

NOVEMBER 2024

BELIEVING, BELONGING, BECOMING

MOUNT OLIVET  
**MESSENGER**



*mtolivet.org*

# JOIN US

**M MPLS CAMPUS**

5025 Knox Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55419  
612.926.7651

**W WEST CAMPUS**

7150 Rolling Acres Rd  
Victoria, MN 55386  
952.767.1500

## SUNDAYS

**DIAL-IN VIA PHONE**  
833.775.1238

11am

**WATCH THE MPLS  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT  
MTOLIVET.ORG**

9, 10, 11am

**HOLY COMMUNION**

8:30 & 11:45am

**NURSERY**

9, 10, 11am

## NOVEMBER 3

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY  
IN THE BEGINNING  
COVENANT WITH  
ABRAHAM**

*Genesis 15:1-6*

**M** 9, 10, 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Lose

**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs

**W** 9, 10, 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Grangaard

**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs

## NOVEMBER 10

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY  
IN THE BEGINNING  
SARAH LAUGHS**

*Genesis 18:1-15*

**M** 9, 10, 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Cieslik

**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs

**W** 9, 10, 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Freeman

**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs

## NOVEMBER 17

**IN THE BEGINNING  
JACOB WRESTLES**

*Genesis 32:22-31*

**M** 9, 10, 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Dixon

**MUSIC** Chapel & Sanctuary  
Choirs

**W** 9, 10, 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Lose

**MUSIC** Combined Cathedral  
Choir & Sanctuary  
Choir

## NOVEMBER 24

**IN THE BEGINNING  
JOSEPH DREAMS...AND  
FORGIVES**

*Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22,  
26-34; 50:15-21*

**M** 9, 10, 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Olson Popp

**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs

**W** 9, 10, 11am

**SERMON** Pastor Cieslik

**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs

## NOVEMBER 27

**THANKSGIVING EVE**

*Luke 17:11-19*

**M** 6pm

**SERMON** Pastor Freeman

**MUSIC** Cathedral & Sanctuary  
Choirs

**W** 6pm

**SERMON** Pastor Hammersten

**MUSIC** Cathedral & Sanctuary  
Choirs

# Four Words of Counsel and a Prayer

As many historians have noted, Martin Luther's Reformation, though theological in nature, had significant political dimensions as well. In fact, 250 years later, James Madison, primary architect of the United States Constitution, credited Luther as the source of much of his thinking about the relationship between church and state. With the presidential election just days away, I thought I would offer four elements of Luther's thought that still seem relevant today and then close with a prayer for election day.

*Church and State are separate, related, and equal ways by which God works to care for God's people.* The primary role of the church is to care for the spiritual and eternal dimensions of our life and, principally, our relationship to God. The primary responsibility of the state is to tend the physical and worldly dimensions of our lives, including especially our relationships with each other. When government interferes with spiritual matters or when the church tries to create a "religious state," things go awry quickly. At the same time, church and state can both support each other and hold each other accountable. Good government protects religious liberty and guards against church over-reach and abuse. Similarly, the church is called to pray for and support those in office as well as critique officials who do not deal fairly with all of God's people.

*The primary role of the state is to exercise parental love.* "Love" may seem like an odd word to apply to government, but Luther believed strongly in "*lex carita*," the law of love, as the principle by which God expects government to function. In this sense, the primary tasks of government – to promote peace and safety and ensure that basic needs are regularly met – are nearly identical to the role that parent's play for their children. Luther believed, following numerous biblical passages, that the primary role of government was to ensure that everyone had enough to flourish, offering particular care and concern for the most vulnerable. For this reason, he was one of the first people to advocate for public schools to educate children and a common treasury to assist the poor. He believed strongly that this exercise of parental love was the primary reason God placed officials in positions of authority and would be the primary standard by which God would hold them accountable.

*Our primary identity is baptismal, not ideological.* Luther was a pragmatist and so was open to a variety of ideas by which to advance the common good. No person – or, in our context, political party – has all the good ideas. What mattered most is the goal to make sure everyone had enough to flourish, not the means by which

to accomplish this goal. For this reason, Luther believed Christians can, and often will, disagree with each other over a particular course of action. The call of the Christian during divided times, therefore, is to view those who disagree with us over policy as our Christian brothers and sisters, worthy of dignity and respect, even though we might disagree with them strongly on any particular course of action. This does not mean that particular policies, positions, or decisions don't matter; they do. But whatever political differences we may hold should not threaten our deeper and more fundamental identity as Christians.

*Luther placed his ultimate trust in God.* No matter how bad things got, Luther nevertheless trusted in God's care and, for this reason, resisted calls for either despair or revolt. He was therefore deeply suspicious of those who spoke in apocalyptic terms or offered themselves as the only solution. But this wasn't always easy. In fact, while gathered with friends, students, and family at dinner one evening, Luther voiced his discouragement with the results of his reformation and the general state of Germany. After listening to his complaints, Luther's wife Katie left the table and came back wearing all black. When Luther inquired why, she replied, "Given how pessimistic and glum you are, Dr. Luther, I assumed that God must have died and so I am dressed for his funeral." Laughing at his wife's humorous critique, Luther brightened and returned to the work of reforming the church. This is why we come to worship, even and especially with those with whom we may disagree: to remind each that the future is in God's hands, that we are all God's children, and that God will continue to work through all of us for the sake of the world.

With this in mind, allow this prayer for election day: *Dear God, grant us eyes to see all people as your beloved children; ears to hear the cries of those who are neglected; strength to work tirelessly for the good of others; compassion for those with whom we disagree or differ; hearts that trust the future is in your hands; wisdom to sense your will; courage to follow it; and forgiveness when we fall short. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*

Blessings this election day and always. And... see you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR

# Happy Thanksgiving

## THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27,  
6PM, MPLS & WEST CAMPUSES**

Join us for a heartwarming Thanksgiving Eve service at the Mpls & West Campuses. Come and enjoy beautiful music from the current Cathedral Choir, college-aged Cathedral Choir alumni, and Sanctuary Choir as we all lift our voices together in hymns of gratitude. Our High School students will share reflections on thankfulness, offering us a chance to reflect on the blessings in our lives. Stay afterward for cookies and fellowship in the Narthex as we gather in community to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving. We look forward to sharing this special evening with you!

## THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17,  
8:30-11AM, BOTH CAMPUSES**

Support our ministry partners in their hunger initiatives by bringing non-perishable food items or monetary donations to either campus. Donations will benefit CES at the Mpls Campus and Bountiful Basket at the West Campus.

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

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27,  
6-8PM, MPLS CAMPUS, FREE**

We've missed you and you've missed each other! Come to Thanksgiving Eve Worship and stick around afterwards for a reunion (with a little pizza) in the Youth Center. Also, Dr. Claffin is inviting us to sing with the Cathedral Choir during worship! If you do that, please arrive at 5pm for rehearsal and wear your good old blue Cathedral Choir shirt.

## FRIENDS FOREVER THANKSGIVING BRUNCH

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24,  
11AM-2PM, MPLS CAMPUS, \$20**

Join the Friends Forever group for a Thanksgiving Brunch! Join us for worship at 11am followed by a yummy brunch in Fellowship Hall! Cost is \$20 per person. Register online at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).

## HOLIDAY BUTTER BRAID SALES

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

### THANKSGIVING BUTTER BRAID SALES

Butter Braid sales for Thanksgiving will take place on-site at the Holiday Boutique on Saturday, November 2, at the Mpls Campus and at the Holiday Market on Saturday, November 9, at the West Campus. Plan now to attend these festive holiday shops and purchase your Thanksgiving Butter Braids!

### CHRISTMAS BUTTER BRAID SALES

Orders will be taken online November 1 through November 24. Order pick-up will take place on Sunday, December 8, from 9-11am at the campus you selected in your order.

## LIFE & GROWTH

### SEP 17 - OCT 14

#### BAPTISMS

**Evan Reid Anderson**

*son of Jaime and Luke*

**Meredith Joy Anliker**

*daughter of Cassie and Tony*

**Willa Grace Arnold**

*daughter of Aubrie and Matt*

**Whitney Dot Champion**

*daughter of Allison and Nathaniel*

**Tessa Grace Houston**

*daughter of Kate*

**Ilse Bea Johnson**

*daughter of Jocelyn and Ethan*

**Sally Kent Johnson**

*daughter of Jocelyn and Ethan*

**Jack Kenneth Johnson**

*son of Hannah and Kyle*

**Emerson Jean LaValle**

*daughter of Katie and Justin*

**Jovie Johnette LaValle**

*daughter of Katie and Justin*

**Sophia Grace O'Connor**

*daughter of Brooke and Ryan*

#### WEDDINGS

**Samantha Cameranesi & Michael**

**Fuller, September 28**

**Caroline Moynihan & Joel**

**Dehnel, September 28**

**Emily Dessin & Andrew Ruona,**

**October 5**

**Debra Stage & Alfred Iversen,**

**October 5**

**Kaitlin Brunner & Tyler Lursen,**

**October 12**

**Ingrid Rischmiller & Joshua**

**Liljenquist, October 12**

#### DEATHS

**Evelyn Barber, 1935-2024**

**Jerry Beckman, 1932-2024**

**Robert Berglund, 1930-2024**

**James Hancer, 1947-2024**

**Beverly Lindeman, 1935-2024**

**James Mossey, 1944-2024**

**Arnold Peeders, 1947-2024**

**Lee Runningen, 1948-2024**

**Annette Tighe, 1945-2024**

**Georgia Udell, 1939-2024**

## DEVOTION

Each week in worship, we're retold that we **"look always and only to God alone for our eternal home and hope."** I find this to be an especially important reminder during an election month, when we can easily put our deepest hope in people other than Jesus Christ—presidents and elected officials to name a few.

Many of us will live out our vocation as citizens of this country by heading to the polls to vote for representatives, judges, and ballot measures. However, we fill in our circles remembering that the kingdom to which we truly belong, the kingdom to which we are children of God, is much bigger than this or any country or any human ruler. We remember—whether we celebrate or despair in the results—that our hope comes first from God whose kingdom never ends.

This November, may you join me in trusting in the promise that Jesus Christ is our true hope, whose rule is one of humility, self-sacrifice, and unconditional love for all of creation. No matter what comes about from election day, we take heart in knowing that we belong to a God who will never leave us or forsake us.

— PASTOR OLSON POPP



## NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

### NEW MEMBER ORIENTATIONS

**Sunday, November 3, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus**

Attention future Mount Olivet members! Meet the Pastors, staff, members of the Board of Life and Growth, and connect with other new members. Brunch will be served, and childcare is available for infants through 5 years old. Register online at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).

### NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

**Sunday, November 10, Mpls & West Campuses**

New members will be recognized during worship services with carnations.

To learn more, ask questions, or to register for a New Member Orientation, please contact Gail Breen at [gbreen@mtolivet.org](mailto:gbreen@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2289.

## A LEGACY OF LOVE BECOME A VISION PARTNER

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on what matters most. Consider extending your generosity beyond this lifetime by including Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and/or affiliated ministries in your will or estate plan. By doing so, you'll join a cherished community of Vision Partners dedicated to making a lasting impact.

Contact Rev. Brian Mortenson today to discover how you can leave a legacy of love and support for future generations. He can be reached at 612.767.2259 or [bmortenson@mtolivet.org](mailto:bmortenson@mtolivet.org).





# MOCW HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE & HOLIDAY MARKET

Saturday, November 2, 9am-2pm, Mpls Campus & Saturday, November 9, 9am-2pm, West Campus

Join us for the MOCW Holiday Boutique and Holiday Market featuring fine art, crafts, pottery, jewelry, home decor, culinary gifts, “Dala House” kids-only shopping, and more!

## 94TH MOCW LUTEFISK DINNER

### DINNER DETAILS

Friday, December 6, 3-7PM, Mpls Campus, \$25 adults, \$5 kids 12 & under

Join us for the 94th Lutefisk Dinner. The all you can eat buffet includes: lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, rutabagas, boiled potatoes, pickled beets, and yes of course... butter or white sauce! **Advance ticket sales are requested at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).**

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

What makes this dinner so special is the many hands that help put the meal together - and we need your help! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heather Goudy, Lutefisk Chair and MOCW President, at [heathergoudy@hotmail.com](mailto:heathergoudy@hotmail.com) with the times and job you'd like to help with.

### AVAILABLE SHIFTS

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2:** Scooping Cookie Dough at 12noon

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3:** Rolling Meatballs and/or Scooping Cookie Dough at 12noon

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4:** Rolling Meatballs at 12noon

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5:** Making Rutabagas at 9am & Making Rice Pudding at 1pm

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6:** Table Setting and Lefse Rolling at 9am, Making Potatoes at 10am, Making White Sauce at 12:30pm, Cooking Lutefisk at 1pm, Making Butter at 1:30pm, Server/Busser, Buffet Servers, Plate Scrapers, and Coffee/Water Attendants at 2:30-5pm, 5-7pm, or 2:30-7pm.





# Christmas For All



## Gift Suggestions

### ONLY NEW ITEMS ACCEPTED

#### GIFTS ARE NEEDED FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS:

<b>Teens/Adults</b>	<b>Household Items</b>	<b>\$20 Gift Cards to</b>
Athletic & Fun Socks	Bakeware	<b>Local Retailers</b>
Arts & Crafts Kits	Batteries	Coffee Shops
Belt Bags	Blankets or Throws	Fast Food
Blankets & Throws	Cookware	Gas Stations
Electric Razors	Small Electronics	Online Retailers
Hoodies (Sizes: M-XL)	Towel Sets	
LED String Lights		<b>Toys</b>
Male & Female Hygiene Kits	<b>Arts &amp; Crafts Kits</b>	Baby Toys
		Building Blocks
	<b>Sporting Goods &amp; Sleds</b>	Cars/Trucks
		Interactive Learning
<b>Electronics</b>		Toys
Bluetooth Speakers		Lego Sets
Charging Banks	<b>Games</b>	Musical Toys
Ear Buds	Electronic Games	Plush Toys
Headphones	Educational Games	
Phone Accessories		

\*We will also accept new winter outerwear of all sizes.\*

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

#### DONATIONS ACCEPTED:

Wednesday, November 13 through  
Wednesday, December 4 at the Mpls & West  
Campuses.

**EVERYONE** is invited to participate in our 6th Annual Christmas for All! Each year we create a Holiday store for Love INC families at the West Campus. Individuals are able to sign up and shop for their loved ones on Saturday, 12/7, from 11am-3pm. In addition to the Love INC store, your Christmas for All donations will support Christmas stores at Redeemer Lutheran Church and Southside Family Nurturing Center in the Minneapolis area.

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

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

**VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME** Help is needed transporting gifts to the West Campus prior to the event and assisting at the event on 12/7. Visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) to sign-up to volunteer. If you have questions, please contact Laurie Hancer at [lhancer@mtolivet.org](mailto:lhancer@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2267.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## MOUNT OLIVET ART CLASSES

### WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Tuesday, November 12, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$35

Following step-by-step instructions from the instructor, paint a beautiful watercolor painting. You will learn different watercolor techniques, such as wet-on-wet and dry brushing. This is a wonderful way to learn to paint in watercolors even if you have no experience. All supplies are provided.

### ACRYLIC POUR ORNAMENT

Tuesday, December 3, 6-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$40

Pour painting is an innovative way to use acrylic paints to create a work of art. In this class you will learn the process of mixing acrylic paints with other mediums to give it a more fluid consistency so that it can be poured directly over a globe ornament. Each painter will get two ornaments to pour paint on which make beautiful holiday gifts. This class is perfect for a young artist - 12 years of age and up!



## CAREER & CALLING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 12, 4:30-6pm & Tuesday, December 10, 4:30-6pm

Join us for an online conversation as we network, learn, and grow together! Mount Olivet's Career & Calling ministry offers our members and friends an arena for nurturing our careers and supporting each other. We aim to grow professionally through networking, learning, and supporting each other as we balance work and life. Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).



## FIKA MUSIC SERIES: LATIN JAZZ SOIRÉE

Sunday, November 17, 12:15pm, Mpls Campus & livestreamed at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org), FREE!

Experience the magic of Latin rhythms at our *Latin Jazz Soirée* as we showcase the vibrant tapestry of Latin music. Our jazz ensemble will feature our talented Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts teachers such as Mike Walter on electric guitar and Scott Agster on trombone along with other instruments such as bass, percussion, piano, and voice. Come and join us for a **free** concert displaying an array of rhythms from salsa and bossa nova to samba and bolero.



## YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS

Tuesday, November 19, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$10

Young in Heart and Friends invites you to join us for lunch, fellowship, and our guest speaker Dr. Kerry Petsinger. Dr. Petsinger will be sharing her "Mornings that Matter" routine. You'll gain practical strategies to enhance your mornings, giving you a strong sense of purpose and energy to carry you through the day. Bring a friend to share in the experience. Register by November 15, at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or by contacting Tricia Asuncion at 612.767.2210 or [tsuncion@mtolivet.org](mailto:tsuncion@mtolivet.org).





## FLYING SOLO CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

**Sunday, November 24, 3-5pm, Mpls Campus, \$10**

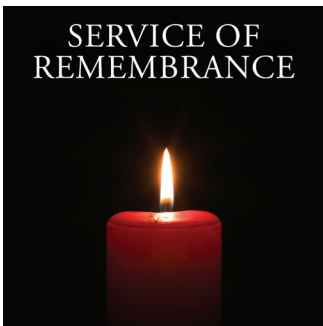
Put on your favorite tropical attire and join the Flying Solo group for a little summer fun in November! We will have a friendly cornhole tournament, music, prizes, snacks & beverages. Bring a light appetizer to share and join us in the Mpls Campus gym. Register online at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).



## ORDER A POINSETTIA FOR THE CHRISTMAS CHANCEL GARDEN

**Order November 4 through December 8, \$35 per plant**

During this special time of year, please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia to beautify our sanctuaries during the holiday season. The Poinsettia Chancel Garden is displayed from December 22 through Christmas Day. A list of the donors and those remembered or honored will be included in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22. Minimum donation is \$35 per poinsettia. Order at [mtolivet.org/poinsettia](http://mtolivet.org/poinsettia) or by contacting Jody Barbee at 952.767.1501 or [jbarbee@mtolivet.org](mailto:jbarbee@mtolivet.org).



## SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

**Tuesday, December 3, 6:30pm, Mpls Campus**

**Tuesday, December 10, 6:30pm, West Campus**

This service features a time of healing and reflection with peaceful harp music, a vocal soloist, and a time to light a candle in memory of your loved one.

**If you would like the first and last name of your loved one read during the service, please visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) to register or contact Julie Goodman at 612.767.2208 or [julieg@mtolivet.org](mailto:julieg@mtolivet.org).**



## WINTER COMMUNION SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

**Saturday, December 7, 11am-1pm, Mpls Campus**

Please join us for a worship service with Christmas readings, carols, and Holy Communion, followed by a festive lunch in Fellowship Hall. This service is designed for members and family who are often unable to come to church. To register, please contact Nancy Nelson at 612.767.2288 or email at [nnelson@mtolivet.org](mailto:nnelson@mtolivet.org). If transportation is needed, please let Nancy know.

# SING AND BE MERRY!

## MESSIAH SING-ALONG

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8,  
3:15PM REHEARSAL,  
4PM PERFORMANCE,  
MPLS CAMPUS**

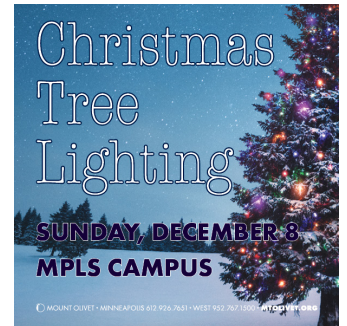
Get ready for Mount Olivet's annual *Messiah* Sing-along! This festive December tradition brings the community together in a powerful celebration of music and joy. Warm up your voice at the 3:15pm rehearsal, then prepare to join hundreds of voices singing together at the 4pm concert. The large community chorus will perform the four uplifting choruses with our Sanctuary choirs from both campuses. In addition, enjoy the exceptional talent of our outstanding featured soloists, performing the most cherished Christmas pieces from *Messiah*. This year, we're increasing participation by inviting community string players to help bring the iconic *Hallelujah* Chorus to life! Come join us! For more information, contact Beverly Clafin at [beverlyc@mtolivet.org](mailto:beverlyc@mtolivet.org). Don't miss out on this spectacular holiday event!



## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8,  
3-5PM GATHERING,  
5PM TREE LIGHTING,  
MPLS CAMPUS ON  
JAMES AVE**

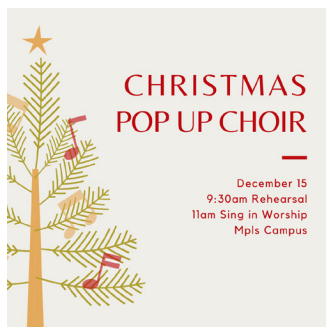
Join us as we light the Mount Olivet Christmas Tree on 50th and James Ave in Mpls! We will gather around our tree, share a song, and light up our small corner of south Minneapolis with grateful anticipation of the Savior and light of the world. There will be music, treats, crafts, and even Santa and reindeer will be available for pictures! In addition, you can pick-up your pre-ordered Gingerbread House Kits at this event. For more information, about ordering a Gingerbread House Kit, please see page 12.



## CHRISTMAS POP-UP CHOIR FOR ALL!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15,  
9:30AM REHEARSAL,  
11AM SING IN WORSHIP,  
MPLS CAMPUS**

Do you feel the Christmas spirit calling you to sing? If so, we've got just the spot for you! Grandparents, parents, youth, siblings, and friends—let's all "carol" together and fill the air with joyful Christmas carols. Wear your favorite festive attire and join us; no chilly weather or walking from door to door required! On Sunday, December 15, at 9:30am we will come together to enjoy some hot chocolate, coffee, and treats before warming up our voices and preparing for the 11am service. Whether you're a seasoned singer or just joining in for fun, it's always better when we sing together, young and old alike. Invite your friends and family, and let's create a special Christmas memory through singing!



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT: GLORIA!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15,  
3 & 5PM, MPLS CAMPUS  
& LIVESTREAMED AT  
MTOLIVET.ORG**

Join us for a spectacular celebration of the Christmas season featuring over 500 singers and instrumentalists! This beloved annual concert is a must-see, filled with the beauty and joy of the holidays. Alongside the choir's beautiful voices, you'll experience the joyful sound of the handbells, the elegance of a string quartet, the excitement of four-hand piano accompaniments, a thrilling organ solo, and the lively rhythms of a talented group of percussionists. The congregation is warmly invited to sing the traditional Christmas hymns, culminating in the beloved closing anthem, *Peace, Peace*, sung together by the entire church in the glow of candlelight. These free concerts are our heartfelt gift to anyone seeking an uplifting and inspirational Christmas experience. *Lift up your voice, shout the good news: Behold, your Lord comes to you!*



# DAY ADVENT JOURNEY A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

December 3, 10am-3pm, Conference & Retreat Center, \$20 for lunch & program,  
\$10 for transportation

Join us for a meaningful day of reflection at Day Advent Journey, held from 10am to 3pm on Tuesday, December 3 at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center. Led by Pastor Dixon, Pastor Grangaard, Megan van Deusen (Nature Educator), and Dr. Theresa Latini, Executive Director of the Conference & Retreat Center. This year's theme, "A Light in the Darkness," invites us to wait for Jesus to shine brightly in all areas of our lives. Though the days get shorter and our griefs surface in this season, darkness is not grim because God is our Light. In our sessions together, we'll explore Lutheran perspectives on Jesus as our Light; we will sing and interpret hymns of light; and we will meditate on art and even create some of our own. Register now to begin your Advent journey with us. The annual Day Advent Journey provides space to gather with familiar and new friends and enter the season of Advent together through worship, learning, and conversation in a place of inspiring beauty. Begin the day with fresh pastries, enjoy a delicious lunch provided by our professional chefs, and end with communal worship. Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)

## Gratitude for Volunteers

Over the past month, volunteers have made a significant impact at the Conference & Retreat Center. A team of 30 individuals from the corporation VML transformed our nature playscape area with new wood chips, added rock to the fire pit, and tackled garden weeding and buckthorn removal. Another group from TruStone followed up with indoor upgrades like woodwork and painting. Most recently, our annual Fall Volunteer Day brought together regulars who readied the grounds for winter. We're also excited to welcome new front desk volunteers who extend our generous hospitality to all visitors. We give thanks for everyone who helps care for these 151 acres. If you're interested in volunteering, email Emily Osnes at [eosnes@mtolivet.org](mailto:eosnes@mtolivet.org) to join this vital work!

## Women's Weekend:

### *Braiding Our Lives with Love*

Friday, January 24 through Sunday, January 26, Conference & Retreat Center

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love is the center of our lives, yet if we are honest it can be difficult to love others in the midst of polarizing discourse; it can be challenging to find time to connect with God meaningfully; and it's easy to forget ourselves in the midst of our busyness and care for others. Together we will explore how to weave together these three strands of love without neglecting one for the other. We will 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 the women pastors of Mount Olivet Church and the Conference & Retreat Center Director, Theresa Latini. Register for single occupancy (\$395), double occupancy (\$275), dorm occupancy (\$220), or as a commuter (\$155). Registration opens December 2 at 8am at [mtolivetretreat.org/events](http://mtolivetretreat.org/events).



## TAKE-HOME GINGERBREAD KITS AVAILABLE TO ORDER

Sunday, December 8, 3-5pm, Mpls Campus, \$30

We're taking orders for our annual take-home Gingerbread Kits. Each Gingerbread Kit includes a house, extra treats and frosting for decorations, and a few activity ideas for the whole family! Please preorder your Gingerbread Kit at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org). You may pick them up at the Christmas Tree Lighting event on Sunday, December 8 (*more information about the Christmas Tree Lighting event can be found on page 10*). There will be a few available for purchase the day of the event. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Porthan at 612.767.2285 or [amyp@mtolivet.org](mailto:amyp@mtolivet.org).

# Bible Presentation Recap

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



# MEET OUR THANKSGIVING EVE SPEAKERS!

## MPLS CAMPUS

### PASTOR FREEMAN



I graduated from Mounds View High School. I am thankful for the way Mount Olivet builds community and shares God's love!

### ELLIE WALTER, JUNIOR AT EDINA HIGH SCHOOL



I am grateful for Mount Olivet and how I am able to grow my faith in God and form forever friendships with my church friends.

### AARON STOA, SENIOR AT WASHBURN HIGH SCHOOL



I am very grateful for the guidance and care I have received from the many staff and graduates over the past few years at church.

## WEST CAMPUS

### PASTOR HAMMERSTEN



I graduated from Richfield High School- Go Spartans! I am so very grateful to have grown up here at Mount Olivet where we hear over and over that God loves us exactly as we are.

### AVA PUMPER, JUNIOR AT CHANHASSEN HIGH SCHOOL



I am thankful that I always feel loved and appreciated at Mount Olivet whenever I'm there! Even if we are just making a craft or something, everyone is so grateful for your attendance.

### COOPER FOSTER, SOPHOMORE AT CHASKA HIGH SCHOOL



I am thankful for all the friends I have made and all the people I will meet throughout my journey with Christ.

# UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



## CHANCEL CHOIR GUSTAVUS RETREAT

**NOVEMBER 8-9**

During this fun overnight at Gustavus Adolphus College, we'll tour the campus, eat in the caf, and sing in Christ Chapel!



## THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

**NOVEMBER 17  
MPLS & WEST CAMPUSES**

7th and 8th graders can volunteer to help with the food drive to check off some of their Confirmation service hours.



## HI-LEAGUE

**11/3:** Roller Skating 7-9pm

**11/10:** Thanksgiving Bingo  
7-8pm

**11/16:** Wild Game! 6-10pm

**11/17:** Sharegroups 7-8:30pm



## THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

**NOVEMBER 27, 6PM,  
MPLS & WEST CAMPUSES**

Join us for a worship service of thanks where some of our High School students will share their thoughts about how their faith has grown through their experiences at church.

# LIVING THE MESSAGE: EIGHT ESSENTIAL BIBLE STORIES

This Living the Message series is taught by Pastor Lose and runs the first Tuesday of the month through May 2025, 6:30-7:30pm or via emailed videos. All are welcome at any time.

## EXODUS 20: WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM/ FOR US?

Tuesday, November 12\*, 6:30-7:30pm, West Campus Rehearsal Hall

\*One week later due to November 5 Election Day

Across the centuries, various people and cultures have shared their sense of God (or gods) via myths, commandments, prohibitions, ceremonial celebrations, and more. In this regard, the story of the Ten Commandments feels like many other attempts to describe God's will for God's people. At the same time, and by looking a little more closely, you discover a God very different from what other communities have imagined... and maybe different from what we imagine! Come to discover a God unlike all others!



## MARK 7: GOD BECAME ONE OF US. REALLY!

Tuesday, December 3, 6:30-7:30pm, Mpls Campus Room 207

Most of us associate December with all-things-Christmas, and so it's only natural to take up a beloved Christmas story for December's Living the Message: *Jesus and the Syrophenician Woman* found in Mark 7:24-30. Wait! You've not sure you've ever heard of this story... have no idea what "Syrophenician" is... and are pretty sure you have no Christmas ornament depicting this strange, even off-putting encounter. Well... you're not alone. In fact, when I shared this story at a recent staff meeting, one of our longest serving staff members asked, "How can I be 60 years old and never have heard of this story before!?" But when you dig into this story with care (as we'll do December 3) you quickly realize it really is about Christmas or, at least, about the central affirmation of the faith that Christmas represents: that in Jesus, God – eternal creator and sustainer of the cosmos – became fully and really human. So come join us as we read the story of a courageous woman; a genuinely human messiah; a missing, or at least misunderstood, part of the Creed; and more! imagined... and maybe different from what we imagine! Come to discover a God unlike all others!

## PASTOR'S PICKS

*Throughout the coming months, one of our pastors will recommend a book that meant something to them at some point in their faith life journey that they feel others will enjoy reading and hopefully learn from as well. We begin with Pastor Olson Popp:*

### FREE OF CHARGE: GIVING AND FORGIVING IN A CULTURE STRIPPED OF GRACE BY MIROSLAV VOLF

This book was the first theology that was put in my hands, and it changed my life. It's an accessible, thought provoking, convicting, and liberating take on grace and forgiveness, all flowing to and through us from an abundantly generous God. A great book if you struggle to receive grace, are wrestling with offering forgiveness, or just want to be blown away by how amazing our God is.

PASTOR OLSON POPP

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

**DAYTIME:** 10-11:30am the 2nd Tuesday of each month

**EVENING:** 7-8:30pm the 2nd Wednesday of the month

Both held in the Mpls Campus Library

### UPCOMING BOOKS:

**NOVEMBER 12/13:** *Trust* by Hernan Diaz

**DECEMBER 10/11:** *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

**JANUARY 14/15:** *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

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



# STEWARDSHIP + GRATITUDE MOMENT

Please choose one of the ministries listed in the Stewardship “What Your Gifts Accomplish” graph to the right (originally shared during a September “Stewardship Moment” in worship). Take a moment to reflect with gratitude upon that ministry: How does the ministry help remind you of God’s love? How does it share God’s love with others? How does your chosen ministry impact your life or the lives of those you love?

I chose the Christmas Concert (quickly approaching this year—December 15!) and thought about how incredibly grateful I am to be a part of a church that understands the importance music plays in the lives of all its members. This concert famously ends each year with the choirs singing *Peace, Peace* and the congregation joining in on *Silent Night*. Candles are lit in a darkened sanctuary one-by-one until we are all enveloped in the glow of peace. I am so grateful for that concert and the entire music ministry at Mount Olivet as it share God’s love with so many in such a powerful and beautiful way. I gratefully give to Mount Olivet to ensure generations continue to know that joy of music and the message it delivers.

Thank you for taking a moment to reflect with gratitude—and for all your gifts to Mount Olivet!

KATIE STEVENSON, *Director of Stewardship*

## WHAT YOUR GIFTS ACCOMPLISH

Your faithful generosity helps us care for people at all ages and stages of life as we strive to believe the good news of Jesus, belong to a servant congregation, and become the people and church God wants us to be! Below is a breakdown of our overall budget in seven ministry areas. Thank you for your generosity!

## ANNUAL BUDGET: MINISTRY AREAS

<b>12%</b>	<b>Preach and Teach the Word</b> Sunday Sermons, Living the Message, The Gospel Unplugged, Sunday School
<b>17%</b>	<b>Invest in Our Youth</b> Cathedral of the Pines Camp, 6th Grade Starter, Summer Day Camps, Confirmation, Junior High Alive, Hi-League
<b>12%</b>	<b>Build Relationships</b> MOCW Circles & Events, Bible study small groups, Friends Forever, Hi-er League, Motorheads
<b>15%</b>	<b>Care for Our Facilities</b> Mpls and West Campuses, Conference & Retreat Center, Cathedral of the Pines Camp, Counseling Center
<b>12%</b>	<b>Walk with You in Important Moments of Life</b> Births and Baptisms, Hospital visits from cradle to grave, Weddings, Counseling Center
<b>16%</b>	<b>Inspire with Worship, Music, and the Arts</b> Sunday Worship, Christmas Concert, Choirs for all ages, School of Music and the Arts
<b>16%</b>	<b>Reach out to the Community in Love</b> Community Meals, Donation Drives, Community Partners, Mount Olivet Preschool, Summer Day Camps

### WAYS TO PLEDGE & GIVE!

#### PLEDGE

Please take time to pause, pray, and make your 2025 commitment to Mount Olivet. To make your 2025 pledge:

- Use the PLEDGE QR code
- Return the pledge card that was mailed to you
- Go online to [mtolivet.org/stewardship](http://mtolivet.org/stewardship)



#### GIVE

Thank you to all who support Mount Olivet through scheduled giving. To set up or update your scheduled giving:

- Use the GIVE QR code
- Visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) under GIVING



If you have questions about pledging or giving, please contact Tricia Lehrol-Morgan in our finance office at 612.767.2255 or at [tricial@mtolivet.org](mailto:tricial@mtolivet.org).



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