

APRIL 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](mailto:andreaab@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2209.

## APRIL 4

### EASTER SUNDAY! THE RESURRECTION

*Matthew 28:1-10*

Watch the worship service at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org). Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

**M** 7, 9, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Lose

**W** 7, 9, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Dixon

## APRIL 11

### THE REPORT OF THE GUARD

*Matthew 28:11-15*

Watch the worship service at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org). Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

**M** 9, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor MacLean

**W** 9, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Freeman

## WEDNESDAYS

### OPEN PRAYER TIME

**M W** 10am-12noon

Each Wednesday morning our sanctuaries will be opened for personal prayer time, reflection, and meditation.

**M W** 6-7pm

The first Wednesday of the month our sanctuaries will be open for personal prayer time, reflection, and meditation.

### IN-PERSON HOLY COMMUNION

**M W** 12noon & 7pm

The first Wednesday of each month, a short in-person communion service will be offered. Registration is required and seating is limited. Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or by calling 612.767.2264.

## APRIL 18

### THE GREAT COMMISSION AND THE GREAT PROMISE

*Matthew 28:16-20*

Watch the worship service at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org). Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

**M** 9, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Kalland

**W** 9, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Ruud

## APRIL 25

### THE SURPRISE ENDING

*Mark 16:1-8a*

Watch the worship service at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org). Radio Broadcast on WDGY 740AM at 11am.

**M** 9, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Lose

**W** 9, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Hammersten

## STAY CONNECTED

### ONLINE AND IN-PERSON

All worship recordings and other resources are available online at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org). For all in-person worship, we will follow standard cleaning protocols, refrain from choral and congregational singing, stay socially distanced, and require masks and advanced registration. Registration for Sunday Worship opens the preceding Monday (Easter Sunday opens March 29). If you need help registering online, please contact Nancy Nelson at 612.767.2264. We will continue to keep the congregation informed of any changes to in-person worship related to improving health conditions in our community; the most up-to-date information will always be found at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).

# *Easter Surprises*

Each of the four accounts of the resurrection found in our Gospels is distinct. Whether it's the number and names of the women who come to the empty tomb or the appearance and message of the angels they find there, these differences provide us with clues about the heart of the gospel message the Evangelists are trying to share. But as interesting and important as these distinct details are, on one matter they are remarkably similar, and that's also important: the complete surprise of absolutely everyone who hears about the resurrection!

From all accounts, it's clear that no one expected this. In fact, in each of the Gospels, the disciples aren't simply surprised, but initially down right skeptical. Keep in mind that these are Jesus' friends and co-workers, those closest to him. And keep in mind that Jesus had on several occasions told them that he would be put to death and raised on the third day. Yet what God accomplishes by raising Jesus from the tomb – defeating death and demonstrating that God's love is more powerful than anything in the universe – is all just too much for even Jesus' own disciples to imagine.

My guess is that most of our churches today have the opposite problem. We're not remotely surprised by the news that God raised Jesus from the death. Maybe that's understandable, as we've heard this story read each and every Easter for most of our lives. But while understandable, I think it's also regrettable. Because when you look around, there are still so many aspect of our life and world that need to hear a word of resurrection, redemption, and new life.

Which is why I'm glad that the Easter season begins on April 4th and runs through May 22nd, offering us a "week of weeks" – 50 days! – to celebrate the climatic event of human history. Why such a long season? Precisely because, like Jesus' original disciples, it takes some time for the implications of God's redemptive work in Christ to sink in. Because, here's the thing: if God can raise Jesus from the dead, what can't God do? And if we trust that God's light, life, and love are more powerful than all things – including even death itself! – than what is beyond our reach?

We are on the verge of coming out of what has been one of the most challenging years in recent memory in the life of Mount Olivet, our community, country, and world. Soon we will be able to gather in larger numbers, giving voice to our thanksgiving to God for seeing us through this time. And then it will be time to dream: what will we do with our invigorated gratitude and strengthened faith? How will the promise of resurrection shape our ministry in the years to come? Who will we reach out to with the surprising and life-changing word of God's grace, love, and power? And what will we dare for the sake of Christ's kingdom, emboldened by the promise that the God who raised Jesus is still at work in and through us and our congregation?

To help us discern God's continuing and surprising work of resurrection, this Easter season we will focus on a number of the "Easter surprises" narrated in our Gospels. On April 11th, we'll hear Matthew's story of the surprised guards at Jesus' tomb. On the 18th, we conclude our journey through Matthew's Gospel by listening to the surprising commission and promise Jesus makes to his disciples. On April 25th, we'll look at the implications of Mark's surprise ending of his Gospel and on the last Sunday in April listen to Luke's story of the unexpected guest who surprises several disciples on the evening of that first Easter. Our exploration of how God surprised the first disciples – and still surprises us! – will continue in May.

Our hope is not simply to be surprised, of course, but also encouraged, empowered, and equipped to take that surprising and life-giving message of resurrection, new life, and hope to our neighbors, community, and world! Because if there's one thing we learn from the resurrection stories we are reading, it's that God is not done yet, that God is still at work to breathe life into the world God loves so much, and that God is accomplishing that work through Jesus' disciples... including us! I look forward to sharing with you the surprise, courage, and confidence that comes from the on-going Easter story!



*Pastor Lose*

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



# MPLS YOUTH CENTER REMODELING COMPLETED

After years of water seepage in the Youth Center, we have finally solved the problem! Sump pumps were installed, a drain tile system put in place, and rebuilding of the space is finally complete. The floor was filled in so the Youth Center is now raised to the same level as the hallway and gym, allowing for easier accessibility. In addition to ample table seating, we have added booth style seating and conversation areas at each end of the Youth Center. Once our facility is able to be fully open, we are excited to have this space available to groups of all ages.



## LIFE & GROWTH

**FEB 16 - MAR 16**

### BAPTISMS

**Celine Kay Dirlam**

*daughter of Katie and Adam*

**Everly Roni Kern**

*daughter of Lindsay*

**Lenox Mae Louwagie**

*daughter of Kristina and Jamie*

**Kennedy Winter Menken**

*daughter of Emily and Jason*

**Remi Joy Wasserburger**

*daughter of Kelsey and James*

### DEATHS

**Bernice Amberson**

*1925 - 2021*

**Fern M. Copouls**

*1922 - 2021*

**Roger M. Ingalls**

*1941 - 2021*

**Gary R. Johnson**

*1941 - 2021*

**Roger W. Johnson**

*1954 - 2021*

**Joan M. Kringen**

*1932 - 2021*

**Stanley H. Opitz**

*1936 - 2021*

**Susan M. Stenseth**

*1943 - 2021*

**Jacqueline L. Tornoe**

*1933 - 2021*

## GREET & GIVE DONATION DRIVE

**NEW DATES FOR APRIL**

**Monday, 4/12, 4-6pm at the  
Mpls Campus**

**Monday, 4/19, 4-6pm at the  
West Campus**



## DAILY READINGS

### FROM PASTOR KALLAND

APRIL 2021

- 1 Proverbs 26:11, Fool
- 2 Isaiah 33:22, The Lord Is
- 3 Isaiah 53:5, By His Wounds
- 4 Luke 24:6-7, He Is Not Here!
- 5 Psalm 56:4, Trust In God
- 6 Romans 8:32, All Things
- 7 Psalm 94:19, Anxiety
- 8 James 3:17, Wisdom From Heaven
- 9 2 Peter 3:9, Patient With Us
- 10 Psalm 119:130, Understanding
- 11 1 Corinthians 15:58, Not In Vain
- 12 Isaiah 53:5, By His Wounds
- 13 Galatians 6:7, Reap What We Sow
- 14 Psalm 37:7, Wait Patiently
- 15 2 Corinthians 10:17-18, Boast In The Lord
- 16 Hebrews 13:5, God Will Never Forsake You
- 17 Proverbs 21:2, The Lord Weighs The Heart
- 18 Colossians 3:14, Above All Love
- 19 Joshua 1:9, Wherever You Go
- 20 Psalm 16:2, You Are My Lord
- 21 Luke 12:6-7, The Hairs Of Your Head
- 22 Galatians 3:26-27, All Children Of God
- 23 Psalm 119:114, Refuge And Shield
- 24 John 3:17, To Save The World
- 25 1 Samuel 16:7, Your Heart
- 26 Psalm 66:17, Cried Out
- 27 1 Chronicles 29:14, Where Does It Come From?
- 28 Acts 4:32, They Shared
- 29 Psalm 62:7, Depend On God
- 30 Ephesians 4:15, Speaking The Truth In Love

## DEVOTION

After four years I am finally going through some of my Dad's files. As the family historian, I find some of the stories and articles he saved to be fascinating. I'm descended from both Mayflower saints and sinners, Christian pastors and missionaries and scoundrels who make me ponder, "What in the world were you thinking?" We all have fascinating family history stories – some good, some not.

As part of my Lenten reading I just read again Paul's Letter to the Philippians and I came to the passage where Paul says, "Whatever gains I had [in the past], these I come to regard as loss...because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Just before this, Paul recounts his credentials and accomplishments in Judaism. He is a member of the honored tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews, his denomination was the Pharisees. In the past, Paul says, he was proud of his pedigree, his heritage. But now, because of Christ, his perspective has changed entirely. Using the language of accounting, Paul says that what he had previously regarded as "gains" (certain things in his Jewish heritage), he came to regard as "loss" (things to let go of) because of his newfound relationship with Jesus Christ. Paul goes on to make a strong statement about what he left behind, "Because of Christ I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him." All I want now, Paul says, is to "know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death."

Paul has one consuming goal: to grow and mature in his faith and to be like Christ. In this Easter season may each of us sense God calling us into new and deeper experiences of knowing the resurrected Christ – who Christ is, what it means to be like Christ, and how to live as Christ lived. Amen.

— PASTOR MACLEAN



## CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES UPDATES

Last month Governor Waltz and the MN Department of Health gave overnight camps the "thumbs-up" to plan for a 2021 camping season! This past year has taught us that things can change in a moments' time. We will continue to be vigilant in monitoring the situation. We are thrilled to announce that as of now, Cathedral of the Pines will be open in the summer of 2021!

Details are as follows:

- Mount Olivet members registration opens at 8am on Thursday, April 8.
- Non-Members registration opens at 8am on Thursday, April 15.
- All registration will be through COP's software system, CampBrain. A link to CampBrain is available at [mtolivet.org/cathedral-of-the-pines-camp](http://mtolivet.org/cathedral-of-the-pines-camp).
- We will fill each camp to 2/3 capacity (88 campers)
- If a camping session fills, we encourage campers to register for the wait list, as schedules change throughout the summer AND we hope to be able to increase capacity as it gets closer to each camping session.

If you have any questions, please contact Kris Ericksen at [kriser@mtolivet.org](mailto:kriser@mtolivet.org).

## EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE \*BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK...

### APRIL QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE HARD (OR WEIRD!) PARTS?

After six months of wrestling together with some of the important questions we have about the Bible, this month we'll take one of the most challenging: what do we do with the really hard – and sometimes downright weird – passages of Scripture?

Whether it's historically challenging passages like Jonah and the whale, the violence sometimes attributed to God, or what feels like dubious ethical advice, most of us occasionally stumble upon passages that confuse or trouble us. All too often, because we've been taught that faithful Christians shouldn't voice their doubts, we may skip over these passages or bury our questions.

We'll approach this month's question by reminding ourselves of two things we've talked about earlier. First, we value the Bible not because of what it is – a sacred, even magical book that fell from heaven – but because of what it does – tells the story of God and God's love. Second, we believe the Bible is a human book – that is, written by real people trying to give witness to their real faith in response to real challenges and circumstances – that God uses to accomplish the divine purpose of granting faith and encouragement to those who read it. This, in turn, invites us to lift up the stories and passages that help us understand the loving heart of God most clearly as an interpretative key and guide to other passages. — PASTOR LOSE

It's not too late to watch and learn! All previous videos available at [mtolivet.org/education](http://mtolivet.org/education).

## WHAT DOES "LUTHERAN" MEAN?

You might find this class interesting, helpful, and fun if you... are new to the tradition, are a life-long-learned Lutheran, took the class before, can't remember your 8th grade Confirmation classes, or only know "Luther" as the villain in Superman comics. Together we'll examine core theological foundations of understanding God in Christ and how it functions for our daily life of faith. Led by Pastor Ruud.

**SESSION 1 | FAITH ALONE:** There's nothing for you to do... No, but seriously... there's nothing for you to do... seriously.

**SESSION 2 | SAINTS AND SINNERS:** Living the double life. Resurrected daily.

**SESSION 3 | THEOLOGY OF THE CROSS:** The power of God found in puny, weak, common, hidden things, and why we often seek 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.

Videos will be emailed to registered participants on April 13, 20, 27, and May 4. Please visit [mtolivet.org/education](http://mtolivet.org/education) to register today!

## ADULT EDUCATION ONLINE

Adult education videos are available to watch and explore online. Previous videos include the recent "The Story Behind the Seven Last Words" with Pastor Lose and Dr. Beverly Claffin, the ongoing Living the Message series, "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Bible... but were afraid to ask," and more! Check them all out at [mtolivet.org/education](http://mtolivet.org/education)! Scroll to the bottom of the screen and click "Adult Education Videos." All links will be in the white text box to the right. Enjoy! You can also register for all our upcoming classes at [mtolivet.org/education](http://mtolivet.org/education). If you have questions, please contact Katie Stevenson at [katies@mtolivet.org](mailto:katies@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2232.



## CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY AT THE RETREAT CENTER

Sunday, May 9, 2021  
Worship begins at 10am

Join us for a Mother's Day worship service and picnic as we reimagine our annual Mother's Day Brunch with an emphasis on safety for all. Pastor Kurt Kalland and Rev. Theresa Latini, Executive Director of Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, will lead a beautiful worship service in the chapel. After worship, enjoy a delicious meal prepared by our kitchen. Gather and eat your meal at outside tables and chairs, spread a blanket out on the grass, or sit in our large dining room as you celebrate the special moms in your life. A trip to the retreat center is not complete without a family walk through the woods, prairie, and marsh!

\$15 per person or \$50 family max. Indoor worship capacity is limited so register early! Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) beginning April 5.

## LIVING WELL, LEADING WELL

A monthly series of virtual workshops promoting wholeness, wellbeing, and renewal in our personal and professional lives. Register for the last two workshops (details below) at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).

### NAVIGATING POST-PANDEMIC UNKNOWN: SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT FOR REALISTIC RE-ENTRY

Thursday, April 22, 6:30-8:30pm, \$20.

When this pandemic subsides, life will change, but we are not going back to how things were. As we head from one unknown into another, there will be exhilaration and there will be grief. Join Pastors Kara Root and Lisa Larges in exploring how to live with discernment, gentleness, and compassion in this transition. Together we will draw from a wellspring of spiritual gifts and practices to guide and sustain us in the months ahead.



Rev. Kara Root and Rev. Lisa Larges serve together as pastor and parish associate of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (Minneapolis), a community known for its creative practices of hospitality and Sabbath-keeping.

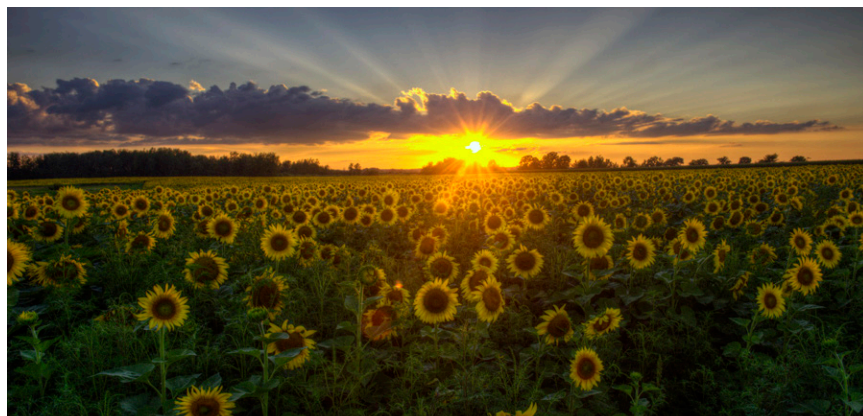


### HEALING COLLECTIVE TRAUMA

Saturday, May 22, 9-11am, \$20.

As we cope with the mounting losses, anxieties and uncertainties of our current pandemic, many of us feel like we are losing our footing. Having some awareness of trauma and its impact on our personal, intergenerational, and collective lives can increase our self-understanding and compassion. Join us in exploring concrete psychological and spiritual tools for increasing resilience and finding hope and joy in the midst of pain. Led by Rev. Dr. Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, Professor of Pastoral Theology Emerita at Princeton Theological Seminary and author of an award-winning book, *Bearing the Unbearable: Trauma, Gospel and Pastoral Care*.





## April Showers Bring May Flowers

Change is one of the only constants in life. Everyday something is changing – be it the weather, our mood, or the clothes that we wear. We can count on the fact that things will not remain the same. Sometimes these are easy transitions, other times less so.

We’re watching change happen right now, as we look outside and see winter slowly fading into spring. April rain showers leave things damp and gloomy. Puddles loom about from what’s left of the snow. But in the shadows waits May to bring bright flowers and warm sun. The changes we see in this season reflect the changes that we so often experience in life. These can be the more difficult changes, the times that we find ourselves caught in a rainstorm, struggling to imagine a brighter time ahead.

In times like these, it can feel easier to avoid the work of creating change – hiding in our dry homes or under our umbrellas – because getting through that storm feels too challenging. Although it may be a challenge, there is a way through. Here are a few ways to navigate and cope with these rain storms of life:

1. Acknowledge that change needs to happen and recognize that it is difficult. Pay attention to your emotions and feelings.
2. Reframe your thinking. What can you control and what can you not? What is there to look forward to? Is there opportunity in this change?
3. Seek support. Look to friends and family or see a therapist! Allow others to help you deal with and work through these tough times.

Change can be hard, and creating change is even harder. Once we accept this, and find the will to do the work, the outcome will be worth the challenge. Sure, you might get a little wet, but eventually the sun is going to shine and dry you right off.

**CARSON KUBALL**, *Graduate Practicum Student Counselor, Mount Olivet Counseling Services*



## THE FIRST YEARS WITHOUT THEM

Tuesdays, 5/4 through 6/29, 6-7:30pm, via Zoom. 9 Sessions \$90.

Come find healing in the first years following the death of a loved one. Sara Watne, MA, LPCC, leads this online group which uses film clips, poetry, contemplative practices and discussion to encourage participants along their path of mourning and reconciliation. To register, contact Molly at 612.927.7335, or [mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org](mailto:mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org).

## 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](mailto:mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org).





## TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH TODAY!

**Monday, April 19, 9am-4pm, Minneapolis Campus**

Life Line Screening will be at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis Campus, on Monday, April 19, 2021, from 9am-4pm. Life Line offers safe, painless, non-invasive, preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and to live longer for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these potentially life-saving tests today. Learn more by watching this short video: [lifelinescreeningblog.com/introduction/](https://lifelinescreeningblog.com/introduction/)

There are three ways to register. By calling toll-free: 866-229-0469, online at [lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](https://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) or by texting the word CIRCLE to 797979.

## BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

Thank you to all who donated time and blood during our January drives at both campuses. Because of your donations, we have the potential to impact the lives of 156 people. Each unit of blood has the potential to save/impact the life of three people. This is a great number of individuals who have been impacted and will forever be grateful.

# MINDFULNESS

If I asked you what you thought about this morning at breakfast, would you be at a loss for words? For most, the answer to that question would be yes! So much of our day is dictated by what we have to do and rushing from one thing to the next, that we don't take time to think about our mental well-being.

According to Psychology Today, Mindfulness is the opposite of being "mind full," and it's a practice that can greatly reduce stress and promote calm. Mindfulness can be practiced in as little as five minutes per day. Taking time to slow down and pay attention can actually improve clarity and increase productivity.

Here are five simple mindfulness activities:

**1. Music Appreciation.** Sing along to your favorite song, it counts as a mindfulness exercise! Pay attention to how this piece makes you feel. Enjoy these emotions and see if you can carry with you throughout the day.

**2. Close Your Eyes.** Spend five minutes in silence while you appreciate your surroundings through sound.

**3. One Minute Breathing.** Talk about an anxiety buster. This exercise can be done anywhere at any time. Start by slowly breathing in and out. After a few seconds, practice the 4-4-4 method: Inhale for a count of four, hold for a count of four, then exhale for a count of four. Repeat this four times.

**4. Turn Down the Volume.** Our lives are filled with endless ring tones, Zoom calls, and other sound technology— we rarely spend time in quiet. Set aside five minutes each day and turn off the tv, the computer, your phone, and give your mind the gift of quiet. Studies show the most interesting moments in life are the ones you are fully present for!

**5. Smile at Five Random People.** Intentionally making eye contact and smiling at someone you don't know can unintentionally make their day. This might be difficult with a mask, use your eyes!

Challenge yourself to purposely devote five minutes to mindfulness practices daily. This practice will promote inner peace, self-awareness, create presence, and allow us to appreciate the simpler moments in life.

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

## PASTORAL CARE RESOURCES

If you or a loved one are hospitalized, please contact Andrea Brown at 612.767.2209 or [andreab@mtolivet.org](mailto:andreab@mtolivet.org), Julie Goodman 612.767.2208 or [julieg@mtolivet.org](mailto:julieg@mtolivet.org), or Ann LaBree at 612.767.2288 or [annl@mtolivet.org](mailto:annl@mtolivet.org).

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. To submit a prayer request, please call 612.767.2300 or go to our website [mtolivet.org/connect-at-mount-olivet](https://mtolivet.org/connect-at-mount-olivet).

# UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY

To register for these events, please contact Anna Herd [aherd@mtolivet.org](mailto:aherd@mtolivet.org), 612.767.2279 or Annie Moynihan [amoynihan@mtolivet.org](mailto:amoynihan@mtolivet.org), 612.767.2211.



## JHA

**4/23: BONFIRE**  
6-8pm hosted at West!  
We are so excited to meet in person for this fun spring event!



## HI-LEAGUE

**4/4:** Easter sunrise at Mpls Campus, 6:30am.  
**4/17:** 5K FUN RUN/WALK, 9am.  
**4/25:** Bonfire at the West Campus, 7pm.



## CONFIRMATION

**4/7:** 7th grade Zoom 7pm  
**4/14:** 8th grade Zoom 7pm  
**4/21:** 7th grade Zoom (Last Confirmation lesson and Zoom)  
**4/28:** 8th grade Confirmation celebration. More info to come!



## AGP

**4/19: POTTING AND PAINTING** 4:45-5:45pm, Mpls Campus. We will be painting pots and potting plants to share with the residents of the Mount Olivet Home.



## MO UNITED

**4/27: CRAFT NIGHT**  
6-7pm, via Zoom. We will be meeting via Zoom for a fun, creative, and crafty hour!



## COF

**4/19: JUST DANCE DANCE PARTY VIA ZOOM**  
6-7pm. A night full of dancing to some of Just Dance's greatest hits!



## HI-LEAGUE

**AFTER SCHOOL HANG OUTS!**  
**4/13:** via Zoom, 5pm  
**4/20:** at Mpls & West, 5pm.



## INSTAGRAM

Follow us on Instagram @mtolivet\_youth for fun and goofy content. We post devos, event updates, and Keeping Up With The Youth Staff!



# WHY WE LOVE THE YOUTH CENTER

I had the pleasure of working in the Youth Center from 2012-2017. One of my favorite parts of working in the Youth Center was how easy it was to meet and get to know all the families and kids who came through. It's crazy to think that some of the seven-year-old Hosanna Choir members that I would play endless rounds of ping-pong with are now Hi-Leaguers! That just goes to show the lasting power of a place. Throughout my years in the Youth Center, something that was consistent was how conversations would start organically while serving dinner or playing Candy Land. I love how easy it is for a place like that to bring people together. I'm excited for this to continue to happen in the new Youth Center and to watch another generation of the Mount Olivet community enjoy each other's fellowship in such a special place! — ANNIE MOYNIHAN, Coordinator of Senior High Youth, Mpls Campus



The Youth Center has been a great place for me to chill with friends and family. I have met so many people while sitting in the Youth Center, like most of the youth staff and some of my closest church friends. I remember playing ping-pong with my dad and my brother and playing horribly because I was young. When I would have to wait for my brother to be out of choir on Sundays, my dad and I would either walk around or go and play ping-pong in the Youth Center. When I was younger I would go into the Youth Center with my mom and do homework while waiting for my brother. Chilling with the youth staff and talking about life or arm wrestling was fun every week. Every week was a new adventure in the Youth Center which made Wednesdays way more fun. — KIERSTYN LUNDBERG, Mount Olivet Hi-Leaguer



## YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Check out Page 4 to see the newly redesigned Youth Center at the Mpls Campus! The Youth Staff cannot wait until we can spend time with you all in this new space to make lots and lots of memories!

If you haven't heard, Julia Jallo is the Coordinator of Youth, West Campus, and began work on Monday, March 15! Julia is a 2016 graduate of Hopkins High School and grew up at Mount Olivet Church. She is a recent graduate of UW – La Crosse with a dual degree in Spanish and Public Health. We are excited to have her on the Youth Staff!

Murals coming soon!

We have 4 murals in progress happening in the Youth Office, we can't wait to unveil them!

The Youth Center at Mount Olivet has always been a special place for myself and my kids throughout the years. Having 5 kids in different choirs usually meant a couple hours to spend on Tuesday nights in the Youth Center. For me, I loved the time spent with the other choir parents catching up. Cath and Krissy were always there with a quick smile, great advice and lots of laughter. For the kids it was their time to see their church friends and have fun playing ping pong and chasing each other around. They always looked forward to choir night for this reason. That, and the pizza and doled out candy by the fantastic Youth Center staff. Back then it was usually Nate, Andy, Geoff and Erik. My kids loved seeing them as much as their friends. I am very grateful for the strong community provided by Mount Olivet in the Youth Center where lifelong friendships are made. — LISA STOBBS, Mount Olivet member



# SUMMER PROGRAMS WITH CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

We couldn't be more excited to announce the 2021 Summer Programs for Children and Family Ministry! We're collaborating in new ways to bring summer fun to your family while adhering to CDC day camp guidelines for a safe and faith-filled time to reconnect at Mount Olivet!

We're working together with some of our Choir Sunday School directors and God's Kids Sing! teachers to enhance our camps. These familiar faces will bring their creative flair, movement, and music to us and we can't wait to join forces! (Without clear safety guidelines on group performances, we have decided to press pause on God's Kids Sing! camp this year and are focusing on what we can do safely in our Day Camp format. We look forward to resuming GKS in the summer of 2022!)

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We're bringing Vacation Bible School to you in **TWO** ways this summer! We'll have a take-home VBS option available for pick-up in early June (details to come) and we invite preschoolers (age 4) through 2nd graders to participate in-person for a 3-day VBS camp.

Dates are June 28-30 at the Minneapolis Campus from 8:30am-12noon.  
 Take Home VBS: FREE  
 In-Person VBS: \$40/camper

## MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMP

Spend a week with us - we have missed you! We'll have a little bit of everything during day camp: games, music, theme days, outdoor activities, in-house field trips, arts/crafts, devotions, and more! Campers and counselors will be in pods for the week and we'll be outdoors as much as possible. (\$175/camper)

**Week 1** (June 14-18, 8:30am-4:30pm, Mpls Campus): 1st -4th Graders  
**Week 2** (July 12-16, 8:30am-4:30pm, Mpls Campus): 1st - 4th Graders  
**Week 3** (July 26-30, 8:30am-4:30pm, Mpls Campus): 3rd - 6th Graders

## LOOKING FOR COUNSELORS

If you are going into 9th -12th grade, we would love your help this summer! If you are interested in counseling this summer, please reach out to Amy Porthan at [amyp@mtolivet.org](mailto:amyp@mtolivet.org).





## CAN YOU ANSWER THESE GOING GOD'S WAY TRIVIA QUESTIONS?

1. Who was King Solomon's father?
2. How many Kings (Magi) traveled to find the baby Jesus?
3. John baptized Jesus in what river?
4. What does the name "Ruth" mean in Hebrew?
5. The name of this area of the sanctuary means "to read."

Answers:  
1. David 2. We don't really know the number 3. Jordan 4. Friend 5. Lectern

## WHERE TO WATCH GOING GOD'S WAY

Visit [mtolivet.org/going-gods-way](http://mtolivet.org/going-gods-way) on Sundays to watch the latest video!



## BEHIND THE SCENES

Last fall, Mount Olivet launched a brand new weekly worship video series for kids called *Going God's Way*. Over the past six months, these short weekly videos geared toward elementary-aged children have become a favorite weekly viewing activity, not just for kids and families, but for people of all ages. Here are some things you'll experience when you tune in to *Going God's Way*:

**BIBLE STORY:** told by one of our pastors and reflective of Sunday Worship

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** written for kids and read by kids

**GET TO KNOW MO:** fun facts about our church's traditions, architecture, and more

**GOD & ME:** a quiet moment of mindfulness and guided meditation

**MO PLAYLIST:** musical games and fun songs led by our children's choir directors

**FAITH IN ACTION:** ideas and opportunities for serving others

**THIS OR THAT:** a light-hearted quiz to get to know our pastors and staff

**BIBLE TRIVIA:** test your Bible Story knowledge

**BENEDICTION:** presented in song and sign language at the close of every week's video

*Going God's Way* packs a lot into a 12-minute video each week. Whether you're 6 or 96, tune in for a lot of learning, a lot of music, and a lot of fun, too!



## Why Mount Olivet?

My husband Steve and I have lived and worked in the Middle East and in Guatemala and have learned we can make a home together wherever we are. However, Mount Olivet is our forever church *home* and the Mount Olivet family is our *family*, and we know how important it is to support our family. We are drawn again and again to Mount Olivet in deep appreciation for the stabilizing life force it has been and continues to be and are so pleased to be able to support its ministries in every way we can.



We were both baptized and grew up at Mount Olivet and reaped all the benefits of a congregation that cares enough about youth to connect them to one another, to caring adults, and to the ministry of Christ. We married and raised our kids in this congregation that supports families at all stages of life and benefited as a family because our own kids also experienced Sunday school/choirs/confirmation/camp and all the congregation invests in. We have been blessed to be able to participate in so much. I've been able to teach confirmation for many years, and I know I'm there to teach but my calling is to be sure those middle schoolers want to stay connected to the church.

We also benefited because our faith family supported us and our aging elders, including Mount Olivet Day Services and Home, home visits, and communion calls. I have been prayed with, and for, throughout all of my life's needs. I have seen faith so consistently modeled in the love of my church family I cannot help but try to live my life in gratitude, and that includes being grateful that we can give back in time and talent and financially. Our own home can't function without a budget and we know and understand the good work that the people of Mount Olivet want to continue requires the same thing, to fund amazing pastors and staff, programs, and dreams in support of the gospel. That is the blessing and impact of stewardship.

**JENNI NORLIN-WEAVER**, longtime supporter from near and far of Mount Olivet and its ministries

## PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO MOUNT OLIVET

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

### WAYS TO GIVE

**Give Online:** with your credit card or bank information by visiting [mtolivet.org/online-giving](http://mtolivet.org/online-giving). Scroll until you see the "Give Online Now" button.

**Realm Connect App:** login using your Realm username and password and click "Giving."

**Text to Give:** text "MTOLIVET" to 73256 and follow the instructions provided.

**Contact Us:** we are here to help! Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan in our finance office at 612.767.2255 or by email at [tricial@mtolivet.org](mailto:tricial@mtolivet.org).

**Donor-Advised Funds & Charitable IRA Rollover:** Contact Mari Carlson, Director of Development, at 612.821.3150 or by email at [mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org](mailto:mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org).

**Stocks:** Contact Deanne Nelson in the finance office at 612.767.2280 or by email at [deannen@mtolivet.org](mailto:deannen@mtolivet.org).



# MOUNT OLIVET STRONG

Circumstances of this past year have forced many businesses to shut their doors, but administration and staff of Mount Olivet Day Services, Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home want it known that, yes, they are still open! Both buildings have seen numerous changes during this time, but their shared mission to offer exceptional care to their clients has never wavered.

Ginny Cullen, Director of Mount Olivet Adult Day Services, says there have been ongoing changes to scheduling and policy as they work to navigate Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines. To help comply, she has turned to creative scheduling. Instead of all-day sessions, clients are divided into half-day cohorts, with the maximum 10 clients at a time. This ensures being able to service more people daily. Virtual check-ins with clients are also offered daily. "Our participants and their families are so appreciative of the services we are still able to offer," Cullen says. It is much quieter than in the past, with no volunteers or entertainers inside, but there is always something going on to enrich the client's experience. Cullen is happy to report that no participants who attended in the last year have tested positive for Covid19, and that they do have participant openings.

Allison Lewis, Director of Childcare Services, is most proud of the resiliency the children and staff have shown to the changes needed to remain open, and notes the biggest challenge has been navigating the seemingly constant changes in guidelines. The childcare has not reduced their hours, and Lewis notes a gradual increase in enrollment, which initially decreased last year. The hope is to recruit new staff to replace those lost due to furlough. Across the street at Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home, they continue to be at near-capacity, but have also seen many changes. They, too, must closely follow MDH guidance, and have found creative ways to serve their clients and families. Virtual visits have been extremely popular, as well as outdoor visits whenever weather permits. As the facility is able to report no positive Covid19 test results for two consecutive weeks, limited indoor visits with family have also become available.

Tim Hokanson, Administrator, wants it known that, "Reuniting residents with their loved ones is one of our top priorities, but every single decision we make has to be within MDH guidelines." If you would like more information on any of these facilities, please visit [mtolivethomes.org](http://mtolivethomes.org)

**Laurie Hancer**, *Coordinator of Service and Volunteers, Mount Olivet Church, Mount Olivet Home, & Mount Olivet Careview Home*



### PHOTOS CLOCKWISE

MOH/Careview staff happy to say hello; preparing for Beach Day with the residents (wearing the gowns altered by Mount Olivet volunteers); participants of Adult Daycare and Childcare love interacting; family visits are a highlight of the day!



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