

MOUNT OLIVET  
MESSENGER

*You Are*  
**MOUNT  
OLIVET**  
*We Are*

*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](mailto:julieg@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2208.

## SUNDAYS

### DIAL-IN VIA PHONE 833.775.1238

10am (9/3)  
11am (beginning 9/10)

**WATCH THE MPLS  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT  
MTOLIVET.ORG**  
9, 10am (9/3 only)  
9, 10, 11am (beginning 9/10)

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
8:30am only (9/3)  
8:30 & 11:45am (beginning  
9/10)

**NURSERY**  
9, 10am (9/3)  
9, 10, 11am (beginning 9/10)

## SEPTEMBER 3

**SINGING OUR FAITH:  
OH GOD BEYOND ALL  
PRAISING**  
*Revelation 5:11-13*

**M** 9, 10am only  
**SERMON** Pastor Freeman  
**MUSIC** Jake Meyer, clarinet  
**W** 9, 10am only  
**SERMON** Pastor MacLean  
**MUSIC** Kira Seidel, french  
horn

## SEPTEMBER 10

**YOU ARE MOUNT  
OLIVET - WE ARE  
MOUNT OLIVET**  
*I Corinthians 12:1-12*

**M** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Lose  
**MUSIC** Cathedral & Senior  
Choirs with Brass  
Ensemble  
**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Dixon  
**MUSIC** Cathedral & Senior  
Choirs with Brass  
Ensemble

## SEPTEMBER 17

**YOU ARE MOUNT  
OLIVET - WE ARE  
MOUNT OLIVET**  
*I Corinthians 12:12-27*

**M** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor MacLean  
**MUSIC** Senior & Cathedral  
Choirs  
**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Freeman  
**MUSIC** Senior Choir & Ryan  
Garmoe, trumpet

### 9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION SERVICE

**M** 1pm  
On Sunday, September 17,  
our ninth grade students and  
their families will gather for  
our Confirmation Service  
with special music from the  
Cathedral Choir and Brass  
Ensemble. It's a significant  
moment in the lives of our  
young people where they  
say yes to the promises that  
God made to them in their  
baptism. Please hold these  
young people and their  
families in prayer on this  
important day.

## SEPTEMBER 24

**YOU ARE MOUNT  
OLIVET - WE ARE  
MOUNT OLIVET**  
*I Corinthians 13:1-8a*

**M** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Ruud  
**MUSIC** Cathedral & Senior  
Choirs  
**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Lose  
**MUSIC** Cathedral & Senior  
Choirs

## WEDNESDAYS

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
The first Wednesday of each month at 12noon  
in the Mpls Sanctuary, a brief in-person Holy  
Communion service will be offered. No  
registration required.

# The Future is Now

About this time last year, we were calling Christmas tree farms across Minnesota. Anticipating our second annual tree-lighting, we had decided that, rather than cut down a live tree each year, we would plant one. As I shared our plans with one of our members, I acknowledged that I probably wouldn't be serving at Mount Olivet by the time the tree grew to its full height. In response, he said, "You know the best time to plant a tree?" and, after a moment's pause, continued, "Twenty years ago!"

That conversation has lingered with me ever since, as I've realized how true that is for many aspects of our life. If you want your children to enjoy a fulfilling career someday, you start investing in their education from the earliest age. If you want to be healthy and active in your later years, you need to start exercising and eating well in your middle years. If you want to retire with a measure of financial security, you start saving as soon as you can. The same is also true of our church. If we want Mount Olivet to be a strong, vibrant, and caring congregation that nurtures the faith of our children and grandchildren, we need to invest now.

Toward that end, each year in September we ask all of our members to make a commitment to fund the ministries, mission, and outreach of our church. And each year I am both grateful and mystified. The gratitude stems from the fact that we typically receive more than \$6 million dollars of pledges and gifts. That's a tremendous amount of generosity! When you combine that with revenue from some of our programs (preschool, summer camps, fees from the Conference and Retreat Center, etc.), we fund nearly 85% of our \$10M budget. The funds to cover the remaining 15% gap come from a variety of sources including the Mount Olivet Foundation (established in 1981 by Pastor Youngdahl and composed primarily of estate gifts) and non-repeatable revenue (including, this year, the sale of a house at 5000 Logan Ave.). Again, I am so grateful for the generosity of our members that makes possible the many important ministries of our congregation!

But I am also mystified. Fewer than half of Mount Olivet households actually make a gift. That's a lot of people who worship on Sundays, send their kids to Sunday School or Cathedral of the Pines, and receive the care of our pastors and staff but do not feel moved to contribute. Further, of those who give, 42% of

contributing Mount Olivet members give \$10 or less per week. I don't think this is a case of active neglect – that is, that members who give little or nothing don't care about Mount Olivet – but rather of oversight. Sometimes we assume that others will give so we don't have to. And sometimes we get so occupied with things that demand our attention that the needs of our congregation become an after-thought. Our gift to Mount Olivet comes after not just our mortgage payment or retirement savings, but also our vacation, recreation, entertainment, and more.

I believe we can do better! Moreover, I believe God wants us to do better, not just for the sake of Mount Olivet's ministries, but because there is incredible joy in being generous, in realizing and sharing our blessings, and in investing in something in which we believe.

So here are my two words to you, my dear Mount Olivet family, as we enter this Stewardship season. First and foremost, thank you! Thank you for your participation in the life of our congregation, for your prayers, for your volunteering, and for your generosity. Thank you. *You are Mount Olivet!* Second, please give intentional and prayerful thought to what you can contribute to Mount Olivet's present and future ministry. If you've not given before, try giving something. If you currently give, ask what it would take to increase your gift. In particular, ask whether your gift to Mount Olivet reflects how God has blessed you and whether what you give reflects what you receive from this church. In short, I am asking that each of us take personal responsibility for the health of our congregation. Remember, the future is now, as what we decide today regarding our stewardship will greatly determine our future.

Each of us as individuals can do some good for our church. Together, we can do something amazing. *We are Mount Olivet!* And before us lies the opportunity to live into God's dreams for our marvelous congregation.

Yours in Christ,



*Pastor Lose*

**DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR**

*P.S. Please check out the "Mount Olivet Ministry Moment" videos that will be arriving in your inbox beginning September 11!*

# PASTOR MACLEAN RETIRES

Pastor William MacLean came to Mount Olivet in May, 2012, after a distinguished career in fixed-income sales and trading with U.S. Bank and Piper Jaffray. Pastor MacLean soon became deeply appreciated for his attentive listening, his calm and caring pastoral presence, his thoughtful sermons, and his deep concern for those less fortunate. He served as Pastoral Adviser to Membership, Community Concern and Outreach, Men's Breakfasts, and Friends Forever and was a regular presence at and leader of our Thursday community meals. He is an enthusiastic member of the bass section of the Senior Choir and avid life-long learner. He and his wife, Laurie, live in Edina and both of them are looking forward so spending more time with their four grown children and – especially! – their four grandchildren. Pastor MacLean also anticipates enjoying more time to further his life-long interest in researching his family ancestry. Pastor MacLean has assured us that he plans to remain at Mount Olivet as a visitation pastor, senior choir member, and supportive church member.

Join us in thanking Pastor MacLean on Sunday, September 24, between services in the Mpls Lounge. Thank you, Pastor MacLean, for all you have done for Mount Olivet and blessings on this next chapter of life!



# SUNDAY WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

The scripture readings on Sundays will come from chapters 12 and 13 of Corinthians, looking at our Stewardship Bible verse this year, “*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it*” from 1 Corinthians 12:27. And this is an important verse to know!

The imagery Paul uses to help the early Christians in the city of Corinth imagine the importance of the relationships they shared with each other. The Corinthians, you see, tended to think pretty individualistically – *What does the faith mean to me? Am I getting what I need from the church?* Paul wanted to broaden their imagination so they could realize that, as those joined together by faith in the Risen Christ, each of them was intimately connected to the rest of the community. The same way all the various parts of the human body are. Our bodies are at their best when all the members function well together; so also with the Church. Paul then goes one further step to say that the individual members of the church together make up the Body of Christ. Each of us, that is, has gifts to offer, a role to play, and strengths to contribute to see God's work accomplished.

*We can accomplish all that God imagines together, so join us at church on Sundays, volunteer, attend an event, all are welcome at this community of faith!*

## LIFE & GROWTH

**JUL 14 - AUG 14**

### BAPTISMS

**Cecilia Marcella Batterman**  
*daughter of Kate and John*  
**Margot Ann Carbonneau**  
*daughter of Rachel and Peter*  
**Mabel Nathalie Dobbs**  
*daughter of Paige and Henry*  
**Soren Thomas Geris**  
*son of Michelle and Grant*  
**Henrik James Heidenreich**  
*son of Elizabeth and Kevin*  
**Charlie Dane Huinker**  
*son of Taylor and Dane*  
**Florence Nicole Koelln**  
*daughter of Natalie and Jacob*  
**Tyler Martin Schwinghammer**  
*son of Saundra and Paul*  
**Ethan Brian Sykes**  
*son of Jillian and Brian*  
**Will Brian Sykes**  
*son of Jillian and Brian*  
**Ida Lorelle Van Sloun**  
*daughter of Tanya and Keith*  
**Henry Brian Walcker**  
*son of Chelsea and Nathan*  
**Frederick Sundquist Whalen**  
*son of Britta and Andrew*  
**Jack James Woulf**  
*son of Emma and Taylor*

### WEDDINGS

**Mary Schultz & Nate Shoemaker**, August 4  
**Michelle Jamar & Caleb LeClaire**, August 11

### DEATHS

**John C. Bailey**  
1935 - 2023  
**Jeffrey R. Bowers**  
1969 - 2023  
**Dennis B. Dickey**  
1942 - 2023  
**Lowell M. Kleppe**  
1937 - 2023  
**Richard LeBarron**  
1932 - 2023  
**Marilyn Lundeen**  
1924 - 2023  
**Graham A. Meyer**  
1994 - 2023  
**Elizabeth A. Prestrud**  
1933 - 2023



## DAILY READINGS

FROM PASTOR KALLAND  
SEPTEMBER 2023

- 1 Proverbs 19:21, The Lord's Purpose
- 2 1 Peter 2:2, Newborn Babies
- 3 Luke 8:16, See The Light
- 4 Psalm 128:1, Obedience
- 5 Romans 6:23, Eternal Life
- 6 Amos 5:14, Seek Good, Not Evil
- 7 Proverbs 27:17, Sharpen Another
- 8 James 2:17, Action
- 9 Luke 10:27, Love
- 10 Proverbs 23:4, Careful
- 11 John 15:5, Jesus Is The Vine
- 12 Isaiah 61:1, The Spirit Of The Sovereign Lord
- 13 Psalm 37:4, Delight In The Lord
- 14 Deuteronomy 30:16, Love The Lord
- 15 John 14:1, Believe
- 16 Psalm 90:17, Establish The Work Of Our Hands
- 17 Galatians 2:20, Crucified With Christ
- 18 Matthew 6:33, Seek First His Kingdom
- 19 Proverbs 12:25, A Kind Word
- 20 Mark 11:23, Go Tell It On The Mountain
- 21 1 Timothy 6:17, Put Hope In God
- 22 Psalm 33:4, Right And True
- 23 Acts 13:47, To The Ends Of The Earth
- 24 1 John 4:21, Love Brother And Sister
- 25 Psalm 130:5, Wait For The Lord
- 26 Isaiah 54:17, Declare The Lord
- 27 1 John 2:2, For The Sins Of The Whole World
- 28 Psalm 34:8, The Lord Is Good
- 29 1 Timothy 6:9, Fall Into Temptation
- 30 Hebrews 4:12, Alive And Active

## DEVOTION

*"I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."*  
-Martin Luther

My "baby" just turned 27.

Like most people, I wonder where on earth has the time gone? I watch as young families try to somehow make the impossible possible, and wonder how we did it. Navigating career and family and community obligations for the parents, along with kids' academic and sport and social interests, can be difficult and exhausting on good days. Throw in a big exam or project or, heaven forbid, someone gets sick, and it's *all hands on deck*. I still marvel that I could call the grandmas at 7am and cry "Help! One of the kids is throwing up and I have meetings that I can't miss!" and that they'd actually say: "I'll be right there!" Who does that? It truly does take a *village* to raise a child.

In the midst of the busiest of years, the boys added Confirmation, Adopt-a-Grandparent, Choir, Circle of Friends, MO Hoops, and Hi-League to our schedule. Nearly every night was spent at church. Some Sunday mornings I'd look at my husband and say "Let's just skip. We're all tired. We could sleep in, read the paper..." and, not afraid of bribery, "I'll make us all pancakes and bacon." ☺ Every time, much to my dismay, he'd say, "Let's just go. We'll be back home in an hour and our week will go better." Back then, I'd grumble. Today, I'm grateful. Because today, all the activities that seemed so necessary for their success have gone by the wayside. And the things that remain are their faith, their church friends, *their village*. Thank you, God.

— PASTOR HAMMERSTEN



# BRUNCH WITH US!

**October 8, after each worship service, Both Campuses**

Your church wants to celebrate our members being a part of our community of faith, volunteering their time, participating in programming, and steadfast generosity, therefore, Sunday brunch is on us! Join us after worship for food and fellowship. Brunch items may include: egg sandwiches and pastries from our amazing kitchen, crepes from La Belle Crepe. No registration necessary. Hope to see you there!

# *You Are* **MOUNT OLIVET**

All members of Mount Olivet are invited to come together at a Stewardship meal as we celebrate and recommit to supporting the ministries of Mount Olivet. You are a part of Mount Olivet and every gift matters!

Watch for your Stewardship mailing for more information about these meals and how to pledge and give. Thank you!

## **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR BOTH TRADITIONAL MEALS AND DRIVE-THROUGHS:**

Online at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org), at church, or by phone at 612.926.7651.



### **STEWARDSHIP 2024 TRADITIONAL MEALS**

At these meals, you will be seated to enjoy your meal complete with all the usual offerings as you hear from Pastor Lose and more.

Tuesday, 9/12, 6pm, Mpls Campus  
Wednesday, 9/13, 6pm, Mpls Campus  
Thursday, 9/21, 6pm, Mpls Campus  
Friday, 9/22, 12noon, Mpls Campus  
Sunday, 9/24, 12noon, West Campus  
Monday, 9/25, 6pm, Mpls Campus

Nursery (6 weeks to 3 years old) and  
Childcare (3-10 years old) will be provided, please register.



### **STEWARDSHIP 2024 DRIVE-THROUGHS**

Be greeted by your pastors and staff as you drive-through and pick up your meal(s) in your car. Convenient and fun!

Monday, 9/11, 4:30-6pm, Mpls Campus  
Monday, 9/18, 4:30-6pm, West Campus  
Wednesday, 9/20, 4:30-6pm, Mpls Campus

## **PLEASE REMEMBER TO:**

Bring your 2024 Pledge Card and donations of toothpaste, toothbrushes, and handled paper bags with you. Thank you!



# We Are MOUNT OLIVET

## PLEDGE

If you are a current pledger, you will receive a mailing with a 2024 pledge card to complete and return. You can also pledge online via your Realm account or use this QR code. Thank you!



*Scheduled Givers: Please update your scheduled giving to match your 2024 pledge as it does not automatically happen. It is a second step. Thank you!*

## GIVE

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

**GIVE ONLINE:** visit [onrealm.org/mtolivet/give/now](https://onrealm.org/mtolivet/give/now)

**VIA YOUR REALM ACCOUNT:** login and click "Giving"

**TEXT TO GIVE:** text "MT OLIVET" to 73256

**CONTACT US:** We are here to help! Contact Tricia

Lerohl-Morgan at 612.767.2255 or [tricial@mtolivet.org](mailto:tricial@mtolivet.org)

**VIA QR CODE:**



## MOUNT OLIVET MINISTRY MOMENT VIDEOS!

Look for daily videos in your inbox this September highlighting various Mount Olivet ministries like COP, Digital Ministry, Music, and more!

Your support makes all Mount Olivet ministries possible!  
Thank you!





# SUMMER DAY CAMP RECAP!

We had a wonderful summer at Mount Olivet Day Camps!  
We are grateful to the campers and staff for a safe, fun, and busy summer!



## ELIZA PRESCHER

My favorite part of Day Camp has been the relationships I have been able to build with kids and listening to all of the awesome/silly things they have to say. Along with this, some of my favorite field trips were Fawn Doe Rosa in Wisconsin where we got to see some super cool animals and the Crayola Experience at MOA where we got to be super creative!



## LIZZIE NORMAN

My highlight from the summer was all of Super STEM week and getting to see kids get excited about science.



## BISHOP SCHUGEL

A highlight from this summer for me was making cinnamon rolls during Cooking Week with the campers! They were so good and we ate them fresh out of the oven with homemade frosting for a snack.



## KATELYNN PONCIN

My favorite theme week so far has been Imagination Creation! One day we went to Crayola experience and the kids loved it. They made so many things including their own crayons and art projects. They were all smiling the whole time. One camper told me it was the best day of their life!



## JORRUN KUEHN

A highlight from my summer has been getting to spend time outside with campers! We got to feed and learn about animals, swim at water parks, and hike at the Conference & Retreat Center. One of my favorite memories was watching campers try going down waterslides for the first time during Splash into Summer.



## SOPHIE NORMAN

A highlight of my summer was organizing trivia during Super STEM week and Cooking Week — it was fun to see the kids so excited to share their knowledge and to hear their answers to the “all about staff” rounds.



## ADDIE HINKIE

A highlight of my summer was during Nature Week when campers had the opportunity to build any sort of structure with different things they found outside. They then presented their work to the group and told a story. All of their structures were so creative and it was so fun to see their excitement over what they had made. One group of kids made a pool with a slide for frogs, complete with water they emptied from their water bottles.



## JP LAURSEN

A highlight was getting a bucket of water dumped on me after the water balloon fight we had on Friday of Stem Week.







## SUNDAY SCHOOL & STAFF

We are looking forward to a faith-filled year with everyone in Sunday School!  
We can't wait to reconnect, sing, meet new friends and learn about God with all of you. Registration is open online for Sunday School, offered at the Minneapolis and West Campuses during the 9 and 10am worship services.

### MPLS CAMPUS TEACHERS

### WEST CAMPUS TEACHERS



**COLLEEN ROESS**  
Cherub Choir (3yr-Pre K)



**DANA DONNAY**  
Cherub Choir (3yr-Pre K)



**KATIE WIDEN**  
Alleluia Choir (K-1st Grade)



**SARAH FINCHAM**  
Alleluia Choir (K-1st Grade)



**ELIZABETH WERNESS**  
Hosanna Choir (2nd-3rd Grade)



**SYDNEY GRAMSTAD**  
Hosanna Choir (2nd-3rd Grade)



**RACHEL WIXSON**  
Chapel Choir (4th-6th Grade)



**KARI WERDAHL**  
Chapel Choir (4th-6th Grade)

# UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

To register for these events or learn more about these offerings, please contact:  
Geoff Arenson, Director of Youth Ministry, [geoffa@mtolivet.org](mailto:geoffa@mtolivet.org), 612.767.2212.



## HI-LEAGUE KICK-OFF

**SEPTEMBER 10** 7-8pm, *West Campus*. Connect with friends you made at camp and get ready for another fun year of Hi-League events!



## 7TH GRADE CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

**SEPTEMBER 13** 7-8pm, *Mpls & West*. Join us for Confirmation Orientation. Get to know the Pastors and Youth Staff better and ask all your Confirmation or JHA questions!

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONFIRMATION  
*The AFFIRMATION of BAPTISM*



## CONFIRMATION SERVICE

**SEPTEMBER 17** 1-2pm, *Mpls Campus*. Help us celebrate our Confirmands! This service is a combined campus event and open to all of your family and friends! Special music will be offered by the combined campus Cathedral Choir.



## JHA FALL FEST

**SEPTEMBER 23** 11am-2pm. Get lost in Sever's Corn Maze with the Junior High Youth Staff! Come join us for a fun day full of fall activities!



## HI-LEAGUE STEWARDSHIP DINNERS

**SEPTEMBER 24**  
Join your Youth Staff and Pastors for a special Stewardship Dinner just for you!



## CONFIRMATION & CHANCEL CHOIR BEGIN

**SEPTEMBER 27**  
There is still time to register for both Confirmation & Chancel choir at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).



## SENIOR RETREAT

**SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1**  
Hey Seniors! Spend a weekend at Cathedral of the Pines with your class. Transportation provided.



## ADOPT-A-GRANDPARENT

**OCTOBER 2**  
Join us for Adopt-A-Grandparent training! We hope you'll participate in this beloved JHA service project.





## FALL FUN FOR YOUTH

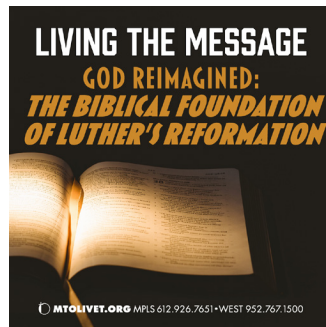
Fall is a special time in Mount Olivet's youth ministry programming year. School starts back up again, fall sports have started and our youth programming year kicks-off! This summer our middle school and high school students had a great time at COP and Mount Olivet with our summer camping weeks and day camps. At Cathedral of the Pines during a sermon, Pastor Ruud summed up what being a part of church is all about: (1) Notice the ordinary, (2) Look out for each other and support one another and (3) remember God's promise of his love to all of us, and that love is everywhere we go. Our community of Pastors, Youth Staff, Youth Small Group Leaders, and Congregation continue to be inspired by the many hours of service you give to others through your involvement at church.

On the preceeding page are some featured dates of programming for our middle and high school youth. Pictures featured this month show some of the great memories from our summer with the middle and high school youth. Please reach out to a Youth Staff member for information on registration and how to become involved with our programs and events. We can't wait to kick-off our 2023–2024 youth ministry year with you all! — **THE YOUTH STAFF**



# THE GOD YOU DIDN'T EXPECT: JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE!

Tuesday, Oct 3, 6:30-7:30pm;  
Mpls Campus Room 207; or  
via pre-recorded video  
This class is part of the **Living the Message 2023-2024** series. Taught by Pastor Lose and Pastor Ruud. Join in anytime!



Everyone has a picture of God. Shaped by our experience, by stories in the Bible, by the preaching we've grown up with, these pictures are powerful. For many people – including the young Martin Luther – God was like a stern parent: loving, yes, but even more demanding, expecting the best from us but also punishing us when we fall short of those expectations. As a young monk, Luther did everything he could think of to please the God he had imagined. However, he could never escape the conviction that he had not done enough until he stumbled upon a single verse from Paul's Letter to the Romans: "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.'" In this verse, Luther suddenly realized that it was impossible to justify ourselves (that is, to merit God's love and acceptance) and that for this reason God justifies us (that is, accepts us) by grace and out of love, a gift we receive in faith. This God who accepts us and calls us holy out of parental love was totally unexpected by Luther... and still surprises us today! So come and learn about the God who wants nothing more than the best for us, who loves us more than we can imagine, and who will never give up on us! Come and meet, that is, the Unexpected God!

— PASTOR LOSE

**REGISTER AT [MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION](https://mtolivet.org/education) OR  
BY CONTACTING KATIE STEVENSON AT  
[KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG](mailto:katies@mtolivet.org) OR 612.767.2232.**

# WORD WITH YOUR PASTORS FALL 2023

## FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, GIVE IT A REST!: GOD'S RADICAL SABBATH COMMAND

TAUGHT BY PASTOR RUUD

Wednesdays, October 18 through November 8, 10:30-11:30am, Mpls Campus; or via videos

Ever feel life is too busy? Or like the world races ahead and it's all we can do to keep up? Or like each day is an endless list of demands and to-dos amid the yearning and/or incessant pressure to accomplish, achieve, amass, or produce? "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." We recognize this as one of God's storied 10 Commandments in scripture, but what does it really mean? Interpreted often as "going to church" and/or taking time for rest, there is a depth to be explored in this command which may be more astounding and life-changing than meets the eye.

## THE RISE AND FALL OF THE AMERICAN CHRISTIAN EMPIRE?

TAUGHT BY PASTOR DIXON

Thursdays, October 19 through November 9, 10:30-11:30am, West Campus

In the summer of 1925, John Scopes—a substitute high school science teacher—was put on trial in Tennessee for teaching human evolution. He lost. This was the high (or low) point in the war between Christian Fundamentalism in America and modernity, and it explains more about your world today than you might guess. How has the role of the church in culture changed in your lifetime and why? How can it be that the forces that seemed overwhelmingly responsible for the growth of Christianity in America be likewise responsible for the crisis of the present moment marked by declining attendance, the mass exodus of young people from faith, and the steady growth of the "nones" (people who claim no religious affiliation)? Is Christianity in America doomed? (No.) But is American Christendom? Maybe. Join in to reflect more carefully on these questions, reexamine your experiences as Christians in 20th- and 21st-century America, and redouble your gratitude for a congregation like ours.



## STARGAZING WITH MIKE LYNCH

**Friday September 22 &  
Saturday September 23,  
7:30pm, Conference &  
Retreat Center**

Our annual Stargazing event is upon us! Register now for one of two dates. Retired WCCO meteorologist and astronomer extraordinaire Mike Lynch will begin the evening with a presentation on all things galactic. Then, we'll cut the outdoor lights and you'll each have the chance to gaze upward through giant telescopes and see for yourself Jupiter, Saturn, star clusters, galaxies, and more. This event is held with limited light so guests should be self-reliant.

**Cost is \$15 per person which includes program, snacks, and bottled water. Children 3 and under are free. Max cost per family is \$50.** Register at [mtolivetretreat.org](http://mtolivetretreat.org).

## FALL VOLUNTEER DAY

**Saturday, October 28,  
9am-3pm, Conference &  
Retreat Center**

Register now to help ready the Conference & Retreat Center grounds for the winter season. Volunteers will help with many seasonal projects. Volunteers and families will enjoy a delicious meal from our kitchen and have opportunities to swim in the pool, explore the trails, play on the natural playscape, and delight in any of our indoor and outdoor amenities.

Thanks in advance for helping us care for this corner of creation! Register at [mtolivetretreat.org/events](http://mtolivetretreat.org/events).

# A Legacy of Loving the Land

Shortly after I began working at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, Dan Kahl, our Director of Operations, let me know that he planned to retire within a few years. I had hoped to push that off indefinitely, but alas, the time has come. For nearly 24 years, Dan has served in a variety of roles at the Conference & Retreat Center: Groundskeeper, Site Naturalist, Caretaker, and Director of Operations. With degrees in Horticulture and Wildlife Management, Dan has cultivated over twenty wildflower gardens, installed and tended a raised-bed vegetable and fruit garden, and landscaped the chapel. He supervised the Marsh Walk rebuild, the installation of Wood Duck houses, the development of our Monarch Waystation and Bluebird Recovery Program, and much more.

Dan characterizes his years at the Conference & Retreat Center as a period of professional growth. He visited retreat centers around the country in order to develop our mission of hospitality. He took on responsibilities in facilities, and in the last few years, oversaw upgrades of all our hotel-style rooms, HVAC equipment, and the conversion from propane to natural gas, which resulted in significant cost savings. He jokingly says that he "learned to problem solve" at every turn of the job.

Perhaps known most for his nature talks, Dan crafted that aspect of our summer midweeks into a fine art. His love of theater and story-telling left Mount Olivet members laughing and learning about plants, animals, and the rhythms of creation. He always left us marveling about the Creator God who sustains and cares for all.

Dan and his wife Starr will be moving out of the Conference & Retreat Center cottage when Dan retires at the end of September. Fondly called "Pedal to the Medal Starr" (given her superb lawnmowing skills) by Mount Olivet volunteers, Starr has been a welcoming presence to guests and a regular volunteer at nearly all of our events. In retirement, Dan looks forward to "Not having to answer guest calls in the middle of the night!" He and Starr plan to travel and visit family and friends at their leisure and to increase their time volunteering. We will miss them and remain grateful for their many years of faithfully serving the Conference & Retreat Center.

**THERESA LATINI**, *Executive Director of the Conference & Retreat Center*



## DINNER FOR MOCRC VOLUNTEERS & DONORS

**Tuesday September 19, 6-7:30pm, Conference & Retreat Center**

Learn about the Conference & Retreat Center updates, visit with Dan and Starr Kahl, and greet newly hired staff, including Greg Siems, our new Site Naturalist and Groundskeeper, while enjoying a delicious meal prepared by our chefs! There is no cost but please register online at [mtolivetretreat.org/events](http://mtolivetretreat.org/events).

# How are you?

We might ask and answer that question many times in a day, but how often do we really take the time to think about how we are? There's a spiritual practice called "The Daily Examen" (ask a pastor!) that helps us dig a little deeper into that question and in 12-step circles it's called a "daily inventory." Whatever it's called, taking time at the end of your day to take stock can be just what you need to stay on track with your personal goals. Here are some questions I use to aid in my own practice of daily reflection:

How was I of service to myself today?

How was I of service to others?

What did I do well?

What could I have done better?

Now, these don't need to be enormously consequential activities. For example, service to self can be as simple as recognizing that I felt tired and went to bed a little earlier. An example of what I could have done better? Perhaps I could have taken a moment before firing off a poorly worded text that led to miscommunication.

As you can see, these are not huge, mind-blowing insights about the meaning of life. Instead, they are snapshots of my day that allow me to see how my actions are lining up with my values. Your daily reflection/inventory/examen will look different, based on what composes your day and what is most valuable to you. Lastly, I like to end my daily reflection by giving thanks to God, who day after day, is always at work in me. God is at work in you, too.

SARA WATNE, MA, LPCC Mount Olivet Counseling Service

## THE FIRST YEARS WITHOUT THEM GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays, September 14 through November 2, 3pm

Come find healing following the death of a loved one by attending the First Years Without Them grief support group for a span of 8 weeks, led by therapist Sara Watne from the Counseling Service. To learn more or to register, visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).

## BECOME A MOUNT OLIVET MEMBER

Mount Olivet offers a tremendous number of worship services, fellowship groups, service opportunities, educational programs, and events. Exploring the possibility of joining Mount Olivet is as easy as contacting Gail Breen, our Coordinator of Membership, Fellowship, & Special Events. She can answer your questions and help you explore how Mount Olivet can enrich your faith. Attend a new member orientation and find out what it means to be a member of this amazing congregation! You'll meet the pastors, staff, members of the Board of Life and Growth, and connect with other people who are joining Mount Olivet. The upcoming new member orientation dates are:

Saturday, October 28, 9:30-11am, Mpls Campus

Sunday, October 29, 12noon-1:30pm, West Campus

Sunday, November 5, 12noon-1:30 pm, Mpls Campus

New Members will be recognized during the worship service on Sunday, November 12. To learn more or to register, please contact Gail Breen at [gbreen@mtolivet.org](mailto:gbreen@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2289.

# SAVE THE DATES!

## PUMPKIN PATCH

Friday, October 13 through Monday, October 30, Mpls Campus

Hours: Weekdays 3-7pm, Weekends 10am-5pm

Come purchase a pumpkin to support the Cathedral Choir.

## PARTY AT THE PATCH

Saturday, October 14, 10am-12noon, Mpls Campus

Join us at the Pumpkin Patch for a party! A festive morning at the Pumpkin Patch – with a bounce house, some treats, and more as you shop for your perfect pumpkin!

## MOCW HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE & HOLIDAY MARKET

Saturday, November 4, 9am-2pm, Mpls Campus

Saturday, November 11, 9am-2pm, West Campus

Join us for the MOCW Holiday Boutique and Holiday Market featuring vendors, our Bistro, and so much more! You won't want to miss it!



# UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

## GROUP STEWARDSHIP DINNER & LUNCH

### FLYING SOLO

Tuesday, September 12, 6pm, Mpls Campus

### YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS & ALTAR GUILD

Friday, September 22, 12noon, Mpls Campus

Reservations required online at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org), at church, or by calling church at 612.926.7651.

## CAREER & CALLING RELAUNCH MEETING

Tuesday, September 19, 4:30pm, Online

Join us in an online conversation as we relaunch Career & Calling! Mount Olivet's Career & Calling ministry offers our members and friends an arena for nurturing our careers and supporting each other. We aim to grow professionally through networking, learning, and supporting each other as we balance work and life. Register at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org) or Realm to receive a link to join the meeting.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 23, 9:30am–3:30pm, via Zoom

Are you getting married soon? Join us for the upcoming virtual Marriage Preparation Workshop facilitated by family therapist, Shannon Himango, MA, LMFT. This six-hour workshop is designed to enrich your relationship as a couple and help you strengthen your relationship. The workshop will focus on topics like communication, conflict resolution, finances, and spirituality. We hope you will find this to be a helpful step toward beginning your new life together. To learn more or to register, visit [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org). Register by September 11.

## BEGINNER WATERCOLOR PAINTING CLASS

Tuesday, September 26, 5:30pm, Mpls Campus

Paint a beautiful watercolor painting in this two hour class. Step-by-step instructions and discussion on the techniques used in the painting, such as, wet on wet, and wet on dry are included as we work together in this class. This is a great no-fear way to learn to paint in watercolors even if you have no experience. All supplies are provided and each class can stand alone or take all to build even more skills. Register at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org) by Thursday, September 21.

## GRACE HOSPICE GALA – GATHER WITH GRACE

Thursday, September 28, Hyland Hills Chalet, 8800 Chalet Road, Bloomington, \$100/ticket

You're invited to Gather with Grace for a fun and inspiring evening to connect with the Grace Hospice community, raise support for our mission, and celebrate the work we do together. Enjoy live music and community connections over happy hour, bid for one-of-a-kind items and experiences at our silent auction, enjoy a delicious family-style meal, and hear stories that capture the heart of Grace. At Grace Hospice, we recognize that every person deserves to live out their life with respect and dignity, free of pain, and in an environment that promotes quality of life. We bring together an entire team of skilled and compassionate people focused on providing end of life care that honors the unique needs and wishes of every individual. Register at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org) tickets and sponsorships online by September 21.

## 15TH MOTORHEADS' FALL TOUR - HENDERSON ROLL-IN ENCORE

Sunday, October 1, 11am Worship followed by the road tour, West Campus

After church, meet in the parking lot for a photo with our cars before we head out for a beautiful drive along the MN River Valley. We'll end at the city of Henderson where we will participate in the Roll-In Encore — cool cars, food trucks, and more! Your return trip is on your own. Cost: What you buy in Henderson. Questions? Contact Deb Kind at 612.718.6753 or [dkind100@me.com](mailto:dkind100@me.com). No registration.

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