

FEBRUARY 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

FEBRUARY 4

**LET YOUR LIGHT SO
SHINE**

Matthew 5:13-16

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

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

FEBRUARY 11

**THE LIGHT SHINES IN
THE DARKNESS, AND
THE DARKNESS HAS
NOT OVERCOME IT**

John 1:1-5

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

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

FEBRUARY 14

**ASH WEDNESDAY
COMMUNION SERVICES**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

M 8am, 12noon, 5pm, &
*7pm
SERMON Pastor Kalland

W 5pm & *7pm
SERMON Pastor Freeman

**Youth-led service*

*Mpls Campus services will be
livestreamed at 12noon & 7pm
at mtolivet.org*

FEBRUARY 18

**GOT QUESTIONS?
WHY DO WE BAPTIZE
BABIES?**

John 15:13-16a

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Hammersten
MUSIC Brian Haase, bass

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud
MUSIC Justin Staebell,
baritone

FEBRUARY 25

**GOT QUESTIONS?
DO WE HAVE TO
BELIEVE EVERYTHING IN
THE BIBLE?**

Jonah 4:1-11

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

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

HOLY COMMUNION

First Wednesday of the month

M 12noon

COVER PHOTO

Mount Olivet Junior High Youth: Josie, Charlotte, Peyton,
Saydy, Audrey, Isla, and Harlow participating in church on
Wednesday nights.

Got Questions?

In the early 1980s, advertising genius Tom McElligott – co-founder of Minneapolis-based Fallon, McElligott, and Rice (now Fallon Worldwide) – developed a series of ads for the Episcopal Church. McElligott’s interest was more than professional. The son of an Episcopal priest, McElligott wanted to offer a more intelligent, creative, and even sassy approach to reminding folks of how important church could be in their lives. This interest led to the Episcopal Ad Project, which included memorable posters including, for instance, a picture of a typical church coffee maker with the heading “Free coffee and eternal life. Membership really does have its privileges.” Another featured a painting of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane above the words, “Considering the fact that Jesus had his doubts, why can’t you?”

One of my favorite ads pictured the face of a man with tape covering his mouth and the tagline: “There’s only one problem with the churches that have all the answers: They don’t allow questions.” This ad, and others like it, sought to draw a contrast between churches where faith is understood primarily as unquestioning acceptance of church teaching and those congregations (like ours!) where we invite members to bring their whole selves: faith, doubt, questions, hopes, dreams, and everything in-between. Questions, and the curiosity they represent, are a deeply integral part to our life together. Questions lead to conversation, and conversation to delving more deeply into our faith and thereby discovering a faith and tradition that you can make your own.

Toward that end, this Lent we’re offering a Sunday preaching series called “Got Questions?” (Yes, reminiscent of another famous advertising campaign.) On each of the six Sundays in Lent (beginning February 18), we’ll take up one of the questions we have heard folks – both in our congregation and in our communities – ask about our faith. “Why do we baptize babies?” is the first such question, given that many of us have a friend or relative or colleague who insists on adult-only or “believer” baptism. Similarly, and given the prevalence of a literal reading of Scripture in our contemporary religious culture, we’ll then ask on February 25, “Do we have to believe everything in the Bible?”

Other questions we’ll take up include “Does everything happen for a reason?”, “What comes next?”, “What’s so amazing about grace?” and “Why did Jesus die?” Some of these questions will have, if not definite answers, at least clear statements of our faith. That is, while we can’t “prove” that you should baptize babies (rather

than waiting for them to reach the “age of consent”), we can certainly share why we believe infant baptism is most faithful to the biblical witness and expresses most fully God’s love for us. Other questions – regarding, for instance, whether the Bible is best understood as a book of facts or a book of faith – offer less of an answer and more of an invitation; in this case, an invitation to discover that biblical faith is larger, more complex, and far more interesting than we may have thought.

Some of these questions will have distinctly “Lutheran” answers – we’ve got a pretty neat take on grace, for instance. Others will represent larger portions of the Christian Church – Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Roman Catholics also baptize babies. And some may surprise you – our take on the meaning of Jesus’ death is pretty different than the dominant religious imagination right now. Throughout, the point isn’t to “prove” our faith but to be able to appreciate it more deeply and thereby make it our own more fully.

One of the basic principles that has guided my ministry is that *we all want to understand what we already believe*. That is, by and large, most of us believe the faith we learned in confirmation (which may have been a long time ago) or confess on Sundays (using the words of Creeds that aren’t always entirely clear). But while we may *believe* the faith we’ve grown up with, that doesn’t mean we necessarily *understand* it. And so we’re excited to offer this opportunity to learn more about some of the central elements of our faith, to explore their implications for our life together, and to grow in our understanding and appreciation of the faith of the Lutheran tradition within Christianity.

In the early centuries of the church, Lent was the time when those wanting to join the church first studied it thoroughly in order to make sure they both understood and believed the faith they would confess at Easter. This Lent at Mount Olivet, we’re embracing that same spirit of “discovery, curiosity, and understanding” in order to celebrate our Easter faith even more fully. I can’t wait for you to join us for this adventure!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



Got QUESTIONS?

This Lent we're offering a Sunday preaching series called "Got Questions?". On each of the six Sundays of Lent, (beginning February 18), we'll address one of the questions we have heard folks ask – both in our congregation and in our communities – ask about our faith.

SUNDAY WORSHIP - "GOT QUESTIONS?"

February 18: "Why do we baptize babies?"

February 25: "Do we have to believe everything in the Bible?"

March 3: "Does everything happen for a reason?"

March 10: "What comes next?"

March 17: "What is so amazing about grace?"

March 24: "Why did Jesus die?"

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Written by our Mount Olivet pastors and available in both print and online. Each week they will dive deeper into the questions that we explored on Sunday morning, looking at how those questions are both asked and answered across Scripture, and more. Copies available at church or sign up to receive emails at mtolivet.org.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY SERVICES

During our Wednesday Worship (12noon) at the Mpls Campus, our pastors will explore some of their favorite images from the stained glass window above the altar at the Mpls Campus. This work of art is full of rich symbolism and shares a compelling story each and every time there is worship in the Sanctuary. Join us!

ANGEL GIFTS - SORT, PREPARE, & DONATE

Donations Accepted February 14 through Sunday, March 17

Sort & Prepare Donations on Friday, March 22, 4-6pm, Mpls & West Campuses

Assemble & Deliver Baskets on Saturday, March 23, 10am-12noon, West Campus

Assemble & Deliver Baskets on Saturday, March 23, 1pm-3:45pm, Mpls Campus

During this Lenten season we are inviting everyone to participate in Angel Gifts! Angel Gifts is a volunteer opportunity where small gift items are collected, assembled into baskets, and distributed to families and individuals in need. Our community partners at each campus work to identify families who will benefit from donations. Each family receives a basket, as well as groceries to make a healthy family meal for Easter. A list of suggested donations can be found at mtolivet.org as well as the sign-up to volunteer your time at the events on March 22 and 23.

EASTER CHANCEL GARDEN

Order online Thursday, February 1 through Sunday, March 10

During this special time of year, please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by purchasing a spring plant to beautify our sanctuaries for Easter morning. The cost is \$25 per plant. Look for plant options and complete your purchase by visiting mtolivet.org/easter-chancel-garden or by calling Jody Barbee at 952.767.1501. A list of the donors and those remembered or honored will be included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Easter plants can be picked up at both campuses on Sunday, March 31, after the 11am service until 12:30pm or on Tuesday, April 2, from 9am-12noon. *Our buildings will be closed on Monday, April 1.*



LIFE & GROWTH

DEC 14 - JAN 12

BAPTISMS

Miloh Veronica Goettsch

daughter of Jennifer and Nathan

Theodore Christianson Kosiek

son of Kate and Michael

Cora Ann Pratt

daughter of Jamie and Andrew

Tripp Jacob Rengstorff

son of Nicole and Jacob

Bria Faith Theis

daughter of Nicole and Tim

Maxwell James Varley

son of Emily and Eric

WEDDINGS

Jenna Williamson & Alexander

Thorson, December 16

Darcy Winter & William

Benjamin III, December 23

Elisabeth Cavanagh & Kevin

Myers, December 30

Sydney Tupy & Benjamin

Wyberg, December 30

Sydney Born & Austin Oungst,

December 31

Deaths

Judith C. Burmeister

1938 – 2023

Kelly J. Doran

1957–2023

Kenneth A. Johnson

1929–2023

Jonathan E. Kimball

1970–2023

Robert E. Martinson

1935–2024

Patricia Mueller

1937–2024

Carol A. Murray

1938–2023

DEVOTION

We just wrapped up a rich and meaningful class on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. If you want to catch up, the videos are still available online. In the first session I shared a poem that Bonhoeffer wrote while in prison in Nazi Germany.

Who am I? They often tell me I step
out from my cell calm and cheerful
and poised, like a squire from his
manor.

Who am I? They often tell me I speak
with my guards freely, friendly and
clear, As though I were the one in
charge.

Who am I? They also tell me I bear
days of calamity serenely, smiling
and proud, like one accustomed to
victory. Am I really what others say
of me? Or am I only what I know of
myself? Restless, yearning, sick, like a
caged bird, struggling for life breath,
as if I were being strangled, starving
for colors, for flowers, for birdsong,
thirsting for kind words, human
closeness, shaking with rage at power

lust and pettiest insult. Tossed about,
waiting for great things to happen,
helplessly fearing for friends so far
away, too tired and empty to pray, to
think, to work, teary and ready to take
my leave of it all?

Who am I? This one or the other?
Am I this one today and tomorrow
another? Am I both at once? Before
others a hypocrite and in my own eyes
a pitiful, whimpering weakling? Or is
what remains in me like a defeated
army, Fleeing in disarray from victory
already won?

Who am I? They mock me,
these lonely questions of mine.
Whoever I am, thou knowest me;
O God, I am thine!

Sometimes questions feel scary. Uncertainty feels scary, you certainly get a sense of that with this poem. But, the truth of the poem and the power of our relationship with God is that no matter what questions or uncertainty we are confronted with, we can rest and trust in the promise that we belong to God.

— PASTOR CIESLIK

HI-LEAGUE PRESENTS: "A JOURNEY" A MUSICAL ONE-WOMAN SHOW

Sunday, February 25, 7-8:30pm, Mpls Campus Fellowship Hall

Our Hi-League Youth Program (Gr 9-12) is excited to sponsor an all-congregational event. Kimberly Wilson, the creator and actress of "A JOURNEY", will offer a powerful performance centered on the stories of seven black women and their lives of faith, hope, and a sense of calling that has shaped American history. This unique performance will conclude with a time for discussion with Kimberly, a special dessert, and time for fellowship.

This event recognizes the great legacy of Mount Olivet member, Clorasteen Scott Wilson. Clorasteen first joined Mount Olivet in 1988 and was an active member in our ministries. Clorasteen was very involved in the South Minneapolis community, serving on boards and championing initiatives that worked to increase opportunities for all. Clorasteen passed away on June 11, 2021 at the age of 92. Her profound impact on this community was great and we are pleased to honor her through this special event. *Partial funding for this event comes from The Clorasteen Wilson Black History Education Fund established at Mount Olivet.*

JOIN US!

FLYING SOLO MYSTERY EVENT

Sunday, February 4, 12:15-5pm, Mpls Campus, \$40

Join Flying Solo for an afternoon mystery trip! Meet in the Minneapolis church parking lot on Sunday, February 4, at 12:15pm, for an afternoon of fun! We'll make a few stops and be back at church by 5pm – make sure to dress comfortably! Register today at mtolivet.org.

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. The event will include a time for Q&A, a book signing, and a free will offering that will benefit the Normandale Housing Corporation.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS

Tuesday, February 13, 12noon, Mpls Campus, \$10 per person

Young in Heart & Friends invites you to join us for lunch, with entertainment provided by acapella group, *Heartfelt*. This group of five women span four decades of life, and they met through the Twin Cities Women's Choir and the small ensemble group, *Encore*. Register by February 9, at mtolivet.org, or by contacting Tricia Asuncion at 612.767.2210, tasuncion@mtolivet.org.



PAINT LIKE MARY CASSATT ART CLASS

Monday, February 26, 6pm, Mpls Campus, \$30 per person

In this class you will be creating an acrylic painting on an 8 x 10 inch canvas in the style of Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt. You will learn a bit of history about her and her style of painting as you follow step-by-step instructions to create your own masterpiece. Visit mtolivet.org to register.



MOCW LADIES' NIGHT

Tuesday, February 27, Doors Open at 5pm, Presentation 5:30-7pm, 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. Cost is \$20. Register at mtolivet.org now through February 18. Grab a few friends and join us!

15TH MOTORHEADS @ LE CHATEAU

Tuesday, March 19, 5:30-8:30pm

Join fellow Motorheads for this fun gathering at the Herreid home (Le Chateau). Enjoy delicious food, cool cars, interesting displays, devotions, and more! Transportation will be provided from the West Campus to Le Chateau. Cost: \$10 paid online by 3/17, \$15 at the door, \$5 for youth 18 and under.

MOUNT OLIVET GALA

Lighting Up Lives

**THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024
OAK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB, HOPKINS, MN**



Celebrate all of the Mount Olivet Affiliate Ministries! This night will include a short program at 7pm sharing information about our affiliate organizations and ways to support them. Cost is \$35 for program, heavy appetizers, and entertainment. A cash bar will be available. Casual cocktail attire is requested. Plenty of on-site parking available. Registration will be open March 1 through April 25, at mtolivet.org or by calling Laurie Hancer at 612.767.2267.

Mount Olivet has made a great impact both in our congregation and in the service of the community through our affiliated ministries. At the Gala we have a chance to celebrate, give thanks, and provide fund-raising support. Join your Mount Olivet family for a wonderful evening where we give God thanks for relationships and community outreach. You can make a difference by attending, donating a silent auction item, or becoming a sponsor!

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS ARE NEEDED

Everyone is invited to donate Silent Auction items to help raise funds for our affiliates. The Gala Committee is encouraging the congregation to donate one of the following suggested items below. Donations are due by April 15 and can be dropped off at the church. For donation questions, please contact Karen Beese, Gala Chair, at 612.747.1256.

Donations will be used for the Silent Auction

- Restaurant gift cards
- Bottles of wine for the Wine Wall
- Experiences (boat rides, cooking classes, themed dinners)
- Tickets (sporting games, concerts, Broadway shows, theater)
- Jewelry and fashion items
- Home maintenance tools
- Pet services (grooming, boarding, pet accessories)
- Home décor and artwork
- Personal service gift certificates (salon, massages, fitness)
- Travel (airline tickets, condos, cabins, resorts)
- Themed baskets (Italian, baking, baby, coffee)
- Cash donations

SPONSORSHIPS ARE NEEDED

We welcome businesses and individuals to be a sponsor for the Mount Olivet Gala. All sponsorship funds will be directly distributed to our affiliates. Sponsorship levels include: \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000. Each level offers increasing benefits. For more information on sponsorships, please contact Heather Guerin, Director of Development at 651.216.6524.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**



Day Lenten Journey: *The Songs of Lent* Growing Through Grief

Tuesday, February 20, 9am-3pm, Conference & Retreat Center

Prepare for this season of Lent with meaningful singing and inspired learning! Pastor Ben Cieslik, Pastor Charlie Ruud, and Retreat Center staff will explore Lenten Spirituals, common themes throughout Lenten hymns, and the history and meaning of some of their favorite Lent and Holy Week songs. Allow this season's music to support and guide your personal reflection, confession, and meditation. Journey together through prayer and song toward Good Friday and Easter Sunday, when we celebrate anew the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Day Lent Journey is one of our annual day-time retreats. It provides space to gather with familiar and new friends and enter the season of Lent 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. Bus transportation is available. Registration is now open.

Travel Agenda

- 8:00am Bus leaves 7500 York
- 8:30am Bus leaves MPLS campus
- 9:15am Bus arrives, check in at front desk, coffee and pastries in dining room

Got QUESTIONS?
Songs of Lent
 Day Lenten Journey
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
9:30AM-3PM
 Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center
 MTOIVETRETREAT.ORG | 952.469.2175

Saturday, April 6, 9am-4pm, Conference & Retreat Center

Our annual grief retreat is back this spring. Whether you are grieving the death of a loved one, severed relationships, the loss of dreams, or more, this day retreat will provide an opportunity for you to grow and heal. Experientially focused, the day includes options for processing grief through music, art, movement, prayer, meditation, and time in nature. In addition, participants can meet briefly with a counselor, spiritual director, or pastor for support and consultation. Registration opens online February 1.





LIVING THE MESSAGE VISIBLE WORDS: SACRAMENTS

TAUGHT BY PASTOR RUUD

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 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!

Ever wonder why our church lifts up the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion as such meaningful and essential gifts in the life of faith and proclamation of the church? Or perhaps you're curious about the various understandings of sacraments, e.g. Lutherans confess two sacraments, Roman Catholic tradition holds seven, and still others have different understandings of Baptism and the holy meal. What's the difference and why?

In March, we'll look at the biblical foundations of Luther's understanding of Christ's promises handed over in real, physical form – namely, in the water of Baptism and the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. In these places and acts, Christ was understood to be giving and in fact instituting a visible means of sharing the good news in its most pure form.

Join in to hear, discuss, and even see how the Word becomes visible, tangible, even consumable, in order to give us new life, a living hope, and sure faith!

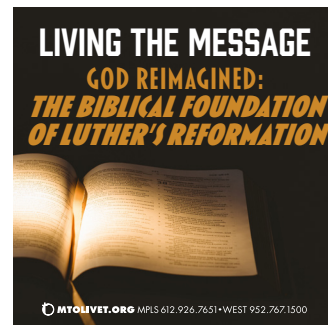
PASTOR RUUD

UPCOMING CLASS DATES

CLASS TIME IS 6:30-7:30PM OR VIA PRE-RECORDED VIDEOS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6: Mpls Campus, Room 207

TUESDAY, MARCH 5: West Campus, Rehearsal Hall



MOUNT OLIVET BOOK DISCUSSIONS DAYTIME & EVENING

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:

FEBRUARY 13/14: *Before All Is Said and Done* by Pat Miles & Suzanne Watson

MARCH 12/13: *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson

APRIL 9/10: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

MAY 8/14: *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict

JUNE 11/12: *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar & Dana Morton



JOIN US!

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

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS THIS SUMMER!



CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP 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

HI-ER LEAGUE WEEKEND

Registration for the Hi-er League Weekend is open and will be accepted online on a first-come, first-served basis via Campbrain on the COP Website through May 15, 2024.

HI-ER LEAGUE WEEKEND (COLLEGE AGED)

Thursday, May 30 – Sunday, June 2

FAMILY CAMPING SESSIONS

If you registered for the family camping lotteries (Opening Weekend, Family Work Week, COP for All, and Family Camp), please check your email on February 8 for lottery results.

CONTACT US!

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



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

MOUNT OLIVET PRESCHOOL FALL 2024 OPENINGS

We would love to partner with you for your child's preschool learning! Part-time and full-time openings anticipated this fall for our youngest learners. It's a great time to connect with our preschool staff for a tour and learn more about this special community! For more information and specifics, please contact Preschool Director Lisa Rosenfield at lrosenfield@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2216.



SUMMER 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, and 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.

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, 612.767.2212; Angie St. Dennis angelas@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2244; Anna Herd aherd@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2279; Macey Oliver moliver@mtolivet.org, 612.767.2237; or Julia Jallo jjallo@mtolivet.org, 952.767.1502.



7TH-GRADE RETREAT

*Friday, 2/2, 4:45pm through
Saturday, 2/3, 10:30am*
A bus will leave from the West Campus at 4:45pm and return Saturday at 10:30am. We hope to see you there!



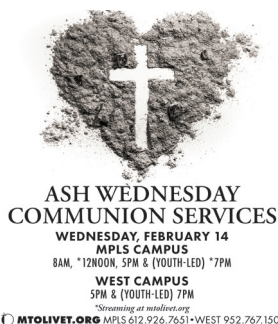
JHA SNOW TUBING

Monday, 2/19, 10:30am-2pm
No School!!
Join us for Snow Tubing at Elm Creek Park Reserve and a late lunch at Davanni's.



6TH GRADE FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Wednesday, 2/21, 7pm, Mpls Campus
Wednesday, 2/28, 7pm, West Campus
Required for parent and child, before the First Communion services in March. Please choose one and register at mtolivet.org.



ASH WEDNESDAY YOUTH-LED SERVICE

*Wednesday, 2/14 7pm, Mpls &
West Campuses.*



HI-LEAGUE

Sunday, 2/4, 7pm Sharegroups
at the West Campus
Sunday, 2/25, 7pm, Speaker
night hosted at the Mpls Campus.



8TH-GRADE CONFIRMATION PICTURES

Wednesday, 2/7 5-7pm, Mpls & West Campuses
All 8th graders will want to get their picture taken so they will be on our Confirmation composite made for the Confirmation Service in September! The picture is free and you are welcome to order a package of pictures.



MEET YOUR LEADERS FOR THE YOUTH-LED ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 14, 2024
7PM
MPLS & WEST CAMPUS

The Youth-Led Ash Wednesday Service is one of the most special services we have at Mount Olivet. We love our youth and are excited to share them with the congregation. This service will be led by these 8th grade leaders and more!



DILLAN ANHUT

Anthony Middle School, Minneapolis
Dillan likes to participate in the Chancel Choir during the year. He also loves to participate in Summertime Players! in the summer.



CASEY BECKER

Chaska Middle School East, Chaska
I'm involved in Confirmation and Chancel Choir and my favorite thing about church is learning about God alongside my friends. Some of his other favorite things are singing in the Christmas Concert and attending Cathedral of the Pines Camp in the summer.



PIPER ARVIDSON BLUEMLE

Anthony Middle School, Minneapolis
My favorite thing about Mount Olivet is feeling more connected to the community and learning about the deep history of our church.



AVA LAPPI

Chaska Middle School East, Chaska
My favorite thing about church is the positive connections I have made with my peers and the pastors.



LUCY PORTHAN

Plymouth Middle School, Plymouth
I love the youth staff and Confirmation at Mount Olivet! I also love the opportunities they both give me to make new friends and feel so loved!



ANNA LUDFORD

Waconia Middle School, Waconia
My favorite thing about church is the community, camp, and all of the fun activities church offers. It allows you to get closer to your friends and to God.



CHARLOTTE SCHUETH

Anthony Middle School, Minneapolis
Charlotte loves being a part of Adopt-A-Grandparent because it is so fun talking with the Mount Olivet Home residents and making new confirmation friends!



COLIN THOMPSON

Chaska Middle School West, Chaska
I sing in the Chancel Choir and enjoy attending Junior High Alive (JHA) activities with friends.



DANNY WELCH

Central Middle School, Wayzata
My favorite thing about church is the music. I enjoy the music on Sundays when attending the service and singing in the choir. I also really love Cathedral of the Pines Camp.



DARRAGH VAN SOMEREN

Central Middle School, Eden Prairie
I enjoy Wednesday night Confirmation and my small group. I play piano and violin and my favorite sport is basketball.



Let's Not Also Lose Ourselves

Have you ever known someone who after suffering a loss never seemed the same again? I think a prime example of this is late Queen Victoria, who when her beloved husband Prince Albert died, never was seen publicly in anything but black mourning clothes for the remainder of her life, which was another forty years. When we lose someone we love we don't just lose them, we also run the risk of losing the parts of ourselves that were most alive in their presence. For instance, someone might stop engaging in hobbies or interests because they were closely tied to that person. They wish to avoid the pain of their absence when they go back to it, so they let it go. Of course, we are altered by our experiences of loss, and some things will never be the same without them, but is it possible to somehow rekindle the parts of ourselves that were present for those moments? I think so. In fact, it can be very satisfying to return to a place, an activity, or a way of doing things and reclaim it for ourselves. When we do so, we're not only retaining a part of our very selves, we are also honoring those we so dearly miss.

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one or other cherished element of your life, please consider getting support for yourself. There are two opportunities coming soon. The one day retreat, "Growing through Grief" will be on Saturday April 6, 9am-4pm held at the Conference & Retreat Center. For those who have lost a loved one in the last two years, the next session of "The First Years without Them" grief support group facilitated by me at the Minneapolis campus will meet on eight consecutive Thursdays from 3-4:30pm, beginning on April 18. Registration is open for both offerings at mtolivet.org.

SARA WATNE, *Mount Olivet Counseling Service*

MARRIAGE PREP WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 20,
9:30am-3:30pm, Mpls
Campus, Cost: \$150, plus
\$35 scoring fee for the
Prepare Inventory. Lunch
included

Are you getting married soon?
Join us for the upcoming
virtual Marriage Preparation
Workshop on April 20,
9:30am-3:30pm, facilitated
by Shannon Himango, MA,
Licensed Marriage and Family
Therapist and Sherri Herman,
MA, Licensed Professional
Clinical Counselor.

This 6-hour workshop is
designed to enrich your
relationship as a couple and
help you strengthen your
relationship. The workshop
will focus on topics like
communication, conflict
resolution, finances, and
spirituality. We hope you will
find this to be a helpful step
towards beginning your new
life together.

To learn more or register, please
visit mtolivet.org.



MINISTRY MOMENT: SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



The Congregational Care team at Mount Olivet hosts a Service of Remembrance at each campus yearly in December. These peaceful services are a time of healing and an opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones. Julie Goodman, Director of Congregational Care, says: *"I hope it gives folks a time to pause and reflect on those they have lost. We try to make the setting calm and peaceful, with soothing music and dim lights. It is a time to honor and remember each person whose name is being read aloud."* The holiday season isn't always easy, and your pastors and staff are grateful for your generosity that enables Mount Olivet to continue to provide these beautiful services.

KATIE STEVENSON, *Director of Stewardship*

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 or 612.767.2255.

Give Online: visit mtolivet.org/online-giving or scan the "Give Here" QR Code to the right.

GIVE 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



Ladies' Night

FEATURING **MEGAN STONE**, M.ED. & MOUNT OLIVET MEMBER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

5:30PM, **MPLS CAMPUS**

\$20 INCLUDES DINNER & PRESENTATION