

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

When Mount Olivet resumes in-person gatherings our Sunday schedule is as follows:

**M** 9, 10, 11am, 12noon  
**SUMMER HOURS BEGIN ON MAY 24** 9, 10, 11am

**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SUMMER HOURS BEGIN ON MAY 24** 9, 10 am

Holy Communion 8:30am and after last service; Nursery 9, 10, 11am; Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am; Watch the mplS worship service at mtolivet.org at 11am

## MAY 3

### THE PURPOSE OF JOHN'S GOSPEL

Watch the worship service at mtolivet.org. Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

**SERMON** Pastor Ruud

## MAY 10

### JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

Watch the worship service at mtolivet.org. Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

**SERMON** Pastor Kalland

## MAY 17

### JESUS & PETER

Watch the worship service at mtolivet.org. Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

**SERMON** Pastor Lose

## MAY 24

### THE BELOVED DISCIPLES

Watch the worship service at mtolivet.org. Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

**SERMON** Pastor Hammersten

## MAY 31

### PENTECOST

Watch the worship service at mtolivet.org. Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

**SERMON** Pastor MacLean

### NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

This May, we wrap up our journey through St. John's distinctive telling of Jesus' story.

On May 3, John "comes clean" on the reason he's writing – to create in us faith in Jesus that we may enjoy more abundant life. What does the promise of life mean to you just now, and how can your church help you discover it?

We hear another Easter story on May 10 (John's version of the miraculous catch of fish), May 17 (Jesus' re-instatement of Peter), and May 24 (Jesus' final words to the "beloved disciple"). Across these Sundays, we can wonder what Jesus' words to his disciples of old say to us? How, that is, can we hear Jesus' encouragement and follow his commands today?

May 31 brings us to Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit! In addition to hearing that story told in full in Acts, we'll discover that John describes the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, the living spirit of Christ who always takes our side.

**WHERE DO YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR SIDE, AND WHAT MIGHT WE DO TOGETHER EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST?**



# *Easter Possibilities*

Did you know that Easter lasts seven weeks? Perhaps because we focus much of our attention on the songs, music, flowers, and alleluias of our Easter service (which we were gratefully able to share digitally this year!), we may assume Easter is one big and glorious day. But from its earliest centuries, the Church believed that the good news of Easter was simply too important, too grand, and too glorious to take in during a single day or service, and so appointed seven Sundays to make up the season of Easter.

That's always a good thing, but this year having more time to live into this promise is more important than ever. Given the current challenges we're facing – the continued spread of the coronavirus, the growing count of those infected and those who have died, the continued suspension or closure of so many gatherings and institutions that are important to us, the on-going need to keep physical distance, and the enormous economic and psychological toll all of this is taking – the current challenges may make it particularly hard to embrace the promises and possibilities of Easter. But while it's easy to focus on what the virus is stopping, hurting, or inhibiting, it's also vitally important to remember what can't be stopped, not even by a global pandemic.

For starters, the virus cannot stop us from gathering for worship. Though we surely miss being together in one of our beautiful sanctuaries, we have learned that a building isn't necessary for worship and we have been blessed to gather digitally around the story of God's love for us and all the world.

The virus also can't stop us from being connected together. On Easter afternoon, I gathered the Lose Family clan by Zoom. We have members of the family living currently in northern NJ, metro-DC, and Seattle (three of the major hotspots), as well as Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Georgia and it was so wonderful to be able to see each other's faces, share each other's challenges, encourage one another and laugh – especially laugh! – together, and I've heard similar stories from many of you. Similarly, at Mount Olivet we are connecting with each other for learning and fellowship via Zoom or FaceTime, by conference call, video, or text, and in all these ways we continue to be knit together in and as the Body of Christ.

The pandemic can't keep us from caring for our neighbors either! One principal way we have done that, of course, is by suspending in-person gatherings so as to limit the spread of the disease. But we are also serving our neighbors by transforming our Thursday Community Meal into a grab-and-go event where we share more than 200 meals a week with those most in need. Various groups and families have also been supplying much needed personal protective equipment (making facemasks and altering medical gowns), writing notes to residents at our Homes, and helping bring groceries to shut-ins and to residents at our Rolling Acres homes.

Nor can the virus keep us from trusting God's promises and planning for the future. You'll note that this month's Messenger is in a new format, one we hope allows us to communicate with you more meaningfully. We also continue to evolve and improve how we share our faith resources with each other, and I look forward to seeing this shape our ministry going forward. And we're already at work on a strategic plan that will guide Mount Olivet into a second century of ministry in a post-pandemic, but forever changed, world.

These are a few of the things I've noticed the pandemic can't stop. What about you? Where do you see the God who raised Jesus from the dead continue to shape, help, and encourage us in our faith and life? As we name and share these examples of God's continued presence and power in our lives, we live more deeply into claiming the Easter possibilities Christ's resurrection promises.

Yours in Easter confidence that we will get through this, we will get through it together, and we will come out the other side stronger!



*Pastor Lose*

**DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR**

# Gratitude and Generosity at All Times

In 1636, Lutheran Pastor Martin Rinckart wrote the words to one of my favorite hymns – *Now Thank We All Our God*. He wrote this hymn of gratitude during the plague and while officiating at up to 50 funerals a day, including one for his wife, and in a year when he performed more than 4000 funerals.

While I have always marveled at this ability to remain grateful in the midst of such horrific circumstances, I feel like I understand his faith a little better today. For you, my dear people of Mount Olivet, have been a cause of such gratitude and joy for me as we now face our own pandemic together. Your generosity, your resilience, your commitment, and your stories of connection, faith, and service have been simply inspiring.

I have said numerous times since the pandemic started three things: **1) WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS. 2) WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER. 3) WE WILL COME THROUGH ALL THIS STRONGER ON THE OTHER SIDE.** I continue to be able to affirm these three things with confidence because of your generosity and faithfulness. With regard to your giving, in particular, let me share with you two additional and important messages.

**FIRST, YOUR GENEROUS AND FAITHFUL GIVING HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN NOW.** Keeping your pledge, exceeding it when possible, making special gifts – all of this is allowing us to adapt our patterns of worship and connection, continue serving our congregation members of all ages, share the hopeful message of the good news in new ways, and reach out to those in need in our community. To support all of this and more, you can give online, mail your offering checks to the church, or text-to-give. Your gifts have never mattered more!

**SECOND, I KNOW THAT MANY OF US ARE STRUGGLING WITH THE ECONOMIC TOLL CONNECTED TO THIS VIRUS AND OUR COMMUNAL EFFORTS TO DEFEAT IT.** If you cannot give at the same level as previously, then count on others giving in your stead. We are a family, after all, and families look after each other! So give what you can with joy, seek other ways to volunteer and serve, and pray for your church and for our community, country, and world. We need your joyful and confident prayers more than ever too!

Thank you, Mount Olivet Family, for your faith, generosity, commitment, and courage. We will get through this. We will get through it together. And we will come out stronger on the other side!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Lose

*More information about giving at Mount Olivet is available at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)*



## LIFE & GROWTH

MARCH 17 – APRIL 16

### DEATHS

**Charles L. Barbee**

1944 – 2020

**Gloria O. Belschner**

1923 – 2020

**Elaine J. Butler**

1931 – 2020

**Muryece E. Fossey**

1925 – 2020

**Mary Lou Jacobson**

1938 – 2020

**Elsie M. Langhoff**

1922 – 2020

**Walter J. Lyndsley**

1938 – 2020

**Cheri D. Martin**

1942 – 2020

**Loretta F. Nissen**

1936 – 2020

**Luana L. Webster**

1928 – 2020

**Lorna E. Whitbeck**

1921 – 2020

"A wise man built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock."

**MATTHEW 7:24-25**





## DAILY READINGS

### FROM PASTOR KALLAND MAY 2020

- 1 Exodus 23:25, Worship the Lord
- 2 Daniel 3:17-18, Deliver Us
- 3 Jeremiah 17:5, Where Is Your Heart?
- 4 Revelation 4:8, "Holy, holy, holy"
- 5 Matthew 6:9, How to Pray
- 6 Nehemiah 1:5, Covenant of Love
- 7 Psalm 33:4, Right and True
- 8 Isaiah 26:12, Established Peace
- 9 Micah 7:18-19, Pardons and Forgives
- 10 Proverbs 31:10, Noble Character
- 11 2 Corinthians 9:8, God Is Able
- 12 Job 33:4, Give Me Life
- 13 Psalm 143:10, Teach Me
- 14 Exodus 31:3, Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge
- 15 Micah 3:8, Filled
- 16 Joel 2:28-29, Dreams and Visions
- 17 Luke 24:49, From On High
- 18 Acts 1:8, To The End Of The Earth
- 19 Acts 2:4, Filled With The Spirit
- 20 Acts 4:31, Spoke Boldly
- 21 John 3:5, Water And Spirit
- 22 Romans 5:5, Into Our Hearts
- 23 Galatians 4:6, God Sent The Spirit
- 24 1 Corinthians 2:12, Freely Given
- 25 Exodus 20:12, A Promise
- 26 Proverbs 23:25, Joyful
- 27 Luke 1:46-47, Glorifies And Rejoices
- 28 Proverbs 22:6, Train A Child
- 29 Colossians 3:20, Obey
- 30 Psalm 103:17, From Everlasting To Everlasting
- 31 Romans 5:10, Reconciled

## DEVOTION

Historically Mount Olivet Youth Ministry has changed lives for the better. One memory that sticks out for me was the first time I went to Cathedral of the Pines. We were ushered off the bus, after a trip that seemed to last forever, into a little chapel on the side of a lake. Pastor Youngdahl came in, knelt down, and then shared the words of **Psalm 121, "I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, who made Heaven and earth."** Those words and the message of Christ's love continue to bring hope to a challenging world.

The Youth Staff brought more words of comfort throughout the years. **"Do not fear for I am with you, do not be afraid for I am your God."** Isaiah 41:10. And **"Do not fear for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God."** Isaiah 43:1-2.

These are fascinating days...fear abounds and so does God's love. We continue to proclaim the message that...**"nothing in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours in Christ Jesus."** Romans 8:39. And of course the comfort of Jesus' last words in Matthew, **"And remember, I am with you always...."**

Thank you for your continued prayers and support, you help change lives for the better. — **PASTOR KALLAND**



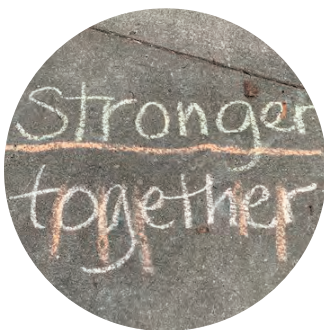
## SERVE MINISTRY: HOW YOU CAN HELP

Not being able to physically help in ways we once did can feel limiting. Where possible, Mount Olivet is still serving our greater community in new and continued ways. We continue to provide over 200 free meals, on a drive-through basis, each Thursday evening through the Loaves and Fishes project. We are also delivering weekly meals to over 50 currently unhoused individuals in two different shelters through St. Stephen's Human Services. With the national shortage of protective medical attire, volunteers from Mount Olivet, Annunciation, our Somali Women's group, and members of the community rose to the challenge to quickly create a pattern and convert over 300 short-sleeved gowns to long-sleeved, and have currently donated over 300 handmade protective masks for the staff at Mount Olivet Home/Mount Olivet Careview Home! You are encouraged to find information on specific needs of all our ministry partners at the Together @ Mount Olivet webpage on the church website.

**LAURIE HANCER**, *Coordinator of Volunteers, Mount Olivet Home & Careview & Coordinator of Service & Volunteers, Mount Olivet Church*

# Together @ Mount Olivet

Although this isn't the spring I expected for the Fellowship department, I am now, more than ever, grateful for the word "fellowship." Fellowship is defined by Merriam-Webster's dictionary as a "friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests." We can all agree one of our shared interests right now is finding comfort and togetherness during these uncertain times. I've been finding comfort in thinking about what I learned from Pastor Freeman, during our most recent Ladies' Night. She spoke on the words, "Be You, Be Brave, and Be Love." I've been finding strength in the words "Be You," knowing that during anxious times, the best thing to do is continue to be myself. I keep doing the things I love to do (reading



all those People magazines that were piling up!). But finding ways to "Be Brave" has been harder. I hold tight to Pastor Freeman's words knowing that just staying home to keep others safe is a brave act. "Be Love" has been the easiest as I have been enjoying extra snuggles with my three-year-old, sending letters to family members, and texting with friends to stay connected. When I wake up, I repeat her words and they have given me a purpose to start my day.

Another way I've found a sense of togetherness during this time of isolation is through daily walks. I am used to being in fellowship with people, so not being with people has been a challenging adjustment! However, through all the sidewalk chalk messages left in front of houses or along Minnehaha Parkway, I have found that I am not alone. The sidewalk messages like, "Stronger Together" or "Nothing left to do but smile, smile, smile" or the Parkway Theater leaving "Home Alone Too" on their marquee, have made me feel connected to people in my neighborhood and brings me a sense of togetherness that I have never felt before. We are all in this together!

I challenge you to look for the ways you can feel like you are in fellowship with others, and I promise it will help you get through this unprecedented time and make you feel not so alone. I look forward to when we are all back at church with all of you in true fellowship, but until then "Be You, Be Brave, Be Love!"

**KATIE SHEPHERD**, *Director of Adult Ministry*

## NOW ACCEPTING! VENDOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE & WEST MARKET

Calling Local Vendors for the Mount Olivet Mpls Holiday Boutique and the NEW West Holiday Market!

Vendor registration opens 6/1 for the Mpls Holiday Boutique to be held on Saturday, 11/7, from 9am-2pm, and the NEW West Holiday Market to be held Saturday, 11/21, 9am-1pm, at the West Campus in Victoria.

You may apply for either or both at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org). Vendors will be accepted through a juried selection process based on originality of

product, creativity, marketability, general appeal / quality of products, Mount Olivet membership, past sales, and vendor experience at other events.

Spread the word to family and friends! Vendors will be notified no later than 8/1 of their acceptance.

Once accepted, the registration fee is \$35 (non-refundable), plus 15% of your total sales collected immediately following the event. The registration fee is \$25 for early-birds who apply and pay before 9/1.

*When Adult Ministry resumes in-person gatherings information about events can be found at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or by contacting the Director of Adult Ministry, Katie Shepherd, at [kshepherd@mtolivet.org](mailto:kshepherd@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2256.*



## RETREAT WHERE YOU ARE: AN INVITATION FROM MOUNT OLIVET CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

Life looks and feels different right now. You may be anxious about your new daily routine and the uncertainty of the future. Maybe you are leaning into the stillness of these days. No matter how you are feeling, now is the perfect time for retreat.

For over forty years, Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center has welcomed church members and other faith groups, non-profits, and businesses to retreat in beautiful woods and prairie near Farmington. As we now all shelter at home, the retreat center is bringing retreat to you, where you are.

We have curated a series of resources for adults and kids alike – prayers, meditations, mindfulness practices, poems, music, nature videos, and other activities – to help you through this time of upheaval and change.

Whether you have time to retreat in five-minute increments, an entire day, or something in between, we are here to support you.

Visit [retreatwhereyouare.org](http://retreatwhereyouare.org) where you can sign up for updates and we will send you information on new resources each week.



## Life is Both Fragile and Precious, and Also Full of Hope

*“We hold this treasure in clay jars...” - The Apostle Paul, 2 Corinthians 4:7*

Paul’s metaphor equating our humanity as “clay jars” in Chapter 4 of his second letter to the Corinthians always hits me as a stark and true description of life and who we are as God’s creatures. That is, this life is both fragile and precious. These days it’s difficult to ignore the clear truth of this depiction. Many are suffering, and we all are trying to live as best we can for ourselves and our neighbor amid the turmoil. It’s difficult to know exactly what to do and how long to expect to be on guard, especially given changing messages, responses, and various misinformation which has furthered the confusion.

Still, Paul writes, it is into these clay jars God pours God’s very heart and life. Indeed, Paul says God even pours the death of Christ into us, so that in the death of Christ, we have hope for life. This is no pollyannaish hope from Paul. In the following verses Paul speaks the truth of what this world may bring – affliction, confusion, persecution, unwarranted, undeserved, unexpected difficulty – and yet the treasure remains, even if the jars are broken. This is our hope. This is what may keep us vigilant, loving, encouraged, buoyed, and maybe even joyful.

I’m especially thankful for scripture and truth like this these days, and grateful to share it.

- PASTOR RUUD

**ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE** Adult education continues this month in various ways. The final session of Living the Message will again be posted as an abbreviated video presentation. Also look for brief weekly videos for devotion and learning from each of the pastors. In addition, we’ll plan to go forward with a 3-4 part Bible study titled, “A Journey through Hell with the Pastors”, in which a few of us examine scripture references of hell, Satan, and all things devilish. Be sure to access “Together @ Mount Olivet” on the church website and sign up for emails of weekly resources. Resources include weekly devotions, notifications about worship, and ways to love and serve each other while lovingly maintaining physical distance.





## THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH

**PASTOR LOSE**, *Senior Pastor of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church*

### PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT

Calisthenics with Pastor Reuben Youngdahl at COP! Pastor Paul Youngdahl walks down the hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross," to begin nightly chapel at COP. Pastor Hogenson praying with the Cathedral Choir. Pastor Lose on the Cathedral Choir trip, 2019.

One of the first things I'd ever heard about Pastor Paul Youngdahl was that when someone asked him who Mount Oliver's "youth pastor" was, he always replied, "I am!" And that impressed me to no end. Most churches hire a pastor right out of seminary to oversee youth ministry. You can understand the rationale – find someone younger, closer to the age of the kids. But I believe that for the senior pastor to take personal responsibility for overseeing youth ministry communicated volumes. It tells the youth of the church that they are important, important enough to be the priority of the Senior Pastor. And it tells the congregation that this church is invested in its youth. We care for all the members of our congregation across multiple generations, of course, but by giving significant time and attention to our youth we are giving significant time and attention to building the future of this church.

Pastor Reuben Youngdahl knew that when he invested in Cathedral of the Pines and started the Cathedral Choir. Pastor Paul Youngdahl knew that when he spent summers at Cathedral of the Pines and identified young persons for leadership there and throughout the church. Pastor John Hogenson knew that when he similarly invested himself in the youth of this church. And I am both proud and privileged to continue the important tradition of making our youth a central focus of my ministry and the Church's care. No senior pastor can do this alone, of course, and I am so grateful for our remarkable, talented, and committed youth staff and to my equally remarkable associate pastors, all of whom spend time with our youth at Camp and throughout the year. By making our youth a priority in the present, we are helping them grow into mature Christians and ensuring a bright future for this wonderful Church!





# A Snapshot of Early Youth Programs

NANCY YOUNGDAHL, *Centennial History Team*

Mount Olivet was established in 1920, and it didn't take long for the congregation to recognize the importance of involving the youth in the life of the church. The first confirmation of five students took place in 1924. In 1923 Luther League (the Augustana Synod's youth organization established in 1910) took root.

By the 1930's monthly Luther League meetings were held in various homes and many service projects got started. Silver Teas, plays, donating cans of vegetables, visiting hospitals (most frequently visited was Vocational Hospital on Lyndale Avenue, which later became Mount Olivet Home), Thanksgiving baskets, decorating the church for Christmas, basketball teams, a book of the month club and sponsoring Confirmation Reunion Banquets were all enthusiastically taken on.

In 1931 the youth published *LULEMO*, a monthly periodical, and during the 1950's a newsletter called *What's Up* became popular. At that time there was a breakfast for \$.35, a picnic for \$.50, and a progressive dinner for \$.75. The once a-month Sunday night gathering was first named Fireside Service, then Fellowship Service, and later Fellowship for All. Hazel Johnson Lewis, who was confirmed in 1926 and was on the original Mount Olivet Archives committee, wrote this about Mount Olivet's youth ministry, "we learned that to be a follower of Christ we must serve him and we were certainly given many opportunities for Christian service and leadership."

Pastor Hugh Gilmore joined Mount Olivet in 1951 and became active in and president of Young Adults. Hugh says, "We took our first trip to Cathedral of the Pines the summer of 1951. I stayed in Pine Cabin by the lake where we could see the stars at night through the roof. It was through Young Adults and Camp that I became a close friend of Reuben Youngdahl. He was my inspiration to consider the ordained ministry. Working with him for five years, including a summer at COP, was a great learning experience. He was my sponsor at Ordination and I preached my first sermon as a pastor at Mount Olivet."

In 1969 Judy Anderson became the Coordinator of Youth Activities, and she continued in that position until 1972 when she left as Mrs. Judy Kobs. "It was a joy to work with leadership and



1989 Youth Staff: Burke Hancer, Kristi Stefan, John Straiton, Nicky St. Dennis (Odermatt), and Kristi Youngdahl

staff that was completely committed to its youth. At Mount Olivet young people were not seen as just the future of the church. They were already a vital and important part of the life and mission of the congregation. I am so grateful I was given this opportunity. It has had a profound impact on my life."

Pastor John Straiton led Youth Ministry at Mount Olivet from June of 1985 to June of 1991. He wrote, "One of my highlights was working with an amazing team of leaders who had three things in common. One, they all loved the Lord. Two, they all truly loved young people. And, three, they all loved each other. In addition to the full-time staff there were many dedicated adult volunteers. There were activities virtually every day of the week for the amazing young people of MO! These young people were talented, energetic, smart, loving, fun, involved, and faithful members. The motto I brought to the team has been the hallmark of my 46 years in ministry, *'It is a sin to bore someone with the Gospel, because there's nothing boring about Christ Jesus.'*"

Many other leaders have shepherded the youth in our 100-year history. And many of those youth have become leaders of the next generation, all the way to today. Thanks to all who have supported and led the youth of Mount Olivet!

## FAITH

*May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.*

PSALM 19:14

Each Wednesday at the end of Cathedral Choir rehearsal we read this Psalm out loud together. This verse is a reminder of our belief in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. As a community we are blessed to have spaces like our Minneapolis and West sanctuaries, the chapel at the Retreat Center, and, of course, our Cathedral of the Pines camp chapel. Faith and prayer are essential parts of our time together at church.

“The sanctuary at the West campus encompasses the closeknit and unique community that is present there. It is a place that has nurtured my faith and served as my second home for the past five years.”

ANNA LUCAS, senior at Minnetonka



“Throughout life, it can be rather difficult to find a constant factor that we can rely on indefinitely throughout our troubled and changing lives. Luckily, Mount Olivet is that constant in my life. I love looking up and seeing Jesus with his open hands whenever I enter the Mpls Sanctuary. It is a blessing I will never forget.”

ELLIE TEIEN, junior at Edina



## COMMUNITY

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*

MATTHEW 18:20

One of life's most essential needs is the sense of belonging. A place you feel loved by others and a vital part of that community. There are many places where community can be found for the youth of Mount Olivet: Confirmation, Junior High Alive, Hi-League, and at Cathedral of the Pines. The relationships that are formed in these communities are essential to all we do in our youth programs and in return we are all blessed with lifelong friendships.

“When I was in high school (Go Washburn!), Sunday night **Hi-League** was my favorite event of the week! It was a time when I could connect with my church friends, share stories of the weekend and prepare for the week ahead. Each week had something different to offer: Hayrides, speakers, roller skating, youth led services... I loved them all! I was with my friends from different schools all throughout the city and got to spend time with the Youth Staff and supporting adults... people who accepted me unconditionally!”

KRISTI YOUNGDAHL, COP Camp Director



“For both students and teachers, **Confirmation** provides a space to develop our beliefs in God, reflect on our weeks, and have fun with friends. From a 7th grader to a working adult, being a part of this community has helped me grow in my friendships and faith!”

EMILY ODERMATT, Confirmation Teacher



Mount Olivet's Youth have been a vital part of this church from the beginning. Through the years as program names have changed, staff has changed, and buildings have changed, four pillars have remained consistent: Faith, Community, Service, and Leadership. The programs based on these four pillars equip our youth with a variety of skills, while also reminding them that they are loved – both by those around them, and most importantly, by God. GEOFF ARENSON, Director of Youth



## SERVICE

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*

JOHN 13:34

One aspect of church our youth find most important is service. Youth Ministry service projects focus on relationships – putting people before programming. Our main goal is treating others the way we would want to be treated and loving all people just as they are in that moment. Through service projects like Circle of Friends, Adopt-a-Grandparent, Hands & Feet, MO United, and Sunday Serve, our youth invest their time and understand the importance of helping others.

“I like being with the residents of **Adopt-a-Grandparent...** making them feel happy by just being present and talking with them. It feels like I bring them joy when I visit and that makes me feel good because I feel like I’m making a difference. The residents always have funny and wonderful stories about their lives and families. I love my friends and the Youth Staff because they always make me feel safe and comfortable.”

**CHARLIE WHEAR**, 8th grader at Edina



“**Circle of Friends** is such an important part of my life. For nearly four years, it’s made those tiring school Mondays a lot better. The program allows for people of all different kinds to bond over fun and engaging activities. COF does a spectacular job of highlighting the importance of inclusion in a community. It’s a place where people can be themselves and build positive relationships.”

**SAM PEARSON**, senior at Southwest



## LEADERSHIP

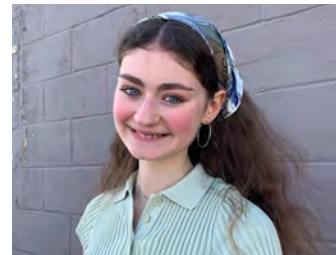
*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

MATTHEW 28:19

Jesus instructs each one of us to be faith leaders in our communities—spreading the love of Jesus to all people in what we say and what we do. Intertwined amongst all of Mount Olivet’s youth programs are quiet and simple lessons of how to be a Christian leader. Qualities such as kindness, compassion, humility, and love are displayed daily by the youth involved in our programs. Mount Olivet’s youth hone their leadership skills on our Mount Olivet Board, singing in Cathedral Choir, teaching Sunday school, counseling retreats, and at Cathedral of the Pines as counselors and workstaffers.

“**Cathedral Choir** has given me a loving community where I can enjoy singing and learn about the power of music. It has also encouraged me to take initiative and put myself out there because I want to make the choir as successful as possible.”

**SOPHIE CORSARO**, junior at Edina



“Counseling taught me the huge effect high schoolers have on younger campers. I went into the week hesitant, but by the end I went home with six more friends than I started with. I am so glad **COP** allows high schoolers to be able to counsel because I believe it teaches us how to take our leadership skills from camp and use them throughout our lives.”

**CADI STREETAR**, junior at Chaska





# Keeping Up With The Youth

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." - SERENITY PRAYER

It has been a rough few weeks. One positive aspect of this time is the chance to slow down. We have realized the importance of checking in on each other - even though it might not always be face to face. Maybe it has been a walk with your dog each day or enjoying an evening around the fireplace as a family. Maybe it is taking a short drive in the car and meeting friends in a parking lot to talk from car to car - of course at a safe social distance. We are all working on finding ways to make this new normal work for us. Learning to accept certain things we cannot change while also having the courage to keep a positive attitude is essential right now. Most importantly having the courage to accept new and different ways to communicate. Each of you students have been an inspiration and blessing to all of us on the Youth Staff during this difficult time.

As a Youth Staff we have been coming up with several new ways to communicate and connect. We have been posting more on Instagram (@mtolivet\_youth), writing and sending out devotionals twice a week, sending letters and postcards in the mail, emailing our various service projects ideas to stay connected, giving confirmands ideas on new ways to fulfill requirements- we even started a talk show! It's called Keeping up with the Youth Staff and it airs on Sundays on our Instagram page. We are hard at work keeping our relationships strong. One of the new ideas we have tried is virtual Mount Olivet High School Board meetings. Through FaceTime we are able to have video chats as a group. Each week we share our Highs & Lows just as we normally would if we were meeting at church. Someone shares a short devotion and we end with a prayer. At first this might seem a bit unnatural to share a devotion and prayer over FaceTime, but that is okay - we are connecting! As a youth community we have come to realize that it is still so important to support each other the best we can however that might look.

**GEOFF ARENSON**, *Director of Youth Ministry*



"We all need to feel a connection more than ever right now. Our Board FaceTime brought comfort to me, so much comfort. It's the small things we continue to do for each other that will help us stay grounded in our faith during this uncertain time!"

**KATE CAMPION**, *A MO BOARD OFFICER*

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."*

Psalm 121

*When Youth Ministry resumes in-person gatherings information about events can be found at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or by contacting the Director of Youth Ministry, Geoff Arenson, at [geoffa@mtolivet.org](mailto:geoffa@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2212.*



## STAYING CONNECTED



### PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT

Andrea Brown, Ann LaBree, Jonna Bundul, Sarah Prescher, Julie Goodman, and Pastor Kalland

*When Pastoral Care resumes in-person gatherings information about events can be found at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or by contacting the Director of Pastoral Care, Andrea Brown, at [andreab@mtolivet.org](mailto:andreab@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2209.*

**ANDREA BROWN**, *Director of Pastoral Care*

There seems to be a resounding theme the Pastoral Care team is hearing these days at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and one of our members said it best: "One of the best things about Mount Olivet is the way we look after our members, we are so lucky!" I couldn't agree more and I know the rest of the team would say the same.

How many times have we said to ourselves, "I wish there were more hours in the day" or "If I only I had more time." Although we cannot create more hours in the day, we have been given the gift of time. We have the opportunity to choose how we fill those hours. We can't control what will happen in the future, but we have control of what happens today.

In the midst of this pandemic, your Pastoral Care Team has been given the great opportunity of time to increase the number of phone calls we make and handwritten letters we write to parishioners. It is a privilege to hear the wonderful voices of our members and to share hope and faith with each other during this time. We have heard how much each of you appreciates what Mount Olivet is doing to help you stay connected- from our Pastors streaming their messages online, weekly devotions being sent, Sunday worship and the radio ministry- we are so blessed!

We as a team have loved hearing the stories you are sharing, the good jokes (we all need to remember to laugh) and about your current

situations and needs, and being able to step in where needed. We are all in this together and are lucky to be able to be of support to each other in the best and the most difficult of times.

It has been amazing to see the outpouring of support from our friends, neighbors, and other members. Whether they are helping to create handmade cards or offering to pick up groceries and prescriptions for someone unable to get out.

Let's take advantage of this gift of time and reach out to someone else, write a letter to someone you haven't seen in a while, call a friend or family member and truly listen to them and help where you can. Reach out to the Pastoral Care team if we can be of support or lend a listening ear. We encourage you to find time to help someone else, and to take time to slow down and be present in the moment. Although we can't create more hours in the day, we can fill those hours with the people and things that matter most!

This bible verse says it all: **1 Thessalonians 5:11** - "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

We look forward to seeing everyone back at church when that time comes, having you stop into our office for face-to-face interactions, but most of all seeing your beautiful smiles and continuing to share our faith.

# Thank You Volunteers!

Thank You Sunday School and Choir Sunday School Volunteers! We are so thankful and grateful for the many volunteers at both campuses. You are a gift to our ministry! We appreciate you - we miss you - and we look forward to being together again.

**WHY WE TEACH...** “We have been teaching as a family at Sunday School at Mount Olivet for more than 25 years. We love the enthusiasm and pure joy young children show as they learn about Jesus, our very best Christmas present. One of our students told me at circle time, ‘Jesus is always with me because he is in my heart.’ We get to team with their parents to help young children learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit through projects, stories, and songs. We share our gifts and learn from the gifts the children share with us. We feel blessed to be able to do this.”

**THE MUHS FAMILY**, *Merril, Heide, Brian and David Muhs*



“Many wonderful thanks for a blessed beginning to my Faith Formation Coordinator journey at Mount Olivet! Even though the year didn’t go quite as hoped, we are stronger and more faith-filled because of it! The best is yet to be and I so look forward to it!”

**AMY PORTHAN**, *Coordinator of Children’s Faith Formation, Minneapolis Campus*



**Please check out and follow the Mount Olivet Children & Family Ministry Page on Facebook - You’ll find regular updates on lessons, devotions, activities, songs, messages from the Pastors and more!**

*When Children & Family Ministry resumes in-person gatherings information about events can be found at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or by contacting the Director of Children & Family Ministry, Katy Michaletz, at [kmichaletz@mtolivet.org](mailto:kmichaletz@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2245.*

“This Sunday School year has been a whirlwind. I am so glad to have joined the West staff and gotten to know all the volunteers. I am thankful to everyone for being so welcoming and supportive. The teachers and students have loved the new space and I can’t wait to see West programming continue to grow!”

**MAXWELL JONES**, *Coordinator of Children & Youth Faith Formation, West Campus*



## PHOTO TO THE RIGHT

Mickey Porter and daughter, Christine Yussen with some of their current Sunday School students





# Tips for Parents During the Coronavirus Pandemic

**SHANNON HIMANGO, MA, LMFT**, *Director of Mount Olivet Counseling Service*

So, you're working from home, and your kids are, too. Excellent! We've pulled together a few tips to help everyone stay sane during this unprecedented time.



## **WORKPLACE GRACE:**

Proactively communicate with your workplace and colleagues that you've got kids at home and can't guarantee every conversation will be interruption-free, despite your best efforts. Given that the reason for suddenly working from home is actually beyond our control, some employers may be more understanding. Locate that mute button anyway, to plan for the "Mommmeeee!" banshee calls in the background.

**TALKING WITH YOUR KIDS:** It's important to maintain calm when speaking to children about COVID-19. Kids pick up parents' moods. Don't be surprised if everyone's a little more irritable and touchy! The easiest rule of thumb is to try to be direct, honest, and brief. Accept and acknowledge their worry, and try to give kids the sense that the changes happening around them are designed to keep everyone safe. Ask if they

have any questions, and if they do, stick to the facts and tell them what you know. The group 'Brains On' offers a helpful podcast on this topic: [brainson.org/shows/2020/03/10/understanding-coronavirus-and-how-germs-spread-for-kids](https://brainson.org/shows/2020/03/10/understanding-coronavirus-and-how-germs-spread-for-kids)

**THE FAMILY SCHEDULE:** Encourage each worker in the household to prioritize which work tasks are most important, and schedule these carefully. Depending on your flexibility, you may be able to coordinate shift work, where you can take turns with others, to focus on kids and your work in shorter shifts. Once the grownups have decided what makes most sense, include the kids. For older children, communicate clearly that everyone has an important job to do, invite their ideas as well, and form a schedule that everyone can see. Begin each day with discussing the schedule. It should clearly separate work time from 'mommy/daddy' time. This doesn't have to be regimented or perfect, and can be revisited weekly to make necessary adjustments.

**TAKE BREAKS:** Break up your day a bit more if you can, if needed. Taking breaks to hang out with your kids can help them with patience for your work times. Remember, kids'/clients'/customers' needs are best met when parents' needs are met. Your selfcare is necessary, not a luxury. Your sleep, downtime, nutrition, and social contact (even if via telephone or virtual meetings) are absolutely essential.

If you'd like a little extra support, the Mount Olivet Counseling Service is available and providing confidential telemental-health sessions via telephone and video conferencing, currently. To schedule an appointment, we can be reached at 612-927-7335, ext. 10, or via [annel@mtolivetcounseling.org](mailto:annel@mtolivetcounseling.org). Take care, and be well!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICE DAY IS MAY 10!

While we can't be together volunteering for VEAP this year - there is a way we can still do a lot of good together!

- Write a greeting card, create a drawing, or send a video greeting to a resident at the Mount Olivet Careview Home.
- This is a challenging time for all - spread some cheer as a family! Video greetings can be sent to [sendingcheer2020@gmail.com](mailto:sendingcheer2020@gmail.com)
- Letters or artwork can be sent to Mount Olivet Careview Homes, Attn: Laurie Hancer, 5517 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55419



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TOGETHER  
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Together @ Mount Olivet is a webpage filled with spiritual resources during this time of crisis. There is also information about how to support our Mount Olivet affiliates and partners in community outreach.