

MARCH 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

MARCH 3

**DOES EVERYTHING
HAPPEN FOR A
REASON?**

Jeremiah 29:4-11

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

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

FIRST COMMUNION

M 1pm

MARCH 10

WHAT COMES NEXT?

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Ruud
MUSIC Elena Stabile,
mezzo-soprano &
Senior Choir

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Kalland
MUSIC Claire Loudon, violin

FIRST COMMUNION

W 1pm

MARCH 17

**WHAT IS SO AMAZING
ABOUT GRACE?**

John 3:16-17

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

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

ANNUAL MEETING

M 12noon

MARCH 24

**PALM SUNDAY
WHY DID JESUS DIE?**

Luke 19:29-40

M 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Cieslik
MUSIC Alleluia, Hosanna,
Chapel, Chancel,
Cathedral, & Senior
Choirs

W 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Freeman
MUSIC Alleluia, Hosanna,
Chapel, Chancel,
Cathedral, & Senior
Choirs

MARCH 31

EASTER SUNDAY

Luke 24:13-35

M 7, 8, 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Lose
MUSIC Brass ensemble, and
Cathedral & Senior
Choirs

*All services are livestreamed at
mtolivet.org.*

W 7, 8, 9, 10, 11am
SERMON Pastor Dixon
MUSIC Brass ensemble, and
Cathedral & Senior
Choirs

COVER PHOTO

Cross No.4 by Kume Bryant Art



For Us!

When I have the opportunity to teach our First Communion class, I routinely say that of all the words you hear during the Communion service, the two that are most important are also the simplest: “for you!” As in, “this is the body of Christ, given *for you*.” I would say that same thing about Holy Week, which falls toward the end of this month. It is the time when we retrace the last days of our Lord’s earthly life, from the anticipation and drama of Palm Sunday, through the comradery and intimacy of the Last Supper, the agony of Good Friday, and culminating in the glory of Easter.

Thomas à Kempis, a 14th century Dutch theologian and poet, captured this in his hymn, “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High.” After telling of Jesus’ wondrous Incarnation, he continues:

*For us baptized, for us he bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp he knew;
For us the tempter overthrew.
For us he prayed; for us he taught;
For us his daily works he wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus,
Still seeking not himself but us.*

And then à Kempis draws to the heart of the matter:

*For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us he gave his dying breath.*

For us. All for us. Incredible! Sometimes I wonder if we have become numb to this surprising, even shocking display of love. We have heard the story before, been to countless church services, and are so very familiar with the overall story. “Yes,” we may be tempted to think, “Jesus suffers and dies, and then is raised again on Easter. Nice.” And then we get on with what really matters to us: raising our kids, paying the bills, keeping our loved ones safe, making ends meet, and perhaps just getting through the day with a measure of hope. What does Christ’s “passion” have to do with all this?

In a word, EVERYTHING. Because of what our Lord endured, we realize that God knows what it is like to be afraid, to lose hope, to feel abandoned, even to despair. We learn that God understands what it is to be human and cares about what we care about. We discover that God will go to any lengths to communicate

God’s profound love for us. And we are reminded that God will *never* abandon us, accompanying us through all things – big and small, weighty and mundane, difficult or joyful, and even through death itself – to bring us out on the other side.

The Passion of our Lord reminds us that God is with us, and *for us*, forever. And then the Resurrection promises that God’s love and life are more powerful than all the sorrow, fear, or death the world may throw our way.

Nearly two millennia after this news was first proclaimed, and after years of hearing it shared through the worship and music at Mount Olivet, you have likely heard this story before, and perhaps have even become used to it, maybe even a bit numb to it. But if you open yourself to it once again, if you are willing to be honest about what is difficult or fearful in your life just now, if you are ready to allow God not just to comfort you but to embrace you, I promise that this year’s Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter services will reintroduce you to the message that pierces even the numbest of hearts with the vibrant, pulsing good news of God’s love for us in Christ.

So come to worship this month as often as you can to take advantage of the special emphasis on Sundays to help us understand our faith – and God’s love! – more deeply. And during Holy week, come to the Palm Sunday service to learn why Jesus died for us. Come that Wednesday to listen to Dubois’ “Seven Last Words of Christ” and be moved once again by our Lord’s suffering and sacrifice. Relive the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples and remember how their faith shaped their destiny at the Living Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday. Experience the Passion of our Lord at our Good Friday services. And then come to Easter to hear the ancient and still timely cry that “Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!”

Come. And, indeed, invite a friend to join you, for this news is too good not to share. And having come to witness the suffering and triumph of our Lord, be prepared to be not just encouraged, but changed, even transformed, as you witness God’s love poured out in Jesus for you, for me... for us!

See you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

MOUNT OLIVET GALA

Lighting Up Lives



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

**TICKET SALES OPEN MARCH 1
\$35/PERSON - PURCHASE YOUR TICKET AT MTOLIVET.ORG.**

Celebrate all of the Mount Olivet Affiliate Ministries! This festive night will include a short program at 7pm sharing information about our affiliate organizations and ways to support them. The cost includes a program, heavy appetizers, and entertainment. A cash bar will be available and accepts credit cards. Casual cocktail attire is requested. Plenty of on-site parking available. Registration opens March 1 and will close on April 25. To register, visit mtolivet.org or call Laurie Hancer at 612.767.2267.

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS ARE NEEDED

Everyone is invited to donate Silent Auction items. 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 Mpls Campus. Questions? Please contact Karen Beese, Gala Chair, at 612.747.1256.

- Restaurant gift cards
- Bottles of wine
- 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

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, please contact Heather Guerin, Director of Development, at 651.216.6524.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

LIFE & GROWTH

JAN 13 - FEB 13

BAPTISMS

Emma Esther Barber

daughter of Natasha and Chris

Evan Alexander Barosko

son of Allison and James

Jack Alexander Barosko

son of Allison and James

Roisin Beverly Cockriel

daughter of Allison and Ken

Camille Elizabeth Davis

daughter of Laura and Logan

Cora Elizabeth Halsne

daughter of Molly and Ross

Owen Craig Halsne

son of Molly and Ross

Sam Patrick Halsne

son of Molly and Ross

Wyatt Charles Halsne

son of Molly and Ross

Cohan Robert Irwin

son of Jenna and Sean

Patrick Paul Kelly

son of Alyssa and RJ

Rhys Quinn Norgren

son of Meagan and David

Eleanor Gray Oie

daughter of Kenadee and Harrison

Waylon Andrew Oie

son of Kenadee and Harrison

Rodney Robert Schmidt

son of Deanna and Kohlton

Lena Marie Seglem

daughter of Kelly and Scott

Maia Elizabeth Thayer

daughter of Anna and Rustan

WEDDINGS

Courtney Kelley & Stephen

Gross, January 27

DEATHS

Georgiann "Lollie" Ames,

1940 – 2024

Paul F. Beckstrom, 1941 – 2024

Bernie L. Benson, 1940-2024

Diane Bongiorno, 1945 – 2024

Savannah P. Collins, Newborn

Mavis B. Erickson, 1934 – 2024

Curtis J. Hokanson, 1941 – 2024

Bernadette "Bernie" Lindholm,

1929 – 2024

Michael W. Logan, 1945 – 2024

Robert L. Monson, 1940 – 2024

Donna M. Nooleen, 1929 – 2024

Stephen G. Penney, 1936 – 2024

Lilamae Tronvold, 1932 – 2024

DEVOTION

*"So do not worry about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will bring worries of its own.
Today's trouble is enough for today."*

—Matthew 6:34

Isn't that the truth! Any other worriers out there? Wouldn't it be nice if there were an on/off switch in our brains that we could blessedly switch off? Even though I trust God fully with my life and the lives of my loved ones, I still take it back more than I care to admit.

Sarah Young, in her "Jesus Calling" devotional writes this:

"Follow me one step at a time. That is all I require of you. In fact, that is the only way to move through this space-time world. You see huge mountains looming, and you start wondering how you're going to scale those heights. Meanwhile, because you're not looking where you're going, you stumble on the easy path where I am leading you now. As I help you get back on your feet, you tell me how worried you are about the cliffs up ahead. But you don't know what will happen today, much less tomorrow. Our path may take an abrupt turn, leading you away from those mountains. There may be an easier way up the mountains than is visible from this distance. If I do lead you up the cliffs, I will equip you thoroughly for that strenuous climb. *I will even give My angels charge over you, to preserve you in all your ways.*

Keep your mind on the present journey, enjoying My Presence. *Walk by faith, not by sight*, trusting Me to open up the way before you."

Perfectly beautiful. Thank you, Sarah.

Let us pray: You gave us our lives dear Lord, help us to trust that you've got this, that you've got us. Amen.

— PASTOR HAMMERSTEN



CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES CAMP 75TH ANNIVERSARY EXPERIENCES

Tuesday, June 25, 5-8pm, \$15

Wednesday, June 26, 5-8pm, \$15

Tuesday, July 16, 5-8pm, \$15

Sunday, July 21, 8-11 am, \$15

Friday, July 26, 5-8pm, \$15

Are you traveling along the North Shore this Summer? Come and spend some time at camp with us in celebration of 75 years of Cathedral of the Pines Camp! Enjoy a chapel service, a meal, and the beauty of Lake Caribou. To register, visit mtolivet.org.



SAVE THE DATE - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

Mark your calendars for the Cathedral of the Pines Camp 75th Anniversary Celebration! This 21+ event will be filled with food, dancing, and the joy of decades past. Your presence will make this milestone truly memorable. Tickets will go on sale this summer.

Got QUESTIONS?

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP - "GOT QUESTIONS?"

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. Copies are available at church or sign up to receive emails at mtolivet.org.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY SERVICES - A WINDOW INTO OUR FAITH

Wednesdays, March 6 through March 20, 12noon, Mpls Campus and livestreamed at mtolivet.org.

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!

EASTER BUTTER BRAIDS

Order online through Sunday, March 10

Pick-up on Sunday, March 24 from 8:30-11 am, Mpls & West Campus

Mount Olivet Homes Auxiliary is selling Butter Braids online, just in time for Easter! Please fill out the online registration form and payment information to ensure your order. When filling out the registration, please select the campus at which you will be picking up your order. Each Braid is \$15; case (6 of the same flavor) is \$90.

ANGEL GIFTS - SORT, PREPARE, & DONATE

Donations accepted through Sunday, March 17

Sort & Prepare Donations on Friday, March 22, 3-6pm, Mpls Campus & 4-6pm, West Campus

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

Assemble & Deliver Baskets on Saturday, March 23, 9-11am & 1pm-3:45pm, Mpls Campus

During this Lenten season we are inviting everyone to participate in Angel Gifts! Angel Gifts is a service 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 and groceries to make a healthy family meal for Easter. Visit mtolivet.org for a list of suggested donations and the volunteer sign-up.

EASTER CHANCEL GARDEN

Order online 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.*



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 24, 9, 10, & 11am, Mpls & West Campus, and livestreamed at mtolivet.org

Our morning worship services will be filled with the music of brass instrumentalists, congregational singing, and choirs celebrating Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. Come to lift your voice and wave palm branches with the Senior, Cathedral, Chancel, Chapel, Hosanna, and Alleluia Choirs for the Palm Sunday processions. Join with the whole congregation in singing, "Hosanna to the King!"

SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

Wednesday, March 27, 7pm, Mpls Campus and livestreamed at mtolivet.org

This Holy Week musical event is a beloved tradition for many during the Lenten season. All Cathedral Choir alumni are invited by joining in vocally. The adult presence in this concert is important musically and serves as a powerful witness to our high school singers. Please join us for a review rehearsal on Wednesday, March 27, at 6pm in the Rehearsal Hall before the performance at 7pm. Choir singers, please wear dark clothing.

LIVING LORD'S SUPPER

Thursday, March 28, 7pm, Mpls & West Campus, and livestreamed at mtolivet.org

Join in this unique service of Holy Communion that represents the night Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. We will observe a live portrayal of this meaningful event, come forward to receive Holy communion, and commit ourselves once again to the way of Christ.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 29

Mpls Campus: 8am, 12noon (livestreamed), 5pm, & 7pm (Tenebrae service)

West Campus: 5pm & 7pm (Tenebrae service)

These meaningful communion services are offered as a way to remember and reflect on the sacrifice that was made on our behalf in the crucifixion of our Lord. The Tenebrae service, sometimes referred to as the service of shadows, is a moving experience in hearing once again the story of Jesus' painful journey to the cross. There will be no communion served during the Tenebrae service.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, March 31

Mpls Campus: 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11am, Pastor Lose, and livestreamed at mtolivet.org

West Campus: 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11am, Pastor Dixon

A joyful and festive worship service celebrating the risen Christ! We hear God's word and join in song with the choirs and brass in proclaiming that "Christ has risen indeed!"

SEMPER SIMUL: SAINT & SINNER TAUGHT BY PASTOR LOSE

**TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 6:30-7:30PM; MPLS CAMPUS ROOM 207; OR
VIA PRE-RECORDED VIDEO**

**THIS CLASS IS PART OF THE LIVING THE MESSAGE 2024 SERIES.
JOIN IN ANYTIME!**

One of the things I love about Martin Luther is his down-to-earth realism. He didn't feel the need to sugar-coat things, and he basically thought that the life of faith was about telling the truth. The sometimes hard truth about what it is to be human – both the glory and the disappointment – as well as the always wonderful truth about God and God's love for us.

There is one place in particular in his theology where this down-to-earth realism comes through most clearly. To appreciate it, we'll need to learn a little Latin. But just a little! The phrase Luther coined is *simul iustus et peccator*:

Simul – “simultaneously”

Iustus – “justified,” that is, made right with God, forgiven, declared holy

Et – “and”

Peccator – “sinner”

So... “simultaneously justified and sinner.”

Why do I love this phrase so much? Because I don't have to pretend... that I've got it all together, that “in each and every way, I get better day by day,” that because I'm a Christian I don't fall short, that.... Well, you get the idea.

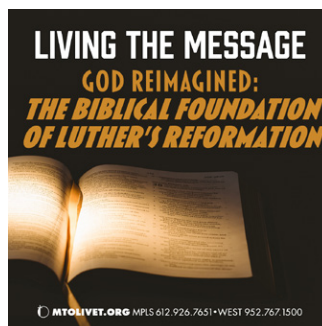
Luther's theology sets us free to tell the truth – about ourselves, about our life, about our world – so that we can then hear and trust the even greater truth about God's steadfast love for us! Love it!

One more word from Latin, *semper* – “always,” think “Semper Fi,” the motto of the US Marine Corps: “Always faithful.”

We are always justified and sinful, always saint and sinner, always trying our best but not perfect, always, in other words, on the way.

Come to the April class and learn more about how Luther's realistic assessment of our lives sets us free to stop worrying about how we appear to others so we can just get to work on what we believe God wants us to be about!

PASTOR LOSE, *Senior Pastor*



WORD WITH YOUR PASTORS SPRING 2024

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE AMERICAN CHRISTIAN EMPIRE?

Taught by Pastor Dixon
Wednesdays, April 10 through
May 1, 10:30-11:30am, Mpls
Campus or via videos

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

Taught by your Mount Olivet
Pastors

Thursdays, April 11 through
May 2, 10:30-11:30am, West
Campus

More information can be found
at mtolivet.org/education.

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:

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

**REGISTER AT MTOLIVET.ORG/EDUCATION OR
BY CONTACTING KATIE STEVENSON AT
KATIES@MTOLIVET.ORG OR 612.767.2232.**



MINISTRY MOMENT: THE GOSPEL UNPLUGGED

One of my favorite parts of my job is coordinating the filming of *The Gospel Unplugged* videos. Two of our pastors, one of whom is a preacher for the upcoming Sunday, discuss the upcoming scripture, story, and theme and what they are thinking about saying in their sermon. What I love is that along with their insight (or their searching for insight!) into what they will preach about, these videos provide an opportunity for all who watch to get to know our pastors better. While they each bring their own education and experience to the conversation, it's been comforting to know that they, too, are sometimes puzzled with scripture and struggle with what exactly we are to glean from a certain passage or story. More often than not, the pastors bring humor to the videos, and absolutely every time, I am reminded of one of God's promises to us all—promises that



begin and end (and keep going!) with God's love. The questions the pastors pose at the end of the video get me thinking about my faith, my relationships, how I can do better and more—and then the culminating Sunday sermon fills my cup even further as I am (and we all are) called back out into the world to do God's work. I promise taking 10 minutes of your Wednesdays to watch *The Gospel Unplugged* videos will be so worth your time. Our smart, witty, and kind pastors are teaching us in many ways. Join in!

KATIE STEVENSON, *Director of Stewardship & Coordinator of Adult Education*

The Gospel Unplugged videos can be seen on Mount Olivet's Instagram and Facebook pages and can be sent directly to your inbox. To sign up to receive *The Gospel Unplugged* via email and our other weekly emails on Mondays (Devotion from a Pastor), Wednesdays (*The Gospel Unplugged*), and Fridays (*Together @ Mount Olivet*), as well as our seasonal daily devotions, visit mtolivet.org or contact Libby Fotland at 612.767.2203 or lfotland@mtolivet.org.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS YOUTH MINISTRY



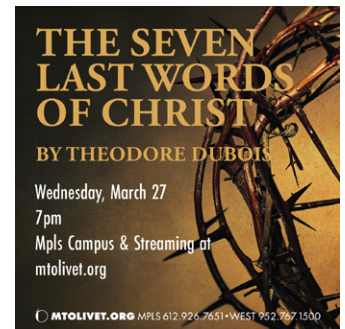
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN EVENT

Saturday, 3/9 11am-3:30pm.
Join the Youth Staff for a day of service and friendship! We will be volunteering at Feed My Starving Children and then go out to a late lunch.



6TH GRADE FIRST COMMUNION SERVICE

Sunday, 3/3, 1pm Mpls Campus
Sunday, 3/10, 1pm West Campus
6th Graders and their families are invited to attend one of the above First Communion services.



SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST CONCERT

Wednesday, 3/27, 7pm, Mpls Campus
Come listen to Cathedral Choir and Alumni sing in this beautifully moving musical event.



HI-LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Sunday, 3/3, 7pm Bowling
Sunday, 3/10, 7pm,
Sharegroups hosted at the Mpls Campus.



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, 3/24, 11am, Mpls & West Campuses.
The Cathedral Choir will sing at the 9 & 10am services, and the Chancel Choir will sing at the 11am service.



EASTER MORNING

Sunday, 3/31
The Cathedral Choir will be singing at the 7 and 8am services. More information to come about an early morning breakfast.



MO HOOPS

Did you know that Mount Olivet has a high school basketball team that competes against other church teams? Games happen on Sunday afternoons. Contact Sam Sanda for more information.



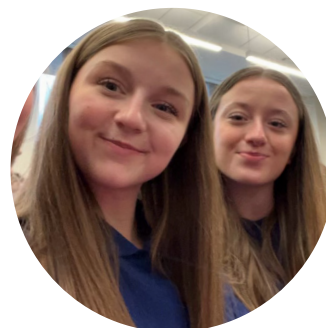
THE MUSIC OF HOLY WEEK



The music program at Mount Olivet has been an amazing experience for me over the past ten years. I am very lucky to have had such a supportive community growing up. I have always felt welcomed and accepted at Mount Olivet because of the leaders involved. I started in Alleluia choir in first grade and began to love spending my time at church learning new songs and making new memories. I always loved Palm Sunday growing up because it was fun seeing everyone holding up their palms and it made the entire sanctuary feel like a celebration. I continued going to church and being involved in choir and youth programs because of the friendships I made through the community. — **Halle Rae, Junior at Edina High School**



My family first started singing in Cathedral Choir about 50 years ago. Growing up, attending Mount Olivet was a heartwarming way for me to honor my family and their commitment to this community. As I have gotten older, I have come to realize that my continued involvement is equally influenced by my own desire to be a part of this community. Appreciating the active nature of tradition has brought me to realize that tradition is just as much routine and stability as it is being present and authentic. I come back to sing in “The Seven Last Words of Christ” concert not only because I like to sing, but also because it makes me feel like I am a part of something important; something bigger than myself. Participating in a tradition that goes back so many decades gives so much significance to those who participate – we are a part of a community that consists of not just those in attendance, but those that have attended ever since the inaugural performance at Mount Olivet. The tradition cannot continue without the Cathedral Choir, alumni, soloists, and members of the audience; so, I encourage everyone who is interested to attend and see why this performance is so formative to those involved. — **Aaron Iwen, Cathedral Choir Alumni & Prior Lake Graduate Class of 2013**



During my ninth-grade year, I attended Cathedral of the Pines Camp, and it was my first experience back at church since COVID. I was so nervous, but ended up bonding with so many people, three of them being my camp counselors, Emma Devilliers, Megan McHugh, and Kate House. They encouraged me to get involved in church when we got back home, and because of them I ended up joining the Cathedral Choir. I've made so many memories while being in choir and have participated in many traditions that have been around long before I joined. One of those traditions is eating breakfast together before the Easter Sunday Service. I have done this for the past two years, and it is something I have found to be very special. Since the Easter Sunday Service is pretty early in the morning, we have to get up and meet for breakfast even earlier. Being awake early and joining together with the Mount Olivet community provides an environment where we can all reflect on our lives and share what Easter means to us. I am so grateful for everything the choir has given me, and I'm even more excited for everything there is to come in the time I have left! — **Allison Souba, Junior at Minnetonka High School**

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF

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

Online registration for our annual grief retreat is now open. 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.



MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM:

SHERRI HERMAN, MA, LPCC is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor at the Mount Olivet Counseling Service. She is a trauma informed therapist who specializes in mindfulness and integrating spirituality with clinical psychology.

MARY LORD, MM, MT-BC is a Board-Certified Music Therapist with a Certification in Hospice and Palliative Care Music Therapy. At Grace Hospice she provides live music at the bedside for hospice patients and families, helps coordinate bereavement sessions using music-focused interventions, and is a passionate educator for the clinical use of music therapy in end-of-life care.

NANCY LOYD, MA is the Grief Support Supervisor at Grace Hospice as well as a Certified Spiritual Director. Nancy has companioned others through serious illness, end-of-life, grief, and transition for over 20 years.

SARA WATNE, MA, LPCC is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor at the Mount Olivet Counseling Service. In her practice she provides individual therapy to children, adolescents and adults as well as facilitates the grief support group, "The First Years without Them."

PASTOR KALLAND is Associate Pastor and Pastoral Adviser to the Congregational Care team at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church.

REV. THERESA F. LATINI is the Executive Director of Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

REV. JEREMY BORK is program director at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America, and a spiritual director in training.

SAVE THE DATE: MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP & BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MAY 12
CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

Worship 9:30am, Brunch Served at 10:30am or 12noon

Reservations for this event will open on Monday, April 1. Please note that reservations for brunch are required and limited.

UPCOMING MOUNT OLIVET COUNSELING SERVICE EVENTS

FIRST YEARS WITHOUT THEM

Thursdays, April 18 through
June 6, 3-4:30pm, Mpls

Campus, Cost: \$100

Come find healing in the first years following the death of a loved one. Sara Watne, MA, LPCC leads this support group which utilizes contemplative practices, poetry, film clips, and discussion to encourage participants along their path of mourning and reconciliation.

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

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WORKSHOP

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

Join us for the upcoming Marriage Preparation facilitated by Shannon Himango, MA, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Sherri Herman, MA, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor.

This fun and engaging workshop is designed to enrich your relationship as a couple and help you strengthen your relationship. Register today at mtolivet.org.



The Gift of Grief

About a year ago my beloved grandma, the quintessential farmer's wife, died at age 91. She was one of those people that I assumed would live forever. I thought the same of my grandpa, the farmer and her beloved husband of 64 years, who died just over 8 years ago. I know it's a silly thought, but I would often tell myself that "they will never die" because I didn't want to think about how sad I would feel when their time would come. They were just too much to lose.

When my grandpa died, I knew I had no choice but to let myself feel and embrace all of the sadness. It was okay. I was okay. I wasn't consumed by the sadness forever because I just let it have its life. I met my sadness with compassion, patience, and even some creativity by writing a poem about him. The process made me feel closer to him, to God, and to myself. My pure sadness was such a gift and simply felt like love. When my grandma died last year, I knew I needed to approach her death with the same intentionality and presence. Can you believe I found joy in my sadness? God has the greatest gifts for you when you're willing to dive into the feelings you fear the most.

Who are you grieving? What are you grieving? I wonder what gifts God has in store for you if you were to allow yourself to completely embrace your sadness with patience, kindness, and deep care. If you need support or guidance with grieving the loss of a loved one, please consider joining *The First Years Without Them* grief support group with Mount Olivet Counseling Service which begins April 18 and meets weekly for eight weeks (until June 6). You may also consider attending the upcoming grief retreat, *Growing Through Grief*, at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center on April 6, which is an event to embrace any and all types of loss. We hope to see you at these healing events.

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

6TH GRADE FIRST COMMUNION SERVICES

Sunday, March 3, 1 pm, Mpls Campus & livestreamed
Sunday, March 10, 1 pm, West Campus

6th Graders and their families are invited to attend one of the First Communion services. Please contact Katy Michaletz, kmichaletz@mtolivet.org or 612.767.2245 for more information.



BABYGARTEN SPRING SESSION

Thursdays, March 14 through April 18, 10-11 am, Mpls Campus

We will play, read, and sing at this weekly faith-based hour-long class developed by a children's librarian and early childhood specialist. Babygarten focuses on reading, rhyming, and activities. It is more than a playgroup or story time – Babygarten provides pre-literacy skills for children in a faith-based environment. Amy Porthan, Children and Family Faith Formation Coordinator, will guide parents with activities and discussion on how to incorporate faith into your child's play. Cost: \$72 for 6 week session which includes all materials. If you have questions, please contact Amy Porthan at 612.767.2285 or amyp@mtolivet.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPS ARE STILL OPEN!

We have three fun options for middle school students over the summer!

Call or text a friend (or two!) and join us!

SUMMERTIME PLAYERS!

MONDAY, JULY 15 THROUGH FRIDAY, JULY 19, 9AM-4PM, \$300

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!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINI CAMPS

TUESDAY, JUNE 18 THROUGH THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 9AM-4PM, \$180

We will get ice cream and go on fun field trips including swimming and hanging out at MOA!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 THROUGH THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 9AM-4PM, \$180

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!



JOIN US!

CAREER & CALLING

Tuesday, March 12, 4:30-6pm, online via Microsoft Teams

Join us for an online conversation as we network, learn, and grow together! Mount Oliver's Career & Calling ministry offers our members and friends an arena for nurturing our careers and supporting each other. We aim to grow professionally and support each other as we balance work and life. Register online at mtolivet.org.

SPRING FOOD DRIVE

Sunday, March 17, 8:30-11am, Mpls & West Campus

You are encouraged to take part in the March MN FoodShare campaign. Please drop off food or monetary donations at either campus. Items collected in Minneapolis will support Community Emergency Service (CES) and the West donations will go to Bountiful Baskets. This is a great opportunity to help alleviate hunger in our communities! Donations for Angel Gifts baskets will also be collected.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Sunday, March 17, 12noon, Mpls Campus

Join us at the annual meeting to hear from your Mount Oliver Pastors and the Congregation Council as we review the past church year and plan for Mount Oliver's bright future, a future filled with hope.

YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS

Tuesday, March 19, 12noon, Mpls Campus, \$10

Young in Heart & Friends invites you to join us for lunch, with entertainment provided by the musical group, Tinker Boys. Using elements of vocals, guitar, fiddle and various other instruments, Tinker Boys meld together influences of contemporary and traditional Irish music. In their time together, Tinker Boys have performed at regional Irish/Celtic festivals, formal events, and have been the opening act for performers such as Gaelic Storm, Luka Bloom, and Michael Black. With a variety of original and traditional songs in their repertoire, Tinker Boys' music will keep your fingers and toes tapping. Don't miss this incredible event, and make sure to bring a friend! Register by Friday March 15, at mtolivet.org, or by contacting Tricia Asuncion at 612.767.2210 or tasuncion@mtolivet.org.

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.

FLYING SOLO: SERVE AT COMMUNITY MEALS

Thursday, March 21, 4-5:30pm, Mpls Campus

Join Flying Solo as we serve our drive-through Community Meal at the Minneapolis Campus. Register at mtolivet.org.

FIKA MUSIC SERIES: PETER AND THE WOLF

Sunday, April 14, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus, free of charge

The concert featuring the musical composition, *Peter and the Wolf* written by Sergei Prokofiev, will be a fun event for the entire family. Known as a "symphonic tale for children," the concert will involve a woodwind quintet, a narrator, and the listening audience!



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Easter Sunday

MARCH 31

MPLS CAMPUS: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11AM

WEST CAMPUS: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11AM

AND LIVESTREAMED AT MTOLIVET.ORG