

FEBRUARY 2021

BELIEVING, BELONGING, BECOMING

MOUNT OLIVET
MESSENGER



mtolivet.org

JOIN US

M MPLS CAMPUS

5025 Knox Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612.926.7651

W WEST CAMPUS

7150 Rolling Acres Rd
Victoria, MN 55386
952.767.1500

If you would like to receive a large print copy of the Messenger, please contact Andrea Brown at andreaab@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2209.

SUNDAYS

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

- M** 9, 10, 11am, & 12noon
- W** 9, 10, & 11am

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

WEDNESDAYS

OPEN PRAYER TIME

- M** 10am-12noon
- Each Wednesday morning our sanctuaries will be opened for personal prayer time, reflection, and meditation.

IN-PERSON HOLY COMMUNION

- M** 12noon
- On the first Wednesday of each month, a short in-person communion service will be offered. Registration is required and seating is limited to 40 persons. Register at mtolivet.org or by calling 612.767.2264.

FEBRUARY 7

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:5-21

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

SERMON Pastor Dixon

FEBRUARY 21

THE FAITHFUL CENTURION - TRUST

Matthew 8:5-13

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

SERMON Pastor Lose

FEBRUARY 14

GOLDEN RULE

Matthew 6:25-34, 7:1-5, 12

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

SERMON Pastor Kalland

FEBRUARY 28

THE CALLING OF MATTHEW - REPENTANCE

Matthew 9:9-17

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

SERMON Pastor MacLean

FEBRUARY 17

ASH WEDNESDAY

Watch the worship service at mtolivet.org.

COVER PHOTO

Jesus Teaches the People by the Sea by James Tissot

FAITH ALIVE WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

are available at mtolivet.org and during our radio broadcast. These 20 minute devotions are hosted by Senior Pastor Lose and offer insight into biblical teachings. Currently the devotions are focused on the book of Philippians and are accompanied with music as well as a time for prayer & reflection. Please enjoy these devotions anytime by visiting mtolivet.org/worship.

ONLINE HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE is available at mtolivet.org anytime. Pastor Kalland will lead you through a brief but meaningful Holy Communion service. Personal communion elements are available for pick up during Wednesday Open Prayer from 10am- 12noon at the Mpls Campus. You are also always welcome to use elements you already have at your home.

The Gospel of Matthew: A Handbook for Christian Discipleship

Why do we have four Gospels? Have you ever thought to wonder why? Think about it. We have not one, not two, but four distinct stories of Jesus that, while they agree on the main plotline of his story, nevertheless differ in so many details?

Well, by the time the Gospel are written, likely between 70–95 AD, the church was experiencing several huge challenges:

1. *Jesus hadn't returned.* The expectation of the earliest Christians was that Jesus would be coming back soon, so why write anything down? Overtime, as Jesus' return is delayed, the church needs to collect the stories of Jesus in order to remember them... and to equip Christians to live faithfully for the long term.

2. *The original witnesses of Jesus' ministry are dying.* The Gospels are written forty to sixty years after Jesus' earthly ministry, in part because there is urgency in collecting and sharing eyewitness accounts and associated stories.

3. *The church is facing an identity crisis.* The earliest Christians were all Jewish and likely continued worshiping at their local synagogue. Two generations later, they no longer feel comfortable or welcome at the synagogue and, at the same time, have increasing numbers of members who were not Jewish.

For all these reasons, people began writing down what St. Luke calls "orderly accounts" (Luke 1:1,3) of various stories and memories and traditions about Jesus in order to help their congregations grow in faith, endure their present challenges, and find guidance and encouragement for their lives. While the Evangelists – the authors of the Gospels – drew from some of the same accounts, they also each had different sources and, most importantly, were trying to address the distinct challenges their particular congregation was facing.

Of the four, St. Matthew's Gospel was the one most concerned with the question of how the stories and traditions about Jesus shaped and guided a Christian's everyday life in the world. Matthew, that is, is the one most interested in *discipleship* – what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

A little bit of background may help. When he writes, Matthew's community is struggling. Really struggling. First, his congregation was overwhelmingly Jewish and believed Jesus was the promised Messiah to redeem Israel. But most of the Jews of this time – likely including friends and relatives of Matthew's community – did not share this view and, perhaps, saw claims about Jesus as heretical, and this creates a great deal of tension. Second, Matthew writes at a time of increased Roman oppression. (Keep in mind that the Romans had not only crucified Jesus as an enemy of the state but also, and more recently, destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem.) This has made things much harder socially, economically, politically, and religiously for everyone, both Jews who believe in Jesus (Matthew's community) and those who don't.

So Matthew writes, in part, to demonstrate for his people that Jesus fulfills the promises made in the Jewish Scriptures (what we call the Old Testament) and is, in fact, the Jewish Messiah. Which is why you'll regularly find Matthew saying that a given event happened "to fulfill the Scriptures." But Matthew also composes his Gospel because he feels that Jesus, as the Messiah, offers the perfect example of how to fulfill the law given by God and thereby live both faithfully and fruitfully. Jesus is not interested in the ritual traditions of the law (rules about diet or how to observe the Sabbath, for instance) but instead is focused on how to treat others, especially the poor. Matthew therefore depicts Jesus as a teacher and leader like Moses, but even greater, as Jesus offers the ultimate key to honoring God by taking care of each other, always encouraged by the promise of God's forgiveness and presence that Jesus – *Emmanuel* ("God with us") – embodies.

At a time when we, like Matthew's community, are facing untold challenges, Matthew's Gospel – stressing that both law and grace are key ingredients to the life of discipleship – may be just the guide we need. Through our effort to grow in our faith, we are both obedient to Jesus command to "make disciples of all nations" and encouraged by his promise to be "with you always, even to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



Calling All Disciples!

When you hear the word “disciples,” you likely think of the collection of twelve followers of Jesus we read about in the Gospels. You know, Peter, James, John, and company. Totally fair! Interestingly, though, the Gospels themselves tell about a number of other disciples as well. Luke regularly refers to a number of women who support Jesus throughout his ministry and are the only ones to remain with him at the cross. And Matthew at one point talks about seventy followers that Jesus sends out on a mission to share his good news more broadly.

A disciple, most simply, is anyone who follows, listens to, and learns from a revered leader or teacher. We know the most about the twelve disciples that are named in the Gospels, but all those who followed Jesus during his earthly ministry were his disciples. And, guess what? All those who follow him today are his disciples, too! We may not always think of ourselves as disciples, but if we seek to have our lives shaped by Jesus’ teachings about God’s grace and love, and if we want to share the good news of that grace and love with others, then we are most certainly disciples.

This Lent, we’re taking a deeper dive into our faith so that we understand it better and can make better use of it in our everyday lives. Our theme is “Discipleship 101” as we offer a “back-to-basics” approach that meets us wherever we are on our faith journey and takes us a little bit further into the life of Christian discipleship. Through Lenten devotions and Bible studies, through a new “word of the day” digital calendar and multiple worship opportunities, we have a chance to understand and grow in our faith.

Let’s face it, the last year has been rough, with crises and challenges untold. For many of us, moving through this year had reminded us of just how important our faith and church really is. As we emerge from this period of tumult, we have the perfect opportunity to discover that faith isn’t just for crises, but for each and every day of our lives. And so at Mount Olivet we’re calling all of Jesus’ contemporary disciples and inviting them – inviting YOU! – to explore together the basics of faith to make it more meaningful, useful, and fun.

PASTOR DAVID LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

LIFE & GROWTH

DEC 17 - JAN 15

BAPTISMS

Erika Jane Homan

Grace Song Mee Homan

Lucy Rae Markuson

daughter of Leigha and Logan

Kjerstin Margaret Sjodin

daughter of Madeline and Sean

Sloane Cynthia Smith

daughter of Kara and Ryan

WEDDINGS

Susan Guinn &

Geoffrey Fisher, December 19

Michelle Perrige &

Chad Chessen, December 23

Anna St. Dennis &

Jacob Herd, December 31

Nicole Hamrick & Jack Pahl,

January 2

DEATHS

Clarence C. Carlson

1940 - 2020

Ardelaine M. Clarin

1923 - 2020

Bonnie E. Curtin

1941 - 2021

Carl E. Gustafson

1938 - 2020

Harvey H. Hustad

1921 - 2020

Valerie C. Jordahl

1953 - 2021

Shirley G. Krueger

1927 - 2020

Marilynn J. Martinson

1935 - 2021

Gary R. Riba

1940 - 2021



DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND FEBRUARY 2021

- 1 Philippians 3:14, Press On
- 2 Psalm 119:7, Upright Heart
- 3 Ephesians 4:32, Kind, Compassionate, Forgiving
- 4 Exodus 20:12, Honor
- 5 Hebrews 12:1, Great Cloud of Witnesses
- 6 Psalm 68:4-5, Sing to God
- 7 Matthew 19:14, To Such as These
- 8 Proverbs 29:23, Pride
- 9 John 6:35, Bread of Life
- 10 Colossians 2:9-10, Fullness of the Deity
- 11 John 15:13, Greater Love
- 12 Psalm 133:1, Together in Unity
- 13 Philippians 1:6, Confident of This
- 14 1 John 4:11, Love One Another
- 15 Proverbs 14:34, Righteousness Exalts
- 16 1 Peter 5:6, Humble Yourself
- 17 Deuteronomy 5:33, Obedience
- 18 Matthew 4:4, Not by Bread Alone
- 19 2 Corinthians 7:1, Promises
- 20 Psalm 33:12, Blessed is the Nation
- 21 Matthew 24:35, Never Pass Away
- 22 1 Corinthians 13:2, Prophecy
- 23 Isaiah 12:4, Proclaim
- 24 Romans 12:3, By Grace
- 25 Psalm 71:8, All Day Long
- 26 Titus 2:11-12, Salvation to all People
- 27 Mark 10:52, Immediately
- 28 Isaiah 41:10, So Do Not Fear

DEVOTION

It seems no matter how many years I have encountered the season of Lent as a follower of Jesus in the church, and even as a professional in ministry, I always benefit from a refresher on what Lent means and how we might be encouraged to encounter it.

Lent is the season beginning with Ash Wednesday (this year Feb 17) and continuing through the Saturday evening (April 3) before Easter on April 4. The word Lent comes from an Old English root meaning “lengthen” or “spring season.” Many know Lent as the 40 days in which we are encouraged to be more intentional about prayer, giving, and fasting in order to deepen our understanding and experience of the self-giving love of God in Christ.

If you count the days on the calendar, however, you’ll find that there are actually 46 days in the span of Ash Wednesday to that Saturday. Why is this? Well, there are 6 Sundays included during that time, and although we call them “Sundays in Lent,” the Sundays are not counted as part of the 40 because every Sunday in the life of the church is a little Easter, so-to-speak, celebrating Jesus’ resurrection.

This year at Mount Olivet, we will “lengthen” our time and focus on the practices of the season. We’ll focus on the question, “How do we practice our faith in following Jesus?” No matter how many years you have been a part of the church or if you’ve observed the season devotionally in the past or not, this year at Mount Olivet brings a new opportunity to focus anew. Together with the creation “spring”-ing to life, we too, as we pray, give, fast, and routinely hear the promise of the gospel, “spring” into being again and again in new loving life with God, our neighbors, and the world God loves. Blessed Lent!

— PASTOR RUUD



Discipleship 101

/ dəˈsɪpəlʃɪp / Noun: The act of following, learning from, giving allegiance to, and obeying a revered leader or teacher.



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lent 2021 “Go therefore and make disciples!” —Matthew 28:19

Watch for your Lenten 2021 mailing with details about Sundays, Bible studies, service opportunities and more!



LENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MOUNT OLIVET

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 17

Worship video available at mtolivet.org that includes our Mount Olivet Pastors, beautiful music, and reflections of faith made by our Mount Olivet Youth.

PRINTED LENTEN DEVOTION - 40 DAYS OF LENT

Available during open prayer at both campuses starting February 3. These devotions, written by Senior Pastor Lose, follow the Passion of Christ according to the Gospel of Matthew. To receive a print copy of devotions by mail, call the church office at 612.926.7651; you can subscribe to receive the devotions and word-of-the-day by email at mtolivet.org.

WORD OF THE DAY - 40 DAYS OF LENT

Available at mtolivet.org and emailed to our subscriber lists. Mount Olivet will be offering a word of the day throughout our 40 days of Lent! Learn about these faith-based words, including their origins or often misinterpreted meanings. After exploring each word, we invite you to look for that word in everyday life or even use it in conversation!

MIDWEEK SERVICE - WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Worship videos available at mtolivet.org and emailed to our subscriber lists. These brief services will include our Mount Olivet Pastors explaining some history and importance of our common faith practices each week. We'll explore things like prayer, bible study, and repentance, all of which are marks of our discipleship.

IN-PERSON OPEN PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES - WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Wednesdays, February 24 through March 24, 10am-12noon at Mpls & West.

Wednesday, March 3, 6-7pm at Mpls & West.

IN-PERSON COMMUNION OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday, March 3, 12noon and 7pm at Mpls & West. Registration required, attendance is limited, register online or call 612.767.2264.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

GREET & GIVE DONATION DRIVES - MONTHLY

4-6pm, 1st Monday, Mpls Campus, & 3rd Monday, West Campus. Updated list of items in greatest need available at mtolivet.org

COMMUNITY MEALS - WEEKLY

Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning at 4pm, Mpls Campus. Monetary donations for this ministry are taken online or in-person at meals.

SPRING MEAL DELIVERY

Saturday, March 20, 11am-1pm, Mpls Campus. If you would like a meal delivered or are able to volunteer as a delivery driver of meals, please contact Ann LaBree at annl@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2288.

EASTER ANGEL GIFTS DONATIONS

Please donation non-perishable, food items, small new toys, and individually wrapped Easter candy. Drop off and label Angel Gift Donation at our Greet & Give Donation Drives (*information above*). Easter Angel Gift Baskets support families identified by our community partners at both campuses. We are looking for volunteers to deliver assembled Easter Angel Baskets to families on Saturday, March 27. To volunteer as a delivery driver, please contact Geoff Arenson at 612.767.2212 or geoffa@mtolivet.org

FOOD DRIVE

Please donate non-perishable food items for our community partners on March 7, 2021, 10am-12noon, Mpls & West Campuses. This is a drive-thru event.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Pastoral Care Team is looking for drivers in the months of February and March to drop off meals to people in need. This could be a weekly or monthly commitment. If interested, please contact Julie Goodman at julieg@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2208.

PASTORAL CARE RESOURCES

If you or a loved one are hospitalized, please contact Andrea Brown 612.767.2209, Julie Goodman 612.767.2208, or Ann LaBree 612.767.2288.

If you need to reach a Pastor for emergencies including imminent deaths, hospitalizations, or support after office hours please call the on-call phone at 612.916.9016.

Mount Olivet's Prayer Ministry team provides prayer support to those in need of prayer. In order to submit a prayer request, please call 612.767.2300

COUNSELING SERVICE RESOURCES

Our services help people work through their problems through the use of psychotherapy, and/or medication in a supportive setting that is open to those of all faith perspectives. Our therapists include Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, and a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. We offer therapy for adults, older children, adolescents, couples and families. We are currently providing secure telehealth services via video and telephone, due to COVID-19. To schedule an appointment with the Mount Olivet Counseling Service please contact Molly Pach at 612.927.7335 or by email at mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org.



Love and Loss

Since it's February, this one goes out to all the lovers... and especially to those who are grieving the loss of someone they have loved. It has been said that grief is the price one pays for having loved. It's a painfully high price, but one we pay each time we say good-bye for the last time to someone who has held a special place in our hearts. But it doesn't stop with the final good-bye, in fact that's just the beginning.

As we eventually begin to find our way out of the pandemic and to resume life as it was about a year ago, you may feel the grief of these losses in a new way. Maybe some of these dear ones died without you physically by their side, a rule put in place to keep everyone safe as possible. But now you emerge and see the empty space they have left in your life. Maybe it's been years since they've been gone, but now that you try to get back in the swing of things you are reminded that they are still not here. Maybe it's coming up for you in feelings of sadness, anger, regret, or simply pain.

However you experience it, whenever it comes, acknowledge it for what it is: grief. Give yourself the time and space to do the work of grieving. Think of it as giving yourself a "dose" of grief. Just as you would give yourself a dose of vital medication, make a point of regularly taking a moment to remember that person, that love, and that loss. This could mean journaling a bit, looking at photos, holding a cherished item that belonged to them, listening to special music, maybe even spraying a little of their favorite scent. By doing these things you are provoking memories and encouraging your emotions to rise up, express themselves, and be released. You will be giving this loss what it is owed: your precious time and your tender feelings. None of us get through life without losing someone we have loved, yet the universal nature of grief doesn't take away much of its sting when it comes to us. That's because your love is unique and personal, and your grief is too. Your grief is evidence that you loved, and taking care of your grief now ensures that you will be able to keep on loving.

SARA WATNE, MA, LPCC, Mount Olivet Counseling Service



EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE

*** BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK...**

FEBRUARY QUESTION: HOW DO I ENJOY READING THE BIBLE, PART 1

I've heard so many people say that they know they should read the Bible, but when they try they find it just plain difficult. And... I get it! Reading the Bible isn't like reading your favorite novel. For one thing, it's not just a book, but a library with sixty-six books... written over a thousand years... in several different languages... that reflects different cultures. So if you at times struggle to understand or enjoy it, you have good reason!

Having said that, there are a number of small steps we can take that make reading the Bible both more meaningful and more enjoyable. I'm going to look at two of those steps this month and Pastor Ruud will focus on two more next month. The first small step we can take is trying to figure out a bit of the history of a particular passage, book, or author. Imagine cleaning out the attic of one of your grandparents and finding a collection of letters in a trunk. In the letters, a distant relative references all kinds of historical and local events that have no meaning to you. It's not until someone explains these events that the rest of the letters – and the larger story they tell – fall in to place.

A second step is to pay attention to some of the literary dimensions of the story – plot, character, setting, dialogue, etc. Think about how much more you get from looking at a painting, listening to a piece of unfamiliar music, or watching a play or movie, if someone shares a bit of the artistry involved in that particular piece of work.

This month's presentation will be chock full of examples to help you gain practice in getting more meaning and enjoyment from reading Scripture. See you there!

— PASTOR LOSE

It's not too late to join this year-long monthly series! Register at mtolivet.org/education.

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION

This group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm via Zoom for now. Facilitated by Mary Slinde. New members are always welcome. The only requirement is that one loves to read!

Upcoming books:

February 10: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

March 10: *Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich

April 14: *Women of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW BIBLE STUDY

While this Bible Study has officially started, it's still not too late to join (a silver lining of our times!). If you register now, the already released videos will be emailed to you, as will previous study guides. We'd love to have you join in!

1/19 : *Introduction* with Pastor Lose

1/26: *Matthew's Community* with Pastor Dixon

2/2: *Law and Righteousness* with Pastor Ruud

2/9: *Emmanuel, God with Us* with Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini

ADULT EDUCATION ONLINE

Adult education videos are now available to watch and explore online. Previous videos include "The Story Behind the Nativity Story" with Pastor Lose; "Journey through Hell" with Your Pastors; "Rally in the Valley" - A Study of King David; and the ongoing Living the Message 2020-2021 series, "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Bible... but were afraid to ask." Check them all out at mtolivet.org/education! You can also register for all our upcoming classes on that webpage. If you have questions, please contact Katie Stevenson at katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DAY LENTEN JOURNEY: LENTEN RITUALS FOR YESTERDAY & TODAY

FEBRUARY 23

9am-12noon, via Zoom, \$10.
Discover anew the meaning and practices of Lent. Presentations by Pastor Lose, Theresa Latini, and the Mount Olivet pastors. Closing worship with Pastor MacLean.

LIVING WELL, LEADING WELL

A monthly series of virtual workshops promoting wholeness, wellbeing, and renewal in our personal and professional lives.

CULTIVATING WISDOM

2/11, 6:30-8:30pm, \$20.

Join Old Testament Professor Carol Bechtel from Western Theological Seminary (Holland, MI) for an exploration of biblical wisdom and its relevance in our lives today.

PURSUING JUSTICE

3/11, 6:30-8:30pm, \$20.

Join Reverend Chris Dorsey, president of Higher Education Leadership Ministries and former seminary professor and university chaplain, to learn about our call to pursue racial justice and equity as followers of Jesus Christ.



A Place for Respite, Restoration, and Renewal

Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center was established in a time of national crisis and uncertainty, the oil crisis of the 1970s, as a “cabin nearby,” a place for church members to withdraw from daily routines and bask in the beauty of creation. Since then, the retreat center has been nurturing the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth of Mount Olivet members, other communities of faith, and non-profit organizations. We have hosted, on average, over 250 groups in recent years, and we have sponsored programs for all ages. While the pandemic has altered our practices—and at times, our ability to receive guests for extended stays—our ministry continues. We are open for group and private retreats. If you need respite, restoration, or renewal, then schedule an evening (or more) with us. Enjoy our locally-sourced, home-cooked meals, and private sleeping accommodations. Walk the grounds, pray in the chapel, or read in one of our lounges. Attend one of our outdoor events and join us for evenings of growth and learning through our virtual workshops. We also are open for family reunions, weddings, and receptions. Our 153 acres, expansive chapel with gorgeous views of Chub Lake, and dining service provide an ideal setting for these celebrations. Call us at 952.469.2175 for more information.

We hope to see you soon!

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

OUTDOOR MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL

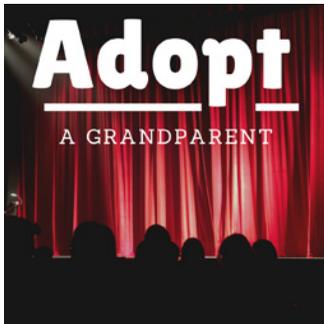
FEBRUARY 14, 2-5PM

\$15 PER PERSON | \$50 FAMILY MAX

Feasting and fun for the whole family! Make your own Mardi Gras mask while listening to zydeco music. Learn about the history of Mardi Gras from your favorite Mount Olivet Pastor. Take a swing at a piñata and play other carnival games. Collect colorful beads and pose for a photo at the photo booth. Walk to our lighted cross to say a prayer and light a candle in preparation for Lent. And then feast on delicious jambalaya and cornbread! Don't forget dessert...will yours be the one with the Baby Jesus inside? Learn more and register at mtolivet.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY

To register for these events, please contact Anna Herd aherd@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2279 or Annie Moynihan amoynihn@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2211.



FEBRUARY 1

ADOPT-A-GRANPARENT VIRTUAL TALENT SHOW

4:45-5:45pm. We believe everyone has a talent! We will meet via Zoom and discuss ideas for our Talent Show video!



FEBRUARY 8

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS VIRTUAL TALENT SHOW VIA ZOOM

6-7pm. A talent-filled night with joke telling, dancing, singing, and so much more!



FEBRUARY 9

HI-LEAGUE YOUTH STAFF CHATS VIA ZOOM

5-5:30pm. A time to catch up and hear a devotion together. Look for an email to register!



FEBRUARY 15

JHA BOB ROSS PAINTING EXPERIENCE!

10am-12noon. Sick of your everyday activities? Join Anna for a virtual hang and painting experience! Please register via *Realm*.



FEBRUARY 17

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

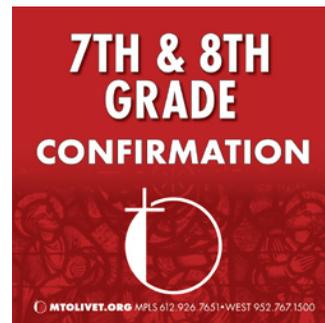
This year we will be having an Ash Wednesday service that features our youth. This video will be emailed out and available at mtolivet.org.



FEBRUARY 23

MO UNITED JUST DANCE DANCE PARTY!!!

6-7pm. We will meet via Zoom for some movin' and groovin'. This is an event you won't want to miss!



CONFIRMATION

- 2/3: 7th Graders Zoom
- 2/10: 8th Graders Zoom
- 2/17: 7th Graders Zoom
- 2/24: 8th Graders Zoom



HI-LEAGUE

- 2/21: Zoom Bingo 7-8pm
 - 2/26: Snowtubing 5-6:30pm
- Contact Annie (amoynihn@mtolivet.org) or Geoff (geoffa@mtolivet.org) with questions!



Ash Wednesday 2020

In 2020, I spoke at the youth-led Ash Wednesday service. I was asked to talk about how I see God's spirit in my friends, family, and the people I love. Interacting with my friends and family is one of the main ways I feel and see God's spirit. Due to COVID-19, all human interaction has been cut out, unless socially distancing. But if this pandemic has taught me anything, it's to believe and have faith in God and to lean on those who make you happy. We've all had to make sacrifices this year for the safety of others. Just like how we "sacrifice" for Lent. We give up something we love beginning on Ash Wednesday, because Jesus sacrificed for us. I like to think of this "sacrifice" as another opportunity to achieve my New Year's resolution that I might have already been procrastinating.

This year has taught me a lot of things and it has been hard for us all. However, through the hardships, the community we built at Mount Olivet is stronger than ever from the pandemic. The youth of Mount Olivet have been able to Zoom and interact with each other in new ways that have made us closer to each other, even more so once we can be together again! This Ash Wednesday, I'm going to do something for the greater good that allows me to sacrifice, just like Jesus did for us. It's important to have faith in God and know that we are going to get through this pandemic together.

— EMMA KENNEY



One of the highlights of my Confirmation experience at Mount Olivet was being asked to speak at our youth-led Ash Wednesday service in 2020. I was asked to speak before the congregation about the hymn, *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*. This hymn is important to me because it reminds me that even when times are the toughest, God is still there with me.

The writer of the hymn, George Neumark, faced a lot of struggles in his own life but trusted God through it all. He was then able to push through his challenges and write this hymn. My grandparents are another inspiration to me about trusting in God through hard times. After a head injury my grandma had late in 2018, my grandparents then had to move from their home to an assisted living facility in another town. Through this, and many other struggles they have had, they always trusted in God.

At the time I gave this message, I would never have imagined what the rest of 2020 would look like. Every person has lost something important to them during this pandemic. All of our struggles are different, but because we are Christians, we can always find comfort in knowing that we are never alone. So the next time you feel alone, remember that words to this hymn.

*You'll find his promise true to be,
God never will forsake in need,
The soul that trusts in him indeed.*

— AJ NEWELL



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The Ash Wednesday service will showcase a few of our wonderful 8th-Grade leaders, our Mount Olivet Pastors, and beautiful music. The Youth Staff will send a link to watch the service via email to all confirmation students and Hi-League families on Wednesday, February 17. It will also be available at mtolivet.org for the whole congregation to view and worship with us.

Family Day Away at the Retreat Center

Sunday, March 7 and Sunday, March 28

Join us for winter fun for the whole family! All ages will enjoy a change of scenery as you visit Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center for a hike around the grounds, outdoor games (BYOS - bring your own sleds or snowshoes!), Winter Sun Catcher crafts (materials provided), and swimming in the pool!

We'll have a packaged foil meal to cook over the fire – complete with dessert and hot cocoa! Please register in advance for meal reservations (\$5/meal).

Preschool Update

The Mount Olivet Preschool will be re-opening for the 2021-22 school year! More information about registration and program options to come.

Parenting Group Podcast Series

The fall Parenting Group was chalk full of useful take-aways for parents of children of all ages. We want to make these tips, tricks, and sound parenting perspectives available to all! We know scheduling can be a barrier for many reasons. In creating a podcast we can connect you to the Mount Olivet Counseling Center experts, Jessica Smith, LMFT and Sara Watne, MA, LPCC, on your terms. Topics include communication, setting and maintaining limits, and self-care to name a few!

More information available at mtolivet.org/groups-programs



OPEN ART STUDIO & OPEN GYM

OPEN GYM - MPLS CAMPUS

Open Gym Dates have been added! Bring your own toys and burn some energy indoors this month – sign up is online. Please contact Katy Michaletz, kmichaletz@mtolivet.org with questions.

OPEN ART STUDIO - MPLS CAMPUS

The Art Studio has been a hit for many artists this past month and we've added more sessions - head to the website to schedule your free studio time! Information about art activities are sent prior to your visit to the Art Studio. Thanks to all for the top notch help in keeping the Studio tidy for the next group.



"My daughter Kallyn had a great time! It was so nice to get out of the house and do something different and creative!" - The Benson Family



"We had a blast this morning...it gave our family a rare opportunity to get out of the house and do something together. The kids absolutely loved it!" - The Calef Family



BEHIND THE SCENES OF SUNDAY WORSHIP

DR. BEVERLY CLAFLIN, *Director of Music & Worship*

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE

Jackie Enestvedt, Dr. Richard Owen, and Dr. Beverly Claflin reviewing video content.

Pastor Lose being filmed for the worship service in the Main Sanctuary at the Minneapolis Campus.

Pastor Freeman being filmed in the Serley Chapel at the Mpls Campus. Libby Aritt getting ready to film Pastor Hammersten at the West Campus.

Over ten months ago, out of sheer necessity to move quickly, decisions were made which required the staff to redirect our thinking, learn a variety of new skills, and develop new processes and procedures for preparing for worship. Over this time, those plans have been adjusted, revised, and tweaked - sometimes weekly!

The process begins with the scripture readings being determined by Pastor Lose and the pastoral staff. Once those are decided a themed opening slide is created by the communications team and then the music department starts the process of working and creating the weekly services. Music is chosen, recordings are pulled and trimmed from past files, text slides for hymns and liturgy are made, the online bulletin is

created, and the task of choosing visuals begins. Before the recording session, a script is created and sent to all involved and all details of visual presentation are checked and double-checked - camera angles, lighting, parament and stole colors, flowers, candles, etc. Once the recording session is complete, the pieces are pulled together and the video is then reviewed and proofed by the whole team. Each person looking for details to adjust in order to create just the right look and feel for the service.

Thankfully with wonderful collaboration between the music, communications, and pastoral staff, we continue to work and prepare for what we all care about and love - the creation of meaningful and beautiful worship for the congregation.



So Many Socks! Thank You!

During our drive-thru “Christmas Greetings” this past Advent, Mount Olivet members answered the call for wool socks and underwear of all sizes, along with more paper bags for our ever-growing weekly community meals. It was not surprising to see this generosity in action, but there was something particularly touching this year to see members donating giant Target bags filled to the brim with socks and underwear, or a family driving through and a bright-eyed smiling youngster handing over a pair of warm socks for someone she’s never met. Thank you all so much! I asked Amanda Hancer, Volunteer and Giving Coordinator at St. Stephen’s, to share what happens to all these donations, particularly all those wool socks:

When wool socks are donated to St. Stephen’s Human Services, they are primarily distributed through our Street Outreach team. St. Stephen’s Street Outreach works throughout Hennepin County (with a focus on Minneapolis) with people who are sleeping in places not meant for human habitation. They help people navigate the various crises that occur while lacking stable housing and meet people where they are at to address immediate basic needs for safety and survival outside while assisting them in their process towards permanent housing.

Wool socks are especially important during the winter months in efforts help keep people warm, safe, and alive—when temperatures get dangerously low, frostbite and limb loss are huge areas of concern. During the winter, the Street Outreach team distributes around 200 pairs of socks a week via drop-in and community outreach channels. Through the generous donations of Mount Olivet parishioners, we collected well over 1,000 pairs of socks. We are so grateful for your efforts and commitment to supporting our unhoused neighbors!

Thank you, Mount Olivet, for showing up and giving generously!

KATIE STEVENSON, Director of Stewardship & Adult Faith Formation Coordinator



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE

Mount Olivet Pastors, Amanda Hancer picking up donations with Laurie Hancer, Pastor Hammersten receiving donations from the Torgerson family, and Mount Olivet Staff with donation sign.

GREET & GIVE DONATION DRIVE SUGGESTED DONATIONS

Mount Olivet Greet and Give Drives continue in ongoing support of our ministry partners: CES, Bountiful Baskets, Love, INC, VEAP, Calvary Lutheran Food Shelf, St. Stephen's Human Services and Simpson Housing. With the ongoing pandemic and an increasing number of people sleeping outside, our community ministry partners have a significantly greater need for cold weather gear. We encourage donations of the following essential items at our Greet and Give Drives: 1-2 person tents, adult sleeping bags, sturdy winter boots (all sizes), NEW long underwear for all bodies (all sizes), winter jackets for all bodies (sizes L-4XL most needed), warm gloves, and hand warmers. There is also a continued need for:

- Infrared thermometers (new or used)
- Disinfectant wipe
- Toilet paper
- Hand sanitizer
- \$20 Cub Foods gift cards
- \$20 Aldi gift cards
- Diapers, formula and baby wipes
- Reusable cotton face masks (double or triple-layered, washable and especially larger sizes)
- Towels, washcloths
- Blankets

If you can't visit us in person, you may directly donate using the links on our website.

Thank you for your generosity in helping our community neighbors face the current challenges, especially as colder weather sets in.

The Greet & Give Donation Drive is from 4-6pm on the 1st Monday of the month at the Mpls Campus & 3rd Monday of the month at the West Campus.



Update on Greet & Give Donation Drive

When in-person programming and worship were suspended in March, 2020, the Community Outreach Greet and Give drive was created as a presumably short-term fix, to get us through a few months of separation. The idea was to give parishioners at both campuses an opportunity to briefly and safely greet pastors and staff in person, as well as continue to support our community partners with much needed donations of food and essential items.

Initially slated for once per month at each campus, the drives increased to weekly during the summer months, with additional help from the Youth Staff and youth. Each month the generosity of Mount Olivet members seems to increase, and the joy of giving and reconnecting is evident. Donations are promptly delivered to our partners – sometimes filling 2 vans – and from there they are claimed within the week by the clients who need them.

Almost a year later, this program has proven to be an essential bridge connecting our members and staff, as well as redistributing our abundance with those in our communities who need it the most.

Greet and Give Drives are held from 4-6pm at the Minneapolis Campus the first Monday of the month, and the West Campus the third Monday of the month. With limited space and volunteer availability for storing and sorting, our partners graciously request that donations be new and limited to only items on their urgent-needs lists. Topping this list include: 1-2 person tents, sleeping bags, new long underwear of all sizes, sturdy winter gloves, \$20 Cub or Aldi gift cards, as well as non-perishable food and personal care items. The complete, updated urgent needs list can also be found at mtolivet.org/together-at-mount-olivet/.

The Greet and Give drives truly have been a blessing for many over this past year. Our community partners, as well as church pastors and staff, are humbled by your generosity and compassion for others in our local communities in the Minneapolis area and Carver County. We look forward to greeting you again this month at both campuses!

Laurie Hancer, *Coordinator of Volunteers & Service*

PHOTO CAPTION

Mount Olivet Staff & Volunteers at the Greet & Give Donation Drive



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