

NOVEMBER 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

NOVEMBER 5

**WHY CHURCH?
SO WE CAN LIVE WITH
COURAGE
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**
John 11:17-27

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

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

NOVEMBER 12

**WHY CHURCH?
SO WE CAN MAKE
HARD CHOICES
NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**
Matthew 4:1-11

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

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

NOVEMBER 19

**WHY CHURCH?
SO WE CAN GIVE
THANKS**
Luke 7:36-50

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud
MUSIC Cathedral Choir with
Soloist Alan Bach,
tenor & Instrumentalists

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland
MUSIC Combined Senior
Choirs

THANKSGIVING EARLY

M 6pm, Pastor Cieslik

NOVEMBER 22

THANKSGIVING EVE
Luke 17:11-19

M 6pm
SERMON Pastor Hammersten

W 6pm
SERMON Pastor Dixon

NOVEMBER 26

**FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**
Luke 1:5-20

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

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Cieslik
MUSIC Cathedral & 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.

Ordinarily Extraordinary

This issue of the *Messenger* is, simultaneously, absolutely ordinary and quite extraordinary. Puzzled? Curious? Read on!

Yes, this issue of the *Messenger* is absolutely ordinary in that it bears a pretty strong resemblance to other issues, sharing news of various events happening in our congregation, offering brief reports on the impact of our giving, and sharing devotions and reflections meant to inspire and strengthen your faith life. You see, ordinary.

And yet... when you read through the issue with care, you'll soon recognize that the "ordinary" work of this congregation is really quite extraordinary! As I've shared before in this monthly note to you, each of us can do many wonderful things as individuals and, together, we can achieve things that are simply remarkable. For instance, this is the month that we will likely surpass sharing 200,000 meals with neighbors through our weekly Thursday Community Meal since the start of the pandemic – extraordinary!

Similarly, our outreach to others is regularly powerful. On page 4, for instance, you will read about the impact several of our local, national, and international partners are making and the ways in which Mount Olivet members are supporting that incredible work. On pages 6 and 7 you'll read about ways you can combat food scarcity in our communities by contributing to our Thanksgiving Food Drive and how you can make the holiday brighter for local families by supporting our annual Christmas For All service project. We'll also be starting our annual MOCW Coat and Mitten drive (*details on page 6*) this season as well! All of these efforts afford us the opportunity to extend God's love in tangible ways.

Throughout November we'll continue our series on "Why Church?". Mount Olivet is one of the great exceptions to national church trends, as we continue to grow, both in membership and in attendance at worship and events, while so many churches are struggling. Part of the reason is that we take seriously the importance of connecting our faith to everyday life and, in this way, try to make our faith both more relevant and applicable. This month, we'll focus on how church can help us live with courage in the face of loss, make hard choices that will yield lasting benefits, as well as recognize and give thanks for our blessings in a culture of scarcity.

Speaking of worship, November affords a number of additional opportunities to gather together and be encouraged in faith and life through the fellowship communal worship fosters. We'll hold our youth-led Thanksgiving Early worship service on Sunday, November 19, with worship at 6pm and dinner at 7pm. This is always a favorite service because of the insights shared by our youth on what they're grateful for and, if you'll be away over the holidays, this is a wonderful chance to gather with your Mount Olivet family ahead of your travels. We'll also continue our recent tradition of giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy by living in this country on Thanksgiving Eve, with worship at 6pm on Wednesday, November 22, followed by treats and fellowship at both campuses. And on the last Sunday in November we'll move into the season of Advent. This year we will focus on St. Luke's story of all the ways in which God was at work to prepare for the birth of the Messiah, and how God continues to be at work in our preparations to celebrate the birth of Christ with a focus on "Coming Home for Christmas."

Do you see what I mean? In so many ways, this congregation is ordinarily extraordinary. So read this month's issue with care... and then gratitude for all we accomplish. And as you do, please remember that we couldn't do any of this without your support – your attendance at worship and events; your generous gifts, pledges, and offering; your time in volunteering and outreach; and your prayers for our staff and congregation. As we've been saying across this autumn season, You are Mount Olivet! And, together, We are Mount Olivet, a family of faith that helps us believe the good news of Christ, belong to a servant congregation, and become the people and church God needs us to be. Thank you. Even more, thank God for you!

See you at Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

As I shared in our July *Messenger*, Mount Olivet continues to partner with worthy organizations to improve our community and world. I've put updates on three of them below and you can expect additional updates on these and other ministry impact partners in future editions of the *Messenger*. If you want to contribute to any of these organizations, you can do so simply by marking your donation to Mount Olivet with the name of the intended organization. Thank you for your support and faithful generosity! **PASTOR LOSE**

RISE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

By offering child care adjacent to affordable housing, Rise Early will strengthen families by providing a family-centered approach to education that includes high-quality preschool to ensure kids are school-ready, and wrap-around services for families to help them make the most of their opportunities. Pastor MacLean and I had a chance to visit the construction site for RELC and we both came away impressed by the thoughtfulness of the design and inspired by the coalition of faith communities determined to make sure the kids of families at the Rise on 7 affordable housing endeavor start school prepared for success. Research has shown that when you help a child be prepared for school, not only are they far more likely to succeed, but so are their children. This program therefore contributes to generational success and not only improves the lives of participants but our whole community. RELC will be holding their Annual Fall Celebration and Fundraiser on Thursday, November 9, at Beth El Synagogue, 5225 Barry St West, St. Louis Park. To learn more, check out riseearlylearningcenter.org. Mount Olivet, through member donations and a congregational commitment, has so far contributed \$50,000 to this important endeavor!

THEE ALLIANCE/RIP MEDICAL DEBT

As one of the founding members of THEE Alliance, a coalition of faith-based groups participating in the nation-wide RIP medical debt relief program, I'm both pleased and proud to announce that total contributions from Alliance partners have topped \$400,000 (with \$80,000 from Mount Olivet!) that has, in turn, translated into nearly \$50M (yes, million!) of forgiven medical debt transforming the lives of more than 50,000 families across the country!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

In addition to continuing direct medical assistance to Ukrainian refugees resulting from the Russian invasion, Lutheran World Relief has also been providing critical assistance to those caught in the earthquakes in Turkey and Morocco. LWR specializes in both disaster relief and sustained agricultural development in some of the most dangerous parts of the world. It was formed immediately after World War II and has been spreading the love of God in tangible, life-saving ways for 75 years. In the last three years, Mount Olivet has contributed more than \$100,000 to the life-saving work of LWR.





LIFE & GROWTH

SEP 15 - OCT 12

BAPTISMS

Audrey Rose Andersen

daughter of Kate and Sam

Lily Mae Brueshoff

daughter of Rochelle and Ben

Maxwell Anders Enriquez

son of Maren and Steve

Scott Donald Gilmer

son of Mary and Mark

Lucy Ann Happ

daughter of Hannah and Tony

Makenna Elizabeth Kelley

daughter of Mari and Eric

Jean O'Neil Madigan

daughter of Jen and Sean

Grace James Peterson

daughter of Megan and Christopher

Lila Jean Pung

daughter of Amanda and Tyler

Cullan Daniel Roach

daughter of Katie and Shane

Charlie Elizabeth Schlick

daughter of Sara and Kevin

Arthur Daniel Thorson

son of Kathryn and James

Kiersten Mary Vanderkooy

daughter of Karyn and Seth

Gwendolyn Pearl Zwanziger

daughter of Kathryn and John

WEDDINGS

Kristin Tunheim & David Bock,

September 23

Anne Casey & Daniel McGraw,

September 23

Marissa Kuznar & Kristopher

Flaten, October 8

DEATHS

Jean Elwell-Keir, 1950–2023

Marnee R. Kopren, 1948–2023

Carolyn A. Larson, 1943–2023

Wanda M. Marienau, 1929–2023

Gene S. Moen, 1944–2023

Sandra M. Nelson, 1947–2023

Richard D. Pihlstrom,

1936–2023

Ann E. Rapp, 1927–2023

Patricia K. Samuelson,

1931–2023

DEVOTION

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

– 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Thanksgiving is right around the corner! And every Thanksgiving, I am reminded of my task 25 years ago – to make the holiday turkey dinner for our L'Arche community of 30+ people. Just as people arrived for the meal, the turkey that I cooked set off the fire alarm, smoke filled the house, and I ran to my room mortified, certain I would be asked to find a new job. Instead, my boss slid a note of gratitude under my door, turning a moment of potential judgment into an opportunity for thanks.

Research shows that gratitude brings health and a longer, more meaningful life. The apostle Paul reminds us of this, too!

Thanksgiving reminds us to give thanks. Gratitude comes easily when things are going well, but how do we cultivate gratitude when challenges emerge?

I think we take a page out of my former boss's book. We pause. We gain perspective. And we notice opportunities for gratitude. Though it's hard to give thanks *for* all circumstances, *in* all circumstances, there is usually something for which to be grateful.

When life feels difficult, rushed or joyless, the antidote is thanks! By living gratefully, God's will in Jesus Christ is known. Happy Thanksgiving, Mount Olivet! I'm so grateful for you!

Dear God, Help us to make every day a day of gratitude. Amen.

— PASTOR FREEMAN



COUNSELING SERVICE

At Mount Olivet Counseling Service, we understand that the holiday season can be filled with both joy and sorrow and we are here to embrace all of it with you. If you would like support during this or any season, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. To get connected, you can visit us online at mtolivet.org/counseling or hello@mtolivetcounseling.org.

BECOME A MOUNT OLIVET MEMBER

Mount Olivet offers a tremendous number of worship services, fellowship groups, service opportunities, and educational events and programs. Exploring the possibility of joining Mount Olivet is as easy as contacting Gail Breen, Coordinator of Membership, Fellowship, & Special Events. She can answer your questions and help you explore how Mount Olivet can enrich your faith. Attend a very informative new member orientation and find out what it means to be a member of this amazing congregation! Meet the pastors, some of the staff, members of the Board of Life and Growth, and connect with other people who will be joining Mount Olivet. The next orientation is: **Sunday, November 5, 12noon-1:30pm, 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 or 612.767.2289.

Happy Thanksgiving

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

THANKSGIVING EARLY SERVICE & DINNER

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19,
6PM WORSHIP, 7PM DINNER,
MPLS CAMPUS**

Celebrate Thanksgiving a little early by joining us for a worship service led by Pastor Cieslik and our Hi-Leaguers with music from the Cathedral Choir followed by a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings. Dinner is \$15 per person, with advance registration required online at mtolivet.org by 11/14.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22,
6PM, MPLS & WEST CAMPUSES**

Experience this special evening service of thanks offered at both campuses. The service will include the singing of favorite Thanksgiving hymns and special music from both the Cathedral Choir and Hi-er League friends as well as the adult Senior Choir. All attendees are invited to enjoy some treats from our kitchen and fellowship following the worship service.

HI-ER LEAGUE (18-22) THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP & PIZZA

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22,
6-8PM, MPLS CAMPUS**

We've missed you and you've missed each other! Come to Thanksgiving Eve Worship, and stick around afterwards for the annual pizza party in the Youth Center. Dr. Claflin would like to invite you to sing with the Cathedral Choir during worship! Please arrive at 5pm for rehearsal and wear your blue Cathedral Choir shirt.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19,
8:30-11AM, BOTH CAMPUSES**

Support our ministry partners in their hunger initiatives by bringing non-perishable food items to both campuses. Food donations will benefit CES at the Mpls Campus and Bountiful Baskets at the West Campus.

CHRISTMAS FOR ALL

**DONATIONS COLLECTED ON
SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 19 & 26,
8:30-11AM
WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 22 &
29, 5-7PM**

Donate a new unwrapped gift in the \$5-\$40 range to the Christmas for All Store that benefits our Community Partner Love INC. Suggested items to donate can be found on page 7.

MOCW COAT & MITTEN DRIVE

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

Donate new non-handmade winter outerwear of mittens, hats, scarves, warm boots, and coats of all sizes, for those who are experiencing homelessness. Donations can be dropped off at either campus.



Christmas For All



Gift Suggestions

ONLY NEW ITEMS ACCEPTED

GIFTS ARE NEEDED FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS:

Teens/Adults

Arts & Crafts Kits
Belt Bags
Blankets & Throws
Electric Razors
Hoodies (Sizes: M-XL)
LED String Lights
Slippers
Socks (Fun & Athletic)

Household Items

Bakeware
Batteries
Candles
Cookware
Small Electronics
Towel Sets

Sporting Goods & Sleds

Games
Electronic Games
Educational Games
Nintendo Games
PS4 Games
PS5 Games
XBox Games

Toys

Baby Toys
Building Blocks
Cars/Trucks
Interactive Learning
Toys
Lego Sets
Musical Toys
Plush Toys

\$20 Gift Cards to

Local Retailers

Coffee Shops
Gas Stations
Movie Theaters
Online Retailers

Electronics

Bluetooth Speakers
Charging Cords
Ear Buds
Headphones
Phone Accessories

SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON BY MAKING A TIME, GIFT, OR MONETARY DONATION!

DONATION COLLECTION DATES:

Sundays, November 19 & 26, 8:30-11 am

Wednesdays, November 22 & 29, 5-7 pm

EVERYONE is invited to spread Christmas cheer and participate in our 5th Annual Christmas For All! We will be hosting a Christmas For All store for Love INC families at the West Campus. Individuals will be able to sign up and shop for their loved ones on Saturday, December 2. In addition to the Love INC store, your Christmas for All donations will also support Christmas stores at Redeemer Lutheran Church and Southside Family Nurturing Center.

GIVE A GIFT Donated gifts must be new, unwrapped, and in the \$5-\$40 range. A list of suggested items can be found to the left.

DONATE If you wish, you may donate money to "Christmas for All" via your Realm account (give to the "Christmas for All" fund) or with checks made payable to Mount Olivet with "Christmas for All" in the memo line. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME Help is needed receiving gifts on collection dates and assisting at the West Campus event on December 2. Visit mtolivet.org to sign up to volunteer. If you have questions, please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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!

FIKA MUSIC SERIES - COZY CLASSICS

Sunday, November 12, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus

Join us for the second Fika Music Series concert. This month’s theme of *Cozy Classics* will feature some jazz and acoustic classic songs that bring back old memories such as *Autumn in New York* and *Stormy Weather*. What a perfect way to *fika* on a fall afternoon!

CAREER & CALLING

Tuesday, November 14, 4:30-6pm

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. *This meeting will meet online via Microsoft Teams.* Register at mtolivet.org.

FLYING SOLO BOWLING & THANKSGIVING EARLY

Sunday, November 19, 3-5pm Bowling, 6-8pm Thanksgiving Early Worship & Dinner, \$15-\$45

Join the Flying Solo group for a fun day of bowling at Town Hall Lanes. Then head to church for the wonderful Thanksgiving Early worship service and dinner. You can just come for the bowling, to the Thanksgiving Early worship service and dinner, or both! Register at mtolivet.org.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS

Tuesday, November 21, 12noon, Mpls Campus, \$10 per person

Young in Heart & Friends invites you to join us for entertainment, lunch, and fellowship. Our entertainment is from *Dance and Entertainment Studios* in Stillwater, MN. They will be performing a variety of Ballroom, Latin, and Swing dances. Bring a friend to share in the experience. Register by November 17, at mtolivet.org, or by contacting Tricia Asuncion at tasuncion@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2210.

MOUNT OLIVET ART CLASSES

The holiday season is the perfect time to spend time with our friends and family learning new things and creating beautiful works of art. Registrations are open at mtolivet.org!

BEGINNER WASSILY KANDINSKY PAINTING CLASS

Tuesday, November 14, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$35 Register at mtolivet.org by 11/10.

FAMILY CLAY HOLIDAY ORNAMENT CLASS

Monday, December 4, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$45 for a pair, \$10 per additional person Register at mtolivet.org by 11/30.

NEEDLE FELT SNOW GLOBE CRAFT CLASS

Monday, December 11, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$45 Register at mtolivet.org by 12/7.



JOIN US IN DECEMBER!



MOCW LUTEFISK DINNER

Friday, December 1, 3-7PM, Mpls Campus, \$25 adults, \$5 kids 12 & under

Join us for the 93rd Lutfisk Dinner! Everyone is invited to an all-you-can-eat buffet of lutfisk, Swedish meatballs, rutabagas, boiled potatoes, pickled beets, and butter or white sauce! **Advance ticket sales are requested at mtolivet.org.** Questions? Contact the church office at 612.926.7651.

VOLUNTEER

We are in need of hundreds of volunteers to help with this amazing event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heather Goudy at heathergoudy@hotmail.com. All are Welcome!

WINTER COMMUNION SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 2, 11am-1pm, Mpls Campus

A worship service with Christmas readings, carols, and Holy Communion, followed by a festive lunch in Fellowship Hall, designed for members who are often unable to come to church. Please join us for this special worship service, food, and fellowship. We encourage family to attend with their loved ones; however, transportation can be arranged. To register for this event or be a volunteer driver, please contact Nancy Nelson at 612.767.2288 or nnelson@mtolivet.org.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Sunday, December 3, 3-5pm gathering, 5pm Tree Lighting, Mpls Campus on James Ave

Join us as we light the Mount Olivet Christmas Tree on 50th and James Ave in Mpls! We will gather around our tree, share a song, and light up our small corner of south Minneapolis with grateful anticipation of the Savior and light of the world. There will be music, treats, and even Santa and reindeer will be available for pictures!

MESSIAH SING-A-LONG

Sunday, December 3, 3:15pm Rehearsal, 4pm performance, Mpls Campus

This fun and participatory event has become a special December tradition for all who love to sing the wonderful choruses from Handel's *Messiah* with friends, old and new. This year the Mount Olivet Senior Choirs will join in the fun as well as new soloists and instrumentalists. What a wonderful way to start the Christmas season!

ORDER A POINSETTIA FOR THE CHRISTMAS CHANCEL GARDEN

Order November 1 through December 3, \$35 per plant

During this special time of year, please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia to adorn our sanctuaries from Christmas Eve to New Year's Eve. The listing of names will be in the Sunday, December 17 bulletin. The minimum donation is \$35 per poinsettia. To place your order, visit mtolivet.org/poinsettia or contact Jody Barbee at 952.767.1501 or jbarbee@mtolivet.org.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30pm, West Campus

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30pm, Mpls Campus

This service features a time of healing and reflection with peaceful harp music, a vocal soloist, and a time to light a candle in memory of your loved one. If you would like the first and last name of your loved one read during the service, please visit mtolivet.org to register or contact Julie Goodman at 612.767.2208 or julieg@mtolivet.org.

DAY ADVENT JOURNEY THE CAROLS OF ADVENT

December 5, 9:30am-3:00pm, Conference & Retreat Center

Prepare for this Advent season with joyful singing and inspired learning! Old Testament Professor Rolf Jacobson (Luther Seminary), Senior Pastor David Lose, and Retreat Center staff will explore the history and meaning of some of their favorite Advent and Christmas songs. Allow this season's music to support and guide you as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Day Advent Journey is one of our annual day-time retreats. It provides space to gather with familiar and new friends and enter the season of Advent together through worship, learning, and conversation in a place of inspiring beauty. Begin the day with fresh pastries, enjoy a delicious lunch provided by our professional chefs, and end with communal worship. Register at mtolivet.org.

Transportation is provided from 7500 York and the Mpls Campus.

Guest Biography: Rolf Jacobson is Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary and an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Known for his humor and faithful biblical interpretation, Jacobson is an in-demand preacher and teacher. He has written a number of books, including *Invitation to the Psalms* (with Karl Jacobson) and *Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms*. His voice can be heard on two weekly preaching podcasts, "Sermon Brainwave" and "The Narrative Lectionary," as well as singing the high lonesome with a Lutheran bluegrass band, "The Fleshpots of Egypt." A survivor of childhood cancer, he is a double, above-the-knee amputee, who generally wears a bicycle and a smile. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, with his beloved wife Amy, their children Ingrid and Gunnar, and a cat who thinks he is a dog.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND 2024

Friday, January 26 through Sunday, January 28,
Conference & Retreat Center

Join Pastor Hammersten, Pastor Freeman, and Retreat Center Director Rev. Theresa Latini for this annual retreat January 26-28, 2024. Be renewed by fellowship with other women, spending time walking in the woods, relaxing in the whirlpool, scheduling a massage (extra cost), enjoying homecooked meals, or taking a much-needed nap.

The retreat will begin with dinner on Friday and culminate with brunch on Sunday. Arrive on Friday afternoon and enjoy the pool, whirlpool, sauna, and beautiful lounges and grounds at the Conference & Retreat Center. Register for single occupancy, double occupancy, dorm occupancy, or as a commuter. Registration opens December 1 at mtolivet.org.

STARGAZING EVENT RESCHEDULED

Rescheduled from September, our annual Stargazing event with Mike Lynch is set to take place Friday, December 8, with Saturday, December 9, as a backup date. This new date provides a unique opportunity to view both Jupiter and Saturn as well as the great winter constellations on the rise! Expect concessions to include a warmer, winter menu, cozy up around fire rings with hot chocolate, and prepare to be amazed by new sights. There's still plenty of time to register online at mtolivet.org!



AN AMBIDEXTROUS GOD: TWO KINGDOMS

TAUGHT BY PASTOR LOSE

Tuesday, December 5, 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. Join in anytime!

I have a hunch that if you asked church-going Christians what part of the Star Tribune God was most interested in, they would reply, “The religion section, of course.” An understandable answer, perhaps, but... not very Lutheran. One of the most notable, controversial, and – in my humble opinion – important theological assertions made by Martin Luther is that God is equally interested in all parts of our life. The parts we name “sacred,” as well as those we call “secular.” God cares about what happens at church on Sundays, and God cares just as much about what goes on in our lives Monday through Saturday.

In fact, Luther believed that God cares SO much about our Monday-through-Saturday lives, that he actually taught that a primary purpose of Sunday was to get us ready for the tasks, challenges, and opportunities that occupied the rest of our week. This was a departure from more than 1000 years of church history! Rather than assume the work accomplished by God’s “right hand” (which is how theologians describe God’s work in the church) is superior to the things accomplished through God’s “left hand” (you know, everything outside the church like the government, family, civic institutions, etc.), Luther believed that God was equally concerned with matters of both “the church” and “the world.” Which is why I like to describe God as “ambidextrous,” working equally through both church and civic structures for the health of the world.

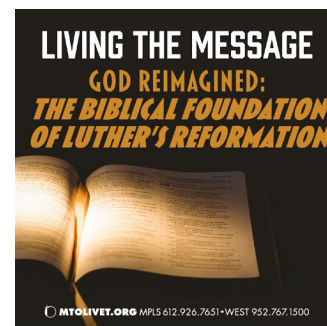
So come to the December session of Living the Message as we learn together how each and every one of us has an important role to play in God’s mission to bless the world God loves so much. — PASTOR LOSE

UPCOMING CLASS DATES

Class time is 6:30-7:30pm or via pre-recorded videos

Tuesday, November 7, West Rehearsal Hall

Tuesday, December 5, Mpls Campus Room 207



**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER FOR ALL
ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES, VISIT
MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION OR
CONTACT KATIE STEVENSON AT
KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG OR 612.767.2232.**

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:

NOVEMBER 8/14: *The Many Daughters of Afong Moy* by Jamie Ford

DECEMBER 12/13: *Rafferty's Last Case* by Larry Millett

JANUARY 9/10: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray



Bible Presentation Recap

4th graders and their families had a wonderful gathering at each campus as Senior Pastor Lose taught us about the Bible. At the conclusion of each class, Bibles were presented to the 4th graders. If your 4th grader was unable to attend the class and presentation, Bibles are available in Sunday School at each campus. Please contact Katy Michaletz at kmichaletz@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2245 with any questions.

6th Grade Announcement

We are so excited to announce a new opportunity for our 6th-graders! Beginning January 10, and continuing most Wednesday evenings, we will gather as the 6th-grade class at each of our campuses for dinner and a special program that will rotate between game nights, service projects, Bible studies, and Share Groups. For 6th graders Wednesday nights will look like this:

Chancel Choir (6th-8th grade choir): 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:30pm

Pre-Confirmation (6th graders): 7pm

We're looking forward to including 6th graders in our middle school ministry program through this opportunity to grow your faith, make new friends, and have a lot of fun!



GINGERBREAD KIT PICK UP

**Sunday, December 3, 3-5pm,
Mpls Campus, \$25**

Take-home gingerbread kits will be ready for pick up at the Community Christmas Tree Lighting Event on Sunday, December 3 (*see page 9 for more information*). Kits include a gingerbread house, decorations, family games, and extra frosting. Each kit is \$25. We encourage you to purchase kits online at mtolivet.org - a few additional kits will be available for purchase at the event! Contact Katy Michaletz at kmichaletz@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2245 with any questions.



SENIOR RETREAT AT CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP RECAP

Each fall at the end of September our Mount Olivet high school senior class takes a trip up to the north shore and stays at COP. This weekend is filled with camp meals, devotions, chapel services, hikes, and an outing into Grand Marais for shopping. The fall colors are always best on this weekend and it is beautiful! As a Youth Staff, what we enjoy most is that this time is just about our seniors being able to be with each other, have fun, and really just be. This weekend provides the opportunity for them to deepen their connections and support each other. Because this weekend is just for them, they are able to have time surrounded by their peers that are at the same place in their life journey. Each year brings great memories and moments that last a lifetime. As a Mount Olivet Youth Staff we are so proud of each them and pray for the entire class of 2024!

Thanks for a great weekend! — **THE YOUTH STAFF**

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



CHANCEL CHOIR GUSTAVUS RETREAT

NOVEMBER 10-11

The middle school Chancel Choir will go to Gustavus Adolphus College for a fun overnight.



HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AND HOLIDAY MARKET

NOVEMBER 4, 9AM-2PM, MPLS CAMPUS

NOVEMBER 11, 9AM-2PM, WEST CAMPUS

Come support our Cathedral Choir and youth programs at the Holiday Boutique & Holiday Market by purchasing some Livia's Seasoning Salt! Livia's Salt is a mixture of garlic, salt, and pepper. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



THANKSGIVING EARLY

NOVEMBER 19, 6pm, Mpls Campus.

Come hear student leaders give Thanksgiving messages and hear the Cathedral Choir sing!

Welcome Rev. Brian Mortenson

Brian Mortenson recently joined the Mount Olivet development team in the role of Head of Vision Partners and Planned Giving.

This is a return home for Brian, as he grew up in the Twin Cities. He attended the University of Minnesota, where he swam sprint freestyle for the Gopher swim team, met his future wife Sheri, and graduated with a degree in religious studies. He then attended Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, following which he served a number of ELCA congregations including churches in Arizona, South Dakota, Minnesota, Colorado, Iowa, and Florida. Brian's professional career path also includes leading healthcare philanthropy organizations, including 14 years as the President of the Sanford Health Foundation, based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Throughout his work with congregations and in healthcare philanthropy, a special interest for Brian has been in providing support for people desiring to fulfill philanthropic objectives both during their lifetime as well through their estate planning process. His background includes certification from the National Planned Giving Institute at the College of William and Mary.

Brian is enjoying establishing relationships with Mount Olivet Vision Partners (those who have included gifts to support Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and/or Mount Olivet Affiliated Ministries in their estate plan) as well as working with those who have interest in considering doing so in the future.

Brian and Sheri have three children and 11 grandchildren, reside in Chaska, and can be found on Sunday mornings most often worshipping at the Mount Olivet West Campus.

Brian invites your consideration of gift support planning for Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and/or Affiliate Ministry, and would enjoy visiting with you to discuss Mount Olivet Vision Partners. He can be reached at 612.767.2259 or bmortenson@mtolivet.org.

VISION PARTNERS EVENTS

This month we celebrated at Interlachen Country Club with a meal, program, encouraging words from Pastor Lose, and an introduction of the Mount Olivet Development Team including Heather Guerin, Director of Development, and Rev. Brian Mortenson. Look for more Vision Partners events in the upcoming year, or contact Brian Mortenson at bmortenson@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2259 with any questions.

PURCHASE MOHA BUTTER BRAIDS

Mount Olivet Homes Auxiliary will be selling Butter Braids for your Thanksgiving and Christmas enjoyment! Please see the details below to find out how you can get your butter braids for the holiday season. If you have any questions please contact Laurie Hancer at lhancer@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2267.

THANKSGIVING BUTTER BRAID SALES

Butter Braid sales for Thanksgiving will take place on-site at the Mpls Holiday Boutique on 11/4 and the West Holiday Market on 11/11. Plan now to attend these festive holiday shops and purchase your Thanksgiving Butter Braids!

CHRISTMAS BUTTER BRAID SALES

Orders taken online November 1 through November 27. Pick up on Sunday, December 10, 9-11am, Mpls Campus



GIVING THANKS TOGETHER

The joy of giving is the joy of saying “Thank You” to our merciful and generous God, and that, my sisters and my brothers, is the healthiest thing we ever do. — Gerhard E Frost

A dear friend of mine sent me this Gerhard Frost quote during the Stewardship season this past September--a month filled with meatball meals that brings together the community of Mount Olivet in so many ways. Some come and set tables with friends they’ve known for decades. Some serve meatballs, au gratin potatoes, and green beans with new friends they’ve recently met after joining a Circle. Others drive through and have a friendly giggle with a pastor or two via their rolled-down car windows. A great many sit down and relish in the meal, taking a full plate and then some (and there is always plenty—thanks Sally and team!). And others quietly enjoy their annual traditional meal with memories of years past flooding in with each bite of creamy rice pudding.

Gerhard mentioned that giving—saying thank you to God—is the healthiest thing we ever do. So true! And as we gathered as a community, I couldn’t help but think how incredibly important, meaningful, and yes, healthy, it is to continue these traditions and come together to give thanks. It was a glorious season. Thank YOU for being a part of it all.

KATIE STEVENSON, *Director of Stewardship*

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 below. 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 scheduled giving to Mount Olivet and its ministries, there are many ways to do so. Thank you for your generosity and support!



- VIA QR CODE:**
- 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



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



THANKSGIVING

Eve Worship

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

6pm

MPLS Pastor Hammersten

WEST Pastor Dixon