

MARCH 2025

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

## MARCH 2

**TRANSFIGURATION**  
*Luke 9:28-36*

**M** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Olson Popp  
**MUSIC** Cherub, Chancel,  
Cathedral, &  
Sanctuary Choirs

**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Cieslik  
**MUSIC** Cherub, Chancel,  
Cathedral, &  
Sanctuary Choirs

## MARCH 5

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
COMMUNION SERVICES**  
*Luke 9:51-56*

**M** 8am, 12noon, 5pm, &  
\*7pm

**W** 5pm & \*7pm

*\*Youth-led service*

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

## MARCH 9

**WHY LUTHERAN?  
BECAUSE GOD WANTS  
US TO LOVE ONE  
ANOTHER.**

*Luke 10:25-37*

**M** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Dixon  
**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs

**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Freeman  
**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs

## MARCH 16

**WHY LUTHERAN?  
BECAUSE GOD WILL  
NOT GIVE UP ON US.**  
*Luke 15:1-10*

**M** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Grangaard  
**MUSIC** Hosanna, Chapel, &  
Sanctuary Choirs

**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Cieslik  
**MUSIC** Hosanna, Chapel, &  
Sanctuary Choirs

## MARCH 23

**WHY LUTHERAN?  
BECAUSE GOD IS MORE  
LIKE A PARENT THAN A  
KING.**  
*Luke 15:11-32*

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

**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Olson Popp  
**MUSIC** Cathedral &  
Sanctuary Choirs

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**M** 12noon

## MARCH 30

**WHY LUTHERAN?  
BECAUSE GOD LOVES  
SINNERS.**  
*Luke 18:9-14*

**M** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Kalland  
**MUSIC** Handbell Ensemble

**W** 9, 10, 11am  
**SERMON** Pastor Hammersten  
**MUSIC** Matthew Valverde,  
tenor

## USHERS NEEDED!

We are in need of ushers at both the Mpls and West Campuses, our greatest needs are for the 9 and 11am crews. The commitment to usher is 12 Sundays per year, plus special services as needed. We depend on our usher crews to greet members and visitors alike and to make them feel comfortable and welcome to our congregation. If you are interested in being an usher, please contact Julie Reece at [julier@mtolivet.org](mailto:julier@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2260.

# Praying in Lent

For most of the church's history, the season of Lent – the 40 days (not including Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter – has been considered an opportunity for spiritual renewal. Self-denial (embodied in the tradition of “giving something up for Lent”), offering help to the poor, giving greater attention to Bible study (Lenten devotions), and a renewed focus on prayer are among the most common practices. Of these, I want to focus on the last, as over my career as a pastor I've probably had more questions about prayer than anything else, with the most frequent questions being “what is prayer?” and “how do I pray?”

First, a few thoughts related to the question, “what is prayer?”

1. *I do not fully understand prayer.* Perhaps that sounds like something a pastor should not admit, but it's nevertheless true. There is a mystery to prayer that makes understanding it fully, let alone explaining just “how it works,” difficult if not impossible.
2. *I don't need to understand prayer fully to practice it regularly.* Like love, faith, and other things that remain mysterious, perfect knowledge is not a requirement to jump in and work at it. And there is no better time to start than now.
3. *Prayer seems to me more like a conversation than simply a request or status update.* Focusing on the conversational aspect of prayer highlights that prayer is primarily about maintaining and deepening our relationship with God. Conversation is central to any relationship, including the one we have with God, and that's where prayer comes in.
4. *You can say anything to God in prayer.* Both Jesus and the Apostle Paul used the Greek words *pater* – “father” – and *abba* – “daddy” or “papa” – to speak to God and to describe the relationship we have with God through prayer (Romans 8:15, Mark 14:36). There is a familial, even intimate, relationship implied in those words that reminds us that we can speak from the heart as we would to a loving parent.
5. *There is no formula that guarantees prayer “works.”* Beware those who counsel that “if you just prayed harder” things would have gone your way. God is not a vending machine, and prayer is not about using the exact change. Rather, by focusing on the relational dimension of prayer, we can shift the common and problematic question “did God answer my prayer?” to “did God hear me?”

Second, a few suggestions in response to the question, “How do I pray?”

1. In a letter to his friend (and barber) Peter Beskendorf on this very question, Martin Luther counseled the following: “It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last at night.” I find that offering a prayer shortly after

waking orients the rest of my day in a positive way. Similarly, closing my day in prayer allows a moment's review of the day, provides a measure of closure to those activities, and prepares me for a better night's rest.

2. There is no “right” way to pray. Whatever you want to share with God is the best form of prayer. Having said that, I find that most of my prayers can be captured by one of these four everyday words and phrases:

*Please:* asking for what we want or hope to happen. There's no shame in being honest about our needs and desires, whether it's a huge request – “please cure my friend of cancer” – or a relatively minor one – “please help me write and preach a decent sermon.”

*Thank you:* acknowledging the blessings that attend our lives. Gratitude is a powerful emotion, and expressing our thanks often prepares us to see and experience God's blessings more fully.

*Wow:* naming the wonder we experience, whether in relation to a moment of good fortune, a beautiful sunset, or the delight we witness on a child's face. Wonder, like gratitude, seems to multiply when named.

*I'm sorry/sad:* sharing our disappointments, whether with ourselves – “I'm sorry I did/didn't...” – or with others or the world – “I'm disappointed about...” In the Psalms, often called “the prayer book of Israel,” there is a long tradition of “lament” that includes naming regret, grief, fear, hopelessness, and more. Giving voice to these emotions strengthens our relationship with God as we grow in our trust that we can be honest with God about what is hard. Further, naming difficult feelings can also rob them of some of their power and make room for other feelings like hope and courage.

I'm not suggesting you need to make sure you hit each of these four elements in your prayers, but rather that when you find it difficult to pray or are not sure where to begin, you might wonder which of these four – please, thank you, wow, or I'm sorry/sad – best captures where you are at the moment and provides a starting point.

With this in mind, why not take this Lent as an opportunity to grow in your prayer life. Your prayers don't have to be perfect, or eloquent, or long, or anything else for that matter. They just need to be honest. And each of us can do that.

See you in Church!



Pastor Lose

DAVID J. LOSE, SENIOR PASTOR



# Why Lutheran?

## UNDERSTAND MORE DEEPLY WHAT WE BELIEVE

I think that it can often be hard to understand what makes different Christian traditions distinct. Is it our worship, our hymnody, our ethnic heritages? At heart, I think that the most important way traditions differ is how they imagine God. Historian Peter Matheson argues that Martin Luther's Reformation was not primarily a war of ideas or even theology, but rather of imagination, as Luther sought to persuade an entire generation to imagine God differently – not as a stern judge but rather a loving parent – and, in turn, to imagine their lives and roles differently – not as those created to please a demanding God but instead set free to serve their neighbor in joy. “The Reformation,” Matheson contends, “was more a song or a symphony than a system, more lyric than lecture, more a leap of imagination than...social restructuring” (The Imaginative World of the Reformation, p. 26). For this reason, this Lent, we're going to dig into our tradition to understand more fully what we believe through a sermon series, Lenten devotions, and midweek services. — PASTOR LOSE

## SERMON SERIES: WHY LUTHERAN? BECAUSE...

As we continue to read through Luke's Gospel, we'll offer a sermon series based on several affirmations about God. Please note that this focus is important. Many religious traditions focus on what we should do, what the Christian life should be, what we need to do to merit God's grace, attain salvation, *whatever*. Lutherans, however, focus on God and what God has done through Christ for us and is still doing in and through our lives. See page 2 for more information.

## LENTEN DEVOTIONS: WHY LUTHERAN, A LITTLE DEEPER!

Each day during Lent, your pastors will reflect more deeply on themes of the previous Sunday by offering devotions on other biblical passages that also have something to say about the affirmation about God we heard on Sunday.

## WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK SERVICES: THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

This year we are reflecting on Jesus' words to his disciples as he initiated and instituted what we call the Lord's Supper. Each Wednesday at the Mpls Campus and livestreamed at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) at 12noon, we'll hold a brief service with music, a sermon focused on one part of Jesus' words, and an opportunity to share Communion together. It's a perfect break in the middle of the week and a chance to go deeper into our understanding of the importance and role of Holy Communion in our lives.

## EASTER CHANCEL GARDEN

Order online through Sunday, March 30, \$30 per plant

Please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by purchasing a spring plant to beautify our sanctuaries for Easter morning. Look for plant options and complete your purchase by visiting [mtolivet.org/easter-chancel-garden](http://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, April 20 after the 11am service until 12:30pm or on Tuesday, April 22 from 10am-12noon.*

## EASTER BUTTER BRAIDS

Order online through Sunday, March 30, \$15 per Braid

Pick Up: Sunday, April 13, 8:30-11am, Both Campuses

Don't miss out on your Easter Butter Braids! Order online in time for Easter! Orders will be taken at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org). Order pickup will be at both campuses, when placing your order please choose the campus you will be picking up your order from. Butter Braids are a fundraiser for our Affiliates facilitated by MOHA.



## LIFE & GROWTH

JAN 13 - FEB 13

### BAPTISMS

**Micah Troy Brolsma**

*son of Rachel and Carson*

**Wyatt Timothy Delmont**

*son of Anne and Todd*

**Louie David Schnerk**

*son of Lindsey and Dan*

**Greta Christine Townsend**

*daughter of Katherine and Isaac*

**Levi Bennett Wharton**

*son of Briana and Andrew*

### WEDDINGS

**Megan Hayes & Evan Aber**

*January 25*

### DEATHS

**Priscilla E. Braegelmann**

**Bryan D. Carlson**

**Janice M. Gilbertson**

**Michael D. Goehle**

**Jean M. Helgemoe**

**Marthana C. Hjortland**

**Charles "Chip" House**

**Cas Loobeck**

**Marcia L. Olson**

**Scott L. Smith**

**Karol M. Toso**

## DEVOTION

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. Conduct yourselves wisely towards outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.”*

— Colossians 4:2, 5-6

A few of us guys in recovery regularly meet and study various parts of the Bible. Last month we shared our insights on the book of Colossians. The fourth chapter is closing instructions from the author, Paul. One of the guys in the group shared, “these instructions are worth paying attention to for all of us.” Another highlighted the importance of our “speech always being gracious, seasoned with salt.” There was discussion about how we, as a society, use our words. Do we defend our neighbors’ actions in the kindest ways? Do we build each other up or tear each other down?

The highlight was verse two, “Devote yourselves to prayer.” Someone suggested, “Pray for one another, especially people we don’t like.” One of the greatest gifts we can give to others is to pray for them. Some of the shared wisdom was, “When I don’t know what to do, I pray, it grounds me... I need to come before the Lord with consistency.” Another saint quoted Max Lucado, “Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.”

Thank you for your prayers and your partnership in The Gospel.

— PASTOR KALLAND

## DID YOU KNOW...?

Did you know that every day, one in fifty Americans are cared for by institutions run by Lutherans? That means that nearly 7 million people are being cared for at hospitals, nursing homes, adoption agencies, disability service organizations, personal and communal health groups, and more. Why? Because from the very beginning of the Reformation, Martin Luther placed an enormous emphasis on the need to care for our neighbors. Precisely because we are saved by grace, Luther taught, we are free to love our neighbors. Or, as he liked to say, “God does not need your good works, but your neighbors do!”

Luther had an expansive understanding of “neighbor.” When translating the “Parable of the Good Samaritan,” Luther chose not to use the German word that meant “the person nearby” but rather the word that meant “the person in need.” Who is my neighbor? Anyone in need!

That commitment continues to be lived across our country and in and through this congregation. In addition to the Mount Olivet Homes, Mount Olivet Rolling Acres, and the Mount Olivet Counseling Center, we are also connected to Lutheran Services in America, a highly trusted and effective advocacy and membership group that represents more than 300 health and service agencies and organizations across the United States. LSA provides support to leaders across Lutheran groups – including hosting conferences regularly attended by leaders of Mount Olivet’s affiliated ministries – advocates for funding that impacts the care of our residents, and helps groups like our affiliates apply for grants and support from governmental and non-governmental agencies. Mount Olivet is fortunate to have such a good partner!



# ASH WEDNESDAY COMMUNION SERVICES

**MPLS CAMPUS: 8AM, \* 12NOON, 5PM, & \* 7PM**

**WEST CAMPUS: 5PM & 7PM**

**\*THESE SERVICES WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AT [MTOLIVET.ORG](https://www.mtolivet.org)**

Join us for an Ash Wednesday Communion service. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, and the theme of the day, as part of our Lenten series *Why Lutheran?*, is "Because God will do anything to save us!" Communion will be served at each service. The Gospel reading comes from Luke 9:51-56. The 7pm service will be a youth-led service. Read about the leaders of that service below. Thank you to the youth for sharing their faith with us!

## MEET THE LEADERS OF THE YOUTH-LED ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

**MARCH 5, 2025, 7PM, MPLS & WEST CAMPUS**

During the Youth-Led Ash Wednesday Service there will be two 8th grade leaders from our confirmation program sharing their faith with the congregation. These students have been working with Pastor Cieslik and Pastor Dixon to write their messages and are excited to be given this leadership opportunity. We hope you come to this service to hear what our young people have to say!



**ELLIE MORRIS, MINNETONKA MIDDLE SCHOOL WEST**

I choose to be involved with Mount Olivet because of the church's incredible community and to continue to expand my faith through Choir and Confirmation.



**CAMPBELL OMDAHL, CHASKA MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST**

Mount Olivet has brought me so many new friendships, has taught me so many good lessons about life, and brings me joy.



**LIAM COONEY, MINNETONKA MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST**

I choose to be involved at Mount Olivet because of the amazing community, programs, and people. I have made many friends in the various programs and activities, and I have always felt a strong sense of connection with our church.



**IAN KENISON, CHASKA MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST**

I like the nice people, the many activities to participate in, and the Youth Staff and Pastors.



**PASTOR CIESLIK**

I went to Einstein Middle School (Go Eagles). I love that our youth love to be here, whether it's Choir, Confirmation, or COP. Our middle schoolers want to be here and they bring their friends — how cool is that?



**PASTOR DIXON**

I went to Chippewa Middle School. I love many things about Mount Olivet, but something I am thankful for every day is how much the people in this church care for each other, and how that reflects God's great love for us.

# Easter For All

## SORT, PREPARE, DONATE, OR DELIVER!

During this Lenten season we are inviting everyone to participate in Easter for All (formerly Angel Gifts)! This event is a service opportunity where small gift items are collected, assembled into baskets, and distributed to families and individuals in need. Our community partners: CES, VEAP, Love INC, and Pastor Scott's Ministry identify families who will benefit from donations. Each family also receives an Easter basket and groceries to make a healthy family meal for Easter.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

#### DONATE

Wednesday, March 5 through Sunday, April 6

**Monetary Donations:** Help Mount Olivet offset the cost of groceries for the families receiving Easter baskets. By donating \$100 you can cover the grocery costs for one family of four. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to church labeled "Easter for All" or online at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).

**Basket Items:** All items need to be small enough to fit into a standard Easter basket – preferred items are:

- individually wrapped candies
- bubbles
- card games
- lip balm

#### VOLUNTEER

Friday, April 11, 3-6pm, Mpls Campus

Friday, April 11, 4-6pm, West Campus

Help is needed organizing and shelving food and item donations by category for the Saturday event.

Saturday, April 12, 10am-12noon, West Campus

Saturday, April 12, 1-3:30pm, Mpls Campus

Volunteers will assemble baskets or select food to deliver to families designated by one of our community partners: Love INC, VEAP, CES, or Pastor Scott's Ministry.

*Thank you in advance for your time and generosity in making Easter for All a success! Without your donations and time we would not be able to make such an impact in our communities.*

**VISIT [MTOLIVET.ORG](http://MTOLIVET.ORG) TO SIGN UP TO DONATE OR VOLUNTEER,  
OR CONTACT LAURIE HANCER AT [LHANCER@MTOLIVET.ORG](mailto:LHANCER@MTOLIVET.ORG) OR 612.767.2267**





# TOGETHER WE CAN TICKETS GO ON SALE MARCH 1!

Thursday, May 1, Open House 5-9pm, Program 7pm  
Oak Ridge Country Club, \$40

Celebrate all of the Mount Olivet Affiliate Ministries! This festive night will include a short program at 7pm. The cost includes a program, heavy appetizers, and entertainment. A cash bar will be available and accepts credit cards. Casual cocktail attire is requested. Complimentary valet parking as well as on-site parking available. Ticket sales begin Saturday, March 1, and close on Monday, April 21. To purchase a ticket, visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or contact Laurie Hancer at 612.767.2267.

### UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MOUNT OLIVET GALA? HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THE GALA!

#### SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS ARE NEEDED

We are looking for donations for the Silent Auction, and we need your help! A list of suggested donations is below. Please drop your donations off at the Mpls Campus by April 15. For questions about donation items, please contact Karen Beese, Gala Chair, at 612.747.1256.

- Restaurant or personal service gift cards/certificates
- Bottles of wine for the Wine Wall
- Experiences (boat rides, cooking classes, themed dinners)
- Tickets (sporting games, concerts, shows, theater)
- Jewelry and fashion items
- Home maintenance tools, décor, and artwork
- Travel (airline tickets, condos, cabins, resorts)
- Themed baskets (Italian, baking, baby, coffee)

#### BECOME A SPONSOR

Sponsorship levels available from \$1,000 to \$20,000  
Sponsorship Goal for 2025: \$95,000  
Contact: Tyler Hauser, Coordinator of Development, at 612.767.2214 or [thauser@mtolivet.org](mailto:thauser@mtolivet.org).

#### MAKE A DONATION

All proceeds from this event are given back to the Mount Olivet Affiliate Ministries, empowering them to continue providing exceptional service and care to over 15,000 individuals each year. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in these communities!

## MINISTRY MOMENT: LIVING THE MESSAGE

A group of families has been meeting at the West Campus since the beginning of the *Living the Message* Bible study series. They've watched children grow up, go to college, and come back to visit and be part of this wonderful monthly gathering. What a joy to see Mount Olivet members have good discussions and build such solid relationships centered on their faith. Their group leader, Marilyn Sharpe, says, "13 and a half years later, here we are. Together and in love with each other. It is such a faith family!"



#### WAYS TO GIVE

Thank you to all who support Mount Olivet through your pledges and gifts. If you'd like to make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift to Mount Olivet and its ministries today, there are many ways to do so:

- Scan the "Give Here" QR Code
- Visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) under GIVING
- Bring to church
- Contact Tricia Lerohl-Morgan, Coordinator of Financial Records, at [tricial@mtolivet.org](mailto:tricial@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2255.

#### GIVE HERE





# 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.

### JONAH 4: GOD'S LOVE IS BIGGER THAN WE THINK

Tuesday, March 4, 6:30-7:30pm, West Campus Rehearsal Hall

Jonah in the belly of the whale may be one of the most iconic images contained in the Old Testament. Yet few of us know much about the story. And what we do know, we tend to read as something of a morality tale: "Jonah didn't do what God wanted and was swallowed by a whale. Better do what God wants!" But that isn't even half – or even one-tenth! – of the story.

Over the years, two friends have made statements about this story that hint at the surprising and important message contained in this slim book.

**STATEMENT #1:** "Jonah portrays the prophet as schlemiel." Schlemiel is a Yiddish term that describes an incompetent or unlucky person or, more broadly, a fool. It is a familiar stock character in Jewish humor. Describing Jonah this way helps remind us that this story is not history or even a morality tale, but rather satire. Jonah, it turns out, is everything a prophet shouldn't be, and the point of the story is to teach him – and more importantly, us! – who God really is and what God really wants.

**STATEMENT #2:** "Once you get to the heart of the story, the episode with the whale is the easiest part to believe." Early in the story, Jonah is swallowed by a whale and lives in its belly for three days. Those who read this story literally feel the need to defend this, while those who don't take the Bible seriously dismiss it on the basis of scenes like this. Both misunderstand the heart of the story that proclaims that God's love is bigger, more expansive, and more inclusive than Jonah, (or we!), ever imagined.

Come to the West Campus in March and hear this amazing story in a whole new way.

### 1 KINGS 19: GOD SHOWS UP IN THE MOST UNLIKELY OF PLACES

Tuesday, April 1, 6:30-7:30pm, Minneapolis Campus Room 207

One of the consistent themes of Scripture – and something that has resurfaced in each of our Bible studies this year – is that God regularly surprises us, often calling into question what we thought we knew about God. While that can initially be challenging, most often it ends up being comforting, as the God we discover is often more loving, more caring, more present than we'd imagined.

One significant story in the Old Testament along these lines revolves around the prophet Elijah. The story takes place almost immediately after Elijah has proved beyond a doubt his loyalty to the God of Israel. But rather than be celebrated for his faithfulness, Elijah is on the run, as the present king and queen of Israel have deserted the God of their ancestors and so have put a price on Elijah's head. Desperate, exhausted, and afraid, Elijah looks for some sign of God's presence and commitment. And where he finds God is, well, not at all where he expected God to be. Come to class to explore this story in April!



## JOIN US!

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

## MOUNT OLIVET BOOK DISCUSSIONS

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

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

Both held in the Mpls Campus Library

### UPCOMING BOOKS:

**MAR 11 / 12:** *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney

**APR 8 / 9:** *I am, I am, I am: Seventeen Brushes with Death* by Maggie O'Farrell

## FEATURED EVENTS

### SPRING MENTAL HEALTH EVENT

Saturday, March 8, 9:30-11 am, Mpls Campus, Free

Do you ever feel at a loss in terms of knowing how to best support loved ones who may be having a hard time? The Mental Health Task Force invites you to join us as we partner with the Mount Olivet Counseling Center to discuss the topic of “Supporting Loved Ones and Yourself While Navigating Mental Health Challenges.” This event will provide tools and information to build confidence in helping others, while also covering how to best care for yourself during these times. The morning includes options to attend two breakout sessions provided by our Mount Olivet Counseling Center therapists on the following topics: supporting your child through mental health challenges, supporting your parent or older adult through mental health challenges, and supporting a friend or family member through addiction. The Mount Olivet Counseling Center provides ongoing individual counseling to both Mount Olivet members and community members on a wide array of topics, many that will be covered during this event. A light breakfast will be served. Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) by Thursday, March 6, or by contacting Rachel Sufficool at 612.767.2235 or [rsufficool@mtolivet.org](mailto:rsufficool@mtolivet.org).

### DAY LENTEN JOURNEY

FROM TABLE TO TOMB: THE THREE DAYS BEFORE EASTER

Tuesday, March 11, 9:30am-3pm

Conference & Retreat Center, \$20

Join us for a day of reflection and worship as we journey through the sacred days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Through scripture, song, worship, and prayer, we will enter the story of Jesus’ final hours—gathering at the table, standing at the cross, and waiting in the silence of the tomb. Guided by Pastor Cieslik, Pastor Olson Popp, and Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini, this retreat will include presentations as well as prayers of confession and reproach, a footwashing demonstration, moments of silence, and hymns that deepen our connection to Christ’s passion. Our time together will culminate in the sharing of communion, grounding us in the hope of what is to come. Day Lenten Journey is one of our annual daytime 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 communion. Register at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).

## MUSIC & ART AT MOUNT OLIVET: FAURÉ REQUIEM

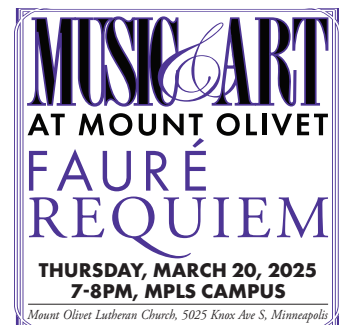
Thursday, March 20, 7pm, Mpls Campus, Free

This spring, we are delighted to present an inaugural concert event: Music & Art at Mount Olivet: Requiem, Op. 48 by Gabriel Fauré. What began as a desire to offer the Sanctuary Choir the opportunity to perform a major choral work has now grown into a broader community chorus with singers from other choral organizations, church choirs, and the Sanctuary Choirs of both of Mount Olivet’s campuses.

*The Requiem*, composed by Gabriel Fauré, is one of the most cherished works in the classical choral repertoire. Renowned for its serene beauty and rich harmonies, this performance will be led by guest conductor Dr. Matthew Mehaffey, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Minnesota.

This concert will open with an organ solo, *Prélude from Suite pour orgue*, Op 5. Maurice Duruflé, performed by our Principal Organist, Dr. Jordan Buchholtz and will be followed by *The Requiem*, featuring over 90 choral singers, professional instrumentalists, and Mount Olivet’s own distinguished soloists: Laura LeVoi, soprano, Justin Staebell, baritone, and Brian Haase, bass.

Whether as performers or listeners, shared artistic experiences highlight our common humanity beyond our differences. The arts offer a powerful means to express and process deep emotions—whether mourning loss, celebrating joy, or finding hope in times of uncertainty. The concert will be a powerful and inspiring experience, demonstrating the power of musical collaboration in bringing this timeless masterpiece to life.





# UPCOMING AT MOUNT OLIVET

## MARCH 2025

**MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION AT [MTOLIVET.ORG](https://mtolivet.org)**

### **FIKA MUSIC SERIES: SPRING SERENADE**

**Sunday, March 9, 12:15-1pm, Mpls Campus**

This performance showcases the rich traditions of British and American composers, featuring a selection of their most cherished works sung by Mount Olivet's exceptional soloists, Justin Staebell, Laura LeVoi, and Brian Haase.

### **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

**Wednesday, March 12, 10-11:30am, Mpls Campus**

Join us for coffee and conversation with our guest speaker Brenda Hunter-Hanson, Bilingual Engagement Manager with Cochlear Americas. Register at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org) or by contacting Julie Goodman at [julieg@mtolivet.org](mailto:julieg@mtolivet.org) or 612.767.2208.

### **FLYING SOLO: SERVE THE COMMUNITY MEAL**

**Thursday, March 13, 3:30pm-5:30pm, Mpls Campus**

Join Flying Solo as we serve our drive-through Community Meal! Register online at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org).

### **YOUNG IN HEART & FRIENDS**

**Tuesday, March 18, 12noon-1:30pm, Mpls Campus, \$10**

Join us for lunch and a performance from the O'Shea Irish Dance Company. Register by March 14 at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org) or by contacting Tricia Asuncion at 612.767.2210 or [tasuncion@mtolivet.org](mailto:tasuncion@mtolivet.org).

### **16TH MOTORHEADS @ LE CHATEAU**

**Tuesday, March 18, 5:30-8pm, Park and Shuttle from the West Campus, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$10 under 18**

Join fellow Motorheads for this fun gathering at the Herreid-Rivet home (Le Chateau). Enjoy delicious food, cool cars, interesting displays, devotions, and more! Register at [mtolivet.org](https://mtolivet.org) by March 16 for reduced pricing.

### **MARCH FOOD DRIVE**

**Sunday, March 23, 8:30-11am, Mpls & West Campuses**

You are encouraged to take part in the March MN FoodShare campaign on Sunday, March 23, during our March Food Drive. 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!

### **CAREER & CALLING**

**Tuesday, March 25, 5:30-7pm, Microsoft Teams**

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](https://mtolivet.org).

## LOOKING AHEAD!

### **THE FIRST YEARS WITHOUT THEM**

**Tuesdays, April 8-May 27, 6:30pm-8pm, Mpls Campus, \$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.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Monday, June 9 through Thursday, June 12, Mpls Campus, \$55**

**Monday, July 7 through Thursday, July 10, West Campus, \$55**

Get ready to explore God's creation! Kids will be challenged to look closer at the intricate details of God's creation while learning how big God is. Games, crafts, music and more! *VBS Camp runs on the days listed above from 8:30-11:30am.*



**MOUNT OLIVET  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**ASH WEDNESDAY  
COMMUNION SERVICES**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**


**MPLS CAMPUS**

8AM, \*12NOON, 5PM, & (YOUTH-LED) \*7PM

**WEST CAMPUS**

5PM & (YOUTH-LED) 7PM


*\*Streaming at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)*

 **MTOLIVET.ORG** MPLS 612.926.7651 • WEST 952.767.1500



**16TH MOTORHEADS  
@ LE CHATEAU  
Tue, Mar 18, 2025**

Shuttle from Mount Olivet West Campus  
7150 Rolling Acres Rd, Victoria (arrive between 5:30 & 7pm)

 **MTOLIVET.ORG** MPLS 612.926.7651 • WEST 952.767.1500