

SEPTEMBER 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 andrea@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2209.

SUNDAYS

**RADIO BROADCAST ON
WDGY 740AM**

11am

**WATCH THE MPLS
WORSHIP SERVICE AT
MTOLIVET.ORG**

11am

HOLY COMMUNION

8:30am and 11:45am

SEPTEMBER 5

**NOTHING WILL
SEPARATE US FROM
GOD'S LOVE**

Romans 8:28-39

M 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor MacLean

W 9, 10am
SERMON Pastor Ruud

SEPTEMBER 12

**FREEDOM FOR...
Galatians 5:1, 22-25
RALLY SUNDAY**

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon

SEPTEMBER 19

**CHILDREN OF THE
KINGDOM**

Mark 10:13-22

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose

**CONFIRMATION
SERVICE**

M 3pm

SEPTEMBER 26

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES!

Mark 10:23-27

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman

HOLY COMMUNION

The first Wednesday of each month at both campuses at 12noon, a brief in-person Holy Communion service will be offered. No registration required.

FAITH ALIVE — WHAT WE DO ON SUNDAYS

Ever wonder why we begin worship "in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?" Or why we confess our sins? Or sing hymns? And speaking of hymns, what is "the hymn of praise?" Or the kyrie? This fall, Pastor Lose will guide us through an exploration on the various parts that make up our worship service, sharing some of the history, traditions, and present-day importance of our worship service. Tune in, listen, and expect that Sunday worship will never be the same for you again!

GOING GOD'S WAY VIDEOS WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE AT MTOLIVET.ORG!

What Next, Mount Olivet?

Recently, I came across some pictures of our kids when they were just learning to walk. In one of them, our son Jack has his hands gripped tightly around my thumbs, as I stand above him helping him take his first tottering steps. Looking at that picture, it struck me that Jack and I probably had very different perspectives of what was going on in that moment. To Jack, it likely seemed that everything depended on him holding fast to my thumbs, and of course his firm grip helped him keep his balance. At the same time, I knew that whether he held on or not, the rest of my hands were wrapped around his little wrists and I would never let him fall.

I think that's a pretty good image of the life of faith. What we do matters! Our attendance at worship, our participation in events, our prayers for our congregation, our generosity to support our mission – all of these efforts strengthen our ministry and make a difference. At the same time, we confess – and give thanks! – that God is always present, guiding, leading, and supporting us in our work to be the congregation God and the world need us to be. Certainly that has been our experience over the previous eighteen months. The creativity and resilience of our staff, the generosity of our members, the increased outreach of our whole congregation all made a huge difference. Yet we know and confess that it was by God's grace alone that we have come this far.

Both realities – our efforts and God's promises – matter. Except it's more than that, too. It's not just that we *can* participate in God's mission in the world, it's also that we are *blessed* when we do. Martin Luther captures that conviction brilliantly in explaining what it means to pray "thy will be done." Luther writes, "The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also be done among us." I love Luther's confidence in God's promise. God's will simply *will* be done, whether we pray for it or not. But we still have a part to play, and so we ask God to work in us and through us. Ultimately, what we do matters not because God is dependent on us, but because God wants us to experience the sheer joy, wonder, and power of being part of God's kingdom.

This grants us a tremendous amount of freedom. We don't have to come to church, to give generously, to share what we have, to reach out in love to others, to work for a more fair world. God will continue to be at work whether we participate in that work or not (and even if we resist it!). But we are invited to be a part of that good work and experience God's power and presence in our lives more fully.

I believe we have learned a lot over the last year. We've learned how important our in-person worship and gatherings are. We've learned how much our faith and congregation mean to us. And we've learned so many new ways to connect with each other. All of which leaves us poised for new ambitions, important endeavors, and grand dreams. And you are now invited to be a part of God's work here by offering your prayers, support, financial strength, and regular participation so that God's will may not just be done – it will! – but that it may be done among us.

All of which invites us to ask: what will we use our God-given freedom for? What, in other words, comes next? Again, God has set you free. You don't *have* to do anything to earn God's grace and love. But you *get* to do all kinds of things to participate in the ongoing work of God's kingdom. So, I encourage you to make use of your freedom and come to a Stewardship event and learn of our dreams for the coming year. Use your freedom and pledge your support to the vital ministries of this congregation and experience more deeply the blessing of being generous. Use your freedom every Sunday morning to join us in worship and be strengthened in your faith. Use your freedom to take a class and grow in faith, join a fellowship group and make new friends, volunteer in one of our outreach activities and help your neighbor. In all these ways and more, God continues to lead, guide, and bless us by inviting us into God's work. All with the promise that while our efforts matter, God will never, ever let us fall.



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

New Flower Fund

In an effort to continue to provide beautiful flowers for our main altars at each campus, a new Flower Fund has been established! The concept of individual flowers purchased for specific locations is changing into a fund that will provide altar flowers through collective donations. The donations will be directly applied to the members giving account and are consequently tax deductible.

The important personal dedications which are submitted by the donor will continue per usual. This meaningful gesture will be listed in the bulletin for an entire month rather than only one week and will allow more time for the dedication to be seen by others. These donations will give beauty to our altars and will provide a new way for special people to be remembered and honored as well as the opportunity to highlight celebrations of special events, or giving thanks for weddings, baptisms, anniversaries and birthdays.

See examples below:

September Altar Flower Donations:

In celebration of Jane Elizabeth Johnson's baptism

In honor of Jane Doe by her children

In thanksgiving for our Pastors - Johnson family

Thank you in advance for donating to the new Flower Fund and providing altar flowers to help beautify the sanctuaries! To place an order to donate flowers, please visit mtolivet.org/flower-fund and complete the form. After completing the form you will be redirected to a payment page to make your \$50 donation. If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact Nancy Nelson at 612.767.2264 or nnelson@mtolivet.org.

Refreshed and Reimagined

The Mpls Campus has gone through many renovations over the last few months. The Mpls Campus Youth Center has a beautiful mural of the Cathedral of the Pines Chapel, new comfortable booths, tables, and chairs ready for our choirs and youth to enjoy this coming year.

The library has been renovated to accommodate additional seating for groups and another place for members and friends to come together to share in fellowship. Come and check it out when you come to church this fall, or at one of our Stewardship events.

Another exciting renovation at the Mpls Campus is that our Mount Olivet School of Music is expanding with the addition of an art studio. The Mount Olivet School of Music and the Arts will serve both our members and neighboring communities. It will welcome people of all ages and abilities to Mount Olivet not simply to do art but to be healed and transformed by it.

Last, but certainly not least, the lounge at the Mpls Campus is being reimaged and renovated. We are delighted to give this space the attention it deserves, while keeping the historic pieces present. We hope you continue to enjoy the lounge on Sundays or for small group gatherings or circle meetings.

LIFE & GROWTH

JULY 16 - AUGUST 17

BAPTISMS

- Emilia M Asmus**
daughter of Brianna and Alexander
- Elsie Jade Hoffmann**
daughter of Carri and Andrew
- Anderson Kris Kaiser**
son of Krista and Andrew
- Logan Daniel Lansink**
son of Katie and Daniel
- Avery Joseph Mertes**
son of Spencer and Joseph
- Elizabeth Rose Mezera**
daughter of Jillian and Douglas
- Sloane Elizabeth Moran**
daughter of Sara and Tom
- Harper Rose Olson**
daughter of Amanda and Scott
- Greer Odette Polasek**
daughter of Kari and Jason
- Addison Marie Ringstad**
daughter of Jamie and Sam
- Warren Elling Van Sloun**
son of Tanya and Keith
- Grant William VanDerBosch**
son of Marta and Corey
- Aubrey Elaine VanDerBosch**
daughter of Eva and Christopher
- Juniper Leigh Wangsness**
daughter of Amy and Trygg
- Harvey David Wells**
son of Sherry and David
- Hakon John Zucchi**
son of Marit and Adam

WEDDINGS

- Mari Mills & Eric Kelley, July 31**
- Kelly Erickson & Scott Seglem, August 7**
- Nancy Wulf & Todd Dusbabek, August 14**

DEATHS

- Ann C. Beck, 1930 - 2021**
- Lani J. Covey, 1944 - 2021**
- Scarlett D. Drehmel, 1940 - 2021**
- Gunval P. Gulbrandson, 1928 - 2021**
- Donald Nooleen, 1921 - 2021**
- Helen Sjostrom, 1932 - 2021**
- R. Thomas Pearson, 1937 - 2021**
- Mavis E. Peterson, 1939 - 2021**
- Forrest K. Schoeller, 1931 - 2021**
- Stella I. Warhol, 1923 - 2021**
- Nicholas A. Westcott, 1956 - 2021**



DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND
SEPTEMBER 2021

- 1 Romans 8:15, Your Adoption
- 2 Psalm 33:6, The Breath of God's Mouth
- 3 Song of Song 8:6, Like A Seal Over Your Heart
- 4 Matthew 25:21, Well Done
- 5 Proverbs 16:20, Blessed Is The One
- 6 John 8:24, Very Truly I Tell You
- 7 Matthew 6:25, Worry
- 8 Proverbs 6:20, Keep And Do Not Forsake
- 9 Joel 2:12, Return To Me
- 10 Isaiah 40:29, Strength
- 11 Psalm 138:8, Endures Forever
- 12 1 John 3:11, Love One Another
- 13 Matthew 5:14, Light Of The World
- 14 Proverbs 22:7, Be Careful
- 15 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Supplications, Prayers, Intercessions
- 16 Romans 5:19, Disobedience And Obedience
- 17 Psalm 30:5, Joy Comes With The Morning
- 18 Deuteronomy 31:8, Never Leave Or Forsake You
- 19 James 5:14-15, Pray Over Them
- 20 Proverbs 31:8, Speak For Those Who Cannot
- 21 Isaiah 51:12, Comforts You
- 22 1 Chronicles 29:12, Ruler Of All Things
- 23 Proverbs 21:21, Life, Prosperity And Honor
- 24 Mark 12:29-31, No Greater Commandments
- 25 Ephesians 5:15-20, Be Careful
- 26 Proverbs 18:2, No Pleasure in Understanding
- 27 Amos 3:7, Revealing
- 28 John 15:16, Bear Fruit
- 29 Proverbs 28:13, Confess, Find Mercy
- 30 Ezekiel 38:23, Greatness And Holiness

DEVOTION

"For God all things are possible." – Mark 10:27

Has anyone else been inspired by the Olympic athletes competing this summer? Despite the tribulations of the pandemic, they persevered and followed their dreams in 2021.

What a great image for us as we enter a new program year at the church! When we find ourselves in seemingly dead-end places, Jesus reminds us that there is more in store for us.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus' disciples had many questions for him. Specifically in the tenth chapter, they wondered what they needed to do to get into the kingdom of heaven. Jesus told them that it's not really about what they did, but what God was doing for them. In many ways, it reminded them that God is God and they were not.

Similarly, when things seem impossible for us, may we know that they are not impossible for God.

This year's stewardship theme is "Endless Possibilities!" When we find ourselves in places of fear or worry about the future, when we think resources are scarce or our abilities are inadequate, know that Jesus' promises are true, "For God all things are possible."

— PASTOR FREEMAN



MOUNT OLIVET IS HERE FOR YOU!

Mount Olivet is dedicated to enriching the lives of our community. Members and non-members alike will find opportunities to be supported in their walk with Jesus Christ.

Baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime sacrament in your child's faith journey. The sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion carry God's grace — forgiveness, life and salvation — to God's people. These sacraments are gladly offered for you and your family, regardless of membership status, at Mount Olivet Church. Contact Katy Michaletz, Director of Children & Family Ministry, at kmichaletz@mtolivet.org.

Weddings at Mount Olivet provide an ideal setting and expert support for a Christian service. The beautiful Main Sanctuary and lovely Serley Chapel at our Minneapolis Campus, as well as the Sanctuary at our West Campus, are designed to accommodate most wedding requirements. The Mount Olivet Pastors and wedding coordinator offer special care to each and every wedding couple. Contact Nancy Nelson, Wedding Coordinator, at nnelson@mtolivet.org for more information.

Funeral Planning & Services: Mount Olivet is here during this most difficult time for families and friends, Pastors and staff are available to help arrange and prepare for a meaningful and thoughtful service. Funerals may be held at the Minneapolis or West campuses. Contact Jonna Bundul, Funeral Coordinator, at jonnab@mtolivet.org.

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES!

MOUNT OLIVET STEWARDSHIP 2022

THE RETURN OF STEWARDSHIP: YOU ARE INVITED! NOW WITH THREE WAYS TO GATHER AND GIVE!

You are invited and encouraged to attend a Stewardship event this September. Your pastors and staff are looking forward to seeing you! This year, there are **THREE** Stewardship options from which to choose as we come together and give thanks for all our blessings and offer our support in return.

AT ALL THREE STEWARDSHIP OPTIONS, YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO:

- **RETURN YOUR 2022 PLEDGE CARD** (mailed to you by early September)
- **ENJOY A MEATBALL MEAL IN SOME WAY**
- **BRING DONATIONS:** diapers, underwear of all sizes, canned goods, and handled paper bags. *Donations benefit our community partners:* Community Emergency Services (CES); Bountiful Baskets; VEAP: Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People; Simpson Housing; St. Stephen's Human Services; and our Loaves and Fishes Community Meals

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL

OPTIONS: Online at mtolivet.org, by phone at 612.926.7651, or at Sunday worship.

OPTION #1:

TRADITIONAL MEALS

At these meals, you will be **seated** to enjoy your meal (complete with all the usual fixings!) *Nursery (6 weeks to 3-years old) and Childcare (3-10 years old) will be provided.*

Tues 9/14 at Mpls, 6-7pm
Sun 9/19 at West, 12noon-1pm
Tues 9/21 at Mpls, 6-7pm
Fri 9/24 at Mpls, 12noon-1pm
Sun 9/26 at Mpls, 12noon-1pm



OPTION #2:

DRIVE-THROUGH

Pick-up your meatball dinner in a convenient and fun way!

Mon 9/13 at Mpls, 4:30-6pm
Mon 9/20 at West, 4:30-6pm



NEW! OPTION #3: OPEN HOUSE

Visit with pastors, staff, and each other; learn about all our upcoming ministry opportunities; and walk around and enjoy the meatball meal at a variety of **food stations** (including turkey sammies for the young and young-at-heart!). Both Open Houses will culminate with a Celebration Gathering in our beautiful sanctuaries. *Nursery (6 weeks to 3-years old) and Childcare (3-10 years old) will be provided.*

Wed 9/15 at Mpls, 5:30pm Start, 6:30 Gathering
Wed 9/22 at West, 5:30pm Start, 6:30 Gathering





MAKING YOUR 2022 PLEDGE

There are so many easy and convenient ways to support the ministries you love and the Church that loves you! Please make your commitment to Mount Olivet and its ministries for 2022 via your pledge card (mailed in your stewardship invitation) or online at mtolivet.org. Options to fulfill your pledge include:

- Scheduled giving (credit card or bank withdrawals) via *Realm**
- Checks or cash via mail and offering envelopes
- Text to give or use your Realm app
- One-time gifts or stock transfers, and more!

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan at 612.767.2255 or tricial@mtolivet.org.

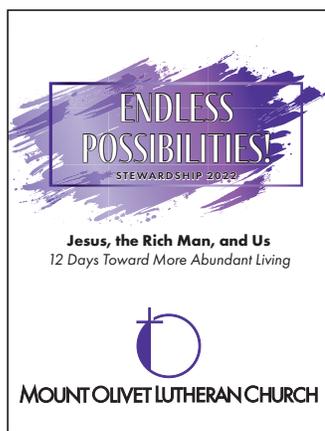
**Current Realm scheduled givers: please remember to update your giving amount, frequency, and credit card information as needed for 2022. Thank you.*

DONATION INFORMATION

Thank you for bringing donations of diapers, underwear of all sizes, canned goods, and handled paper bags when you come to any of the Stewardship options. Your donations will be shared with our community partners listed below. Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

- **LOVE, INC** (Love In the Name of Christ) mobilizes churches in Carver County to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ.
- **CES** (Community Emergency Services) provides food and essential items to clients in South Minneapolis.
- **BOUNTIFUL BASKETS** provides healthy foods to individuals in need.
- **VEAP:** (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People) provides basic needs, including access to healthy foods, social services, housing stability and supportive services.
- **SIMPSON HOUSING** houses, supports, and advocates for people experiencing homelessness.
- **ST. STEPHEN'S HUMAN SERVICES/HOUSE OF CHARITY** The merger of St. Stephen's Human Services and House of Charity represents an opportunity to more fully integrate services in support of people experiencing homelessness, hunger, mental health issues, and substance use disorders.
- **LOAVES AND FISHES COMMUNITY MEALS** provide healthy meals to Minnesotans in areas where need is greatest — regardless of socioeconomic, cultural, religious, or ethnic background—meeting their basic needs for food, dignity and respect. Meals provided every Thursday at the Mpls Campus.

STEWARDSHIP DEVOTIONS



Our Stewardship Devotions focus on Mark 10:17-31, the story of the rich man and Jesus—and us! Written by Pastor Lose, these twelve devotions focus on this single story to help us understand how Jesus wants us to be good stewards—wisely using what God has entrusted to us.

Devotion booklets available at church on September 1 or daily emails begin September 13 (sign up at mtolivet.org).



JOIN US!



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, October 3, 12noon, Mpls Campus

Join us at the annual meeting to hear from your Mount Olivet Pastors and the congregation council as we review the past church year and plan for Mount Olivet's bright future, a future filled with hope.

MOTORHEADS' FALL ROAD TOUR

Sunday, October 10, 11am, West Campus, \$15per person.

We will meet at the West Campus for worship followed by a quick lunch at church before we head out for a 45-minute fall drive around beautiful Lake Minnetonka. We'll end at Adele's Frozen Custard in Excelsior. This tour is best enjoyed in a classic car, sports car, or convertible, but all vehicles are welcome. Your return trip is on your own. Register by October 3.

BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, October 25, 1-6pm, Mpls Campus
 Tuesday, October 26, 1-6pm, West Campus

Give Blood. Give Hope. Make a life-saving difference. Why Donate Blood? Blood is essential for life: it carries oxygen and nutrients throughout the body, fights infections, and helps heal wounds. And everyone has this self-generating resource that can be generously given to others—when and where it is needed most. Your donation matters! Your community is depending on you! Must be 16 years of age or older to make a donation. Register at mtolivet.org

YOUNG IN HEART

Wednesdays, 12noon, Mpls Campus

Young in Heart (65+) luncheons are coming to the Fellowship Hall! Please join us for lunch and entertainment! This is a time to gather and see dear friends, and also to make new friends.

OCTOBER 27: Pianist, Dr. David Carlson
NOVEMBER 17: Speaker Pastor Dennis Johnson
DECEMBER 15: Vocalists Genevieve Kalland and George Dornbach
 Register by contacting Ann LaBree at 612.767.2288 or annl@mtolivet.org



WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

MOUNT OLIVET COUNSELING SERVICE

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church is one of the few churches in America that provides professional, ethical, licensed counseling services to aid church and community members in dealing with the tensions, pressures, and stresses of daily life. Our services help people work through their concerns through the use of psychotherapy and/or medication in a supportive setting that is open to those of all faith perspectives and walks of life. Our therapists include Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, and a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. We offer therapy for adults, children, adolescents, couples and families. A variety of support groups are offered as well. We are currently offering both in-person and secure telehealth services. **To schedule an appointment, register for a group, or gain more information, please contact Molly Pach at 612.927.7335 ext. 10, or at mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org.**

HEALING THROUGH DIVORCE

Thursdays, 9/9 through 11/18, 6:30-8pm, 5000 Logan Ave S, Mpls, Cost: \$100

Cultivate a stronger connection to yourself and others on your journey of healing and recovery from divorce. Sherri Dunham, MA, LPCC guides this group, where you will be guided to explore and discover deeper meaning, purpose, and strength buried within your painful experiences, helping you to embrace compassion, hope, and trust in yourself and your life.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, 9/18, 9:30am-3:30pm, West Campus, \$150 per couple with lunch included plus \$35 scoring fee for the Prepare Inventory.

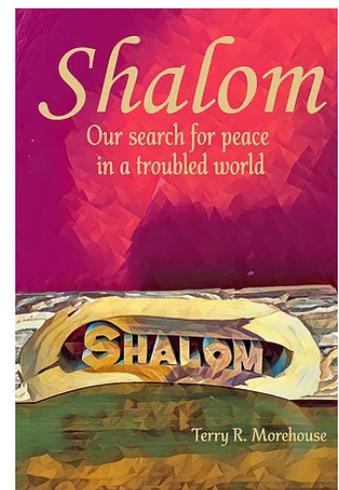
As part of planning for your life together, we invite you to participate in a very important, practical and relevant marriage preparation workshop. This fun and engaging six-hour workshop, along with the completion of the Prepare Questionnaire and talking through the results with a Pastor or Prepare facilitator, is designed to enrich your relationship as a married couple; focusing on important topics like positive communication skills, healthy conflict resolution, financial management; and spirituality. Facilitated by Shannon Himango, MA, LMFT; Director of Mount Olivet Counseling Service; and Meg Steeves, Graduate Practicum Student Counselor.

PASTOR MOREHOUSE TO RELEASE NEW BOOK

Sunday, October 24, 12noon, Mpls Campus

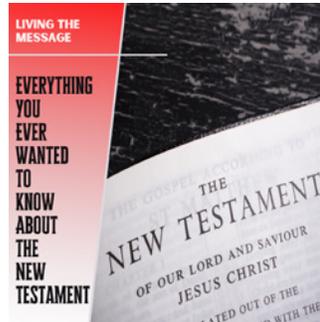
“Shalom: Our Search for Peace in a Troubled World” is a new book written by Mount Olivet’s own retired Pastor Terry Morehouse and former host of “Faith Alive.” You are invited to join Pastor Morehouse at this book release, where he will share thoughts about his new book and sign copies. Registration appreciated at mtolivet.org or by contacting Katie Stevenson: katies@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2232.

The \$15 book can be pre-ordered by going to the website of KirkHousePublishers.com or calling 612.781.2815, and copies will be available on the 15th. As with his other books, all proceeds from the sales will go to the **ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM.**



EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT

So what is the New Testament? I'm serious. Yes, we read from this book almost every Sunday. Yes, many of us read it in between Sundays, too. And, yes, it shares the core of our Christian faith by telling the story of Jesus. But, even given all that, have you ever stopped to wonder what it really is? For instance, why do we call it a "Testament," and what relation does it have to that other Testament? And, while we may be familiar with the Gospels, what about some of the other books – anyone read Philemon or Titus lately? And what's going on with Revelation, perhaps the strangest and scariest of biblical books?



This year, we're going to continue diving deep into the Bible with each other by following the pattern we started – and enjoyed so much! – last year: by asking questions! Like, what is a Gospel, anyway? Who was Paul, and why do his letters make up so much of the New Testament? And, seriously, what is up with Revelation?

Lots of questions, lots of discussion, lots of learning, and lots of fun. That's what we are planning on this coming year, beginning in October, as part of our Living the Message series at Mount Olivet. You can participate in-person or via recorded videos, and there are optional small group discussions if you'd like. Pastor Ruud and I are really excited to introduce you to the wild, wooly, and wonderful stories that make up our New Testament. See you in class!

PASTOR LOSE, Senior Pastor

LIVING THE MESSAGE BIBLE STUDY WITH YOUR PASTORS

Presentations held at the Mpls Campus except Nov 2021 and March 2022 when they will be at West; 6:30-7:15pm; Small groups meet at various times throughout the month.

OCTOBER 5: What Is a Gospel Anyway? The Big Four ~ plus some New Testament overview with Pastor Lose

NOVEMBER 2: What Is the Kingdom of God and Why Does Jesus Talk About It So Much? *Matthew, Mark, and Luke* with Pastor Ruud

DECEMBER 7: What About John? *John, the Maverick Gospel* with Pastor Lose

JANUARY 4: Jesus Is Risen! Now What? *Acts of the Apostles* with Pastor Ruud

FEBRUARY 1: Why Is Paul Such a Big Deal? *Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon* with Pastor Lose

MARCH 1: How Did Paul's Legacy Continue? *Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus* with Pastor Ruud

APRIL 5: What About All These Other Letters? *Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude* with Pastor Lose

MAY 3: Seriously... What's Up with Revelation? *Pastors Lose and Ruud duke it out over this intriguing final Book of the Bible*

JUNE 7: Q&A with Pastors Lose & Ruud

Videos released by the first Tuesday of the month.

THE WORD WITH YOUR PASTORS: THE PROPHETS

You are invited to join your Mount Olivet pastors for this study on the Prophets that begins in October. You can attend in-person presentations and/or receive recorded videos. Offered Wednesdays at Mpls and Thursdays at West, 10:30-11:30am, with social time both before and after the presentation. Videos will be emailed to participants on Wednesdays. The topics, teaching pastor, and dates are:

Prophets: *Burdened, Blessed & Bothersome* with Pastor Lose (Oct 13/14)

Jeremiah: *Prophet of Lament & Faithfulness* with Pastor Dixon (Oct 20/21)

Isaiah: *Prophet of Warning, Comfort & Hope* with Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini (Oct 27/28)

Minor Prophets: *Short Books, Big Themes* with Pastor Ruud (Nov 3/4)

Registration is now open for all fall adult education classes at mtolivet.org/education.

Please contact Katie Stevenson, katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232 with any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS



STARGAZING WITH MIKE LYNCH

Friday, September 24,
7:30-9:30pm, \$15

Make the stars your old friends as Mike Lynch, retired WCCO meteorologist and astronomer extraordinaire, leads another night of stargazing at the Conference & Retreat Center! Take a look through giant telescopes aimed at Jupiter, Saturn, star clusters, galaxies, and more. Live video telescopes will also be available. Get to know constellations like The Big Bear, Cygnus the Swan, Pegasus the Winged Horse and learn about their great mythological stories! Register at mtolivetretreat.org.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR
FALL VOLUNTEER DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



Forest Bathing and Stargazing

Throughout the pandemic, many people discovered or perhaps rediscovered the gifts of nature, particularly its capacity to reduce stress. They headed outdoors to exercise, relax, and enjoy themselves. They went on camping trips, visited national parks, and flocked to local playgrounds.

Psychologists studied and wrote about this phenomenon, demonstrating that time spent in nature contributes to mental, emotional, and physical well-being. It reduces worry and increases calm. It reminds us that we belong to a vast cosmos: from the tiniest blade of grass to the farthest flung star in space. We belong. We belong to a created order that has persisted for billions of years, and that will continue, long after each of us is gone.

From a Christian spiritual perspective, time outdoors enjoying the beauty and multiplicity of nature reminds us that God upholds all living things in wisdom and in care.

What recent activities have connected you to the natural world?

We recommend giving forest bathing, the simple method of being calm and quiet amongst the trees, observing nature around you while breathing deeply, a try. In July, participants of Renewing Connections: A Retreat for Women, learned about the art of forest bathing in an afternoon session led by Kristen Mastel, Master Naturalist. Through mindfulness, breathing, and sensory exercises, the women explored the sights and sounds of the Conference & Retreat Center. They watched the blades of grass sway in the wind and noticed how the sunlight danced through the leaves. They listened to the calls of the birds and even tasted the wind.

Next time you find yourself outdoors, take a moment to pause and truly immerse yourself in God's amazing creation. Bathe in the beauty of the earth. Soak in the calm rhythm of nature. Remember that just as God cares for the birds and butterflies, and for the land and the water, so God cares for you. Or join us in September and gaze at the awe-inspiring night sky (see the sidebar for more details about our upcoming stargazing event). To feel connected to the world around us is a gift. But an even greater gift is knowing that we belong within it and to it.

PHOTO CAPTION

Attendees of a recent women's retreat practicing forest bathing at the Conference & Retreat Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY

Your youth staff: Geoff, Annie, Anna, Julia, and Sam, along with your choir directors Dr. Clafin, Mrs. Jenkins, and your new West Cathedral and Chancel Choirs director, Mr. Parsell – can't wait to see you! We have an exciting fall planned and can't wait to get started. We have so many ways to get involved whether it's going to choir, coming to our JHA (7th & 8th Graders) or Hi-League (9th-12th Graders) events, or participating in a service project– there is something for everyone.

Visit mtolivet.org to view the fall schedules and mark your calendars for all the things we have in store for you this fall!

7TH & 8TH GRADE OFFERINGS!

CHANCEL CHOIR

This choir is for 7th & 8th Graders. Registration is open at mtolivet.org. Our first get together is happening on Wednesday, 9/29 from 5:30-7pm. Dinner is included!

7TH GRADE CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION MPLS

September 15, 7:15-8pm, Mpls Campus Sanctuary.
Please come learn about confirmation, meet your small group, and hang with the Jr. High Alive team!

7TH GRADE CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION WEST

September 22, 7:15-8pm, West Campus Sanctuary.
Please come learn about confirmation, meet your small group, and hang with the Jr. High Alive team!

1ST JHA EVENT: FALL FEST!!

September 11, 10am-2pm, Sever's Corn Maze.
Join the Youth Staff for a fun day at Sever's Corn Maze!! Register on Realm. Contact Anna Herd with questions: Aherd@mtolivet.org

9TH-12TH GRADE OFFERINGS!

CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Registration is open online for 9-12th grade students who are interested in joining! Vaccinations and masks are required for singing! Please contact Dr. Clafin with questions at beverlyc@mtolivet.org.

9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION SERVICE REHEARSAL

Thursday, September 16, 6-7pm, Mpls Campus Sanctuary. All 9th graders are required to be there. Contact Angie St.Dennis with questions at angelas@mtolivet.org.

9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Sunday, September 19, 3pm, Mpls Campus Sanctuary. (9th graders need to be there by 2pm)
This service is open to all of your family and friends!

1ST HI-LEAGUE: HI-LEAGUE KICK-OFF

September 12, 7-8pm, Mpls Campus Parking Lot.
Transportation will be provided from the West Campus (Meet at West at 6:30pm, back by 8:30pm).



Why We Love Being Involved at Church

My whole life the thing that consistently brings my siblings and me together is church. We are always talking over each other on who has the funnier or more embarrassing story, or who Dr. Claffin and the Youth Staff love more (the correct answer is me!) Between Cathedral Choir, Hi-League, and Circle of Friends, I drive to church about four times on an average week. The reason I keep coming back is that I always leave feeling like I'm not alone and that people love and support me for being me, not a version of myself I portray so others like me. I always thought church would be a big part of my life because I watched how much my siblings loved it, but I never realized that it would give me my best friends and happiest memories.

—LIBBY GLIEDEN



My name is Nolan Fuzzey, and I'm going to be a senior at Wayzata High School. This is how I introduce myself to new people and it's also how we have always introduced ourselves at Mount Olivet during youth events. When we all circle up and introduce ourselves, I watch and listen to everyone recite their schools and know that almost every time not one of them will say Wayzata. Admittedly, this used to bother me. I used to be jealous of all the kids who went to Edina or Minneapolis who had plenty of friends they already knew. However, what I learned very quickly is that it's never hard to make friends at Mount Olivet. Going to church for events made it easy to become familiar with others. This mutual familiarity eventually led to forming some of my best friends. The friendships and memories that I have made at Mount Olivet represent to me what makes church important and special.



Growing up at Mount Olivet, I've had the opportunity to be involved in activities at both the Minneapolis and West Campuses. Some of my favorites include Cathedral Choir at Minneapolis Campus as well as being on the Mount Olivet Youth Board. At the West Campus, I have enjoyed the campfire Hi-League events on Sunday nights and MO United during the week. This year I'll be participating in the Circle of Friends at the Minneapolis Campus. I started in Cherub Choir and now I'm a part of the Cathedral Choir Tenor section in Minneapolis, as well as an Officer on the Mount Olivet Youth Board. The Hi-League events at both campuses are a highlight of my week, both to see my friends I don't normally see and to participate in the fun events the Youth Staff puts on for us.

—OWEN SLINDE



In the past year, church has grown to be an important factor in my life that I have learned to cherish in a special way following quarantine. Before Mount Olivet went digital, I didn't take full advantage of the different opportunities available to me. I would mentally make excuses resulting in lost time that I told myself I would make up for in later days. But, this past year has taught me that "later days" aren't always guaranteed and how important it is to fill my days with God's love through attendance and relationships at church. Last fall, I switched gears and began to fully engage with the church and everything it had to offer to me. I did this by forming better relationships with the Youth staff, Pastors and fellow Hi-Leaguers, and making church a priority in my schedule.

—JENNA DAVIS



HAVE FUN THIS FALL WITH CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY!



BABYGARTEN

Thursdays, October 14 through November 18, from 9:30-10:30am, Mpls Campus.

Join Amy Porthan for the fall session of Babygarten at Mount Olivet! This six-week class designed by a children’s librarian and early childhood specialist focuses on reading, rhyming, and hands-on activities. More than a storytime or playgroup— we’ll encourage pre-literacy skills for children in a fun, faith-based environment. Register online at mtolivet.org. Have Questions? Contact Amy Porthan at amyp@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2285.



MUSIKGARTEN

Children birth to three years of age, along with the adults who love them, gather to create and experience the magic of music in a safe and loving community. Join us as we sing, dance, wiggle, laugh, play instruments, and experience the joy that only music can provide! Classes are led year-round by our licensed Musikgarten teachers, and offered during the day or in the evening. Registration is open at mtolivet.org!



PRESCHOOL

The Mount Olivet Preschool would love to partner with you for your child’s early learning experience as we continue in the tradition of high-quality preschool education this fall! To learn more about our program, flexible scheduling options, and tour information, connect with our Director of Preschool, Alyssa Hill at ahill@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2216.



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS ON RALLY SUNDAY!

Rally Sunday is September 12! We have a lot of fun planned for this fall in Sunday School! Classes will include music, arts, Bible study, games, devotions and more! Classes are for preschool through 6th grade offered during the 9am and 10am worship services at both campuses. Registration is open at mtolivet.org!

WE KNOW A PLACE THAT WE CAN CALL OUR OWN

The summer of 2021 at Cathedral of the Pines has been everything we dreamed of and so much more! As I write this in mid-August, I am sitting in the Koja listening to the sounds of camp, and I promise, I will never take these sounds for granted for the rest of my life! It is music to the ears! I can hear the campers singing *Jesus Loves Me* in the education building while they are in bible class. I can hear the boy counselors and workstaff playing a heated game of softball on the upper diamond. I can see the girl counselors watching the game, making friendship bracelets and giggling about something funny. Nurse Heidi is playing with the camp dogs Reuben and Copper in front of the Health Center. The Sysco truck is making a food delivery so our volunteer cooks can make some more delicious meals!

Each evening in Chapel has been a gift. Walking into the chapel and seeing beautiful Lake Caribou and the cross across the lake; listening to the sweet voices of campers singing their hearts out during the singspiration; staff, counselors, workstaff and campers sharing their talents during special music; the incredible pastors and camp staff preaching the word of God and sharing their faith experience. You can hear a pin drop. The highlight is open prayer when everyone at camp has the opportunity to pray out loud.

Thank you to everyone who made this summer possible! It was an absolute blast! A summer filled with laughter, joy, quiet, stunts, softball, talent shows, swimming... a faith-filled summer where we realized the importance of faith community. A summer where we saw and felt the presence of God each day. I am already psyched for the summer of 2022!! And, I can't wait to see you in church at Mount Olivet this fall! –KRISTI YOUNGDAHL, DIRECTOR OF CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP



“Working up at COP for the summer has been so fulfilling and fun. After a long and lonely COVID year, camp has brought me back to life! Camp has allowed me to build relationships with others as well as grow in my relationship with God. I’m so thankful for this summer at COP!”
–ISABEL ST.DENNIS, MS. FUN COP CAMP STAFF

“I love being a Counselor at COP, because it allows me to build a stronger relationship with God and my campers. The relationships I’ve built at camp this summer mean so much to me, and I’m excited to see my campers and camp friends at church and youth events this fall!”
–OLIVER BASTIAN, COP COUNSELOR



PHOTO CAPTION FROM TOP LEFT TO RIGHT

High Schoolers at “The Shore,” Oliver Bastian and his campers from Juniper Cabin, Isabel St.Dennis leading capture the flag, Counselors playing softball, and Pastor Ruud preaching in chapel.



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