

JANUARY 2025

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

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

JANUARY 5

EPIPHANY

ARRIVAL OF THE MAGI

Matthew 2:1-12

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten
MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman
MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

*During our Epiphany
worship service there will be a
procession of the Three Kings.*

JANUARY 12

THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Luke 3:1-18

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Olson Popp
MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

JANUARY 19

BAPTISM OF JESUS

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Cieslik
MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland
MUSIC Cathedral &
Sanctuary Choirs

JANUARY 26

TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Luke 4:1-13

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Grangaard
MUSIC Chancel, Cathedral, &
Sanctuary Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon
MUSIC Chancel, Cathedral, &
Sanctuary Choirs

**SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME WEEKLY CLASSES ON
1/5 AT BOTH CAMPUSES.**

Hope and Courage

While the beginning of January is a famous time for making resolutions, I would instead suggest cultivating hope and courage born of gratitude. Resolutions are not only short-lived, but they are also focused almost entirely on yourself and, in particular, your deficits. How I can eat less or spend less or drink less or, conversely, exercise more or read more or write more personal notes or whatever. It's not that any of these are bad intentions, but each starts from a sense of lacking: You're not as fit or well-read or responsible as you want to be. Focusing on perceived weaknesses can create short-term bursts of motivation but rarely sustains genuine change. And when the resolutions fail – and research suggests that more than 90% of them will – you're left even more convinced that you are not enough.

So instead of focusing on what you lack, pay particular attention to those things for which you are grateful: a good friend, and the opportunity to be a good friend to others; the ways folks have encouraged you or you have encouraged them; moments of peace and contentment; the promise that God accepts you just as you are. This kind of cultivated attention to your blessings pulls your focus away from your perceived weakness and creates a sense of energy rooted in the awareness that you are enough, have enough, and can do so much more than you realized. This kind of gratitude translates easily into the hope and courage that will sustain us through the ups and downs that attend all of our lives.

Toward this end, I invite you to make Sunday worship a priority in this new year. While I realize you may not be surprised by this suggestion ☺, I will simply ask how often you have regretted making the decision to come to church? Whatever the challenge of getting yourself and/or your family ready for Sunday morning, I am willing to wager that once you are there, seeing the familiar faces, hearing the beautiful music, and listening to the readings and sermon all serve not simply to encourage you but to root you more firmly in your identity that you are a beloved child of God and, therefore, are not just enough, but more than enough!

In January, we are treated to four passages from the beginning of the life and ministry of Jesus that orient us to this identity. On January 5, we celebrate the Epiphany and are reminded that though the world can be a fearful place, God is at work in so many ways to bless and protect us. The following week (January 12), John the Baptist reminds us that even the most ordinary tasks, done in faith, can make a huge difference. On January 19, we are invited to hear

God's words to Jesus at his baptism – “you are my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased” – addressed also to us. And on January 26, we are promised that God is with us always, even during “wilderness times” of fear or temptation.

I would invite you also to give your attention to the prayer we say at the close of Sunday worship. It was written by the Reverend Eric Milner-White, Dean of the Chapel at King's College in Cambridge in 1940 at a time when England stood nearly alone against Nazi domination. With bombs falling on London every day during the Blitz that autumn, Milner-White put pen to paper and wrote a prayer that has inspired Christians ever since with the promise that in Jesus, God is always with us.

We began closing our Sunday worship at Mount Olivet with this prayer in the early days of the pandemic, when we all recognized the need for additional hope and courage. Yet even when the pandemic behind us, this prayer has become for many of us an important way of anchoring our lives in the conviction that we are called and accompanied by the God we know most fully in Christ. They are good words to hear and to say, whether you can make it to worship or not, for they remind us of God's promise to be with us and for us *always*, a promise that creates resilient hope and courage. I will put it below and invite you to pray it now and perhaps even cut it out and put it somewhere you can see it as a reminder that while our resolutions may come and go, God continues to be resolved to love us, accept us, and accompany us wherever life may lead us in this new year of grace.

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings this New Year and always!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

Did you Know...? Epiphany Sunday, January 5

Did you know that we have no idea how many wise men there were? Matthew doesn't tell us. So there could have been two, twelve, or even twenty. Church tradition has traditionally assumed there were three wise men because Matthew names the three gifts they bring the baby Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And did you know that the Bible doesn't actually call them "wise men" or even "kings" but rather "magi," denoting a magician, sorcerer, or wizard. (The Greek "magi" is the root of our word "magic.") Because they come from the East and are following a star, we have wondered if they were Zoroastrian Astrologers who studied the stars to foretell the future.

And did you know that in Greek and Russian Orthodox Christianity, and in much of Latin and South American Roman Catholic Christianity, Epiphany – January 6, the day we imagine the magi arrived to greet the baby Jesus – is a bigger festival than Christmas?

And, finally, did you know that at Mount Olivet we will hear the story of the magi, sing their song – *We Three Kings* – and watch as they process in and out of our Sunday worship (and then go greet our children in Sunday School) on Sunday, January 5, at all services the closest Sunday to Epiphany. You won't want to miss it!



Mpls Campus



West Campus

The service will feature a powerful reenactment of this momentous event as the Magi enter the sanctuary adorned in majestic robes, embodying reverence and grace. They will present symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, representing their homage and recognition of Christ as divine, human, and king. Join us for this celebration, filled with heartfelt worship, impactful imagery, and the spirit of Epiphany.



LIFE & GROWTH

NOV 15 - DEC 13

BAPTISMS

Zoey Jay Bohline

daughter of Emily and Jon

Marigold Ella Jean Guggenberger

daughter of Taylor and Evan

Calvin Heley

son of Susan and Michael

Nora Kelly Johnson

daughter of Erika and Davis

Allen Sawyer Judd

son of Allison and Allen

Caitlyn Elizabeth Olson

Olivia Reese Olson

daughter of Caitlyn and Derek

Sofia Hadley Olson

daughter of Caitlyn and Derek

Camryn Rose Rowley

daughter of Leah and Cullen

Colton Ledger Rowley

son of Leah and Cullen

Kyla Quinn Rowley

daughter of Leah and Cullen

Lukas William Saatkamp

son of Emily and Matthew

Palmer Louise Strand

daughter of Lauren and Thomas

Olive Lynn Swanson

daughter of Elsa and Gunnar

James Soriano Wheeler

son of Laura and Mitchell

DEATHS

Joan E. Anderson

Arlene Cheesemen

Debra K. Cizinski

Gladys A. Eppe

Ronald A. Erickson

Margaret M. Hoffman

Phillip D. Kruger

Susan K. Maki

Bonnie M. Richardson

Fred D. Steiner

Myrna R. Strand

JoAnn Vestal

DEVOTION

In Luke's gospel, just before Jesus begins his public ministry in chapter four, there is a quick little genealogy. In the Bible, these are usually easy to skip over because it's a list of names. So and so begat so and so. This dude was a son of this dude who was the son of this guy. And Luke's genealogy in chapter three is no exception. Lots of names. But, the names an author chooses to include tell us something about the story they are trying to tell. Matthew's list of names begins with Abraham, a recognition that Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises that God made to Abraham that he would be blessed to be a blessing. Luke's list of names goes all the way back to Adam, the first human being, the first child of God. Which seems to indicate that what God is up to in and through Jesus has implications for all of humanity. What God is revealing to us, showing us, in the person of Jesus is just how far God will go to prove God's love for us, God's beloved children.

— PASTOR CIESLIK



THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

We all know how special it can feel to receive a gift from another person. But did you know that gift-giving has an even more powerful impact on the giver than the receiver?

Michael Norton, a Professor at the Harvard University School of Business, has run a series of experiments to explore the relationship between money and happiness. That research has led him not only to confirm that generosity leads to a variety of physical and mental health benefits – something already well established – but also that the one and only way that money makes a lasting difference in your personal happiness is to give it away.

Norton's work explores the change in happiness when people buy something for themselves, buy something for someone else, or give money to a charitable cause. While all three of these activities have an immediate impact on an individual's happiness, in the first case – buying something for yourself – the purchaser's relative happiness soon returned to its original state. That is, the rush and excitement we feel when we buy a new laptop, car, or pair of shoes fades relatively quickly. But when you give money away – whether using it to support a charitable cause or to buy a gift for another person – the increase in happiness persists indefinitely.

This helps explain how good it feels to contribute to *Christmas for All* (see a recap of that wonderful event on page 8), buy a present for someone special in your life, or contribute to the mission and ministry of a charitable organization like church. Generosity is powerful. Thank you for your continued generous support of all we do at Mount Olivet.

To learn more about giving at Mount Olivet, visit mtolivet.org/ways-to-give.



MOUNT OLIVET GALA

Together We Can

Each year Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and its Affiliates come together for a night of celebration and fundraising. Over 500 attendees participate in this special evening, learning more about the affiliate organizations, and supporting the life-changing work being done at each one. Your support will guarantee a successful evening filled with inspiration. We proudly direct 100% of the proceeds raised to these organizations, empowering them to continue providing exceptional service and care to over 15,000 individuals each year. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in our community!

HERE ARE SOME WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THE MOUNT OLIVET GALA!

ATTEND THE EVENT

Thursday, May 1, 2025, Oak Ridge Country Club, \$40

Registration opens March 1

Contact: Laurie Hancer, Coordinator of Service & Volunteers, at 612.767.2267 or lhancer@mtolivet.org.

MAKE A SILENT AUCTION DONATION:

Accepting donations March 1-April 15

A few ideas: bottles of wine, restaurant gift cards, experiences such as sporting event tickets, overnight stays at hotels, cabins, or vacation homes.

Contact: Karen Beese, Mount Olivet Gala Chair, at 612.747.1256 or karensbeese@gmail.com

BECOME A SPONSOR

Sponsorship levels available from \$1,000 to \$20,000

Sponsorship Goal for 2025: \$95,000

Contact: Tyler Hauser, Coordinator of Development, at 612.767.2214 or thauser@mtolivet.org.

MAKE A DONATION

The Mount Olivet Gala Supports the following affiliates:

Cathedral of the Pines Camp

Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center

Mount Olivet Day Services

Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home

Mount Olivet Rolling Acres



LIVING THE MESSAGE:

EIGHT ESSENTIAL BIBLE STORIES

Taught by Pastor Lose and runs the first Tuesday of the month through May 2025, 6:30-7:30pm or via emailed videos. All are welcome at any time, register at mtolivet.org/education or by contacting Katie Stevenson at 612.767.2252.

GENESIS 3: GOD WILL NOT GIVE UP ON US

Tuesday, January 7; 6:30-7:30pm, Mpls Campus Room 207

Genesis 3 – also known as “the Fall” – has been the source of so much literary and theological inspiration over the years: think John Milton’s *Paradise Lost* or the number of paintings of Adam, Eve, and the Serpent. It’s also been the source of some pretty questionable theology across the centuries and even in later parts of the Bible. So, what’s going on with “the Fall”? This age-old story tries to wrestle with some of the most important and enduring questions there are. Why is there evil in the world? Why do we often hurt ourselves and others? Why is there so much pain and suffering? But also, hidden in the details of this narrative is the story of a God who loves humanity with a fierce and parental love, a God who will not give up on creation or on us, a God committed to redeeming and loving us through all things. So come and discover together a story that is about so much more than loss or sin but is full to overflowing with God’s tenacious, indefatigable love for all of us.

LUKE 15: GOD DOESN’T WAIT FOR US TO BE READY

Tuesday, February 4, 6:30-7:30pm, Mpls Campus Room 207

There are a few passages in the Bible that are so well known, so beloved, so enshrined in our imagination through art and music that we absolutely know just what they mean. Except when we don’t!

Jesus’ parable of “the prodigal son” is one of those stories. Of course, we know what this story means: God is always willing to receive the repentant, always willing to wait for the sinner to turn around and seek forgiveness. We know and love this story in part because it reinforces a common theological pattern we have internalized so deeply we don’t even recognize it: we sin, we suffer the consequences of that sin, we “come to our senses” (to echo the words of the parable) and repent, and then God receives and forgives us. Wash, rinse, repeat.

The God of our imagination is just, even stern, setting clear and orderly expectations, but ultimately also patient and forgiving, eager to receive us back in mercy once we’ve repented. But in this familiar parable, Jesus offers a different picture of God, portraying God not as stern but as rather indulgent, not as orderly but as somewhat desperate, and not as patient but as downright impatient to receive and restore us, whether or not we’ve truly repented.

It’s that last part that’s hardest to imagine. Isn’t repentance essential? If we don’t repent and are still forgiven, don’t we risk mocking God’s justice? Good questions! Come join us to hear Jesus’ answer!

SONGS OF LUKE

Songs have a unique and special way of taking hold of our hearts: we often remember song lyrics easier than written words, a loved one will come to mind when their favorite song is played, or we are eager to pass down favorite songs from generation to generation, connecting us with people in many times and places.

This love of song is well known to us at Mount Olivet, a church who sings the faith and holds a collection of songs and hymns that unite us as a worshipping community. The Bible, though coming to us through the written word, is also filled with songs, many of which are found in Luke’s Gospel. From Mary’s song of praise after visiting Elizabeth to Zechariah’s prophetic proclamation after an extended time of silence, and more, these songs of scripture have become a cornerstone to our own life of faith, even though we might not even be aware of them.

Join Pastor Olson Popp and Pastor Grangaard this winter as we take a deep dive into these beautiful songs in Luke, songs of praise and God’s faithfulness, that sustain us along our journeys and invite us to sing our songs of faith.

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

Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am, West Campus

Also available via video **REGISTER TODAY!**

JANUARY 22/23:

Intro: Songs in Scripture

JANUARY 29/30:

“My Soul Magnifies the Lord” — Mary’s Song

FEBRUARY 5/6:

“In the Tender Mercy of our God” — Zechariah’s Song

FEBRUARY 12/13:

“Your Word has been Fulfilled” — The Song of Simeon



Ministry Moment: *Christmas for All*

Gifts galore were donated, and volunteers gave time and awesome effort to our all-congregation service project, *Christmas for All*, this past December. The Christmas Store event was held at the West Campus on Saturday, December 7, and served 570+ individuals. This year, our collection of new winter coats, hats, and gloves for the clients, was well-received and appreciated by the families. Laurie Hancer, Coordinator of Service and Volunteers, says, *"This event is my favorite of the year! Volunteers of all ages work alongside community partners Love INC and Mi Casa, offering hundreds of neighbors a joyous, dignified space to shop for their families. Christmas love and excitement is felt by all! A huge thank you to all who volunteer, donate, and support this amazing ministry!"*





PERSONAL CARE MINISTRY

Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) is a consortium of about 40 churches in Eastern Carver County that provides needed resources for Eastern Carver Community and one of Mount Olivet's Community Partners. Each church commits to covering a "gap ministry" which meets the needs not currently covered by local agencies. This monthly commitment is crucial in "filling the gaps" for our neighbors.

Mount Olivet's "gap ministry" is providing personal care items to Love INC. On average, Love INC receives 15-20 families in need of personal care products each week and the need continues to grow. Would you help provide for these needs by making a personal care product or monetary donation to Mount Olivet? Perhaps consider regular monthly donations to keep our supplies full and our church commitment fulfilled.

Needed items include: bar soap, Kleenex, toilet paper, shaving cream, men's and women's razors, men's and women's deodorant, feminine hygiene products, children's and adult toothbrushes, children's and adult toothpaste, shampoo, and conditioner.

Donations can be labeled "Personal Care Ministry" and brought to designated bins at either campus. Thank you for your generosity as we work with our community partners to meet our neighbors in need!

HERE IS A BRIEF TESTIMONIAL OF HOW THIS MINISTRY HAS MADE A GREAT IMPACT ALREADY!

I recently became a member of Mount Olivet and wanted to become involved, so I decided to be a volunteer.

Some of you may know that our West Campus participates with Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ). And our church has committed to providing personal care products which include deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, and more. We have a box at the West Campus, located in the Atrium, where you can put donated products. There is a list near the box that specifies the products we need.

As a volunteer, I help deliver the products to the recipients living in Carver County. It has come to my attention that the need keeps getting greater and greater. I feel sad that people are unable to afford the basic needs like the personal care products our church is helping to provide. I thought to myself, what if? What if, when we are out doing our own shopping, if we just bought one item (a bottle of shampoo or a bar of soap) and donated it? Our shelves would be so much better stocked to help those in need! Wouldn't that be great if our shelves became full because we all contributed?

Thank you in advance for helping!

PAM GOODMAN, Volunteer

Believing, Belonging, Becoming - Being?

Most of us, if not all of us are familiar with the three-word, nine-syllable alliteration which makes up Mount Olivet's mission statement: *Believing, Belonging, Becoming*. But what if there is a missing piece? What if we added a word which still ends in "ing" and starts with the letter "b" but may only be two syllables? A word which may be shorter in grammar yet still powerful in illuminating the same objective - just in an EVEN SIMPLER manner (I know – I didn't think that was possible either).

Some people's definitions of being are associated with ache. To a lot of us, being might feel painful, dull, or draining. I used to think that being was just simply existing, but Mount Olivet has taught me that to be is to experience, to discover, and to **LIVE**. What it's like to feel at ease in both times of quiet and loud.

Mount Olivet shaped my definition of being as it showed me that church isn't just about *believing, belonging, becoming*. It is also about being: being grateful for privilege but understanding of sacrifice. Being your true authentic self. Being a role model. Being a kid. Being present in the moment.

This church is a place where one can be accepted - be noticed. Be creative - be original. Here you don't always have to be happy, it's okay to be sad. This church is about being okay with not always being okay. It is about being healed by community and faith, being aware of both talent and flaw, and being accepting of imperfection. Yes, in a life full of guilt and regret, life can get so hard that it feels painful to be. But, at this church, you can trade this guilt and be reflective. Be better. Be present. Be still. It is a place where we can be loved. Be safe.

Now while I'm not trying to create a petition to add "being" to our mission statement, I just hope you may reconsider your own definition of "being" as we all get to be in a relationship with God and be in a community which we know will eternally support us through both positive and negative associations with "being." Mount Olivet isn't just A place to be, it is THE place to be. THE place where you can just, be.

ZOEY WILLIAMS, Senior at Edina High School



The Mount Olivet youth department is so grateful to walk with young people in their faith journey. Thank you, Zoey!

—Geoff Arenson, Director of Youth Ministry

SUMMER OFFERINGS! MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMERTIME PLAYERS!

JULY 14-18, MPLS

FOR 6TH-9TH GRADE

STP! is a music-based day camp specifically designed for Middle Schoolers. Days are action-packed with team games, singing and dancing to pop and musical theater songs, and afternoon field trips. STP! is the perfect place to make new friends and to bond with the Youth and Music Staff at Mount Olivet! Cost is \$300.

MINI CAMPS

DATES BELOW, MPLS

FOR 6-8TH GRADE

Cost is \$180 per Mini Camp

JUNE 10-12: We will travel to the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center to participate in energizing outdoor activities, experience moments of calm and reflection, and connect as a group through teambuilding and service.

JUNE 24-26: Learn to make some delicious recipes, experiment with flavors and broaden your horizon with global flavors at our mini-cooking camp.

AUGUST 19-21: Make the most out of the end of the summer with bowling, Grand Slam, and swimming.

TEAM STP!

JULY 14-18, MPLS

FOR 10TH-12TH GRADE

TEAM STP! is a week-long counseling opportunity for high school students who love to sing, dance, and have FUN! You'll join in with the STP! campers by playing games, learning songs and choreography, and going on daily field trips. PLUS, you'll get to work behind the scenes helping with props and set decoration for the Friday performance. Join us and add some jazz hands to your summer! Cost is \$200.



MOUNT OLIVET SUMMER PROGRAMS

MEMBER REGISTRATION IS OPEN JANUARY 14-16!
OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 22

We're ready for a great summer at Mount Olivet! Each week will have themed activities including crafts, movement games, music, service learning, and FUN! Join us for one week or the whole summer. Each Day Camp costs \$300 for members and \$340 for non-members. Both prices include snacks, a T-shirt, activities, and field trips.

The camp day runs from 8:30am-4:30pm with extended day care available from 7:30am to 5:30pm at no additional cost.

Questions? Please contact Kristin Olson, Children's Camp Coordinator, at kolson@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2246.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 5TH GRADE

SPLASH INTO SUMMER!

JUNE 9-13, MPLS

This week we will splash around at three different pools and waterparks throughout the Twin Cities. We'll also play water games and break out the giant slip-n-slide at Mount Olivet.

GOD'S KIDS SING!

JUNE 16-20, MPLS

God's Kids Sing! focuses on singing, dancing, playing instruments, and all kinds of art projects. Music classes are taught by professional educators with the support of an engaged group of Day Camp Staff.

GOING WILD

**JUNE 23-27, MPLS &
JULY 28-AUGUST 1, WEST**

Let's get to know the different creatures that call Earth home. We'll do a variety of animal related crafts and activities as well as visit the Minnesota Zoo, go to a Nature Center, and swim like fish at a local pool.

NATURE CAMP

JULY 7-11, MPLS

Held at the beautiful Conference & Retreat Center, Nature Camp is an opportunity to learn more about the outdoors and connect to the environment. We will take hikes, swim in the pool, do art projects, and engage in nature play.

IMAGINATION CREATION

**JULY 14-18, MPLS &
JULY 21-25, WEST**

During Imagination Creation we will work on art projects, creative thinking, and spend time in our Cardboard Creation Lab. We will take field trips to see a theater show, visit The Crayola Experience, and visit a local pool.

SUPER STEM SUMMER

JULY 21-25, MPLS

Lets get those brains working this week at Super STEM Summer. We will visit the Works Museum, the Fun Lab, and have a great time swimming. We'll also watch some science demonstrations with an onsite field trip!

LET'S GET COOKING

JULY 28-AUGUST 1, MPLS

What new foods will you try this year at Cooking Week? We'll make a variety of yummy recipes as well as visit the Mill City Museum, Midtown Global Market, and go swimming.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

AUGUST 4-8, MPLS

Will we be visited by aliens this week at Day Camp? We will do a variety of space-related crafts and activities, visit a museum, defy gravity at Pump it Up, and have a blast while swimming. We'll finish the week with a glow party at church!

GAMES GALORE

AUGUST 18-22, MPLS

The last week of camp is all about fun. We'll get offsite to go bowling, visit Grand Slam, and swim as well as have a ton of fun playing all sorts of games at church.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JUNE 9-12, MPLS &
JULY 7-10, WEST**

FOR PRE-K-2ND GRADE

Get ready to explore God's creation! Kids will be challenged to look closer at the intricate details of God's creation while learning how big God is. Games, crafts, music and more! *VBS Camp is from 8:30-11:30am, Monday through Thursday at each campus. Cost is \$55.





THANK YOU FOR 75 YEARS!

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

I would like to thank the members of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church for your continued love and support of Cathedral of the Pines Camp! What a great summer celebrating 75 years of ministry on beautiful Lake Caribou. I am so proud of the history, the tradition, the fun, the spiritual growth...it is a place where children can be kids, learn valuable life lessons, sing, dance, and play. COP is a place where campers can ask questions about their faith, and listen to the faith experiences of their peers, counselors and camp staff. In the morning and evening we sit side by side in the chapel, looking across the lake at the big white cross, feeling the presence of God through friends, pastors, and the natural beauty of the North Shore.

Last summer we were able to host some “anniversary events” where people could register to come to a meal and chapel service. Sitting through a camp meal is quite an experience. Meals at COP are loud, they are fun, and they are long! There is singing “round the room you must go” if you put your elbows on the table, mail call, cabin cleanup report, sports report, more songs, stunts, love songs...each meal is an experience. And the food is so good! Seriously, campers love the food at camp! Some of their favorites include grilled cheese and tomato soup, chicken patties, and of course brownie delight! I think the folks who joined us had a blast!

Each week we had a birthday party for camp, we gave each camper a birthday hat and a noise maker. Those were the loudest meals I have ever experienced in my 60 years at COP.

A “COP 75th Celebration” was held at the Metropolitan Ballroom & Clubroom in October and 600 people attended the event. It was fabulous. Every generation came together to celebrate a place we all love and adore. It didn’t matter what decade you were at COP– the stories were all the same. It was about relationships and the special memories we will never forget. They are lessons learned, positive shared experiences, lifelong friendships, and a deeper relationship with God and the church. Cathedral of the Pines Camp has a way of bringing people together... for good.

I am so blessed to be involved in this incredible ministry. I am grateful for Mount Olivet Church and its commitment to children, during the summer and all year long. Our young people need to be seen, to be heard, to be believed. We want our young people to know that they are loved unconditionally and that they are part of a community that cares for them individually. My hope and prayer is that Cathedral of the Pines will continue to “love kids up” for the next 75 years and beyond. Thank you!



CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP

Hey Campers! We are so excited to have you at Cathedral of the Pines Camp (COP) this summer. COP combines some of the best ingredients for a positive summer experience: laughter, prayer, education, and recreation. A typical camp day includes Bible class, swimming, paddleboats, nature hikes, sports fundamentals, arts and crafts, large and small group games, and, of course, delicious food! Days at Cathedral of the Pines Camp begin and end in the chapel overlooking beautiful Lake Caribou.

MOUNT OLIVET MEMBER-ONLY REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 13 AND CLOSES JANUARY 15 OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 21

This year, we will once again have two registration periods.

The first is for Mount Olivet Members-Only. It will open on Monday, January 13, at 10am and close Wednesday, January 15, at 11:59pm. This will give Mount Olivet members three days of priority registration for our 2025 youth camping sessions via Campbrain. All Mount Olivet members will receive an early access link via email on Wednesday, January 8.

Open Registration (Non-members and Members) will begin on Tuesday, January 21 at 10am via Campbrain on the COP website.

Any non-member registrations received prior to January 21 will be canceled and refunded with an invitation to register on January 21 or afterward.

YOUTH CAMPING SESSIONS

GRADES 3, 4, & 5

Week 1: Saturday, July 19 – Wednesday, July 23

Week 2: Saturday, August 2 – Wednesday, August 6

GRADES 5, 6, & 7

Week 1: Monday, July 7 – Friday, July 11

GRADES 6, 7 & 8

Week 1: Friday, June 27 – Wednesday, July 2

Week 2: Monday, July 14 – Saturday, July 19

Week 3: Wednesday, July 23 – Monday, July 28

9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CAMP

(MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS ONLY)

Week 1: Sunday, June 22 – Friday, June 27

Week 2: Monday, July 28 – Saturday, August 2

GRADES 11, 12, & GRADUATES

Summer Starter: Sunday, June 15 – Thursday, June 19

GRADE 10

10th Grade Starter: Thursday, June 19 – Sunday, June 22

GRADES 10, 11, & 12

Hi-League Retreat: Wednesday, August 6 – Sunday, August 10

FAMILY CAMPING SESSIONS

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR FAMILY CAMPING LOTTERIES (MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS ONLY)

Registration for the Opening Weekend, Family Work Week, COP for All, and Family Camp lotteries begins on Tuesday, January 21, at 10am, and must be received by February 3 at 11:59pm, via Campbrain. All lottery results will be communicated by email the week of February 10.

FAMILY CAMPING (MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS ONLY) OPENING WEEKEND

Friday, May 23 – Monday, May 26

FAMILY WORK WEEK

Wednesday, June 11 – Sunday, June 15

COP FOR ALL

Friday, July 11 – Monday, July 14

FAMILY CAMP

Thursday, August 14 – Sunday, August 17

HI-ER LEAGUE WEEKEND

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR HI-ER LEAGUE WEEKEND

Registration for the Hi-er League Weekend opens Tuesday, January 21, at 10am, and will be accepted online, first-come, first-served via Campbrain on the COP Website through May 15, 2025.

HI-ER LEAGUE WEEKEND (COLLEGE AGED)

Thursday, May 29 – Sunday, June 1

CONTACT US!

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
CAMP COORDINATOR, KRIS ERICKSEN,
AT KRISE@MTOLIVET.ORG OR 612.767.2207.**

FEATURED EVENTS

Truth Talks with Erin Walsh “Thriving in a Digital World”

Wednesday, January 15, 7-8pm, Mpls Campus and livestreamed at mtolivet.org

Truth Talks is a time when we gather grades 6-12 and connect on a topic that is of particular interest to youth and the people who love them. This all congregational event in partnership with the youth department, takes great care in meeting young church members where they are in life and faith. Join us at this year's *Truth Talks* with speaker Erin Walsh. Erin Walsh is a parent, speaker, author, and co-founder of *Spark & Stitch Institute*. She has worked with communities across the country who want to better understand child and adolescent development and cut through conflicting information about kids and technology. In addition to writing articles for several publications including *Psychology Today*, her work has been featured in the Washington Post, the StarTribune, Parents.com, and Yahoo News. She co-authored the Tenth Anniversary Edition of the national bestseller *Why Do They Act That Way? A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain for You and Your Teen*. Her latest book, *It's Their World: Teens, Screens, and the Science of Adolescence* (published by Free Spirit Publishing), will be released in May 2025. Her signature down-to-earth approach and sense of humor helps families and educators engage in complicated topics and leave feeling capable and motivated. She has consulted with schools, school districts, parent groups and other youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and Canada on issues related to digital media, parenting, and social emotional development. Join us in January, all are welcome!



MOCW Ladies' Night



Tuesday, February 11, 5:15-7pm, Mpls Campus, \$25

Join all of your favorite Mount Olivet Women for an evening of fellowship, good food, and even better conversation. Marjorie D. Grevious MS, MA, E-RYT 500hr, will speak on the topic "Aligned Towards Joy." Marjorie will help us learn how to become intentionally aligned in body, mind, and spirit, creating space for more joy to evolve in our lives. Marjorie combines a rich background of spiritual/theological education, with over 40 years of yoga practice, 10+ years of yoga study and teaching, and more than 20 years in social services to help others discover and utilize their innate ability to heal and grow from what binds them. Her approach focuses on grounding in your truth, finding clarity of purpose, and tapping into the transformative power of ease. She is dedicated to helping people realize how all aspects of life can work together for your greatest good. Your \$25 registration includes dinner, and the presentation. Register online at mtolivet.org by February 4.



UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

JANUARY 2025

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION AT [MTOLIVET.ORG](https://mtolivet.org)

FLYING SOLO: OUTDOOR PUB CURLING

Sunday, January 12, 3-5pm, Brookview Golf Course & Lawn Bowling - Golden Valley, \$5

Let's bundle up, and try our hand at a classic Minnesota sport played on ice – Outdoor Pub Curling! All skill levels are encouraged. After curling we'll warm up at the Three One Six Grill. Register online at mtolivet.org.

FRIENDS FOREVER: HAPPY HOUR AT KINCAID'S

Monday, January 13, 4-6pm, Kincaid's Fish, Chop, & Steakhouse - Bloomington

Kincaid's has a nice, cozy bar area and we'll meet up and share fellowship with our church friends! Please RSVP at mtolivet.org.

FRIENDS FOREVER: VOLUNTEER AT FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Monday, January 20, 5-6:30pm, Feed My Starving Children - Eagan, \$10 Donation

Join Pastor Hammersten and others to volunteer packing meals at Feed my Starving Children! Afterwards, we will meet at Union 32 Craft House for fellowship time. Your \$10 registration fee will be donated to support Feed My Starving Children.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, January 21, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$10

Our entertainment will be Emmy Award Winner comedian and actor David Harris. David has been making people laugh for over 30 years across the U.S. and Canada. Register by January 17 at mtolivet.org.

MOUNT OLIVET SCHOOL OF MUSIC & THE ARTS ART CLASS - NORTHERN LIGHTS PAINTING IN OILS

Tuesday, January 21, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$45

Have you ever wanted to experience the joy of painting with oils but been afraid to try? Then this class is for you. You will create a beautiful oil painting on an 8 x 10-inch canvas following step-by-step instructions. Register at mtolivet.org. Please bring a box to bring your painting home at the end of class, as oil paintings require a drying period.

MARRIAGE PREP WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 25, 9:30am-3:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$150, plus \$35 scoring fee for the Prepare Inventory

This fun and engaging four-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. Register at mtolivet.org by January 10.

CAREER & CALLING LINKEDIN REFRESH

Tuesday, January 28, 5:30-7pm, Mpls Campus

Join us as Jennifer Radke, SMS, the CEO of the National Institute for Social Media, shares with us how to set up your LinkedIn profile to maximize search results, connect with the right people, and enhance your credibility in your industry. Regardless of your LinkedIn experience, you will leave this session with actionable insights to boost visibility. Register at mtolivet.org.

FEBRUARY 2025

FIKA MUSIC SERIES: STRING QUARTET DANISH FOLK MUSIC

Sunday, February 2, 12:15-1pm, Mpls Campus

Inspired by the Irish word *Fíor*—meaning *real, true, or genuine*—the Fiora String Quartet brings heartfelt, expressive performances to life. They will present an enchanting concert of Danish music with pieces like *Shore and Naja's Waltz* by Fredrik Sjölin, *Polska from Dorotea*, *Shine You No More* by RT Sørensen, and *Unst Boat Song*. This program weaves together Nordic folk traditions, lush harmonies, lively dance rhythms, and evocative tones for an unforgettable experience.

FLYING SOLO: GAME SHOW STUDIO

Sunday, February 16, 3-5pm, Game Show Studio - Roseville, \$48

Join your Flying Solo friends for a super fun, unique afternoon of participating in a game show! The Game Show Studio pays homage to the pioneers of the industry, bringing an experience to life that many dream of but only few have had the opportunity to live. Dinner to follow at Jane Hille's house. Please register by January 31 at mtolivet.org.

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SUMMER REGISTRATION

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS AND CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP!

MEMBER ONLY REGISTRATION DATES:

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES: JANUARY 13 THROUGH JANUARY 15

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS: JANUARY 14 THROUGH JANUARY 16

OPEN (MEMBER/NON-MEMBER) REGISTRATION DATES:

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES: JANUARY 21

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS: JANUARY 22