

OCTOBER 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 andream@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2209.

SUNDAYS

**RADIO BROADCAST ON
WDGY 740AM**

11am

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

11am

HOLY COMMUNION

8:30 & 11:45am

NURSERY

9, 10, & 11am

OCTOBER 3

GOD CALLS SAMUEL

1 Samuel 3:1-10

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor MacLean

OCTOBER 10

**ELIJAH HEARS GOD'S
VOICE IN THE SILENCE**

1 Kings 19: 4 - 16

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud

OCTOBER 17

**JONAH LEARNS GOD'S
LOVE IS FOR ALL**

Jonah 3:10, 4:1-11

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland

OCTOBER 24

**AMOS AND GOD'S
CALL FOR JUSTICE**

Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor MacLean

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman

OCTOBER 31

GOD CALLS ISAIAH

Isaiah 6:1-8

REFORMATION SUNDAY

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon

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!

HOLY COMMUNION

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

The Prophets – Handle with Caution!

What does the future hold? What is God's will for us? How do our present actions shape our future? My guess is that we find these questions interesting in the best of times and, when things are challenging or unpredictable, they take on even greater urgency. Which means this is the perfect time to explore these and other questions as we focus this fall on the Prophets of Israel both during our worship on Sundays and in a special adult education class.

A word of caution is probably in order, however, as of all the characters in the Bible, prophets are probably the least well-understood. That likely stems from the fact that when we think of a prophecy, we tend to think of it as a prediction about the future. And, indeed, there are times when prophets do speak of God's future action or warn their listeners about the consequences of their present actions. But... that's just a small part of what it means to be a prophet.

The prophet Amos offers a helpful metaphor for what a prophet does when he describes a vision in which he saw the Lord standing near a wall with a plumb line. You might remember that a plumb line is a weighted string that builders hang from the ceiling against a wall to measure whether the wall is straight. In Amos' vision, God hangs a plumb line not beside a wall but in the midst of God's people, Israel, in order to judge whether they are following God's will and walking a "straight line" as the people of God (Amos 7:7-9).

This image captures the distinct calling that prophets held in Israel: they were blessed (or cursed!) by seeing God's will clearly and in relation to the actual behavior of their fellow citizens. They were blessed in that they had an intimate relationship with God and could see clearly what God wanted, whether via a vision or hearing the Lord address them. But that blessing was also something of a curse, as the gap between what God wanted for the people and how the people actually behaved toward one another was often quite painful. Moreover, it was rarely easy, and sometimes dangerous, to deliver that message.

All of which explains why very few if any of the prophets were self-appointed, accepted their call without protest, or sought this position. Amos, for instance, was a sheep herder and tended sycamore trees in the southern half of Israel when God called him to leave his home, go to the northern part of the kingdom, and prophecy against the practices of the rulers there (Amos 7:14-15).

When Jeremiah is called, he immediately protests, saying "I don't know how to speak for I am only a boy," to which the Lord replies, "Don't make excuses; I'll tell you what to say!" (Jer. 1:6-7). We may remember Isaiah answering God's call by saying, "Here am I, send me." But before he gets to that moment of faithful obedience, he cries out, "Woe is me, I am lost!" (Isaiah 6:5, 8). In short, it was not easy to be a prophet!

As for their prophecies, we might understand the words of the prophets better as *warnings* than *predictions*. Most often, these were warnings about the natural consequences of the people's behavior: "Keeping doing this" – and here fill in the blank of the whatever unjust behavior was in question – "and this result will surely follow!" Once the natural consequences – regularly described as the "judgment of the Lord" – fell upon Israel, though, the prophets were quick to remind their people that God still loved them and that the same God who warned them of their behavior and let or caused consequences befall them would also continue to guide and redeem them.

At times, the prophets looked much further out than their immediate circumstances and spoke of God delivering God's people on a grand scale, sending a *messiah*, which means "God's anointed and chosen one." When early Christians reflected on Jesus' ministry, they confessed that he was the Messiah the prophets spoke about, and the early Evangelists drew on prophetic writings to share the good news of what God had accomplished through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

This month, as we enter into another "pandemic influenced" fall and look ahead with equal measures of hope and anxiety, we have a chance to hear the words of the prophets again, speaking to the people of Israel and, as I believe we'll discover, to us, always orienting us to the will of God who wants all people to be accorded dignity and who never, ever gives up on God's people!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

STAFF UPDATES

Fall is often a season of staff changes at Mount Olivet, and this year is no exception. We are so grateful for the work a several colleagues departing for other ventures and are excited to welcome new colleagues into our shared ministry and mission!

DEPARTURES

MARI CARLSON is concluding her tenure as the Mount Olivet Director of Development, serving the Church and its Affiliated Ministries faithfully for 29 years. During that time, she met the goals of seven capital campaigns and created the Vision Partners program which encourages legacy gifts to Mount Olivet Church and its Affiliates.

CAROL FREDERICKSON has retired from her position as Housekeeping Supervisor at the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center after 21 years of providing hospitality to guests.

ANNIE BOLINE has resigned her position as High School Youth Coordinator to take a position at Twin Cities Closet Company working in Human Resources.

ARRIVALS

PHILLIP O'TOOLE is the new Coordinator of Digital Production, overseeing a team to manage the sound booth at both campuses.

KATIE RIDLER joins the Youth staff to help with Confirmation & Junior High Alive programs at the West Campus.

ISABEL ST. DENNIS is managing the reception desk part-time at the Mpls Campus and giving support to our CFM team at the West Campus on Sundays.

ABIGAIL FISCHER joins our Children and Family Ministry team on Sunday mornings to help coordinate Sunday School at the West Campus.

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.

HOPE ACADEMY

In recent years, Mount Olivet and several of its members have partnered with the students, faculty, and staff of Hope Academy in downtown Minneapolis to assist in cultivating deep joy and abundant fruit in the city, one life at a time. Hope Academy is an inter-denominational school that has pursued the mission of fostering hope in God in the inner-city by providing youth with an exceptional, faith-based education since 1998.

If you are interested in learning more about how God is using Hope Academy to shine God's light in our city, you are invited to join with other Mount Olivet members for a warm evening of hors d'oeuvres, conversation and community at the Edina home of one of our members, Thursday, October 15 at 7pm. Please RSVP to Laurie Hancer at 612.767.2267 or at lhancer@mtolivet.org.

LIFE & GROWTH

AUG 18 - SEPT 16

BAPTISMS

Louis Robert Carbonneau
son of Rachel and Peter
Cole Michael Christiansen
Iris Blanche Damhof
daughter of Jamie and Andrew
Casper Daehlin Sinclair Dixon
son of Mollie and Mark
Noah Michael Ernst
son of Katie and Justin
Callum Nicholas Fish
son of Maria and Taylor
Annalise Karoline Josephson
daughter of Linnea and Dan
Caroline Andrews Lied
daughter of Emily and Kevin
Mills David Mattke
son of Amy and Scott
Beau Thomas Milan
son of Melissa and Maclean
Boden Paul Mulder
son of Hanna and Scott
Eowyn Rebecca Rasmussen
daughter of Christina and Michael
Henry Thomas Schreier
son of Allison and Thomas
Brinkley Nicole Theis
daughter of Nicole and Timothy
George Thomas Tousignant
son of Molly and Dan
Steven Andrew Ward
son of Alicia and Andrew
James Robert Welk
son of Jessica and Shawn

WEDDINGS

Emily Tani-Winegarden & Charlie Bahnsen, August 21
Meredith Fahrenz & Tommy Lundquist, August 21
Anna Tuck & Spencer Chute, September 3
Britta Johnson & Chad Siverson, September 4
Marina Thongphanh & Gunnar Gray, September 4

DEATHS

Marcia J. Akins, 1937–2021
Audrey J. Babcock, 1975–2021
James E. Borgen, 1935–2021
Shirley A. Bujalski, 1938–2021
Julie A. Henderson, 1945–2021
Earl G. Holter, 1934–2021
Denise G. Johnson, 1956–2021
Richard W. Johnson, 1932–2021
Karen S. Nelson, 1940–2021
Robert B. Osgood, 1959–2021
(Dwayne) D.L. Smith, 1936–2021
Robert A. Woodsome, 1926–2021

DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND

OCTOBER 2021

- 1 Psalm 34:19, The Lord Delivers
- 2 2 Peter 3:18, Grow In Grace And Knowledge
- 3 Psalm 34:15, Eyes And Ears
- 4 Acts 16:31, Believe In The Lord Jesus
- 5 Romans 14:4, The Lord Is Able
- 6 Proverbs 3:9, Honor The Lord With Your Wealth
- 7 Romans 14:14, Stop Passing Judgement
- 8 Matthew 11:29-30, Rest For Your Souls
- 9 Psalm 73:25, Nothing Besides You
- 10 Romans 14:8, We Are The Lords
- 11 Hebrews 13:6, The Lord Is My Helper
- 12 1 Thessalonians 4:14, Dies And Rose Again
- 13 Romans 6:5-6, United With Him
- 14 Proverbs 10:2, Righteousness Delivers
- 15 John 3:3, Very Truly
- 16 1 Thessalonians 5:6, Awake And Sober
- 17 Psalm 3:8, Deliverance
- 18 John 1:14, Full Of Grace And Truth
- 19 Proverbs 31:9, Defend The Rights Of The Poor And Needy
- 20 John 4:14, Welling Up To Eternal Life
- 21 Psalm 80:19, Restore Us
- 22 2 Corinthians 4:17, Far Outweighs
- 23 Acts 13:38-39, Through Jesus
- 24 Acts 2:21, Call Upon The Lord
- 25 John 1:18, Jesus Made God Known
- 26 Psalm 118:5, Cried To The Lord
- 27 Mark 9:35, Servant Of All
- 28 James 4:10, Humble Yourself
- 29 Matthew 7:12, Sums Up The Law And The Prophets
- 30 1 Peter 1:15-16, Holy
- 31 Revelation 5:13, For Ever And Ever

DEVOTION

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

The Apostle Paul is saying that we know... we believe by faith...that in everything God works for good. Paul is not saying that suffering, tragedy, and loss are in any sense good. He's saying that in our suffering and loss, God is still God. And God is always there, working for good. People of faith can know that their lives from beginning to end are secure in the hands of a gracious God. God has created us, given us life, put us here, and our lives are in God's hands from birth to death and beyond into eternity.

As I said in my sermon a few weeks ago, on June 2, 1980, I met a woman named Laurie Anderson at a lunch with friends. We had both experienced recent heartbreak in relationships ending so neither of us was looking for a new relationship. We were focused on our careers and studying for the CPA exam. However, it only took me a couple months to realize how much I loved Laurie and how compatible we were. We were married the following September and just recently celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary.

I believe God was at work for good and it changed our lives forever. Paul concludes that “nothing...neither death nor life...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” We can count on that – always! Amen. — **PASTOR MACLEAN**



BECOME A MOUNT OLIVET MEMBER

Mount Olivet offers a tremendous number of worship services, fellowship groups, service opportunities, and educational events and programs. Exploring the possibility of joining Mount Olivet is as easy as signing up for a New Member Orientation that fits your schedule. Once you do, Carol Nault, our Director of Membership, will be in touch to answer your questions and help you explore how Mount Olivet can enrich your faith. Mount Olivet, you'll soon discover, is “the biggest little church you will ever find,” and we look forward to you becoming an important and valued part of the community.

Attend an informative New Member Orientation and find out what it means to be a member of this amazing congregation! Meet the pastors, some of the staff, members of the Board of Life and Growth, and connect with other people who will be joining Mount Olivet. The upcoming orientation dates:

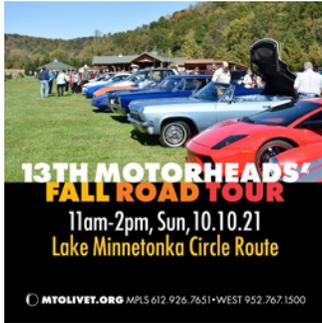
Saturday, October 30, 9:30-11am, Mpls Campus

Sunday, October 31, 12:30-2pm, West Campus

Saturday, November 13, 9:30-11am, Mpls Campus

New members will be recognized during the worship service on **Sunday, November 14, 2021**. To learn more about the Orientation or to register please contact Carol Nault, Director of Membership, at 612.767.2204 or at caroln@mtolivet.org.

JOIN US FOR THESE FUN EVENTS THIS FALL!



OCTOBER 10

MOTORHEADS' FALL ROAD TOUR

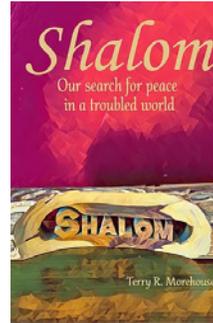
11am, West, \$15 per person. Attend worship followed by a quick lunch before we head out for our fall drive around beautiful Lake Minnetonka. Register by October 3 at mtolivet.org.



OCTOBER 24

FLYING SOLO

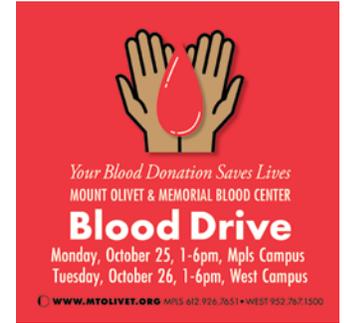
2pm, 7 Vines Vineyard, 101 MN-96, Dellwood, \$35 per person. Come for a tour and wine tasting at 2pm and stay to hang out with the group at 3pm. The tour/tasting lasts about 1 hour. Hope to see you there! Register at mtolivet.org.



OCTOBER 24

PASTOR MOREHOUSE TO RELEASE NEW BOOK

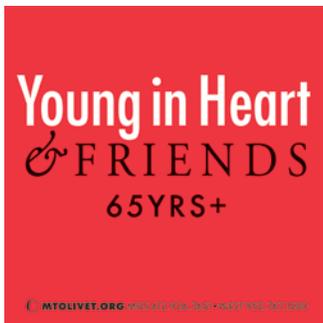
12noon, Mpls Campus. Join Pastor Morehouse for this book release where he will share thoughts about his new book and sign copies. Please register at mtolivet.org



OCTOBER 25 & OCTOBER 26

BLOOD DRIVE

10/25, 1-6pm, Mpls Campus
10/26, 1-6pm, West Campus
Must be 16 years of age or older to make a donation. Register at mtolivet.org



OCTOBER 27

YOUNG IN HEART

12noon, Mpls Campus. Join us for lunch and entertainment by pianist Dr. David Carlson! Register by contacting Ann LaBree at annl@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2288.



OCTOBER 30

FALL VOLUNTEER DAY

9am-3pm, Conference & Retreat Center. Spend a beautiful fall day at the Conference & Retreat Center and help us ready the grounds for the winter season. Register at mtolivet.org.



NOVEMBER 6 & NOVEMBER 20

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE & HOLIDAY MARKET

11/6, 9am-2pm, Mpls Campus.
11/20, 9am-2pm, West Campus. Join us for this fun event with vendors featuring fine art, crafts, pottery, jewelry, home decor, culinary gifts, and more!



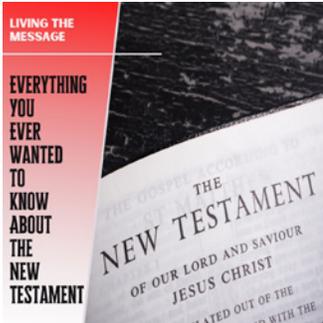
NOVEMBER 8

FLU VACCINATION CLINIC

11am-2pm, Mpls Campus. Get your flu vaccine this fall to protect people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness. No registration necessary.



What Is the Kingdom of God and Why Does Jesus Talk About It So Much? Matthew, Mark, and Luke



The “kingdom of God” or the “kingdom of heaven” is arguably the most prolific proclamation and purpose of Jesus in the first three books of the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, and Luke, known as the synoptic gospels for their similar exposition of Jesus, all point to Jesus as the one who reveals and bestows God’s “kingdom.” So then, what is the kingdom of God/heaven? How does it “come near” to us? What do these three narratives have in common and how do they differ in their telling? Could the kingdom of heaven begin here? Join or tune in with Pastors Ruud and Lose in November to encounter more about what the kingdom of God means for you and all of us! ~ Pastor Ruud

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

In-Person presentations held the first Tuesday of the month at the Mpls Campus except Nov '21 and March '22 when they will be at West; 6:30-7:15pm; Videos emailed out by first Tuesday of the month. Small groups meet at various times throughout the month. Register at mtolivet.org/education. Contact Katie Stevenson, katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232 with questions.

THE PROPHETS WITH THE PASTORS

Who or what is a prophet? Does “prophecy” have consistent themes? Which books of the Bible are “prophetic”? Do prophets speak for God? Do they predict the future? What about all of those little tiny books with weird names toward the end of the Old Testament? Does prophetic scripture speak to today’s events? How and why should we pay attention to them? Do we still have prophets today?

If you’ve ever wondered any of these questions and more, you’ll want to join or tune in to the upcoming “The Word with Your Pastors” sessions on the prophets of scripture. Presented, led, and facilitated by the Mount Olivet pastors, in four sessions we’ll explore an overview of prophetic literature, take a look at two of the big ones - Isaiah and Jeremiah, and have a session on the shorter minor prophets. Join to learn and deepen our faith and understanding!

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)

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. Register at mtolivet.org/education. Contact Katie Stevenson, katies@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2232 with questions.



Mental Health Days at the Conference & Retreat Center

Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center cultivates rest, renewal, and restoration for more than 7,000 guests each year. Group retreats (overnight and day-long), retreats for persons and families, reunions, and special events contribute to mental health and wellbeing in this place of exceptional beauty. While staying at the retreat center, guests can enjoy time in the woods, meadows, prairie, and marsh walk. Research shows that nature actually nurtures us. It decreases anxiety and increases serenity. Its sights and sounds enhance our mood as well as our ability to empathize and cooperate with others.

Contemplative prayer, mindfulness meditation, and deep relaxation (typical components of retreats) have similar effects, even decreasing blood pressure, boosting endorphins, and improving our immunity. Mayo Clinic notes that simple meditation helps people to manage chronic pain, anxiety, depression, tension headaches, and sleep disturbances. And, for over two millennia, Christians have reaped the benefits of prayer. Communing with God through contemplation and trust in God’s lovingkindness helps to heal our hearts and minds.

Treat yourself, a friend, or loved one to a “mental health day” at the retreat center this month. Or, find ways to retreat at home using some of the resources (mindfulness meditations, guided prayers, and inspirational posts) on our new website, mtolivetretreat.org.

MOUNT OLIVET CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER STAFF UPDATE!



The Reverend Jeremy Bork will be our new Director of Programming & Communications. Jeremy brings significant experience as program director for Camp Fowler in the Adirondack Mountains of New York and youth pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, MI. An ordained minister in the Reformed Church of America (RCA), Jeremy will be responsible for executing Retreat Center events, communicating and marketing the mission of the Retreat Center, and offering hospitality for incoming guests. Expect to meet him at Family Days Away, Day Advent Retreat, virtual workshops, concerts, and more!

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

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 by email at mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org.



A LIFE TO VALUE

In this season, I am grateful to be settling in as a new therapist with Mount Olivet Counseling Service. I bring with me about 10 years of experience in practicing general mental health counseling, joining folks in their suffering related to a wide range of concerns. I also carry with me a deep commitment to mindfulness, the practice of being present. Abraham Maslow (1908-1970), an esteemed American Psychologist, stated, “The ability to be in the present moment is a major component of mental wellness.”

We have so many thoughts racing around in our minds. Being mindful, that is to say, being with “what is” in the present moment, helps us to be more aware of our thoughts. When we can do so, we have more power to choose which thoughts we want to have directing our lives. Practicing mindfulness can be as simple as taking 30 seconds to just focus on your breath. Just take a moment to notice your inhale and your exhale.

Many people think that practicing mindfulness means you need to empty your mind. Not so. I would argue that’s pretty impossible. We all have a busy mind, it’s simply the nature of our mind. It’s not about emptying your mind or stopping your thoughts, it’s just about noticing them and being aware of them. How is your mind talking to you? Does it sound kind, angry, scared, or neutral? See if you can practice observing your thoughts for just 30 seconds, without any judgement. Just notice.

If you notice your mind talking to you in ways that do not feel loving, make you feel bad, or are otherwise inconsistent with your values, I encourage you to just notice that without judgement and tell your mind, “Thank you for trying to help.” Then gently redirect your awareness to a more loving and true thought that is reflective of your values. Moment by moment, day by day, you will gain more freedom from your thoughts and agency over your life, helping you live a life you truly value.

SHERRI DUNHAM, MA, LPCC, Mount Olivet Counseling Service

UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY

To register for these events or learn more about these offerings, please contact Geoff Arenson geoffa@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2212, Beverly Clafin beverlyc@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2263, Anna Herd aherd@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2279, Annie Boline aboline@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2211, or Julia Jallo jjallo@mtolivet.org, 952.767.1502.



JHA SCREAMTOWN

10/8, 6-10pm, \$30 per person. Meet at the West Campus for a fun, spooky, scary night at Screamtown!



JHA MEA DAY AWAY

10/21, 11am-4pm, \$30 per person. Join the Youth Staff for some hiking and games as well as fun at the Mall of America!!



HI-LEAGUE

10/10: Family Pumpkin Patch Unloading, 12noon-3pm
10/17: Hayride 5-8pm
10/31: Perkins Brunch @ Edina/Chaska, 11am-12noon



FALL HI-LEAGUE CAMP

10/1-10/3: Senior Retreat (Class of 2022)
10/21-10/24: Fall Weekend Camp (9th, 10th & 11th grade students)



PUMPKIN PATCH

10/11-10/30, OPEN DAILY FROM 10AM-6PM
Contact Geoff Arenson if you would like to volunteer in the Pumpkin Patch!!



CONFIRMATION

1ST CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
10/03 8:45-9:45am, Mpls and Wednesday 10/06 7-8:15pm, Mpls and West. No confirmation on Sunday 10/24.



INSTAGRAM

Find us on Instagram @[mtolivet_youth](https://www.instagram.com/mtolivet_youth) to see pictures, goofy videos, devotions written by your church friends, and more! Give us a follow and join the fun!



CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Cathedral Choir now sings at the 9 and 10am services at both campuses! Come hear our talented 9-12th graders sing on Sunday mornings!

WHO'S EXCITED FOR FALL?!

As we settle into a new school year at church I think it is important to take some time to slow down and be grateful for such an amazing summer of community with each other. Having time at Cathedral of the Pines this summer reminded me how grateful I am for church and camp. I am grateful for friendships, conversations, singing, prayer and nature. Church has always been a place that has brought joy to my life and I know many of our lives. We are so excited to start another program year with our outstanding Mount Olivet youth! As we get back into the routines of school, work, and activities, I am reminded that there is still uncertainty of what lies ahead in the next few months. But, what I am certain of is that our Mount Olivet youth value their church community and look forward to the specific programs and events they are each involved with. I always like to think about what is coming up and what we have to look forward to so I wanted to list a few of the church events I am looking most forward to this fall: Cathedral Choir, Confirmation, Adopt-a-Grandparent, Circle of Friends, MO United & especially the Pumpkin Patch!! See you all at church soon!
— GEOFF ARENSON



WHY WE LOVE WORKING AT THE PUMPKIN PATCH!

Kierstyn says she loves working with her Dad at the pumpkin patch as it's something they can do together and it's fun working with her church friends. She remembers one year there was a HUGE pumpkin she carried from the back of the semi to the lawn. It was bigger than a beach ball!

Kierstyn shares, "When Dad and I are working our shifts, it's great seeing the families stop by with their little kids who love seeing, touching, and wanting all the pumpkins! Smiles are shared by all!"

John has worked in the back of the pumpkin semi on delivery day for many years. Kierstyn has been working in the back with him for the past three years. Trying to keep pumpkin avalanches from happening is not as easy as it sounds and it hurts when they land on your toes. It can get really hot back there and trying to keep slippery pumpkins from falling can be a challenge. The kids volunteering in the trailer are fantastic! It is fun to hear what grade they are in and which school they attend. They always work hard and enjoy telling funny stories from summers at COP counseling and workstaffing. Eventually, they will turn to singing camp songs. It's heartwarming to have the youth participating in community activities.

PHOTO CAPTION

Kierstyn and her Dad, John working at the Mount Olivet Pumpkin Patch

HAVE FUN THIS FALL WITH CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY!



PARTY AT THE PUMPKIN PATCH

Saturday, October 16, 10am-12noon

It's a party at the Pumpkin Patch, and you're invited! Join us for a festive morning at the Mount Olivet Pumpkin Patch – we'll have a bounce house and some treats as you shop for your perfect pumpkin! Invite your friends or neighbors and make it a morning! See you at the Mount Olivet Pumpkin Patch.



NEW! FAMILY BONFIRE AT THE WEST CAMPUS

Sunday, October 17, 6-8pm.

Join us for an evening around the bonfire! We'll have s'mores, games, and fellowship around the bonfire at the West Campus. Bring your friends!



FAMILY DAY AWAY

Saturday, October 9, 10am-2pm, Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center.

Join us for fall 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, a fall craft (materials provided) and a swim in the pool! Bring your own food for a picnic lunch, or meals are available for purchase at the time of registration.



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.



MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL

The Mount Olivet Preschool is now open! We've enjoyed the laughter and energy of having children in the building again. Many thanks to the preschool teachers, facilities staff, and director, Alyssa Hill for their hard work in making the reopening of the Mount Olivet Preschool a success!

Mount Olivet Preschool believes children thrive in an environment where they feel safe, supported, and celebrated for who they are! We believe children learn best when engaged in hands-on developmentally appropriate activities, and given time and encouragement to explore, investigate, and make connections to the people and places around them. We look to partner with parents in their child's education and provide an excellent early learning experience.

For more information on our full and part time program options, please contact, Alyssa Hill at 612.767.2216 or by email at ahill@mtolivet.org.



ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES!

STEWARDSHIP 2022

September at Mount Olivet is Stewardship season! Meatball dinners complete with rice pudding, sharing our hopes and dreams for the coming year, lots of great conversations, and a renewal of the tremendous generosity that has powered this congregation for more than a century! Like last year, we have had to adapt to changing circumstances in our community and world and be creative in how we engage everyone in our Stewardship program. But we have! A great spirit in worship, a record-setting drive-through, devotions, videos and more. We are reminding each other of, and basking in the promise that, indeed, with God all things are possible!

If you have not yet made your pledge of financial commitment to Mount Olivet for 2022, please do so soon. Your gifts make everything we do possible, and your advance commitment helps us plan responsibly. It will take all of us to live into God's dreams for Mount Olivet. Please join us!

PASTOR DAVID LOSE, *Senior Pastor*

Thank you to all who have made your 2022 pledge to Mount Olivet and its ministries! If you haven't yet, please complete and return your pledge card today via the return envelope (all sent to you in mid-August). You may also pledge online at mtolivet.org or by contacting Tricia Lerohl-Morgan in our finance office, 612.767.2255 or tricial@mtolivet.org. Thank you!

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. 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 Lehrol-Morgan in our finance office at 612.767.2255 or at tricial@mtolivet.org.*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT: VEAP (VOLUNTEERS ENLISTED TO ASSIST PEOPLE)

This month we are highlighting one of our long-time ministry partners, VEAP. As their website states, “VEAP is a basic needs and social services organization whose programs promote access to healthy foods, stable housing and other supportive services. VEAP’s programs are designed to address a particular need, and when used together, provide hope and can help avoid a financial crisis such as loss of housing, transportation or employment. Whether the hardship is from a disability, job transition, or the financial and physical stresses of aging, VEAP has been helping our neighbors in need for 45 years.”

Mount Olivet church and its members actively support VEAP through our Stewardship donation drive, Greet and Give drives, seasonal food drives, monetary donations, and members volunteering at their facility in Bloomington. Mount Olivet member and VEAP volunteer Tom Swan shares his personal story of faith and loving our neighbors through his time spent at VEAP:

**“Love your neighbor as yourself” —Matthew 22:39,
Luke 10:27**

I first became an occasional volunteer with VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People) in 2005. Years later VEAP took a giant leap of faith to expand from a very small footprint to our present modern facility. Even though I was a board member and treasurer at that time, I was far from certain that we could pull it off. Yet the need in our communities was overwhelming. We felt we owed it to our neighbors to build for the future. There were many sleepless nights as we scrambled to raise funds and secure bank financing. We prayed fervently. When our new facility debuted, our volunteers told stories of people weeping openly as they explored our new food shelf aisles. It looked like the grocery stores you and I frequent, but take for granted. Our visitors now had more choices than ever, especially fresh food choices, and they felt they could shop with dignity. Among the largest Minnesota food shelves, VEAP serves over 10,000 visitors per month. Over half of those served are children. While food is a central part of what VEAP is about, it is not the only thing. VEAP staffs professional social workers who screen for needs. VEAP helps provide rental assistance and pays the utilities when a worker falls behind due to illness. VEAP can arrange car repairs when a person needs to get to work. VEAP assists working low-income households. They are our neighbors. Many now are on the front lines helping all of us, especially in these harsh times. They sometimes need help to keep their jobs and support their families. Our communities would be much poorer without VEAP and the safety net it provides. Many thanks for your ongoing support of VEAP!

—TOM SWAN, MOUNT OLIVET MEMBER

VEAP is currently accepting new volunteers, ages 9-adult, and will provide all necessary training to ensure you have a positive and fun experience. Volunteer opportunities include sorting and bagging food, filling visitor orders, delivering food packs to seniors, and more. If you are interested in learning more about VEAP, or wish to get involved by volunteering, please contact Laurie Hancer, Coordinator of Service and Volunteers, at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267



PHOTO CAPTION

Some of our Sunday School kids participating in the Donate and Do Day in 2019 at the Mpls Campus



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MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

PUMPKIN PATCH

October 11 -30

1700 W 50th Street, Mpls

Open Daily from 10am - 6pm