

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 Julie Goodman at julieg@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2208.

DECEMBER 5

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"AND HE SHALL BE CALLED EMMANUEL"

Isaiah 7:10-17;

Matthew 1:18-25

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud

DECEMBER 12

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"THE PRINCE OF PEACE AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

Isaiah 9:1-7;

John 1:1-5, 14, 16

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland

DECEMBER 19

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

"THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

Micah 5:2-5; Matthew 2:1-6

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor MacLean

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman

DECEMBER 26

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

"ANNA AND SIMEON"

Luke 2:21-40

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland

SUNDAYS

WATCH THE MPLS WORSHIP SERVICE AT MTOLIVET.ORG

11am

HOLY COMMUNION

8:30 & 11:45am

NURSERY

9, 10, & 11am

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

CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

M 2-10pm
SERMON Pastor Lose

1pm Orchestral Christmas Music begins

Streaming from 2-10pm at mtolivet.org

W 2-6pm
SERMON Pastor Dixon

NURSERY

2, 3, 4, & 5pm

CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25

M 10am
SERMON Pastor MacLean

NEW YEAR'S EVE DECEMBER 31

M 7pm
SERMON Pastor Kalland

HOLY COMMUNION

First Wednesday of the month

M 12noon

W 12noon

We are delighted to announce that you can dial-in from your phone to listen to Mount Olivet's 11am worship service at the Mpls campus each Sunday. Just call the following number Sunday morning at 11am: 833.775.1238. Or, if you prefer, you can call earlier in the week and receive a call-back at 11am on Sunday as the service is beginning.

Christmas Anticipation

It's easy to forget just how long the Jewish people had been waiting for a Messiah by the time Jesus was born. King David, whose heir was promised to restore Israel, governed around 1000 BC. The passages from Isaiah that we will be reading this Advent – “for unto us a child is born” and “look, the maiden is with child and will give birth” – date to the mid 700s BC. Which means that the gap between the prophetic promises and Jesus' birth is longer than the entire history of the United States... three times over!

Which might help us appreciate why people had so many varied expectations of what the messiah would be and do. Some were looking for a military leader, like King David, to throw out the Romans and restore the fortunes of Israel. Others imagined a prophet like those of old who would announce God's words of law and promise. Others still looked for someone who would inaugurate the end times, the day of God's ultimate judgment and consummation. Suffice it to say, however, that no one expected God's messiah to come in the form of a helpless infant, born to poor parents in a backwater town. Yet we confess that in that child, God became truly Emmanuel – “one of us” – offering grace and redemption to all.

Christmas is a time when our lives are also often colored by anticipation. Perhaps we are looking forward to gathering with family. Or maybe we're longing to see someone we haven't seen for a while. Perhaps we can't wait for our favorite cookies, meals, and Christmas movies. Or maybe we just anticipate a brief respite from the hectic pace of our lives, a chance to be renewed by the sights and sounds of the season. Or... and the list goes on.

Sometimes what we anticipate is a cause not only for joy but also for a measure of anxiety. Perhaps we're worried that our family gathering will be marred by the disputes and disagreements that seem too frequently present today. Or we are anxious about how we will celebrate this first Christmas after the loss of a family member or end of an important relationship. Perhaps we're worried that our visits will be shortened and time together overshadowed by the lingering pandemic. Or... this list, unfortunately, also goes on.

But wherever we are, whatever we are anticipating, whatever hopes or joys or fears or concerns we may bring, God enters into them with us. That is what the birth of the Christ child means. God knows what it's like to be human. God understands us and accepts us as we are. God walks with us and promises to never abandon us.

One of my favorite carols of the season is *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, written by Episcopal priest Philip Brooks in 1868. It is based, in part, on Matthew's telling of the Christmas story where he quotes words from the prophet Micah. The first verse is probably familiar:

*Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

There is room at Christmas, Brooks reminds us, for both our hopes and fears, for darkness and light, because in this infant child God has come to redeem all of us, good and bad, hopeful or anxious, faithful or erring.

The third verse of this beloved hymn also holds an important reminder and promise:

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

This gift is given both silently and mysteriously. Many missed it then, and it's easy to miss it still. So this Christmas, I pray that you would take time to look and listen and open your hearts to receiving the gift of the Christ Child. I'm not asking that you surrender all that you anticipate – whether joyful or fearful – but rather that, amid these things, hear God once again promise that God understands you, accepts you, and loves you. For unto a child has been born, and in this child God is still giving us the blessings of heaven!

Blessed Advent and Christmas!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

CELEBRATE WITH US ON DECEMBER 5!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"AND HE SHALL BE CALLED EMMANUEL"

Isaiab 7:10-17; Matthew 1:18-25

M 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Lose

W 9, 10, 11am

SERMON Pastor Ruud



MESSIAH SING-A-LONG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

REHEARSAL 3PM

SING-A-LONG 3:30PM

MPLS CAMPUS SANCTUARY

Grab your Christmas sweater and choir friends to join Mount Olivet for a fun and casual community sing-a-long of Handel's *Messiah*!

This festive 45 minute sing-a-long is sure to invigorate your Christmas spirit with great music, comradery, and performances by Mount Olivet's fantastic soloists and musicians. This will be a Christmas experience that will check all the boxes – music, fellowship, and giving to others!



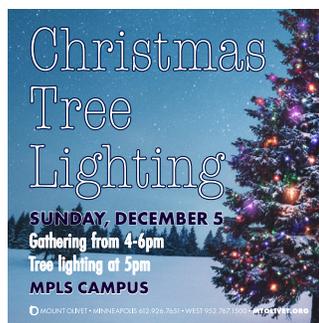
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

GATHERING 4-6PM, TREE LIGHTING 5PM

MPLS CAMPUS ON JAMES AVE

Join us as we light the Mount Olivet Christmas Tree on 50th and James Ave in Mpls! We will gather around our tree, sing some Christmas carols, and light up our small corner of south Minneapolis with grateful anticipation of the savior and light of the world. There will be music, snacks, a food truck, an opportunity to purchase Christmas trees and wreaths. Even Santa and his reindeer will be there for families to take pictures!



LIFE & GROWTH

OCT 16 - NOV 16

BAPTISMS

Marit Eleanor Bares
daughter of Alissa and Matt

Colette Ann Barnett
daughter of Lori and Alex

Inga Elizabeth Christiansen
daughter of Cari and Cole

Ella Amelia Davidson
daughter of Laura and Tom

Briggs Thomas Evans
son of Jadie and David

Rylee Ann Garber
daughter of Carly and Daniel

Vivian Rae Jaworski
daughter of Emily and Jesse

Beau Thomas Milan
son of Melissa and Maclean

Grayson Wayne Nelson
son of Amber and Joshua

Bruce Edward Pentila
son of Brianna and Ben

Benjamin Beck Rodrigues
son of Laura and Andrew

Josephine Elaine Sanchez
daughter of Laura and Joseph

Penelope Lucille Schliep
daughter of Kaley and Matt

Troyer Elliott Stephenson
son of Sarah and Justin

Caroline Rose Talbot
daughter of Laura and Nick

Wesley Steven Tallant
son of Amy and Steven

Claire Rose Wagner
daughter of Amanda and Austin

Blake Matthew Warhol
son of Tora and Matt

Edith Louise Youngquist-Berger
daughter of Emma and Brandon

Luna Rose Zachman
daughter of Katelin and Andrew

DEATHS

John A. Almquist, 1937 - 2021

Richard M. Ekstrum, 1944 - 2021

Joanne Flage, 1931 - 2021

Ronald L. Haberkorn, 1938 - 2021

Gordon F. Lindholm, 1926 - 2021

William A. Lydell, 1931 - 2021

Lorenzo E. Matte, 1931 - 2021

Marcella Nelson, 1923 - 2021

Stephen T. Salmon, 1943 - 2021

Leota M. Swanson, 1925 - 2021

Roger E. Swenson, 1931 - 2021

Cheryl A. Zuck, 1959 - 2021

DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND

DECEMBER 2021

- 1 Galatians 6:9, Doing Good
- 2 Colossians 1:27, This Mystery
- 3 Jeremiah 33:3, God Will Answer
- 4 Colossians 3:15, The Peace Of Christ
- 5 Romans 1:20, Divine Nature
- 6 Isaiah 43:4, Precious And Honored
- 7 1 Corinthians 15:56, Sting Of Death
- 8 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Christ's Love Compels Us
- 9 Psalm 56:3, When Afraid
- 10 Romans 13:6, Taxes
- 11 Matthew 11:28, God Will Give You Rest
- 12 Psalm 139:23-24, The Way Of Everlasting
- 13 Romans 5:6, For The Ungodly
- 14 Isaiah 49:15-16, The Palm Of God's Hands
- 15 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, Hold Firmly
- 16 Romans 14:5, Fully Convinced
- 17 Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Commandments
- 18 1 Corinthians 15:21, Through One Man
- 19 1 John 3:18, Actions And Truth
- 20 1 Samuel 2:2, No One Like The Lord
- 21 Colossians 3:13, Forgive
- 22 Proverbs 10:10, Tongue And Heart
- 23 James 1:19, Slow To Anger
- 24 Matthew 1:21, Save Us From Our Sins
- 25 Luke 2:6-7, She Gave Birth
- 26 Luke 2:20, Glorifying and Praising God
- 27 2 Samuel 22:32, Who Is God?
- 28 James 5:16, Powerful And Effective
- 29 Proverbs 22:6, Train A Child
- 30 1 John 5:15, God Hears Us
- 31 Habakkuk 3:19, The Lord Is My Strength

WORSHIP WITH US!

WEDNESDAYS

12NOON MPLS CAMPUS

December 1: In-Person Holy Communion

December 8: Advent Carols with Pastor Lose

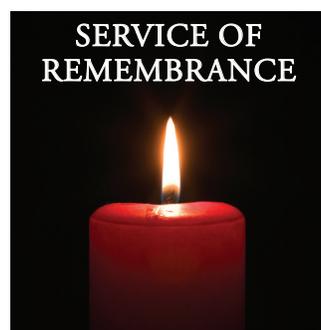
December 15: Christmas Carols with Pastor Lose

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 6:30PM, WEST CAMPUS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 6:30PM, MPLS CAMPUS

This Advent and Christmas Season we encourage you to join us in celebrating the life and memory of your loved ones by attending the Service of Remembrance. At this service, you are invited to light a candle in honor of each person being remembered. If you would like the first and last name of your loved one read during the service, please visit our website to register or contact Ann LaBree at 612.767.2288 or annl@mtolivet.org.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 3PM & 5PM, MPLS CAMPUS

These beautiful and inspirational concerts have become a favorite Christmas event for the congregation and for the community at large. This year the concert will include special instrumental selections as well as beloved anthems of the Mpls and West Campuses Cathedral Choir and Mpls Campus Senior Choir. It will be a beautiful night of music that proclaims the joy and wonder of Christ's birth in song! Begin your own celebration of the season and invite those you love to join you in experiencing Mount Olivet's Christmas Concert, "For Unto Us a Child is Born."



NEW YEAR'S EVE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

7PM WORSHIP SERVICE, 7:45PM POTLUCK, MPLS CAMPUS

All are welcome to attend this special service, with an invitation to those working programs of recovery. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share for a potluck following the worship service.

A December to Remember

Christmas For All



Please bring new, unwrapped gifts for all ages in a \$5-\$40 range to either campus for our Christmas for All store, which benefits Mount Olivet ministry partners Love INC, Southside Family Nurturing Center and Redeemer Lutheran Church.

CHRISTMAS FOR ALL DROP OFF

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 5-7PM

Please bring new, unwrapped gifts for all ages in a \$5-\$40 range to either campus for our Christmas for All store, which benefits Mount Olivet ministry partners Love INC, Southside Family Nurturing Center and Redeemer Lutheran Church. A list of suggested items is available at mtolivet.org. To volunteer by receiving gifts on drop-off dates and/or assisting on the store date (12/5), please contact Laurie Hancer at 612.767.2267 or lhancer@mtolivet.org.



COAT & MITTEN DRIVE

Donate new non-handmade coats, mittens, scarves, and hats to help support our Ministry Partners

MOCW COAT & MITTEN DRIVE

THROUGH 12/15

NEW THIS YEAR!... We are accepting new coats of any size to further help our friends in need. We are accepting new mittens, hats, scarves and coats of all sizes. Please consider a donation of very warm outdoor mittens for the people we serve who are experiencing homelessness. Drop off baskets are located in the main office at the Mpls Campus or next to the reception desk at the West Campus. Warm your heart and someone's hands by donating items for those less fortunate.

Lutefisk Dinner!

Fri, Dec 3, 2021 | Mpls Campus

Reserve seating at 3pm, 4:30pm, or 6pm

\$20 Adults
\$5 Kids
Under 12



MOCW LUTEFISK DINNER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, SEATINGS AT 3, 4:30 & 6PM, MPLS CAMPUS

Join us for the 91st Lutfisk Dinner. Everyone is invited to an all-you-can-eat buffet of lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, rutabagas, boiled potatoes, pickled beets, and yes, of course, butter or white sauce! **Advanced online ticket sales are requested and are available at mtolivet.org.** \$20 adults, \$5 kids 12 and under. Questions? Contact the church office at 612.926.7651.



MOCW CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 10AM, MPLS CAMPUS

Transport yourself from the cold, snowy December Saturday to the Caribbean Islands. Chris Belich will play his steel drum as you start the morning with a Coquito Mocktail, Island Chicken and Rice, and end with a coffee rum cake. Cost: \$15 adults, \$6 kids 8 and under. Purchase 8 tickets to reserve a table. All other seating is first come, first served. Register by 12/12.



Spreading Christmas Cheer

DIGITAL ADVENT CALENDAR

We are thrilled to offer our Advent Calendar online at mtolivet.org again! There will be 24 days filled with holiday items that prepare us for this festive, sacred, and joy-filled season. The calendar begins on Wednesday, December 1, through Friday, December 24.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

This year's Advent Devotional is written by Senior Pastor, David Lose, and is available for pick up at the Mpls and West Campuses. Sign up to receive the devotional via email at mtolivet.org/christmas.

CHRISTMAS EARLY MEAL DELIVERY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 10AM-1PM

Your Mount Olivet Church family would like to share the warmth and joy of this Advent season with you! An early Christmas meal will be delivered to your residence on Saturday, December 4, between 10am and 1pm by one of our wonderful volunteer drivers. All you need to do is heat it and enjoy! If you would like to receive a meal or be a volunteer driver, please contact Ann LaBree at 612.767.2288 or annl@mtolivet.org. *With the intention of creating the safest environment possible, volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated.*

YOUNG IN HEART

Join us for the Advent Carols with Pastor Lose service at **12noon on Wednesday, December 15**. Following the service, join us for a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Genevieve Kalland and George Dornbach will share the spirit of Christmas with their music.

Cost: \$9, and a donation to Pastor Scott's ministry is welcome. Please register no later than December 10, by contacting Ann LaBree, at annl@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2288.

Masks are encouraged to be worn at Young in Heart.

BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

Monday through Friday: 5-8pm

Saturdays and Sundays: 9am-6pm

Boy Scout Troop #110 will once again be holding their Christmas Tree Lot at the 1700 Chapel. Preorders are available now for wreaths, garlands, centerpieces, and trees from their website: troop-110.org/holiday-shop. Holiday items may be picked up the weekend after Thanksgiving. Trees may also be preordered through the website. Delivery is available the weekend after Thanksgiving.

MOHA BUTTER BRAIDS

Order through December 5

Holiday Butter Braids are back! Mount Olivet Homes Auxiliary will be selling Butter Braids just in time for Christmas! Sales will again be online at mtolivet.org, with pickup scheduled between services on Sunday, December 12, from 9:30am-12noon.



Your Pastors' Favorite Christmas Cookies!

We asked our Pastors to share thier favorite Christmas Cookies with us! The recipes to these beloved Christmas cookies are available at mtolivet.org/christmas. We hope they will fill your kitchen with joy and warmth this season!

PASTOR LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

While not a “classic” Christmas cookie, Peanut Butter Cup Cookies were only at my house at Christmas and have become a favorite. Funny story: during our first year of marriage, my wife, who had heard me talk about these cookies but never seen them, wanted to surprise me. Not much of a candy person herself, she didn’t know miniature peanut butter cups existed, so she used full-sized cups and made a batch of gargantuan – and yummy – cookies!



PASTOR KALLAND

Swedish Cream Wafers are one of my favorite Christmas cookies. I enjoyed these for many reasons. Besides the taste of these cookies, the smell of the house while my mom was making them filled more than just my lungs, it also filled my heart. Knowing that my mom made them with love made them taste even better. At times it was extremely difficult not to eat many in a row!

PASTOR HAMMERSTEN

I wish you could’ve met my grandma. She was the most beautiful person I’ve known. So filled with love and warmth and encouragement and hospitality. Driving up the big long driveway to her home filled us all with excitement and anticipation of the warm embrace that awaited us, the crackling fire in the hearth, and the tables laden with homemade pies and rolls and cookies. The milkman never even minded all the butter and cream he carried up that hill because there was always a cup of coffee and something sweet waiting when he got there. These Sugar Cookies were our favorite at Christmas time. Not as fancy as all the Lefse, Krumkake, and Sandbakkels on the tables, and that suited us kids just fine.





PASTOR MACLEAN

My favorite Christmas cookie is a Peanut Blossom. Actually, not just one, but several! Our recipe comes from my wife's grandmother and has been a family favorite for well over 40 years. And there's nothing better than eating them as they come out of the oven!

PASTOR RUUD

My mother's Spritz Cookies are probably my dearest and most favorite. I remember making them with her and getting to decorate them in any way I chose as a kid. Fresh out of the oven a serving size seemed to be half the pan. I've also come to learn that my mouth starts drooling whenever I encounter the Ginger Snaps made by our very own Mount Olivet Director of Culinary Services, Sally McNamee. I'm a Ginger Snap fiend as it is. Sally's are phenomenal. They seem to make a appearance often at Mount Olivet events this time of year. Those cookies preach! Thank you, Sally and Team!



PASTOR DIXON

My favorite Christmas cookie is the Spritz. We've been making and decorating Spritzes in my family for at least five generations. Every year, I make hundreds and hand them out to neighbors and friends. Now my kids are starting to make their own trays! I love this tradition, because it's teaching them (and reminding me) that Christmas is a time to be joyful in giving. The recipe is a family secret (that my great-grandmother probably got off of a package). But I will share one tip: take the butter out of the fridge the night before. Ready, set, bake!

PASTOR FREEMAN

Why are Melting Moments my favorite Christmas cookie? I grew up in a family that pretty much lived by the adage, "A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand," so it's difficult to choose a favorite. The internet says that Christmas cookies can describe your personality. Melting Moments aren't listed, but one might say sugar cookies could be their cousins. According to this source, my cookie choice lists me as a risk-averse crowd-pleaser. Who knew? Merry Christmas, everyone!





CHRISTMAS EVE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

8-9PM & 10PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, MPLS CAMPUS

1pm: Seasonal Orchestral music*

2-4pm: Cathedral Choir and Orchestra

5 & 6pm: Instrumental Solo and Vocal Duet with Orchestra

7-9pm: Senior Choir and Orchestra

10pm: Candlelight service with Senior Choir and Orchestra

*Thanks to the generous donation of a Mount Olivet family we are pleased to offer this special musical program.

2-5PM & 6PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, WEST CAMPUS

2 & 3pm: Cathedral Choir, String Quartet, and Harp

4 & 5pm: Senior Choir, String Quartet, and Harp

6pm: Candlelight service with Senior Choir, String Quartet, and Harp

Join in the celebration of the birth of Jesus by worshipping in person at either campus or online on the hour from 2pm-10pm. These meaningful services will include the reading of the beloved Christmas scripture from the Book of Luke as well as numerous Christmas carols sung by the congregation, and special anthems by choirs and/or soloists, all with orchestra. The final candlelight service of the evening ends with the singing of *Silent Night* as the congregation shares the light of Christ by sharing the light of individual candles.

CHRISTMAS DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

10AM, MPLS CAMPUS

Begin your Christmas morning with the peaceful and beautiful Mount Olivet Christmas Day Communion worship service. Pastor MacLean will be preaching and the service will be filled with cherished Christmas hymns accompanied by harp and organ.

Christmas Offering Match

Thanks to the generosity of several Mount Olivet households, we are able to match all Christmas and end-of-the-year gifts again this year! That means that each dollar you give to Mount Olivet beyond your pledge as a Christmas or end-of-the-year gift will be matched dollar for dollar.

Your gifts will support Mount Olivet's General Fund (that supports all of our ministries), including the weekly Community Meals, Lutheran Social Services' work to resettle Afghan refugees, other Community Outreach partners, the Capital Campaign, Cathedral of the Pines Camp, and the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center. Thank you for your support! —PASTOR LOSE

WAYS TO GIVE

Christmas Offering Envelope: Mailed to you in December.

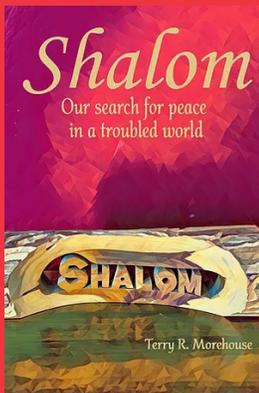
Online: With your credit card or bank information by visiting mtolivet.org/online-giving.

Contact Us: We are here to help! Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan in our finance office at tricial@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2255.

For Questions About Other Ways to Give: Contact Tyler Hauser in our Development Office, at thausert@mtolivethomes.org or 612.821.3151.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The winter session of “Word with the Pastors” will focus on the Gospel of Mark. In four sessions beginning in late January, Mount Olivet pastors will share, teach, and discuss some of the big themes and/or powerful passages of the briefest Gospel in the scriptures that pack a big punch. Come hear why it’s Pastor Kalland’s favorite, and hear from other pastors how this Gospel shares faith in a unique and wonderful way. More details and registration information in the January *Messenger*.

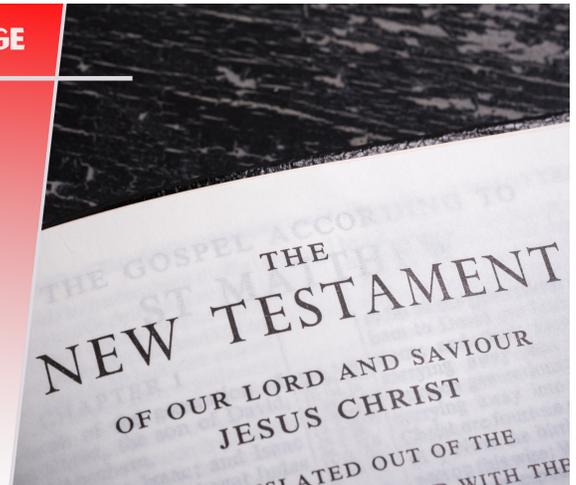


SHALOM!

Pastor Morehouse’s new book “Shalom: Our Search for Peace in a Troubled World” is available for purchase at the Minneapolis front desk or via Jody Barbee at the West Campus. \$15 cash or check. All proceeds from the sales will go to the ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM.

LIVING THE MESSAGE

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT



Jesus Is Risen! Now What? *Acts of the Apostles*

Jesus was born, lived, revealed the Kingdom of God in word and deed, died, was buried, and in three days rose from the grave, appeared to his disciples, and ascended into heaven. Then what? What did his disciples do next? How did people continue to gather as followers of Jesus’ way? How did this whole Christian church thing take off?

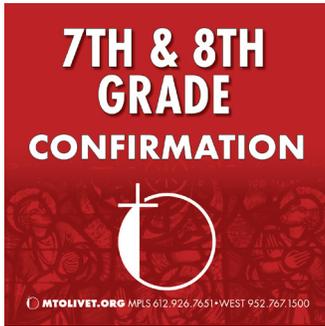
The January *Living The Message* session will focus on wrestling and learning about those questions with a dive into the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Arguably one of the most important, influential, and exciting books of the Bible in hearing how God’s Holy Spirit is revealed, Acts describes how the Spirit of Christ led and in fact drove the early believers to share the good news of God’s love for all people. In it, we learn of the ministry of Peter and Paul, the establishment of new communities of faith in Christ, and how God was often even out ahead of the disciples revealing the astoundingly extravagant, ever-expanding nature of the message of Jesus’ love for the whole world.

Tune in this January (in-person or via video--it’s not too late to join this study!) to be driven with the disciples of Christ in God’s mission to the world in Acts! We might also ask the question, where or to or for whom is God’s Spirit still out ahead of us today, inviting and driving us to share and enact the abundance of God’s grace for us today? You won’t want to miss it! —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*

In-Person presentations held the first Tuesday of the month at the Mpls Campus, except March 2022 when they will be at West; 6:30-7:30pm; Videos emailed out by first Tuesday of the month. Small groups meet at various times throughout the month. You are still so welcome to join this Living the Message series! New participants are welcome anytime and, if you’d like, you can catch up by watching the videos.

UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY



CONFIRMATION

REMINDERS!

There will be no confirmation on Sundays, December 19 or 26, or Wednesdays, December 22 or 29. Join us for Worship instead!



CHRISTMAS FOR ALL

WEDNESDAY, 12/1

All Confirmation students please bring an unwrapped gift to donate to this special cause.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

REHEARSAL: SATURDAY, 12/11, 2-4:30PM, MPLS

CONCERT: SUNDAY, 12/12, 3 & 5PM, MPLS

In-person and live streamed online.



JHA CHRISTMAS PARTY

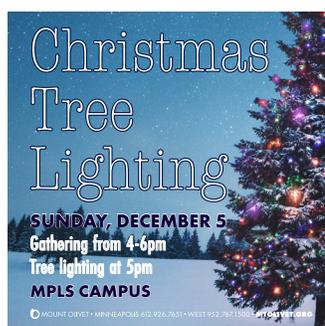
SATURDAY, 12/18, 1-3PM

Join the JHA Youth Staff at the West Campus for a Christmas Party. There will be cookie decorating, holiday themed games/crafts, and Christmas music!



SUNDAY SERVE

Sunday Serve is a service project for Confirmation students. We meet once a month at both campuses. Contact Anna Herd with any questions at aherd@mtolivet.org.



TREE LIGHTING

SUNDAY, 12/5 4-6PM, MPLS CAMPUS

There will be singing, snacks, and then we will light the big tree at 5pm! This is an all congregation event.



INSTAGRAM

Follow us on Instagram! [@mtolivet_youth](https://www.instagram.com/mtolivet_youth) for fun and goofy content, devotionals, and updates!



HI-LEAGUE

12/4: Christmas for All Shopping

12/5: Christmas Tree Lighting Event

12/11: Redeemer Christmas Store

12/19: 10th Grade games & devotion (Led by seniors)



Our Christmas Favorites



GEOFF ARENSEN

Hello everyone, my name is Geoff Arenson and I am the Director of Youth Ministry. My favorite Christmas song is *Kermit's Christmas Wish*, specifically sung by the Annunciation students at their annual Christmas Program. My favorite Christmas tradition is Christmas Eve at Mount Olivet. I love singing, being with Cathedral Choir, and seeing everyone at church!



ANGIE ST. DENNIS

Hi, I'm Angie St. Dennis and I am the Confirmation Coordinator. My favorite Christmas song is *O Holy Night*. I love the emotion and energy people share when singing this song! My favorite Mount Olivet Christmas tradition is being together in our beautiful sanctuary for our Christmas Concert!



ANNA HERD

Hello friends! My name is Anna Herd and I am the Junior High Youth Coordinator. My favorite Christmas song is *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. The energy in the sanctuary when we sing that on Christmas is the best!! And one of my favorite traditions is Christmas Caroling at the Mount Olivet Home with Adopt-a-Grandparent.



SAM SANDA

Oh hi there! My name is Sam and I am on the Youth Staff. My favorite thing about Christmas is seeing past, present, and future COP counselors all together at church on Christmas Eve! My favorite Christmas song is *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.



JULIA JALLO

Hey everyone! I'm Julia and I am the West Campus High School Youth Coordinator. My favorite Christmas song is *All I Want for Christmas is You* because all it does is remind me of camp dances and always puts me in a good mood. And my favorite Christmas tradition is Hi-League ice-skating event.



KATIE RIDLER

Hello! I'm Katie Ridler. I work on the Youth Staff and help with confirmation out at the West Campus. My favorite Christmas song is *Wonderful Christmastime* by Paul McCartney and my favorite Mount Olivet Christmas tradition is participating in the 'Christmas for All' event!



MACEY OLIVER

Hey! I'm Macey, I am the Minneapolis Senior High Youth Coordinator. My favorite Christmas song is *O Holy Night*, the Christina Aguilera cover. My favorite Christmas tradition is when all the choirs sing *Peace, Peace* during the Christmas Concert!



SUMMER 2022 PREVIEW

The weather may be chilly outside, but the Children & Family Ministry team is heating up our plans for Summer 2022! We will continue to provide the high-quality programming you have come to expect from Mount Olivet, such as God's Kids Sing and Vacation Bible School, with new options available throughout the summer. We are excited to be partnering with the Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center to develop a nature-based day camp to facilitate exploration and appreciation for God's creation. We will also be growing our day camp programming for elementary aged children out of the Minneapolis campus to serve the care needs of our community while having lots of fun with crafts, games, music, movement and offsite field trips.

More information is to come regarding summer programming including camp descriptions and registration information January 2022!

Gingerbread Event

Join us for the Children & Family Gingerbread Event! This long-standing tradition will continue this December with two options for families! You can choose to pick up your gingerbread kit for a festive activity to-go OR you can join us at the Mpls Campus in Fellowship Hall for a meal and decorating event!

Gingerbread To-Go: \$15, includes gingerbread kit, décor and goodies – pick up is between 4-6pm on December 10

Gingerbread Event: \$25, includes gingerbread kit, décor and goodies, and meal. 6-8pm on Friday, December 10.

Register online at mtolivet.org. Contact Amy Porthan with questions: amyp@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2285

Sunday School Update

We will have Sunday School on Sunday, December 5, and Sunday, December 12, this month! We are off for Sunday, December 19 and 26 - please worship as a family and have a Merry Christmas! Tune in for a special Christmas edition of *Going God's Way* featuring our Sunday School choirs!

First Communion

Attention 6th Grade Families! Please save the date for First Communion: Sunday, March 6 at the Mpls Campus and Sunday, March 13, at the West Campus.

Information on First Communion Classes and Registration to come via email after the holidays. Please contact Katy Michaletz at kmichaletz@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2245 with questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CRAFTY LADIES

Thursday, December 9
through Sunday, December
12

Experienced and beginner crafters are invited to Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center for a weekend of uninterrupted crafting. We provide the beautiful space and you bring your craft projects! The retreat is self-directed – the weekend is your own! Work on your crafting, meet other crafters, enjoy home cooked meals from our kitchen, and relax and unwind with a peaceful walk in the woods or a dip in the whirlpool.

Cost includes crafting space with electrical outlet, overnight accommodations, six meals, use of all amenities and tax.

When you register you will choose the dates you would like to attend the retreat (Dec. 9-11, or Dec. 10-12) and the type of overnight accommodation: single, double, or dorm.



WOMEN'S WEEKEND: THE GIFTS OF FRIENDSHIP

Friday, January 28 through
Sunday, January 30

At the end of his life, Jesus said to his disciples, "I do not call you servants any longer... but I have called you friends." Together we will explore Biblical stories about friendship with God, friendship with one another, and friendship with all God's creatures. Come share the gifts of friendship and be inspired to deepen and expand your friendships during and after our time away together. Spend time walking in the woods, relaxing in the whirlpool, scheduling a massage (extra cost), or quietly meditating. Led by Pastor Monica Hammersten, Pastor Rebecca Wold Freeman, and Retreat Center Director Rev. Theresa Latini.

Register at mtolivet.org for single occupancy, double occupancy, or dormitory occupancy.



WELCOME ANNIE LANGSETH!

The Reverend Annie Langseth will be our part-time Director of Creative Engagement & Outreach. Annie comes to us from Garrison, ND, where she has served as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church (ELCA). She will implement a marketing and outreach plan for our 200+ annually-hosted retreats and will provide creative resources in worship and the arts for our programs. In addition, Annie will serve as the new Director of Spiritual Care at Mount Olivet Home, Careview Home, and Day Services, overseeing the spiritual needs of residents, families, and employees. In partnership with Mount Olivet Homes, we are grateful to welcome Annie later this month!



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Christmas Eve

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

MPLS 2-10pm **WEST 2-6pm**