

JANUARY 2024

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

## JANUARY 7

### EPIPHANY

*Matthew 2:1-12*

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

*During our Epiphany  
worship service there will be a  
procession of the Three Kings.*

## JANUARY 14

### LET THERE BE LIGHT

*Genesis 1:1-5*

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

## JANUARY 21

### ARISE, SHINE, YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

*Isaiah 60:1-5*

- M** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Hammersten  
**MUSIC** Cathedral & Senior  
Choirs, and soloist,  
Justin Staebel, baritone  
**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Freeman  
**MUSIC** Cathedral & Senior  
Choirs

## JANUARY 28

### HE WILL BE A LIGHT ONTO THE GENTILES

*Luke 2:22-32*

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

### HOLY COMMUNION

First Wednesday of the month

- M** 12noon

**SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME WEEKLY CLASSES ON  
1/7 AT BOTH CAMPUSES.**

# *Walking in the Light*

One of my all-time favorite quotations is, “It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.” I’d always seen it attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt, which made sense, as there were few of her generation who were more active in working for greater equality. But as I recently learned, it was actually said by Adlai Stevenson about Eleanor Roosevelt. He, in turn, was quoting a Methodist preacher, William Watkinson. In a sermon published in 1907, Watkinson argued that getting angry and decrying difficult challenges “is so much easier and cheaper than good works and proves a popular temptation. Yet it is far better to light a candle than curse the darkness.”

There is certainly plenty of darkness we could decry – wars in multiple parts of the world, inequity at home and abroad, a contentious political landscape accompanied by challenges to the very fabric of our democracy. Yet... how much better if we each, and together, worked constructively and actively to make a positive difference rather than voice our discontent. For this reason, during Sunday worship this January we are exploring some of the passages of Scripture where God reminds us that we are people of the light, those who live with hope, who work for the good, and who trust that God continues to guide and lead us.

This is a fitting theme for Epiphany, which is often called the “season of light.” The name “Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “to reveal” or “enlighten” and is connected with the journey of the Magi to see the glory of the baby Jesus (which we will celebrate on January 7) as well as the promise that God’s love is revealed to the whole world in Jesus. We often use the word “epiphany” when we’ve had a breakthrough or when a new and important insight dawns on us for the first time – when, that is, we’ve had a personal revelation. In the northern hemisphere where so many of our religious traditions originated, the days get progressively longer as we journey through Epiphany, drawing us closer to the season of spring and the ultimate manifestation of God’s love in Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter.

There are a number of passages in Scripture that talk about light. Here are the ones we’ll explore together in January and early February:

**January 14:** the first of God’s acts of creation is to separate light and darkness (Genesis 1:1-5).

**January 21:** the prophet Isaiah promises God’s presence and therefore commands his listeners to “arise and shine” (Isaiah 60:1-5).

**January 28:** when Simeon sees the baby Jesus in the Temple, he declares that Jesus “will be a light to enlighten the Gentiles” (Luke 2:22-32).

**February 4:** Jesus’ command in the Sermon on the Mount “to let your light shine” (Matthew 5:13-16).

**February 11:** the promise at the beginning of John’s Gospel that Jesus is “the light that the darkness cannot overcome” (John 1:1-5).

So during the dark and cold days of winter, and when the world around us can also seem rather dark and cold, let’s walk together in the light, work together for what is right, and light a candle so that others may experience God’s love and grace through our words and deeds!

See you in Church!



*Pastor Lose*

**DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR**

# JOIN US!

## YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS

**Tuesday, January 16, 12noon, Mpls Campus, \$10**

Young in Heart & Friends invites you to join us for lunch along with guest speaker, Joe Schmit. Joe is an author, award-winning broadcast journalist for KSTP-TV, community leader, and Mount Olivet member. Joe is passionate about sharing how our daily actions have profound influence in the world, and writes about this in his books, *Silent Impact* and *The Impact Blueprint*. We hope you are able to join us for this powerful event, and encourage you to bring a friend! Register by Friday, January 12, at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org), or by contacting Tricia Asuncion at 612.767.2210, [tasuncion@mtolivet.org](mailto:tasuncion@mtolivet.org).

## FLYING SOLO CURLING

**Saturday, January 20, 3-5pm, Chaska Curling Center, \$50**

This fun curling clinic will teach you the rules and sportsmanship of curling. There is a brief classroom style instruction where you will learn the terminology, basic strategy, and general information such as ice is slippery, rocks are heavy, and both are very hard! That introduction is followed by on-ice instruction demonstrating the form and techniques of throwing stones and sweeping. The remaining time is yours to scrimmage or practice! Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) by January 10.

## ALCOHOL INK LANDSCAPE ART CLASS

**Monday, January 22, 6pm, Mpls Campus, \$30 per person**

Learn how to create a simple yet stunning landscape using different techniques that create dynamic unpredictable results. All supplies are included in the price. Visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) to register.

## FIKA MUSIC SERIES

**Sunday, January 28, 12:15-1pm, Mpls Campus**

The theme for this concert is "All We Need is Love" featuring a concert of vocal selections about love from a variety of musical genres. Love is the most universal experience and emotion. Come and fall in love again!

## MOCW JOY CIRCLE PRESENTS: KELLY GROSKLAGS

**Wednesday, February 7, 6:30pm doors open, Program 7-8:30pm, Mpls Campus**

Join us for a discussion with Kelly Grosklags that will be authentic, affirming, hopeful, and a safe space to explore our grief. Kelly Grosklags, LICSW, BCD, FAAGC, FT, is a highly renowned expert and compassionate clinical psychotherapist in the areas of grief and loss, oncology, palliative care, and hospice. She holds a fellowship in both grief counseling and thanatology, and is board certified as a Diplomate in Clinical Social Work. With over 28 years of experience, she has dedicated her life to supporting patients, families, and caregivers on their healing journeys, offering solace and guidance through her grief and end-of-life expertise. The event will include a time for Q&A, a book signing, and a free will offering that will benefit the Normandale Housing Corporation.

## MOCW LADIES' NIGHT

**Tuesday, February 27, 5:30-7:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$20**

Join all of your favorite Mount Olivet Women for an evening of fellowship, good food, and even better conversation. Mount Olivet member, Megan Stone, M.Ed., will discuss her career, her faith journey, and how female friendships have shaped her. Presently, Megan serves as Gentry Academy's Leadership Director and on their school board. Megan is also the founder and president of Stone Foundations of Learning, Inc. and has been working with students and faculty members across the country for over 25 years. Megan became a member of Mount Olivet as a youth and then later returned to Mount Olivet with her family. Grab a few friends and join us!



## LIFE & GROWTH

**NOV 15 - DEC 13**

### BAPTISMS

**Holly Georgie June Edmonson**

*daughter of Lucy and Thomas*

**Elsie Genevieve Fish**

*daughter of Maria and Taylor*

**McKenna Marie Forster**

*daughter of Rachel and Michael*

**Emma Lou Fretschel**

*daughter of Jenny and Brian*

**Reese Avery Jantscher**

*daughter of Lauren and Kurt*

**Jaxton James-Wayne Johnson**

*son of Kristen and Kyle*

**Dakota Warren Johnson**

*son of Kristen and Kyle*

**William Blair Kelso**

*son of Martha and Christian*

**Ella Rae Luka**

*daughter of Kathryn and Edward*

**Everett John Markuson**

*son of Leigha and Logan*

**Isabel Ann Myers**

*daughter of Hillary and Corey*

**Jackson Ronald Nelson**

*son of Meighan and Jesse*

**Graysen James Nelson**

*son of Meighan and Jesse*

**Tate David Neuger**

*son of Rebecca and Matthew*

**Parker Bradley Polsgrove**

*son of Hannah and Mark*

**Elle Marie Braaten Stender**

*daughter of Lisa and Mark*

**Monroe Jean Waletzko**

*daughter of Ali-Marie and Jacob*

**Elin Bea Womeldorf**

*daughter of Liza and Zac*

**Jaxtyn Cole Yahn**

*son of Lily and Zac*

### WEDDINGS

**Deidre Wahl & Kent Christensen,**

*December 2*

### DEATHS

**Clyde E. Allen, 1934-2023**

**Margaret Bachman, 1918-2023**

**Geraldine O. DeCorsey, 1935-2023**

**Harold S. Hanson, 1932-2023**

**Bernt G. Houghland, 1923-2023**

**Donald W. Johnson, 1935-2023**

**Karen J. Muller, 1939-2023**

**Lorraine M. Nygaard, 1928-2023**

**Robert D. Polston, 1942-2023**

**Elizabeth Rasmussen, 1930-2023**

**Robert D. Siegfried, 1947-2023**

**Margaret L. Swanson, 1932-2023**

## DEVOTION

In the Bible, the Epiphany is Jesus' visit from the Magi. Those aristocratic men from the East (often referred to as kings or wise men) followed a star to see the newborn baby Jesus in Bethlehem. It's the manifestation of Jesus to Gentiles.

It doesn't say in the Bible how many wise men showed up. We assume three, because three gifts are mentioned: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was considered a symbol of kings, frankincense a perfume representing divinity, and myrrh an anointing and embalming oil that symbolized death.

Some think Epiphany, the 12th day after Christmas, marks a time to officially take down Christmas ornaments. Epiphany can also mean a moment when you suddenly feel that you understand, or suddenly become conscious of, something that is very important to you.

Have you ever had an epiphany, an awakening? A realization that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of God, who takes away the sin of the world? This new year, may we daily come to believe that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection makes new life possible today, and eternal life a reality for all of our tomorrows.

*"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." –Psalm 23:6*

Blessings!

— PASTOR KALLAND



# MOUNT OLIVET GALA

## Lighting Up Lives

**TICKET SALES BEGIN MARCH 1, 2024**

**THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024**

**OAK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB, HOPKINS, MN**

# Women's Weekend: *Renewing Connections in the Midst of Loneliness*

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

It's not too late to sign up for Women's Weekend as a commuter or to stay in a dorm! Throughout the weekend, you will explore your own experiences of loneliness as well as ways to renew your connections to one other, the larger community, God, and yourself. You'll have opportunities to be renewed by spending time walking in the woods, relaxing in the whirlpool, scheduling a massage (extra cost), journaling, and reading. Led by Pastor Hammersten, Pastor Freeman, and Conference & Retreat Center Director Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini.

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. Register for dorm occupancy or as a commuter. The commuter rate includes meals and all presentations, Friday evening through Sunday brunch. Refunds for cancellations will be given until January 16, 2024. Register at [mtolivetretreat.org/events](https://mtolivetretreat.org/events) today.



# Great Things Happening at Mount Olivet Day Services

Enthusiasm measures our being alive and there is plenty of that here at Mount Olivet Day Services! Programming includes opportunities to hear a poem, sing a song, hug a friend, dance, and play a game; all in one glorious morning or afternoon! Mount Olivet Day Services serves as a wonderful reprieve for caregivers and is the best place for someone you love, as it has for the last 28 years. We know that 2024 will be an exciting year of growth.

Deep down, we all want to be acknowledged, loved and accepted as well as cheered on and encouraged. Take a chance at making art, reminisce to your favorite music with friends and enjoy a meal together.

There is space for you or your loved one. For more details contact Marcus Dahl, Director of Admissions & Marketing, at [mdahl@mtolivetdayservices.org](mailto:mdahl@mtolivetdayservices.org) or 612.413.7500.



## SAVE THE DATES! CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

### DAY LENTEN JOURNEY

Tuesday, February 20  
9am-3pm

### GROWING THROUGH GRIEF

Saturday, April 6  
9am-4pm

**WORD WITH  
YOUR PASTORS:  
COSTLY  
WITNESS,  
COSTLY GRACE,  
FREE IN CHRIST:  
THE LIFE AND  
LEGACY OF  
DIETRICH  
BONHOEFFER**

**Wednesdays, January 10  
through January 31,  
10:30-11:30am, Mpls Campus  
Thursdays, January 11 through  
February 1, 10:30-11:30am,  
West Campus**

**Also available via emailed  
videos**

Join Mount Olivet pastors for a snapshot into the life and witness of one of the 20th century's most notable Christian theologians and preachers, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. By surveying some of the defining and rich theological musings and writings of this young German Lutheran pastor, (Did you know he only lived to 39 years old?!) and examining how he sought to give clearer definition into how and why faith in Christ orients our thoughts, words, and deeds as Christians, we'll consider his lasting insight for us still. We'll also discuss how he became a key founder of the German Confessing Church in opposition to the Nationalist Socialist takeover of country, culture, and church, and his involvement with a plot to kill Hitler which led to his arrest and execution by the Nazis a mere month before the German surrender in World War II. Taught by Pastor Cieslik, Pastor Dixon, Pastor Lose, and Pastor Ruud. More info at [mtolivet.org/education](http://mtolivet.org/education).

# *God Hidden and Revealed: The Theology of the Cross*

Luther was fairly convinced that one of the casualties of our human sinfulness is our ability to predict where God appears. In short, we impose our human or worldly conceptions of power onto God, thereby risking missing where God actually shows up.

For instance, Jesus is not born in Jerusalem, capital city of Israel, but in Bethlehem, a backwater town with no significance. Nor is Jesus – the one proclaimed as “king of kings” – born in a palace, but rather in a stable, and his first resting place isn’t the finest crib in the land, but a manger, an actual feeding trough for animals.

Similarly, Jesus ends his earthly life not as a conquering hero, as almost everyone expected, but rather as a criminal being executed on the cross for a capital offense. For Luther, this disruption of our expectations is no accident, as it reminds us that we don’t have to be perfect, powerful, or even always joyful to encounter God. Rather, God meets us where we are, and especially in our challenges, setbacks, and brokenness. Or, to use the language of Luther, when we seek God in places of “glory” – worldly power and might – God is hidden from us. But when God surprises us by showing up in suffering – Christ’s and our own – God is revealed as the one who meets us where we are, accepts us as we are, and loves us unconditionally. Join us in February as we are surprised (again and again!) by where God shows up to meet us in redemptive love!

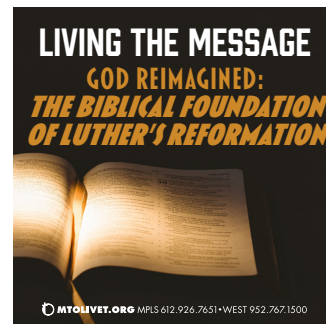
**PASTOR LOSE**

## **UPCOMING CLASS DATES**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 2:** *Called for Good: Vocation* (Mpls Campus, Room 207)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6:** *God Hidden and Revealed: Theology of the Cross* (Mpls Campus, Room 207)

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



## **JOIN US!**

**REGISTER FOR ALL ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS BY VISITING  
[MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION](http://MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION) OR BY  
CONTACTING KATIE STEVENSON AT  
[KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG](mailto:KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG) OR 612.767.2232.**





## CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES

Hey Campers! We are so excited to have you at Cathedral of the Pines Camp (COP) this summer. COP combines some of the best ingredients for a positive summer experience... laughter, prayer, education, and recreation. A typical camp day includes Bible class, swimming, paddleboats, nature hikes, sports fundamentals, arts and crafts, large and small group games, and, of course, delicious food! Each day at Cathedral of the Pines begins and ends in the chapel overlooking beautiful Caribou Lake.

### **MEMBER-ONLY REGISTRATION IS OPEN JANUARY 8-10! OPEN (MEMBER/NON-MEMBER) REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 15**

This year, we will have two registration periods. The first is for Mount Olivet Members-Only. It will open on Monday, January 8 at 10am and close Wednesday, January 10, at 11:59pm.

This will give Mount Olivet members three days of priority registration for our 2024 youth camping sessions via Campbrain. All Mount Olivet members will receive an early access link via email on Wednesday, January 3.

Open Registration (Non-members and Members) will begin on Monday, January 15 at 10am via Campbrain on the COP website.

Any non-member registrations received prior to January 15 will be canceled and refunded with an invitation to register on January 15 or afterward.

## YOUTH CAMPING SESSIONS

### **GRADES 3, 4, & 5**

Week 1: Saturday, July 20 – Wednesday, July 24

Week 2: Saturday, August 3 – Wednesday, August 7

### **GRADES 5, 6, & 7**

Week 1: Monday, July 15 – Saturday, July 20

### **GRADES 6, 7, & 8**

Week 1: Sunday, June 23 – Friday, June 28

Week 2: Monday, July 8 – Friday, July 12

Week 3: Wednesday, July 24 – Monday, July 29

### **9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CAMP (MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS ONLY)**

Week 1: Friday, June 28 – Wednesday, July 3

Week 2: Monday, July 29 – Saturday, August 3

### **GRADES 11, 12, & GRADUATES**

Summer Starter: Sunday, June 16 – Thursday, June 20

### **GRADE 10**

10th Grade Starter: Thursday, June 20 – Sunday, June 23

### **GRADES 10, 11, & 12**

Hi-League Retreat: Wednesday, August 7 – Sunday, August 11



# FAMILY CAMPING SESSIONS

## REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR FAMILY CAMPING LOTTERIES (MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS ONLY)

Registration for the Opening Weekend, Family Work Week, COP for All, and Family Camp lotteries begins on Monday, January 15, at 10am, and must be received by February 1, 2024 at 11:59pm, via Campbrain. All lottery results will be communicated by email on February 8.

## FAMILY CAMPING (MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS ONLY) OPENING WEEKEND

Friday, May 24 – Monday, May 27

## FAMILY WORK WEEK

Wednesday, June 12 – Sunday, June 16

## COP FOR ALL

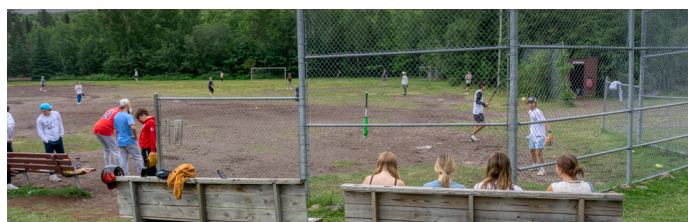
Friday, July 12 – Monday, July 15

## FAMILY CAMP

Thursday, August 15 – Sunday, August 18



# HI-ER LEAGUE WEEKEND



## REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR HI-ER LEAGUE WEEKEND

Registration for the Hi-er League Weekend opens Monday, January 15 at 10am, and will be accepted online, first-come, first-served via Campbrain on the COP Website through May 15, 2024.

## HI-ER LEAGUE WEEKEND (COLLEGE AGED)

Thursday, May 30 – Sunday, June 2



## CONTACT US!

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP, PLEASE CONTACT CAMP COORDINATOR, KRIS ERICKSEN, AT [KRISE@MTOLIVET.ORG](mailto:KRISE@MTOLIVET.ORG) OR 612.767.2207.

# MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS

**MEMBER REGISTRATION IS OPEN JANUARY 9-11!**

**OPEN (MEMBER/NON-MEMBER) REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 16**

**ALL MOUNT OLIVET MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE AN EARLY ACCESS LINK VIA EMAIL ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3.**

We're ready for a great summer at Mount Olivet! Each week will have themed activities including crafts, movement games, music, service learning, and FUN! Join us for one week or the whole summer. Each Day Camp costs \$300 for members and \$340 for non-members, both prices include snacks, a T-shirt, activities, and field trips.

The camp day runs from 8:30am-4:30pm with extended day care available from 7:30am to 5:30pm at no additional cost.

Questions? Please contact Kristin Olson, Children's Camp Coordinator, at [kolson@mtolivet.org](mailto:kolson@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2246.

## SPLASH INTO SUMMER!

**JUNE 10-14, MPLS**

**K-5TH GRADE**

Summer is finally here! Let's dive in by splashing around at three different pools and waterparks throughout the week, as well as playing water games at Mount Olivet!



## NATURE CAMP

**JULY 15-19, MPLS**

**K-5TH GRADE**

Held at the beautiful Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, Nature Camp is an opportunity to learn more about the outdoors and connect to the environment. Each day we will take hikes, go swimming in the indoor pool, do a variety of art projects, and engage in nature play.

## GOD'S KIDS SING!

**JUNE 17-21, MPLS**

**K-5TH GRADE**

Our longest running Mount Olivet Day Camp, God's Kids Sing focuses on singing, dancing, playing instruments and all kinds of art projects. Music classes are taught by professional educators with the support of an engaged group of Day Camp Staff. Come and be a part of 2024 GKS!

## IMAGINATION CREATION

**JULY 8-12, MPLS &**

**JULY 15-19, WEST**

**K-5TH GRADE**

We will foster creativity and spark our imagination this week through art projects, creative thinking and our ever-popular Cardboard Creation Lab. We will take a field trip to see a theater show, go swimming, and have a ton of fun at the Crayola Experience at MOA.



## GOING WILD

**JUNE 24-28, MPLS**

**K-5TH GRADE**

It's a wild world out there, and we're going to have an awesome time learning about the animals that share it with us. We will head to a zoo, visit a Nature Center, and have a great time splashing around at a local pool.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JUNE 24-27, MPLS &**

**JULY 8-11, WEST**

**8:30-11:30AM**

**K-2ND GRADE**

Follow Jesus here, there and everywhere with our Ready, Set, Move! VBS camp this summer. Cost is \$50.

## SUPER STEM SUMMER

**JULY 22-26, MPLS & WEST**

**K-5TH GRADE**

Superheroes are all around us! This week we will dive into STEM learning at the Science Museum of Minnesota, do a variety of different science experiments, go swimming, play with Legos and open our minds to the amazing world of STEM!



## LET'S GET COOKING

JULY 29-AUGUST 2, MPLS

K-5TH GRADE

Learn some skills in the kitchen while having a blast! During cooking week, we will learn to make a variety of fun kid-friendly recipes as well as go on some fun field trips including playgrounds, swimming and watching a food demo at the Midtown Global Market. We're all about breaking the rule "don't play with your food!"

## ART OUTDOORS

JULY 29- AUGUST 2, MPLS

K-5TH GRADE

What is more inspiring to our creative energy than the beauty of the outdoors?! This week we will travel to the Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center and create art based on what we see outside. We will also spend time swimming, doing devotions, playing outside, and having a ton of fun.

## OUT OF THIS WORLD

AUGUST 5-9, MPLS

K-5TH GRADE

We will turn into astronauts this week as we learn more about space and planets at the Bell Museum planetarium! We'll enjoy lots of space-related crafts and activities, and have fun swimming and playing at a Three Rivers play area.

## GAMES GALORE

AUGUST 19-23, MPLS

K-5TH GRADE

Let's beat the heat and end summer with a blast! Join us for Games Galore as we play a variety of games like gaga ball, minute-to-win-it, bingo, and trivia. We will also take field trips to Grand Slam, a waterpark, and go bowling.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFERINGS!

6-8TH GRADE

### MINI CAMPS

9AM-4PM, \$180 PER MINI CAMP

**JUNE 18-20:** We will get ice cream and go on fun field trips including swimming and hanging out at MOA!

**AUGUST 20-22:** Join us for an endlessly fun week as we go to Grandslam, go swimming, bowling, as well as play a variety of fun games at church!

## SUMMERTIME PLAYERS!

JULY 15-19, MPLS

\$300 PER CAMPER

This is a music-based day camp specifically designed for middle schoolers. Days are action-packed with team games, singing and dancing to pop and musical theater songs, and afternoon field trips. STP! is the perfect place to make new friends and to bond with the Youth and Music Staff at Mount Olivet!

## MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS ARE HIRING!

We are looking for staff to join our 2024 Day Camp team! In this position you will have a fun summer supervising and leading activities with kids, building your leadership skills, and staying connected to Mount Olivet! Applications for full and part-time positions are open to those who graduated high school in 2023 or earlier. To apply please email Kristin Olson at [kolson@mtolivet.org](mailto:kolson@mtolivet.org).

**Applications must be received by March 1 to be considered.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY

To register for these events or learn more about these offerings, please contact Geoff Arenson [geoffa@mtolivet.org](mailto:geoffa@mtolivet.org), 612.767.2212; Angie St. Dennis [angelas@mtolivet.org](mailto:angelas@mtolivet.org), 612.767.2244; Anna Herd [aherd@mtolivet.org](mailto:aherd@mtolivet.org), 612.767.2279; Macey Oliver [moliver@mtolivet.org](mailto:moliver@mtolivet.org), 612.767.2237; or Julia Jallo [jjallo@mtolivet.org](mailto:jjallo@mtolivet.org), 952.767.1502.



## 7TH-GRADE RETREAT

*Friday, 1/5, 4:45pm through  
Saturday, 1/6, 10:30am*  
A bus will leave from the  
Minneapolis Campus at 4:45pm  
and return Saturday at 10:30am.  
We hope to see you there!



## JHA ICE SKATING

*Monday, 1/15 12noon-2:30pm*  
*No School!!*  
Join us for ice skating at  
Centennial Lakes in Edina.



## HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION

High School Confirmation is for high school students who, for any reason, did not participate in Confirmation during their 7th and 8th grade years. We meet every Sunday in January from 10:30-11:15am. Students will be confirmed as adult church members on Sunday, January 28, at 11:45am.



## PRE-CONFIRMATION

*1/10, 7pm at both campuses*  
Hey 6th Graders! Join us for the  
first night of 6th Grade Starter  
(Pre-Confirmation)! If you are  
not registered please reach out  
to Charlie at [cteien@mtolivet.org](mailto:cteien@mtolivet.org)  
(org) for more information.



## HI-LEAGUE

*1/7, 7-8:30pm, Sharegroups*  
*1/14, 7-8:30pm, Football, Pizza,*  
*and Board games*  
*1/21 7-9pm, Ice Skating*  
*1/28, 9:45-10:30am, Brunch*  
*and Trivia*



## 8TH-GRADE CONFIRMATION PICTURES

*Wednesday, 1/31, 5-7pm at both campuses.* The picture is free and  
you are welcome to order a package of pictures. All 8th graders will  
want to get their picture taken so they will be on our Confirmation  
Class composite made for the Confirmation Service in September!





# WELCOME 6TH GRADERS TO JUNIOR HIGH ALIVE!

## PRE-CONFIRMATION STARTS JANUARY 10!

We are so excited to welcome 6th grade into the Youth Department. On Wednesday nights we now have programming for 6th through 12th grade, wow! Moving forward, Junior High Alive (JHA) will also have programming for 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students. We have already gotten to know a number of this year's 6th graders through time at Cathedral of the Pines Camp and the Mount Olivet Summer Day Camps. We cannot wait to spend more time together!

You might be wondering, what does programming look like for a 6th grader now? A typical Wednesday night starts with Chancel Choir from 5:30-6:30pm, followed by dinner in the Youth Center from 6:30-7pm for \$5, then 6th-graders will go to Pre-Confirmation from 7-8:15pm. Youth Staff will be leading the Pre-Confirmation programming. Junior High Alive offers monthly events, activities, and service opportunities. This month we will be going ice skating at Centennial Lakes. Other events include snow tubing, *Feed My Starving Children*, as well as a trip to Carlson's Loveable Llama Farm and Valley Fair over the summer. We like having special events for our students to look forward to as they get older, so we are keeping a couple JHA events for just the 7th and 8th graders; these events include Scream Town in the fall and the Lockout in the Spring.

If you have a 6th Grader in your life, make sure they are signed up for all the fun to come! **Registrations for all our events can be found on *Realm*.** If you have any questions please contact Geoff Arenson at 612.767.2212 or [geoffa@mtolivet.org](mailto:geoffa@mtolivet.org), Charlie Teien at 612.767.2268 or [ctieen@mtolivet.org](mailto:ctieen@mtolivet.org), and Anna Herd at 612.767.2279 or [aherd@mtolivet.org](mailto:aherd@mtolivet.org). It's never too late to join!



## WINTER 6TH GRADE BOWLING EVENT HIGHLIGHT

We had so much fun at our first ever 6th grade event! We played mixer games and got to know one another before bowling at Park Tavern in St. Louis Park. We had pizza, pop, and there were many strikes and spares during bowling. And of course, it wouldn't be a classic youth event without Dilly Bars! We are excited and feel so lucky to gain a whole year of relationship building with these students. We look forward to experiencing all of middle school and high school with them! **—THE YOUTH STAFF**



## When Planning a Wedding, Remember to Plan for Marriage

Now that we're coming out of the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, for many a new chapter is coming front and center: wedding season! Wedding planning is often incredibly meaningful as a couple or family brings to life a vision they may have been holding for years. Abraham Lincoln famously said, "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the ax." A wedding that has been well planned is sure to be a success, and that principle goes for just about anything. Especially marriage.

While it's easy to be swept up in the fun, excitement, and details of wedding planning, marriage and divorce research shows that couples really benefit from premarital education, and that it can help reduce the likelihood of divorce. Most couples have at least a handful of persistent challenges in their relationship and, more often than not, couples tend to wait too long to get help. Without early intervention, it doesn't take long for unhelpful patterns to become deeply entrenched in and shape the life and future of the marriage. Research indicates many married people wish they had learned more about their partner and how to communicate well before they got married.

Mount Olivet Counseling Service (MOCS) is pleased to continue providing couples with premarital education based on the Prepare/Enrich premarital education program, whose validity and reliability is backed by 40 years of evidence and research. In 2024, MOCS will be providing premarital workshops on January 27, *via Zoom*, April 20 at the Mpls Campus, and September 21 at the Mpls Campus. These are fun, engaging, and informative workshops that are held from 9:30am-3:30pm and include lunch! Please see the Mount Olivet events page for details and registration. We hope to see you there!

**SHERRI HERMAN, MA, LPCC, Mount Olivet Counseling Service**

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 27,  
9:30am-3:30pm, *via Zoom*,  
\$150, plus \$35 scoring fee  
for the Prepare Inventory,  
Mount Olivet Counseling  
Service

This fun and engaging six-hour workshop, along with completing the Prepare Questionnaire and talking through the results with a Pastor or Prepare facilitator, is designed to enrich your relationship as a married couple; focusing on important topics like positive communication skills, healthy conflict resolution, financial management; and spirituality. You will have ample time to discuss the topics and materials together as a couple as well as with the other participants. These are all areas we hope will be helpful to you as you mark this momentous occasion and begin your married life together!

Register at [mtolivet.org/events](https://mtolivet.org/events) by January 15.

Please contact Molly Pach with any questions at [mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org](mailto:mpach@mtolivetcounseling.org) or 612.927.7335 ext. 110.

# A Solid Pillar (in two locations!)

It is not easy growing up in today's world, with our kids facing struggles we never encountered. Therefore, we will forever be thankful for the community, refuge, and mission Mount Olivet has provided for each of our kids at both the Minneapolis and West campuses.

Our daughter's main "sport" was church during high school, and COP was the highlight of her summers. Participating in Hi-League and Cathedral Choir at the Minneapolis Campus kept her connected during Covid, as Mount Olivet did an amazing job of finding new ways to "be" with kids during social distancing, such as choir singing outside in the church parking lots. Now in college, she stays in touch with her church family through Hi-er League, Instagram posts, devotions, and check-ins from the pastors.

We moved to the western suburbs three years ago and began attending the West Campus. Changing schools and church locations was made easier for our son Andy, then a high school sophomore, by an amazing group of older kids who welcomed him into their friend group. They included him in their group text they labeled "Jesus Loves Us," staying connected and making sure all were coming to sing at Sunday morning services and more. Andy is now a senior and is a West vacation bible school counselor, plays on the "MO Hoops" basketball team, and is a choir section leader welcoming and including others—just like he once was.

Andy said, "At church I feel comfortable, like I fit in and can be myself. And I feel closer to God." What more can parents hope for? With the news full of depressing statistics of loneliness and mental health struggles for our youth, Mount Olivet has been a solid pillar of bright light and love in our kids' lives. We are committed to keeping that pillar of light shining brightly in the darkness.

Mount Olivet shines brightly for its local neighborhoods and communities, too, through events like *Christmas for All* and *Easter Angel Gifts*. The sense of community we feel serving at these events with our fellow church members was (and is!) so moving. We are so thankful for all that Mount Olivet has meant for our family, including its impact, love, and outreach.

**BRUCE AND NICOLE ENSRUD**, *Mount Olivet Members*



## THANK YOU!

### WAYS TO GIVE

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

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

**Give Online:** visit [mtolivet.org/online-giving](https://mtolivet.org/online-giving) or scan the "Give Here" QR Code to the right.

#### GIVE HERE



### YOUR 2024 PLEDGE

If you have not yet made a 2024 pledge and would like to, it's not too late! Scan the "Pledge Here" QR code to the right and pledge today!

#### PLEDGE HERE





**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

# SUMMER REGISTRATION

**MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS AND CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP!**

**MEMBER REGISTRATION DATES:**

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES: JANUARY 8 THROUGH JANUARY 10

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS: JANUARY 9 THROUGH JANUARY 11

**OPEN (MEMBER/NON-MEMBER) REGISTRATION DATES:**

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES: JANUARY 15

MOUNT OLIVET DAY CAMPS: JANUARY 16