainy" Carlson
1925-2024
Diane Couling
1935-2024
Pastor Hugh E. Gilmore
1932-2024
Kathleen A. Hubbard
1945-2024
Richard L. Johnson
1942-2024
Clarice A. Olson
1931-2024
Richard E. Peterson
1930-2024
Charles R. Plaster
1947-2024
Catherine L. Puffett
1972-2024
Axel Steuer
1943-2024

DEVOTION

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all you soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children, and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise."
-Deuteronomy 6:5-7



I recently returned from the most wonderful week at Cathedral of the Pines Camp. The oldest camper was a supremely spry 90-year-old there with two of her grandchildren, and our youngest camper was just eight! A beautiful 86-year-old, accompanied by her three daughters, shared the joy with her 16-year-old grandson who was following in the family tradition of volunteering as a camp counselor.

Sitting in the chapel one night, looking out over 260 beautiful faces, I was struck by how many 2nd and 3rd generation campers were looking out at that holy cross, singing songs of love, and sharing the faith. All because a mom or dad brought their child to Sunday School when they were wee little ones, and let the Holy Spirit take it from there. May we never take the gift of faith and listening to those children praying (out loud!) in chapel for granted. God is so good.

—PASTOR HAMMERSTEN

IN MEMORIAM

Pastor Karl Jacobson was called as an Associate Pastor at Mount Olivet on June 16, with an anticipated start date in early September. In 2022, Pastor Jacobson was diagnosed with leukemia. A bone marrow transplant and chemotherapy helped him defeat the leukemia, but the treatments also compromised his immune system and he contracted viral meningitis in mid-July. He died due to complications of that virus on August 18, surrounded by his loving family with prayers, tears, hymns, and faith in the promise of resurrection. A beautiful memorial service was held on Saturday, August 24, at the Chapel of the Incarnation at Luther Seminary.

Pastor Jacobson was a graduate of St. Olaf College ('92) and Luther Seminary ('96) and received his doctorate from Providence Seminary ('14). He served congregations in California, Virginia, and Minnesota and taught on the faculty of Augsburg University. Pastor Jacobson was a musician, athlete, family man, and devoted friend. He was also a scholar and author, often writing with his brother. He was a fan of Minnesota sports, enjoyed board games and music, and cherished time at the family cabin. Most of all, he loved God, his family, and his friends.

We were so excited by the prospect of having Pastor Jacobson serve at Mount Olivet and grieve deeply that this will not happen. We are grateful for his life and ministry and continue to hold his wife, Pastor Angela Fairbanks Jacobson, their five children, and all their family in our prayers.

PASTOR LOSE, *Senior Pastor*

Everything IN LOVE

The command to love one another is a simple one, but not always an easy one. As I've reflected on our Stewardship theme of "Everything in Love," I was reminded of the first song sung during the morning Chapel service at Cathedral of the Pines camp. Its simple message to first give thanks to God, while then reminding me to be kind and good in all I do each and every day, brought the theme into clear focus in my heart, mind, and soul. Please read (and sing if you know it!) and think about all the ways you can show love to others daily:

*Father, we thank Thee for the night,
and for the pleasant morning light;
for rest and food and loving care,
and all that makes the world so fair.*

*Help us to do the things we should,
to be to others kind and good;
in all we do in work or play,
to love Thee better day by day.*

A reminder that you are invited to attend a Stewardship meal as we come together to give thanks for all of God's gifts to us, both personally and as a congregation. Also please remember to make your 2025 pledge and/or set up scheduled giving to Mount Olivet—a very concrete way to show your love for others and gratitude for all God's gifts. Thank you!

—KATIE STEVENSON, Director of Stewardship

Current Scheduled Givers: Please LOGIN to your Realm Account to update your 2025 giving as needed — including giving frequency, giving amount, credit card info, and end dates.

Thank YOU!



STEWARDSHIP 2025

STEWARDSHIP MEALS

Register online at mtolivet.org, by calling 612.926.7651, at church, or using the QR Code below!

We look forward to seeing you!



DATE	TIME	CAMPUS	MEAL TYPE
Monday, September 9	4:30-6pm	Mpls	Drive-Through
Tuesday, September 10	6pm	Mpls	Traditional
Wednesday, September 11*	6pm	Mpls	Traditional
Monday, September 16*	6pm	Mpls	Traditional
Thursday, September 19	6pm	Mpls	Traditional
Friday, September 20	12noon	Mpls	Traditional
Sunday, September 22*	12noon	West	Traditional
Monday, September 23	4:30-6pm	West	Drive-Through
Tuesday, September 24	4:30-6pm	Mpls	Drive-Through

*Nursery provided for six-week through six-year old children



PLEDGE

Please take time to pause, pray, and make your 2025 commitment to Mount Olivet. To make your 2025 pledge:

- Use the PLEDGE QR Code above
- Complete the pledge card that was mailed to you
- Go online to mtolivet.org/stewardship
- Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, Coordinator of Financial Records, at tricial@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2255



GIVE

Thank you to all who support Mount Olivet through scheduled giving. To set up or update your scheduled giving:

- Use the GIVE QR Code
- Visit mtolivet.org under GIVING
- Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, Coordinator of Financial Records, at tricial@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2255

DONATIONS AT MEALS

Personal care items are always in need, so we will again collect toothpaste and toothbrushes at the Stewardship meals which will then be distributed to our community partners: Community Emergency Services, Love INC, VEAP, Simpson Housing, and Agate Housing and Services. Donations of handled paper grocery bags will also be collected for the ongoing Thursday night Community Meals (that served 30,091 meals in 2023!). Thank you!



SUMMER DAY CAMP STAFF HIGHLIGHTS!

As we've wrapped up a great summer of Day Camps – our camp staff were happy to share their summer highlights!



ANNIE KLEMMENSEN

This summer has been an outstanding experience and it was an honor to be part of the staff at Mount Olivet. My highlight of the summer was engaging with the kids and building relationships with them. Each day brought new opportunities to connect, mentor, and learn. Working with a fun and dedicated team of staff members has also been fulfilling. I'm grateful for the friendships and growth I've gained through this experience.



ANNIE LUND

My highlight of the summer was definitely the Edina pool. I grew up going there so going back as an adult and seeing kids enjoy the same place I did was really special.



KATELYNN PONCIN

My summer highlights were the talent shows that we do at both West and Minneapolis Campuses. It is so awesome to see each camper show us what makes them unique and share a talent with us. I love how supportive everyone is of each other!



CADI STREETAR

My highlight this summer was going to the Science Museum! But more importantly getting to catch up with past campers and meet new ones!



KAITLYN WISDORF

My highlight from day camps was the Crayola Experience and getting to know all the campers!





LOVE NOTES FROM OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!

CHERUB: PRESCHOOL AGE

COLLEEN ROESS, MPLS CAMPUS

Teaching the Cherub Choir portion of Sunday School for our 3–5-year-old friends is one of the highlights of my week! We have so much fun singing, dancing, playing simple instruments, and learning songs that highlight and tie into our Sunday School lessons. It's amazing to see how far we come musically over the school year!

DANA DONNAY, WEST CAMPUS

What I cherish most about Choir Sunday School with the Cherubs is being the children's first introduction to church fellowship. I love teaching them about the love and joy of being part of the Mount Olivet family.

ALLELUIA: KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1

KATIE WIDEN, MPLS CAMPUS

Integrating music education into our Sunday School experiences engages kids on a whole other level. Community is built around our core Christian values in ways that are developmentally appropriate, fun, cooperative, and active. I adore seeing the children pour their hearts into their singing and show such care for each other and their church family.

SARAH FINCHAM, WEST CAMPUS

I love working with the Alleluia choir because I love teaching and singing with young children! Their voices are so pure and beautiful, bringing so much joy to Sunday School. Our time together is always fun!



HOSANNA: GRADES 2 & 3

ELIZABETH WERNES, MPLS CAMPUS

I enjoy being part of the Children and Family and Music Departments' programming because it allows me to connect with the students and witness how God works in each of their lives. I love being part of their personal journey with God and helping them grow into good people.

SYDNEY GRAMSTAD, WEST CAMPUS

I really enjoy seeing how excited the kids get to sing for our worship services. They are truly rock stars when it comes to learning music quickly and memorizing!



CHAPEL: GRADES 4 & 5

RACHEL WIXSON, MPLS CAMPUS

Choir Sunday School is a chance for us to explore together the Bible verse through games, crafts, and thoughtful discussions from the kids that consistently blow me away- and of course- through music! Developing vocal and instrumental skills in class each week and then sharing that with the congregation throughout the year is an absolute joy!

KARI WERDAHL, WEST CAMPUS

I love teaching young people how to use their voices in a faith-based setting, offering them a gift they can share freely! I enjoy collaborating with the Music and Children & Family teams. I look forward to starting up again this fall and welcoming back all our 4th and 5th grade singers.



REGISTER TODAY FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES!

Scan the QR Codes below to register today!
Please reach out to a Youth Staff member if you have questions about registration.

**6TH GRADE
STARTER**
Begins 9/25



**7TH GRADE
CONFIRMATION**
Begins 9/25



**8TH GRADE
CONFIRMATION**
Begins 9/25



**CHANCEL CHOIR
6TH-8TH GRADE**
Begins 9/25



**ADOPT-A-GRANDPARENT
7TH & 8TH GRADE**
Begins 9/30



**CATHEDRAL CHOIR
9TH-12TH GRADE**
Began 8/28



**MO UNITED
9TH-12TH GRADE**
Begins 9/24



**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS
9TH-12TH GRADE**
Begins 9/30





WHAT'S NEW AT MOSOMA!

THE MOUNT OLIVET SCHOOL OF MUSIC & THE ARTS (MOSOMA) IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE NEW STAFF MEMBERS, NEW EVENTS, AND A NEW LOOK!

We are thrilled to introduce Elena Stabile as the new Coordinator of MOSOMA. With her extensive experience in music and the arts, including a recent Doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota, and her performing engagements throughout the Twin Cities, Elena brings a wealth of knowledge and administrative skills to her new position. Her passion for music and dedication to education make her a perfect fit for MOSOMA. Welcome, Elena!

One of MOSOMA's primary responsibilities is providing private lessons to students seeking exceptional instructors. Whether your passion lies in voice, percussion, brass, strings, guitar, or piano, we provide nurturing and supportive guidance tailored to your needs. Our wide selection of instruments ensures that every student, regardless of age or ability, can discover their ideal teacher at MOSOMA. For the convenience of our students, interest forms for lesson registrations, and the full Fall Semester calendar can all be found online at mtolivet.org/mosoma-private-lesson-interest-form. Let us know how we can help you find the perfect teacher match for you!

We are delighted to continue to increase our teaching roster and welcome these new instructors to the MOSOMA team this fall: Andrea Leap, voice; Paul Gusman, voice; Keith Larsen, percussion; Melissa Stoudt, saxophone and flute; and Branden Ma, piano.

Over the years, MOSOMA has expanded far beyond private lessons. We now offer a diverse range of musical and artistic programs, and we couldn't be more excited to invite you to explore and participate in them. Whether you're interested in our art classes, the Messiah Sing-along event, our FIKA music series, or the newly scheduled Requiem concert, we encourage you to join us in learning, listening, and creating music in community at The Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts!

—Dr. Beverly Claflin, Director of MOSOMA

UPCOMING ART CLASSES

Register at mtolivet.org/events

Tuesday, September 17, 6pm, Mpls Campus

PAINT LIKE HENRI MATISSE

Monday, October 14, 6pm, Mpls Campus

WET AND NEEDLE FELTING PUMPKIN ART

Tuesday, November 12, 6pm, Mpls Campus

WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Tuesday, December 3, 6pm, Mpls Campus

ACRYLIC POUR ORNAMENT

FIKA MUSIC SERIES

No registration, just come as you are!

Sunday, October 13, 2024, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus

DANCING ON THE KEYS

Sunday, November 17, 2024, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus

LATIN JAZZ SOIRÉE

Sunday, February 2, 2025, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus

STRING QUARTET DANISH FOLK MUSIC

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus

SPRING VOCAL SERENADE

Sunday, May 4, 2025, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

LIVING THE MESSAGE 2024-2025: EIGHT ESSENTIAL BIBLE STORIES

If you had a friend or family member who wanted to know what this “Christianity-thing” was all about and asked you for some good Bible stories to them get started, what stories would you share? This year in *Living the Message*, we’re trying to answer that question by looking at – actually, *reconsidering* – eight important stories that reveal who God is for us. Each of them is reasonably familiar. And each of them, in my opinion, is often either underestimated or misinterpreted. Finally, each of them, when read differently, gives us access to a God bigger, bolder, and way more interesting than the one we’d perhaps imagined and, in this way, can revitalize our faith. The lineup of this year’s “essential eight” includes the following. This series runs the first Tuesday of the month on the dates listed below from, 6:30-7:30pm or via emailed videos. All held at Mpls except for November and March are at West. All are welcome at any time.

UPCOMING CLASSES:

OCTOBER 1: Exodus 3: *God is revealed by what God does.*

NOVEMBER 5: Exodus 20: *God’s chief desire is that we love each other.*

DECEMBER 3: Mark 7: *God became one of us. Really!*

JANUARY 7: Genesis 3: *God will not give up on us.*

FEBRUARY 4: Luke 15: *God doesn’t wait for us to be ready.*

MARCH 4: Jonah 4: *God’s love is bigger than we think.*

APRIL 1: 1 Kings 19: *God shows up in the most unlikely of places.*

MAY 6: Luke 24: *God is available to us here and now.*



EXODUS 3: GOD IS REVEALED BY WHAT GOD DOES.

Tuesday, October 1, 6:30-7:30pm, Mpls Campus Room 207

One of the consistent themes of Scripture is that we humans cannot understand God. More than that, Scripture regularly affirms that we, as mere mortals, cannot even stand to be in the presence of God. That gap between God and us can be frustrating, and more than a few characters in the Bible have asked to know God, to see God, and to be in the presence of God. Of all these stories, perhaps the most interesting comes in the third chapter of Exodus in the story of Moses’ encounter with the burning bush. It is a story that has deep significance in both the Jewish and Christian traditions. On closer reading, however, it also reveals a crucial facet of God’s nature and our corresponding relationship with God: you simply cannot understand God unless you are open to experiencing God. Or, put more simply, the only way you can get to know God is by getting in the game, going along for the ride God invites us to, and watching (and experiencing!) what God actually does. I hope to see you there!

PASTOR LOSE

“IN THE BEGINNING”: EXPLORING THE ORIGIN STORIES OF GENESIS

Mpls Campus: Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am in 207

West Campus: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am in the Rehearsal Hall

Via emailed video sent one week after Mpls class dates.

UPCOMING CLASSES:

OCTOBER 23/24: *Beginnings* with Pastor Lose

OCTOBER 30/31: *Jacob: The Heel to Israel* with Pastor Cieslik

NOVEMBER 6/7: *In Place of God, Joseph’s Story* with Pastor Grangaard

NOVEMBER 13/14: *Stories of Overlooked Women* with Pastor Olson Popp

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

DAYTIME: 2nd Tuesday of the month,
10-11:30am

EVENING: 2nd Wednesday of the month,
7-8:30pm

Both held in the Mpls Campus Library

UPCOMING BOOKS:

SEPTEMBER 10/11: *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

OCTOBER 8/9: *How to Know a Person* by David Brooks

Outdoor Concert with Rachel Kurtz

**Friday, September 6,
6-8:30pm, Conference &
Retreat Center, FREE**

Enjoy live music surrounded by the beauty of nature at our final outdoor concert of the summer with Rachel Kurtz! Minneapolis-based singer/songwriter Rachel Kurtz is poised for a breakthrough with her 2018 album, Love, Rachel

Kurtz. Following an unconventional career path, Rachel Kurtz has found acclaim and a national audience of thousands due to her appearances at a series of community service events held in sports arenas across the country. Register today at mtolivet.org.



Donor & Volunteer Dinner

**Tuesday, September 17,
6-8pm, Conference & Retreat
Center, FREE**

Anyone who has given time, talents, or financial gifts to the Conference & Retreat Center is invited to an intimate, elevated dinner on Tuesday, September 17. At this special event, you'll learn about recent and upcoming renovations, visit with old and new staff, hear about our greatest needs for 2025, all while enjoying a delicious meal prepared by our chefs. As gratitude for your generosity, there is no cost, but please register online in advance.



Fall Volunteer Day

**Saturday, October 26,
9am-3pm, Conference &
Retreat Center, FREE**

Save the Date for Fall Volunteer Day to help ready the Conference & Retreat Center grounds for the winter season. Volunteers will help with projects like uprooting annuals, installing deer fencing around white cedar trees, raking leaves, wood splitting, wood chipping, and other seasonal projects. In addition, volunteers and families can enjoy a delicious meal from our kitchen and have opportunities to swim in the pool, explore the trails, play on the natural playscape, and delight in any of our indoor and outdoor amenities. Only free part of the day? No problem. Any amount of time helps us care for this corner of creation!



Craft Away Retreat

**Friday, November 8 through
Sunday, November 10, 3pm,
Conference & Retreat Center,
\$240-\$390**

Take a break from your everyday routines, and enjoy the pace of retreat center life. Disconnect from distractions and redirect your resources toward creativity. Finish those projects you've been wanting to complete for ages, and meet other crafters during your stay! You bring your supplies, and we provide the lodging, meals, meeting space, amenities, and inspiring beauty of the Conference & Retreat Center. Stay in a dorm with a small group of friends or in a hotel-style room (double-occupancy and limited single occupancy). Single Occupancy \$390; Double Occupancy \$300; Dorm Occupancy \$240. Cost includes crafting space with an electrical outlet, overnight accommodations, meals, use of all amenities, and tax. All registration types include supper on Friday through lunch on Sunday.



COFFEE & CONVERSATION

THREE GREAT EVENTS PRESENTED BY THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE DEPARTMENT

IF YOU DIDN'T BUY A TICKET, YOU HAVEN'T WON THE LOTTERY:

AVOIDING ONLINE SCAMS

Saturday, September 28, 9:30-11am,
West Campus, FREE

Join us for coffee and conversation, with a presentation on the topic, "If You Didn't

Buy a Ticket, You Haven't Won the Lottery: Avoiding Online Scams." Cynthia Child, Senior Community Services, TECH

Coordinator and Scott Nelson from Minnesota AARP Resource, will share

current and most common online scams, as well as offer practical tips for determining if an inquiry is legitimate. We'll also discuss

security settings, online risk, how to alert authorities of a suspected scam, and how to file a report if you believe you've been

taken advantage of by a scam. Also included will be time for questions with answers

provided by Cynthia and Scott. Register at mtolivet.org or by contacting Nancy Nelson at nnelson@mtolivet.org, or 612.767.2288.

CARING FOR THOSE WITH ALZHEIMER'S

Saturday, October 5, 9:30-11am,
Mpls Campus, FREE

Former Wisconsin Governor, **Martin J. Schreiber** is an award-winning crusader for caregivers of those with Alzheimer's or dementia. Through his personal experience as a caregiver to his wife Elaine, Marty will share his experience and provide honest insight regarding Alzheimer's disease.

Marty will offer practical advice to equip caregivers with information to advocate for their loved one, and ask the right questions of their medical team. Marty's book will be available for purchase, as his goal is to get his book, *My Two Elaines: Learning, Coping, and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver*, into the hands of people who need it most. Net proceeds from Marty's book go to caregiver support programs.

To register, visit mtolivet.org.

For questions, contact Nancy Nelson at nnelson@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2288.

HOW TO TRANSFORM LONELINESS INTO CONNECTION

Thursday, October 24, 10-11:30am,
Mpls Campus, FREE

The Mount Olivet Mental Health Task Force invites you to join us for coffee and conversation, with a presentation on the topic, "How to Transform Loneliness into

Connection." Sherri M. Herman, MA, LPCC is a licensed clinical psychotherapist, spiritual coach, and loneliness expert who will share about transforming loneliness into connection with expert strategies blending science and ancient wisdom.

Learn to avoid common pitfalls, nurture your spirit, and forge deep connections for a brighter future.

Register at mtolivet.org, or by contacting Rachel Sufficool, rsufficool@mtolivet.org, or 612.767.2235.



MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT

Mental Health Connect continues to celebrate their 10th Anniversary this year. As a part of this celebration, the 30+ Faith Communities that are a part of this collaborative, would like you to join us for some great upcoming events and ways to continue to support Mental Health Connect. Please visit the Mental Health Connect website at mhconnect.org for more information.



UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

GROUP STEWARDSHIP DINNERS & LUNCH

Reservations required online at mtolivet.org, at church, or by calling church at 612.926.7651.

ALTAR GUILD

Wednesday, September 11, 6pm, Mpls Campus

FLYING SOLO

Thursday, September 19, 6pm, Mpls Campus

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS

Friday, September 20, 12noon, Mpls Campus

THE FIRST YEARS WITHOUT THEM

Thursdays, September 12 through October 31, 3-4:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$100

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. This class will take place at the Mpls Campus in Room 191. Please note that this event must have at least three people registered in order to proceed. If less than three people are registered, this event will be canceled.

FALL BABYGARTEN

Thursdays, September 19 through October 24, 10-10:45am, Mpls Campus, \$72

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 Faith Formation Coordinator, will guide parents with activities and discussion. Register at mtolivet.org.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 21, 9:30am-3:30pm, Virtual, \$150, plus \$35 scoring fee for the Prepare Inventory.

As part of planning for your life together, we invite you to participate in a very important, practical and relevant marriage preparation workshop. This fun and engaging 6 hour workshop, along with completing the Prepare Questionnaire and talking through the results with a Pastor or Prepare facilitator, is designed to enrich your relationship as a married couple; focusing on important topics like positive communication skills, healthy conflict resolution, financial management; and spirituality. You will have ample time to discuss the topics and materials together as a couple as well as with the other participants. These are all areas we hope will be helpful to you as you mark this momentous occasion and begin your married life together!

16TH MOTORHEADS' FALL TOUR

Sunday, September 29, 11am, West Campus, Free

Back by popular demand! Begins with 11am worship at the West Campus. After church, meet in the parking lot for a group photo before we head out for a beautiful drive along the MN River Valley. We'll end at the city of Henderson where we will participate in the Roll-In Encore — cool cars, food trucks, and more! Your return trip is on your own. Cost: What you buy in Henderson. No registration needed.

COP 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PARTY

Friday, October 11, 2024, Open House beginning at 5:30pm, Program at 7pm, Live Band at 8pm, The Metropolitan Ballroom & Clubroom, \$35. Join us for the Cathedral of the Pines Camp 75th Anniversary Celebration! This 21+ event will be filled with food, dancing, and the joy of decades past. Your presence will make this milestone truly memorable. Dress code is casual cocktail attire. Register at mtolivet.org.

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PROGRAMS

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NOW REGISTERING!

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