

OCTOBER 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

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

OCTOBER 1

WHY CHURCH?
SO WE CAN SEE GOD
1 Corinthians 13:8-13

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Cieslik
MUSIC Cathedral & Senior
Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman
MUSIC Cathedral & Senior
Choirs

OCTOBER 8

**MENTAL HEALTH
RECOGNITION**
WHY CHURCH?
**SO WE CAN TELL THE
TRUTH**
Mark 5:1-20

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud
MUSIC Alleluia Choir
& Senior Choir

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland
MUSIC Alleluia Choir,
Combined Cathedral
Choir, & Senior Choir

OCTOBER 15

WHY CHURCH?
SO WE'RE NOT ALONE
Ruth 1:15-18

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten
MUSIC Hosanna Children's,
Cathedral, & Senior
Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon
MUSIC Hosanna Children's,
Cathedral, & Senior
Choirs

OCTOBER 22

WHY CHURCH?
**SO WE CAN CHANGE
AND GROW**
Romans 8:14-17

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland
MUSIC Lauren Seidel, oboe
& Senior Choir

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman
MUSIC Brandon Berger,
baritone

OCTOBER 29

REFORMATION SUNDAY
WHY CHURCH?
SO WE CAN SIN BOLDLY
Luke 18:9-14

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon
MUSIC Brass Ensemble with
the Cathedral, Chancel,
& Senior Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud
MUSIC Brass Ensemble with
the Cathedral, Chancel,
& Senior Choirs

WEDNESDAYS

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

BIBLE PRESENTATION

OCTOBER 1, 11AM, WEST CAMPUS

OCTOBER 8, 11AM, MPLS CAMPUS

There will be a 4th Grade Bible Presentation and Class on the above dates. Please contact Katy Michaletz, Director of Children & Family Ministry at kmichaletz@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2245 if you have questions.



“Where Two or Three Are Gathered...”

The decline of church attendance in America has been making headlines in recent years. In the summer of 2018, the Star Tribune launched a series of articles describing the shrinking of congregations in Minnesota and across the country. More recently, several new books are cataloguing the diminishment of congregational life that now affects not only predominantly-white mainline congregations (Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, etc.) but also Evangelical churches and African American congregations.

This news doesn't really surprise me. More than a decade ago, while teaching at Luther Seminary, I began researching these trends. (At that time, the ELCA had shrunk from 5.25 million members when it was formed in 1988 to 3.5 million; today it's under 3 million.) Among a variety of factors I found at the time, perhaps the two most significant – also named in several of these more recent books – are 1) a loss of cultural support for congregational life and 2) the increasingly busy lives we lead.

With regard to the first: it's not that we live in a culture that is hostile to Christianity, but rather that the culture has no vested interest in promoting congregational life. For three centuries, political and cultural leaders from Benjamin Franklin to Dwight David Eisenhower publicly encouraged people to go to church. Similarly, you would not think of running for the school board or city council unless you had “Sunday School teacher” or “Church Council member” on your resume. That is no longer the case. It's not that the culture is hostile, but indifferent. As a result, Sunday is no longer a privileged time reserved for worship and rest.

Which brings us to the second factor: we – and particularly our children – are scheduled to the max, and that includes Sunday mornings. In fact, when I drive down Penn Avenue on Sunday mornings, all the fields at Armatage Park are filled with kids, coaches, and parents. Similarly, the same digital tools that enable us to work remotely also make it difficult to establish clear boundaries between work and home life, creating an increasing pervasive sense that there is little Sabbath left in our lives. Combine that with the 24/7 availability of entertainment, information, and social interaction afforded by social media and the internet, and Sunday worship finds itself in intense competition for the time and allegiance of the public.

While Mount Olivet has not been immune to these changes – in ways that affect scheduling and attendance at worship and programs – we have nevertheless continued to flourish. Interestingly, featured on one of those 2018 Star Tribune articles was an uncredited “file photo” from 1981 showing a robust attendance at a Sunday morning worship service, meant to draw

a sharp comparison with worship today. When I saw that photo, however, I realized immediately it was a picture of a Mount Olivet Sunday service taken from the balcony of the Minneapolis campus. That very Sunday I asked one of our members to go to the balcony and take a similar photo and the attendance was virtually the same.

Why have we flourished when so many others have faltered? Certainly, the strong culture of exceptional and traditional worship, music, and preaching is important. As is the powerful triad of Cathedral of the Pines, our youth ministry, and our youth choirs that together encourages youth involvement and fosters faith development. But above and beyond all these things – or, really, woven *through* all these things – is the focus Mount Olivet puts on cultivating authentic and caring relationships. Through activities like COP and Cathedral choir, but also palpably present in Circles, Friends Forever, Young in Heart, Motorheads, Mount Olivet Day Camps, Hi-League, Confirmation, Bible studies, and more, we intentionally provide opportunities for people to grow together in both friendship and faith.

These kinds of relationships have always been important, but never more so than of late when, for instance, we are experiencing what the US Surgeon General has described as a “pandemic of loneliness.” Authentic relationships matter! Martin Luther, whose Reformation we celebrate this month, once declared that, “As for myself, I judge the loss of all one's possessions easier to bear than the loss of one faithful friend.” Luther also believed that “the mutual conversation and consolation of the faithful” – what we might call Christian fellowship – was, along with preaching and the sacraments, one of God's chief ways of manifesting grace and love.

So when you are pressed for time on a weekend, or when the kids are sleepy from full schedules, or when you're wondering whether a trip to the Minneapolis or West Campus is worth the drive on a chilly October morning, keep in mind the powerful antidote that Christian community and fellowship offers. More now than ever, we find comfort and courage in each other's company, and in this way bear witness to the truth of Jesus' promise, “for whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there” (Matthew 18:20).



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

WHY CHURCH?

So We Can:

October 1: See God

October 8: Tell the Truth

October 15: So We're Not Alone

October 22: Change and Grow

October 29: Sin Boldly

November 5: Live with Courage

November 12: Make Hard Choices

November 19: Give Thanks

**JOIN IN THE FALL SERMON SERIES AND SEE HOW YOUR FAITH
CAN CONNECT TO YOUR LIFE EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK!**

Like never before, the church is in fierce competition for people's time, energy, and commitment. Work has no boundaries, entertainment and information are available to us 24/7, activities – and particularly youth sports – run every day of the week (and we often believe we are doing a disservice to our kids if we don't provide every opportunity available). In this context, we can no longer assume people will just show up at church. We are all harried by too many things to do in too little time and then look for a return on investment to what we commit to. For this reason, in the fall sermon series we're asking – and trying to answer the question, "Why Church?" Why show up on Sundays? Why commit your time, talents, and money? Why choose this when Sunday morning, if not totally unscheduled, is the least scheduled day of the week? While we are facing this competition for time, we recognize that there are some serious societal challenges to this way of life – the epidemic of loneliness, the sense of disconnection from each other, the loss of relational social capital, and spiking rates of anxiety and depression, especially with young people. And it all stems in part from our 24/7, social media driven, do it all culture! The good news is that congregational life is uniquely situated to address these issues, as we provide a community based on mutual respect, a belief that all have value, a stress on the importance of genuine and caring relationships, oriented to the promise that God is with us and the hope that God will, in the prayers we say each week, "lead us forth, not knowing where we go but trusting that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us."

Why Church? Turns out, there's lots of reasons!



LIFE & GROWTH

AUG 15 - SEP 14

BAPTISMS

Beau Rife Bartels

son of Sunny and Tyler

Wesson John Becker

son of Brita and John

Elsie Lenore Engquist

daughter of Christa and Andrew

Owen George Frazier

son of Margaret and Aaron

Cameron John Grove

son of Jennifer and Ryan

Amelia Rose Lemke

daughter of Erin and Josh

Jean O'Neil Madigan

daughter of Jen and Sean

Brody Camden McCleary

son of Heidi and Eric

Sienna Alouise Moore

daughter of Brittany and Max

Phillip Xavier Nelson

son of Michelle and Bryan

Nadia Lilanna Nelson

son of Michelle and Bryan

Timothy F Pixley

Madeline Elizabeth Sayre

daughter of Rebecca and Zachary

Lillian Mackenzie Schreier

daughter of Allison and Thomas

Lily Carol Schwei

daughter of Tamara and Joe

Marguerite Maxine Schwei

daughter of Tamara and Joe

Colette Ruth Seymore

daughter of Susan and Cameron

Ford Howard Jack Smith

son of Jana and Bentley

Cash Christensen Smith

son of Jana and Bentley

Audrey Joneil Stratmoen

daughter of Kathleen and Jason

Brodie Christian Troidahl

son of Katie and Jeff

Ezra John Zimmerman

son of Bailey and Joseph

WEDDINGS

Emma Ostby &

Andrew Olson, August 19

Jenifer Rogness-McCormick &

Anthony Graham, August 26

Sabina Alieva &

Garrett Larson, September 7

Jenna Fester &

Cameron Bentrott, September 9

DEATHS

Catherine J. Allen, 1940 – 2023

Marilyn Y. Gulland, 1936 – 2023

Elizabeth A. Handberg, 1939 – 2023

Lois A. Juth, 1928 – 2023

Gladys V. Stratmoen, 1931 – 2023

Margaret “Scotty” Walton,

1919 – 2023

DEVOTION

“O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, great and wide; creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.”

-Psalm 104:24-25

The resident eight-year-old in my household recently introduced me to an animal I didn't know existed – an axolotl. (Pronounced, “ox-a-LOT-tul”) She had a

cartoon sticker of this strange creature on her water bottle. What is an axolotl, you ask? Well, imagine a 6-18 inch salamander with six tentacle-like gills surrounding its head like a lion's mane and having two simple black eyes and smiling mouth. I learned it's a unique amphibian which only exists in the wild in one particular lake in Mexico. Here's the thing, too. They're oddly cute. Thought to be extinct at one point, they were re-found. Due to their cuteness, they've also been bred as pets for some aqua-marine aficionados, but more commonly they're showing up as stuffed animals or stickers on 8-yr-olds' water bottles. I'm told many kids know this creature. Apparently, I'm out of the loop.

It reminded me again how diverse, abundant, and varied God's creation is. Even with all our modern technology and knowhow, we are still discovering life on this planet we didn't know existed. I find that awe-inspiring, humbling, and hopeful. God's not finished with creating. It challenges us perhaps to look again at how we care for this place we know as our earthly home. Perhaps it also challenges us to see how God continues to re-create us. This month, how might you exercise your vocation to care for the creation? Also, what may God be looking to create anew in you?

Holy God, creator of all that is, seen and unseen, stir up in us your creative Spirit to care for what you have made, and to be recreated each day to pour out love in abundance. Amen. — PASTOR RUUD



VOLUNTEER FOR PASTOR SCOTT

Pastor Scott is looking for some volunteers to help with delivery of donated items in the evenings starting at around 6pm. Volunteers will meet at the Mpls Campus, and help Pastor Scott deliver items to those experiencing homelessness. If you are interested in helping, please contact Laurie Hancer, at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

BRUNCH WITH US!

October 8, after each worship service, Mpls & West 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! 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!

Young in Heart & Friends Fall Field Trip

Tuesday, October 17, 12noon,
West Campus

Please join us for a delicious lunch, followed by guest speaker, Julie Weisenhorn, Extension Horticulturist, for the state of Minnesota. Julie holds master's degrees in both visual communication and horticulture from the University of Minnesota, where she taught landscape design, and served as state director of the Master Gardener Program. In her current position, Julie has statewide responsibility for horticulture teaching, research and outreach, with special focus on plant selection, and sustainable residential landscape design. One of Julie's most recent projects was the design and installation of The Foodscape Garden, which surrounds Myers Education Center at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. In addition to all this, she also appears regularly on WCCO's *Smart Gardens* radio show. In Julie's own words, "This is the best job I have ever had!"

Event Timeline:

- 10:15am: Meet at the Mpls Campus, bus departs at 10:30am
- 10:45am: Arrive at 7500 York Ave, bus departs at 11am
- 12noon: Lunch at the West Campus
- 1:25pm: Load buses for U of M Apple House
- 1:40-2:20pm: Apple House Event
- 3pm: Arrive at 7500 York Ave S
- 3:20pm: Arrive at Mpls Campus

Registration for busing is limited to 50 people. Cost information below:

Option 1: Lunch, Event and Bus Transportation: \$25

Option 2: Lunch and Event Only: \$10, NO

TRANSPORTATION.

Registration will be open through October 10, at mtolivet.org, or by contacting Tricia Asuncion at tasuncion@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2210.



World Mental Health Day & The Illusion of Separation

October 10 is World Mental Health Day. You might expect to find here the usual list of signs and symptoms to keep an eye out for or a list of resources for tending to the emotionally afflicted. What I'd rather do is begin a conversation to help encourage a paradigm shift on this thing we call mental health.

I want you to know that mental health is not separate from medical health; your body and mind are not separate entities that need connecting. Your physiological and psychological systems are so interconnected that to say "body-mind connection" is about as much of a misnomer as referring to the relationship between wind and air as the "wind-air connection." We perceive wind and air to be so entirely interconnected that this term does not even exist in our lexicon (and actually sounds pretty silly!).

Somewhere along the way we developed the idea that the body and mind are separate, that tending to the health of one is more important or socially acceptable than the other, and, worse yet, that their level of health is somehow indicative of our value, worth, or lovability. There is no separation between body and mind. There is no separation between you and your inherent worth. Let's break through the illusion of separation and embrace the wholeness and fullness of this joyful and painful human experience.

If you are experiencing great joy, please call someone you know and trust and share your pure joy with them! If you are experiencing pain, please call someone you know and trust and share your pain with them. If you are the one that is called, practice lovingly embracing the other person's experience and entering into it with your full presence. Jesus does this for us and he calls us to do it for each other.

If you feel like you don't have anyone that you know and trust with your vulnerabilities, please call us at Mount Olivet Counseling Service and we will join you where you're at or point you in a helpful direction. Our number is 612.927.7335 or you can email us at hello@mtolivetcounseling.org. If you're ready to get started with counseling, go to: mtolivet.org/counseling and click the button at the bottom of the page to get started. We are so pleased to be here to support you and your health.

SHERRI HERMAN, MA, LPCC, *Director of the Mount Olivet Counseling Service*



CELEBRATING MOUNT OLIVET'S CENTENARIAN MEMBERS!

The end of July and August were busy celebrating milestone birthdays with special members turning 100 or more! Beginning in 2022, Congregational Care has been arranging pastor visits with members celebrating a momentous 100th or higher birthday. Pastor MacLean had the privilege of visiting Margaret Lindquist Bachman, Mount Olivet's oldest living member, to celebrate her 105th birthday. A few days later he celebrated with Marjorie Johnson who turned 104, and in late August he celebrated with Evodia Linner who turned 100. It has been an honor to celebrate with fourteen centenarians and great saints of Mount Olivet since 2022!



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE

Pastor MacLean with Evodia Linner at her 100th birthday celebration, Pastor MacLean with Marjorie Johnson, and Pastor MacLean with Margaret Lindquist celebrating her 105th birthday.

GOD'S TWO WORDS: LAW & GOSPEL

TAUGHT BY PASTOR RUUD

Tuesday, November 7, 6:30-7:30pm;
West Campus Rehearsal Hall;
or via pre-recorded video

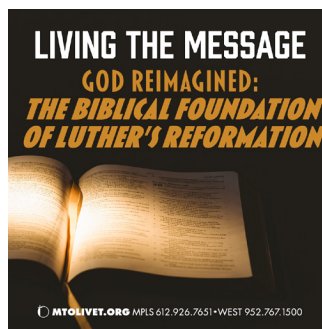
This class is part of the **Living the Message 2023-2024** series. Join in anytime!

At the risk of sounding grandiose or over-promising, if you're looking for better understanding in reading the Bible and/or interpreting life in this world, November's topic may be one of the most helpful you could engage.

Arguably the most influential and inspiring contribution or clarification Martin Luther made in regard to faith and life was in what he and the reformers referred to as the distinction between the "law" and the "gospel." This is to say, in scripture and the witness of God in Christ, the reformers recognized God speaking, enacting, and using two distinct words. One, the word of the law, which declares God's wishes, commands, or expectations to obey, trust, and love perfectly, purely, and righteously. Two, the word of the gospel, in which God in Christ freely, completely, and unconditionally hands over forgiveness, righteousness, holiness, and new life due to nothing of one's own effort or merit whatsoever. In the *law*, which Jesus summed up as "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself," it was recognized and confessed that we all finally fall short of the demand, and ultimately results in death. Meanwhile, the *gospel* declared love, forgiveness, and holiness, which meant new life eternal. Law and gospel. Death and Resurrection. All of our days.

Another way to describe it was that the law stated what and how we should or ought do and be. The gospel stated what God has already done and accomplished for us. These two words were witnessed to be always in tension yet demanded distinction lest they be confused.

Not only did this distinction serve to crack open the scriptures to a more faithful witness and interpretation, but it also served to crack open the heart of true faith in Christ and love in relationship with God and one another. Join us for the November session of *Living the Message* and learn how this distinction makes all the difference in the world. — PASTOR RUUD



WORD WITH YOUR PASTORS FALL 2023

**MPLS CAMPUS: FOR
HEAVEN'S SAKE, GIVE IT
A REST!**

**GOD'S RADICAL
SABBATH COMMAND**

Taught by Pastor Ruud
Wednesdays, October 25
through November 15,
10:30-11:30am, at Mpls; or
via videos

*This series will be repeated
spring 2024 at West.*

**WEST CAMPUS: THE
RISE AND FALL OF THE
AMERICAN CHRISTIAN
EMPIRE?**

Taught by Pastor Dixon
Thursdays, October 19
through November 9, 1
0:30-11:30am, at West
*This series will be repeated
spring 2024 at Mpls and via
videos.*

MOUNT OLIVET BOOK DISCUSSIONS

DAYTIME: 10-11:30am the
2nd Tuesday of each month
EVENING: 7-8:30pm the
2nd Wednesday of the month
Both held in the Mpls
Campus Library

UPCOMING BOOKS:

OCTOBER 10/11: *Our
Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng
NOVEMBER 8/14: *The
Many Daughters of Afong May*
by Jamie Ford

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.

Welcoming New Staff

Change is in the air at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center. In the past month, we have welcomed two new staff members and their family! Greg Siems is our new Site Naturalist and Groundskeeper. He brings significant experience in non-profit management and recently began training as a site naturalist. He has a passion for nature education and care of the land that reflect our deepest values. He will work closely with our facilities team and volunteers so that guests enjoy the beauty of our grounds.

Mandie Siems is our new Director of Guest Engagement. She previously worked at the Conference & Retreat Center (2018-2021) as Coordinator of Programming & Communications. She brings important administrative experience to our team and deep understanding of our mission of hospitality. In her new role, Mandie will manage the details for our 280+ annual retreats, communicating with guests and group leaders, sharing their needs with our staff, and providing a warm, welcoming presence.

Mandie and Greg will be living on-site in our cottage with their two kids, Parker and Linden, starting mid-October. We are thrilled to have two staff present on-site to tend to guest needs. Please join us in welcoming them to the Mount Olivet family.

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



FALL VOLUNTEER DAY

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

Sign up now to help ready the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center grounds for the winter season. Volunteers will not only help with seasonal projects but also will enjoy a delicious meal from our kitchen and have opportunities to swim in the pool, explore the trails, 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.



CRAFT AWAY RETREAT

**November 3-6, Conference &
Retreat Center**

Craft Away is an annual weekend getaway for artists, artisans, creatives, and crafters. Take a break from your everyday routines and enjoy the pace of the Conference & Retreat Center life. Disconnect from distractions and redirect your resources toward creativity. Finish those projects you've been wanting to complete for ages, and meet other crafters during your stay! You bring your supplies, and we provide the lodging, meals, meeting space, amenities, and inspiring beauty of the Conference & Retreat Center.

Stay in a dorm with a small group of friends or in a hotel-style room (double-occupancy and limited single occupancy). Flexible registration allows you to stay Friday-Sunday, Saturday-Sunday, Saturday-Monday, or Friday-Monday. Use the "additional items" section of registration to add an extra night if desired. Register at mtolivetretreat.org/events. Call 952.469.2175 or email Jeremy Bork at jbork@mocrc.org with any questions.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

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



CATHEDRAL CHOIR

OCTOBER 8 9 & 10am Services, West Campus. We will be singing together at the West Campus worship services. Rehearsal will begin at 8am. Can't wait for this fun morning to be together!



JHA SCREAM TOWN

OCTOBER 6 6-9:30pm, \$30. Join the JHA Youth Staff and friends for a pizza party at the West Campus followed by a night at Screamtown for some spooky fun!



JHA MEA DAY AWAY

OCTOBER 19 11am-4pm, \$30. Join the JHA Youth Staff and friends for an MEA Day Away adventure! We will be going on a hike followed by lunch, shopping time, and rides at the Mall of America.



HI-LEAGUE FALL CAMP

OCTOBER 19-22 9th, 10th, and 11th Graders have the chance to spend a long weekend up at Cathedral of the Pines this fall!



HI-LEAGUE SCHEDULE

10/8 7-8:30pm. Share Group, Mpls Campus
10/15 3-6:30pm. Hayride, MN Harvest
10/29 7-8pm. Halloween Bingo, Mpls Campus



CONFIRMATION

REMINDERS! There will be no Confirmation on Wednesday, October 18, or Sunday, October 22.



INSTAGRAM

ARE YOU ON INSTAGRAM? Follow us on Instagram @mtolivet_youth. We post fun pictures, information about upcoming events, and weekly devotionals written by our youth!



PUMPKIN PATCH

OCTOBER 13-30 Come and get a pumpkin from the Pumpkin Patch to support the Cathedral Choir. The Patch is open weekdays 3-7pm, and on weekends 10am-5pm.



CATHEDRAL CHOIR: A TRADITION UNLIKE ANY OTHER!

Mount Oliver's youth have a strong desire for music as a foundation to their faith. We sing at Confirmation and Hi-League, we sing at camp and most importantly we sing in the choir lofts at both campuses. As a youth staff we are blessed to be a part of this team in a relational role. Dr. Clafin and our entire music staff are talented and make choir meaningful and fun for us all. The students who participate feel a genuine connection to their church and the choir directors. We are lucky to have had this choir grow out of the ministry at Cathedral of the Pines Camp many years ago, and the powerful impact it has had on so many of our lives. As church members I know that we often are in awe of the countless students that walk down the main aisle each week at each campus and are very proud of the youth that want to be involved this way in worship – it's pretty awesome! As a choir we rehearse just about every Wednesday night during the school year from September through May. The Cathedral Choir leads us in worship each Sunday during the 9 and 10am services. The amount of volunteer hours of each of our singers combined at both campuses adds up to roughly 37,500 per school year – now that is a lot of volunteering! A huge thank you to each of you members who support this ministry in prayer and with your presence at church! — **The Youth Staff**

My favorite part about choir is that it lifts up your spirit and always puts a smile on your face. If you are having a bad day, choir makes it a good day. If you're already having a good day, it becomes even better. There's never a day at choir without laughs, smiles, and memories made! — **Kate Yezzi, Senior at Chanhassen High School**

I like Cathedral Choir because it's a great community and a fun way to get involved at church!
— **Ashley Hurth, Senior at Bloomington Jefferson High School**

I enjoy choir because every week I get to see my church friends and it's a great way to slow down a hectic week.
— **Aaron Stoa, Junior at Washburn High School**

My favorite thing about choir is every Wednesday night and all the smiling, singing faces. I especially look forward to the Christmas Concert, woo-hoo!
— **Aubrey Van Liere, Senior at Edina High School**

MOUNT OLIVET SCHOOL OF MUSIC & THE ARTS

The Mount Olivet School of Music and the Arts develops and encourages artistic skill and appreciation in each student, regardless of age or ability. Teachers provide outstanding personal music and art instruction in a nurturing environment. The Mount Olivet School of Music and the Arts is designed for a variety of ages and abilities. Whatever your artistic abilities may be, Mount Olivet teachers are supportive, encouraging, and provide the perfect learning place for you!

PRIVATE LESSONS

The beginning of the school year is a perfect time to start private lessons! Perhaps you are looking to audition for a school production, or you finally have time to learn to play piano, or you simply need additional help to feel confident playing your instrument in an ensemble. The Mount Olivet School of Music and the Arts is here to assist you in finding the perfect teacher for your musical needs.

Private lessons are available for piano, guitar, voice, strings, brass, woodwinds, and many more! Taking private lessons advances the musical development of each student through highly valuable one-on-one instruction from our extraordinary selection of qualified teachers. Read the testimonials below and reach out to Luke Randall at mosom@mtolivet.org for more information!

MUSIC LESSON TESTIMONIALS

"I am a retired physician age 76 years. One day, my daughter challenged me to learn to play our piano: "You can do this! When will you have more time than now? It is never too late to learn!" So I called MOSOMA, and one week later began lessons with Mike Wolter. I have worked hard and learned much. Mike sees my limitations and helps me work around them. I believe MOSOMA is ideal for me, and unique as a music school because it is a Mount Olivet ministry for all ages, conceived to enhance lives by sharing the joy of music."

– Dr. Leslie Sharpe, current MOSOMA piano student

"Working at Mount Olivet is an absolute delight. I feel tremendously supported and respected both as an artist and as an educator. The teachers and staff at MOSOMA are highly educated and are active performers in the Twin Cities music scene. Everyone is a beautiful blend of professionalism, approachability, and fun!"

– Julie Johnson, MOSOMA flute teacher

"I learned, through my time in the Mount Olivet band program, and through private lessons, the basic fundamentals of playing with integrity - using good intonation and technique, how to put my slide in the right place, and all things at the most basic beginning level. That focus on fundamentals provided by the MOSOMA teachers has helped me be a strong trombone player all the way into my pursuit of trombone in college at St. Olaf."

– Maclain Everson-Rose, former MOSOMA student



ART CLASSES

From mastering the brushstrokes of the great Wassily Kandinsky, to spook-tacular Halloween family painting fun, to creating your own clay Christmas ornaments, Mount Olivet's fall art classes offer an incredible range of enrichment activities for artists of all ages and abilities! Classes offer anyone, and we really do mean **ANYONE**, the opportunity to instantly become an artist in an encouraging environment. Our instructor will walk you through the process step by step, ensuring that you are given all the guidance and support you need to complete your masterpiece. Registrations are open at mtolivet.org.

UPCOMING ART CLASSES FOR 2023 AT 6PM:

Monday, October 30: Halloween Family Painting Class

This Halloween painting class is a fun way for you and your child to make art together. No experience is needed, this class is about spending quality time with your child and having fun. Registration fee includes all materials and step-by-step instruction through the painting. Please register at mtolivet.org by Wednesday, October 25.

Tuesday, November 14: Beginner Wassily Kandinsky Painting Class

Monday, December 4: Family Clay Holiday Ornament Class

Monday, December 11: Needle Felt Snow Globe Craft Class



SKA VI FIKA? (SHOULD WE FIKA?)

In Sweden the tradition of fika (pronounced “fee-ka”) is as common as breakfast; something almost everyone does at least once a day. It is the moment that you take a break, often with a cup of coffee, but alternatively with tea, and find a baked good to pair with it. At its core, fika means “to drink coffee” but it represents an entire culture and carries as much meaning for Swedish social engagements as it does for food customs. To truly fika requires a commitment to making time for a break in your day, to socialize and slow down. It’s the creation of a magical moment in the midst of the routine and the mundane.

We are excited to announce the first season of a new music series at Mount Olivet. The strong Swedish roots at Mount Olivet provided inspiration for the title, Fika. The mission of the Fika Music Series is to provide moments of fika through music, coffee, and baked goods. The concerts will feature Mount Olivet School of Music and the Arts teachers as well as other Mount Olivet music staff performing works from the classical and popular repertoire. All concerts will be 30-40 minutes in length starting at 12:15pm in the Sanctuary followed by coffee and social time afterwards in the Lounge, which will feature a Scandinavian dessert.

UPCOMING CONCERTS 2023-2024 AT 12:15PM:

Sunday, October 15: “Northern Lights” Lykke is the word for joy and happiness, which is also the best way to describe experiencing northern lights in the sky. This concert will feature instrumental and vocal works by Scandinavian composers showcasing a palette of colorful pieces.

Sunday, November 12: “Cozy Classics” Hygge is the Danish word that translates to coziness. This concert will feature feel-good music about nature during fall and winter.

Sunday, January 28: “All We Need is Love” Love is the most universal experience and emotion that everyone can relate to in some way. This powerful emotion will be showcased through varying vocal solos and duets.

Sunday, April 14: “Musical Merriments” an interactive family concert that involves physical movement, instrument playing, and merry music making!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have made your giving plan and/or pledge for Mount Olivet and its ministries for 2024! We had a wonderful Stewardship season thanks to countless volunteers and all who participated. Thank you!

REMINDER!

If you haven't yet done so, please take time today to make your 2024 pledge to Mount Olivet and its ministries and/or make a giving plan, e.g. set up scheduled giving. ALL members and gifts of ALL sizes are important and needed! Thank you!

PLEDGE

If you are a current pledger, you received 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

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

VIA QR CODE:





UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

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

Sunday, October 1, 11 am 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: on your own in Henderson. No registration.

PARENTS SHARE - FALL SESSION

Wednesday, October 4 through November 15, 9:30-11 am, Mpls Campus

Parents Share is a gathering of parents who bring their current parenting issues and gather the wisdom and experience of all who attend. All parents or caregivers of children are welcome. Marilyn Sharpe, Mount Olivet member and certified parent educator, facilitates the group. Register at mtolivet.org.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR PUMPKIN PATCH

Friday, October 13, through Monday, October 30, 1700 Parking Lot, Mpls Campus

Come to the pumpkin patch to purchase a pumpkin to support the Cathedral Choir. The Patch is open weekdays 3-7pm, and on weekends 10am-5pm. Thank you in advance for supporting this ministry for our youth.

PARTY AT THE PATCH

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

You're invited to our annual Party at the Pumpkin Patch! Bring your friends, neighbors and family to enjoy music, face paint, a bounce house and treats as you shop for the perfect pumpkin!

FLYING SOLO AT SOVEREIGN ESTATE

Sunday, October 22, 2pm, Sovereign Estate, 9950 North Shore Road, Waconia, \$30 for tour and tasting

Join us this fall for a fun experience at Sovereign Estate! Whether you are a seasoned enthusiast or a new explorer of wine, this experience is the best way to become familiar with Minnesota viticulture and the fine wines produced at Sovereign Estate. This is a seated tasting and you will be served a selection of their fine wines as well as a behind the scene tour of the barrel room and production area. The tour and tasting is one hour. We will find a table after the tour for fellowship and food. Register at mtolivet.org.

FRIENDS FOREVER FALL DINNER

Sunday, October 22, 5:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$15

Join us for our Fall Dinner where we will honor our Pastoral Advisor, Pastor MacLean, for his guidance with this group for many years! We will gather for a dinner made by the Mount Olivet kitchen and with magical entertainment presented by Steven Paul Carlson, a sleight-of-hand artist. From 1999 to 2001, Steven was the resident close-up magician at the Excalibur Hotel in Las Vegas. Steven manipulates playing cards, coins, and more. He also manipulates a real bowling ball- it's a trick you have to see to believe! Register at mtolivet.org by October 17.

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 fine art, crafts, pottery, jewelry, home decor, culinary gifts, "Dala House" kids-only shopping, and more!



MOUNT OLIVET
LUTHERAN CHURCH

5025 KNOX AVENUE SOUTH • MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55419-1095

PERIODICALS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN

Mount Olivet Messenger

USPS 365-500

Published monthly by

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church

5025 Knox Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55419-1095

Periodicals postage paid at

St. Paul, MN

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to

Mount Olivet Messenger

5025 Knox Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55419-1095

PARTY AT THE PATCH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14
10AM-12NOON

