

MAR 2019

MOUNT OLIVET

# MESSENGER

*Believing, Belonging, Becoming*

## Look Up

LENT AT MOUNT OLIVET

[mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

# Join Us for Worship

**M** MINNEAPOLIS CAMPUS  
5025 KNOX AVE S  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55419  
612.926.7651

**W** WEST CAMPUS  
7150 ROLLING ACRES RD, P.O. BOX 153  
VICTORIA, MN 55386  
952.767.1500

## SUN, MAR 3

### Transfiguration & 6th-Grade First Communion

Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service; Nursery 9, 10, 11am; The 6th-Grade First Communion service will be held during

**M** 12noon and **w** 11am services.

**M** 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

Sermon: **PASTOR LOSE**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs

Sunday School: 9, 10, 11am

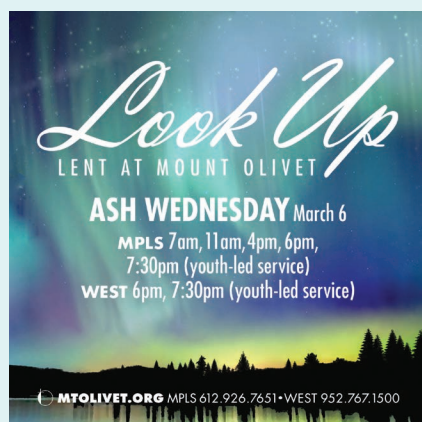
Choir Sunday School: 9, 10am

**w** 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR DIXON**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs

Sunday School: 9, 10, 11am



## WED, MAR 6

### Ash Wednesday Communion Services Jesus Turns to Jerusalem

**M** 7am, 11am, 4pm, 6pm

Sermon: **PASTOR MACLEAN**

Music: 7, 11am: Amanda Jenkins, soprano;

4, 6pm: Justin Staebell, baritone

**w** 6pm

Sermon: **PASTOR HAMMERSTEN**

Music: Greg Dokken, bass

## WED, MAR 6

### Ash Wednesday Youth-Led Services **M** **w** 7:30pm

**M** Sermon: **PASTOR DIXON**

Music: Cathedral Choir

**w** Sermon: **PASTOR RUUD**

Music: Cathedral Choir

## SUN, MAR 10

### The Good Samaritan

Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service; Nursery 9, 10, 11am

**M** 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

Sermon: **PASTOR KALLAND**

Music: Chancel Treble, Chancel Tenore,

Chapel & Hosanna Choirs

Sunday School: 9, 10, 11am

Choir Sunday School: 9, 10am

**w** 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR RUUD**

Music: Chancel Treble, Chancel Tenore,

Chapel Choirs

Sunday School: 9, 10, 11am

**DAYLIGHT SAVING  
TIME ENDS ON  
MAR 10**

## WED, MAR 13

### Lent Midweek **M** 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR HELGEN**

## SUN, MAR 17

### A Healing, a Parable, and a Lament

Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service; Nursery 9, 10, 11am

**M** 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

Sermon: **PASTOR LOSE**

Music: Senior Choir Men; Cathedral Choir

Sunday School: 9, 10, 11am

Choir Sunday School: 9, 10am

**w** 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR MACLEAN**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs

Sunday School: 9, 10, 11am

## WED, MAR 20

### Lent Midweek **M** 11am & 7pm

Sermon: **PASTOR KALLAND**

## SUN, MAR 24

### The Prodigal Son

Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service; Nursery 9, 10, 11am

**M** 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

Sermon: **PASTOR LOSE**

Music: Senior Choir Women; Cathedral

Choir; Joyful Noise!

Sunday School: 9, 10, 11am

Choir Sunday School: 9, 10am

**w** 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR HAMMERSTEN**

Music: Diane Loudon, cello

Sunday School: 9, 10, 11am

## WED, MAR 27

### Lent Midweek **M** 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR HAMMERSTEN**

## SUN, MAR 31

### The Persistent Widow

Holy Communion 8:30am and following the last service; Nursery 9, 10, 11am

**M** 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

Sermon: **PASTOR HELGEN**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs;

Chancel Ringers

Sunday School: 9, 10, 11am

Choir Sunday School: 9, 10am

**w** 9, 10, 11am

Sermon: **PASTOR DIXON**

Music: Senior & Cathedral Choirs;

Chancel Ringers

Sunday School: 9, 10, 11am

## TRUTH TALKS Look Up!

Wed 7pm, **M** Mar 13, **w** Mar 20

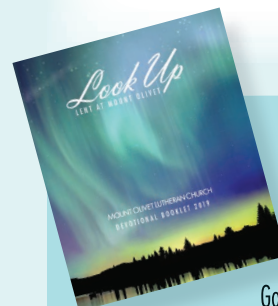
"LIVING ONLINE ~  
LIVING LOVED"

**PASTORS DIXON AND RUUD**

Wed 7pm, **M** Mar 27, **w** Apr 3

"THE VIRTUAL  
BODY OF CHRIST"

**PASTOR LOSE AND PROFESSOR  
DEANNA A. THOMPSON**



Follow Jesus' Passion  
with daily readings  
that remind us  
to look to the  
cross and see  
God's incredible love

for us laid bare. Sign up for emails at  
mtolivet.org or pick up a booklet at church.

# Look Up to See the Country of God

Every once in a while, you get a glimpse into another country, the country of God. Oh, I know, sometimes it's called a "kingdom" – as in "the kingdom of God has drawn near." But I sometimes fear that word seems so archaic that it's hard for most of us to imagine.

What I'm thinking of really *is* another country, another land, one that feels, smells, even tastes different. You know right when you've stumbled into it, even if you didn't notice the boundary lines. What makes this country different is that nobody *counts* things here. Do you know what I mean? No tracking billable hours, no counting the days until school lets out, no ringing up debits on the balance sheet, no cries from the backseat of "are we there yet?" Best yet, no counting old grievances and grudges, no dredging up past wrongs or unsettled scores. For some reason, people in this country have lost track of all that; in fact, they can't remember why you'd keep count in the first place.

Oh, I know: the world – the *real* world – doesn't work that way. We *need* to keep count. If we don't, we'll lose track of what we owe each other. How will we know the value of anything if we don't weigh it, measure it, assess and evaluate it? But here, in this other country, a thing just has value. It matters, in and of itself. It just does.

Most of us have been convinced that we *need* to track and count and measure and remember. That's just the way things work. But not relationships. Think about it. You start counting the right and wrong, the good and the bad, the things that should be rewarded or punished and you'll never get over it. Before long, you'll be so unhappy you'll actually have convinced yourself that if you could just count more, know more – maybe get another bite from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – then you'll finally be happy.

But that's not the way it works in this other world. In this world – God's world, kingdom and country – you forget counting like my son always forgot to track his laps when swimming. Me, I'm not a swimmer. When I'm in the pool it's to get exercise – nothing more, nothing less – and I make good and sure I count every length. But my son just swims. "How many laps did you swim today," I'd ask after he'd been in the pool an hour or more.

"No idea," he'd smile back, as content as he was weary.

Throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus invites people to

imagine and enter this other country.

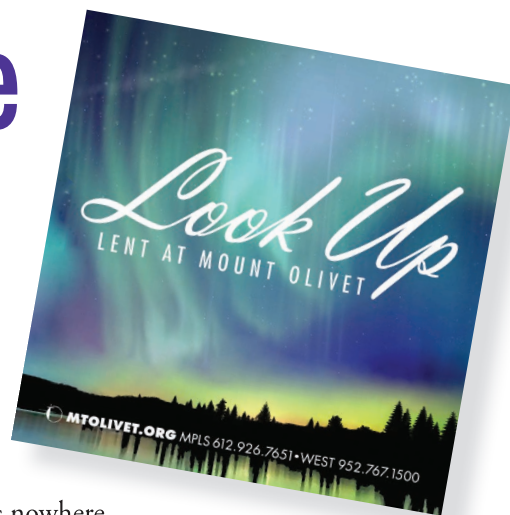
But perhaps nowhere is this invitation made more clearly than in the parable of the Prodigal Son. It's the story of a foolish son who has no idea just how blessed he is and so squanders all he has. But it's also the story of an even more foolish father, one who refuses to count mistakes and misdeeds and welcomes even this ungrateful and foolish child back with open arms.

Through these stories, Jesus invites us into a world of unmerited grace. I should warn you, though, that those of us who by nature or experience are "counters" will have a hard time understanding it, perhaps even believing it. But to those of us who have been down and out, to those who have been lost, to those who have counted until exhaustion and still not been satisfied. ... Well, even if we're not sure this world Jesus describes is "the real world," we soon come to the conclusion it's the one that really matters, the one, in the end, that just might save us.

At Mount Olivet this Lent, we continue to extend Jesus' invitation to imagine and enter this other country. Although the invitation comes in many and various ways, it can be summarized most succinctly in just two words: "Look Up!" Look up from your work to see the beauty of God's world. Look up from your devices to see the actual people all around you. Look up from the headlines of national and global division to see God's call to care for those around you. Look up this Lent from all that distracts you to focus steadfastly on Jesus' journey to the cross. Look up, finally, to see God looking at you the way a love-struck parent gazes at a beloved child. In our Sunday worship, through our Lenten devotions, in our midweek worship and Truth Talks, we will repeat this invitation again and again until you, too, have not only been invited to imagine, but have actually been pulled into, the very country and kingdom of God. Look up!

*Pastor Lose*

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR





# Life & Growth

JAN 15 - FEB 14

## Baptisms

Charles Edward Baker,  
son of Donna and William  
Rayna Kay Holten,  
daughter of Rebecca and Brent  
Rory Pattee and Bernadette Kelly Holten,  
children of Melissa and Ryan  
Nathaniel Bo Jenkins, Jr.,  
son of Stacey and Nathaniel  
Luella Jean Pieper,  
daughter of Emily and Zachary  
Grayson Thomas Schwein,  
son of Kayla and Matt  
Winston Jerome Sykora,  
son of Nicole and Ken

## Weddings

Joan Nilsen & Tim Beyer, Nov 9

## Deaths

Richard J. Ames, 1929 - 2019  
Adrian A. Anderson, 1939 - 2019  
Walter E. Beisel, 1926 - 2019  
Warren A. Dahl, 1926 - 2019  
Phyllis R. Frisk, 1922 - 2019  
Edith M. Grissinger, 1921 - 2019  
Ralph K. James, 1933 - 2019  
Duane A. Paskett, 1937 - 2019  
Larry H. Voltin, 1950 - 2019

## Easter Flowers

Order through  
3/31 **M W**

During this special time of year, please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by purchasing a spring plant to beautify our sanctuaries for Easter Sunday. A list of donors and those remembered or honored will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin. \$15 small plants, \$25 large plants. Order at mtolivet.org, complete an Easter Flower envelope at church, or contact Mary Lindberg 612.926.7651 mlindberg@mtolivet.org.



# Look Up this Lent!

## SUNDAYS IN LENT

Mar 10 - Apr 14. Worship centered on the Gospel of Luke as we continue to Enter the Story ...

**M** 9, 10, 11am, 12noon; **W** 9, 10, 11am

## TRUTH TALKS: LOOK UP!

These 40-minute Truth Talks are open to all. Confirmation and Cathedral and Chancel Choir members will be in attendance, and we encourage all our households and interested adults to attend, as we believe sharing this experience and learning together is important and builds community.

### • "Living Online ~ Living

Loved" **M** Wed, Mar 13; **W** Wed, Mar 20  
with **PASTORS DIXON AND RUUD.**

Living online allows us to extend ourselves in ways never imagined even a generation ago. Whether it's staying in touch with friends, finding inspiration, or reaching out to someone in need, we discover in the internet a powerful tool that vastly expands our reach into the world. At the same time, living online immerses us in countless messages about who we are. Some of those messages are life-giving, but many others are not. How, then, do we make the most of the opportunities the digital age offers while remembering — and extending — God's central promise that we are children of God, we are loved, and we are not alone.

### • "The Virtual Body of Christ"

**M** Wed, Mar 27; **W** Wed, Apr 3  
with **PASTOR LOSE AND PROFESSOR DEANNA**

**A. THOMPSON.** We are called to be the body of Christ, living out God's love for us by loving our neighbors, not just in person, but also online. Living loved in the digital age gives us new tools for sharing God's compassion

and grace to those who have bought into a story about themselves that is less than what God desires for them. Sharing the gospel of God's love online, extending God's compassion digitally, and caring for each other via social media are all examples of how we can live into being "the Virtual Body of Christ."

## LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

Our Lent Midweek worship services will revolve around biblical stories of what happens when we Look Up — we see God at work in our lives, we see people with needs we can meet, we discover people with gifts to share, and we are surprised at what God is doing right in front of us!

### • Look Up ... Why?

**M** Wed, Mar 13, 11am, **PASTOR HELGEN.**

Created in and for Community (Genesis 1:26-31). We are made in God's image, created in community

for the sake of community. We need each other in order to carry out God's hopes and dreams for the world. When has someone in your community invited you to look up?

### • Look Up ... to Strangers in our Community

**M** Wed, Mar 20, 11am, 7pm, **PASTOR KALLAND.**

Abraham Welcomes Strangers (Genesis 18:1-8). Abraham and Sarah provide hospitality to three strangers. How do we welcome strangers in our own lives and anticipate the needs of neighbors in our community?

### • Look Up ... to Be Present

**M** Wed, Mar 27, 11am, **PASTOR HAMMERSTEN.** Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42). This story reminds us that sometimes God calls us to be present with those in our midst. How can we be more fully present with those we encounter?

### • Look Up ... to Friends and Family

**M** Wed, Apr 3, 11am  
Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion, 7pm, **PASTOR MACLEAN.** Jesus Heals a Paralytic (Luke 5:17-26). The paralytic man's friends bring him to Jesus for healing. When have your friends and family helped you to see God? How does their faith to see a way forward encourage you in your own faith?

### • Look Up ... to Be Surprised!

**M** Wed, Apr 10, 11am, 7pm, **PASTOR KALLAND.** The Parable of the Great Dinner (Luke 14:15-24). God shows up in the uninvited dinner guests — the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. God sees what we think isn't possible and says, "There is still room!" How has God surprised you?

## LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Follow Jesus' Passion with daily readings that remind us to look to the cross and see God's incredible love for us laid bare. Sign up for emails at mtolivet.org or pick up a booklet at church.

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

### • Palm Sunday Apr 14

**M** 9, 10, 11am, 12noon; **W** 9, 10, 11am

### • The Seven Last Words of Christ by Dubois

Wed, Apr 17, **M** 7pm

### • The Living Lord's Supper

Thu, Apr 18; **M** 6, 7:30pm; **W** 7:30pm

### • Good Friday Apr 19; Communion

Services **M** 7am, 12noon, 4, 6pm, **W** 6pm;  
Children's Services **M W** 11am; Tenebrae Service **M W** 7pm

### • Easter Sunday Apr 21; **M** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11am, 12noon; **W** 8, 9, 10, 11am, 12noon

## DEVOTIONS

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last."*

JESUS' WORDS TO HIS DISCIPLES IN JOHN 15:16



The season of Lent is a season of humility and confession. In fact, the confession in which we partake on Ash Wednesday could be well described as the confession of all confessions for the church year. In that spirit ... I have a confession. In my 37+ years of life, I have never given up anything for the season of Lent. Now, I hope you won't judge me for this, and I'm not saying that it can't be a good practice of faith. I have a friend who one year wore a necklace with a cross made of sharp nails. His shared with me that each time he felt the cross on his skin during the season, he intended to be mindful of Jesus' gift of life and he would say a brief prayer of gratitude. What a wonderful discipline! The reason I haven't been compelled to "give something up" is that I mainly have witnessed the season of Lent as a time when we primarily and powerfully focus upon how *God gave up much for us* or, to say it another way, how God shows up to love us despite all our sin, doubt, grief, and hardship. Traditionally, the stories the church tells in the Lenten season are all about a God who crosses (yes, CROSS-es) boundaries and breaks through our common conception of life and experience of the world to show us just how much God loves us and how much God seeks for us to see ourselves as beloved people and partners with God in this world and our life.

If giving something up for Lent helps you focus on that, thanks be to God! But perhaps, no matter what you do this season, you might direct your faithful life to remembering how much God loves this turmoil-filled world and us as God's creatures. And then, this may compel us all to question how we might love each other deeper, following in Christ and how Jesus loves all God's people. Blessings to you all these 40 days (and the six Sundays in which we celebrate God's great love!). God's care and concern for you knows no bounds. That's what the season is about. Hear it, cling to it, cherish it, and live it. It was not us who chose God, but God who chose us! Amen and Amen. – PASTOR RUUD

## New Member Orientations

Sa 3/16 9:30-11am

**M** Fellowship Hall

Su 4/7 2-3:30pm

**W** Gronseth Fellowship Hall

Su 4/14 12:45-2pm

**M** Fellowship Hall

People interested in joining Mount Olivet on Sunday 5/5 are invited to attend one orientation. You will meet the pastors, staff, members of the Board of Life & Growth, connect with other new members, and find out what it means to be a member of this amazing congregation! Childcare is available. Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or contact Carol Nault 612.926.2204 for more information.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING



1PM, SUN, MAR 17, 2019  
MPLS CAMPUS  
MAIN SANCTUARY

MTOLIVET.ORG MPLS 612.926.7651 • WEST 952.767.1500

**Annual Congregation Meeting** Su 3/17 1pm, **M** Main Sanctuary. Hear reports, approve the 2019 annual budget, and elect new Congregation Council and Board of Life & Growth members. All are welcome!

## Daily Readings

### MAR 2019

FROM PASTOR KALLAND

- 1 Romans 12.2, Renewing of Your Mind
- 2 1 John 2.15 & 17, Do Not Love the World
- 3 Psalm 95.6, Kneel
- 4 Philippians 2.10-11, Confess
- 5 Psalm 24. 7 & 8, Lift Up Your Heads
- 6 Psalm 103.10-12, Great Mercy
- 7 Habakkuk 2.20, Keep Silence
- 8 Psalm 19.1, The Heavens Declare
- 9 Psalm 19.14, My Redeemer
- 10 Psalm 122.1, Glad
- 11 Psalm 100.1-3, A Joyful Noise
- 12 Psalm 8.3-5, Consider the Heavens
- 13 Psalm 24.1, The Earth is the Lord's
- 14 Psalm 67.1, Face Shines On Us
- 15 Colossians 1.16, Visible and Invisible
- 16 John 1.12, Children of God
- 17 John 15.5, Vine and Branches
- 18 Mathew 6.19-21, Where is Your Heart
- 19 Revelation 21.4, God Wipes Away Tears
- 20 Galatians 2.20, Christ Lives In Me
- 21 Psalm 119.11, Treasure Your Word
- 22 James 1.17, Every Good Gift
- 23 John 11.25-26, Do You Believe This
- 24 Isaiah 40.31, Renewed
- 25 Psalm 42.11, O My Soul
- 26 Matthew 11.28, Rest
- 27 1 Peter 5.7, Cares For You
- 28 Isaiah 26.3-4, Trust
- 29 Proverbs 3.5-6, Acknowledge
- 30 Galatians 5.22-23, By Contrast
- 31 1 John 1.9, Forgive and Cleanse



Sign up for weekly emails at  
**MTOLIVET.ORG**



Like us on **FACEBOOK**  
at [mountolivetchurch](https://www.facebook.com/mountolivetchurch)



Follow us on **TWITTER**  
@mtolivet



Follow us on **INSTAGRAM**  
@mtolivet





## Friends Forever Arizona Round-Up

**(50yrs+)** *Su 3/3; 8:30am Sunday worship at Living Water Lutheran Church, brunch at Pinnacle Peak Country Club, and dinner at Arrivederci Ristorante; Scottsdale, AZ.*

Join **PASTOR MACLEAN** and Friends Forever for a special Mount Olivet Sunday in Scottsdale. You are most welcome and encouraged to participate in any or all of these events. Registration needed if attending either or both meals. Register by 3/1. \$20 for brunch, menu items for dinner. ☐☎



## MOCW Annual Ladies' Night

*Women* **M 3/4 6:30pm, M Fellowship Hall.** Speaker: **MICHELE VIG**, Founder & Chief Organizer of Neat Little Nest and former president of Caribou Coffee. Topic: "Finding your Passion + Purpose." Learn how organizing can help you unlock your potential! \$15. Register by 2/27. ☐☎  
**CALLING ALL MEN SERVERS!** Continue the tradition of men serving the ladies – contact 612.926.7651 mocwvolunteer@gmail.com.



## A Day Lenten Journey: What is Lent for Lutherans?

*Tu 3/12, 10am-3pm, Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center.*

The innovations and disruptions Martin Luther brought to the medieval church included changes to Lenten season practices. How close are we – or aren't we – to those practices today? And what difference does it make? Join **PASTOR DIXON** and guest presenter **DR. THOMAS LECAQUE** of Grand View University as we explore these questions and more. Enjoy the beauty of a winter day, warm fellowship, inspiring conversation, and a wonderful, delicious lunch! \$20 for lunch and program. Bus available for \$5 from **W** (8:45am), 7500 York (8:45am), and **M** (9:15am). Register by 3/12: mtolivetretreat.org 952.469.2175 msiems@mocrc.org.



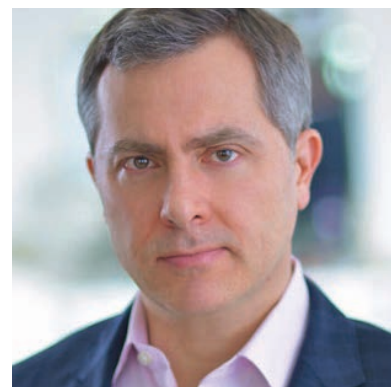
## Young Adults Donate & Do

**(22-45yrs)** *Tu 3/26 6-7:30pm, VEAP, 9600 Aldrich Ave S, Bloomington.* The goal is for each of us to bring 80(!) rolls of toilet paper (donated by co-workers, friends, and family) to this fun event where we will tour the facility, hear a presentation, and repackage our toilet paper donations. Wear closed-toed shoes and clothes that can get dirty. Register by 3/26. ☐☎



## 46th Fashion Show & Luncheon

*Women* **Sa 4/6 11am, M Fellowship Hall.** This year's theme is "Favorite Finds for You" and the show will feature a fun mix of boutiques and stores for all ages and lifestyles. The event also will include a raffle to benefit Africa Jam international ministry. Fashion show cost is \$20pp. Purchase 8 seats to reserve a table. All other seating will be first come, first served. Register 2/1-3/28. ☐☎



## Joy Circle Presents: An Evening with Author James Tucker

*W 4/10, Doors Open 6:30pm, Speaker 7-8pm, M 1700 Chapel.* All are invited to attend a presentation by local author **JAMES TUCKER**, the author of the acclaimed *Buddy Lock Thrillers*, *Next of Kin*, and *The Holdouts*. Tucker is a graduate from the University of Minnesota Law School and one of four fiction writers awarded a position at a past Mentor Series at the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis. He lives near Minneapolis with his wife, painter Megan Rye, and their family. Free. No registration.



## Career & Calling Spring Breakfast

W 4/10 7-9am, **M** Fellowship Hall.

Join us for an engaging and inspiring conversation with **CHRIS WRIGHT**, CEO of Minnesota United FC, as he discusses the benefits of knowing your "Why?" and staying centered on that purpose. Join us for good food and good conversation about what truly motivates our work in the world!

**7AM DOORS OPEN**

**7:15AM PRAYER & BREAKFAST BUFFET**

**7:30AM PROGRAM BEGINS**

**9AM PROGRAM CONCLUDES**

You have our blessing if you need to leave early. It's a work day, after all!

Free (gently used business clothing donations encouraged). ☑ ☑



## Oberammergau: Passion Play 2020

Sa 7/20 to Tu 7/30, Eastern Europe, Visiting Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Munich and Oberammergau. It is with great excitement that we invite you to join us on our 11 Das Splendors of eastern Europe tour with a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend the world famous Passion Play in 2020 in Oberammergau, Germany! The tour will also include stops in Prague, Budapest, Vienna, and Munich. If this sounds like the trip for you or if you would like more information, contact Pastor Hammersten 612.767.2236 or monicah@mtolivet.org



## Flying Solo: Victoria Burrow

(singles 40s-60s) Su 3/31 2:45-

6pm, Victoria Burrow, 7999 Victoria Dr, Victoria. Join us in a spirited

competition with an afternoon of axe-throwing. Expert "chuckers" will make sure we're set up, trained, and having fun while keeping everyone safe. Following our 1-hr session we encourage everyone to stay to enjoy food, and fellowship. All participants must sign a waiver prior to our 3pm start time. \$20. ☑ ☑

## Flying Solo: Mia Art in Bloom

(singles 40s-60s) Th 4/11 6:30-

9pm, Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2400

Third Ave S, Mpls. View fresh floral creations and the artworks that inspired them! Meet at the 2nd floor fountain.

Following the exhibit, please join us at Eat Street Social (18 W. 26th St. Mpls)

for fun and fellowship. No cost for exhibit. Eat Street Social on your own.



## Just for Fun Golf Scramble

F 5/10 11am-7pm, Deer Run Golf Course, 8661 Deer Run Dr, Victoria.

11am check-in, driving range open, sandwich buffet lunch; 12:45pm golfers get into electric carts; 1pm golf begins; following golf there will be a happy hour, grilled steak / chicken dinner, and awards presentation. Rain or shine. Sign up as an individual or as a group (up to 4). \$100pp must be paid with registration. Bring \$5 cash to buy a mulligan. Register by 5/1. ☑ ☑



## Men's Breakfasts

Tu 7am, The Hilltop Edina;

Th 7am, Chanhassen Perkins.

Mar 3/5: **BIBLE STUDY: PASTOR DIXON.** Mar 12/14: **LUKE RANDALL.**

Mar 19/21: **REALM 101.** Mar 26/28: **BIBLE STUDY: PASTOR RUUD.**



## Young in Heart Luncheon

(65yrs+) Tu 3/19 12noon,

**M** Fellowship Hall. Featuring:

**WILLOW BRAE, A CELTIC**

**INSTRUMENTAL DUO.** \$9 and

donation to Pastor Scott's On-Call Ministry. Friends welcome! Register by 3/15: 612.926.7651.



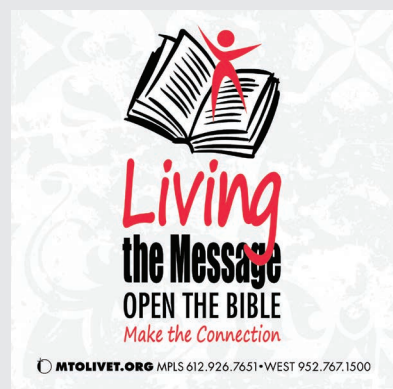
## Ski Club

W through 3/29 9:30am-9:30pm, Afton Alps, 6600 Peller Ave S, Hastings, MN. Mention "Mount Olivet" to receive discounts on lift tickets and rentals. Look for the "Mount Olivet" table (chalet 2nd floor) to get a ribbon to identify yourself to fellow ski-clubbers on the slopes. Meet at 12noon for lunch at Paul's Restaurant or join us after school or work!



# ADULT LEARNING

All Mount Olivet members, visitors, friends, and family are welcome at Adult Learning opportunities. Questions: Carol Throntveit,



## Living the Message Introductions

Tu 3/5 6pm	<b>M</b> Rehearsal Hall
Tu 4/2 6pm	<b>W</b> Gronseth Fellowship Hall
Tu 5/7 6pm	<b>M</b> Rehearsal Hall

Whether or not you participate in a Living the Message small group, you are welcome to join us at **PASTOR RUUD'S** introductions to each month's study. In March, we will consider Luke 15:1-31 with a focus on "And Grace Will Lead Me Home." This and all our monthly studies will take us deeper into key texts and themes in Luke, the Gospel on which our Sunday sermons will be based from now through May. Please come – you'll be glad you did. Know, too, that new groups can form at any time. Contact Carol Throntveit 612.767.2246 carolt@mtolivet.org.

☒☒ = REGISTER AT MTOLIVET.ORG OR BY CALLING 612.926.7651  
**M** = Mpls Campus, **W** = West Campus  
 SEE PAGE 2 FOR CAMPUS ADDRESSES

## Of Brokenness and Wholeness: Art of the Prodigal Son

7-8:30pm, M 3/18  
**W** Gronseth Fellowship Hall, Tu 3/19

**M** Rehearsal Hall.

The Prodigal Son, our sermon text for 3/24, is one of the best-known parables. It also has been the subject of artists through the ages, each bringing unique viewpoints to their work as you will learn in this class led by **DR. PAUL DANIELS**, archivist for Luther Seminary's extensive *Prodigal Son Collection*. As you see and learn how people of different times, cultures, and ages have perceived this story, you will widen your own perspective – and hear it again on the Mar 24 with "new ears"! \$10. ☒☒



## Wednesday / Thursday Word: Lukan Ladies

W 4/3-5/1 9:30-10:50am, **M**  
 Rm 207; Th 4/4-5/2 10-11:30am, **W** CFL

Activity Rm. More than other gospel writers, Luke includes women in his accounts of Jesus' ministry and the early church. Named and unnamed, some with only a few verses of mention, Luke shows how these mostly "ordinary" women play extraordinary roles. Join your pastors as they introduce – or re-introduce – you to many of these "Lukan Ladies." Which pastor teaches each week is a surprise! All are welcome – bring friends. Cost: Donation. ☒☒

## A Not-at-All-Boring Luther "Look" at Christian Freedom and Good Works

Th 4/25 & 5/2 7-8:30pm

**M** Rm 207. **DR. MARY JANE HAEMIG** easily takes the seemingly boring and turns it into WOW! And that's exactly what you can expect as she leads us in this exploration of two of Luther's most influential works. The first, "The Freedom of a Christian," describes what Christian freedom is and why it means we live our lives in service to our neighbors. The second, "Treatise on Good Works," details what good works are and answers Luther's critics who claimed that he denigrated good works. Make the time to come – you won't be sorry! \$10. ☒☒

## Tuesdays Together: What Does "Lutheran" Mean?

Tu 4/2-4/30 7-8:30pm, **M** Rm 207. Didn't grow up Lutheran? Been a very l-o-n-g time since Confirmation? Wondering what's unique about being Lutheran or want a refresher to dig-in more? This 4-week look at "Lutheran basics" led by **PASTOR RUUD** is for you! Leave with a deeper understanding of what makes Lutheranism unique and a greater appreciation for how Lutherans understand God's love for and relationship with us. Here are the basics we will explore together:

Session 1 | Faith Alone: There's nothing for you to do ... No, but seriously ... there's nothing for you to do ... seriously.

Session 2 | Simul Justus et Peccator: Come as you are, leave no better (just forgiven, made new, raised up ... daily)

Session 3 | Theology of the Cross: The power of God found in puny, weak, hidden things, and why we're tempted to want something more.

Session 4 | Vocation: What to do, and what God does with you, now that there's nothing to do, sometimes whether you like it or not. ☒☒

## Sign up for EMAIL DELIVERY

of the *Messenger* at mtolivet.org.  
 Click on "Newsletter / Email Sign Up" underneath "Quick Links" on the bottom center of the home page.



## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

### • Women's Book Discussion: **Educated by Tara Westover**

W 4/10 - 5/1 11am-12noon  
(except 5/1 at 11:45am-1pm),

Ⓜ Rm 208. This highly acclaimed, riveting memoir shares the story of how a young woman whose survivalist parents kept her out of school finally breaks away, enters a classroom for the first time at 17, and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Her path to education and to new freedom takes her on a journey that spans not just oceans, but the tricky terrains of family and heart. Along the way, we learn with her that to be "educated" is a matter not limited to the mind. \$15 (includes book). ☐ ☒

### • Evening Book Discussion

2nd W 7-8:30pm,

Ⓜ Library. Books: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate (3/13), *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter. (4/10).

### • Midday Book Discussion

3rd Tu 11:30am-1pm, Ⓜ Library. Books: *Saving Simon* by Jon Katz (3/19), *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande.

## ONGOING

### • Chair Holy Yoga M&W through 5/1 (except holidays)

12:15-1:15pm, Ⓜ Gym; Tu through 5/28 12noon-1pm, Ⓜ CFL Rm 317. A great physical and spiritual boost to your day that does not require getting down and up from the floor, yet greatly improves balance, strength, and flexibility! Taught by certified instructors. \$5 paid to instructor.

*Think that if it's "chair yoga" it can't do much good? If so, you are very mistaken – just ask all the regulars who wouldn't think of missing a class! Go, give it a try and see for yourself! You will be surprised at how in several months, your flexibility and strength have greatly*

*improved. And at the same time, you'll enjoy not only that physical boost, but a spiritual uplifting from the music and devotions that are worked into the pattern of the class. At West, devotions will center on Luke, a beautiful fit with our winter and spring sermon series on that Gospel. Men and women are welcome!*

### • Prayer Ministry M 3/4, 6/3, 9/9 1pm; 12/2 12noon; Ⓜ Lounge.

Pray in the comfort of your own home, at work, on a walk – anywhere. God is always listening. Join us at one of our quarterly meetings or call 612.767.2209.

### • Prayer Shawl Ministry

10am 2nd M in Feb, May, Aug, Nov Ⓜ Lounge; 1pm 3rd Tu (except Jul & Dec) Ⓜ CFL Rm 310A.

Experienced and beginner knitters are welcome to join us as we pray and knit prayer shawls for others in need of comfort, prayer, and support. Contact: Andrea Brown 612.767.2209.

### • Quilting M 6:30-8:30pm Ⓜ Rm 197.

Are you a quilter or "would-be" quilter? Join our group! We make little quilts for Pastor Scott's On-Call Ministry. Instructions and materials provided. Learn new skills, have fun, and serve. Drop in anytime.

### • Spiritual Energy Healing

M through 5/20 6-9pm, Ⓜ 1700 Lower Level. Learn and experience how prayer, God's power, and the natural energy paths within the body can bring comfort and healing.

### • Learning Swedish

**Language through Hymns and Songs** M 3/4-5/20 except 4/15 & 4/22, Ⓜ Old Choir Rm.

Have fun learning a bit of Swedish through singing Swedish hymns and folk songs. Led by **PETER JOHNSON**, you will sing in unison (not 4-part harmony) and *acapella* (without accompaniment). As you learn the songs, you also will learn something of Swedish phonetics, vocabulary, and grammar – and have lots of fun!

## Putting One Foot In Front of the Other. Losing Him and Finding Me: The Impact of Dementia for Families

Sa 3/9 8:45-10:30am,

Ⓜ Rm 207.

Children's book author,

**NANCY**

**CARLSON,**

will talk about the journey with her husband's FTD, a horrible type of dementia that left them penniless. Through art, writing, and hiking, she found a way to cope with his illness. \$15 continental breakfast. ☐ ☒



## SERVICE

### • March MN FoodShare Food Drive Su 3/10

Ⓜ Ⓜ Parking

Lots. Items most needed are: fruit, soups, chilis, boxed mac and cheese, canned tuna, canned chicken, sugar, oil, flour. Food and monetary donations go to Community Emergency Services Ⓜ and Bountiful Basket Ⓜ.



### • Easter Angel Gift Baskets

Sa 4/13, 10am

Ⓜ Gronseth Fellowship Hall, 3pm Ⓜ Gym.

Help pack and deliver "Angel Gifts" to those in need through Pastor Scott's On-Call Ministry and Love INC. Come with your family, friends, class, or by yourself – all are welcome! **DONATIONS ALSO NEEDED:** Picture and board books, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, kids' activity books, and crayons. Label "Angel Gifts" and drop off at Ⓜ Ⓜ. Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or at the church offices.



# What is Lent Actually About? (No Googling Allowed!)

With Lent approaching, there seems to be a multitude of ideas regarding the importance of this preamble to Easter. But do any of them actually hit the mark? Or do they just make the time period more confusing? What is Lent actually referring to? In order to find an answer, I decided to turn to the people that I'm surrounded by the most ... which as a youth leader, happens to be kids ages 13-18. So here are some of their answers to the tricky question, "What is Lent actually about? (no googling allowed)"

- "Ummm I think it starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter. It is the set up to Easter and sometimes people give things up. Lent is to Easter as Advent is to Christmas"
- "Isn't it like the days before Easter and it's to represent how Jesus went without like food and water so people give up something and you can't eat meat on Fridays and stuff?"
- "I don't know bro lol"
- "When Jesus sacrificed his life for us and our sins, so the time between when he died and when he rose we give up something that we can't live without because he gave up his life"
- "It's a time where people fast - it's 40 days and starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter. It's basically just a time to prepare for Easter"
- "A time period lasting 6 weeks where oftentimes individuals give up something they find important to themselves in order to take a step back and reflect on their lives and to become closer to God. Did I pass?"

Despite the valiant effort, there appears to be a lack of consensus in what it represents. But this isn't unique to just high school kids. A quick glance to social media during this period illustrates just how muddled this time period truly is. Is it about a change in diet? An attempt to deny ourselves of worldly possessions? I went to Pastor Dixon and Pastor Ruud to find some guidance in understanding the meaning of Lent. While there isn't a Lutheran "dictionary definition" of what we should do during this time period, there is a general concept that we can follow. Lent is a time to reflect on everything that God has done for us. For some, we may find that feats of self-denial or daily challenges help us to focus on God's sacrifice. For others, volunteering over this period may help us remember the compassion that God and Jesus show us each and every day. It doesn't matter how you go about reminding yourself of God's love, but rather that you remind yourself that God has been and always will be there for us.

So yes, if fasting during the day or denying yourself that extra dessert encourages you to think of God's sacrifice for us, then go ahead and do it! It's not always a bad idea to take stock of the gifts you have been given. But if your minor sacrifice doesn't encourage you to reflect on the sacrifice that God makes for us each and every day, then don't stress about eating some chocolate! While the path to reflection may look different for all of us, remember the true focus of this time period; being thankful for God's continued and endless love. – CHASE CLAFLIN

## COP Camping Weeks

*Grades as of Sep 1, 2019*  
Non-Members: Add \$55  
Special Diets: Add \$30

### Grades 3 & 4

- (1) 7/15-7/19 M-F \$370\*
- (2) 8/3-8/7 Sa-W \$370\*

### Grades 5 & 6

- (1) 6/27-7/2 Th-Tu \$405\*
- (2) 7/19-7/24 F-W \$405\*

### Grades 7 & 8

- (1) 6/21-6/27 F-Th \$425\*
- (2) 7/5-7/10 F-W \$405\*
- (3) 7/24-7/29 W-M \$405\*

## Confirmation Camp (9th-Gr)

For Mount Olivet members only. An opportunity to celebrate the completion of Confirmation requirements with Mount Olivet youth staff and friends.

- (1) 7/10-7/15 W-M \$355\*
- (2) 7/29-8/3 M-Sa \$355\*

## Hi-League Summer Starter

6/17-6/21 M-F \$280\*

## Hi-League Retreat

8/7-8/11 W-Su \$310\*

*\* Full payment requested at time of registration.*

## MEMBER REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

## — NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION OPENS SAT, MAR 2

## COP Camping Clothing

Visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) to download the order form or order clothing online through [almostanything.com](http://almostanything.com) and selecting COP 2019 Camp Clothing from the categories on the left hand side of the screen.



## Hi- League Creation Worship & Meditation

(9th- 12th Gr)(Confirmation

Teachers, Table Talk  
Leaders & Mount Olivet

Staff) 3/3 7-8:30pm **M** Main

Sanctuary. Please come to Hi-  
League on Sunday, March 3 for  
a meaningful worship service  
featuring **PASTOR HAMMERSTEN'S**

Creation meditation. **ZACH**

**SIROV & GENEVIEVE KALLAND** will  
provide music. We will also have  
communion at this service. After  
the service there will be cookies!  
Remember this is the last Sunday  
before our COP celebration to  
get a credit for camp! Questions  
please contact Geoff Arenson

612.767.2212 or [geoffa@mtolivet.org](mailto:geoffa@mtolivet.org)

## TRUTH TALKS *Look Up!*

Wed 7pm, **M** Mar 13, **W** Mar 20

"LIVING ONLINE ~  
LIVING LOVED"

**PASTORS DIXON AND RUUD**

Wed 7pm, **M** Mar 27, **W** Apr 3

"THE VIRTUAL

BODY OF CHRIST"

**PASTOR LOSE AND PROFESSOR  
DEANNA A. THOMPSON**

## Confirmation Going to Lenten Truth Talks

(7th-8th Gr) **M** 3/13 & 3/27

(No Class 3/20 & 4/3). **W** 3/20 &  
4/3 (No Class 3/27). Confirmation

students will be attending the  
Lenten Truth Talks at 7pm in place  
of regular Sunday morning and  
Wednesday 4:15pm Confirmation  
classes. There will be no Mpls  
Sunday or Wednesday 4:15pm  
Confirmation classes in March. All

Sunday and Wednesday 4:15pm  
classes are going to the 7pm Lenten  
Truth Talks on Wednesday,  
March 13 and 27 in Mpls.

## Hi-League

(9th-12th Gr) *Sunday Evenings.*

3/3 **CREATION SERVICE** **M**

7-8:30pm). 3/10 **COP CELEBRATION**

(**M** **W** 7-8:30pm). 3/17 **TABLE TALKS**

(**M** **W** 7-8:30pm). 3/24 **NO HI-**

**LEAGUE.** 3/31 **NO HI-LEAGUE.**

## JHA - Spring Bowling Extravaganza

(7th- 8th Gr) *Sa 3/30 11am-*

*3pm* (**M** Youth Center **W** Narthex).

Join your Junior High Youth Staff  
for a (not at all) competitive day  
of bowling! We will stop at Joey  
Nova's for pizza and then head to  
Country Club Lanes in Tonka Bay  
for bowling! We are so excited for  
this event and would love to see you  
and your friends there! \$30. ☎



## Youth Choirs

Register anytime to join the Cathedral Choir  
(9th-12th Gr) and Chancel Choir (7th-8th Gr).  
Weekly rehearsals are offered at the below  
days and times. ☎

### MPLS CAMPUS

- **Cathedral Choir**  
(9th-12th Gr) *W* 7-8:30pm.
- **Chancel Choir**  
(7th-8th Gr) *W* 5:30-6:30pm.

### WEST CAMPUS

- **Cathedral Choir**  
(9th-12th Gr) *W* 7-8:15pm.
- **Chancel Choir**  
(7th-8th Gr) *W* 5:30-6:30pm.

# Confirmation

## Confirmation

begins in 7th grade and concludes with a  
Service of Confirmation the September of  
9th grade. Confirmation students learn about  
the Bible, Lutheranism, faith, and God while  
building relationships with their peers, pastors,  
small group leaders, youth ministry leaders,  
and church.

## Ash Wednesday Youth-led Service

(7th- 8th Gr) Please attend the  
Ash Wednesday Youth-led Service  
with your family. Confirmation  
students will be participating in  
this special service. We will also be  
communing together. This service  
is in place of the 4:15pm and 7pm  
Confirmation classes on this night.

## Truth Talks

**M** 3/13 & 3/27. **W** 3/20 & 4/3.

See left column box for details. Note: There will  
be no Confirmation classes on these dates.

## Confirmation 7th-Grade Retreats

**M** Mar 8-9, Mount Olivet

Conference & Retreat Center, Buses

Leave at 4:40pm on Fridays and

Return at 10:30am on Saturdays

(meet in the **M** youth center or **W**

narthex, depending on where the

bus leaves from). Get ready for

a fun overnight! We will spend

time eating good food, playing

fun games with the junior high

youth staff, swimming, and

hanging out with our high school

counselors. We also will have a

special Communion service with

our pastors, and of course Sacred

Ground! All Confirmands are

required to attend one retreat

(only one left)! Only 20 boys and

20 girls can attend each retreat.

It does not matter which campus

you attend Confirmation. You

will need to pack a sleeping bag,

pillow, swimsuit, and towel (if

you plan on swimming), toiletries,

and jammies. No electronics or

phones allowed. Please leave them

at home. Please register today!

FREE. ☎

☎ = REGISTER AT [MTOLIVET.ORG](http://MTOLIVET.ORG)  
OR BY CALLING 612.926.7651

**M** = Mpls Campus, **W** = West Campus

SEE PAGE 2 FOR CAMPUS ADDRESSES



## Preschool Registration Open NOW for 2019-20

**M** Looking for a preschool where your children can learn and grow at their own pace? A place filled with play, music, creativity, and God's love? Look no further than the Mount Olivet Preschool! Our days include: art, music, math/science, stories, outdoor play, large muscle room, dramatic play, faith development, and more! Registration open now! ☎

## Preschool Summer Sampler

7/16-7/18 (Tu-Th) 9am-11:30am

**M** Preschool. Children may come and see what the Mount Olivet Preschool is all about! Sign up to spend a few days in the preschool. This is a great way for your child to preview the rooms, get a feel for the daily schedule, and spend some time getting to know the teachers and potential classmates for the fall. \$50. ☎

## Baby Bunch

(Infants to 6mos & Caregivers) W 3/6-3/27

10-11am, **M** Nursery. Join other moms / caregivers and babies for fellowship, conversation, and devotions. No cost. No registration. Questions: Amy Porthan 612.767.2224 amyp@mtolivet.org.

☎ = REGISTER AT MTOLIVET.ORG OR BY CALLING 612.926.7651

**M** = Mpls Campus, **W** = West Campus  
SEE PAGE 2 FOR CAMPUS ADDRESSES



## Open Gym

(1-6yrs & Caregivers)

Sa 3/16, & 4/27 9-11am, **M** Gym.

Come run, jump and play with your kiddos! Wear tennis shoes, bring a water bottle – and we'll provide the fun! \$5 per family. No registration.



## First Communion Service

(6th Gr) Su 3/3, **W** 11am

Worship Service, **M** 12noon Worship Service. Bring your 6th-grader to Fellowship Hall to check in (**W** 10:30am, **M** 11:30am). The group will process into church and sit as a class. After the service, pick up your 6th-grader in Fellowship Hall. To have your 6th-grader's name included in the bulletin, each 6th-grader and a parent must have attended a First Communion class (no new classes are being offered).

## Children's Choirs

Your children and their friends are invited to join a children's choir anytime during the year. Visit mtolivet.org for details.

**REALM** is our new online member login that enables you to stay connected with your Mount Olivet friends, staff, and programs. Visit mtolivet.org for details.



## NEW! Family Lunch & Learn at the West Campus

Su 3/17, 5/19 11am-12:30pm

**W** Gronseth Fellowship Hall. Join us for a mixed-age Sunday School option once a month! Families come to the 11am service (parents attend worship, children participate and engage in a variety of Sunday School activities in Gronseth Fellowship Hall). After the service, families come together for a short devotion and share a meal. RSVP for meal planning. FREE. ☎



## Family Bingo Night!

Su 4/28 4:15-6pm, **M** Fellowship Hall. Join the Children & Family Ministry team for the 2nd Annual Family Bingo Night! Great prizes for all ages, fun for the whole family, dinner provided – what more could one ask for?! This was a great evening last year, and we hope you can join us! Bingo starts at 4:30pm with dinner to follow. \$15 per family. ☎





## COP Preview Nights (2nd-3rd Gr as of Sep

**2019)** 5pm F 5/3 to 10am Sa 5/4,  
or 5pm F 5/10 to 10am Sa 5/11;  
Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat  
Center, (M W Bus). Are you  
heading to Cathedral of the Pines  
this summer or considering it? We  
have a great night planned for you  
to meet some of the counselors  
and fellow campers joining you.  
Join us for an overnight at the  
Retreat Center. We will swim,  
play games, and get excited about  
COP this summer! \$45 includes  
accommodations, food, and bus.  
Registration is open now! ☑



## Musikgarten (Birth-5yrs & Caregivers)

6/18-8/7, (M) Rm 393.

TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS
9:30-10am, Birth-3yrs	9:30-10am, 3-5yrs
10:15-10:45am, Birth-3yrs	10:15-10:45am, Birth-3yrs
11-11:30am, 3-5yrs	11-11:30am, Birth-3yrs
6:15-6:45pm, Birth-3yrs	

Experience the benefits of music  
and movement in the development  
of your child. Our licensed Musik-  
garten teachers will help your child  
develop listening skills, focused  
attention, imagination, creativity,  
and self-expression. \$56 for the first  
child, \$28 per additional sibling.  
Registration is open now! ☑

Visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) for registration and more!



## Thank You, Tasha!

Tasha Holifield, Sunday School Coordinator at the West Campus is moving  
on to new adventures. Since 2015, Tasha has brought energy, excitement,  
and fun to the Children & Family Ministry team. While Tasha's full time  
employment has ended, she will still be around on Sunday mornings at the  
West Campus until we fill this position. Thanks to Tasha for her ministry,  
kindness, and care for the youth of Mount Olivet!

*"Tasha is by far one of the most passionate and hardworking individuals I have  
had the pleasure of working with. The office will take a little getting used to  
without her boisterous laugh and straightforward attitude. I wish her luck in all  
her future endeavors."* – MAXWELL JONES

## Child Care / Mount Olivet Day Services

**(6wks-5yrs)** Mount Olivet  
Day Services, licensed by  
the Department of Human  
Services, provides a unique  
intergenerational experience.  
Children have opportunities  
to interact and have fun with  
participants of the Mount Olivet  
Day Services adult program  
and residents living at Mount  
Olivet Home and Mount Olivet  
Careview Home. Contact: Allison  
Lewis 612.861.8812.

## Baptism Class

3rd Su, (W) Lounge 8am, (M) Bride's  
Dressing Rm 9am. Register  
1wk in advance: Jenny Nellis  
612.767.2247 [jnellis@mtolivet.org](mailto:jnellis@mtolivet.org).

## Nurseries are located below the sanctuaries at (M) (W).

Children 6wks to 3yrs are welcome  
during the 9, 10 & 11am worship  
services. Questions: Amy Porthan  
[amyp@mtolivet.org](mailto:amyp@mtolivet.org).



# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: FINISHING STRONG!

GOAL: \$13.2 M   RAISED: \$10.8 M   NEEDED: \$2.4 M



*Most of us think nothing of spending hundreds per year for our kids to play sports.*

*I encourage you to make that same kind of commitment to support the much-needed West Campus addition that will help our kids develop wonderful relationships with church friends and grow in their relationship with God.* – MATT PODHRADSKY

Construction of the West Campus addition is underway, and **YOUR** help is needed to cross the finish line! If **800 HOUSEHOLDS GIVE \$20 A WEEK FOR 3 YEARS**, the project will be funded! 1st-time capital campaign gifts will be **MATCHED DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR** by generous donors, if you pledge or give by 03.15.19. Give **NOW** at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).

Choose "Capital Campaign – Finishing Strong" from the drop-down box and note your gift is designated for the West Campus. Mail checks to Mount Olivet, 5025 Knox Ave S, Mpls, MN 55419 (put West Campus Capital Campaign on memo line), or contact Mari Carlson 612.821.3150 [mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org](mailto:mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org).





# THE ST. JOHN'S BIBLE, THE PRODIGAL SON, AND THE WORLD TRADE CENTER



Hanging on the wall between the lounge doors at the Minneapolis Campus are four beautiful reproductions from the St. John's Bible, the first handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned since the invention of the printing press more than 500 years ago. These beautiful prints, *Creation*, *The Birth of Christ*, *The Genealogy of Jesus*, and *Luke Anthology*, are singly and together worth your time and study. But it is the last, a mesmerizing depiction of several classic parables from Luke along with the narrative story of Mary and Martha, that has a particularly beautiful "story behind the story." First things first, however.

Important to know in viewing any illuminated manuscript, is that gold leaf is more than decoration: It symbolizes God or God's presence, love, forgiveness, or joy. On the right side of the illumination is the story of Mary and Martha, separated by white space to distinguish it from the parables. The golden figure of Christ stands above Mary and Martha, with golden beams of light descending from him to the parables of the lost – God seeking people.

On the bottom right corner of the left-hand section of the piece, is the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. The rich man is detached from the scene, wearing a now-useless purple robe in the hell he cannot escape, while above him in heaven rest Abraham and Lazarus, flanked by golden angels. Between them and the rich man is a chasm symbolized by a grey strip with black and white figures of the poverty stricken scavenging among modern-day garbage dumps. Highlighted here is the moral blindness that the rich man, and perhaps all of us, is afflicted with at times.

Moving to the top left corner, the parable of the lost coin is depicted, and below it, the lost sheep. Ten circles symbolize the coins, with one filled in, representing the

lost coin. Below we see a solitary sheep, no sign of the rest of the herd in sight. The golden angels above and to the right of these illustrations represent the joy of finding the coin, while paint flourishes convey excitement.

In the center strip, we come to the parable of the Good Samaritan. Here we see direct quotes from the parable, including the question Jesus asks at the end, encouraging viewers toward personal reflection. Red brush marks symbolize the dangers conveyed in the story, but more importantly, represent the risks we all must take at times in showing our love.

But it is the parable of the Prodigal Son that contains the story behind the story. Depicted between the Rich Man and Lazarus and the Good Samaritan, there are no golden angels present, for there is no joyful ending for this parable. Instead, there is a subtle tie to modern-day events: The World Trade Center illuminated in gold!

On the day that two planes flew into the World Trade Center, you see, the artists working on this piece at a scriptorium in Wales had been struggling with how to represent the Prodigal Son. As do many of us, Lead Scribe Donald Jackson and others on the team found the parable unsettling. Like the older brother, they struggled with "fairness" and other issues in the parable.

As I toured the exhibit of the St John's Bible at Mia several years ago with Jackson, he told the story of how upon hearing what had happened in New York, the team was so overcome they quit work. When they returned the next day, they all knew how they wanted to finish the section on the Prodigal Son: They would represent the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in gold! Why gold? They did it, Jackson explained as tears welled in his eyes recalling the scene, because the world so desperately needed assurance that even in the midst of such evil, God is present, that only with the help of God can we begin to forgive some wrongs; and that God will be with us in our struggle to forgive.

On Sunday, March 24, our sermon will center of the parable of the Prodigal Son. Sometime before or after, try to find time to view this beautiful piece of art. And on March 18 (West) or 19 (Mpls), come to hear Luther Seminary Archivist Paul Daniels present and discuss selections from the Seminary's extensive collection of Prodigal Son art, spanning many cultures and over 400 years! Details are on page 8.

– CAROL THRONTVEIT, DIRECTOR OF ADULT LEARNING

*Note: The St John's Bible prints that hang in the Minneapolis Campus hallway were given anonymously by a donor to honor her sons' Confirmations.*

Mount Olivet Messenger

USPS 365-500  
Published monthly by  
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
5025 Knox Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55419-1095


Periodicals postage paid at  
St. Paul, MN

POSTMASTER  
Send address changes to  
Mount Olivet Messenger  
5025 Knox Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55419-1095

PAGE 4

# Look Up

LENT AT MOUNT OLIVET

 **MTOLIVET.ORG** MPLS 612.926.7651 • WEST 952.767.1500

*This Lent we are focusing on what happens when we Look Up – we see God at work in our lives, we see people with needs we can meet, we discover people with gifts to share, and we are surprised at what God is doing right in front of us! At our Lent Truth Talks, “Living Online ~ Living Loved” and “The Virtual Body of Christ,” we will learn to Look Up when we use our digital devices to extend ourselves and God’s compassion in ways never imagined even a generation ago. See page 4 for details.*

PAGE 9

# FOOD DRIVE

*Sun 3/10, Mpls & West*

 **MTOLIVET.ORG** MPLS 612.926.7651 • WEST 952.767.1500

PAGE 9


# Easter Angel

GIFT BASKETS

**Sat, Apr 13, 2019**

**WEST 10am**

**MPLS 3pm**

 **MTOLIVET.ORG** MPLS 612.926.7651 • WEST 952.767.1500