

APRIL 2023

BELIEVING, BELONGING, BECOMING

MOUNT OLIVET MESSENGER



mtolivet.org



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.

SUNDAYS

DIAL-IN VIA PHONE
833.775.1238
11am

**WATCH THE MPLS
WORSHIP SERVICE AT
MTOLIVET.ORG**
9, 10, 11am

HOLY COMMUNION
8:30 & 11:45am

NURSERY
9, 10, & 11am

APRIL 2

**THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY
PALM SUNDAY**
John 12:12-19

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Cieslik
W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman

APRIL 9

**RESURRECTION AND
NEW LIFE
EASTER SUNDAY**
John 20:1-18

M 7, 8, 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose
W 8, 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon

APRIL 16

THE INVOCATION
Matthew 28:16-20

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud
W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Cieslik

APRIL 23

THE CONFESSION
Romans 3:21-24

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland
W 9, 10, 11am
*Cathedral of the Pines Camp
Style Worship*
SERMON Pastor Lose

APRIL 30

THE HYMNS
Ephesians 5:19-20

M 9, 10, 11am
*Cathedral of the Pines Camp
Style Worship*
SERMON Pastor Lose
W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman

LENTEN WEDNESDAY SERVICES

During our Wednesday Worship (12noon, Mpls), our pastors will highlight some of their favorite images of Jesus from the world of art and share how these images help them better understand Jesus and his presence and impact in our lives.

SERVICE SCHEDULE:

APRIL 5: with Pastor Freeman (*Communion Service*)

Easter Possibility: Not Just for Sundays!

What do you think is the most important day of the week for Christians to live out their faith?

Before answering that question, I want to highlight the Easter story we'll read this year. In St. John's account, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb and, when she sees it's empty, runs to find Peter who, along with another disciple, runs to see what has happened. When those two disciples leave, Mary tarries in the garden where the tomb is located, her grief now compounded by fear that someone has stolen the body of her beloved Lord. When Jesus appears to her, she doesn't recognize him until he calls her by name. And then – suddenly – everything is possible. She races to the rest of the disciples to share the life-altering, world-changing good news: "I have seen the Lord!"

Think, for a moment, of the difference Mary's encounter with the resurrected Jesus made in her life. Not simply a move from grief to joy, it was the transition from every aspect of her existence being overshadowed by death to all of life being infused with hope and possibility.

God wants that same sense of possibility for us! Which is why we gather on Sundays: to be reminded of the power and possibility of the resurrection. That's why Christians moved their day of worship from Saturday – the Sabbath on which God rested from creation – to Sunday – the first day of the week, the day on which God raised Jesus from the dead and re-created all things. In this sense, each and every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, a celebration and reminder that, with God, all things are possible, and each part of our worship service is designed to anchor us in that good news and send us out with that sense of resurrection possibility.

But do we know that? Do we see Sunday as a day that equips and empowers us to live out a sense of resurrection possibility all week long?

Which brings me back to my opening question: what is the most important day of the week for Christians to live out their faith? I suspect that most of us would answer *Sunday*, the day we come to church. But I actually think the answer is the opposite. I think that God wants us to live out our faith every day of the week, and that Sunday is intended to prepare us, inspire us, equip, and empower us to do just that: to go into our Monday-through-Saturday lives committed to living our faith by helping others, by making a

difference, by working to make the world a better place through our varied roles as parent, sibling, employer, employee, volunteer, caregiver, friend, student, citizen, and so many more.

It's easy to think that Sunday worship – with the wonderful music, moving prayers, and biblical preaching – is the "grand performance" of our faith, but I would argue that our life in the world is the performance and Sunday worship instead is the rehearsal. Worship is the place we hear the story, pray together, are inspired by God's love, and are sent out for meaningful, impactful lives. Similarly, Sunday isn't "the big game," it's the practice field, even the locker room. Sunday is the day we practice our faith so that we can live it Monday through Saturday. And each and every part of our worship service is designed to help us do just that.

Over the next six weeks, we're starting a sermon series entitled "Not Just for Sundays!" Each week, we'll take one element of the worship service – the Invocation, Creed, or Sermon, for instance – and open it up, look at where it came from, help us understand what it means and, most importantly, explore how this part of our Sunday worship can help us lead lives of meaning, purpose, and impact. How does the invocation help us as parents? What does the creed have to say to me when I'm struggling to get by? And why do we sing hymns and listen to the sermon? These and other questions come front and center over the next six weeks as we harness God's resurrection possibility in our lives as individuals, families, and a church. I can't wait to start this journey with you and look forward to seeing you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

PS: A reminder that when you have to miss Sunday worship, the service at the Mpls campus is streamed live and archived and the sermons at both campuses are available at mtolivet.org/sermons.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 2, 9, 10, & 11am, Mpls & West Campuses

Our morning worship services will be filled with the music of brass instrumentalists, congregational singing, and choirs celebrating Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. Come to lift your voice and wave palm branches with the Senior, Cathedral, Chancel, Chapel, Hosanna, and Alleluia Choirs for the Palm Sunday processions. Join with the whole congregation in singing, "Hosanna to the King!"

SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

Wednesday, April 5, 7pm, Mpls Campus and livestreamed at mtolivet.org.

This beloved Holy Week musical event is an important tradition for many during the Lenten season. All Cathedral Choir alums are invited to support this important tradition by joining in vocally. The adult presence in this concert is important musically and serves as a powerful witness to our high school singers to the importance of future faith practices. Please join us for a review rehearsal on Wednesday, April 5, at 6pm in the rehearsal hall before the performance at 7pm. Choir singers, please wear dark clothing.

LIVING LORD'S SUPPER

Thursday, April 6, 7pm, Mpls & West Campuses

Join in this unique service of Holy Communion that represents the night Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. We will observe a live portrayal of this important event, and come to receive the gifts and commit ourselves once again to the way of Christ.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 7

Mpls Campus: 7am, 12noon (livestreamed), 5pm, & 7pm (Tenebrae service)

West Campus: 5pm & 7pm (Tenebrae service)

These meaningful communion services are offered as a way to remember and reflect on the sacrifice that was made on our behalf in the crucifixion of our Lord. The Tenebrae service, sometimes referred to as the service of shadows, is a moving experience in hearing once again the story of Jesus' painful journey to the cross.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 9

Mpls Campus: 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11am, Pastor Lose

West Campus: 8, 9, 10, & 11am, Pastor Dixon

A joyful and festive worship service celebrating the risen Christ! We hear God's word and join in song with the choirs and brass in proclaiming that "Christ has risen indeed!"

LIFE & GROWTH

FEB 14 - MAR 14 BAPTISMS

Everett Maurer Iversrud
son of Michelle and Robert

Case Curtis Kingbay
son of Ashley and Chad

Jack William Logan
son of Erin and Robert

Henry Curtis Moen
son of Katherine and Aaron

Lucas John Wardlow
son of Jenny and Douglas

DEATHS

Lois A. Bickel
1930 – 2023

Alta Dodge
1922 – 2023

Marilee Griffin
1939 – 2023

Jane L. McCall
1947 – 2023

John "Jack" Munson
1929 – 2023

Grayson Oie
1990 – 2023

Larrie L. Rennerfeldt
1941 – 2023

James C. Schwanebeck
1943 – 2023

Lois Wilcox
1921 – 2023



DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND

APRIL 2023

- 1 Proverbs 26:11, A Fool Repeats Folly
- 2 Psalm 56:4, Mere Mortals
- 3 Isaiah 53:4, Healed By His Wounds
- 4 Isaiah 53:3, Despised And Rejected
- 5 2 Peter 3:9, Patient With Us
- 6 Romans 8:32, For Us All
- 7 Psalm 94:19, Consolation Brought Joy
- 8 James 3:17, Full Of Mercy
- 9 Luke 24:6-7, He Has Risen
- 10 Psalm 119:130, Understanding
- 11 1 Corinthians 15:58, Stand Firm
- 12 Galatians 6:7, Do Not Be Deceived
- 13 Psalm 37:7, Be Still
- 14 2 Corinthians 10:17-18, Boast In The Lord
- 15 Hebrews 13:5, Never Forsake You
- 16 Proverbs 21:2, The Lord Weighs The Heart
- 17 Colossians 3:14, Put On Love
- 18 Joshua 1:9, With You Wherever You Go
- 19 Psalm 16:2, Apart From You
- 20 Luke 12:6-7, Worth More Than Sparrows
- 21 Galatians 3:26-27, Children Of God
- 22 Psalm 119:114, Refuge And Shield
- 23 John 3:16, Eternal Life
- 24 1 Samuel 16:7, The Lord Looks At The Heart
- 25 Psalm 66:17, Praise On My Tongue
- 26 1 Chronicles 29:14, Comes From God's Hand
- 27 Acts 4:32, Shared Everything
- 28 Psalm 62:7, Depends On God
- 29 Revelation 22:21, The Grace Of Jesus
- 30 Ephesians 4:15, Speak The Truth With Love

DEVOTION

"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." — 1 Corinthians 1:18

"April Fools' Day" (April 1) often falls in or near the observance of Holy Week, and with it I'm annually reminded of the description of the gospel by the Apostle Paul. He notes how the message of the cross is "foolishness" to some. After all, who would worship a savior who dies – via crucifixion no less?! Yet, the death of Jesus turns our world upside down. We have a God who reigns not by amassing worldly might, but by going low, becoming empty, taking upon Godself the utter depth, despair, and lonely darkness of real human suffering and death. To those stuck on clamoring for power, it seems a foolish path. But for those yearning for a God present in all things, redeeming us from that which is beyond our control, associating with the downtrodden in our very weakness and frailty as human beings, it is the greatest news of all. We may think God foolish, but in Christ, God is a fool in love for you. Blessed Holy Week. — PASTOR RUUD



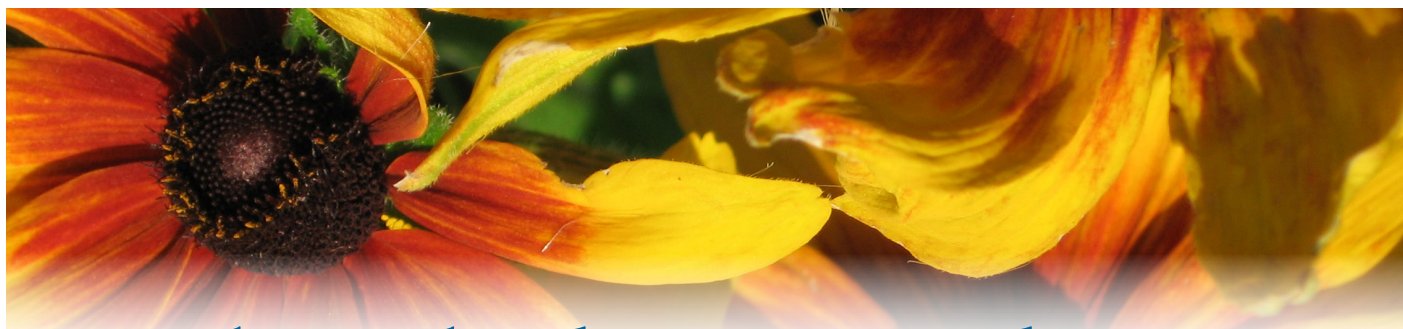
FROM STRESS TO REST

In Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV), Jesus said, **"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."**

These past few years, we have experienced incredible stress that has been caused and exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. There has been more conflict and violence in our neighborhoods, schools, homes, and relationships. There have been so many cancelled events, uncelebrated milestones, lost opportunities, deaths of loved ones, and many other unnamed losses. If you haven't felt weary or burdened these past few years, you are either extremely lucky or you may have been living under a rock. We already have, by default, a mind that has a negative bias, which means it's easy for us to assume the worst. And our mind is incredibly convincing! Adding significant stress makes this pattern worse and our mind can easily run away with itself. When we take all of these negative thoughts as fact, it leads us to feel worse and act in ways that leave us feeling worse yet.

When we take up Jesus's yoke and learn from him, our burden becomes light. When we do not believe every critical or fearful thought that our mind tells us, our burden becomes light. When we believe His words of truth and love, our burden becomes light. We can rest in His love, which is always available to us – right here, right now – just by connecting with the breath, allowing the body to be at ease. Breathing in, breathing out, right here, right now. All is well. Take his yoke upon you, learn from him, and you will find rest for your soul.

— SHERRI HERMAN, MA, LPCC, Director of the Counseling Service



Looking Ahead to Spring and Summer

The first months of the year brought record-breaking snowfall on our 151 acres at the Conference & Retreat Center. It also brought more website traffic than in any other months. Groups are eager to get their 2023 conferences and retreats on the calendar. Individuals are yearning for rest, refocus, and renewal.

Our own summer programming is filling up, too. Bands for our free outdoor concerts are booked, midweek worship services are scheduled, and nature camp registration is on a waitlist. It's all very exciting, and it means if you are considering a spring or summer retreat or even a family reunion, you may want to solidify your dates soon!

The Conference & Retreat Center hosts many family reunions each year, usually in the summer. All ages gather to reconnect, relax, and enjoy the beauty of nature. Kids on retreat with their extended families play yard games, compete in the Gaga Ball pit, and climb on the natural playscape. Dan Kahl, our Site Naturalist, takes families on guided hikes throughout our woods, prairie, and marshland. And of course, family members spend significant time swimming in the pool and relaxing in the whirlpool and sauna. We hope you'll consider bringing your own families to our beautiful grounds. (Kids under 13 receive a reduced rate and those under 3 are free when staying overnight with their families.)

To book an event for your family, neighborhood group, or church friends reach out online or by calling 952.469.2175.

Mother's Day Brunch & Worship

Sunday, May 14, 9:30am
Worship, Seatings at
10:30am & 12noon, Mount
Olivet Conference & Retreat
Center

Celebrate Mom with delicious food, beautiful views, and warm hospitality at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center on Sunday, May 14. Expect mouthwatering dishes and a wide assortment of desserts. While you're here, enjoy a dip in the pool, a hike on our trails, a round of Gaga Ball, or a restful sit on one of our outdoor patios. Let us handle the details while your family makes memories! All are welcome. Register at mtolivetretreat.org.



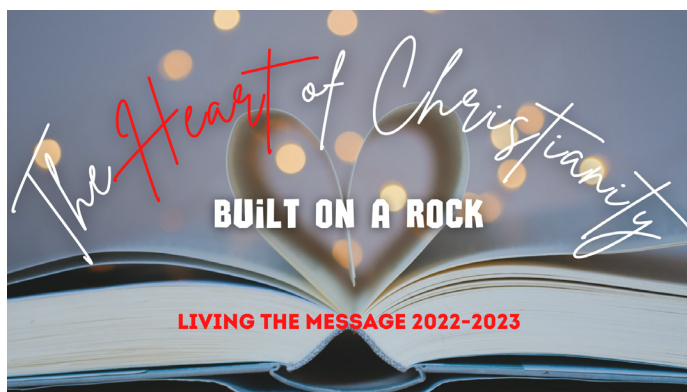
Spring Volunteer Day

Saturday, May 20, 9am-3pm,
Mount Olivet Conference &
Retreat Center

Whether you're a family looking for volunteer opportunities, a small group wanting a day away together, or a volunteer day regular, all are welcome to lend a hand for our annual Spring Volunteer Day!

Join us as we ready the Conference & Retreat Center grounds for spring and summer by planting flowers, wood chipping the trails, repairing outdoor benches, and helping with other seasonal projects. When the work is done, it's time for some fun! Enjoy a delicious meal from our kitchen, have a swim in the pool, or explore the trails. Thank you for helping us care for creation! Registration opens at mtolivet.org on April 15.





The End of All Things: *Eschatology*

What happens at the end? Where is it all headed? When can we expect it? What will it look and feel like and how will God finally bring about the end of the age? These questions have intrigued and caused great consternation for faithful and unfaithful alike. In May, we'll dig into these questions and more as we look to scripture to discern God's work in Christ to make all things new. We may not come to definitive answers, but we'll see how we have great words of promise which give us assurance and even perhaps a realization and experience of God's heavenly blessing right now and great hope for what is to come. **PASTOR RUUD**

UPCOMING CLASSES:

APRIL 11: The Body of Christ: *Church and the Holy Spirit* (One week later due to Holy Week)

MAY 2: The End of All Things: *Eschatology* (final class of the series)

These classes are part of the "Living the Message" series taught by Pastors Lose and Ruud the first Tuesday of each month through May (6:30-7:30pm), or via monthly emailed videos. All are welcome at any time.

**REGISTER FOR ALL ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT
MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION OR CONTACT KATIE
STEVENSON AT KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG
OR 612.767.2232.**

Word With Our Pastors: *Becoming a Community of Shalom*

Throughout the Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament), the concept of shalom conveys God's desire for all people: relationships marked by wholeness, peace, health, and security. We are called to shalom in our relationships with God, each other, and all creation. When our communities are marked by shalom, they exude compassion, wisdom, and equanimity (i.e., balance and serenity). In this class, we will explore the biblical concept of shalom and pray together for it. Join Reverend Theresa Latini (Executive Director, Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center) and Reverend Dale Peterson (Director of Spiritual Care, Mount Olivet Careview Home and Mount Olivet Home) for a mix of biblical study, reflection, and guided prayer all aimed at helping us receive God's promise of wholeness and peace.

UPCOMING CLASSES:

APRIL 12/13: *The Beauty and Promise of Shalom* with the Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini

APRIL 19/20: *Equanimity for Turbulent Times* with the Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini

APRIL 26/27: *Compassion for Self and Others* with the Rev. Dale Peterson

MAY 3/4: *Wisdom in Daily Life* with the Rev. Dale Peterson
This four-week series runs 10:30-11:30am Wednesdays at Mpls and Thursdays at West or via videos.

MOUNT OLIVET BOOK DISCUSSIONS: EVENING AND DAYTIME OPTIONS

DAYTIME DISCUSSIONS: 10-11:30am the second Tuesday of the month; Mpls Campus

EVENING DISCUSSIONS: 7-8:30pm the second Wednesday of the month; Mpls Campus

APRIL: *Resistance Women* by Jennifer Chiaverini

MAY: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab

JUNE: *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

Please be sure to register to receive reminder emails and more.

Lutheran World Relief Update

There are times when I find the news headlines that come across my phone almost too much to take: wars, famines, poverty, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. At those times, I wonder what God is up to – even where God is in midst of these tragedies – and question how I can possibly help in the face of so much suffering.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

And then I remember our celebration of Christ's resurrection through our glorious Easter service and find hope. Because in the resurrection we have God's promise that death will not have the last word, that life and love and generosity will triumph over fear and hate and suffering. And, because God has promised to restore the whole creation in time, we can do our part, as small as it may seem, to help alleviate and prevent the suffering of others. And when we band together, even the smallest of our gestures combine to make a huge difference.

One of our partners in helping to bring resurrection hope and tangible help to those who are suffering is Lutheran World Relief. Founded just after WWII to help alleviate those ravaged by that global conflict, LWR has grown into a multinational relief and development agency making a huge difference in some of the poorest parts of the world. Last year at this time, this congregation responded to LWR's request for help responding to the crisis created by the war in Ukraine with more than \$100,000 in gifts, and not only are LWR staff still at work there, they have been active in responding to the recent and devastating earthquake in Turkey as well. Because I have the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors of LWR (and its parent organization, Corus International), I wanted to offer my thanks for your generosity and provide a status update on these two critical areas of outreach.

UKRAINE

Through the generosity of congregations like ours, LWR has committed \$13M to aiding those who have been displaced in Ukraine by:

- supporting temporary shelters in neighboring countries like Poland,
- delivering medicine and cash – vital for purchasing food – to people in war torn parts of Ukraine,
- providing food, medicine, and shelter to those who have been forced to leave their homes,
- providing materials goods – quilts to keep people warm, hygiene kits to help them keep clean – to people suffering the burdens of this war,
- establishing shelters for women and children, often the chief victims during wartime, and
- improving sanitation and providing clean water throughout the country.

TURKEY

After the massive earthquake that has so far cost the lives of tens of thousands of people, LWR, again aided by the generosity of this and so many other congregations and individuals, was immediately on the scene in order to:

- deliver life-saving food and healthcare to those in the worst affected areas,
- bring tents, sleeping bags, and winter clothing to those who have lost their homes,
- help to build prefabricated container housing to offer shelter for up to three years,
- deliver critical food and hygiene packs to some of the more than 500,000 who have been evacuated from the affected areas,
- airlift food and baby-care kits to the epicenter of the tragedy, and
- establish sources of clean water and build toilets to improve health and sanitation.

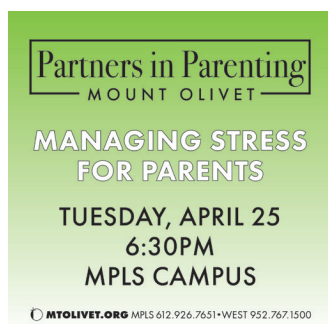
None of this would happen were it not for the commitment we feel as Christians to share God's love in tangible ways. And because we trust God's promises of resurrection, we do not lose hope and continue our work in confidence. During this Easter season, we are again inviting donations to continue helping some of God's most vulnerable children through our partner, Lutheran World Relief. You can mark any gift made to Mount Olivet "LWR" and we will send it on, or you can learn more about LWR's work and donate directly on their website: lwr.org.

Thank you in advance for your faithfulness and generosity!

PASTOR LOSE, *Senior Pastor, Board of Directors, Corus International/Lutheran World Relief*



MANAGING STRESS FOR PARENTS



Tuesday, April 25, 6:30pm, Mpls Campus

Whether our kids are toddlers or teenagers, we parents know that managing stress well can be the difference between a fun, pleasant time together and a day that ends with us wanting to run screaming into the woods! As a parent, regulating your own neuropsychology is half the battle to helping your kids make their way back to calm and peaceful. Please come and join other parents to learn about responding to stress in adaptive ways and helping your kids in a process of co-regulation. Sara Watne, MA, LPCC of Mount Olivet Counseling Service will be leading this informative and engaging presentation. Register at mtolivet.org.

FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to the 77 sixth graders who participated in First Communion instruction and received their First Communion in worship last month at both campuses!



MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFERINGS

MINI CAMPS (6-8TH GRADE)

JUNE 13-15, AUGUST 1-3, AND AUGUST 22-24

Cost is \$150/camper

June 13-15: Join us as we visit three different pools around the Twin Cities.

August 1-3: Let your creativity shine and get inspired at an art museum, watching a play and doing a variety of art projects.

August 22-24: Make the most out of the end of summer, we'll go swimming, visit Grand Slam, and go bowling.

SUMMERTIME PLAYERS! MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC, MOVEMENT AND MORE! (6-9TH GRADE)

JULY 10-14, MPLS

Cost is \$250/camper

Summertime Players! is a music-based day camp specifically designed for middle schoolers. This one-week camp is action-packed with team games, singing and dancing to pop and musical theatre songs, and daily field trips.

STP! is the perfect place to make new friends and bond with the Youth and Music staff at MO! Register now at mtolivet.org.



ASH WEDNESDAY

On Ash Wednesday each year our youth lead our 7pm worship service at both campuses. Along with anthems performed by our High School Cathedral Choir, we have ten 8th Grade Confirmation students read a scripture or present a message on their interpretation of a church hymn. As a start to our Mount Olivet Holy Week experience, we want to share this year's messages with you now, as the students were unable to share them on Ash Wednesday due to the weather. We look forward to seeing so many of you over Holy Week and hope these messages provide inspiration.

DAY BY DAY

*Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, brings to naught the burdens of my quest.
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, where at last I'll find eternal rest.*

One of the messages of the hymn *Day by Day* is deceptively simple. It is the message that day by day, we call upon God to aid us in times of need. It clearly says day by day, because it is in specific moments of hardship and pain when we feel the most need for God.

I am currently undergoing a painful process of recovery for my knee. Around a year ago I had surgery on it, and that time was the greatest challenge of my life. Day by day, God is with us on the days we are happy and forget to pray, but more importantly, God is with us on the days when we are in great pain.

We are always striving to be better people. "Day by day, the blessings, lord you send me, draw me nearer to my heavenly goal." God is there, and He is always trying to help us on our journey of being better people.

— TOMMY CALHOUN-LOPEZ

The first thing I thought of when I heard the hymn *Day by Day*, was my grandmother. It made me think of how all her life she had struggled, and still, her faith in God gave her hope and guidance. I asked my grandmother, "How did you keep going? After all the hardships that happened to you, how could you keep your faith in God?" She explained to me that when she was young her parents took her to church, but she never really thought of why they went, she just remembered it being fun. Over the years, he sent her many blessings including: the love of her life, my mother, me, and my sister. His love divine was with her always, fueling her headstrong spirit, and He never wavered. He led her safely from the only home she'd ever had to a home in a new country halfway across the world. He led her to her family, and the church she treasured over all else. God is her home, and He always will be. I thank Him everyday for that. — LILY HOLEN

ABIDE WITH ME

*I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.*

The song *Abide with Me* reminds me God is always with me. One way I know he's with me has to do with being in middle school and friends. In middle school, I have gone through changes with friends because of bullying and drama. I've learned I can turn to him in times of stress, and he can help guide me to find the people and activities that are positive in my life.

Through Confirmation and Cathedral of the Pines Camp, I have learned that friendship is about kindness, fun, silliness, support and bringing the best out in each other and not about popularity or how others want me to be and how I look.

I am thankful that my relationship with God has grown stronger through COP and confirmation, showing me what friendship is all about and how I can be a better friend to others. — MARNIE HANSEN

One line of the hymn *Abide with Me* that really stood out to me was the last line, "through cloud and sunshine oh, abide with me." One of the ways I relate to this hymn is through skiing. I am a downhill ski racer and I have races almost every weekend. During these races, I am constantly reminded of this verse, it helps me remember that God is always there for me no matter the result. A couple of weekends ago I had a race with a long tiring hill but in the end it was a good run and I knew that God was there guiding me the whole time! — IZZY OLSON



WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

*When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul.) It is well, it is well with my soul.*

There is a line in the hymn *When Peace Like a River* that says, "It is well, it is well, with my soul." It made me think, where am I well with my soul? What I came up with was fishing in Canada! My family and I were up on Rainy Lake fishing in the middle of August 2022 with my great uncle and I was not catching anything, but of course my brother pulls out a 28" walleye! All I thought was no fair... But I still thought what a great place to be, in the woods on an island with no Wi-Fi or no running water. This is where I want to live and work. I love Canada and this is where I am the most-well with my soul. — FINLEY JOHNSON

PHOTO CAPTION ON PAGE 10 LEFT TO RIGHT

Peyton Barker, Lily Wright, Marnie Hansen, and Finley Johnson in the West Campus Sanctuary.

Stellan Freeman, Lily Holen, Izzy Olson, and Chloe Hunt in the Mpls Campus Sanctuary.

The hymn *When Peace Like a River* is special to me. Everyone knows losing someone can be devastating, especially when that person is a parent. My dad found himself in this position before I was born, around 15 years ago, when he lost his father. For years my father carried the sadness with him that his dad was no longer in the world and that I would never get to meet someone he loved so much. One night at dinner when I was about three years old, he was reminiscing about old stories, about his dad. He apologized to me that I was never able to meet my grandpa. But to his surprise, I responded with, "What do you mean? I know him, he took care of me in heaven before I was born!" At that moment my dad realized he had found something he didn't have before. Peace. Even though I would never know him on earth, he had cared for me in heaven and would always be watching over us. Hearing this story I also find peace, knowing he and God will always walk with me and be in my heart. I will always feel sadness, knowing someone loved by so many is not physically here. I believe he is proud of me and my family, and finally at peace with God. I hope everyone who has lost someone can feel at peace and know their loved one will always care for them in heaven.

—TESSA ERICKSON

UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY

To register for these events or learn more about these offerings, please visit mtolivet.org/youth

CATHEDRAL CHOIR TRIP

Our Mpls Campus and West Campus Cathedral Choir members will be traveling to San Diego from Thursday, April 13, through Sunday, April 16, for a fun trip and to sing at First United Methodist Church of San Diego! Thank you to each congregation member for your continued support of our music & youth ministries. Please pray for our group of students & leaders participating for a meaningful, fun, and safe trip.

HI-LEAGUE SHAREGROUPS

Sunday, April 23, 7-8:30pm, Mpls Campus. Come to our last Sharegroups of the year! Dinner will be served and we will enjoy a large group presentation and small groups.

BACCALAUREATE

WEST CAMPUS

Sunday, May 7, 11am-12noon, Gronseth Fellowship Hall

All 2023 High School graduates and their families are invited to a special brunch at church in honor of your graduation! More information will go out to seniors as we get closer to the date!

8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION PARTY!

Wednesday, April 26, 7-8pm, Mpls & West Campuses Parking Lots. Join your youth leaders for a fun last night of confirmation and DQ Dilly Bars!

MPLS CAMPUS

Sunday, May 14, 11am-12noon, Fellowship Hall

COP COUNSELOR & WORKSTAFF TRAINING

ALL 9th – 12th grade students who will be volunteering at Cathedral of the Pines this year are required to attend training on Sunday, April 30, at the Mpls Campus from 7-8:30pm. We also ask that parent(s) come to a meeting on this night from 6:15-7pm OR 8:15-9pm. Questions: Kristi Youngdahl, kristiy@mtolivet.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTER BUTTER BRAID PICK-UP

Sunday, April 2, 8:30-11am, Mpls & West Campuses

Please make sure to pick up your braids at the same campus you requested on your order. There will be some braids available for cash purchase on a first-come basis.

FELT SUCCULENT GARDEN CRAFT CLASS

Tuesday, April 11, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus

Create a beautiful succulent garden in a wood frame using colorful felt. Learn how to cut the felt to create different types of succulent. The finished piece can sit on a desk or be hung on a wall. Register at mtolivet.org by Thursday, April 6.

JOY CIRCLE PRESENTS: LIZ HEINECKE

Wednesday, April 12, 7pm, Mpls Campus Main Sanctuary

Science communicator and author, Liz Heinecke, will discuss her book *Radiant: The Dancer, The Scientist, and a Friendship Forged in Light*. Part hidden history, part love letter to creative innovation, *Radiant: The Dancer, The Scientist, and a Friendship Forged in Light* is the true story of an unlikely friendship between the American dancer Loie Fuller and the scientist Marie Curie, who were brought together by an illuminating discovery in the City of Light at the turn of the twentieth century. The event will conclude with time for Q&A as well as a book signing. We hope you will join us!

SUNDAY MORNING DONATION DRIVE

Sunday, April 16, 8:30-11am, Mpls & West Campuses

We appreciate the love and generosity you show by contributing to our monthly Donation Drive. Our aim is to focus only on high-need items as defined by our community partners. As we continue to support these agencies to assist our neighbors, please consider donating the following items this month:

Mpls Campus- VEAP and Agate Housing and Services high-needs are non-perishable food items, laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper and paper towels

West Campus- Love INC and Bountiful Baskets are in need of full-size personal care items and non-perishable food.

FLYING SOLO: MIA'S ART IN BLOOM

Thursday, April 27, 7-9pm, Mpls Campus, FREE

Join Flying Solo at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts as we are led by a MIA docent for a guided tour of the annual celebration of arts and flowers, presented by the Friends of the Institute. Join us for fellowship at Eat Street Social following our tour. Register at mtolivet.org. Questions? Contact Pastor Freeman at rffreeman@mtolivet.org.

FLYING SOLO: HOMEBOUND COMMUNION SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Saturday, April 29, 9:30-10:30am or 11am-2pm, Mpls Campus, FREE

Help serve at the Homebound Communion Service! You can set tables or serve the meal and clean up. Sign up to volunteer at mtolivet.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

SPRING HOMEBOUND COMMUNION SERVICE & LUNCHEON

Saturday, April 29, 11am-1pm, Mpls Campus

Please join us for this special time of food and fellowship. A service of Holy Communion followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall for homebound members and family. To register, please contact Nancy Nelson at 612.767.2288 or nnelson@mtolivet.org. If transportation is needed, please let Nancy know.

Drivers Needed: Transportation for this event beginning at approximately 10am. If you can help drive members to this event, please contact Nancy Nelson at 612.767.2288 or email at nnelson@mtolivet.org.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY MEETING

Monday, May 1, 6pm, Mpls Campus Library

Would you like to learn more about this group that knits prayer shawls which are given to Mount Olivet members and friends in need of support and prayers? Join us (even if you don't know how to knit, but would like to learn). Light appetizers served. Questions? Contact Stephanie McGinty at 612.767.2209 or smcginty@mtolivet.org.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS FIELD TRIP TO MOCRC

Tuesday, May 2, 10am, Mpls Campus, \$25

Young in Heart & Friends invites you to join us for a trip to the Conference & Retreat Center! Join us for a day filled with beautiful scenery, wonderful food, presentations by Conference & Retreat Center staff, and great fellowship. Meet at 10am at the Mpls Campus and be transported by bus to MOCRC. Executive Director, Theresa Latini will discuss the History of MOCRC, introduce various events they host throughout the year, and plans for the future. After lunch, Dan Kahl will teach us about the various plants, flowers, and wildlife that live and thrive on the MOCRC grounds. After our day we will be transported back to the Mpls Campus and will return around 2:15pm. Registration is limited to 40 people! Register at mtolivet.org.



MAY HEALTH EVENT

Saturday, May 13, 9-11:30am, Mpls Campus, \$10

The Mount Olivet Mental Health Task Force invites you to join us in welcoming Dr. Henry Emmons as he discusses the topic of *Recovering Wellbeing and How to Sustain a Healthy Mind, Mood and Heart in Chaotic Times*. What can we do to restore resilience and serenity, and to protect ourselves from the many faces of stress? Blending new neuroscience with wisdom traditions, we will explore what it takes to cultivate inner calm, avoid burnout, and protect our brains throughout our lives. Register at mtolivet.org by Thursday, May 11, or by contacting Rachel Sufficool at 612.767.2235 or rsufficool@mtolivet.org.



MOUNT OLIVET GALA

Spring Into Giving

OAK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

700 Oak Ridge Road, Hopkins

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

Open House 5-9pm

Program 7pm

Live Music 7:30-9pm by Donut Patrol

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Celebrate all of the Mount Olivet Affiliate Ministries!

This night will include a short program at 7pm sharing information about our affiliate organizations and ways to support them.

Cost \$35 for program and heavy appetizers, cash bar will be available.

Casual cocktail attire.

Registration required by Wednesday, April 26, at mtolivet.org or by calling Laurie Hancer at 612.767.2267.

Mount Olivet has made a great impact both in our congregation and in the service of community through our affiliated ministries: Mount Olivet Home, Careview Home, and Day Services; Rolling Acres; Cathedral of the Pines Camp; and the Conference and Retreat Center. Through these institutions – all “top of their class” in their various categories – Mount Olivet touches and transforms the lives of literally thousands of people each year... and has been doing so for most of its 100+ year history. On Thursday, May 4, we have a chance to celebrate, give thanks for, support, and strengthen Mount Olivet Affiliates as a place that fosters relationships and serves our communities as we come together for our Mount Olivet Gala!

WAYS TO GIVE

If you'd like to make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift to Mount Olivet and its ministries like Confirmation, there are many ways to do so! Thank you for your generosity and support!

Give Online: visit mtolivet.org/online-giving or scan the QR Code below.

Via Your Realm Account: login and click "Giving"

Text to Give: text "MTOLIVET" to 73256

Contact Us: Tricia Lerohl-Morgan at tricial@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2255.



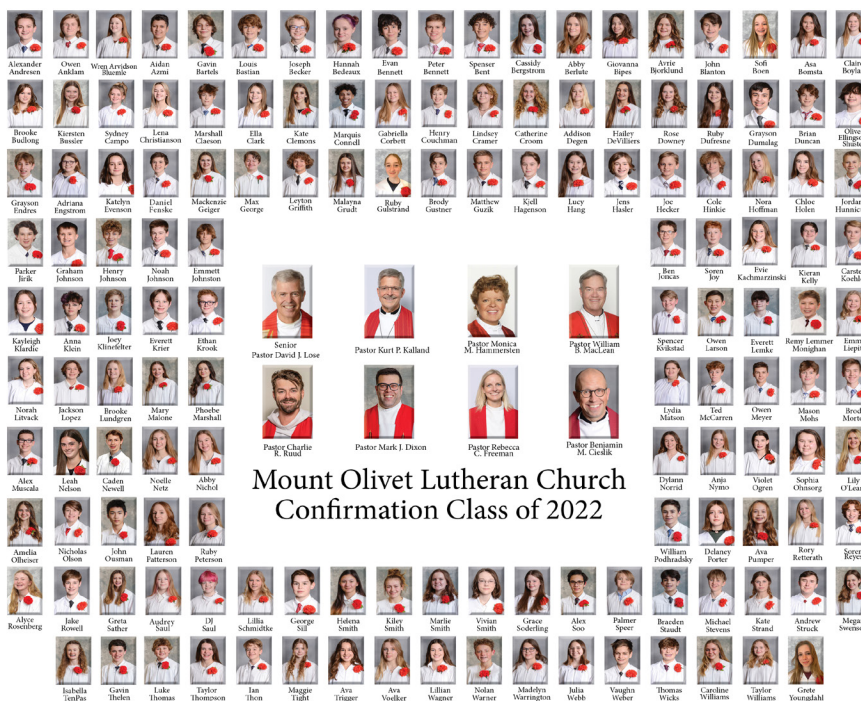
REMINDER

First quarter giving statements will be mailed out by mid-April. **Please review to make sure your giving is correct, including automatic gifts.**

This first quarter statement is a summary of giving so far for 2023. If you want or need more detailed information, please refer to your *Realm* account or contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, tricial@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2255. Thank you for your generosity!

MINISTRY MOMENT: CONFIRMATION

Each year, more than 300 7th and 8th grade students learn more about the Bible and their faith while forming important relationships with their peers, pastors, youth staff and mentors. Along the way, students not only learn about their faith, but make it their own. Confirmation includes weekly meetings, as well as several retreats and camping experiences. Students celebrate their affirmation of baptism in September of their 9th grade school year. In 2022, 149 students were confirmed and this fall there will be 157+ confirmed—taking their Confirmation picture in white robes complete with carnations (a tradition that dates back decades... perhaps you still have yours!).



**THANK YOU TO ALL FOR
SUPPORTING THE NEXT
GENERATION IN THEIR FAITH
JOURNEY!**



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